The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) uses HPP funds to build an emergency preparedness and response foundation for the country’s population of 53,000 residents, most of whom live on the atolls of Majuro and Ebeye.

Both of RMI’s two hospitals participate in the country’s health care coalition (HCC), which is managed by Emergency Preparedness Staff at the Ministry of Health.

There is one HCC in RMI, which meets and trains together to enhance and strengthen the readiness and response capabilities in the RMI.

The RMI Ministry of Health first recognized cases of Hepatitis A in mid-September 2016, with 172 probable and confirmed cases as of June of 2017. RMI HPP staff worked with other public health and medical providers to implement a mass notification and vaccination effort to reduce the spread of this disease. RMI preparedness staff provided public awareness outreach by radio, text messaging, posting flyers in businesses, weekly information in local newspapers and outreach to outer atoll communities. Vaccination efforts focused on immediate contacts of cases, with over 70% of all K-12 students in Majuro, Kwajalein, and Ebeye immunized with vaccine provided by CDC and the WHO.

RMI will enhance preparedness on the Island of Ebeye by hiring a preparedness coordinator this year, who will be the first dedicated preparedness/response staff member at the hospital in Ebeye.

RMI will develop a mass care and sheltering plan this year to enhance and sustain mass care preparedness efforts and to ensure appropriate medical and logistics support for sheltered residents.

RMI will conduct a full-scale medical countermeasures exercise and a mass casualty incident exercise. These exercises will improve RMI’s capability to respond at both an individual hospital level and at a coalition-wide level.

1 Health Care Coalition