FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

Disaster Management Reference Handbook

June 2026



CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT & HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
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Front Cover

A view in Kolonia, Pohnpei, FSM. Courtesy of Taryn Ino, CFE-DM.

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Table of Contents

Acknowledgements **2**

Letter from the Director **6**

About the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management & Humanitarian Assistance **7**

Executive Summary **8**

Country Overview **9**

Geography and Environment 9

Society and Demographics 10

Government 14

Economic Profile 15

Disaster Profile **16**

Hazards 16

Disasters by Numbers 18

Recent Disasters 20

Disaster Management Policy, Planning, and Response **22**

National Disaster Management System 22

Subnational and Local Implementation 26

Civil-Military Coordination in Disaster Response 31

International / Regional Organizations 32

Other Disaster Management Partners 35

Critical Infrastructure for Disaster Management **36**

Transportation 36

Airports 37

Seaports 37

Roads 39

Communications 40

Early Warning Systems and Information Sharing 40

Telecommunications Infrastructure 43

Mass and Social Media 43

Utilities 44

Power 44

Water and Sanitation 45

Health Systems 46

Shelter and Housing 48

Food Security 49

Conclusion **52**

Appendices 53
Risk Indices 53
INFORM Risk Profile 53
U.S. Government Disaster Management Engagement 54
U.S. Country Team 54
Responses in the Past 10 Years (2016-2026) 55
DoW DM Engagements 56
Additional Resources 59
Acronyms and Abbreviations 61
Endnotes 64

Figures

Figure 1: Map of Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) 9
Figure 2: Tropical Cyclone Tracks in/around FSM (2000-2025) 19
Figure 3: Typhoon Sinlaku's Track in/around Chuuk 20
Figure 4: National Disaster Management Structure 23
Figure 5: National Coordination Structure 24
Figure 6: Disaster Flow Chart 27
Figure 7: INFORM Risk Dashboard, Micronesia (Federated States of, 2026) 54

Photos

Photo 1: U.S. Navy Supports Chuuk State Typhoon Recovery (2019) 21
Photo 2: U.S. Marines Help Renovate Pohnpei Library (2025) 57
Photo 3: Seabees Begin Work on Yap High School (2025) 58

Tables

Table 1: Airport Specifications 38

Letter from the Director

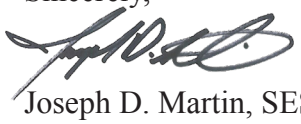
The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) is a key partner of the United States (U.S.), yet the country's people and economy face serious risks from natural hazard events that threaten lives, livelihoods, and the environment. A single major disaster could cause damage significant enough to undermine FSM's ability to contribute to regional and global human security.

A recent cyclone highlights the risk FSM faces and points to ways the U.S. can help its partner enhance capacity and build resilience. When Typhoon Sinlaku rapidly strengthened in April 2026, it battered Chuuk State and destroyed homes, water systems, schools, and crops. In response, the state, country, and U.S. mobilized human, financial, and material resources to support affected communities. As the potential for severe storms increases, so does the probability that large swaths of FSM's people and economy will be impacted. The country could more frequently require supplementary resources to deliver relief to remote communities across its widely dispersed islands.

It is in the interest of the U.S. to ensure that its partners and allies in the region have the information, skills, and resources necessary to respond to disaster events. For decades, U.S. military and Coast Guard personnel have conducted disaster management training, workshops, and exercises alongside FSM agencies and communities through Pacific Partnership and Koa Moana. The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) continues to support the U.S. partnership with FSM through frequent projects alongside other U.S. military units, FSM's Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management (DECEM), and state emergency managers, as well as community-level responders.

This FSM Disaster Management Reference Handbook delivers baseline information on the country's hazards and disaster management institutions, as well as critical infrastructure for building resilience. It is intended for personnel planning work alongside FSM's national or state responders.

Sincerely,



Joseph D. Martin, SES
Director

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. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) 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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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) faces a 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. The risk these hazards pose is compounded by the country's geographic dispersion, limited infrastructure, and constrained logistics capacity. Disaster impacts are often uneven; they affect outer islands differently than more densely populated main islands. Hazard events of even moderate scale can result in significant disruption to livelihoods, infrastructure, and essential services, particularly in remote communities.

Disaster management (DM) in FSM is locally executed and nationally coordinated. The governments of the four states of FSM – from west to east, Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae – are the primary responders and retain authority over disaster operations within their jurisdictions. The national government, through the Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management (DECEM), provides coordination, information management, and access to international assistance. External actors must work through these established coordination channels.

Disaster impacts in FSM typically follow a recognizable pattern. Tropical cyclones and storm events frequently damage housing, schools, and health facilities, disrupt power and communications, and lead to limited access to clean water. Drought events can lead to water scarcity, crop loss, and food insecurity, particularly on outer islands with limited freshwater storage. Across all hazard types, the most consistent impacts are transport and supply chain disruptions, which affect the delivery of relief supplies and prolong the time needed to recover. Given the country's dependence on imported goods, including food and fuel, disruptions to shipping and aviation can quickly escalate into broader humanitarian emergencies.

Communities in FSM exhibit both resilience and vulnerability. Traditional social systems, subsistence agriculture, and community networks provide important coping mechanisms, especially in rural areas. However, increasing reliance on imported food, population concentration in urban centers, and declining adherence to traditional practices have introduced new vulnerabilities. Outer-island communities are at particularly high risk due to their limited infrastructure and dependence on infrequent transport links.

External support plays a critical role in DM. FSM's limited domestic capacity can necessitate assistance from international and regional partners, including United Nations (UN) entities, non-governmental organizations (NGO), and bilateral partners. The United States (U.S.) is the most significant external partner, providing financial assistance, logistics, and surge capabilities, in addition to supplementary support through the bilateral Compact of Free Association (COFA). Regional mechanisms and humanitarian partners contribute additional support in areas such as coordination, public health, food security, and recovery. However, all external assistance is integrated into FSM's national coordination framework and must align with state-identified needs.

Overall, effective disaster response in FSM depends on coordination, adaptability, and respect for local systems. Responders must be prepared to operate in a logistically constrained environment where success is determined as much by relationships and communication as by resources. This Disaster Management Reference Handbook provides a comprehensive overview of FSM's disaster risk environment, institutional structures, and operational practices. It emphasizes the importance of understanding the country's state-led response structure, national coordination mechanisms, and reliance on external support, all of which shape how disaster operations are conducted in practice.

COUNTRY OVERVIEW

FSM is a country in the western Pacific. It comprises four states – Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae – and is made up of hundreds of small islands in a massive expanse of ocean. The small population is scattered across 65 inhabited islands, and larger communities are only found on the main island of each state. The economy is small and dominated by the public sector, based on funding through grants, most of which are linked to the COFA between FSM and the U.S. Other economic activity is mostly subsistence farming and fishing. Reliance on subsistence production and large-scale food imports exposes Micronesians to the impacts of droughts, storms, or global shocks that disrupt trade. The small scale of economic production, a lack of opportunity for work or education, and freedom to move to the U.S. for work or education mean that FSM continues to experience high out-migration.

Geography and Environment

Made up of small islands in a vast sea, FSM's land has a volcanic history but is more geologically stable in the present day. Although the islands receive significant rainfall, they do experience long dry seasons and may experience drought due to high rates of runoff and minimal fresh groundwater. Storms are common. While the most powerful cyclones tend to pass to the west and northwest of FSM, they do threaten the westernmost states, Chuuk and Yap.

Located in the western Pacific Ocean just north of the Equator, the more than 600 islands and islets of FSM lie east of Palau, west of the Republic of Marshall Islands, south of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands, and north of Papua New Guinea. The country stretches more than 2,800 kilometers (km; 1,739 miles [mi]) from west to east. Figure 1 shows a map of the disposition of the islands within FSM.[1]

The combined land area of all the islands of FSM is 702 km^2 (271 mi^2), within an Exclusive Economic Zone covering 2,978,000 km^2 (1,149,812 mi^2) of ocean.[2]

Some characteristics of each state:

- Yap – 118 km^2 (45.6 mi^2) of land on 4 large islands, 7 small islands, and 134 atolls; main lagoon covers 1,049 km^2 (405 mi^2)
- Chuuk – 127 km^2 (49.2 mi^2) of land on 7 major island groups; main atoll = 98 islands around a lagoon of 2,072 km^2 (800 mi^2)
- Pohnpei – 342.4 km^2 (132 mi^2) of land on 1 large island and 6 atolls
- Kosrae – 1 island with 111.9 km^2 (43 mi^2) of land[3]

There are a variety of geographic forms. Some islands have high mountains and steep relief, while others are low-lying coral atolls. Yap island proper sits at the top of geologic crustal folds, and it shares geological characteristics of continental formations. The other islands across Yap State are remnants of

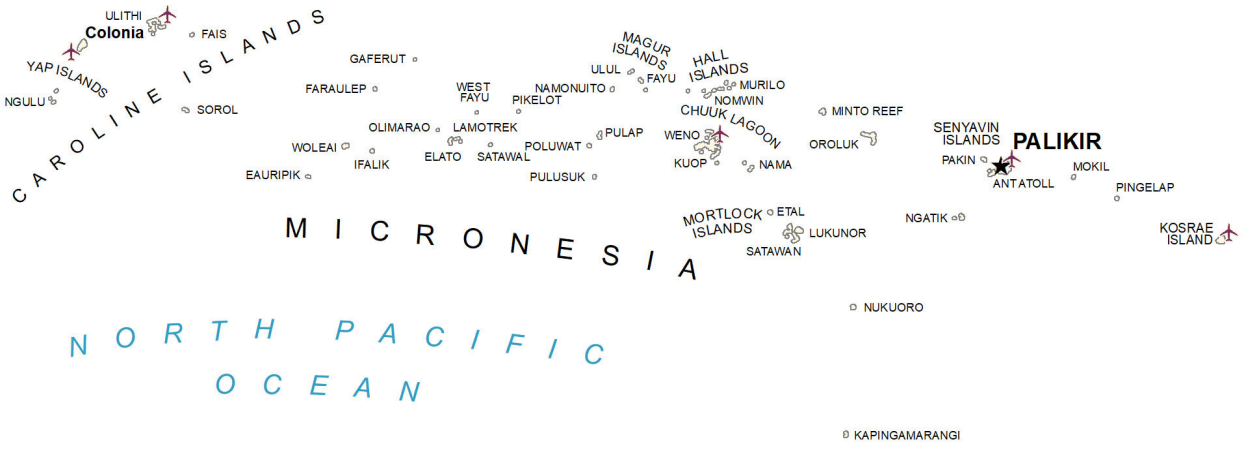


Figure 1: Map of Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)

eroded volcanoes that are partly submerged, and they are surrounded by reefs and lagoons. Within Chuuk State, some islands in the lagoon rise to 442 meters (m; 1,450 feet [ft]), while many coral islands rise no higher than 1 m (3.2 ft) above sea level. Pohnpei proper is a high, volcanic island reaching up to 798 m (2,618 ft) in elevation. Kosrae is a single island with fringing coral reefs.

The volcanic origin of the islands is long in the past. There are some tectonic plate boundaries where subduction zones cut through the seabed within and around the country.[4] Therefore, there is a lingering potential for seismic activity.

The climate of FSM is tropical. There is little variation in temperature throughout the year, but there are two distinct seasons – rainy and dry. The mean annual temperature is about 27°C (80°F), with highs around 30°C (upper 80s°F) and lows around 25°C (upper 70s°F).[5]

Rainfall is the primary source of freshwater, and rainfall patterns are strongly linked to regional monsoons and the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO). In FSM, ENSO's El Niño phases commonly start with heavier-than-normal – often severe – rainfall events followed by months of drought. In an El Niño year, rainfall will start declining as early as August in Yap and Chuuk or October in Pohnpei and Kosrae, and dry conditions will extend into the first half of the next year, with severe drought impacts extending into June.[6] ENSO's La Niña phases tend to bring heavier-than-normal rainfall and storm surges to the country.[7]

Total national average annual rainfall is 3,000 millimeters (mm; 120 inches [in]), but, in the past, Pohnpei alone has received some 5,000 mm (200 in) of rainfall in a year.[8] The dry and wet seasons differ among the states. Kosrae and Pohnpei are driest in January and February, while April and May are the wettest months. Chuuk and Yap are driest between January and April.[9] The national typhoon season runs from May to November and peaks from mid-August to mid-September.[10] Storms spawn east of or in the eastern states of FSM before tracking northwestward. Chuuk and Yap States commonly see the effects of these storms, even if they rarely sustain a direct hit.[11]

Society and Demographics

Of the hundreds of islands in the country, some 65 are inhabited.[12] As of the 2023 census, the total population stood at 75,817.[13]

Due to the geography of the islands, most of the population lives near coastlines, and exposure to wind, flooding, storm surge, and even tsunamis is high. People and the built environment, including homes, are vulnerable to impacts.

The population clusters on the main island of each state, and several demographic and livelihoods trends are evident:

- Working-aged people migrate to the main islands or overseas for work
- Elders – especially women – and young children are commonly left behind on home islands
- Residents of smaller atolls generally rely on subsistence farming
- Residents of outer islands have little access to education and health care, may experience higher rates of dependency and age-related disability, and have minimal ability to build resilience to disasters

The ability of people – especially vulnerable groups – to access hazard information or early warning is lessened not only by a lack of connected infrastructure on outer islands but also due to linguistic diversity and low technological literacy. Agencies charged with delivering hazard information or early warning must work closely with target audiences to ensure not only technical delivery but also comprehension and ability to act on information.

A combination of emigration and low fertility rates has translated into a shrinking national population. In 2023, the population had fallen by about 25% from the 2010 census, and the statistics office reported an average annual rate of decline of 2.4% during the interim period. The departure of many working-age people means that the country's population is very young. Some 42,000 people are below the age

of 30 years; nearly half of those people are below the age of 15 years.[14] The total fertility rate – number of children the average women will bear in her lifetime – stood at 2.748 in 2023 after steadily falling from a high of 6.971 in 1973.[15]

An estimated 34,000 people (45% of the population) live in Chuuk State. Pohnpei is home to more than 26,000 people (34%), Yap to 10,700 people (14%) and Kosrae to 5,000 people (7%).[16]

In 2025, the government estimated that less than one-quarter of the population lives in an urban area.[17] Urban areas – indeed, nearly all settlement clusters – are at or near the coast,[18] often at the base of a slope and near freshwater. The statistics office notes that some 60% of the entire population lives within 180 m (600 ft) of a coast; for Yap State, that number is 70%, 68% for Pohnpei, and 80% for Kosrae. While this location allows people to access fisheries, arable land, and transport and utilities networks, it is also the area most exposed to storm surges, king tides, cyclonic storm winds, landslides, and flash floods.[19]

The people of FSM's islands represent diverse ethnic and linguistic backgrounds. The main ethnic groups are Chuukese/Mortlockese (49.3%), Pohnpeian (29.8%), Kosraean (6.3%), Yapese (5.7%), Yap outer islanders (5.1%), Polynesian (1.6%), Asian (1.4%), and other (0.8%).[20] English is the most common language used in government and business settings. In total, there are eight distinct local languages, and inhabitants of atolls away from main islands tend to speak dialects. The languages present, by state, are:

- Yap – Yapese language on Yap; Ulithian and Woleaians used on atolls
- Chuuk – Chuukese language and several dialects
- Pohnpei – Pohnpeian language and several dialects; Polynesian languages – Kapingamarangi and Nukuoro – on their respective atolls
- Kosrae – Kosraean language[21]

Vulnerable Groups

While all members of a community may suffer impacts from a large-scale hazard event, individual and group characteristics can mean that some people suffer greater impacts and worse outcomes. FSM is exposed to various hazards that have greater impacts on coastal, remote-island, poorer communities. Often, these geographic and socio-economic characteristics are complicated by gender, age, and disability status. Across the country, women and girls living on remote islands, especially if they live with a disability, are the most vulnerable people, and they commonly lack a voice in DM policy, planning, and implementation.

In its 2025 National Disaster Management Plan, the government required that disaster managers at all levels of government involve women, youth, and other marginalized groups in DM decision-making and operational processes, especially related to relief distribution and shelter.[22]

Children

Historically, children living on outer islands of FSM have experienced worse educational and health outcomes than their peers on main islands. A lack of social or financial capital among children and youth means they are not individually able to prepare for emergencies, and high poverty rates broadly mean that their families are unable to prepare. Children are also unable to independently access hazard information or participate in disaster relief programs without adult accompaniment. Finally, high rates of chronic illness linked to poor nutrition and lack of primary health care make FSM's children especially vulnerable during disasters. They face higher risk of infections, malnutrition, physical injury, and potential abuse or exploitation.

There are approximately 32,000 children under 18 years of age in the country.[23] About half of children participate in early childhood education, and some 72% of children enroll in primary school, but only about half of children go from primary to secondary school. Rates of non-enrollment in education rise as children

age, and some 30% of youth aged 15-19 years are not in education, employment, or training programs. Some estimates find that nearly 60% of these youth participate in the labor force, but the youth unemployment rate (looking for work but not employed) is nearly 20%.

An estimated one-third of the country's children are in families that live below the poverty line. Anemia – generally linked to dietary insufficiency – affects about one-third of children. Meanwhile, about half of all children ages 5-19 years are overweight because of changing diets and reliance on calorie-dense but nutrition-poor imported foods. Immunization rates tend to be low;[24] as of 2025, UN agencies estimated that 76% of FSM's children had received the full series of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis shots, and 60% had received the full series of measles shots.[25]

Elders

Elders living in the outer islands may continue to participate in household productive and subsistence activities and, because of their age, have a strong voice in community-based DM. Nonetheless, with chronic illnesses and age-related disabilities, their roles over time diminish, and many require assistance to access hazard information and disaster relief services in case of an emergency. In areas where many working-age adults have migrated for work, elders and children may remain, and the ability of elders to care for children – or vice versa – puts significant strain on both groups. On main islands, elders may rely on younger family members for housing, food, and care, and their ability to access hazard or early warning information, evacuate their homes without assistance, or rebuild after a disaster is lessened. Some islands are seeing civil society groups explicitly integrate elders into community decision-making on DM.

There are estimated to be fewer than 8,000 people over the age of 60 years living in the country.[26] As of 2021, the average life expectancy at birth was 65.7 years (68.7 years for females and 63 years for males). Chronic, non-communicable diseases are the most common causes of death (78%) for all ages, and disease progression into old age means that many of FSM's elders live with heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, one or more cancers, or hypertension.[27] Elders – and others living with these conditions – may be unable to access medications or other care in the wake of a disaster, and their outcomes will be significantly worse without planning for how to address the needs of this population.

People Living in Poverty

Poverty in the country tends to correlate with female-headed households, limited education, informal employment, and residence on remote islands. Subsistence farming and fisheries continue to underpin many families' lives and their ability to eat, and any loss of access to family gardens or fishing grounds, either because of loss of family members or loss of assets and property – as in a disaster – will drive people into poverty as they are forced to turn to the market for food.

At least one-third of the population – and potentially up to 40% – lives below the poverty line, and the past decade has seen a rising incidence of poverty.[28] Based on the most recent government statistics, poverty levels were highest in Chuuk (45.5%), slightly lower in Yap (39.4%) and Pohnpei (39.2%), and lowest in Kosrae (21%).[29]

The prevalence of poverty across the country indicates that any widespread disaster impacts will be felt strongly at a community level. There is broad agreement that poverty reduction will rely on broad economic diversification and growth. However, most individuals and families take more immediate steps, and out-migration for work – especially to the U.S., as allowed by the COFA – is the most common strategy to gain financial stability. A dwindling local labor market is the consequence of this out-migration, and this condition also makes the country less attractive for business development or investment, perpetuating conditions that drive poverty.

People Living with Disabilities

People living with disabilities in FSM face barriers to accessing services, including health care and education. Many buildings are not accessible to people with mobility-related disabilities. Meanwhile, outer islands entirely lack specialized disability-related services.[30]

Estimates are that there are at least 11,000 people living with disabilities in the country,[31] which ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in December 2016. However, a subsequent UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific consultation found that the country has significant gaps in its ability to collect disability-related data and, therefore, may have insufficient evidence for developing and implementing effective disability policies.[32]

In 2024, the government reported that there were some 1,600 children who were living with disabilities and attending school. Chuuk was home to 800 of them, Pohnpei to 530, and Kosrae and Yap to fewer than 150 each. By far, the largest cited disability was learning-related (nearly 1,200 students).[33] Implementation of disability-inclusive education policies suffers from data gaps and legal obstacles that are similar to shortfalls in data for other disability policies. Only since 2019 have states begun passing disability-related legislation and introducing services related to the physical accessibility of buildings.[34]

Women

Access to resources to build individual and household resilience commonly falls along gender lines:

- FSM's women have lower workforce participation rates than men
- There are fewer women in positions that influence DM policies
- Expectations that women will be caregivers for elders and children mean an increase in women's responsibilities in the wake of disasters

Thus, the impacts of disasters can be felt disproportionately by women if DM policies, plans, and procedures do not take into consideration the tasks and responsibilities that women would traditionally shoulder and reapportion them or ensure that pre-, mid-, and post-disaster relief is accessible to people with significant caring responsibilities and limitations on their time and movement.

