



Federated States of Micronesia: Typhoon Sinlaku

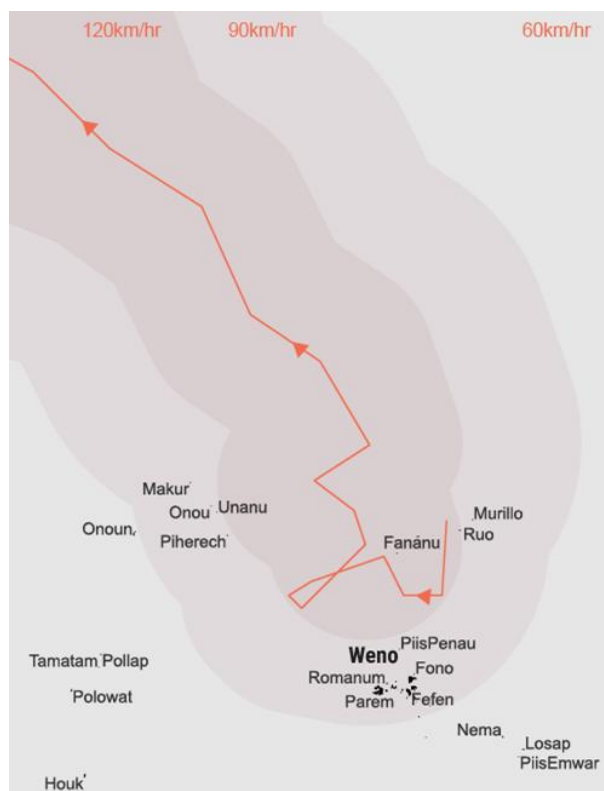
Pacific Humanitarian Team - Situation Report No. 01

As of 28 April 2026

This report is produced by the OCHA Office of the Pacific Islands in collaboration with humanitarian partners under the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT). It covers the period from 18 to 27 April 2026.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Typhoon Sinlaku passed through Chuuk State from 9–12 April, causing widespread and severe damage to housing, infrastructure, crops and essential services, with the most significant impacts in remote and outer island communities.
- A State of Emergency was declared on 12 April, followed by a Presidential declaration and a formal request for international assistance by the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia.
- Preliminary findings from the Government-led Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) indicate that over 34,000 people across 29 municipalities have been affected, with 7 reported fatalities and 5 injuries.
- Approximately 4,200 people are temporarily displaced, many sheltering in schools, delaying the resumption of education. Figures remain preliminary and are expected to be updated as assessments are finalized.
- Critical infrastructure damage, including roads, power distribution, solar systems and communications networks—has significantly disrupted essential services across the island group.
- Two capsized vessels in the lagoon pose risks of fuel leakage, with potential environmental impacts on marine ecosystems and port operations.
- The National Government has allocated US\$2 million to support coordinated emergency response, relief and early recovery efforts. Chuuk State allocated US\$200,000, which has already been largely depleted.
- Logistical constraints remain significant due to high fuel costs and the long distances between Weno, the state capital, and outer island communities, affecting the timely delivery of assistance.
- Priority needs include food, safe water, health services and emergency shelter support.



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

34K

Estimated affected population in Chuuk State

4,200

People Temporarily Displaced

7

Fatalities

5

Injuries

2

Capsized Vessels in the Lagoon

SITUATION OVERVIEW

The full extent of damage caused by Typhoon Sinlaku continues to emerge as preliminary Initial Damage Assessment (IDA) data are analyzed. The severity of impact across sectors is profound, with more than 27 schools completely damaged, including damage to their water sources, whether rainwater catchment systems or groundwater supplies. The impact is particularly severe on 9 of the 16 islands within the lagoon, where crops and food sources have been wiped out, sanitation facilities damaged, and drinking water contaminated. Preliminary damage assessment data indicates that more than 2,900 houses have been damaged, along with telecommunications infrastructure and the electricity system. Restoration of telecommunications and power is ongoing, though many solar systems in affected areas remain damaged.

A heightened need for food and water has emerged among those severely affected by Typhoon Sinlaku. Temporary sheltering in schools is impeding the resumption of classes and increasing the need for food supplies, cafeteria spaces, and proper sanitation within these temporary shelters. At the same time, there is a need for household shelter support to assist affected communities in rehabilitation, as well as pre-positioned medicines in preparation for post-disaster health risks. The only frontline services for gender-based violence have been affected. Psychosocial support is needed both for affected populations and for responders.

