



Enhancing Disaster and Climate Resilience in the Republic of Marshall Islands through Improved Disaster Preparedness and Infrastructure (Project#: 00115304)

**Annual Progress Report
April – December 2019**



PROJECT BRIEF

Project Title	Enhancing Disaster and Climate Resilience in the Republic of the Marshall Islands through Improved Disaster Preparedness and Infrastructure (EDCR RMI)
Delivery date:	5 February 2019
Award ID:	00118500
Project ID:	00115304
Contributing Outcome (UNDAF/CPD, RPD or GPD):	Outcome 1 of the UN Pacific Strategy 2018-2022 By 2022, people and ecosystems in the Pacific are more resilient to the impacts of climate change, climate variability and disasters and environmental protection is strengthened.
Implementing Partner:	UNDP
Responsible Parties:	
Award ID Start Date:	31 March 2019
Award ID End date:	30 September 2020
Total Project Budget (Award ID):	USD 7,400,000
Beneficiary Country:	Republic of the Marshall Islands
Period of the Report:	1 April to 31 December 2019
Brief Description	
<p>The project aims to improve the capacity for preparedness and mitigation of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) to man-made, geo-physical, climate related hazards and enhancing resilience to climate change impact, guided by the overarching Disaster Risk Management National Action Plan (DRM NAP), the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP), the Standard Hazard Mitigation Plan and the National Climate Change Policy Framework (NCCPF). The project will respond to Outcome 1 of the UN Pacific Strategy 2018 – 2022: By 2022, people and ecosystems in the Pacific are more resilient to the impacts of climate change, climate variability and disasters; and environmental protection is strengthened. The cooperation with the Government of Japan will contribute to achieving the goals of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, elimination of threat to human security and protect gains of sustainable development and in line with Japan’s ODA in the RMI and its priority areas: 1) overcoming vulnerability and 2) environment and climate change.</p> <p>The outcome will be achieved through two expected outputs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strengthened gender sensitive disaster communication and climate inundation monitoring systems 2. Enhanced national and state disaster responders’ readiness capacity and better resources to minimize loss of lives and damages <p>The project will be implemented by the UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji under the UNDP Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) and as part of the Resilient and Sustainable Development team.</p>	

Overview of the Annual Progress (April -December 2019)

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) experiences frequent natural hazards (such as tropical storms, typhoons, storm surges and droughts), which can result in human casualties, disrupt economic activity, lead to loss of livelihoods, divert fiscal resources, and undermine development priorities. Although not all disasters are caused by climate change, the country's vulnerability to climate change will heighten disaster risks because extreme weather events are likely to increase in the future. Analysis undertaken under the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative indicates that RMI faces an average annual loss of more than 2% of GDP from typhoons, earthquakes, inundation and tsunamis. Typhoons are in its waters at an average four per year. Additional challenges include related ecosystem degradation, coastal erosion and food and water insecurity. Rising sea level is the biggest threat in the RMI as most of the atolls have an average highest elevation of 2m.

The project, titled "Enhancing Disaster and Climate Resilience in the Republic of the Marshall Islands through Improved Disaster Preparedness and Infrastructure" aims to improve the capacity for preparedness and mitigation of RMI to geo-physical and climate related hazards and enhancing resilience to climate change impact. The Exchange of Notes for this grant took place on 4 March 2019. The major focus of the project during the first 3 months was on recruitment of the project staff and preparatory works for major procurement for procurement and installation of chatty beetles, wave rider buoys and construction of Emergency Operation Centres. The project staff was on board during the 3rd quarter and the inception workshop and the first Project board meeting were held in August 2019. As such, there was no substantial results achieved in 2019.

Progress towards Project Outputs/Activities in 2019

Output 1: Strengthened gender sensitive disaster communication and climate inundation monitoring systems

#	Planned Activities	Summary of Progress
1.1	Install inundation and tsunami and multi-hazard warning redundancy and climate data conduit through Chatty Beetles in 9 locations with 3 spares	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UNDP approached to the University of Hawai'i (UH) - Telecommunications and Social Informatics Program (TASI) program, which has provided continuous supports in this area to RMI. UH was not able to conclude a direct partnership with the UNDP as they are not able to agree on several clauses of the agreement. • However, UNDP continues seeking partnership with UH via the National Weather Service Office (NWSO) and has started preparing the required procedures to make a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with NWSO.
1.2	Provide 3 Wave-Riders that will support wave modelling and Realtime inundation forecasting and warning for coastal communities and long-term oceanographic measurements in strategic and vulnerable locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UNDP approached to the University of Hawai'i (UH) – Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System, which has provided continuous supports in this area to RMI. UH was not able to conclude a direct partnership with the UNDP as they are not able to agree on several clauses of the agreement. • However, UNDP continues seeking partnership with UH via the National Weather Service Office (NWSO) and has started preparing the required procedures to make a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with NWSO.
1.3	Link the Northern Meteorological Offices with HF radio as per Pacific Island Communication and Infrastructure (PICI) Panel Workplan 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board members decided to cancel this activity during the 2nd board meeting in November 2019 as the NWSO has already connected with the outer Northern Pacific Island countries.
1.4	Provide appropriate and improved disaster preparedness and response communication and other equipment to GOB/EOC to ensure a fully equipped and functional Centre linking to the main communication media used in RMI by the main Ministries for baseline disaster data collection and transmission to NDMO and line Ministries and vice versa for dissemination of warnings, with software and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board members decided during the 2nd board meeting in November 2019 to cancel the activity of supplying the HF/VHF radios in order to reallocate the fund to the other activities. • The project will procure only required furniture and equipment for the National Emergency Operation Center in Majuro under this activity. The list of ICT equipment with estimated cost and training was drafted.

