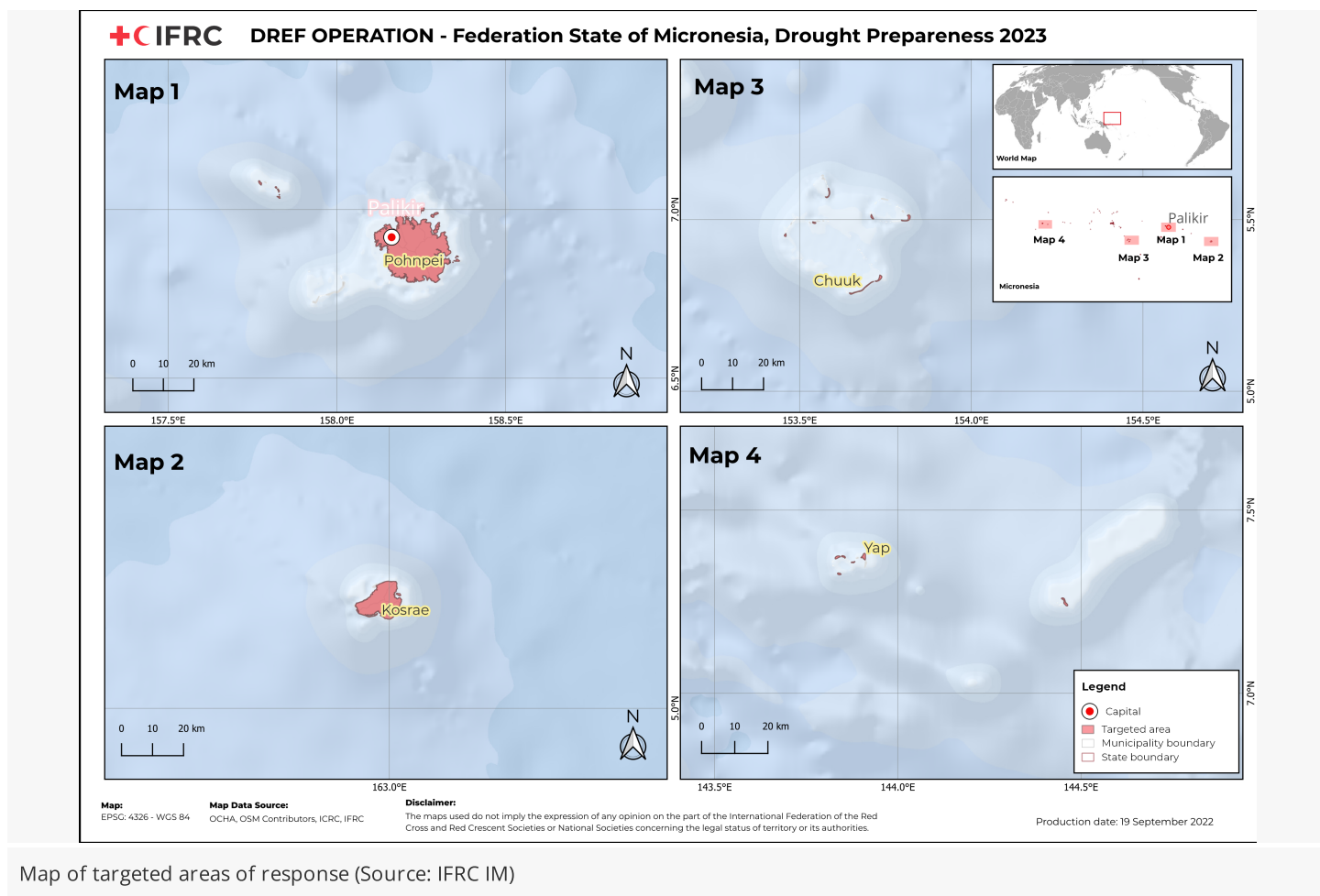




A trained volunteer from the Micronesia Red Cross Society conducting health and WASH awareness session in school. (Photo: MRCS)

|  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| Appeal:<br><b>MDRFM002</b>                           | Total DREF Allocation:<br>-                | Crisis Category:<br><b>Yellow</b>                     | Hazard:<br><b>Drought</b>                     |
| Glide Number:<br><b>DR-2023-000130-FSM</b>           | People Affected:<br><b>6,619 people</b>    | People Targeted:<br><b>6,619 people</b>               |   |
| Event Onset:<br><b>Slow</b>                          | Operation Start Date:<br><b>21-09-2023</b> | New Operational End Date:<br><b>31-03-2024</b>        | Total Operating Timeframe:<br><b>6 months</b> |
| Reporting Timeframe Start Date:<br><b>21-09-2023</b> |  | Reporting Timeframe End Date:<br><b>19-01-2024</b>    |   |
| Additional Allocation Requested:<br>-                |  | Targeted Areas:<br><b>Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap</b> |   |

# Description of the Event



## Provide any updates in the situation since the field report and explain what is expected to happen.

In September 2023, El Niño was officially declared in FSM, raising concerns for the upcoming months. The drying trend, intensifying from October to November, typically peaks in January after an El Niño event. Anticipating this, it was feared that Western FSM might experience severe drought conditions.

FSM relies on underground, surface water, and rainwater for freshwater. Small, low-lying islands are especially vulnerable, being fully dependent on rainwater and shallow wells. Historical data indicates that past El Niño years brought drought during winter and spring, with Yap and western Chuuk affected earlier and more severely due to weaker winds and warm ocean water surges.

