

MICRONESIA – TYPHOON MAYSAK

FACT SHEET #1, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2015

APRIL 7, 2015

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

4

Confirmed Fatalities
Resulting from the Storm
Government of the Federated States
of Micronesia (GoFSM) Department
of Health and Social Affairs –
April 7, 2015

10

Persons Treated for
Storm-Related Injuries
GoFSM Department of Health and
Social Affairs – April 7, 2015

6,760

People in Chuuk State
Displaced due to
Damaged Housing
GoFSM Chuuk Governor's Office –
April 1, 2015

1,494

People Residing on the
Most Severely Affected
Islands of Yap State
GoFSM Yap Disaster Coordination
Office – April 4, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- Typhoon Maysak recently brought damaging winds and heavy rains to the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).
- Two USAID/OFDA¹ staff are in FSM to assess storm damage and coordinate U.S. Government (USG) response efforts.
- Additional USG staff are expected to arrive in FSM in the coming days to commence further assessments and help determine appropriate response options.
- The USG is providing more than \$100,000 in initial humanitarian assistance to FSM.

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR TYPHOON MAYSAK TO DATE IN FY 2015

USAID/OFDA

\$121,010

\$121,010
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN
ASSISTANCE TO FSM
FOR TYPHOON MAYSAK

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Typhoon Maysak, which had initially developed into a tropical storm west of Pohnpei Island on March 27, rapidly intensified as it tracked westward across FSM. Between March 29 and April 1, Typhoon Maysak traversed FSM's Chuuk and Yap states, bringing destructive winds to several islands and reaching Yap's Ulithi Atoll and Fais Island as a super typhoon with sustained winds exceeding 160 miles per hour. Preliminary assessments indicate significant damage to crops and fruit trees, as well as houses, rainwater catchment systems, and other infrastructure, in affected areas.
- On March 30, Chuuk Governor Johnson Elimo declared a state of emergency, while Yap Governor Tony Ganngiyen announced a state of emergency on April 1. As a result, FSM President Emanuel Mori issued a presidential emergency declaration for both locations.
- On April 2, U.S. Ambassador to FSM Dorothea-Maria Rosen declared a disaster due to the effects of Super Typhoon Maysak. In response, USAID/OFDA is providing an initial \$100,000 to the International Organization for Migration (IOM)—USAID's primary relief and reconstruction partner in FSM—for emergency relief items and basic water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance to FSM's storm-affected households. USAID/OFDA has also authorized deployment of its humanitarian supplies held in IOM warehouses in both FSM and neighboring Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) to affected areas.
- A USAID/OFDA staff member traveled to Chuuk on March 31 to assess the effects of Typhoon Maysak and help coordinate the USG response in collaboration with USG interagency and humanitarian actors on the ground. A USAID/OFDA regional advisor arrived on April 4 to conduct similar activities in Yap.
- FSM President Mori has requested that the USG conduct a preliminary damage assessment (PDA) in Chuuk and Yap. Members of a USG interagency team are scheduled to arrive in FSM in the coming days to initiate the PDA and supplement ongoing GoFSM and USG assessment and response efforts.

¹ USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

NATIONAL RESPONSE

- Following the presidential emergency declaration on April 1, the GoFSM withdrew \$50,000 from the Disaster Assistance Emergency Fund (DAEF) to address needs from the typhoon. [Note: Under the Compact of Free Association, the GoFSM is authorized to utilize the DAEF, which is jointly funded by the USG and GoFSM, during a disaster if a state of emergency is declared. End Note.] The presidential declaration also detailed a \$100,000 contribution from national GoFSM funds to the responses in Chuuk and Yap.
 - As of April 4, two GoFSM patrol boats were en route to the outer islands of Chuuk and Yap, according to the GoFSM Office of Environment and Emergency Management (OEEM). The sea vessels are carrying assessment teams composed of national-level officials from OEEM, the GoFSM Department of Resources and Development, the GoFSM Department of Transportation, Communications, and Infrastructure, and the GoFSM Department of Health and Social Affairs. The boats are also transporting emergency relief supplies for distribution on the outer islands.
 - USAID partner IOM is moving 20 USAID/OFDA-purchased reverse osmosis machines from Majuro, RMI, to Yap and Chuuk, to serve as potential response options to potable water needs in the outer islands. Two specialists from the Majuro Water and Sewer Company are accompanying the machines to assist with installation, maintenance, and operation instruction.
 - IOM continues to support ongoing GoFSM assessments in both Chuuk and Yap states and liaise with GoFSM authorities and USG staff, as well as other humanitarian response actors in FSM and the region. The organization maintains offices in the four FSM states of Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap.
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CHUUK STATE

