



Pacific
Humanitarian
Team



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
**COUNTRY PREPAREDNESS
PACKAGE**





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National Disaster Management Office
Government of the Marshall Islands
Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands



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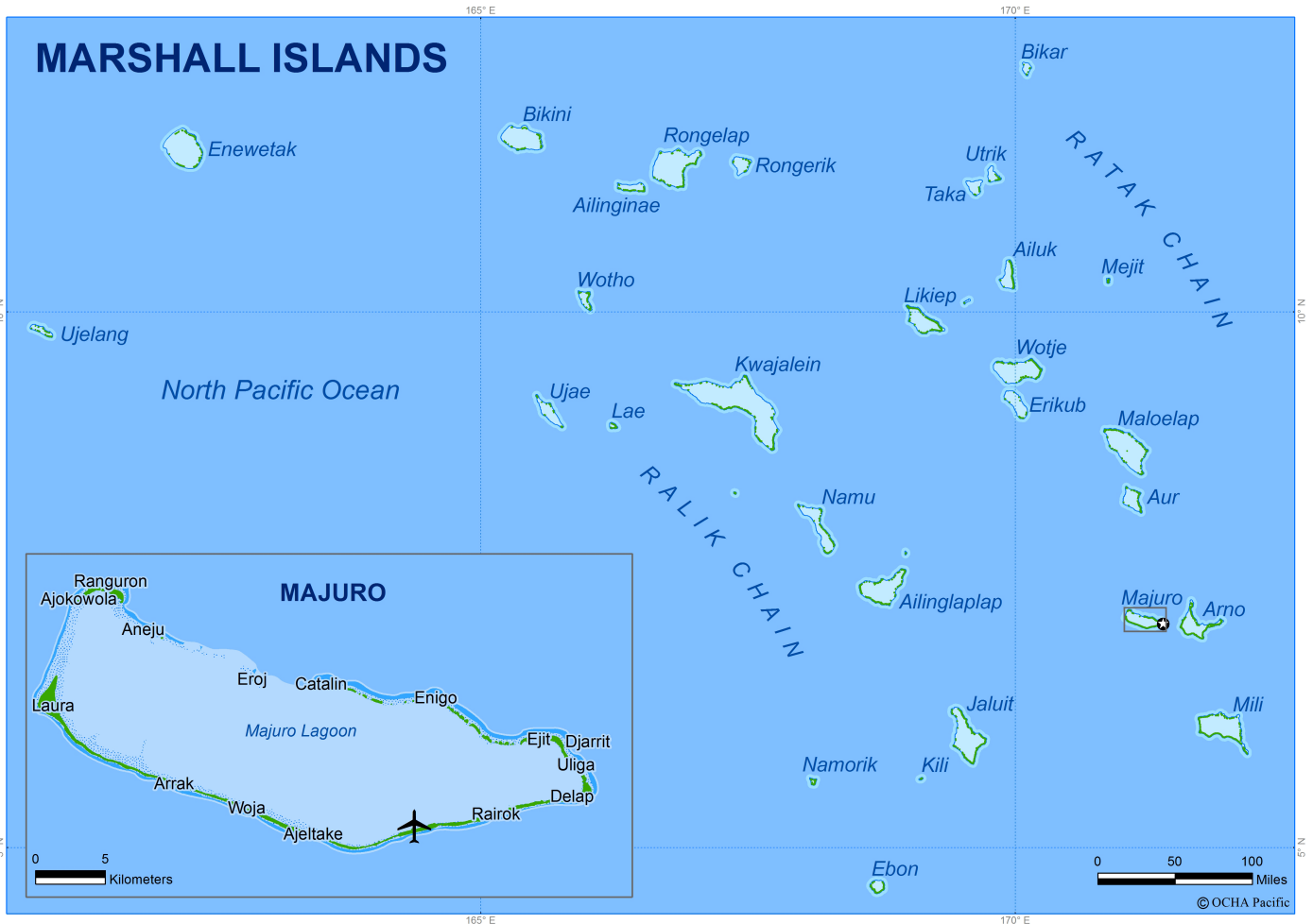
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PHT partners:

- Food and Agriculture Organization
- International Organization for Migration
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- OXFAM
- Save the Children
- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
- The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
- The United Nations Children's Fund
- The United Nations Development Programme
- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- The United Nations Population Fund
- World Food Programme
- World Health Organization



WHAT IS THE COUNTRY PREPAREDNESS PACKAGE?

The Country Preparedness Package (CPP) is a joint initiative of the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT). The CPP is intended to strengthen the preparedness and collaboration between national and international actors in disaster response.

The CPP is developed and agreed with the national government before a disaster. Through the process, national actors become more aware of international tools and services and how they can be activated. This will enable a more 'demand-driven' response tailored to the specific context.

The CPP also helps the international actors to become more aware of the existing national systems and structures by clearly documenting and making key information available to all. This will help ensure that responses are nationally-led with international actors supporting and working through the existing national structures.

The completed CPP is a set of documents outlining the existing national structures and the agreed plans for utilizing international support in a disaster response. These documents are available online and include links to national reference documents.

About this document

This document comprises 31 sections covering a range of topics and issues relevant to international support to nationally-led disaster responses. The use of thematic sections makes it easy to find specific information quickly. It also allows the updating of information to be straightforwardly divided among multiple partners.



PHOTO CREDIT: UNDP

Each section includes the three following components:

**NATIONAL
ARRANGEMENTS**

A brief summary of the current status and arrangements within the country related to that topic, including links to key national reference documents (e.g. Terms of Reference (ToRs) or Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) or websites) and the names and contact details of key national structures or focal points.

**SUPPORT
ARRANGEMENTS**

An outline of how the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) and international community will provide support to the national authorities in the event of a disaster, in relation to the thematic area. This section is expected to be as specific as possible and agreed with the government and other national actors in advance. This section may also note areas of disaster preparedness and response where RMI seeks development support.

**REFERENCE
INFORMATION**

Reference Information providing links to international guidance relevant documents and two or three basic standards (or minimum requirements) that countries in the Pacific should aim towards.

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ACRONYMS

AMI	Air Marshall Islands
BSRP	Building Safety and Resilience in the Pacific
CCG	Central Control Group
CDC	Centre for Disease Control
CMAC	Coastal Management Advisory Committee
CMI	College of the Marshall Islands
COFA	Compact of Free Association
COSSPac	Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific
CSO	Chief Secretary's Office
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ENSO	El Nino Southern Oscillation Phenomenon
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
EHA	Essentials of Humanitarian Assistance
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
IDA	Initial Damage Assessment
IDRL	International Disaster Response Law
IFRC	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JPO	UN Joint Presence Office
MALGOV	Majuro Atoll Local Government
MIMA	Marshall Islands Mayors Association
MIRCS	Marshall Islands Red Cross Society
MISC	Marshall Islands Shipping Corporation
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MISC	Marshall Islands Shipping Company
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOT&C	Ministry of Transportation & Communication
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoCIA	Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs

MoNRC	Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce
MoWIU	Ministry of Works, Infrastructure and Utilities
MWSC	Majuro Water Service Company
NDC	National Disaster Committee
NDMO	National Disaster Management Office
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NTA	National Telecommunication Authority
PDA	Preliminary Damage Assessment
PCRAF	Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative
PDNA	Post Disaster Needs Assessment
PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
PREL	Pacific Resources for Education & Learning
PREP	Pacific Resilience Project
PREPARE	IOM-USAID funded Disaster Preparedness for an Effective Response project
PSS	Public School System
RCS	Red Cross Society
RESPAC	Disaster Resilience for Pacific SIDS Project
RO	Reverse osmosis (desalination)
SPC	Pacific Community
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TWS	Tsunami Warning Centre
ToRs	Terms of Reference
WSO	Marshall Islands Weather Service Office
WASH	Water and Sanitation
WMO	World Meteorological organization
WUTMI	Women United Together in Marshall Islands
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

1. RISK MONITORING MECHANISM



CURRENT STATUS

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) is extremely vulnerable to the effects of natural disasters. The major natural hazards in RMI are tropical storms, typhoons, storm surge and drought. Additional challenges include marine pollution, ecosystem degradation, coastal erosion and food insecurity. Rising sea level is the biggest threat in RMI as its highest point is just 10 meters above sea level. Climate change is also expected to exacerbate the country's vulnerability to natural hazards.

Risk monitoring is principally delivered through the Marshall Islands Weather Service Office (WSO), which advises the Chief Secretary's Office (CSO). At a technical level the WSO also reports the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s Pacific ENSO Applications Climate Centre (PEAC) on a quarterly basis. WSO is a member of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Cluster.

The WSO:

The WSO is tasked with providing weather forecasts, early warnings on hazardous weather and other weather-related products to the government for the purposes of protection, safety and general information. This is done through the following:

- Delivery of scientific assessment and analytical services;
- Undertaking of manual surface aviation, synoptic and upper-air observations, transmitting data to the Global Telecommunication System/Integrated World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Information System;
- Receipt of data from outer island focal points (mayors, disaster committees, etc) using standardized drought monitoring forms;
- Receipt and interpretation of daily data from partner scientific agencies (especially NOAA) on hazards to generate adaptive weather forecasts and warnings for local constituents;
- Advice to the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and Chief Secretary on key threats to inform and for consideration of further action (e.g. activation of the National Disaster Committee (NDC) or other actions);

- Communication of alerts and warnings to RMI authorities and communities, including advising precautionary action that could be taken.

In addition to data interpretation and response from scientific agencies, WSO works with the NDMO to:

- Designate focal points (particularly the mayors) to receive information on the state of weather on the outer islands;
- Share warnings and alerts.

Information exchange with outer island focal points is most commonly achieved through High Frequency (HF) radio and the Chatty Beetle.

SYSTEMS

Once the WSO advises a threat to RMI, the CSO may activate the NDC (see Section 3).

PARTNERS

- Under the Compact of Free Association Agreement (COFA), an agreement between RMI and the United States of America (USA) signed in 1986, (see reference) the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) play an important role during disasters and provide, at no cost to RMI, services including air safety, weather forecast, health services and assistance in the event of natural disasters.
- The weather forecast is provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the United States (NOAA). NOAA provides:
 - Critical daily data on natural (hydrometeorology and seismic) hazards threatening RMI. This includes both the Pacific Region Headquarters in Honolulu, Hawaii as well as the NOAA Guam Office (RMI Meteorological Services use different data according to where the hazards originate). These offices provide technical support to the weather services of all Micronesian Offices in cooperation with the Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and RMI, in accordance with the provision of the COFA between the US and each Micronesian government;

- Training in meteorological services;
- As part of monitoring and trend development, WSO also sends rainfall and temperature data to National Weather Service Forecast Office Guam to keep them briefed.
- NOAA's PEAC and the Guam Forecast Office provide long and short term rainfall outlooks and forecast.
- The Richard H. Hagemeyer Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre (PTWC), located on Ford Island (Oahu, Hawaii), serves as the operational centre of the Tsunami Warning System (TWS) in the Pacific. The TWS detects and locates major earthquakes in the Pacific Basin to determine tsunami generation and provide timely and effective tsunami information and warnings to the population of the Pacific.
- The University of Guam, together with NOAA, holds a monthly conference with the WSO to determine national disaster trends and threats. Through their projects and focal points on the outer islands, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) provide rainfall data validation etc. via the WASH cluster. They also provide some capacity building for outer island observers:
- The Marshall Islands Red Cross Society (MIRCS) works with WSO to monitor weather information and tidal schedules to prepare for extreme or potentially damaging events. MIRCS, in cooperation with WSO and the NDMO, conducted a pilot Community Based Early Warning System project in Jenrok (2015- to 2016 FINPAC-IFRC/SPREP) to enable the community to better prepare for and respond in the event of a disaster.

Pacific Community (SPC) in the provision of technical support in particular:

- Climate and Oceans Support Program in the Pacific (COSSPac) sea level and temperature monitoring programme;
- Water and sanitation programme including hydrological assessments;
- Regional Meteorological Council (member);
- SPREP (climate change monitoring; Fin Pac project).

CHALLENGES

The science on droughts is not precise. Localised data on vulnerability is needed to forecast whether a drought will emerge.

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

Disaster preparedness

The WSO seeks support in the following areas:

- Training for outer islands community representatives in collecting and reporting rainfall and temperature data and writing reports;
- Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) training for the NDMO;
- Community assessment of rainfall gauges and communicating findings;
- IOM's office in Majuro and Pohnpei (as well as regional and global support if required) and IFRC's North Pacific and Suva Offices are ongoing partners in the provision of technical assistance as described above for disaster monitoring.



