



FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES (FAS)

HAZARDS AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT FACT SHEET SERIES

JUNE 2026

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA (FSM)
REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS (RMI)
THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU



CONTENTS

PREFACE 1-1



FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA (FSM) 2-1

Risks 2-2

Yap 2-6

Chuuk 2-10

Pohnpei 2-14

Kosrae 2-18



REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS (RMI) ... 3-1



REPUBLIC OF PALAU 4-1

About the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management & Humanitarian Assistance

Overview

The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management & Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) is a United States (U.S.) Department of War (DoW, also known as Department of Defense) organization comprised of nearly 30 subject matter experts that provide academic research, civil-military coordination training, and operational insights to support decision making before, during, and after crises. The Center is designed to bridge understanding between humanitarians, civilian, and military responders. CFE-DM partners with a diverse group of governmental and non-governmental actors, as well as academic institutions to increase collaborations and capabilities in humanitarian assistance and disaster response. While maintaining a global mandate, the Indo-Pacific region is our priority of effort and collaboration is the cornerstone of our operational practice. The Center is a direct reporting unit to U.S. Pacific Command (US PACOM) and is located on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii.

Vision

Resilient Joint Forces, Allies, and Partners that are fully prepared to respond across the spectrum of humanitarian crises.

Mission

CFE-DM builds crisis response capacity in US, Allies and Partner militaries across the Indo-Pacific to save lives before, during, and after emergencies.

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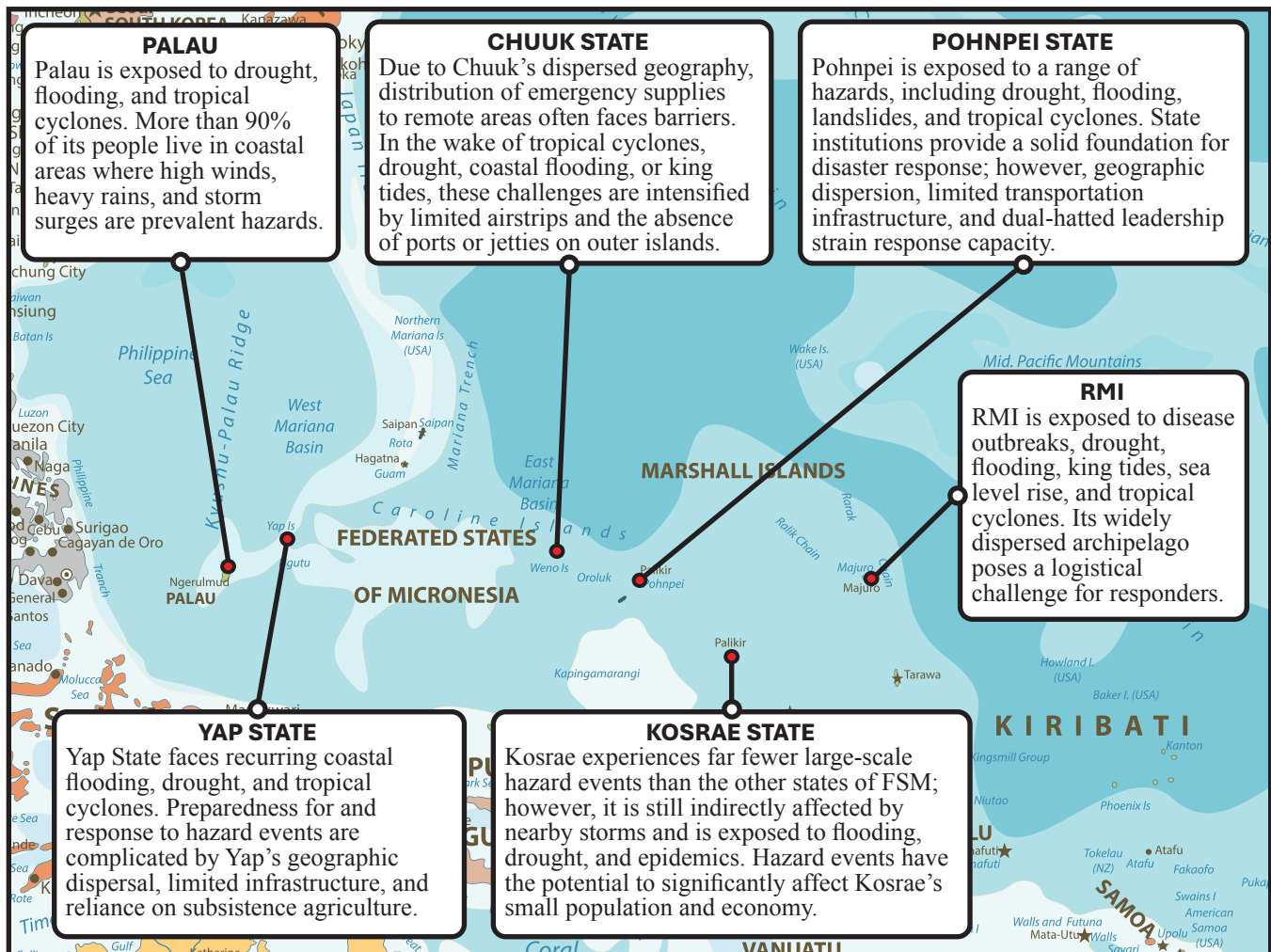
Freely Associated States (FAS) Hazards & Disaster Management Fact Sheets Preface

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Introduction

The Freely Associated States (FAS) include the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) (Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae States), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Republic of Palau. The states of FSM face a varied and complex hazard landscape dominated by tropical cyclones, drought, coastal flooding, and storm surge, and there is a threat of high impact events such as earthquakes and tsunamis. RMI's low-lying atolls are particularly exposed to flood hazards, and its geography poses a logistical challenge for disaster responders, while urbanization heightens disaster risk for many of RMI's people. Palau is exposed to droughts, tropical cyclones, sea level rise, coastal erosion, and storm surges. The hazard landscape that the FAS face may cause them to seek international aid funding, and emergency supplies due to limited human and financial resources.

The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) fact sheets map out sovereign disaster management (DM) structures and detail the Compacts of Free Association (COFA) and international assistance request processes, which serve as a critical coordination tool for U.S. agencies and a procedural guide for international partners. For disaster response planners, FSM should not be considered as a single operational environment. Spanning over 2.6 million square kilometers (1 million square miles), its four states face drastically different hazard profiles and logistical bottlenecks.



Map Source: <https://stock.adobe.com/images/political-physical-topographic-colored-world-map-pacific-centered/190912729>

What is a fact sheet?

CFE-DM's fact sheets provide an overview of relevant hazard and disaster management information on Asia-Pacific countries that are highly impacted by natural disasters. They highlight common hazard events in specific countries to inform disaster response planners of key considerations, including major risks and primary responders.

What is included?

- Key facts and figures
- Hazards and recent major disasters
- Airport and airfield locations
- Disaster management institutions and disaster response processes
- International assistance requests
- U.S. assistance requests
- Compacts of Free Association (COFA)

The FAS and the Compacts of Free Association (COFA)

Each FAS has a Compact of Free Association (COFA) with the U.S.; these bilateral agreements establish that the U.S. has full authority and responsibility for each FAS' defense and security and provides the FAS with a wide range of economic assistance and services, including treaty-mandated support during natural disasters, disaster preparedness and response support, including access to federal disaster aid. In exchange, under the COFA, these countries grant the U.S. exclusive military access to a maritime expanse larger than the continental U.S., as well as land and airspace access.

Effective disaster response in the FAS relies on navigating a highly specific geographic and diplomatic ecosystem. Furthermore, FSM disaster management is highly decentralized: State Governors hold the primary authority for crisis response and must declare a local emergency before the national government can formally request U.S. or international assistance. Recognizing this, CFE-DM has provided fact sheets for each state as well as a separate fact sheet with an overview of FSM that is focused on natural hazard risks.

U.S. Military DM Efforts in the FAS

The U.S. Military has supported U.S. Government efforts over the years to assist the FAS following natural disasters and in support of disaster preparedness efforts. The following are some recent examples:

In May 2026, U.S. Army soldiers and Marines worked with local officials to bolster Palau's emergency communications structure, led by a team from CFE-DM, who worked alongside Palau's National Emergency Management Office and the Palau Red Cross.

U.S. Army personnel provided disaster response support to RMI following a storm surge event, which affected Roi Namur Island on Kwajalein and other areas in January 2024.

U.S. Marines and Sailors distributed over 2,000 bags of rice and 3,000 cases of water to Chuuk's outer islands as part of Exercise Koa Moana 24 in July 2024 in support of disaster preparations for outlying communities.

In December 2023, the hospital ship USNS Mercy stopped in Palau as part of Pacific Partnership 24-1, the largest annual disaster preparedness mission conducted in the Indo-Pacific. The visit marked the sixth time Pacific Partnership visited Palau.



U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Ramon Jose Ceja, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, and U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Thomas Belanger, 1ST Theater Information Advantage Detachment, install an omni-directional antenna for an IC-M330 ICOM radio at the Ngiratkel Etipson State Building, Ngatpang, Palau, May 8, 2026. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Mason Tran)

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA (FSM)

YAP | CHUUK | POHNPEI | KOSRAE



★ KEY HIGHLIGHTS

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is exposed to a range of natural hazards. The country is primarily affected by storms, typhoons, drought, floods (as seen in figures below), and also from other hazards such as landslides, earthquakes, tsunami, fires, sea level rise, and storm surge. Its location on the southern edge of the Pacific “typhoon belt” increases its risk to tropical cyclones, and it has experienced severe storm damage. The country’s location within the Pacific “Ring of Fire” also puts FSM at increased risk from seismic activity and tsunami.

- **Climate:** tropical, with little seasonal variation in mean air temperatures annually. Heavy rainfall occurs year-round, especially in the eastern islands of Kosrae, Pohnpei, and including Chuuk, particularly during the wet season. Islands in the west receive additional rain due to the West Pacific Monsoon.¹
- The wet season runs from May to October, to a drier season which runs roughly from November to April.²
- FSM is particularly vulnerable to weather changes such as the El Nino Southern Oscillation (ENSO). ENSO brings drought and excessive rainfall as associated with the warm and cold phases of ENSO, respectively.³ El Nino events have typically brought long dry spells to FSM.

Vulnerability Factors

FSM depends on surface, underground and rainwater for freshwater supply. Especially vulnerable are small, low-lying islands that rely on rainwater and shallow wells.⁴ The lack of adequate water storage capacity on outlying islands increases vulnerability to the impacts of drought. Additionally, as many communities rely primarily on subsistence agriculture, hazards and disasters can disrupt food supplies.

FSM relies on assistance from the U.S. under the Compacts of Free Association (COFA). Its remote location, limited infrastructure and transport, and economic challenges exacerbates vulnerability. FSM is vulnerable to hazards such as storm surges and coastal flooding because of its low-lying islands and atolls and because most of its population, infrastructure and cultural sites are in coastal areas with little scope to move inland.⁵ FSM is also vulnerable to prolonged periods of drought due to El Niño. FSM’s remote location, widely dispersed islands and limited transport pose a logistical challenge for disaster responders.

Impact on Communities

Storms and typhoons have destroyed and damaged homes, critical infrastructure such as power supplies, disrupted livelihoods, and destroyed vital food crops. When Typhoon Maysak struck FSM in 2015, the storm destroyed hundreds of homes and 90 percent of crops and fruit trees in Chuuk and Yap states.⁶

Flooding hazards such as storm surges and coastal flooding can lead to saltwater intrusion and water damage which have impacted food crops, freshwater supplies, housing and infrastructure.

FAST FACTS



Geography: Located in the western Pacific, FSM is comprised of four states (Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae) over 607 islands, of which 74 are inhabited, covering the largest area of the greater Micronesian region. The capital, Palikir, is in Pohnpei. The islands of FSM are widely dispersed with some 1,700 miles (2,700 kilometers) between islands in the western-most state of Yap and islands in the eastern-most state of Kosrae.⁸ The total land area is only 271 square miles (436.1 km), but its exclusive economic zone (EEZ) covers an area over one million square miles (1,609,344 km). Islands vary from low coral atolls to high mountainous islands.



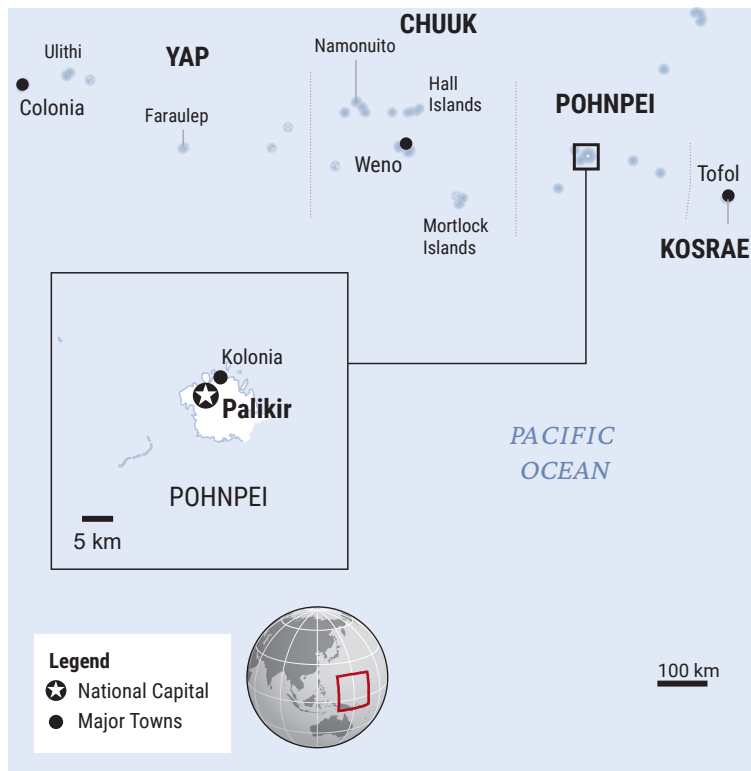
Population: 99,603 (2024 est.) Chuuk is the largest populated state.

Population of Palikir (Capital): 7,000 (2018)



Administration: 4 states: Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap⁹

Long periods of drought exacerbated by El Nino events have impacted water and food supplies. For example, while the main island of Yap possesses adequate groundwater sources, during prolonged droughts such as the 1997-98 event, water sources have dried up.⁷



Source: OCHA/ReliefWeb. Government of the Federated States of Micronesia. 07/10/22. <https://reliefweb.int/report/micronesia-federated-states/federated-states-micronesia-humanitarian-coordination-structure-07-october-2022>

OVERVIEW OF NATURAL HAZARDS



Tropical Cyclones (TCs)

The islands of FSM, especially the western states, are generally affected by storms and TCs.¹⁰ Known as Typhoons in the Northwest Pacific, typhoon season for FSM typically runs from June to December,¹¹ however, an El Niño year may lead to an increased risk of TC activity as early as March.¹²

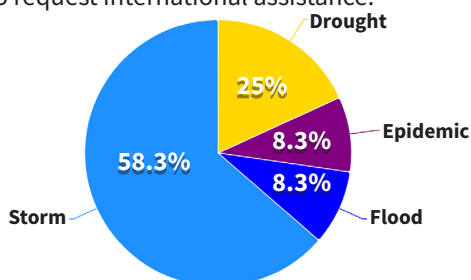
El Niño tends to increase the number of TCs eastward away from western Micronesia and towards the Dateline. This increases the risk of TC activity in the eastern states of Pohnpei and Kosrae from March-July and October-December of El Niño years. Eastern FSM is also a common area for typhoons to form during El Niño years.¹³ For the western states of Yap and Chuuk, this makes for increased risk of typhoon activity from March-July in an El Niño year, but a reduced risk from October-December.¹⁴ There is a lower frequency of cyclones during La Nina years.¹⁵ During a La Nina, the development region for TCs shifts to the west and the odds of being affected by a TCs are reduced for most locations in Micronesia.¹⁶

In 2015, FSM was affected by three storms in succession, highlighting the risk that the islands face. Chuuk was first hit by Typhoon Maysak on 29 March, and the typhoon made its way west making landfall on Ulithi in Yap on 1 April. The storm was upgraded to a Super Typhoon and brought damage to homes, infrastructure and agriculture (as seen in photo at right). Over 35,000 people were affected in Chuuk and Yap and five deaths were reported in Yap. It was reportedly the worst disaster to hit FSM in some 20 – 30 years. Maysak was then followed by Typhoon Noul and Tropical Storm Dolphin. Noul did not cause major damage but disrupted relief efforts for Maysak. Dolphin passed to the northeast of Pohnpei and damaged infrastructure, crops and more than 246 homes and left one person dead.^{17, 18}

Major typhoons include:

