

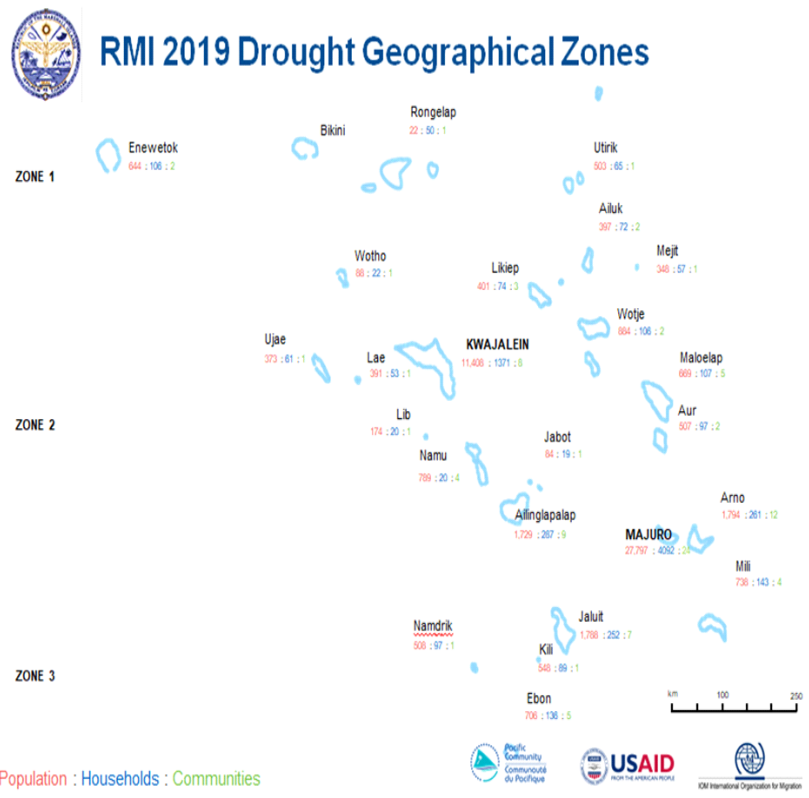


2019 Abnormal Dry Season



03 May 2019

In February 2019, the National Disaster Management Office started receiving reports from the outer islands in the northern parts of the RMI, of little to no rainfall. More and more of the northern atolls, specifically in Zone 1 and 2 of the drought zones called in and reported catchments down to less than half in water quantity. Thus, in mid-February, the outer island focal points on each of the affected atoll were called on to do initial assessments with the NDMO's DSO (Drought Situation Overview) form. Reports that resulted from the OIFPs came in verifying these conditions.



In late February, the NDMO requested the RMI Government for funding to respond to these drought condition concerns. \$150 thousand was allocated from the RMI's Contingency Fund to start addressing the Abnormal Dry Period.

With the initial funding in place, the NDMO commenced deploying Reverse Osmosis Units and sending assessment teams to do initial and needs overview of the affected atolls. The reports brought in from these teams verified and indicated that between January and March, islands and atolls in the north have been experiencing little to no rainfall.



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RO Units Deployment:

RO were delivered and installed to 27 different locations through-out the northern Marshall Islands with teams consisting of: 1 NDMO lead, 1 MWSC RO technician, 1 Marshall Islands Red Cross Society assessor, and 1 IOM assessor/RO technician in past month. Teams were dispatched via Air Marshall Islands on regular scheduled flights and given 2-3 hours ground time for teams to install the RO units and conduct the Drought Situation Overview assessments. For Arno Atoll and the other atolls closer to Majuro Atoll (Aur and Maloelap Atolls, as well as inter atoll RO installation, sea bridges were/will be used to deploy and install ROs, and conduct assessments). The NDMO's outer island focal point joined the teams once on the ground to give initial atoll report and liaise between the teams and the community members.

(See matrix for updated RO deployment plan and status)

*Highlighted areas: Communities that have issues with ROs

RO Unit Deployment Plan: FEBRUARY 23, 2019 - APRIL 12 2019						
Atoll	# RO	Date: 2019	Air	Sea	Activity	Status
Likiep	2	Saturday 23 February	x	x	2 ROs Installed. One in Likiep Island, Likiep Atoll and the other in Jebal Island, Likiep Atoll. Assessment completed	Completed
Ailuk	1	Monday 25 February	x		Grounded 2 hours and replace the Regulator in Ailuk Ailuk and install one RO in Enejelar Ailuk. March 4 2019, Team dropped of 4 batteries and 2 regulators to replace broken ones	Completed
Rongelap	1	Tuesday 26 February	x		3 team members NDMO staff Kenny lead the team and 2 from MWSC. Assessment completed	Completed
Ebadon	1	Thursday 28 February	x	x	Install RO Units: 1 at Ebadon and 1 at Mejatto reported to replace the one in Ebadon	Completed
Mejatto	1	Thursday 28 February		x	KAJUR to lead RO installation and OCS Ebeye for assessments	Completed
Lae	1	Friday March 1	x		One unit installed on Lae and DSO assessments done	Need to Replace In-Progress



