



IOM MICRONESIA

Republic of the Marshall Islands
El Niño Drought Response

A Year in Review: 2016 Summary Edition

Highlights: FNS Distribution

■ Seven atolls/islands severely affected by the 2016 drought received a three month supply of supplemental food assistance (SFA) supplied by the U.S. Food Nutrition Service (FNS). The SFA was distributed to communities in Maloelap, Wotje, Mejit, Ailuk, Arno (Rearlaplap), Wotho and Kwajalein. The distributions began on October 21st and ended on November 17, 2016.



Acting mayor makes calculations to distribute food fairly. © IOM 2016



Offloading SFA at the largest distribution point, Wotje, Wotje. © IOM 2016



WUTMI representative in Ebaddon, Kwajalein. © IOM 2016

USAID Agricultural Reassessment



■ From November 2nd – 11th a USAID agricultural reassessment was conducted on a sampling of the drought affected atoll/islands. The assessment team was led by USAID Agricultural Expert John Quidachay and consisted of representatives from IOM, NDMO and GoRMI Department of Resource and Development. The team visited thirteen communities (13) on eight (8) different drought affected atoll/islands. The team took soil water content readings, monitored crop regrowth, and gathered community member reports to assess the current agricultural impact of the 2016 drought.

The USAID agricultural reassessment team concluded that while there was some visible recovery in more drought resilient crops such as papaya, lime, and coconut, larger canopy crops responsible for providing necessary calories, such as breadfruit, will take longer to return to pre-disaster yield levels. For this reason, and after debriefing with the Office of the Chief Secretary, the USAID agricultural reassessment team recommended an additional distribution of SFA to select island/atolls still feeling the longer-term effects of the 2016 drought.

What's Next?



■ The IOM Emergency Drought Response activities will continue in 2017. As a result of the USAID agricultural reassessment the following communities will be receiving a two-month, half-ration supply of IOM supplemental food assistance (rice, canned mixed vegetables and canned mixed fruit): Arno (Rearlaplap communities), Wotje (Wotje and Wodmej), Ailuk (Ailuk and Enejelar), Mejit, Kwajalein (Ebaddon and Enebouj) and Wotho. All food will be procured by IOM locally. Distributions are expected to begin in late February 2017.



■ Furthermore, in an effort to continue to combat non-organic waste pollution, IOM will also be conducting a second Outer Island Clean Up Contest in 2017! Stay tuned for more information regarding island eligibility and dates.

A Year in Review:

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2016 Drought Response: A Year in Review

The distribution of the FNS food supply in November completed the planned distribution of SFA and hygiene items in 2016. In total, nineteen (19) atoll/islands received hygiene assistance including hand sanitizer (Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT)) three rounds of soap (rounds 1 and 2 funded by DFAT, and round 3 funded by USAID), 10L and 5G jerry cans (USAID), and two rounds of female hygiene kits (USAID), seven (7) atoll/islands received seven (7) months of supplemental food assistance (USAID/FNS), and five (5) atoll/islands received four (4) months of supplemental food assistance (USAID). Distributions began March 28th and ended on November 17th, 2016. A breakdown of the distributions can be found below:

Dates	Vessel	Locations	Items Distributed
28 March	MS Mata	Ailinglaplap, Jaluit	Soap round 1
3 April	Unknown	Aur	Soap round 1
7 April	AMI Dornier	Ailuk, Jabat, Lib, Maloelap, Namu	Soap round 1
14 April	MV Tobolar	Mili	Soap round 1
1 May	AMI Dornier	Ailinglaplap	Soap round 1
3 May	Roxana	Arno (Rearlaplap)	Soap round 1
11 – 23 May	IOM Vehicle	Majuro HS	Hand sanitizer
17 May	Lady E	Enewetak	Soap round 1
19 May	AMI Dornier	Wotje NIHS	Hand sanitizer
20 May	AMI Dornier	Jaluit JHS	Hand sanitizer
27 May	AMI Dornier	Kwajalein HS	Hand sanitizer
29 May- 8 June	MV Aemmon	Ailuk, Aur, Likiep, Maloelap, Mejit, Utirik, Wotje (Ratak)	Soap round 2
31 May – 8 June	LC Majuro	Ailinglaplap, Jabat, Jaluit, Namu (Ralik)	Soap round 2
1 June	Indies Trader	Lae, Ujae, Wotho (Kabin Meto)	Soap rounds 1 and 2
13 June	LC Majuro	Enewetak	Soap round 2, 5G Jerry cans
29 June- 13 July	MV Kwajalein	Ratak/Ralik	Months 1-2 SFA, Soap round 3, Remaining soap rounds 1 and 2, Female Hygiene Kit 1, 5G Jerry cans
11- 19 July	MV Tobolar	Ralik	Soap round 2 and 3, Female Hygiene Kit 1, 5G Jerry cans
16-17 July	MS Mata	Arno (Rearlaplap)	Month 1 SFA, Soap rounds 2 and 3, Female Hygiene Kit 1, 5G Jerry cans
19 July	Roxana	Arno	Soap rounds 1- 3, 5G Jerry cans
19 July	Mili Atoll Gov	Mili	5G Jerry cans
13-24 August	Indies Trader	Ratak/Ralik	RO Retrieval
18-21 August	MS Mata	Arno, Mili	Month 2 SFA, Mili soap round 2 and 3, Female Hygiene Kit 1, RO retrieval
11-15 September	Indies Trader	Kwajalein (Ebeye)	5G Jerry cans
16-17 September	Indies Trader	Arno (Rearlaplap)	Month 3 SFA, Female Hygiene Kit 2
22 September	MV Majuro	Enewetak	Soap round 3, Female Hygiene Kit 1
14-16 October	Indies Trader	Arno (Rearlaplap)	Month 4 SFA, Month 1 FNS SFA
16 Oct – 3 Nov	MV Kwajalein	Ratak/Ralik	Months 3-4 SFA, Female Hygiene Kit 2
21-31 October	MV Windward	Kwajalein, Wotho	Months 1-3 FNS SFA
5-11 November	MV Kwajalein	Ratak	Months 1-3 FNS SFA
8-10 November	Indies Trader	Arno (Rearlaplap)	Months 2-3 FNS SFA, Clean Up Contest Prizes
11-17 November	Indies Trader	Kwajalein, Lae	SFA, FNS, Clean Up Contest Prizes

Total Distributed in 2016



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



4 Month Supplemental Food Assistance to 4,737 beneficiaries



284,305 lbs of rice



2,275,527 oz of mixed vegetables



2,271,347 oz of mixed fruit



1,136,879 oz of cooking oil



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Promotion



1,900 10L jerry cans to 4,241 beneficiaries



4,357 5G jerry cans to 22,134 beneficiaries



24,434 bars of soap to 12,215 beneficiaries



3,186 female hygiene kit 1 to 2,841 women



1,155 female hygiene kit 2 to 1,155 women



23 prepositioned RO units deployed



United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service



3 Month Supplemental Food Assistance to 2,981 beneficiaries



167,290 lbs of rice



1,088,640 oz of mixed vegetables



1,205,280 oz of mixed fruit



539,808 oz of cooking oil

Australian Aid



Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Promotion



49,910 bars of soap to 12,215 beneficiaries



3,312 bottles of hand sanitizer to 3,312 students in 17 schools



3 800 gallon reverse osmosis units donated to outer island high schools



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IOM's activities are funded by and conducted in partnership with the following Organizations:



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



AUSTRALIAN AID SUPPORTS HYGIENE PROMOTION IN RMI

Having less water significantly impacts our daily health and hygiene practices. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Micronesia has been working with the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) and Australian Aid to ensure that basic water and hygiene needs are met during the current drought emergency.

When drought conditions persist, it is important to minimize outbreaks of pink eye (conjunctivitis), boils, diarrhea, skin rash and infections through effective hygiene promotion.

With generous support from the Australian Government, IOM Micronesia is conducting health and hygiene promotion and education in affected communities in coordination with the WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) cluster and directly with the Marshall Islands Red Cross Society. Hygiene items have been procured locally and are being distributed to affected populations taking into account vulnerable populations including the elderly, those with disability, pregnant women and children.

More than 50,500 bars of soap have been procured for affected populations in the outer islands and over 3300 hand sanitizer bottles have been distributed to high schools in Mauro, Ebeye, Wotje and Jaluit to promote effective hygiene during the drought and ensure students do not miss school in the final weeks leading up to exams.

