

EUROPE

289 Kosovo/UNSC 1244

KOSOVO/UNSC 1244



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Surface area	10,908 km ²
Population, 2010 (est.)	1.8 million
Population density, 2010	165/km ²
GDP in 2011	USD 6.4 billion
GDP per capita in 2011	USD 3,596
Remittances, 2011	<i>Data not available</i>
HDI	0.700
Net migration rate, 2010–2015	<i>Data not available</i>
Types of movement	Rural-to-urban, internal displacement
Affected population	<i>Data not available</i>
Number of IOM staff working on disasters	<i>Data not available</i>
Location of IOM offices	Pristina, Peja, Prizren, Gjilan and Mitrovica
Total DRR funding for 2013 in USD	<i>Data not available</i>

IOM site: www.iomkosovo.org

IOM DRR responses

Preparedness

Building institutional capacities



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Background

Kosovo/UNSC 1244 occupies a landlocked, mainly mountainous area in the Balkans, on the faultline between the Mediterranean and Trans-Asian plates, which places it in one of the most seismically active areas in South-eastern Europe. Kosovo has been hit by earthquakes in 1963, 1969 and 1979, which affected over 310,000 people in total. Recent tremors, in 2002 and 2010, caused significant structural damage in affected municipalities and forced the evacuation of some communities.

A considerable part of the territory of Kosovo/UNSC 1244 (up to 41%) is covered by forest, which makes the country prone to fires, especially at the end of spring and during the dry summer months. Since 2000, the number of fires has been increasing, mostly due to natural causes, with fire brigades carrying-out between 2,000 and 3,000 interventions each year.

Considerable threats are also posed by landslides, floods, droughts, heavy snowfalls and water dam failures. In addition, industrial pollution, particularly lead contamination from dismissed establishments and mines in Mitrovica, seriously affects the quality of local water, soil and food, with significant consequences to the local economy and public sanitation conditions. The contamination has remained largely unresolved due to political instability.

Since 1999 – at the end of the conflict – Kosovo/UNSC 1244 has been experiencing unprecedented urbanization rates, with new construction spreading rapidly all over the country. Local authorities do not always have the capacity to plan and regulate this process, which often results in the creation of informal settlements, despite common understanding that inadequate water and waste management in such unregulated settlements increase hazard exposure and the vulnerability of communities, especially to floods.

During the last decade natural disasters, civil unrest, social and economic changes, and environmental emergencies have challenged emergency services in Kosovo/UNSC 1244 to prepare for and respond to crises. Lack of financial resources, skills and expertise; insufficient technical and operational capacities; unreliable data from the field, along with delays in the exchange and distribution of information and data; and suboptimal infrastructure all make emergency management challenging,

forcing national institutions to turn to international humanitarian support in the face of crisis.

Responses

During the Kosovo/UNSC 1244 crisis of 1998 and 1999, a significant number of international organizations were engaged in crisis management. Donors' engagement decreased abruptly after the emergency, however, with many international organizations leaving the area. In 2011, IOM participated in the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Capacity Assessment Report led by Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) and then in the development of an Action Plan for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation.

IOM is currently focusing on strengthening local institutional capacity for disaster risk management (DRM) and disaster risk reduction. Building on a decade-long experience supporting the local Protection Corps, the Organization's current priority is to restart the local School of Civil Protection and contribute to the training of local disaster management experts. In addition, IOM is planning to produce and distribute a comprehensive series of handbooks with DRR themes, including natural and technological hazard identification and prevention, organization of emergency and relief activities, protection of human rights and cultural heritage and risk information and education.

Results achieved

In collaboration with Swedish authorities, IOM carried-out a series of capacity-building activities for emergency medical professionals. Twenty-four professionals were trained in the framework of an experience exchange with some Swedish counterparts. Five professionals were trained as senior instructors. In addition, IOM supported the Ministry of Health by providing technical expertise in designing the National Strategy for Developing Emergency Medical Services in Kosovo/UNSC 1244. Currently, the Organization is collaborating towards the revision of the country's Law on Medical Emergency Services.

