

MICRONESIA – TYPHOON MAYSAK

FACT SHEET #2, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2015

APRIL 15, 2015

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE

4

Confirmed Fatalities
Resulting from the Storm
Government of the Federated States
of Micronesia (GoFSM) Department
of Health and Social Affairs –
April 7, 2015

10

Persons Treated for
Storm-Related Injuries
GoFSM Department of Health and
Social Affairs – April 7, 2015

28,605

Typhoon-Affected People
in Chuuk State
GoFSM and U.S. Government (USG)
Preliminary Disaster Assessment
Team – April 13, 2015

1,100

Typhoon-Affected People
in Yap State
GoFSM and USG Preliminary
Disaster Assessment Team –
April 13, 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- A USG interagency team has conducted a preliminary damage assessment (PDA) to evaluate the impact of Typhoon Maysak in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).
- PDA findings indicate destruction of more than 280 houses and public infrastructure damage in excess of \$8 million.
- USAID/OFDA¹ is providing more than \$100,000 in initial humanitarian assistance to FSM and has authorized the distribution of its relief supplies pre-positioned in the region.

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING TO FSM FOR TYPHOON MAYSAK TO DATE IN FY 2015

USAID/OFDA

\$129,607

\$129,607

TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO FSM FOR TYPHOON MAYSAK

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- In collaboration with GoFSM officials, a USG interagency team—comprising personnel from USAID/OFDA, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and other USG agencies—initiated a PDA in FSM’s Chuuk and Yap states on April 8 to verify the magnitude of damage caused by Typhoon Maysak, as requested by FSM President Emanuel Mori. Through a treaty relationship with the United States, the GoFSM is eligible to appeal for a U.S. Presidential Disaster Declaration (PDD), for which the PDA is a prerequisite. A PDD would make available emergency relief and reconstruction funding from FEMA, the U.S. Small Business Administration, and other USG agencies.
- As of April 13, the PDA team had found destruction of more than 280 houses and public infrastructure damage in excess of \$8 million across Chuuk and Yap. The assessments also confirmed earlier findings that the typhoon caused significant damage to crops and fruit trees, as well as houses, rainwater catchment systems, and other infrastructure, in affected areas. Food assistance and support to restart agricultural activities constitute the highest priority needs.
- In response to Typhoon Maysak, USAID/OFDA has provided an initial \$100,000 to the International Organization for Migration (IOM)—USAID’s primary implementing partner in FSM—to distribute emergency relief items and offer basic water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance to FSM’s storm-affected households. USAID/OFDA has also authorized the distribution of humanitarian supplies procured with USAID/OFDA funding and held in IOM-managed warehouses in both FSM and neighboring Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) to typhoon-affected areas.

¹ USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE

- On April 11, the FSM Congress concluded a two-day special session with a decision to allocate \$1.5 million in emergency relief assistance to Chuuk and Yap from national GoFSM funds. The proposed legislation is currently awaiting review by FSM President Mori. To date, the GoFSM has contributed \$100,000 from national funds to the responses in Chuuk and Yap, as directed in the presidential emergency declaration for Typhoon Maysak. The GoFSM also anticipates withdrawing further funding from the Disaster Assistance Emergency Fund (DAEF) to address typhoon-related needs. [Note: Under the Compact of Free Association, the GoFSM may utilize the DAEF—a joint GoFSM–USG contingency fund to which both governments annually contribute—once the GoFSM has declared a state of emergency.] The GoFSM National Emergency Task Force—led by the GoFSM Office of Environment and Emergency Management (OEEM)—continues to coordinate the typhoon response efforts, including national and international support.
- USAID partner IOM is moving USAID/OFDA-purchased reverse osmosis machines from Majuro, RMI, to Yap and Chuuk, to serve as potential response options to potable water needs in the outer islands. Two specialists from the Majuro Water and Sewer Company are accompanying the machines to assist with installation, maintenance, and operation instruction.
- On April 13, the Government of Australia (GoA) announced a contribution of \$100,000 to IOM for logistical support, as well as distribution of shelter materials, tools, and hygiene kits. The GoA also noted that two patrol boats—previously provided to the GoFSM through the GoA’s Pacific Patrol Boat Program—are participating in typhoon relief efforts by transporting GoFSM disaster personnel and emergency relief supplies to affected areas of Chuuk and Yap.
- As of April 9, a five-member UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team—deployed at the request of the GoFSM—had arrived in country. The team is providing coordination support, as well as information management and data analysis expertise, for the overall typhoon response.
- The Government of Japan announced plans on April 7 to contribute ¥11 million—or approximately \$92,000—in emergency relief commodities for storm-affected households in FSM. The items include primarily water purification supplies and water containers.
- As of April 3, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) had allocated approximately \$154,000 from its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for Typhoon Maysak relief operations through the Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS). The DREF operation will support the replenishment of emergency relief supply stocks already distributed by MRCS, as well the distribution of additional relief items. IFRC’s funding is also intended to support WASH interventions and response logistics.

