



**SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS
RMI 2006 COMMUNITY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC SURVEY**

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A. 2006 RMI Community Survey Objectives

1. Background & Rationale

Household surveys are a common and important means of gathering social and economic data. Household surveys have become especially important in developing countries as tools for improving policy and decision making, poverty alleviation, and overall development.

The United Nations states that:

Important indicators to inform and monitor development policies are often derived from such surveys. In developing countries, they have become a dominant form of data collection, supplementing or sometimes even replacing other data collection programmes and civil registration systems.¹

In the RMI, household surveys are increasingly used by both the government and non-government entities to collect and analyze data on a wide range of social and economic issues. In recent years, for example, surveys have been conducted covering such issues as household income and expenditure, domestic violence, and substance use.

In mid 2004, EPPSO proposed the idea of developing and carrying out a series of multi-atoll *baseline community surveys*. This initiative was inspired by a small pilot community survey conducted in Jenrok Village in Majuro Atoll. The Jenrok survey, funded by the International Waters Project of the South Pacific, exposed a number of startling new findings relating to health, education, poverty, environment, access to basic services, and overall quality of life. The Jenrok survey clearly illustrated that whereas overall social and economic data collection and analysis has improved somewhat in recent years (commensurate with the establishment of EPPSO and the strengthening of data collection and analysis capabilities), more detailed community and household-level data were needed, especially from some of the more remote areas of the RMI.

Thus, in 2005 EPPSO sought and received funding and support from the Asian Development Bank, the Department of the Interior and the US Census Bureau for a nationwide household sample survey that would cover a cross-section of both urban and rural communities throughout the RMI.

Three general principles underpinned EPPSO's proposed survey:

¹ United Nations Statistics Division. 2005. *Household Sample Surveys in Developing and Transition Countries*. New York.

Targeting

First, the RMI development track record clearly shows that development has not taken place uniformly across different communities. Each community faces its own set of circumstances that uniquely affect its development path. Development planning must therefore be targeted – and targeted development can only be effective if it is underpinned by targeted data collection and analysis. This survey aimed to help improve local knowledge of the unique factors affecting development throughout different communities in the RMI.

Multi-disciplinary Analysis

Because many different factors affect development, a multi-disciplinary approach must be taken. Key to an effective economic development or poverty reduction strategy for any community is a sound diagnosis and understanding of the major factors affecting development progress (positively or negatively) in that community. The survey therefore aimed to conduct a multi-faceted diagnosis in order to help policy makers better assess the ‘big picture’ and devise more thorough and comprehensive plans.

Pre-conditions to Development

This survey is also premised on the belief that the RMI must place as its number one policy priority the provision of the fundamental pre-conditions for development. From the perspective of the household, these pre-conditions include access to basic education and health services, access to safe water and sanitation, adequate private household and public infrastructure, reliable transportation to and from markets, and good governance. This survey aimed to evaluate and gauge people’s perceptions on most of these pre-conditions in each of the communities it covered.

2. The Overarching Objectives

This survey, first and foremost, is a data collection exercise. However, by collecting and presenting relevant social and economic data, it is hoped that policy makers will utilize this information to sharpen their planning and poverty reduction efforts. This is the principal objective of this survey.

Another objective, as mentioned, is to build on the success of the Jenrok survey, to replicate its approach in other communities and to (and thus expand geographic coverage). It is also hoped that this survey, which will cover six atolls in 2006, will generate demand for additional areas to be covered in the future. This will help expand and enrich the RMI’s baseline socioeconomic data. Lastly, this survey constitutes an endeavor by EPPSO to further strengthen and institutionalize local data collection, analysis and policy making capacities. This survey adopted a collaborative team approach, with EPPSO staff, local consultants, and staff from a number of government and non-government entities taking part.

The survey investigates trends and conditions covering a dozen or so major inter-related social and economic themes. These include:

Basic Demographics
Education
Health
Food Security and Nutrition
Housing Conditions
Economic Activity and Income
Governance and Political Involvement
Gender Issues
Perceptions on Quality of Life and Hardship

For some of the areas, additional topics such as infrastructure and environmental management were also analyzed (using non-survey data).

