



FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA: TROPICAL STORM SINLAKU

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

Situation Report No. 7 - April 25, 2026

This report is produced by the Chuuk Disaster and Emergency Operation Center (CDEOC) in collaboration with humanitarian partners and OCHA/UNDAC. It covers the period from 19 - 24 April 2026.

From 9-12 of April, Chuuk State was battered by Cat 5 Super Typhoon Sinlaku as it moved NW across the Pacific in the direction of the Northern Mariana Islands.

It reached a wind speed of up to 177 mph on April 13, 2026, at 4:00 am local time near Weno and was 113 miles in diameter at the time. According to the internationally accepted Saffir-Simpson classification, this corresponded to a category 5 typhoon.

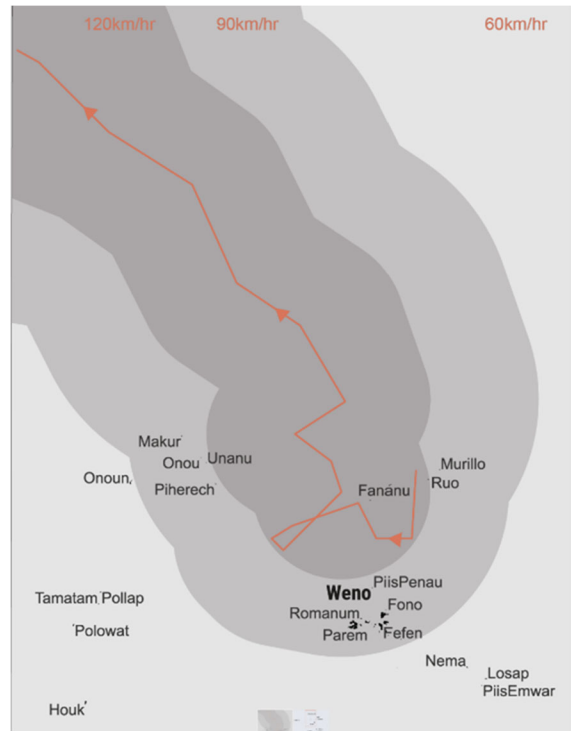
The storm wrought havoc in its path destroying crops and infrastructure, namely homes, water systems and schools.

The larger islands are highly vulnerable to shocks, and for the smaller and more remote, the situation is even more extreme. Already fragile life-support systems have been decimated in many areas, and severe damage has been experienced by all. Transportation, critical in a large and spread-out sea state, is extremely costly and has been exacerbated by the global energy crisis. Infrastructure in Weno, the state capital, has been damaged, limiting coordination and response capacity.

A state of emergency was declared by Chuuk State on 12 April and by the National Government on 13 April. In light of the severity, a request for international assistance was issued by the Government of FSM triggering both US Disaster Assistance and wider international support.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Government of FSM made an official request for international assistance to the UN Resident Coordinator requesting support for food insecurity, water and information management support.
- The US released 250,000 to DECEM on behalf of Chuuk State and USD 500,000 was granted to IOM.
- Under the CoFA, the US will lead on the full reconstruction program on the basis of a Joint Disaster Assessment (JDA) which will build on the IDA.
- Reverse Osmosis and Jerry Cans prioritized for emergency response.
- Fuel situation is stabilised for both Jet and Regular - pricing however remains of concern with government intervention unlikely to cover the entirety of cost increase.



