



# IOM MICRONESIA

Republic of the Marshall Islands

## El Nino Drought Response

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Supplemental Food Assistance Distribution—Northern Marshall Islands  
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## IOM's Final Supplemental Food Distribution

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) completed its final 2016 El Nino Drought Response supplemental food distribution in March 2017. This distribution was based on an agricultural assessment in November 2016 which found that certain food items were taking longer to recover from the drought than expected. The resulting distribution included a two-month, ½ ration of rice, canned fruit and canned vegetables for 2,312 beneficiaries on six affected Atolls/Islands.

The distribution took place from 12 – 23 March 2017 aboard the M.V. Kwajalein. A total of 9,500 pounds of rice, 17,000 pounds of mixed vegetables and 11,200 pounds of mixed fruit were distributed to communities in Arno-Rearlaplap, Wotje, Mejit, Ailuk, Wotho and Kwajalein (Ebadon).

IOM had previously distributed a seven-month supply of supplemental food assistance. With this most recent food assistance, IOM distributed over 1,000,000 pounds, or just over 500 tons, of food that was used to replace what was lost or damaged by the 2016 drought.

The IOM Drought Response Team was joined by Program Assistant Bruce Allen of the IOM PREPARE Program to implement surveys related to the use of solar-powered radios in the outer islands. Ministry of Health's Leslie Kaulehual Fox-Leyva also accompanied the response team to conduct sensitizations on Zika and support to the outer island health dispensaries attendants.

### IOM's Clean-Up Promotion, Round 2

During the March 2017 food distribution, IOM organized its second Outer Island Clean-Up Promotion. All of the six Island/Atolls receiving the March 2017 supplemental food assistance were given the opportunity to win prizes in exchange for their non-organic trash.

All six of the participating Island/Atolls had trash waiting for IOM and received their prizes. IOM estimates that over 200 bags of trash were collected by the communities and . Prizes included volleyball nets, volleyballs, fishing line, coolers, snorkeling masks and fins to promote clean and healthy islands.



Photo Above: IOM staff assist with the collection of trash in Wotje—Wotje © IOM

IOM sends its thanks to the participating communities and the Majuro Atoll Waste Company (MAWC) for their help in organizing the second successful Clean Up Promotion.

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## IOM RESPONSE

### IOM and WUTMI Continue Successful Partnership

IOM and Women United Together Marshall Islands (WUTMI) are pleased to announce the continuation of their successful partnership until the end of May 2017.

During the 2016 El Nino Drought response, WUTMI implemented a Beneficiary Follow-Up (BFUP) survey process that allowed IOM to monitor the effectiveness of its response activities, adjust operations in a timely manner, and beneficiaries to voice their concerns. The results of the wide-ranging survey were compiled into a database by WUTMI and continue to be analyzed by both WUTMI and IOM.

The continuation of this partnership will allow both Organizations to finalize and present the findings of the BFUP database and make recommendations for improved drought response activities in the future. Based on initial results, recommendations will include the need for further planning for female hygiene kits and expanded protection activities in future disaster responses. WUTMI will be organizing a half-day conference for key Government stakeholders to go over the results of the BFUP process and brainstorm about future response scenarios.

### Reverse Osmosis Units Produce Life-Saving Water

During the 2016 Drought Response, IOM deployed all 23 of its portable, solar-powered Reverse Osmosis Units to drought-affected communities. Together with the Government's 29 RO Units, IOM projects that over 700,000 gallons of fresh water were produced during the 2016 drought through reverse osmosis technology. This provided affected communities with essential relief as many were without fresh drinking water at the height of the 2016 drought.



The process of producing fresh water through desalinization, however, comes at a cost. The RO Units experienced high-use during the 2016 drought and were oftentimes installed in challenging locations. IOM continues with its effort to repair and maintain all of its RO Units so they are ready for the next response scenario. IOM expects that by the end of May 2017, all of its RO Units will be in full working order.

## IOM Sends a big KOMMOL TATA to all Response Partners



Photo Above: IOM sensitization in Ebaddon, Kwajalein. © IOM © 2017 (IOM Majuro)



Photo Above: IOM staff begin the food distribution in Mejit Island © IOM 2017 (IOM Majuro)

Just over a year ago, former U.S. President Barack Obama signed a Presidential Disaster Declaration for the Republic of the Marshall Islands. IOM had the privilege to work alongside many dedicated individuals and Organizations. Together, our work touched the lives of over 20,000 people living in RMI.

The **Marshall Island Shipping Corporation (MISC)** and **Stevedore** provided essential logistical support. The Shipping Corporation is staffed with many hard-working individuals who do not always get the thanks they deserve and Stevedore is home to some of the most efficient workers in the Marshalls – Thank You!

Partners in the private sector worked with IOM on large-scale procurement processes. **K&K Island Pride Supermarket**, **Payless** and **Joemar** brought in over 300 metric tons of food to Majuro on short-notice.

**Majuro Do It Best**, **Ace Hardware** and **True Value** provided technical assistance, tools and materials that helped thousands in the outer islands.

IOM was also happy to work with **Tobolar** to purchase locally-produced items, including soap and coconut cooking oil, and send them to those in need (including the use of the **MV Tobolar!**).

Finally, the 2016 drought response would not have enjoyed a single success without the diligence of select individuals and Offices with the Government of RMI.

The **Office of the Chief Secretary, National Disaster Management Office** leadership provided guidance to all those involved, along with personnel working in **Procurement**, the **Weather Station Office**, **Majuro Water and Sewer Company**, **KAJUR**, **EPA** and **Agricultural Division of Resources and Development**.

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



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