Women have the highest rate of unemployment of any demographic group in the country.[35] Moreover, women who are employed in the formal sector tend to work in education and health care, but they also participate widely in the informal economy. Access to steady pay, a bank account, and credit can commonly be determinants of a person's ability to prepare for or recover from a disaster. As seen during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, FSM's women felt disproportionate impacts from that disaster in the form of lost economic opportunity (as schools closed and health systems pivoted to pandemic-related care), decreased access to reproductive and maternal health care, and a loss of community support for caregivers due to social distancing rules.[36] In the absence of social connection, routine health care, and financial support, women experienced higher rates of domestic violence and labor exploitation alongside worse health outcomes, a slate of outcomes that are indicative of areas where consultation with women will improve DM outcomes.

The unicameral national Congress, a 14-seat body, seated 3 women representatives – 1 each from Pohnpei, Chuuk, and Kosrae – as of 2026.[37] This total matches the high reached in 2022, when there were also three female members. The small number of women at the highest level of national political leadership is indicative of slow progress ensuring women have access to education and services at the same rates as men. Female enrollment in school continues to rise, with ever more female university degree holders. Moreover, there are specific government policies to integrate women, including girls, women living with disabilities, and elder women, in projects relating to DM,[38] policies that recognize the need for people who suffer impacts from

disasters to have a voice in developing policies that drive disaster preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery.

Government

There are a national government and four state governments. The national government retains authority over foreign and security arrangements, while states have significant budgetary freedom and the authority to build relationships with key international commercial, scientific, and social bodies. States are responsible for developing and implementing DM policies that reflect their respective exposure to hazards and for developing coping capacity through partnerships separate from the national government.

National Government

- Capital – Palikir, on Pohnpei
- Executive – President and Vice-President
- Legislative – National Congress (unicameral)
- Judicial – Supreme Court

The President and Vice-President serve 4-year terms.[39] They are advised by a cabinet that comprises the heads of national departments and other national agencies. Department heads are nominated by the President and approved by the National Congress.[40]

The National Congress comprises 14 seats. Membership includes one at-large senator from each state and 10 single-district senators, whose seats are allocated to the states on the basis of population;[41] as of February 2026, there were 6 members from Chuuk, 4 from Pohnpei, and 2 each from Kosrae and Yap.[42] At-large senators serve 4-year terms, and district senators serve 2-year terms.[43] The President and Vice-President are elected by the National Congress from among the at-large senators. The seats vacated by the President and Vice-President are filled by representatives from their respective states.[44]

The national judicial branch is the FSM Supreme Court, the only national court, and its task is to interpret the national constitution. Justices are nominated by the President and confirmed by the National Congress.[45]

State Governments

Each state government operates under its own constitution.[46]

State capitals:

- Yap – Colonia
- Chuuk – Weno
- Pohnpei – Kolonia
- Kosrae – Tofol

State governments are headed by popularly-elected governors, and each state has a unicameral legislature.[47] Municipalities are administered by councils,[48] most of which are responsible for public services – e.g., utilities, education, health care, and local infrastructure.[49]

- Yap State comprises 21 municipalities, each with multiple villages. "Yap Proper" – the main islands – comprises 10 municipalities, while the "Neighboring Islands" comprise the other 11 municipalities.[50]
- Chuuk State comprises 40 municipalities, 16 of which are in Chuuk Lagoon, while 24 "Outer Islands" lie within the Mortlock and Northwest island groups.[51]
- Pohnpei State comprises 12 municipalities: 6 in "Pohnpei Proper" and 6 in the "Outer Islands."[52]
- Kosrae State comprises 4 municipalities across its single island.[53]

Compact of Free Association (COFA)

FSM's COFA with the U.S. was first agreed in 1986 and came into effect in 1994; it has been renegotiated and re-signed twice since then. The current COFA was signed into law in March 2024. The U.S. Department of the Interior is responsible for oversight and coordination of funding under the COFA.

While the overall term of the COFA is indefinite, economic elements run on 20-year terms. In exchange for exclusive military operating rights, the U.S. provides FSM with economic assistance through grants and trust fund contributions, access to federal services and programs – e.g., meteorological services –

and permission for citizens to enter, work, study, and reside in U.S. states and territories. The U.S. assumes responsibility for FSM's defense and security.[54]

The Disaster Assistance Emergency Fund (DAEF) has been a part of the COFA from its beginning. Under the current agreement, the U.S. Government continues to deposit funds into the DAEF account, and they are matched by the FSM national government. Funds from the account may only be used for "assistance and rehabilitation resulting from disasters and emergencies, or for disaster preparedness activities."[55]

Economic Profile

FSM's economy is tied closely to the U.S. economy due to FSM's use of the U.S. dollar as its national currency and reliance on Compact-related grants for a significant portion of national income. Other key economic drivers are government services, agriculture, and fisheries. Most Micronesians participate in subsistence farming and fishing. Transport among the islands – either for cargo or passengers – is underdeveloped, and many residents of outer islands are confronted with the requirement that they permanently relocate to main islands for work or education. There is minimal ability for most households to build up financial buffers to deal with any emergency.

The economy has generally grown very slowly. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic saw FSM's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) shrink by 0.5% in 2020 before rebounding in 2021 (1.8% growth) and then stagnating at 0.1% and 0.4% growth in 2022 and 2023, respectively.[56] Most recently, overall GDP growth rebounded from near stagnation to approximately 1.7% in 2024, and it was forecast to continue at 1% or slightly more annually through 2026,[57] based on increasing public wages and a resumption of infrastructure projects partly funded by U.S. Compact resources.

External grants – mostly from the U.S. and based on the COFA – account for some two-thirds of total government revenue. Consequently, the public sector accounts for the largest share (40%) of GDP. Additional revenue derives from the sale of fishing rights and the country's status as an overseas domicile for Japanese corporations. Beyond these avenues, the country's remoteness and limited infrastructure hobble services and industrial development.[58]

There are 10 state-owned enterprises, covering the industries of air transport, copra production, development finance, fisheries, fuel distribution, health, telecommunications, and tertiary education. Some of these enterprises are monopolies.[59] Based on public sector dominance, most formal employment clusters in these industries. Some 50% of the labor force works in public administration or a state-owned enterprise.[60] The other 50% of laborers are mostly employed in agriculture, although commodity crops are few due to a lack of scalability for export.[61]

Poor farming productivity and the lack of a food processing industry mean that most foodstuffs are imported. Over the course of the past 70 years, a traditional diet of fish, breadfruit, taro, coconuts, and bananas was replaced by imported processed foods, as well as rice.[62]

Migration to the U.S. is a common choice for Micronesians. Based on the COFA, FSM citizens have the right to live, work, and study in the U.S.[63] Many use this freedom to find work that allows them to send money home. According to 2020 data, nearly 40% of the total citizenry of FSM may live in the U.S., including the territories of Guam or the Northern Mariana Islands. Their remittances home may account for 10% of GDP. While this total is considerably lower than the share of remittances to GDP among some of FSM's Pacific Island neighbors,[64] it still provides a financial buffer for many families and could provide financial resources unavailable elsewhere for use in rebuilding after a disaster.

DISASTER PROFILE

FSM faces a complex disaster risk landscape shaped by its widely dispersed geography, which increases exposure, complicates response logistics, and amplifies vulnerability. Tropical cyclones are the most frequent and destructive hazard events; they cause significant damage to infrastructure, housing, and agriculture. Meanwhile, droughts associated with El Niño events affect large portions of the population by straining water supplies and food systems. Coastal flooding and storm surges further threaten low-lying communities. Although data on economic losses related to disasters are limited for the country, individual events can cause massive loss – e.g., Typhoon Maysak caused over US$14 million in damage in 2015. Overall, FSM's disaster risk is defined by its exposure and the cumulative impacts of both recorded and smaller-scale localized events that may go unreported but still disrupt livelihoods, infrastructure, and essential services.

Hazards

FSM faces a multi-hazard environment. The most frequent and damaging hazard events are hydrometeorological – tropical cyclones, droughts, coastal floods, and heavy rainfall. Less common but still potentially devastating are geological hazards, including tsunamis and earthquakes, and biological hazards, such as vector-borne disease outbreaks.

Hazard events can range from small and localized to one island all the way to country-wide, but even minor events can produce meaningful damage, service disruption, crop loss, and obstacles to access, especially on outer islands. Hazard impacts are not evenly distributed; Yap and Chuuk face the highest risk of major cyclones, while Pohnpei and Kosrae face recurring coastal and other flood-related disruptions. Because many FSM disasters are small in scale and geographically isolated, the real burden of repeated events on livelihoods, infrastructure, and food and water security often goes under-reported in international disaster datasets.

The most common hazards are natural, and many of them are influenced by ENSO, a recurring cycle characterized by periodic warming (El Niño) and cooling (La Niña) of ocean temperatures in the equatorial Pacific. These shifts cause changes to rainfall, air and ocean temperatures, tropical cyclone formation, and trade winds. In FSM, ENSO is a major driver of climate variability, with distinct patterns observed between the western states (Yap and Chuuk) and the eastern states (Pohnpei and Kosrae).[65]

During El Niño events, in Yap and Chuuk, 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, and there is an increased risk of tropical cyclone activity from March through July, but a reduced risk from October through December.[66]

In Pohnpei and Kosrae, ENSO influences are different. During El Niño events, rainfall generally remains above normal through September, but significant reductions in rainfall start in November and peak in February. The level of these dry conditions depends on the intensity of the El Niño event, with very strong El Niño events producing the driest conditions. Additionally, El Niño tends to shift the development of tropical cyclones eastward, and this shift increases the risk of tropical cyclone activity for FSM's eastern states from March through December of El Niño years.

During ENSO's La Niña phase, FSM typically experiences higher-than-normal sea level because the easterly trade winds associated with this phase blow warmer waters into the oceans around FSM and the volume of water increases with higher temperatures, thereby raising localized sea levels. The combination of higher sea levels, king tides, and storm surges can bring more coastal flooding and erosion to FSM.

Disease Outbreaks

Biological hazards are a serious concern. In FSM, the incidence of disease outbreaks appears to correlate with other disasters, especially when water systems fail and sanitation is disrupted. FSM has a history of significant outbreaks, including concurrent outbreaks of dengue and leptospirosis in Yap in 2019.[67] The outbreak with the greatest impact was a cholera outbreak in Pohnpei in 2000; it caused 19 deaths and affected 3,431 people.[68]

Earthquakes and Tsunamis

Geophysical hazard events are somewhat uncommon in FSM, but they remain relevant because of their potentially severe consequences for communities and critical infrastructure. There is no record of earthquake damage. Yap State is particularly close to regional tectonic plate boundaries. A major seismic event could generate a tsunami with severe consequences for FSM's low-lying coastal areas.

Flooding

Flooding is a recurrent and widespread hazard, arising from a combination of heavy rainfall events, coastal erosion, and localized riverine overflow. Intense rainfall associated with tropical disturbances frequently leads to flash flooding and surface water accumulation, particularly in low-lying urban areas where drainage infrastructure is limited or easily overwhelmed. On high islands such as Pohnpei and Kosrae, steep terrain contributes to rapid runoff, increasing the risk of riverine flooding along short, fast-flowing watersheds that can overflow during prolonged or intense rainfall. Coastal flooding driven by storm surge, high tides, and wave action poses a significant threat to communities situated along narrow coastal plains where critical infrastructure, housing, and roads are often concentrated.

Flood impacts in FSM typically include damage to homes and public facilities, contamination of water supplies, disruption of transport networks, and reduced access to essential services. Given the country's dispersed geography and reliance on limited road and maritime connections, even localized flooding can isolate communities and delay emergency response.

Landslides

Landslide risk is most significant on the high islands. Steep terrain and heavy rainfall can combine to create conditions for slope instability. Landslides are most likely to occur during and after heavy precipitation events associated with tropical disturbances because soil becomes saturated and loses cohesion. While large, catastrophic landslides are relatively infrequent, smaller slope failures are more common and can disrupt roads, damage homes, and isolate communities, especially in upland and coastal fringe areas where infrastructure is limited. The risk is heightened in locations where vegetation has been disturbed or where development has expanded into steeper terrain.

Although landslides are not among the most frequently reported hazards nationally, their impacts can be disproportionately severe at the local level due to FSM's limited transport networks and the potential for even minor road blockages to cut communities off from essential services and emergency response.

The most devastating landslide occurred in July 2002 after Tropical Storm Chata'an struck Chuuk. More than 250 landslides were triggered across the eastern islands of Chuuk State after nearly 500 mm (20 in) of rain fell in less than 24 hours. There were 43 deaths, and damage was recorded at 231 structures, including homes, schools, community centers, and medical dispensaries. Landslides also buried roads, crops, and water supplies. Most of the slope failures began as slumps and transformed into debris flows, some of which traveled several hundred meters across coastal flatlands into populated areas.

Oil Spills

A major anthropogenic concern in FSM is closely tied to its maritime environment and the legacy of World War II. A significant and unique risk is the presence of numerous sunken

vessels, particularly in Chuuk Lagoon, the site of one of the largest concentrations of World War II wrecks in the Pacific. These wrecks contain residual fuel oil and other hazardous materials that pose a persistent environmental and public safety threat. Over time, corrosion of these wrecks increases the likelihood of structural failure and leakage. Significant leakage could damage coral reefs and fisheries, disrupt livelihoods dependent on subsistence and commercial fishing, and have public health impacts.

Tropical Cyclones

Tropical cyclones are FSM's most frequent and destructive hazard, and they have led to multiple disaster declarations over the past 25 years. Their impacts combine destructive winds, heavy rain, coastal inundation, crop loss, and prolonged disruption to transport and communications. In FSM, cyclone damage is especially significant because even localized storm impacts can overwhelm state and local capacity, isolate outer islands, and interrupt the inter-island logistics network that supports relief operations.

Yap State faces the highest recurring cyclone risk. It was impacted by Tropical Cyclone Mitag in 2002, Tropical Cyclone Lupit in 2003, Tropical Cyclone Sudal in 2004, Tropical Cyclone Haiyan in 2013, Tropical Cyclone Hagupit in 2014, Tropical Cyclone Maysak in 2015, and Tropical Cyclone Wutip in 2019.

Chuuk also faces high cyclone risk. It suffered effects of Tropical Cyclone Chata'an in 2002, Tropical Cyclone Maysak in 2015, Tropical Cyclone Wutip in 2019,[69] and Tropical Cyclone Sinlaku in 2026.

Pohnpei State experiences less frequent tropical cyclone impacts than Yap and Chuuk but remains exposed to peripheral cyclone effects, including heavy rain and coastal flooding.

As the easternmost state, Kosrae faces the lowest tropical cyclone risk, but even if less frequent, storms can still have consequences for roads, utilities, and shoreline communities.

Figure 2 from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) shows tropical cyclone tracks across FSM from 2000 to 2025.[70]

Disasters by Numbers

The following assessment of data is intended to support planning for potential disaster responses in FSM by characterizing the most common hazard types, their seasonal clustering, geographic distribution, and any observable trends in frequency or severity.

The Centre for Research on Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) maintains an international disaster database (EM-DAT) that classifies disasters as events resulting in 10 or more deaths, affecting 100 or more people, or triggering a declared state of emergency.[71] Using this dataset, 10 disasters were recorded in FSM between 2000 and 2025; they included 1 epidemic, 1 coastal flood event, 2 droughts, and 6 tropical cyclones. Four of the disaster events recorded deaths, with the deadliest being Tropical Cyclone Chata'an, which caused 47 deaths in 2002.[72]

The historical record suggests that tropical cyclones are FSM's most frequent and destructive hazard, accounting for most recorded disasters and most reported direct physical damage. Storm events in Yap, Chuuk, and Pohnpei have repeatedly damaged homes, crops, public buildings, and other infrastructure. The pattern also shows that a single severe cyclone can produce significant losses despite FSM's relatively small population and economy. For example, damage from Tropical Cyclone Maysak (2015) totaled US$14.5 million (approximately 4.5% of GDP) and illustrated how one event can impose outsized financial and logistical burdens on a country where infrastructure, housing, and food systems are already limited.

The disaster record also shows that drought is one of the country's most significant hazards in terms of people affected. Two major droughts appear in the EM-DAT data. In 2016, drought affected 100,000 people, and in 2023-2024, drought reportedly affected 113,401 people across all four states. Unlike tropical cyclones,

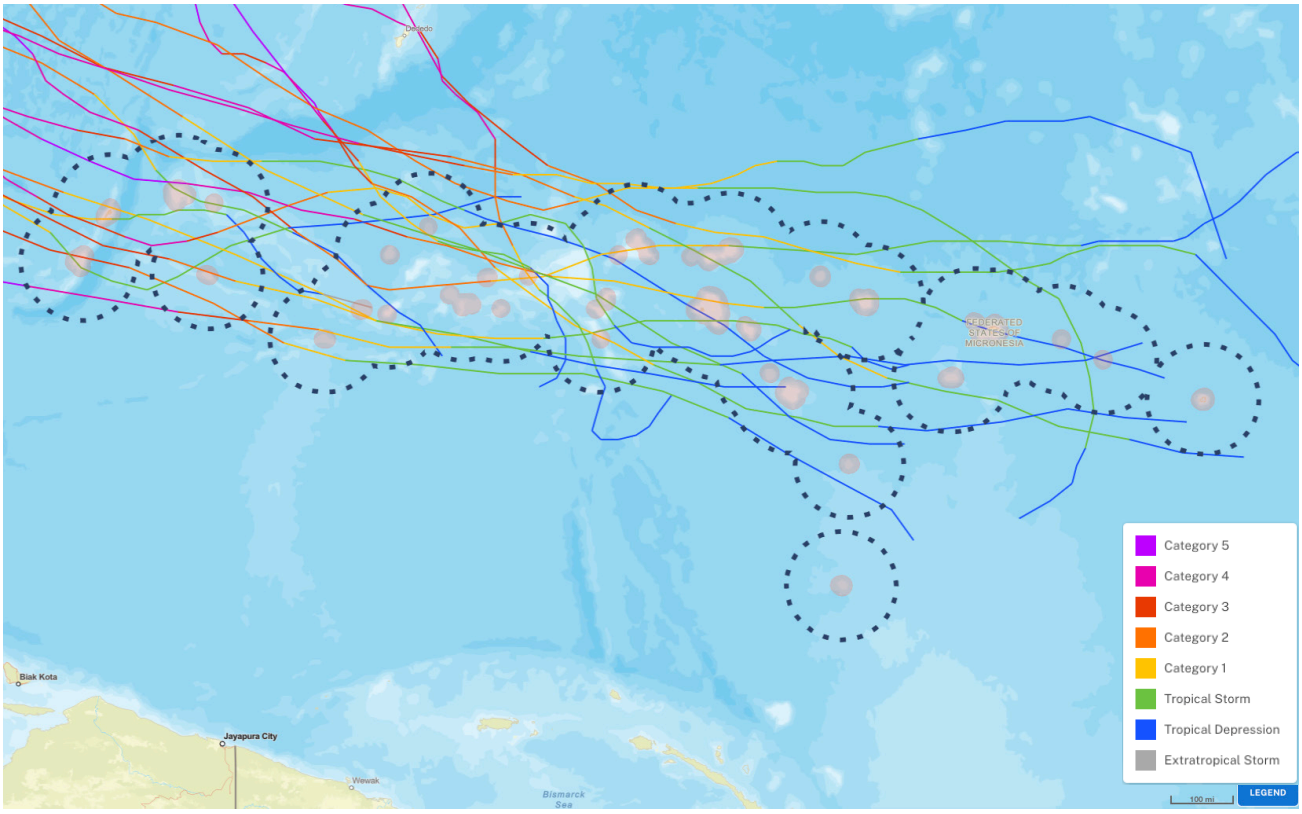


Figure 2: Tropical Cyclone Tracks in/around FSM (2000-2025)

which often concentrate damage in specific impact zones, drought tends to affect broad populations over long periods by reducing rainwater availability, stressing water storage, damaging crops, and increasing reliance on external support.

In spatial terms, the EM-DAT record indicates that Chuuk and Yap experience the highest concentration of disasters, particularly cyclones. Pohnpei and Kosrae appear less often in the international dataset, yet they still face regular flooding, heavy rainfall, and disease outbreaks. The 2000 cholera outbreak and 2008 coastal flood in Pohnpei as well as the 2008 coastal flooding event in Kosrae show that significant impacts are not limited to typhoon-affected states.

