

## Background

As of 02 October 2020, there are:

- 0 confirmed cases and 0 Person Under Investigation (PUI) in FSM;
- 0 confirmed cases and 0 PUI in RMI;
- 0 confirmed cases and 0 PUI in Palau

IOM's response is impacted by the travel restrictions in the region, which include:

- RMI has limited arrivals, with a once-a-month flight to both Guam and Hawaii, after an initial travel ban in March. Under new restrictions, RMI citizens need a waiver to travel and only essential travel is permitted.
- FSM closed its borders to incoming arrivals at the end of March and has not received incoming passengers since that time. Commercial flights travel through the country carrying cargo and outgoing passengers.
- Palau has not received a commercial flight since it closed its borders in March. The President of Palau recently signed an executive order that essential air services to and from Palau must be established by September 1. This has been placed on hold due to a spike of cases in Guam, leading Guam Memorial Hospital to be over capacity.

IOM's support to the COVID-19 response is guided in part by WHO's 8 pillars, including:

## Key Highlights

- IOM in Chuuk constructed a rainwater catchment system with a 1000-gallon tank at Neuo Community Health Center.
- In RMI, IOM continues to support COVID-19 outreach and general preparedness to students at Majuro schools.
- IOM donated and installed two medical waste incinerators, and trained four operators, at Pohnpei State Hospital.



## Coordination & Partnerships

- The IOM team in RMI attended the International Sign Language week workshop that has a focus on improving communications with the deaf community during COVID-19. The deaf community visited the IOM office to understand more about IOM's roles and responsibilities. The IOM team will be working closely with the deaf community to enhance preparedness and response activities to be more inclusive.
- In RMI, IOM and the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) met with representatives from the Taxi's Drivers association to discuss Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that would be followed during a lockdown and plan further training and collaborations. IOM also attended meetings with the WASH cluster, National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC), and National Disaster Committee (NDC).
- In Ebeye, IOM traveled to Enen an Japror and met with the Leiroj (queen) Anta and the tailors to conducted a mask training and view their work on the masks as vendors for IOM.
- In partnership with the National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC), IOM facilitated a one-day NEOC workshop with 24



Meeting with tailors at Enen an Japror, IOM (2020)

individuals in attendance. The goal of the workshop was to respond to the recommendations from the Tabletop Exercise and Simulation in August, update cluster and working group Terms of Reference (TORs), and discuss important communications and coordination challenges.

- During the week leading up to the monthly flight, Marshallese migrants visited the IOM office to receive assistance on mandatory State of Hawaii online forms and other travel requirements. IOM staff had booth at the airport to assist outbound travelers to fill in mandatory online health forms, understand policies and procedures in the various states related to COVID-19, and provide support as needed to United Airlines and government partners. IOM assisted approximately 80 outbound Marshallese passengers.
- IOM participated in the Yap RCCE meeting to discuss and plan for the second round of the COVID-19 survey in the main Island of Yap. This also include the third AKVO Flow App training for new volunteers, who are needed for the survey.
- In Chuuk, IOM attended Tuesday and Friday task force meetings, biweekly risk communication meetings coordinated by the national government, and weekly state RCCE team meetings. The task force is reviewing and finalizing SOPs and the Chuuk State Declaration on lockdown.
- In Kosrae, IOM attended state task force and risk communications meetings, which included an update from the national task force on the last simulation exercise.



