MRCS is engaging both community members and school children in comprehensive awareness campaigns focusing on good hygiene practices, as well as household water treatment and safe storage protocols (Photo: MRCS)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal:</th>
<th>Total DREF Allocation:</th>
<th>Crisis Category:</th>
<th>Hazard:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MDRFM002</td>
<td>CHF 345,309</td>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Drought</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Glide Number:</th>
<th>People Affected:</th>
<th>People Targeted:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DR-2023-000130-FSM</td>
<td>113,401 people</td>
<td>6,619 people</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Onset:</th>
<th>Operation Start Date:</th>
<th>New Operational End Date:</th>
<th>Total Operating Timeframe:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Slow</td>
<td>21-09-2023</td>
<td>30-09-2024</td>
<td>12 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Timeframe Start Date:</th>
<th>Reporting Timeframe End Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22-03-2024</td>
<td>22-03-2024</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Additional Allocation Requested:</th>
<th>Targeted Areas:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>195,288</td>
<td>Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Yap</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Description of the Event

Date when the trigger was met

2024-03-12

What happened, where and when?

In September 2023, El Niño was confirmed by the weather services, raising concerns for the upcoming months. The drying trend, which intensified from October to March, typically peaks after the El Niño confirmation. The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) rely on underground, surface water, and rainwater for freshwater supply. Particularly vulnerable are small, low-lying islands that rely solely on rainwater and shallow wells. Historical records reveal that previous El Niño years resulted in drought conditions during winter and spring. The impact of the lack of rain is causing rain catchment and river systems across the nation to run dry.

On 11 March 2024, the President of FSM signed the declaration of a State of Emergency in response to severe drought conditions across the country. However, it was publicly announced on the government site on 12 March 2024. The most affected states are Yap, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Chuuk (Government of the Federated States of Micronesia). The total population of the four states is approximately 113,000, all of whom are directly or indirectly affected by the drought.

To streamline the coordination of relief supplies, the National Emergency Task Force has been established. As per the emergency declaration, an allocation of US$1,288,824 is designated for the Disaster Relief Fund. Furthermore, any goods procured for foreign aid projects related to the emergency will be exempt from import tax. Additionally, state authorities and agencies are encouraged to waive port charges, including wharfage, freight, and other associated fees, for the transportation of emergency-related relief equipment, supplies, and materials.
Students in the target schools practiced the handwashing with soap (Photo: MRCS)

Red Cross reached out the vulnerable families and individuals through a household survey (Photo: MRCS)

Scope and Scale

The prolonged absence of rainfall is leading to the depletion of rain catchment and river systems throughout the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). This depletion significantly impacts residents in the Outer Islands who rely on these systems, posing a substantial threat to sanitation and public health. Furthermore, the projected decrease in rainfall levels across FSM indicates a worrisome trend, exacerbating the challenges faced by communities.

The Global Tropics Hazard Outlook map shows that in the North Pacific, a combination of dark and light brown color patches of below-average rainfall extends over a vast area between approximately 5 degrees to above 30 degrees North latitude, with the probability of >50% to >65% until 2 April 2024. Thereafter, it is forecasted that this dry patch will subsequently move southward and eastward and will be divided into two big patches, both a combination of light and dark brown patches, and will be confined between approximately 5 degrees to 30 degrees North latitude with less than 50-65% below-average rainfall by 16 April [1].

According to UNICEF, approximately 16,000 individuals, with children comprising 40 percent of this population, are facing severe food insecurity due to the drought. Many families are struggling to ensure sufficient nutrition for their children, primarily because of the drought's adverse effects on agriculture. Reports also highlight significant damage to taro patches, further exacerbating the food insecurity situation.

Updates from the Weather Forecast Office in Guam indicate that the drought situation in Micronesia is intensifying. Multiple authoritative sources, including the U.S. Drought Monitor, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, forecast prolonged dry conditions. Additionally, water catchment levels across the islands are notably low, further compounded by crop damage resulting from a coastal flooding incident on 20 January 2024 (Weather Forecast Office Guam).

Link(s):

Source Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source Name</th>
<th>Source Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Summary of Changes

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

Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

As of the reporting period, the operation reached 3,672 individuals through household surveys and 1,120 people through health and WASH awareness sessions (8 schools and 5 communities) to date.

1. Key achievements so far:

Health and WASH - The imminent DREF operation prepared the communities and the national society for the impending drought. The volunteers are trained in WASH and Health. These volunteers reached out to the communities and schools to spread awareness of good hygiene practices, health awareness, etc. MRCS staff and volunteers also reached out to 1,325 households to conduct a survey that has provided a clear picture of the wash status of the communities. The assessment clearly showed differences in the WASH status of the communities across four states. This survey has become a basis for the MRCS while designing the operational strategy for the response.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) - MRCS also worked at the community level through a five-step process derived from the Vulnerability Capacity Assessment (VCA). The output of the five-step process is readiness and response plans for each community. These plans include mitigation measures at the community level, which MRCS, in collaboration with the communities and local authorities, is implementing. These mitigation measures are diverse as per the context of each community and, in some cases, include the establishment of alternate water sources or repairing the water supply systems to minimize losses of water.

2. Trigger for response: The situation has changed drastically with a declaration of a national emergency for drought by the President of FSM on 12 March 2024.

3. Change in the strategy: There is a need to shape the operational strategy accordingly to cater to the changing needs on the ground. While transitioning to the response, considering this is a slow-onset disaster, some of the activities that have currently been implemented are still relevant and will be continued through the response phase while new activities such as multipurpose cash grants (MPCG) are proposed to address the diverse multisectoral needs of the communities and families. As this MPCG will minimize the stress on the families and their livelihood activities, it will help families bounce back quickly from the impact of drought, i.e., early recovery.