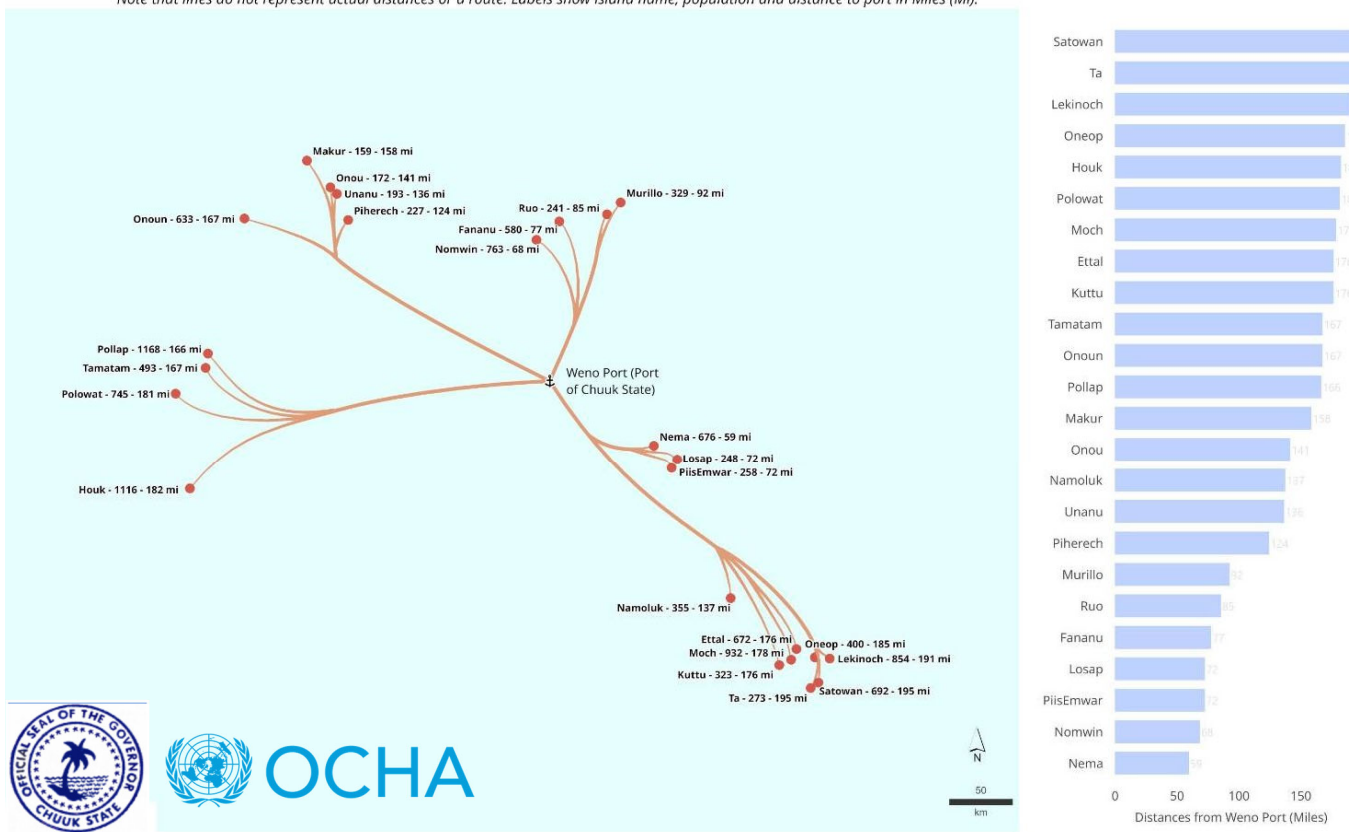
Source: OCHA HDX, GDACS
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Analysis:

- Catastrophic damage to life support systems has taken place - food, water, shelter - particularly on remote islands, compounded by the global cost of living crisis
- Significant emergency efforts are ongoing to reconnect islands and deliver essential supplies.
- Degraded port and wharf infrastructure risks threaten future livelihood and economic activity
- Damaged commercial vessels in Weno port bring risk of oil pollution if fuel tanks are breached.
- Vast distances between islands make transportation extremely costly particularly in terms of fuel, Chuuk State is extremely vulnerable.
- The global energy crisis impacts immeasurably on the response - with increased fuel costs to be felt by both responders and affected populations.

Distances from Weno Port to Outer Islands

Note that lines do not represent actual distances or a route. Labels show island name, population and distance to port in Miles (Mi).



Sources
Division of National Statistic, OpenStreetMap, Island Research and Education Initiative

Map created by MapAction (25/04/2022)
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Priorities:

- Ensure continuity of emergency provision of food and water based on identified requirements.
- Reinforce WASH capacity through reverse osmosis and rain catchment system repair.
- Ensure the functioning of services and utilities.
- Ensure access to fuel for both affected populations and emergency responders.

