



FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA NATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE PLAN 2016



Office of Environment and Emergency Management
 FSM National Government
 Palikir, Pohnpei

Date of Issue: April 2017

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Disclaimer

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Disaster Management (DM) = Preparedness + Response + Transition to Recovery

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Abbreviations and Acronyms:

Act:	FSM Disaster Relief Assistance Act of 1989 (or subsequent Act)
A/Sec:	Assistant Secretary
Asst Dir EM	Assistant Director for Div of Emergency Management within OEEM
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CWG	Coordination Working Group
DC	Disaster Coordinator at national operations level
DCO	Disaster Coordinating Officer at state operations level
DM	Disaster Management = preparedness, response and transition to recovery
DRM	Disaster Risk Management = DM + DRR
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia
IDA	Initial Damage Assessment
IOM	International Organisation for Migration
MRCS	Micronesia Red Cross Society
NDC	National Disaster Committee
NDCT	National Disaster Coordination Team
NEOC	National Emergency Operations Centre
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
PDNA	Post Disaster Needs Assessment – for transition to recovery
PHT	Pacific Humanitarian Team managed by UN regional office of UNOCHA
SDC	State Disaster Committee
SDCT	State Disaster Coordination Team
SEOC	State Emergency Operations Centre
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
State DCO	State Disaster Coordinating Officer
State DMO	State Disaster Management Office
TOR	Terms of Reference
USAID	US Agency for International Development

FSM Departments:

DoE	Dept of Education
DoJ	Dept of Justice
DF&A	Dept of Finance and Administration
DoFA	Dept of Foreign Affairs
DHSA	Dept of Health and Social Affairs
DRD	Dept of Resources and Development
DTC&I	Dept of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure
OEEM	Office of Environment and Emergency Management



PART 1. POLICIES, PRINCIPLES AND PURPOSES

Introduction

1. This plan provides for the establishment of national institutional arrangements for the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) government for responding to emergency and disaster events within the country.

It includes arrangements for preparedness, monitoring for potential events and response at the national level to manage national level events and support state level events. It also outlines arrangements to guide state disaster response plans and their connection to the national level arrangements. It includes provisions for accessing international support.

Development and Maintenance of the Plan

2. This Plan has been prepared under the Disaster Relief Assistance Act 1989 (the Act) Section 707 subsection (3) and outlines arrangements as minimum requirements for state disaster response plans under Section 707 subsection (2) – refer also to Section 706 subsection (1). This Plan has been approved by and promulgated by the President.

This Plan establishes the National Disaster Committee (NDC) and may be adjusted by the Committee and re-issued as an amendment, effective from the date of re-issue. Substantive adjustments are to be approved by the President.

Notwithstanding any amendments, this Plan is to be reviewed by the National Disaster Committee at intervals not exceeding five years and submitted to the President for approval.



**THIS POLICY
RECOGNIZES BOTH
THE STRENGTHS AND
THE DIFFICULTIES
OF IMPLEMENTING
DISASTER
MANAGEMENT
ACROSS THE WIDELY
DISPERSED AND
LARGELY RURAL
COMMUNITIES OF THE
FEDERATED STATES OF
MICRONESIA.**

National Policy

5. The Government of FSM recognises its role to provide for the management of disasters and disaster risk. This Plan seeks to strengthen national and state governance arrangements and connections into communities through local government and local social institutions.

The Government of FSM adopted a policy for nationwide integrated disaster risk management and climate change in December 2013. The relevant parts of this provide for:

- strong horizontal and vertical coordination between sectors, national, state and community levels using an ‘all-of-government’, ‘all-of-country’ coordinated approach that emphasises partnerships between the public sector, private sector and civil society, and
- special attention to gender issues and the needs of marginalised groups, such as small atoll communities, persons with disability and the elderly

6. This policy is based upon the understanding that:

- disasters, when they occur, can be overwhelming for small island developing states and negate years of development activity
- sound and widely understood arrangements for managing disasters can substantially reduce the trauma of disasters in communities and the time taken to recover

7. This policy recognises both the strengths and the difficulties of implementing disaster management across the widely dispersed and largely rural communities of the Federated States of Micronesia.

For disaster response this Plan is based upon:

- everyone (individuals, communities, agencies, sectors and levels of government) having a role within their community or sector to prepare for and manage the impacts of disasters;
- supporting community self-sufficiency and reinforcing local mechanisms in preparing for, managing and recovering from disasters;
- setting clear arrangements with accountability measures so that everyone can carry out their role; and
- providing for access to support and resources through national, regional and international arrangements based on the assessed scope and scale of an emergency or disaster event.

Possible Threats to Federated States of Micronesia

The possible threats to the Federated States of Micronesia are significant. They include:

- Tropical storms and typhoons
- Tidal and wave surges
- Floods
- Earthquakes
- Landslides
- Tsunamis
- Droughts
- Pandemics
- Agriculture pests and diseases
- Aviation and maritime disasters
- Fires
- Industrial accidents
- Marine pollution

4. In general terms, the effects of disasters on the country and its people include:

- Loss of life
- Injury
- Damage to and destruction of property
- Damage to subsistence and cash crops
- Loss of livelihood
- Disruption of lifestyle
- Disruption of services
- Damage to infrastructure and disruption of government systems
- National economic loss
- Sociological and psychological after-effects

8. This policy recognises the fundamental role of government to establish and sustain arrangements for disaster management across sectors and communities in FSM. In this Plan these arrangements include:

- monitoring and assessment of hazards;
- setting policies, institutional arrangements and accountability mechanisms to oversee and implement disaster preparedness and response and for transition to recovery;
- establishment of communication and early warning systems in communities;
- integrating disaster preparedness and response in national, sector and state development plans and budgets; and
- engagement with international partners and support agencies to ensure communities receive support during times of significant disaster.

9. This policy provides that agencies across all sectors that have a role under this Plan are required to develop capacity and plan and provide for that role.

General Concept for Disaster Risk Management

10. The general concept of disaster risk management is that communities address the hazards they face and are supported to take measures to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters when they occur. At the same time, and over time, communities are supported to take measures to reduce their vulnerability to disaster and climate risk.

Both these sets of measures require coordinated arrangements across sectors and levels of government to access the necessary information for decision-making and the necessary support for taking action.

11. The general concept provides for actions through existing structures and mechanisms coordinated through special arrangements for disaster management. These special arrangements are required to set the roles and accountabilities for each agency involved and their connections with other agencies and with communities.

12. This Plan sets out the special arrangements for preparedness and response at the national level for supporting state disasters and for managing national level events in FSM. It also outlines arrangements for state disaster response plans and the connections to national level and international assistance.

13. During disasters arrangements need to provide for the assessment of impacts to influence decision-making at all levels and provide a basis for accessing and deploying available resources.

Disasters are overwhelming and a clear focus on levels of decision-making is necessary to avoid delayed or dysfunctional responses. This Plan provides for the clear separation of functions and decision-making at the executive, oversight and operations levels.

Under this Plan, agencies (including the private sector and civil society) will understand their roles, the explicit arrangements for fulfilling them, and the accountability measures in place.

Under this Plan, agencies (including the private sector and civil society) will understand their roles, the explicit arrangements for filling them and be accountable for working within them.

