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The UN Migration Agency

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Update

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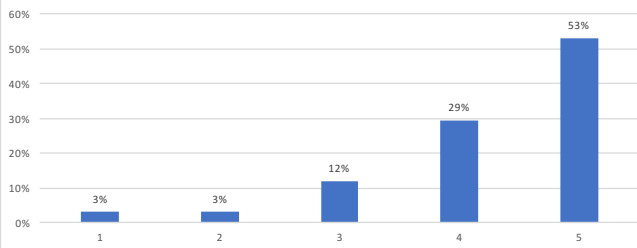
Photo: IOM/Rickson Johnathan 2017

FSM is PREPAREing for Effective Disaster Response

Disaster systems in FSM and Kosrae State were put to the test this summer!

As part of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-funded Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response (PREPARE) Program, IOM is assisting the four states of the FSM to develop or update Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) meant to accompany and complement each states' disaster response plans. This past August, the FSM national and Kosrae State SOPs were tested during the first ever FSM national and Statewide Multi-Hazard Tabletop Exercise (TTX) sponsored by IOM and the FSM Office of Environment and Emergency Management (OEEM) and hosted by Kosrae State.

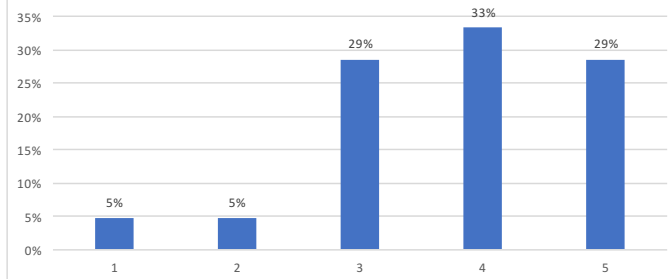
Exercises conducted during this tabletop allowed me to identify, practice and test the roles and responsibilities identified in the FSM & Kosrae Response Plans and Standard Operating Procedures.



into the SOPs and the document is now under review for final approval. The development of the SOPs was initiated by the endorsement of the FSM National Disaster Response Plan (NDRP) at the end of 2016. SOPs and TTXs ensure the sustainability of the NDRP and contribute to the increased capacity of the FSM government to manage a disaster response.

The TTX, which was developed and facilitated by the IOM PREPARE team, was delivered over a three-day period in Kosrae. Forty-seven representatives, key actors, and emergency responders from both national and state governments participated in the exercise. Lessons learned from the TTX have been incorporated

Presentation of the Operational Blueprint allowed me to clearly identify the key requirements & processes leading up to and following USAID support in disaster response.



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Message from Chief of Mission Stuart Simpson



As we come to the end of 2017 it's been very interesting to look back at what has been achieved with our partners over the last year. Quite a lot of new projects and initiatives have begun and a few very significant programs have successfully completed.

In Chuuk we were able to set up rainwater catchment systems in 10 communities that were either very remote or vulnerable to water shortages. This increased the yearly water storage to over 20,000 gallons in each community, which will have an especially significant impact in dry years, such as the one experienced last year. We very much appreciate the support of the Australian Embassy here on this project.

The Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) also supported two new projects addressing some of the trauma and negative impacts people can experience due to natural disasters, which unfortunately affect this lovely part of the world too often. In RMI we are working with the Government and Civil Society to train up a team to be able to deliver psychological first aid to people who have suffered a crisis and give them needed social and psychological support. In FSM we are studying the impact natural disasters have on the health and security of women and girls, and how government and humanitarian partners can better plan and implement emergency responses that take into account their needs, and more importantly their vulnerabilities, in times of crisis.

We are just wrapping up the reconstruction project that has been replacing the houses and public infrastructure destroyed during Super Typhoon Maysak in Chuuk and Yap. A total of 422 homes have been built and the last of the planned 153 public infrastructure sites, including 58 school buildings, are being finished this year.

Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas with their families and friends, and very much looking forward to continuing to work with our partners in the New Year.

