# PACIFIC RISK PROFILE – MARSHALL ISLANDS

## COUNTRY OVERVIEW

* [**10 m**](https://www.spc.int/our-members/) maximum height above sea level
* [**181 km²**](https://www.spc.int/our-members/) land area and [**302**](https://sdd.spc.int/digital_library/pocket-statistical-summary-resume-statistique-de-poche-2020) people per km²
* [**74%**](https://sdd.spc.int/mapping-coastal) of population is urban
* [**100%**](https://sdd.spc.int/mapping-coastal) of population live with 1 km of coast
* [**58,584**](https://sdd.spc.int/topic/population) total population
* [**27,790**](https://sdd.spc.int/topic/population) (50.91%) men and [**26,794**](https://sdd.spc.int/topic/population) women (49.09%) in 2020
* [**38%**](https://sdd.spc.int/digital_library/pocket-statistical-summary-resume-statistique-de-poche-2020) of population is 14 or younger, [**22%**](https://sdd.spc.int/digital_library/pocket-statistical-summary-resume-statistique-de-poche-2020) is 15-24 years and [**6%**](https://sdd.spc.int/digital_library/pocket-statistical-summary-resume-statistique-de-poche-2020) is 60 years and older
* [**11.7%**](https://www.unescap.org/publications/disability-glance-2019) disability prevalence
* [**$4337**](https://sdd.spc.int/digital_library/pocket-statistical-summary-resume-statistique-de-poche-2020) USD gross domestic product per capita
* [**24.5%**](https://www.adb.org/publications/gender-statistics-pacific-and-timor-leste) women’s share of managerial positions
* [**36.7%**](https://www.adb.org/publications/gender-statistics-pacific-and-timor-leste) women’s share of wage employment in the non-agriculture sector
* [**51%**](https://www.adb.org/publications/gender-statistics-pacific-and-timor-leste) ever-partnered women who have experienced violence by an intimate partner.

## HAZARD LIKELIHOOD

(link: [**https://thinkhazard.org/en/report/157-marshall-islands**](https://thinkhazard.org/en/report/157-marshall-islands))

| **Landslide** | **Wildfire** | **Tsunami** | **Cyclone** | **Coastal flood** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Very low likelihood | Very low likelihood | Medium likelihood | High likelihood | High likelihood |

## ECONOMIC LOSS DUE TO DISASTERS

* [**$7.45m**](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/IDD-APDR-Subreport-Pacific-SIDS.pdf) USD total average annual loss due to disasters, which is [**4.06%**](https://www.unescap.org/sites/default/d8files/IDD-APDR-Subreport-Pacific-SIDS.pdf) of GDP.

## ADAPTATION COSTS FOR COASTAL PROTECTION

* [**$16-$58m**](https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/28137) USD adaptation costs for coastal protection per year, which is [**4-13%**](https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/28137) of projected GDP in 2040.

## RISK INDEX

* Between 1999 and 2018 [**Marshall Islands was ranked 172nd**](https://www.germanwatch.org/en/17307) among countries most affected by extreme weather
* Marshall Islands’ risk level is [**high**](https://drmkc.jrc.ec.europa.eu/inform-index/INFORM-Covid-19/INFORM-Covid-19-Warning-beta-version) when assessing the potential humanitarian impacts of COVID-19 in combination with other pre-existing crisis risks.

## MAJOR DISASTERS 2011-2020

(link: [**https://www.emdat.be/**](https://www.emdat.be/))

* **50%** of disasters were drought, **25%** were floods and **25%** were storms
* **One** major typhoon
* **27,744** people were affected
* **$4.9m** USD total damage

## EL NIÑO 2015-2016

(link: [**https://www.gfdrr.org/sites/default/files/publication/pda-2017-marshall-islands.pdf**](https://www.gfdrr.org/sites/default/files/publication/pda-2017-marshall-islands.pdf))

* Between 2015-2016 extremely low precipitation and intense El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) resulted in a severe drought
* **21,000** were affected
* **$4.9m** USD estimated economic impact or **3.4%** of GDP for FY 2015
* Per cent loss by sector: **32%** infrastructure, **24%** social and **43%** productive

## CLIMATE PROJECTION

(link: <https://www.pacificclimatechangescience.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/8_PACCSAP-Marshall-Islands-11pp_WEB.pdf>)

**Typhoon:** expected to be less frequent but more intense

* **Rainfall**: average rainfall is expected to increase along with more extreme rain events
* **Temperature**: annual mean temperatures and extremely high daily temperatures will continue to rise
* **Sea level**: expected to continue to rise
* **Ocean acidification**: expected to continue
* **Risk of coral bleaching**: expected to increase
* **El Niño/La Niña**: will continue to occur, conditions during **La** **Niña** years are generally wetter than normal, while **El Niño** events tend to bring warmer than normal wet seasons and warmer, drier dry seasons.