Future objectives

IOM will further support the Government of Kosovo/UNSC 1244 in establishing a functioning integrated emergency service, particularly by collaborating towards the establishment of an

integrated communication system. In addition, the Organization is planning to produce a series of educational materials on disaster risk reduction to be used for training and capacity-building at the institutional and community levels.

Relevant materials

- Integrated Emergency Management System main document, available from www.mpb-ks.org/repository/docs/Integrated%20Emergency%20Managment%20System.pdf.
- *Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Capacity Assessment Report* by the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI), available from www.gripweb.org/~gripweb/gripweb/sites/default/files/Kosovo%20DRR%20Cap%20Ass%20Report.pdf.
- *Summary – Flash Flood Risk Assessment over Kosovo*, available from www.who-eatlas.org/VRAM/COUNTRY/UNK/REPORTS/VRAM_UNK_short_report_Eng_final.pdf.
- National Response Plan, available from www.mpb-ks.org/repository/docs/National_Response_Plan_14_01_11.pdf.

List of projects

EU-Community Stabilization Programme in Kosovo/UNSC 1244

Project status	Completed
Project period	27 May 2010 to 26 November 2011
Beneficiaries	530 members of ethnic minority or indigenous people groups
Donor	European Union and the European Commission
Amount funded (in USD)	2,838,837
Partners	Ministry for Community and Returns, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, municipal community officers, municipal return officers and village leaders

EU-Beautiful Kosovo/UNSC 1244 Programme

Project status	Active
Project period	01 March 2011 to 31 August 2013
Beneficiaries	1,660 people
Donor	European Commission
Amount funded (in USD)	6,794,929
Partners	Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, municipalities in Kosovo/UNSC 1244 and the Danish Refugee Council

OCEANIA

295 Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of the Marshall Islands

301 Papua New Guinea

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA AND REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

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	Federated States of Micronesia	Republic of the Marshall Islands
Surface area	702 km ²	181 km ²
Population, 2010 (est.)	111,000	54,000
Population density, 2010	158.2/km ²	298.6/km ²
GDP in 2011	USD 310.2 million	USD 173 million
GDP per capita in 2011	USD 2,787	USD 3,169
Remittances, 2011	<i>Data not available</i>	<i>Data not available</i>
HDI	0.645	<i>Data not available</i>
Net migration rate, 2010–2015	-12.8 migrants/1,000 population	<i>Data not available</i>
Types of movement	Temporary migration, permanent migration, internal displacement, cross-border displacement	
Displaced by disasters, 2008–2012	<i>Data not available</i>	
Number of IOM staff working on disasters	20	
Location of IOM offices	Pohnpei, Yap and Chuuk states (Micronesia); Majuro (Marshall Islands)	
Total DRR funding for 2013 in USD	USD 2,000,000	

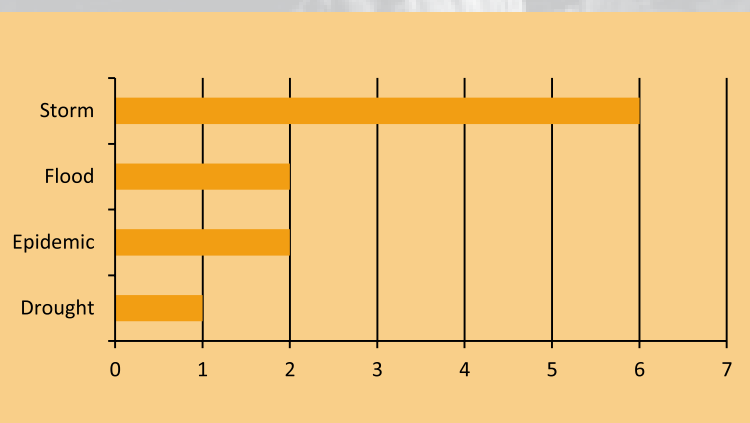
IOM DRR responses

Preparedness	Cross-cutting
Preparing communities Building institutional capacities Bridging responses	Health