- **2019:** Typhoon Wutip passed over Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap States between 19 and 22 February, causing damage to infrastructure and agricultural production of 30 islands, leaving 11,575 persons food insecure. Wutip left a total of 136 homes destroyed and 42 buildings damaged.^{19, 20}
- **2004:** On 9 April, Typhoon Sudal hit Yap state, causing major damages to infrastructure and food crops on Yap and affecting the outer islands of Ulithi and Fais. At least 1,000 people were left homeless and 700 homes were destroyed, while almost all the remaining homes were damaged.^{21, 22}
- **2003:** Typhoon Lupit affected Yap state from 23-25 November, with Ulithi, Woleai and Fais suffering significant damage, sparking the government to request international assistance.²³

Average Annual Natural Hazard Occurrence for 1980-2020



Source: World Bank. Federated States of Micronesia: Average Annual Natural Hazard Occurrence for 1980 – 2020. <https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/micronesia-fed-sts/vulnerability>



Tsunami

Tsunami remains a risk for FSM however, the last recorded large tsunami was in 1899, preceded by large tsunamis in 1849 and 1837. Out of the states, Yap has the highest probability of a tsunami, however, there have been no recorded instances of significant damage.²⁴ Around a third of residents live in low-lying islands or in low-lying coastal areas, putting them at risk. FSM leaders have in the past outlined the challenges facing the nation regarding mitigation efforts including a lack of a warning system and potential population relocation issues.²⁵

FSM faces a medium risk of tsunamis, according to GFDRR's ThinkHazard! Tool, which indicates a more than 10% chance of a potentially damaging tsunami in the next 50 years. Additionally, sea-level rise can increase the risks associated with tsunami. Out of the states, Yap lies closer to the Ring of Fire and thus may be more susceptible.²⁶



Ladies work at a house covered by plastic tarp at Falalop Island, Ulithi Atoll, Dec. 7, 2015. Typhoon Maysak passed directly through Ulithi, tearing houses from their platforms and damaging almost all infrastructure. Source: DVIDS. U.S. Air Force photo by Osakabe Yasuo/Released. <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/2328811/operation-christmas-drop-2015-islander-recovers-typhoon-maysak-devastation>



Landslides

Landslides can be triggered by heavy rains, earthquakes, and floods, and are a common hazard during typhoon season. As deforestation is expected, the probability of landslides is increased. All the islands are at risk of landslides; however, Chuuk is at high risk due to its steep topography and exposure to heavy rains.²⁷ On July 2, 2002, landslides caused by heavy rains from Typhoon Chata'an in Chuuk triggered more than 30 landslides and mudslides, killing 47 people and injuring hundreds. The typhoon displaced around 1,000 people and destroyed hundreds of homes and food crops. At the time it was described as the deadliest disaster in the state's history.^{28, 29}



Floods

Flooding caused by rainfall events such as typhoons and heavy rains pose a significant risk, especially when the typhoon or rainy season overlap. Rainfall is high on Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Chuuk primarily during the wet season. Yap receives the least rainfall compared to the other main islands.³⁰ Pohnpei is vulnerable to increased rainfall periods as it has inadequate drainage infrastructure to manage current waterflows.³¹

Coastal flooding, king tides, sea level rise, and coastal erosion have damaged agriculture and infrastructure along the coast, which is generally the most developed areas. Saltwater inundation from flooding can also damage crops and contaminate freshwater supplies. King tides have occasionally affected FSM since 2000.³²

Sea level rise increases the risks of storm surge, wave driven flooding and coastal erosion. Flooding by high sea levels have occurred, for example in early December 2008, Kosrae experienced seawater washing in some 100 meters, damaging buildings, while in Pohnpei, almost all of Nukuoro Island was affected by some 200 meters of inundation. Additionally, 29 small islands were inundated and submerged under 2 feet of seawater.³³

More frequent and extensive coastal flooding is anticipated. This will threaten infrastructure, housing, drinking water, and transportation, as well as agriculture, ecosystems, and cultural sites.³⁴ Degradation of the coastal environment, including the cutting of mangroves, which can help reduce the effects of hazards such as storm surges, has increased the vulnerability of coastal communities.³⁵

Major floods include:

- 2018: In mid-March, Tropical Depression Jelawat brought heavy rainfall to Pohnpei resulting in a state of emergency, one death, flooding, landslides, and damage to infrastructure.³⁶



Drought

Drought conditions have plagued FSM in recent years. On 11 March 2023, a state of emergency was declared due to severe drought conditions across the country, with the most affected states being Yap, Pohnpei and Chuuk. The conditions persisted through most of the year, with rain catchment and rivers running dry. The drought impacted 22,700 people, or around 20 percent of the population.³⁷ According to the Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT), the worst two disasters to affect FSM have been droughts. In 1998, drought associated with El Niño affected some 28,800 persons. The 2015-16 El Niño induced drought, was estimated to have affected about 96% of the total population.³⁸

Major drought events include:

- **2019-2020:** FSM experienced drought due to a drier-than-normal seasonal trade-wind pattern that prevailed over the region and to ENSO-neutral weather conditions and abnormally warm water near the dateline. Dry conditions first affected Yap in October 2019 and eventually affected the rest of the country.³⁹
- **2016-2017:** On 20 February 2016, an emergency was issued in Pohnpei due to severe drought damage to crops and a water shortage, which was followed by emergency declarations by the other states. More than 40 wildfires were reported in Pohnpei.⁴⁰
- **1998:** An El Niño-induced prolonged drought depleted food supplies and left many areas without water or on water rations. Rivers dried up and wells were low with increased levels of salinity. The President declared a state of emergency and requested international assistance.⁴¹



Extreme Weather Events

Much of the population is at risk to extreme weather events due to dependence on subsistence agriculture, challenges with freshwater supply, other natural resources and limited adaptation capacity. As exposure to natural hazards are likely to increase as well with projected increases in intensity and frequency of extreme weather events, communities are likely to face significant disaster risk.^{42, 43}

DISASTER MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

- National Disaster Committee (NDC): Provides policy development and coordination in the event of a disaster. Primary decision-making responsibility lies with the President under the advice of the NDC
- National Disaster Coordination Team (NDCT): The NDC operates through and is supported by the NDCT
- President: Oversees overall Disaster Risk Management (DRM) coordination; designates an agency to manage DRM at the operational level
- National Coordination Working Groups (CWGs): Four CWG's function like the UN cluster system and are each led by a government agency. They are Deployment and Assessment, Livelihood, Social Support, and Infrastructure. All report to the NDCT
- State Disaster Committees are responsible for planning for disasters and providing management of response under each Governor. Committees are chaired by the Disaster Management Officer (DMO) and comprised of state Secretaries and agency heads. Each state has different DRM organizational and institutional arrangements
- Local Disaster Management Committees may operate under the state level. Local customary leaders play a significant role
- The NDC has oversight for all hazards through five departments including the Dept. of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECEM), which currently manages DRM at the operational level^{44, 45}



US PACOM has supported U.S. government response efforts to assist FSM following disasters and for disaster preparation. After Typhoon Chata'an hit Chuuk in July 2002 U.S. military forces delivered supplies and assisted with medical transport missions under the coordination of

the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). A total of 24 military airlifts of food, water and medical supplies were delivered from Guam.⁴⁶ Additionally, the U.S. Navy's Civic Action Team 40-21 assisted the Palau Red Cross with delivering supplies via a Navy C-130.⁴⁷ Two years later, U.S. Air Force members supported FEMA after Typhoon Sudal devastated Yap in April 2004. Two C-130 aircraft and crew members flew 11 missions over five days to deliver passengers and supplies.⁴⁸ More recently, U.S. Marines and Sailors distributed over 2,000 bags of rice and 3,000 cases of water to Chuuk's outer islands as part of Exercise Koa Moana 24 in July 2024 in support of disaster response preparations for outlying communities.⁴⁹

MAJOR ACTORS IN A DISASTER RESPONSE

National:

- NDC
- NDCT
- President and Governors
- DECEM
- National CWGs and Leads
- National and State Emergency Operations Centers (NEOC and SEOC) manage operations during disasters
- Micronesia Red Cross Society
- A state of disaster is declared by the President upon request by a state Governor and with the advice of the NDC
- National and state coordination teams operate alongside the Disaster Committees to manage disaster relief under the direction of the national or state Disaster Coordination Officers
- The NDCT and the NEOC operate under NDC and are activated during emergencies. NDC oversees access to international and regional support while NDCT oversees relief assets

International:

- UN Agencies: International Organization for Migration (IOM) coordinates a network of national and international stakeholders; UN Country Team (UNCT), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), and the World Food Program (WFP)
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- International NGOs (e.g., Salvation Army)
- Pacific island nations
- Bilateral donors: European Union, Japan
- FSM relies on the U.S. government's support through the COFA agreement, including disaster assistance^{50, 51}

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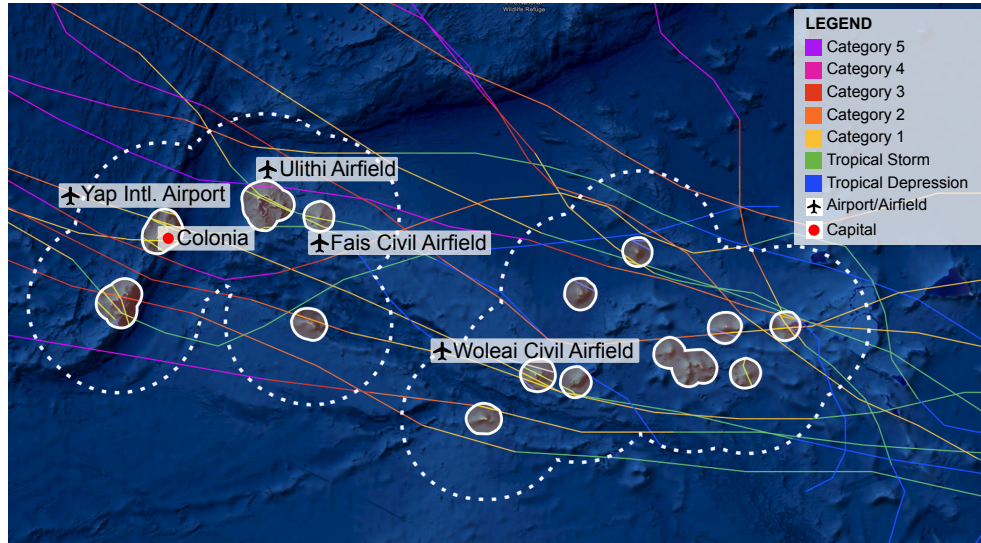
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YAP STATE HAZARDS & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

APRIL 2026

Yap State faces recurring coastal flooding, drought, and tropical cyclones. Preparedness for and response to hazard events are complicated by Yap's geographic dispersal, limited infrastructure, and reliance on subsistence agriculture. Approximately 70% of households are located within 200 meters (656 feet) of the shoreline and are highly exposed to impacts from storm surge and coastal inundation. Yap's disaster management (DM) system is guided by the Yap State DM Plan and relies on state and municipal coordination, with support from national and international partners.



Historic Tropical Cyclone Tracks around Yap State (2000-2025); Source: NOAA.

- **Frequent Tropical Cyclone Impacts:** While Yap State is exposed to multiple hazards, including coastal flooding, drought, and epidemic disease, tropical cyclones are the most frequent and destructive hazard events.
- **Geographic Dispersal:** Long distances between islands complicate logistics, communication, and delivery of relief.
- **State and Municipal DM Structure:** Yap's system is guided by comprehensive state-level plans, and every outer island has designated officials who coordinate community-based DM.
- **Reliance on External Support:** Large disasters often require assistance from FSM national authorities, the United States, and regional or international partners.

State Facts

Yap State is one of the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), located in the western Pacific Ocean.



Capital: Colonia



Total Population: 11,376 (2010*)

- **Yap Main Islands:** 7,371
- **Neighboring Islands:** 4,006

*2010 was the last national census conducted in FSM



Total Land Area: 102 square kilometers (39 square miles)

- **Total Islands:** 134 (22 inhabited)



State Government: Executive, Legislative, Judicial, and Traditional



Local Government:

21 Municipalities and two councils of chiefs: Council of Tamol (Outer Islands) and Council of Pilung (Yap Main Islands)



Languages: Yapese, Ulithian, Woleaian, Satawalese, and English



Airports & Civic Airfields:

- **Yap International Airport**
Runway: 6,000 feet
- **Fais Civil Airfield**
Runway: 3,000 feet
- **Uliithi Civil Airfield**
Runway: 3,000 feet
- **Woleai Civil Airfield**
Runway: 3,000 feet

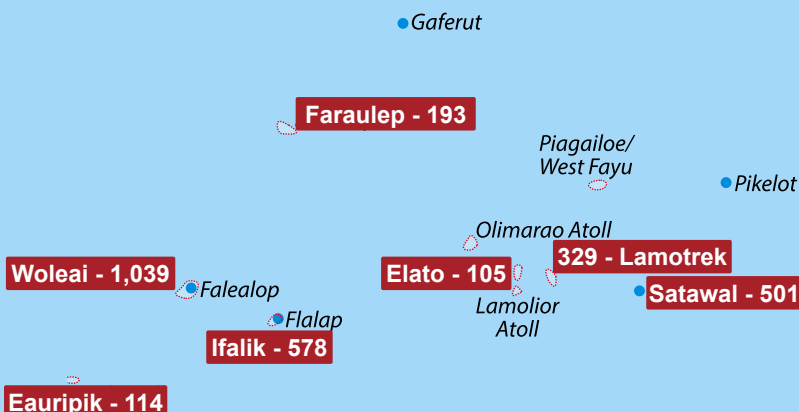


Yap State Vessels:

- Hapilmohol-1
- Hapilmohol-2



YAP POPULATION COUNT (2010*)



HAZARDS

Yap State is exposed to tropical cyclones, coastal flooding, disease outbreaks, and drought, and there is some seismic risk.



Tropical Cyclones

- **Frequency:** The most frequent and destructive hazard, tropical cyclones have led to five disaster declarations in the past 25 years.
- **Impact:** High winds, storm surges, and heavy rainfall cause widespread destruction to homes, infrastructure, and crops. Coastal flooding and saltwater intrusion can contaminate water supplies and destroy food sources.



Coastal Flooding & King Tides

- **Frequency:** Regular, severe coastal flooding is often linked to storm surges or extraordinarily high tides.
- **Impact:** Saltwater intrusion reduces agricultural productivity. Coastal erosion threatens homes and infrastructure.



Disease Outbreaks

- **Frequency:** Disease outbreaks can follow other disasters due to stagnant water, crowded shelters, and disrupted sanitation systems.
- **Impact:** Outbreaks of vector- and water-borne diseases like dengue, leptospirosis, and Zika can overwhelm Yap's limited healthcare infrastructure, particularly in outer islands.



Drought

- **Frequency:** Severe drought tends to correlate with El Niño events.
- **Impact:** Prolonged dry conditions reduce water supplies, particularly in outer islands reliant on rainwater catchment systems. Crop failures lead to food insecurity and malnutrition.



Earthquake

- **Frequency:** Seismic events are infrequent, and there is no history of major damage. Earthquakes are possible due to Yap's proximity to tectonic plate boundaries.
- **Impact:** There is a potential for structural damage to homes and public buildings, with secondary risks from tsunamis.

El Niño – Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

ENSO is a recurring cycle characterized by periodic warming (El Niño) and cooling (La Niña) of ocean temperatures in the equatorial Pacific; it causes changes to rainfall, air and ocean temperatures, tropical cyclone risk, and trade winds. During El Niño events, rainfall generally starts declining in August, with dryness increasing through October and November and peaking in January. Rainfall can be 50-60% below normal through April. El Niño tends to increase the number of tropical cyclones, making for increased risk of tropical cyclone activity from March-July, but a reduced risk from October-December.



DISASTER PROFILE (2000-2025)

The impacts of disasters over the past 25 years point to the types of relief and recovery support that Yap State may need.



March 2002: Typhoon Mitag brought wind, rain, tidal surges, and flooding, prompting requests for national assistance and emergency food deliveries to outer islands.



November 2003: Typhoon Lupit's winds and waves destroyed crops, contaminated drinking water, and damaged infrastructure.



April 2004: Typhoon Sudal submerged coastal areas, damaged infrastructure, including the State Hospital, and displaced 900 people.



May-December 2004: A dengue fever outbreak infected 658 people.



April 2007: The first confirmed transmission of Zika virus outside of Africa and Asia, with 49 confirmed cases.



July 2007: An El Niño-related drought reduced rainfall and compromised water supplies.



December 2008: Extremely high tides and storm-driven waves flooded low-lying areas, uprooted trees, and damaging infrastructure and crops; FSM Government and U.S. agencies supported response efforts.



December 2009: High tides and strong wave action flooded coastal areas, where infrastructure and crops were damaged; food and water relief supplies were mobilized.



2010-2011: An El Niño event caused severe drought, depleting water supplies and damaging food crops.