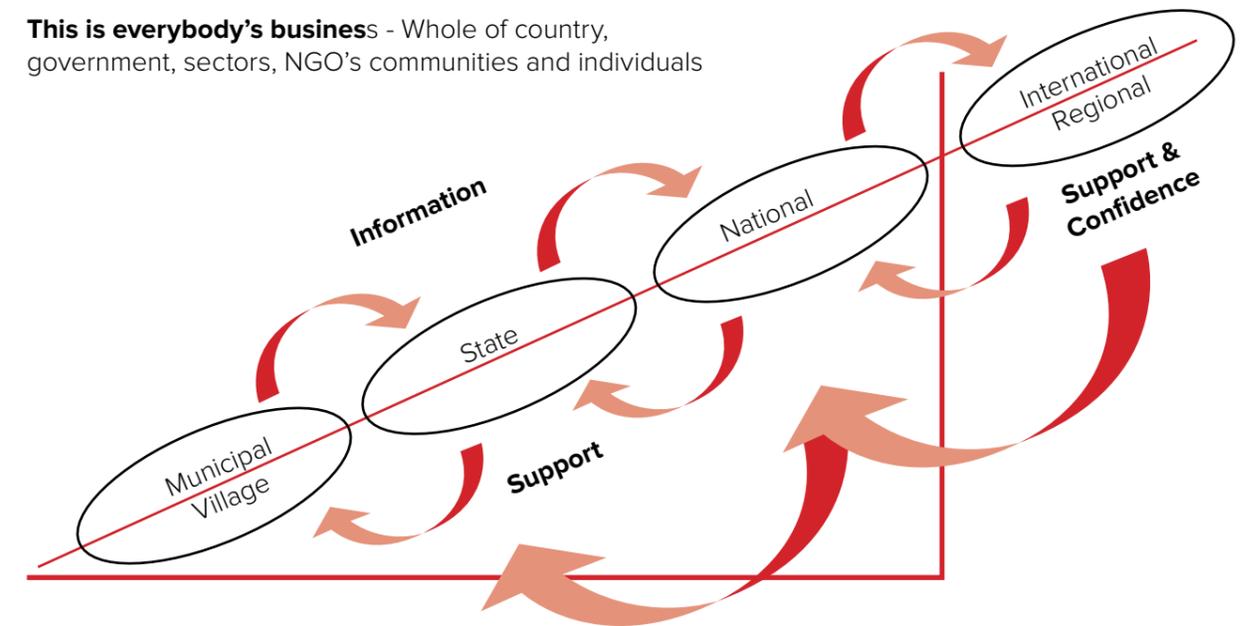
DM Model for Federated States of Micronesia

FSM Disaster Management Model

Disaster Management arrangements - creating capacity for self help

- Supporting communities managing their disasters through preparedness for response and recovery
- Setting arrangement for coordinating response, assessing impacts and for receiving relief support into the community level

This is everybody's business - Whole of country, government, sectors, NGO's communities and individuals



14. The above model follows the general concept of DRM outlined above and is adopted to guide the disaster management arrangements set out in this Plan:



Principles

15. The following principles have been adopted to guide the processes of this Plan:

- a) It is a role of the FSM government to provide for disaster preparedness and response through national and sector planning and to support state, municipal and local arrangements.
- b) Supporting self-reliance at all levels – and avoiding creating dependence – is the fundamental principle of this Plan.
- c) Providing for a balance in addressing disaster impacts on livelihood, infrastructure and land use is essential for sustainability.
- d) This Plan is multi-hazard and knowledge of disaster and climate risks within FSM is necessary to support the arrangements.
- e) National and state commitment and engagement with partners through this Plan is vital for effective disaster response.
- f) Disaster management is everyone's business with this Plan providing for strong horizontal and vertical coordination between sectors and between national, state and community levels.
- g) Sustainable arrangements build on existing institutional and social structures and processes across all levels.
- h) The involvement of women in arrangements at all levels is essential for effective disaster management.
- i) This Plan will account for the needs of vulnerable and marginalised groups including those in remote atolls, persons with disabilities and the elderly.
- j) Partners, NGOs and regional/international organisations supporting disaster response within FSM are expected to work within and support this Plan.
- k) This Plan recognises the autonomy of state governments and ancestral land rights within FSM.
- l) This Plan recognises community and individual rights and is based on a concern for equity and fairness.
- m) This Plan will need to be piloted to develop the confidence and knowledge of those with roles within it.

Purposes of the Plan

16. The purposes of this Plan are to:

- detail high-level institutional arrangements for the overview and implementation of disaster management in FSM;
- set explicit operational structures for disaster response management at the national level for supporting state emergencies and disasters and for managing national-level events;
- outline operational structures for disaster response management at the state level for supporting arrangements at the municipal, village and outlying islands levels;
- allocate roles and accountabilities for disaster response management to agencies across sectors and levels of government including civil society and the private sector;
- promote arrangements in disaster response management that are gender and child specific, which address the needs of marginalised and vulnerable groups and provide for the involvement of women;
- set arrangements for disaster response management that recognise the changing scope of the FSM/ USA Compact and the wider Pacific regional associations.

Scope

17. The scope of this Plan in relation to the above purposes is to address arrangements for dealing with emergencies (non-declared events requiring cross-sector coordination) and disasters (declared events) including:

- monitoring hazard alerts and potential situations leading to emergencies and disasters throughout FSM;
- assessment and decision-making leading to the activation and management of arrangements for responding to emergencies and disasters;

- declaring a state of disaster;
- commitment to, and management and coordination of activities and resources to respond to an emergency or disaster event;
- accessing and interfacing with external support when needed;
- special executive powers available during a state of disaster; and
- transition to recovery following a disaster event.

Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's)

18. Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) must be prepared for any committee, team, working group or center having a role under this Plan. SOPs are to set out the membership, terms of reference and mode of activation and operation of the committee, team, working group or centre and are to be approved by the NDC or the relevant State Disaster Committee (SDC) as provided for in this Plan.

SOPs shall include accountability provisions to minimise the potential for losses and misappropriation of resources and funds during disaster operations.

Once approved, SOPs become part of this Plan, and will include obligations and accountability mechanisms.

Hazard Specific Contingency Plans

Hazard-specific contingency plans prepared to supplement the general provisions of this Plan are to be approved by the NDC. Once approved, they become part of this Plan, and will include obligations and accountability mechanisms.

Agency Accountability and Resourcing

Any agency (including from civil society and the private sector) with a role under this Plan must ensure it is able to fulfil that role and must plan and develop capacity for it.

21. Agencies are responsible for resourcing their commitments. During and following a disaster, government agencies may submit requests through the NDC to government for supplementary funding as appropriate to recover response costs.

Relationship with Other Legislation and Plans

22. This Plan and the Act set out roles, powers and coordination mechanisms for agencies with roles in disaster response. During and following a declared disaster, this Plan and the Act take precedence over other plans and legislation where necessary, in relation to powers, priorities and coordination for the disaster. During and following an emergency (or non-declared event), the relevant legislation and regulations prevail.

State Disaster Response Plans should be consistent with this Plan to provide for horizontal and vertical coordination between sectors and at the national, state and community levels.

During nationally-declared events, state disaster response arrangements may be subject to direction from national governments as provided for in this Plan.

Nothing in this Plan supersedes agencies' obligations under their respective government legislation.