The adverse impacts are exacerbated by climate change, where elevated sea-surface temperatures disrupt natural weather patterns, inhibiting cloud formation and reducing regional rainfall. Higher temperatures contribute to increased evaporation, leading to a substantial decline in available water resources. The broader effects of climate change, including rising salt content, increased flooding, and droughts, pose significant threats to the fresh water availability and quality in FSM.

As of January 2024, the Climate and Ocean Bulletin indicates that El Niño conditions prevail, marked by above-average Equatorial Sea surface temperatures across the Pacific Ocean. Atmospheric anomalies consistent with El Niño indicate a robust presence, and it is anticipated that El Niño will persist over the next several seasons. ENSO neutral conditions are favored during April to June 2024, with a 73 per cent chance. Drought conditions persistently spread throughout the region, with Pohnpei currently classified as D0 (abnormally dry), while Kosrae maintains its status with "no drought conditions" as of now.

Similarly, recent climate and ocean conditions further underscore the vulnerability of Micronesia, with below-normal rainfall recorded in Pohnpei and Kosrae for December 2023. Over the past three months (October to December 2023), Pohnpei experienced near-normal rainfall, while Kosrae faced below-normal rainfall. Micronesia, heavily reliant on underground, surface water, and rainfall for daily water needs, becomes more vulnerable to water scarcity during El Niño events due to its remote location and logistical challenges, including



high transportation costs. These interconnected factors emphasize the need for proactive measures and resilience strategies to mitigate the potential impacts of ongoing and future El Niño events in the region.



PMER surge providing training on a community tool known as three-pile sorting to volunteers. (Photo: MRCS)



MRCS volunteer conducting assessment. (Photo: MRCS)

## Why your National Society is acting now and what criteria is used to launch this operation.

In 2018-2019, the El Niño phenomenon affected Micronesia, subjecting Yap state, Palau, and the Mariana Islands to a prolonged period of drought in the early months of 2020. Historically, during previous El Niño years, FSM consistently faced drought conditions in the winter and spring months. As of August 2023, there was an anticipation, with a probability of 95 per cent, signaling the imminent arrival of El Niño in the North Pacific. This triggered an El Niño alert, prompting the initiation of early actions and preparedness measures for potential drought. The formal declaration of El Niño came by the end of September 2023 in FSM.

As a result of the El Niño phenomenon, Micronesia is currently experiencing a period of drought, characterized by persistently elevated temperatures. The consequential impact of this climatic condition is becoming increasingly evident within the local community and schools. Recognizing the severity of the situation, the State Government of Pohnpei issued an emergency declaration regarding water scarcity on 12 January 2024. The drought has significantly disrupted daily life in Pohnpei, leading to adjustments such as schools adopting half-day schedules. Furthermore, the local restaurants or establishments have been compelled to limit their services to takeaways only, underscoring the acute shortage of water resources. The community's response to this crisis is noticeable, with individuals taking proactive measures to mitigate potential water shortages by accumulating water in containers and jars. The multifaceted consequences of the drought are posing challenges that extend beyond mere inconveniences, prompting a collective effort to adapt to and cope with the adverse effects of the ongoing water scarcity.

The MRCS is currently implementing the Imminent Drought IFRC-DREF 2023 operation, targeting 1,325 households across all four states of Micronesia. The operation aims to reach a total of 6,619 individuals, encompassing activities such as the preparation and mobilization of volunteers in all four states for early drought-related interventions. Additionally, the project works with communities on the main islands of the four states and in two high-risk islands per state. As of 15 January 2024, the operation has reached 3,672 individuals (612\*6 members) through household survey and 1,120 people through health and WASH awareness sessions (6 schools and 5 communities). The ongoing efforts such as health and WASH awareness sessions have increased the awareness on food and water-borne, vector-borne, and skin disease causes and preventive measures in schools and communities, and the remaining activities during the extended period until March 2024.



## Scope and Scale

The urgency of the situation is underscored by the critical stage of implementation, driven by the escalating drought conditions in the states, emphasizing the pressing need for support within the affected communities.

The operation is scheduled to be finished by January 2024 but there is need for the extended period of time of two months February and March 2024 for the full implementation of the planned activities. Given the country's current situation and increased needs, this imminent IFRC-DREF assistance is necessary to prepare communities and schools along with stakeholders to be prepared and mitigate the impact of the drought, driven by the escalating drought conditions in the states, emphasizing the pressing need for support within the affected communities.

The scope of the operation includes the following:

- i) Identification of target communities.
- ii) Defining drought risks in target communities through an assessment and support of communities to prioritize and implement the actions to address identified risks.
- iii) Procurement and prepositioning of stocks for distribution.
- iv) Expand access to safe water sources and/or strengthen and improve the existing community water sources.
- v) Spread awareness and increase knowledge of communities on causes and preventive measures regarding waterborne diseases, household water treatment, safe storage and good hygiene practices to minimize the risk of spread of diseases during the drought.

The MRCS has successfully conducted household assessments of 612 households among 1325 targeted households, reaching half of the targeted households. The assessment of remaining 713 households would be completed by end of February 2024. The volunteers joining the assessment after the holidays would be provided refresher orientation on data collection. Mitigation plans for four communities have been developed and implemented, with plans for the remaining six communities scheduled for January and February 2024. In parallel, the procurement and prepositioning of essential supplies, such as jerry cans and Chlorine tablets, have been completed in three states (Pohnpei, Chuuk, and Kosrae).

