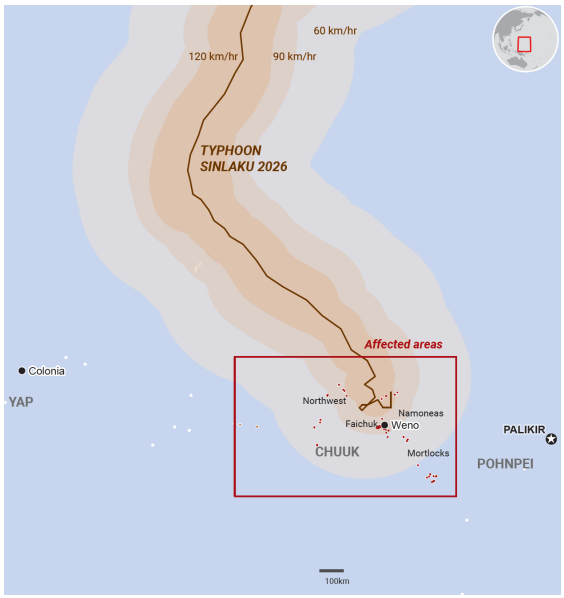
FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA: TYPHOON SINLAKU

Chuuk Disaster and Emergency Operation Center (CDEOC), Chuuk State

Situation Report No. 9 - 08 May 2026

This report is produced by the Chuuk Disaster and Emergency Operations Center (CDEOC) in collaboration with humanitarian partners and OCHA/UNDAC. It covers the period from 02 - 08 May 2026.

Typhoon Sinlaku affected all municipalities in Chuuk State and 2 in Yap when it struck FSM and stalled north of state capital Weno between 9 and 12 April 2026. Destructive winds, heavy rainfall, storm surge, and saltwater intrusion damaged shelters, services, and livelihoods across the state. Meteorological threats continue as Tropical Storm Hagupit threatens Yap. Humanitarian needs remain acute. Access to safe water is critically compromised, food reserves are depleting rapidly, and the outer islands face growing isolation as maritime supply lines remain constrained.



Source: OCHA HDX, GDACS and IDA
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Typhoon Sinlaku — named for the Kosraean goddess of nature and breadfruit — formed in the western North Pacific on 9 April from a Madden-Julian Oscillation-driven cyclonic gyre and tracked slowly through the Chuuk area before undergoing rapid intensification to a Category 5-equivalent super typhoon (peak intensity: 295 km/h / 185 mph sustained winds, 890 hPa). The most consequential feature for Chuuk was the prolonged duration of exposure: the storm's centre stalled approximately 75 miles north-northwest of the Chuuk Lagoon Islands for nearly four days (9–12 April), subjecting communities to sustained destructive winds of up to 70 mph, estimated rainfall of 15–20 inches, storm surges, flooding and saltwater intrusion that overwhelmed local coping capacity. This is the deadliest tropical cyclone in Micronesia since Super Typhoon Chataan in 2002 (48 deaths) and Typhoon Pamela in 1976 (11 deaths).

The affected region’s geography fundamentally shapes the humanitarian response. Chuuk state comprises 40 municipalities in Chuuk Lagoon and remote outer-island groups spanning hundreds of kilometers of open ocean. Weno — the state capital — functions as the sole administrative, health, port, airport, and logistics hub. Weno itself was highly disrupted, rendering the entire state's response capacity compromised. The initial impact knocked out 60–70 percent of power and communications

across the island; Chuuk State Hospital was forced onto backup emergency power, raising concerns about the ability to sustain life-saving care if fuel or generators failed. Outer islands have more fragile life support systems, face higher transport costs, weaker communications, fewer services, and longer delays in receiving assessment and assistance. This creates unequal access to aid across the state despite widespread needs.