NATIONAL REFERENCE DOCUMENTS/WEBSITES

COFA agreement. Agreement between RMI and United States of America (USA) <http://bit.ly/2tjxaCa>

National Structures/Contacts

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REFERENCE INFORMATION International Guidance/Resource Material

Index for Risk Management (INFORM):

<http://bit.ly/12kulOx>

IFRC Guiding Principles: Community Early Warning Systems

<http://bit.ly/2tAj2jI>

WMO Guidelines on Early Warning Systems:

<http://bit.ly/2tAyZWx>

Pacific Disaster Centre: <http://bit.ly/2purAYi>

2. LEGISLATION



CURRENT STATUS

The National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) of 1997 and the Standard Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) of 2005 are the key documents guiding the RMI disaster management.

The NDC is the designated lead agency for implementing both the NDMP and the HMP. Being directly accountable to the Cabinet, the NDC is responsible for the provision of technical advice and resource support to facilitate the implementation of disaster management programmes and for ensuring that an adequate and reliable disaster control and coordination mechanism is in place to accommodate effective disaster response and recovery requirements.

The primary agency responsible for disaster management programmes and activities is the NDMO. Local governments are responsible for assisting the NDMO to develop specific programs for each atoll. To facilitate this process, the NDMO provides technical advice and serves as the focal point for the coordination of Government resource support.

VISA OR ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Non-residents arriving from overseas via Honolulu or any other US state will require relevant ESTA documentation (<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov>) clearance. It is recommended to carry a hard copy of the ESTA clearance for check-in purposes. Emergency staff arriving from other countries will require Immigration Clearance. Assuming that partners operate through formal channels (principally the CSO), the CSO will liaise with the ministries of Foreign Affairs and Immigration to ensure any necessary exemptions/entry requirements for essential staff are observed to facilitate rapid entry.

PARTNERS

- MIRCS was established under the Marshall Islands Red Cross Society (Incorporation and Recognition) Act in 2013 as the Red Cross of the RMI and auxiliary to the government in humanitarian and disaster relief services.

- IFRC provides technical assistance to governments on International Disaster Response Law (IDRL). (See reference document “Regional Guidelines for International Disaster Assistance and Cooperation in the Pacific,” which draws from the outcomes of 2015 Pacific Island Forum (PIF) Foreign Ministers meeting and was presented at PIF 2016.)

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

While the CSO will facilitate the necessary exemptions/entry requirements for essential staff from the humanitarian community during disaster, there is no existing legislation presently that explicitly establishes or clarifies the relationship between the government of RMI and the international community in a disaster event.

NATIONAL REFERENCE DOCUMENTS/ WEBSITES

1987 Disaster Assistance Act: <http://bit.ly/2ukesac>

Hazard Mitigation Plan: <http://bit.ly/2sl1jwy>

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REFERENCE INFORMATION International Guidance/Resource Material

IFRC International Disaster Relief Law Guidelines:
<http://bit.ly/2tlgoCF>

Regional Guidelines for International Disaster Assistance and Cooperation in the Pacific Strengthening Legal Frameworks for Disasters in the Pacific: Workshop Report



3. DISASTER STRUCTURES, PLANS, POLICIES AND SOPs

CURRENT STATUS

Policies and plans

RMI development strategies are included in the National Strategic Plan (NSP), which has a timeframe of three years (2015 to 2017). The NSP is designed as a framework to coordinate the articulated medium-term development goals and objectives of the RMI government at the national level. The NSP is used by government leaders as a roadmap for development and progress in the medium-term (2015 to 2017) and will be continually updated for use in meeting long-term objectives as the RMI moves towards the scheduled completion of the COFA as amended funding in 2023.

The NSP contains five sectors, with each sector broken down into several strategic areas and is intended to coordinate with national policies and ongoing and/or planned strategic plans in the RMI government ministries, agencies and State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs). The five sectors are (1) Social Development (2) Environment, Climate Change and Resiliency (3) Infrastructure Development (4) Sustainable Economic Development and (5) Good Governance. Each sector is then broken down into related strategic areas. Vulnerability Assessment and Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management and Response are specific strategic areas under Sector 2.

Specific and formalised Disaster Management commenced in RMI in 1987 with the passing of the NDMP.

In 1994, the Disaster Assistance Act was passed, providing for the establishment of the NDMC and the NDMO located in the Office of the Chief Secretary. The Act clarifies the role of the Cabinet and local governments in disaster prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery between agencies, and for matters thereby connected.

1994 also saw the passing of:

- A Hazard Mitigation Plan, a systematic program to identify hazards, monitor changes in vulnerability, develop and implement measures to reduce or eliminate these vulnerabilities. The plan focuses on vulnerabilities to tropical storms and typhoons as these reflect the most catastrophic threat to the islands;
- A National Disaster Manual;
- An Airport Disaster Plan.

A Drought Disaster Plan was passed in 1996, followed by the drafting of a revised NDMP in 1997. The most recent legislative activity on the Disaster Risk Management front was the development of a Standard Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2005.

The Marshall Islands Emergency Response Plan 2010 describes response functions, lead and support agencies and their roles for Health and Medical, Fire and Rescue, Evacuation, Community Welfare, Logistics Supply, Information Management and Impact Assessment. The Plan is still not endorsed and therefore is not yet operational (and not publicly available).

The Immediate and Near-Term Response Plan for the Republic of the Marshall Islands Drought was developed in 2013 to detail the work to be undertaken in support of the 2013 drought within the Food, WASH, Health and Infrastructure and Logistics clusters.

At a strategic level, the National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management (DRMNAP) 2008 to 2018 outlines priority actions for risk reduction. The Joint National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change (JNAP) was subsequently established in 2010 to 2011 and aligns with actions identified under the DRMNAP, as well as the subsequently developed 2011 National Climate Change Policy Framework (NC-CPF). Together, these policies provide a comprehensive guide for the implementation of risk reduction measures relating to disaster and climate change.

On humanitarian response, the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT), clusters and international support are not legislated in RMI. The exception is RMI and the United States, which have agreed to the provision of supplemental US disaster assistance for large disasters through the Amended Compact Agreement.

In terms of support from other international partners, the Disaster Assistance Act will be updated in 2017 and the role of the humanitarian community and clusters etc. may be formally considered.

STRUCTURES

The Chief Secretary is the Disaster Controller, or the key disaster management official with overall disaster management responsibility. The President is responsible for the Chief Secretary's Office (CSO). The Chief Secretary oversees the NDC and the NDMO:

- Under the Disaster Assistance Act, the NDMO is the primary government agency responsible for matters pertaining to the coordination of Disaster Risk Management in RMI. The NDMO falls within the CSO, and the NDMO Director reports to the Chief Secretary through the Deputy Chief Secretary (Annex 1). The NDMO is responsible for day-to-day management of disaster management programs and activities, with the NDMC responsible for providing technical advice and support for disaster management programs and activities, including operational response and recovery. The main responsibilities of the NDMO are to assist the Chief Secretary in the exercise of functions under the Disaster Assistance Act 1987. The NDMO coordinates all matters pertaining to capacity building and institutional strengthening in Disaster Risk Management (DRM) at the national and municipal/island level across the country.
- The NDC is responsible for mitigating the effects of any disaster and for conducting counter-disaster operations. It provides technical advice and support to the Chief Secretary in the performance of duties. The Chief Secretary may appoint a number of members for the NDC to serve on a Central Control Group (CCG) during the response period and to assist in the execution of special operational tasks when necessary.

National disaster arrangements were reviewed in October and November 2016 under the SPC executed, EU funded Building Safety Resilience in the Pacific (BSRP) project. While the findings of the review are not yet public, they essentially propose a revision of the Disaster Assistance Act and related arrangements.

SYSTEMS

In the case of natural hazard related disasters, the RMI National Weather Service Office advises on threats, early warning messages, drought statements to the NDMO. Then, the NDMO alerts the clusters on the threat and initiates analysis of the situation. Based on the information provided, the NDMO advises the Chief Secretary, the chair of the NDC, of the threat. The Chief Secretary will convene a meeting with the NDC to discuss response measures, including the declaration of a disaster/state of emergency and the activation of an EOC. Once a consensus is achieved within the NDC, recommendations are made to the Cabinet. The Cabinet decides on proclamations, amends or rescinds them and the NDC advises their members and clusters accordingly.

According to the Disaster Assistance Act 1987, the NDC comprises of the Chief Secretary (Chair), Chief of Police, Secretary of Public Works, Secretary of Resources and Development, Secretary of Internal and Outer Island Affairs, Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Secretary of Finance, Secretary of Transportation & Communication, Secretary of Health & Environment, Secretary of Internal Affairs, Secretary of Social Services and Secretary of Education.

Other members may be called as needed, such as the Director NDMO, the Commissioner of Public Safety Manager, Manager of the National Weather Service, Manager of the Majuro Energy Company, Manager of the AMI, Director of the Water and Sewer Company and Tobolar (in relation to shipping; see Section 13. Private Sector Engagement & Coordination).

ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE

The CSO and the EOC lead disaster response. Although there are currently no ToRs for the membership or operation of the EOC, the NDMO is presently working on their development and the ToRs are expected to be developed in 2017.

RMI operates a five-cluster system for disaster coordination:

- WASH
- Health
- Logistics
- Food Security and Agriculture
- Infrastructure (including a sub-cluster on Shelter)

ToRs for the clusters, the EOC or other DRM structures are currently incomplete, but some are being drafted.

Inter-cluster coordination is managed via the NDC and the NDMO. An inter-cluster group for RMI does not formally exist, although an inter-cluster group convened in the EOCs during the 2015 to 2016 drought.

Rapid needs assessments and deployment of emergency supplies to meet the immediate lifesaving needs are coordinated by the NDMO through clusters, if relevant.

Joint Needs Assessments are generated through government sectors; however, these assessments may be supported by USAID Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA).

Decision making and leadership is achieved through the Cabinet and is assisted by Ministerial and community-level work:

- The NDMO utilizes the EOC and clusters to provide recommendations to the NDC for decision-making and further recommendations to the Cabinet.
- The Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs (MoCIA) is the administrative coordinator for local councils, which are established in each of the inhabited islands and are headed by a mayor. Local council activities include local police services, solid waste collection and maintenance of local roads. MoCIA is a key partner for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)/DRM issues between the national and local levels, such as

through the annual mayors conferences, the Local Government Division, the Marshall Islands Mayor Association (MIMA) and mobile teams.

- Outer Island Disaster Committees (DisComs) and disaster focal points exist for several islands. Together, the focal points and DisComs are responsible for relaying early warnings, assisting the community to prepare for disasters and reporting through standardized reporting forms. Many communities do not yet have DisComs and/or need to strengthen focal points.
- A community based area management framework called the Reimaanlok Conservation Strategy provides relevant agencies with a collection of tools for community engagement to leverage cultural heritage for development, including DRM, thereby enhancing resilience. The strategy takes an ecosystem approach in addressing community based DRR issues through conservation efforts implemented by the Coastal Management Advisory Committee (CMAC).

The local government has the responsibility for assisting the NDMO in the development of specific programs for each atoll (e.g. dissemination of public education material and conduct of awareness activities, development of local plans and operational procedures and identification and documentation of safe evacuation shelters). To facilitate this process, the NDMO provides technical advice and serves as the focal point for the coordination of government resource support.

PARTNERS

- The US government supports disaster preparedness and risk reduction programming through USAID/OFDA and USAID/Pacific based in Manila. If a disaster is beyond the capacity of the Government of RMI, it may request disaster assistance from USAID/OFDA. For large-scale disasters, the Government of RMI may request supplemental US disaster assistance through a US Presidential Disaster Declaration, which enables funding support from the US FEMA through USAID. US Supplemental disaster assistance is managed by USAID/OFDA for emergency disaster relief and by USAID/Pacific for disaster reconstruction. Supplemental US disaster assistance may include reconstruction in the event of large scale damage to housing and public infrastructure.