Furthermore, efforts to strengthen safe water sources have seen progress through the development of a rainwater harvesting system in Pakin Atoll, covering 130 households. This initiative includes a comprehensive risk assessment for a community reliant solely on rainwater for drinking and household chores.

In addition, awareness sessions have been conducted in four communities, focusing on the causes and preventive measures related to waterborne diseases, household water treatment, safe storage, and good hygiene practices. The aim is to enhance the knowledge of both communities and schools, thereby minimizing the risk of disease spread during drought conditions.

Fifty volunteers from the national society are equipped, trained and are engage with vulnerable communities. Their capabilities extend to raising awareness about the impending drought risk, implementing measures to mitigate its impact, and proactively preparing for essential actions such as purifying brackish water during periods of drought.

The remaining activities for the imminent IFRC-DREF operation are scheduled for the remaining part of January, as well as an extended period encompassing February and March 2024. This strategic timeline underscores the planning and implementation required for comprehensive disaster response and community resilience building.

## Summary of Changes

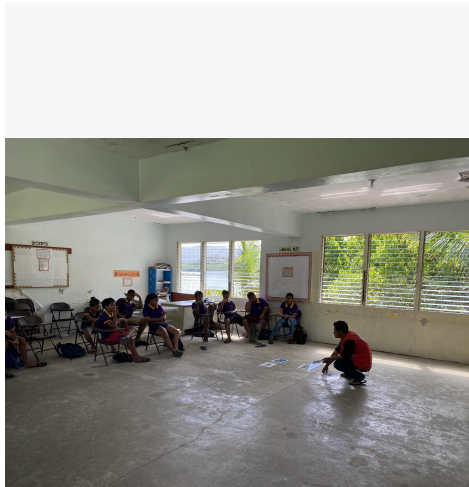
|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Are you changing the timeframe of the operation         | Yes |
| Are you changing the operational strategy               | No  |
| Are you changing the target population of the operation | No  |
| Are you changing the geographical location              | No  |
| Are you making changes to the budget                    | No  |
| Is this a request for a second allocation               | No  |
| Has the forecasted event materialize?                   | No  |



# Current National Society Actions

## National Society anticipatory actions started

2023-09-21



MRCS trained volunteer conducting health and WASH awareness session in school. (Photo: MRCS)



MRCS volunteers shipping the materials to Kosrae and Chuuk. (Photo: IFRC)



Children in school practicing handwashing after awareness session. (Photo: MRCS)

### Health

MRCS has trained 50 Red Cross volunteers, with 10 female volunteers on causes and preventive measures for food and waterborne diseases, vector-borne diseases, and skin diseases. Additionally, informative IEC materials addressing these health concerns have been designed, printed, and distributed during awareness campaigns.

Through these campaigns, 2 communities and 2 schools have been made aware on the causes of and preventive actions against food and waterborne diseases, vector-borne diseases, and skin diseases. The communities and schools have increased knowledge on preventive measures to mitigate the waterborne and vector-borne diseases. The sessions also included information on psychosocial first aid, contributing to a comprehensive approach to community well-being.

Joint Risk Management Network meeting was attended by MRCS with FSM Department of Health.

### Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

MRCS has designed and printed IEC materials promoting good hygiene practices, emphasizing reduced water waste and proper household water use, treatment, and storage. Volunteers have received training on these practices and are actively guiding communities and schools in developing drought mitigation plans. This includes raising awareness on water harvesting, water and water source conservation, as well as water purification, storage, and treatment. These measures aim to enhance readiness for potential drought situations in the targeted communities, including schools.

The prepositioning of jerry cans and Chlorine tablets have been done in Pohnpei, Chuuk and Kosrae.

### Protection, Gender And Inclusion

MRCS is conducting assessments through a Protection and Gender-Inclusive (PGI) lens, focusing on identifying vulnerable groups and individuals within communities. The aim is to recognize community members with diverse needs and potential protection risks in emergency situations, ensuring access to planned assistance. Simultaneously, MRCS also



|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <p>developed incident reporting protocol for child and adult at risk which was also shared with APRO Safeguarding Advisor.</p> <p>During awareness sessions and other planned activities, MRCS places emphasis on collecting Sex-Age-Disability Disaggregated data.</p>  |
| <b>Community Engagement And Accountability</b> | <p>MRCS has disseminated its phone number as a community hotline for easy access. A comprehensive procedure document has been developed to handle both sensitive and non-sensitive complaints from the communities effectively. To enhance outreach, MRCS is preparing to use FM radio, social media platforms, and mass messaging to raise awareness about the impending drought and provide guidance on the necessary measures to mitigate associated risks.</p>   |
| <b>Coordination</b>                            | <p>MRCS actively participates in national and state disaster management committees, functioning as an auxiliary to the government. This close collaboration allows the National Society to supplement government efforts effectively. To fulfill its role in the FSM, MRCS is focused on establishing drought readiness through proactive preparedness activities, laying the groundwork for potential relief operations.</p> <p>In the Federated States of Micronesia, MRCS utilizes existing coordination platforms with National, State, and local Governments, including the Joint Risk Management Network. The organization works closely with the government, with the MRCS Executive Director actively involved in the national disaster committee, ensuring a streamlined and collaborative approach to disaster response.</p> |
| <b>National Society Readiness</b>              | <p>MRCS has three chapters and a national headquarters strategically placed in the Pohnpei, Micronesia. It plays a strong role in national and state disaster plans with 150 active volunteers out of 800, supported by 8 full-time staff in 2022. The 50 volunteers are trained and collecting the household survey data and health and WASH awareness sessions.</p> <p>The stock materials have been procured and prepositioned in the states. There are 4 containers in Pohnpei holding supplies for 200 households, 4 in Chuuk to cover supplies for 200 households, 2 in Kosrae for 100 households and 2 in Yap for 70 households, but the hygiene parcel stock is low after the COVID-19 operation.</p>  |
| <b>Assessment</b>                              | <p>MRCS received imminent IFRC-DREF support for assessment on 21 September 2023. As of 15 January 2024, MRCS has conducted household assessments for 612 households (3,672 individuals: 612*6 member), with 152 female household heads, across 34 states (Pohnpei, Chuuk, Kosrae and Yap) and will be continued.</p>   |
| <b>Activation Of Contingency Plans</b>         | <p>The state to Pohnpei has initiated to develop the contingency plan in coordination with MRCS and other humanitarian organization for drought. MRCS would also provide their action in the combined plan.</p>  |