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Ujae	1	TBC filter replacement	x		One unit installed on Ujae and DSO assessments done. Late report says that there is a dispute between Councils and Focal point	Needs 2 filters in-Progress
Wotho	1	Friday March 1	x		Replace RO Unit in Wotho and assessment completed	Completed
Namu	4	Friday 22 March Completed Wednesday April 24	x	x	Delivery of 3 RO units. Flight grounded 2 hours @ Majkin for 1 RO installation. 2 ROs to await team from Ebeye KAJUR (who will bring 1 more RO) to install on Namu, LOEN, and Mae islands	Completed
Wotje	1	Thursday 18 April		x	1 Ro deployed to Wodmej and assessments completed. Wotje Wotje has a working 800K RO unit	Completed
Mejit	1	Monday 4 March	x		1 RO Unit installed. Updated report needs to replace pump head. wait for next available flight to Mejit	Completed
Maloelap	5	17-22 March complete replacement		x	5 RO units will be delivery to 5 Maloelap communities Assessment completed.	Completed
Aur	2			x	2 RO Units have been delivered to Aur Aur and Tobal Aur. Assessment completed	Completed
Arno	4	Wednesday 6 March		x	4 RO units have been delivered to Arno Rearlablab. Assessment completed	Completed
Lib	1	Wednesday 24 April		x	Team from Ebeye who will bring 1 to Lib.	Completed
Utrik	1	TBD			Permanent RO present	
Enewetak	1	TBD			Permanent RO present	
Total	27					

*19 of these RO units belong to IOM

*29 GRMI: 10 deployed and others used for replacements and spare parts for installed but dysfunctional units

All of the RO deployed are portable, in which they can be deployed when needed. IOM RO units were deployed when GRMI deployed all functional units. Other GRMI RO units that were NOT functional, were then "cannibalized" or taken for spare parts for IOM not operational ROs that needed parts.



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In the past weeks, the Weather Services Office's Drought Summaries has been reporting of conditions worsening in the North, with the latest, Drought Summary #7 (*please see attached WSO statement*) informing of dryness also in the weeks to come, and towards the end of May. The NDMO Disaster Control Officer has been in constant contact with each of our outer island representatives in the affected areas to get on ground updates. Currently RO deployment to Namu and Lib are being coordinated by Ebeye OCS with close communication with Majuro NDMO. NDMO is also in the process of coordinating charter trips to the remaining 4 atolls/islands of Ujae and Lae Atolls to drop of needed spare parts and replace dysfunctional units.

As of last week, we can confirm that most catchments (mostly 1000 and 1500 gallons) levels well below the $\frac{1}{4}$ mark, some are empty. At this point and time, reports also indicate that residents are drinking from the RO units. Some atolls have started rationing citizen the water productions from the ROs to the Sphere Standards (*The main water standards below, defined by Sphere, have been endorsed by UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees] "... All people should have safe and equitable access to water, sufficient for drinking, cooking and personal and domestic hygiene. The location of public water points should be such that all households can obtain the minimum water requirement." **Average water use for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene in any household is at least 15 litres per person per day.***

*http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/evaluation/watsan2005/annex_files/Sphere/SPHERE2%20-%20chapter%202%20-%20Min%20standards%20in%20water,%20sanitation%20and%20hygiene%20prom.pdf

Also, reported, is that plants and shrubbery around the households are browning and producing premature, and some inedible harvests.

Health, all atolls in the north are reporting more frequent and increasing number of gastro-intestinal problems as well as conjunctivitis. This is confirmed with information provided by the RMI communicable Disease Weekly Report from the Ministry of Health and Human Services with whom the NDMO has been in contact with to provide the data from the outer islands (*see attached RMI Weekly CD Surveillance Report (Week 16) 2019 final*)

With the latest drought summary indicating weeks of worsening conditions in the Republic, the NDMO will continue to closely monitoring the situation with continued



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public awareness via:

Social Media

Radio Broadcast

Frequent radio contact with the outer island focal points and local governments

NTA Mass Text messages: 6366 (NDMO mass text number)

The NDMO will need to consider sending a team to each affected island/atoll for Detailed Assessments in the coming weeks to inspect agriculture and livestock for possibility of Food Basket Distributions if dry conditions continue to persist in the Northern Marshall Islands.