Top 10 natural disasters by size of affected population, 1980–2013

	Disaster	Date	Affected
Micronesia	Drought	1998	28,800
	Storm	2004	6,008
	Epidemic	2000	3,431
	Storm	2002	1,448
	Storm	2003	1,000
	Storm	1987	203
	Storm	2002	175
	Flood	2008	0
Marshall Islands	Storm	1991	6,000
	Flood	2008	600
	Epidemic	2000	218

Natural disaster occurrence, 1980–2013



Background

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) are two island nations collectively made up of 1,800 islands spanning 2,000 miles across the north-western Pacific Ocean. Between them, the two nations account for three million square miles of the western Pacific Ocean, an area three times the size of the South China Sea or the Mediterranean.

Micronesia and the Marshall Islands lie on the path of Pacific typhoons, which regularly strike the two countries from November and April, often triggering floods and landslides (as in the case of the Chuuk mudslides following Tropical Storm Chata'an, in July 2002). Micronesia suffers the majority of these weather disasters, with the eastern states of Yap and Chuuk being the most affected. Drought, on the other hand, is more prevalent in the Marshall Islands. There are, however, often periods of more than five years between declared disasters.

Due to their size and position, Micronesia and the Marshall Islands face enormous challenges in the delivery of emergency and reconstruction assistance following natural disasters. Their geographic location serves as a natural obstacle for the entry of humanitarian aid, as is the lack of logistics for transportation and communication support services, the presence of few NGOs that could provide disaster assistance services and the weak disaster management capacities of the two national Governments and local disaster responders.

Climate change will contribute to greater vulnerability (particularly in terms of water and food security), especially in outer-island atoll communities, which are expected to bear significant consequences in terms of internal and international displacement over the coming decades. Rising sea levels threaten crops and precious freshwater supplies through saltwater intrusion and storm surges. Marine ecosystems are being threatened by ocean acidification and coral bleaching, further adding to food security concerns. A more unpredictable climate will lead to more extreme weather events, such as typhoons and droughts and possibly trigger more secondary hazards (such as landslides).

As a result of the amended Compact of Free Association between the FSM, RMI and US Governments, citizens of the Marshall Islands and Micronesia can make use of expedited migration

procedures to the United States, which has in the past facilitated emigration following natural disasters. Under the treaty arrangements, the United States is also responsible for the delivery of disaster assistance when the resources of the FSM and RMI Governments are overwhelmed. IOM is currently the principal United States Agency for International Development (USAID) implementation partner for disaster preparedness and response in the two island nations.



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Responses

Under the Disaster Mitigation, Relief and Reconstruction Program funded by the USAID, IOM is focusing on strengthening preparedness for emergency response, recovery and reconstruction. The preparedness components of this programme are as follows: strengthening the capacity of the FSM and RMI Governments and other stakeholders to prepare for, respond to and recover from large- and small-scale disasters; increasing the capacity of USAID and federal partners to respond expeditiously to disasters, while increasing local capacity to respond to smaller events; and increasing the capacity of USAID to implement recovery and reconstruction activities following a disaster, while preparing Micronesia and the Marshall Islands to take long-term responsibility.

IOM has pre-positioned emergency response supplies (such as generators, reverse osmosis machines and critical WASH [water, sanitation and hygiene] equipment) across three critical locations; negotiated stand-by arrangements with medical evacuation service providers, emergency air and sea transport; and arranged for the rapid mobilization of humanitarian aid workers and volunteers during the emergency phase. It has also carried out training for civil society partners in the delivery of humanitarian assistance in line with international best practices. Moreover, IOM has collected data on the two countries to facilitate an expeditious disaster response through comprehensive contingency planning.

With the assistance of the Australian Agency for International Development, IOM is working with the FSM and RMI Governments to build both the capacity of communities to adapt to climate change and their resilience to natural hazards, through community-based risk mapping, early-action and evacuation plans, and by establishing evacuation centres in high-risk communities. The Organization is working with the education system in particular, and has developed curricula and delivered lessons on disaster risk reduction and climate change, facilitated school emergency management plans and conducted evacuation drills in high-risk schools, as well as trained teachers in first aid and emergency first response, equipping them with medical and evacuation kits.