3. Sample Selection, Size and Methodology

The following communities were selected as the survey sample:

- 1) The main island of Majuro (from Rita to Laura) on Majuro Atoll
- 2) Ebeye and Eniburr islands on Kwajalein Atoll
- 3) Wotje and Wodmej islands on Wotje Atoll
- 4) Jabor, Jaluit and Imiej islands on Jaluit Atoll
- 5) Ine, Japo, Lukwoj, Arno, Ulien, Bikarej, Todo, Langor, Tinak, Kilange, Malel, and Matolen islands on Arno Atoll
- 6) Enejelar and Ailuk islands on Ailuk Atoll

Given the overarching objectives of this survey and its major research themes, the sample selection was made with the intention of gathering data from a cross-section of areas, urban and rural, highly developed and not highly developed, high income and low income, etc. Majuro, Ebeye and Eniburr (to a limited extent) are urbanized areas with dense populations and relatively high incomes. Wotje and Jaluit are considered regional sub-centers, each with a public high school, with relatively sizeable populations, and with relatively more development and infrastructure (including their own power utilities and, more recently, cellular telephone service). Arno has a sizeable population and is more developed (from an infrastructure perspective) than is Ailuk, but it remains less developed than Wotje and Arno and is thus considered among the rural atolls in the RMI. Lastly, Ailuk is a remote atoll with a small population and very little development.

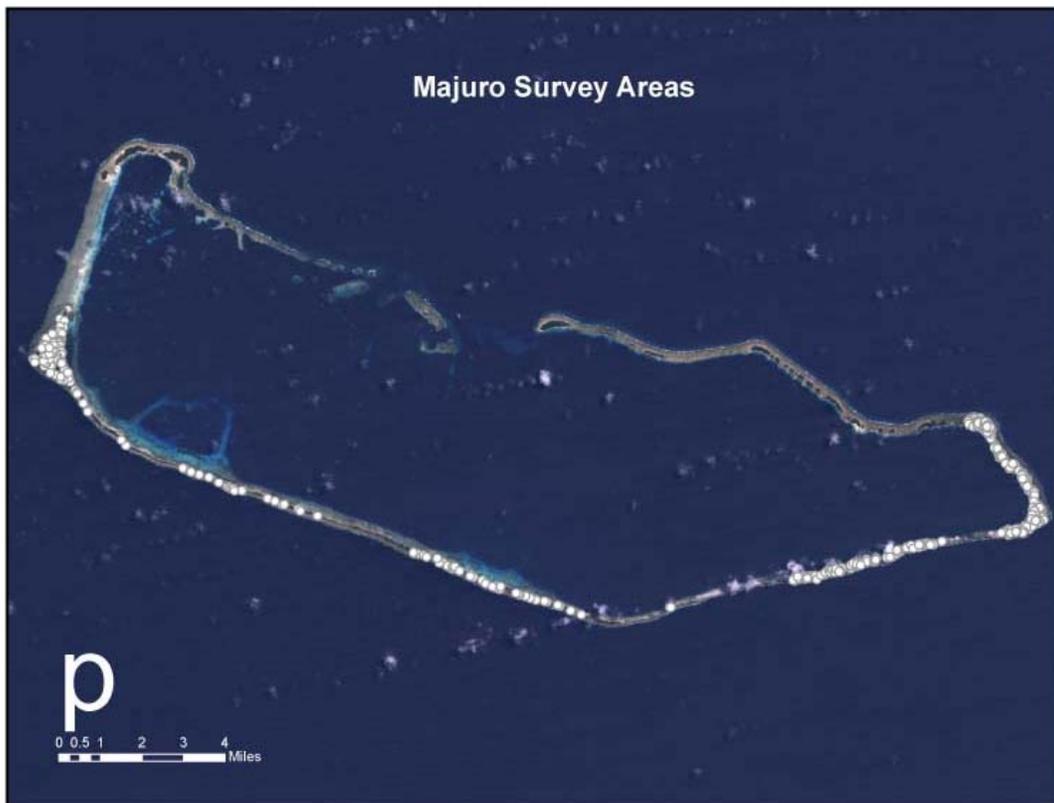
A total of 1,205 households and 9,491 persons were covered in these communities. Rough sample sizes (using the 1999 census as the reference) ranged from 18 percent on Majuro to about 77 percent on Eniburr.

