

SITUATION REPORT: TROPICAL STORM SINLAKU

Chuuk State – April 16, 2026

6th SITREP from Chuuk Disaster and Emergency Operation Center (CDEOC) compiling reports from April 16, 2026.



Highlights

Typhoon Sinlaku quickly grew into a very powerful Category 5 storm, with peak winds of about 185 mph on 12 April 2026, making it the strongest cyclone in the world in 2026 so far. It first formed on 9 April 2026 in the western North Pacific. Very warm ocean waters and calm upper-level winds helped the storm strengthen extremely fast in a short amount of time.

After forming, Sinlaku moved west-northwest through the Federated States of Micronesia, causing serious damage, and then passed near the Northern Mariana Islands. The storm later turned north and changed into a non-tropical (extratropical) system by 19 April 2026. While its strongest winds weakened, the storm spread out and continued to produce strong, widespread winds. On **19 April**, the the Joint Typhoon Warning Centre (JTWC) issued its final warning, stating that Sinlaku was weakening but still dangerous due to large areas of gale-force winds.

On the Ground:

The islands of Chuuk State are undergoing what officials are describing as severe and catastrophic damage. The situation on Weno, Tamatam, Piherarh, Onoun, Uman, Parem and Fanapanges has deteriorated into a full-blown emergency gridlock:

- **Critical Infrastructure Collapse:** Houses from Tamatam, Piherarh, Onoun, Uman, Parem, Fanapanges, and other islands as what been seen on social medias were blown off, flooded by seawater, and bring debris into the houses.
- **Communications Blackout:** Radio and Telephone communication to the lagoon and outer islands still in completely severed, leaving a void regarding the fate of those in the most remote and exposed communities.
- **Shatter Normalcy:** All schools and government work have been suspended indefinitely until futher notice. The majority of roads across Weno and other islands reported (Uman, Parem, Fanapanges, Piherarh, and Onoun are impassable, blocked by floodwaters, storm surge debris, and downed trees, severely hampering emergency response and rescue efforts.
- **Critical Infrastructure Collapse:** The island is enveloped in a near-total blackout, with power generation suffering a catastrophic 60-70% primary site outage. The hospital is operating on backup emergency power only, raising grave concerns about the ability to sustain life-saving care if fuel supplies or generators fail under the strain.
- **Ms. Chief Mailo – Chuuk State Vessel** - lying on its side with approximate of 4,000 gals of fuel is a serious incident both for safety and environmental risk.

Amid the destruction, at least three emergency shelters have been opened, already struggling to accommodate over 100 displaced residents seeking refuge from the typhoon and rising waters. With communications severed and the storm still stalled, authorities fear these initial damage and casualty reports - gathered only from sporadic social media feeds via Facebook - represent a portion of a far more catastrophic picture yet to emerge once the storm finally relents.

34,000 Population Affected	Approximate to 100 were in Shelter DISPLACE	Key Needs: Food, Water, Fuel (updated)	Water, Food, Canned goods distributed.
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Situation Overview

General Current Conditions (Updated Damage Report)

- Although the storm has passed, reports of the damage situation on the ground have increased.
- Casualties From Direct Impact of the Storm: 4 confirmed deaths relating to the storm have been reported. Department of Public Health is further waiting for the outer islands to report in as communication equipment have been damaged due to the storm. Expected increase of diseases and sickness from the aftermath of the storm.
- Roads Are Still Impassable: Although most of Weno's main road are being cleared for at least vehicles to past, further and side roads are still block from debris. On the other islands, lack of equipment needed to help clear the road and is not available to them.
- Ocean Damage: reports of the main dock have made half of the dock facing west nonfunctioning as signs of sand and fill land used to make the dock have washed up to land. Reports also stated that signs of sand and underwater debris might have made the dock shallower and thus, might not meet the required 9 meters depth for cargo and tanker ships to dock. Assessment of divers has been ordered to confirm.
- Local Business' Supplies: Local fuel distributor reported sea water infiltration to bulk plant and storage tanks. The storm also damaged their electric panel and lines that have made their pumps inoperable. These causes concerns of fuel shortages and with the current stock of fuel for local utilities to only provide power for 7 days. Further report of food and water supply will not be enough for initial food assistance if the cargo ship, currently awaiting clearance, does not dock. Also, businesses report electrical problems that have affected their cold storage equipment for frozen goods.
- Power and Phones remain cut-off: Reports by local utilities have reported that 75 percent of power distribution on Weno are damaged and 100 percent on Tonoas are damaged. 21 solar panels on the Island of Udot are damaged due to debris and the entire solar grid of Eot have blown away leaving just the thrushes left behind. Phone lines are still down as 911 is also inoperable affecting emergency responses.
- MS Chief Mailo sank together with Ballina. Fuel and oil of the vessels are leaking up to the surface of the water causing damages to near shore areas.
- Visual Confirmation: The scene in Piherarh is especially grim, with videos on Facebook Live showing a landscape of flattened trees and houses with their roofs peeled back like tin cans.
- Civil unrest: There is an increased reports of community stress over acute shortage of essential supplies.

Bottom Line: The islands of Weno, Fananu, Piherarh, Tamatam, Onoun, Fanapanges, Parem and Uman communicated serious damage to home, properties, and food crops at this point. People are displaced, primary and secondary roads are blocked by fallen trees and seawater, and the places people normally rely on for help - like government offices and the pier - are now damaged or destroyed themselves. The other lagoon Islands reported that, people in shelters need assistance.

Gaps, Needs, and Response:

Coordination:

- Issued out Public Announcements
- Issued out SITREP 6
- Daily briefing at 3:00 Governors Task force and appropriate staffs at the Command post
- Command Post still active.
- Task Force to assessment team to expedite the assessment to meet the 15 days deadline.
- Damage assessments - Assessment team continued today in Southern Namoneas region to complete Uman, Tonas and Etten. Assessment team for faichuk deployed today to Nomisofo, Udot, Eot, Romolum and Fanapanges

Gaps

- Timely, information from CPUC to its customers for the timeline for restored electricity.

Needs:

- Department of Public Safety needs fuel to monitor the peace of the public after the typhoon.
- DEOC & Task Force need fuel for the assessment team to complete the whole lagoon region
- Department of Education needs more structured safety check first to make sure students and staffs are safe to resume classes.
- DEOC and Task Force need fuel for operation.
- Task force needs Vital FSMPC to find a way to expedite the process of bunkering M/V Voyager to carry out the relief response to the affected areas.

Electricity / Utilities

- Assessments for all 5 regions have been completed.
- Weno:
 - Weno has 672 utility poles, and 150 poles were damaged during typhoon Sinlaku.
 - 50% of power restored up to Peniesene; Penia and Spuk remain without power. Priority restoration given to government, commercial and business areas.
- Tonoas: Approximately 90% of Power system down due to broken poles; no spare poles available locally – materials are required from Weno.

Gaps

- USD 300,000 allocated is insufficient to cover power and water system damage.

Needs:

- Repair of solar lights damaged in Etten and Fefen and panels damaged in Piis, Eot, Udot and Fanpanges.

Food Security

- Severe agricultural losses reported:
 - Parem, Siis, Mwannekun: 100% crop destruction

- Eot, Udot: Majority of crops damaged

Needs:

- Immediate delivery of food (especially rice) and water is a priority

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- **Widespread water contamination** was reported in Parem, Siis, Eot, Udot, Uman, and Mwannekun.

Needs

- Acute need for **safe drinking water**, particularly in outer islands and displacement sites.

Education

- **Weno:** Five schools affected (mostly elementary). Chuuk High School and Mechitiw Elementary reopened.
- **Fefen:** No reported school damage.
- **Parem Elementary:** Completely destroyed.
- **Northwest Region:** All schools reported some damage.
- Public schools **resumed classes on 20 April 2026**, pending further damage assessments.

Health

- **Weno:** Five schools affected (mostly elementary). Chuuk High School and Mechitiw Elementary reopened.
- Five (5) medical assistants from Pohnpei will arrive in Chuuk next week to assist the Task force medical assessment team.
- Medical Teams from China on the ground providing support to hospital and community health centers.
- No major outbreaks pertaining to waterborne diseases.

Response

- *Planning Office* and PMU completed the assessment of the Dock port B & C.
- Attorney General has issued a directive requiring all businesses to comply with the established price control measures, ensuring that essential goods remain affordable during the recovery period.
- Attorney General continued monitoring the price gouging.
- Task Force members attend the oversight hearing at the legislature regarding the proposed bill for Typhoon Relief.
- Special assistant to Governor on Social affairs has delivered some relief goods to Tonoas Municipality for the displaced residents who shelter in the school buildings and local churches in the village of Nukuno and Nechap.

Funding and Partner Support

- **DECEM funding allocations:**
 - USD 300,000 to CPUC
 - USD 435,000 to Chuuk State Government
 - USD 2 million to National Emergency Response
- **Partner support:**
 - IOM supporting assessments
 - UNOCHA-UNDAC surge support (information management, environmental risks linked to damaged vessel)
 - WFP requested for telecommunications support
 - U.S. Department of State support expected
 - US Military (Pacific Angel Mission): Free medical services scheduled 27 April – 1 May 2026

Recommendation

- Governor, Narrhun recommended the task force and Department of education to make sure the school buildings are safe to resume classes.
- DEOC and Task Force recommend Fsm Telecom to give us latest update on the communication system to fully restore to the affected area.

For further information please contact:

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