



United Nations

**CENTRAL
EMERGENCY
RESPONSE FUND**



A SOUND HUMANITARIAN INVESTMENT

**RESIDENT / HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR
REPORT ON THE USE OF CERF FUNDS
MARSHALL ISLANDS
RAPID RESPONSE
DROUGHT**

RESIDENT/HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR

Ms. Osnat Lubrani

REPORTING PROCESS AND CONSULTATION SUMMARY

- a. Please indicate when the After Action Review (AAR) was conducted and who participated.

The After Action Review (AAR) was convened by IOM and included consultation with various key agencies, including the relevant line agencies of the Government of the Marshall Islands, the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC), Marshall Islands Red Cross Society, United States Government, including the US Embassy and OFDA/USAID, and local NGO partners such as Women United Together in the Marshall Islands. The AAR was conducted from 25th to 26th June in Majuro.

- b. Please confirm that the Resident Coordinator and/or Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) Report was discussed in the Humanitarian and/or UN Country Team and by cluster/sector coordinators as outlined in the guidelines.

YES NO

- c. Was the final version of the RC/HC Report shared for review with in-country stakeholders as recommended in the guidelines (i.e. the CERF recipient agencies and their implementing partners, cluster/sector coordinators and members and relevant government counterparts)?

YES NO

I. HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

TABLE 1: EMERGENCY ALLOCATION OVERVIEW (US\$)		
Total amount required for the humanitarian response: 4,717,409 ¹		
Breakdown of total response funding received by source	Source	Amount
	CERF	1,000,000
	COMMON HUMANITARIAN FUND/ EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND (if applicable)	0
	OTHER (bilateral/multilateral)	4,164,654
	TOTAL	5,164,654

TABLE 2: CERF EMERGENCY FUNDING BY ALLOCATION AND PROJECT (US\$)			
Allocation 1 – date of official submission: 10-Jun-13			
Agency	Project code	Cluster/Sector	Amount
IOM	13-IOM-018	Multi-sector	1,000,000
TOTAL			1,000,000

TABLE 3: BREAKDOWN OF CERF FUNDS BY TYPE OF IMPLEMENTATION MODALITY (US\$)	
Type of implementation modality	Amount
Direct UN agencies/IOM implementation	982,946
Funds forwarded to NGOs for implementation	17,054
Funds forwarded to government partners	0
TOTAL	1,000,000

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) is made up of 1,200 islands, islets and atolls with a land area of 180 sq km. The group is spread in two formations, with the eastern groups known as the Ratak ("Sunrise") chain and the Western groups the Ralik ("Sunset") chain.

Following persistently low rainfall during the dry season January to May 2013², the RMI declared a State of Emergency for the Northern Marshall atolls on 19th April 2013.

¹ There was a revised Immediate and Near Term Plan budget of US\$ 4,717,409 shared on 31 May 2013 by Government. The identified needs in the Immediate and Near Term Plan did not include recovery needs, some of which are covered by the below contributions. In addition the Plan does not reflect funding for logistics received in the initial days of the emergency (eg. US Embassy Logistical support to assessments and response to affected areas US\$ 200,000).

²Note – NOAA severe drought warnings in April and May 2013.

In the first week of May, three assessment teams were dispatched to assess the situation of the affected atolls through the mobilization of multi-disciplinary teams led by the National Disaster Management Office. The findings of the assessment reports revealed that the situation for water and food was desperate in many islands and could deteriorate if immediate action was not taken. Based on the report, the government upgraded the situation to "State of Drought Disaster" on 8 May 2013. Shortly thereafter, the National Disaster Committee set up an Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and appointed a senior staff to coordinate the national & international efforts. Four national clusters were established to coordinate sectorial response in WASH, Health, Food, and Logistics.

The severe drought conditions affected 15 atolls/islands north of Majuro (the Capital of the RMI), and 8' North latitude. This included: Aur, Maloelap, Wotje, Ailuk, Likiep, Mejit, Ujae, Lae, Wotho, Lib, Namu, Utrik, Enewetak, Ebadon, and Mejjato. In total, an estimated 6,384 individuals were living on these atolls/islands based on RMI census data, all of whom would need humanitarian assistance.