Area	1999 Occupied HH	2006 Survey	Sample Size
Majuro	3,029	544	18.0%
Ebeye	981	357	36.4%
Eniburr	78	60	76.9%
Jaluit	229	57	24.9%
Wotje	108	43	39.8%
Arno	244	80	32.8%
Ailuk	88	64	72.7%

Assuming an estimated total RMI population in 2006 of around 57,000, this survey sample is equivalent to 17 percent of the population.

Satellite imagery and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) were used to inventory all structures in the surveyed areas. A sample size was identified for each area and structures were randomly selected (by computer) to be surveyed. Because some randomly selected structures were non-residential, over-sampling was done in each area (e.g., a 30 percent sample was made on Majuro while the ultimate target sample was 20 percent). The RMI Environmental Protection Authority provided technical assistance with GIS and the selection of households.

The following image shows a non-detailed illustration of the satellite imagery used for Majuro, with white clusters indicating actual areas surveyed along the island.



The next image shows a detailed satellite image of one area in Majuro, with randomly selected households identified in red (this was the type of map used by individual surveyors for each community).



B. Note To Users: Sampling and Non-Sampling Error

All sample surveys contain potential inaccuracies so these data must be used with caution. Sample survey data are subject to both sampling and non-sampling error:

Sampling errors

Because these data were collected from a sample (or part) of the population and not the entire population, the data are subject to what is called sampling error. Sampling error is the difference between an estimate derived from a sample survey and the true value that would have been derived if a census of the whole population was taken.

Non-sampling errors

These are inaccuracies that occur due to reporting imperfections by respondents and interviewers, and errors made during the processing of the data (coding, keying, editing, etc.). These errors can occur whether information is derived from a sample or cens

C. Previous Surveys

The 2006 Community Survey and Socio-Economic Analysis is the first of its kind to be done in the Marshall Islands looking at a broad view of social and economic activities at the community level.

There were surveys conducted in the past such as the Jenrok Socio-Economic Survey in 2004, which looked at the same issues as the 2006 survey, but only in Jenrok Village, Majuro atoll. There was the Household Income and Expenditure Survey in 2003, The pre-census in 1998 and ADB sponsored survey in 1994.

These surveys in conjunction with the with 2006 community survey brings valuable data that helps brings a better understanding on what various communities in the Marshall Islands are doing and how are they fairing in terms of their quality of life and ultimately what policy makers can do to make things better for its people if people are not doing well.

Key Findings: MAJURO ATOLL

Basic Demographics

- Majuro is home to nearly half of the entire Marshall Islands, continues to see rapid growth (with a seven-fold increase in its population from 1958 to 1999) and a 2006 population estimate of some 28,000
- The central to western areas of the main island of Majuro have seen rapid residential development in recent years
- Since the last census, in addition to domestic migrants from other atolls, Majuro has also seen a significant influx of at least several hundred Asian migrants
- Median age on Majuro has increased from 19 to around 21 from 1999 to 2006
- Majuro has a steadily aging population structure, but still has nearly 40 percent of its population below the age of 15
- Majuro is the highest receiving area of both domestic and international migrants, with some 6,209 persons in the 1999 census having resided elsewhere (in RMI and abroad) before coming to Majuro
- Majuro also serves as a large sending area for international migrants to the US
- Majuro's dependency ratio of .64 was the lowest among the surveyed areas

Household Characteristics

- Majuro's household size of 7.5 persons was lower than Ebeye's and Eniburr's but higher than the other surveyed areas
- Delap had the most crowded households, averaging 8.6 persons
- Majuro's home ownership rate was 87 percent, similar to the overall rate for all areas surveyed
- The majority of households made no payments on their residence buildings, while 15 percent made mortgage payments
- About half (51 percent) of households occupy land through permission, but in the rural areas most household land is occupied through family rights
- One quarter of households pay roof-tax payments to iroij and alaps, but this is only seen in the urban areas of Majuro
- Nearly one third (32 percent) of households make traditional eojok and ekkan contributions
- Thirty eight percent of households cook with electricity and another 38 percent cook with kerosene
- Ninety three percent of households use electricity as their means of lighting and access to electricity was high throughout all areas, urban and rural
- Seventy one percent of households had water catchments
- Almost all households (94 percent) made improvements in 2005
- Eighty percent of households had flush toilets, roughly the same as in 1999
- Almost all households in town used public dumpsters while the majority in the rural areas dumped in pits