First Visit to the Pacific for IOM Regional Director

IOM's Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific Dr. Nenette Motus visited FSM and Palau in May. During her week-long visit, IOM—Micronesia Chief of Mission Mr.



Dr. Motus joined the regular UN meeting with WHO, IOM and UNJP during her visit to Pohnpei. Photo: IOM/Jessi Libbing 2017

Stuart Simpson accompanied Dr. Motus as she met with government officials, partner organizations and IOM staff in Pohnpei, FSM and Palau. The trip was part of Dr. Motus' regular travel schedule to visit the countries within her region where IOM is working. Dr. Motus covers 39 diverse countries from the regional office in Bangkok with coverage spanning from Afghanistan and Mongolia to Micronesia and New Zealand. May's trip to the North Pacific was Dr. Motus' inaugural visit to the Pacific, and she extended her most heartfelt thanks to our counterparts and partners in Pohnpei and Palau for giving her such a warm welcome.

IOM recognizes the generous support received from:





IOM and partners handover water improvement system to an elementary school in Palau. Photo: IOM/ Dale Jenkins 2017

The alii CADRE program in Palau successfully incorporated CADRE's educational materials into the Ministry of Education's national curriculum, allowing every public school student in Palau to learn about climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Through the project, three schools received improved water filtration systems, and Water Quality Teams were established at eight schools, involving local NGOs, students, teachers and parents. The National Emergency Management Office of Palau also requested IOM's support in rolling out their community-based disaster risk management strategy, which will be a new and exciting area for the project. USAID/OFDA funded the alii CADRE program for an additional year.

CADRE Plus Evacuation Shelter Management Training Rollout

The past 6 months have been a busy time for the Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction and Education Plus (CADRE Plus) Program with the rollout of Evacuation Shelter Management training for principals and civil society groups, over 6,000 students practicing emergency drills at their schools, and teacher trainings being held in four different sub-offices. CADRE Plus also worked with local NGOs and the Red Cross in 21 communities to build their resilience to disaster through trainings, participatory mapping and climate change adaptation/disaster risk reduction education. USAID/OFDA funded the CADRE Plus program for an additional year in June.



Students at an early childhood center practicing a fire drill with IOM support. Photo: IOM/ Michael Yarofaitoar 2017

Rainwater Resilience in Chuuk a Success



Onary catchment. Photo: IOM/Micronesia 2017

The Community Rainwater Resilience (CRR) Program in Chuuk, FSM was successfully completed in September of this year.

Through funding from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), IOM implemented this project in the most vulnerable and hard to reach outer islands of Chuuk State to provide a total of 32,000 gallons of additional water storage to the community. Ten communities in total were targeted with an estimated population of 3,600 beneficiaries. Eight of these 10 communities received standalone catchments, while the other two utilized existing roof structures to catch water. Based on the Chuuk average annual rainfall each of the standalone units are expected to catch up to 20,500+ gallons of water each year for these vulnerable communities!

The Value of a Good Classroom

Carlos, SJ and Dyron are like most students their age—their favorite parts of school include seeing their friends and participating in school activities. As 7th graders at Falalop Elementary School, they can do those things in a new school building thanks to the Typhoon Maysak Reconstruction Project (TMRP).

The elementary school was one of 31 public infrastructure sites being constructed in Falalop, Ulithi Atoll. A planned total of 66 public-use facilities are to be constructed across Yap. TMRP will also construct 87 facilities across Chuuk. Prior to the completion of the school, a local family allowed their newly constructed home to be used as a temporary classroom.

This home-turned-classroom was one of the of 94 homes constructed by TMRP in Yap. At the request of the FSM government, TMRP construction began with homes. This construction included a planned 328 homes in Chuuk. In September of this year, TMRP completed and handed-over all 422 homes. Upon completion of home construction, the building of public infrastructure, such as schools, began.



Prinscilla Lemalweg, principal of Falalop Elementary School, said that the new school buildings are helpful in every way and hopes that students will utilize them. The new buildings help students to focus, which contributes to her longer-term wishes for her students.

“I hope they will graduate as responsible individuals in the future,” she said.