Any agency plans, or hazard-specific contingency plans for addressing disaster response are to be consistent with this Plan

¹US Compact of Free Association exists with the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States. It provides U.S. economic assistance including eligibility for certain U.S. federal programs, defence of the FSM, and other benefits in exchange for U.S. defence and certain other operating rights in the FSM, denial of access to FSM territory by other nations, and other agreements. The agreement began in 1969.



23. For health, environmental and agriculture disasters, this Plan will support the lead agents of those disasters with guidance, roles and coordination mechanisms. For aircraft or shipping incidents or search and rescue incidents at sea, this Plan may act in support of the lead agents for those incidents.

International Relationships

24. The arrangements set out in this Plan acknowledge and provide for the delivery of relief and recovery assistance from international partners and relief agencies during and following a disaster. These agencies and the lead personnel involved at the appropriate working level should make themselves familiar with these arrangements.

To the extent practicable, these agencies are expected to establish their support mechanisms within the arrangements of this Plan and support the coordination processes of the National Disaster Coordination Team (NDCT) established under this Plan.

Access to international and regional support arrangements will be exercised through the oversight function of the NDC. Management of the support will be exercised through the operations functions of the NDCT.

Practical coordination and support should be made through the NEOC Management Unit and the appropriate Coordination Working Groups (CWGs) and their state equivalents.

Definitions

25. *The following definitions apply to this Plan:*

Climate Change Adaptation: the reduction of vulnerability to the increasing risks of climate change and climate variability through adaptation processes and strengthening human and institutional capacities to assess, plan and respond to the challenges.

Contingency Planning: the process of describing roles/responsibilities and arrangements for the performance of key response functions specific to a designated major threat (e.g. tsunamis, droughts, major fires, hazardous materials incidents, airport/port emergencies, animal/plant disease, marine pollution etc).

Coordination: the bringing together of organisations to ensure effective emergency and disaster management response; is primarily concerned with systematic acquisition and application of resources (people, material, equipment and systems) in accordance with requirements imposed by the threat or impact of an emergency or disaster.

Critical Infrastructure Agencies: agencies that own, manage or operate infrastructure, which is critical for livelihood following a disaster, and includes transport, water, wastewater, electricity, gas and communications and broadcasting.

Disaster: a declared event under this Plan at the national or state level. It is a serious disruption of the functioning of communities or society causing widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses that exceed the ability of the affected communities or society to cope using normal arrangements and which require special coordination of resources under the arrangements of this Plan.

Disaster Management: setting arrangements and accountabilities across levels of government, sectors and communities for accessing and coordinating resources for managing disasters when they occur through preparedness, response and transition to recovery.

Disaster Risk Management: supporting communities to understand and manage hazards and disasters for safeguarding lives, property and livelihood through the performance of all forms of activities for disaster management and disaster risk reduction to lessen the impacts of natural, man-made, environmental and technological disasters.

Disaster Risk Reduction: taking action to reduce the risks of hazards and the potential impacts of disasters within the broad context of sustainable development.

Emergency: a non-declared event under this Plan of such severity and magnitude to warrant national support and cross-sector coordination as provided for in this Plan but without the powers of this Plan.

Hazard: a potential or existing condition that may cause harm to people, or damage to property or the environment.

Lead Agency: an agency accountable for the management of a specified type of disaster event.

National Emergency Operations Centre: a facility from which the national level operational management and coordination of an emergency or disaster is carried out and through which external support to a disaster within FSM will be managed.

Preparedness: : the arrangements and systems (including alert and warning systems) to ensure that, should an emergency occur, communities are prepared and all those resources and systems that are needed to cope with the effects can be efficiently mobilised and deployed.

Recovery: the coordinated process of supporting disaster-affected communities in reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and restoration of emotional, social, economic and physical well-being.

Relief: a component of response being the coordinated process of providing humanitarian relief and basic community support services during and immediately after the impact of a disaster.

Response: the actions taken in anticipation of, during, and immediately after an emergency or disaster to ensure that its effects are minimised, and that people affected are supported to become self-reliant to the extent necessary for their safety, wellbeing and livelihood.

Risk: the likelihood of harmful consequences arising from the interaction of hazards and vulnerable elements (people, infrastructure or the environment).

Sectors and Sector Agencies: areas of government or economic activity, and the agencies within them with a common focus or shared characteristics, which are expected to address disaster risk management issues in a coordinated as well as individual manner – e.g. the health sector or tourist sector.

Standard Operating Procedures: the prescribed routine action to be followed by staff during emergency operations.

State Emergency Operations Centre: a facility at a state level from which the operational management and coordination of a state emergency or disaster is carried out and through which national level support will be managed.

Vulnerability: the extent to which the structure, services or environment of a community or sector are likely to be damaged or disrupted by the impact of a hazard event.



PART 2. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR DM

Outline Institutional Framework

26. The outline of the institutional framework for the management of disasters in FSM is shown in Fig. 1.

At the executive level, the President is responsible under the Act for coordinating national activities and assisting states. The President designates a government agency to be responsible for disaster management.

The appointed secretary or director of that agency is the President's designee under the Act. Currently this is the Director of the Office for Environment and Emergency Management (OEEM).

At the oversight level for collective accountability and oversight of disaster management in FSM, this Plan establishes the National Disaster Committee (NDC), to be chaired by the Director of the OEEM, and comprising appointed secretaries of departments and heads of government agencies.

This Plan establishes functions for the NDC, addressing the government policy positions and arrangements for disaster management that comprise preparedness, response and transition to recovery. The NDC is also the strategic decision-making body for committing resources and priorities and advising the President during a disaster.

At the operational level, Part 3 of this Plan establishes national operational arrangements for disaster response coordination comprising the National Disaster Coordination Team (NDCT), Coordination Working Groups of national sector agencies, and other operational partners. During emergencies and disasters, the NDCT operates through and is supported by the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC). The NEOC is managed by the Emergency Management Division (EM Div) of OEEM, which is responsible for preparedness and operational response arrangements at the national level, and for supporting state level arrangements.

The SDCT is chaired by the Manager of the State DMO. This manager is the State Disaster Coordinating Officer (State DCO).

National Arrangements

President and President's Designee for DM

28. The President is responsible for:

- receiving advice from the NDC and his/her designee;
- approving the policy and regulatory framework for DM in FSM on the advice of the NDC;
- approving this National Disaster Response Plan on the advice of the NDC;
- committing resources for government activity in disaster management;
- decision-making in relation to priorities, committing resources and accessing international assistance during disasters;
- assisting states in their disaster preparedness and response; and
- declaring a state of disaster on the advice of the NDC Chair and at the request of a state governor.

29. The President's designee for DM is responsible for:

- developing arrangements for disaster management across FSM and overseeing and monitoring their implementation;
- chairing the NDC and being its lead advisor for disaster events for which there is no other designated lead agent; and
- advising the President on declaring a state of disaster across the whole of or part of FSM. Wherever practicable, this should be done with the backing of the NDC and on the request of a state governor.

The President's designee for DM is currently the Director of the OEEM, who has been appointed head of the agency responsible for DM.

30. Heads of departments responsible for health, environmental and agriculture incidents are responsible for the arrangements in response to those incidents. Plans for those incidents shall be consistent with this Plan and shall be managed through the NDC and the associated operational disaster response arrangements. Similarly, heads of departments responsible for aircraft, shipping, and sea search and rescue incidents are responsible for the arrangements for addressing them; plans for these shall be subject to NDC oversight.