Over
34,000
affected people

Approximately
4,200
people temporarily
displaced
(IDA initial results)¹

2,900
houses damaged or
destroyed
(IDA initial results)

Key Needs:
**FOOD, WATER,
FUEL,
SHELTER
SUPPORTS**

SITUATION OVERVIEW

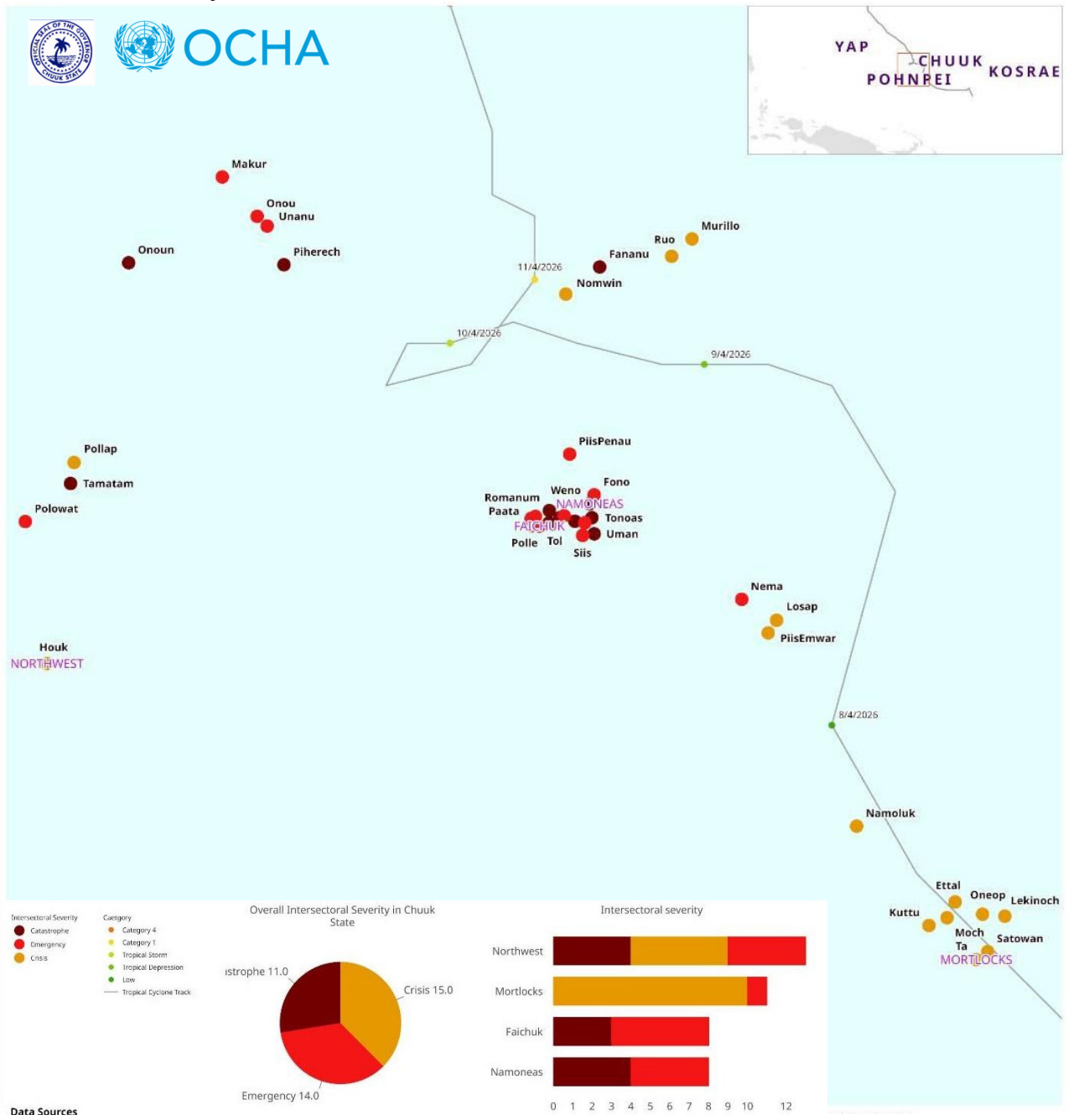
Assessment: CDEOC is leading on a municipality level Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) with the support of IOM, the Micronesia Red Cross Society and Catholic Relief Services. The data is being collected, and the results will be shared in the coming week. This SitRep is informed by preliminary analysis of the findings in addition to other sources. This indicates that outlying islands are likely more vulnerable and require further assessment and planning. In addition to the ongoing IDA, satellite-image analysis to identify damages and detection of landslides on the islands of Chuuk state is being conducted by Copernicus Rapid Mapping.