To minimize the spread of disease, families are also being encouraged to engage in water conservation and practice hygiene promotion in their communities.

During this drought, critical support for hygiene promotion on RMI's outer island helps to build resilient communities and save lives.



Happy recipients of hygiene supplies at Coop School in RMI © IOM 2016



SDA Students receiving educational materials and supplies © IOM 2016



Hygiene supplies delivered to communities in RMI © IOM 2016



IOM National Program Officer, Mr Langrine, speaks to students about the importance of water conservation and best hygiene practices © IOM 2016

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IOM Marshall Islands Kabin Meto Rainwater Harvesting Improvement Project

Wotho—Ujae—Lae

October 23—November 3, 2016



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency



The Project: In response to the 2016 El Nino induced drought, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) received funding from the New Zealand Embassy to pilot a **Rainwater Harvesting Improvement project** developed by the WASH Cluster. Three severely affected atolls were selected as beneficiaries— Wotho, Ujae, and Lae, with funding sufficient to cover fifty percent (50%) of total households. Three teams comprised of personnel from IOM, Marshall Islands Red Cross Society (MIRCS), and Public Works were deployed to their respective islands in October 2016. Upon arrival, ten local laborers at each atoll were hired to assist in the repairs. Implementation of the improvements at each location took eight days on average.



Wotho Rainwater Harvesting Improvement Team. © IOM 2016



Ujae Rainwater Harvesting Improvement Team. © IOM 2016

Household Selection: Households were selected upon team arrival after a thorough assessment of each of the households on each atoll. Primary considerations for selection included household size and demographics, particular household vulnerabilities, primary source of water and catchment capacity. MIRCS volunteers conducted assessment interviews with each household and tested their water supply.



Wotho beneficiary with his water test. © IOM 2016



Wotho beneficiary completes assessment. © IOM 2016

Atoll	Households*	Targeted	Completed
Wotho	22	11	15
Ujae	61	30	26
Lae	53	27	30
Total	136	68	71

The Results: A total of 68 households were targeted for improvement by the project. During the implementation of the project, **a total of 71 households were direct beneficiaries**, representing 104% of the original target. Repairs focused on improving the overall rainwater catchment system including replacing roofing, installing new guttering, and the cleaning of catchment tanks. In order to maximize project sustainability, teams also led a series of community sensitizations and outreach sessions related to maintenance and use of rainwater catchment systems.

* Household numbers based on 2011 census.



Pictured above: (Left) Ujae beneficiary house before improvements. © IOM 2016 Pictured above: (Middle) Ujae beneficiary house after improvements. © IOM 2016 Pictured above: (Right) Wotho MIRCS volunteers educate children and community members on the importance of cleaning catchment tanks. © IOM 2016

Follow the link to view more footage of the Rainwater Harvesting Improvement Project in Ujae Atoll: <https://goo.gl/z0PCzy>

Highlights from the Outer Island Clean Up Contest

El Niño Drought Response 2016— November 30, 2016



Republic of the Marshall Islands— The results are in! In an effort to mitigate the environmental impacts of supplemental food assistance, IOM with funding from USAID conducted an “Outer Island Clean Up Contest” on 12 of the outer atolls— all islands receiving USAID supplemental food assistance. Trash collection was coordinated with food distributions beginning in mid September in Arno, Rearlaplap and finished in late October with Jabat island. Each community was given trash bags and gloves in order to collect all non-organic waste. The bags were then placed on the distribution boat and brought back to Majuro for recycling and sorting at the Majuro dump in Rairok.

A total of 353 bags of trash were collected between 20 participating communities.

While each community competed as a unit, winning communities were found by dividing the number of bags collected by the community population. The community with the highest trash bag per person ratio was deemed victorious. First, second, and third place were awarded “Outer Island Prize Packages” of varying amounts— third place \$1,000, second place \$2,000, and first place \$3,000 in prizes. The prize packages consisted of items that are helpful in the outer islands including pushcarts, wheelbarrows, bicycles, fishing gear, laundry material, machetes, volleyballs, and volleyball nets. The competition was steep and each community fought valiantly for their chance at the Outer Island Prize Package. Honorable mention goes to Jang, Maloelap for their fourth place finish.