Saven Mangielmal, whose child attends Falalop Elementary School, expressed similar sentiments

to that of the principle. Like most parents, he hopes that his child will be able to learn in a good environment. He even noted that his child seems more excited about school, now having a new classroom.

Mangielmal also worries about the safety of his child and the other students. As a result of the building practices used within TMRP, parents and students alike can be confident in the school buildings. Mangielmal echoed the importance of this fact on behalf of himself and other parents.

“[The new structures] ease our minds knowing that our kids are learning in a safe building,” he said.

While students may not experience the same concerns as those of their parents or elders, they are still able to appreciate having a quality learning environment. Carlos, CJ and Dyron tend to enjoy the extracurricular aspects of school, but they understand the value of education and the importance of being able to learn in good classroom. They hope that their education will help them in the future and allow them to support their families once they have finished school.



Nepalese Refugees to Sweden



For the past couple years, IOM-Micronesia has been assisting four stranded Nepalese refugees in the FSM.

This September saw the culmination of months of coordination among the government, UNHCR, IOM and civil society partners, as the four were resettled in Sweden. IOM had provided support when requested for the refugees since their arrival in Pohnpei, and staff members were happy to see the four off at the airport as they started their new lives in Sweden.

IOM Pilots New Study in FSM: Assessing the effects of natural disaster on the health and security of women and girls

The Canada Fund for Local Initiatives (CFI) is supporting IOM to pilot a new study assessing natural disaster effects on the health and security of women and girls in the FSM. The design and implementation of this study is committed to ensuring continuous and meaningful collaboration with local community action groups who represent disaster-prone island communities across the states of Yap and Chuuk. In conducting culturally-sensitive focus group discussions and surveys, the study will develop a report detailing the experiences, challenges, opinions and coping mechanisms of women and girls during times of disaster—focusing most especially on menstrual health and gender-based violence. Anecdotally, natural disasters pose a significant effect on the health and security of women and girls. The study will seek to provide an evidence-based report that outlines key findings, as well as offers culturally-relevant recommendations for future targeted interventions by government and humanitarian partners working with communities in the FSM.



CFIL IOM Team meets with Chuuk Women's Council during their Annual Conference that focused on creating a healthier and safer Chuuk. During the conference, the study was piloted before representatives from Parlem, Fefen, Faichuk, Tonowas, Weno and Siis (September 2017). Photo: IOM/Micronesia 2017

Health System Strengthening in Pohnpei



Since April IOM and WHO have been partnering with the Pohnpei State Department of Health Services on the government's Pohnpei State Health Dispensary Strengthening Program pilot project in Pohnpei, FSM. The project is taking place in the health dispensaries and communities of Madolenihmw Municipality on the main island and Pingalap Atoll, an outer island of Pohnpei. Between August-October IOM staff joined the public health team during the first round of weekly screening visits to every village in Madolenihmw Municipality. The second round of the pilot project is set to begin in December 2017. IOM, WHO and Pohnpei State will continue to explore next steps after completion of the pilot project next year.

This summer, IOM-Majuro partnered with local youth groups to conduct surveys across the northeast atolls and islands of RMI to gather community feedback on the reach of AM radio broadcasts and effectiveness of disaster preparedness programs.

Through the PREPARE Program, the IOM-Majuro office is collaborating with the V7AB National Radio Station to broadcast disaster preparedness programs throughout the RMI. In total 103 people were interviewed, including 61 men and 42 women, to assess the effectiveness of the messages broadcasted. The radio programs, which have been



Solar radio recipient in the RMI. Photo: IOM/Bruce Allen 2017

on air since early 2017 and were developed in collaboration with the RMI government, have key information to help community members better prepare for and respond to natural disasters. The radio broadcasts are one part of a Three-Pronged Radio Program Approach that also includes increasing the broadcast capacity of the station and distributing solar power radios to communities throughout RMI. The three-pronged approach aims to encourage disaster preparedness through radio to reach remote outer islands by focusing on tangible steps that communities should take in order to mitigate the impact of a possible disaster.