November 2011: Heavy rainfall led to a dengue fever outbreak with nearly 850 cases and 2 deaths; in addition to national and international support, the U.S. military transported IV fluids to Fais.



November 2013: Typhoon Haiyan inundated outer islands; homes, infrastructure, and crops were damaged.



November-December 2014: Typhoon Hagupit caused significant wind and flooding damage to food crops and infrastructure on outer islands.



March 2015: Typhoon Maysak's displaced over 1,100 people and destroyed crops and homes, requiring national and international support.



2016: An El Niño event led to drought and widespread crop failures; the Hapilmohol-1 delivered water and food.



February 2019: Typhoon Wupit brought high winds, heavy rainfall, and storm surges; coordinated responses involved state, national, and international support.



August 2019: Concurrent dengue and leptospirosis outbreaks led to 545 suspected dengue cases and 515 suspected leptospirosis cases; U.S. agencies provided health staff and international agencies distributed health supplies.



April 2020: Severe drought conditions damaged crops and water supplies after months of minimal rainfall.



April 2024: An El Niño event caused severe drought, impacting water supply, agriculture, and public health; water and aid were delivered to outer islands via relief voyages.



Yap State's DM framework is guided by the Yap State DM Plan, the Standard Operating Procedure for Emergency and Disaster Response, and the Joint State Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change. These documents emphasize coordination, traditional leadership, and community-based approaches.

Governor of Yap State

- Leads state DM efforts; declares emergency, and requests national assistance, when needed
- Activates warnings and the Governor's Disaster Committee (GDC) for interagency coordination

Office of Planning and Budget (OPB)

- Yap State's disaster response focal point, under the Governor's direction
- Director - Oversees State Disaster Coordinating Office; serves as Secretary of the GDC
- State Disaster Coordinating Officer (DCO) - Implements all emergency and disaster-related functions assigned by the Governor; acts as the coordinator of the EOC or Command Post; maintains and updates the Yap State DM Plan; develops and coordinates public awareness and training

Governor's Disaster Committee (GDC)

- Comprises State government department and office heads; it facilitates interagency coordination and advises on resource allocation

State Disaster Coordination Team (SDCT)

- Comprises representatives from State departments and partner organizations
- Assists the DCO in response planning and securing resources for emergency operations

Neighboring Island Communication Officers (NICO)

- Designated by traditional chief as the main point of contact between the community and the State EOC
- Operates outer-island radio to receive warning announcements from the EOC and disseminate warnings to the community and conducts Initial Damage Assessments and reports to the DCO

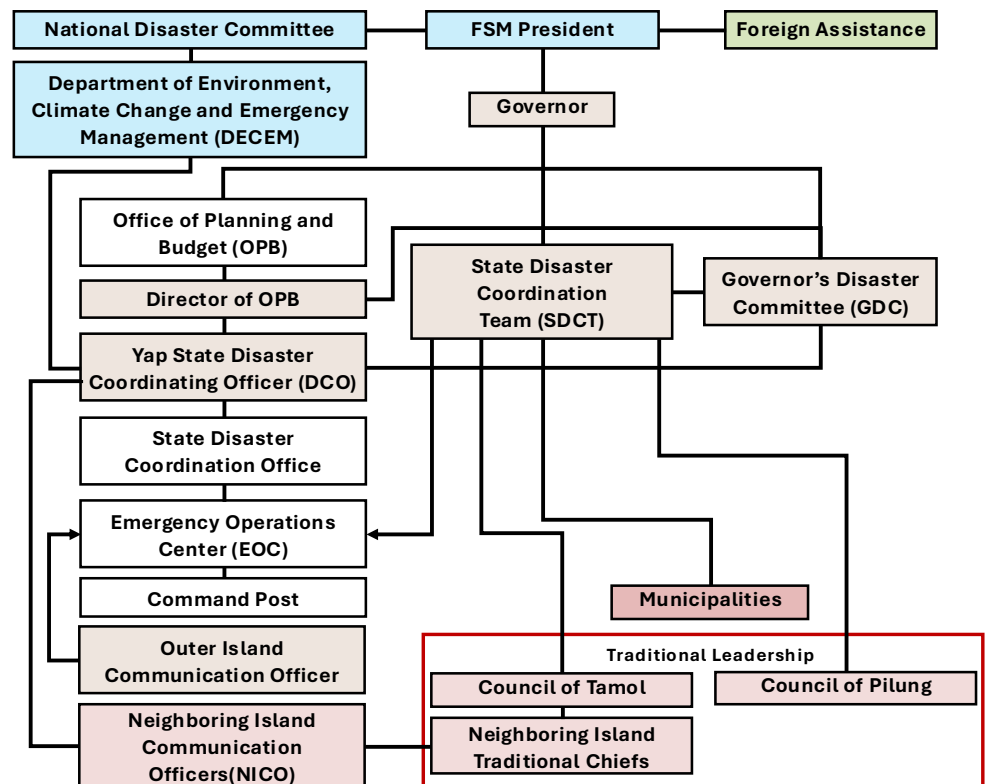
Outer Island Communication Officer

- Sits within the Outer Island Affairs Office of the Governor's Office; point of contact between the State EOC and neighboring island communities
- Reports to the EOC and communicates with NICO's when a watch is announced

Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Command Post, and Disaster Coordination Office

- EOC – The EOC coordinates multi-agency responses for widespread emergencies; located in Colonia
- Command Post – On-site coordination location for isolated or localized incidents; DCO may coordinate response from the Command Post and designate an assistant to oversee the EOC
- Disaster Coordination Office – Within the OPB; when the EOC is deactivated and recovery begins, the DCO coordinates from the Disaster Coordination Office

- Yap State DM Plan (2024) – Provides overarching framework; defines roles, responsibilities, and procedures to mitigate risk and manage emergencies
- Yap State Standard Operating Procedure for Emergency and Disaster Response (2017) – Outlines detailed operational response protocols; specifies procedures for activating the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and conducting damage assessments
- Yap State Joint State Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change – Integrates disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation strategies into long-term development planning



Yap State Disaster Coordination Structures

Yap State cannot directly request international assistance. International assistance requests are coordinated through a process that begins at the state level and escalates to the national government. If the disaster surpasses FSM's national capacity, the FSM President formally requests international assistance. The FSM national government coordinates incoming support, whether from bilateral partners or multilateral mechanisms. Responders may include:

- The United States and other bilateral partners
- United Nations entities
- The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- Non-government and non-profit groups – e.g., the Salvation Army and Catholic Relief Services

Despite the robust framework for requesting international assistance, challenges remain. Yap's geography makes the delivery of aid logistically complex and time-consuming. Limited communication and transport infrastructure can hinder effective coordination among municipal, state, national, and international actors.

U.S. ASSISTANCE

FSM, a sovereign nation in free association with the U.S. under the COFA, receives U.S. economic assistance, defense, and disaster response support, including access to federal disaster aid. The Department of State is the lead federal agency (LFA) for U.S. Government (USG) foreign disaster response. Other federal agencies may contribute resources following a U.S. PDD. In Yap State, U.S. assistance has included emergency supplies during droughts and logistical support.

The Disaster Assistance Emergency Fund (DAEF) is a joint U.S./FSM fund established under the COFA. Each year, the U.S. Government contributes US\$200,000 and FSM matches the contribution. The Fund is reserved for disaster situations. It may be accessed to account for all response-related expenditures for a nationally declared State of Emergency. The FSM President approves withdrawals from the DAEF up to US\$50,000. For withdrawals greater than US\$50,000, the U.S. Chief of Mission must concur with the withdrawal.



U.S. Coast Guard Conducts Medical Evacuation and Delivers Drought Supplies in Woleai, Yap; Photo via DVIDS / U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia

Disaster Response and International Assistance for Typhoon Maysak (2015)

Local and National Response

- On 1 April, Yap's Governor declared a State of Emergency, followed by a Presidential Emergency Declaration. These declarations activated national and state disaster response mechanisms.

U.S. Assistance

- On 2 April, the U.S. Ambassador to FSM also declared a disaster. On 8 April, in collaboration with FSM officials, a USG team initiated a preliminary damage assessment and noted the destruction of homes, public infrastructure, crops, and rainwater catchment systems.
- On 28 April, the U.S. President issued a Presidential Disaster Declaration (PDD), enabling U.S. federal disaster assistance under the Compact of Free Association (COFA).

Other International Assistance

- The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Micronesia Red Cross mobilized relief in coordination with Yap State and FSM national authorities.
- On 9 April, a United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team arrived in FSM to help establish a coordinated framework for international and regional assistance.

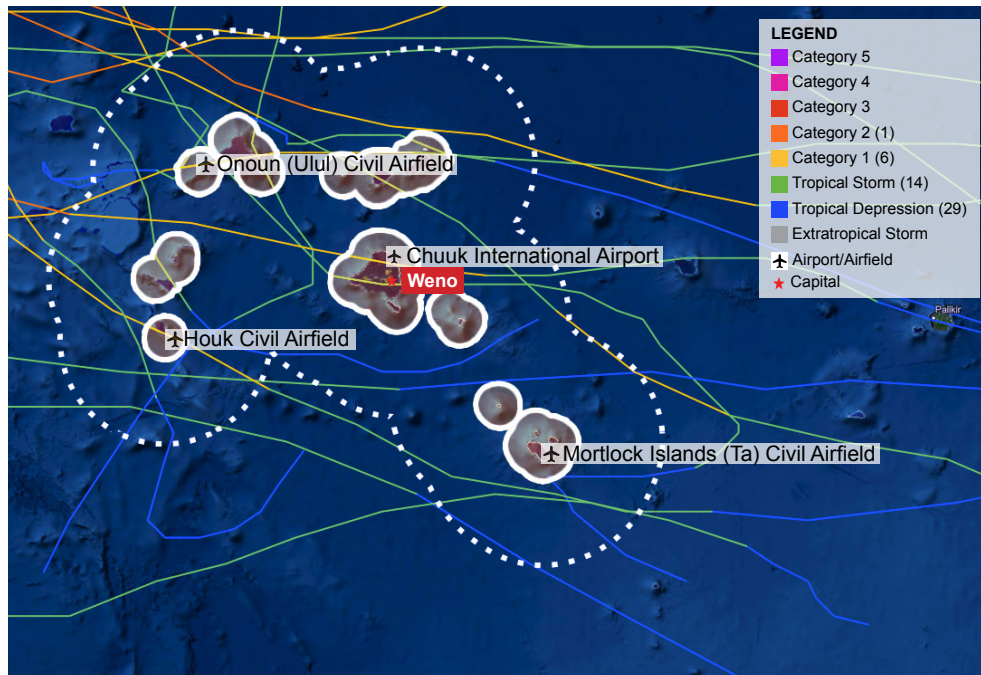
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CHUUK STATE HAZARDS & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

MAY 2026

Due to Chuuk State's dispersed geography and hazard events such as tropical cyclones, drought, coastal flooding, and king tides, remote areas often face significant accessibility barriers. These challenges are intensified by limited airstrips and the absence of ports or jetties on outer islands, whose populations can be isolated during major hazard events. Initial response efforts are managed at the state and municipal levels with national and international coordination triggered for large-scale events to provide the resources for a full recovery.



Historic Tropical Cyclone Tracks around Chuuk State (2000-2025).

Source: NOAA Historical Hurricane Tracks

- **High-Exposure Environment:** Chuuk faces recurring tropical cyclones, drought, and coastal flooding across geographically dispersed islands, with outer islands particularly vulnerable to isolation during severe events.
- **State-Led Disaster Management (DM):** Chuuk maintains a structured DM system led by the Governor and the Chuuk Disaster & Emergency Operations Center (CDEOC), aligned with national law and policy.
- **Municipal-Level Execution:** Mayors and municipal focal points serve as first responders, coordinating with Village Chiefs and Municipal DM Committees to conduct rapid damage assessments, manage shelters, and disseminate warnings.
- **Capacity-Constrained but Functional:** Governance mechanisms are established and improving, but obstacles are linked to limited infrastructure and constraints on transport access and medical surge capacity for high-impact events.
- **International Support:** For major disasters exceeding state and national capacity, assistance is coordinated through national authorities, with the U.S. as the primary external partner under a Compact of Free Association (COFA); United Nations (UN) entities, non-governmental organizations, and regional partners all play a role.

State Facts

Chuuk State is one of the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).



Capital

Weno



Total Population

48,500 (36,000 in Chuuk Lagoon;
12,500 on Outer Islands)



Total Land Area

127.4 square kilometers (49.2 square miles)



State government

Executive, Legislative, and Judicial
bodies



Local Government

40 municipalities, each with a municipal government; traditional leaders, “Soupun” and/or “Makal,” on each island



Regions

Faichuuk, Halls, Mortlocks, Naminuito,
Northern Namoneas, Pattiw, and
Southern Namoneas



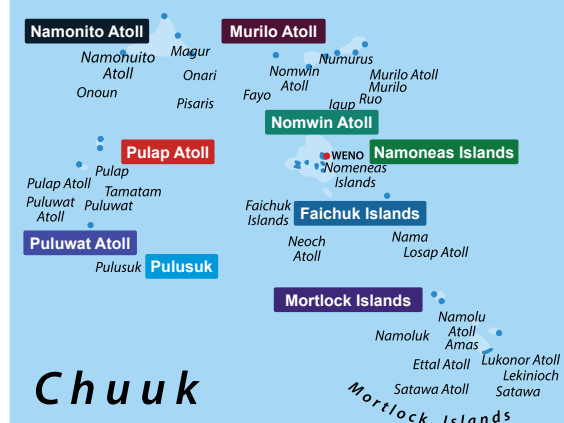
Languages

Chuukese (native), English (second / national)

 POPULATION COUNT

Namoneas Islands	Faichuk Islands	Namonito Atoll
Weno - 13,856	Tol - 4,579	Onoun - 633
Fono - 388	Wonei - 638	Piherah - 227
Piis-Penau - 376	Paata - 1,107	Unanu/Onari - 193
Tonoas - 3,517	Polle - 1,498	Onou - 172
Fefen - 3,471	Eot - 266	Magur/Makur - 159
Uman - 2,554	Romanum - 865	
Parem - 342	Fanapanges - 672	
Siis - 349	Udot - 1,680	

Mortlock Islands	Nomwin Atoll	Pulusuk
Ettal - 672 Kuttu - 323 Oneop - 400 Nema - 676 Piis-Emwar - 258 Lekinioch - 848 Satawan - 692 Namoluk - 355 Losap - 248 Ta - 273 Moch - 932	Nomwin - 763 Fananu - 580 Pulap Atoll Pollap - 1,168, Tamatam - 493 Murilo Atoll Murilo - 329 Ruo - 241	Pulusuk - 1,116 Puluwat Atoll Puluwat - 745



HAZARDS

Chuuk's geography and climate create a multi-hazard environment. Chuuk is exposed to tropical cyclones, drought, flooding, and landslides, as well as anthropogenic hazards.



Tropical Cyclones

- Primary typhoon tracks lie north and west of Chuuk; storms pass within several hundred miles
- Impacts: wind and storm surges damage housing and facilities, destroy crops, and contaminate water
- Outer islands are particularly vulnerable to isolation as sea states may prevent immediate relief via maritime routes



Drought

- El Niño-Southern Oscillation's (ENSO) El Niño phase often brings reduced cloud formation, suppressed rainfall, and prolonged dry periods
- Impacts: drinking water shortages, food insecurity
- Main islands rely on surface and ground water, while outer islands are largely dependent on rainwater harvesting and are vulnerable to prolonged drought



Coastal Flooding & King Tides

- During ENSO's La Niña phases, higher-than-normal sea levels and intensified trade winds amplify the reach of king tides
- Impacts: salt entering soil and groundwater leads to drinking water shortages and food insecurity
- Communities and infrastructure are concentrated in narrow, low-lying coastal strips



Landslides

- Heavy rainfall over the high islands' slopes destabilizes soil and rock; landslides and rockfalls often occur concurrently with flooding
- Impacts: blockages of or damage to primary roadways isolates communities
- Debris clearance capacity is limited



Oil Leakage from Sunken World War II Ships

- Chuuk Lagoon is the site of over 60 deteriorating World War II shipwrecks that contain oil and other hazardous materials that are leaking
- Oil spills can contaminate water and food sources, threaten fisheries, and pose health risks
- The scale and complexity of oil spill risks exceed local capacity, requiring external resources for specialized technical expertise, equipment, and international collaboration to mitigate and respond



DISASTER PROFILE (2006-2026)

The impacts of disasters over 20 years point to the types of relief and recovery support Chuuk may need.



March 2007: Large swell and high tides caused flooding, erosion, destruction of croplands, and salt contamination in drinking water; 90% of taro was destroyed on outer islands.



March – November 2007: El Niño-induced drought resulted in the loss of agricultural production. The US issued an emergency declaration and authorized government assistance for Chuuk State.



December 2008: High tidal surge event caused coastal erosion and saltwater intrusion, leading to crop damage in the Mortlocks, Namonuitos, and Halls regions.



November 2012: Typhoon Bopha caused damage to housing and livelihoods in the Mortlock Islands.



March 2015: Typhoon Maysak made landfall at Chuuk Lagoon; it contaminated water sources, damaged crops and infrastructure, and killed five people; 830 dwellings on Weno were destroyed, and 6,000 people were displaced.



2016: Drought declared; some 100,00 people affected nationally. Following a Chuuk State Declaration of Disaster Emergency, the El Niño Joint Task Force was activated.



February 2019: Tropical Cyclone Wutip struck Chuuk's Mortlocks and Northwestern Islands. Infrastructure, food crops, and water sources suffered extensive damage.



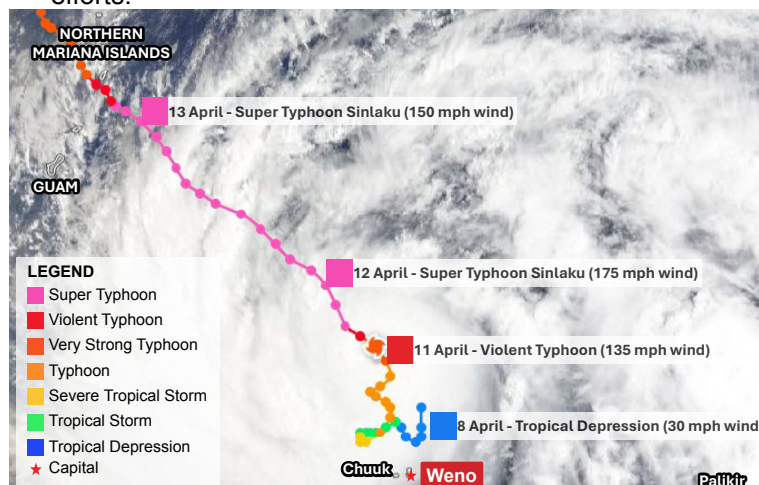
December 2021: King tide and storm surge-driven coastal flooding wiped out crops and damaged infrastructure.



January 2024: A large storm north of FSM created high surf and led to coastal flooding on Lekinioch Island in Chuuk State; it destroyed taro crops.



April 2026: Typhoon Sinlaku intensified over Chuuk State. It inflicted catastrophic wind, rain, and storm surge damage to critical infrastructure, housing, and food crops. This devastation prompted the FSM government to request assistance, triggering U.S. and international response efforts.



Typhoon Sinlaku Track (2026). Source: Zoom Earth



Chuuk State's DM system operates within the legal framework of the FSM Disaster Relief Assistance Act (1989). Disaster response authority is shared between national and state governments, with states responsible for initial response and the national government responsible for national and international coordination when local capacity is exceeded.

- **Disaster Assistance Act 1989** – Legal framework for preparedness, response, and recovery in FSM; provides roles and responsibilities; requires states to develop disaster plans
- **Chuuk State Constitution Article VI, Section 12** – Legal basis for activating the CDEOC and mobilizing state resources
- **Chuuk State Disaster Management Plan (2024)** – Outlines roles and responsibilities for disaster management and response; establishes comprehensive structure for disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and recovery
- **Chuuk State Standard Operating Procedure for Emergency and Disaster Response** – Playbook for executing disaster response operations; clarifies coordination between state departments and municipal authorities

Chuuk's disaster response system flows from the Governor through the Disaster Coordination Office, but operational effectiveness depends heavily on municipal leaders, traditional networks, and a small number of critical service providers.

Governor of Chuuk State

- Responsible for formulation of DM policies; manages national and international assistance when provided
- Decision authority to declare state of emergency and activate CDEOC, Governor's Disaster Committee, and State Disaster Coordination Team

Lieutenant Governor

- Chair of the Governor's Disaster Committee
- Approves broadcast announcements and warning messages

CDEOC Director / Incident Commander

- Chair of the State Disaster Coordination Team
- Oversees emergency and disaster operations
- Operational liaison with the national government

Governor's Disaster Committee

- Comprises all department or office heads and serves as an advisory body
- Activated by the Governor in full or part, depending on the scope of the disaster event
- Facilitates agreements between state agencies for use of assets during an emergency or disaster response

State Disaster Coordination Team (SDCT)

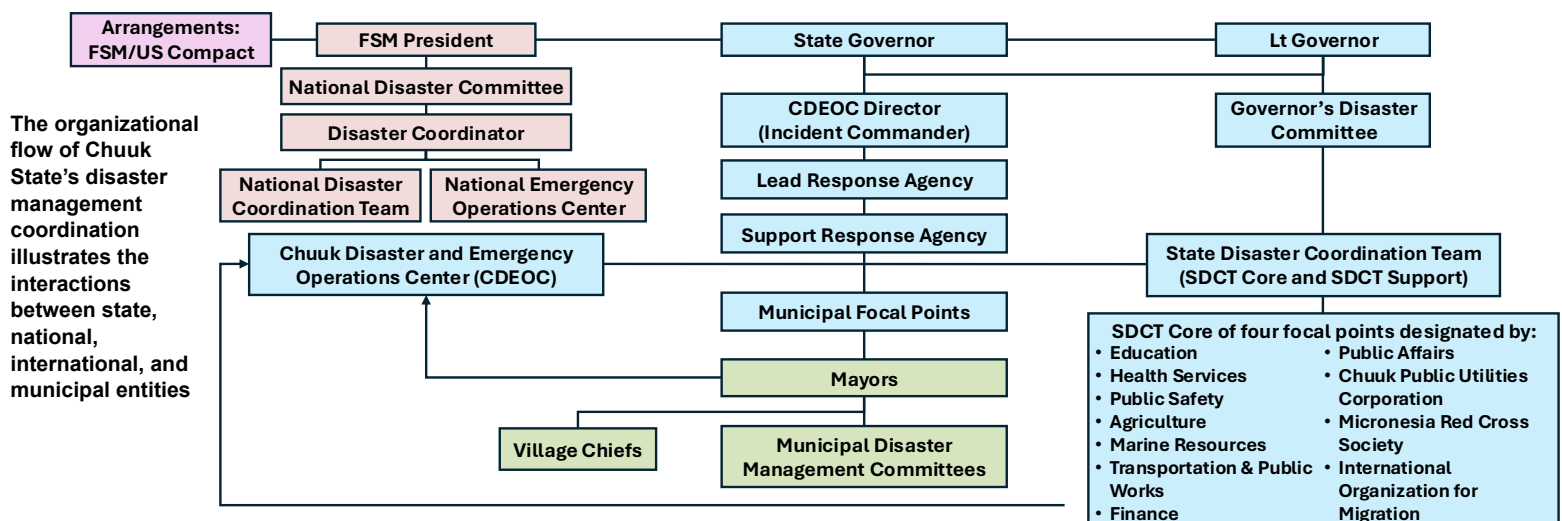
- Comprises focal points from each department, state agency, and partner organization that participates in state emergency operations or disaster response
- Facilitates coordination and cooperation for effective and efficient response
- Four focal points from designated departments rotate on 6-hour shifts when the CDEOC is activated

Municipal Focal Points

- Operate outer island radio to receive warning announcements from CDEOC
- Assist in evacuation
- Conduct initial damage assessments and report information to CDEOC

CDEOC and Command Post

- Command post is an on-site coordination location for isolated or localized incidents
- CDEOC, located in Weno, is used for response coordination for emergencies or disasters that are not isolated to one geographic area



Hazard-Specific Lead Response Agencies:

- Epidemic/pandemic and hazardous material: Health Services and/or Environmental Protection Agency
- Airport and seaport incident: Transportation and Public Works
- Search and rescue: Public Safety, Transportation, and Public Works
- Fire (domestic and forest): Public Safety
- Environmental pollution and oil spill: Environmental Protection Agency
- Agricultural incident: Agriculture
- Civil unrest: Public Safety
- Natural hazards: CDEOC

Other Organizations

- Chuuk Public Utilities Corporation
- FSM Telecom
- FSM Petrocorp
- Weather Service Office
- Chuuk Conservation Society
- Chuuk Women's Council
- Chuuk Chamber of Commerce
- UN entities
- Micronesia Red Cross Society



INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS

Chuuk cannot independently request international assistance; this process follows FSM national protocols, directed by the FSM President and on the advice of and through the National Disaster Committee. When a disaster exceeds Chuuk's capacity, the Governor declares an emergency. If the need also outstrips national capacity, the FSM national government formally requests international assistance and engages international partners through the National Disaster Committee.

UN entities, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, and foreign government partners may provide humanitarian relief.

U.S. Assistance

The U.S. Department of State is the lead federal agency (LFA) for the coordination of U.S. foreign disaster response. Based on the COFA and other agreements, following a U.S. Presidential Disaster Declaration, the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds major disaster assistance to FSM and may provide technical expertise and assessment personnel for Joint Damage Assessments (JDA). The U.S. Chief of Mission in FSM is responsible for overall coordination of U.S. Government assistance to the country.

Recurrent natural disasters threaten to destabilize FSM, and any subsequent humanitarian crisis could be exploited by strategic competitors. While the Department of State is the designated LFA, the logistical challenges of responding to disasters across FSM, including on Chuuk's remote islands, could necessitate Department of War (DoW) support and, therefore, U.S. Pacific Command (US PACOM) assets for transport, assessment, and delivery of supplies.

Compact of Free Association

FSM is a sovereign nation in free association with the U.S. Among other terms, the COFA spells out that:

- The U.S. retains defense rights and responsibilities in FSM
- FSM is eligible for U.S. federal disaster assistance
- The U.S. has strategic denial authority in the region

Under the COFA (2024), Article X addresses the authorities that govern disaster assistance.

Typhoon Wutip Response (2019)

The Wutip response underscores the logistical challenges and coordination required to deliver disaster assistance across Chuuk.

Impact: Damage to infrastructure, including schools, dispensaries, community halls, churches, and crops. Water sources on outer islands were contaminated and undrinkable. No injuries or fatalities were reported. Schools closed due to major damage and displaced families sheltering in classrooms.

Logistical Challenges: Response efforts faced delays due to debris on airstrips, lack of ports or jetties, and low tides or strong currents that affected unloading.

Response Timeline:

- 20-22 February: Chuuk activated its Command Post; State and National Emergency Declarations issued
- 26 February: First response teams deployed to outer islands
- 12 March: U.S. Chargé d'Affaires declared a disaster, enabling LFA, FEMA, and FSM to carry out a JDA
- 30 April: Leveraging its shallow-water capabilities, USNS Brunswick supported recovery in coordination with LFA
- 7 May: U.S. President approved disaster declaration under COFA to enable the release of FEMA funding; with the funding, LFA supported Catholic Relief Services and International Organization for Migration to provide food assistance

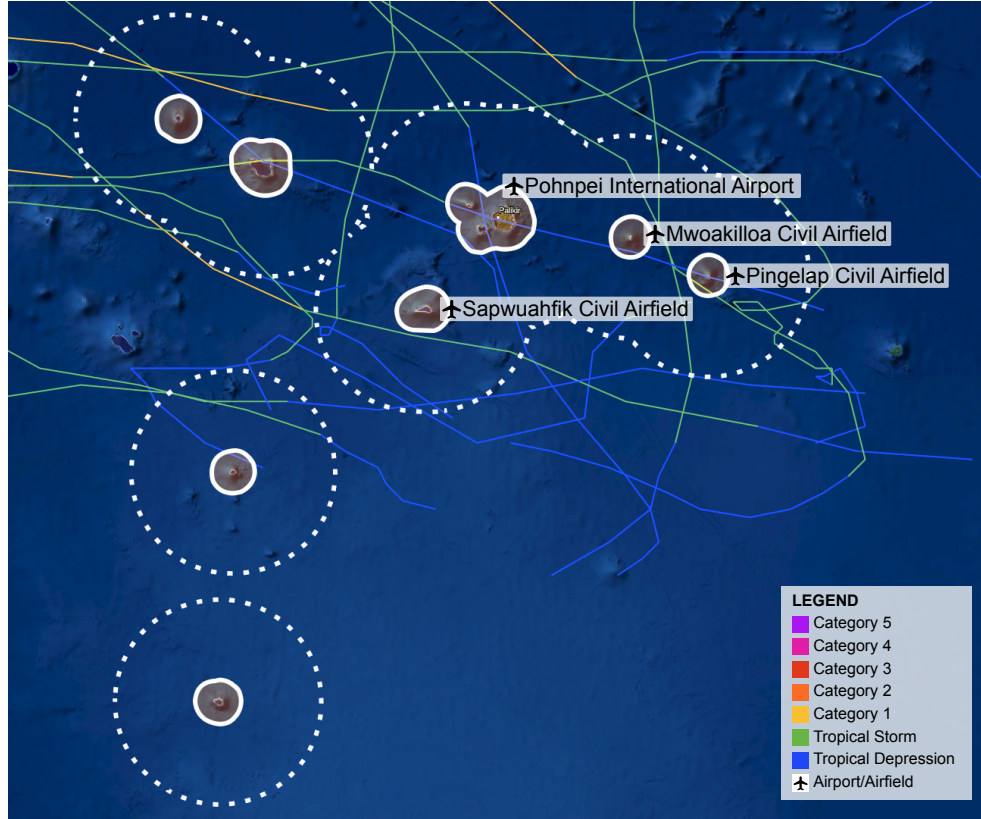
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POHNPEI STATE HAZARDS & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

APRIL 2026

Pohnpei State, one of four states of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), is exposed to a range of hazards, including drought, flooding, landslides, and tropical cyclones, all of which pose a significant threat to lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure. Pohnpei State's disaster management system and institutions provide a solid foundation for hazard response, with established frameworks, plans, and standard operating procedures that align with national and regional disaster management strategies. However, geographic dispersion, limited transportation infrastructure, and dual-hatted leadership strain response capacity.



Tropical Cyclone Tracks around Pohnpei State (2000-2025). Source: NOAA

- **Multi-Hazard Environment:** Pohnpei State is exposed to drought, flooding, landslides, and tropical cyclones, and outer atolls are particularly vulnerable due to limited water supplies and food production.
- **Logistical Challenges in Disaster Response:** Disaster response is complicated by limited transportation infrastructure on outer islands, as only Mwoakilloa, Pingelap, and Sapwuahfik have airfields.
- **Foundational but Aging Disaster Management Frameworks:** Pohnpei's disaster management is guided by the 2002 Disaster Preparedness Plan and 2017 Standard Operating Procedures for Emergency and Disaster Response. While these frameworks provide a solid foundation for preparedness and response, there is growing recognition of the opportunity to update to address evolving risk, incorporate lessons, and align with best practices.
- **Need for Resilient Communication Systems:** Radio, cellular, and internet networks in Pohnpei are prone to outages, highlighting the urgent need for more robust communication infrastructure to ensure continuity during emergency operations.

State Facts

Pohnpei State's main island is the largest and tallest in FSM; it features rugged volcanic terrain with peaks reaching up to 790 meters (2,595 feet).



Capital: Kolonia



Total Population: 36,196*

- 34,789 on Pohnpei Island
- Outer Island Population: 1,407

*2010 was the last national census conducted in FSM



Total Land Area: 345.5 square kilometers (133.4 square miles)



State Government: Executive, legislative, and judicial



Local Government:

Governor: Chief Executive of Pohnpei State

12 Municipalities:

- Pohnpei Island – 5, each with two traditional leaders, the paramount chief (Nanmwarki) and secondary chief (Naniken)
- Outlying islands and atolls – 7



Languages: Pohnpeian and English; vernacular languages: Kapingamarangian, Mwoakilese, Nukuoroan, Pingelapese, and Sapwuahfijese

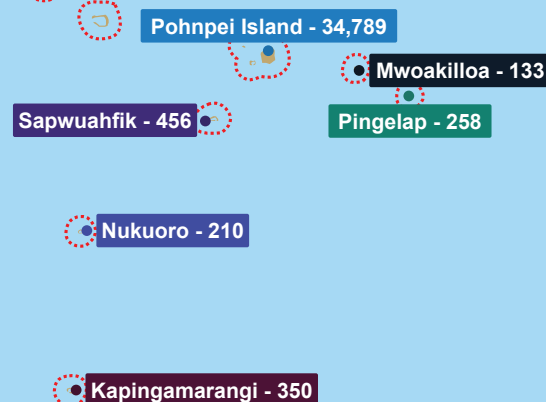


Airports and Civil Airfields:

- Pohnpei International Airport
Runway: 1,828 meters (6,000 feet)
- Mwoakilloa Civil Airfield
Runway: 365 meters (1,200 feet)
- Pingelap Civil Airfield
Runway: 365 meters (1,200 feet)
- Sapwuahfik Civil Airfield
Runway: 365 meters (1,200 feet)



POPULATION COUNT



Pohnpei experiences coastal and inland flooding, landslides, tropical cyclones, and drought, with El Niño events intensifying weather variability.