For these incidents the appropriate department head becomes the lead advisor to the NDC. The department head may seek the activation of this Plan through the NDC to support its management of the incident. Where appropriate, the department head may, through the NDC, seek the declaration of a disaster by the President.



27. This Plan outlines arrangements for state disaster management as minimum requirements under the Act to guide the development of State Disaster Response Plans.

At the state executive level the Governor is responsible for coordinating state and municipal disaster preparedness and response activities and for supporting arrangements at the village level and in the outlying islands. The Governor appoints the head of a state office to be responsible for disaster management.

At the state oversight level this Plan establishes State Disaster Committees (SDCs) for collective oversight of state disaster management arrangements and for strategic oversight and advice to the Governor during emergencies and disasters.

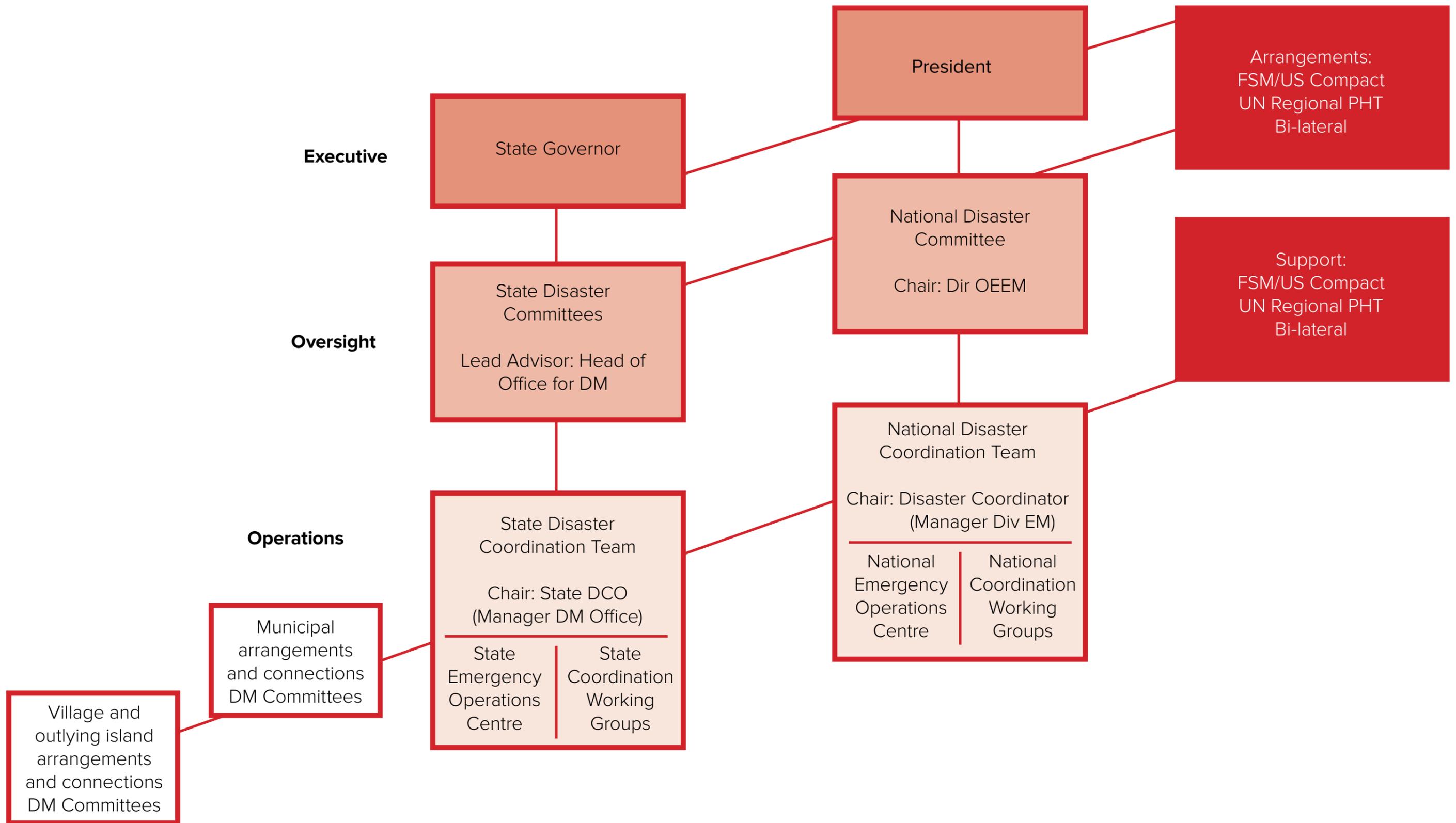
The SDC comprises the Heads of State Offices responsible to the Governor and its lead advisor is the head responsible for disaster management.

At the state operations level the head responsible for disaster management allocates the DM operations function to a division within the Office. The division is designated the State Disaster Management Office (State DMO) and is responsible for preparedness and operational response arrangements through the state and for managing the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC).

The state arrangements are to establish functions and accountabilities through their municipalities with arrangements and connections to their villages and outlying islands.

This Plan establishes state operational arrangements for disaster response coordination comprising the State Disaster Coordination Team (SDCT), Coordination Working Groups of state sector agencies, and other operational partners. During emergencies and disasters the SDCT operates through and is supported by the SEOC.

FIG. 1 FSM Disaster Management Outline Institutional Framework



National Disaster Committee (NDC)

31. The National Disaster Committee (NDC) is responsible to the President for policy development and for the strategic management of planning and arrangements for disaster preparedness and response consistent with the ‘Purposes of this Plan’ (refer to Section 16). It is also responsible for the overview of disaster events and for accessing international, regional and bi-lateral support arrangements for disaster response.

32. The NDC has responsibility for oversight of arrangements for all hazards through six lead agencies (refer also to Sections 23 and 30):

- OEEM Div for EM – all hazards (excluding those listed below) Dept of Health and Social Affairs – pandemics and health incidents
- Dept of Resources and Development– agriculture incidents
- OEEM Div of E&SD – environmental incidents
- Dept of Transportation, Communications and Infrastructure – aircraft and ship incidents
- Dept of Justice Div of National Police – search and rescue at sea

The NDC has oversight of the operational arrangements of the National Disaster Coordination Team (NDCT) and the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC), to be activated for the operational management of disaster events. For health, agriculture and environmental disaster events, as well as aircraft, shipping and sea search and rescue incidents, these arrangements may support the lead agent in disaster coordination.

33. The functions of the NDC are to:

- advise the President on strategic institutional, policy and funding issues necessary to provide for effective disaster preparedness and response in FSM;
- manage relationships with international, regional and bi-lateral partners to coordinate and optimise external support for DM activities;
- oversee the establishment of national DM operational arrangements, including the National Disaster Coordination Team (NDCT), its associated sector-based Coordination Working Groups (CWGs), and the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC);
- review and monitor State Disaster Response Plans; and
- in the event of a disaster, provide management oversight of, and advice to the President on the response to the event.

34. The Chair of the NDC is the President and is to be assisted by the Director of the OEEM. The Chief of Staff of the President’s Office on advice of the President, may call the NDC to account.