- If the Government of RMI determines that a US Presidential Disaster Declaration is required after a large disaster, it will take the following steps: a) declare a national state of disaster; b) utilize the Disaster Assistance Emergency Fund (DAEF); c) appeal for international assistance through the United Nations (United Nations); d) request a Joint Damage Assessment (JDA) with the US Federal Emergency Agency, USAID/OFDA and USAID/Pacific; and e) officially request a US Presidential Disaster Declaration. Results of the JDA will inform whether the disaster meets the criteria for disaster assistance. The final JDA results will be presented to the Government of RMI and other stakeholders.
- IOM provided support in DRM to RMI with USAID funding. IOM is coordinating with the NDMO to provide technical assistance to update the Standard Operating Procedures under the National Emergency Management Plan (2010) for each of the ministries that make up the NDC, in alignment with the NDMO Workplan and long term strategies.
- IFRC is currently supporting MIRCS in organizational strengthening and program development through a small North Pacific sub-office in Majuro, which also provides support to the Palau Red Cross and Micronesia Red Cross in FSM. Additional technical support is provided on an as needed basis from the IFRC Country Cluster Team (CCST) Office in Suva and the IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office in Kuala Lumpur.

CHALLENGES AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS NEEDS

At a general level, the delivery of DRM is nationally challenged by small administrations (e.g. cluster leads already have work to do). Therefore, there is a need to support the clusters to coordinate internally (i.e. dedicated staff, increasing the frequency of cluster meetings).

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

Calls for international assistance

In the event of a disaster declaration, RMI will first utilize national resources for the response. If resources for response are insufficient, requests for international assistance will be considered. A request for international assistance will only be submitted when it has become clear that the situation is beyond the capabilities of the State and local resources.

Under the 1997 Disaster Plan, the requirement for international assistance is determined by the CCG, which submits a request for international assistance through formally established channels. The CCG is responsible for liaising directly with international aid agencies and donors, after the submission of a formal request for assistance by the Government, to determine the type, quantity and distribution of the assistance required. The CCG is accountable to the aid agencies/donors for ensuring that all relief assistance is distributed in accordance with the guidelines governing the provision of such assistance, and for the preparation of a report on expenditure/distribution of assistance provided by each agency/donor/diplomatic mission. In practice, the status of the CCG and its relationship with the CSO and the present NDC is unclear. As the present Disaster Assistance Act is scheduled for review in 2017 along with revisions to operating arrangements, the nature and continuation of the CCG should then be clarified.

In practice, it is possible that any letter of request for assistance would go at the same time to multiple partners (such as the US, the PHT). The Government of RMI is responsible for coordinating the assistance provided by different humanitarian partners.

In response to a request for support, the PHT or other agencies may send a letter or an email of offering for support. Such a letter should be addressed to the Chief Secretary with a copy to the Director of the NDMO and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA).

For smaller scale events (e.g. a disaster affecting only one island or a small geographic area), assistance has been channelled directly to the Ministries in the past. Nevertheless, the Government of RMI stresses the need for offers of support to the Ministries to be channelled through the CSO and the NDMO in order to ensure government coordination and tracking.

Assistance

- As a long-term, locally-based support partner to RMI, the US provides considerable assistance to RMI in times of a disaster. This includes the provision of relief through the existing structures and organizations such as IOM. In the interest of supporting the existing coordination, the US Embassy welcomes direct advice from the PHT or other agencies of support so that the activities can be efficient and complemented.

- In the field, IOM will continue to seek out funding opportunities to assist in the implementation of the government of the RMI's response plan.
- IFRC will continue to support MIRCS in organizational strengthening and program development, including risk and vulnerability mapping, contingency planning, emergency relief stocks, understanding of Principles and Rules for RCRC Humanitarian Assistance and strengthening MIRCS' capacity for emergency response.



NATIONAL REFERENCE DOCUMENTS/ WEBSITES

National Development Plan: <http://bit.ly/2tjetOV>

National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management (DRMNAP) 2008-2018:

<http://bit.ly/2urQ7Ck>

2011 National Climate Change Policy Framework:

<http://bit.ly/2u1zU5S>

Immediate and Near-Term Response Plan for the Republic of the Marshall Islands Drought:

<http://bit.ly/2tjAA8g>

RMI Proclamation Declaring a state of disaster (outlines roles in declaring and responding to a disaster) – this document is not public.

2nd Annual Outer Island Focal Point 1 pager (available upon request from IOM).

National Disaster Management Plan 1997

<http://bit.ly/2vE6R6o>

National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2008-2018:

<http://bit.ly/2urQ7Ck>

RMI Emergency Response Plan.

The Joint National Action Plan for Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and DRM

National Energy Policy and Energy Action Plan 2009 <http://bit.ly/2t8qCIF>

RMI Hazard Mitigation Plan, available online at:

<http://bit.ly/2urUKwv>

RMI Airport Disaster Plan

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REFERENCE INFORMATION International Guidance/Resource Material

Regional Guidelines for International Disaster Assistance and Cooperation in the Pacific

4. ENGAGEMENT OF PRIME MINISTER / SENIOR POLITICAL FIGURES



CURRENT STATUS

In the case of natural disasters, the WSO advises on threats, early warning messages and drought statements to the NDMO. The NDMO alerts clusters of the threat and initiates discussion on the situation. Based on the information provided, the NDMO advises the Chief Secretary, the chair of the NDC, of the threat. The Chief Secretary will convene a meeting with the NDC and discuss response measures, such as whether a state of disaster should be declared. When a consensus on the way forward is achieved, recommendations will be made to the Cabinet on moving forward (e.g. whether or not to declare a state of disaster).

The official steps for the declaration of a state of disaster are documented in two documents:

- Proclamation declaring a state of emergency (for natural disasters); and
- Declaring a state of health emergency (for health outbreaks).

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

The US is an important donor to RMI in times of a disaster. USAID and the US Embassy welcome involvement from the PHT, cluster leads, NGOs and donors.



NATIONAL REFERENCE DOCUMENTS/ WEBSITES

Proclamation declaring a state of emergency (internal document; not public)

Proclamation declaring a state of health emergency (internal document; not public)

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PHOTO CREDIT: IOM Micronesia

5. ENGAGEMENT OF MINISTRIES (INC PLANNING AND FINANCE)



CURRENT STATUS

Following the assessment of an event by the NDC (see Section 3), the Cabinet considers whether to declare a disaster and advises members and clusters on the actions accordingly.

Ministers on the Cabinet are Minister in Assistance to the President, MoFA, Minister of Finance, Minister of Transportation & Communication, Minister of Justice, Minister of Resources & Development, Minister of Public Works, Minister of Internal Affairs, Minister of Health and Minister of Education.

Engagement of the Ministries is conducted through the CSO, copying the NDMO and MoFA.

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

The CSO advises that it is not convention to contact the Ministries or the President directly in the event of a disaster. The CSO recommends that offers of technical and financial support be channelled through the CSO (copying the NDMO and MoFA).

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PHOTO CREDIT: OCHA Pacific/2017/A.Valdes

6. AWARENESS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN SYSTEMS & PRINCIPLES



CURRENT STATUS

Training on the Essentials of Humanitarian Assistance (EHA) and their principles has been provided to public servants by IOM (see below). Efforts are made to follow the principles during disasters.

PARTNERS

- IOM has multiple projects with the Office of the Chief Secretary, the NDMO, the NDC, NGOs, civil society and educational institutions to raise awareness and train individuals through a Marshallese-tailored EHA Essentials of Humanitarian Assistance Training. IOM works closely with participating groups to develop a training agenda that meets the needs of the participants. Additionally, IOM provides ongoing technical assistance to partners on as needed basis and at the request of the partners to assist with activities in this thematic area.
- IFRC and the MIRCS operate under the “Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, unity, universality and voluntary service). They are also guided by the Principles responsibilities in international humanitarian assistance. IFRC Asia Pacific Region also has Standard Operating Procedures for disaster response and early recovery regarding operational management and the facilitation and coordination of international assistance in support of National Societies. MIRCS works to address the needs of the people in the Marshall Islands and prioritizes the needs of the most vulnerable.
- MIRCS is established under the Marshall Islands Red Cross Society (Incorporation and Recognition) Act, 2013, which recognizes the MIRCS as auxiliary to the public authorities in the humanitarian field, recognized and authorized on the basis of the Geneva Conventions to provide humanitarian and disaster relief services. It also states that the public authorities shall, at all times, respect the adherence of the Society to the Fundamental Principles and independent and voluntary nature of the Society.

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

IOM will continue to support the EAH training in both English and Marshallese, where applicable.

NATIONAL REFERENCE DOCUMENTS/ WEBSITES

Stock take of the gender mainstreaming capacity of Pacific Island governments Republic of the Marshall Islands <http://bit.ly/2tj64LC>

Gender Profile: Republic of Marshall Islands <http://bit.ly/2urKOTr>

PREPARE program brief, available upon request from IOM

EHA 1 pager, available upon request from IOM

CADRE Plus program brief, available upon request from IOM

Marshall Islands Red Cross Society (Incorporation and Recognition) Act, 2013

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Jack Niedenthal

Secretary General, MIRCS

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REFERENCE INFORMATION International Guidance/Resource Material

Humanitarian Principles: <http://bit.ly/1oceeqz>

Protection from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation: <http://bit.ly/2tkGV3a>

Disaster Response in Asia and the Pacific: Guide to International Tools and Services: <http://bit.ly/29yPlq3>

Humanitarian Programme Cycle Tools & Guidance: <http://bit.ly/2vc4F6T>

7. GENDER AND PROTECTION MAINSTREAMING



CURRENT STATUS

Gender mainstreaming and management in RMI falls under the MoCIA. MoCIA implements the 2014 Gender Policy and aims to strengthen the national capacity to deliver gender responsibilities. The Ministry is responsible for the design and implementation of policies for all vulnerable groups, not just gender, but also children and youth.

The NDMO and each of the five clusters are responsible for mainstreaming gender and protection in their preparedness and response activities, but there are presently no gender or protection focal points in any of the government lead ministries.

RMI does not have a Protection Cluster and the focal point for gender and vulnerability in the MoCIA, and does not necessarily conduct mainstreaming activities to support the NDMO and the five clusters.

While this is the case:

- In the WASH Cluster, WUTMI, an umbrella organisation of women's civil society organisations, provides gender mainstreaming support.; however, there is no general protection mainstreaming activities.
- In the Infrastructure Cluster, the MoCIA provides mainstreaming support to the Shelter-Sub Cluster of the Infrastructure Cluster. No mainstreaming activities are present in the overall cluster.
- In the Health Cluster, IOM supported women's health needs during the 2016 drought in a gender sensitive manner, using Cookhouse Confidential.

There does not appear to be any support for gender and protection mainstreaming in the Logistics Cluster.

At the national level, partner agencies supporting gender in RMI do not meet formally or on a regular basis. There is, however, work underway through the MoCIA to strengthen gender work and to better align work for reporting against the National Strategic Plan and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

A gender stock take was undertaken by SPC in 2016, which provides ongoing assistance for gender mainstreaming, gender statistics etc.

MIRCS prioritizes the most vulnerable people in emergency response action and recognizes that women and children are particularly vulnerable in disasters. MIRCS applies gender equality principles to programming and follows an inclusive approach to gender and diversity. Staff are members of the National Taskforce on Human Trafficking and Cookhouse Confidential group.

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

As a member of the IFRC Asia Pacific Gender and Diversity network, IFRC will continue to provide support to MIRCS in the area of gender mainstreaming in programming and service provision and disaster preparedness and response.

The government has identified that areas in need of focus for mainstreaming include:

- Women's voice, their participation and leadership in disaster committees;
- Inclusion of women in distribution of supplies, such as seedlings;
- Child protection and disabilities;
- Legislative strengthening;
- Disaster preparedness;

In times of disaster preparedness, the following institutional strengthening challenges may need to be addressed:

- Awareness session/training on the purpose, nature and value of a Protection Cluster and how it might work for RMI;
- Incorporation of gender considerations to all sectors;
- Ensuring that programmes to make products available to outer islands (e.g. sanitary pads);
- Ensuring improved capacity for gender mainstreaming in disaster response. WUTMI is not well versed in gender and hazards as it is still a new area for the organization.
- Ensuring that women's views are heard, as culturally women do not speak up when men are around. Although disaster committees exist on the islands, the representation of women is still very low;
- Expert assistance in the lead up to a disaster to help prepare for the gender activities (ensure gender and protection issues are addressed in an emergency);
- Strengthening child protection and disability (need a child protection policy; currently there is only a bill);
- Legislative strengthening for gender (e.g. work enforcement policy and gender mainstreaming).

