

**Project: Enhancing Disaster and Climate Resilience in the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI)
through improved Disaster Preparedness and Infrastructure**

INCEPTION MEETING REPORT

Date:	30 August 2019
Location:	The Marshall Islands Resort, Majuro
Participants:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Governmental agencies involved in the project (9)- Other governmental and non-governmental agencies with potential complementarities (10)- UNDP (9)
Agenda:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Project objectives and activities2. Introduction of project team3. Project progress and next steps4. Revision and definition of proposals regarding:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Main initiatives and key stakeholder to involve- Challenges and lessons learned to take into consideration- Sustainability conditions to addressed during project implementation5. Revision of Risk log frame6. Revision of results framework (indicators)7. Revision of monitoring framework

Welcome

Minister in Assistance to the President and Environment, Mr. David Paul, welcomed participants and thanked the Government of Japan and UNDP for the efforts rendered thus far in the design, formulation and signing of the Project document, and prompt starting of project implementation. Ms. Karin Takeuchi as the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative thanked the RMI Government for the kind hospitality extended to the UNDP here in Majuro. She also mentioned that UNDP was very mindful of the 1½ -year tight implementation deadline and the need to deliver. The Ambassador of Japan in RMI, Mr. Norio Saito, extended the greetings from his Government and appointed the priority they bring to disaster risk management in the Northern Pacific region.

Summary of main points of discussion:

1. Project objectives and activities (see presentation attached)

- The 1½ year project (01 April 2019-30 September 2020) is organized in 2 components, including activities related to climate monitoring and communication, and infrastructure and equipment improvement for disaster management.
- The project has established a technical advisory group – to provide strategic technical oversight and to promote synergies with other initiatives in country – and a project board – to provide guidance and high-level strategic direction. The technical advisory group is formed by all entities acting as implementing partners and those with the potential of developing synergies during project implementation (see list of participants attached). The project board is formed by the Office of the Chief Secretary in representation of all beneficiaries, the Embassy of Japan and UNDP. In addition, as project board supporters, the NDMO, NWSO, NTA and KADA have been included.

- The WUTMI and Red Cross raised the importance of reaching the community level with clear preparedness and emergency response messages through the improvement in communication equipment. Moreover, the Office of the Chief Secretary, NDMO and Red Cross proposed linkages to the initiative oriented possibly in RMI. The project has considered these comments and has incorporated this approach within the new version of the results framework.

2. Introduction of project team

- During the inception meeting the project team was introduced. Ms. Yoko Ebisawa as Project Manager, Mr. Subarna KC as Deputy Project Manager and Mr. Murod Ruziev as Procurement Specialist. For the RMI country team, Kulendra Verma as Country Project Coordinator and Teresa White as Administrative & Finance officer. A procurement & logistics officer will join this team in October 2019.

3. About project progress and next steps

- It was highlighted the leadership of the Office of the Chief Secretary and NDMO and active participation of implementing partners in the whole process, from project formulation to the definition of implementation strategy and to put the activities into practice.
- By August 2019, major advances have been developed for preparing the technical specifications for the procurement of VHF/HF radio equipment (in coordination with NDMO) and wave rider buoys (NWSO), as well as for the definition of the type of EOC buildings to be constructed in Majuro and Ebeye. Field missions have been conducted in order to collect all data required in this regard.
- As next steps it was highlighted the need to finalize the procurement processes during 2019. As a prerequisite:
 - o For NDMO, to prioritize the end-users, number and final location of the telecommunication equipment.
 - o For NWSO, to submit a formal request to contract the University of Hawaii / PacIOOS for the provision of the wave rider buoys and the service of training, installation and management support.
 - o For Office of the Chief Secretary and KADA, to define the exact location of the Ebeye EOC
 - o For NDMO and NTA, to Sort the lease agreement for the NEOC in Majuro and to define the distribution of the respective office space

4. Proposal of synergies, risks mitigation measures and conditions for sustainability

In plenary the participants discussed and proposed about

- (i) initiatives and stakeholders to include during project implementation;
- (ii) main challenges and mitigations measures; and
- (iii) finally about conditions for sustainability.

- Potential synergies have been identified, based on the initiatives in place and key stakeholders. It was highlighted the complementarities with: (1) the **Ministries of Health and Education, Marshall Islands Red Cross Society** and the **Women United Together in Marshall Islands**, to

connect the project with initiatives oriented to enhance the capacities at community level; (2) the **SPC/World Bank project** implemented in coordination with the Office of the Chief Secretary, to enhance capacities in climate change adaptation; (3) the **NDMO** and **Red Cross Society** initiative to connect the improvement in telecommunications with the initiative to produce protocols and procedures for the soon to be establish communication cluster; and (4) the **NWSO** and **University of Hawaii** (e.g. TASI and PaCIOOS) for the installation and management of communication and climate monitoring equipment.