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Secretariat</b>                      | <p>The IFRC North Pacific sub-delegation is actively monitoring the dynamic El Niño event and its repercussions on North Pacific countries in close coordination with National Societies. Similarly, the IFRC County Coordination Delegation (CCD) in Suva office for the Pacific, assisted by technical leads, is actively involved in monitoring and responding to drought conditions as required.</p> <p>Similarly, IFRC supported for the development of the imminent DREF application and has played a key role in the international procurement of materials for prepositioning. IFRC has also facilitated surge support on WASH and PMER, in addition to contributing to the development of the operation update.</p> |
| <b>Participating National Societies</b> | <p>No Participating National Society presence in the country.</p>  |



# ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

ICRC does not have a presence in the north pacific.

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Government has requested international assistance</b> | No  |
| <b>National authorities</b>                              | <p>The Government, in collaboration with partners like MRCS and UN agencies, is actively monitoring the progression of the drought. The State Government of Pohnpei has issued an emergency alert regarding water scarcity, and the Meteorological Office provides regular updates on the situation.</p> <p>Government authorities are coordinating with all humanitarian organizations to consolidate their action plans into a single document. This document provides guidance on the developed template aimed at effectively mitigating the drought situation in the state.</p> |
| <b>UN or other actors</b>                                | <p>MRCS has been part of a coordination platform between MRCS/IFRC and UN agencies, Embassies, USAID, IOM, FAO, and other significant stakeholders in the country. MRCS attended the Drought Response Coordination Meeting organized by Joint Risk Management Network (JRMN) on 19 January 2024 and is active to coordinate collective actions in the upcoming months.</p>  |

### Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

Coordination mechanisms have been established within the disaster management framework by the FSM and state government. Furthermore, the Joint Risk Management Network, representing UN agencies, international organizations, donor agencies, and the Red Cross, functions as a significant coordination platform.

## Needs (Gaps) Identified



### Health

The assessment findings reveal that 48 per cent of the surveyed households (out of 612) experience occasional instances of diarrhea, while 40 per cent report intermittent occurrences, with a few facing weekly episodes. In terms of healthcare facilities access, approximately 48 per cent of households have health facilities within a 15-minute proximity, while others take 15-30 minutes (21 per cent), 30-60 minutes (14 per cent), or over an hour (18 per cent). This underscores the correlation between the frequency of health issues and the lack of access of health facilities on the basis of proximity. To address health related issues, MRCS conducts awareness campaigns on the causes and preventive measures of food and water-borne, vector-borne, and skin diseases, including psychosocial first aid in targeted communities and schools.



### Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

During the assessment of 612 households out of 1,325, it was found that the primary source of drinking water varies, with pipe water into yards or plots being the most common, followed by gallon or bottled water, rainwater collection, pipe water into dwellings, and protected water tanks. While the majority have water sources on their premises taking less than 30 minutes to fetch water, some need to travel for over an hour, a situation exacerbated by the spreading drought. Although water availability was generally consistent throughout the year, there were reported instances of unavailability ranging from one week to three weeks to a month. The change in water availability was noted from June to December, and people often resort to using deep well water, tanks, stored water, or government-supplied water during inconsistencies in the main water source. More than half of the households expressed inadequate preparedness for a drought situation.



In response, residents requested water tanks, gallons, water supplies, pipes, containers, and other means to collect and store water, emphasizing the need to manage resources during droughts. The majority rely on rainwater harvesting, and the quality of drinking water is generally good, with no smell or taste issues. Many households lack water tanks or drums and clean their water tanks either monthly, weekly, or annually. Water trucks, especially from utility companies, are considered reliable during droughts. Diarrhea is rare in the states, and the perceived safety of treated water is high.

More than half of the households employ water treatment methods, with boiling, adding bleach or chlorine tablets, and using filters being common practices. Adult men predominantly collect or purchase water, and households spend an average of USD 28 per week on water. Almost 80 per cent of households use flush/pour flush toilets with septic tanks, while some use them without septic tanks. Some households do not have toilets, and toilet waste management includes burning, waste collection by the municipality, and disposal at shorelines, riverbanks, or backyards.