Output 2: Enhanced national and state disaster responders' readiness capacity and better resources to minimize loss of lives and damages

#	Planned Activities	Summary of Progress
2.1	Construct NDMO centre (including NEOC and a disaster warehouse) facility in Majuro that meets disaster preparedness, international and functional standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The structural engineer hired by the UNDP has collected required information. Discussion was made with possible options for the construction.• A tender document for A&E consultant was drafted.
2.2	Support construction of one GOB/EOC in Ebeye including feasibility option, design and technical file preparation, and finalize construction subject to availability of funds and Government of Japan approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The structural engineer hired by the UNDP has collected required information. Discussion was made with possible options for the construction.• A tender document for A&E consultant was drafted.• It was confirmed that the land lease agreement would not be required for the Ebeye as it is covered under the master lease.

Status on the Results Framework

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS BY END OF THE PROJECT	PROGRESS AS OF DEC 2019
			Value	Year		
Output 1 Strengthened gender sensitive Disaster Communication and Climate and Tsunami Monitoring Systems GEN 2	1.1 # of government departments with upgraded (i.e. redundancy, marine grade, energy efficient, gender sensitive) climate and tsunami early warning system installed and operational ¹	Quarterly progress Reports	0	2019	5	0
	1.2 # of men and women with access to early warning information through the upgraded gender sensitive disaster communications, climate and tsunami early warning systems	Quarterly progress Reports	0	2019	54,705 Projection 2019 (from Census 2011)	0
Output 2 Enhanced gender sensitive National and State Disaster Preparedness capacity GEN 2	2.1 Scale (%) of upgrading of the National Emergency Operational Centre with appropriate infrastructure and equipment to facilitate information management and effective coordination	Quarterly progress Reports	0	2019	100%	5% (Draft tender document developed)
	2.2 # staff and members of the Emergency Operational Centre and Disaster Management Team have improved their capacities in information management and coordination (equipment and gender sensitive guidelines)	Quarterly progress Reports	0	2019	20 (Women=8 ²)	0

¹ The early warning system to be targeted by this project involves the National Disaster Management System, the National Weather Service, the Ebeye Emergency Operation Centre and other key counterparts. The equipment to be provided as part of the Early Warning Systems comprises VHF/HF marine grade radio and antennas, wave riders and chatty beetles. Currently, the equipment is incomplete and/or deteriorated due to deficiencies in the type of equipment.

² Involvement of women within the EOC and Disaster Management Team will be emphasized, expecting to achieve a 40% of women participation

GENDER SPECIFIC RESULTS

As major activities are still under preparation, there is no gender specific results.

PARTNERSHIP

The Project has continue working closely with the Office of Chief Secretary, National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) and National Weather Service Office (NWSO). The project has also worked closely with the Ministry of Works, Infrastructure & Utilities (MoWIU) to request supervision of the future construction of EOCs.

The Project has established a partnership with the University of Hawai'i for the installation of wave rider buoys and supplying chatty beetles as the university has providing supports to the NWSO via NOAA. The project is also closely coordinating with the project by the World Bank which will provide radio communication equipment to the RMI.

ISSUES

The Board members decided during the 2nd board meeting in November 2019 to cancel the activity of supplying the HF/VHF radios (activity 1.4) in order to reallocate the fund to the other activities. Consequently, one of the indicators for the Project was amended as below.

Original in the Project Document	Amended
<p>Indicator: 1.1 # of government departments with upgraded (i.e. redundancy, marine grade, energy efficient, gender sensitive) climate and tsunami early warning system installed and operational</p> <p>Target: 5 (NDMO, GOB/EOC Ebeye, NWSO, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education)</p>	<p>Indicator: 1.1 # of islands with upgraded (i.e. redundancy, marine grade, energy efficient, gender sensitive) climate and tsunami early warning system installed and operational</p> <p>Target: 9</p>

Communications and Visibility

During the reporting period, the following coverage was made.