A consideration for planners is that EM-DAT may understate FSM's overall disaster burden. While EM-DAT provides consistency with international practice for tracking disasters across time and countries, the data should be interpreted with caution. Reporting biases are inherent in aggregated datasets, particularly across hazard types. For instance, biological hazards (e.g., epidemics) and extreme temperature events (e.g., heatwaves) are often underreported or their records are of lower quality. EM-DAT also excludes certain categories, such as major transnational events (e.g., the COVID-19 pandemic). Furthermore, high-impact disaster reporting typically focuses on events causing widespread devastation or large-scale loss of life, but many disasters in FSM are smaller in scale and localized, meaning they often do not meet the thresholds for inclusion in global disaster databases. Additionally, both threshold bias – where only disasters exceeding certain impact criteria are recorded – and accounting bias – stemming from limited local reporting capacity – contribute to the underrepresentation of FSM disasters in the EM-DAT database. For further details, see EM-DAT's documentation on known limitations: *https://doc.emdat.be/docs/known-issues-and-limitations/specific-biases/#accounting-biases*

Despite these limitations, EM-DAT was chosen for this assessment because its methodology aligns with international standards

and because the types of events it includes are the most likely to generate large-scale loss of life, significant disruption, and potential requests for international assistance. The historical record likely captures FSM's largest emergencies if not the full cumulative burden of repeated coastal flooding, localized storm damage, disease outbreaks, and infrastructure disruptions. Recurrent coastal flooding, tidal inundation, localized storm damage, water shortages, disease outbreaks, and service disruptions can accumulate into substantial losses over time without appearing in EM-DAT. Therefore, the historical record in international databases should be read as a baseline of major disasters rather than a complete measure of hazard burden.

Recent Disasters

Disaster events in the past decade have highlighted FSM's vulnerability to a range of recurring and severe hazards. The following describe the impacts of major disasters over the past 10 years.

Typhoon Sinlaku – April 2026

From 9 to 12 April 2026, Chuuk State was battered by tropical cyclone Sinlaku, as it intensified from a tropical depression into a Category 5 Super Typhoon, reaching wind speeds of up to 285 km per hour (kph; 177 mi per hour [mph]) on 13 April while still in proximity to Chuuk. The storm destroyed crops and infrastructure, including homes, water systems, and schools.[73] There were nine deaths recorded, and 34,000 people were affected.[74] The Chuuk State Disaster and Emergency Operation Center reported a communications blackout, with communication to the lagoon and outer islands severed and power generation suffering from 60-70% primary site outage. The hospital was left operating on backup emergency power only.[75] Figure 3 shows a 15 May 2026 Pacific Humanitarian Team map illustrating Sinlaku's meandering path in and around Chuuuk.[76]

Drought – 2024

An El Niño-driven drought led to severe dry conditions across FSM during 2024. Pohnpei declared a state of emergency in January and implemented water restrictions. Yap experienced severe impacts on its water supply, agriculture, and public health due to reliance on marginal water sources.[77]

Coastal Inundation – January 2024

In January 2024, a powerful winter storm in the northern Pacific generated massive swells that reached Pohnpei. They inundated homes and taro patches in Kapingamarangi Atoll.[78]

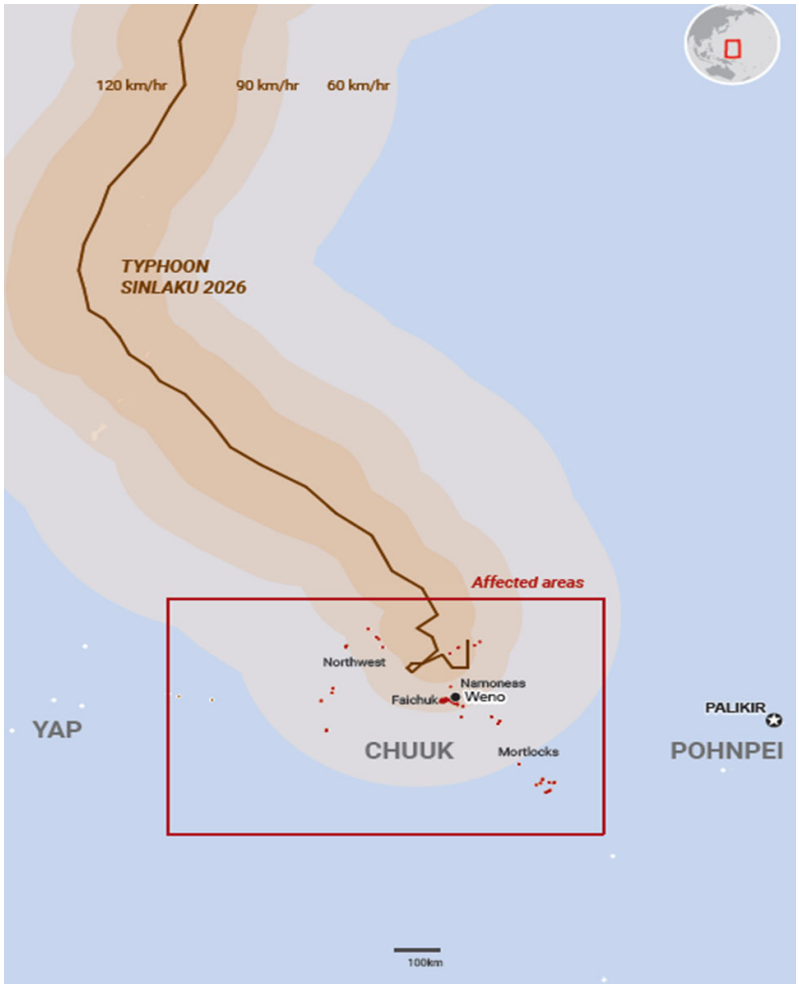


Figure 3: Typhoon Sinlaku's Track in/around Chuuk

Coastal Inundation – December 2021

In December 2021, a combination of king tides, a northerly swell, and elevated sea levels from a La Niña cycle caused coastal flooding and saltwater inundation in Pohnpei and Chuuk.[79] The event damaged homes, crops, and infrastructure.[80]

Drought – 2020

A significant drought affected FSM in 2020. It created intense challenges in maintaining a safe water supply. In Pohnpei, Kapingamarangi Atoll's water reserves dwindled to approximately 3,785 liters (1,000 gallons). In Yap, which had received less than 100 mm (4 in) of rain over four months, the water supply became unsafe, and there was widespread damage to food crops.

Concurrent Disease Outbreaks – August 2019

In August 2019, Yap State declared a public health crisis due to simultaneous outbreaks of dengue fever and leptospirosis.[81] There were 545 suspected cases of dengue and 515 suspected cases of leptospirosis.[82]

Typhoon Wutip – February 2019

In February 2019, Typhoon Wutip tracked across FSM. It caused significant damage in Chuuk and Pohnpei. In Chuuk, the Mortlocks and Northwest islands were hit especially hard, with extensive damage to infrastructure, food crops (with over 90% reported as rotten), and water sources. In Pohnpei, the typhoon damaged primary and secondary power lines on the main island. In the outer island of Nukuoro, saltwater intrusion destroyed over 90% of the crops.[83] Photo 1 shows personnel from the U.S. Navy's Pacific Partnership mission supporting recovery from Typhoon Wutip in April 2019.[84]



Photo 1: U.S. Navy Supports Chuuk State Typhoon Recovery (2019)

Tropical Depression Jelawat – March 2018

In March 2018, Tropical Depression Jelawat brought 48 hours of continuous, heavy rainfall to Pohnpei State. The storm resulted in extensive flooding, numerous mudslides, and damage to critical infrastructure. One person was reportedly killed. Homes were flooded in every municipality on the main island.[85]

Drought – 2016

A severe drought, driven by a strong El Niño event, affected the entirety of FSM in 2016. It led to widespread crop failures and water shortages. An estimated 100,000 people were affected nationally. In Pohnpei, the drought was accompanied by over 40 reported wildfires. Yap experienced significant crop failures, and outer islands, which are heavily reliant on rainwater, were particularly vulnerable.[86]

DISASTER MANAGEMENT POLICY, PLANNING, AND RESPONSE

FSM operates a DM system that combines national-level coordination with state-led implementation. At the national level, the President and the National Disaster Committee (NDC) provide policy direction. They are supported by DECEM and the National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) for operational management. However, frontline response authority rests with the four state governments. This decentralized framework is a necessity given the nation's vast geography and dispersed population. FSM's response capabilities are constrained, and the country relies on regional frameworks and international partners, particularly the United States.

National Disaster Management System

FSM's national DM system is designed to coordinate support for its four autonomous states via a legal framework, policy direction, and a gateway for international assistance. It is not a centralized command structure but a layered system where national institutions support and enable state-led operations.

The system is built on a set of laws, plans, and national policy instruments that together define responsibilities for preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. The core legal instrument is the Disaster Relief Assistance Act of 1989,[87] which details roles and responsibilities, including presidential authority, national government authority, and state responsibilities. Under this law, states were required to develop state disaster plans to qualify for national assistance, and states wishing to request overseas support must first submit their request to the President.

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 expanded the legal framework to emphasize mitigation and preparedness and to ensure that DM extends beyond emergency response into mitigation, risk reduction, and long-term resilience.[88] Based on this law, in 2013, the national government adopted a policy for nationwide integrated disaster risk management and climate change; it provided for horizontal and vertical coordination between sectors at the national, state, and community levels using an "all-of-government" and "all-of-country" approach.[89]

National Disaster Management Plan

The National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) was published in 2025 and is the current guiding framework for the all-hazards, whole-of-government approach used in the country. It aligns the national system with international principles and builds on the plans that preceded it.

In 2016, the national government endorsed a comprehensive National Disaster Response Plan, establishing national institutional arrangements for responding to emergency and disaster events within the country.[90] The plan provided the framework and arrangements for a unified approach to emergency preparedness, monitoring of potential events, and national-level response to manage large-scale events and support state-level events.

The FSM National Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was developed to support the 2016 Plan, and it was updated to support the subsequent NDMP. The SOP prescribes actions for staff, departments, and partners at the national level during emergency operations and disaster response activities. It defines membership of key disaster committees, terms of reference, modes of activation and operation, and accountability provisions for all actors to streamline emergency operations and disaster response activities.[91] The SOP was designed specifically for disaster events in which DECEM is the lead agency as defined in the NDMP.

The NDMP lays out responsibility for

oversight of arrangements for all hazards through six lead agencies through the NDC:

- DECEM Division of Emergency Management – all hazards (excluding those listed below)
- Department of Health and Social Affairs (DHSA) – pandemics and health incidents
- Department of Resources and Development – agriculture incidents
- DECEM Division of Environment and Sustainable Development – environmental incidents
- Department of Transportation, Communications, and Infrastructure (DTCI) – aircraft and ship incidents
- Department of Justice, Division of National Police – search and rescue at sea[92]

Roles and Responsibilities

The laws, policies, and plans outline roles and responsibilities. Figure 4 provides a chart of FSM's national DM structure. `

President

The President of FSM is the highest authority in DM and provides overall strategic direction. Among other responsibilities, the President activates the NDC, commits resources towards emergency and disaster response, approves allocation of national funds, declares a national state of emergency on the advice of the NDC, and, at the request of a State Governor, allows releases from the DAEF, requests international assistance, and coordinates with State Governors. All international support is formally routed through the President.

National Disaster Committee (NDC)

The NDC is the senior inter-ministerial body responsible for strategic oversight of DM. Comprised of Department Secretaries and Heads of Agencies at the national level, it is chaired by the Secretary of DECEM. The NDC ensures that DM is implemented as a whole-of-government function rather than a single-agency responsibility. The NDC advises the President on emergency operations and disaster response approaches, oversees the National Disaster Coordination Team (NDCT), and informs the international community with updates. Department Secretaries seek external assistance through partner organizations.

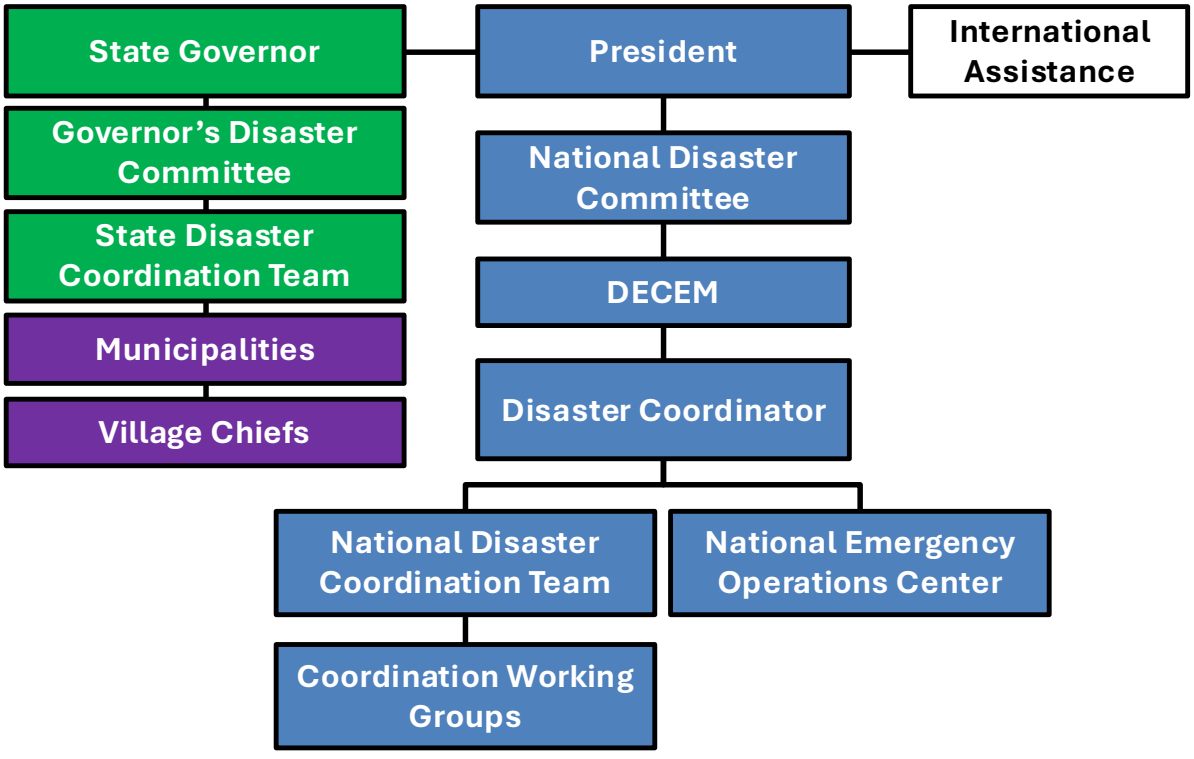


Figure 4: National Disaster Management Structure

Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management (DECEM)

DECEM is the lead DM agency and the primary coordinating body at the national level. Its core responsibilities include:

- Developing DM policies and strategies
- Coordinating national preparedness and response
- Managing disaster-related information and reporting
- Supporting state governments during emergencies

DECEM serves as the central hub for coordination, but it does not replace state authority. Instead, it facilitates communication, resource mobilization, and integration of external support.

Within DECEM, the Division of Emergency Management receives and coordinates all information from various affected states in large-scale emergencies and disasters. In smaller-scale events, emergency operations managers will receive and coordinate all information from the states.

National Disaster Coordination Team (NDCT)

The NDCT is the primary operational coordination mechanism at the national level. It consists of designated focal points from government agencies and partner organizations and is responsible for:

- Coordinating operational response activities
- Facilitating communication between national and state levels
- Supporting resource allocation and logistics coordination
- Integrating international assistance into national response

The NDCT translates policy direction from the NDC into actionable coordination across sectors.[93]

Figure 5 shows FSM's national coordination structure.[94]

National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC)

The NEOC is the central platform for operational coordination during disasters. It is a hub for communication and coordination of operations and support and is staffed by NDCT focal points. The Disaster Coordinator (DC) activates the appropriate focal points to report to the NEOC depending on the nature and scale of the disaster situation. One Weather Service Office (WSO) focal point will always report to the NEOC when it is activated.

The NEOC functions include monitoring

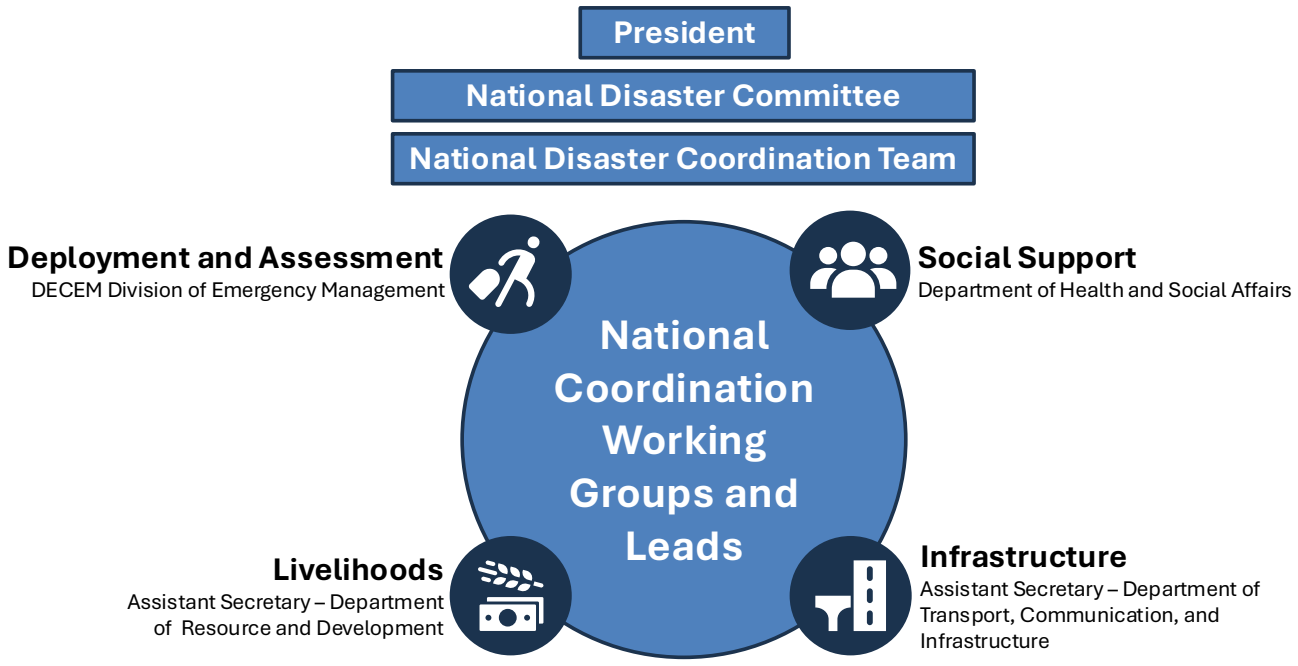


Figure 5: National Coordination Structure

hazards and disaster events, maintaining situational awareness, coordinating national-level response activities, and sharing information with states and partners.

The lead agency or department – based on the NDMP - oversees all logistical and response planning, while DECEM activates emergency protocols and presides over communication flows. Lead agencies may request activation of the NEOC and utilize the emergency management unit to collect information and answer calls. DECEM receives updates on all developments and communications from state to national level and vice versa.

Other Partners

Rather than assigning all functions to a central emergency authority, FSM's system distributes DM roles across ministries and agencies while using the NDC, NDCT, and NEOC to integrate them. Other partners who coordinate at the national level and may report to DECEM, the NDCT, or the NEOC include:

- DTCI: Manages ports, airports, vessels, and communications systems; advises the NDCT on availability of vessels, status of airports, and status of communication systems; approves and facilitates deployment of state vessels; coordinates humanitarian air traffic
- DHSA: Leads medical response and public health coordination
- Department of Finance: Manages disaster funding and financial accountability and keeps record of all DAEF deposits and withdrawals
- National Police: Conduct search and rescue operations; assist in securing U.S. Coast Guard support
- WSO: Receives emergency weather announcements from Guam Forecasting Office and contacts state coordination offices with notifications of weather threats; calls DECEM and activates internal emergency mechanism
- Department of Resources and Development: Communicates with partner agencies including the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding potential needs for assistance; may request assistance from USDA to provide satellite imagery pre- and post-disaster for assessment validation
- Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS): Assists emergency first responders in the field
- International Organization for Migration (IOM of the UN): Contacts donor-country representatives with notification of weather conditions and to request approval for rapid deployment of prepositioned stock if the situation requires; coordinates deployments and distributions with the NDCT

Response Operations

There are three phases of activation: standby, watch and support, and full activation:

1. Standby – The DC, in consultation with the Secretary of DECEM, activates the NEOC to be on standby if there is a threat within FSM or if there is a need to issue a warning of a potential threat. While on standby, the NEOC monitors the situation continuously and establishes connections with potentially affected states. The DC immediately and then periodically updates the Secretary of DECEM, who informs the President. As appropriate, the DC may activate NDCT arrangements.
2. Watch and Support – In the case of a disaster within a state or in anticipation of the likelihood of a state requiring support, the DC activates the NEOC for watch and support.
    a. The NEOC continuously monitors and engages with the affected state(s) and assesses the situation and likely needs.
    b. The National Operations Manager is activated. External support staff for the NEOC are activated as appropriate to support this phase. The NDCT may be activated with appropriate Coordination Working Groups (CWG) in anticipation of support needs. The NDC and the President are informed, and the NDC may meet periodically to agree on support commitments.