35. The members of the NDC are:

- Chair
- Departmental secretary or designee
- Director of office, agency or designees
- Representative of Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS)
- Representative of the Chamber of Commerce
- Representative of Non-Government Organisation
- President of National Council of Women



36. The NDC is to meet a minimum of three times per year and as required during and following disaster events. At minimum, the meeting must be attended by the Chair and four members.

The NDC is serviced by OEEM

37. The NDC is responsible for establishing disaster management arrangements for preparedness and response at the national and sector levels and for providing for planning and resourcing.

Responsibilities include providing for public awareness and training, early warning arrangements and assessment, and response structures for managing disaster events and coordinating available resources to support affected communities.

38. DM operational arrangements are set out in Part 3 of this Plan including the establishment of the NDCT, the associated sector-based CWGs and the NEOC.

Division of Emergency Management (Div EM) - OEEM

39. The Division of Emergency Management (Div EM) is responsible to the Director OEEM and the NDC for the coordination, development and implementation of DM in FSM.

40. The functions of the Div EM are to:

- provide advice to the Director of the OEEM and the NDC on all matters relating to DM;
- promote policy and provide leadership and advocacy across the DM sector;
- provide planning and establish arrangements for DM at the national level;
- coordinate, support and monitor planning and arrangements for DM at the sector and state level;
- coordinate and manage, through the NDCT, the national response to disaster events when they occur;
- promote and support public awareness of, and their role in DM; and
- engage with partners, NGOs and civil society to ensure their involvement in DM is effectively integrated with the arrangements outlined in this Plan.

The detailed operational arrangements and functions for DM are set out in Part 3.

Sectors

41. In accordance with the policies and provisions set out in Part 1 of this Plan, all sectors and sector agencies are required to prepare for and manage the impacts of disasters and continue to the extent practicable, to provide services during and following a disaster.

Part 2 and Part 3 set out arrangements for coordinating and guiding activities under this Plan, utilising existing structures and accountabilities wherever practicable. Sector agencies with a role under this Plan are required to plan and provide for that role.

Role of Women

42. It is a principle of this Plan (refer to Section 15) that the involvement of women at all levels is essential for effective DM.

Arrangements and plans established under this Plan shall provide for the effective involvement of women in operational processes and decision-making.

This shall be particularly provided for in relation to social support, relief distribution and shelter, where women will be expected to take lead decision-making roles.

Partners, Red Cross, NGO's and Civil Society

43. Partners, Red Cross, NGOs and civil society agencies may undertake DM activities in FSM, including the provision of relief and recovery support during and after a disaster event. These agencies are expected to work within the frameworks outlined in this Plan to provide for effective integration of their activities. Failure to do so may weaken arrangements and lead to dependence in future events.

Agencies are required to work within the SOPs of their respective committee, team, working group or centre (refer to Section 24 in Part 1).

External Support Arrangements – FSM/US Compact and UN

44. External support arrangements through the FSM/US Compact and the UN regional office are initiated at the direction of the President on the advice of and through the NDC.

Operational deployment of these arrangements, including at the state level, shall be through the NDCT (refer to Section 24 in Part1); UN Clusters should readily identify and engage with and support their FSM counterpart arrangement.

These arrangements should be carried out within the Plan's institutional frameworks, to ensure effective integration with, and support from, national and state activities. Failure to do so may weaken arrangements and lead to dependence in future events.

Private Sector and Critical Infrastructure Agencies

45. The private sector is an important component and resource in disaster management and disaster risk reduction. The private sector is expected to address their own DM issues, including working within and contributing to the Plan framework where appropriate for disaster planning and response. This includes insurance coverage and avoiding or mitigating activities that may contribute to community risk.

46. Critical infrastructure agencies in the private sector are required to work and participate within the Plan framework, and Section 40 in particular.

Critical infrastructure agencies are defined under Section 25.

State Arrangements

47. State arrangements are set out in State Disaster Response Plans prepared under the Act. This section outlines requirements to guide State Disaster Response Plans as provided for under the Act and to provide for strong horizontal and vertical coordination provided for under 'Principles' in Section 15.

State arrangements may vary from the state provisions outlined in this Plan to suit local arrangements, provided the principles in Section 15 are followed and the separation of the oversight function and the operations function set out in Section 13 under 'General Concept for Disaster Risk Management' is maintained, and as provided for in Fig. 1.

**STATE
ARRANGEMENTS ARE
SET OUT IN STATE
DISASTER RESPONSE
PLANS PREPARED
UNDER THE ACT.**

Governor and Head of State Office for Disaster Management

48. The Governor exercises his/her responsibility for coordinating state and municipal disaster management collectively through the State Disaster Committee (SDC) (refer to Section 27). The SDC is chaired by the Head of the State Office responsible for DM.

49. The Governor is responsible for:

- receiving advice from the SDC and the state-appointed officer for DM;
- approving the policy and regulatory framework for DM in the state on the advice of the SDC;
- approving the State Disaster Response Plan on the advice of the SDC;
- committing resources for state activities in disaster preparedness and response;
- decision making in relation to committing resources and seeking national assistance during disasters; and
- declaring a state of disaster on the advice of the SDC.

50. The Head of the State Office responsible for DM is responsible for:

- developing arrangements for disaster preparedness and response across the state and overseeing and monitoring their implementation;
- allocating the DM Office function to a division within his/her office – the manager of the division so allocated is the state DCO;
- chairing the SDC and being its lead advisor for disaster events for which there is no other designated lead agent; and
- advising the Governor on declaring a state of disaster across the whole of or part of the state; wherever practicable this should be done with the backing of the SDC.

51. Heads of state agencies are responsible for the arrangements for health, environmental and agriculture incidents. Plans for those incidents shall be consistent with the State Disaster Response Plan and shall be managed through the SDC and the associated operational disaster response arrangements.

For these incidents, the appropriate agency head becomes the lead advisor to the SDC. The agency head may seek the activation of the state plan through the SDC to support its management of the incident. Where appropriate the agency head may, through the SDC, seek the declaration of a disaster by the Governor.

State Disaster Committees (SDC's)

52. State Disaster Committees (SDCs) are responsible to their Governor for the oversight of arrangements and planning for DM in their state. During nationally declared events, they work in close cooperation with the NDC.

53. The functions of the SDCs are to:

- advise the Governor on strategic institutional, policy and funding issues necessary to provide for effective disaster preparedness and response in the state;
- oversee the establishment of state DM operational arrangements, including the State Disaster Coordination Teams (SDCTs), their associated sector-based Coordination Working Groups (CWGs) and the State Emergency Operations Centres (SEOCs);
- manage relationships with the NDC in relation to accessing national and external support for DM activities and during disasters;
- review and monitor municipal, village and outlying island arrangements for disaster preparedness and response; and
- in the event of a disaster, commit resources and provide management oversight of, and advice to the Governor on the response to the event.



54. The SDCs are responsible for ensuring the establishment of disaster management arrangements for preparedness and response through their municipalities, villages and outlying islands and for providing for planning and resourcing at the state and sector levels.

Responsibilities include providing for public awareness and training, early warning arrangements, and assessment and response structures for managing disaster events and coordinating available resources to support affected communities.

DM arrangements are set out in Part 3 of this Plan including the establishment of the SDCTs, the sector-based CWGs and the SEOCs.