NATIONAL REFERENCE DOCUMENTS/ WEBSITES

Stock take of the gender mainstreaming capacity of Pacific Island governments - Republic of the Marshall Islands

<http://bit.ly/2tj64LC>

Gender Profile: Republic of Marshall Islands

<http://bit.ly/2urKOTr>

2014 National Gender Policy

<http://bit.ly/2vavKqO>

Child Protection Bill

<http://bit.ly/2vuWUgs>

Cookhouse Confidential Pilot Report (provided to and available upon request from Terry Keju, UNFPA, RMI)

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REFERENCE INFORMATION International Guidance/Resource Material

Minimum Inter-Agency Standards for Protection Mainstreaming

<http://bit.ly/2tUVFBj>

Global Protection Cluster – Protection

Mainstreaming Principles: <http://bit.ly/2tlclBa>

IASC Gender Handbook in Humanitarian Action:

<http://bit.ly/2iWPWu9>

8. PLAN / MECHANISMS FOR SLOW ONSET DISASTERS



CURRENT STATUS

Drought is the most likely slow onset of disaster, which threatens RMI. Assessments for drought are conducted in the first instance through the WSO, which delivers scientific assessment and analytical services (see Section 1). In addition, the WSO receives technical assistance (advice, alerts) through the COFA from NOAA's PEAC and the Guam Forecast Office.

WSO advises the NDMO in the event of a drought threats. The NDMO coordinates input and advises the CSO as needed.

The 2016 Immediate Drought Response Plan for the Republic of the Marshall Islands is the present action plan. An internal After Action Review was conducted in 2016 of RMI's response to the 2015/2016 drought. This internal (i.e. not publicly released) document made a number of recommendations for managing slow onset events in the future. Linked to this and absorbing the outstanding actions from the 2016 plan, the NDMO is now developing a Drought Contingency Plan which will represent the ongoing drought strategy for RMI. Critical response issues for droughts centre around the deployment and/or activation of reverse Osmosis Desalination (RO) units.

PARTNERS

Long and short-term rainfall outlooks and predictions may also be provided by NOAA's PEAC and the Guam Forecast Office.

IOM, through funding provided by USAID, has prepositioned emergency response solar powered Reverse Osmosis (RO) Units capable of producing up to 360 gallons of potable water a day. These are deployed when the WASH Cluster deems necessary to the outer islands to mitigate possible drought and respond to water shortages.

MIRCS prepares for and responds to slow onset disasters in the same way – as auxiliary to and in cooperation with the government.

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

IOM prepositioned emergency response solar powered RO units and other WASH items.

IFRC will continue to support MIRCS with technical inputs, access to emergency funding and procurement of emergency relief stocks, in line with their needs.



REFERENCE INFORMATION International Guidance/Resource Material

Drought Response Plan: <http://bit.ly/2vas7RU>

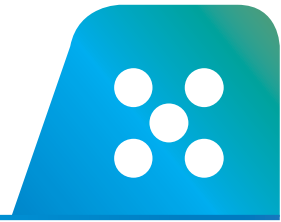
National Structures/Contacts

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9. NATIONAL LEVEL PARTNER COORDINATION MECHANISM (CLUSTERS)



CURRENT STATUS

In the event of a disaster, the CSO activates the NDC, which operates at the EOC. This system (NDC, EOC) coordinates national agencies.

Coordination of partners is managed in part through a cluster system, coordinated by the NDMO on behalf of the CSO. RMI operates up to five clusters, depending on the nature of the disaster (see below).

In addition to the work of the NDMO:

- The MoCIA is the administrative coordinator for the local councils, which are established in each of the habited islands and are headed by a mayor. Local council activities include local police services, solid waste collection and maintenance of local roads. MoCIA is a key partner for DRR/DRM issues between the national and local levels, such as through the Annual Mayors Conferences, the Local Government Division, MIMA and Mobile Teams.
- A community-based area management framework called the Reimaanlok Conservation Strategy provides relevant agencies with a collection of tools for community engagement to leverage cultural heritage for development, including disaster risk management, thereby enhancing resilience. The Strategy takes an ecosystem approach in addressing community-based DRR issues through conservation efforts implemented by the CMAC.

CLUSTER SYSTEM

Five clusters are active in RMI:

- Water and Sanitation (WASH) (Lead: Halstan de Brum, Majuro Water Service Company (MWSC): MWSC, Salvation Army, EPA (Environmental Protection Agency, WSO, IOM, Ministry of Works, Infrastructure and Utilities (MoWIU) , Humanity First, Public School System (PSS), MALGOV (Majuro Atoll Local Government), MoCIA, PREL (Pacific Resources for Education & Learning), MIRCS, WUTMI and JICA.

- Health (Lead: Mailyynn Lang, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Health, or MoH): (i) For a health outbreak related disaster: MoH, CSO and EOC/ EpiNet Outbreak Control Team (ii) For a natural disaster: MoH, CSO and IOM
- Logistics: (Lead: Waylon Muller, Ministry of Transportation and Communication, MOT&C): MOT&C, Air Marshall Islands (AMI), National Telecommunications Authority, Ministry of Finance (MOF), Marshall Islands Shipping Corporation (MISC) and IOM.
- Food Security and Agriculture: (Lead: Henry Capelle, Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce (MoNRC): MoNRC, MoH, WUTMI, College of the Marshall Islands (CMI), JICA, MOC&TIM, MIMA, MoCIA and IOM.
- Infrastructure (Lead: Melvin Aliven, MoWIU): MoWIU, AMI, MISC, National Telecommunications Authority, MOF and IOM.
- Under the auspices of the Infrastructure Cluster, a Shelter Sub-Cluster exists comprising of: MoCIA (ad), MoWIU, PS, MWSC and IOM.

PARTNERS

The Food Security & Agriculture Cluster was activated in early 2015 for El Nino response and Regional Pacific Food Security Cluster (FSC) provided standby partner support for coordination for three months.

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

The role of the PHT and other external partners in the clusters is not presently legislated, but may be clarified during the forthcoming review of DRM arrangements and legislation.

Cluster leads have stated that delivery of DRM at the national level can be challenging in general as the cluster leads are engaged in their regular programs. It has been suggested that there is a need to support the clusters to coordinate internally during an event (dedicated staff). Examples of clusters noting the value of additional support are Health and WASH. In times of disaster preparedness, ToRs and SOPs

exist for some clusters, but need to be finalised. During the February 2017 consultations, the Government requested support in the revision of the ToRs and cluster system.

NATIONAL REFERENCE DOCUMENTS/ WEBSITES

Information on terms of reference (where they exist) for the Clusters can be found in Sections 20-28.

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REFERENCE INFORMATION International Guidance/Resource Material

IASC Reference Module for Cluster Coordination
at Country Level: <http://bit.ly/2utMdsX>



PHOTO CREDIT: UNDP

10. SUBNATIONAL LEVEL PARTNER COORDINATION MECHANISMS



CURRENT STATUS

A community-based area management framework called the Reimaanlok Conservation Strategy provides relevant agencies with a collection of tools for community engagement to leverage cultural heritage for development, including disaster risk management, thereby enhancing resilience. The Strategy takes an ecosystem approach in addressing the community-based DRR issues through conservation efforts implemented by the CMAC.

PARTNERS

- MIMA supports disaster risk management by supplying local level information on the state of matters on the outer islands as part of monitoring and disaster management.
- IOM works with the NDMO and the clusters to support the establishment and functioning of Outer Island Focal Points (e.g. conducting initial assessments following an event and supporting relief efforts in their community).
- MIRCS has a plan for representation throughout the inhabited atolls and islands of RMI. Depending on the needs in the different locations, this may evolve into groups of trained Red Cross volunteers with capacity to work and respond locally. This representative network is not yet in place but there are plans to start in 2017. IFRC will support MIRCS in this process.

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

IOM will continue to support the EHA training in both English and Marshallese, where applicable.



NATIONAL REFERENCE DOCUMENTS/ WEBSITES

2nd Annual Outer Island Focal Point Workshop 1 pager, available upon request from IOM

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11. NGO COORDINATION / ENGAGEMENT MECHANISM



CURRENT STATUS

There are only a limited number of NGOs operating in DRM in RMI. These include World Teach, WUTMI, Youth to Youth, Red Cross, Salvation Army and faith based organisations including Humanity First, Church of Latter Day Saints and Islamic organisation. In practice, there is no formal NGO forum to disaster response.



NATIONAL REFERENCE DOCUMENTS/ WEBSITES

NGO Coordination Resource Centre:

<http://bit.ly/2tawESS>

Principles of Partnership:

<http://bit.ly/2u2YsKh>

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

No mapping of NGO capacity appears to formally exist.

In times of disaster preparedness, there is a need to prepare enhanced coordination among the NGOs.



PHOTO CREDIT: UNICEF Pacific/2016/Sokhin

12. CIVIL-MILITARY COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS



CURRENT STATUS

RMI has no military forces. As a sovereign nation, RMI is free to conduct its own foreign relations within the terms of the COFA with the US. Under this, the US has full authority and responsibility for the security and defense of RMI. There is an army garrison on Kwajalein Atoll, although the US Embassy has stated that this facility is not envisaged as suitable for civil military support in humanitarian response. The engagement of US military for humanitarian response remains the same for RMI as it does for the rest of the world.

RMI maintains a number of small public and private police services, including the Marshall Islands Police Department. The Police Commissioner sits on the NDC. As a general rule, the police have had limited involvement in disaster response, although they have vessels (two boats on Majuro and one on Kwajalein) and vehicles that could be used for response and for relief distribution.

As a result of the limited police involvement in disasters, civil police coordination arrangements are presently negligible.

Australia has provided RMI with patrol boats to assist in policing their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

OCHA regionally delivers annual Civil Military Training to police representatives to enhance the understanding on the Civil Military Coordination from the humanitarian perspective during emergencies.



NATIONAL REFERENCE DOCUMENTS/ WEBSITES

COFA agreement: Agreement between RMI and USA: <http://bit.ly/2tjxaCa>

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REFERENCE INFORMATION International Guidance/Resource Material

Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines for The Use of Foreign Military Assets in Natural Disaster Response Operations:

<http://bit.ly/Rhh6tw>

Oslo Guidelines on the Use of Foreign Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief:

<http://bit.ly/1jOhpCc>

UN Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination Field Handbook

<http://bit.ly/2tgH43s>

13. PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT & COORDINATION



CURRENT STATUS

There is no formal structure for private sector involvement in disaster response. Nevertheless, both Tobolar and the MISC are partially owned government enterprises, in receipt of government funding. Falling under the mandate of the MOT&C, the Government of RMI may directly request assistance in the use of the Marshall Islands Shipping Company (MISC)/Tobolar vessels to assist in the distribution of relief supplies. In this respect:

- MISC has four cargo vessels with a carrying capacity of 30 tons;
- Tobolar has two vessels – a large ship for work in the outer island and a small vessel for work around Majuro and nearby islets.

No formalised structure exists for securing food support from the private sector. The Chamber of Commerce on Majuro is active and has informal links that can be used to contact businesses if needed.

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REFERENCE INFORMATION International Guidance/Resource Material

Connecting Business Initiative Report – Humanitarian Crises, Emergency Preparedness and Response: The role of business and the private sector: <http://bit.ly/2uCNwpR>



PHOTO CREDIT: UNICEF Pacific/2016/Sokhin

14. PARTNER PRESENCE AND CAPACITY MAPPING



CURRENT STATUS

The NDMO has not conducted a partner mapping exercise nor does it presently have plans to do so (although it is possible that this may be done as part of other institutional strengthening activities delivered in RMI through projects). The number of international partners present in RMI is low. These include:

- The UN Joint Presence Office (JPO), was established in 2008 in response to a request from the RMI government to have more presence of the UN system's in the country. The office hosts four UN agencies (UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF and UN Women).
 - The US Embassy in Majuro provides consular services.
 - USAID/OFDA has a Regional Advisor based in Majuro, covering the Pacific Islands with additional staff throughout the Asia Pacific region. USAID/ OFDA and USAID/Pacific (based in Manila) support RMI through disaster preparedness, risk reduction and emergency response projects. Funding and in kind resources are provided to the UN and non governmental implementing partners. Capacity building has focused on strengthening the NDMO's operating procedures, drought monitoring, drought response and pre positioning of relief items. Other disaster activities include creating disaster committees in outer islands, conducting DRR in schools, developing a DRR curriculum for schools and strengthening radio networks.
 - IOM established a presence in Pohnpei, FSM in March 2008. IOM has since expanded after having opened a sub-office in Majuro in 2009 as well as in Palau, Chuuk, Yap and Kosrae. The office in Majuro works with the Chief of Mission for IOM Micronesia, in a variety of programs such as but not limited to the 2016 RMI Drought Response, Typhoon Maysak reconstruction, disaster preparedness technical assistance, counter human trafficking programs, migrant assistance, climate change adaptation and DRM. As the UN Migration Agency, IOM Micronesia is able to utilize global resources and expertise
- in all its programs. IOM Majuro also runs a prepositioned warehouse on behalf of USAID/ OFDA, including RO units, hygiene kits, jerry cans, plastic sheeting etc.
 - MIRCS, was established under the Marshall Islands Red Cross Society (Incorporation and Recognition) Act, 2013, serves as the Red Cross of RMI and auxiliary to the government in humanitarian and disaster relief services. MIRCS is actively involved in the areas of disaster management disaster preparedness and response and DRM community resilience building, first aid training for the government, private sector, groups with special needs and for outer island communities and operates a service providing support to armed forces personnel and their families in times of personal or family crisis. MIRCS's staff and volunteers are involved in various community activities and events. Around 20 national groups are in Majuro to deploy and assist in the event of a disaster and is trained in first aid, assessment, distribution of relief stocks and reporting.
 - The Government of Japan maintains a JICA office in Majuro. JICA provides support through projects and repositioned supplies in case of emergencies.
 - A Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Correspondent is based at the MoNRC.

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

IFRC Country Cluster Support Team in Suva and IFRC Asia Pacific Regional Office provide technical and surge support to IFRC's North Pacific Office as needed.

NATIONAL REFERENCE DOCUMENTS/ WEBSITES

For further information contact UNFPA to access:

- New Zealand 1 pager
- DFAT Australia 1 pager
- DFAT RO handover 1 pager
- Jerry Can 1 pager
- Turn the Tide on Trash 1 pager
- IOM El Nino Drought Response SitRep 1, 5 and 10

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REFERENCE INFORMATION International Guidance/Resource Material

Guidance Documents: 3W – Who does What, Where?:

<http://bit.ly/2ta9M5V>

OCHA 3W Purpose, Target Audience, Scope and Products:

<http://bit.ly/2vbZvrj>

Contact Management Guidance:

<http://bit.ly/2uxgdDV>



PHOTO CREDIT: UNICEF Pacific/2016/Sokhin

15. ASSESSMENT PROTOCOLS / MECHANISMS



CURRENT STATUS

Assessment protocols in RMI are not legislated. Assessments can be initiated by the NDMO via the clusters. Standard data forms exist for Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) ('initial situational overview form' and 'drought situation overview form'), which are executed by the clusters and channelled through outer island mayors if needed. Training is provided by the Government on the use of these forms. While the standard forms exist in some IDA sector cases, other forms vary and there are no SOPs for assessment across the board. No standard Situation Report (SitRep) format is used at present. Procedures and formats are yet to be standardised.

A permanent Information Management Officer was hired under the NSMO in December 2016. The Officer is intended to act as a focal point for information analysis and dissemination (to emergency response partners, general public and the media) during emergencies/disasters. The Information Management Officer reports directly to the Chief Secretary in close coordination with the Director of the NDMO on all matters involving any communications request or needs related to emergency situations that have local or national significance to the population at large. The officer supports the NDMO to strengthen and improve communication, information networks and systems to support coordination, collaboration, planning and dissemination of DRR and DRM information to relevant stakeholders.

PARTNERS

MIRCS has a group of around 20 volunteers in Majuro who are trained in conducting assessments, distribution of relief supplies and reporting. They are available to assist in times of a disaster.

There is ongoing work by FAO to assess food security through post El Nino Food Security Monitoring assessments.

Some capacity on food security monitoring, Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) and the use of the Kobo Toolbox has been developed in the MoNRC under the World Food Programme (WFP).

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

OCHA is planning to work on reinforcing the capacity of the information management focal point.

The US can support disaster assessments (See Section 3). Disaster assessments are generally conducted in partnership with the national agencies.

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REFERENCE INFORMATION International Guidance/Resource Material

Needs Assessment: Guidance & Templates:

<http://bit.ly/2vwnqkl>

Assessment Capacities Project

Assessment Resources: <http://bit.ly/2tl6JMx>

16. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (INC DATA PREPAREDNESS)



CURRENT STATUS

Structures

According to the 2016 RMI drought PDNA, there is a need to upgrade information and communications platform to better facilitate information flows prior to, during and after a disaster. This was proposed to formally incorporate social media as a tool to enhance the understanding the impact of disasters as well as basic internet over HF radio for outer Islands. The PDNA also observed that topographic data and Geographic Information System (GIS) layers were unavailable for response purposes, and that data was not updated or consolidated. A government based centralized data system has been proposed.

There is currently no national database for disaster response or established mechanisms for accessing DRR information. The Environmental Protection authority intends to establish a comprehensive website containing disaster information. However, technical capacity and lack of funds remains a challenge.

A database development consultant is also being hired at the time of this research. The consultant will be on board for a three month period to collect all information and database available from different clusters.

An Information Management Officer for the NDMO has just been recruited. Further details on the scope of work for this individual can be found on Section 15.

Progress has also been achieved in capacity building in mapping. Two EPA staff undertook a GIS course through the University of the South Pacific (USP). Digital mapping provides relevant data on disaster vulnerability and information sharing allows various ministries and NGOs access to the data collected.

MoFA sits in cluster meeting and compiles the data on the state of the disaster to a SitRep which will then be disseminated. No standard SitRep template for the NDMO exists at this point.

PARTNERS

- CMI assists the Marshall Islands Conservation Society (MICS) with mapping tasks.
- CROP organizations such as SOPAC and SPREP have provided assistance in GIS capabilities over the past few years.
- IOM is supporting the government in compiling/creating a Community Site Profile for all of the outer islands in RMI. The purpose of the community level site profile is to provide the disaster management staff with a snapshot of each community to inform disaster management planning and early response in the event of a disaster.
- MIRCS maintains its own information system, including data from the past and present responses and projects.
- There is ongoing work by FAO to assess food security through post El Nino Food Security Monitoring assessments.
- Some capacity on food security monitoring, PDNA assessment (agriculture sector) and the use of the Kobo Toolbox has been developed in the MoNRC under WFP.

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

OCHA is planning to work on reinforcing the capacity of the information management focal point.



NATIONAL REFERENCE DOCUMENTS/ WEBSITES

IOM Community Site Profile One document

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REFERENCE INFORMATION International Guidance/Resource Material

Humanitarian Data Exchange: <http://bit.ly/23WPiV4>

Pacific Disaster Net <http://bit.ly/2uRLUzf>

Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative <http://pcrafi.spc.int/>

17. RESPONSE MONITORING MECHANISMS



CURRENT STATUS

The Chief Secretary is responsible for the management of all funds provided for disaster relief. Prior authorization for expenditure of such funds must be received. Accounts that are charged against the disaster relief funds and have not received prior approval for such expenditure are returned to the ministry, department, organization or individual that incurred the costs. This procedure aims to ensure that the available funds are committed to the requirements considered as high priority. Secondly, the procedure aims to avoid unnecessary expenditure on the items that may already be available from other resources.

The NDMO, with support from MOF, tracks all support – national and international that goes to the recipient. Handover notes, documentation and signing exist to demonstrate who received which assistance.

PARTNERS

- IOM supported WUTMI to provide Beneficiary Monitoring and Follow up for the 2013 and 2016 drought response.
- With support from IFRC, MIRCS is developing planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting skills and follows emergency response guidelines on monitoring and accountability to all stakeholders, including beneficiaries.

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

Where needed, IFRC will support MIRCS to carry out reviews and evaluations of its emergency response operations.

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REFERENCE INFORMATION International Guidance/Resource Material

IASC Humanitarian Response Monitoring Guidance:

<http://bit.ly/2tl1YIZ>

Response Monitoring on Humanitarian Response:

<http://bit.ly/2vwjj8f>

Humanitarian Indicators Registry:

<http://bit.ly/1s1KMc8>

18. PUBLIC INFORMATION MECHANISMS (INC COMMUNICATING WITH COMMUNITIES)



CURRENT STATUS

There is one national radio station, V7AB, which serves as an important communication link with the community at large and with outer islands. The link is critical to relay information and some control measures must be introduced accordingly to ensure that only essential broadcasts are made in times of emergency.

All broadcast requests related to the operational situation should be channelled through the EOC for authorization by the Chief Secretary. This is to ensure that only accurate and relevant information is being broadcast and that the public is not confused by an avalanche of messages. It also ensures that the messages related to those under the most threat receive highest priority. Weather service warning messages are exempt from this restriction and should continue to be broadcast as and when received.

Several ministries and NGOs run successful public awareness campaigns on various aspects of DRM. Public awareness initiatives exist within the MoH and the EPA, both drawing upon various forms of media (e.g. radio, newspaper) and targeted educational products in Marshallese.

In addition to these services, the NDMO has expressed interest in working with the National Telecommunication Authority (NTA) to send warning/advice messages to the communities in the event of a disaster. This idea is still under discussion.

PARTNERS

- WUTMI is active in public awareness on a range of issues and reaches out to the outer islands via their vast network of members.
- The US Land Grant, implemented through CMI, includes public outreach and involves capacity building for agriculture, aquaculture, fishing, cooking and nutrition.

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

- MOT&C notes the need for training in the repair and maintenance of radios as well as antennae, especially for the outer islands.
- Stockpiles of spare parts exist for radios, although these may age over time. There may be a need to replenish stocks.
- There is a need for spare parts for HF radios.

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REFERENCE INFORMATION International Guidance/Resource Material

Practice Brief: Communicating with Communities During the First Six Weeks of An Emergency Response: <http://bit.ly/2tl3LHK>

Communicating with Disaster Affected Communities – Tools & Resources:

<http://bit.ly/2nEYuXA>

19. EMERGENCY FUNDING MECHANISMS



CURRENT STATUS

RMI is participating in the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance pilot, an application of the World Bank/ SPC/ Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS)/ Pacific Resilience Project (PREP). This pilot provides national catastrophe insurance for tropical cyclones and earthquakes as well as other relevant disasters. National financing arrangements/procedures following a disaster are documented through PREP's predecessor project, and detailed in RMI's Post Disaster Budget Execution Guidelines.

In brief:

- A Contingency Fund of US\$200,000 is resourced annually by the RMI government. This fund can be accessed by the government for any emergency, including disasters.
- A Disaster Assistance Emergency Fund (DAEF) is resourced annually by both the RMI and US governments. RMI must contribute a minimum of \$200,000 to be matched by the US government. This matching grant may be used only when the RMI government declares a state of emergency or disaster. The government of RMI must inform the US if it withdraws from the DAEF and the US must consent if it exceeds \$50,000.
- The RMI Government may request humanitarian assistance from the UN and other international donors.
- A Disaster Response Fund of \$2 million has been set aside from the general budget for emergencies. This new fund was established in 2016.

Under this project, other financing options are budget reallocation and general financial approaches. Following the declaration of a disaster, the MOF may modify procurement regulations in order to support relief and response. The Procurement Unit of the MOF is the focal point. An example of the variation of procurement rules is the ability to directly procure goods from a vendor rather than securing three quotes, per normal procurement conditions. In practice, the variation of procurement rules depends on the disaster at hand and is determined by the Government at the time of the event.

Relief entering the country from donors is channelled through the MOF. On occasion, this may require the relaxation of customs procedures to enable rapid distribution of relief. Variation of customs procedures is managed by Foreign Affairs.

A request for international assistance will only be made when it has become clear that the situation is beyond the capacity of the State and local resources (See Section 4. Engagement of Prime Minister and Senior Political Figures).

CHALLENGES

MOF advises that direct contributions of financial support to RMI are most easily processed if donors provide clear guidelines on their budget and planned expenditure (e.g. what the funds are for, any procurement stipulations and procedures, how to report etc).

PARTNERS

IOM-USAID provide ongoing technical assistance to the NDMO including support in socializing the new (2008) United States government response mechanism with the transition from FEMA to USAID as the lead agency for disaster assistance.

