



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

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Update

Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau



Photo Credit: IOM/Rachel Weinheimer

Typhoon Maysak Recovery Continues to Progress

In 2015, Typhoon Maysak hit the states of Chuuk and Yap, FSM. The ferocity of the storm severely damaged houses, crops and public infrastructure. Nearly 30,000 people were affected, representing more than 50 percent of Chuuk's population and 10 percent of Yap's.

As USAID's primary implementing partner, IOM was responsible for delivering emergency food, water, sanitation equipment and shelter materials to the worst-affected areas immediately following the disaster. Now, the focus has shifted to the Typhoon Maysak Reconstruction Program, helping communities rebuild and restore critical infrastructure on their islands.



New home recipient in Yap State.
Photo credit: IOM/Rachel Weinheimer

REPAIR AND RECONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Vouchers were provided to affected households to be used to purchase food, clothing, construction supplies, appliances and other materials. In Chuuk, 100 percent of vouchers have been distributed to 1,167 families, totaling USD 2,568,000. In Yap, 188 beneficiaries have received vouchers worth USD 223,850.



Community worker in Chuuk State.
Photo credit: IOM/Rachel Weinheimer

IOM is assisting people to rebuild destroyed homes. In Chuuk, 1,128 people that were mobilized and trained by IOM are working to rebuild houses and public infrastructure. Sixty-seven percent of homes are complete, amounting to 223 new homes. In Yap, more than 216 community workers are working to rebuild houses and public infrastructure in Ulithi Atoll. One hundred percent of the new homes are complete, amounting to 94. In total, 428 new homes are being constructed and 155 public infrastructure sites are being repaired or rebuilt. Now that the voucher program has wrapped up and housing will soon be concluded, the focus has shifted to the rebuilding of public infrastructure.

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Message from Chief of Mission Stuart Simpson



This week marked a milestone in our reconstruction efforts in the states of Yap and Chuuk as the materials for the remaining houses left Weno in Chuuk, destined for the Faichuk region, and the islands of Tol, Romanum and Udot within the lagoon. Over the next month as these houses are completed it will bring us to a total of 428 houses built. To quote a colleague this has been one of the largest logistical operations in the state of Chuuk since World War II.

This newsletter also summarizes key results of a couple of projects that are being finalized.

The J/TIP supported counter trafficking project has seen 116 officers in FSM and 42 in RMI trained in victim identification, investigation, protection and referral. And we have also worked side-by-side with the government taskforces to better address trafficking issues in a coordinated manner.

The Australian-supported CADRE project saw not only great achievements in developing climate change curriculum and its adoption into the regular school teaching programs, but also many physical infrastructure upgrades across 18 schools. Communities working with our CADRE team were also able to monitor and report to their governments when assistance was required during the recent drought in RMI.

In Palau during the recent drought we worked in partnership with the Palau Public Utilities Corporation to install five chlorination units to deliver safe drinking water to five reservoirs.

Also our PREPARE program has just finished developing a comprehensive training on the Essentials of Humanitarian Assistance that will be rolled out throughout FSM and RMI to create awareness of humanitarian principals and assistance procedures.

I hope this newsletter gives you a good overview of IOM's current programs in the North Pacific and please contact us should you need any additional information or if you see any areas you would like to partner with us.

IOM Fleet Manager in Chuuk Talks Barges

Last year, IOM acquired two barges that can quickly and efficiently deliver building materials to lagoon island building sites in Chuuk, reducing boat load times and double handling of materials. These barges round off the IOM Chuuk fleet of four. We asked Fleet Manager Rick Herman to give his views on the new fleet additions.

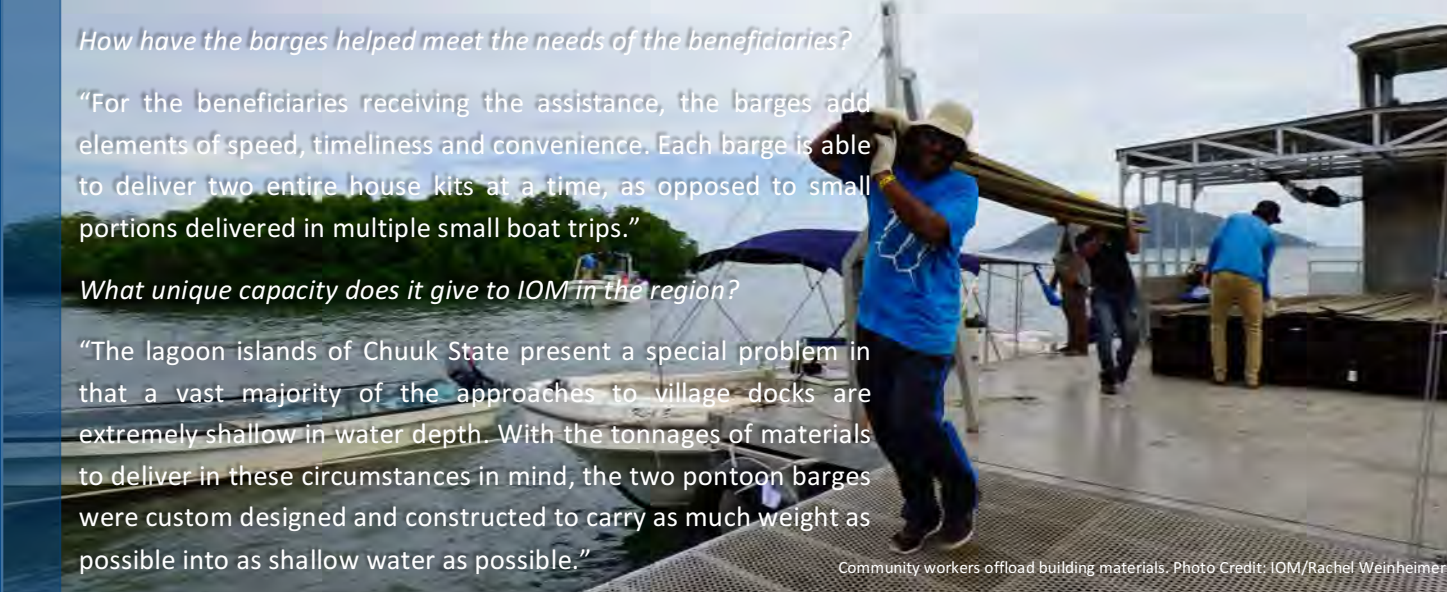
How have the barges helped meet the needs of the beneficiaries?

"For the beneficiaries receiving the assistance, the barges add elements of speed, timeliness and convenience. Each barge is able to deliver two entire house kits at a time, as opposed to small portions delivered in multiple small boat trips."

What unique capacity does it give to IOM in the region?

"The lagoon islands of Chuuk State present a special problem in that a vast majority of the approaches to village docks are extremely shallow in water depth. With the tonnages of materials to deliver in these circumstances in mind, the two pontoon barges were custom designed and constructed to carry as much weight as possible into as shallow water as possible."

Community workers offload building materials. Photo Credit: IOM/Rachel Weinheimer



IOM recognizes the generous support received from:



Update on the Palau Chlorine Injection Systems



Ibobang Water Reservoir donated equipment.
Photo credit: IOM/Camila Rivero-Maldonado

Last year with support from USAID and in coordination with the Palau Public Utilities Corporation (PPUC), IOM oversaw the installation of five chlorine injection systems in a number of Palau's states. This project was part of a bigger response to the State of Emergency that was declared in Palau last year due to the El Niño-induced drought. This month, the IOM Chief of Mission Stuart Simpson visited the chlorine injection system site at Ibobang Water Reservoir in the Republic of Palau to follow up on the project's impact.

Community members in these states did not previously have access to safe water in their homes. Through the installation of the chlorine injection systems, the proper amount of chlorine is delivered to the water system to purify it of bacteria and organic matter. This eliminates the dangerous practice of adding amounts of chlorine to water without proper measurement.

Reservoir Operator Mesubed Ellabed described the system as making "a big difference [because] the chlorine is more accurate than before." PPUC Manager Dave Dengokl noted that "before [the chlorine injection system, the reservoir operators] just put the tablets directly to the tank. Chlorine levels were up and down. Now the pumps maintain the levels so we have no problems. Kom Kmal Mesaul (Thank you very much)!" PPUC hopes to install similar systems in the remaining reservoirs in Palau in the near future.



PPUC and CoM visit Ibobang Water Reservoir.
Photo credit: IOM/Camila Rivero-Maldonado

RMI Drought Response Final Steps



Offloading food assistance at Mejit Island. Photo credit: IOM/Majuro

IOM has now completed all of its proposed 2016 El Niño-induced drought response activities. With support from Australian DFAT, USAID and USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, nineteen atolls/islands received hygiene assistance including hand sanitizer, three rounds of soap, jerry cans and two rounds of female hygiene kits, seven atolls/islands received seven months of supplemental food assistance and five atolls/islands received four months of supplemental food assistance.

After a joint Government of the Marshall Islands, USAID and IOM agriculture reassessment was conducted in November 2016, six of the severely affected atolls were selected to receive an additional two-month half ration of supplemental food assistance in March 2017 to help the communities transition to non-drought times.

In an effort to mitigate the environmental impacts of supplemental food assistance, IOM with funding from USAID conducted two Outer Island Clean-Up Contest/Promotions as part of the 2016 El Niño-induced drought response activities. In total, more than 500 bags of trash were collected and returned to Majuro.

In response to the 2016 El Niño-induced drought, IOM received funding from the New Zealand Embassy to pilot a Rainwater Harvesting Improvement project developed by the RMI WASH Cluster. Three atolls that were determined to be severely affected by the drought were selected as beneficiaries. Three teams comprised of personnel from IOM, Marshall Islands Red Cross Society and Public Works were deployed to their respective islands in October 2016, and a total of 71 households were direct beneficiaries.

Community Resilience through Rainwater in Chuuk

Through funding from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), IOM is implementing a rainwater resilience project in Chuuk, FSM. The Community Rainwater Resilience (CRR) project is targeting vulnerable low lying island communities in the state and is intended to serve as a back-up water supply during periods of reduced rainfall, demonstrate how much rain can be caught with a modest surface area and encourage more utilization of existing available surface area.

Through the USD 90,000 project, 10 standalone rainwater catchment units will be erected in 10 Chuuk communities. In total this will be 2,402.5 square feet of catchment area, and 32,000 gallons of storage! Based on the average annual rainfall for the state these catchments are each expected to catch 20,780 gallons of fresh rainwater per year, benefiting an estimated 3,673 community members.

So far one unit has been completed with the remaining nine units planned for construction this summer.



First rainwater collection unit in Piis-Paneu, Chuuk. Photo credit: IOM/Ambruce Mulo



First rainwater collection unit in Piis-Paneu, Chuuk. Photo credit: IOM/Ambruce Mulo

Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration in the Region



Nepalese and Indian migrants receive IOM assistance. Photo credit: IOM/Micronesia

For migrants who wish to return home but lack the means to do so, Assisted Voluntary Return and Reintegration's (AVRRs) are often the only solution to their immediate plight. The consequences of not returning such migrants in a safe and speedy way can be grave for the migrants as well as host, destination and transit countries.

Between June-December 2016, with support from Australia, Kiribati, India, UNHCR, IOM ERF, IOM GAF and IOM HASM Fund, IOM Micronesia assisted local governments to facilitate the departure of three stranded Kiribati fishermen and 18 Indian asylum seekers from Pohnpei; seven Nepalese asylum seekers and two victims of human trafficking from Yap, one human trafficking victim in Majuro and one Bangladeshi distressed migrant from Palau.



AVR of Nepalese migrants. Photo credit: IOM/Micronesia

Assistance to four refugees in Pohnpei who are awaiting resettlement is ongoing. IOM is coordinating mental health counseling, medical and dental care and food and nonfood items on a weekly basis. In addition, IOM found a volunteer to assist the refugees with English classes and facilitates communication with their families in Nepal on a regular basis.

Since 2015, IOM Micronesia has assisted coordination of services and/or facilitated departure of more than 170 irregular and/or vulnerable migrants in the region.

RMI Law Enforcement Training

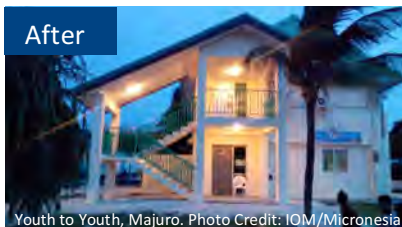
In January, with support from the RMI Office of the President, Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Justice, National Taskforce on Human Trafficking (NTHT), U.S. Embassy and Majuro and Kwajalein Atoll local governments, IOM trained law enforcement officers in Majuro and Ebeye on victim identification, human trafficking investigation skills, evidence gathering and interviewing technique.



Majuro training participants. Photo credit: IOM/Micronesia

The training was conducted by human trafficking investigation expert Colonel Gerald Tatzgern. Col. Tatzgern is the head of the Central Service Combating Human Smuggling and Trafficking in Human Beings within the Criminal Intelligence Service Austria and a certified trainer on human trafficking for law enforcement. His extensive experience includes work with Interpol and Europol.

The training was part of the Combating Trafficking in Persons in Micronesia through Establishment of Protection Frameworks for Victims of Trafficking project and funded by the US government's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (J/TIP).