*Supporting outgoing passengers in RMI, IOM (2020)*

## Risk Communication & Community Engagement (RCCE)

- IOM in Pohnpei donated COVID-19 awareness t-shirts to the outreach team and volunteers within the state. The t-shirts display tips for practicing COVID-19 prevention and provide greater visibility for those conducting outreach.
- IOM worked with the Pohnpei State Department of Education to procure and install two 1750-gallon water tanks for four schools (Kolonias, Lukop, Ohmine, Madolenihmw). The water tanks include guttering and a first-flush downspout system. These systems ensure that students and communities have access to clean water, which can be used for drinking, cooking and handwashing. Ohmine Public Elementary School held a ceremony on September 23 to talk about the importance of washing your hands and good hygiene practices.
- IOM in Pohnpei trained 22 students at Lukop Elementary School on handwashing techniques.
- IOM supported the Yap RCCE in conducting a training on the Akvo Flow App with new volunteers, allowing volunteers to familiar themselves on using the app before starting the survey.
- IOM participated in conducting the second round of the Yap RCCE KAP survey. In this reporting period, the RCCE team has surveyed 110 households in the Municipality of Rull.
- IOM in Chuuk continued to support the Department of Education (DoE) Monitoring and Post-Assessment of WASH Facilities in schools on Weno and lagoon islands, which has been 75% completed. Preparations to assess schools in the outer islands are ongoing.
- IOM in RMI conducted COVID-19 awareness and handwashing training at Ejit Elementary School with 31 students in attendance (16 males and 15 females).
- IOM has prepared an implementation agreement with the RMI NGO Youth to Youth in Health to prepare social media posts, radio programs and videos, which will be ongoing until the end of November.
- In RMI, IOM and NDMO supported student outreach on COVID-19, emergency kits, and general preparedness at Rita Christian School with 53 students in attendance (32 males and 21 females) from grades 7-12, North Delap Elementary School with 36 students in attendance (18 males and 18 females) from grade 6, and Majuro Baptist Christian Academy with 70 students in attendance (36 males and 34 females) from grades 4-6. To date, the team has visited 9 out of 21 schools.
- IOM in RMI created a mask campaign that has a nation wide competition that runs through to October 13 IDDR as well as a social media campaign using photos and quotes from members of the community explaining why they wear a face mask and what it means to them.



*COVID-19 outreach at Majuro schools, IOM (2020)*

## Point of Entry (POE)

- IOM in Chuuk had a walk-through at the airport with Airport Management and identified locations to post informational signage and install hand washing stations. IOM prepared a signage and traffic flow plan for the arrival area for management.
- The second draft of the Yap POE SOP was circulated for further feedback and comments from the members of the Yap State POE Sub-Committee. This sub-committee is comprised of the Department of Health Services, Public Works and Transportation, Waab Transportation Company, Pacific Aviation Missionary, Palau Shipping, Division of Public Safety, FSM Quarantine, FSM Custom and Taxation Administration, FSM Immigration, Yap Fishing Authority, FSM National Police, and CTSI.
- IOM in Kosrae is developing materials to guide passengers through the airport once it is able to receive passengers again.
- In RMI, IOM implemented three of four modules of the Points of Entry (POE) Training with Majuro Atoll Local Government Police (MalGOV), reaching 35 individuals (34 males, 1 female). IOM is planning and scheduling trainings with additional MalGOV Police and other POE partners in the future. In Ebeye, IOM conducted a POE training for: KalGov Police, National Police, Stevedor, and Customs, with a total of 57 participants in attendance.
- IOM in RMI is working on updating information at POE for inbound and outbound nationals and internationals, particularly in light of the recent change in requirements for travel to and from RMI.

## Infection Prevention & Control

- IOM Micronesia constructed the incinerator facility at Pohnpei State Hospital (PSH), which included donating and installing two medical waste incinerators. IOM also trained 4 operators. A short handover ceremony was conducted and attended by representatives from the U.S. Embassy, IOM Micronesia, the Department of Public Health and Social Affairs, and PSH. A test of the incinerators was conducted during the event. This project is implemented to improve waste management and IPC measures to stop the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases in the FSM.
- IOM in Pohnpei began a water catchment project for Kolonia Town Hall, which included excavation works now and installation of rebar for the foundation.
- IOM constructed a rainwater catchment system at Neuo Community Health Center in Chuuk, which included the installation of a 1000-gallon water tank. A new gutter line was also installed for the existing roofline to serve as additional water catchment. These systems will provide additional water storage and ensure a continuous water supply to the health center.
- In Chuuk, IOM continued the mass fabrication of handsfree handwashing stations (HHS) and substantially completed the target numbers. Once the remaining parts are installed, the HHS will be installed at health centers and dispensaries within the lagoon.
- In Kosrae, IOM distributed bar soap to Utwa Elementary School and Malem Elementary School.
- In RMI, IOM has installed 17 of a planned 19 group handwashing stations across schools in Majuro Atoll.



Handover ceremony for incinerators at PSH, IOM (2020)



Water catchment installation in Chuuk, IOM (2020)

## Protection

- IOM in RMI will hand over tablets to the NDMO/Gender and Protection cluster for deaf communications to ensure greater accessibility and inclusion in COVID-19 messaging. IOM has also begun receiving the locally sown fabric masks from local tailors who have received training from IOM and the government. These masks will be used in WASH kits, Dignity Kits, and community outreach all while supporting the local economy.

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