The crisis triggered both Chuuk state and national emergency declarations, followed by a formal request for international assistance. Chuuk State issued its emergency proclamation on 12 April; President Simina declared a national State of Emergency on 13 April after convening his Cabinet, activating the National Disaster Committee, and deploying government patrol vessels and the FSM vessel Navigator to transport relief supplies. The response is led by state and national authorities through the Chuuk Disaster Emergency Operations Center (CDEOC) and the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECEM), supported by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS), Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund(UNFPA), the World Health Organization (WHO), World Food Program (WFP), OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs), United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC), the United States, Australia, China, Japan, the European Union and other bilateral and community partners. The Joint Risk Management Network (JRMN) was convened on 5 May 2026 and marked the formal beginning of recovery planning.

Commented [1]: add UNFPA & Catholic Relief Services (CRS)

34K
affected people

13K
people temporarily displaced (IDA results)

7,000
houses damaged or destroyed A results)

9
deaths (IDA results)

84
schools and churches used as temporary shelters DA results)

52
school buildings damaged or destroyed A results)

32
Health or dispensaries facilities damaged or destroyed A results)

346
churches and community halls damaged or destroyed A results)

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Typhoon Sinlaku affected all municipalities in Chuuk State**, with impacts also recorded in two municipalities in Yap State. Initial Damage Assessments (IDA) indicate **over 34,000 people affected**, **over 13,000 people temporarily displaced**, and **around 7,000 houses damaged or destroyed**.
- **Public health risks remain high and evolving**, despite initial response actions underway. WASH system failures, incomplete assessments, fuel and logistics constraints, and fragile dispensary functionality continue to pose risks of secondary health impacts, including diarrhoeal diseases, maternal health complications, and nutrition deterioration.
- **Access to safe drinking water remains a critical challenge**, with widespread damage and contamination of rainwater catchment systems reported across most municipalities. Interim water supply measures are ongoing; however, repair and replacement of water and sanitation infrastructure remain priority actions.
- **Outer islands continue to face significant access and logistical challenges**, high fuel costs, and limited maritime transports, resulting in delays in assessments and delivery of assistance.
- **Education services remain disrupted**, with many severely affected schools unable to reopen not only due to structural damage but also because essential WASH facilities were destroyed. Several schools reported damaged or destroyed toilet blocks, rainwater catchment systems, and water tanks, limiting access to safe water and sanitation for students.
- **Response coordination and early recovery planning are ongoing**, led by state and national authorities through CDEOC and DECEM, with support from partners, while emergency needs—particularly in food, water, health, shelter, and access—remain active.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

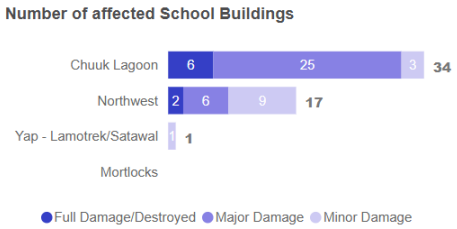
Initial Damage Assessment (IDA)

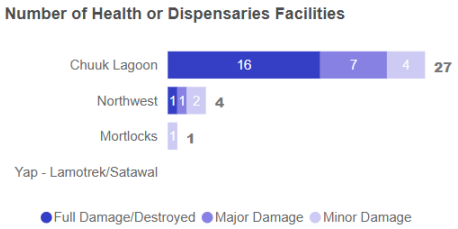
This Situation Report is primarily informed by the **official DECEM/CDEOC and IOM Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) validated results**, released through the FSM DECEM Data Portal on 5 May 2026. The IDA covers **42 municipalities** (40 in Chuuk State; and Lamotrek and Satawal in Yap State). It provides indicative municipality-level aggregated data on housing damage, displacement, sickness, mortality, and sectoral impacts and needs.

Official IDA Key Figures (42 municipalities, validated):

- **Assessed areas:** 40 municipalities in Chuuk and 2 municipalities in Yap State
- **Houses damaged: 6,999 houses were damaged**, including 2,283 destroyed, 2,930 with major damage, and 1,786 partially damaged.
- **Displaced:** 13,148 persons during the time of assessment
- **Deaths:** 9 | **Injured:** 5 | **Missing:** 1 | **Sick:** 1,340
- **Health Facilities:** 17 Destroyed, 8 major and 7 minor damage
- **Schools:** 8 Destroyed, 31 major and 13 minor damage