Education

- The survey revealed school attendance rate on Majuro Atoll is 90%, above the national average of 87% in 2006. Attendance improved from the 1999.
- Aljeltak and Woja Villages had the highest attendance and Delap had the lowest attendance
- Most schools on Majuro did not average above 60% in the high school entrance test in 2005. Only Assumption Elementary, Rita Christian and Coop School had averages above 60%. The highest average school score was Assumption Elementary at 74%
- The majority of Majuro high school students who took the test, most qualified for development 1 courses
- In October 2004, MOE began testing its teachers in English proficiency. On Majuro Atoll, only Laura High School had the highest percentage of teachers passing the test at 65%. Aljeltak and Woja Elementary schools had the lowest both scoring below 2%.
- Laura High School had the highest number of teachers with BA's. Majuro Middle School had the lowest number of teachers with BA's. Majuro Middle had the highest number of teachers with AA's. Woja Elementary had the highest number of teachers with High School diploma's
- 99% of Majuro said completing 8th grade was very important
- 75% of Majuro said quality of education was good. Only 5% said it was poor
- Aljeltak and Woja villages were the highest on answering good on education quality. Rita was lowest.
- 70% said school never closed. 12% said schools closed 1-4 times a month. Main reason for closure was traditional events and no teacher
- In 2006 for 25 year olds and above completing 8th grade and above improved over 1999 and 1988 census periods
- In 2006 for 25 years olds and above completing high school and above dropped from 1999 Census, but improved from 1988 Census
- 8th grade and above completion by age group between 20's and 40's averaged between 80% and 90% for both the 2006 and 1999 Census
- There were more people obtain a high school diploma and above during the USTTPI than RMI today.

Health

- 80% said quality of hospital services was good
- 90% said they got their basic medicines from the hospital
- Only 10% got ill within the last week prior to the survey
- Aljeltak and Woja areas had the highest percentage of people that got sick
- Those who got ill, only 52% sought medical treatment
- Very few people got diarrhea, less than 5%

- Two thirds of Majuro 2 year olds had a card and immunized
- Most births on Majuro took place at the hospital
- Rita had the largest number of births by village
- Major cause of death reported by the respondents was cancer followed by heart disease
- Ajeltake and Woja areas had the highest number of cancer deaths
- The number of patients admitted declined in 2005
- Nearly a quarter of those admitted, were baby deliveries
- Majuro Atoll accounted for 70% of total births in the RMI in 2005

Economic Activity and Income

- The 2006 survey found a very low labor force participation rate (LFPR) in Majuro, at around 43 percent (meaning that nearly 60 percent of working age persons were unemployed but not looking for work)
- Unemployment on Majuro, estimated at 31 percent in 1999, remains high with an estimated range for 2006 of 25 to 39 percent (depending on the LFPR assumed)
- Only six percent of working age persons on Majuro did subsistence, higher than the rates on Ebeye and Eniburr but notably lower than the rates seen in the rural atolls
- The top-five most commonly held jobs on Majuro were: teachers (including principals), laborers, bookkeepers/cashiers, bricklayers/carpenters/construction, and protective service workers (policemen and security guards)
- About 40 percent of employed persons worked in the public sector
- Majuro's median household income of \$14,737 places it second among all seven areas surveyed, behind Ebeye (\$17, 321)
- Eighty five percent of Majuro households had earnings/salary income but 12 percent of households had no workers at all

Quality of Life, Poverty and Social Problems

- Nearly one-third of Majuro households claimed that their overall quality of life has deteriorated in the past three years, closely matching the percentage (35 percent) of households that claimed they sometimes or often did not have enough to eat
- The areas with the highest percentage of households that claimed worsening quality of life were from Batkan to Woja
- Applying US poverty thresholds to Majuro families reveals that the percentage of families below the poverty line increased from 75 to 80 percent from 1998 to 2006 (with similar trends seen in Ebeye and Jaluit)
- Majuro residents identified alcohol abuse, theft, pollution, unemployment, and low wages as their top five biggest social problems, with some 71 percent of households claiming that alcohol and hard drug use is now a serious or growing problem
- In urban parts of Majuro, residents also identified overpopulation and teen pregnancy as top issues while in the rural areas lack of food came up as a key problem