- As main challenges, during the inception meeting it was emphasized: (1) the **short time period of implementation**, which may require a permanent monitoring and continued relationship with the donor; (2) **difficult logistics** for delivery, transportation and installation of equipment particularly the climate monitoring and telecommunication equipment in outer islands; (3) **connection to community level** of the climate monitoring and telecommunication equipment, which require to establish clear protocols and procedures within the communication cluster and community preparedness initiatives; (4) **respect to human right and environmental protection**, which requires a proper training to contractors and all partners as well as a permanent monitoring in order to prevent any violation to human rights and environmental degradation.
- To ensure the sustainability of the project activities, the participants proposed: (1) **Ensure budget for maintenance** of the equipment and for continue training end-users; (2) Strengthen and maintain the **partnership within the counterparts and implementing partners**; (3) Establish **procedures and clear mechanisms for asset management/security** between the national entities and end-users of the infrastructure and equipment.

5. Revision of risk-log framework

Considering the results of plenary discussion, the technical advisory group has proposed to add new risks and subsequent mitigation actions. The table below shows the risks originally identified during project formulation and those that have been raised during the inception meeting. This new version was presented to the project board for validation and approval.

Risk	Mitigation Action
Construction of GOB/EOC/Warehouse will be delayed due to local hurdles in acquiring permits and approvals (no change from the Project document)	Strong existing and new partnerships with organizations that are on the ground and have the experience and connections
Funds to support the construction of one GOB/EOC in Ebeye are insufficient (no change from the Project document)	Additional funds to be sought to complete the construction of the GOB/EOC facility
Natural Disasters in the North Pacific (no change from the Project document)	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.
Engagement and coordination within RMI and Development Partners	Consultation space need to be very open, frank and accommodative being mindful of the parameters of

(no change from the Project document)	the funding modality, contingencies and allow room for flexibility.
Availability of Equipment from Suppliers and procurement delays (no change from the Project document)	Mapping of preferred supplies and/or existing suppliers and internal arrangements can still be made based on best practices consistent with UNDP Procurement guidelines.
Staff Turnover (no change from the Project document)	Need to ensure at least three or four personnel from the relevant government line Ministries are part of the project design, conceptualization and implementation for ownership and sustainability purposes.
<i>Logistics challenges (e.g. disease epidemic, land tenure issues)</i> (new risk identified)	<i>Preparedness on preventive/containment measures and consultation with key stakeholders</i>
<i>Inadequate early warnings system does not reach the potential affected communities</i> (new risk identified)	<i>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)</i>
<i>Population affected by human rights violations and environmental degradation</i> (new risk identified)	<i>Proper training of all partners and contractors</i>

6. Results framework

The results framework was revised for updating the indicators with information collected during the scoping mission – conducted in May 2019 – and for including more clear considerations regarding gender and social inclusion. During the inception meeting this new version was revised in order to be presented to the project board. The table below contains the new indicators and targets. The previous version can be found in Annex 3.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)						DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS	
			Value	Year	Q2 – 2019	Q3 - 2019	Q4 - 2019	Q1 - 2020	Q2 - 2020	Q3 - 2020		FINAL
Output 1 Strengthened gender sensitive Disaster Communication and Climate and Inundation Monitoring Systems	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	<i>Quarterly progress Reports</i>	0	2019							5	<i>Procurement and installation report</i> <i>Guidance note including gender sensitive information</i>
GEN 2	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	<i>Quarterly progress Reports</i>	0	2019							54,705 <i>Projection 2019 (from Census 2011)</i>	<i>Early warning coverage report</i>

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.

Output 2 Enhanced National and State Disaster Responders readiness capacity & better resourced to minimise loss of lives and damages 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	<i>Quarterly progress Reports</i>	0	2019	10% tender doc.	20% procurement processed	35% Construction initiated	60% Construction in process	75% Construction in process	100% Building finalized	100%	<i>EOC report</i>
	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)	<i>Quarterly progress Reports</i>	0	2019	N/A							20 (Women=8 ²)

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

7. Revision of monitoring framework

During the inception meeting it was proposed to maintain the close relationship between the government counterparts and other agencies. It is recommended to develop the following activities to ensure a close monitoring of project implementation:

- Monthly progress tracking prepared by the project team in coordination with the respective activity counterparts
- Quarterly reporting prepared with the participation of the technical advisory group and presented to project board
- Final report presented to the project board and donor