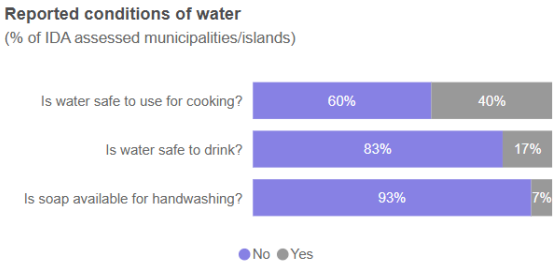
- **Water Safety:** 80% of the municipalities (35 out of 42) reported water unsafe to drink and widely reported damage to water sources.
- **Food Security:** 29 of 42 communities have <2 weeks food supply; staple crops widely destroyed.

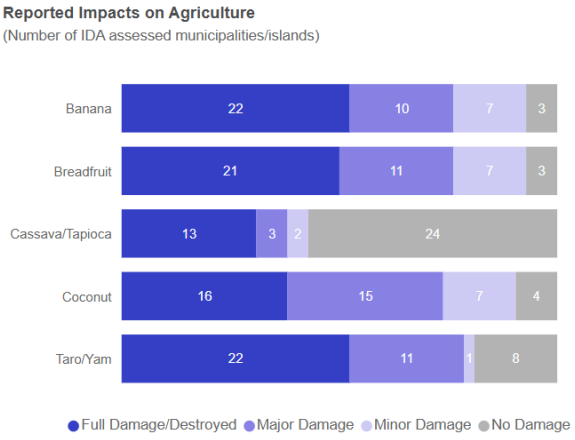




Based on the official IDA-derived severity analysis, In Chuuk State, **7 municipalities are classified at severity 4 (high impact)**. An estimated **34,000 people are directly affected** across all severity phases of which 25 municipalities are classified as severity 3 (moderate impacts) or severity 4 (high impacts). The crisis is geographically concentrated in: **Chuuk Lagoon accounting for 83 percent of the affected population across 16 municipalities, with Southern Namoneas as the epicenter** of severity and Faichuuk being the largest contiguous area at severity 3 (moderate impacts).

The Northwest outer islands (of total 13 municipalities, 3 municipalities are at severity phase 4 and 5 municipalities are at severity phase 3) face a qualitatively different crisis — they have smaller populations but the highest proportional damage rates and greatest isolation. The Mortlocks (11 municipalities) show lower average overall severity but face near-universal WASH contamination and growing food stress.





Safe water is the most urgent unmet need. Contaminated or damaged rainwater catchments have left 35 of 42 municipalities in critical water stress, driving the highest severity scores across the state. Affected households are relying on unsafe water, irregular emergency distributions or reduced consumption. The risk of waterborne disease outbreaks, — already reflected in over 1,300 reported sicknesses, which will increase if sustained WASH intervention does not reach affected populations in the coming weeks.

Crop damage is severe, with widespread destruction of banana, breadfruit, coconut, and taro/yam across assessed municipalities, exacerbating food security concerns. Food stocks are reported to last two weeks or less in 29 municipalities, with only a few municipalities indicating sufficient stocks for four weeks or more.

