

IOM responds to devastating Super-Typhoon in Micronesia; Philippines on standby

Micronesia - IOM staff in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) are responding to the devastation caused by Super Typhoon Maysak which barreled across the group of 600 Pacific islands from 28 March to 2 April.

Five people have been confirmed to have died as the result of the storm, which has also destroyed crops and contaminated many water sources. Packing wind speeds exceeding 250 kilometres per hour, Maysak smashed houses, schools, and public buildings, and also sank several fishing and dive boats.

Speaking from the capital Pohnpei earlier on Friday Stuart Simpson, IOM's Chief of Mission in FSM stressed "Our overwhelming priority in the coming hours is to ensure that we get clean water – and the means to produce it locally – to isolated island communities. Hot on the heels of that, we need to ensure that people are able to repair damaged dwellings and to quickly RESUME their daily lives".

On March 30, FSM President Manny Mori issued a Presidential Emergency Declaration, and IOM teams based in the main islands of Yap and Chuuk responded by facilitating pre-onset disaster preparedness activities in tandem with respective State Disaster Coordination Officers. They also provided technical support to post-disaster assessment and data collection efforts.

The Government deployed the FSS Independence from Pohnpei the night of March 30 to Chuuk with relief supplies, and on April 2, USAID authorized initial relief funding in order to supplement the humanitarian assistance provided by the FSM National Government.

The boat visited isolated islands which bore the brunt of typhoon Maysak, bringing cases of bottled water, medical supplies and a team of assessors, including medical personnel.

A second vessel – the FSS Micronesia –left Pohnpei this morning



IOM staff working to load FSS Micronesia with relief items to delivery to cyclone-affected populations on remote islands. © IOM/Mark Adams 2015

for Chuuk and Yap. "It is carrying bottled water, chainsaws, hand saws, tarps, ropes, nails, solar lanterns, and basic food items. We had item warehoused in Yap and Pohnpei, and took the critical items out of our Pohnpei warehouse to complement the delivery to Chuuk. We offered unique water-related items unavailable in local MARKETS – 1,000 and 5,000 litre water bladders, tap stands, jerry cans," said IOM's

Chief of Party and Manager, of the PREPARE readiness programme, speaking from Pohnpei earlier today.

IOM deployed a surge team to the Pacific archipelago of Vanuatu in min-March, to assist in the aftermath of Cyclone Pam which caused widespread damage and left 11 people dead. IOM personnel are on standby in the Philippines as Maysak threatens the eastern seaboard – it is weakening in intensity but is nonetheless expected to pack strong winds and heavy rain when it hits over the Easter weekend.

USAID and IOM are assessing Typhoon Maysak storm damage

Embassy of the United States of America Kolonia

The United States Embassy in Kolonia, assisted by USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), is coordinating the U.S. Government's response to Typhoon Maysak. OFDA is conducting damage assessments in Chuuk and Yap states with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), USAID's on-the-ground partner in the FSM.

providing logistics support to facilitate the movement of relief items throughout the affected areas. Under the leadership of each state's Disaster Coordination Officer (DCO) in the Emergency Operations Centers, IOM is closely coordinating response work with state-level departments, the Micronesian Red Cross Society, and local partners. The Embassy, OFDA and IOM continue to liaise with the FSM National Government, donors, and key partners in Pohnpei.

indicate extensive damage to crops, housing, and infrastructure, limited drinking water due to damage to water storage containers, and power and communications outages.

Through IOM, the U.S. maintains prepositioned relief items in the FSM. IOM is working with local officials to distribute these critical

supplies—including water containers and plastic sheeting to address emergency shelter needs. Over the next few days, U.S. Embassy and OFDA staff will continue to conduct assessments and coordinate response efforts in response to the requests of FSM government agencies and humanitarian organizations.

The FSM and State Governments are Preliminary reports from Chuuk and Yap states



Paata Weno, Chuuk

Micronesia Registration Advisors donate to typhoon relief



Kasio Kembo represented Micronesia Registration Advisors (MRA) in the presentation of a check to the International Organization of Migration in the amount of \$25,000 for Typhoon Maysak relief. He said that MRA hopes that their donation will motivate other FSM corporations to donate to typhoon relief for the thousands of victims in the FSM.