3. Full Activation – At the request of a state governor for the declaration of a national disaster or in anticipation of a national declaration, the DC, in consultation with the Secretary of DECEM, will place the NEOC on full activation and activate the National Operations Manager.
   a. The NEOC continuously monitors and engages with the affected state(s) and assesses the situation and likely needs.
   b. External support staff for the NEOC activate to support this phase. The NDCT is activated with appropriate CWGs to plan, initiate, and deploy. The Chair of the NDC and the President are informed, and the NDC meets periodically to review the management of the event and agree on support commitments.[95]

This staged model is a strong feature of the FSM framework because it formalizes escalation and allows the national government to support state response proportionately. It also provides an operational bridge between monitoring, anticipatory action, support to state-led operations, and nationally declared emergencies.

Subnational and Local Implementation

The national DM system is designed to enable, support, finance, coordinate, and scale state-led operations. National coordination becomes especially important when hazards affect multiple states, when state capacities are exceeded, or when international assistance is required. While national institutions provide coordination, policy guidance, and access to international assistance, the practical implementation of DM occurs at the state and community levels, where the effects of hazards are first experienced and where initial response actions are carried out.

The four states – Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae – serve as the operational core of DM. Each state maintains its own arrangements, including authority, coordination mechanisms, and emergency operations structures. In practice, disaster response begins locally, often within municipalities or outer-island communities, and it escalates through state systems before reaching the national level. This layered approach reflects both constitutional arrangements and logistical realities, as national authorities are often physically distant from affected areas and depend on state-level information and access.

At the state level, DM authority is concentrated in the office of the governor, who serves as the primary decision-maker during emergencies. Governors are responsible for declaring states of emergency, activating disaster response mechanisms, and coordinating interagency action within their jurisdictions. This executive authority ensures that response actions are grounded in local knowledge and political accountability.

Each state operates through a structured system that typically includes a Governor's Disaster Committee (GDC), a disaster coordination office, and a State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). These institutions form the backbone of subnational DM. The GDC provides a forum for inter-departmental coordination by bringing together sectoral agencies such as health, infrastructure, education, and public safety. The disaster coordination office manages day-to-day preparedness and response functions, while the SEOC serves as the central node for operational coordination during an emergency.[96]

These structures are activated in phases depending on the severity of an event. For localized incidents, response may be managed through a command post or a limited activation of state resources. For larger disasters, full activation of the SEOC enables continuous monitoring, information sharing, and coordination of response activities across departments and with external partners. Figure 6 shows a state-level disaster flow chart.[97]

The effectiveness of FSM's DM system depends heavily on the capacity of local actors. In many cases, especially in outer islands, communities must rely on their own resources

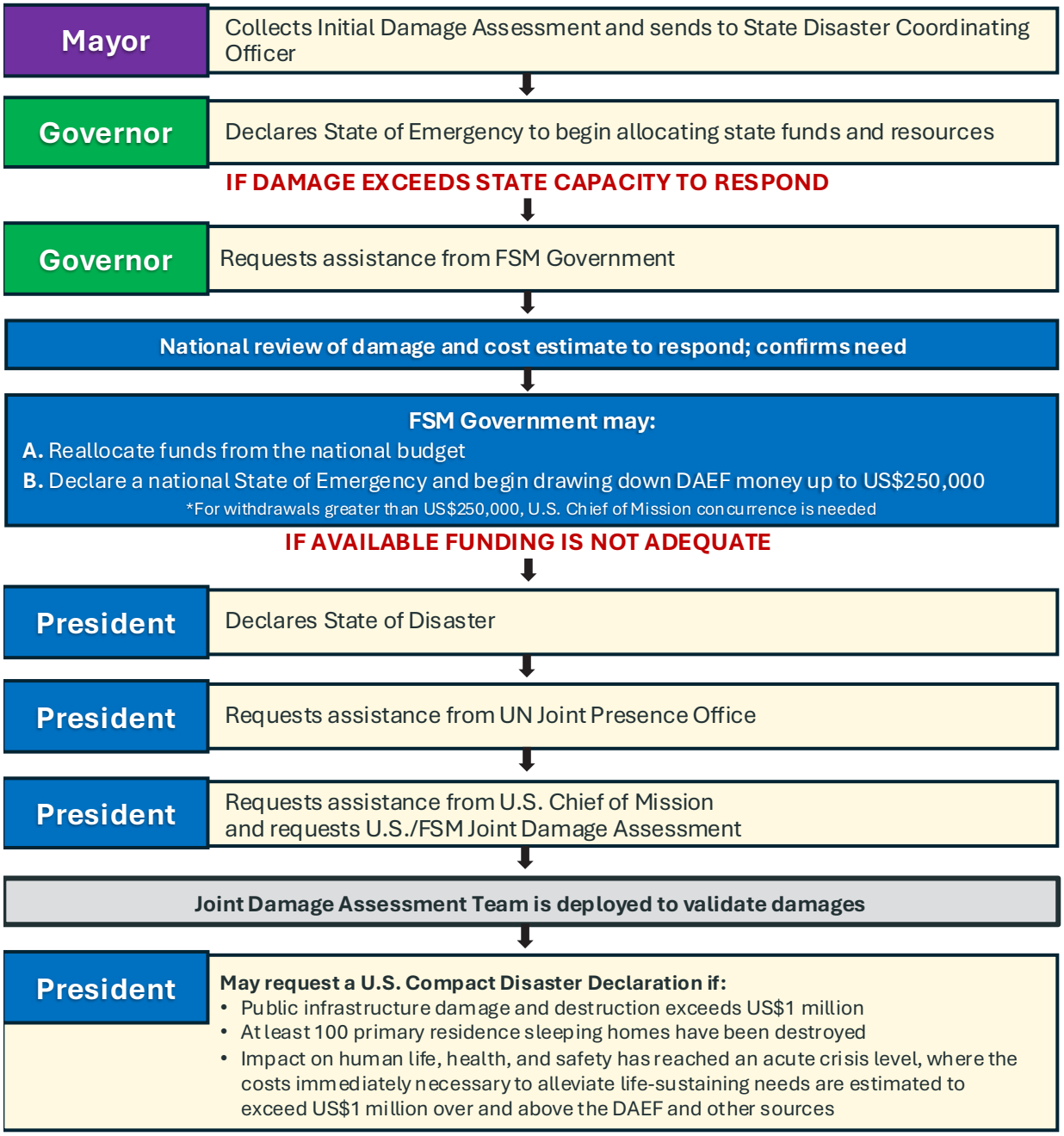


Figure 6: Disaster Flow Chart

and leadership for the initial hours or days following a disaster. Municipal governments, traditional leaders, and community organizations play a critical operational role.

Local implementation uses designated community focal points and communication networks that link remote populations to state authorities. These local actors are responsible for receiving and disseminating early warnings, organizing evacuations, and conducting initial damage assessments (IDA).[98] Information gathered at the community level is relayed back to SEOCs and forms the basis for broader situational awareness and response planning.

Traditional leadership structures are particularly important in this context. In many FSM communities, chiefs and customary leaders retain significant influence over decision-making and social organization. DM systems in states such as Yap explicitly incorporate these structures in recognition of the fact that community compliance with evacuation orders,

preparedness measures, and recovery initiatives is often mediated through traditional authority rather than formal government channels alone.

Although all four states operate within the same national framework, their DM systems exhibit important differences shaped by geography, population distribution, and institutional capacity.

Yap State

Yap's system is highly structured, integrating traditional leadership with formal government processes, as outlined in the Yap State Disaster Management Plan, endorsed in 2025.[99] Coordination is centralized through the Office of Planning and Budget (OPB), which serves as the state's disaster response focal point.

Governor

The Governor holds ultimate authority for policy, direction, and control of disaster operations; declares states of emergency, activates the SEOC and disaster committees, and issues public warnings; and serves as the sole official to request national assistance from the FSM President.

Office of Planning and Budget (OPB)

OPB serves as the lead coordinating body for all disaster-related matters. The Director of OPB oversees the State Disaster Coordinating Officer (DCO), serves as Secretary to the GDC, and acts as the key link between the SEOC and the Governor.

State Disaster Coordinating Officer (DCO)

The DCO is the primary operational coordinator for disaster response, manages the SEOC, activates the State Disaster Coordination Team (SDCT), and implements the Governor's directives. The DCO is responsible for maintaining the State Disaster Plan, coordinating assessments, and liaising with DECEM.

Governor's Disaster Committee (GDC)

The GDC is an advisory body, chaired by the Governor and composed of state government department heads. It provides high-level policy advice during an emergency, approves the use of departmental resources, and advises the Governor on requesting national aid.

State Disaster Coordination Team (SDCT)

The SDCT is an operational team comprising representatives from state departments, agencies (e.g., utility companies), and partner organizations (e.g., MRCS, IOM). Chaired by the DCO, the SDCT assists in planning the response, conducting sector-based damage assessments, and securing resources for deployment.

Local and Traditional Leaders

Yap's local response mechanism is one of the most clearly defined in FSM; it formalizes the role of traditional leaders.

Neighboring Island Communication Officers (NICO): Each outer island's traditional chief designates a NICO who acts as the primary disaster coordinator for that community. The NICO operates the island's single sideband (SSB) radio to receive warnings from the SEOC, disseminates those warnings to the community, assists in evacuations, and is responsible for conducting the IDA within 24 hours after a disaster. This report is then radioed back to the SEOC to inform the state's response priorities.

Outer Island Communication Officer: Based in the Governor's Office in the state capital, this individual is the primary link between the SEOC and the network of NICOs across the remote islands. This Officer relays information in both directions.[100]

Chuuk State

Chuuk's framework is outlined in its State Disaster Management Plan, which was endorsed in 2025,[101] and on its associated SOP.[102] The system relies heavily on municipal-level execution because the state's population is dispersed across numerous islands in and outside the main lagoon.

Governor

The Governor holds ultimate decision-making authority for DM policy and response, activates the Chuuk Disaster and Emergency Operations Center (CDEOC) and relevant committees, declares a state of emergency, and formally requests national-level support.

Lieutenant Governor

The Lieutenant Governor chairs the GDC, approves the broadcast of public warnings, and keeps the Governor updated on response operations.

CDEOC Director

The CDEOC Director acts as the Incident Commander and operational lead for disaster response. The Director also oversees all emergency operations from the CDEOC, chairs the SDCT, and coordinates among state departments and with the national government.

Governor's Disaster Committee (GDC)

The GDC is an advisory group of all department heads. It provides policy advice to the Governor and facilitates inter-agency agreements for the use of assets during a response.

State Disaster Coordination Team (SDCT)

The SDCT comprises focal points from each government department, state agency, and partner organization. This team staffs the CDEOC in shifts during activation and is responsible for carrying out the operational response, including planning, logistics, and assessments.

Local and Community Leaders

In Chuuk, the municipal governments are the core of the local response.

Municipal Focal Points: Each of Chuuk's 40 municipalities designates a focal point who serves as the key link to the CDEOC. They operate the outer island radios to receive and share warnings, coordinate local evacuations with village chiefs, and conduct the IDA, which is reported back to the CDEOC to guide the state-level response.

Mayors and Traditional Leaders ("Soupun"): These leaders work with the Municipal Focal Points to manage community preparedness, oversee shelters, and ensure public adherence to safety and evacuation orders.[103]

Pohnpei State

Pohnpei's system is anchored by a DM plan and SOP, both endorsed in 2025.[104] The Department of Public Safety plays a central and defining role in the command and control of emergency operations.

Governor

The Governor provides overall direction and authorizes all major actions, such as activating the SEOC, GDC, and SDCT, declaring a State of Emergency, and liaising with the FSM President for requesting aid.

Director of Public Safety

The Director serves as the SEOC Controller, overseeing and coordinating all emergency response operations from the SEOC (located at the Fire Station). The Director also acts as the Secretary for the GDC to bridge the gap between the operational teams (DCO/SDCT) and the executive-level GDC.

State Disaster Coordinating Officer (DCO)

The DCO serves as the Chair of the SDCT and coordinates the execution of tasks assigned by the Governor and SEOC Controller. The Officer focuses on SDCT operational planning and implementation, including overseeing evacuation operations in coordination with Mayors.

Governor's Disaster Committee (GDC)

The GDC is an executive group of Department Directors that directs the state's preparedness program and makes emergency policy. It advises the Governor on the allocation of funds and the use of state resources.

State Disaster Coordination Team (SDCT)

The SDCT comprises focal points from Pohnpei's key departments, agencies, and partners. It assists the DCO in planning and implementing state disaster response activities.

Local and Community-Level Response

Pohnpei's local response is organized through its 12 municipal governments, with a strong emphasis on the role of the mayor.

Mayors: Mayors are the primary disaster managers at the local level. They are responsible for community emergency preparations, notifying residents of warnings and evacuation plans, designating municipal focal points for the SDCT, and conducting the IDA to report back to the SEOC.

Traditional Leaders ("Nanmwarki" and "Naniken"): These paramount and secondary chiefs hold significant influence and work alongside the mayors to ensure community cooperation, especially on the main island of Pohnpei.[105]

Kosrae State

As a single-island state, Kosrae's DM structure is highly centralized at the state level, yet it maintains robust coordination with its municipal governments. The Kosrae State SOP for Emergency and Disaster Response defines a clear hierarchy for command, control, and coordination, with the Governor holding ultimate authority and the State DCO managing operations.[106]

Governor

The Governor holds ultimate authority for the direction and control of all disaster operations. This leader activates the state disaster plan, declares a State of Emergency, approves the allocation of state funds, and issues public warnings and curfews. The Governor serves as the sole official responsible for notifying the FSM President and formally requesting national assistance when state capacity is exceeded.

State Disaster Coordinating Officer (DCO)

The DCO is the primary operational coordinator for all phases of DM and acts as the nexus for all response activities. The DCO manages the SEOC, activates and chairs the SDCT, and provides direct advice and situation reports to the Governor. It is responsible for maintaining the State Disaster Plan and SOP, coordinating damage assessments, and developing the State Action Plan and Budget.

Governor's Disaster Committee (GDC)

Chaired by the Governor, the GDC is a high-level advisory body composed of the directors of all state departments and heads of key agencies (e.g., Kosrae Utilities Authority, Port Authority). It provides policy advice to the Governor on declaring emergencies and requesting national aid, facilitates inter-departmental coordination, and approves the use of departmental assets and personnel for the response effort.

State Disaster Coordination Team (SDCT)

The SDCT is an operational-level team composed of designated focal points from all relevant state departments, agencies, and partner organizations. It is chaired by the DCO and is responsible for executing the response plan. Its duties include staffing the SEOC, conducting detailed sector-based damage assessments, identifying needs, and drafting the State Action Plan and Budget for the GDC's review.

Local and Community-Level Response

In Kosrae, the local response framework is directly integrated with the state system through the municipal governments. Unlike states with numerous outer islands, Kosrae's single-island geography allows for more direct communication and coordination.

Mayors: The Mayors of Kosrae's municipalities (Lelu, Malem, Tafunsak, and Utwe) are the lead disaster managers at the community level. They are responsible for acting on state-level warnings by activating community warning systems (e.g., sirens, church bells), overseeing

orderly evacuations to pre-designated shelters (primarily schools), and coordinating with the DCO.

A critical function of the mayors is to conduct the IDA for their municipality within 24 hours after a disaster. This initial report, which details the scope of damage and immediate needs, is delivered directly to the SEOC and is the foundational document for all subsequent state and national response planning.

Municipal Representatives: Each Mayor designates a focal point and an alternate to serve on the SDCT. These representatives act as a direct link between the SEOC and the community, ensuring that municipal needs are communicated during state-level planning and that state directives are implemented effectively on the ground.

Community and Partner Organizations: Local response is further supported by organizations like the MRCS, whose volunteers assist with registering evacuees at shelters and conducting damage assessments, and the Kosrae Women's Association, which ensures the specific needs of women and vulnerable groups are addressed in the response.[107]

Civil-Military Coordination in Disaster Response

FSM does not maintain a standing military force. Therefore, civil-military coordination in FSM is not about integrating a national armed force but about integrating foreign military and coast guard assets into the civilian-led, state-managed disaster response system.

Potentially the most important foreign military forces are those of the U.S. The bilateral U.S.-FSM relationship is formalized in the COFA, under which the U.S. has full authority and responsibility for FSM's defense and security. It grants the U.S. military access to FSM's territory, airspace, and waters in exchange for the U.S. making defense guarantees and providing economic assistance, which includes disaster relief. In addition, FSM citizens can serve in the U.S. armed forces.[108]

The COFA does not make U.S. military intervention automatic for every emergency; rather, it creates the broader defense relationship, access architecture, and interoperability environment within which U.S. support can be provided when requested and approved through national channels.

The coordination process follows a strict, civilian-led, request-driven process:

1. State-Level Request: A disaster overwhelms a state's resources. The Governor, upon the advice of the GDC, declares a state of emergency and formally requests assistance from the FSM President.
2. National-Level Assessment and Request: The FSM President, advised by the NDC, assesses the situation. If national resources are insufficient, the President declares a national state of disaster and makes a formal request for international assistance. This request is directed through diplomatic channels, including to the United States, through channels spelled out in the COFA.
3. U.S. Activation and Coordination: The U.S. Chief of Mission in FSM can issue a disaster declaration, which mobilizes initial support from the U.S. For major disasters, the FSM President can request a U.S. Compact Disaster Declaration (CDD). A CDD unlocks significant resources from the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other U.S. government departments. The U.S. Department of State is the lead federal agency for foreign disaster response. It coordinates the overall U.S. government effort, including any military involvement.

The U.S. Department of War (DoW) can provide support to the U.S. civilian-led response. Military assets are not deployed for direct DM but are requested for specific, unique capabilities where civilian options are unavailable. These capabilities could include:

- Logistics and Transportation: airlifting and sea-lifting personnel, equipment, and critical relief supplies (food, water, medical items) to remote outer islands[109]

- Aerial Assessment: conducting initial aerial surveillance to provide a quick overview of damage in inaccessible areas[110]
- Specialized Support: providing technical expertise, restoring critical communication links, and conducting medical evacuations (MEDEVAC)[111]

This framework ensures that military assets support rather than lead disaster response. Other key partners, such as Australia and New Zealand, may also provide military assets for humanitarian relief under separate bilateral agreements, always in coordination with the FSM government.

The following cases illustrate how U.S. and other foreign military assets have supported civilian-led disaster response efforts in FSM:

- 2011 Dengue Outbreak (Yap): During a severe dengue outbreak in Yap State, the U.S. military provided critical logistical support by transporting essential intravenous fluids from Guam to the outer island of Fais on behalf of Yap's health authorities.[112]
- March 2018 Tropical Depression Jelawat (Pohnpei): Following a U.S. disaster declaration, FEMA and the U.S. Agency for International Development led a Joint Damage Assessment (JDA) of the affected areas. While civilian-led, such missions often rely on U.S. military air assets for transportation to and between the dispersed islands.[113]
- April 2024 Drought (Yap and Pohnpei): In response to a severe El Niño-driven drought:
  - The U.S. Coast Guard conducted MEDEVAC and delivered crucial drought relief supplies to the island of Woleai in Yap State; and
  - The Australian Defence Vessel Reliant delivered 116,000 liters (30,600 gallons) of fresh water to Pohnpei.[114]

These examples underscore the critical role that military assets play in overcoming the immense logistical challenges of disaster response in FSM. This support, always coordinated through and in support of civilian authorities, is a cornerstone of FSM's ability to respond to major crises.

International / Regional Organizations

FSM's national DM system is designed to connect quickly to international support when necessary. The system is embedded in a broader web of global norms, Pacific regional institutions, humanitarian coordination arrangements, and technical support mechanisms. These external structures do not replace FSM's national authority; rather, they shape the policy environment, provide operational support, strengthen technical capacity, and create pathways for surge assistance when national and state resources are insufficient. Global and regional frameworks, such as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent, establish broad principles for disaster risk reduction and preparedness. Pacific regional institutions adapt those principles to island contexts and provide technical and policy support. Humanitarian coordination platforms then connect FSM to operational assistance during major emergencies.