Food Sources and Nutrition

- Only one in five Majuro households relied primarily on local sources of protein, with households in rural areas relying notably more on local sources than do households in urban areas
- The percentage of households in Majuro that rely primarily on local protein sources (22 percent) is much higher than the percentages seen on Ebeye and Eniburr (10 percent each) but far lower than the percentages on Wotje (84 percent), Jaluit (72 percent), Arno (100 percent) and Ailuk (98 percent)
- One third of households on Majuro rely mostly on local fruits and vegetables, again higher than the percentages seen on Ebeye and Eniburr (around 10 percent each) but far lower than the rates seen in the rural atolls (all over 75 percent)
- The most commonly grown crops on Majuro household premises were coconuts, breadfruit, nin, pandanus and bananas (these top-five crops were grown on forty percent or more of households)
- One quarter of households had chickens and pigs (around one in five households in the urban areas and one in two households in rural areas)
- Over one-third (35 percent) of Majuro households claimed that they sometimes or often did not have enough to eat at mealtimes

Gender Issues

- Sixteen percent of Majuro surveyed households had families headed by females with no husband present, an increase from 13 percent in 1998
- Among 6 to 14 year olds, females had a school attendance rate of 90 percent compared to 84 percent for males
- Adult (ages 25 or more) females and males had comparable primary completion rates at 87 and 88 percent respectively
- Forty percent of adult females finished high school or higher, compared to 51 percent of males
- Three percent of adult females completed bachelor level college or higher, compared to five percent for males
- This suggest that at higher levels of schooling, the drop-out rates for females progressively increase relative to males
- Majuro females had a labor force participation rate of only 31 percent
- The top three jobs held by Majuro females were: bookkeepers/cashiers, teachers, and cooks/waitresses/bartenders
- Majuro's full-time, year-round female workers earned \$6,400 while their male equivalents earned \$8,300
- Fourteen percent of Majuro's council seats are occupied by females as of the 2003 elections, up from 7 percent in the 1999 elections

Government Responsibilities, Responsiveness and Elections

- Households on Majuro identified education, health, and public safety as the top responsibilities of Government
- Fourteen percent of Majuro households felt that the government was not responsive to the needs and concerns of their community (lower than almost all the other areas surveyed)
- Batkan and Rairok had the highest percentage of households (28 percent) who felt that government was unresponsive
- Three-fourths of Majuro households support the idea of direct Presidential elections, slightly lower than the rate for all seven areas surveyed (82 percent)
- Eighteen percent of all votes cast for the Majuro senator race in the 2003 elections were non-regular votes (absentee, postal, confined), meaning the bulk of all votes for Majuro came from regular votes, within the atoll

Key Findings: EBEGE ISLAND, KWAJALEIN ATOLL

Basic Demographics

- Ebeye's population exploded from 1958 to 1999, but the 1988 to 1999 trend indicates a dramatic slowdown (with only about 1,000 more people enumerated in 1999 compared to 1988). This is perhaps the result of a simple lack of space for new homes and already-crowded housing conditions (both of which prevent further high growth).
- Despite the slowdown, Ebeye's 2006 population is likely to have reached 10,000
- Ebeye's population structure is slowly ageing, with 2006 median age estimated at around 20, but the transition is slower on Ebeye than in most of the RMI (especially Majuro)
- There is evidence of a notable drop in fertility rates in the early 1990s on Ebeye
- Ebeye is a net receiver of migrants, like Majuro

Household Characteristics

- Households on Ebeye remain the most crowded in the RMI, with an average of 9 persons each
- Ebeye had by far the highest percentage of persons living in multiple unit households, many of which share common sanitation facilities
- The majority of Ebeye's household structures (buildings) were owned by their residents, but at the same time the majority of household land was not owned by the residents but was occupied with permission from the owners or title holders
- Unlike Majuro, where one quarter of households made roof-tax (barooj) payments, only 1 percent of Ebeye households reportedly made roof-tax payments
- The majority of Ebeye households use kerosene as their primary source of cooking and electricity as their primary source of lighting
- Like Eniburr, the most common source of drinking water on Ebeye was public standpipes (USAKA or KAJUR). Metered connection was the second most common source.
- Half of Ebeye households treat their water (any method) before drinking
- The majority of Ebeye households used flush toilets, but a significant number (11 percent) were shared facilities