IOM is constructing a “Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices” survey, which will assess disaster and climate change awareness to better target programme interventions. The Organization is

also supporting its activities through information, education and communication materials, radio broadcasts and public events.

IOM also serves as Secretariat for the Joint Risk Management Network (JRM-N), a collection of governmental and non-governmental organizations working in the fields of climate change and disaster risk management. The JRM-N is used for coordinating activities in these sectors, as well as discussing regional and global innovations and trends. Through the JRM-N, the Organization has contributed to Micronesia’s and the Marshall Islands’ National Action Plans for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation (CCA).

Results achieved

IOM has contributed to the enhancement of disaster preparedness and climate change adaptation in the Marhsall Islands and Micronesia through targeted assistance at the national and local levels. To be specific, the Organization has strengthened response capacities by setting up a comprehensive information management system for assisting humanitarian and reconstruction actors in the aftermath of disasters, and has pre-positioned essential items in three locations across the two countries. IOM also involved 70 civil society representatives in humanitarian assistance and set up over 30 stand-by agreements with other actors, in order to better coordinate responses. The Organization promoted participatory processes leading to the writing of four contingency plans and tested these plans through two national simulation exercises.

Through its intervention in the education sector, IOM made schools and local communities more capable of responding to disasters. It delivered training in disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation to 3,000 students and certified 200 teachers in first response. The Organization also helped develop and drill 50 school emergency management plans and distributed 30 medical kits in educational facilities.

IOM is finalizing 50 community-based risk mapping and early-action planning exercises to guide local communities in their CCA efforts. Partnerships with five environmental organizations for collaborations in climate change awareness-raising have been established, and institutional coordination mechanisms for key non-State actors have been improved through the Joint Risk Management Network.

Future objectives

IOM seeks to continue to enhance local capacities for disaster mitigation, relief and reconstruction, with support from donors such as USAID. The future approach will involve stronger engagement with national and local institutions, including building grassroots capacities and enhancing local resilience.

Currently, IOM is partnering with the Department of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Hawaii, Manoa to develop and implement a coastal community resilience course for Micronesia and the Marshall Islands. This project will be supported through the Coastal Storms Program of the United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The Organization will further work with local NGOs in the environmental sector to promote the concept

of “resilient ecosystems and resilient communities.” Local partnerships will be expanded to include faith-based organizations and academic institutions. IOM will also continue to work closely with traditional leaders to ensure that traditional knowledge and wisdom is considered when addressing current climate change and disaster management concerns. More efforts will be directed to raising awareness of hazards and climate change among young people and communities, especially in schools and educational institutions.

So far, IOM interventions have focused only on the main islands. Factoring the effects of climate change in the promotion of sustainable livelihoods will be crucial for future efforts, especially in outer islands. Extending the programmes to the outer areas where vulnerability can get even more extreme remains challenging, both logistically and financially. IOM will commence programmes in two outer islands of Micronesia in 2013.

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Relevant materials

- News and information about the work of IOM in the Micronesia the Marshall Islands, available from www.micronesia.iom.int.
- National Action Plan on Disaster Risk Management (Marshall Islands), available from www.sprep.org/attachments/Climate_Change/RMI_NCCP.pdf.
- 2009 Climate Change Policy (Micronesia), available from www.fsmpio.fm/Nationwide_Climate_Change_policy.pdf.
- Regional (Pacific) climate change documents, available from www.pacificclimatechange.net.