MIRCS aims to maintain a small disaster fund to finance approved small scale emergency needs. In coordination with the IFRC, MIRCS may request an allocation from the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for immediate assistance to meet the emergency response needs and may request for the launch of an Emergency Appeal to fund an extended response. IFRC may also access funds from other sources (e.g. the US, Australian and other government aid).

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

- The CSO has advised that it would welcome an awareness session on the process of disaster response fundraising, such as the Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) and Flash Appeal, so that it can provide optimal support.

 **NATIONAL REFERENCE DOCUMENTS/ WEBSITES**

Marshall Islands Post-disaster budget execution guidelines: <http://bit.ly/2tycAtf>

Operational Blue Print

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Reference Information



REFERENCE INFORMATION
International Guidance/Resource Material

HumanitarianResponse.info – Response

Mobilization: <http://bit.ly/2vc4F6T>



PHOTO CREDIT: UNICEF Pacific/2016/Sokhin

20. LOGISTICS CAPACITY, PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE



CURRENT STATUS

MoWIU leads the Infrastructure Cluster. The Infrastructure Cluster also covers shelter as a sub-cluster (led by the Secretary of Internal Affairs). There are no ToRs for the Infrastructure Cluster although this is needed. The Logistics Cluster comprises the TNC, AIR, MISC National Telecommunications Authority, MOF and IOM.

In a workshop in February 2017, the Logistics Cluster members recommended the inclusion of the Chamber of Commerce and Tobolar in the cluster due to their access to shipping and – potentially – the inclusion of IOM.

The existence of the Shelter Cluster is recognised under the 1987 Disaster Act, although the structure is not formalised at present and there do not appear to be any explicit ToRs for it. As a result, there are currently no explicit contact names for members.

The Logistics Cluster only meets when a disaster occurs. In this case, the CSO convenes the NDC, who then agree on the recommendations/appeals (e.g. to the US for help). If appropriate, MoWIU carries out the following actions:

- Equipment deployment as needed (e.g. buffering for floods);
- Water station and faucet (droughts) to access water;
- Addition water to tanks;
- Maintenance and monitors pumps;
- Running of water tanks around the island;
- Building catchment and repairs gutter;
- Use of vessels to deliver water to the outer islands;
- Removal of debris;
- Provision of equipment after a disaster/drought.

Schools and churches serve as shelters.

Assessments following a disaster are conducted by a cluster team where all members and sectors are represented; however, some members may be collecting more data than others depending on the type of event.

Although the Infrastructure Cluster only convenes during a disaster, MoWIU is always on alert (stand by) in case of any events (e.g. expected swell).

As part of the Infrastructure Cluster, MoWIU carries out the following activities:

- Conducts rapid assessment of a site (condition of buildings, roads, walls etc.)

Assesses the cost of damage (e.g. damage to seawalls) and reports to the CSO. Due to RMI's isolation, transportation and logistics during emergency response is difficult. There is, therefore, some competition among the stakeholders over scarce logistics resources during an event. When a vessel goes to the outer islands, there is a need to ensure that all actors are advised so they can coordinate.

Small cargo volumes in RMI limit their ability to benefit from economies of scale or attract shipping services and investors. Smaller vessels need to be used, which bring higher costs per 20 foot equivalent units (TEUs) than larger vessels. The Logistics Cluster pays most of the costs but the cost of transporting commodities especially to the outer islands can sometimes exceed their value.

In addition to the official transportation options, support can be secured by the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA), which has several vessels that the NDMO can utilise. The private sector vessels may be targeted as well (see Section 13. Private Sector Engagement and Coordination).

NATIONAL LOGISTICS CAPACITY

- 5 Airports with paved runways (1,524m - 2,437m).
- 30 Airstrips (914m - 1,523m).
- Marshall Islands International Airport: located in Majuro Atoll. It is served by international carrier United Airlines, regional carrier Our Airlines and Air Marshall Islands. Current airport facilities include a terminal building, Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) facility, Air Marshall Islands Hangar and fuel delivery system.

- Roadways (Total 2028km/Paved: 75km/Un-paved: 1953km/Few motor vehicles).
- Public Transport: Non-existent, but taxis available/No railways.
- Port of Majuro: Anchorage depth: 23.2m/Cargo pier depth: 15.5m.
- Port of Kwajalein: Anchorage depth: 14m/Cargo pier depth: 7.1m/Max size: <500 feet in length.
- Port of Enitwetak Island: Anchorage depth: 20.1m/Cargo pier depth: 7.1m.
- Domestic sea transportation is provided by inter-island ships, which service each of the outer islands about once every three months.
- Roadways: total: 2,028 km (includes 75 km of expressways).

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

- MIRCS plans to have locally available relief stocks to accommodate its immediate needs. An assessment and procurement plan will be completed in 2017.
- IOM may charter vessels from MOT&C for relief supplies (who can then deliver other items at a subsidised rate).
- Assistance may occasionally be needed for clean up/debris removal, although this is not a common need.
- If requested to assist by MIRCS, IFRC has emergency response capacity in Suva, Fiji and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. IFRC also has regional stocks of standard relief items as well as technical advice and support on logistics planning and procurement.
- WFP plans to carry over a Logistics Capacity Assessment (LCA) for RMI.
- WFP undertakes Training Needs Assessments (TNA) and delivers logistics trainings according to the results. They also support the establishment of the National Logistics Clusters and the inception concept of Wingship utilization.

In times of disaster preparedness, there is a need to:

- Document and formalise the Logistics Cluster, confirm membership and roles;
- Develop ToRs for the shelter sub-cluster;
- Standardise forms for damage assessment.

NATIONAL REFERENCE DOCUMENTS/ WEBSITES

Homeowners manual (disaster risk, preparation, reconstruction of homes after an event, where to go during a disaster that is safe):

<http://bit.ly/2uBxP25>

1987 Disaster Assistance Act: <http://bit.ly/2ukesac>

National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management 2008-2018, available online at: <http://bit.ly/2vab5TX>

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REFERENCE INFORMATION International Guidance/Resource Material

IASC Emergency Response Preparedness

Guidelines: <http://bit.ly/2tab299>

WFP Pacific Stockpile Mapping:

<http://bit.ly/2talwFz>



21. EMERGENCY TELECOMMUNICATIONS

CURRENT STATUS

Warnings are received from the Meteorological Services and passed to the NDMO. Messages are disseminated most commonly via radio. Radio communications fall under the MOT&C, which is responsible for radio hardware in the islands as well as for the oversight of the NTA. MOT&C is also the lead of the Infrastructure Cluster.

RMI has one national radio station that can be used to disseminate information to the outer islands, although every island also has access to radio communications in the form of citizen's band (CB) radio. Present radio services should be fully functioning (especially with the work of IOM funded by USAID in repairing the national radio station's AM transmitter capability; see below.) Ideally, the NDMO would like to see a dedicated frequency for the management of disasters. MOT&C has investigated a limited frequency option; however, this has not occurred to date.

CB radio can be used to share information from all sides (e.g. warnings issued from the NDMO; information/ status reports incoming from the islands). While all islands have radio access, the nature of (non-CB) radio connections varies with some islands operating with Demand Assigned Multiple Access (satellite-based) systems and others with Global System for Mobile Communications.

Importation of radios for disaster purposes is managed through Customs and executed by MOT&C (radios going to Customs and MOT&C writing a letter for tax exemption and clearance).

Cell phone coverage is patchy but is used for some messages. The NDMO is keen to formalise arrangements with the NTA for the dissemination of disaster warnings (as this is not a mandated NTA responsibility, although it has occurred in the past).

PARTNERS

- IOM supported the Government in repairing the national radio station's AM transmitter capability. Under the IOM PREPARE project, a three pronged AM/FM radio approach has been developed. It is a
- community level media initiative cycle to increase the engagement with the local governments and national entities. The project targets community focal points such as majors, women's groups, disabled groups etc.
- MIRCS plans to have some emergency telecommunications trainings for staff and volunteers in 2017.

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

- MOT&C notes the need for training in the repair and maintenance of radios as well as antennae, especially for outer islands.
- Stockpiles of spare parts exist for radios, although these may age over time. There may be a need to replenish stocks.
- There is a need for spare parts for HF radios.

NATIONAL REFERENCE DOCUMENTS/ WEBSITES

3-Pronged Radio Program Approach 1 pager (provided by IOM to Terry Keju, UNFPA for access)

1987 Disaster Assistance Act: <http://bit.ly/2ukesac>

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REFERENCE INFORMATION
International Guidance/Resource
Material

ETC Preparedness in the Pacific:

<http://bit.ly/2uCSliZ>



PHOTO CREDIT: IOM Micronesia

22. STANDARD RELIEF ASSISTANCE PACKAGE PLANNING



CURRENT STATUS

The NDMO provides food relief packages during disasters. The government food parcels as managed through the NDMO and the FSC contain rice, canned tuna, flour, canned mix vegetables, canned fruit, baking powder, milk powder and vegetable oil. All contents are sourced locally. National packages may be supplemented by food parcels from development partners, although these food parcels have not been the same as those shared by the NDMO/FSC in the past.

The NDMO does not currently operate a warehouse for prepositioned supplies in the event of a disaster. However, it is presently exploring for this option.

In the meantime, IOM has a warehouse containing prepositioned items funded by USAID (e.g. RO units, jerry cans, hygiene kits, plastic sheeting, rope, small general ToRs etc.)

Additionally, JICA maintains limited supplies of relief items that can be supplemented from regional warehouses.

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

IOM will continue to work closely with the Government of the RMI, Office of the Chief Secretary and the NDMO to:

- Monitor potential disasters, support with technical assistance before, during and after events. Based on the needs, priorities and gaps identified by the RMI government in mitigation and response plans, IOM will seek funding from potential donors to assist the government in implementing their response plans.
- Support the government of the RMI to develop contingency plans for cash and voucher programs based on experiences from the Typhoon Maysak Response in RMI.

- According to the IFRC Emergency Item Catalogue (<http://procurement.ifrc.org/catalogue/>), IFRC has stocks of standard relief items in their regional warehouses in Kuala Lumpur and Dubai. IFRC can also provide technical advice and services to support MIRCS on international and local procurement as well as logistics planning.

National Structures/Contacts

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REFERENCE INFORMATION International Guidance/Resource Material

The Sphere Handbook: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response:

<http://bit.ly/1oK3Gnb>

WFP Pacific Stockpile Mapping:

<http://bit.ly/2talwFz>

Cash Transfer Programming in the Pacific: A Feasibility Scoping Study:

<http://bit.ly/2vcnCX0>

23. HEALTH & NUTRITION



CURRENT STATUS

MoH is involved not only in disasters related to natural hazards but also in disasters related to health outbreaks. The response to these events can vary slightly in arrangement. For disasters related to natural hazards, RMI activates the cluster system, including a Health Cluster, of which MoH is the lead. During a natural disaster, MoH is a member of the cluster led by the Deputy Secretary of Health and the CSO. Cluster members are part of the EOC and report to the CSO. This system also operates if a major health outbreak occurs.

In the event of a smaller health outbreak, the cluster system may not be activated. In this case, MoH activates its own EOC – the EpiNet – and reports to the Secretary of MoH. If the outbreak is beyond the Ministry's capacity to manage, MoH may then advise the CSO and the cluster system to be activated for wider support.

Members of the EpiNet are:

- Helentina Aina Garstang, Chair
- Edlen Anzures, member
- Francyne Wase-Jacklick, member
- Ransen Henson, member
- Chocho Thein, member
- Paul Lalita, member
- Albert Ben, member
- Yoland Jurelang, member
- Josephine Matthew, member

The Health Cluster meets daily during a disaster and meets weekly during the preparedness phase. RMI has a Health Plan but no ToRs outlining the roles and responsibilities and SOPs in response to an event. MoH is developing a plan for non-communicable diseases. The plan is expected to be developed within the next six months. RMI approved its Hospital Preparedness Programme in 2016 and also has a Pandemic Influenza Response Plan, 2005 and Public Health Emergency Response Plan, 2015, as well as a National Emergency Response Plan with a health component, 2010.

PARTNERS

(for natural and health-related disasters)

- MALGOV
- MoWIU
- EPA
- CSO
- Marshall Islands Red Cross Society

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS (for natural and health-related disasters)

- WHO (Micronesia Office)
- CDC
- UN (UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA) (Suva)
- SPC
- FRC provides technical and management support to MIRCS in their role as a member of the Health Cluster as needed and as resources allow.