FSM's approach to DM is anchored in its commitments to key international agreements, which guide its national and state-level policies beyond immediate response toward comprehensive risk reduction.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)

As a signatory, FSM aligns its DM planning with the Sendai Framework Priorities for Action:

- Understanding disaster risk
- Strengthening disaster risk governance
- Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience
- Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response and to "Build Back Better" in recovery

FSM's state-level DM plans, which explicitly detail phases for mitigation and preparedness alongside response and recovery, are evidence of the country's progress toward Sendai targets. The focus is on establishing early warning systems, updating building codes, and developing climate-resilient agriculture.[115]

Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

FSM's engagement with the SDGs is intrinsically linked to its DM efforts. For the country, achieving the SDGs is impossible without building resilience to climate change and disasters. SDG 13 (Climate Action) is central, as climate change is a primary driver of hazard intensity in the region. Furthermore, recurring disasters directly threaten progress on SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) by destroying livelihoods and agricultural systems. By integrating disaster risk reduction into its national development plans, FSM works to protect its development gains from being erased by a single catastrophic event and ensures that progress is both sustainable and resilient.[116]

Regional Disaster Management

Regional solidarity is a cornerstone of FSM's DM strategy. The country actively participates in Pacific-wide political and technical bodies that create a unified approach to the region's shared existential threats. Within the Pacific, the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF), Pacific Community (SPC), and other multilateral organizations help define the regional political understanding of security, resilience, and humanitarian action. In the Pacific context, disaster risk reduction is increasingly treated not only as an environmental or humanitarian issue but also as a regional security issue. This shift is strongly reflected in the Boe Declaration on Regional Security (2018), through which Pacific leaders broadened the concept of security to include human security and humanitarian assistance, elevating disaster resilience as a core regional priority.

As a member of the PIF, FSM is a party to landmark regional declarations that embed disaster resilience at the heart of regional security. Among these declarations is the Boe Declaration and its recognition that climate change is the single greatest threat to the livelihoods, security, and wellbeing of the peoples of the Pacific.[117] This high-level political commitment provides the mandate for prioritizing disaster risk reduction and facilitates coordinated advocacy on the world stage.

The SPC is the region's principal scientific and technical organization, providing crucial support in areas like geospatial information, climate science, and disaster risk assessment tools that inform FSM's planning. SPC is particularly important for health, agriculture, fisheries, and resilience planning.[118] While SPC is not typically the lead actor for immediate relief, it is often important in preparedness, assessment tools, and sector-specific recovery support.

Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP)

The FRDP provides an integrated strategy for climate change and disaster risk management, and FSM and its partners use the Framework to coordinate their efforts. It promotes a "whole-of-society" approach, bringing together governments, the private sector, and civil society to build resilience across all sectors. FSM's Joint State Action Plans, which combine disaster risk management and climate change adaptation, are practical applications of the FRDP's principles.[119]

International Resources

United Nations (UN)

The UN has been present in FSM since 1947, although the country only formally joined the UN in 1991. In November 2021, the UN Multi-Country Office (MCO) for Micronesia was established. The office coordinates the UN's assistance to FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, and Palau. Currently, eight resident UN agencies and 12 non-resident UN agencies work in FSM.[120]

The UN provides critical support through

its agencies, coordinated by the UN MCO for Micronesia.

- IOM is a key operational partner, supporting shelter, logistics, and the management of pre-positioned relief supplies.[121]
- The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) focuses on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), education, and child protection. It is one of the most visible UN operational partners in Pacific emergencies and is especially important where schools serve as evacuation or distribution sites, where children and adolescents need protection services, and where water systems, hygiene supplies, or public health messaging need rapid support. UNICEF is also relevant in preparedness because it works through local institutions such as schools, teachers, and community leaders.[122]
- FAO contributes most directly to agricultural recovery, food security assessments, and support to local food production systems. In FSM, where disaster impacts often damage crops, agroforestry systems, and household food gardens, FAO's role is particularly relevant to recovery rather than immediate lifesaving relief. Its support is often most important after droughts, typhoons, and flood events that disrupt household food production.[123]
- The World Food Programme (WFP) has a more limited physical footprint in FSM than in larger humanitarian contexts, but it remains important as a food-security and logistics partner within the wider Pacific humanitarian architecture. In emergencies that create significant food-access problems or disrupt transport and supply systems, WFP can support assessment, logistics planning, and food-security coordination. In FSM, WFP's value is greatest when a hazard creates broad distribution problems across multiple islands rather than a single-site emergency.[124]
- UN Women is relevant to DM because emergencies in FSM, as elsewhere, affect women, girls, and gender-diverse groups in specific ways. UN Women's role is generally strongest in protection, gender-responsive planning, and ensuring that humanitarian programming addresses safety, participation, and inclusion. In FSM's context, where local women's councils and community structures are important actors, UN Women also supports more inclusive disaster governance and community outreach.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) provides technical support for public health emergencies and disease surveillance. In FSM, disaster impacts can quickly become health emergencies because of water contamination, service disruption, vector-borne disease risk, and the fragility of supply chains to clinics on remote islands. WHO's comparative advantage is not bulk relief distribution but technical support for emergency health preparedness, surveillance, outbreak control, and coordination between disaster management and public health authorities.

The Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) is one of the most important operational humanitarian arrangements relevant to FSM. The PHT is a regional inter-agency coordination platform that supports Pacific Island governments during major emergencies.[125]

To improve the timeliness, effectiveness, and predictability of humanitarian response in the region, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Office of the Pacific Islands established the PHT in 2008. It is a network of humanitarian organizations working together to assist 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories, which include Cook Islands, Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu, Tuvalu, and Tokelau, to prepare for and respond to disasters. In FSM, the PHT is most relevant when a disaster requires external surge assistance in areas such as assessments, information management, technical support, emergency stocks, and humanitarian coordination.

Beyond policy frameworks, FSM relies on a network of operational partners who provide

tangible support during crises.

The COFA with the United States is the most significant international partnership for FSM. Under the COFA, the U.S. is obligated to provide defense and security, which includes disaster response. In a major disaster, the FSM President can request a U.S. CDD, which unlocks extensive support from U.S. agencies. Critically, it also provides a formal mechanism for requesting logistical and transportation support from the U.S. DoW, whose air and sea assets are often the only means of reaching remote outer islands with aid.

The FRANZ Agreement is a partnership among France, Australia, and New Zealand, and it is a key component of the regional response architecture. The arrangement facilitates the rapid coordination of relief assets in response to disasters in the Pacific.[126] Following a request from an affected state, like FSM, the FRANZ partners coordinate their civilian and military assets – e.g., patrol boats, transport aircraft, and humanitarian supplies – to avoid duplication and ensure an efficient, timely response.

In summary, FSM's engagement with the international community is a sophisticated, multi-layered strategy. It uses global frameworks like the Sendai Framework to guide its domestic policy toward long-term resilience, while leveraging regional partnerships and the unique relationship of Free Association to secure the immediate, life-saving support required to respond to disasters in one of the world's most logistically challenging environments.

Other Disaster Management Partners

FSM relies on a broad network of DM partners to supplement national and state capacity, particularly during large-scale emergencies that strain domestic logistics, communications, health services, and relief distribution. In addition to UN entities and regional humanitarian mechanisms, there are local civil society and faith-based organizations embedded in national coordination structures to support preparedness, assessments, logistics, and response operations. For a foreign responder, these partners operate within a nationally-led and state-implemented system, not as parallel authorities.

Civil society organizations are essential DM partners because they provide local access, trusted community relationships, and last-mile delivery that government agencies and international organizations may struggle to maintain across a dispersed island geography.

Micronesian Red Cross Society (MRCS) is an important domestic humanitarian response organization. Founded in 2000, MRCS was admitted to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 2003.[127] It is integrated into FSM's national disaster coordination system and is regularly involved in preparedness, public awareness, relief distribution, first-response support, and community-level humanitarian action. The main MRCS office is in Pohnpei, and there are chapter offices in Yap, Chuuk, and Kosrae. There are pre-positioned non-food MRCS supplies in Disaster Preparedness Containers in each state. Across all chapters, the MRCS provides services related to health, capacity building, and promotion of International Humanitarian Law, in addition to disaster preparedness, risk reduction, and response.[128] As a key partner in DM, MRCS focuses on addressing the needs of FSM's most vulnerable communities but is also active in general identification and assessment of need and delivery of services.[129]

FSM Alliance of NGOs (FANGO) is important less as a direct response actor than as a coordinating civil society network. It helps connect local NGOs, supports community-level programming, and strengthens the wider non-governmental operating environment. In an emergency, this type of network matters because it helps identify which community organizations are active, trusted, and able to support response or recovery.[130]

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT

The country defines critical infrastructure as "infrastructure… critical for livelihood following a disaster," and it includes "transport, water, wastewater, electricity, gas, and communications and broadcasting" under that rubric within the NDMP. Under the NDMP, the Infrastructure CWG of the NDCT is tasked with both managing restoration of minimum basic services to affected communities and supporting longer-term rehabilitation. The head of the national DTCI chairs the Infrastructure CWG and sits on the Deployment and Assessment CWG.[131]

Most transport and utilities infrastructure is owned by the national or state governments.[132] As part of long-term efforts to build social and economic resilience, in January 2025, the National Congress approved the FSM Infrastructure Development Plan (2025-2034), developed with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank's Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF); it accompanies the Strategic Development Plan (2024-2043).[133]

Exposure, Vulnerability, and Coping Capacity

Most of the country's critical infrastructure lies in the coastal zone and is, therefore, exposed to weather and maritime hazards. High winds, heavy rains, and storm surges threaten not only to damage these structures but to render them unusable during a disaster response. Because of the geographically dispersed nature of the country, each island or atoll effectively has its own transport, communications, and energy networks. Air- and seaports and satellite and fiber-optic systems are beginning to allow more reliable connections nationally, although many communities remain underserved.

Humanitarian Storage Capacity

There is minimal public or commercial storage available anywhere in the country. In February 2026, the government broke ground on a dedicated humanitarian warehouse with the support of the SPC and Australian government through the Pacific Humanitarian Warehousing Program. The facility is located behind the DECEM compound in Palikir, Pohnpei. When complete, it will allow DECEM and other DM authorities to store and move relief supplies and equipment ahead of and during an emergency.[134] Also present are storage spaces owned by the IFRC and IOM; these spaces range from several 20-foot storage containers in each state to one IOM concrete structure in Weno, Chuuk.[135]

Transportation

FSM relies heavily on air and sea transport for trade and would rely on these modes for humanitarian relief in the wake of a disaster. All key transport assets – airports, seaports, and main roads – are exposed to the impacts of hydrometeorological and maritime hazards, and the country's ability to swiftly clear debris or repair damage is limited. Responders may be required to use rotary wing assets based on a vessel offshore and to supply their own aviation fuel to support a disaster response, especially if the effects are on an outer island or across several islands.

The DTCI develops and administers policies and regulations surrounding sea and air transport and all capital construction projects.[136] It is also tasked with overseeing arrangements for disaster incidents related to aircraft and ships, while the Department of Justice (National Police Division) will manage search-and-rescue tasks at sea.[137] DTCI's marine and civil aviation divisions are responsible for planning, coordination, and regulation of their respective transport modes. They oversee day-to-day operations, administration, and maintenance of the assets under government ownership and coordinate services related to air and sea transport.[138] For roadways, DTCI is responsible for delivering funding and program management

to state authorities that execute construction and maintenance.[139] Each state government has a department or authority responsible for road projects, although most capacity is in the private sector and used on contract.

Airports

There are four international airports – one in each state. They have regular international and national service, but they are small. The runways and facilities of both the international airports and nine civil airfields are exposed to hazards that may impact operations and safety. Most runways sit below 6 m (20 ft) above sea level, and many are on coasts, where they are at least partly bordered by water. All airport and airfield facilities are exposed to the impacts of storms – e.g., wave overwash, wind damage to surrounding trees, debris on the runway, etc.

In case of an emergency, use of airfields will be contingent on the ability to clear runways and establish security at and around the facilities, as well as arrangements for onward transport of relief supplies. At airfields on outer islands, communications – and, therefore, airfield operations – may be impacted by hydrometeorological hazard events.

All airports are owned by the islands or states where they are located, and the owner oversees airport operations, including contracting for training and commercial operations. The DTCI's Division of Civil Aviation provides safety oversight for all aviation activities – air operations, maintenance, and airport security – in the country. Table 1 provides some of the specifications of FSM's key airports.[140]

The international airports' surroundings and capacity include:

- Yap International lies 5.6 km (3.5 mi) southwest of Colonia.[141] The runway is often impacted by heavy rains and standing water. There are 13,659 m^2 (147,024 ft^2) of aircraft parking areas. There are no dedicated helipads or storage areas. The State DCO has a storage unit that may be available during emergencies.[142]
- Chuuk's airport on Weno, in the middle of Chuuk Lagoon, lies on the island's northwestern coast, with reefs on one side and water on both ends.[143] There is an aircraft parking area of 8,400 m^2 (90,416 ft^2). There are no dedicated helipads or at-airport cargo storage spaces.[144]
- Pohnpei International serves FSM's capital. The facility sits on Deketik, an offshore island, 1.2 km (0.75 mi) north of Kolonia, to which it is connected by a mile-long causeway. The runway has water at both ends.[145] There are 8,400 m^2 (90,416 ft^2) of aircraft parking areas, but there are no dedicated helipads.[146]
- Kosrae International sits atop Kosrae Island's fringing reef, just off the western Okat district. The facility is surrounded by the reef complex and water.[147] There are 9,680 m^2 (104,194 ft^2) of aircraft parking areas, but there are no dedicated helipads.[148]

While the four international airports commonly maintain fuel supplies, prior arrangements for fuel are either required or encouraged. Outer island airfields do not maintain fuel supplies.[149]

Seaports

The country's seaports provide the major lifeline for its people in terms of imported goods and passenger transport to and from outer islands. There are four international seaports – one in each state; they are located on the main islands in protected lagoon areas.[150] These ports are capable of handling various commodities, including foodstuffs, liquid fuels, machinery, equipment, vehicles, and consumer goods. The Department of Finance is responsible for customs enforcement. For duty exemptions for humanitarian cargo, DECEM and the DTCI are required to provide a letter; clearance for humanitarian goods consignments is 24-48 hours and will be prioritized in an emergency.[151]

<u>Yap Colonia International Port "Tomil Harbor"</u>

Owned and managed by the Yap State Department of Transport and Public Works

- Vessel maximum: 183 m (600 ft) length overall (LOA), 13 m (42.6 ft) beam, 11 m (36 ft) draft

Airport (State)	IATA / ICAO Code	Elevation	Runway Dimensions	Runway Surface	Notes
Chuuk International Airport (Chuuk)	TKK / PTKK	3 m (10 ft)	1,831 × 46 m (6,000 × 150 ft)	Asphalt (grooved)	
Fais Civil Airfield (Yap)	n/a	1 m (3 ft)	914 × 23 m (3,000 × 75 ft)	Chip seal	Unattended; apply to Division of Civil Aviation for permits
Houk (Pulusuk) Civil Airfield (Chuuk)	n/a	1 m (3 ft)	411 × 15 m (1,350 × 50 ft)	Concrete	Apply to Division of Civil Aviation for permits; contact Chuuk Port Authority Airport Manager
Kosrae International Airport (Kosrae)	KSA / PTSA	3.4 m (11 ft)	1,753 × 46 m (5,751 × 150 ft)	Asphalt (grooved)	
Mortlock Islands (Ta) Civil Airfield (Chuuk)	n/a	1 m (3 ft)	411 × 15 m (1,350 × 50 ft)	Concrete	Apply to Division of Civil Aviation for permits; contact Chuuk Port Authority Airport Manager
Mwoakilloa Civil Airfield (Pohnpei)	n/a	2.2 m (8 ft)	366 × 30 m (1,200 × 100 ft)	Concrete	Apply to Division of Civil Aviation for permits; contact Pohnpei Port Authority Airport Manager
Onoun (Ulul) Civil Airfield (Chuuk)	n/a	1 m (3 ft)	366 × 23 m (1,200 × 75 ft)	Chip seal	Apply to Division of Civil Aviation for permits; contact Chuuk Port Authority Airport Manager
Pingelap Civil Airfield (Pohnpei)	n/a	2.5 m (8 ft)	366 × 30 m (1,200 × 100 ft)	Concrete	Apply to Division of Civil Aviation for permits; contact Pohnpei Port Authority Airport Manager
Pohnpei International Airport (Pohnpei)	PNI / PTPN	2.5 m (8 ft)	1,829 × 46 m (6,000 × 150 ft)	Asphalt (grooved)	
Sapwuahfik Civil Airfield (Pohnpei)	n/a	2.5 m (8 ft)	366 × 23 m (1,200 × 75 ft)	Concrete	Boat ferries passengers and cargo between airport and Ngatik Island; apply to Division of Civil Aviation for permits; contact Pohnpei Port Authority Airport Manager
Ulithi (TT02) Civil Airfield (Yap)	ULI / n/a	2 m (6 ft)	914 × 23 m (3,000 × 75 ft)	Concrete	Unattended; apply to Division of Civil Aviation for permits
Woleai Civil Airfield (Yap)	n/a	2 m (6 ft)	914 × 23 m (3,000 × 75 ft)	Chip seal	
Yap International Airport (Yap)	YAP / PTYA	27.7 m (91 ft)	1,831 × 46 m (6,000 × 150 ft)	Asphalt (grooved)	

Table 1: Airport Specifications

- 1.2 km² (0.5 mi²) of total area
- 3 berths + 1 roll-on/roll-off (RORO)
  - Main dock is 264 m (866 ft) long
  - RORO capacity up to 500 metric tons (550 tons)
- Cargo – mostly containerized and vehicles
- Handling equipment
  - Ship's gantry required for container offload[152]
  - Top loaders / reach-stackers for containers, small forklifts available
- No storage areas at port[153]

Port of Chuuk "Weno Harbor"

Owned and operated by the Chuuk State Department of Transport and Public Works

- 2 berths – 190 m (623 ft) and 185 m (607 ft);[154] maximum draft – 9 m (30 ft)
- RORO ramp available at east end, past main dock, for front-ramp landing craft[155]
- Handling equipment
  - Ship's gantry required for container offload[156]
  - Top loaders / reach-stackers for containers, forklifts available
- No storage areas at port[157]

Pohnpei Harbor

Owned and operated by the Pohnpei Ports Authority

- Berths – 1; maximum draft: 12 m (40 ft); total length: 394 m (1,292 ft)[158]
- 4 areas – international, fishing, domestic, and marine surveillance
  - Main dock – international and fishing
  - Adjacent dock – domestic and marine surveillance, base for government-owned ships
- Cargo – mostly containerized[159]
- Handling equipment – 1 × 50-ton mobile crane,[160] top loaders and forklifts available
- Storage areas
  - Transit warehouses (2) – 1,200 m² (12,916 ft²) total for breakbulk and bagged goods
  - General (2 × 7,500 m² [80,730 ft²]) – 1 for containers and vehicles and 1 for breakbulk[161]

Port of Kosrae

Owned and operated by the Kosrae Port Authority

- Berth – 1; vessel maximum: 152 m (500 ft) LOA;[162] maximum draft: 9 m (30 ft)[163]
- Handling Equipment
  - Ship's gantry required for container offload[164]
  - Top loaders / reach-stackers for containers, small forklifts available
- Warehouse (1) – 600m² (6,458 ft²)[165]

Outer Islands

Chuuk Lagoon's islands have small jetties or docks: Tolensom Docks, Winifrei and Wonip; Oneisom Dock, Sapitiw; Romonum Dock, Chorong; Eot Dock, Fanip; Ichimantong Dock, Tonoas; Fefen Dock Improvement at Sapeta; Uman Dock at Sopou or Aranga; Parem Dock; Siis Dock.[166]

The presence and condition of other jetties or docks on other states' outer islands varies.

Roads

All roads are government-owned and -maintained. On the more populous islands, there is generally one primary road that runs the circumference of the island. There is no redundancy designed into the network, and damage or blockage to the main road leads to extended isolation for communities. Heavy rain can make roads impassable, and landslides or rockfalls can block stretches of road.

The primary road network of the main islands includes:

- Yap – 40 km (25 mi) of sealed and 10 km (6 mi) of unsealed roadway; several bridges
- Chuuk (Weno) – 20 km (12 mi) of sealed and unsealed main roads; several bridges; many unsealed peripheral roads
- Pohnpei – 100 km (62 mi) of sealed roadway; several bridges; small, peripheral roads are unsealed
- Kosrae – 30 km (19 mi) of sealed and 30 km (19 mi) of unsealed roadways; several bridges; roads on southern and southwestern sides may be accessible only by 4-wheel-drive vehicles[167]

Yap's roadways fall to the state Department of Transportation and Public Works. There are no sealed roads on outer islands.

