



Inclusive Mitigation & Preparedness in Action (IMPACT)

Community: Ebeye

Date : June 11, 2021

A. Vulnerabilities

Emergency Shelters:

What buildings are used as emergency shelters in your community during emergencies?

Schools, churches, gyms and any building that are 2 stories and above.

Is there sufficient shelter capacity to accommodate everyone in your community during an emergency?

No, there isn't sufficient shelter capacity for the population.

Are the shelters structurally strong enough to withstand the impacts of natural hazards? If not, what are some of the concerns surrounding their structural integrity? Please be specific.

Many of the buildings that are used as shelters are made of plywood. As a result, these shelters aren't strong enough to withstand the impacts of natural hazards. However, some of the shelters such as the Public School System (PSS) shelter are made of bricks and therefore structurally strong enough to withstand the impacts of natural hazards. Some of the other shelter buildings made of brick include the Calvary Church, the James School and the Protestant Church. However the important point is that total shelter capacity is insufficient to accommodate the entire population of Ebeye.

Rate the overall structural integrity of the community shelters in your community from 1 (poor) – 10 (excellent).

Are the shelters adequately resourced and managed during emergencies? If not, what are the shortcomings that you see regarding how well resourced and managed shelters are during emergencies?

Nearly all the shelters in the community have the following shortcomings:

- There aren't any established protocols to be followed when the shelters are opened to accommodate people in the event of an emergency. In other words, there is no organizational framework or system of accountability to govern the management of shelters.
- Currently many shelters are managed by a single individual. That person is also poorly trained.
- The shelters are generally poorly equipped. They lack communication equipment, emergency provisions and backup generators. Water catchments in shelters are either lacking or not elevated.
- There are insufficient restrooms in most shelters and the one which do have them, have no showers.
- Most of the emergency shelters aren't gender or disable friendly.

Do women feel safe in the shelters during emergencies?

No. There is no privacy for women. During emergencies there aren't any designated areas for families and single women in the shelters. Many of the restrooms also lack showers, which has a disproportionate impact on women.

Rate the overall management of community shelters and how adequately equipped they are during emergencies from 1 (poor) – 10 (excellent).

1

Water Security:

Is water easily accessible in your community?

No. Non potable water is distributed via a public piping system. However, water is not available 24/7. Water distribution follows a particular schedule. Most often, this schedule is not adhered to.

Does this community have easy access to clean and potable water, if not, why?

No. Marshallese in Ebeye have to visit the main public utilities company Kajur to purchase drinking water. It is the only source for drinking water. The drinking water is provided for by the company's large reverse osmosis unit. The cost of this drinking water is relatively expensive.

How have natural hazards impacted your community's access to water and the quality of water?

Drought has been the main factor. In the past two years, there have been two droughts. During droughts, Kajur's large reverse osmosis unit takes a lot more time to produce sufficient quantities of potable water. Furthermore, water in wells have become saltier, as a result of sea level rise. This water is now used only for cleaning and washing clothes.

Has your access to clean and potable water increased or decreased during the last 5 years?

Decreased. During droughts, the reverse osmosis unit run by Kajur sometimes malfunctions or takes more time to produce the needed amount of potable water.

Do you foresee climate change impacting your community's accessibility to clean and potable water in the next 5 years?

Yes. Drought is becoming increasingly frequent, so are high temperatures. As temperatures increase, so does the demand for potable water and thereby puts excessive strain on the large reverse osmosis unit. The delivery of water supplied by the public piping system has not been consistent with the announced schedule.

What are some of the problems this community is facing regarding the accessibility of clean and potable water?

Concerns about the sustainability of relying on the large reverse osmosis unit operated by Kajur as the only source of potable water. The unit is plagued by maintenance issues and is fuel intensive. There is a desperate need for an alternative source of potable water.

Rate the strength of the community's access to clean and potable water from 1 (poor) -10 (excellent)

2

Food Security:

Is food easily accessible in this community, if not, why?

No, we rely on imported goods. Food in the stores is relatively expensive. There are no price controls. Excessive reliance on unhealthy canned and frozen goods.

Is food that is nutritious, which contributes to health and wellbeing, easily accessible in your community, if not, why?

It's not. Nutritious goods that are imported are often spoiled by the time they reach Ebeye. Nutritious food is also relatively very expensive. Nutritious food also cannot be grown in Ebeye due to the lack of topsoil. As a result, heavy reliance on unhealthy canned and frozen foods that have negative long term health implications for consumers.

How have natural hazards impacted your community's access to food and the quality of food?

We haven't encountered any natural hazard for the past couple of years that have really affected the community besides drought. This hasn't had an impact on our access to food, since we don't grow crops or raise farm animals in Ebeye.

Has your community's access to nutritious food increased or decreased during the last 5 years?

During the last five years access to food has varied. It all depends on the delivery schedule of the shipment barge. The ability to import nutritious food is contingent on the size of the order placed for shipment. The larger the order, the higher likelihood that nutritious food can be imported. It's all about the economics.

Do you foresee climate change impacting your community's access to nutritious food in the next 5 years?

Yes, we foresee climate change impacting community's access to nutritious food in the next 5 years. While, nutritious food cannot be grown in Ebeye, such food is grown on other islands. This food is then brought down to Ebeye. However, due to rising sea levels and the associated increase in the saltiness of the soils in those islands, the quality of the crops grown there has been decreasing significantly. This phenomenon is having implications for the health and wellbeing of those living in Ebeye, because they rely on these crops for nutrition as well.

Also, the rising sea levels in Ebeye mean that ships may find it increasingly difficult to dock at the harbor. This means that more costs have to be incurred for bringing the goods from the main ships out at sea. Smaller boats have to be used for this purpose.

What are some of the problems this community is facing regarding access to nutritious food?

Due to the high costs of importing nutritious food, the Marshallese living in Ebeye consume largely frozen and canned goods. These foods once consumed have serious implications for long term health. Conditions such as diabetes and heart disease are common. Which in turn increases health care costs. Nutritious food cannot be grown in Ebeye due to the lack of top soil.

Rate the strength of the community's access to nutritious food from 1 (poor) -10 (excellent)

Selection of Mitigation Intervention

Please circle which vulnerability you think is most relevant to your community and should be addressed under IMPACT?

- a. Shelter Security
- b. Water Security
- c. Food Security

Please clarify once again as to the main issues that your community is facing in regard to this vulnerability?

There aren't sufficient shelters in Ebeye to host the communities during emergencies. The ones which are there are either not structurally sound enough to withstand the impacts of natural hazards and/or poorly equipped and/or poorly managed to host communities during emergencies.

What solutions do you propose to address the issue mentioned in the previous questions?

The group requested assistance from IMPACT to purchase a backup generator for the PSS Emergency Shelter and retrofit its bathrooms with showers.

Are there organizations that are already working to implement these solutions in your community? If so, who are they and what are they doing?

The Kwajalein Atoll Development Authority is currently constructing three additional buildings as part of the PSS Campus. Each of the classrooms have access to bathrooms but they don't contain showers.

How can the IMPACT Project help implement the solutions mentioned in the question prior to the previous one?

IMPACT can help finance the purchase of a backup generator for the PSS Emergency Shelter and retrofit its bathrooms with showers.

Write down any additional comments or other points you would like to share with us regarding the vulnerability and/or what can IMPACT do to address the vulnerability?

N/A