Damage to housing and displacements: The preliminary reporting indicates widespread housing loss across multiple municipalities, including severe impacts in Udot and high rates of major damages in several lagoon and outer-island communities. In addition, nearly 100 are living in 3 shelters in Weno since the early days of the Typhoon. Based on the initial reports of the ongoing IDA, more than 4,200 people have been displaced across 29 assessed municipalities. The most temporarily displaced are in Uman (~1,779), Fefen (580), Romanum (290), Udot (277), including other municipalities such as Makur, Piherech, Piss-Penau and Unanun.

Damage has been considerable affecting infrastructure and crops. Each island is a fragile ecosystem that won't be viewed as sustainable due to destruction of crops, water infrastructure and shelters.

¹ Field assessments for the Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) are ongoing, and the figures above represent preliminary findings. These figures are subject to change as additional data becomes available.

Chuuk State Severity - Situation Overview



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Shelter

Needs:

- The partial IDA picture reported over 4,200 displaced people across the assessed municipalities, with particularly high municipality-level displacement in Uman, Romanum, Udot and Paraem.
- Safe temporary shelter for displaced households is needed as some populations remain displaced and are still residing in schools.
- Repairing damaged shelter infrastructure as structural damages (cracked walls, leaking roofs) poses safety risks.
- Tents and tarpaulins to support families whose homes are damaged and unsafe.
- The Mortlocks and other outer islands assessed have infrastructure damage and environmental vulnerability due to saltwater intrusion and coastal erosion.

Response:

- Schools currently used as temporary shelters include Chuuk High School, Xavier High School, Seventh Day Adventist School and Fanapanges Elementary School, 4 Schools in Fefan and 4 in Tonoas, Penia and Peniesene Elementary School.
- Distribution of NFIs to shelters and affected areas by the DCO.
- UNICEF is providing 6 high performance tents.
- Red Cross NFIs is scheduled to arrive via the Marine Vessel Voyager.
- IOM is distributing tarpaulins, blankets and kitchen sets drawing on prepositioned stocks in the region.
- IOM is supporting the government on IDA assessments, assisting the CDEOC with damage data collection and coordination of assessment teams to outer islands.
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is providing cleaning, hygiene, and essential household kits to affected populations, alongside MRCS and other partners.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Restricted transport within the lagoon limits delivery of shelter materials to outer islands and remote communities
- IDA data yet to be finalized delaying shelter prioritization and scale up

Health

Needs:

- Medical response and monitoring for casualties (7 deaths, 5 injured).
- Disease prevention and surveillance due to flooding, stagnant water, and mosquito exposure.
- Repair of health infrastructure, particularly hospitals experiencing roof damage and destroyed commodities and equipment.

- Repairs to sea ambulance used in the Chuuk lagoon area.

Response:

- FSM Department of Health is preparing the first hospital SitRep.
- The China Medical Team is supporting the Chuuk State Hospital.
- WHO engaged in health system reinforcement.
- Public Safety continues monitoring and maintaining order in populated areas.
- Health facilities remain operational, though with infrastructure constraints.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Full assessment of health facility damage is still pending.
- Heightened risk of water-borne and vector-borne disease outbreaks, especially in the outer islands.

 **Education****Needs:**

- Operational reporting indicated all schools were suspended or used as shelters mainly in locations where there was damage to housing.
- 27 out of 81 (76 public and 5 private) school facilities were severely damaged
- Repair of damaged school infrastructure
- Establishment of temporary classrooms/learning spaces.
- Restoration of water and sanitation facilities.
- Restoration of learning spaces currently used as evacuation shelters.
- Educational learning supplies for all grades.

Response:

- UNICEF is working with the Department of Education to plan for distribution of incoming supplies to the affected schools such as tent, chainsaw (for clearing the broken trees), trash bag, trash bin, water filters, etc. This includes the establishment of the first temporary learning center at Chukuram Elementary school this coming week.
- Most schools resumed classes as of April 20, 2026.
- UNICEF support includes:
 - 4 “School-in-a-Box” kits for Grades 1–3.
 - 6 high-performance tents.
 - 13 tarpaulins.
 - Fuel and debris cleaning equipment
- Department of Education reviewing school action plans and conducting sectoral assessments.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Some schools remain occupied by displaced families, delaying full resumption of classes.

- Structural safety concerns in damaged school buildings.
- Schools remain closed, delaying full resumption of education and the safe rehabilitation of damaged school buildings.
- Damaged school structures require substantial repair and most significant quantities of learning materials have been destroyed.

Food Security & Agriculture

Needs:

- Immediate food assistance requirements are significant due to shortages across the state.
- Support for households affected by crop damage, saltwater intrusion, and coastal erosion.
- Improved transport capacity for distribution within the lagoon and to outer islands.

Response:

- Emergency food and relief items distribution ongoing in Chuuk Lagoon, Mortlocks and the Northwest Island communities and shelters.
- Additional distributions planned in the coming days.
- Red Cross non-food item shipments en route.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Limited food supplies on the island. Cargo ships are not expected until early May.
- Transport challenges restrict timely distributions to affected communities.
- Widespread agricultural losses reported in the Chuuk Lagoon, Mortlocks and Northwest Islands.

Water and Sanitation

Needs:

- Access to safe drinking water due to destruction of infrastructure and contamination of rainwater catchments, shallow and deep wells, freshwater springs and streams
- Repair and rehabilitation of damaged or non-functional community wells (approximately half) reported as dysfunctional in some islands.
- Sanitation related mosquito control is essential to preventing outbreaks of disease.
- Pre-positioning of Reverse Osmosis units.
- Sawyer water filter kits

Response:

- Communities continue to rely primarily on rainwater and available wells.

- UNICEF is supporting WASH response through delivery of 107 sawyer water filters (en route) and 1,800 WASH dignity kits. An additional 200 units of portable water filtration system was provided by the Pohnpei State Health Department to MRCS.
- DCO with UNICEF support is providing temporary learning spaces, temporary WASH facilities, additional WASH dignity kit, water filter, collapsible water tanks, health supplies and first aid kit.
- IOM is distributing hygiene kits, jerry cans, and water purification units, drawing on prepositioned stocks in the region.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Limited safe water options are available across Chuuk State particularly in the outer islands.
- Contaminated water catchments and saltwater intrusion increasing reliance on unsafe sources.

Public Safety & Protection

Needs:

- **Protection** - School closures bring cascading consequences as parents are forced to choose between livelihood and child-caring responsibilities.
 - There is a critical need to repair and rehabilitate the Chuuk Women's Council which is the referral mechanism in Chuuk for gender-based violence.
 - Protection of population in high-density and disaster affected areas, especially Weno.
 - Child Protection referral pathway
- Extended use of schools as shelters increases protection, health and safety risks.
- Management of casualties and prevention of further loss of life.
- Safe road access for emergency services and communities.
- Safe use of shelters without overcrowding or infrastructure risk.
- Restoration on the emergency line and the repeaters for VHF radios.

Response:

- Public Safety Department is monitoring and maintaining order in congested areas.
- Roads have been cleared across Weno including Wichap where efforts are continuing.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Prolonged congestion increases risk of accidents, unrest, and delayed emergency response.
- Tree obstruction remains in South Wichap; limits response speed and safe movement.
- Schools remain occupied as shelters, increasing crowding and delaying education recovery.

Energy and Utilities

Needs:

- The restoration of electrical power to the remaining affected communities requires continued efforts.
- Skilled labor for power line repair and fallen tree clearance is critical.

Response:

- Approximately 70% of utilities have been restored with 1,800 of 2,500 enrolled customers having electricity restored.
- Essential facilities prioritized power restoration.
- Additional support has been mobilized:
 - 4 linemen arriving from Yap State.
 - Recruitment of 30 contractors for tree trimming.
- Full restoration is foreseen:
 - Weno Island by early May.
 - Tonoas Island by the end of April.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Hard-to-reach outer islands (Udot and Eot) will face prolonged outages.
- Sapuk remains the most severely affected area.

Transport & Infrastructure

Needs:

- Removal of two damaged vessels, Chief Mailo and Ballina that are blocking usage of Weno port.
- Repair of Weno Port and boat pool area to ensure berth of future cargo, passenger vessels and smaller skiffs.
- Clearance of remaining debris and fallen trees for all of Weno.
- Road erosion repair in Sapuk.
- Assessment of damage to maritime and road infrastructure.

Response:

- Oil containment boom was deployed on April 21, 2026, and additional sorbents were applied to control against dispersion.
- UN Environmental Emergency Response team assisted with guidance on oil containment, mapping, and analysis.
- Road clearing is ongoing across Weno and surrounding areas.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Limited local capacity and vessels to manage oil spill response independently.
- Some roads remain partially inaccessible.