Coastal Inundation

- **Frequency:** Coastal inundation occurs regularly, driven by a combination of king tides, tidal surges, and extreme waves.
- **Impacts:** Flooding and saltwater intrusion damage homes, infrastructure, and crops, worsening food and water security.



Flooding

- **Frequency:** Flooding is common during the wet season and during tropical cyclones, heavy rains, and king tides.
- **Impacts:** It damages homes, infrastructure, and crops, and contaminates freshwater, increasing waterborne disease risks.



Landslides

- **Frequency:** Landslides are recurrent due to Pohnpei's steep terrain and heavy rainfall, which drive erosion and debris flows.
- **Impacts:** Landslides can block roads, destroy homes, and isolate communities, disrupting their access to essential services.



Tropical Cyclones

- **Frequency:** Pohnpei lies south and east of the main typhoon belt, but it does experience short, severe tropical storms several times per decade.
- **Impacts:** Tropical cyclones damage homes, infrastructure, and crops. Storm surges and heavy rainfall compound flooding and landslide risks.



Drought

- **Frequency:** Drought typically occurs during El Niño events every 3-7 years.
- **Impacts:** Droughts cause severe water shortages—especially on outer islands reliant on rain catchment and shallow wells—and lead to crop failure, food insecurity, and heightened wildfire risk.

El Niño – Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

ENSO is a recurring climate cycle characterized by periodic warming (El Niño) and cooling (La Niña) of ocean surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific. It impacts rainfall, air and ocean temperatures, tropical cyclone formation, and trade winds. El Niño events significantly reduce rainfall starting in November, and very strong El Niño events produce the driest conditions. El Niño also tends to shift the development of tropical cyclones eastward, increasing the risk of tropical cyclone activity from March through December of El Niño years. During La Niña phases, higher sea levels can drive more coastal flooding and erosion.



April 2000: A cholera outbreak was reported in Pohnpei State. On 9 May 2000, a state of emergency was declared with a request for assistance from the Pacific Community (SPC) and the World Health Organization. In total, 3,452 cases of cholera and 20 deaths were reported.



June 2002: Tropical Storm Chata'an affected the outer islands. One death was reported alongside destruction of a house and a weather station in Nukuoro.



December 2008: Extreme high tides and tidal surge led to coastal flooding. Homes and businesses were flooded, and 29 islands were completely inundated. Kapingamarangi's taro patches were completely flooded. Additionally, a concrete bridge connecting two islands collapsed.



2010: Drought affected the outer islands, where water supplies, food crops, and other vegetation were damaged. Kapingamarangi was the worst affected.



May 2015: In May 2015, Typhoon Dolphin passed northeast of Pohnpei. It caused damage to utilities and roads, uprooted trees and crops, and damaged over 246 homes.



2016: Unusually low precipitation led to drought. Rain catchments and river systems ran dry, and outer-island populations dependent on those systems suffered health impacts from limited water supply and sanitation. Over 40 wildfires were reported in the state.



March 2018: Tropical Depression Jelawat dumped heavy rains across Pohnpei. It washed out roads and led to numerous landslides. The Governor declared a state of emergency, which was followed by a national declaration of emergency and the release of disaster funds.



February 2019: Typhoon Wutip tracked close to the southwestern islands of Pohnpei and caused damage on the main island, Nukuoro, and Sapwuahfik. Primary and secondary power lines on the main island were damaged. In Nukuoro, saltwater intrusion damaged over 90% of crops.



2020: A drought throughout FSM left the entire country without sufficient safe water. Kapingamarangi Atoll had approximately 3.8 cubic meters (1,000 gallons) of water left in government catchments when the Governor sent an urgent request for potable water to the FSM President.



December 2021: A combination of king tides, a northerly swell, and elevated sea levels driven by a La Niña cycle, led to coastal flooding and inundation of homes, crops, and infrastructure in Pohnpei State.



January 2024: A strong winter storm in the northern Pacific generated massive swells that reached FSM; they inundated homes and taro patches in Kapingamarangi.



2024: El Niño-driven dry weather led to drought conditions throughout FSM. Pohnpei declared a state of emergency in January 2024 and put in place water use restrictions. On 12 March, the FSM President issued a national state of emergency.



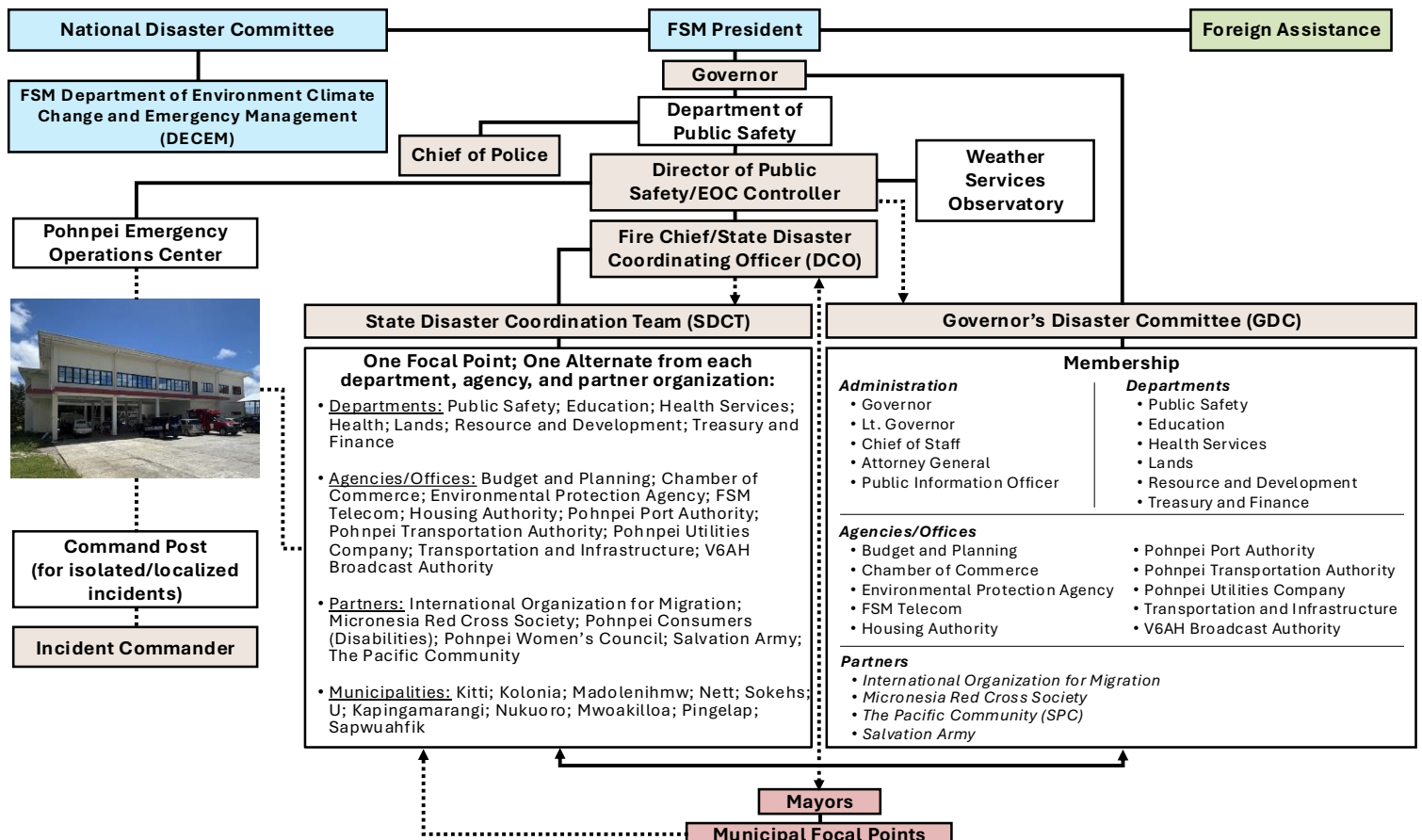
Disaster management in Pohnpei is coordinated in alignment with national frameworks, but primary response authority resides at the state level under the Governor. In emergencies, the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC), managed by the Department of Public Safety, serves as the central hub for operations. Policy direction is provided by the Governor and the Governor's Disaster Committee (GDC), while the State Disaster Coordinating Officer (DCO) and the State Disaster Coordination Team (SDCT) oversee operational response and inter-agency coordination.

Key documents include:

- Pohnpei State Disaster Preparedness Plan (2002)
- Pohnpei State Standard Operating Procedure for Emergency and Disaster Response (2017)
- Pohnpei Joint State Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change (2017)

These plans define roles, coordination mechanisms, and procedures for response, preparedness, and recovery.

- **Governor** – Provides direction on actions to be taken during disasters. Activates the EOC, GDC, and SDCT. Declares a State of Emergency on the advice of the GDC. Provides updates to the FSM President and requests national assistance, if needed.
- **Governor's Disaster Committee** – Department Directors responsible for directing the overall preparedness program, making emergency policy, and keeping the public and emergency office informed. Advises the Governor on allocating funds and utilizing state resources.
- **Director of Public Safety (EOC Controller)** – Oversees and coordinates all emergency response operations. Secretary for the GDC. Brings DCO and SDCT decisions and planning to the GDC. Oversees evacuation operations and emergency rescue activities. Coordinates national assistance and foreign assistance with the Governor, DCO, and national authorities.
- **State Disaster Coordination Team** – Assists the DCO in planning and implementing state disaster response activities. Comprised of one focal point and one alternate from each Pohnpei State disaster response-related department, agency, and partner organization, including the International Organization for Migration, Micronesia Red Cross Society, the Pacific Community, and the Salvation Army.
- **State Disaster Coordinating Officer** – Coordinates execution of actions authorized or assigned to departments or agencies by the Governor. Chairs the SDCT. Oversees evacuation operations in coordination with Mayors.
- **State Emergency Operations Center** – Coordinates response activities from its location in the Fire Station. Directs and controls local operating forces. For isolated and localized incidents, a Command Post may be set up.
- **Public Information Officer** – Conducts hazard awareness and public education programs. Arranges for media representatives to receive briefings during emergency situations.
- **Mayors** – Make emergency preparations and notify community of updated warning messages and evacuation plans. Designate municipal focal points as representatives in the SDCT. Conduct Initial Damage Assessments and report information to the EOC.



Pohnpei cannot independently request international assistance. When a disaster exceeds state response capacity, the Governor of Pohnpei declares a State of Emergency and requests support from the FSM National Government. If the event exceeds national capacity, the President formally requests international assistance, which may include support from the United States under the Compact of Free Association (COFA), as well as assistance from United Nations entities, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, and foreign governments. The FSM National Government coordinates incoming support, whether from bilateral partners or multilateral mechanisms.

Responders may include:

- The United States and other bilateral partners
- United Nations entities
- The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- Non-government and non-profit groups – e.g., the Salvation Army

U.S. ASSISTANCE

Due to Pohnpei's dispersed outer islands and limited transport and logistics capacity, international assistance – particularly U.S. support – may be necessary to conduct damage assessments, deliver supplies, restore communications, and sustain response operations in remote atolls. Under the COFA, the United States plays a key role in disaster response in FSM. U.S. assistance may include funding from the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), technical assessment teams, supplies, and air or sea lift support, coordinated through the U.S. Department of State in consultation with FSM authorities.

The Disaster Assistance Emergency Fund (DAEF) is a joint U.S./FSM fund established under the COFA. Each year, the U.S. Government contributes US\$200,000 and FSM matches the contribution. The Fund is reserved for disaster situations. It may be accessed to account for all response-related expenditures for a nationally declared State of Emergency. The FSM President approves withdrawals from the DAEF up to US\$50,000. For withdrawals greater than US\$50,000, the U.S. Chief of Mission must concur with the withdrawal.

The Department of State is the lead federal agency (LFA) for U.S. Government (USG) foreign disaster response. Other federal agencies may contribute resources following a U.S. Presidential Disaster Declaration (PDD). A U.S. President will decide on a PDD after: the FSM President declares a national state of emergency/disaster; FSM utilizes its own resources including DAEF; FSM requests international assistance; the U.S. Chief of Mission declares a disaster; assessment findings lead the FSM President to determine that supplemental assistance is needed; and the FSM President makes an official request for a PDD.

2018 Tropical Depression Jelawat

In mid-March 2018, Tropical Depression Jelawat passed over Pohnpei State, leading to 48 continuous hours of rainfall that resulted in flooding, landslides, damage to critical infrastructure, and one death. The Governor declared a state of emergency and FSM President issued a presidential declaration of emergency, authorizing the release of US\$50,000 from DAEF.

U.S. Assistance

- On 6 May, the U.S. Ambassador declared a disaster due to flood and infrastructure damage. This declaration allowed USG agencies to conduct an assessment of the affected area.
- On 20 July, the U.S. President issued a Presidential Disaster Declaration under the COFA, releasing federal funding of USG emergency supplies and reconstruction assistance. Nearly US\$5 million in disaster assistance and reconstruction programs were implemented by USG partners.



Landslide in Pohnpei after Heavy Rains. Source: WSO Pohnpei

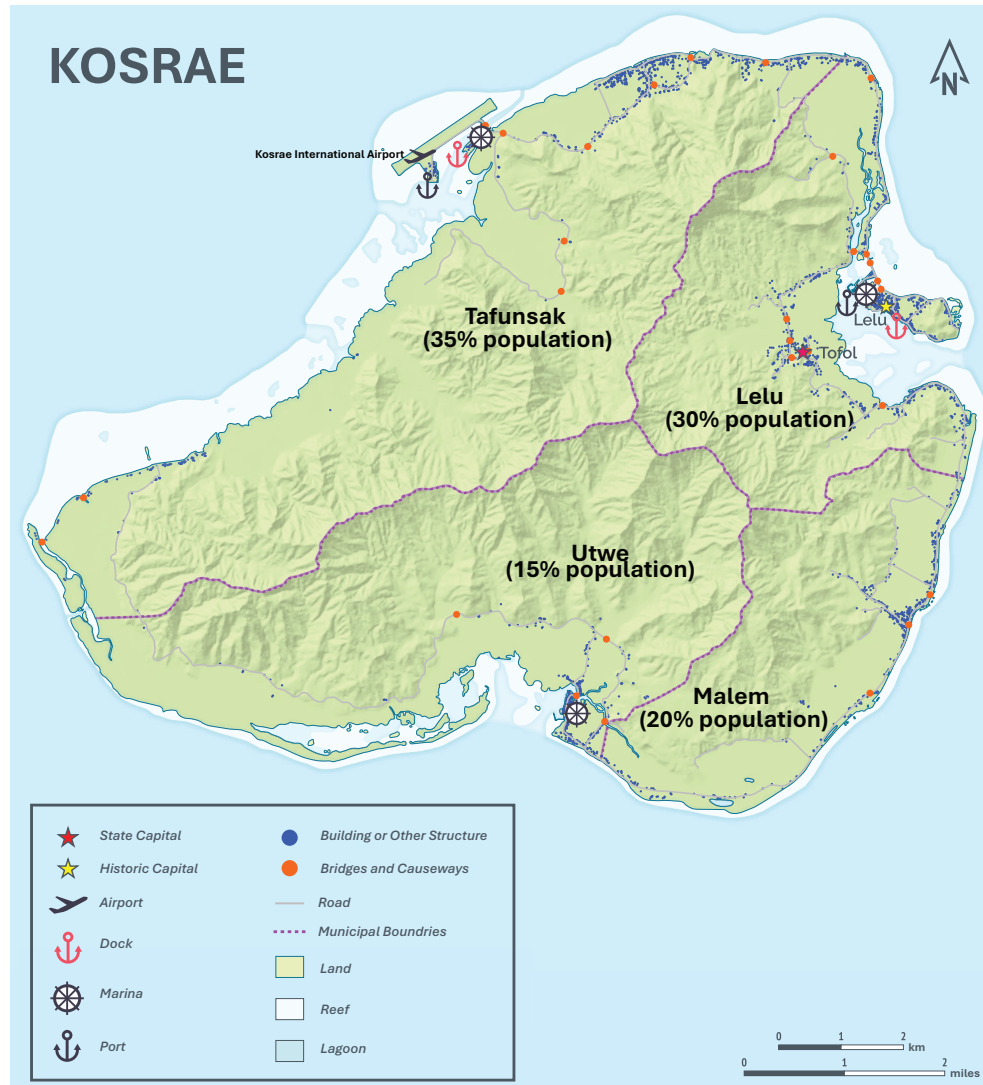
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KOSRAE STATE HAZARDS & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

JULY 2026

Kosrae State is primarily exposed to coastal inundation, flooding, and drought hazards. Properties and infrastructure are susceptible to flood damage, particularly in coastal areas, where most houses are located. Drought causes water and food insecurity. Kosrae is indirectly affected by nearby storms contributing to coastal inundation, though it rarely experiences direct hits by tropical cyclones due to its location at the far-eastern end of the country's 2,700-kilometer (km; 1,700-mile [mi]) span. Kosrae's state-level disaster management (DM) structure is highly centralized. Though the state has no outlying islands, the main island does have a few, small intercoastal islands, of which the most significant is Lelu Island, located in Lelu Harbor.