4. Transition plan from response to recovery: MRCS will take the opportunity of the learnings from this response operation to build the transition plan to long-term programming aligning to its strategic plan.

5. Proposed timeframe extension: Considering the logistical challenges in reaching the remote islands, the limited resources in the country, and prevailing humanitarian needs, a second allocation and 6-month timeframe extension for the response operation were proposed.
## Current National Society Actions

**Start date of National Society actions**

2023-09-21

| Health | MRCS has developed and printed four sets of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials focusing on the causes and preventive measures for food and water-borne, vector-borne, and skin diseases. Additionally, 40 Red Cross volunteers underwent training on the causes and preventive measures of food and waterborne, vector-borne, and skin diseases. These trained volunteers subsequently conducted awareness campaigns in targeted communities and schools. Moreover, MRCS participated in a Joint Risk Management Network meeting with the FSM Department of Health. |
| Water, Sanitation And Hygiene | MRCS has designed and printed four sets of IEC materials emphasizing good hygiene practices, water conservation, and proper household water management, including treatment and storage techniques. These materials are currently being disseminated by 40 trained volunteers during awareness sessions focused on promoting hygiene, educating on household water treatment and storage, and improving access to water sources. Through these efforts, a total of 530 individuals, comprising community members and school children, have been actively engaged in comprehensive awareness campaigns highlighting the importance of adopting good hygiene practices, along with proper household water treatment and safe storage procedures. |
In Pakin Atoll, a rainwater harvesting system has been developed, accompanied by a risk assessment for a community reliant solely on rainwater for drinking and household needs. This initiative has reached 130 households, with the provision of buckets to facilitate access to water.

Furthermore, prepositioning of jerry cans and chlorine tablets has been completed in Pohnpei, Chuuk, and Kosrae to enhance preparedness and response capabilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Protection, Gender And Inclusion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MRCS has completed a household assessment covering 1,325 households through a Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) lens. This assessment involved identifying vulnerable groups and individuals within targeted communities, including those with different needs and risks, such as potential protection concerns during emergencies and access to planned assistance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Furthermore, MRCS has developed a comprehensive procedure for responding to Allegations, Concerns, or Disclosures in the Imminent Drought DREF Operation. This procedure includes protocols for reporting concerns involving both adults and children at risk, ensuring appropriate and sensitive handling of such situations.

In its commitment to inclusivity, MRCS prioritizes the collection of sex, age, and disability disaggregated data (SADDD). This approach enables the identification of specific vulnerabilities among females compared to males, taking into account gender roles and age, thereby facilitating a deeper understanding of their unique needs and circumstances.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Awareness sessions were conducted in eight schools in Pohnpei (Palikir Elementary, Sokehs Powe, Seinwar, Pohnlangas Magnet, SalaDak, Rohi, ESDM, and ROIE Elementary School), 2 schools in Kosrae (Tafunsak Elementary School and Lelu Elementary School - 8 grades), 3 schools in Chuuk (Nukuno Elementary School, Etten, and Fono Elementary School), and 4 in Yap.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The topics covered during these awareness sessions encompassed water harvesting techniques, water and water source conservation methods, water purification processes, as well as storage and treatment practices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Engagement And Accountability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MRCS has established a dedicated hotline service to foster communication with local communities, widely distributing the MRCS phone number to ensure community members are aware they can seek support when needed. Moreover, MRCS has developed comprehensive protocols, outlined in a procedure document, to address both sensitive and non-sensitive complaints originating from community members. These protocols adhere to the organization’s internal Adult and Child Reporting guidelines, ensuring proper processes are followed without causing any further risks of harm.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MRCS staff worked closely with government authorities to advocate for the widespread dissemination of key awareness messages through radio broadcasts and Facebook channels. It was collectively agreed that local authorities would take the lead in spreading these messages, given their primary responsibility. To address the looming threat of drought, a public awareness campaign utilizing FM radio broadcasts and mass messaging was conducted. The government supported these efforts by issuing radio announcements and creating guidelines aimed at preventing unnecessary burning, particularly relevant to the state of Pohnpei. Additionally, in Chuuk, the DCO's Facebook content regarding drought precautions was widely shared to enhance mass awareness and assist communities in preparing for and mitigating the risks associated with drought conditions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Coordination</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MRCS is represented on the national disaster management committee and state disaster management committees, being auxiliary to the government. This provides the National Society with a unique opportunity to work closely with the government and supplement its efforts. To fulfill its role in the FSM, MRCS needs to establish drought readiness through preparedness activities that can facilitate the rollout of any drought relief...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As part of the overall operations in the FSM, MRCS will utilize these existing coordination platforms with both national, state, and local governments. In addition to the Joint Risk Management, which serves as a coordination platform among humanitarian actors, MRCS works closely with the government, and the MRCS Executive Director (ED) is a part of the national disaster committee.

Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS) operates with three chapters and a national headquarters (NHQ) office, strategically positioned across the country. MRCS has bolstered its auxiliary role and is well embedded into both National and State Disaster operations plans and activities. Currently, out of the 800 registered volunteers, 150 are actively engaged as of 2022 across all chapters. They are supported by 8 full-time staff members who are responsible for implementing various initiatives at the community level.

In terms of infrastructure and preparedness, MRCS maintains three prepositioned containers situated in Pohnpei, Chuuk, and Yap. These containers hold prepositioned relief and household items, allowing for a rapid response capability that can assist approximately 100 households. However, due to the recent COVID-19 operations, the stock levels of hygiene parcel items are currently low.

