



Pacific Regional Study: The impact of climate change on nutrition in the Pacific (Melanesia)

Location:	Desk based with possible to travel to Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu
Application Deadline:	21 October 2024
Period of engagement:	16 November 2024 to 31 March 2025

1. Background

Save the Children is an international organization working to uphold children’s rights and protection in different regions of the world, including the Pacific, with programs in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tonga. These programs engage communities and the government across a range of thematic areas including education, health and nutrition, child protection, disaster preparedness, risk reduction, response, recovery, and climate change adaptation.

Nutrition in the Pacific is a critical area of concern, especially given the unique challenges faced by Pacific Island populations. Many PICs face the triple burden of malnutrition, including undernutrition (stunting and wasting), micronutrient deficiencies often termed as “hidden hunger” (lack of essential vitamins and minerals) and overnutrition (overweight and obesity).

The climate crisis has a significant impact on the poorest and most marginalised, especially children in Pacific Islands countries (PICs). Climate change disproportionately impacts children's acute and chronic food security and nutrition across all genders, socioeconomic backgrounds, disabilities, and ethnicities or similar.

The evidence base on the linkages between climate change and nutrition is limited for PICs, especially country-specific data and analysis.

Save the Children is implementing a range of interventions designed to address nutrition outcomes for children 0-5 years, alongside programs which build awareness and knowledge in climate change adaptation, based on a community resilience model. In Papua New Guinea (PNG), the current focus is on nutrition interventions for children under 5. In Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands, multi-year community resilience programs are underway, reaching selected communities across all provinces. (see Annex 1 for program details)

To progress the evidence base on the intersection between climate change and nutrition and to inform future programming interventions in these three countries, Save the Children is commissioning a study on the on the impacts of climate change, specifically on nutrition outcomes for children in Melanesia combining secondary analysis with formative research through stakeholder consultations, including community based, to include the experience and perspectives of affected communities in both urban and rural contexts.

2. Study Purpose

a. Overview and Target Audiences

Save the Children Australia is seeking a consultant/s to design and conduct a study on the likely and anticipated impacts of climate change on nutrition outcomes for children 0-5 years in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

The findings and recommendations from the study are expected to contribute to a broader evidence base for actors working on food security and nutrition in the Pacific region and to directly inform Save the Children's nutrition and climate change programming in the design of new interventions.

The target audience of the study are:

1. Policymakers, government authorities and technical officials in relevant sectoral areas in each Pacific country and the broader Pacific region as applicable.
2. Regional bodies, including the Pacific Community and the Pacific Islands Forum, as well international and community-based agencies with existing or planned programs in nutrition, climate change adaptation and response and related areas of intervention in each Pacific country and the broader Pacific region, as applicable.
3. Save the Children technical advisors and country office program teams currently providing and planning further support in nutrition, climate crisis and related interventions in PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

b. Study Objective

To increase the evidence base in each country context, in both rural and urban/peri-urban settings in PNG, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu on the impacts of climate change on nutrition and food security of girls and boys from 0-5years, including unborn children, (and their caretakers/families)

c. Key Study Questions (Indicative)

The indicative study questions are:

1. How does climate change impact the nutritional vulnerability of target groups (focus on women and children under 5 in both remote/rural communities as well as in urban/peri-urban areas) in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu?
2. What relevant policies and programs are in place including those that address the intersection between climate change and nutrition of children under 5 in both remote/rural and/or urban/peri-urban communities in each country and what is the existing learning/evidence in Melanesia and in other relevant contexts internationally?
3. Are there other significant factors impacting under-5 nutrition status and how are these interconnected with climate change? What are the implications of these additional factors for programming in these locations?
4. What are the programming recommendations for the work of Save the Children and other key actors at a regional (Melanesia) and country level for addressing the nutritional vulnerability of children from 0-5 years, through both climate change and health/nutrition interventions, with a focus on alignment of under 5 nutrition to complement larger scale climate change programs. Note: This could include geographic targeting, community selection and types of programming approaches eg sustainable investments for community resilience.

3. Study Scope and Indicative Study methods

a. Geographical Scope

It is anticipated that the study would incorporate primary study in 2-3 Pacific Island countries, including Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. The study would engage with at least two remote rural communities and at least two urban/peri communities in each country. Note: this would be confirmed in line with the timeframe (Section 5) and budget (Section 6) as detailed below.