Chuuk State's roads are the responsibility of the state Department of Transportation and Public Works. Weno is home to most of the roads, but there are some unsealed roads on the Southern Namoneas and Faichuk (48 km; 30 mi), Tonoas (16 km; 10 mi), Fefen (23 km; 14 mi), Dublon (10 km; 6 mi), and Uman (16 km; 10 mi).

Pohnpei's roads are the responsibility of the state Department of Transportation and Infrastructure. Sealed roads are limited to Pohnpei Island.

Kosrae's roads are the responsibility of the state Department of Transportation and Infrastructure.[168]

Communications

DTCI develops and administers policies surrounding the communications network and capital improvement projects.[169] The independent Telecommunication Regulation Authority sets and enforces the rules for telecom firms, licenses radio and communications networks nationally, and manages the radio frequency spectrum.[170] A maritime incident that damages a cable or a storm that damages towers or satellite terminals has the potential to disrupt an entire island's – or state's – ability to send emergency communications to affected communities or responders. FSM's development partners continue to work to make telecoms and radio networks more robust, but local low-technology methods of communication remain prevalent, especially in outer islands.

Early Warning Systems and Information Sharing

Most hazard event warnings for FSM are related to cyclones and droughts, although the ability to deliver tsunami warnings is also critical. The Guam Forecasting Office (WFO Guam) of the National Weather Service (NWS) of the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is the source of weather information, and the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) in Honolulu, Hawaii, is the main source of tsunami information. Both WFO Guam and the PTWC send alerts, warnings, and other bulletins to the three Weather Service Offices (WSO) in FSM; they, in turn, ensure delivery to national and state officers responsible for activating disaster alerts and responses.

Covering the last mile to communities threatened by hazard events is the responsibility of village and municipal focal points who both operate the technical platforms that deliver alerts and ensure vulnerable and at-risk people receive messages and can act on them. The country's geographic dispersal and lack of resources exacerbate two key challenges: 1) practicing the flow of information and alerts from WFO Guam all the way to at-risk people; and 2) ensuring that the public knows what action to take upon receiving an alert.

Preparedness

GDCs in each state hold primary responsibility for early warning arrangements and for public awareness and training on hazards and actions to take when a disaster strikes. The DCOs also share responsibility for ensuring public awareness of each person's role in DM. At the local level, municipal and village DM committees are responsible for ensuring that there are local arrangements for last-mile early warning. This work is largely done by integrating churches, chiefs, elders, and other community groups into planning to ensure that all community members are reached by hazard information and by guidelines for action when a hazard event occurs.[171]

Response

During an emergency, the flow of warnings and other information goes from technical agencies (WFO Guam or the PTWC) to state offices (WSOs and SEOCs), then to state leaders (Governors), who pass information and status updates to both national (President and DECEM) and municipal (mayors or focal points) leaders. The State DCOs play the keystone roles receiving and transmitting

information, not only between national and local levels but also among themselves – e.g., the Yap and Chuuk DCOs commonly communicate with each other about storms that travel east-to-west and strike Chuuk before moving to Yap.

DECEM receives information updates from all WSOs and DCOs to maintain situational awareness and inform national leadership of on-going events, responses, and needs. There are telephone, email, and high-frequency (HF) radio links between DECEM and each SEOC.

Although they share many common points, details of each State's early warning and information sharing processes differ slightly.

Yap

- Radio broadcast station V6AI, HF radio, and FSM Telecom's bulk Short Message Service (SMS) coverage are available to deliver early warning messages and other bulletins.
- Weather warnings reach the state Director of Resource and Development and DCO from the Yap WSO.
- The Director of Resource and Development notifies the Governor, who notifies the FSM President.
- The Governor monitors the hazard event with state officials, DECEM, NOAA, and the Yap WSO; they may issue an official warning.
- The DCO notifies the State Department of Education to prepare schools to shift from regular operations to serve as shelters, if needed.
- The DCO coordinates and approves all media (broadcast, web, social media, SMS, or Outer Island Affairs) releases on a hazard event.
- The DCO delivers warning messages to Yap Island Chiefs and NICOs.
- The Outer Island Communication Officer maintains communication with NICOs after initial warnings.
- The Department of Public Safety deploys patrol units to announce alerts in areas that may not have radio service.
- Chiefs and NICOs activate megaphones, sirens, or church bells.[172]

Chuuk

- Radio broadcast station V6AK, HF radio, and FSM Telecom's bulk SMS coverage are the media available to deliver early warning messages and other bulletins.
- Weather warnings reach the CDEOC Director from the Chuuk WSO.
- The CDEOC Director notifies the Governor.
- The Governor may issue an official warning[173] and notify the FSM President of potential threats.[174]
- The CDEOC Director releases public updates on a hazard event or the status of a response and coordinates all warning announcements, recommendations, and evacuation notices.[175]
- The CDEOC Director notifies the State Department of Education to prepare schools to shift from regular operations to serve as shelters, if needed, and requests Department of Public Safety and Health and MRCS to organize staff, supplies, and volunteers to operate shelters.
- WSO Chuuk also uses telephone, email, and satellite phone, or may deploy public safety officers to send, receive, and disseminate emergency alerts.
- Mayors and the CDEOC Director are in direct radio communication.[176]
- Municipal focal points operate the radios to receive CDEOC messages and ensure that warnings are heard or received throughout the municipality; they are required to take special care to reach people living with disabilities, elders, and children.[177]
- Mayors and municipal focal points also develop and activate non-technical means – i.e., megaphones, sirens, or church bells – of alerting communities.[178]

Pohnpei

- Radio broadcast station V6AH, HF radio, and FSM Telecom's bulk SMS coverage are the media available to deliver early warning messages and other bulletins.
- Weather warnings reach the DCO from the Pohnpei WSO.
- The Director of Public Safety plays a

coordinating role among the Governor, GDC, DECEM, and Pohnpei WSO.
- The DCO, after approval by the Director of Public Safety, issues public statements about a hazard event and coordinates warnings, recommendations, and evacuation notices.
- The state Public Information Officer develops and may release, if authorized and in coordination with the DCO, social media updates regarding the hazard event.
- The DCO notifies the State Department of Education to prepare schools to shift from regular operations to serve as shelters, if needed, and the Education Director works with MRCS to ensure staff, supplies, and volunteers can operate shelters.
- Mayors are the focal point for ensuring that warnings and other bulletins are heard by the whole community.
- The Department of Public Safety patrol units deploy to make public announcements in areas not served by radio.[179]

Kosrae
- Radio broadcast station V6AJ, HF radio, and FSM Telecom's bulk SMS coverage are the media available to deliver early warning messages and other bulletins.
- Weather warnings reach the DCO from the Pohnpei WSO.
- The DCO, in consultation with the Governor, issues public statements about a hazard event and coordinates warnings, recommendations, and evacuation notices.
- The Governor is the main focal point for communications with the national government and DECEM, while the DCO passes information to DECEM.[180]
- The DCO notifies the State Department of Education to prepare schools to shift from regular operations to serve as shelters, if needed, and requests Department of Public Safety and Health to organize staff, supplies, and volunteers to operate shelters.[181]
- Mayors are the focal point for ensuring that warnings and other bulletins are heard by the whole community.[182]
- The Department of Public Safety supports last-mile notification through deployment of units to threatened communities who may not have radio service.[183]

Meteorology

Under Article VII of the Program and Services Agreement of the current COFA, the NWS provides FSM maritime and aviation weather safety alerts as well as warnings of extreme weather. NWS trains local employees of the weather service offices and of aviation weather reporting stations.

The Yap, Chuuk, and Pohnpei WSOs and the smaller stations and climatological networks are staffed by FSM contract employees working for their own government and with NWS. All three WSOs include an observatory and other equipment; they collect and disseminate weather and tide data, and they provide climatological expertise and technical assistance to FSM governments.
- WSO Pohnpei – supervises the weather reporting stations at Pohnpei International Airport and Kosrae; oversees secondary weather offices at Pingelap, Nukuoro, Kapingamarangi, and Kosrae
- WSO Yap and WSO Chuuk – oversee cooperative weather sites and secondary offices at Woleai and Ulithi (Yap) and Puluwat and Lukunor (Chuuk)[184]

WFO Guam is responsible for tropical storm watches and warnings for areas of the Western Pacific from west of Palau to east of the Marshall Islands and covering the whole of FSM.[185]

Tsunami

Tsunami warnings may reach DECEM and the state DCOs through either direct alert from the PTWC or through WFO Guam, with all FSM WSOs also receiving alerts.

Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Yap host sea-level (tide) monitoring stations that are part of the International Tsunami Warning System. Their measurements are sent directly to the PTWC for analysis and preparation of information products regarding tsunami threats in the areas bounded

by the Philippines, New Guinea, and Vanuatu.[186]

Information Sharing Focal Points

DECEM
PS-69, Palikir, Pohnpei, FSM 96941
Tel: (691) 320-8815
Facebook: fsm.decem
Web: *https://decem.gov.fm/*

WSO Pohnpei
P.O. Box 69, Pohnpei, FSM, 96941-0069
Tel: (691) 320-2248
Fax: (691) 320-5787
Facebook and X: NWSGuam
Web: *https://www.weather.gov/gum/WSOPohnpei*

Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS)
Kaselehlie Main St., Pohnpei, FSM 96941
Tel: (691) 320-7077
Email: *mrcs@mail.fm*
Facebook: mrcs181

International Organization for Migration (IOM)
P.O. Box K 2644, Kolonia, Pohnpei, FSM 96941
Tel: (691) 320-8735 or (691) 320-8795
Facebook: IOMMicronesia
Web: *https://www.iom.int/countries/micronesia*

Telecommunications Infrastructure

Mobile telephone networks and mobile broadband are common modes of communication across all states. There is limited redundancy in the telecommunications backbone. Subsea cables connect all main islands, and some satellite connectivity is coming on-line as new service providers enter the national market.

An estimated 80% of FSM's territory is covered by a telecoms network. The backbone is subsea cables to each island; they are owned by FSM Telecom and deliver 4G connections nationally.[187] There are multiple submarine cables that deliver internet access; they include lines linking Chuuk and Pohnpei, Yap and Guam, Pohnpei and Kiribati (East Micronesia Cable), and Pohnpei and Marshall Islands (HANTRU-1).[188]

As of October 2025, the World Bank assessed national mobile tele-density to be 32.8 mobile lines per 100 people. The estimated 36,000 mobile lines operating in the country are also the dominant means for Micronesians to access the internet. Internet access has skyrocketed, from 2 internet users per 100 people in 2014 to 39.8 internet users per 100 people in 2025.[189] One survey finds that there are 46,000 internet users in the country. Internet traffic is dominated by mobile devices by a ratio of 2 mobiles to every 1 lap- or desktop. Android devices account for some 80% of handsets, while Apple devices account for the remainder.[190]

FSM Telecom is the dominant player in the telecoms market, and it has a government mandate to provide uniform services across the islands.[191] In recent years, there has been an expansion in services as well as fresh competition in the market. In part, expansion has come from investment in undersea and terrestrial cable (1,950 km [1,212 mi] of it) being laid and the entry into the market of Kacific, Starlink, and iBoom, the last being a fiberoptic cable company local to Yap, while the first two are satellite service providers.[192] Kacific sells wholesale internet access to mobile and internet services companies. Chuuk has also seen investment through the state-owned mobile service provider.[193]

Mass and Social Media

The dispersed nature of the country's islands and communities creates a difficult environment for commercial media. Outlets tend to be highly local with limited reach or very general with national reach. Radio is the dominant means for Micronesians to access information. Online media access is increasingly important and supported by accelerating uptake of internet subscriptions, often delivered by satellite service. A combination of radio, mobile phone alerts, and traditional alerting methods are critical to sharing information about natural hazards.

Public media is the norm and is dominated by radio. There is a public broadcaster in each state, and churches commonly maintain a radio network. One survey counted eight radio stations across the country.

State-owned

- Yap V6AI Radio AM1494, broadcasting in Yapese and English; available to stream on-line
- Chuuk V6AK Radio AM1593, broadcasting in Chuukese and English; available to stream on-line and via Facebook
- Pohnpei V6AH Radio AM1449, broadcasting in Pohnpeian and English; available to stream on-line and via Facebook and YouTube
- Kosrae V6AJ Radio AM1503 / FM89.7, broadcasting in Kosraean and English; available to stream on-line and via Facebook

Private / Church

- V6JY FM 88.9, in Yapese and English
- Bible Baptist Radio V6MA FM 88.5 and FM 89.9 / AM1350, in Chuukese and English; available to stream on-line and via Facebook
- Paradise Radio V6W1 FM 89.5 (Kaselehlie Press), in Pohnpeian and English; available via Facebook
- Joy FM 89.5 (Kosrae), 87.9 (Pohnpei), 88.5 (Yap) (Seventh-day Adventist Church), broadcasting in English; available to stream on-line and through Facebook

There is no national TV channel or broadcaster. FSM Telecom maintains a paid internet-based TV service available across most population centers, but this service carries only international channels.

Print is absent, but there is one independent organization, Kaselehlie Press, which produces a bi-weekly on-line newspaper.[194]

There are more than 43,000 unique social media user identities registered in the country. Facebook is the dominant social media platform.[195] Because of this uptake, most media outlets and practitioners work to engage their audiences through social media,[196] and this avenue for engagement may become a means to solicit information on emergencies and to deliver information.

Utilities

Geography is a key challenge for delivering public utilities. Micro-networks of electric power generation, water treatment, and wastewater management are the way in which most Micronesians access these services, and micro-networks have benefits and weaknesses. As most communities are coastal, wind, rain, or tidal surges linked to storms are the most common hazards that damage power plants or water facilities. While isolated to the community that relies on an affected plant or facility, disruption can still be deadly or disruptive. The ability to reinforce, relocate, or back up power and water assets is a long-term challenge due to the cost of such activities.

Each state has its own utilities service manager:

- Yap State Public Service Corporation (YSPSC) is responsible for electricity, water, sewerage, and solid waste services
- Chuuk Public Utilities Corporation (CPUC) provides electricity and water services
- Pohnpei Utility Authority (PUC) provides electricity, water, and sewerage services
- Kosrae Utility Authority (KUA) oversees electric power services[197]

Power

Each state has flexibility to implement modernization and extend electric service based on its specific circumstances. The national energy policy for 2024-2050 not only targets 100% national electrification by 2030 but also targets 70% use of renewables in electricity generation by 2030 and 100% by 2050.[198] The energy transition will be complicated by and go hand-in-hand with expansion of the electric grid to reach more communities. Each state has a utilities board, corporation, or authority charged with overseeing generation, transmission, and distribution. In addition, each state or island has responsibility to repair and rehabilitate damaged grids after a hazard event, and their ability to do

so varies and relies on both regional cooperation among power companies in other Pacific Island states and the ability to acquire and install new equipment and fuel.

Some 81% of households nationally have access to electricity.[199] In 2022, authorities estimated that 85% of households in Yap, 30% of households in Chuuk, 95% of households in Pohnpei, and 98% of households in Kosrae had access to the electric grid.[200] There are substantial differences between the main islands and outer islands, with the latter having limited or no access. Main islands benefit from community-owned generation and distribution and continue to see advances through civil society work to gain local expertise and procure renewables technologies. Outside the main islands, the energy policy focuses on mini-grids, especially for public facilities – i.e., schools and health dispensaries.[201]

As of 2020, the country's total energy source inputs were fossil fuels (90%) and renewables (10%). The utilities (electric generation) sector uses only about 30% of the fossil fuels imported by the country.[202] The electricity sub-sector has a generation capacity of 38.1 megawatts (MW) of power. Imported diesel accounts for nearly 85% of capacity. Solar accounts for 11%, wind for slightly more than 2%, and hydropower for slightly less than 2%. Thermal – diesel-fired – generation tends to account for nearly 95% of power generated in any given year.[203]

Yap State Public Service Corporation (YSPSC)

YSPSC provides electric power, mostly in the main islands. The state has some wind generation and expects to add more. It also has some solar capacity, especially via solar photovoltaic (PV) micro-grids on outer islands.[204] In May 2024, YSPSC connected a new 830-kilowatt diesel generator.[205]

Chuuk Public Utilities Corporation (CPUC)

CPUC serves Weno, and there is planned expansion to Tonoas, where a private generation plant at Petrocorp's copra facility is expected to come on-line. CPUC will purchase the Tonoas plant's power and distribute it to customers. In Chuuk's outer islands, the state education and health departments are the main power producers.[206] By June 2026, mini-grids in two islands, battery storage, and a 1.05-MW solar PV facility in Weno were slated to be complete.[207]

Pohnpei Utility Authority (PUC)

PUC provides electric power, with a focus on Pohnpei island. PUC has emphasized renewables and set a target of 20MW of renewables generating capacity, evenly split between solar and hydro. Much of this expansion, especially in solar, will be driven by installation of solar PV micro-grids in outer islands.[208] By June 2026, a rehabilitated conventional diesel-fired plant in Pohnpei was slated to be complete.[209]

Kosrae Utility Authority (KUA)

KUA provides electric power for the state.[210] Some reports suggest that KUA's metered electric power serves some 95% of households on the island.[211]

Water and Sanitation

Most of the country's fresh water comes from rainfall, which is highly variable year-on-year. During years with disrupted rainfall regimes, widespread drought can bring water insecurity that drives people to use marginal water sources, a practice that can lead to health problems linked to contamination and water-borne diseases.

Public water supply is heavily reliant (60%) on small streams, and the remainder is from groundwater. Many farms and livestock operations dump waste directly into streams, and there is minimal access to waste collection services. All surface and ground water requires treatment before use.

Piped water is available only on main islands, but even in these areas, many families have catchment tanks to store rainwater for household use. Outer islands and atolls rely almost entirely on rainfall catchment.[212] Similarly, only limited areas of the main islands have sewerage systems, and many homes use pit

latrines. A combination of improper disposal of human waste and frequent heavy rainfall events commonly leads to contamination of water sources.[213]

Some details of each state's existing water and sanitation systems:

- YSPSC manages water and wastewater systems around Colonia, but the Southern Yap Water Authority and Gagil-Tomil Water Authority supply water to other parts of the main islands.
- CPUC operations focus on Weno, where there is broad access to metered water supplies.
- PUC has established metered water supplies across most of the main island via a continuous ring of piping. Extending service from the Kolonia Sewerage Treatment Plant to Sokehs Island has long been a priority.
- KUA shares a mandate with the state Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to deliver water and wastewater services. The wastewater system covers only government facilities, the hospital, and the communities of Tofol and Lelu. Effluent discharges directly into the sea.[214]

Health Systems

The small population, remoteness, and dispersed geography of FSM contribute to challenges confronting its health system. The country continues to contend with outbreaks of communicable and vector- or water-borne diseases on top of escalating chronic health issues. Many communities lack a strong primary healthcare presence in normal times, and emergencies can exacerbate shortages of practitioners and supplies. To shore up some of the weaknesses in its system, FSM continues to build regional and international networks to enhance technical capacity, but a major disaster will still have significant public health consequences.

FSM faces several burdens of disease, with non-communicable diseases (NCD) – cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, and chronic respiratory conditions – the leading cause of death. In 2021, NCDs accounted for more than 80% of premature deaths.[215] Diabetes alone is responsible for nearly one in five deaths among adults aged 30-69 years. Risk factors such as persistent tobacco and betelnut use, unhealthy dietary habits, and declining physical activity continue to intensify the crisis. The economic burden of these conditions is substantial, with approximately US$6 million spent annually on overseas medical referrals. Overall health spending represents about 12% of GDP.[216] In 2023, the incidence of tuberculosis reached 234 cases per 100,000 population, an increase of 180 cases from 2022.[217] Thus, a major disaster can be expected to exacerbate the prevalence of tuberculosis cases and increase exposure to infection in already crowded emergency shelters.