The community level assessment carried out with the Five (5) steps participatory approach following needs and challenges faced by the communities during the drought:

Chuuk
Etten Community
- Unavailability of water during drought periods affecting drinking, cooking, and hygiene needs.

Fono Community
- Lack of available water during droughts, impacting drinking, cooking, and hygiene.

Parem Community
- Water scarcity during droughts and the risk of bushfires.

Kosrae
Kosrae Island
- Non-operational water wells,
- Lack of catchment systems in households,
- Insufficient water pipes, Less water in springs, and tanks are contaminated.

Walung Community
- Water scarcity due to low levels in dams and tanks,
- Erosion of the main water line
- Exposure to high surf tides

Pohnpei
Pakin Community
- Water shortage,
- Impact on local food sources,
- Livestock water needs,
- Erosion of community infrastructure during droughts

ROIHE Community
- Water shortages affecting various aspects like toilets, showers, laundry, and access to water;
- Impacts on locally grown food sources like tare, yam, banana, and cash crops; issues related to livestock;
- Environmental problems like dried-up streams and trees.

The household needs assessment has provided valuable insights into the water,
sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions within the community. Despite the presence of various water sources, including rainwater collection and piped water, accessibility remains a significant concern for many households, particularly during drought periods. The reported inconsistencies in water availability underscore the community’s vulnerability to environmental changes, emphasizing the importance of proactive measures to address water scarcity.

To tackle these challenges, recommendations could include the implementation of community-based water storage solutions such as water tanks and the promotion of rainwater harvesting techniques to supplement water supply during dry periods. Additionally, there is a pressing need for enhanced sanitation infrastructure, especially in households lacking toilets or proper waste management systems. Conducting awareness campaigns focusing on hygiene practices, including menstrual hygiene management and handwashing, is crucial for preventing waterborne diseases and promoting overall well-being within the community.

**Activation Of Contingency Plans**

MRCS has no contingency plan for drought in place yet. This will be a preparedness component that should be developed following the drought operation.

**IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event**

**Secretariat**

IFRC North Pacific sub-delegation is closely monitoring the evolving El Nino event and its impact on the North Pacific countries in coordination with the National Societies. Likewise, the IFRC County Coordination Delegation (CCD) for the Suva office for the Pacific, Suva with its technical leads assist the drought monitoring and response as necessary.

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.

**Participating National Societies**

No Participating National Society presence in the country.

**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**

**Government has requested international assistance**
Yes

**National authorities**

The Government, in collaboration with partners like Micronesia RCS and UN agencies, is actively monitoring the progression of the drought. As per the emergency declaration, an allocation of US$1,288,824 is designated for the Disaster Relief Fund. The State Government of Pohnpei has issued an emergency alert regarding water scarcity, and the Meteorological Office provides regular updates on the situation.

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.
UN or other actors

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.

In the month of March, UNICEF urgently supported the distribution of WASH and Dignity kits and raised community awareness concerning droughts, including water conservation, sanitation practices, and correct use of WASH supplies. Close to 350 WASH & Dignity kits were already distributed in Pohnpei's outer islands of Pingelap, Mwokilloa, and Sapwuahfik, with plans to distribute another 264 kits in Chuuk outer islands.

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

Livelihoods And Basic Needs

While a deeper understanding of the impact of drought on people's livelihoods is necessary, MRCS has gained some insights into how the drought has affected farming activities in Micronesia. The primary food crops in Micronesia, including breadfruit, banana, and taro, serve as staple foods for Micronesians. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), farming and crops are typically damaged during the El Nino year's dry season El Nino Impacts on the Eastern FSM (weather.gov).

In Pohnpei, the Pakin community reported that the drought has impacted local food production due to water shortages, leading to competition between water for consumption and water for agricultural purposes. Additionally, the Pakin community highlighted risks to their livestock due to the inability to provide sufficient water. Similar challenges were reported by the community in Roihe.

Based on these initial findings, MRCS anticipates that vulnerable households are facing difficulties accessing food and basic necessities, as well as experiencing reduced agricultural production. This underscores the urgent need for support and intervention to mitigate the impacts of the drought on affected communities. Towards this end, MPCA has been proposed to address the diverse multisectoral needs of the communities and families.

Health

In the past, droughts have often been followed by outbreaks of food and water-borne, vector-borne, and skin diseases. It is crucial for communities are aware of the causes and preventive measures of such diseases. Such knowledge is usually limited to the communities. Once communities are aware, the risk of these diseases can be minimized, and outbreaks can be controlled.

Considering the accessibility of communities to healthcare facilities is also paramount. Even during normal circumstances, many communities face challenges in accessing healthcare due to logistical barriers such as proximity to health care facilities and transportation availability. In such situations, community awareness and preventive measures play a crucial role in reducing suffering and potentially saving lives.

On logistical barriers, it’s important to acknowledge that remote and isolated communities encounter significant challenges in accessing healthcare facilities due to geographical obstacles. Adopting a community-based transportation scheme can empower these communities to effectively prevent disease outbreaks and navigate logistical challenges associated with accessing essential health facilities. Taking a collaborative, community-centric approach is vital, leveraging local knowledge while introducing proven strategies for disease prevention and improving healthcare access.
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. The most common sources include pipe water into yards or plots, followed by gallon or bottled water, rainwater collection, pipe water into dwellings, and protected water tanks. While the majority of households 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, instances of unavailability ranging from one week to three weeks to a month were reported. The change in water availability was noted from June to December, prompting people to 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 to these challenges, 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 of households rely on rainwater harvesting, and the quality of drinking water is generally good, with no smell or taste issues. However, 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, such as boiling, adding bleach or chlorine tablets, and using filters. 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. However, some households do not have toilets, and toilet waste management includes burning, waste collection by the municipality, and disposal at shorelines, riverbanks, or backyards.