Marshall Islands Journal

Project Inception Board Meeting



Twitter

Inception/Inaugural Board Meeting

<https://twitter.com/RESPACatUNDP/status/1160656697548922880>

<https://twitter.com/PaulaCirikiyas3/status/1167197403583115265>

<https://twitter.com/PaulaCirikiyas3/status/1159958867620454401>

Announcement of funding from Japan Partnership

<https://twitter.com/RESPACatUNDP/status/1164648275175071744>

Second Board Meeting

https://twitter.com/UNDP_Pacific/status/1191879532409581569

Facebook

Inception Board Meeting



Enhancing disaster and climate resilience in the Republic of Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia is a key objective of the new Japan-funded project implemented by the UN Development Programme.

Over 72-thousand people in RMI will benefit from the project outcomes of a strengthened disaster communication and climate and inundation monitoring system; an enhanced national disaster responder's readiness capacity; and better resources to minimise loss of lives and damages.

The Project will respond to Outcome 1 of the UN Pacific Strategy 2018 – 2022; by 2022, people and ecosystems in the Pacific are more resilient to the impacts of climate change, climate variability and disasters; and environmental protection is strengthened.

This cooperation with the Government of Japan will contribute to achieving the goals of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

#disasterresilience #Japan



Lessons Learned

- All meetings during the project planning phase should be recorded and the minutes of meeting shared with all stakeholders to confirm the agreements on project activities to avoid changes later on.
- The Project Timeframe should be decided with due consideration to the constraints in the country of implementation.
- All the project costs should be accurately budgeted in the AWP.

Updated Risk Log

#	Description	Type	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response
1	Construction of GOB/EOC/Warehouse will be delayed due to local hurdles in acquiring permits and approvals	Operational (Delivery)	It affects timelines of implementation	Strong existing and new partnerships with organisations that are on the ground and have the experience and connections
2	Funds to support the construction of one GOB/EOC in Ebeye are insufficient	Financial	It affects timelines of implementation and risk of spreading of material	Additional funds will be searched to complete the construction of the GOB/EOC facility [Oct 2019] The government suggested to shift the funds from Output 1 as the World Bank would support part of the activities under the Output 1.
3	Natural Disasters in the North Pacific	Environmental (Natural Disasters)	Frequency and regular occurrence of natural hazards has been a cause of concern over the years.	Preparedness activities will need to be activated and cease project implementation in the event of warnings issues by the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO). The intention is to avoid loss of life, damage to project assets and residual unforeseen circumstances.
4	Engagement and coordination within RMI and Development Partners	Strategic (Stakeholder Relations)	It affects timelines of implementation and ownership	Consultation space need to be very open, frank and accommodative being mindful of the parameters of the funding modality, contingencies and allow room for flexibility.

5	Availability of Equipment from Suppliers.	Operational (Delivery)	It will delay installation and affect timeline of project delivery	Mapping of preferred supplies and/or existing suppliers and internal arrangements can still be made based on best practises consistent with UNDP Procurement guidelines.
6	Procurement Delays	Operational (Procurement)	It will affect timeline of project delivery	Mapping of preferred supplies and/or existing suppliers and internal arrangements can be made based on best practises consistent with UNDP Procurement guidelines and the in-country team will be supported by a Procurement Specialist from UNDP Pacific Office in Suva.
7	Staff Turnover	Other	Project focal point(s) leaving for attractive job opportunities and not sharing institutional knowledge on the project design details and value -intervention issues.	Need to ensure at least three or four personnel from the relevant government line Ministries are part of the project design, conceptualisation and implementation for ownership and sustainability purposes.
8	Logistics challenges (e.g. disease epidemic, land tenure issues)	Operational	It will affect timeline of project delivery	Preparedness on preventive/containment measures and consultation with key stakeholders
9	Inadequate early warnings system do not reach the potential affected communities	Strategic	It will affect the achievement of Output 1	Integration of the equipment to be provided into the efforts of the communication cluster to be established and other entities with presence at community level (e.g. Min. Education and Health, WUTMI, Red Cross) by the efforts of National Emergency Operation Center

10	Population affected by human rights violations and environmental degradation	Environmental	It will affect achievement of project Outputs	Proper training of all partners and contractors
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Annual Financial Reporting

	2019 (USD)	Total (USD)	BUDGET (USD)
EXPENDITURE			
O1- Strengthened Disaster Communication & Climate & Tsunami Monitoring Systems	46,162	46,162	1,202,332
O2- Enhanced National Disaster Responders readiness capacity & better resourced to minimise loss of lives and damages	90,905	90,905	5,211,052
Total Program Expenditure	137,068	137,068	6,413,384
O3- Program Management Unit	<u>384,616</u>	<u>384,616</u>	<u>986,616</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>521,684</u>	<u>521,684</u>	<u>7,400,000</u>

* Tentative figure retrieved from Combined Delivery Report (CDR) on 22 Jan 2020