- **Multi-Hazard Environment:** Kosrae is exposed to coastal inundation, flooding, droughts, indirect impacts of nearby tropical cyclones, epidemics, landslides, and tsunamis.
- **State DM Oversight:** The Governor holds authority for disaster response operations in the state. The State Disaster Coordinating Officer (DCO) manages operations. There is robust coordination between the state and municipal governments.
- **Municipal-Led Execution:** The Mayors of Lelu, Malem, Tafunsak, and Utwe Municipalities are the lead disaster managers at the community level and are responsible for conducting the initial damage assessment (IDA). Malem Municipality has published a comprehensive municipal-level DM plan.

Facts about Kosrae State

Kosrae State is the smallest of the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the only one with no outlying islands. It reaches an elevation of 632 meters (m; 2,073 feet [ft]).



Capital: Tofol



Total Population: 5,092 (per 2023 census)



Total Land Area: 109.6 km² (42.3 mi²)



State and Local Government:

Governor: Chief Executive of Kosrae State

Kosrae Legislature: 14 elected Senators

Judicial: Kosrae State Court

Municipalities: 4 (Lelu, Malem, Tafunsak, and Utwe)



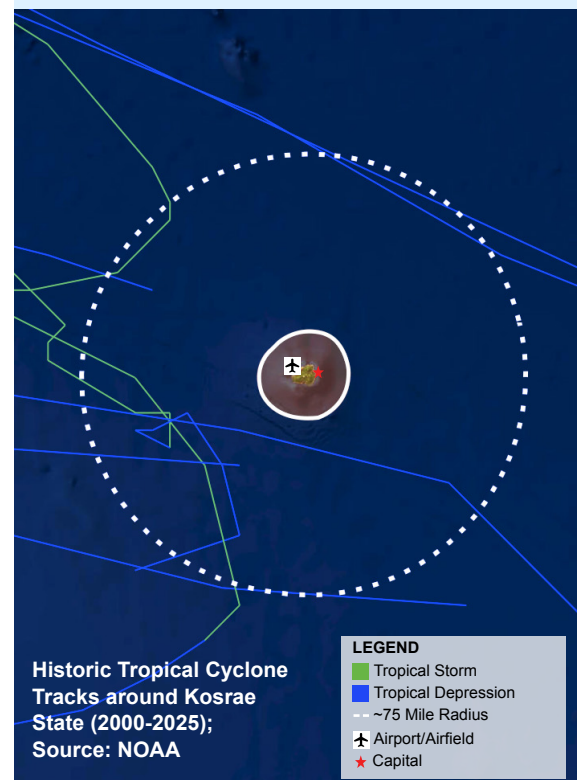
Languages: Kosraean (official), English



Airports/Airfields:

Kosrae International Airport (KSA / PTSA), Okat District

- Elevation: 3.4 m (11 ft)
- Runway dimensions: 1,753 x 46 m (5,751 x 150 ft)
- Surface: Asphalt (grooved)
- Aircraft parking area: 9,680 m² (104,194 ft²)



HAZARDS

Kosrae is commonly exposed to flooding, drought, and tropical cyclone impacts. It may be at risk of damage from tsunamis generated elsewhere in the region. Direct cyclone strikes are rare: the last severe one struck in 1905. Nonetheless, nearby storms still deliver strong winds, high waves, and heavy rain, as illustrated by moderate damage from storms in 1961, 1979, and 2008.



Coastal, Flash, and Riverine Flooding

- **Frequency:** The risk of flooding varies throughout the year and from year to year. Flooding of all types is common and is particularly frequent between December and February. Flooding of low-lying land most commonly occurs with high-tide events.
- **Impacts:** Very high tides, including king tides (the highest tides of the year), cause coastal inundation and erosion. Shoreline properties and infrastructure are at risk of damage. Inland and coastal roads are susceptible to flood damage; roads in coastal areas of Malem Municipality are particularly susceptible.



Drought

- **Frequency:** Drought tends to correlate with moderate or strong El Niño events; they commonly occur in the year following an El Niño.
- **Impacts:** Communities experience water and food insecurity after water sources dry up and crops fail. Malnutrition can become a public health concern.



Tsunami

- **Frequency:** Tsunamis are historically infrequent. Of the 34 separate tsunami events that impacted FSM from 1837 to 2013, none were recorded as significantly affecting Kosrae.
- **Impacts:** Maximum tsunami-wave amplitudes for Kosrae and its neighboring state, Pohnpei, are predicted at 1.1 - 1.9 m (3.6 - 6.2 ft) for a 2000-year return period, a lower probabilistic tsunami hazard than for FSM's western states.

El Niño – Southern Oscillation (ENSO)

ENSO is a recurring cycle characterized by periodic warming (El Niño) and cooling (La Niña) of ocean temperatures in the equatorial Pacific; it causes changes to rainfall, air and ocean temperatures, tropical cyclone formation, and trade winds.

Impacts on Kosrae:



Rainfall during the El Niño year in eastern FSM, including Kosrae, generally remains above normal through September. However, rainfall starts significantly declining in November, with dryness increasing through December and January and peaking in February. Rainfall in eastern FSM can be as much as 60% below normal from January through April in the year after El Niño.



The risk of tropical cyclone activity in eastern FSM during El Niño years is increased March - July and October - December. More tropical cyclones are born in eastern FSM waters during El Niño years.



DISASTER PROFILE (1999-2025)

The following narratives cover hazard events that had significant local impact in Kosrae since 1999. Some, but not all, events are in the international disaster database (EM-DAT) from the Centre for Research on Epidemiology of Disasters, which classifies disasters as events resulting in 10 or more deaths, affecting 100 or more people, or triggering a declared state of emergency. Hazard events not meeting those criteria may still significantly affect Kosrae's small population and economy.



March 2024: Drier-than-normal weather that started in December 2023 resulted in a drought that was experienced by all four states of FSM. Some 6,000 people were affected nationwide. On 11 March, the President of FSM declared a State of Emergency. The Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS) conducted awareness sessions across FSM; two schools in Kosrae were included in these sessions.



January 2014: Sea levels around Kosrae were about 10 centimeters (4 inches) higher than normal when king tides arrived between December 2013 and February 2014. This higher sea level exacerbated the impacts of the astronomical tides. The highest high-tide levels in early and late January were over 2.3 m (7.5 ft). Minor flooding and damage were reported.



February 2008: Kosrae experienced significant flooding that impacted low-lying land and drove coastal erosion, especially south of Malem. The causes of the flooding were high sea levels due to a combination of high tides, moderately large wave conditions, and strong La Niña conditions that pushed up tide levels and strengthened the northeasterly trade winds between November 2007 and February 2008.



December 1999 and February 2000: Kosrae experienced very high tides in late December 1999. They resulted in flooding along the Tafunsak and Malem coastlines. The inundation event was related to La Niña conditions that exacerbated the typically high spring tide and strong northeast trade winds. Moreover, these conditions coincided with astronomical conditions that magnified the tide height. Around 21 February 2000, high-tide flooding and wave overwash damaged shoreline properties on the northern and eastern coasts of the island.



Very high tides contributed to flooding December 1999 on Lelu Island, located in Kosrae's Lelu Harbor. Source: Kosrae Island Resource Management Authority (KIRMA), <https://kosraecoast.com>

As a single-island state, Kosrae's DM structure is highly centralized at the state level, and it maintains robust coordination between the state and municipal governments. The Kosrae State Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Emergency and Disaster Response defines a clear hierarchy for command, control, and coordination. The Governor is responsible for disaster response direction and control and the State DCO manages operations.

Governor – Holds authority for the direction and control of all Kosrae disaster operations

- May declare public warnings and execute necessary response activities.
- May declare a state of emergency based on prevailing disaster situation and activate the state disaster response plan, allocation of funds, etc.
- May request disaster assistance from the FSM national government (President) when state response capacity is surpassed.

State Disaster Coordinating Officer (DCO) – Primary operational coordinator for all phases of DM and the focal point for all response activities. Responsible for maintaining the State Disaster Response Plan and SOP, coordinating damage assessments, and developing the State Action Plan and Budget. Manages the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). Activates and chairs the State Disaster Coordination Team (SDCT). Provides direct advice and situation reports to the Governor.

Governor's Disaster Committee (GDC) – High-level advisory body chaired by the Governor and composed of the directors of all state departments and heads of key agencies (e.g., Kosrae Utilities Authority, Port Authority). Advises the Governor on declaring emergencies and requesting national aid. Facilitates inter-departmental coordination. Approves the use of departmental assets and personnel for disaster response.

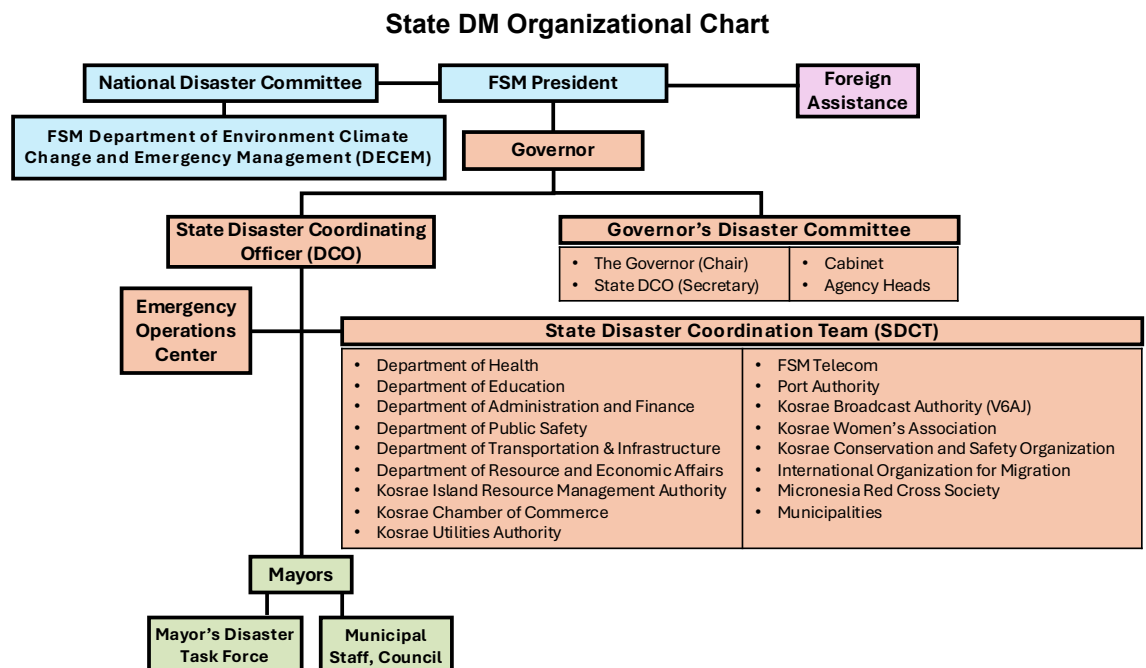
State Disaster Coordination Team (SDCT) – Operational-level team of focal points from all relevant state departments, agencies, and partner organizations. Chaired by the DCO. Responsible for executing the response plan. Staffs the SEOC. Conducts detailed sector-based damage assessments. Identifies needs. Drafts the State Action Plan and Budget for the GDC's review.

Local and Community-Level Response – Kosrae's municipal governments are the nodes that directly integrate local response frameworks with the state system.

- Mayors – Mayors of Kosrae's four municipalities are the lead disaster managers at the community level. They activate community warning systems (e.g., sirens, church bells), oversee orderly evacuations to pre-designated shelters (e.g., schools), and coordinate with the DCO. Mayors conduct the IDA for their municipality within 24 hours of a disaster and deliver it to the SEOC.
- Municipal Representatives – Each Mayor designates a focal point and an alternate to serve on the SDCT and ensure that municipal needs are communicated during state-level planning and that state directives are implemented effectively on the ground.
- Community and Partner Organizations – MRCS volunteers assist with registering evacuees at shelters and conducting damage assessments. The Kosrae Women's Association ensures the specific needs of women and vulnerable groups are addressed in the response. Other organizations also support local disaster response.

Key documents

- Kosrae State Disaster Response Plan (2017)
- Kosrae State SOP for Emergency and Disaster Response (2017)
- Kosrae State Municipal Disaster Preparedness Plan For the Municipality of Malem (2022)



INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS

Kosrae State cannot directly request international assistance. State requests for assistance first escalate to the national government. If FSM's national capacity is insufficient to effectively respond, the FSM President formally requests international assistance and the national government coordinates incoming support. Responders may include:

- The United States and other bilateral partners
- United Nations entities, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- International non-governmental organizations – e.g., the Salvation Army

Compact of Free Association (COFA)

FSM is a sovereign country in free association with the U.S. Key points of the COFA include:

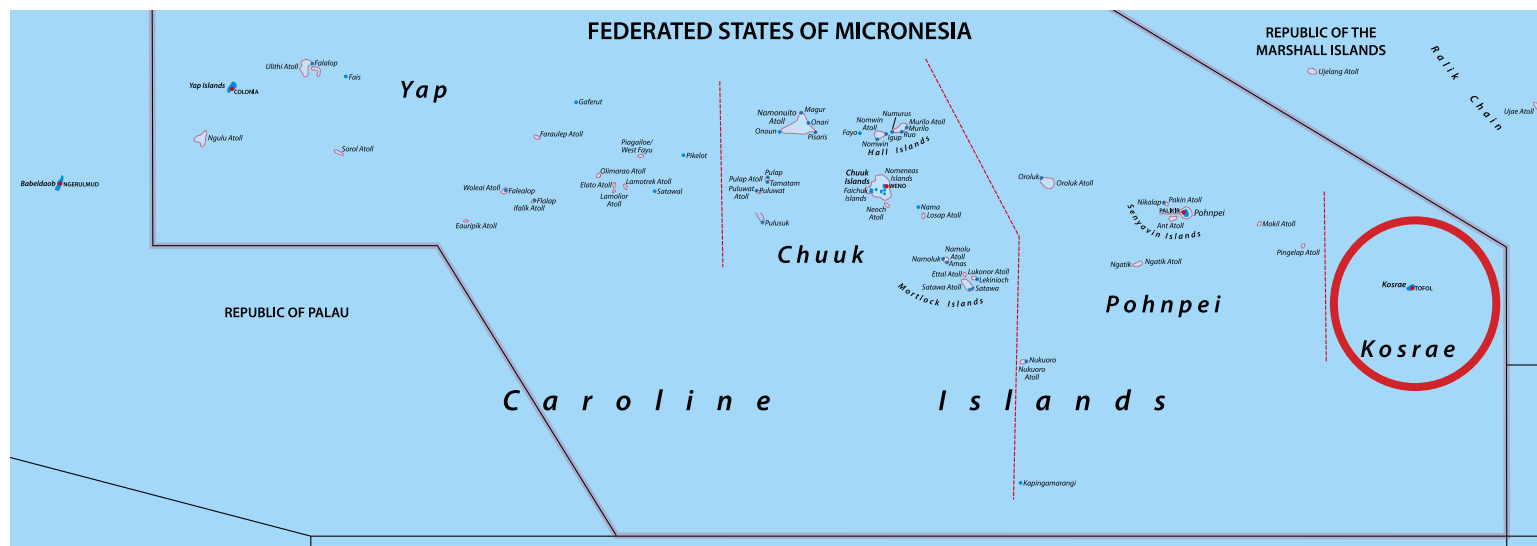
- The U.S. has full authority and responsibility for FSM's defense and security. FSM grants the U.S. military access to its land, waters, and airspace, for strategic security purposes.
- The U.S. provides economic assistance and services.

U.S. ASSISTANCE

Due to Kosrae's remote location and limited logistics capacity, a large-scale disaster may necessitate international assistance, which would include U.S. support in particular. The U.S. Department of State is the lead federal agency for U.S. Government foreign disaster response. The U.S. Chief of Mission in FSM can issue a foreign Declaration of Humanitarian Need, which allows the U.S. to provide initial disaster assistance. U.S. assistance may include Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding, technical assessment teams, humanitarian relief supplies, and air or sea lift support, coordinated through the State Department in consultation with FSM authorities. For major disasters, the FSM President may request a U.S. Compact Disaster Declaration to access additional assistance if:

- Public infrastructure damage exceeds US\$1 million
- At least 100 primary residence sleeping homes have been destroyed
- Impact on human life, health, and safety has reached an acute crisis level, when the costs immediately necessary for life-sustaining needs are estimated to exceed US\$1 million over the Disaster Assistance Emergency Fund (DAEF) and other sources.