Regarding 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. While toilets are clean for half of the households, 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 to these findings, the MRCS plans to prioritize initiatives promoting hygiene awareness sessions within the broader context of WASH.

Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Out of the 1,325 targeted households, 95 percent are located in rural areas spanning all four states. The majority of families comprise more than six members, with approximately 30 per cent reporting 3 to 4 members, followed by 5 to 6 members and 1 to 2 members, respectively. Around 21 per cent of households include a family member with a disability, primarily physical impairment, although a few also reported having children with both physical and mental disabilities.

Regarding access to healthcare facilities, the majority of households have easy access, with over 90 per cent able to reach a facility in less than 15 minutes, although some reported it taking approximately 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 serve as a crucial guide for MRCS’s response efforts, ensuring that planned interventions take into account the needs of the most vulnerable people and groups within the community.

Migration And Displacement

Local populations primarily depend on rainwater harvesting and groundwater for freshwater. However, during droughts, these sources become limited, potentially leading to waterborne diseases and other severe community hardships. Such crises sometimes force individuals to migrate in search of essential resources, primarily clean water.

In vulnerable regions, activities aimed at building community resilience against water scarcity are vital. These efforts focus on securing water supplies and facilitating communication between authorities, stakeholders, and residents. By fostering collaboration and offering essential resources and information, these initiatives work to prevent forced migration, thus protecting community well-being and
cultural heritage.

Furthermore, acute water scarcity, often exacerbated by climate change, directly influences migration in the Federated States of Micronesia. Factors such as deteriorating health conditions due to waterborne diseases, impaired livelihoods—especially in the agriculture and fishing sectors—and diminished quality of life with disrupted daily activities contribute to this migration urgency.

Moreover, stress on food security, educational hindrances, and environmental degradation further enhance the urgency of migration. Government policies and the lack of robust disaster management frameworks can also hasten the decision to seek better opportunities and living conditions elsewhere.

In many instances, local populations heavily rely on rainwater harvesting and groundwater as their primary sources of freshwater. However, during periods of water scarcity, the limited availability of these sources can have profound consequences, including waterborne disease outbreaks and severe community hardships.

These challenges often compel people to make difficult choices, such as migrating from their island homes to larger mainland areas or seeking refuge in other countries, driven by the urgent need for access to essential resources, particularly clean water.

An active approach to drought preparedness becomes crucial in vulnerable areas. Drought preparedness initiatives aim to mitigate water scarcity impacts by fostering resilience within communities. These initiatives involve securing water supply and establishing communication channels between local authorities, stakeholders, and the affected population. By promoting collaboration and providing access to critical information and resources, drought preparedness efforts empower the community to better cope with water scarcity, ultimately playing a pivotal role in preventing forced migration, preserving cultural identity, and improving overall quality of life.

Evidence of migration was found in an assessment conducted in the Republic of Marshall Islands following inundation due to storm surge and prevailing drought conditions in Namo, where approximately 200 out of 500 people migrated to neighboring islands. Similar migration might be triggered in FSM if water sources are depleted. However, confirmation of migration is necessary, and planned interventions addressing multisectoral needs through cash assistance may help people remain where they are.

**Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery**

The exposure of the small Island communities in Micronesia are high due to climate change effects and inaccessibility to services via sea. The rising sea levels, coastal erosion, and drought pose high risks to these communities. Drought preparedness should be based on the analysis of the drought risks in the given communities through participatory approaches and the MIRCS will ensure that this is done in an incorporated approach to maximize the efforts into these high risk’s islands.

**Community Engagement And Accountability**

Preparedness activities should be designed and tailored to address the specific needs of both communities and the National Society. Establishing a two-way communication system with communities is essential to facilitate the receipt and addressing of suggestions, feedback, and complaints in an efficient manner.

This communication system should also serve to disseminate information to communities and individuals. While these systems help communicate ground-level risks and needs, MRCS is committed to verifying these details through a comprehensive needs assessment.

Based on initial findings from a household survey conducted among 612 households out of the 1,341 targeted across all four states, community members expressed a preference for receiving drought information through social platforms such as Facebook, radio, as well as through community and church leaders.

The need for communication and engagement was underscored by the recognition that women, children, and vulnerable individuals need assistance and support.

**Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment**

Accessing these islands presents challenges due to rough seas and tide timings. Work can only be carried out during certain hours, and failure to adhere to tide schedules may result in delays in response. The solution lies in proper planning and staying alert to tide schedules issued by the Meteorological Office.
Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The IFRC-DREF operation aims to support 6,619 people from the most vulnerable communities across the four most affected states: Chuuk, Yap, Pohnpei, and Konrae, affected by the escalating drought situation since early March 2024.

Initially launched in September 2023, the operation focused on anticipatory actions ahead of a looming drought peak. However, due to the evolving situation and the authorities declaring a drought emergency, the operation will now transition into a full-scale response.

With the scale-up of the operation, the current six-month timeframe will be extended by an additional six months, making it a total of 12 months. This extension will facilitate a response while still incorporating necessary anticipatory actions. Moreover, it will allow the National Society to explore and/or implement feasible early recovery activities and develop a transitional plan to ensure sustainability of the achieved successes from the IFRC-DREF operation.