55. Particular arrangements for health, agriculture and environmental emergencies are the responsibility of the respective lead agency and are set out in their plans. The arrangements set out in Part 3 may be activated in support of them.

State DM Office

56. The Manager of the State DM Office is responsible to the Head of the State Office appointed by the Governor to be responsible for disaster management. The State DM Office oversees the development, implementation and coordination of disaster management in the state.

57. The functions of the State DM Office are to:

- provide advice to their Agency Head and the SDC on all matters relating to DM;
- promote policy and provide DM leadership and advocacy across the state agencies;
- provide planning and establish the State Disaster Response Plan for arrangements for State DM including

- for the municipalities, villages and the outlying islands;
- coordinate, support and monitor planning and arrangements for DM at the municipality, village and outlying islands levels;
- coordinate and manage the state response to disaster events, through the SDCT, when they occur;
- develop and support public awareness of, and their role in DM;
- engage with partners, NGOs and civil society to ensure their involvement in DM is effectively integrated with the arrangements outlined in the state plan;
- maintain the State EOC in a condition that can be activated effectively at any time (physical facilities, human resources, office supplies, communication equipment); and
- coordinate annual state simulation exercises to enhance preparedness at all levels, from village to municipality, to state.

The outline to guide the operational arrangements for State Disaster Response Plans are set out in Part 3, under Section 87: ‘State Level Operations’ (refer also to Section 47).

Municipal, Village and Outlying Island Arrangements

58. The impacts of disasters occur at the community level. In accordance with the policies, concepts and principles outlined in Part 1, State Disaster Response Plans are to stipulate arrangements to support community self-sufficiency in preparing for and responding to disasters when they occur. The state DM offices are to work with municipalities and local village groupings to establish DM arrangements through the municipalities, villages and the outlying islands.

The following local arrangements are proposed for inclusion in State Disaster Response Plans.

a) Municipal DM Committees

59. Municipal DM Committees are to be established in each municipality to provide a structure through the State for establishing local disaster preparedness arrangements and for supporting response and distribution of relief during emergencies and disasters. To the extent possible Municipal DM Committees should be based on established groups.

. Municipal DM Committees are to be established in each municipality to provide a structure through the state for establishing local disaster preparedness arrangements and for supporting response and distribution of relief during emergencies and disasters. To the extent possible, Municipal DM Committees should be based on established groups.

Municipal DM Committees are to provide for a local network of Village DM Committees and for disaster planning including local arrangements for early warning and managing response to disasters.

Municipal DM Committees are to accommodate local leadership – Councils of Chiefs, churches, elders or other appropriate community mechanisms – and build on existing community, church and NGO connections.

Municipal DM Committees are to be supported in their arrangements (including the establishment of communications networks) and activities by their states. The State DM Office is to maintain a register of Municipal DM Committees and their constituent villages and outlying islands.

b) Village DM Committees

60. Village DM Committees are to be established at the village and associated settlement level or where appropriate, in groupings of 5-to-10 villages with a common interest based on existing community structures. To the extent possible, DM Committees should be based on established groups in communities.

Villages, families and individuals within a Village DM Committee are to facilitate a local network for disaster planning purposes, including local arrangements for early warning and managing response to disasters.

Village DM Committees are to maintain linkages with villages and settlements within the Committee and with other DM Committees on their island.

Village DM Committees are to accommodate local leadership – Councils of Chiefs, churches, elders or other appropriate community mechanisms – and build on existing community, church and NGO connections.

61. Village DM Committees are to be supported in their arrangements (including the establishment of communications networks) and activities by their Municipal DM Committee. The Municipal DM Committee is to maintain a register of Village DM Committees and their constituent villages and outlying islands.

SOP's for Municipal and Village DM Committees

62. SOPs are to be established for Municipal and Village DM Committees, setting out their members, functions and procedures. The detailed functions of disaster management operations are set out in Part 3.



PART 3. OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR DM

63. Part 2 of this Plan establishes the institutional arrangements of the National Disaster Committee (NDC) responsible to the President for establishing and overseeing disaster management arrangements for preparedness and response to disasters. The NDC is responsible for facilitating planning at the national and sector levels and for supporting and guiding state development of State Disaster Response Plans, including at the municipal, village and outlying island levels. Part 3 sets out the operational arrangements for disaster management as shown in Fig 2.

Functions of Disaster Management Operations

64. The functions of disaster management operations are to oversee preparedness and response.

a) Preparedness functions

- establishing operational arrangements for all elements of disaster management including response functions across levels of government and sectors
- preparing plans
- establishing SOPs
- setting declaration and activation procedures
- establishing communications arrangements across levels
- establishing early warning systems
- undertaking training and capacity building
- undertaking public education and awareness programmes
- carrying out exercises



b) Response functions

- issuing warnings
- activating arrangements
- identifying the scope and scale of events
- managing communications and public information
- initiating relief and rescue activities
- carrying out Initial Damage Assessments (IDAs) of impacts followed by sector-based needs assessments through the Coordination Working Groups (CWGs) of the NDCT
- addressing:
 - fatalities
 - injuries
 - public health
 - protection
 - shelter
 - social needs and well-being
 - subsistence and basic economic activity
 - critical infrastructure
 - distribution of relief
 - internally displaced people and camps
 - gender and child-specific issues relating to welfare and safety
 - needs of marginalised groups
- managing processes of government and addressing resource needs;
- managing and coordinating international assistance
- addressing livelihood issues across sectors
- carrying out damage and needs assessments (PDNAs) by sector for initial recovery (through the CWGs)
- initiating planning for transition to recovery
- initiate planning for transition to recovery

65. It is a principle of this Plan (refer Section 15 Part 1) that agencies are accountable for fulfilling their roles within explicit structures. Part 3 sets out the operational structures for DM and allocates functions within them.

It is a principle of this Plan that the involvement of women in DM arrangements at all levels is essential for effective DM. Arrangements under Part 3 shall provide for their effective involvement in operational processes and decision-making, particularly in relation to social needs, relief distribution and shelter.

National Level Operations

National Disaster Committee (NDC)

66. The broad functions of the National Disaster Committee (NDC) are set out in Section 33. For operational arrangements these functions include:

- –overseeing the establishment and maintenance of structures for preparedness and response operations at the national level and setting requirements to guide State DM Plans;
- overseeing the preparedness functions of Disaster Management Operations set out in Section 64(a);
- developing capacity for disaster management operations within the structures and at the sector level;
- overseeing the preparation and maintenance of this Plan;
- promoting and facilitating sector planning for disaster management;
- reporting to the President on disaster management issues; and
- during a disaster, providing strategic management oversight of, and advice to the President on, the response to the event; and as follow-up to a disaster event, undertake a review of the full disaster management process including the transition into recovery and report to the President.

67. The Chair of the NDC is the Director, OEEM.

The members of the NDC are listed in Section 35.

68. The NDC is to establish programmes for the Functions of Disaster Management Operations set out in Section 64 (a) and (b).

Role of Disaster Coordinator who is the Assistant Director EM

69. The role of the Disaster Coordinator is established under this Plan.

The Disaster Coordinator is responsible for the coordination of the overall operational response to a disaster.

