



From
the People of Japan



Enhancing Disaster and Climate Resilience in the Federated States of Micronesia (EDCR) Project

The Challenge

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) like many small island developing states is most exposed to natural hazards including geophysical and climate related hazards. Droughts, typhoons, storm wave, flooding and landslides all affect FSM. The country has also experienced biological and man-made disasters including pandemics, agriculture pest and diseases, aviation and maritime disasters, fires, industrial accidents and marine pollution. These disasters can result in human casualties, disrupt economic activity, lead to loss of livelihoods, divert fiscal resources, and retract hard won development gains.

The effects of climate change threaten to increase the severity and frequency of these hazards in FSM, thus emphasizing the need for the country to build its capacity to prepare, respond and recover more effectively to future disasters and its corresponding physical and socio-economic consequences. FSM's ability to prepare and respond effectively to disaster is exacerbated by its various fundamental characteristics. The remote and dispersed location of many of its islands over a vast ocean area makes access to disaster-affected populations in FSM logistically difficult. Based on 2013 data from the Asian Development Bank, poverty in FSM is amongst the highest rates of all Pacific island countries with 16% of the population estimated to be surviving below the international extreme poverty line, and 41% living below the national poverty line.

The Solution

The EDCR project in FSM was initiated in March 2019. The project aims to improve the capacity for preparedness and mitigation of FSM to man-made, geo-physical, climate related hazards and to climate change impact. The project responds 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. It is in line with the Japan Country Assistance Policy for the FSM and its priority areas: 1) overcoming vulnerability and 2) environment and climate

change. This project is consistent with and contributes to achieving the outcomes of FSM overarching nation-wide Integrated Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Policy 2013 of "food, water and energy security; safe infrastructure and settlements; and improved health and social protection" among others.



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The Project Output

The overall project goal is to effectively address the consequences of, and responses to, geo-physical and climate-related hazards to protect lives, sustain livelihoods, preserve the environment and safeguard the economy. The outcome will be achieved through 3 expected outputs:

1. Strengthened gender sensitive Disaster Communication and Climate Monitoring Systems
2. Enhanced gender sensitive National and State Disaster Responders readiness capacity
3. Enhanced Community Disaster Resilience through improved water resource management, and integrated gender and social inclusion awareness

In partnership with the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECCEM) and FSM State Governments, 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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