The DAEF was jointly established under the COFA. FSM and U.S. governments each contribute US\$200,000 annually. Reserved for disaster situations, the DAEF may be accessed to cover all response costs for a nationally declared state of emergency.



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REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS (RMI)





REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS HAZARDS & DISASTER MANAGEMENT

JUNE 2026



The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) is exposed to a range of natural hazards including coastal erosion, disease outbreaks, drought, flooding, king tides, sea level rise, tropical cyclones, and tsunamis.

Around two-thirds of RMI's 37,000 people reside in two urban centers – Majuro and Ebeye. The rest of the population is spread among the outer islands. This population distribution results in crowded conditions, increased exposure, and limited resources among many living in Majuro and Ebeye, while outer island communities have limited or delayed access to disaster preparedness, response, and relief services and resources.

- **Drought and flooding** have been the most destructive hazard events over the past 25 years. Drought sometimes affects all atolls and islands. Flooding caused by storm surge, king tides, and wind-driven waves has damaged houses, roads, and other infrastructure.
- **National agencies** lead the disaster management (DM) structure and operate the strategic and operational levels of disaster preparedness and response; plans take a community-centered approach.
- **Resources are limited.** RMI relies on international partners, particularly the United States (U.S.), with which it entered into a Compact of Free Association (COFA) in 1986, with a new agreement finalized in 2024.
- **Under the COFA**, the U.S. is responsible for the defense and external security of RMI and provides economic assistance. RMI provides exclusive access to its land and waterways, including hosting the U.S. Army Garrison - Kwajalein Atoll Reagan Missile Test Site.

Facts about RMI

RMI is an archipelago nation in the western Pacific Ocean



Capital: Majuro



Total Population: 36,914 (2026 est.)



Total Land Area: 181 square kilometers (70 square miles) of land on 29 atolls, 5 islands, and over 1,200 islets spread over more than 2 million square kilometers (770,000 square miles) of ocean



Government: Executive, Legislative (Nitijela), and Judicial



Traditional Government: Council of Irooj, a consultative upper house for traditional leaders; comprises 12 tribal chiefs; advises the Nitijela



Languages: Marshallese and English



Major Airports/Airfields:

- **Amata Kabua International Airport (Majuro)**
Runway: 2,412 x 46 meters (7,913 x 150 feet)
- **Bucholz U.S. Army Airfield (Ebeye)**
Runway: 2,200 x 60 meters (7,218 x 197 feet)

Additional airfields listed on map below



Atoll/Island Populations (2021 census)

Ailinglaplap – 1,175	Likiep – 228
Ailuk – 235	Majuro – 23,156
Arno – 1,141	Maloelap – 395
Aur – 317	Mejit – 230
Ebon – 469	Mili – 497
Enewetak – 296	Namdrik – 299
Jabat – 75	Namu – 525
Jaluit – 1,409	Ujae – 310
Kili – 415	Utirik – 264
Kwajalein – 9,789	Wotho – 88
Lae – 133	Wotje – 816
Lib – 156	

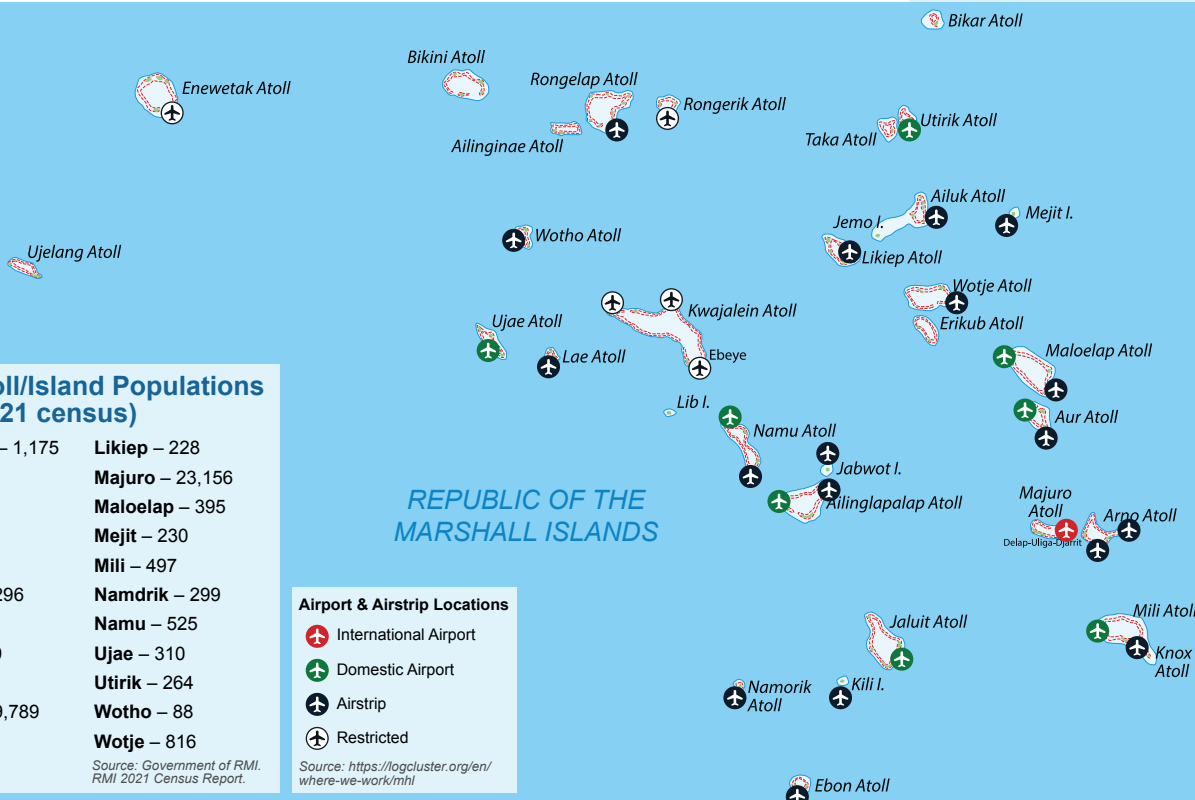
Source: Government of RMI.
RMI 2021 Census Report.

Airport & Airstrip Locations

- ✈ International Airport
- ✈ Domestic Airport
- ✈ Airstrip
- ✈ Restricted

Source: <https://logcluster.org/en/where-we-work/rmi/>

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS



HAZARDS

RMI's location and low-lying geography expose the country to multiple hazards. The most impactful in recent years have been disease outbreaks, drought, flooding, and storms.



Coastal Erosion

- Caused by king tides, sea level rise, tropical cyclones, and tsunamis
- Ongoing risk to infrastructure as many buildings are close to the shoreline



Disease Outbreaks

- History of chikungunya, dengue, hepatitis A, and zika outbreaks
- May overwhelm RMI's healthcare system
- Outer-island communities at greater risk due to limited resources



Drought

- Tends to coincide with El Niño events
- Dry season runs from January to March, sometimes extending into April during severe droughts
- Causes drinking water shortages and food insecurity
- Especially impactful for the outer islands
- RMI dependent on rainwater; freshwater sources are vulnerable to saltwater contamination



Flooding

- Caused by extreme rainfall, wind-driven waves, extreme tides, and storm surge
- Impacts infrastructure, including houses and roads



King Tides

- Can result in economic loss and infrastructure damage
- Exacerbated by other events, such as storms, which can drive further inundation



Sea Level Rise

- Average elevation nationally is only 2 meters (6.6 feet) above sea level
- Increases the risk of erosion, saltwater contamination of groundwater, and flooding caused by storms, tides, or tsunamis



Tropical Cyclones

- Direct impacts are uncommon, but associated rain, waves, and wind are possible
- Height of cyclone season is September-November
- Extra-tropical storms forming north of the islands drive wave inundation



Tsunami

- Earthquakes in the region may drive tsunamis
- Potential to wash over the islands
- Tsunamis in the 1950s and 1960s resulted in inundation depths of 3-4 meters (10 - 13 feet)



DISASTER PROFILE

A survey of disasters during the period 2000-2026 can reveal RMI's response capacity and indicate required preparedness, recovery, and response support.



January 2024: Storm surge

- On 20 January 2024, a storm in the northern Pacific drove surges that damaged infrastructure and agriculture
- Roi Namur Islet in Kwajalein Atoll was the worst affected; Arno Atoll and the runway in Ailinglaplap were also affected



2023-2024: Drought

- Beginning in November 2023, RMI experienced little to no rainfall
- In February 2024, communities turned to marginal groundwater sources, which were later contaminated by the January 2024 storm surge
- By March, severe drought conditions affected over 5,200 people



2021-2022: Drought

- Abnormal dryness began in the northern islands in late December 2021
- By June 2022, more than 9,000 people were affected as extreme drought persisted in Wotje and nearby atolls



May 2020: Dengue outbreak

- From July 2019 to May 2020, more than 3,388 cases of dengue-like illness were reported, and there were at least 2 deaths



2016-2017: Hepatitis A outbreak

- Almost 200 people, mostly children, were affected
- An immunization campaign helped curtail the outbreak



2015-2016: Drought

- The entire population was affected when a severe El Niño event led to below-average rainfall
- For 2016 alone, estimated losses were US\$4.9 million, equivalent to 3.4% of GDP
- Damage to key crops drove food insecurity



March 2014: King tides

- A State of Emergency was declared; nearly 1,000 people were displaced
- Damage was reported to 70 houses, roads, fruit trees, and water and sanitation facilities
- Majuro and the outer islands of Arno, Mili, Maloelap, Kili, and Wotje were affected



December 2008: Storm surge

- Majuro and some of the outer islands flooded
- At least 20 homes in Majuro were damaged
- Houses and crops on the outer islands were damaged or destroyed



2000: Cholera outbreak

- A cholera outbreak on Ebeye saw 400 cases of the disease and at least 6 deaths

DM INSTITUTIONS AND DISASTER RESPONSE

The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) is the operational coordinator of disaster response planning and execution. The National Disaster Council provides overall strategic guidance to DM policy and planning.

National Disaster Council — Leads DM at the strategic level; oversees and provides direction for response and recovery

- Comprises representatives from government departments, civil society, and the private sector
- Oversees and provides direction to the National Emergency Operations Committee, Recovery Coordination Committee, and Disaster Resilience Committee
- Advises the Cabinet on DM matters
- Reviews national disaster plans and recommends Cabinet approval
- Liaises with international partners to facilitate coordination of support for DM

National Emergency Operations Committee — Manages operational activities; coordinates and oversees disaster response operations; ensures disaster preparedness is undertaken

Recovery Coordination Committee — Coordinates recovery planning through agency and local plans

Disaster Resilience Committee — Directs and promotes resilience planning

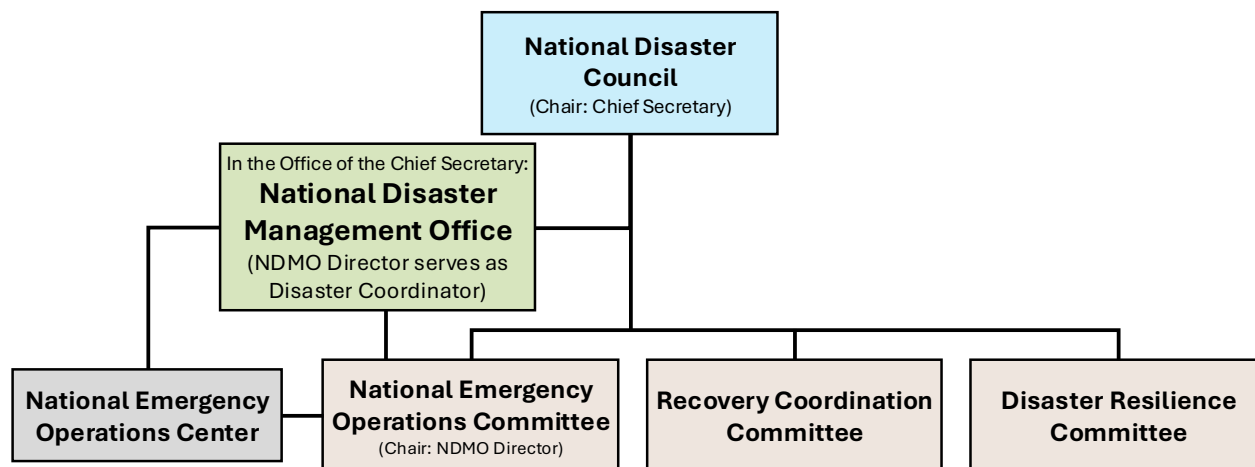
National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) — Provides operational-level oversight; operates from the National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) in Majuro

- Administrative secretariat to the National Disaster Council
- Establishes and maintains the NEOC and directs operations
- Establishes response units for assessment and provides initial response
- Coordinates response to assist the National Emergency Operations Committee in implementing the National Emergency Response Plan
- Prepares standard operating procedures and national plans and assists government entities to prepare their plans

Key Documents

Disaster Risk Management Act (2023) — Provides the legal framework for the DM system

National Disaster Risk Management Arrangements (2017) — Provides structure to enable the continuous identification, monitoring, and assessment of current and possible future hazards and vulnerabilities



NATIONAL CLUSTERS AND LEAD AGENCIES

Responsible for coordinating and planning the disaster response of their functional sector through cluster members

- EDUCATION** — Ministry of Education, Sports and Training
- AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY** — Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce, Division of Agriculture and Forestry
- GENDER AND PROTECTION** — Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs, Gender and Early Childhood
- HEALTH** — Ministry of Health and Human Services
- WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE** — Majuro Water and Sewer Company & Environment Protection Authority
- INFRASTRUCTURE** — Ministry of Works, Infrastructure and Utilities & National Telecommunications Authority
- SHELTER** — Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs & Ministry of Education, Sports and Training
- LOGISTICS** — Ministry of Finance, Banking and Postal Services & Ministry of Transportation, Communication and IT

RMI may request or accept international assistance if national capacity is insufficient to effectively respond and deliver relief to communities. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade usually makes a request for international assistance, which typically initiates the appeal process by convening a meeting of diplomatic missions based in RMI. The President, as head of state, may also make an appeal to any foreign government directly.

International Partners

- United Nations (UN) entities – The agencies likely to be involved in a disaster response are the International Organization for Migration (IOM), UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (UN OCHA), and World Health Organization (WHO). Disaster risk reduction activities are supported by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).
- Regional Organizations - Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), Pacific Islands Emergency Management Alliance (PIEMA), Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT)
- International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- Multilateral financial institutions – Asian Development Bank, World Bank
- Key bilateral partners – Australia, Germany, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Taiwan, U.S.

COFA – Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

The COFA establishes that the U.S. shall provide disaster preparedness, relief, and recovery assistance to RMI. Beginning in fiscal year 2025, both governments each make an annual contribution of US\$500,000 into the Disaster Assistance Emergency Fund.

Initial Disaster Relief and Recovery – The U.S. may provide initial disaster relief and recovery assistance to RMI under Article X, “United States Disaster Preparedness, Relief, and Recovery Services and Related Programs,” of the COFA upon a “Declaration of Humanitarian Need” by the U.S. Chief of Mission.

Compact Disaster Declaration — If the President of RMI determines that the disaster event requires a greater response from the U.S., a request may be submitted to the U.S. Chief of Mission for the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency to issue a “Compact Disaster Declaration,” which can be issued when certain criteria have been met. Following a Declaration, the U.S., in consultation with RMI, prepares a “Relief and Recovery Assistance Plan.”

Disaster Preparedness – The U.S. may also make available mitigation and disaster risk management programs to RMI to prepare for and lessen the effects of disasters.

Under the COFA, in addition to providing for the defense of RMI, U.S. assistance supports health, infrastructure, and disaster preparedness.

The Majuro Weather Service Office (WSO) falls under the National Weather Service (NWS) of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which provides services in accordance with the COFA. The WSO is supported by the NWS' Weather Forecast Office Guam. The NWS' Pacific Tsunami Warning Center and International Tsunami Information Center provide tsunami information and warnings.

The U.S. military provided disaster response support to RMI following the storm surge event in January 2024. U.S. agencies also supported response efforts during the 2021-2022 drought.

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REPUBLIC OF PALAU



Palau is exposed to drought, flooding, and tropical cyclones. More than 90% of its people live in coastal areas where high winds, heavy rains, and storm surges are prevalent hazards. The national disaster management (DM) structure is led by the central government, and the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) is responsible for coordinating all DM activity across preparedness, response, and recovery. State and local authorities are first responders and can seek support – resources, coordination, etc. – from NEMO. Nationally, human and financial resources for preparedness and response are limited, and major losses – storm damage to infrastructure or drought-induced crop loss – require the country to seek and then manage flows of international aid funding and relief supplies.

