



## Typhoon Maysak Reconstruction Project Completed

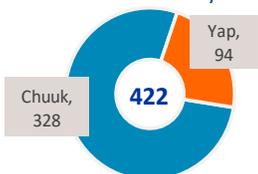
IOM, in partnership with USAID, marked the completion of all construction activities in Chuuk and Yap as part of the multi-year Typhoon Maysak Reconstruction Project (TMRP) as of 15 April, 2018. In January, USAID and IOM celebrated the completion of Chuuk construction with a closeout ceremony in Weno. U.S. Ambassador Robert Riley, representatives from USAID, local government officials, community members, and many of the IOM staff directly responsible for the reconstruction attended the event. In his address, Ambassador Riley acknowledged the accomplishments achieved through local partnership.

*“Our event today is not just about completing construction projects, we’re also celebrating how our governments, non-governmental partners and beneficiaries now have greater capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters in the future. We have learned valuable lessons that will be indispensable to future recovery efforts.”*

- U.S. Ambassador Robert Riley

The IOM-implemented \$42 million USD project was completed in partnership with USAID, the FSM Government, the State Governments of Chuuk and Yap and local Chuukese and Yapese communities. The initiative repaired and replaced homes and public infrastructure damaged or destroyed by Typhoon Maysak in 2015. In addition to construction activities, USAID and IOM also issued vouchers totaling more than \$2.6 million USD to 1,167 households in Chuuk and 188 households in Yap.

Number of New Houses by State

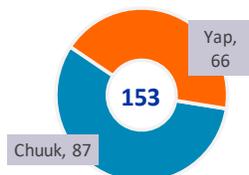


### New house construction (422):



TMRP team completed and handed over all target houses across Chuuk (328) and Yap (94)

Number of Public Infrastructures by State

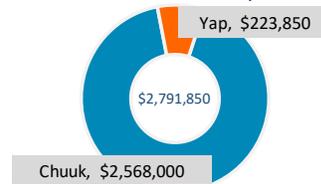


### Public infrastructure reconstruction/repair (153):



TMRP team completed and handed over all target PIs (87) in Chuuk and Yap (66) state.

Voucher Distribution by State



### Voucher distribution:



100% of vouchers were distributed among validated household beneficiaries (Chuuk: 1,167 & Yap: 188) with a total value of USD \$2,791,850.





This newsletter gives me a wonderful opportunity to welcome the Republic of Palau as IOM's 170th Member State. Whilst we have been working in partnership with the Palau Government and its people over the last few years, being a Member State will give Palau far better access to IOM's services and expertise in the migration field. Areas of our ongoing partnership already include disaster preparedness activities, drought mitigation and counter trafficking initiatives.

Another milestone marked in this newsletter is the completion of the Typhoon Maysak Reconstruction project. This saw 422 houses and 153 public infrastructure projects completed in both Chuuk and Yap FSM. Nearly 300 people worked on this massive project to ensure the timely completion and high quality of the buildings and structures across both states.

Also highlighted, we began the installation of a new Border Management System in Majuro RMI. Together with the RMI Department of Immigration, IOM is installing new systems that will enable the government to both track and manage people entering, leaving and staying in the country.

Hopefully this newsletter will be both interesting and informative, and please contact our team should you want additional information on any of our projects.

## IOM Welcomes Palau as a Member State

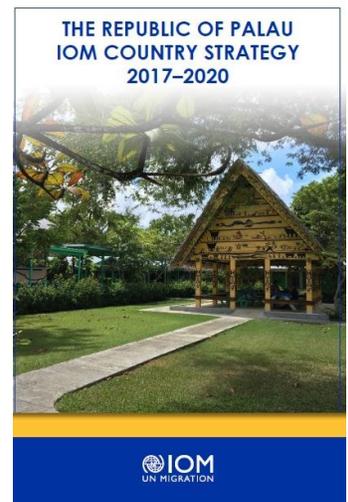


IOM CoM Mr. Stuart Simpson and Republic of Palau Vice President Raynold B. Oilouch. Photo Credit: IOM/2018

In June 2018 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Session of the Council held in Geneva, Switzerland, the Republic of Palau was admitted as a Member State of IOM.

IOM has a total of 172 Member States and a further 8 hold Observer State status.

While IOM has implemented projects in Palau for several years, the official admission as a Member State shows renewed commitment by the Government of Palau to work in partnership with IOM. We also recently launched the Republic of Palau IOM Country Strategy 2017-2020.



As part of the alii CADRE project, IOM hosted an Evacuation Shelter Management Training in Palau with local school Principals. Photo Credit: IOM/2018

IOM recognizes the generous support received from:



Activity supported by the Canada Fund for Local Initiatives  
Activité réalisée avec l'appui du Fonds canadien d'initiatives locales





Her Excellency Dr. Hilda Heine Cabinet members and IOM Staff meet in Majuro.  
Photo: IOM/2018

In the RMI, IOM was selected by the Government to install a new automated Border Management System. The system to be installed by IOM is the Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) which is designed by IOM to with stand the toughest of border crossing environments around the world. By the end of the project the MIDAS system will be 100% owned and operated by the Government of the Marshall Islands.



On 5th July, IOM Micronesia Sub-Office Majuro presented the MIDAS system to the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Her Excellency Dr. Hilda C. Heine, in the presence of her Cabinet. With the support of the IBM Unit at the Regional Office of Bangkok, a series of assessments were conducted at the international airport, seaport and in the Republic's Immigration HQ office, in coordination with the Attorney General and the Director of Immigration for the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

## Building a Disaster Resilient FSM

The IOM Preparedness for Effective Disaster Response Team (PREPARE) took initial lead in the facilitation of the first FSM nation-wide multi-hazard tabletop exercise completed in Kosrae. Through a consultative process, leadership of tabletop exercises have been handed-over to the National Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECCEM). To date, tabletop exercises have been successfully completed in the states of Kosrae, Chuuk and Yap. An upcoming tabletop exercise will take place in Pohnpei State.



The Disaster Coordination Officer (DCO) for Chuuk State opens the event.  
IOM/Olivia Blinn 2018

The three-day tabletop exercise tests key roles, responsibilities and communication flows during times of disaster. Exercises are carefully designed against the scenario of a Category 2 typhoon that triggered several secondary hazards and response incidents such as search and rescue operations, landslides and flooding.

Participants were expected to prioritize and identify actions as described in response plans and state specific standard operating procedures. The three-day events include a practical exercise on the completion and communication of the Initial Damage Assessment Form (IDA). FSM Weather Services additionally presented information on key early warning procedures.



Participants practice calling in information through the radios. IOM/Olivia Blinn 2018.

In RMI, IOM is assisting in the development of the National Emergency Response Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Towards the end of 2018, IOM will hold a tabletop exercise designed to test key government and non-government response agencies on their understanding of the National Emergency Response Plan (NERP), supporting SOPs and the Operational Blue Print.

## CADRE + Outer Island Visits

The CADRE + program aims to leverage the natural resilience and skills of communities in the FSM and RMI to better prepare for natural hazards. As islands in the region are small and spread out over vast geographic areas, communities are largely self-reliant, CADRE + therefore aims to enhance the tools and skills of community members to better cope with and prepare for natural hazards.

In April 2018, IOM staff traveled to the Woleai Atoll in Yap State, which still retains many traditional Yapese values and norms. IOM worked with three separate communities to form disaster committees and develop disaster plans.



Community members identify roles and responsibilities for the disaster committee, for example, the Assessment Team. IOM/ Michael Yarofaitoar 2018



Community members listen to a briefing from IOM staff after the community drill. IOM/ Michael Yarofaitoar 2018

IOM worked with the local schools to provide the students with lessons on climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, as well as with the principals to develop School Emergency Management Plans (SEMPs). The schools then practiced fire drills.

As visits to the outer islands require chartered flights, local NGOs do not often have the ability to visit the remote communities, but IOM successfully partnered with YapCap to join the trip and help ensure local sustainability.