Location selection will consider secondary data on nutrition status and climate change risks in each location, as well as locations of work for Save the Children programs with final community selection to be undertaken in consultation with Save the Children.

b. Study Methods (Indicative)

Desk Study and Literature Review

- Review relevant climate change, food security, and nutrition policies and programs to identify gaps, specifically related to the geographic context and target groups and align study objectives with national priorities.
- Incorporate relevant studies which address future modelling for climate change, food security and/or nutrition status in the Pacific region.
- Draw on recent Household Surveys (data collection linked to dietary diversity, food security and nutritional outcomes across different communities/geographies).

Primary Data Collection

Incorporating qualitative, quantitative, and participatory action community-based study methods. Indicative methods are outlined below, noting the methodology will need to align with the available timeframe and budget.

- Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with relevant community members
- Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with national, provincial and local policy advisers and service providers.
- Community Mapping: Participatory mapping focused on intersections between climate events and impacts related to food production, markets and nutrition.

Community Consultation

- Workshops to present preliminary findings, gather feedback, and co-create solutions with community members based on the data collected.

4. Key Deliverables

The consultant is expected to be responsible for the following key deliverables:

1. Prepare a detailed study plan which includes a literature review/secondary data analysis and confirms the specific study questions, analytical framework, primary data methodology, timeline and detailed budget/costing, in compliance with the scope, requirements and purpose of consultancy; (To be reviewed and approved by SCA and submitted for Study Ethics approval based on final study methodology, including all study tools)
2. Collect and analyse primary data and resources in line with agreed geographic scope and study methods as detailed in the study plan. All data should be gender and age disaggregated in data collection, presentation and in analysis.

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3. Prepare a full draft of report outlining the results of the study, including at a minimum, evidence-based findings on:
 - Context setting (literature review summary), primary data collection, study questions
 - Methodology
 - Results and discussion
 - Conclusion and recommendations on programming for nutrition and climate change practitioners
 - Annexes, including existing literature review and all data collection tools
4. Host a facilitated validation session with key Save the Children staff and country offices and other stakeholders (to be nominated and confirmed by SC and Consultancy team)
5. Submit a final version of the report and a summary version (up to 5 pages), incorporating both draft report and validation feedback and ready for publication
6. Host a series of country based learning exchange webinars for Save the Children staff and country offices and other stakeholders (to be nominated and confirmed by SC and Consultancy team).

5. Timeframe

The consultant is required to accomplish the expected deliverables between November 2024 and the end of March 2025.

Indicative Inputs and Timeline based on key deliverables		
Key Deliverable	Indicative days	Indicative Timeframe
1. Detailed study plan Includes literature review, study questions, methodology, analytical framework, timeline and ethics submission	12	16 Nov to 2 December 2024 (Ethics approval required by 23 Dec)
2. Data collection Completed in line with methodology and Data cleaned and analysed	40	13 Jan to 10 Feb 2025 (based on combined team inputs)
3. Draft Study report Prepared and submitted	10	11 Feb to 25 Feb 2025
4. Validation Session Planned and held	2	4 March 2025
5. Final Study report (Full & Summary versions) submitted	6	17 March 2025
6. Learning Webinar Series Designed and convened	5	17-31 March 2025
Total	75	

6. Budget

The indicative budget is AUD\$80,000. This is inclusive of all Consultancy fees, travel and associated activity costs for completing the deliverables set out in Section 5 above.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

a. Consultant(s) will:

- Regularly consult and report to the Save the Children Project Team on the development or progress of the study
- Adhere to the timeframe agreed

b. Save the Children will:

- Provide contract to the Service Provider
- Pay for the services rendered within 30 days of satisfactory completion of the work
- Support in the recruitment of local study assistants or enumerators for the consultant, if necessary
- Provide inputs to the consultant(s) in the process of developing/implementing the study, including providing feedback to the draft output
- Support planning of the data collection for the study and help link the consultant(s) to national and provincial agencies, or other focal points that are relevant for the study.