For menstrual hygiene, more than half of the households find it easy to obtain supplies, and the condition of their toilets is generally good, although some find it just manageable. Toilets are clean for half of the households, but some reported health hazards and the presence of animals around the toilets. Over half of the households lack handwashing facilities in the toilet, and those with such facilities claim they are functional and in good condition. Only one household reported having a basic hygiene service level, defined as having a handwashing facility on premises with soap and water.

In response, MRCS plans to prioritize initiatives promoting hygiene awareness sessions within the broader context of Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH).



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Out of the 1,325 targeted households, 95 per cent are situated in rural areas across all four states. The majority of families consist of more than six members, with around 30 per cent reporting 3 to 4 members, followed by 5 to 6 members and 1 to 2 members. Approximately 21 per cent of households have a family member with a disability, predominantly physical impairment, and a few also reported having children with physical and mental disabilities. The majority of households have easy access to health facilities, with over 90 per cent able to reach one in less than 15 minutes, although some reported it taking around an hour. On average, one member in these households has a physical disability. While most households are headed by men, around 25 per cent are led by women. These findings guide MRCS response in ensuring planned interventions consider the most vulnerable people and groups.



## Migration And Displacement

Local communities in FSM heavily rely on rainwater harvesting and groundwater for freshwater, which becomes scarce during droughts, leading to potential waterborne diseases and hardships. To enhance community resilience against water scarcity, MRCS has expanded access to safe drinking water in Pakin Atoll, a community dependent solely on rainwater. This involves the development of a rainwater harvesting system covering 130 households, along with a risk assessment, aiming to secure water supplies and facilitate communication among authorities, stakeholders, and residents. These initiatives, through collaboration and the provision of essential resources and information, aim to prevent forced migration, safeguarding community well-being and cultural heritage.



## Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

The small Island communities in Micronesia face significant vulnerabilities attributed to the impacts of climate change and limited access to services by sea. These communities are at high risk due to rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and drought. In response, MRCS has developed a drought preparedness and mitigation plan, using a 5-step participatory approach to assess and profile the risks within these communities.

The outline of the five steps approach of risk profiling are as below:

- Step 1: Past droughts and the impacts/challenges faced by the communities and families
- Step 2: Identification of challenges and ways of minimizing its impact
- Step 3: Identification of actions for transformation (before or during the drought)
- Step 4: Development of readiness plan based on the actions for transformation
- Step 5: Development of response plan based on the actions for transformation





## Community Engagement And Accountability

On the basis of the initial findings of household survey done with 612 households among 1,325 targeted in all four states, the people in communities shared that they want to get the information of drought from the social platforms such as Facebook, radio, community leaders and church leaders. The need of communication and engagement were seen with the people as women, children and vulnerable people need the assistance. By integrating meaningful community participation, open and honest communication, and mechanisms to listen to and act on feedback, this will ensure the effective delivery of assistance. MRCS has established a hotline service for receiving feedback and inquiries from communities.

## Operational Strategy

### Overall objective of the operation

The IFRC-DREF allocation aims to support 1,325 households (6,619 people) in 15 of the most vulnerable communities across four states (Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap, and Kosrae) in the Federated States of Micronesia, which are potentially affected by an imminent drought expected to peak in the first quarter of 2024.

As of 15 January 2024, the operation has reached 3,672 individuals (612 households with 6 members each) through household surveys and 1,120 people through health and WASH awareness sessions in 6 schools and 5 communities.

The operation commenced in September 2023 and is scheduled for implementation until January 2024. However, with only half of the planned activities accomplished and the targeted states already experiencing drought, the imminent IFRC-DREF requires additional time for completion. The target communities would be prepared, ultimately reducing the risk of the imminent drought by ensuring prepositioned stock. The communities would also gain access to safe drinking water and receive hygiene and health awareness. Assessments and pre-crisis analyses would be conducted, leading to the development of a community drought readiness plan to be implemented within the remaining three months.

### Operation strategy rationale

The imminent IFRC-DREF activities are being implemented in four states of the Federated States of Micronesia: Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae. The operation was initially planned for four months, from the end of September to January 2024, with an additional two-month extension required for February and March 2024. Ongoing assessments of another 713 households, risk evaluations, and the development of drought mitigation plans for five communities, along with awareness sessions on WASH, necessitate the extension.

Considering the declared emergency due to water scarcity and the states experiencing drought conditions, a prompt response is essential, encompassing early action/readiness and response activities. With IFRC's support, MRCS aims to conduct assessments and assist in developing drought response plans while implementing readiness activities.

1) Risk assessment of targeted communities: A total of 1,325 households (300+ in each state) across four states of Micronesia. As of the current date, assessments for 612 households have been completed, and the assessment of remaining households is in the data collection process. Data collection for the needs assessment has been conducted through the Kobo app with the support of the volunteers' network.

2) Health: The total target was 6,619 people for health education awareness activities in all four states. A total of 590 individuals were reached through awareness sessions, including school children and community members. Awareness campaigns will be conducted in the target communities on food and water-borne, vector-borne, and skin diseases, including preventive actions such as psychosocial first aid.

3) WASH: The total target is 6,619 people for hygiene promotion activities in the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia. A total of 590 individuals have also been oriented in WASH awareness sessions. Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) will be conducted after the distribution of water purification tablets.

