



President

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

Executive Order

Proclamation Declaring a State of Disaster

WHEREAS, the Republic of the Marshall Islands is currently experiencing the impacts of El Niño conditions, which are expected to continue and strengthen through the remainder of 2026 and into 2027;

WHEREAS, El Niño conditions have resulted in hazardous winds and swells that have caused damages and are posing further risk to coastal areas and infrastructure, causing damage and disruption to communities and essential services;

WHEREAS, current El Niño conditions are expected to also bring below-normal rainfall and prolonged dry conditions, increasing the risk of drought throughout the Republic of the Marshall Islands;

WHEREAS, the impacts of El Niño will place additional pressure on water security, food security, agriculture, public health, essential services, and the livelihoods of communities throughout the Republic of the Marshall Islands;

WHEREAS, the Republic of the Marshall Islands' geographic isolation, limited freshwater resources, dependence on imported goods, and dispersed population across numerous atolls and islands increase the vulnerability of communities to the impacts of prolonged drought and other El Niño-related hazards;

WHEREAS, timely preparedness, mitigation, and response measures are necessary to ensure adequate access to safe water and other essential resources, particularly for vulnerable communities and the outer islands;

WHEREAS, continued coordination and mobilization of resources by the Government, Local Governments, development partners, and other stakeholders are necessary to reduce the potential impacts of El Niño and strengthen the resilience of affected communities;

WHEREAS, the Republic of the Marshall Islands is also experiencing a dengue fever outbreak, which presents an additional public health risk and compounds the impacts of the ongoing El Niño conditions;

WHEREAS, the dengue fever outbreak is placing additional demands on government health services, personnel, supplies, and other resources, further increasing the strain on the Government's capacity to respond to concurrent and emerging emergencies;



NOW THEREFORE, Cabinet at their meeting on October 8, 2026, do hereby approve this Executive Order.

BY THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER, the Cabinet has invoked its emergency powers under the Disaster Risk Management Act, 2023 and as such, I, Hilda C. Heine have heretofore, and on behalf of the Cabinet, signed and caused the issuance of this Executive Order to Declare a State of Disaster for El Niño and Dengue Fever Outbreak.

THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER shall remain in effect until the expiry of 90 days from the date hereof, or unless extended by the Cabinet, or otherwise terminated by a Nitijela Resolution.

IT IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED THAT:

- I. The Cabinet shall suspend, in whole or part, the provisions of any statute prescribing the procedures for the conduct of government business or the orders, rules, and regulations of any Government entity of strict compliance thereto would in any way prevent, hinder or delay necessary action.
- II. The National Disaster Council shall oversee and provide strategic direction to the National Emergency Operations Committee's response, recovery, and overall operational efforts.
- III. The National Emergency Operations Committee shall coordinate and oversee disaster response and recovery operations.
- IV. All relevant Government Ministries, Departments, and Agencies shall work in unison to plan, coordinate, and implement the Cabinet approved Response Plans.
- V. The Disaster Coordinator may undertake his responsibilities pursuant to Section 119(4)(b) of the Disaster Risk Management Act 2023.
- VI. Other authorizations for the specific Roles and Responsibilities of Relevant Government Ministries, Agencies, and Offices shall be reinstated:

A. Ministry of Finance, Banking and Postal Services

- i. Ensure a streamlined process is in place to ensure no delays to processing requests and implementing activities in the Response Plans;
- ii. Assist with Logistics Cluster operations and activities;
- iii. Identify funding resources to be allocated to the response efforts; and
- iv. Coordinate with Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade on any external funding sources secured or identified.

B. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

- i. Engage with diplomatic partners and regional and international organizations to identify funding sources and resources; and



- ii. Coordinate with the Ministry of Finance, Banking, and Postal Services as appropriate.

C. Ministry of Health and Human Services

- i. Lead the Health Cluster and provide clear guidance on proper response to Dengue Outbreak;
- ii. Liaise with and provide support to Local Governments on vector control activities such as removal of mosquito breeding grounds; and
- iii. Assist the National Emergency Operations Committee respond to drought pertaining to water borne diseases and other diseases relating to El Niño impacts.

D. Economic Policy, Planning, and Statistics Office

- i. Provide and verify necessary data for response and recovery decision making; and
- ii. Assist with surge support in assessment activities.

E. Ministry of Transportation, Communications, and Information Technology

- i. Lead the Logistics Cluster and provide clear guidance on transportation and procurement relating to the Response Plans;
- ii. Coordinate with RMI Ports Authority, EPA, Trust Company and other relevant agencies to address the removal of all inactive, beached, or nonfunctional vessels that pose a risk to our coasts and lagoons; and
- iii. Support the development of remediation plan with costing related to vessels.

F. Ministry of Public Works, Infrastructure, and Utilities

- i. Lead the Infrastructure Cluster and provide clear guidance proper infrastructure recovery efforts;
- ii. Assist the Logistics Cluster with sea transport capabilities; and
- iii. Assist the Health Cluster with the maintenance of Liwetoinmour.

G. Ministry of Education, Sports, and Training

- i. Lead the Shelter and Education Clusters;
- ii. Ensure sustainability of school operations; and
- iii. Ensure shelters meet national safety standards and are ready for use when needed.

H. Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs

- i. Lead the Gender and Protection Cluster;
- ii. Ensure inclusivity and equity is practiced when National Emergency Operations Committee is providing response or aide to the Neighboring Islands; and
- iii. Assist Local Governments with administrative as it pertains to the El Niño response activities.

I. Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce

- i. Lead the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster; and
- ii. Assess, monitor, and report crops and livestock health throughout the Marshall Islands;



J. Environmental Protection Authority

- i. Lead the WASH Cluster and provide guidance on water security sustainability;
- ii. Continue ensuring public compliance of national regulations pertaining to water quality, coastal management, and waste management throughout the Marshall Islands;
- iii. Monitor and report on Water Infrastructure Asset Registry.

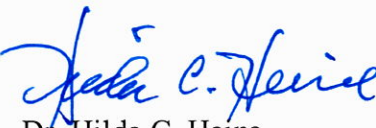
K. Local Governments

- i. Lead their Disaster Committees and Community Water Committees;
- ii. Implement Community Drought Contingency Plan which includes water rationing measures;
- iii. Provide support to assessment and response efforts being conducted in their respective jurisdictions; and
- iv. Liaise with the National Emergency Operations Committee on ensuring equitable and inclusive response and recovery efforts.

L. Office of the Chief Secretary

- i. Direct the National Disaster Council;
- ii. Provide updates and sound recommendations to the Cabinet for further determination and direction;
- iii. Assist the Ministry of Finance, Banking, and Postal Services and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in identifying potential funds and resources; and
- iv. File this Executive Order and ensure its dissemination to the general public.

Given under my hand this 8 th day of October, 2026


Dr. Hilda C. Heine
President