- According to Chuuk disaster officials, approximately 6,760 people across the state were displaced as of April 1. Having lost their homes during the typhoon, most of the displaced are temporarily living with relatives or staying in public facilities, such as schools or government offices. The storm reportedly destroyed as many as 830 residences.
 - Preliminary information gathered by the Chuuk emergency operation center suggests that Typhoon Maysak caused damages primarily to houses, crops and trees, and rainwater catchment systems throughout Chuuk State. Most affected communities are requesting emergency food and drinking water rations, as well as shelter support.
 - Observations made by the USAID/OFDA staff member in Chuuk State echo the findings of local authorities. Between April 1 and 6, USAID/OFDA staff evaluated conditions on Chuuk's main Weno Island, as well as the Faichuuk islands of Onei and Paata and the Nomoneas islands of Fefan, Etten, and Tonowas located south of Weno. In some assessed areas, USAID/OFDA staff noted that the typhoon's strong winds had destroyed nearly all fruit trees, such as banana, breadfruit, coconut, and papaya trees—often a main source of food for local populations. Affected populations also reported that most household water catchment systems sustained damages, thus reducing communities' available water supplies. In addition, while people throughout Chuuk have begun repairing or rebuilding damaged homes with salvaged materials, many require tools and other shelter supplies.
 - On April 5, USAID/OFDA-funded relief items—including water containers, water bladders, plastic sheeting, and rope—arrived in Chuuk from an IOM-managed warehouse on Pohnpei Island.
 - The Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS) reported distributing emergency items to approximately 30 households on Weno and Tonowas islands on April 5. MRCS had sent relief supplies, including blankets, cooking sets, plastic sheeting, and water containers, from its national warehouse on Pohnpei Island on March 30 to supplement stocks for its Chuuk chapter in Weno, according to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
 - As of April 1, Chuuk had established a state disaster relief account comprising \$200,000 of local funds for the response.
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YAP STATE

- The Yap disaster coordination office estimates a current population of nearly 1,500 people in the areas most severely affected by Super Typhoon Maysak's passage. The total includes nearly 950 people on the four inhabited islands of the Ulithi Atoll, approximately 310 people on Fais Island, and more than 230 people on Faraulep Atoll.
- With support from relief organization Pacific Mission Aviation (PMA), Yap officials recently completed a rapid assessment of Ulithi Atoll and are working to provide emergency assistance to affected populations, OEEM reports.
- Preliminary reports from Ulithi Atoll and Fais Island suggest severe damages to residences, crops, and water supply infrastructure. An April 2 assessment of Ulithi's Falalop Island conducted by Yap officials and IOM found nearly all crops destroyed, limited potable water available due to damages to rainwater catchment systems, and significant structural damage to houses, according to IOM.
- The USAID/OFDA regional advisor notes that a combination of GoFSM contributions and private donations has been steadily flowing to typhoon-affected areas of Yap in recent days. PMA, in particular, has undertaken an average of four to five daily flights to Ulithi, delivering critical supplies of food, water, and other relief items.
- On April 5, the donated services of a local fishing boat allowed Yap officials to dispatch drinking water rations, shelter materials, and food commodities sufficient for approximately two weeks, as well as IOM-provided hygiene supplies, from Yap Island to Ulithi.
- As of April 6, the national government had dispatched a ship carrying food, water, and other relief supplies from Chuuk's Weno Island to the eastern islands of Yap, including Faraulep.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO FSM PROVIDED IN FY 2015¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
IOM	Logistics and Relief Commodities, WASH	Affected Areas	\$100,000
	PDA Support Costs		\$21,010
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$121,010
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO FSM IN FY 2015			\$121,010

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents actual or obligated amounts as of April 7, 2015.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at www.interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.821.1999.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>