4) Capacity building of volunteers: The total target is 50 volunteers, and insurance for these volunteers will be covered through imminent DREF. They underwent capacity-building sessions in health, WASH, and assessments. A total of 40 volunteers attended the training, with 26 of them (18 males and 12 females) mobilized for household assessments and awareness messages on WASH and health in the communities.

The operation engages communities and stakeholders at all levels for the coordinated implementation of readiness activities, resulting in the sharing of knowledge among stakeholders regarding drought risk.



As the interventions involve island communities, travel to the islands is usually affected by the availability of transport, transport costs, and weather conditions. Proper advance planning will ensure the systematic implementation of activities in nearby and outer islands. The identification of these islands will be done carefully, considering the capacity to reach out to them, taking into account transport availability and costs, as well as their vulnerability to drought.

The use of the MRCS volunteer workforce to implement response operations has been vital, as communities and various stakeholders collaborate on the ground.

MRCS plays a crucial role in emergencies, collaborating effectively with others in the humanitarian sector and receiving support from government agencies and stakeholders. This encourages MRCS to lead and set examples for others to follow.

At the end of the operation, MRCS will organize a lessons-learned workshop to review the operation and identify areas for improvement.

In its responses, MRCS will ensure that programs under this operation align with its gender commitments and the IFRC minimum standard commitments to gender and diversity in emergency programming. Specific considerations will include the elderly, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, lactating women, women-headed households, migrants, and households with infants or young children. These groups are more vulnerable to challenges related to access to nutrient-rich food, safe water, and are more susceptible to diseases and infections.

MRCS always focuses on establishing a better community feedback mechanism throughout the operation to ensure all voices of the community are heard and accepted. For conducting activities, MRCS strategies will include a strong community engagement mechanism to ensure community ownership is built throughout the operation. MRCS actively engages with the community by receiving advice, suggestions, feedback, and complaints, and promptly responds to address their inquiries.

## Targeting Strategy

### Who will be targeted through this operation?

MRCS uses three-pronged approach covering the vulnerable communities to prepare them to face potential drought, Red Cross volunteers to train them to conduct awareness campaigns in the communities and coordinate with stakeholders to avoid duplication and engage them not leaving anyone behind.

A total of 1,325 households and 10 schools on islands are targeted receive awareness messages, knowledge, and skills that can help people understand and implement measures to mitigate the impact of drought.

Moreover, 50 volunteers will receive training in water quality testing and the operation and maintenance of water purification units. These training sessions will prepare volunteers for deployment during the water scarcity in communities during operation. It is planned that two surge personnel with PMER and WASH profiles will be deployed to support these operations.

Joint Risk Management Network (JRMN) platform would also be utilized for effective coordination purposes.

### Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Following are the selection criteria used for the targeted population which will also be same for the extended period of the months i.e., February and March 2024:

- i) Communities on the main islands in the target four states and the nearby/outer islands were identified using the secondary data; and community, and stakeholder consultation.
- ii) Communities that can be accessed using the available means to meet the objectives. The practicalities of traveling to the Islands will be considered by MRCS.
- iii) Communities with limited resources and that are at a high risk of getting affected by the drought.
- iv) Red Cross volunteers from the State chapters have been trained on hygiene promotion, waterborne diseases control, and the nature-based solutions for community water conservation. They will be retrained and re-oriented (after holidays) to re-start the remaining assessments, including trainings of the school children.



# Total Targeted Population

|                           |       |                                      |     |
|---------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Women                     | 1,802 | Rural                                | 32% |
| Girls (under 18)          | 1,474 | Urban                                | 68% |
| Men                       | 1,839 | People with disabilities (estimated) | 1%  |
| Boys (under 18)           | 1,504 |                                      |     |
| Total targeted population | 6,619 |                                      |     |

# Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

| Risk  | Mitigation action  |
|---|--|
| Rough sea conditions in the month of January makes the travel to the nearby and outer islands challenging.  | The advance planning of activities can help in minimizing the travel to outer Islands January.   |
| The operation involves travel of staff and volunteers in Lagoon and ocean. There is a high risk of boats getting drifted or capsized due to the engine failure or adverse weather conditions. | The volunteers and staff will be provided with the safety equipment such as life jackets.  |
| High operations costs are due to the remoteness of communities/Islands and the high fuel prices, that can limit the quality and longevity of the interventions.                               | The activities will be planned considering the resources available through the DREF funding and the resources available with the other stakeholders such as the government agencies. |

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

The MRCS and IFRC have zero tolerance towards discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, and religion, sexual harassment, sexual abuse and bullying. The staff and volunteers involved in the operation have been oriented on the code of conduct and signed the same. MRCS also executed a Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis to ensure that it mitigates any potential unintentional risks that may occur during the implementation of this IFRC-DREF.

The volunteers have been provided with the necessary tools and equipment such as rubber boots and hand sanitisers to minimise the risks while working in the field. The volunteers will be encouraged to go through the online Stay Safe course on the e-learning platform.

Regular monitoring visits of MRCS senior management and the IFRC to the field will facilitate the early identification of the risks and addressing the same through collective efforts.

For personnel under IFRC security's responsibility, including surge support and integrated PNS, the IFRC security framework was made applicable during deployment in the area.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No

# Planned Intervention



Budget: CHF 16,359



Targeted Persons: 6,619

## Indicators

| Title   | Target | Actual |
|---|--------|--------|
| # of people reached through health education awareness  | 6,619  | 590    |
| # of volunteers trained on food and waterborne, vector-borne, and skin disease causes and preventive measures | 50     | 40     |

## Progress Towards Outcome

MRCS has designed and printed four sets of IECS materials addressing causes and preventive measures for food and water-borne, vector-borne, and skin diseases. Trained Red Cross volunteers, a total of 40 individuals with 10 females, are actively distributing these materials during awareness sessions in schools and communities. Among them, 40 volunteers are directly involved in facilitating awareness sessions, while the remaining 10 are dedicated to coordinating and communicating for the smooth implementation of activities.

The awareness campaigns on the causes and preventive measures of food and water-borne, vector-borne, and skin diseases, including psychosocial first aid, were conducted in two communities and two schools reaching a total of 590 individuals.

While the targeted goals of the awareness campaigns have been achieved, volunteers would continue to conduct health awareness sessions throughout WASH awareness sessions.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 61,726

Targeted Persons: 6,619

## Indicators

| Title   | Target | Actual |
|---|--------|--------|
| # of people reached by hygiene promotion activities in the response period                            | 6,619  | 590    |
| # of households reached with effective water treatment materials and promotion in the response period | 1,325  | 130    |
| # of schools and communities that have developed drought preparedness and response plan.              | 10     | 5      |

## Progress Towards Outcome

MRCS has designed and printed four sets of IEC materials that focus on good hygiene practices, reducing water waste, and household water use, treatment, and storage. These materials are currently being distributed by 40 trained volunteers during awareness sessions on hygiene promotion, household water treatment and storage, and access to water sources. WASH Surge provided three days of training on hygiene promotion in emergencies and household water treatment and safe storage (HHWT & SS) for volunteers. The training covered topics such as handwashing, rainwater harvesting, water conservation, and diseases transmission routes, including diseases transmitted through water.

In Pakin Atoll, a rainwater harvesting system was developed, accompanied by a risk assessment for a community that relies solely on rainwater for drinking and household chores, benefiting a total of 130 households.



The procurement of 1,000 water storage containers and 128,000 chlorine tablets has been completed with support from IFRC for international procurement. Furthermore, implementation plans for drought mitigation in two communities in Pohnpei and three communities in Chuuk have been finalized. Two schools in Pohnpei have also received awareness sessions on water harvesting, water and water source conservation, as well as water purification, storage, and treatment.

MRCS will coordinate with targeted schools and communities to develop the remaining five drought mitigation plans. Additionally, these plans will be implemented and mobilized by schools and communities to address the impacts of drought. Similarly, MRCS will organize 13 awareness sessions focusing on water harvesting, conservation of water sources, water purification, storage, and treatment. Post-distribution monitoring will be conducted after the distribution of water purification tablets.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

**Budget:** CHF 0

**Targeted Persons:** 6,619

### Indicators

| Title   | Target | Actual |
|---|--------|--------|
| # of Child Safeguarding risk assessment conducted | 1      | 0      |

### Progress Towards Outcome

MRCS has conducted a household assessment in 612 households through a PGI lens, identifying vulnerable groups and individuals within communities. This process involves recognizing community members with different needs and risks, including potential protection risks in emergencies and access to planned assistance. PGI orientation was provided to 40 volunteers and 2 MRCS staff members.

Simultaneously, an incident reporting protocol for children and adults at risk was developed and shared with the APRO Safeguarding Advisor.

MRCS captures sex, age, and disability disaggregated data to understand specific vulnerabilities, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the unique needs of females compared to males based on their gender roles and age.

The assessment of the remaining 713 households is scheduled to be completed by February 2024. Gender and disability data are currently being collected through a household survey. The active participation of disabled family members has been ensured in health and WASH awareness sessions and in the development of drought mitigation plans. Volunteers in Chuuk received a refresher orientation for data collection after the holidays, and similar sessions are planned for volunteers in the remaining three states.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

**Budget:** CHF 4,742

**Targeted Persons:** 6,619

### Indicators

| Title  | Target | Actual |
|--|--------|--------|
| # of communities aware about the MRCS hotline number and its purpose.                          | 15     | 11     |
| % of the complaints, feedback and suggestions received by MRCS are addressed within two weeks. | 80     | 0      |



## Progress Towards Outcome

MRCs has established a hotline service by disseminating the organization's number to receive feedback and inquiries from communities. Additionally, a procedural document has been developed to effectively manage both sensitive and non-sensitive complaints from the communities.

In its efforts to raise awareness about the drought and necessary mitigation measures, MRCs plans to utilize radio and social media platforms. Concurrently, the government has taken the initiative to broadcast drought-related messages through radio channels.

MRCs plans to use 4 FM radio stations and mass messaging to inform people about the imminent drought and the measures to be taken to mitigate the risks.



### Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 20,610

Targeted Persons: 0

#### Indicators

| Title   | Target | Actual |
|---|--------|--------|
| # of monitoring missions conducted to support the operation                 | 1      | 1      |
| # of surge personnel deployed to provide technical support to the operation | 2      | 3      |

## Progress Towards Outcome

The Head of the North Pacific Sub Office recently completed a monitoring visit aimed at providing essential operational support. Additionally, PMER and WASH surge support were provided to further strengthen the operation. Following the first PMER rotation, the second rotation of PMER support is on track for completion by 10 February 2024. Similarly, IFRC CCD Suva and IFRC APRO LPSCM team supported MRCs to facilitate international procurement processes for essential items such as jerry cans and chlorine tablets. This support ensures the timely acquisition of these critical supplies, essential for water storage and treatment.



