



From
the People of Japan



Enhancing Disaster and Climate Resilience in The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Project

The Challenge

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) experiences frequent natural hazards including tropical storms, typhoons, storm surges and droughts, which can result in human casualties, disrupt economic activity, lead to loss of livelihoods, divert fiscal resources, and undermine development priorities. Although not all disasters are caused by climate change, the country's size as a small island nation, combined with its remote location in the Pacific leaves it more vulnerable to climate change, which will heighten disaster risks because extreme weather events are likely to increase in the future.

Analysis undertaken under the Pacific Catastrophe Risk Assessment and Financing Initiative indicates that RMI faces an average annual loss of more than 2% of GDP from typhoons, earthquakes, inundation and tsunamis. Typhoons are in its waters at an average four per year. Additional challenges include related ecosystem degradation, coastal erosion and food and water insecurity. Furthermore, rising sea level is the biggest threat in RMI as most of the atolls have an average highest elevation of 2m.

The Solution

The EDCR project in RMI was initiated in March 2019. The project aims to improve the capacity for preparedness and mitigation of The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) to man-made, geo-physical, climate related hazards and enhancing resilience to climate change impact, guided by the overarching Disaster Risk Management National Action Plan (DRM NAP), the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP), the Standard Hazard Mitigation Plan and the National Climate Change Policy Framework (NCCPF).

The project will respond to Outcome 1 of the UN Pacific Strategy 2018 – 2022: By 2022, people and ecosystems in the Pacific are more resilient to the impacts of climate change, climate variability and disasters; and environmental protection is strengthened.

The cooperation with the Government of Japan will contribute to achieving the goals of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, elimination of threat to human security and protect gains of sustainable development and in line with Japan's ODA in the RMI and its priority areas: 1) overcoming vulnerability and 2) environment and climate change.



Helmar Lejjena, RMI Airport Manager

The Project Output

The outcome will be achieved through two expected outputs:

1. Strengthened gender sensitive disaster communication and climate inundation monitoring systems
2. Enhanced national and state disaster responder's readiness capacity and better resources to minimize loss of lives and damages.

In partnership with the Government of RMI, the project is implemented by the UNDP Pacific Office in Fiji under the UNDP Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) and as part of the Resilient and Sustainable Development team. The EDCR Project is financed by the Government of Japan.

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