## RMI Outer Islands Focal Point Workshop



Group photo from the Outer Islands Focal Point Workshop. IOM/ Carrol de Brum 2018

Participants from 22 atolls/islands met in Majuro for a series of presentations and activities which focused on information collection and assessment forms that are used during disasters with the aim of better information flows at all levels of the community.

IOM staff provided a training on the Sphere Project's minimum standards in humanitarian response, in particular as it relates to evacuation shelters, and described the Initial Situation Overview and Drought Situation Overview forms.

In July 2018, the RMI Office of the Chief Secretary and National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) in partnership with IOM and Marshall Islands Red Cross Society, held the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Outer Islands Focal Point Workshop.



The workshop included a live simulation day. IOM/ Carrol de Brum 2018

As part of the annual FSM National Law Day, high school debaters from Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap came together to debate the proposition, *“Now, therefore, be it resolved that, the Federated States of Micronesia shall ratify the 1951 United Nations Convention and its 1967 protocol relating to the status of refugees.”*



The final debate took place on 12 July, 2018 but in the months leading up schools across Pohnpei visited IOM to interview staff on the topic and gain further insight on the work of organizations such as IOM and UNHCR. IOM is committed to the principle that humane and orderly migration benefits migrants and society, and strongly supports international legal frameworks which protect the rights of refugees and migrants. As of 2018, 145 countries are party to the 1951 Convention, however several Pacific island nations have yet to sign on.

IOM Staff meet with the debate team from Our Lady of Mercy (OLM) Catholic High School. Photo: IOM / Michael Yaraofaitoar 2018

Congratulations to the winning team, SDA High School in Pohnpei!

## Disaster Search and Rescue Training: Learning the Basics to Save Lives

Enhancing the capacity of national and local governments, as well as civil society organizations, to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters is an important step in increasing self-reliance. Due to the geography of the North Pacific and the vulnerability to natural disasters, Basic Disaster Search and Rescue (DSAR) Training was identified as a priority for IOM and counterparts.

In coordination the RMI Ministry of Justice, Immigration and Labor and the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), IOM designed and implemented a series of DSAR Training and Training of Trainers in Disaster Search and Rescue (DSAR ToT) that were delivered in both Majuro and Ebeye. The trainings are implemented as part of the USAID-funded PREPARE Program, and targets community members who will likely be the first at a scene to help after a disaster. The Training of Trainers element ensures that new skills will be spread across the Marshall Islands. Participants included individuals from Majuro Atoll Local Government Police, Marshall Islands Red Cross Society Volunteers, Marshall Islands National Police and Fire Service, Marshall Islands Disable Persons Organization, RMI Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs, RMI Ministry of Health and the UN Fund for Population Activities.



Participants practice leveraging techniques for victim extrication during Basic Disaster Search and Rescue Training. Photo: IOM/ 2018



IOM Training Specialist Rick Herman demonstrates proper lifting techniques. Photo: IOM / 2018



# Photo Series:

## Community Workers and Beneficiaries in Chuuk and Yap

The Typhoon Maysak Reconstruction Project (TMRP) utilized a community-based approach, engaging local communities and allowing residents to directly participate in the repair of their own homes and infrastructure. Across Chuuk, IOM technical teams mobilized and trained 1,429 community workers in best practices and safety standards in construction, while 216 community workers were trained in Yap.

This work gave community members a sense of pride and ownership in the construction projects. The skills will also will remain with them and can be utilized in the future for the construction of additional homes and community structures. As a result, USD \$6.4 million remained in communities across Chuuk and Yap through expenditures to the community working groups, local vendors, vouchers, contractors, lodging and food. Photo Credit IOM/Olivia Blinn 2018.

