

# INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies  
Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge  
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja  
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

## MICRONESIA: TYPHOON SUDAL

Date 11 April 2004

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Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Allocated: N/A

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 180 countries.

For more information: [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

### In Brief

- *This document is being issued based on the needs described below reflecting the information available at this time. Based on further updates and details from assessment reports, or should the situation deteriorate, the Federation will consider international support through an Appeal.*

### The Situation

The island group of Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia was hit hard by Typhoon Sudal last Friday, as devastating winds of over 200km/h caused widespread destruction. Initial reports indicate that many houses around the area of Kolonia have been completely destroyed, while others are badly damaged. So far there has been one reported fatality. The typhoon damaged the roof of the main hospital, while the airport and government buildings were also affected. Water and electricity supplies and telecommunications have been disrupted across most of Yap. A full assessment of the impact is underway on the island of Yap proper, but the lack of communications is hampering this especially on nearby outer islands. A state of emergency has been declared. Most urgent needs are reported to include water and shelter, as well as food for over 6000 people.

By Saturday, the airport runway had been cleared of debris, and a US Coast Guard C-130 plane was able to deliver some relief supplies including tarpaulins. The US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sent three officials to assist in assessment and coordination of relief efforts.

### Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Micronesia Red Cross has a small chapter on Yap, and basic relief items were pre-positioned here as part of the regional disaster preparedness programme. They include items such as blankets, sheets, clothing and water containers for up to 100 families. Due to the breakdown of telecommunications systems in Yap, staff at the Pohnpei headquarters have as yet been unable to contact the local Red Cross chapter directly, but a message has been channelled through to authorise the use of all existing supplies. Volunteers from the Yap chapter have recently attended a disaster management and planning workshop.

In consultation with the Federation's regional delegation, the nearby American Red Cross chapter of the Northern Marianas Islands has made an experienced disaster manager available for immediate deployment. He will arrive early on Monday to assist with more detailed assessments in order to determine priority needs.

For a full description of the National Society profile, see [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

**Country/Region: Disaster; Information Bulletin no. xx**

*For further details please contact*

- *In Pohnpei: Micronesia Red Cross: Mrs Suzie Yoma, Executive Director ; Phone +691 320-8700 or 320-7077; Fax number +691 320-6531; email mrcs@mail.fm*
- *In Suva: Mr Leon Prop, Head of Regional Delegation; Phone +679 3311855 mobile +679 9992485; Fax +679 3311406; email ifrcfj01@ifrc.org*
- *In Geneva: Eunhee Cho or Satoshi Sugai, Regional Officer, Phone + 41 22 4273 or 4392 ; Fax +41 22 733 0395; email eunhee.cho @ifrc.org or satoshi.sugai@ifrc.org*

*All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

*For support to or for further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation website at <http://www.ifrc.org>*

For longer-term programmes, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal.