

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.

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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>

National Structures/Contacts NGO

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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/2tI2iRO>

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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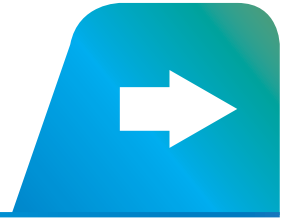


REFERENCE INFORMATION International Guidance/Resource Material

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.

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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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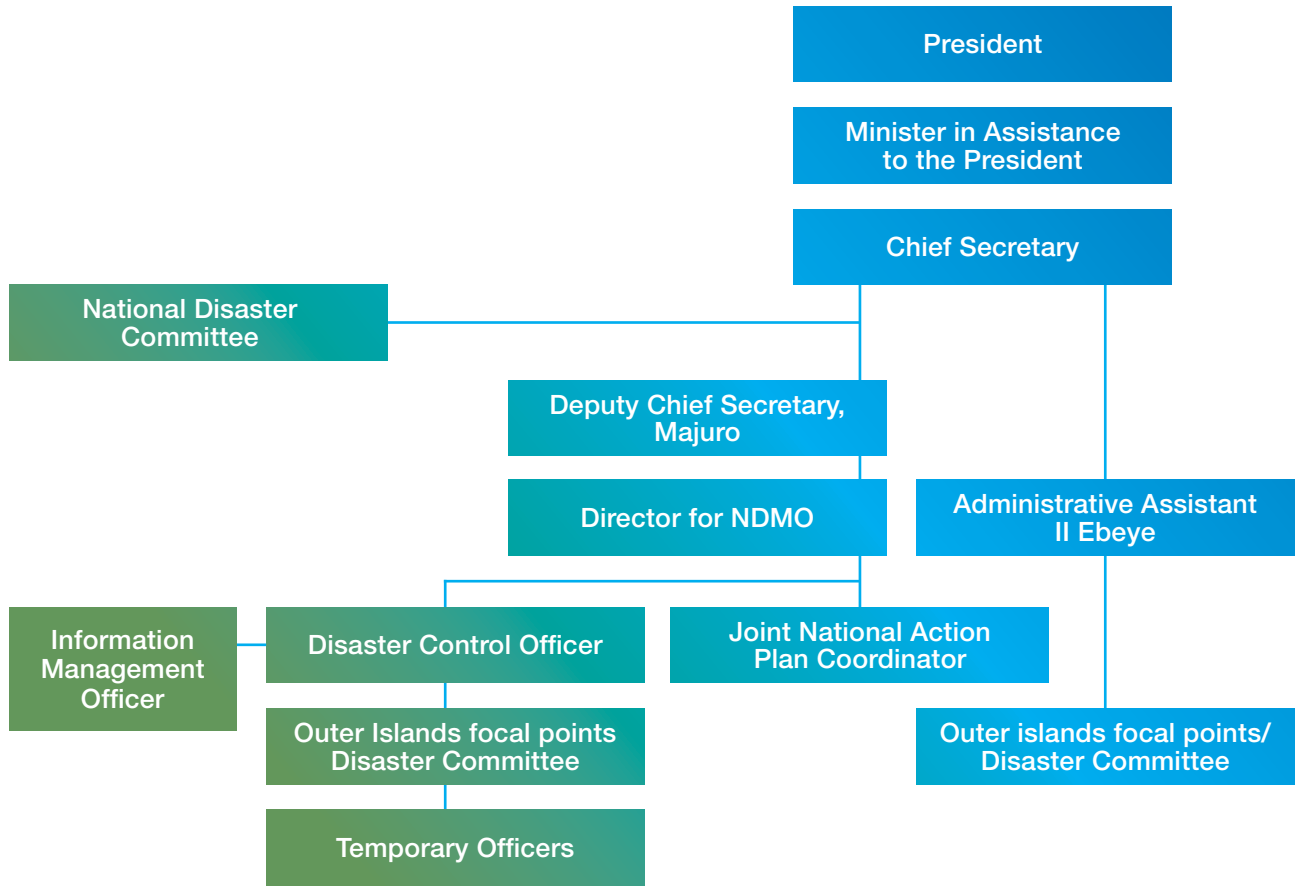
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PHOTO CREDIT: UNDP

ANNEX 1 | STRUCTURE FOR DRM IN RMI





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