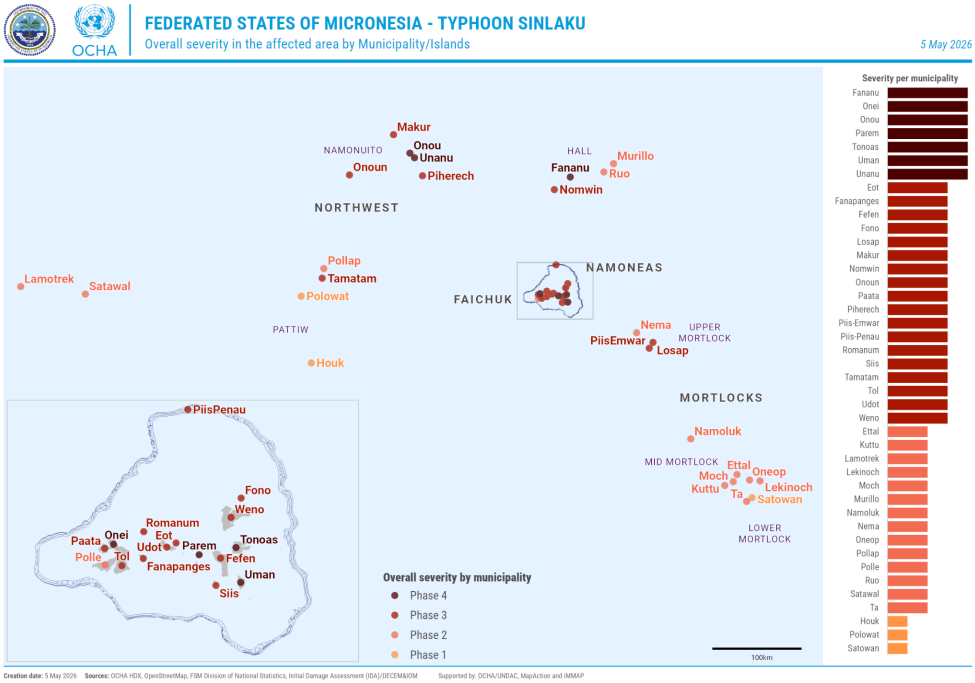
Access remains the defining operational challenge. The typhoon damaged Weno's port and wharf — a key gateway for outer-island relief — and capsized vessels created an ongoing environmental threat. High fuel costs, long maritime distances and reduced shipping frequency are leaving remote communities increasingly isolated from assistance. On the main island, road clearance and utility restoration have advanced, but the outer islands face a widening gap between assessed needs and the response delivered.

The detailed IDA analysis and dataset is available at the FSM DECEM Data Portal.

FSM SPREP Data Portal

https://fsm-

The response is shifting toward early recovery, though acute needs persist. The Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) issued its second Situation Report on **5 May 2026** the same day as the **Joint Risk Management Network (JRMN)** was convened to launch the formal recovery planning process. However, this transition should not detract from continuing emergency requirements: safe water and food assistance must be sustained; displaced and host households require ongoing support; health services need protection; rainwater catchments require repair; and outer-island logistics must be strengthened before the next typhoon season. The response must sustain life-saving assistance while recovery planning accelerates.



Severity phases (1 Minimal impact – 5 Extreme impact scale) of the municipalities are derived using impacts on housing, displacement, water, food security, health and mortality. Each of these six pillars are scored from 1 to 5 using the context-adapted thresholds to estimate the IDA-derived severity phase by municipality.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Shelter

The scale of housing destruction defines the shelter crisis. Some 7,000 houses damaged or destroyed by the Typhoon across 32 municipalities, including **2,283 are destroyed**, **2,930 sustained major damage** and **1,786 are partially damaged**, rendering them uninhabitable without significant repair or reconstruction.

Needs:

- Continued shelter support (tarpaulins, shelter kits, sleeping kits, hygiene kits).
- Clearance and waiver processing for incoming donations.
- Transition into early recovery programming.

- Establish temporary shelters for displaced populations.

Response:

- IOM distributions completed to date include 43 Kitchen sets, 146 jerry cans and 146 tarps.
- CRS mobilized private donor stocks (2,000 units per item).
- Funds available to procure additional kits if needed.

Gaps & Constraints:

- High procurement and shipping costs via Manila/Malaysia/Guam.
- Coordinated approach required on logistical supply movements to avoid waiver related issues.
- Clearances are dependent on coordination with both state and national level authorities.

Health

Needs:

- Updated damage and functionality status of hospitals and dispensaries, especially for outer islands.
- Continued outreach to Chuuk Lagoon and outer islands.
- Assessment of most-damaged public health buildings (e.g., hospital fire cause).
- Restore basic health service functionality at damaged and non-functioning dispensaries, particularly in Lagoon, Northwest, and unassessed Mortlocks.
- Safe water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) for health facilities and communities (many sites without water, toilets, or power).
- Disease surveillance and outbreak preparedness, including verification of diarrheal disease signals, injuries, and reported deaths.
- Maternal health follow-up and referral readiness for at least 14 identified pregnant women in access-constrained areas.
- Replacement of damaged medicines and basic equipment (BP cuffs, glucometers, glucose strips).
- Fuel, transport, and communications to complete assessments, deliver supplies, and support outreach.
- Food security and nutrition preparedness following destruction of local food sources.