**"Everyone is happy to be part of this job. Not only the workers, but the whole community appreciates what IOM has done."**

—Misa, community worker on the Community Home in Fefan, Chuuk





**"We feel safe in this new house whenever there is a big wind."**

—Hoream, new house beneficiary in Weno, Chuuk





**"We want to say thank you to IOM for this house. If it's not for you, we would still be living with the neighbors and cousins."**

—Surely, new house beneficiary in Weno, Chuuk





**"This work benefits not just this community here but the other villages, the whole island."**

—Neeto, Village Chief for Sapou in Polle, Chuuk





**"It's an honor to have this building and to work with IOM. The younger ones are catching up with the skills that IOM has taught them."**

—William, foreman on the Village School in Paata, Chuuk





**"All of these new buildings will be very helpful to the community."**

—Quintina, teacher at Early Childhood Education in Federai, Yap







In honor of International Women’s Day 2018, IOM participated in a number of community events across FSM and RMI. In Pohnpei, IOM hosted an arts and craft booth during the second annual Women and Girls Festival on Friday, March 9. IOM held an art contest with the theme “Keeping my mind and my body healthy” and had a photo booth! The Australian Embassy hosted the event at the Pohnpei swimming pool in collaboration with the FSM National Olympic Committee, Pohnpei State Government, Cutting Edge Advocacy and the United States Embassy. Other featured events included a free swim, Zumba, fun contests and movie screening.



In Majuro, IOM celebrated International Women's Day by participating in a local walkathon and hosting a disaster awareness booth. At the booth, women were able to ask questions about climate change and receive free t-shirts and water bottles. Participants wrote notes about women who inspired them, which were then displayed on a map to show their hometowns. Additionally, the IOM women participated in the tug-of-war games and came in 2nd place!



In Pohnpei, women and girls participate in the art contest, admire each other’s work and enjoy the photobooth. Photo: IOM/ Olivia Blinn 2018

Local walkathon in Majuro to celebrate the day. Photo: IOM/2018

## ACP-EU Technical Assistance: Counter Trafficking Efforts in Yap



The FSM is considered a source, transit, and, to a limited extent, a destination country for men, women and children subjected to forced labor and sexual exploitation. New human trafficking legislation marked the beginning of a nationwide campaign to combat and raise awareness of human trafficking as a newly recognized national crime.

At the request of the Yap State Government, IOM through the ACP-EU Migration Action, is providing technical assistance aimed at improving Yap State’s legislation on human trafficking and smuggling. Consultations have been taking place with government officials, community leaders, established women and youth groups to gather information and identify gaps in the current context.

IOM Consultant, Steven Harvey, consults with community members in Falalop Ulithi, Yap. Photo: IOM/Philip Raffilpiy 2018



Bethany Ehmes 2017

The logo for the festival was designed by local high school student, Bethany Ehmes, with the theme "My Rights, Are Your Rights, Are Migrants' Rights."

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Human Rights and Migration Festival was the culminating activity of 2017 and the events to recognize the FSM 16 Days of Activism and the overall theme of Youth Building Peace: Activism for Human Rights. IOM Micronesia partnered with the Pohnpei State Government, FSM Government, Student Life: College of Micronesia-FSM, US Embassy Kolonia, and Australia in Micronesia to host this year's Festival in Pohnpei. The theme was **"My Rights, Are Your Rights, Are Migrants' Rights,"** and the Festival raised awareness and helped people to reflect on what human rights actually means, especially for vulnerable groups such as migrants and people with disabilities.

Activities at the festival included geography quizzes to highlight global migration, a game of twister utilizing the Declaration of Human Rights, and a play performed by the College of Micronesia Teacher Corps. In addition, a series of contests were awarded included skits, a youth video contest and a poetry slam. As part of IOM's Global Migration Film Festival, there was a screening of "Years of Living Dangerously: The Uprooted."

## Open House Launches Research on the Effects of Natural Disasters on Women and Girls

Climate change and extreme weather events have placed considerable strain on disaster-prone communities across the FSM, affecting their livelihoods as well as their access to food, water and health. Studies have shown that women and girls face specific vulnerabilities during and after natural disasters due to prevailing levels of gender inequality—demonstrated through unequal access to information through early warning systems and evacuation plans, unequal access to education or constraints to women's mobility.

Through IOM's comprehensive quantitative and qualitative study, the results from surveys and focus group discussions have been consolidated into key findings on the effects of natural disasters on the health and safety of women and girls in the FSM.

Results from over 400 surveys and 20 focus group discussions have been analyzed to provide evidence-based recommendations that highlight gender interests in disaster risk reduction, emergency response, climate change and adaptation, food and livelihood security, psychosocial health as well as gender-based violence.



Funded by the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CLFI), the project culminated in the report, "Assessing the effect of natural disasters on the health and safety of women and girls in the FSM." Photo: IOM/ Olivia Blinn 2018



At the Open House event in Chuuk with members of the Technical Working Group, who were instrumental in the design and research behind the report. Photo: IOM / 2018

Open House events were held in Pohnpei and Chuuk to present the findings from the report. In Chuuk State, partners from local youth and women's groups as well as representatives from the Department of Justice, Education and Public Health joined in discussions following the presentation and brainstormed ways in which to meaningfully incorporate gender-sensitive interventions in development and humanitarian operations. Pohnpei State hosted a similar event with international partners and representatives from the American and Australian Embassies.



The Seabees constructed the boys and girls culture huts at Outer Islands High School from the ground up. Photo: IOM/ Olivia Blinn 2018

As part of the TMRP, IOM has worked to repair or reconstruct 20 buildings within the Outer Islands High School (OIHS) of Ulithi Atoll in Yap State. The U.S. Navy Seabees have a longstanding history in the Ulithi Atoll, which dates back to World War II, and in January the group of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 4 arrived in Falalop and assisted IOM in the construction of two cultural houses.

The cultural huts – one for girls and one for boys – play a unique role in the Ulithian and Yapese education system. Yapese take pride in their culture and strive to maintain their traditions. In the cultural huts, boys and girls are taught handicrafts, such as canoe carving and basket weaving. Although they may seem like small structures, they play a vital role in the heartbeat of who the Yapese people are.

## Additional Highlights From Across the Mission

- ❖ IOM’s Pacific Adaptation through Labour Mobility in the Low-Lying Atoll States of Kiribati, Marshall Islands, and Tuvalu (PALM) project was launched with the objective to ensure that migrants and communities in the Pacific benefit from migration as a sustainable development and climate change adaptation strategy.
- ❖ The ACP-EU Technical Assistance Program in Majuro is working to improve visa policies through a review of the existing visa policy and to provide recommendations for the development of a new visa which has in mind the benefit of Marshall Islands inhabitants.
- ❖ The Marshall Islands Ministry of Health launched a mass screening for “TB + Leprosy Free Majuro,” IOM supported with translations of awareness materials into migrant languages.
- ❖ World Bank-funded project, Community Vulnerability and Capacity Mapping Exercise and Assessment (CMV), began with site visits to Ebeye and consultations with both traditional and non-traditional leaders.
- ❖ Through the alii CADRE project in Palau and in coordination with local partners, 10 water systems at schools across the island were repaired, and typhoon shutters were installed on the Koror Community Center and National Emergency Management Office (NEMO), which withstand winds of up to 200 MPH.
- ❖ IOM was actively engaged in community events all summer in RMI, including the 2018 Summer Brain Gain, University of the South Pacific (USP) Summer Science Camp, and the Youth Climate Change Leadership Camp.
- ❖ In Palau, IOM delivered a workshop on counter human trafficking to raise awareness with the Ministry of Justice staff and build capacity related to human trafficking.
- ❖ IOM Majuro staff traveled to Lao PDR to provide psychological first aid (PFA) training for government and civil society partners that support victims of human trafficking.
- ❖ Following heavy rains and flooding in Pohnpei in March 2018, IOM participated in the USAID/FEMA Joint Damage Assessment (JDA) along with Pohnpei State and the FSM National Government.
- ❖ IOM was invited to attend and present at the US Federal Partners Meeting in Hawaii January 2018.