CHUUK STATE

- Between April 8 and 12, a USAID/OFDA regional advisor and a USAID/OFDA WASH specialist visited locations throughout Chuuk as part of the PDA. Assessed areas include Wichap village on Chuuk’s main Weno Island; the Faichuuk islands of Onei, Paata, Polle, and Tol; and the Nomwisofu islands of Eot, Fanapanges, Romanum, and Udot. USAID/OFDA staff also traveled to other islands and atolls encircling Chuuk Lagoon. To date, the PDA team has validated public infrastructure damages totaling more than \$2.4 million and the complete destruction of an estimated 186 homes in assessed areas of Chuuk. Further, the team approximates that Typhoon Maysak affected 28,600 people state-wide.
- Across Chuuk, the storm resulted in the damage of at least 90 percent of breadfruit and banana trees, as well as taro crops, according to USAID/OFDA staff observations. Hence, food assistance and support to restart agricultural activities constitute the highest priority needs. At the time of the assessment, most communities outside of Weno had food stocks sufficient for only the next 10 to 14 days, with little liquidity to support the procurement of imported food. Affected populations require rice, fruits, vegetables, oil, and sugar for a period of five to seven months until short-cycle crops are productive, although many residents continue to have adequate access to protein through fishing and livestock.

- On Weno, damages to breadfruit and banana crops range from 30 to 90 percent, with the greater damage observed in highland areas. At the time of the assessment, the USAID/OFDA regional advisor estimated that local populations would have sufficient access to food for two to four weeks, given access to markets, available food stocks, and relatively limited areas of complete destruction. However, without outside aid, most households lack the financial resources to purchase adequate quantities of food to meet longer-term needs.
- According to the USAID/OFDA WASH specialist, many concrete water tanks in assessed areas of Chuuk remained standing and contained water, while the typhoon's strong winds had toppled the majority of plastic water tanks. Most households also sustained damage to gutters, impeding the ability of their catchment systems to collect new rainwater. Where water tanks were intact, USAID/OFDA staff observed residents declining to use stored water due to debris in the tanks. Instead, local populations are relying on shallow wells, carrying water from nearby streams, or traveling by boat to nearby islands to obtain water. Limited WASH interventions, such as the provision of water containers or water treatment supplies, may be necessary.
- As of April 8, nearly 40 percent of the electrical network had been restored on Weno Island, according to the Chuuk Public Utility Corporation (CPUC). A further 20 percent of power infrastructure is functional but needs repairs, while 40 percent of infrastructure has been destroyed or significantly damaged.
- USAID partner IOM provided two portable generators to CPUC on April 8 to support temporary pumping at well sites in areas of Weno Island without electricity. Using portable generators, CPUC is implementing a plan to fill water storage tanks in affected communities on a rotational basis.