Response:

- Health teams deployed to the Northwest region and Chuuk Lagoon islands.
- Assessments ongoing; dispensary facilities reported with no extensive damage.
- Department of Health Services Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (DHS PHEOC) active with leadership of the health response.
- 12 Rapid Health Assessments (RHAs) completed, covering some 6,477 people (19% of estimated affected population).
- Essential medicines deployed, including mebendazole for deworming and azithromycin for a reported diarrheal case.

- Event-based surveillance initiated, with priority signals logged for diarrhea, injuries, mortality, maternal health, and food security risks.
- Partner support mobilized (WHO, UNICEF, IOM, UNFPA), including inbound emergency health kits, WASH items, and Non-Food Items (NFIs).
- Targeted WASH, nutrition, and primary care actions prioritized based on facility-level risk and functionality.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Limited detailed data from outer islands.
- Hospital Fire cause not yet confirmed (electrical vs other).
- Assessment coverage remains low: only 12/72 active dispensaries assessed (no coverage in Mortlocks yet), creating major information gaps.
- High facility vulnerability: Two-thirds of the facilities assessed are critical or high priority; many are non or partially functioning.
- Severe WASH deficits:
  - No water in 42% of assessed facilities
  - No or insufficient toilets in 75%
  - No cold-chain capacity in 75%
- Surveillance sensitivity reduced due to damaged facilities, lack of power, poor communications, and transport constraints.
- Fuel shortages limiting assessments, verification of alerts, maternal follow-up, and medicine delivery.
- Damaged medicine stocks and equipment are not yet fully replaced in several facilities.
- Nutrition risks increase due to loss of local food production, unsafe water, and disrupted services, with no therapeutic nutrition supplies pre-positioned.
- Logistical and governance constraints: remote island access, reliance on privately hosted dispensaries, accountability requirements for donated supplies, and heightened public expectations during early recovery

Education

Needs:

- Reliable water supply for schools.
- Temporary learning spaces to replace non-functioning school buildings.
- Communications assessment for education facilities.

Response:

- Reverse osmosis water system deployed to Chuuk Lagoon.
- Jerry cans distributed.

- UNICEF provided tents and water filtration, including in the reporting week, tents for Parem Elementary School and Sapuk Elementary School, and toilet repair supplies for Piherarh Elementary School in the Northwest.
- 4 Temporary Learning Centers have been established and 2 are pending.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Limited availability of temporary learning spaces (school in a box etc).
- Ongoing water shortages for schools.
- Decision required on pre-positioning vs dispatching of water stocks.
- Communications gaps not yet fully assessed.

Food Security & Agriculture

Needs:

- Continued rounds of food distribution.
- Supply chain stabilization
- Agricultural recovery and food security planning

Response:

- First round of food distribution completed statewide
- Incoming supply of cargo vessels are scheduled for the month of May.
- Agriculture assessments underway; food security workshop ongoing

Gaps & Constraints:

- Supply chain disruptions persist.
- The next round of food distribution is pending arrival of transportation vessels to Weno Port.
- Agricultural recovery actions are still at assessment stage.

Water and Sanitation

The regional pattern of WASH severity is remarkably uniform — WASH is the worst-scoring pillar in every geographical sub-group — but the character of the crisis differs by location. In the **Chuuk Lagoon**, contaminated catchments combine with dense populations to create the largest volume of people requiring safe water, but proximity to distribution infrastructure on Weno makes delivery feasible.

Needs:

- The WASH sector urgently requires emergency safe drinking water support, repair and replacement of damaged rainwater catchment systems and water tanks, rehabilitation of destroyed school and

community sanitation facilities, and distribution of hygiene supplies such as soap, hygiene kits, and water treatment materials.
- Many affected communities and schools also require temporary water storage, hygiene promotion, and technical support on low-cost water treatment to reduce the risk of waterborne disease outbreaks.