Education

- Attendance rates much lower than the national attendance rates
- Only 12% Ebeye public elementary school students passed the HS test
- Only 15% of public school teachers passed the teacher test
- 42% of public elementary school teachers have a high school diploma
- 25% said education quality was poor on Ebeye
- Nearly a quarter said school closed

- 8th grade completion dropped in 2006 from 1999 while national 8th grade completion rates improved over the same period

Health

- 66% rated the quality of the hospital as good
- 88% got their medicines from the hospital
- Main cause of death was cancer, followed by heart attack, hepatitis and accidents
- Very low immunization rates, 64% of two year olds did not get immunized or households could not produce immunization card. DPT had low coverage rate of 50%.
- Teen pregnancy rate is 7% of total Ebeye births

Economic Activity and Income

- The 2006 survey found a very low labor force participation rate (LFPR) in Ebeye, at around 44.3 percent (meaning that more than half working age persons were unemployed but not looking for work)
- Unemployment on Ebeye was estimated at 26.4 to 38.1 percent
- Only 1 percent of Ebeye working age persons did some type of subsistence activity
- The most common occupations among those employed were laborers, cleaners, and other service workers
- Half of employed persons worked on the USAKA base, with another 20 percent working in the private sector and 19 percent working for government (local or national)
- Ebeye residents had the highest household and the second highest per capita incomes among all areas surveyed
- Earnings and salaries was the most common source of income for Ebeye households (91 percent of households) followed by land lease/rental income (35 percent)
- Ten percent of Ebeye households had no workers (on par with all areas) and nearly half (45 percent) had only 1 worker

Quality of Life, Poverty and Social Problems

- Nearly one in five (18 percent) Ebeye households claimed that their overall quality of life has deteriorated in the past three years
- Applying US poverty thresholds to Ebeye families reveals that the percentage of families below the poverty line increased from 64 to 78 percent from 1998 to 2006 (with similar trends seen in Majuro and Jaluit)
- Ebeye residents identified power, water, high cost of living, overpopulation and sanitation facilities as their most pressing social problems
- Two thirds of Ebeye residents (66 percent) felt that alcohol and drug abuse is a serious and growing problem

Food Sources and Nutrition

- Only 10 percent of Ebeye households rely primarily on local sources of protein and only 9 percent rely primarily on local fruits and vegetables – Ebeye residents are therefore the most dependent on imported food sources in all the RMI
- Ebeye had the lowest prevalence of crops and livestock grown on household premises
- Just over one third of Ebeye households claimed that they sometimes or often did not have enough to eat at mealtimes (on par with all areas)

Gender Issues

- Ten percent of Ebeye surveyed households had families headed by females with no husband present
- Among 6 to 14 year olds, females and males had roughly the same school attendance rates at 86 and 83 percent, respectively – but Ebeye children had the lowest overall attendance rates among all areas
- Adult (ages 25 or more) males outperformed adult females in elementary, high school and college completion on Ebeye
- Ebeye females had the second lowest labor force participation rate at just 28.6 and an unemployment rate of 31.7 (roughly on par with all other areas)
- The top jobs held by Ebeye females were bookkeepers/cashiers, other service workers, teachers, cleaners and other household helpers
- Ebeye's full-time, year-round female workers earned \$8,789 – far lower than their male counterparts who earned \$11,881
- Kwajalein has never produced a female member of Nitijela and as of the 2003 elections none of the local council seats were occupied by females
- The majority of Ebeye households (89 percent, on par with all areas) felt that more females should be represented in local councils and Nitijela

Government Responsibilities, Responsiveness and Elections

- Households on Ebeye identified public safety, education, health, and jobs as the top responsibilities of Government
- Nearly one third (32 percent) of Ebeye households felt that the government was not responsive to the needs and concerns of their community (the second highest rate among all areas)
- Eighty eight percent of Ebeye households support the idea of direct Presidential elections, higher than the rate for all seven areas surveyed (82 percent)

Key Findings: ENIBURR ISLAND, KWAJALEIN ATOLL

Basic Demographics

- Eniburr has a relatively fast-growing population, with especially rapid growth seen since 1999
- Anecdotal evidence holds that Eniburr has seen notable in-migration in recent years, especially from Ebeye
- Eniburr had the second highest dependency ratio among all areas surveyed – this becomes a critical issue when also considering the fact that unemployment is fairly high at upwards of 32 percent