Coordination efforts are being led by the State Government, with support from the National Government's Emergency Management Division and an integrated OCHA/UNDAC team. PHT partners are on the ground in Chuuk, supporting assessments, provision of non-food items, relief distribution, and sector-specific services.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- The State Government has identified urgent needs for safe drinking water following widespread damage to water infrastructure and contamination of rainwater catchments, wells (shallow and deep), freshwater springs and streams.
- Approximately half of community wells across affected islands are reported damaged or non-functional, significantly reducing access to safe water.
- The State Government has also highlighted the need to pre-position reverse osmosis units in anticipation of likely El Niño conditions.

50%

Of community wells reported damaged or non-functioning

Response Activities Planned:

- IOM has mobilized 100 WASH and dignity/menstrual hygiene management (MHM) kits from its Pohnpei warehouse to address immediate hygiene and protection needs of women and girls in affected communities.
- An additional 226 personal hygiene kits have been dispatched to Chuuk to improve access to essential hygiene items and reduce public health risks among affected households.

Response Activities Completed:

- UNICEF has delivered 107 Sawyer water filters and 1,800 WASH dignity kits. In addition, UNICEF supported the Chuuk Disaster Operations Centre (DCO) through the provision of temporary WASH facilities, as well as additional dignity kits, water filters, collapsible water tanks, health supplies and first aid kits.
- IOM has distributed 593 10L jerry cans to the Northwest Region, along with 36 20L jerry cans and 20 hygiene kits to affected households on Fanapanges Island, and 20 WASH and dignity kits to households in Parem Islands.
- Through Chuuk Health Services, IOM also delivered 100 10L jerry cans to support diabetic patients in the Northwest Region, transported alongside a health outreach team onboard the *Northstar* vessel.
- IOM further strengthened access to safe drinking water through the deployment of three reverse osmosis (RO) units in the Mortlocks region, supporting emergency water supply in areas where water infrastructure was damaged or contaminated.

Health & Nutrition

Needs:

- No disease surveillance trends have exceeded alert thresholds to date.
- Priority focus is on the most severely affected areas, particularly the Northwest and Lagoon regions, due to their proximity to the path of Typhoon Sinlaku.
- Key needs include:
 - Essential medical supplies and medicines for post-disaster response
 - Psychosocial support services
 - Sustained access to safe and clean water
 - Coordination with UN partners for joint missions to the Lagoon and Mortlocks regions, given fuel shortages
- There are an estimated 67 births expected within the next month, underscoring the critical need for essential maternal healthcare services.

67

Estimated births within
the next month

Response Activities Planned:

- WHO provided support through emergency deployment of 2 staff to the Department of Health Services and coordinated rapid health impact assessments of Lagoon and Northwest regions to be followed by Mortlock's region
- Prepositioning of medical commodities and essential medicines targeted towards post disaster typical diseases from increased vector transmission, fecal-oral transmission from flooding of water sources, exposure to spirochetes causing leptospirosis from animal sources, and worsening acute nutrition due to food supply interruption for children 6 years and under (vector borne, spirochetal, diarrheal, soil-transmitted helminthiasis, malnutrition)
- Enhanced ongoing surveillance for sub-threshold Indicator Based Surveillance (IBS) syndromic presentations to health sentinel sites (dispensaries) and extension to shelters via Event-Based Surveillance (EBS) developed by WHO
- Further consignments of other urgent priority medical commodities, humanitarian relief supplies and essential medicines (DHS DEOC advised to request for prepositioned supplies from UNICEF and IOM as well)
- UNFPA will deploy Reproductive Health Kit 2A for Safe Delivery and 150 Dignity Kits for pregnant women who will give birth in the next 2/3 months to ensure continuation of SRH services
- Dissemination of the Chuuk Health Sector Guidelines for GBV response to frontline workers, to ensure Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for survivors is utilised.
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS) will source and deliver to Chuuk DEOC 2,000 count each of tarpaulins for emergency shelter for displaced HHS, sleeping/rubber mats, kitchen/household sets, and hygiene kits, as requested by Chuuk DEOC.