The drought conditions significantly affected drinking water supplies, rainwater catchment storage, and salinity of groundwater and agriculture / food production on the atoll islands. Both immediate as well as long-term response measures were required.

Humanitarian consequences

Northern atoll/islands communities of RMI were significantly impacted by these weather conditions and faced health, environmental, social, and economic hardship, due to the persistent dry weather:

- Household water catchments, and other water storage facilities in the affected atolls and islands, ran out of water.
- The levels of salinity of water drawn from under-ground wells rose to unsafe levels, ultimately decreasing the available potable water supply to dangerously low levels.
- The adverse impacts of the persistent dry season on agriculture, and the supply of food in these communities (extending well after the drought crisis)
- Gastritis, diarrhoea, vomiting, abdominal pain, fever and hepatitis amongst affected populations were reported by national health services

The results of extensive monitoring of the outer atolls/islands also revealed that all affected populations rely almost exclusively on rain to provide drinking water. Well water is overwhelmingly not used as a drinking source. Only in circumstance of extreme drought is it used for consumption. In these circumstances, the majority of households indicated that they did treat the well water. Most well water is too saline for human consumption and therefore was not targeted for treatment or disinfection for drinking use. Rainfall is the most culturally relevant source and the cheapest potential additional source. For this reason the ongoing provision of technical assistance to deploy, maintain and switch-out ROPUs was critical into early 2014.

While the drought conditions slightly improved in early 2014 the water lens remained adversely affected by the drought and agriculture production required several months for full recovery. For this reason, food distribution activities continued into March, 2014. With the drought conditions improving in early 2014, the drought response activities tapered out by February and March.

II. FOCUS AREAS AND PRIORITIZATION

Following a Government-led assessment, the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), the Cabinet and the Chief Secretary declared a State of Disaster in the Marshall Islands due to severe drought conditions in 13 northern and western atolls/islands of the country on May 8, 2013 (and later revised to 15 island/atolls requiring assistance). The affected atolls/islands are located in the open Pacific Ocean, of which some are more than 1,000 kilometres from the capital Majuro. The transport means are limited as there is only one, small domestic airline that can be unreliable due to demand and sometimes technical issues, there are few small cargo and passenger vessels at the government's disposal for drought relief, also not the best in reliability, volume, and availability. Additionally the transportation and fuel costs are quite high. The total affected population was estimated at 6,284, more than half of which were women and almost 2,000 of which were children under the age of 5. The National Disaster Committee (NDC), through the Office of Chief Secretary activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Government of the RMI (GoRMI), disseminated requests for international humanitarian assistance shortly thereafter.

The Office of Chief Secretary took the lead role in coordinating the disaster relief activities and had oversight of the EOC which was used for inter-agency cluster activation and coordination. The four clusters activated (logistics, WASH, health and food security) were led by the relevant Ministries within the Government. The clusters commenced official coordination meetings, with the inclusion of external partners, during mid-May. The GoRMI prepared an immediate and near-term Drought Response Plan covering each sector and released this to external parties. IOM worked with the clusters and EOC in contributing to this response plan, vis-à-vis, needs-based interventions. The host government priorities and planning especially in the areas of assessment, relief water, reverse osmosis deployment, and relief

food delivery, were the basis for this CERF project. To overcome critical logistical constraints and provide access to the affected atolls to meet immediate need of the population, an Air and Sea bridge that complemented the on-going efforts of RMI government and partners was determined to be the most effective response measure at this time.

Air Bridge

It was critical that maintenance teams and recently procured spare parts were urgently deployed to ensure the optimization of the aforementioned ROPU capacity. As a result of the urgency of this intervention, IOM proposed to establish an air bridge for up to 42 critical flights to assist MWSC and other technicians in servicing or changing-over the existing machines under CERF. Moreover, the more remote atolls/islands (e.g. Utrik and Enewetak) were prioritized as sea vessels were less able to reach these atolls (see Sea Bridge below). The Air bridge services were provided by Air Marshall Islands (AMI) when available.

Sea Bridge

Whereas effective portable RO capacity helped address the water needs on the larger atolls and islands, smaller islets at considerable distance from the main islands on which the RO machines were located, remained vulnerable. To address this gap, IOM prioritized CERF funds to provide chartered sea vessel/s for a total of 122 to visit the most vulnerable islands and supply water from a vessel with an existing reverse osmosis capacity.