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

Depending on the nature of the event, MoH would benefit from having access to pre-positioned relief items, such as treated bed nets, hand sanitisers, outbreak kits, first aid kits, vector control supplies and Zika kits. Other relief items of value include radio transmitters and inflatable tents for field hospitals and trolleys (for wheeling the injured).

During the preparedness phase, the following are needed:

- Clarification of the links between the Health Act and the Disaster Emergency Act;
- Share preparedness plans with the greater population;
- Awareness/introduction of the PHT;
- Develop preparedness note on outbreak;
- Assessment of existing preparedness plans and programmes;
- Preparedness management training;
- Evaluation and training in the EOC/ EpiNet;
- Full scale exercise/ drill (e.g. influenza outbreak scenario);

 **NATIONAL REFERENCE DOCUMENTS/ WEBSITES**

Public Health Welfare Act:

<http://bit.ly/2vaBYHB>

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REFERENCE INFORMATION
International Guidance/Resource Material

WHO List of Guidelines for Emergency Response:

<http://bit.ly/2u3pEsr>

Global Nutrition Cluster Handbook:

<http://bit.ly/2uDh9Hs>

Sphere Minimum Standards in Health Action:

<http://bit.ly/2uxp5JF>

Health Cluster Guide:

<http://bit.ly/2uxkJ5k>

Western Pacific Regional Framework for Action for Disaster Risk Management for Health:

<http://bit.ly/2t9TA4J>

Inter-Agency Field Manual on Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Settings:

<http://bit.ly/1DPPqvC>



PHOTO CREDIT: OCHA Pacific

24. EDUCATION



CURRENT STATUS

There is no documented system on how Education, or the PSS, should respond to a disaster event. There is a need to develop SOPs and ToRs.

Most education/DRM projects are run by National Science Foundation.

RMI does not have a dedicated Education Cluster. Education issues are addressed within the WASH cluster (from a shelter health standpoint). In the event of a disaster, MoH contacts the PSS.

The February 2017 meeting considered that there may be value in establishing a dedicated Education Cluster on account of the role of schools in providing emergency assistance and in considering the ongoing need for education for school children affected by disasters. The cluster would logically link with stakeholders in Protection and WASH, so the members may include the NDMO, MoCIA, PREL (WASH cluster) as well as Shelter Cluster representatives, IOM, MoWIU, MALGOV/local government/ and MIMA.

The cluster could cover issues such as the protection of children (school disaster plans), school buildings (school in a box) and education centres in the event of a disaster.

PARTNERS

In the event of an emergency, UNICEF is able to provide education supplies including schools in a box, tents (for temporary classrooms, teachers' quarters), teacher kits, student kits (including backpacks) and recreational kits.

IOM is implementing its second year of the Climate Adaptation Disaster Risk Reduction and Education (CADRE) Program in RMI, funded by the Office of Insular Affairs. As part of the program, IOM has implemented a 10-lesson curriculum in over 20 eighth or ninth grade classes throughout the country and supported more than 20 schools with School Emergency Management Plans and Evacuation Drills, providing disaster first aid kits, emergency

first responder training and school communities with Hazard Vulnerability and Capacity Mapping. In the 2016-2017 school year, IOM CADRE Plus is working in all communities in Arno Atoll.

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

- During a disaster, PSS states that support is most valuable in the form of materials for emergency classrooms.
- During disaster preparedness, PSS states that the following institutional strengthening is needed:
 - Not all schools can be used as evacuation centres. There is a need for clarification on which schools can be used as evacuation centres and who would open the schools for centres (there is therefore a need to liaise with the Shelter Sub-Cluster and MoCIA);
 - A manual for evacuation is needed, including separating males and females (protection) and clarification on who would be in charge of evacuation procedures;
 - Extension of the National Disaster Act to include children and people with disabilities;
 - Establishment of SOPs so that everyone in Education knows what to do in the event of a disaster. It needs to be translated into Marshallese;
 - Training for principals and liaison for what to do during a disaster.
 - Folders of registration forms to keep track of which schools have bathrooms for school evacuation centres;
 - ToRs and formalisation of Education as a Cluster;
 - Training in the use of schools for shelters (safety, management) and shelter support arrangements.



PHOTO CREDIT: UNICEF Pacific/2016/Sokhin

 **NATIONAL REFERENCE DOCUMENTS/ WEBSITES**

Education Act <http://bit.ly/2txSU8S>

Child Protection Policy <http://bit.ly/2uBjPFu>

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 **REFERENCE INFORMATION International Guidance/Resource Material**

Global Education Cluster Toolkit:

<http://bit.ly/2u3LYlq>

Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies Toolkit: <http://bit.ly/2utWISz>

25. WASH



CURRENT STATUS

RMI operates a five-cluster system for disaster coordination, including WASH. The WASH Cluster lead is the Majuro Water and Sewer Company (MWSC). The members of the cluster are MWSC, Salvation Army, EPA, WSO, IOM, MoNRC, Humanity First, PSS, MALGOV, MoCIA, PREL, Red Cross and SPC (Water Security).

Draft ToRs for the cluster exists but have yet to be shared with the CSO for clearance. Cluster members convene primarily during disasters, although they may convene for preparedness (e.g. if a dry season is anticipated, members may discuss necessary actions in advance). The cluster meets around three times per week during disasters.

While ToRs for the cluster exists, there are no standard SOPs (e.g. links with Health). For example, the WASH Cluster may not necessarily be contacted if there is a health outbreak. In the past, the Department of Health may have acted more independently in a health crisis using its own EpiNet. This may mean that it does not have access to the network and resources that may be mobilized through the WASH Cluster. This gap was identified in the CPP planning workshop in 2017. When the Disaster Act is to be revised in 2017, the relationship between the clusters and its strengthening may then be emphasised.

The overarching goal of MWSC – supported by the WASH cluster – is to ensure drinking water for all affected communities. MWSC uses the SPHERE standards of 2.5 gallons per day as a minimum for water supply. This is then used as a means to plan for implementation activities through the purchase of necessary materials and equipment.

In a disaster, the WASH cluster mainly deploys RO units to the affected islands and communities. As an interim, the cluster provides cases of drinking water as the first phase of their response. This is done by calculating the number of the affected population, and the volume needed is calculated through the SPHERE standards.

Upon the awareness of a hazard, the NDMO is asked to determine the situation of the affected islands (through the situation overview forms), to confirm the status of need and to arrange deployment of the necessary equipment. When these information is made available, the WASH Cluster makes recommendations to the CSO for action (which, in most cases are the deployment of RO units). The CSO approves and the deployment takes place.

Assessment is usually conducted by the EPA, which shares the information for planning and response as a member of the cluster.

The WASH Cluster draws on AMI to deploy assets. Upon arrival, the WASH team conducts a brief assessment to confirm the state of matters.

PARTNERS

- SPC delivers a number of water quality, quantity and security projects.
- In an emergency, UNICEF can provide WASH supplies including WASH/hygiene kits, jerry cans and water bladders. UNICEF is currently conducting assessments to determine what other activities can be supported by UNICEF in RMI.
- USAID and JICA may supplement water supplies during a drought (e.g. limited supplies of jerry cans, water purifiers etc.).
- IOM is the secretary for the WASH Cluster.
- As necessary and as resources allow, IFRC provides technical and management support to MIRCS in their role as a member of the RMI WASH Cluster. During the 2016 emergency response to the drought, MIRCS, with support from IFRC and in coordination with the WASH Cluster, carried out a public awareness campaign on water conservation and safety, conducted household assessments in Majuro and distributed new water containers to vulnerable people for safe storage of drinking water.

During the 2013 Emergency drought operation, a project to improve household rainwater harvesting on three atolls was completed with 1764 beneficiaries in coordination with IFRC and following an international appeal for funding.

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

- IOM will continue to work closely with the Government during disasters.
- The WASH cluster is commonly in need of:
 - WASH supplies (e.g. WASH and Hygiene/dignity kits);
 - Inter-cluster coordination;
 - Information management;
 - Resource mobilization support in the form of formal documentation of appeals and the consolidation of individual partner appeal through a dedicated cluster mechanism, like the Humanitarian Action Plan. This is based on the need to ensure the equal distribution of aid within all cluster partners, keeping in mind the capacity and strengths. This may also be clarified within the cluster ToRs;
 - Innovative methods of assessment (e.g. introduction and training on mobile data collection tools that may support and strengthen cluster data collection and reporting activities);
 - Ongoing technical training (especially in RO maintenance).

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REFERENCE INFORMATION International Guidance/Resource Material

Global WASH Cluster Coordination Deployment Kit:

<http://bit.ly/2u3lrF7>

Global WASH Cluster Technical Guidance:

<http://bit.ly/2vwlszQ>

Sphere Minimum Standards in Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion:

<http://bit.ly/2uD5Pvg>

RMI WASH Cluster Terms of Reference

The Sphere Handbook: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response:

<http://bit.ly/1oK3Gnb>

National Drought Plan



PHOTO CREDIT: OCHA Pacific

26. FOOD SECURITY & LIVELIHOODS



CURRENT STATUS

There is no cluster for livelihoods per se; however, RMI has a Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC) headed by the MoNRC and comprising of MoNRC, MoH WUTMI, CMI, JICA, MOT&C, MIMA, MoCIA and IOM.

The FSAC TORS developed in 2015, in partnership with FAO, specify that the cluster will meet quarterly to discuss food security arrangements, with five or six attending members. In practice, regular meeting of the cluster has not occurred. As a result, the cluster generally operates during disasters. Attendance of cluster members remains a challenge even during responses. MoNRC may call meetings but only two or three agencies attend (e.g. IOM, UN office). The government noted that no national officers have been participating in the cluster meetings.

Detailed agricultural assessment forms have been developed in partnership with FAO and four staff members in MoNRC trained in their use (the forms were successfully tested on Enewetok Atoll after Typhoon Nangka in June 2015). Guidance notes and post-disaster needs assessment template were also developed and made available to MoNRC staff.

Through the FSAC, the government provides a standard package of food assistance in the event of a disaster. All contents are sourced locally and include rice, canned tuna, flour, canned mix vegetables, canned fruit, baking powder, milk powder and vegetable oil. This may be supplemented by food parcels from development partners. However, these food parcels have not been the same as those shared by the cluster in the past.

PARTNERS

- USAID and Taiwan may step in with support for severe cases.
- JICA maintains limited storage of selected disaster relief items on the island, and has access to additional items in other storage areas (e.g. Singapore). Items on the island include limited supplies of sleeping pads, jerry cans, water purifiers and tarpaulin. Additional materials that JICA could access are water, food and other equipment.
- IOM is the logistical focal point for the FSAC.

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

No food packages are kept by the government in readiness for a disaster. They are prepared when a disaster is declared. The FSAC receives assistance from IOM to prepare food packages but has advised that it would welcome:

- Additional assistance from other partners to prepare food packages;
- Assistance during a disaster to increase the amount of food that goes into the food packages.

Aside from the assistance with food packages, the FSAC receives assistance during a disaster from:

- IOM (food supplements);
- SPC (recovery work: seedlings);
- FAO (recovery work: agriculture, food security and nutrition).

In practice, MoNRC emphasized that the real need for assistance to the FSAC is for recovery planning, such as establishing nurseries or food preservation work.

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REFERENCE INFORMATION International Guidance/Resource Material

IASC Reference Module for Cluster Coordination at Country Level: <http://bit.ly/2utMdsX>

Global Food Security Cluster Emergency Preparedness Planning Guidelines: <http://bit.ly/2u3tEJj>

27. PROTECTION



CURRENT STATUS

Efforts by RMI to protect the wellbeing of vulnerable groups includes its ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1993. (See the State Report on the Rights of the Child.)

At this point, there is no Protection Cluster or agency that coordinates protection issues across all sectors during emergencies. However, there is a focal point for gender and vulnerability in MoCIA, which sits on the Shelter Sub-Cluster within the Infrastructure Cluster.

PARTNERS

MIRCS participated in the National Taskforce on Human Trafficking & Cookhouse Confidential group.

Regional Rights Resource Team (part of SPC) provides guidance and training in rights and The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). IOM is the Secretary of the National Taskforce on Human Trafficking and founder of the Cookhouse Confidential group.

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

Preparedness work

The Government has identified that there may be value in receiving:

- Awareness session/training on the purpose, nature and potential value of a Protection Cluster and how it might work for RMI;
- CSO training on gender response in disasters;
- Improved work on protection of vulnerable groups;
- Expert support on preparedness for gender and protection in emergencies;
- Legislation on child protection and people with disabilities.