YAP STATE

- Concurrent to the Chuuk assessments, between April 8 and 11, a second USAID/OFDA regional advisor and other PDA team members conducted damage evaluations on Fais Island and throughout the Ulithi Atoll, which included the islands of Falalop, Asor, Mogmog, and Fedarai. In total, the PDA team documented 95 destroyed houses, as well as more than \$6 million in damages to public infrastructure, in assessed areas of Yap. The team also estimates that Typhoon Maysak affected approximately 1,100 people state-wide.
- In all assessed areas of Ulithi, storm damage to crops and food sources is significant, and communities on the atoll will require food assistance, according to the PDA. The storm destroyed the majority of breadfruit and coconut trees, and remaining taro will not last beyond three to four weeks. Affected communities are collecting fallen fruit, which is expected to last no longer than one to two weeks, and are relying heavily on rice and fish for sustenance. OEEM has indicated a need for food rations for Ulithi residents for the next three to six months.
- USAID/OFDA staff also noted that many displaced families on Ulithi continue to stay in community buildings or with host families. On Ulithi's Falalop Island, the entire population of approximately 480 people is residing in 16 undamaged houses and three public buildings. While affected communities have initiated repairs of homes and other infrastructure, debris removal presents a major challenge for recovery.
- Similar to other assessed areas, damaged water infrastructure on Ulithi will require repair, and typical sources of drinking water may require treatment prior to consumption, the PDA team reports. IOM is transporting a large-capacity, USAID/OFDA-funded reverse osmosis unit from its Yap warehouse to Ulithi to address WASH needs.
- Electrical systems remain inoperative throughout Ulithi, although the Yap State Public Service Corporation is assessing damages and performing preliminary repairs to solar power systems on several islands.
- Damages on Fais Island, as well as Yap's eastern Faraulap Island, are lower than previously thought, according to PDA team and GoFSM observations. On Fais, the PDA team found damages to 30 to 40 percent of breadfruit, banana, and coconut trees, as well as to less than 10 percent of taro and sweet potato crops. On Faraulap, OEEM representatives noted little damage to primary residences, although up to 85 percent of fruit trees and crops in some areas are reportedly affected.
- On April 12, the GoFSM dispatched a ship from Pohnpei Island to Faraulap, carrying sufficient supplies of food, plastic sheeting, and safe drinking water rations for three months, according to the Yap disaster coordination office.

CONTEXT

- Typhoon Maysak, which initially developed into a tropical storm west of Pohnpei Island on March 27, rapidly intensified as it tracked westward across FSM. Between March 29 and April 1, Typhoon Maysak traversed FSM's Chuuk and Yap states, bringing destructive winds to several islands and reaching Yap's Ulithi Atoll and Fais Island as a super typhoon with sustained winds exceeding 160 miles per hour.
- On March 30, Chuuk Governor Johnson Elimo declared a state of emergency, while Yap Governor Tony Ganngiyan announced a state of emergency on April 1. As a result, FSM President Emanuel Mori issued a presidential emergency declaration for both locations.
- Immediately following the typhoon's passage, USAID/OFDA deployed staff to FSM to assess humanitarian conditions and help coordinate the USG response in collaboration with FEMA and other USG partners, GoFSM officials, and relief actors on the ground.
- On April 2, U.S. Ambassador to FSM Dorothea-Maria Rosen declared a disaster due to the effects of Super Typhoon Maysak.
- In November 2008, USAID assumed responsibility for disaster response and reconstruction in FSM from FEMA. USAID maintains FEMA's previous commitment to provide supplemental disaster assistance to GoFSM in the aftermath of significant disasters. USAID/OFDA collaborates closely with FEMA, as well as with USAID's Asia Bureau and USAID/Philippines, to implement disaster risk reduction and disaster response programs in FSM.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO FSM PROVIDED IN FY 2015¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/OFDA²			
IOM	Logistics and Relief Commodities, WASH	Affected Areas	\$100,000
	PDA Support Costs		\$29,607
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			\$129,607
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO FSM IN FY 2015			\$129,607

¹Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

²USAID/OFDA funding represents actual or obligated amounts as of April 15, 2015. This funding figure does not include the cost of USAID/OFDA pre-positioned relief commodities distributed in FSM.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at www.interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.821.1999.
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/responding-times-crisis/where-we-work>