III. CERF PROCESS

The immediate and near term response plan outlined the gaps in daily water needs for the people of the RMI during the drought crisis, and despite initial donor/agencies interest in funding interventions in the RMI, funding commitments for response activities took some time before been confirmed.

At the time of considering the CERF mechanism, the RMI Government financial resources to meet the demands of the emergency response were diminishing rapidly and making it more difficult for the Government to provide adequate relief and assistance to the affected communities.

The publication of the RMI response plan on 28 May resulted in limited donor response. The UN Resident Coordinator responsible for RMI (based in Suva) in consultation with key members of the Pacific Humanitarian Team (PHT) with the capacity to respond, agreed that a CERF request should be considered. The agency best placed to implement a larger CERF grant in the response was IOM based on its existing presence in the RMI and history of work on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) with national authorities. The UNRC through OCHA Regional Office for the Pacific (ROP), informed all PHT cluster leads, the Governments and key donors of the proposed request to CERF and the role of IOM.

Working closely with the EOC, OCHA/UNDAC team introduced the Cluster approach, which resulted in in four national clusters being established (WASH, Health, Food Security and Logistics). Focal points for each cluster and their corresponding line ministries were identified, 3Ws information was consolidated in a coordinated manner, and an action plan for the respective clusters was developed to facilitate a common understanding and agreed response amongst partners.

The cluster mechanism adopted by the RMI, brought together the main humanitarian actors (national and international) led by the relevant line ministries, and recognized the vital need to provide/deliver water to the affected population. Based on the assessment, the Government of RMI estimates that approximately 6,384 people were experiencing severe drought conditions. An additional 2,000 others experienced moderate drought conditions. The reports indicated that household water catchments and other water storage facilities in the drought-affected areas had ran out of water and levels of salinity in underground water sources had reached unsafe levels. Food crops including breadfruit, banana and taro were also reportedly devastated due to the prolonged drought.

The financial costs and logistical needs required for continuing to provide adequate immediate response interventions. Moreover, the immediate and near-term needs were beyond the capacity of the national authorities along and the costs associated with delivering immediate drought relief to the affected region are exceptionally high; particularly due to the expansive region to be covered.

IV. CERF RESULTS AND ADDED VALUE

TABLE 4: AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS AND REACHED DIRECT BENEFICIARIES BY SECTOR				
Total number of individuals affected by the crisis: 6,384 persons				
The estimated total number of individuals directly supported through CERF funding by cluster/sector	Cluster/Sector	Female	Male	Total
	Multi-sector	3,250	3,134	6,384

BENEFICIARY ESTIMATION

TABLE 5: PLANNED AND REACHED DIRECT BENEFICIARIES THROUGH CERF FUNDING		
	Planned	Estimated Reached
Female	3,250	3,250
Male	3,134	3,134
Total individuals (Female and male)	6,384	6,384
Of total, children <u>under</u> age 5	1,995	1,995

CERF RESULTS

Overall CERF funding allowed water, reverse osmosis portable units (ROPU), Non-Food Items (NFIs), medical teams and food to be distributed through an effective transport network that included an air and sea bridge link between the affected communities and the capital Majuro. Overall, feedback from staff and stakeholders was very positive regarding IOM's critical role in the drought response and in implementing response activities with the CERF funds. Stakeholders considered IOM an effective implementing partner for CERF and maintained good working relations with the government authorities. The humanitarian needs of the affected populations were effectively met and strong and productive partnerships developed. While there was solid coordination with the EOC and clusters, and despite repeated requests to the clusters to utilize the assistance that could be provided under CERF, such as logistics support, the clusters were not always in a position to utilize this assistance due to simultaneous activities and human resource constraints.

A summary of the main outcomes and achievements is detailed below:

- Sea Bridge:**

A total of 122 days (and 12 separate) sea charters to provide critical sea bridge support to GoRMI another disaster response agencies. The provision of such support facilitated the distribution of food, water and NFIs procured by the GoRMI; JICA donated food supplies and gasoline for utilization by the smaller boats distributing relief items to distant islets. IOM utilized a private charter for 90 days and also utilized GoRMI vessels for 32 days. The AAR revealed that the Marshall Islands Shipping Corporation (MISC) (the GoRMI vessel) appreciated the partnership with IOM, due to professionalism and timely payment.