The transition plan will also serve as an exit strategy, ensuring affected communities and authorities understand the time and funding limitations of the DREF-funded operation. Additionally, it will provide the opportunity for a seamless continuation through long-term programming, considering the slow-onset nature of the crisis.

Operation strategy rationale

Considering the diverse needs/priorities (such as water, livelihood, food, hygiene materials, etc.) of the affected population, MRCS will provide MPCA to affected families. This cash assistance will be calculated based on the Minimum Expenses Basket calculation and/or minimum wage, providing the necessary flexibility for each beneficiary family to meet their needs. This will not only help the families reduce the impact of the drought on their livelihoods or essential needs but also help them bounce back quickly, i.e., early recovery.

Cash strategy:

At the moment, there is no official guideline on the Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) from the Pacific Cash Working Group (CWG). It is still a work in progress, where the Pacific CWG has identified the structure of expenses for the MEB, but they still need to further analyze the market price. As a result, MRCS uses the following approach to set up the MPCA Transfer Value (TV):

- MRCS uses the FSM minimum monthly wage (USD 3/hour for a total of 40 working hours weekly) as 100 per cent of MEB.
- MRCS anticipates covering 40 per cent of the MEB as MPCA TV. Usually, 40 per cent of an individual's salary is considered to be used to meet basic needs while the remaining constitutes HRA, travel, etc.
- All MRCS staff and volunteers involved in the beneficiary targeting and selection process are guided by the tools and steps (SOP for beneficiary targeting and selection). The process will ensure active community engagement and consultation.
- Market assessments for potential locations and mapping Financial Service Providers (FSPs) and different delivery modalities are underway in coordination with other in-country stakeholders and humanitarian actors.
- During the initial field assessment, MRCS personnel observed market activities in the visited locations. Market observation indicates that the market is functional. Before MPCA distribution, MRCS will conduct market monitoring to confirm the functionality of the market.
- A simple and concise SOP will be developed based on the selected delivery modality. The preference will be given to the delivery of cash using checks. If this is not possible in some cases, cash in an envelope will be considered. The chosen modalities will be included in SOPs.
- Economic activity is being assessed, including market accessibility, as CVA interventions are expected to support local economic activity in affected areas. Preparation of a suitable Terms of Reference (ToR) profile for CVA Surge Personnel is ongoing. This will support MRCS in enhancing their CVA preparedness initiative by implementing CVA preparedness measures and conducting CVA learning exercises for their staff and volunteers.
- MRCS will provide MPCA of 200 USD each month for two months to 200 households. The proposed target 200 most vulnerable households will be assisted with vouchers and/or cash as delivery modalities. CEA will be embedded across all the CVA activities. Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) will be used to capture the usage and appropriateness of the intervention. A lessons-learned workshop will capture the achievements, implementation effectiveness, and scope for future improvements.

Continuity of awareness activities as it is still relevant:

MRCS will continue spreading awareness on good hygiene practices, health awareness messages, and critical practices like household water treatment and safe storage. The necessary tools or means for these interventions, such as the distribution of jerry cans and chlorine tablets, will also be considered.

Preferred communication channels:
The household survey has captured the preferences of the communities to receive messages during the drought. Those communication channels will be prioritized by MRCS to carry out awareness reach-out activities.

CEA and PGI:

The critical component of the IFRC-DREF operation is CEA that included setting up a hotline. The hotline number will further be promoted so that people can reach out to MRCS with their concerns, feedback, and complaints. The adult and child risk management flow charts are in place to ensure the response will be able to deal with such incidents if any, efficiently.

Psychosocial support (PSS):

The well-being of the staff and volunteers along with the beneficiaries will also be addressed promptly by ensuring sensitization by health experts through orientation to staff and volunteers.

Additional target communities based on vulnerabilities:

MRCS recognizes that flash drought is of concern. Going through the dry season, there will be severe needs of the communities that may emerge, particularly around water availability. MRCS will maintain the flexibility in this operation to address such emerging needs so that prompt assistance will be provided to the vulnerable communities.

Technical support:

The CVA and PMER Surge personnel will be deployed to the field for a period of three months each to ensure that the quality of the interventions meets international standards. As these technical people join the MRCS team in Pohnpei, a detailed operations plan will be developed, which will include the adaptation of the existing community selection criteria as the affected communities may not be the same as those targeted through the DREF interventions.

Additional HR for MRCS dedicated to the operation:

MRCS will organize a workshop with the staff and volunteers who have been involved in the operation to develop a transitional plan for the response operation to long-term programming aligned with the national society priorities stated in the strategic plan. The regular staff of the National Society will continue to support the operation; however, to ensure enhanced coordination and a dedicated lead for the operation, temporary staff for six months will be hired. National Society needs this dedicated staff to support the delivery of the operation in coordination with the volunteers, branches, and surge support.

Monitoring visits:

The IFRC Pacific Regional Office and IFRC Country Cluster Delegation will also conduct necessary monitoring visits to ensure the flow in activity implementation and reporting. The MRCS HQ will also conduct field visits to monitor the implementation of the IFRC-DREF operation.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

MRCS will continue to employ a three-pronged approach to prepare vulnerable communities to face potential droughts. This approach includes Red Cross volunteers conducting awareness campaigns in the communities, coordination with stakeholders to avoid duplication, and ensuring no one is left behind, as previously stated. Additionally, there is an additional target for CVA for 200 households.