List of projects

Climate Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction and Education (Federated States of Micronesia)

Project status	Active
Project period	5 March 2012 to 4 March 2015
Beneficiaries	50,400 people
Donor	Australia, Australian Agency for International Development
Amount funded (in USD)	3,131,524
Partners	Micronesia partners: FSM Office of Environment and Emergency Management), state disaster coordination offices), FSM national and state Departments of Education and established civil society partners. Marshall Islands partners: National Emergency Management Coordination Offices (NEMCO), Office of the Chief Secretary, Ministry of Education, National Government personnel and established civil society partners

FEMA-USAID* Hybrid Mitigation, Relief and Reconstruction Program in the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Federated States of Micronesia (HMRR)

Project status	Active
Project period	19 August 2008 to 31 August 2013
Beneficiaries	180,000 people and Government personnel
Donor	USAID
Amount funded (in USD)	4,191,572

* Federal Emergency Management Agency and United States Agency for International Development



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PAPUA NEW GUINEA

© 2008 (Photo: John Slapcinsky).

Surface area	462,840 km ²
Population, 2010 (est.)	6.8 million
Population density, 2010	14.8/km ²
GDP in 2011	USD 12.9 billion
GDP per capita in 2011	USD 1,845
Remittances, 2011	USD 15 million
HDI	0.466
Net migration rate, 2010–2015	<i>Data not available</i>
Types of movement	Internal displacement, stranded/trapped, relocation
Displaced by disasters, 2008–2012	191,486
Number of IOM staff working on disasters	3
Location of IOM offices	Port Moresby
Total DRR funding for 2013 in USD	USD 1,281,588
IOM site: www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home/where-we-work/asia-and-the-pacific/papua-new-guinea.html	

IOM DRR responses

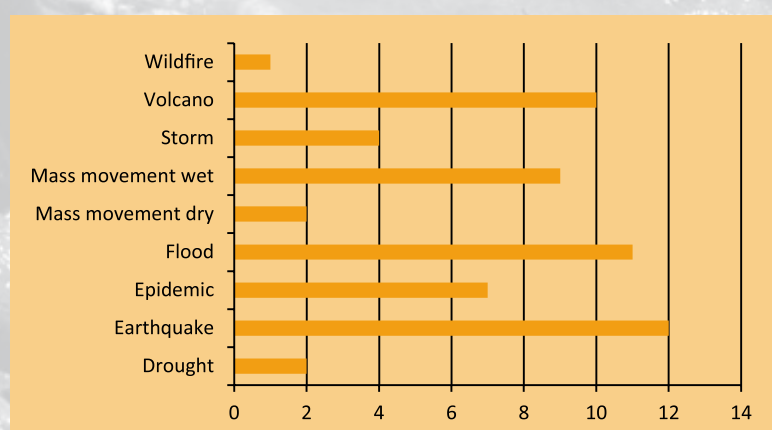
Preparedness

Preparing communities
Building institutional capacities
Bridging responses

Top 10 natural disasters by size of affected population, 1980–2013

Disaster	Date	Affected
Drought	1997	500,000
Storm	2007	162,140
Volcano	1994	152,002
Flood	1992	90,000
Flood	2008	75,300
Flood	1993	54,000
Storm	1993	40,040
Drought	1980	40,000
Flood	1999	38,000
Volcano	1983	25,000

Natural disaster occurrence, 1980–2013



Background

Papua New Guinea is a densely forested equatorial archipelago characterized by an extremely rugged topography. Tropical forest covers its Central Highlands region, as well as most of its plains area, where wetlands are also to be found. It also hosts some high-mountain ecosystems.

The country is exposed to droughts and typhoons, and, as it lies on the western edge of the Pacific Ring of Fire, is seismically and volcanically very active and prone to tsunamis. Monsoon rains, combined with a steep topography, make many parts of the country prone to floods, landslides and river shifts. Papua New Guinea also experiences the cyclical effects of the El Niño/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and its related weather anomalies. In the coming decades, climate change is expected to affect precipitation patterns in the country and make both dry spells and violent downpours more frequent. In addition, sea level rise and ocean warming will affect coastal areas, coral reefs and, in particular, low-lying atolls.