The country operates a decentralized public healthcare system, with each of the four states managing its own health services. Each state maintains a primary state hospital supported by medical, nursing, and auxiliary staff who deliver both inpatient and outpatient care. Community Health Centers and local dispensaries form the first tier of service delivery, while complex medical needs are often referred to hospitals abroad – in Guam, Hawaii, or the Philippines[218] – due to limited specialized services. Private options remain scarce nationwide, though Pohnpei hosts several private providers that supplement the public system.[219]

At the national level, the DHSA provides overarching policy guidance and coordination. It consists of two divisions: the Division of Health and the Division of Social Affairs. The Division of Health oversees programs addressing communicable and non-communicable diseases, behavioral health, maternal and child health, and immunization. The Division of Social Affairs manages programs related to youth, women, the elderly population, human rights, and sports activities. The Office of Support Services provides administrative support across the DHSA, including coordinating medical team visits, health workforce development, and the procurement and management of medical supplies.[220]

The FSM government offers public health insurance and provides health care at minimal cost; however, most FSM residents are not enrolled in the insurance program. Access to health care varies significantly between urban centers and rural communities, particularly in the outer islands, where limited infrastructure and workforce shortages contribute to disparities in service quality and delivery. Partnerships with external entities, such as U.S. programs under the COFA, help support service delivery across the country.[221]

In 2022, FSM had a density of 9.7 medical doctors and 22.21 nurses and midwives per 10,000 population, levels that fall short of the workforce needed to support a resilient health system.[222] These shortages are further complicated by FSM's geography; distance complicates the delivery of health services and contributes to low health literacy.[223]

Environmental conditions further strain the health system. Increasingly severe extreme weather events – such as typhoons and flooding – are driving a rise in vector-borne diseases, including dengue, malaria, Zika, and Chikungunya, as well as foodborne, waterborne, and neglected tropical diseases. Hydrometeorological hazard events intensify disease outbreaks, an effect that underscores the need to strengthen FSM's health systems at both the national and state levels.[224]

To achieve its health objectives, the FSM government established a comprehensive policy framework to guide health and development efforts. Central to this framework is the Health Strategic Development Plan (HSDP) 2024-2034, also known as the Framework for Sustainable Health Development. This 10-year roadmap aims to advance health equity, resilience, and sustainability by providing a unified direction for improving the well-being of communities across all states. Grounded in the principles affirmed in the national and state constitutions, which guarantee the right to health care for all citizens, the HSDP prioritizes achieving universal health coverage, addressing NCDs, and strengthening health systems, including digital health capacity and the health workforce. In support of this roadmap, the FSM government has also introduced several complementary policies, including the Early Childhood Development Policy (2024-2028), the Nutrition Action Plan (2020-2030), the Healthy Eating Guidelines (2023-2027), and the National Operational Guidelines on Adolescent and Youth-Friendly Health Services (2024).[225]

FSM collaborates with a range of regional and international organizations that support national health priorities and strengthen system capacity. The WHO works closely with FSM under the Pacific Islands-WHO Multi-Country Cooperation Strategy 2024-2029, which focuses on advancing universal health coverage through integrated, people-centered services; reducing the burden of NCDs and their associated risk factors; and enhancing preparedness and resilience for health emergencies and disease outbreaks.[226]

Regional collaboration is further reinforced through the Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA), an organization comprising health ministers, secretaries, and directors from the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific Islands, including American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, FSM, Guam, Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. In November 2024 in Pohnpei, PIHOA led a multi-agency vector surveillance and outbreak response training, contributing to stronger technical capacity for managing vector-borne disease threats.[227] Pohnpei also serves as the primary hub for SPC regional projects and partnerships facilitating coordination and implementation of regional health and development initiatives.[228]

In September 2025, Pohnpei hosted the inaugural State Health Symposium, which convened health professionals, policymakers, and community leaders to examine pressing public health challenges and discuss innovative approaches to improve health outcomes. Key topics included strategies to address NCDs and measures to strengthen disaster preparedness and resilience within the health system. Development partners continue to play an important role in supporting these

efforts; the U.S. government has contributed US$6.8 million since January 2025 through federal programs supporting national health initiatives.[229]

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed gaps in health personnel, resources, and system preparedness across the Pacific, including FSM. In response, the WHO Western Pacific Region, SPC, and other development partners collaborated closely with national health ministries through the Pacific Joint Incident Management Team (JIMT). This coordinated effort provided financial, technical, logistical, information, and monitoring support for FSM's pandemic response. The JIMT also played a central role in developing guidelines to ensure the continuous delivery of essential health services during the pandemic and helped to stabilize service provision despite widespread disruptions.[230] Building on lessons from the JIMT and drawing on best practices from established regional coordination mechanisms such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Public Health Emergency Coordination System and the Indo-Pacific Health Security Alliance, the WHO introduced a new regional coordination approach known as the Joint Emergency Risk Management Action Plan. This plan is designed to support rapid, predictable, and scalable coordination during public health emergencies, thereby strengthening collective readiness and response across the region.[231]

Efforts to strengthen emergency response capacity are underway. WHO-certified Emergency Management Teams (EMT) have proven essential for mobilizing surge support during COVID-19 and other regional crises. Several EMTs are in development to enhance readiness for future emergencies; they cover the Mariana Islands, FSM, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, and Tuvalu.[232]

FSM is taking steps to strengthen the primary health workforce, particularly in remote and outer island communities where staffing gaps are most pronounced. To support this effort, the government is collaborating with the College of Micronesia-FSM to revise the Health Assistant curriculum to ensure that graduates gain the skills, tools, and competencies needed to meet contemporary healthcare demands. These investments aim to build a more resilient, community-based health workforce capable of providing consistent services across geographically dispersed areas.[233]

The country is also enhancing its capacity for vector surveillance and disease prevention through participation in the Pacific Vector Network (PVN), a component of the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN). The PVN will enable member countries to use digital tools for collecting and sharing vector surveillance data, strengthening early detection and response to vector-borne diseases.[234] Complementing this effort, the PPHSN's Strengthening Health Interventions in the Pacific Program supports local health capacity-building and workforce development and forms part of the Postgraduate Certificate in Field Epidemiology at Fiji National University.[235]

Shelter and Housing

As most of FSM's communities sit at a low elevation, many types of infrastructure remain highly vulnerable to the growing threats of sea level rise, coastal erosion, and more frequent storms. Housing across the country includes modern apartments, bungalows, and traditional homes, with styles varying across the four states. These variations reflect both cultural traditions and the need to adapt to extreme weather. In urban areas and regions recently impacted by storms, homes are often built with concrete blocks, metal roofing, and reinforced foundations. In more remote communities, traditional designs and locally sourced materials are still commonly used, adapted to suit the tropical environment while providing some resilience to severe weather conditions.[236]

The DM plans of the four state governments share common features but also include state-specific procedures, particularly regarding evacuation and temporary shelter operations throughout the DM phases. Across all states, the Governor designates public shelters for

use during disasters, and the government is responsible for ensuring these facilities are structurally safe and equipped with adequate health and sanitation services.

In Yap, the government ensures that school buildings and other designated shelter infrastructures are properly certified and upgraded. Public infrastructure and housing are retrofitted to withstand disasters and extreme weather conditions.[237]

In Chuuk, the Department of Education (DOE) and the MRCS serve as focal agencies for managing evacuation center registration. According to the state's DM plan, during the preparedness phase, the state government must identify, inspect, and upgrade designated evacuation shelters to ensure safety, sanitation, and accessibility for people living with disabilities.[238]

In Pohnpei, traditional chiefs and school principals coordinate to prepare designated school facilities and work with the Pohnpei State Department of Health Services to supply medical and sanitation materials. The state DOE Emergency and Disaster Team is responsible for preparing school facilities for shelter use, coordinating transportation using school buses, and supporting public awareness efforts. Additionally, facilities under the Department of Housing Authority may be used as temporary shelters.[239]

In Kosrae, the DM plan outlines preparedness and warning phases that include ensuring the readiness of designated shelters.[240] The state DOE plays a central role by coordinating with school principals and teachers, providing training on shelter management and registration, and ensuring the availability of school buses for transportation. The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure also provides temporary shelter for displaced residents.[241]

Several organizations provide shelter support, including the MRCS, Salvation Army Micronesia, and IOM. The MRCS delivers emergency shelter assistance, such as disaster tool kits and tarpaulins, to families affected by disasters to help them rebuild and secure their homes.[242] The Salvation Army Micronesia offers emergency lodging, group homes, and transitional living options for individuals impacted by disasters. In addition, it provides food, showers, and safe housing, with specific support for families and other vulnerable groups.[243]

Since beginning operations in the country in 2009, IOM has consistently supported FSM in strengthening early warning, evacuation planning, community-based disaster risk reduction programs, and emergency shelter initiatives. IOM has assisted vulnerable populations in adapting to increasingly frequent extreme weather events while also promoting safe and inclusive migration policies. Its efforts include rebuilding hundreds of homes and public facilities after typhoons, restoring farmlands, reactivating livelihoods, and engaging and training local women, youth, traditional leaders, and people living with disabilities in disaster preparedness and response. During the 2023 drought that severely affected FSM, Marshall Islands, and Palau, IOM provided clean water and hygiene supplies to more than 7,000 residents.[244]

In 2019, Typhoon Wutip caused widespread housing damage across FSM; it also destroyed crops and contaminated wells, affecting over 115,000 residents. Housing assistance under the "Disaster Resilience in the Compact Nations (RESILIENCE)" project – implemented by IOM in partnership with the FSM government – provided shelter to affected families. The RESILIENCE project houses are built on stilts approximately 1 m (3.2 ft) above ground and equipped with storm shutters on all windows. These houses are designed to withstand heavy winds, torrential rainfall, and flooding. Each house includes a 6,000-liter (1,600-gallon) water tank to support rainwater harvesting as well as drainage systems that divert contaminated water, thereby reducing health and environmental risks.[245]

Food Security

The food system in FSM is a complex, dual system, combining traditional subsistence agriculture with a significant and growing

dependency on imported goods. This hybrid system creates profound vulnerabilities to the frequent natural disasters that strike the country. Both the local food base and the external supply chain are susceptible to severe disruption from typhoons, droughts, and coastal inundation. There are multiple factors undermining food security in FSM: increasing urbanization, insufficient investment in agriculture, higher cost of local foods compared to imported foods, limited interest of youth in agriculture, and biosecurity issues.[246]

For generations, the cornerstone of the Micronesian diet has been subsistence farming and fishing, a tradition that continues to provide daily nutrition for a large part of the population, particularly on the remote outer islands. The foundation of this diet consists of staple crops such as breadfruit, taro, yams, cassava, and coconuts, with coastal marine resources providing the primary source of protein. This traditional food system is exceptionally vulnerable to natural hazards. Typhoons can destroy tree crops like breadfruit, which require years to recover, while droughts frequently lead to the failure of essential root crops. Furthermore, the recurring threat of coastal inundation and storm surge results in saltwater intrusion, which poisons low-lying taro patches and contaminates the fragile freshwater lenses needed for irrigation.

The diet of Micronesians has changed significantly since World War II. Imported white rice, flour, sweet and refined foods, and fatty meats have increasingly replaced local foods. Over the past several decades, these foodstuffs have become staples, especially in the more populated islands. This transition has been driven by urbanization, wage-based economies, changing dietary preferences, and the relative ease of importing staple commodities. The average Micronesian consumes about 84 kilograms (185 pounds) of rice per year. In 2023, FSM imported 1.2 million kilograms (2.6 million pounds) of rice, mostly from the U.S., Japan, People's Republic of China, and Singapore. The heavy dependence on rice imports poses a serious threat to long-term food security.[247]

This dependence introduces a separate class of vulnerabilities. Natural disasters that damage or close ports and airports can halt the arrival of critical food shipments for extended periods. As a net food importer, FSM is also perpetually exposed to global economic shocks, where international price volatility and rising shipping costs can render basic necessities unaffordable for many households and further undermine food security.

Fisheries remain especially important to the country. Coastal and nearshore fishing activities provide a significant share of non-imported protein and are central to household food security. Subsistence fishing is important to most households and is a critically important component of the food supply in the outer islands. Both offshore and coastal fishing are practiced. Offshore fisheries consist almost exclusively of tuna fishing vessels that are based both locally and overseas. The catch is greatly affected by El Niño. During an El Niño event, the thermocline becomes more distinct and closer to the surface in the western and central Pacific Ocean, and this situation can restrict the vertical movement of tuna schools. Also, during El Niño, the purse-seine fishery moves eastward, and tuna catches in FSM tend to decline sharply. Coastal fishing is carried out for subsistence purposes and for sale in local markets.[248]

FSM faces several challenges in ensuring food security and sustainable livelihoods, including a stagnant economy, limited employment, increasing poverty, and limited agricultural options. One major constraint to increasing domestic agriculture production is a lack of farm inputs or appropriate sustainable crop production and soil management techniques for farmers to increase local production of food crops, fruits, and vegetables. Poor soils and pest and disease outbreaks are also prevalent. Agricultural production is far below the level needed to meet domestic demand.[249] Issues such as farmer migration, hazards, land fertility, and pests and diseases present challenges to agricultural production.

Hazard events in FSM, particularly tropical cyclones, droughts, and flooding, can affect food security through multiple pathways. These include:

- Damage to crops and agroforestry systems
- Disruption of fishing activities
- Loss of stored food and household reserves
- Damage to transport infrastructure (ports, airstrips, vessels)
- Interruption of import supply chains

Damage to local production and disruption of imports can occur simultaneously, creating complex challenges for response and recovery. Emergency food assistance is therefore an essential component of DM, but its effectiveness depends on logistics, coordination, and the ability to reach dispersed communities. Emergency food assistance is not managed as a standalone system but is embedded within the wider disaster response structure, which includes logistics, transport, and coordination mechanisms.

During disasters, food assistance in FSM is typically provided through a combination of:

- National and state government resources, including pre-positioned supplies where available
- International partners, particularly the United States
- UN agencies and humanitarian organizations, which may provide emergency food, nutrition support, or cash-based assistance
- MRCS, NGOs, and civil society

FSM's DM framework is designed to address vulnerabilities through a formalized, multi-stage response focused on food and water security. The process begins immediately after a disaster with a critical assessment of the impact on food supplies. This IDA is conducted within 24 hours of a disaster event by designated local officials. The standardized IDA form contains specific sections to evaluate the level of destruction to all major staple crops. A key question on the form is "How long will the food supply last?" The response serves as a primary trigger for activating an emergency response. This initial overview is followed by more detailed sector-based assessments from agricultural experts to fully quantify losses.

Once a food shortage is identified, a tiered response is initiated to mobilize aid. The state government acts first by deploying its own resources and stockpiles as coordinated by the SEOC. In past events, this activity has included using state-owned vessels to transport food and water to affected islands. If the scale of the disaster exceeds state capacity, the Governor submits a formal request for assistance to the FSM President. At this stage, the national government, through DECEM, coordinates the deployment of national assets and funds.

Should the crisis surpass the country's ability to respond, the FSM President issues a formal request for international assistance. This request activates a crucial network of partners established under diplomatic agreements. External assistance is often necessary for large-scale events, particularly when local stocks are insufficient or when transport constraints limit access to affected areas. As a result, delays in food delivery are common following major disasters, especially in remote communities. These delays serve to illustrate the importance of local food reserves and subsistence capacity as immediate coping mechanisms.

International efforts are supported on the ground by local organizations like the MRCS; they work directly with state and local leaders to ensure the equitable distribution of food and water to the most affected communities.

Strengthening food security in FSM requires reinforcing local production systems, improving supply chain resilience, and integrating food considerations more explicitly into disaster preparedness and response planning. For disaster responders, understanding this hybrid food system and its vulnerabilities is essential to delivering effective and timely assistance.

CONCLUSION

As a country made up of small islands spread across a vast expanse of ocean, FSM confronts DM challenges. Despite geographic and logistical limits, its leaders and people work with international partners to build resilience.

There are just more than 75,000 Micronesians scattered across 65 islands in 4 states. They rely heavily on subsistence farming and fishing, and coastal communities are the norm. Nearly all infrastructure, homes, businesses, and arable land lie barely above sea level. This location exposes them to the prevailing climate regime, especially tropical cyclones, which can bring high winds, heavy rains, and storm surge. Additional hazards are linked to regional hydrometeorological and geophysical elements – e.g., phases of ENSO that influence rainfall or seismic activity that sends tsunamis toward the islands.

In addition to its dispersed geography, the country grapples with a small economy with revenues mostly coming from grant funding from the U.S. and some other bilateral partners as well as fisheries. The workforce is divided broadly between workers in the formal economy, dominated by state-owned enterprises and public service, and the informal economy, dominated by subsistence activity. Many residents from small, outer islands migrate to the main islands for work, education, or access to services. Many others migrate to the U.S., where they can freely work or study based on provisions of the COFA. This labor migration leaves small, outer-island communities dominated by elders and young children, who are more vulnerable than other members of the community because of their limited ability to build individual or household resilience to shocks.

The national government leads overall DM through the development of policies and framework national plans. However, each state is responsible for formulating its own operational plans and procedures and for establishing the institutions and processes it will mobilize to address preparedness, response, and recovery. With DECEM as the central hub for national DM activity, each state's DCO – under the State Governor – and other state departments work to support local – municipal or outer island – first responders. The SEOCs are the central coordination points for local communities, first responders, national agencies, and international partners. These SEOCs are continuously improving their ability to manage disasters through expansion of communication networks, collaboration processes, and communities of practice.

FSM enjoys regional and international connections that allow it to work cooperatively with other countries and organizations to enhance DM practice at home and share expertise. As a member of PIF, SPC, and other Pacific regional organizations, it has the opportunity to participate in building regional frameworks for collective action and to enjoy the fruits of regional, shared successes – for example, the construction of an Australian-funded and SPC-backed humanitarian supply warehouse at DECEM headquarters. Meanwhile, there is a significant UN presence – anchored by IOM – that delivers practical assistance to FSM's national, state, and local DM apparatuses before, during, and after emergencies. Finally, the formal relationship with the U.S., based on the COFA, provides FSM opportunities to access funding, expertise, and practical training from U.S. federal and state entities to address hazards, vulnerabilities, and risk.

There is no short-term solution to the geographic or societal challenges FSM confronts. However, as an active regional player with strong bilateral and multilateral ties, the country continues to build its coping capacity and, in turn, share its experiences with DM with others.

APPENDICES

Risk Indices

Risk calculation takes into account exposure to hazards, vulnerability, and coping capacity. Addressing all of these elements is important in reducing and mitigating disaster risk. Various indices emphasize structural or institutional risk while others emphasize hazards or losses (human and economic). Regardless of emphasis, disaster risk calculations use some form of the equation:

Disaster Risk = (Hazard × Vulnerability) / Capacity[250]

Taken from the UN Office of Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) glossary, definitions will help clarify this formula:

- Capacity – The combination of strengths, attributes, and resources available within an organization, community, or society to manage and reduce disaster risks and strengthen resilience.
- Disaster risk – The potential loss of life, injury, or destroyed or damaged assets, which could occur to a system, society, or a community in a specific period of time, determined probabilistically as a function of hazard, exposure, vulnerability, and capacity.
- Hazard – A process, phenomenon, or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury, or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption, or environmental degradation.
- Vulnerability – The conditions determined by physical, social, economic, and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets, or systems to the impacts of hazards.[251]

In general, the goal of indexing risk is to inform decisionmakers and DM practitioners of the level of risk to and underlying capacity of the target community. The various risk calculation models support proactive crisis management frameworks and are helpful for prioritizing allocation of resources and for coordinating actions focused on anticipating, mitigating, and preparing for humanitarian emergencies.

INFORM Risk Profile

INFORM is a collaboration of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Reference Group on Risk, Early Warning, and Preparedness with the European Commission. It is a multi-stakeholder forum for developing shared, quantitative analysis relevant to humanitarian crises and disasters. The Joint Research Center of the European Commission is the scientific lead. There are three operational dashboards – i.e., INFORM Risk, INFORM Severity, and INFORM Climate Change.[252]

The **INFORM Risk Index** is an open-source assessment that supports prevention, preparedness, and response decisions. It measures the risk of humanitarian crises and disasters in 191 countries. The INFORM model is based on the standard dimensions of risk: Hazards and Exposure, Vulnerability, and Lack of Coping Capacity. The first dimension measures the natural and human hazards that pose the risk. The second and third dimensions cover population factors that can mitigate against or exacerbate the risk. The Vulnerability dimension considers the strength of individuals and households relative to a crisis, while the Lack of Coping Capacity dimension considers factors of institutional strength.

The INFORM model is split into different levels to provide a quick overview of the underlying factors leading to humanitarian risk. INFORM gives each country a risk score of 1-10 (1 being the lowest and 10 the highest) for each of the dimensions, categories, and components of risk, as well as an overall risk score.[253] The higher the score the more at-risk a country is.