8. Payment Structure and Terms

Payments will be made on successful and timely submission of milestones according to the table below:

1. 20% upon signing of contract.
2. 30% upon completion of Outputs 1-4
3. 50% upon completion of Outputs 5

The Consultant is responsible for providing professional liability and medical/emergency evacuation insurance. The Consultant must adhere to Save the Children's Child Safeguarding and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Harassment (PSEAH) policy at all times throughout the consultancy.

Ethic approval by an agreed entity will be a requirement for this study.

The consultant is responsible for paying any taxes required by their domicile country. The budget should specify any VAT requirements additional to the consulting fee.

9. Experience and Skills Requirement:

(Within nominated consultancy team)

- Advanced research background in nutrition, food security climate change, or other related fields
- Experienced in conducting qualitative and quantitative research related to health, nutrition food security and climate change.
- Experience conducting studies within the Pacific region, preferably in Melanesia, with evidence of networks/previous engagement of local study partners.
- Demonstrated ability for critical thinking, analysis and problem solving
- Excellent report writing and oral skills in English.
- Demonstrated ability to deliver outputs on time

10. Returning of bids

To respond to this EOI, please submit:

- A letter expressing interest, outlining the experience and expertise of the individual consultant or consulting agency relevant for the work.
- A copy of CV(s) or details of expertise in your research institution, or consultancy firm/agency, if applicable
- Sample of previous studies/research work/s, relevant to this consultancy
- Contact details of at least two references
- An operational plan detailing how the work will be done and how the objectives above will be met (max. 5 pages)
- A financial proposal or costing for items/activities required for the fulfillment of the expected deliverables of the consultancy work.

Application Close Date: 21 October 2024

For Enquiries, please contact adele.harmer@savethechildren.org.au

Annex 1: Summary of SC Programs and Relevant Planning Frameworks

Save the Children (SC) Programming Documentation (Reference)

Climate Resilient Livelihoods Programming: A Guide for Country Offices: This guide is designed to support CO staff in designing climate change programs or utilizing programming product. Link at [Resource Centre](#)

Save the Children Current Programs in Melanesia-relevant to climate change/food security and/or Health-Nutrition.

Solomon Islands

Knowledge-Action-Sustainability for Resilient Villages | Feb 2024-Feb 2030 |

6 Provinces | 170 Communities

Aims to increase the **climate resilience** of the livelihoods, **food and nutrition security** of target climate-vulnerable communities through investments in capacity for adaptation planning, implementation of adaption plans, strengthening support systems, and fostering innovations.

Climate Change Adaptation & Empowerment Program | Feb 2024-Feb 2026

Choiseul and Malaita | 16 Communities |

The aim of this project is to reduce the vulnerability of communities to **climate change impacts, improve food security to enhance nutrition**, and increase access to climate adaptive livelihoods, particularly for women, girls, and people with disabilities.

Safe Children: Solomon Islands | Aug 21-July 2025

Malaita, Western, and Choiseul Province | 12 Schools & 36 Surrounding Communities

The project is working to ensure children are safe, protected, and resilient by addressing gaps in local child protection systems and school safety management mechanisms-using gender equality, disability, social inclusion and **climate- change adaptation lenses**

Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Projects | Nov 2024-June 2026 |

Guadalcanal province, Malaita province and Central Islands in Western province.

Increasing Community Demand for Maternal and Newborn Services in Guadalcanal, Malaita and Western Provinces

Vanuatu

Community-based Climate Resilience Project | Oct 2022-Oct 2028 |

6 Provinces: 282 Communities.

Aims to reduce the climate-related vulnerabilities of communities across Vanuatu; increase their **resilience to climate variability**, extremes and change; and build the adaptive capacity required to ensure communities can maintain sustainable development pathways across a wide range of climate futures.

Integrated Early Childhood Development (IECD) | Aug 21-July 2025 |

Sanma, & Shefa |

This project supports children **0-5 years of age in Vanuatu** to achieve their full development potential by ensuring they are raised in a nurturing environment, with reduced exposure to violence, and are protected from the impacts of **climate change**

PNG

Safe Children, Healthy Mothers | Aug 21-July 2025 |

AroB, East Sepik, Central Province

The project aims to reduce the prevalence and impact of **chronic malnutrition (stunting) among children 0 – 59 months** and develop social norms that promote zero tolerance of any form of violence against women and children