While the Government vessels demonstrated a robust capacity during the response, they were also utilized for essential daily service operations, providing much needed building materials, a postal service, food and other commodities to the outer island communities. Moreover these vessels did not have the ability to create drinking water and it was originally envisaged that vessels may need to produce drinking water while en route to the affected atolls and islands.

IOM identified a private vessel with water making capacity of 3,200 gallons per day (using an on-board RO unit) with an integrated extra storage capacity of potable water of 2,000 gallons. In addition, the vessel was able to hold cargo and deliver a larger volume of relief items such as collapsible water containers, hygiene or health kits, food, remaining RO units, solar stills, tanks and guttering, as well as trained personnel for public health and hygiene promotion. Under the CERF grant, this vessel helped to reach those who remained vulnerable even after the deployment of the ROPUs. Many of the GoRMI vessels were also being used for other response activities, such as the delivery of food. IOM delivered over 600 metric tonne of food procured by USAID utilizing the GoRMI-operated vessels.

- **Air Bridge:** Establishment of an air bridge for the provision of 15 chartered flights through Air Marshall Islands (AMI) providing important linkages to the affected atolls/islands for maintenance of ROPUs, monitoring of water quality, health surveillance and the delivery of food and NFIs. While 42 separate flights were not undertaken under CERF due to operational challenges and the combining of island visits (ie island hopping), the 15 chartered flights provided significant air bridge support for cluster activities. Flight missions were closely coordinated with the RMI's EOC and the RMI Clusters and prioritized on the basis of need and logistical feasibility at the given time (weather, connecting flights, missile testing, etc.).
- **Partnership:** Support to NGO partner Women United Together in the Marshall Islands (WUTMI) to conduct community meetings and beneficiary follow up activities to ensure that distributions were conducted according to need and with transparency and accountability. Additionally, the monitoring was conducted to identify the level of satisfaction among beneficiaries and to make appropriate adjustments to distribution methodologies and/or items being distributed if patterns emerged in recommended improvements.
- **Portable Reverse Osmosis (desalination) Units: Deployment, Training and Maintenance**
Air and sea charters supported the maintenance, monitoring and retrieval of ROPUs, which was conducted primarily by the WASH Cluster and Majuro Water and Sewer Company (MWSC) technicians. In total, through MWSC, a total of 24 ROPUs and associated parts were deployed to the drought affected northern atolls/islands. The ROPUs were not always performing optimally possibly due to inappropriate usage, insufficient power supply, and/or lack of maintenance. A significant contribution of the CERF project was urgent servicing and repair of all 24 deployed units.

Trained technicians were deployed to maintain the ROPUs primarily sourced from the MWSC. In addition to maintenance staff, under this CERF-supported intervention, IOM facilitated in partnership with MWSC the procurement of 12 sets of essential spare parts such as pre-filters and membranes to augment the existing spare parts already in the possession of the Government for the existing 24 units. The CERF allocation supported the maintenance program of this life-saving technology.

Monitoring of the use of the ROPUs during the first few months of the drought response revealed the ROPUs were appreciated and almost across the board were successful (that is, produced a sufficient amount of daily drinking water). Installed ROPUs did not appear to run the water lens dry when operating on proper capacity to provide sufficient drinking water, and was overall a well-received mitigation intervention. Communities did display, however, a need for additional training, and a desire for more ownership over the units, perhaps in the form of compensation for their operation. Further, most populations expressed dissatisfaction over the removal and subsequent return of the units to Majuro, with hopes of receiving permanent supplies.

