

Update on Drought Conditions

Despite concentrated rainfall over the past several weeks, the drought continues throughout the Republic of the Marshall Islands. The rain fell predominately on and around the capital of Majuro but many of the outer islands continue to suffer from below average rainfall as part of what the NOAA called “one of the strongest El Nino events in recorded history.” IOM continues to work closely with the Government of RMI and partners to reach those in need.

IOM Meets with H.E. President Dr. Hilda Heine and Cabinet

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Micronesia Chief of Mission, IOM Majuro Head of Sub Office and IOM Emergency Response Coordinator briefed H.E. President Dr. Hilda Heine and her Cabinet last week. The Cabinet briefing included an overview of IOM assistance to date, highlighting the USD 3 million in supplemental assistance for emergency drought response from USAID/OFDA, Australian Aid and the New Zealand Embassy focusing on the outer islands WASH and food security needs. IOM assistance is implemented as supplement to the government of the RMI Emergency Response plan and in direct coordination with the clusters and Emergency Operations Center (EOC) under the leadership of the Office of the Chief Secretary. Dialogue was also held to explore areas of new initiatives regarding counter trafficking, migration and mobility. IOM Micronesia looks forward to continuing its close relationship with the Government of the Republic of Marshall Islands and partners.



Left to Right: Honorable Kalani Kaneko Minister of Health, Honorable Alfred Alfred Jr Minister of Resources and Development, Charlie Sell IOM Emergency Response Coordinator, Justina Langidrik Chief Secretary, Angela Saunders IOM Head of Sub Office Majuro, H.E. President Dr. Hilda Heine, IOM Micronesia Chief of Mission Stuart Simpson, Honorable Tony Muller Minister of Public Works, Honorable Mattlan Zackhras Minister in Assistance, and Honorable Brenson Wase Minister of Finance @ Denise de Brum

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Training on Reverse Osmosis Theory and Technology in RMI



On 14 June 2016, IOM launched a training on reverse osmosis theory and practice in RMI. The training was long in the making and required extensive coordination with members of the **WASH Cluster** and the **International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC)**.

The **4-day** training at the College of the Marshall Islands (CMI) has **14 participants** from a variety of locations and professional backgrounds. Participants from Majuro, Jaluit, Wotje and Ebeye work for the **Public School System (PSS)**, **Marshalls Energy Company (MEC)**, **Kwajalein Atoll Joint Utility Resources (KAJUR)**, **Majuro Water and Sewer Company (MWSC)**, **Ministry of Public Works Majuro**, **CMI** and **IOM’s Office** in Pohnpei and Majuro.

Two trainers will move from the basics of RO theory to the functioning of two different RO Units that are used in RMI. The first trainer is from a US company called FCI Watermakers. He has taught participants how to install, operate and repair a new RO Unit that can produce 800 gallons of fresh drinking water per day.

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The second trainer is from the New Zealand Red Cross. He focused on the operation and maintenance of a 360 gallon per day RO Unit that is already in use throughout RMI as well as installation of RO Units in emergency response settings. The three new Units capable of producing 800 gallons per day will be sent to the high schools in Jaluit, Wotje and Gugeegue. These units will not only help fill water tanks during the upcoming school year but will also increase the overall resilience of the high schools and communities to withstand future drought conditions. In addition to these 3 new units, IOM has 23 360 gallon per day RO Units operating throughout RMI. These units provide temporary relief to communities in the outer islands and will soon be returned to Majuro for service and storage. The training will help technicians repair the RO units that are currently in use to ensure for their functionality in the future.



Overview of Assistance

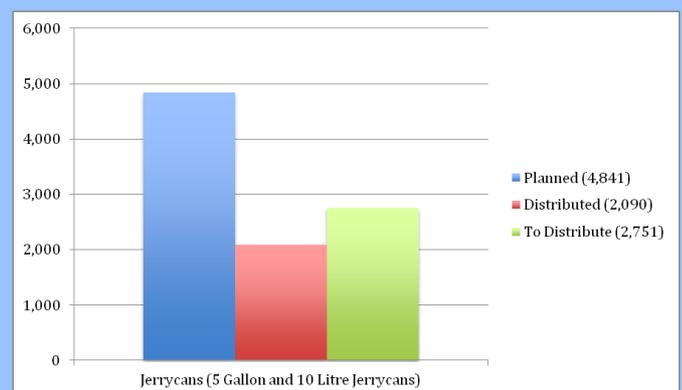
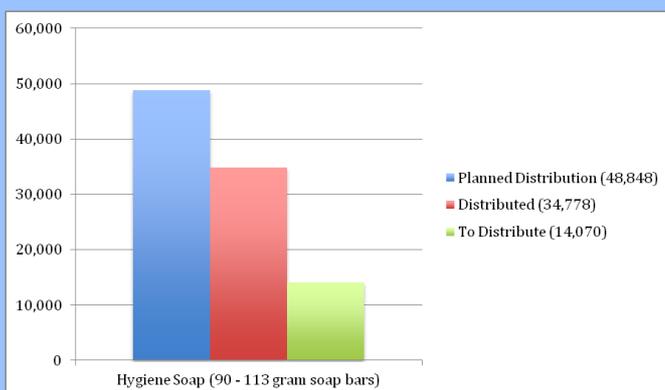
Since the onset of drought conditions, IOM has worked in close coordination with partners in the WASH Cluster to develop and rollout a hygiene promotion campaign. The goal is to promote good hygiene practices and distribute basic items that will help prevent the spread of illness and disease during the drought period. Implementation of the hygiene promotion campaign continues. The primary focus continues to be the distribution of soap bars and jerrycans to targeted populations in outer islands.

Since IOM's May 26 Situation Report, IOM staff boarded two different ships and distributed soap throughout RMI. Their journeys, which lasted over a week, brought **17,060** pieces of soap to people in **11** different outer islands (Aur, Enewatak, Jabat, Jaluit, Likiep, Maloelap, Ailuk, Mejit, Namu, Utrik and Wotje). IOM has now distributed a total of **34,778** bars of soap since the beginning of the drought.

Households are also receiving jerrycans – large plastic units that allow for the transportation and storage of potable water. Since the previous Situation report, **190** of these five-gallon, hard-sided jerrycans made their way to 95 families in Enewatak. In addition to the 1,900 10-litre jerrycans already distributed, IOM has now provided **2,090** jerrycans to households in four outer islands (Ailinglaplap, Enewatak, Jaluit and Namu).

In addition to the hygiene item distributions taking place, IOM's RO Technician and Staff monitored and repaired RO units in the field. Hygiene items will continue to arrive to outer islands throughout the months of June and July. IOM is working with partners to compliment ongoing distributions with targeted hygiene kits for girls and women. Coordination will continue with WUTMI as this plan moves into implementation.

IOM's 6-Month Hygiene Promotion Strategy March—August 2016



IOM's activities are funded by and conducted in partnership with the following Organizations:



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