Response:

- All 500 customers are back on the Weno water system.
- UNICEF distributed 60 WASH Kits in Parem alongside IOM who were distributing other NFIs.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Availability of reverse osmosis machines and water catchment repair including guttering and storage tanks.
- Lack of covers and cleaning materials for water storage facilities.
- Transportation assets for sufficient emergency water distributions.

Public Safety & Protection

Protection risks are elevated, though available reporting is insufficient to measure their full scale. The combination of displacement, damaged homes, school closures, use of schools as shelters, water shortages, communications breakdowns, and physical isolation of remote communities creates heightened risk for children, women, older persons, persons with disabilities, and households with limited mobility or support networks. Gender-based violence referral pathways have been weakened — the Chuuk Women's Council, the primary local service provider for women in abusive situations, was itself damaged by the typhoon and is working to restore capacity. Protection-specific incident data remain limited, underscoring the need for strengthened monitoring as the response progresses.

Needs:

- Security deployment coordination to support response related activities.
- Funding for telecommunications repeaters.
- Sustained food supply for inmates at Chuuk Prison.

Response:

- JDA mission schedule is circulated to allow advance security planning.
- 911 response system is operational.
- Sustain food supply for inmates in Chuuk State Prison.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Funding access for repeater systems unclear.
- Continued reliance on emergency food support.

Energy and Utilities

Needs:
- Full restoration of surface lines and service lines.
- Electrification for households with destroyed roofs.
- Replacement fire extinguishers for restoration trucks.
- Safe disposal of expired acid batteries (solar systems).

Response:
- 85–95% service line restoration achieved.
- Primary lines largely restored on Weno and Sapuk.
- Support teams from Yap and Pohnpei deployed under the utilities MoU for disaster recovery.
- USD 300,000 allocated from national government for CPUC recovery efforts.

Gaps & Constraints:
- Households with structural damage face long delays to re-electrification
- Stand-alone solar systems reaching end-of-life
- No current disposal solution for acid batteries
- Fire risks during restoration (two incidents reported)

Transport & Infrastructure

Infrastructure damage continues to shape both the humanitarian situation and the operational response. The disruption of water systems, power networks, roads, port facilities, community halls and communications has had cascading effects on every sector — limiting health service delivery, constraining relief logistics, reducing market function, and isolating communities from assistance.

Essential facilities have been prioritized, but full restoration will take longer in harder-to-reach areas including Tonoas, Udot and Eot. Outer islands remain largely without restored grid power. Chuuk Public Utilities Company is advancing reconnection in remote parts of Weno and Tonoas, indicating progressive but incomplete restoration three weeks after the impact.

Maritime infrastructure is only partly functional. Degraded port and dock conditions constrain both humanitarian logistics and economic activity. Damaged commercial vessels in Weno port — including the capsized Chief Mailo — continue to present navigational and environmental hazards.

Needs:
- Limited state transportation vessels for interisland and outer island supply movements.
- Defuel, salvage and replace damaged transportation assets - Chief Mailo etc.
- Telecommunications:
  - Sector-specific communications assessments.
  - Improved connectivity for utilities and education.

Response:
- Telecommunications:
  - World Food Program (WFP) conducted telecoms assessments
  - CPUC and Education have formally requested support

Gaps & Constraints:
- WFP communications assessment is pending.
- Telecommunications limitations impacting coordination and recovery

Environment

Needs
- Daily monitoring observations indicate minimal releases of diesel oil sheens or heavier engine oil and sludge since 7 May. Remaining contamination is contained within established booms using sorbent materials which is being regularly recovered by EPA personnel, who have also deployed an inflatable raft to support response operations. Residual hydrocarbons are assessed to originate predominantly mainly from internal compartments, namely engine room and oil waste storage tanks, which remain inaccessible for comprehensive remediation. While surface conditions suggest a degree of stabilization, the underlying source risk remains unresolved, particularly given potential deteriorating weather conditions.

