

USAID/OFDA PROGRAM SUMMARY

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA AND REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

In November 2008, USAID assumed responsibility for disaster response and reconstruction in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), reflecting the transition of FSM and RMI from U.S.-administered trust territories to independent nations. Under the new arrangement, FEMA provides USAID with funding to conduct response and reconstruction activities following a U.S. presidential disaster declaration, and USAID maintains FEMA's previous commitment to supplement host government efforts to provide humanitarian assistance in the event of a significant disaster. To provide a framework for U.S. Government (USG) disaster response and reconstruction in FSM and RMI under this hybrid agreement, USAID and FEMA developed an Operational Blueprint, which guides coordination between the two agencies. USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) collaborates closely with FEMA, as well as USAID/Philippines and USAID's Bureau for Asia, to implement humanitarian programs in FSM and RMI.

RECENT RESPONSE ACTIVITIES IN FSM AND RMI

- **RMI Drought:** Below-average rainfall—exacerbated by the 2015/2016 El Niño climatic event—resulted in drought conditions and water shortages across RMI, affecting approximately 21,000 people and contributing to a deterioration of agriculture, food security, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions. On March 10, 2016, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Sarah A. Nelson declared a disaster due to the humanitarian needs resulting from the drought. In response, USAID/OFDA provided the International Organization for Migration (IOM) with an initial \$50,000 and deployed staff to RMI to conduct assessments and help coordinate response activities. On April 27, U.S. President Barack H. Obama signed a presidential disaster declaration, authorizing the release of federal funding for emergency relief and reconstruction assistance. USAID/OFDA subsequently provided more than \$2.5 million¹ in additional funding to IOM for the procurement and distribution of supplemental food assistance and WASH supplies to drought-affected communities.
- **Typhoon Maysak:** From March 29 to April 1, 2015, Typhoon Maysak crossed over FSM's Chuuk and Yap states, causing four deaths, affecting approximately 29,700 people, and damaging houses, crops, fruit trees, and public infrastructure. On April 2, U.S. Ambassador Dorothea-Maria Rosen declared a disaster in FSM due to the effects of the typhoon. In response, USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$50,000 and deployed staff to FSM to conduct assessments and help coordinate response activities. On April 28, President Obama issued a disaster declaration for FSM, authorizing the release of federal funding for emergency relief and reconstruction assistance from FEMA and other USG agencies. In total, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$8.1 million,² including approximately \$900,300 in FY 2016 funding, to IOM and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to provide logistics support; distribute shelter materials and other relief items; support WASH interventions; and help restore agricultural production. USAID/Philippines-led reconstruction activities in FSM are ongoing.
- **Typhoon Maysak After Action Review:** In December 2015, staff from various USG agencies, including USAID and FEMA, the U.S. Embassy in Kolonia, U.S. Department of State, and DHS, met in Honolulu, Hawaii, to discuss lessons learned during the Typhoon Maysak response and explore ways of expediting funding for future responses. Participants also received an update on changes to the Operational Blueprint and clarified the standard operating procedures of the various USG agencies in future responses.

USAID/OFDA REGIONAL DRR PROGRAMS ASSISTING FSM AND RMI

- **Building Disaster Management Capacity in FSM, Palau, and RMI:** FSM, Palau, and RMI are vulnerable to a number of natural hazards, including drought, floods, and storms. Through USAID/OFDA funding, the

¹ This funding figure does not include all costs associated with USAID/OFDA pre-positioned relief commodities distributed in response to the drought.

² This funding figure does not include all costs associated with USAID/OFDA pre-positioned relief commodities distributed in response to Typhoon Maysak.

Marshall Islands Red Cross Society (MIRCS), Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS), and Palau Red Cross Society (PRCS)—supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)—partner with local government agencies, businesses, and communities to build awareness of disaster response activities and cultivate a trained volunteer base for emergency responses. USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$1.5 million since FY 2013, including \$680,000 in FY 2016 funding, to support the preparedness and mitigation activities of MIRCS, MRCS, and PRCS.

- **Mitigating the Effects of El Niño-related Drought:** USAID/OFDA is providing nearly \$387,000 to FAO to monitor and prepare for El Niño-related drought in FSM, Palau, RMI, and the Solomon Islands. FAO collaborates with national disaster response agencies to develop systems to monitor food production and supply, particularly in remote locations where information gathering proves difficult. In addition to developing a robust data collection process, FAO assists local officials to assess drought impacts and food security to determine the need for response activities.
- **Enhancing Humanitarian Coordination in the Pacific:** In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA provided \$600,000 to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Regional Office for the Pacific in Suva, Fiji, to facilitate information sharing, initiate contingency planning, and enhance disaster response coordination among humanitarian actors in the Pacific.³ USAID/OFDA has provided approximately \$1,650,000 to OCHA since FY 2013 to strengthen humanitarian coordination in the Pacific.

USAID/OFDA DRR AND PRE-POSITIONING PROGRAMS IN FSM AND RMI

- **Bolstering Disaster Response Capacity:** Through USAID/OFDA support, the American Red Cross (AmCross) is partnering with MRCS to build local capacity and reduce communities' vulnerability to disaster risks by improving sanitation infrastructure and increasing water supply. USAID/OFDA is providing \$1.5 million in FY 2016 funding to AmCross to address WASH needs in disaster-prone areas, including conducting hygiene awareness activities and repairing sanitation facilities.
- **Reducing Vulnerabilities through School Collaborations:** USAID/OFDA is providing IOM \$350,000 in FY 2016 to continue the Climate Adaption, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Education (CADRE+) program in FSM and RMI. Under the CADRE+ program, IOM is targeting at least 500 school-aged children and 5,000 community members to build the resilience of vulnerable communities to climate change and climate-induced hazards. Program activities include establishing community disaster preparedness and response committees, developing school emergency management plans, and training teachers in climate change and evacuation center management. USAID/OFDA has provided \$700,000 for the CADRE+ program in FSM and RMI since FY 2015.
- **Mitigating the Effects of Decreased Rainfall:** With \$350,000 in FY 2016 funding, USAID/OFDA is supporting IOM to engage with communities in FSM and RMI affected by El Niño-related drought to encourage water conservation. USAID/OFDA is also supporting IOM to provide solar-powered reverse osmosis units to supplement safe drinking water supplies in remote, vulnerable areas of the two countries. IOM is working with disaster management agencies, non-governmental organizations, and local weather services to highlight the impact of El Niño and improve household water conservation.
- **Pre-Positioning Emergency Relief Commodities:** Since FY 2010, USAID/OFDA has supported IOM to pre-position emergency relief supplies in three strategic locations throughout FSM and RMI and develop standby agreements with island-based organizations for logistical support during an emergency response, if necessary. In FY 2016, USAID/OFDA provided IOM with approximately \$46,000 to support the pre-positioning of emergency relief supplies.
- **Landslide Hazard Prevention in FSM:** Since FY 2012, USAID/OFDA has provided the U.S. Geological Survey more than \$190,000 to conduct landslide susceptibility assessments in FSM to reduce risks associated with landslides—a common hazard during typhoon season. By identifying potential hazards, developing hazard maps, and formulating landslide-avoidance plans, the project is enabling the development of early warning mechanisms that alert populations to seek safe shelter during periods of intense rainfall.

³ FY 2016 funding includes \$200,000 provided to OCHA as part of USAID/OFDA's response to Tropical Cyclone Winston, which made landfall over Fiji in February 2016.