The rugged, diverse terrain of Papua New Guinea accounts for its many unique challenges. Developing transportation and communication infrastructure has always been burdensome, preserving what is probably the most culturally diverse landscape in the world. Large parts of the country are extremely isolated and many settlements are still inaccessible, except by very difficult overland routes. The capital city, Port Moresby, is still not connected by road to much of the rest of the country. The range of communications, including radio broadcasts, is extremely limited. The relative isolation of rural settlements results in complex challenges for disaster management efforts, as vulnerable communities cannot easily be reached, evacuated and assisted in times of crisis. Rains regularly disrupt road networks, cutting off access to markets and contributing to food insecurity. Poor land use practices and limited socioeconomic development are the main drivers of the population's vulnerability, especially to floods and landslides.

Around 40 per cent of New Guineans live in poverty, earning less than USD 1 a day. The diversity of indigenous communities, with enormous linguistic and cultural differences, is also challenging. While some communities pursue traditional disaster management activities, indigenous knowledge is not adequately recognized and supported at the institutional level.

Disasters, especially large-scale events, often trigger forced migrations. Insufficient institutional emergency management capacities and the prevalence of complex land ownership and compensation issues make the support to the displaced population extremely challenging. Climate change, by causing sea level rise, is heavily affecting atoll communities in low-lying islands in the north-east part of the country. More support is needed to identify and address priority areas of intervention for the resettlement of several affected communities in the mainland, as is the case for the atoll communities of the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Responses

The IOM response in Papua New Guinea focuses on building capacities at the institutional and community levels, coordinating risk reduction efforts among main actors in the country and building the resilience of communities.

In order to overcome the challenges posed by isolation, the Organization is supporting preparedness strategies that increase the resilience of vulnerable communities in Papua New Guinea and empower them to independently cope with and respond to natural disasters and the effects of climate change.

In addition, IOM is starting to work on building local capacities for systematic hazard data collection and dissemination of risk and response information, especially in remote areas. The Organization is collaborating with international and local actors to systematize early-warning systems and information management and open essential lines of communication with vulnerable, isolated communities.

IOM is also participating in inter-agency coordination efforts to improve disaster response at the country level. It has assumed lead responsibility for the Emergency Shelter and Non-food Item (NFI) Cluster of the Inter-agency Standing Committee (IASC) while also working on emergency and post-crisis migration management and migration and development.

Results achieved

The Inter-agency Contingency Plan was tested at the national level in December 2011 and 2012, during the course of a disaster simulation exercise hosted by the National Disaster Committee. This helped test the responsiveness and the capacity of the different IASC clusters to work together. Recent work as the Emergency Shelter and NFI Cluster Lead has allowed IOM to build solid and effective working relations with the National Disaster Centre and other cluster partners.

Despite advancement in the understanding of risk and the dissemination of risk information, the experience of IOM in the field indicates that knowledge of the causes and results of, and possible preventative measures for, natural disasters and climate change is extremely limited. The population has limited knowledge of risk reduction and preparedness activities at the community, district or subdistrict level. The National Disaster Centre has recently developed community-based materials addressing disaster risk reduction (DRR) at the community level. While there is political will to improve DRR mechanisms on a more systematic basis, local capacities and knowledge are still limited.

Future objectives

There is a widely recognized need to work in a more programmatic manner towards the full implementation of the cluster system, in order to enhance disaster contingency and response plans. Along this line, IOM will further advocate for a stronger legal framework for disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management, in order to foster coordination among national and subnational actors dealing with disaster reduction and management activities and, in particular, with the mobility consequences of disasters.

In addition, IOM plans to strengthen its community-based DRR activities in selected vulnerable communities and undertake the capacity-building of partners at the provincial, district and local levels on tactical and operational initiatives related to emergency response and preparedness. Commitment to establish solid early-warning systems and information management procedures will be renewed, reaching out to communities through the innovative SMS ("short message sending") Application Programming Interface.

IOM is also about to start implementing a three-year project on migration, environment and climate change, with the aim of contributing to the global knowledge base on the relationship between migration and environmental change and the formulation of related policies.

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International Organization for Migration (IOM)

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