70. The functions of the Disaster Coordinator are to:

- The functions of the Disaster Coordinator are to:
- carry out the preparedness functions of Disaster Management Operations set out in Section 64(a);
- maintain the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) in a state of readiness for activation;
- facilitate the development of SOPs for the response components of the Functions of Disaster Management Operations set out in Section 64(b);
- activate the NEOC at times of potential or actual disaster according to the phases of activation set out in Section 75;
- collate information on the extent and magnitude of the event and advise the Chair of the NDC on disaster declarations;
- coordinate overall response to a disaster through the National Disaster Coordination Team (NDCT);
- at the request of the President through the NDC, facilitate evacuations, road closures or closures of public spaces where such action is deemed necessary for the immediate maintenance of public safety or the avoidance of risk to life;

- coordinate and provide direction to the CWGs and agencies of the NDCT and to other agencies with functions under this Plan; and
- provide support and guidance to the State DCO during state emergencies and disasters, and provide direction as appropriate during nationally declared events – including to states not impacted by a disaster who are able to offer support to affected states.

71. The Disaster Coordinator is the Assistant Director of the OEEM for the Division of Emergency Management (Asst. Dir EM). If the Asst. Dir EM is for any reason unable to fulfil their role, the Director of the OEEM shall appoint in writing an alternative Disaster Coordinator.

The Disaster Coordinator shall have specific training for the role at the regional level and be familiar with the processes and operating procedures of the UNOCHA-managed Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT). The Disaster Coordinator shall brief the PHT on the structures and procedures of this Plan.

Role of NEOC Operations Manager

72. The role of NEOC Operations Manager within the NEOC is established to support the functions of the Disaster Coordinator and manage the NEOC Management Unit during disasters. The NEOC Operations Manager is managed by and responsible to the Disaster Coordinator.

The role of NEOC Operations Manager shall be set out in the SOP for the NEOC. The NEOC Operations Manager shall have training in EOC management.

Declaration of a Disaster

73. The President may at any time on the advice of the NDC and on a request from a state governor, declare a state of disaster in the whole of, or part of FSM.

74. The order may be amended or revoked at any time by the President on the advice of the NDC.

Activation of Operations Arrangements

75. There are three phases of activation for a disaster or potential disaster. These are standby, activation for watch and support and full activation.

76. **Standby** –The Disaster Coordinator in consultation with the Director of the OEEM will activate the NEOC to be on standby if there is a threat within FSM, and/or if there is a need to issue warning of a potential threat. While on standby the NEOC will monitor the situation continuously and establish connections with the potentially affected states.

THE PRESIDENT MAY AT ANY TIME ON THE ADVICE OF THE NDC AND ON A REQUEST FROM A STATE GOVERNOR, DECLARE A STATE OF DISASTER TO EXIST IN THE WHOLE OF OR PART OF FSM.

The Disaster Coordinator will immediately, and then periodically, update the Director of the OEEM, who will keep the President informed. As appropriate, the Disaster Coordinator may activate the NDCT arrangements.

77. Watch and Support: - In the case of a disaster within a state, or in anticipation of the likelihood of a state requiring support, the Disaster Coordinator will activate the NEOC for watch and support. Continuous monitoring and engagement with the affected state(s), and assessment of the situation and likely needs will follow.

The National Operations Manager is activated. External support staff for the NEOC will be activated as appropriate to support this phase. The NDCT may be activated with appropriate CWGs in anticipation of support needs. The NDC and the President will continue to be kept informed and the NDC may meet periodically to agree on support commitments.

78. Full Activation: - At the request of a state governor for the declaration of a national disaster, or in anticipation of a national declaration, the Disaster Coordinator in consultation with the Director of the OEEM will place the NEOC on full activation along with the National Operations Manager. Continuous monitoring and engagement with the affected state(s), and assessment of the situation and likely needs will follow.

External support staff for the NEOC will be fully activated to support this phase. The NDCT will be activated with appropriate Coordination Working Groups to plan, initiate and deploy for support needs. The Chair of the NDC and the President will continue to be kept informed and the NDC will meet periodically to review the management of the event, and agree on support commitments.

79. The NDC is to meet in the case of a presidential declaration of disaster. During such a disaster the President has powers of suspension of regulations and requisition under the Act, where this is reasonably justified and in the public's interest for the purposes of dealing with the disaster situation.

Activation for Non-Declared Events

80. The NEOC arrangements may be activated by the Disaster Coordinator to support emergency activities delivered through other agencies, including in the absence of a declaration.

National Disaster Coordination Team (NDCT)

81. The National Disaster Coordination Team (NDCT) is established for managing disaster events together with the NEOC. NDCT Coordination Working Groups (CWGs) are established for:

- Deployment and Assessment – to manage initial relief deployment and Initial Damage Assessment to verify and support state assessments.
- Social Support – to provide support for health services, public and family health, WASH, protection and special needs, education services, displaced people, shelter and camp management.
- Livelihood – to support subsistence and basic economic activity in affected areas to promote self-reliance.
- Infrastructure – to manage restoration of minimum basic services to affected communities, and support longer-term rehabilitation.

The operational structure of these arrangements is given in Fig. 2.

82. The functions of the NDCT are to:

- manage and coordinate the response components of the Functions of Disaster Management Operations set out in Section 64(b);
- support, verify and supplement the Initial Damage Assessment carried out at the state level;
- coordinate and provide direction to the NDCT Coordination Working Groups;
- coordinate with, and provide support and direction as appropriate during national declarations to State Disaster Coordination Teams (SDCTs); and
- report to and take strategic direction from the NDC.

83. The Chair of the NDCT is the Asst Dir Div of EM as the Disaster Coordinator.

84. The membership of the NDCT comprises:

- Chairs of the NDCT Coordination Working Groups
- Key sector divisional heads
- A representative from the FSM Red Cross
- A representative from USAID

National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC)

85. The National Emergency Operations (NEOC) Management Unit is to carry out the operations management functions outlined in Fig. 2 to support the functions of the NDCT and the NDCT CWGs. The NEOC Operations Manager is the Manager of the NEOC Management Unit during activations for emergencies and disasters.

The structure and functions of the NEOC and the NEOC Management Unit are to be established in SOPs by the NEOC Operations Manager with the Disaster Coordinator for approval by the NDC.

These SOPs are to include provisions for 24/7 monitoring for alerts, call-out and activation procedures under Sections 75–80, and NEOC incident management procedures and staffing requirements and sources for each of the three phases of activation.

NDCT Coordination Working Groups

86. The NDCT CWGs established in Section 81 are to be assigned response functions from the Functions of Disaster Management Operations set out in Section 64(b).

These functions and the members and procedures of the CWGs are to be set out in SOPs by the Working Groups with assistance from the Disaster Coordinator, for approval by the NDC.

Agencies with roles in CWGs are required to work with their group to prepare for their role.

CWG agencies are responsible for establishing and maintaining procedures and resources for activating their role at times of disaster. For critical response agencies, this includes provisions for 24/7 emergency response callout.