In the 2025 INFORM Risk Index, FSM had an overall risk score of 3.4/10, which INFORM

categorizes as the "medium" risk class and lands FSM as the 98th most at-risk country of 191 countries in the index. The Hazards and Exposure dimension score takes into account a combination of both natural and anthropogenic hazards, and FSM rated 1.7/10 or 163rd of 191 countries. The Vulnerability dimension score was 4.7/10 or 66th of 191, and the Lack of Coping Capacity dimension score was 4.8/10 or 79th of 191. Physical exposure to Drought and Tsunami at 6.0/10 and 5.9/10, respectively, were the greatest threats in the Hazards and Exposure dimension in a reflection of the country's reliance on rainfall for water supplies and agriculture on one hand and its low-lying topography on the other. In a reflection of the country's reliance on U.S. COFA funding and other global grant and aid schemes, Aid Dependency (7.2/10) was the greatest challenge in the Vulnerability dimension. Finally, [lack of access to] Health Care (6.1/10) was the most significant risk in the Lack of Coping Capacity dimension in a reflection of the massive challenges confronted by the population in physically accessing health services and the country's overall shortage of practitioners and supplies. Figure 7 shows the INFORM Risk dashboard for FSM for 2026.[254]

U.S. Government Disaster Management Engagement

The bilateral relationship between FSM and the U.S. is largely defined by the COFA, most recently amended in 2023, with the amendments coming into force in March 2024. Within the COFA are articles spelling out sectoral grant assistance for developments in FSM's education, health, small businesses, and public infrastructure sectors, and there are specific financing arrangements for aspects of disaster preparedness and humanitarian relief. As with any sovereign state, FSM's national government must seek or welcome international assistance to trigger U.S. government disaster relief operations. However, programming to develop DM capacities in non-emergency periods can be conducted by U.S. government agencies alongside agencies of the FSM national or state governments. There are on-going projects conducted by U.S. entities to sustain and enhance FSM's national, state, and local DM capacities.

U.S. Country Team

The COFA lists specific U.S. government agencies tasked with delivering services to the Government of FSM. They include the NWS, Postal Service, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, FEMA, and [former] U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).[255] Under arrangements dating to early 2026, the Department of State's Bureau of Disaster and Humanitarian Response (DHR) replaces USAID as the U.S. government's lead federal agency for foreign disaster response.

The U.S. Embassy, headed by the Chief of Mission (COM), works with the FSM national government and the private sector to implement the provisions of the COFA. The COM heads a team of foreign service officers, consular agents, and representatives and agents from other U.S. federal government departments and agencies. The Embassy facilitates work by U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (INDOPACOM) and its component commands to posture military capabilities to defend FSM, as codified in COFA Title III, "Security and Defense Relationships." The U.S. Coast Guard also has a substantial presence in the broader region and, also under the COFA (Section 224), partners with FSM to address maritime challenges – e.g., law

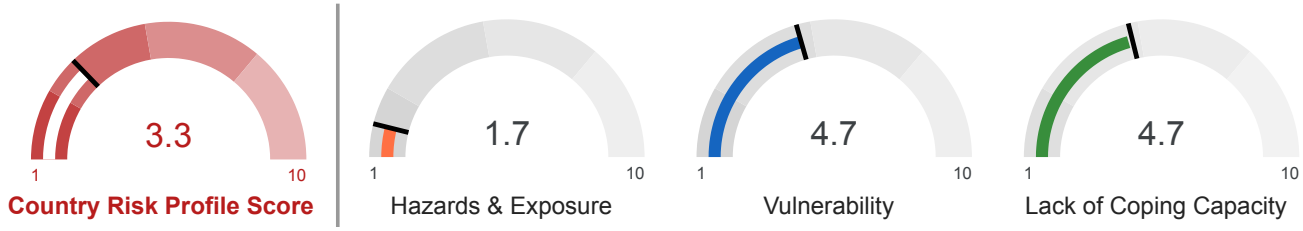


Figure 7: INFORM Risk Dashboard, Micronesia (Federated States of, 2026)

enforcement, search and rescue, port safety, and marine environmental protection.[256]

The U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam oversees a vast area of responsibility spanning 1.9 million square nautical miles. Under the COFA, the U.S. Coast Guard holds primary responsibility for search-and-rescue operations in FSM outside the country's territorial seas.[257]

Additional programs overseen by the Embassy include the USDA's Rural Development Program to increase economic opportunity and improve quality of life in rural areas of the country; this Program includes ensuring that homes and businesses address health and safety risks.[258]

Joint Committee Meetings (JCM)

The semi-annual JCMs are part of the COFA's "Title III: Security and Defense Relations." They promote ongoing dialogue to enhance security and defense responsibilities. Led by U.S. INDOPACOM, the U.S. Ambassador in FSM, and the FSM Secretary of Foreign Affairs, JCMs are supported by inter-agency departments and units to include the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Air Force, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.[259] The objectives of the JCMs include ensuring that the U.S. and FSM are addressing concerns and challenges by working toward sustainable solutions through preparedness and deterrence programs. Among the projects addressed at successive recent JCMs are the construction of a warehouse for the U.S. Naval Construction Force "Seabees," improvements to the Yap seaport, and upgrades to the Yap airport.[260]

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Responses in the Past 10 Years (2016-2026)

The U.S. State Department is the lead federal agency for U.S. international disaster response. Within the Department, DHR mobilizes funding, supplies, and personnel to support a disaster-affected state when that state requests or will accept international assistance and the U.S. offers assistance within the context that the assistance meets requirements for U.S. interests. The State Department may request other U.S. federal agency support if specific capacities are needed; as such, the Department may request U.S. military support for unique capacities and specified durations.

2023-2024 – Drought

In September 2023, FSM's national government expressed concerns that a strong El Niño would lead to serious water shortages during late 2023 and early 2024. The impact of a lack of rain caused rain catchment and river systems across the country to run dry. Yap, Chuuk, and Pohnpei were affected. On 11 March 2024, the FSM President declared a State of Emergency and committed national resources to supplement foreign and domestic aid. A National Emergency Task Force stood up to coordinate relief efforts, with a focus on the vulnerable outer islands. In addition, the national government coordinated with state authorities and humanitarian partners for the response. DECEM reported that the drought impacted approximately 22,700 people by mid-May 2024. Through COFA arrangements, FSM mobilized US$250,000 in DAEF funds. The U.S. not only supported this allocation to finance IOM's acquisition of reverse osmosis water systems, but it also deployed the U.S. Coast Guard to aid in transporting relief supplies and reverse osmosis units to outer islands.[261]

2019 – Typhoon Wutip

Typhoon Wutip passed over Pohnpei, Chuuk, and Yap between 19 and 22 February 2019. It delivered winds of 120-130 kph (75–80 mph), with gusts of up to 160 kph (100 mph). The outer islands of Chuuk – the Northwest islands

and the Lower and Middle Mortlocks – and the outer islands of Yap – Elato, Fechailap, Lamotrek, Piig, and Satawal – all sustained damage. The FSM President issued a disaster declaration on 11 March and requested international assistance.

Consistent with the USAID/FEMA Operational Blueprint for Disaster Relief and Reconstruction in FSM and the Republic of the Marshall Islands that was in effect at the time, USAID, FEMA, and the FSM Government, with support from IOM, conducted a JDA in late March and early April. The JDA's findings were that Wutip had damaged the infrastructure and agricultural production of 30 islands and left 11,575 people food insecure.[262]

On 7 May, the U.S. President approved a Presidential Disaster Declaration (PDD), which made available DAEF funding and allowed USAID and FEMA to support FSM and other stakeholders in relief and recovery operations.[263] Over the long term, the funding and support of the U.S. government allowed DECEM and IOM to repair infrastructure and rebuild homes and water catchment systems in communities affected by Wutip.[264]

2018 – Tropical Depression Jelawat

In March 2018, Tropical Depression Jelawat passed over FSM. It delivered heavy rains to Pohnpei and drove flooding and landslides that damaged critical infrastructure and flooded homes across the main island. One person was killed. The Governor of Pohnpei declared a state of emergency, and the FSM President issued a presidential declaration of emergency, authorizing the release of US$50,000 from the DAEF. On 6 May, the U.S. Ambassador declared a disaster due to flood and infrastructure damage, and this declaration allowed FEMA and USAID to conduct a JDA, which, along with a follow-up agricultural damage assessment, identified needs for critical infrastructure repair and agricultural damage rehabilitation assistance in landslide- and flood-affected areas. On 20 July, the U.S. President issued a PDD, releasing US$3.4 million in funding for U.S. government emergency relief and reconstruction assistance to FSM. USAID supported agricultural rehabilitation assistance and the repair of 250 damaged or destroyed houses, as well as damaged public infrastructure and utilities.[265]

DoW DM Engagements

When the capacity of state and national authorities is outstripped by the requirements of a disaster response and the U.S. government has offered assistance, if the Department of State assesses that it requires additional capacity to deliver relief, it can request support from the DoW via an inter-agency process. If the Secretary of War assesses that U.S. military forces have the capacity to respond, the Pentagon will assign the response to a Geographic Combatant Command (e.g., U.S. INDOPACOM) who can assign the response to an available and trained commander or unit. That unit will support DHR for a specified period of time. On the ground, State and DoW responders utilize a specified process to receive tasking and report the status of tasks.

While the U.S. commonly delivers disaster relief in a bilateral fashion, it coordinates not only with the affected state but with other key responders. In the Pacific, Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and FSM's fellow Pacific Island Countries and Territories frequently provide humanitarian support. To ensure that U.S. forces are ready to fulfill their tasking, U.S. military units and agencies commonly undertake preparedness activities to train with and enhance the capacity of FSM responders and partner states.

In the past five years, U.S. military and Coast Guard personnel and assets have conducted multiple DM activities in FSM.

Koa Moana

Koa Moana is an annual exercise that allows the U.S. Navy and Marines to build partnerships and enhance critical systems in FSM and Palau.

In 2025, Combat Logistics Battalion 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force operated across all four states of FSM to conduct engineering projects, subject matter

expert exchanges (SMEE), school engagements, and community outreach.[266] Photo 2 shows U.S. Marines helping to renovate the Pohnpei Public Library during Koa Moana 2025.[267]

During the 2024 iteration of Koa Moana, U.S. Marines and Sailors worked in Chuuk to support IOM's work to deliver food and water supplies to enhance the state's outer islands' preparedness for a disaster.[268]

In 2023, some 200 U.S. Marines and Sailors with I Marine Expeditionary Force conducted SMEEs in all four states. In Chuuk, the task force renovated Chuuk High School and restored roofs and grounds at two elementary schools. In Pohnpei, the team repaired long-range radio towers, collaborated on airport safety measures, shared knowledge with local medical personnel, and partnered with Red Cross workers and local firefighters on a blood drive. In Kosrae State, the task force renovated a hospital.[269] They also carried out infrastructural projects on Yap.[270]

Pacific Partnership

Pacific Partnership (PP) is the U.S. Navy's largest annual multinational humanitarian assistance and disaster response mission in the Indo-Pacific. Each year, the mission team works with host and partner nations to enhance regional interoperability and disaster response capabilities and increase security and stability in the region.[271]

During the 5-month PP25, more than 350 service members and civilians visited FSM, as well as Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, and Vanuatu. In Chuuk, U.S. and FSM personnel along with international partners collaborated on medical engagements, public outreach, and engineering projects.[272] Another mission stop conducted outreach in Pohnpei.

In early 2024, PP24-1 spent 12 days working on medical, engineering, outreach, and DM in FSM. In Chuuk, personnel from the U.S. Navy, Army, and Coast Guard were joined by Australian, British, and German navy personnel to enhance local community DM capacity. The international military staffs worked alongside Chuuk government and community first responders to exercise first aid, emergency messaging, and search-and-rescue techniques. Meanwhile, the Seabees Amphibious Construction Battalion one (ACB 1) delivered repairs to the Chuuk State Hospital water supply system.[273]

In June 2024, the U.S. Coast Guard delivered a PP24 mission stop with workshops that



Photo 2: U.S. Marines Help Renovate Pohnpei Library (2025)

covered search and rescue, mass rescue, incident command systems, and emergency operations center (EOC) operations. Leaders and staff from U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam and District 14 were joined by CFE-DM staff to support FSM and Pohnpeian DM practitioners' learning.[274]

In September 2024, PP24-2 stopped in Yap, where 70 participants from Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, and the United States joined local government and non-government partners for a DM event. From the U.S., the Coast Guard, Army, and CFE-DM[275] joined other participants to deliver preparedness workshops, including an incident command system introduction for local government agents and non-governmental agency staff. Yapese participants enhanced skills in activating, staffing, organizing, deactivating, and demobilizing an EOC; they were joined by U.S. military staff, IOM, Catholic Relief Services, and DECEM for all parts of the exercise.[276]

A week after the Yap stop, U.S. Coast Guard personnel moved on to Kosrae, where they delivered boating safety and community outreach activities as part of PP24-2. The focus on maritime safety and search-and-rescue operations helped fill needs among remote island communities.[277]

Seabees

Naval Mobile Construction Battalions (NMCB) have a continuous presence in FSM through Civic Action Teams (CAT) that work closely with the U.S. Embassy to develop and build small infrastructure projects that are investments in the host community.[278] Seabees regularly participate in construction projects for public infrastructure – e.g., school buildings and health centers.

To add to the NMCB-5 presence permanently in Pohnpei, in 2020, Seabees revived a permanent presence in Yap. They have the task of executing engineering civic assistance projects, exchanging skills with local communities, and performing community service. The Seabees deployed to either Yap or Pohnpei can also conduct short-term construction projects in Chuuk and Kosrae through "fly-away" teams, which are able to move back and forth between the islands quickly when called upon.[279]

An example of the work Seabees can execute swiftly came during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, when NMCB-5's Detail Pohnpei built and handed over to the U.S. Embassy hygiene facilities destined to fill the local government's pandemic isolation needs. At the time of the April 2020 handover, the country had not yet experienced any confirmed cases of the disease, but the ability to help local governments prepare was considered a key contribution to the bilateral relationship.[280]

Seabees with NMCB-3 in Yap execute various construction projects, such as improvements to the Yap high school, as shown in Photo 3.[281]



Photo 3: Seabees Begin Work on Yap High School (2025)

Additional Resources

This appendix provides additional references, with links, to enable readers to find relevant and contextual information.

International and U.S. Government Sources
U.S. Embassy in FSM https://fm.usembassy.gov/
Pacific Disaster Center (PDC) https://www.pdc.org/
Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction https://www.undrr.org/implementing-sendai-framework/what-sendai-framework
UN Office in Micronesia https://micronesia.un.org/en *The UN office in Pohnpei covers not only FSM but also Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, and Palau.*
Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) https://response.reliefweb.int/pacific-region/pacific-humanitarian-team-pht?_gl=1*ewohob*_ga*MTU1MDI2MDAxOS4xNzcxOTc1OTUy*_ga_E60ZNX2F68*czE3NzUwNzY0NTkkbzEyJGcwJHQxNzc1MDc2NDU5JGo2MCRsMCRoMA *Established by UN OCHA's Office of the Pacific Islands, the PHT is a network of humanitarian organizations working together across 14 Pacific Island Countries and Territories, including FSM. It supports governments to establish arrangements and systems are in place to respond to a disaster.*

National Disaster Management
FSM National Government https://gov.fm/
National Disaster Management Plan (2025) https://reliefweb.int/report/micronesia-federated-states/federated-states-micronesia-national-disaster-management-plan-2025
Chuuk State Disaster Management Plan (2025) https://pacific-data.sprep.org/resource/chuuk-state-disaster-management-plan
Kosrae Joint State Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change https://bsrp.gsd.spc.int/wp-content/uploads/Publications/Kosrae_JSAP.pdf
Pohnpei Joint State Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change https://www.preventionweb.net/publication/micronesia-federated-states-pohnpei-joint-state-action-plan-disaster-risk-management
Yap Joint State Action Plan for Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change https://bsrp.gsd.spc.int/wp-content/uploads/Publications/FSM_Yap_JSAP.pdf

Regional Organizations and Initiatives
Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) https://forumsec.org/pacific-islands-forum *Regional organization of 18 Pacific Island countries, including FSM. Top-level political forum for collective action, including environmental security and DM.*
Pacific Community (SPC) https://www.spc.int/ *Regional organization of 27 Pacific Island Countries and Territories, including FSM. The SPC emphasizes work on sustainable development, including adaptation and risk mitigation. It is the secretariat for work on the Pacific Humanitarian Response Coordination Mechanism (PReSCoM) to ensure a coordinated response among signatories after a disaster.*
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) https://www.sprep.org/ *Organization of 22 Pacific Island Country and Territory members and 4 metropolitan (former or current colonial powers) members. Scientific lead for many DM and environmental security initiatives.*
Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific (FRDP) https://gem.spc.int/projects/frdp
Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines for the Use of Foreign Military Assets in Natural Disaster Response Operations ("APC-MADRO Guidelines") (2014) The Asia-Pacific Conferences on Military Assistance to Disaster Relief Operations (APC-MADRO) and UN OCHA https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/world/asia-pacific-regional-guidelines-use-foreign-military-assets-natural-disaster-response *Reference guide for states planning and executing foreign military support for regional disaster response.*
Multinational Force Standing Operating Procedures (MNF SOP) – Annex C: Humanitarian Assistance/ Disaster Relief Multinational Planning Augmentation Team (MPAT), U.S. Indo-Pacific Command https://www.pacom.mil/Portals/55/Documents/J7/MNF%20SOP%20Ver%203.4_14%20FEB%2025_vbf.pdf?ver=4LVTNxMJB8_1xpfxYdARrg%3d%3d ***(D1 C1/ PDF pg. 883)*** *Annex on international humanitarian assistance; part of broad standing procedures for regional multinational force operations other than war.*

U.S. DoW Resources
Humanitarian Assistance Response Training – Disasters (HART-D) Course CFE-DM, U.S. Pacific Command https://www.cfe-dmha.org/hart-d *Target Audience: O3-O6, E6-E9, and DoW civilians who may plan for or execute a Foreign Disaster Response mission or participate in disaster response activities in exercises or security cooperation engagements.*
USINDOPACOM Foreign Disaster Response in the Indo-Asia-Pacific April 1991 – January 2024 CFE-DM, U.S. Pacific Command https://www.cfe-dmha.org/Publications/New-Releases *Contemporary historical synopsis of foreign disasters the U.S. DoW responded to in the Indo-Pacific.*

Acronyms and Abbreviations

°	degree(s) – of temperature (°C or °F); or of Latitude and Longitude (°N, °S, °E, °W)
$	dollar(s) (U.S.)
CDD	Compact Disaster Declaration
CDEOC	Chuuk Disaster and Emergency Operations Center
COFA	Compact of Free Association
COM	Chief of Mission
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CPUC	Chuuk Public Utilities Corporation
CWG	Coordination Working Group
DAEF	Disaster Assistance Emergency Fund
DC	Disaster Coordinator
DCO	Disaster Coordinating Officer
DECEM	Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management
DHR	Disaster and Humanitarian Response (of the U.S. State Department)
DHSA	Department of Health and Social Affairs
DM	disaster management
DOE	Department of Education
DoW	Department of War (of the U.S.; also Department of Defense)
DTCI	Department of Transportation, Communication, and Infrastructure
EM-DAT	international disaster database (of CRED)
EMT	Emergency Management Team
ENSO	El Niño Southern Oscillation
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency (of the U.S.)
FRDP	Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
ft / ft^2	foot / feet / square foot / square feet
GDC	Governor's Disaster Committee
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HF	high-frequency
HSDP	Health Strategic Development Plan
IDA	initial damage assessment
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
in	inch(es)
INDOPACOM	Indo-Pacific Command
IOM	International Organization for Migration

JCM	Joint Committee Meeting
JDA	Joint Damage Assessment
JIMT	Pacific Joint Incident Management Team
km / km^2	kilometer(s) / square kilometer(s)
kph	kilometers per hour
KUA	Kosrae Utility Authority
LOA	length overall
m / m^2	meter(s) / square meter(s)
MCO	Multi-Country Office
mi / mi^2	mile(s) / square mile(s)
mm	millimeter(s)
mph	miles per hour
MRCS	Micronesia Red Cross Society
MW	megawatt(s)
NCD	non-communicable disease
NDC	National Disaster Committee
NDCT	National Disaster Coordination Team
NDMP	National Disaster Management Plan
NEOC	National Emergency Operations Center
NGO	non-governmental organization
NICO	Neighboring Island Communication Officer (Yap)
NMCB	Naval Mobile Construction Battalion
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (of the U.S.)
NWS	National Weather Service (of the U.S.)
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (of the UN)
OPB	Office of Planning and Budget (Yap)
PDD	Presidential Disaster Declaration
PHT	Pacific Humanitarian Team
PIF	Pacific Islands Forum
PIHOA	Pacific Island Health Officers Association
PP	Pacific Partnership
PPHSN	Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network
PTWC	Pacific Tsunami Warning Center
PUC	Pohnpei Utility Authority
PV	photovoltaic
PVN	Pacific Vector Network
RORO	roll-on/roll-off
SDCT	State Disaster Coordination Team

SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEOC	State Emergency Operations Center
SMEE	subject matter expert exchange
SMS	Short Message Service
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
SPC	Pacific Community
U.S.	United States
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
WASH	water, sanitation, and hygiene
WFO	Guam (Weather) Forecasting Office
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WSO	Weather Service Office
YSPSC	Yap State Public Service Corporation

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