Response Activities Completed:

- Health emergency consignment #1 coordinated by WHO to support safe and clean water via 7500 jerry cans supplied, 250,000 Aqua chlorine tabs provisioned, and 500 dengue rapid diagnostic kits to test early presentations of suspected dengue at the dispensary level and delivered to DHS DEOC. Note that these will be handed over to DHS DEOC in accordance with WHO policy to support national and State health authorities (completed by 27 April)
- Development of a syndromic management guideline for use by Health Assistants at dispensary level for early detection of post-disaster diseases with high morbidity and associated significant mortality likelihood technically supported by WHO
- Forecasted medications prepositioning for island dispensaries of deworming treatment, and essential antibiotics and medical commodities to support early treatment initiation and reduce the likelihood of post disaster epidemics sent with NW Mission (ongoing) as advised by WHO
- IOM and UNICEF requests from DEOC sent forthwith. IOM response received for jerry cans due to NW medical mission for water supply. UNICEF request in progress for nutritional supplements. UNFPA prepositioned NFIs dispatched via Taskforce DEOC and other agencies/partners

Displacement and Evacuation Center Management

Needs:

- Initial IDA results indicate that approximately 4,200 people are currently temporarily displaced. Displacement is driven by:
 - Loss of basic services, including water, sanitation and electricity, rendering homes unsafe for return
 - Extensive housing damage, including cracked walls, leaking roofs and structural instability
 - Saltwater intrusion and coastal erosion caused by storm surge, particularly in outer island communities
- Schools continue to be widely used as temporary shelters, contributing to delays in the resumption of education.

4200

People temporarily displaced

Response Activities Planned:

- Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS) are providing cleaning kits, hygiene items and essential household supplies to displaced households and shelter sites.

Response Activities Completed:

- IOM has:
 - Distributed tarpaulins, blankets and kitchen sets from pre-positioned regional stocks
 - Supported the Chuuk Disaster Operations Centre (CDEOC) with displacement data collection through IDA assessments

Shelter

Needs:

- Preliminary IDA results indicate that more than 2,900 houses have been damaged or destroyed, driving significant shelter needs across affected communities.
- The continued use of schools as temporary shelters is delaying the resumption of classes and recovery of education services.

2900

Houses damaged or destroyed (initial IDA results)

Response Activities Planned:

- Catholic Relief Services (CRS) will source and deliver to Chuuk DEOC 2,000 count each of tarpaulins for emergency shelter for displaced HHS, sleeping/rubber mats, kitchen/household sets, and hygiene kits, as requested by Chuuk DEOC.

Response Activities Completed:

- IOM is supporting the Government through IDA assessments, assisting the Chuuk Disaster Operations Centre (CDEOC) with damage data collection and coordination of assessment teams to outer islands.
- IOM has distributed tarpaulins, blankets and kitchen sets from pre-positioned stocks in Chuuk State, including 32 kitchen sets (20 to Fanapanges and Parem Islands, and 12 to Fanapanges Island) and 29 plastic tarpaulins to support temporary shelter needs.
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS), in collaboration with the Micronesia Red Cross Society (MRCS) and other partners, is providing cleaning, hygiene and essential household kits to affected populations.

Emergency Telecommunications

Needs:

- Severe damage to communications infrastructure has been reported across Chuuk State following Typhoon Sinlaku. Power outages, damaged towers and affected radio installations have significantly reduced connectivity, particularly between Weno, the lagoon islands and outer islands, constraining emergency coordination and information flow.

- FSM Telecommunications Corporation (FSMTC) is leading the repair and restoration of commercial telecommunications services. Initial restoration has begun in parts of Weno; however, services remain intermittent due to infrastructure damage and ongoing power constraints.

Response Activities Planned:

- At the request of the FSM Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECCEM), WFP will deploy a Senior Telecommunications Specialist to Chuuk State to conduct technical damage and needs assessment of VHF and HF radio systems.
- The deployment will assess the functionality of existing communication assets, support the restoration of minimum emergency telecommunications capacity, and advise on interim solutions—including radio reconfiguration and satellite-based connectivity—to re-establish coordination between state, national and island-level responders.

Response Activities Completed:

- Arrival of FITTEST roster member in Chuuk to undertake assessment of telecommunications systems and support in its restoration.