To evaluate the effectiveness of previous efforts, 1,341 households and 10 schools on islands previously targeted to receive awareness messages, knowledge, and skills will be assessed. This assessment aims to compare targeted plans with actual achievements and address any gaps identified.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Following are the selection criteria developed for the imminent DREF target population while preparing the detailed plan. These criteria will be further amended considering the changing situation on the ground when the CVA and PMER technical surge support are deployed to carry out the response operation.
i) Communities on the main islands in the target four states and the nearby/outer islands were identified using secondary data, community, and stakeholder consultation.

ii) MRCS will consider communities that can be accessed using available means to meet the objectives, taking into account the practicalities of traveling to the islands.

iii) Priority will be given to communities with limited resources and those at high risk of being affected by the drought.

iv) Red Cross volunteers from the State chapters have been trained on hygiene promotion, waterborne diseases control, and nature-based solutions for community water conservation. After the holidays, they will be retrained and re-oriented to resume the remaining assessments, including training sessions for school children.

### Total Targeted Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Rural</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>People with disabilities (estimated)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>1,802</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls (under 18)</td>
<td>1,474</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>1,839</td>
<td></td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boys (under 18)</td>
<td>1,504</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total targeted population</td>
<td>6,619</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Risk and Security Considerations

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk</th>
<th>Mitigation action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rough sea conditions every full moon makes the travel to the nearby and outer islands challenging.</td>
<td>The advance planning of activities can help in minimizing the travel to outer islands.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>The volunteers and staff will be provided with the safety equipment such as life jackets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are limited economic resources, infrastructure, and capacity in FSM for disaster preparedness, response, and recovery. Working within resource-constrained environments may require innovative approaches, collaboration with local partners, and strategic resource allocation.</td>
<td>Prioritize capacity-building initiatives to strengthen volunteers' capacities, local institutions, and community resilience. Foster partnerships with governments, INGOs, NGOs, UN, and private sector entities to leverage resources and expertise. Innovate and adapt programming to maximize impact with limited resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FSM is prone to natural disasters such as drought, Winter storm surge, and King tides. These events can cause significant damage to infrastructure, disrupt operations, and pose risks to the safety and well-being of staff, volunteers, and communities.</td>
<td>Establish communication protocols to alert staff and communities of impending disasters. Collaborate with local authorities and communities to strengthen the preparedness of staff, volunteers, and communities engaged in the operation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islands of FSM are remote and isolated, making logistics and transportation challenging. Limited access to resources, medical facilities, and communication infrastructure can impact the effectiveness and efficiency of operations.</td>
<td>Utilize the existing partnerships with government departments and local authorities to identify effective transportation and logistics solutions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The FSM lacks experience in Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), which could potentially compromise the quality of CVA</td>
<td>To address the FSM’s lack of CVA experience, take these steps: Training and Capacity Building: Conduct workshops covering CVA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
implementation. principles, procedures, and best practices.

Partnership and Collaboration: Collaborate with experienced organizations for technical support. IOM is currently starting the work of CVA in Micronesia.

Continuous Monitoring and Evaluation: Implement robust assessment mechanisms.

Develop risk and mitigation specific for CVA for selection consideration of e-wallet, voucher, and cash in envelope for delivery modality.

Develop short and simple SOP for CVA implementation

Deployment Surge: Mobilize personnel with suitable profile, CVA Preparedness, training delivery, experience in e-wallet, voucher, and cash in envelop and SOP development.

These strategies will enhance CVA implementation and benefit vulnerable communities

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

Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 104,049
Targeted Persons: 200

Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of households who received both cash and/or voucher assistance</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Progress Towards Outcome

As highlighted earlier, MPCA has been proposed to address the diverse multisectoral needs of the communities and families. Below is the list of planned activities:

1. Orientation of volunteers and staff.
2. Conduct market activity assessment.
3. Distribution of cash grants/vouchers to targeted households.
4. Conduct PDM.

Health

Budget: CHF 16,359
Targeted Persons: 6,619

Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of people reached through health education awareness</td>
<td>6,619</td>
<td>3,672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of volunteers trained on food and waterborne, vector-borne, and skin disease causes and preventive measures</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of volunteers orientated to PFA, to support self-care and affected community psychosocial support</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Progress Towards Outcome

Planned Activities:

1. Design and print the IEC materials on the food and water-borne, vector-borne, and skin disease causes and preventive measures.
2. Training of the Red Cross volunteers on food and waterborne, vector-borne, and skin disease causes and preventive measures.
3. Awareness campaigns in the target communities on the food and water-borne, vector-borne, and skin diseases causes and preventive actions including psychosocial first aid.

Progress to date:

During the reporting period, MRCS has designed and printed four sets of IEC materials, covering causes and preventive measures for food and water-borne, vector-borne, and skin diseases. Additionally, 40 Red Cross volunteers underwent training on these topics and subsequently conducted awareness sessions in targeted communities and schools. Overall, these efforts have resulted in reaching over 3,600 individuals with health education awareness.

More details will be provided in the next reporting cycle.

Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 68,947
Targeted Persons: 6,619
## Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of people reached by hygiene promotion activities in the response period</td>
<td>6,619</td>
<td>3,672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of households reached with effective water treatment materials and promotion in the response period</td>
<td>1,325</td>
<td>611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of communities that have implemented drought preparedness and response plan.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of people that have access to sufficient safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality in the response period (# of chlorine tablets)</td>
<td>6,619</td>
<td>3,672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of schools reached with the hygiene promotion activities</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Progress Towards Outcome

### Planned Activities:

1. Design and print IEC materials on good hygiene practices reducing water waste and household water use, treatment, and storage.
2. Training of volunteers on hygiene promotion.
3. Training of volunteers on household water treatment and storage and access to water sources.
4. Expand community access to safe water sources and/or improve existing community water sources (rainwater harvesting system, etc.).
5. Procurement and distribution of water storage containers for storage and transport, rainwater harvesting system installation and maintenance.
6. Procurement and distribution of chlorine tablets and other chemicals required for water purification.
7. Implementation of the readiness actions in the target communities, including schools (e.g., awareness on water harvesting, water and water source conservation, water purification, storage, and treatment.).
8. Conduct PDM of usage of Chlorine tabs and Jerry cans.