In times of disaster

A template ToRs for a Gender and Protection Cluster has been shared by the Pacific Humanitarian Protection Cluster (PHPC) of the PHT.

The PHPC will offer support for the cluster establishment, if requested by Government of RMI.

In emergencies, UNICEF is able to provide supplies including PSS materials (colouring books, story books) and recreational kits, as well as technical support materials for Protect Children in Emergencies (CPiE).

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REFERENCE INFORMATION International Guidance/Resource Material

IASC Operational Guidelines for the Protection of Persons in Situations of Natural Disasters:

<http://bit.ly/2tAG8X6>

Sphere Standards for Protection:

<http://bit.ly/2vcut2J>

IASC Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action (2013):

<http://bit.ly/2vwR09Y>

Child Protection in Emergencies Coordination Handbook:

<http://bit.ly/2vcn7wc>

IASC Policy on Protection in Humanitarian Action:

<http://bit.ly/2tl2iRO>

28. SHELTER



CURRENT STATUS

Shelter does not have a cluster of its own but is managed as a sub-group of the Infrastructure Cluster, with MoCIA as its lead agency for Shelter. The structure of the Shelter Sub-Cluster is neither formalised nor documented and there are no explicit contact names for members at present.

Members of the Shelter Sub-Cluster currently appear to include MoCIA, MoWIU, PSS (as schools may be used as shelters) and WASH.

There is a need to formalise the arrangements for this sub-cluster, specifically to confirm the members and contact information so that they are ready to operate in an emergency.

In practice, the Shelter Sub-Cluster has not convened since the establishment of the cluster as most disaster arrangements have concerned drought and therefore had little need for shelter support. In principle, the Shelter Sub-Cluster would meet during disasters under the auspices of the Infrastructure Cluster.

The RMI Shelter Sub-Cluster is looking to build capacity in outer island assessment of damage (e.g. IDA capacity building).

PARTNERS

- PSS and IOM are working to develop a training Shelter plan for all schools.
- IOM (provision of supplies; additionally, in line with IASC guidelines in a large scale event could be a co-lead).
- Marshall Islands Mayors Association (IDA capacity building).
- Salvation Army (provision of shelter support).
- Faith-based agencies (e.g. Latter Day Saints and Seventh Day Adventists) (provision of shelter support).

- JICA maintains limited storage of selected disaster relief items on the island, and has access to additional items in other storage areas (e.g. Singapore). Items on the island include limited supplies of sleeping pads, jerry cans, water purifiers and tarpaulin. Additional materials that JICA could access are, water, food and other equipment, subject to availability.

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

During a disaster, the RMI government may seek support for emergency stockpiles, through the MoCIA and the Infrastructure Cluster.

During disaster preparedness, other institutional strengthening support may be needed in the following areas:

- Documentation and formalisation of the Shelter Cluster, confirmation of membership and roles;
- Preparation of ToRs for the Shelter Cluster;
- Development of the Shelter Plan and its review by relevant specialists (e.g. Shelter specialists in the PHT);
- Training on shelter arrangements at the community level (e.g. roles and responsibilities, lines of communication);
- Participation in PSS training with principals on the shelter plan;
- Identification of how many schools are available with bathrooms etc. to act as shelter;
- Assistance in developing SOPs for shelters and questionnaires for damage assessment (e.g. IDAs and a suitable template);



Homeowners manual (disaster risk, preparation, reconstruction of homes after an event, where to go during a disaster that is safe), available online at: <http://bit.ly/2uBz6WV>

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REFERENCE INFORMATION International Guidance/Resource Material

Minimum Standards in Shelter, Settlement and Non-Food Items: <http://bit.ly/2uDfmCz>



PHOTO CREDIT: UNDP

29. EARLY RECOVERY



CURRENT STATUS

Following the 2015-2016 drought, RMI delivered a PDNA with the assistance of the international community (including World Bank, UN and SPC). The PDNA made a series of recommendations for recovery planning and community resilience, including efforts to increase food security (agricultural enhancement), establishment of additional education classes to make up for school closures, training and vocational development support such as Start Your Business (SYB) training, entrepreneurship advocacy and a Private Sector Development programme.

PARTNERS

- SPC (delivery of the PDNA)
- UNDP (delivery of the PDNA)
- UNDP is presently delivering the Russian-funded RESPAC project, aimed at increasing resilience in the Pacific Islands countries. In RMI, the RESPAC project is expected to work with the government of RMI to strengthen the institutions' ability to plan for and respond to disasters.
- SPC/PIFS/World Bank are presently delivering the PREP project in four members countries, including RMI. While PREP Phase 1 (currently underway) focuses on RMI's work on disaster risk financing (see Section 5), substantial work on DRM is anticipated for PREP Phase II, including considerable cross sectoral institutional strengthening.

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

Within the short window after a disaster, the government of RMI (through the Early Recovery (ER) Cluster or directly through the Director of the NDMO) may seek support from UNDP to conduct PDNA and Early Recovery Coordination.

For PDNAs, UNDP can discuss options with Trilateral Partners such as the European Union (EU) and the World Bank, as well as SPC for swift decisions and support. ER coordination support is intended to support the ER cluster to draft ER programmes to ensure fast and full recovery of the affected communities across RMI.

In addition, it can come with relatively small projects to work with communities to support livelihoods by providing access to markets, health clinics and restore community water supplies.

In times of disaster preparedness, other institutional strengthening support may be provided in the following areas: arrangement for direct linkages between the PHT and the NDMO (NDC) for overall guidance on response and recovery, specifically on creating awareness on recovery options and training cluster members through scenario exercises; help with SOPs for the Cluster and create a state of preparedness for livelihoods support in the aftermath of a disaster.

National Structures/Contacts

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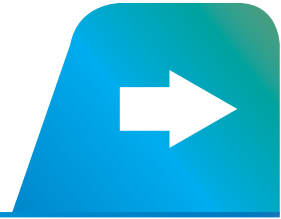


REFERENCE INFORMATION International Guidance/Resource Material

Disaster Needs Assessment and Recovery

Framework Guidance: <http://bit.ly/2uxje7d>

30. DISASTER OR SIMULATION IN PAST 18 MONTHS



CURRENT STATUS

Droughts are relatively common in RMI, with recent events in 1983, 2013 and 2016. RMI's first PDNA was conducted following the 2015-2016 drought, putting the cost of the event in the order \$4.9 million in losses.

The 2015-2016 drought was anticipated in view of the intense El Nino phenomenon. Detection of the El Nino event and early warnings were well received from the WSO ahead of time and disseminated to the RMI authorities and communities. Long and short term rainfall outlooks and predictions were provided by NOAA's PEAC and the Guam Forecast Office. The forecasts were used to identify the atolls that were likely to be hit the hardest, although forecasts and actual impacts varied in the end.

Following extremely low precipitation, the Government of RMI declared a state of emergency in February 2016 and upgraded to a state of disaster in March 2016. The EOC was activated upon the Declaration of a State of Emergency and coordinated four out of five activated Clusters.

The NDMO coordinated rapid needs assessments and deployment of WASH supplies to meet the immediate life saving needs.

Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA) were conducted with the support from the US comprising of the experts from WASH, Agriculture, Health, Logistics, FEMA and USAID/OFDA.

The Government and international partners responded to the drought disaster in various ways, including through financial, human resource, materials and technical assistance. The UN system coordinated and provided support for emergency needs assessment as well as non-food commodities. For swift response, RMI set up a DAEF and a Contingency Fund.

The drought PDNA was the first that the country has ever conducted. A series of recommendations were made for early recovery including replenishment of medicines (following drought-related malnutrition), additional schooling (following school closures) and the retrieval and pre-positioning of RO units.

FOR ANTICIPATED SIMULATIONS

The NDMO anticipates operating a simulation for an emergency event in 2017.

PARTNERS

MIRCS, with support from IFRC and in coordination with RMI WASH and Sanitation Clusters, supported the emergency responses to drought and Zika virus in 2016.

SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

The NDMO expressed interest to have the Health, WASH and Logistics Clusters of the PHT to support the anticipated simulation.

National Structures/Contacts

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REFERENCE INFORMATION International Guidance/Resource Material

Pacific Disaster Simulation Framework

[draft under development]

31. SPECIFIC CONTINGENCY PLAN



CURRENT STATUS

The NDMO is drafting a Drought Contingency Plan (see Section 8).

PARTNERS

IOM has developed a Contingency Plan for Drought on behalf of US government, coordinating closely with USAID to respond to following a disaster.

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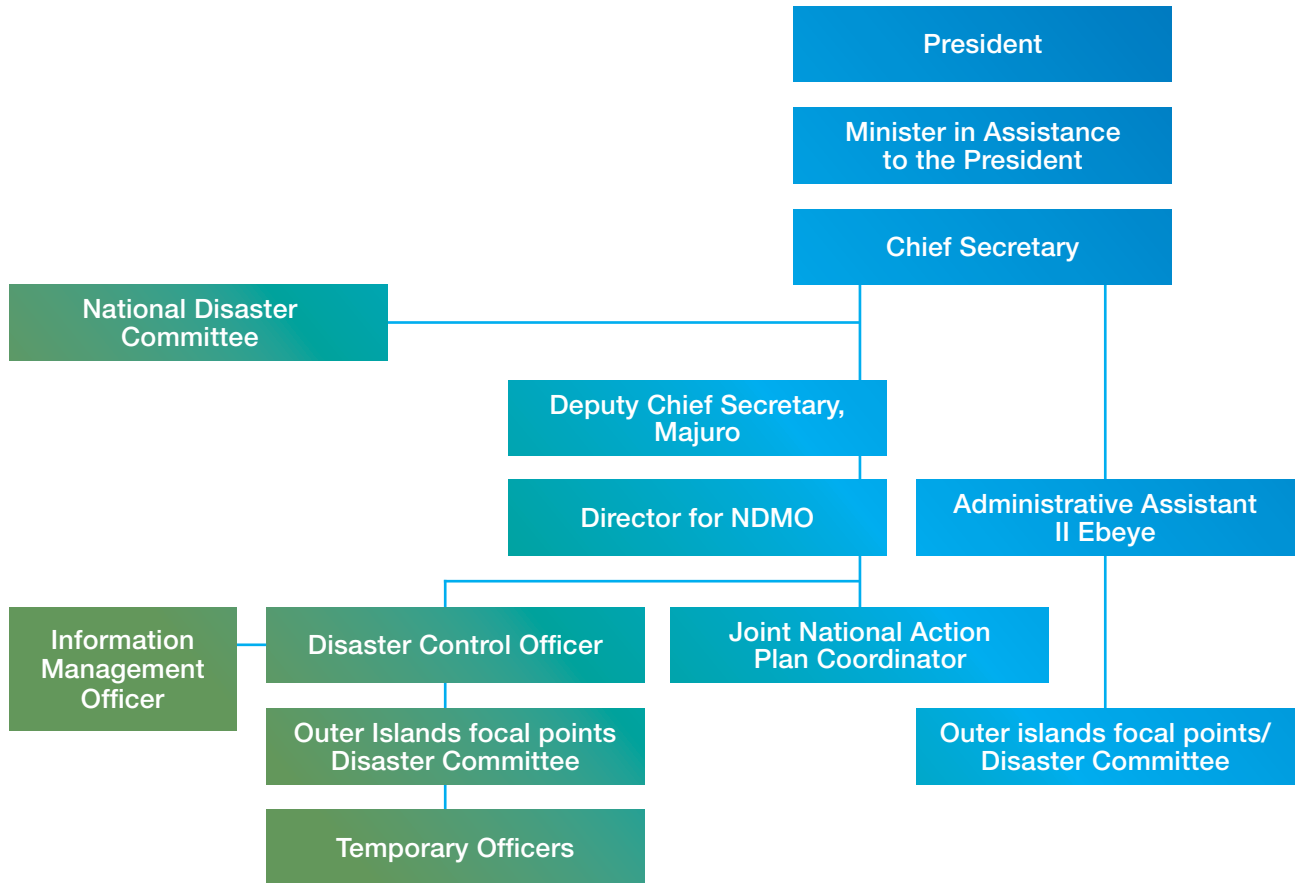
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PHOTO CREDIT: UNDP

ANNEX 1 | STRUCTURE FOR DRM IN RMI





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