Household Characteristics

- Like Ebeye, households on Eniburr are fairly crowded – the survey sample yielded a household size of 8 persons
- Most households are single-houses owned by residents, most land is used with permission from the title holders, and most households don't make any types of payments for the land
- Kerosene was by far the most common source of cooking (80 percent of households) and electricity (half of households) and kerosene (one third) were the most common sources of lighting
- More than three fourths of households use USAKA provided water for drinking and half treat their water before consumption
- Leaking roofs was the most common problem in households (with one third reporting this) and half of households that made improvements in 2005 used bank financing
- Only 12 percent of households had standard flush toilets (lower than Wotje, Jaluit and Arno) and pit dumping and using dumpsters were the two common methods of solid waste disposal

Education

- The majority of Enibur residents said education was poor
- 100% said completing 8th grade is very important
- Attendance between 1999 and 2006 remain the same
- 83.9% completed 8th grade
- 29% completed 8th grade
- No Enibur students took the high school test in 2005, because the test was not administered there.
- 100% of Enibur public school teachers did not pass the MILLT
- None of the Enibur public teachers have their AA and they are not certified teachers

Health

- Most get their basic medicines from the dispensary
- Only 12% said the dispensary was poor
- 70% of 2 year olds on Enibur did not get immunized
- Only 19% of women ages 16 and above gave birth, only 4% was ages 16 to 19
- Most women gave birth at Ebeye hospital

Economic Activity and Income

- Enibur's labor force participation rate was 49.2 and its unemployment rate was estimated at 27 to 32 percent
- Only five percent of Enibur working age persons did subsistence (mostly fishing), lower than all other areas except for Ebeye
- The top occupations included cleaners (and related workers), policemen, laborers, cashiers and welders
- The vast majority of workers (71 percent) worked on the USAKA base at Roi-Namur
- Enibur's income levels were the third highest behind Ebeye and Majuro and its per capita income was equivalent to \$5 per person per day
- Most households (82 percent) had earnings and salaries income and a quarter had land rental/lease income
- Enibur had the highest percentage of families (16 percent) with no workers

Quality of Life, Poverty and Social Problems

- Enibur residents had the most positive assessment on their overall quality of life, with just 3 percent saying that it has worsened in the past several years – 83 percent said it has gotten better or much better
- Enibur's top social problems were: water problems, reliable power, poor transport, poor education, health, and government services.
- Half the households felt that alcohol and drug abuse was a serious problem (a relatively low rate)

Food Sources and Nutrition

- Few Enibur households relied primarily on local protein and fruit and vegetable sources
- Crops and livestock were also not common on Enibur (although more common than on Ebeye)
- One quarter of Enibur households claimed that they did not have enough to eat (sometimes or often) at mealtimes, the lowest rate among all surveyed areas

Gender Issues

- Enibur had the second highest percentage of families headed by females with no husband
- Boys had a slightly better attendance rate than did girls

- Female adults were on equal footing with males with respect to elementary completion but far behind males at the high school completion level
- Eniburr female LFPR was 32 percent and unemployment was fairly high at about 41 percent
- The top female occupations included cleaners, teachers, cashiers and secretaries and sixty percent of employed females worked with USAKA
- Full-time year-round Eniburr females earned \$6,875 compared to \$8,857 for males
- Ninety percent of households surveyed support more women in council and Nitijela

Government Responsibilities, Responsiveness and Elections

- Health, education, public safety, waste management and sea transport were the top responses for most important government responsibilities
- Only 17 percent of households felt that government (local and national) was non-responsive to their community needs, the third lowest rate among areas surveyed
- Eighty eight percent support the idea of a Constitutional amendment to allow for direct elections of President, on par with all areas

Key Findings: ARNO ATOLL

Basic Demographics

- Arno Atoll has the most number of inhabited islands and has the third largest population among all jurisdictions in the RMI
- Unlike all other areas surveyed, Arno's population structure appears to be ageing very slowly (with median age barely increasing between 1999 and 2006)
- Arno is a large net sender of migrants, hundreds of whom have moved next door to Majuro
- As a result of its youth, Arno had the highest dependency ratio among the surveyed areas, at 1.0