### Progress to date:

As of reporting period, MRCS has developed and printed four sets of IEC materials emphasizing good hygiene practices, water conservation, and household water management techniques. These materials are being disseminated by 40 trained volunteers during awareness sessions focused on promoting hygiene, educating on household water treatment and storage, and facilitating access to water sources. A total of 530 individuals, comprising both community members and school children, have participated in comprehensive awareness campaigns highlighting good hygiene practices, household water treatment, and safe storage procedures.

In Pakin Atoll, a rainwater harvesting system has been established, accompanied by a risk assessment for a community reliant on rainwater for drinking and household activities. This initiative has benefited 130 households, with buckets provided to facilitate water access.

More details will be provided in the next reporting cycle.

## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

**Budget:** CHF 0  
**Targeted Persons:** 1,325
Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of developed Incident Reporting Protocol Child Safeguarding risk assessment.</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of vulnerable groups and individuals within identified communities and identifying community members with different needs and risks, including possible protection risks in emergency and access to planned assistance.</td>
<td>1,325</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Progress Towards Outcome

Planned Activities:

1. Conduct assessment through PGI lens, including identification of the vulnerable groups and individuals within identified communities and identifying community members with different needs and risks, including possible protection risks in emergency and access to planned assistance.
2. Conduct Child Safeguarding risk assessment and related work plan.
3. Collect Sex-Age-Disability Disaggregated data.

Progress to date:

MRCS has conducted a household assessment in 1,325 households through a PGI lens. This comprehensive assessment involves identifying vulnerable groups and individuals within communities, as well as assessing different needs and risks, including potential protection risks during emergencies and ensuring access to planned assistance. The assessment revealed that approximately 32 per cent of the surveyed households include people with disabilities. Furthermore, MRCS has developed a procedure for responding to allegations, concerns, or disclosures in the operation. This includes the development of adult and child at-risk reporting protocols by MRCS. Moreover, MRCS is committed to capturing sex, age, and disability disaggregated data (SADDD) to discern the specific vulnerabilities of females compared to males based on their gender roles and age, thereby ensuring a thorough understanding of their unique needs. Simultaneously, an incident reporting protocol for children and adults at risk was developed and shared with the APRO Safeguarding Advisor. This ensures a holistic approach to safeguarding vulnerable populations.

More details will be provided in the next reporting cycle.

Note:
The budget for PGI activities is incorporated into other sectors.

Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 36,950
Targeted Persons: 6,619

Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of communities (including school) that have developed drought preparedness and response plan.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Progress Towards Outcome

Planned Activities:

1. Risk assessment of targeted communities to further understand the current and potential impact of the drought.
2. Develop drought mitigation plans with targeted schools and communities. Schools and communities will be implementing and mobilizing the plan throughout the duration before the peak to mitigate the drought impacts.

3. Refresher on assessment tools for volunteers.

Progress to date:

Awareness sessions were conducted in 8 schools in Pohnpei (Palikir Elementary, Sokehs Powe, Seinwar, Pohnlangas Magnet, SalaDak, Rohi, ESDM, and ROIE Elementary School), 2 schools in Kosrae (Tafunsak Elementary School and Lelu Elementary School-8 grades), 3 schools in Chuuk (Nukuno Elementary School, Etten, and Fono Elementary School), and 4 in Yap. Topics covered in the awareness sessions included water harvesting, water and water source conservation, water purification, storage, and treatment. Based on the 5-step participatory assessment carried out in the target communities, mitigation actions are currently being implemented. These include fixing the damaged water supply systems and restoring alternate water supply sources/options.

More details will be provided in the next reporting cycle.

**Community Engagement And Accountability**

**Budget:** CHF 4,742  
**Targeted Persons:** 6,619

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of communities aware about the MRCS hotline number and its purpose.</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of the complaints, feedback and suggestions received by MRCS are addressed within two weeks.</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Progress Towards Outcome**

**Planned Activities:**

1. Establish hotline service of MRCS to receive the communication from the communities.
2. Establish protocols to manage sensitive and non-sensitive complaints from the communities.
3. Establish community engagement and accountability mechanism in the target communities.
4. Use FM radio and mass messaging to make people aware about the imminent drought and the measures to be taken to mitigate the risks.

**Progress to date:**

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 four FM radio stations and mass messaging to inform people about the imminent drought and the measures to be taken to mitigate the risks.

More details will be provided in the next reporting cycle.

**Secretariat Services**

**Budget:** CHF 68,648  
**Targeted Persons:** 4
Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of monitoring missions conducted to support the operation</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of surge personnel deployed to provide technical support to the operation</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Progress Towards Outcome

Planned Activities:

1. Regular monitoring visits by the Head of the North Pacific Sub office.
2. Deployment of surge technical support (WASH-1, PMER-2 and CVA-1 profiles).
3. International procurement support by IFRC CCD Suva and APRO LPSCM.

Progress to date:

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 was deployed. Similarly, IFRC CCD Suva and IFRC GHS & SCM AP team supported MRCS in facilitating 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.

So far, WASH (1) and PMER(1) surge deployments were supported by IFRC-DREF for this operation. An additional PMER surge deployment was done with USAID-supported ongoing project.