Response
- The Department of Transport, Port Authority, and EPA staging area is operational and actively engaged in removing materials from the MS Chief Mailo. All materials removed are being documented and recorded by the response teams. The teams have successfully retrieved the General Arrangement plans and fuel tank information for both vessels, which is critical for informing oil spill containment and defueling operations.
- Chuuk EPA and JMAS have agreed to collaborate to minimize fuel spills from the two capsized vessels. Under this arrangement, JMAS operations will conduct external underwater inspections of both vessels and seal any actively identified leakage points. Inspection and provisional leakage control are tentatively scheduled to commence on Tuesday, 14 May, contingent on weather conditions and operational readiness. JMAS has confirmed that vessel entry and fuel removal are excluded from their scope of work, citing occupational safety risks and equipment and personnel constraints. Consequently, the planned intervention should be regarded as an interim emergency response measure, with ongoing residual pollution risk anticipated as vessel corrosion and structural degradation continue. The UNEP/OCHA JET team met with JMAS to exchange on the fuel spill containment options and will share their diving inspection and defueling plans for consideration.
- Initial inspections by the Department of Transport indicate that a substantial volume of heavy oil remains within the engine room. Ideally, portable oil skimmers and/or suction pumps should be

used to minimize the risk of further leakage. One potential option is to seek support from the Vital FSM Petroleum Corporation, which manages fuel storage and distribution in Weno and reportedly has relevant spill response equipment and experience.

Gaps

- Given the limitations of the JMAS intervention, continued planning for comprehensive defueling operations is recommended. This includes the identification and engagement of qualified contractors through commercial procurement or donor-supported mechanisms. Priority should be accorded to defueling port-side fuel tanks on both vessels that remain above the waterline, as this approach is technically feasible, presents comparatively lower operational risk, and would substantially reduce the probability of a larger uncontrolled discharge.
- In parallel with defueling preparations, it is recommended to initiate planning for the final disposition of the two wrecks. UNEP will prepare a technical options paper to support decision-making by Chuuk EPA and the Department of Transport on potential end states, including wreck removal, relocation, or alternative environmentally managed options (such as artificial reef conversion), subject to applicable environmental safeguards, regulatory approvals, and alignment with longer-term port development objectives. In this context, it is important to note that planned port expansion includes extending the wharf at the location of the capsized vessels, underscoring the importance of wreck removal for the island's economic development plans.

COORDINATION

- **Coordinated Assessments:**
  - DECEM/Chuuk DCO, IOM, OCHA/UNDAC and operational partners iMMAPand MapAction supported the analysis of the IDA results and used this to develop a presentation that served as the official release of the IDA results from state and national government. The results were released through an existing mechanism - the FSM Joint Risk Management Network.
  - The Joint Disaster Management (JDA) process, a joint effort between FSM and the US Govt., started this week. The JDA on completion is meant to unlock recovery funds at a household level.
  - The DoH Assessment of dispensaries was completed supporting resupply for necessary items.
- **Coordination Mechanisms:**
  - The Joint Risk Management Network - the national coordination mechanism for risk management - chaired by DECEM and secretariat provided by IOM, convened a meeting of DECEMs development partners, donors at post, regional organizations and IFIs, on Tuesday 5th. The meeting was convened to communicate the findings of the IDA and to garner further support of the Typhoon Sinlaku Response and Recovery plan currently estimated to cost at USD96m.
  - The Typhoon Sinlaku Task Force chaired by the Director of the Chuuk Disaster Coordination Office, continued to coordinate response meetings this week, to track progress made towards early recovery.

FUNDING AND PARTNER SUPPORT

- In the JRMN meeting held on Tuesday 5th, FSM's partners committed to the following to support Typhoon Sinlaku response and recovery efforts:
  - USD600,000 from the People's Republic of China, available immediately.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Maintain focused approach on most severely affected islands - prioritising those with highest underlying vulnerabilities.
- Focus on WASH structures that can address water shortages during periods of drought - storage, reverse osmosis etc.
- Ensure access to fuel for affected populations and emergency responders.
- Minimize environmental pollution emanating from both capsized vessels in Weno Port and sunken WWII wrecks.
- Ensure capacity strengthening of transportation infrastructure - at minimum - to pre-disaster levels.
- Ensure systematic monitoring and reporting of relief item distributions and other humanitarian response activities to support a comprehensive understanding of progress and gaps.

For further information, please contact:
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