Education

Needs:

- All schools have been either closed or repurposed as evacuation shelters, particularly in areas where housing has been damaged.
- Out of 81 school facilities (76 public and 5 private), 27 have been severely damaged.
- Priority needs include repair of school infrastructure, restoration of water and sanitation facilities, establishment of temporary learning spaces, transition of schools back from use as shelters, and provision of teaching and learning materials across all grade levels.

27

Schools severely damaged

Response Activities Planned:

- UNICEF, in coordination with the Department of Education, plans to distribute emergency supplies to affected schools, including tents, chainsaws for debris clearance, waste management supplies and water filters, alongside the establishment of temporary learning spaces.
- UNICEF will provide four “school-in-a-box” kits for grades 1–3, six high-performance tents, 13 tarpaulins, and fuel and equipment for debris removal.
- A Child Protection Specialist will be deployed to Chuuk to support education and child protection interventions.

Response Activities Completed:

- WASH and Education Specialists have been deployed to Chuuk.
- UNICEF, in coordination with the Department of Education, is conducting assessments of affected schools.

Protection

Needs:

- The current emergency has led to heightened community stress and reports of civil unrest, increasing the risk of gender-based violence (GBV).
- Approximately 4,200 people are temporarily displaced across 29 municipalities, with many sheltering in evacuation centres, including Chuuk High School in Weno, as well as in churches. Overcrowding, lack of privacy and limited services are increasing risks of GBV, sexual exploitation, child abuse and family separation.
- The Chuuk Women’s Council (CWC), the primary frontline service provider for GBV and child protection case management, has sustained significant damage to its facilities, disrupting the provision of essential referral and support services.

GBV

Services disrupted

Response Activities Planned:

- UNFPA will support temporary roof repairs of the Chuuk Women's Council (CWC) facility to enable the continuation of GBV referrals, coordination and frontline counselling services
- Technical support will be provided to restore the GBV hotline and strengthen counselling and case management services
- GBV safety audits will be conducted in evacuation centres to identify protection risks and inform mitigation measures
- UNFPA will train CWC staff on the distribution of dignity kits
- GBV risk mitigation will be integrated across sectors, including WASH and shelter
- Technical support will be provided to ensure activation of Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policies across humanitarian partners

Response Activities Completed:

- An SRH Coordinator has been deployed to Chuuk to support UNFPA's integrated sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and GBV response.
- UNFPA has dispatched 50 Pacific-customized dignity kits from Suva. The kits are scheduled to arrive in Chuuk on 1 May 2026 for distribution in coordination with the Chuuk Women's Council (CWC).

COORDINATION

- The Chuuk Disaster Coordination Office (DCO) continues to lead response coordination from Weno, with strategic support from the national Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECEM).
- Coordination of damage and needs assessments is actively underway, including government-led and IOM-supported Initial Damage Assessments (IDAs), alongside preparations for a Joint Damage Assessment (JDA) with the United States Department of State and FSM counterparts.
- The integrated OCHA/UNDAC team is co-located with DECEM, reinforcing state-led coordination and assessment efforts. This work is further augmented by remote surge support from IMAP and MapAction, providing specialized information management and mapping capacity to strengthen operational decision-making.
- In parallel, environmental response coordination is progressing, led by the Department of Transportation in collaboration with OCHA/UNDAC and an Environmental Emergency Response Team. Efforts are focused on mitigating oil spill risks in the vicinity of the seaport, with initial assessments of capsized vessels completed and additional technical expertise expected in the coming days.
- Sectoral coordination mechanisms are active and supported by humanitarian partners. UNICEF is leading support to the education sector damage and needs assessment; WHO is supporting Chuuk Health Services; and IOM, Catholic Relief Services, and the Micronesia Red Cross Society are supporting the Chuuk DCO in both IDA and JDA processes.
- The UN Resident Coordinator (RC) for Micronesia has convened two Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) meetings, ensuring a consolidated operational picture and alignment of partner contributions across the response.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, please contact OCHA Office of the Pacific Islands.

Olga Prorovskaya	Head of Office	prorovskaya@un.org	+679 999 1664
Katalaine Duaibe	Humanitarian Affairs Officer/ Head of Coordination	katalaine.duaibe@un.org	+679-9931078