- **NFI:** The CERF supported procurement and distribution of essential NFI supplies, specifically to support the 15 affected atolls/islands with 4,800 collapsible 20L jerry cans and 1,200 hygiene kits with 7 family members (consisting of salt-water soap, hand sanitizer, sanitary pads, laundry detergent, toothbrushes, tooth paste, combs, and toilet paper). IOM directly oversaw the distribution of 4,565 jerry cans and 1,134 hygiene kits to the affected islands/atolls. The remaining items (235 jerry cans; 66 hygiene kits) were handed over to Office of the Chief Secretary. Upon the recommendation of the WASH cluster hygiene kits sent to the 6 severely affected atolls/islands health centers. The total quantity of relief commodities was less than the original number outlined, however needs were all met as verified by local NGO partner WUTMI. The distribution of commodities funded under CERF was also augmented by pre-positioned humanitarian relief items in the warehouse managed by IOM on behalf of USAID.
- In close coordination with the WASH cluster, including International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) project plans, CERF funds played a key role in the mobilization of human and physical resources to support IFRC and GoRMI installation of life-saving rainwater harvesting systems in 6 atolls/islands.

CERF's ADDED VALUE

a) Did CERF funds lead to a fast delivery of assistance to beneficiaries?

YES PARTIALLY NO

The availability of CERF funds allowed the expeditious deployment of disaster response experts, with experience in water, sanitation and hygiene interventions, as well as logistics. This technical assistance proved very valuable in providing technical assistance in the clusters. Moreover, CERF enabled the activation of sea and air-bridge missions to the affected atolls/islands for multi-sectorial teams. The multi-sectorial teams monitored water sources, delivered food items (from JICA, USG, GoRMI), NFIs and water. There was also the opportunity for the Ministry of Health to conduct health surveillance activities and provide medical assistance to beneficiaries in remote locations. The partnership between IOM and WUTMI strengthened culturally appropriate community liaison, as well as, monitoring of distributions through the established beneficiary follow-up process.

b) Did CERF funds help respond to time critical needs³?

YES PARTIALLY NO

The CERF funded sea and air bridge missions allowed for the deployment of ROPUs as well as their maintenance and switch-out. The provision and maintenance of water making technology was critical during a time that potable water was increasingly scarce, with water tanks drying and wells becoming contaminated with salinity. Moreover, the logistics support provided transportation of food and NFIs procured by GoRMI and food donated by JICA to communities that were experiencing some hardship due to damages sustained to their crops. The procurement and distribution of hygiene kits and collapsible jerry cans met a need at a time when the first batch of relief commodities had been exhausted. These commodities were also enhanced based on the initial beneficiary surveys and consultation with the WASH cluster.

c) Did CERF funds help improve resource mobilization from other sources?

YES PARTIALLY NO

Humanitarian logistics formed a backbone of the CERF supported relief activities, and the air and sea bridges became a life-line to the affected atolls/islands, enabling other disaster response actors, in addition to IOM, to respond to the needs of the affected population. The logistics operations were closely coordinated with the EOC and hence all four clusters benefited from the provision of such transportation. The Government was able to deploy teams for health/medical activities, distribute relief supplies procured by them and donated by third parties. The IFRC was able to deploy teams for community engagement and water harvesting activities. CERF funds were used to mobilize IFRC and GoRMI teams and life-saving rainwater harvesting supplies to 6 atolls/islands using a common approach developed through the WASH Cluster. Without the CERF funding the mobilization of human and physical resources for both IFRC and GoRMI would not have been possible. Furthermore, due to rapid time in which the CERF funding was released, this provided some impetus for other donors, such as USAID to ensure their subsequent disaster assistance was released expeditiously and that the life-saving activities complemented one another. In total other donors (including ROC, USAID, DFAT, India, OCHA, ADB, PNG Fund and OFDA) contributed to the drought response approximately USD \$ 4,164,654.

d) Did CERF improve coordination amongst the humanitarian community?

YES PARTIALLY NO

The establishment of an EOC and roll out of the cluster system for the RMI drought response contributed to a more coherent and well-coordinated response. It ensured the GoRMI agencies were taking the lead for all key sectors and brought all external partners into a common information-sharing forum. A Government-wide approach was encouraged through inter-ministerial coordination. Response strategies such as the Immediate and Near-Term Drought Response Plan and Cluster Recovery Plans were developed through the clusters and provided to the NDC for approval. It allowed the NDC to remain a high-level decision making body with day-to-day concerns being managed by cluster leads and the EOC Manager. Overall, excellent relations were developed between IOM and EOC staff. All CERF activities were conducted in coordination with the EOC and Cluster leads. CERF supported activities, including the mobilization of technical experts through IOM enabled coordination between all parties involved in the drought response.

³ Time-critical response refers to necessary, rapid and time-limited actions and resources required to minimize additional loss of lives and damage to social and economic assets (e.g. emergency vaccination campaigns, locust control, etc.).

e) If applicable, please highlight other ways in which CERF has added value to the humanitarian response

N/A

V. LESSONS LEARNED

TABLE 6: OBSERVATIONS FOR THE <u>CERF SECRETARIAT</u>		
Lessons learned	Suggestion for follow-up/improvement	Responsible entity

TABLE 7: OBSERVATIONS FOR <u>COUNTRY TEAMS</u>		
Lessons learned	Suggestion for follow-up/improvement	Responsible entity
There is a lack of baseline data in the Marshall Islands for all sectors.	Close coordination between all disaster risk management actors pre-disaster to identify critical baseline data gaps based on disaster scenarios and develop strategies to address these.	GoRMI, Clusters, IOM, MIRCS and IFRC
Needs assessment forms not standardized and not all assessors sufficiently trained.	Work with local authorities in the development of assessment tools and training of standardized, culturally relevant, common needs assessment forms and information management systems to better provide an evidence base for humanitarian decision-making. Refer to assessment forms that have been developed in other parts of the north Pacific	GoRMI, Clusters, IOM, UNOCHA, MIRCS and IFRC
Local air and sea bridge supplies not familiar with international standards and requirements.	Pre-identify local and international suppliers and work with them on contracting, insurance, minimum requirements, pricing, terms and conditions to enable expedited service provision following next disaster response.	GoRMI, IOM, vendors
Distribution of supplies at the community level is challenging and can create political tension for beneficiaries.	The use of local authorities to conduct distribution complemented by a local partner such as WUTMI for monitoring and feedback was considered an effective strategy that can be replicated in the future.	GoRMI, IOM, NGO (WUTMI), Marshall Islands Mayors Association
Cluster coordinator was new to the RMI, but quickly adopted, yet presented challenges with coordination of meetings and effective reporting.	Taking advantage of their permanent presence IOM, together with IFRC (with technical support from the Pacific Humanitarian Team) can continue to support GoRMI cluster coordination capacity through technical assistance in designing common tools, conducting simulations and assisting in the development of comprehensive response contingency plans.	GoRMI, Clusters, IOM, IFRC, PHT and UN OCHA

VI. PROJECT RESULTS

TABLE 8: PROJECT RESULTS			
CERF project information			
1. Agency:	IOM	5. CERF grant period:	21 June 2013 – 28 February 2014
2. CERF project code:	13-IOM-018	6. Status of CERF grant:	<input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Concluded
3. Cluster/Sector:	Multi-sector		
4. Project title:	Lifesaving Humanitarian Relief for Drought Affected Populations in the Republic of the Marshall Islands		
7. Funding	a. Total project budget:	US\$4,717,409	d. CERF funds forwarded to implementing partners:
	b. Total funding received for the project:	US\$5,164,654	▪ NGO partners and Red Cross/Crescent: US\$17,054
	c. Amount received from CERF:	US\$1,000,000	▪ Government Partners US\$ 0
Results			
8. Total number of <u>direct beneficiaries</u> planned and reached through CERF funding (provide a breakdown by sex and age).			
<i>Direct Beneficiaries</i>	<i>Planned</i>	<i>Reached</i>	<i>In case of significant discrepancy between planned and reached beneficiaries, please describe reasons:</i>
a. Female	3,250	3,250	N/A
b. Male	3,234	3,234	
c. Total individuals (female + male):	6,384	6,384	
d. Of total, children <u>under</u> age 5	1,995	1,995	
9. Original project objective from approved CERF proposal			
<p>To contribute to saving lives and alleviating suffering brought on by the drought through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of safe drinking water and logistics for food transportation to drought affected populations. • Mitigation of serious health issues that may result from severe malnutrition and dehydration through the provision of potable water and the prevention of communicable diseases through distribution of hygiene kits and other health interventions. • Identification and provision of assistance to the most vulnerable drought affected sub-populations, such as lactating mothers, children and the elderly through ensuring effectively targeted and monitored distribution mechanisms through trained local partners. 			
10. Original expected outcomes from approved CERF proposal			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 24 Reverse Osmosis units currently in-country are optimized and maintained to contribute emergency water supplies of 2.5 Gallons (9.46 liters) per day to approximately 3,162 beneficiaries (50 per cent of the affected population). • All 15 affected atolls provided with humanitarian supplies and services through one (1) air charter service for conducting 42 life-saving flights. • One (1) local technician trained on each atoll/island receiving an ROPU in maintaining optimum operation of the unit. • Enhance training for existing six (6) technicians with Marshall Islands Water and Sewer Company (MWSC) in the maintenance, operation and repair of the ROPUs. 			