IOM Partners with Local NGO to Strengthen Protection Networks for Vulnerable Populations in RMI

Through funding from the Canada Fund Local Initiatives (CFLI), IOM and Youth to Youth in Health trained a cohort of 51 (29 females and 22 males) government officials, NGO representatives and civil society members to be psychological first aid (PFA) administrators and trainers in Majuro, RMI.

PFA is a humane, supportive, and practical help to fellow human beings suffering serious crisis events. PFA gives a framework for supporting people in ways that respect dignity, culture and abilities and covers both social and psychological support. It is not professional counseling, instead it is a set of skills that make anyone more knowledgeable about supporting a person during a time of need and connecting them to services they may require.



Third and final PFA ToT in Majuro. Photo: IOM/Muse Mohammed 2017

Three PFA Training of Trainers (ToTs) were conducted in October and November with representatives from organizations and agencies such as the Marshall Islands and Ebeye Police Departments, Youth to Youth in Health NGO (inclusive of LGBTQ Alliance members), Marshall Islands Red Cross Society, Marshall Islands Disabled Persons Organization, Women United Together Marshall Islands NGO, KUMIT NGO, Ministry of Health and Human Services,

Office of the Chief Secretary – National Disaster Management Office, Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs, Public School System – Special Education Department and Marshall Islands Port Authority.

These participants are now all equipped to conduct PFA trainings with community members throughout RMI. As part of the CFLI-funded project, a group of teachers and administrators from the RMI Public School System, Special Education Department will receive a PFA training this month. IOM and Youth to Youth in Health are planning to train first responders in Majuro high schools in the coming months. If successful, this project will be scaled up to bring PFA training to all schools and many community members throughout RMI.

The IOM-Majuro CADRE+ and PREPARE Staff have been partnering with the UNICEF Child Protection in Emergencies Team in the RMI to reach remote outer islands with disaster preparedness and humanitarian assistance trainings. Through these trainings, community members learn the basics of human rights, humanitarian assistance and evacuation shelter management and standards. The IOM team traveled with UNICEF counterparts to work with the communities of Utirik and Likiep Atolls in the Northwest region of RMI. The IOM-Majuro team will plan future collaborations to deliver these important trainings with the UNICEF team.

Community Events in the Region



Photo: IOM/Majuro 2017

IOM was honored to participate in the Micronesian Women's Conference in Majuro, RMI this past August. IOM-Majuro staff were part of the Secretariat and Media Team, and Head of Sub Office Angela Saunders moderated a session on Addressing Effects of Climate Change on Women. The goal of the conference was to develop strategic recommendations to increase progress towards gender equality and the empowerment of women in the thematic areas of economic empowerment, eliminating violence, health, climate change and political leadership.



Photo: IOM/Dale Jenkins 2017

IOM partnered with the Palau Ministries of Education and Health, Environmental Quality Protection Bureau, and Climate Change Office, Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL) and Ridge to Reef Association, to hold an all-day workshop in April

covering watershed management, water treatment processes, health and water, development of a water budget for each school, and hands on training of water testing for contamination.



Photo: IOM/Jessi Libbing 2017

In May, IOM-Micronesia staff joined the FSM national and Pohnpei State Departments of Health teams to deliver hand hygiene lessons to two of Pohnpei's schools.

In September, COM-FSM Office for Student Life invited IOM to lead a discussion with students on the International Day of Peace as part of the Forum Lecture Series. This year's theme was "Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All," honoring the spirit of TOGETHER, a global initiative that promotes respect, safety and dignity for everyone forced to flee their homes and those leaving in search of a better life. IOM staff had an active discussion with the students on the rights of migrants and refugees and the importance of showing solidarity and non-discrimination.



Photo: IOM/Jessi Libbing 2017

IOM had a migration booth at the FSM National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA)-hosted World Tuna Day festivities in Pohnpei! World Tuna Day

was designated by the UN in 2016 to highlight the importance of sustainably managed fish stocks toward achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.



Photo: IOM/Majuro2017

IOM supported the preparation and presented at the first ever

RMI National Oceans Symposium regarding human trafficking in fisheries in April 2017.