ANNEX 1: List of participants

NAME	ORGANIZATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
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Annex 2: Results and Resources Framework as in PRODOC (April 2019):

Outcome indicators as stated in the Country Programme [or Global/Regional] Results and Resources Framework, including baseline and targets: RBAP Regional Programme Document- Outcome 3. Countries are able to reduce the likelihood of conflict, and lower the risks of natural disasters, including from climate change												
Intended SDG the project will support: Goal 1: No poverty, Goal 2: zero hunger, Goal 5: gender equality, Goal 6: clean water and sanitation, Goal 13: climate action.												
Regional priority: Pacific people, societies, economies, cultures and natural environments are resilient to changing conditions and extreme events resulting from climate change, climate variability and geological processes, to enhance the well-being of the people and to promote their sustainable development (Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP))												
Applicable Output(s) from the UNDP Strategic Plan: Output 3.2. Preparedness systems in place to effectively address the consequences of and response to natural hazards (geo-physical and climate related) and man-made crisis at all levels of government and community.												
Project title and Atlas Project Number: “Enhancing Disaster and Climate Resilience in the Republic of the Marshall Islands through improved Disaster Preparedness and Infrastructure”												
EXPECTED OUTPUTS	OUTPUT INDICATORS ³	DATA SOURCE	BASELINE		TARGETS (by frequency of data collection)						DATA COLLECTION METHODS & RISKS	
			Value	Year	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year ...	FINAL		
Output 1 Strengthened Disaster Communication and Climate and Inundation Monitoring Systems GEN 1	1.1 % of disaster communication, climate and storm surge early warning systems upgraded & operational	<i>Quarterly progress Reports</i>	No upgrade and not operational	2019	100% upgrade and fully operational						100% upgrade and fully operational	<i>Monitoring and Tracking Tool.</i> <i>Risk: Political influence</i>
	1.2 % of government departments expressing satisfaction with the upgraded disaster communications, climate and inundation and tsunami early warning systems	<i>Quarterly progress Reports</i>	0%	2019	100%						100%	<i>Monitoring and Tracking Tool.</i> <i>Risk: Political influence</i>
Output 2 Enhanced National and State Disaster Responders readiness capacity & better resourced to minimise loss of lives and damages GEN 1	2.1 % of national and state disaster responders’ agencies representatives show an increase in knowledge on disaster response (disaggregated by gender)	<i>Quarterly progress Reports</i>	No capacity and resources improved	2019	100% of trainees show an increase in knowledge on disaster response						100% of trainees show an increase in knowledge on disaster response	<i>Monitoring and Tracking Tool.</i> <i>Risk: Political influence, and interference during land acquiring for temporary use</i>

Annex 3. Photos of the inception meeting



Photo 1. Min. David Paul in opening session



Photo 2. Presentation of project progress in plenary

³ It is recommended that projects use output indicators from the Strategic Plan IRRF, as relevant, in addition to project-specific results indicators. Indicators should be disaggregated by sex or for other targeted groups where relevant.

Annex 4. Signed list of participants

INCEPTION MEETING Marshall Islands Resort Majuro, Marshall Islands 30 th August 2019			INCEPTION MEETING Marshall Islands Resort Majuro, Marshall Islands 30 th August 2019		
NAME	ORGANIZATION	CONTACT INFORMATION	NAME	ORGANIZATION	CONTACT INFORMATION
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5. Brooke Takala (F)	MIRCS	brooke.takala@gmail.com	Nord Leenders	UNDP	nord.leenders@undp.org
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7. D. Paul (M)	MOIA	dawtpaul52@gmail.com			
8. Karin Takeuchi	UNDP				
9. John Norton (M)	OCS	john.norton@moson.com			
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11. Marie L. Madison (F)	WVIML	wvml26@quail.com			
12. Kelly Lorenzini (F)	MIT	klorenzini@gmail.com			
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Paul. O'Keefe	UNDP	paul.okeefe@undp.org			

Annex 5. Articles in media

was sentenced to a 12-month jail term that is all suspended for probation. High Court Judge Witten Philippo said the probation conditions include that Lanki "cause to be

In addition, he is to keep the peace and be of good behavior during the 12-month probation period, pay a fine of \$1,000 and not leave Majuro without court approval.

Climate project launched

The UNDP Pacific office, along with the RMI government, will conduct a project inception meeting and convene its first board meeting in Majuro this Friday for the \$7.4 million Disaster Risk Management project, funded by Japan through its Supplementary Budget program.

Through the UNDP – Japan Partnership Fund, RMI was awarded US\$7.4 million for the implementation of the Disaster Risk Management project, "Enhancing Disaster and Climate Resilience through improved Disaster Preparedness and Infrastructure," to be implemented in RMI.

The project aims to improve RMIs ca-

capacity for preparedness and mitigation to geo-physical and climate related hazards; and enhance resilience to climate change impact in order to protect lives, sustain livelihoods, preserve the environment and safeguard the economy from consequences of different hazards.

The project will be directly implemented by UNDP Pacific office in Fiji. The project inception meeting is at Marshall Islands Resort this Friday. The RMI along with FSM and Palau are recipients of the UNDP-Japan grant implemented by UNDP. The project commenced in March 2019 and will end on March 2020.

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LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY

Notice of Registration Application

(Land Recording and Registration Act 2003) Application No: 5346
This notice is issued under Part V of the Land Recording and Registration Act 2003 and gives notice that an application to register Land interests in portion of: (All of) Jitak Wetu, Majuro Island Majuro Atoll. The land subject to this certificate is defined on Survey Map: ML009/19 which is filed

LAND REGISTRATION AUTHORITY

Notice of Registration Application

(Land Recording and Registration Act 2003) Application No: 53
This notice is issued under Part V of the Land Recording and Registration Act 2003 and gives notice that an application to register Land interests in portion of: (All of) Buruon Wetu, Buruon Island Majuro Atoll. The subject to this certificate is defined on Survey Map: ML 418/19 which is



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September 6 at 1:10 PM · 🌐

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 m... [See More](#)



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UNDP webpage: <http://www.pacific.undp.org/content/pacific/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2019/strengthening-disaster-risk-management-in-rmi.html?fbclid=IwAR1eiGJ1Vz8zU7kXtEWj0f9mehUOwAqS45KuabotdFsCgBQaHTXqgiSPdA>


Pacific Office in Fiji

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HOME PRESS CENTER PRESS RELEASES STRENGTHENING DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT IN RMI

Posted on September 3, 2019

Strengthening Disaster Risk Management in RMI



J.R. Japan's Ambassador to Republic of the Marshall Islands, Government of Japan, H.E. Norio Saito, RMI Minister in Assistance to the President and Environment, Hon. David Paul, UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji Resident Representative, Karin Takeuchi, photo: UNDP

Majuro, Marshall Islands - The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), along with the Government of the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), conducted its inaugural project inception and Board meeting in Majuro, on 30 August 2019 for the Disaster Risk Management project, funded by the Government of Japan.

The RMI was awarded US\$7.4million for the implementation of the Disaster Risk Management project, "Enhancing Disaster and Climate Resilience through improved Disaster Preparedness and Infrastructure". The project aims to improve RMIs capacity for preparedness and mitigation to geo-physical and climate related hazards; and enhance resilience to climate change impact in order to protect lives, sustain livelihoods, preserve the environment and safeguard the economy from consequences of different hazards.

In his opening remarks, Hon. David Paul, RMI Minister in Assistance to the President and Environment mentioned that "Building Resilience must now be a key and a fundamental focus in RMI".

His Excellency, Mr. Norio Saito, Japan's Ambassador to the RMI said he was honored to be part of this meeting to identify potential synergies for partners and stakeholders in the area of Disaster Risk Management.

Deputy Resident Representative at the UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji, Ms. Karin Takeuchi highlighted that, "Today's Inception Meeting is a key milestone for our project, and we look forward to the continued fruitful exchanges with the RMI Government to achieve intended planned results".

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 the goals of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, eliminating the threat to human security and protect gains of sustainable development and in line with Japan's ODA in RMI and its Priority Areas such as Overcoming vulnerability and Environment and Climate Change.


The project will be implemented by the UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji through the Resilience and Sustainable Development team. It is also designed in line with RMI's national plans and priorities for disaster resilience to complement their efforts and capacities.

The Inception meeting brought together 20 participants from the Office of the Chief Secretary to the President, National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), National Weather Service Office (NWSO), the Ministry of Public Works, Infrastructure & Utilities, Ministry of Finance, National Telecommunications Authority, Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI), Kwajalein Atoll Development Authority (KADA) and the Marshall Islands Red Cross Society.

The meeting discussed the overview, challenges, progress and the next steps of the project implementation schedule of the project moving forward. The project commenced in March 2019 and will end on September 2020.

For more information or media interviews please contact:

Yoko Ebisawa, Project Manager, email: yoko.ebisawa@undp.org



Filed under: [Goal 13 Climate action](#) [Marshall Islands](#) [Climate change and disaster risk reduction](#) [Press release](#)