The nearly five-year Australia-funded Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction and Education (CADRE) project wrapped up in December 2016. The project proved highly respected by schools, communities, government partners and other international organizations—even winning the UNISDR Pacific Innovation and Leadership Award. Through the project 10,000 students and 400 teachers in 50 vulnerable communities across FSM and RMI benefitted from trainings and resilience-building activities around climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. The project wrapped up with the completion of 18 physical climate adaptation/disaster mitigation interventions, which emanated from a community-level participatory mapping process. The interventions included water harvesting systems, solar lighting, improved WASH facilities and other small projects that improved the resilience of communities to climate change and natural disaster.

Yap and Pohnpei Lead in School Safety

Yap and Pohnpei State Departments of Education are leading the way in school safety.

The USAID/OFDA-funded CADRE Plus program continues to support Pohnpei and Yap State DOEs as they incorporate school emergency management planning (SEMP) and drills into schools.

SEMP planning and drills are now part of accreditation for Pohnpei State DOE and soon will be in Yap. Schools that complete their SEMP and drill (with IOM present) receive a certificate signed by IOM, DOE and the local Department of Public Safety. Schools often show great improvement between their first practice drill and final drill, which usually takes around five minutes from alarm sound to “all clear.”

IOM is also working with Pohnpei DOE and Red Cross to train and certify two to three school staff members from each school in Pohnpei proper (over 30 schools) in Basic First Aid from the Red Cross and hopes to eventually make this part of accreditation as well in all states.



Palau's alii CADRE Pilot Year

IOM and Palau Ministry of Education continue to make great strides with the alii CADRE project.

Beginning in spring 2017, all sixth to eighth grade teachers and students in Palau public schools are using books from the CADRE curriculum. The books, including teacher and student handbooks and comics, have been approved and adopted by the MOE and included in the curriculum benchmarks. All Palau public school students have tablets enabling students to use hard and soft versions of the books.

In addition, principals from all 17 public schools, as well as staff from Head Start, have completed their SEMPs and will



finish their drills by the end of spring semester. As part of the SEMP process, 25 school staff were trained and certified in Basic First Aid by Red Cross, and trainings will continue throughout the school year. Furthering the impact of the training, all 24 schools in Palau, including private and early childhood education institutions, were supplied with emergency medical and evacuation kits. In July, IOM will present on these activities, as well as highlights from the pilot year and upcoming plans for the project at the Palau Pacific Educational Conference.

PREPARE Radio Initiative Continues

Chuuk Station Before



Chuuk Station After



IOM's project to repair and refurbish radio stations in the North Pacific continues. The Chuuk radio station was completed in October 2016. After the rehabilitation, including properly covering the radio's ground system, the station broadcast can be heard all the way to Japan! Work to rehabilitate the radio station in Yap is currently ongoing and expected to be complete in May 2017.

Essentials of Humanitarian Assistance Trainings in Region

IOM is rolling out the Essentials of Humanitarian Assistance (EHA) trainings in the North Pacific!

The interactive EHA curriculum was developed by IOM's PREPARE and CADRE Plus programs. Through the EHA training and interactive handouts, trained individuals will learn to ensure they are prepared for disasters by having emergency management plans, conducting initial assessments following an event and supporting relief efforts in their communities.

The EHA trainings in the North Pacific will be rolled out throughout 2017 at the government and community level. If you are interested to have an EHA training implemented in your community, agency or group please contact IOM for more information.

Jeraman (Congratulations) to the New RMI NDMO



Tim discusses the importance of solar powered radios, Ebeye.
Photo credit: IOM/Majuro

Team IOM Micronesia congratulates Mr. Tim Langrine on his appointment as the RMI National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) Director at the Office of the Chief Secretary.

Before his position as the RMI NDMO, Tim worked with IOM Majuro from November 2011 to February 2017. He started as an intern, and through his leadership and dedication to supporting the people of the Marshall Islands in disaster preparedness and response he soon became the Warehouse Manager and later the National Program Officer.

Tim was a valued member of the IOM Micronesia team and an inspiration for young people of the Marshall Islands. IOM Micronesia looks forward to a continuing partnership with the Office of the Chief Secretary and Director Langrine.

Community Events

IOM staff traveled to Pohnpei and Yap in summer 2016 to deliver lay counseling and psychosocial support training for service providers in coordination with the local attorney general offices.



IOM and partners celebrated International Women's Day on 8 March with FSM and RMI governments.

Pohnpei celebration.
Photo credit: IOM/Rachel Weinheimer



IOM was invited to give a presentation and participate in a panel discussion on Human Rights during the 4th FSM National Women's Conference in October 2016 in Yap.

IOM staff with RMI President Hilda Heine.
Photo credit: IOM/Micronesia

On 10 December 2016, IOM recognized Human Rights Day with a public festival featuring a film screening and interactive booths in Pohnpei, FSM.