- Transportation needs are provided for commodities and personnel in coordination with the logistics cluster.
- Procurement and distribution of up to 4 collapsible water containers to each household in the 15 affected islands and atolls (total of at least 4,736 container)
- Procurement and distribution of 120,000 water purification tablets to the 15 affected islands and atolls.
- Procurement and distribution of 1 hygiene kit to each household (average 7 family members) to the 15 affected islands and atolls (total of at least 1,184 kits).
- Mobilization of trained distribution partners and at least 20 volunteers jointly coordinated with the IFRC and the National Voluntary Group (NVG) for up to 30 days during the 3-month response phase.

11. Actual outcomes achieved with CERF funds

- A total of 26 Reverse Osmosis units were mobilized throughout the drought response under the coordination of the WASH Cluster. Of these units, 2 were 200 gallon per day units and 24 were 360 gallon per day units. 1 unit was on loan from New Zealand Red Cross, 5 were donations from Australia to the Government, 7 USAID/IOM donated units and 12 USAID/IOM loaned units. The units provided emergency water supplies to 14 communities on 11 atolls/islands (more than 50 per cent of the affected population) at an average rate of 300 gallons per day per unit.
- 14 affected atolls/islands were provided with humanitarian supplies and services through one (1) air charter service for conducting 15 life-saving flights and 12 sea voyages.
- Enhanced training for existing three (3) technicians with MWSC in the maintenance, operation and repair of the ROPUs.
- Transportation needs were provided for commodities and personnel in coordination with the logistics cluster.
- Procurement and distribution of 4 collapsible water containers to each household in the 15 affected atolls/islands. A total of 4,565 containers directly distributed; and 235 distributed by the GoRMI to the 6 severely affect atoll/island health centres.
- Procurement and distribution of 1 hygiene kit to each household (average 7 family members for 1 month) to the 15 affected atolls/islands. A total of 1,134 hygiene kits were directly distributed and an additional 66 hygiene kits were distributed to the 6 severely affect atolls/island health centres by the GoRMI.
- Mobilization of trained distribution partners and volunteers jointly coordinated with the IFRC and the Emergency Operations Center.
- Mobilization of IFRC Staff and emergency rainwater harvesting supplies to 3 atolls/islands (Namu Atoll, Likiep Atoll, Mejit Island).
- Mobilization of GoRMI staff and emergency rainwater harvesting supplies to 3 atolls/islands (Aur Atoll, Maloelap Atoll, Ailuk Atoll).

12. In case of significant discrepancy between planned and actual outcomes, please describe reasons:

The Beneficiaries of this humanitarian intervention live in some of the most isolated and difficult to reach parts of the world. As such, disruptions to the modest, typically unmaintained, transportation and logistical infrastructure of the islands led to several delays necessitating a no cost extension in this project.

- One (1) local technician was not trained on each atoll/island receiving an ROPU in maintaining optimum operation of the unit as a result of irregular operation of Air Marshall Islands aircraft. The training had been planned; however was cancelled with short notice due to disruptions in the operations of the airline.
- Procurement and distribution of 120,000 water purification tablets to the 15 affected islands and atolls was deemed unnecessary with the additional potable water making capacity on the affected islands with ROPUs.
- The GoRMI vessels that IOM had been utilising for the implementation of CERF activities were unavailable for the months of November and part December due to unforeseen maintenance and repair. Additionally, during the month of December it was challenging to mobilize GoRMI and volunteers to coordinate the relief activities as it was culturally inappropriate to be implementing projects during the December period.
- The Clusters, and WASH cluster in particular, were relying on CERF-funded logistics to support to transport personnel and water harvesting equipment to the affected atolls/islands; however, these entities were not ready for deployment until January,

2014.

- Given the unreliability of the local airline (grounded the month of November) to provide the required services (constant repair requirements, including pending parts) sea vessels were utilized to mobilize human and physical resources to the affect atolls/islands (a total of 12 charters and 122 days of sea voyage) and the budget allocation for air-bridge remained underspent.

Due to the above listed delays, IOM sought a non-cost extension, which was granted for an additional 2 months bringing the CERF project to closure on 28th February, 2014

The principal implementation partner IOM had factored in the possibility of mobilization of an aircraft through a private air charter service provider due to the possibility of the State-owned aircraft being out of service. IOM did in fact deploy a second aircraft during part of the period that the AMI aircraft was out of service; however this was funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and therefore CERF resources were reserved for utilization of the Air Marshall Islands.

As a result of above US\$ 166,758 remained unspent.

13. Are the CERF funded activities part of a CAP project that applied an IASC Gender Marker code?

YES NO

- The women's umbrella group, Women United Together in the Marshall Islands (WUTMI) was engaged as local partner under the CERF grant. WUTMI is a chartered non-government, not-for-profit organization that works to advance the causes and improve the lives of Marshallese women and their families. Serving as the voice of women in the Marshall Islands, the primary goal of WUTMI is to support and strengthen Marshallese women, and in so doing, to strengthen Marshallese families. WUTMI seeks to encourage and ensure activities that preserve and strengthen the values of traditional Marshallese culture as well as addressing the realities of modern life in the islands.
- IOM specifically engaged WUTMI to assist them in monitoring distributions and ensuring that beneficiaries had an avenue for officially providing feedback on distributions (utilizing surveys), which included feedback on the nature of the relief commodities, as well as, the response activities more generally. WUMTI utilizes community based women's interest groups (or chapters) to ensure that community liaison was conducted according to local custom of each atoll/island and in this way the distribution approach could utilize the in-depth knowledge of specific community characteristics, such as the number and location of elderly, people living with disabilities and lactating mothers. Moreover, ensuring that WUMTI were as an official partner in community liaison and monitoring partner empowered these local women's group to ensure that the needs of women and young children were being met.

14. M&E: Has this project been evaluated?

YES NO

- An ongoing monitoring process was intrinsic to the project design, whereby IOM utilized the local NGO partner, Women United Together in the Marshall Islands to assist through a Beneficiary Follow-up. The WUTMI representatives would deploy to the atolls/islands affected by drought and receiving humanitarian assistance to ascertain whether the relief items were being distributed in accordance with needs and in a transparent and accountable manner. The results of the Beneficiary Follow-up process revealed that overall beneficiaries were very pleased with the assistance provided through IOM.
- In addition, an overall evaluation was conducted of the project during the After Action Review process, in which the staff of the implementation partner, IOM; along with Government of RMI representatives (including Cluster Leads); the IFRC and MIRC, private sector partners and local NGOs were provided an opportunity for input into a project evaluation with an independent consultant. The AAR also included an opportunity for partners to make a presentation during a plenary session to all stakeholders on their achievements and lessons learned from the response overall.

ANNEX 1: CERF FUNDS DISBURSED TO IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS (excel sheet shared separately)

CERF Project Code	Cluster/Sector	Agency	Implementing Partner Name	Partner Type	Total CERF Funds Transferred to Partner US\$	Date First Installment Transferred	Start Date of CERF Funded Activities By Partner	Comments/Remarks
13-IOM-018	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	IOM	Women United Together in the Marshall Islands	NNGO	\$17,054	8-Jul-13	8-Jul-13	Provided support of distribution and beneficiary feedback

ANNEX 2: ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS (Alphabetical)

AMI	Air Marshall Islands
CSO (OCS)	Chief Secretary Office
EOC	Emergency Operations Center
GoRMI	Government of the Marshall Islands
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross
IOM	International Organization for Migration
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
MIRCS	Marshall Islands Red Cross Society
MISC	Marshall Islands Shipping Corporation
MWSC	Marshall Islands Water and Sewer Company
NDC	National Disaster Committee
NFI	Non-Food Item
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
ROPU	Reverse Osmosis (desalination) Portable Unit
UNDAC	United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WUTMI	Women United Together in the Marshall Islands