Executive:

Roles: receive advice
declare disaster
commit powers & resources

The President

Access to:
FSM, Compact, UN
Regional PHT Bi-lateral
support

Oversight:

Roles: strategic overview of disaster
advise President
commit resources
access Compact & Intl support

National Disaster Committee Chair: Dir OEEM
Secretaries of Departments
Directors of Offices and Agencies
Red Cross

Lead Advisor: Director of OEEM
Other Lead Agents: Health,
Transport, Agriculture, Police
SAR, Environment

Operations:

National Emergency Operations Centre
NEOC Management Unit: NEOC Ops
Manager

Operations:
Planning:
Watch & Assess
alerts
Receive & assess
info
Prepare SitRep
Initiate response
actions

Communications:
Manage & log
comms
Radio/tel/fax/internet

Public info & media:
Issue warnings &
info
Prepare media
releases
Manage national
image

Review situation
Prepare Action Plan
Review SitRep

Logistics:
Hold inventory/
facilitate
Deployment &
delivery

Support:
Admin/staff/finance/
audit/Dept FA &
Imm/Customs/IM

National Emergency Coordination Team Chair: Disaster Coordinator
Members: Chairs of Coordination Working Groups
Sector Divisional Heads Red Cross USAID Rep

Coordination Working Groups

<p>Deploy & Assess Chair: EM Division Dept. of Justice National Police Division Maritime Patrol TC & I Marine Trans Sector reps - IDA Red Cross NGO's - IOM/others</p>	<p>Social Support Co Chair: H & Ed a). Dept. of Health & SA EHPH P & R Unit Division Social Affairs Women/special needs b). Dept. of Education Ed Services & Shelter NGO's: PRAL/IOM</p>	<p>Livelihood Chair: A/Sec RM & D Dept. Res & Dev Agriculture Unit Fisheries Unit Tourism Unit Division Social Affairs Women/special needs NGO's: PWA/USDA/ CSP/IFCP</p>	<p>Infrastructure Chair: A/Sec TC & I Dept. TC & I Marine Trans Division Comms Division Civil Aviation Division Infrastructure Division - IDA DR & D Energy Unit Telecoms Ops/Water Ops/PetroCorp Ops</p>
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Operations:
FSM, Compact, UN
Regional PHT Bi-lateral
support

FIG. 2 National Level Outline Institutional Structure

State Level Operations

87. Part 2 of this Plan establishes the institutional arrangements of the State Disaster Committees responsible to the Governor for establishing arrangements and planning for disaster management through their state. It also sets out the operational arrangements at the state level.

State Disaster Committee

88. The broad functions of the SDC are set out in Section 53. For operational arrangements these functions include to:

- The broad functions of the State Disaster Committee (SDC) are set out in Section 53. For operational arrangements these functions include:
- overseeing the establishment and maintenance of structures for preparedness and response operations at the state level and for municipalities, villages and the outlying islands;
- overseeing the preparedness functions of Disaster Management Operations set out in Section 64(a);
- developing capacity for disaster management operations at the sector, municipal and outer island levels;
- overseeing the preparation and maintenance of the State Disaster Response Plan;
- promoting and facilitating sector planning for disaster management;
- reporting to the Governor on disaster management issues;
- during a disaster, providing strategic management oversight of, and advice to the Governor on the response to the event; and
- as follow-up to a disaster event, undertaking a review of the full disaster management process, including the transition to recovery, and reporting to the Governor.

89. The SDC is to establish programmes for its functions as set out in Section 88, including:

- establishment of the SDCT and SDCTCWGs and DM Committee arrangements at the municipal, village and outer island levels
- early warning systems
- communications arrangements
- public education and awareness
- training and capacity building
- exercises

State Disaster Coordination Teams (SDCT's)

90. The State Disaster Coordination Teams (SDCT)s are established for managing disaster events within the states, together with the State Emergency Operations Centres (SEOCs) and SDCT CWGs for:

- Deployment and Assessment – to manage initial rescue and relief deployment and the Initial Damage Assessment of disaster impacts throughout the state.
- Social Support – to provide support for health services, public and family health, WASH, protection and special needs, Education services, displaced people, shelter and camp management.
- Livelihood – to support subsistence and basic economic activity in affected areas to promote self-reliance.
- Infrastructure – to manage restoration of minimum basic services to affected communities and support longer-term rehabilitation.

91. The functions of the SDCT's are to:

- manage and coordinate the response components of the Functions of Disaster Management Operations set out in Section 64(b);
- oversee the management and operation of the SEOC;
- coordinate and provide direction to the SDCT CWGs;
- provide information and situation reports to, and work in close cooperation with, the NDCT;
- keep the Governor and the SDC informed of the disaster and take direction based on their priorities; and
- support municipal, village and outlying island arrangements in the affected areas in the management of local impacts.

92. The Chair of the SDCT is the State Disaster Coordinating Officer (DCO). The State DCO is the Manager of the State DM Office (refer to Section 56 in Part 2).

93. The members of the SDCT are listed in State Disaster Plans and would include:

- Chairs of the SDCT Coordination Working Groups
- Other key state agency operational managers
- A representative from national Red Cross
- Other appointed representatives

Role of State Disaster Coordinating Officer (DCO)

94. The role of the State Disaster Coordinating Officer (DCO) is established under this Plan.

The State DCO (as defined in Section 92) is responsible for the coordination of the state's operational response to a disaster.

95. The functions of the State DCO are to:

- carry out the preparedness functions of Disaster Management Operations set out in Section 64(a);
- ensure that the State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) is maintained in a state of readiness for activation;
- facilitate the development of SEOC SOP's for the Functions of Disaster Management Operations set out in Section 64(b);
- activate the SEOC at times of potential or actual disaster;
- advise the Chair of the SDC on declarations for advice to the Governor;
- coordinate through the SDCT the overall response to a disaster;
- at the request of the Governor through the SDC, facilitate evacuations, road closures or closures of public spaces where such action is deemed necessary for the immediate maintenance of public safety or the avoidance of risk to life;
- manage the functions of the SDCT set out in Section 91;
- keep the NDCT informed and work in close cooperation with the Disaster Coordinator during nationally declared disasters; and
- provide support and guidance to Municipal and Village Disaster Committees during state emergencies and disasters, and provide direction as appropriate.

State Emergency Operation Centers (SEOC's)

96. The State Emergency Operation Centre (SEOC) is part of the State DM Office and is managed by the State DCO.

The arrangement and functions of the SEOCs are to be established in SOPs by the State DCO with the SDCT, for approval by the SDC.

SDCT Coordination Working Groups

97. The SDCT CWGs established in Section 90 are to be assigned response functions from the Functions of Disaster Management Operations set out in Section 64(b). The CWGs are to maintain a relationship and coordinate with equivalent CWGs of the NDCT.

These functions and the members and procedures of the SDCT CWGs are to be set out in SOPs by the Working Groups with assistance from the State DCO, for approval by the SDC.

Representatives of local Chief groups, state NGOs, church groups, women's groups, youth groups, civil society and special needs groups, would be members of the SDCT CWGs as appropriate.

Local Level Operations

Municipal, Village and Outlying Island Arrangements

98. Part 2 of this Plan establishes DM Committees at the municipal and village levels, including for outlying islands.

The operational disaster management functions of these committees are to carry out appropriate preparedness and response components of the Functions of Disaster Management Operations set out in Section 64 a) and b).

The DM Committees at the municipal and village level are to allocate these functions and set out arrangements in SOPs or local DM plans to support the local response to disasters. These arrangements are to be supported by the SDCT and its CWGs during a disaster.

Support

99. To successfully attain the goals of this plan requires commitments and active participation of all department heads as listed above (refer to Section 32).

Approval

100. The FSM National Response Plan is hereby approved and effective on this day:

Signed: 
Peter M. Christian
President
Federated States of Micronesia