### National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 46,584

Targeted Persons: 50

#### Indicators

| Title                                   | Target | Actual |
|---|--------|--------|
| # of volunteers insured                 | 50     | 0      |
| # of monitoring visits conducted        | 2      | 0      |
| # of lessons learned workshop conducted | 1      | 0      |

## Progress Towards Outcome

A refresher orientation event was conducted in Chuuk. This event aimed to re-orient volunteers for various tasks, including household surveys, facilitating health and WASH awareness sessions, and the development and implementation of mitigation plans.



In further support of volunteers, refresher sessions on assessment tools are scheduled in Pohnpei, Yap, and Kosrae states in the last week of January 2024. The risk assessment of five targeted communities has been successfully completed, offering insights into current and potential drought impacts. The remaining five assessments are planned for completion by the end of January 2024.

During the implementation of the drought mitigation plan, two monitoring visits will be carried out by the MRCS team to ensure the effectiveness of the initiatives. The insurance coverage for volunteers is anticipated to be finalized by January 2024, accommodating new volunteers joining for the assessment.

To enhance future responses and operations, a lessons learned workshop is in the planning stages and is expected to be organized by the end of February 2024. This workshop will provide a platform for reflection and improvement based on the experiences and insights gained during the implementation of the IFRC-DREF operation.

## About Support Services

### How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

A total of 40 volunteers have been trained for assessment, WASH and health promotion have been providing the support to implement the operation activities along with five staff from MRCS. MRCS would get do the insurance of 50 volunteers supporting the operation. Two surge personnel i.e., PMER Coordinator (1st rotation) and WASH Coordinator have completed their mission and returned. Another PMER Coordinator (2nd rotation) have joined the team and would provide the needed PMER support in the operation.

### Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

One WASH Coordinator was deployed for one month to support MRCS and conducted trainings in Kosrae and Chuuk focusing on WASH, Health, Assessment, PGI, CEA. She also supported in monitoring the WASH related activities of the MRCS imminent IFRC-DREF operation. Similarly, a PMER Coordinator (first rotation) was deployed for one month, and she trained volunteers on household need assessment survey. She also supported with conducting the HH survey and monitoring of the operation activities. Additionally, another PMER Coordinator (second rotation) has been deployed for one month and providing the support on development of operation update and would monitor for the completion of the assessment until 10 February 2024.

IFRC technical support in place will help ensure the quality and timeframe of the operation. Similarly, the support also ensures the extension of the timeframe of the operation and timely completion of the remaining and planned activities.

### If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

Due to limited local market availability the procurement of items was done internationally sourced and was supported by the IFRC CCD Suva and GHS&SCM AP. The procurement followed the IFRC procurement framework and process.

### How will this operation be monitored?

MRCS trained its volunteers on Kobo and collecting data regularly to track the progress of the operation and imminent drought. The operation has been led and monitored by MRCS through its volunteers, staff, and senior management. A regular reporting mechanism is in place to ensure that the information generated at various levels is well documented and communicated with the key stakeholders to aid the decision-making process.

MRCS conducted the pre-crisis analysis and community-based assessment. The findings of the assessment will be discussed and analysed during the Joint Risk Management which acts as a coordination platform for meetings and agree on collective actions among humanitarian actors.

IFRC North Pacific sub-delegation is providing support to monitor the operation and ensure the use of a monitoring tracker tool. Surge support for WASH and PMER profiles is being provided for one month to support in strengthening the technical side of the operation, as well as to monitor the operation.

A lessons learned workshop will be conducted by the end of the operation to document lessons learned, challenges and recommendations for future response. A final report for the operation will be issued within three months after the operation ends.



The IFRC CCD Suva office through its Sub Delegation in Marshall Islands will have monitoring visits and regular coordination with MRCS.

## **Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation**

MRCS has been visiting communities and households through door-to-door campaigns to disseminate messages. A hotline has been set up to facilitate communication between MRCS and the beneficiaries. The national headquarters and chapters are working in close coordination through regular meetings and will also coordinate with the stakeholders at different levels.

The National Society has a communication officer who has been drafting the key messages for social, print, and electronic media. The CCD also manages the national society's social media to communicate the various events and activities to the public. The IFRC North Pacific sub-delegation along with IFRC Pacific CCD and IFRC APRO are also providing the necessary support to the MRCS for the photography, videography, and field visits based on needs.



# Budget Overview



## DREF OPERATION

### MDRFM002 - Micronesia Red Cross Society Drought preparedness 2023

#### Operating Budget

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| <b>Planned Operations</b>                       | <b>82,827</b>  |
| Shelter and Basic Household Items               | 0              |
| Livelihoods                                     | 0              |
| Multi-purpose Cash                              | 0              |
| Health  | 16,359         |
| Water, Sanitation & Hygiene                     | 61,726         |
| Protection, Gender and Inclusion                | 0              |
| Education                                       | 0              |
| Migration                                       | 0              |
| Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery | 0              |
| Community Engagement and Accountability         | 4,742          |
| Environmental Sustainability                    | 0              |
| <b>Enabling Approaches</b>                      | <b>67,194</b>  |
| Coordination and Partnerships                   | 0              |
| Secretariat Services                            | 20,610         |
| National Society Strengthening                  | 46,584         |
| <b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>                             | <b>150,021</b> |

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*



# Contact Information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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[Click here for the reference](#)