How you can help people affected by Super Typhoon Maysak

Embassy of the United States of America Kolonia

April 8, 2015

The Embassy has received several inquiries about how people can help those affected by Super Typhoon Maysak. The most effective way to support people affected by disaster events, including Super Typhoon Maysak in Micronesia, is to provide monetary donations to relief and charitable organizations working directly with affected populations. Even very small cash donations make a significant difference, thanks to relief and charitable organizations' bulk purchasing power. Monetary donations are the simplest option for donors, the most efficient for relief and charitable organizations, and the most effective for survivors, as they:

- Enable relief organizations to respond to urgent needs as they arise, which happens frequently in the early stages of an emergency response;
- Facilitate programs that material donations cannot support, including medical services, family reunification initiatives, and trauma counseling; and
- Allow the local purchase of much-needed goods, ensuring that supplies are fresh and familiar to survivors, acquired in needed quantities, and culturally, nutritionally and environmentally appropriate. These purchases in turn support local merchants and economies, which strengthens and speeds recovery.

Some community groups and civic organizations feel a strong desire to provide material donations, often in the form of clothing, canned food, bottled water, and other household items. While well-intentioned, these donations can actually delay the delivery of life-saving services and supplies to survivors and are costly and time-consuming for relief organizations to manage.

If monetary donations are not possible, prospective donors are asked to donate according to these guidelines:

- "Connect before you collect" by identifying a relief or charitable organization that has specifically requested the items before the collection begins;
- Ensure that all material donations are directed to a consignee that can receive, manage, and distribute them;
- Ensure all documentation for the shipment are in order, including customs clearance, inspections, and port fees; and
- Arrange transportation before the collection begins.

For more information on the impact of non-cash donations, go to www.cidi.org. For more information on the U.S. Government's humanitarian assistance efforts in response to Super Typhoon Maysak, visit USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance.



AUSTRALIAN AWARDS SCHOLARSHIP (AAS) INTAKE YEAR 2016

Opening Date: 01 February 2015
Closing Date: 30 April 2015

Eligible citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau and Republic of the Marshall Islands are invited to apply for awards commencing in January 2016 for full time post-graduate study in Australia. Awards cover tuition, accommodation, living expenses and airfares.

To be eligible to apply students must:

- Have completed a Bachelor's Degree or equivalent;
- Be a citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau or the Republic of the Marshall Islands;
- Be willing to return to work in their country for no less than two years after completion of their degree.

Application instructions and guidelines are available on the Australian Embassy website: www.fsm.embassy.gov.au

All completed applications should be submitted online.

If you have any questions please contact Caroline Adams at caroline.adams@dfat.gov.au or +691 320.5448 ext. 107

United Nations team arrives in Micronesia to support Typhoon Maysak response

United Nations Nations Unies Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

9 April 2015

Suva, Fiji - A United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team today arrived in the Federated States of Micronesia to support the government's response to Typhoon Maysak. The typhoon made landfall at Chuuk lagoon on Sunday 29 March and Ulithi Atoll, Yap, on 1 April, while neighboring islands within the two states also experienced damage from strong destructive winds.

The UNDAC team, comprising five disaster response experts, was deployed by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Regional Office for the Pacific at the request of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia. It will support the government and humanitarian partners as they continue to respond to communities on affected islands and atolls.

"We are pleased to support the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia in its response to this damaging typhoon, which has impacted

many communities living in an area spanning hundreds of kilometres," said Mr Sune Gudnitz, Head of OCHA's Regional Office for the Pacific. "While the impact of Typhoon Maysak is low by world standards in terms of the total number of people affected, all needs are equally important and all suffering deserves to be eased."

The UNDAC team will support the government and humanitarian partners, such as the International Organization for Migration and Micronesia Red Cross Society, in the delivery of food, safe drinking water, medical supplies, emergency shelter and temporary learning spaces to communities. The team will provide coordination and assessment support as well as data analysis and information management expertise.

"The typhoon destroyed homes, contaminated food and water sources, and damaged crops and infrastructure, including school buildings," said Mr



Gudnitz. "As those affected are highly reliant on subsistence farming, the damage to crops will significantly affect their ability to earn an income and grow food. The dispersed nature of the affected communities makes the humanitarian response particularly challenging."

UNDAC is part of the international emergency response system for sudden-

onset emergencies. UNDAC was created in 1993 and was designed to help the United Nations and governments of disaster-affected countries during the first phase of a sudden-onset emergency by rapidly deploying international emergency management experts. UNDAC is a neutral, international asset, provided free of cost to support government-led disaster responses.