More details will be provided in the next reporting cycle.

National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 45,614
Targeted Persons: 56

Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Actual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of volunteers insured</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of monitoring visits conducted</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td># of lessons learned workshop conducted</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Progress Towards Outcome

Planned Activities:

1. Refresher on assessment tools for volunteers.
2. Risk assessment of targeted communities to further understand the current and potential impact of the drought
3. Lessons learnt workshop involving the stakeholders that will be conducted online.
4. Monitoring visits by MRCS, IFRC Regional Office and/or IFRC Country Cluster Delegation.

Progress to date:
After resuming the implementation of the imminent DREF after the Christmas break, MRCS conducted refresher training for their volunteers. The community assessments were carried out using a 5-step participatory process to identify the risks, needs, and challenges. More details will be provided in the next reporting cycle.

About Support Services

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

The national Society has 6 staff and 50 volunteers who are manning the office on day-to-day basis will be engaged in this operation. The 50 volunteers of the national society will join this operation at various stages to implement activities. The national society has 4 branches in Pohnpei, Yap, Kosrae and Chuuk. These branches will coordinate the implementation of the operation on the main islands as well as on the nearby Islands.

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

Additional surge personnel (CVA and PMER) will be deployed for a period of three months each. They will be responsible for providing technical support for the operation and training and orienting staff and volunteers once the operation is extended for another six months. Prior to this latest 6-month extension, the IFRC-DREF has already supported the deployment of WASH and PMER surge personnel for a period of one month each. Following the first PMER rotation, the second rotation of PMER support was deployed.

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

NS will take the lead for local procurement in close coordination with the IFRC to ensure compliance.

How will this operation be monitored?

The appointed National Society field personnel will undertake daily monitoring and ensure weekly updates to the HQ by sectors. Tracking will be conducted on the intervention key output, and reports will be submitted timely. A two-way communication system will be implemented, and consolidated reports will be shared on a monthly basis with the secretariat. Information sharing and monitoring will be combined and coordinated with them. IFRC will be allowed to monitor this operation at different levels. Missions to project sites, interviews with the target population, and monthly/quarterly and end-of-operation reports will be sent to IFRC.

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

The IFRC CCD Suva office, through its Sub Delegation in the Marshall Islands, will conduct monitoring visits and have regular coordination with MRCS. Furthermore, the IFRC North Pacific sub-delegation is providing support to monitor the operation and ensure the use of a monitoring tracker tool. Prior to the latest 6-month extension, surge support for WASH and PMER profiles has been provided for one month to strengthen the technical side of the operation and to monitor the operation. Following the first PMER rotation, the second rotation of PMER support was deployed. Additional surge deployments (CVA and PMER) are being planned to further support the operation.

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

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

In collaboration with the National Society Public Relations Officer, IFRC will provide technical support for communicating about this operation. The National Society comms person will cover the operation through social media presence on different platforms, interviews, and stories from the target population. The coordination platform will also facilitate frequent communication internally and externally.
IFRC will take the lead in promoting activities related to the IFRC-DREF on social media and the web. A one-pager with details of the IFRC-DREF will be posted by the leadership in Asia Pacific or on the IFRC Asia Pacific Twitter account.

Following that, based on the timeframe of this operation, a quarterly package of photos and videos (whichever is available) will be posted on IFRC’s audiovisual materials database (i.e., shaRED), accessible to journalists and the public. Other activities will include regular posting of photos on social media, production of in-depth stories published either on the IFRC website or the Exposure platform.

Lastly, at the closing of the IFRC-DREF operation, a one-pager summarizing the achievements made by the National Society will also be posted on social media. Since the Asia Pacific region manages numerous IFRC-DREFs annually, IFRC will identify an angle that could be packaged as an OpEd or a web article, linking the humanitarian issue to other relevant areas, such as the relationship of climate with health, as demonstrated in a write-up published last year when the IFRC had at least 30 IFRC-DREFs in Asia Pacific, drawing attention for a call to action and raising awareness. IFRC will ensure the timely delivery of communication materials to maximize any opportunity for media coverage.
# DREF OPERATION

**MDRFM002 - Micronesia Red Cross Society**  
**Drought (Revised budget - Ops Update 2)**

## Operating Budget

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planned Operations</th>
<th>231,047</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shelter and Basic Household Items</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livelihoods</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-purpose Cash</td>
<td>104,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>16,359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water, Sanitation &amp; Hygiene</td>
<td>68,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protection, Gender and Inclusion</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Migration</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery</td>
<td>36,950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Engagement and Accountability</td>
<td>4,742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental Sustainability</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enabling Approaches</th>
<th>114,262</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordination and Partnerships</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretariat Services</td>
<td>68,648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Society Strengthening</td>
<td>45,614</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL BUDGET**  
345,309

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*

---

[Click here to download the budget file](#)
Contact Information

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

**National Society contact:**  Isao Frank, Jr., Executive Director, fjsaojr@gmail.com

**IFRC Appeal Manager:**  Katie Greenwood, Head of Pacific Country Cluster Delegation, katie.greenwood@ifrc.org, +679 9992485

**IFRC Project Manager:**  Kaustubh Dinkar Kukde, Head of Sub-Delegation, kaustubh.kukde@ifrc.org, +692-4562956

**IFRC focal point for the emergency:**  Nusrat Hassan, Operations Coordinator (Pacific), nusrat.hassan@ifrc.org

**Media Contact:**  Soneel RAM, Communications Manager – Pacific, Soneel.Ram@ifrc.org, +679 998 3688

[Click here for the reference]