Fuel Spill, Defueling and Recovery Needs in Weno Port**Needs:**

- Rapid, safe defueling of Chief Mailo and Ballina before corrosion further compromises tanks and piping, increasing the risk of uncontrolled releases of diesel into the sea.
- Acquisition of General Arrangement plans and detailed schematics of fuel tanks and piping systems for both vessels to support technical planning and risk analysis.
- Enhanced on-site capacity (diver with camera, pumps, hoses, temporary storage, sorbents and PPE) to conduct subsea inspection,
- Controlled fuel transfer from vessels and local waste management and removal of the vessels from the portside.

Response:

- Japan Mine Action Service (JMAS) and Department of Marine Resources cleared the 9meter depth needed for ships to come in and berth at Weno port.
- Initial containment with hard harbour boom has been deployed by EPA and the Department of Transportation around the vessels, technical experts have outlined initial defueling concept (stabilizing the vessel, deploying boom, subsea inspection, then pumping diesel to secure temporary storage)
- An oil spill expert is scheduled to arrive in Chuuk on 27 April to support on-site assessment and detailed planning for defueling and stabilization.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Substantial diesel volumes remain on board, and the hulls of the vessels are heavily corroded and damaged, creating a significant risk of progressive structural failure and future leakage from tanks and associated piping.
- Containment capacity (booms, sorbents, sweep booms), underwater inspection capability, high-resolution imagery and full technical documentation (GA plans and fuel system schematics) remain limited, constraining the level of precision and confidence in current risk analysis and operational planning.

COORDINATION

- Inter-agency coordination meeting held at the DCO Office on 22 April 2026, brought together state departments, national agencies, UN partners, and humanitarian actors to align response priorities and share updates.
- The integrated OCHA/UNDAC team is collocated at the DCO providing coordination support.
- Damage and needs assessments coordination, including Initial Damage Assessments (IDAs) by Government and IOM and preparation for a Joint Damage Assessment (JDA) with the US Department of State and FSM stakeholders.
- Operational coordination for environmental response, involving the Department of Transportation, UNOCHA UNDAC, and incoming UN teams to address oil spill risks near the seaport
- UN coordination mechanisms activated, with integrated UNOCHA/UNDAC team completing initial assessment of capsized vessels and additional UN colleagues scheduled to arrive to support oil spill containment, mapping, and analysis
- Sectoral coordination underway:
 - Education sector supported by UNICEF is implementing school damage and needs assessment.
 - WASH coordination strengthened through UNICEF support.
 - Health first hospital situation report (SitRep) released
 - Relief distribution coordination ongoing, led by Chuuk DCO with support from National Government, Micronesia Red Cross Society and IOM, targeting shelters and affected island groups.
 - Infrastructure recovery coordination continues among CPUC, State Planning, and partner states, prioritizing electricity restoration for essential services and planning repairs for hospitals and schools
- Resource mobilization and financial coordination highlighted as a critical issue, with Chuuk State emergency funds nearly exhausted and FSM allocated funding still pending processing, affecting response continuity.

FUNDING AND PARTNER SUPPORT

- Chuuk State initially allocated USD 200,000 for emergency response; only USD 40,000 remains available, indicating rapid depletion of state-level contingency funds.
- USD 250,000 from Disaster Assistance Emergency Fund (DAEF)
- An additional USD 425,000 has been decreed by the FSM Government for Chuuk State, however funds are still pending processing by FSM Finance and are not yet accessible for operations.
- USD 300,000 was decreed by the National Government for Chuuk Public Utility Cooperation.
- USD 500,000 decreed to Pohnpei State to support response efforts associated with Kinakapw landslide.
- USD 2 million allocated for national coordinated emergency response, relief and recovery efforts.
- The US has provided USD 500,000 to IOM.
- Private sector donations of food.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue supporting the most affected families with the provision of safe water, food, and fuel provision in health facilities.
- Reestablish life-support systems - particularly on remote islands - rain catchment, agricultural support and shelters.
- Streamline logistics and transportation to maximise fuel efficiencies.
- Ensure financing through enhanced mobilisation cost-sharing modalities.
- Identify additional funding to ensure continuity of the emergency response.
- Re-establish life-support systems on outer islands affected by Typhoon Sinlaku.
- Prioritise repair of water catchment systems and reverse osmosis to reduce need to transport water.
- Prioritise support for families displaced and living in emergency shelters or with host families.
- Promote public awareness of the global energy crisis and maximise efficiency of fuel usage due to rising costs and potential scarcity.

For further information, please contact:

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