Congratulations to all winners!

Kilange, Arno 15 bags/ 72 ppl = 20.83 %



Ebadon, Kwajalein 20 bags/ 107 ppl = 18.69 %



Tinak, Arno 43 bags/ 145 ppl = 29.66 %



“We get all of this for trash?” a Tinak woman asked in disbelief. The IOM Response team brought the Tinak community their prizes during the final supplemental food distribution in November. The Tinak community welcomed the team and was excited to hear of their first place win. A Tinak community member explained that as soon as they heard the contest announcement on V7AB radio, they began collecting. Community members went around with wheelbarrows the day before IOM came to collect the trash and have them ready in one place. She explained that the councilman will distribute the items throughout the community, with first preference given to schools, hospitals, and churches, but ultimately, everything would be shared. Tinak truly knows how to turn trash into “treasure”.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Competition in Schools: RMI students reflect on their 2016 drought experience



El Niño Drought Response 2016— January 20, 2017



International Organization for Migration (IOM)
The UN Migration Agency

The IOM Emergency Response team and IOM Climate Adaptation Disaster Risk Reduction and Education (CADRE) Plus team are very pleased to announce the winners of our “Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Promotion Contests” funded by USAID. In mid October 2016, IOM launched three contests related to WASH activities during times of disaster open to students in all RMI high schools. All submissions were due by November 18th, 2016 and winners were announced in early December.

Poster Contest



2nd – Emiliano Guarano, SDA



1st – Jasper Betwell, KAHS



3rd – KD Jorju, SDA

A poster contest open to all 9th and 10th grade RMI students showcased best WASH practices during times of disaster. Entries included ideas such as washing your hands to prevent the spread of pink eye, and practicing waster conservation methods in order to make limited resources go further. Jasper Betwell (Grade 10) from Kwajalein Atoll High School took first place in the poster competition. Jasper’s poster will be featured in a nation wide WASH promotion campaign. First, second, and third place winners were awarded backpacks filled with schools supplies including a USB drive and cell cards.

Essay Contest

An essay contest was open to all 11th and 12th grade RMI students in which students were requested to describe their personal experience with the 2016 drought. Students were asked to reflect on one element of WASH (water, sanitation, or hygiene) and actions they can take to help promote WASH in their community. IOM received many stellar essay entries containing great ideas such as repairing leaks in guttering and piping to conserve water, cleaning guttering to stop the spread of disease, and reusing drippings from air conditioning units to flush toilets. Alex Moss Aruhane (Grade 11) from Marshall Islands High School wrote the winning essay. Alex’s essay will be featured in the Marshall Islands Journal. First, second, and third place winners were awarded backpacks filled with schools supplies including a USB drive and cell cards.

“The drought experience had taught me new ideas and strategies that I should do to help my family and the community. In the case of Majuro in which we retrieve city water twice a week, I suggest that we must make sure leak monitoring should be considered as very important. Showers, toilets and dripping taps are known to waste water, but the bigger problem originates from pipelines that lead into the home.”

“I believe if all citizens of this country should be responsible for sustainable management of the limited resources that we have then we could uphold our livelihood in a simple and sustainable manner.”

— Alex Moss Aruhane, MIHS

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics) Contest

The last contest was a school-wide STEAM “Water for Life” competition. Each high school was allowed one entry on behalf of the entire school. Schools were encouraged to produce a project that highlighted the importance of water and water conservation efforts. Kwajalein Atoll High School took home first place with their music video titled “Kajatdikdik.” The video featured KAHS students cleaning up the school grounds, washing reusable lunch plates, cleaning out their guttering system, and singing an original song spreading the message of hope for the future. For their video submission, KAHS won three brand new projectors, and three K’Nex Education STEAM sets in order to be used within KAHS classrooms.



KAHS principal Donna Lanej and students receive their STEAM contest prizes. © YTIH 2016

IOM would like to thank Youth to Youth in Health Teen Pregnancy Prevention Staff, Air Marshall Islands, WorldTeach, and Ebeye Chief Secretary Abbacca Maddison for their assistance in the implementation of the WASH contests.

You can view all of the winning entries at the following link: goo.gl/DYvhTC