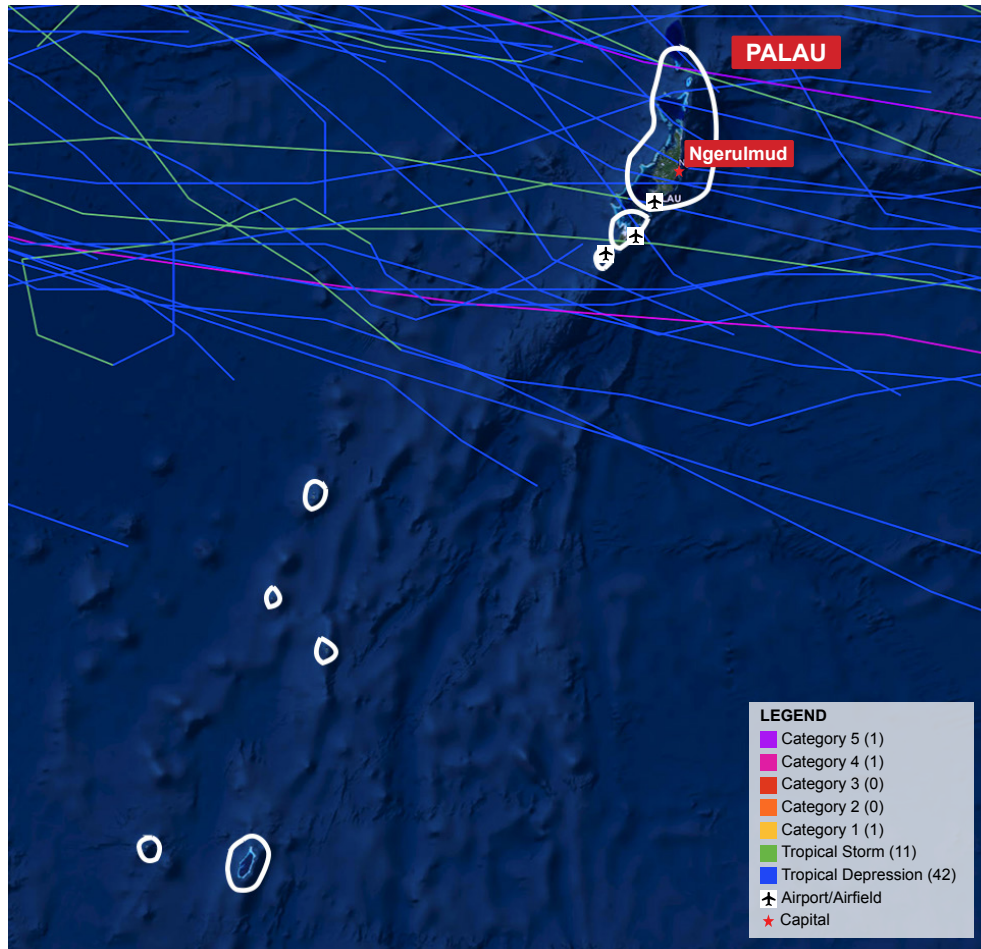


Figure 1: Tropical Cyclone Tracks in/around Palau (2000-2025); Source: NOAA

- Typhoons - the larger categories of tropical cyclones - have been the most destructive hazard events so far this century; all islands and communities are exposed to high winds, heavy rains, and storm surges.
- National agencies lead DM but rely on states, communities, and civil society to participate in hazard identification, risk mitigation, and immediate response.
- Remote islands and communities can be cut off from disaster relief; sea-based evacuations or delivery of relief supplies is the norm.
- Resource constraints mean Palau relies heavily on regional and international partners, including the U.S.

Facts about Palau

The Republic of Palau is an archipelago in the western Pacific Ocean.



Capital: Ngerulmud



Total Population: 17,600 (2020* census)

*2020 was the last national census conducted in Palau



Total Land Area: 488 square kilometers (188 square miles); 340 islands



Government: National: 3 branches – executive, legislative, judicial; Local: 16 states – executive (governor) and legislative branches



Traditional Government: Council of Chiefs, comprising the highest chief from each state, advises the national executive (President)



Languages: Palauan and English



Airports/Airfields:

- Roman Tmetuchi International Airport
Runway 05/27: 2,194 x 45 meters (7,198 x 147 feet)
- Peleliu Airfield
Runway 04/22: 1,829 x 12 meters (6,000 x 40 feet)
- Angaur Airfield
Runway 05/23: 2,134 x 46 meters (7,000 x 150 feet)



POPULATION COUNT

Kayangel - 41

Babeldaob - 5,497

Koror - 11,400

Peleliu - 470

Angaur - 114

Sonsorol - 53

Hatohobei - 39

Palau commonly experiences tropical storms, but it is also exposed to coastal flooding and erosion, disease outbreaks, and drought. Anthropogenic hazards remain a concern.



Tropical Storms / Typhoons

- **Exposure:** Palau lies just south of the Pacific Ocean's main typhoon belt but experiences regular brushes by major storms
- **Vulnerability:** Coastal structures, infrastructure, and agricultural land have no protection from storm surge and saltwater intrusion
- **Impacts:** Loss of property and livelihoods; disruptions to transport, communications, health, and education systems



Coastal Flooding

- **Exposure:** Coastal lowlands commonly experience storm surges and high tides
- **Vulnerability:** 93% of homes, infrastructure, and agricultural land are in coastal areas with no ability to move inland due to inhospitable highlands
- **Impacts:** Frequent damage to homes and crops erodes coping capacity; saltwater intrusion and coastal erosion reduce available habitable and arable land and lead to food insecurity



Disease Outbreaks

- **Exposure:** Viral (e.g., hand, foot, and mouth) and vector-borne (e.g., dengue) diseases thrive in Palau's tropical climate and dense, coastal communities
- **Vulnerability:** Elders and children are physiologically more vulnerable, but anyone without access to clean water and hygiene facilities is at increased risk of infection
- **Impacts:** Loss of lives or productivity due to illness; strains on the limited health system



Drought

- **Exposure:** Rainfall varies widely year-on-year; January-March is the dry season
- **Vulnerability:** Remote communities at risk due to reliance on rain catchment for fresh water amid rising demand for water
- **Impacts:** Health effects of food and water shortages reduce labor productivity and disrupt public services; livelihoods disruption or destruction increases out-migration



Technical / Anthropogenic Hazards

- **Exposure:** Oil or hazardous materials may leak or spill from ships and air traffic; technical or human fault may contaminate water; built-up areas prone to structural collapses and fires
- **Vulnerability:** Effects of accidents, pollution, or fires affect a high proportion of people and assets, as they concentrate in densely populated areas of Koror
- **Impacts:** Health impacts of water contamination or shortage; ecosystem damage; loss of livelihoods



An examination of the major disasters that have struck Palau in the past 15 years offers some idea of the country's coping capacity and potential future needs.



December 2012: Typhoon Bopha, a Category 5 storm, passed south of Angaur

- Winds reached 250 kilometers per hour (155 miles per hour), and storm surge affected all islands, especially the east coasts of Babeldaob, Peleliu, and Angaur
- Some 1,250 people were directly affected
- More than 100 houses were destroyed and another 136 were damaged
- Crops were damaged and electricity, water, and communications were disrupted
- Government and Palau Red Cross operated 45 shelters, and responders distributed food, water, and supplies
- Total: US\$15-20 million in damage



November 2013: Typhoon Haiyan, a Category 5 storm, passed directly over Kayangel state

- Heavy rain, high winds, and storm surge caused US\$9.7 million in damage
- On Kayangel, 22 homes, most crops, and all infrastructure were destroyed; all residents (approximately 80 people) were displaced to Koror
- Across Babeldaob, nearly 400 homes and education, utilities, health, and agricultural facilities were damaged
- Government and Palau Red Cross activated emergency operations centers, and a State of Emergency was declared
- Responders delivered food and relief supplies



2015-2016: Drought affected some 14,200 people

- Koror recorded the lowest rainfall totals in 65 years, and its only dammed reservoir dried up
- Water shortages, poor sanitation, wildfire outbreaks, and crop failures impacted 80% of the population
- Total: US\$3.2 million in damage



2018-2019: A dengue outbreak ran from December 2018 through September 2019

- 600 cases were confirmed in Babeldaob and Peleliu
- Two deaths were attributed to the disease
- Ministry of Health led emergency public health information, surveillance, and vector control activities



April 2021: Typhoon Surigae passed to the country's north

- Heavy rain, sustained winds up to 136 kilometers per hour (85 miles per hour), and storm surges topping 23 meters (75 feet) caused US\$4.8 million in damage
- Some 300 people evacuated to 20 shelters
- Government and Palau Red Cross opened their operations centers
- The Red Cross Disaster Action Teams (RDAT) mobilized to identify households most at-risk and to help them evacuate
- Across Babeldaob and Peleliu, 7,300 people were affected, and 1,500 houses as well as water and power infrastructure were damaged

The DM system is centered on NEMO as the coordinator of response planning and execution. The response model is an incident command system with emergency functions assigned to offices and agencies per their areas of expertise. NEMO undertakes coordination of preparedness activities to ensure that all government departments and agencies, non-government organizations, churches, businesses, community groups, and regional partners know their roles during an emergency.

Disaster Executive Council (DEC) – chaired by the President; comprises all cabinet ministers; provides strategic oversight and guidance during a response; requests international assistance

National Emergency Committee (NEC) – implements National Disaster Risk Management Framework (NDRMF); oversees management and coordination; operates the National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC); issues early warnings; determines priority of communities to receive relief; coordinates external assistance; comprises:

- **National Emergency Management Office (NEMO)** – DEC and NEC Secretariat; houses the NEOC; coordinates and implements preparedness, response, and relief
- **Central Control Group (CCG)** – selected as needed by NEMO Coordinator; activates department and agency plans; liaises with all stakeholders; activates assessment system; deploys technical teams; coordinates media releases; identifies and coordinates international relief
- **National Disaster Coordinator (NDC)** – NEMO Coordinator; assumes control and coordination responsibilities during any declared national disaster; selects membership of the CCG to meet the needs of the scope, scale, and type of emergency

Incident Command Post (ICP) – on-site office for managing emergency response operations

Palau Red Cross Society – represented on the NEC; RDATs present in all 16 states; operates a separate emergency operations center for Red Cross work; coordinates with NEMO / NEOC during response operations; supporting agency for relief management and damage assessments, health and sanitation, communications, and shelter management

Civil Society – key local actors and donors – e.g., Belau Association of Non-governmental Organizations (BANGO), Rotary Club

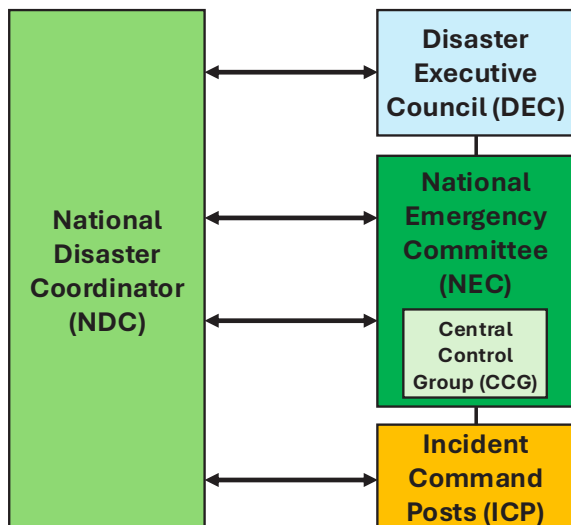


Figure 2: Structure for DM

National Disaster Risk Management Framework

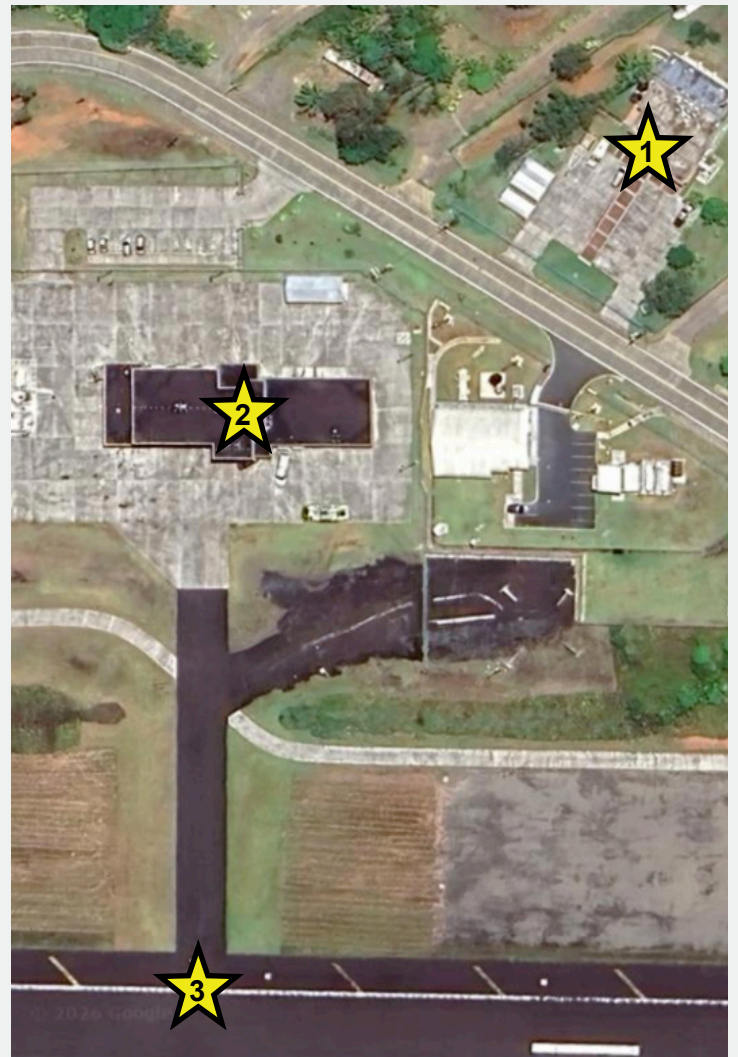
The NDRMF (2010, amended 2016) outlines institutional arrangements for coordination across preparedness, response, and recovery. It describes the DM system, integrates standard operating procedures for the NEOC, and provides DM arrangements down to the state level.

NEOC - as illustrated in the map below

Primary: NEMO Headquarters (1)

Secondary: Fire Operations Center (2)

- Located near Roman Tmetuchi International Airport (3)
- Standard Operating Procedures and National Incident Command System support state-level ICPs
- Staffed from within NEMO and the CCG



Original imagery: Google Earth

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE REQUESTS

If a disaster response requires resources beyond those available domestically, the country may request international assistance. The NEC advises the DEC if international support is required, and the DEC approves an appeal. The President or designated cabinet official addresses the appeal for assistance to in-country embassies and diplomatic missions or directly to foreign governments. International responders are expected to abide by the structures and systems laid out in the NDRMF.

International Partners

- United Nations (UN) entities – Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), International Organization for Migration (IOM), UN Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO)
- Regional organizations – Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
- International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
- Technical agencies for early warning – Japan Meteorological Agency, Joint Typhoon Warning Center, Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, U.S. National Weather Service (Guam Weather Forecasting Office and Palau Weather Service Office)
- Key bilateral partners – Australia, Japan, Taiwan, U.S.

U.S. ASSISTANCE

Under the Compact of Free Association (COFA) between Palau and the U.S., Palau relies on the U.S. for military assets and personnel, and the U.S. has authority and responsibility for security and defense matters in or relating to Palau.

Since the COFA came into effect in the 1990s, U.S. military forces have continued to operate in and around Palau, including for non-traditional security activities – e.g., disaster management. Civil Action Teams from the U.S. armed services participate in preparedness and response actions related to logistics – planning, infrastructure, and services – and are present for public health outreach. In the wake of disasters, U.S. uniformed services, often under US PACOM, may be tasked to support the civilian response. In 2021, after Typhoon Surigae struck Palau, the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam delivered supplies to Kayangel.

Under the 2024 Federal Programs and Services Agreement between the U.S. and Palau, the U.S. National Weather Service (NWS) provides meteorological services, weather forecasting, and severe weather warnings to Palau. The NWS' Weather Forecast Office Guam supports the Palau Weather Service Office in Koror. Moreover, the NWS' Pacific Region administers the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center, which provides tsunami alerts and information to Palau.



Typhoon Surigae Response (2021)

The NEC coordinated public warnings and information, and it provided the central structure to support states. Because telephone communications were disrupted, NEMO and the NEOC had to shift from their primary location to two locations – the President's office and the Weather Services Office. The Palau Red Cross emergency operations center became a key communications hub, and radios and runners linked response coordination offices.

NEMO was joined by IOM to source and deliver essential household items, and gaps in supplies were filled by Palau Red Cross, with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and Australian government. Airlift assistance came from the World Food Programme's Pacific Humanitarian Air Service. The U.S. government delivered financial assistance and airlifted shelter materials and other supplies to the country for onward distribution by IOM. The Japanese government also provided relief supplies through its international cooperation agency.

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