Household Characteristics

- Arno households appear to be less crowded in 2006 (with 7.4 persons) compared to 1999 (8.5 persons).
- Almost all households are owned by residents who make no payments whatsoever for their residence buildings
- Most household land was occupied via family rights (41 percent), by permission from the title holders (30 percent), or by title holders themselves (15 percent)
- Arno households use charcoal and wood for cooking more so than any other area surveyed (91 percent of Arno households use charcoal or wood)
- Arno households also use solar for lighting more so than all other areas surveyed (66 percent use solar for lighting)
- Nearly all households (94 percent) collect rainwater using some type of catchment but only half treated their water before consumption
- A higher percentage of Arno households had common housing problems (like leaking roofs) than all other areas surveyed
- Thirteen percent of Arno households had flush toilets, but half had no sanitation facilities whatsoever. Arno had a higher rate of households without sanitation facilities than all areas surveyed and this appears to be a long-standing issue (same rate found in 1999 census)
- Pit dumping, burning and composting were the common forms of waste disposal

Education

- Attendance rates are slightly above the national rates
- Only 3 out of 10 schools had students passed the HS entrance test with average scores barely above 60.5
- Only 1 out of 41 teachers pass the MIELLT
- 10 out of 41 have an AA degree
- None of the teachers are certified

Health

- More people on Arno got sick than any other outer island atolls
- 97% got their medicines from the dispensary
- More people on Arno got diarrhea than other any other outer island atolls
- Very low immunization rates, 70% did not get immunized and those got immunized only 100% got BCG, others were less than 40%
- Teen pregnancy rate is 19%
- 59% of births from Arno occurred at the Majuro Hospital 59%

Economic Activity and Income

- Arno's labor force participation rate was roughly equivalent to the national LFPR in 1999, at about 50. Its unemployment rate was estimated at 32 to 37 percent.
- One quarter of working age persons did subsistence, the second highest rate behind Ailuk
- The top occupations included teachers, copra makers, policemen, carpenters, tailors/dressmakers, and government executives (council)
- Arno had the third lowest income levels after Ailuk and Wotje and with a per capita income of \$1,284 each person lives on roughly \$3.52 per day
- Copra remains a very common source of income for Arno households, with 79 percent earning income from copra farming in 2005. Copra was more common place on Arno than was earning and salary income
- After copra and earnings and salaries, handicrafts and fishing were also common sources of income
- Only 1 percent of Arno households had no workers, the lowest rate in all areas

Quality of Life, Poverty and Social Problems

- Over one third Arno households claimed that their overall quality of life has deteriorated in the past three years, the second highest rate among all areas
- The top five social problems identified by households were poor transport, lack of food, poor education, school dropouts, and price of copra.
- Four in 10 Arno households felt that alcohol and drug abuse was a serious or growing problem in their community, lower than most other areas

Food Sources and Nutrition

- All (100 percent) of Arno households rely primarily on local sources of protein and almost all (86 percent) rely primarily on local fruits and vegetables
- Crops are more commonly grown on Arno than on all other areas, with almost all Arno households growing the major crops of coconut, breadfruit and pandanus
- Arno also raises livestock more commonly than all other areas
- At the same time over one third of Arno households claimed that they sometimes or often did not have enough to eat

Gender Issues

- Female and male attendance among 6 to 14 year olds was comparable at 96 and 97 percent respectively (and Arno children had high attendance rates altogether)
- Arno females outperform males in elementary completion while males far outperformed females in high school completion
- Unemployment among Arno females was high at 50 percent, but among those employed the top occupations were teachers, tailors, handicraft makers, copra farmers, and
- Full-time year-round Arno males earned far more than their female counterparts, a nearly 3 to 1 ratio. This discrepancy between male and female wages was higher on Arno than in all other areas surveyed
- Nearly all Arno households think more females should be represented in council and Nitijela

Government Responsibilities, Responsiveness and Elections

- Health, education, sea transport and public safety were the top responses for most important government responsibilities on Arno
- Arno had the third highest percentage of households (28 percent) that felt that government (local and national) was non-responsive to their community needs and concerns
- Eighty one percent support the idea of a Constitutional amendment to allow for direct elections of President, on par with all areas

Key Findings: JALUIT ATOLL

Basic Demographics

- Jaluit Atoll (like Arno and Ailinlaplap) is a large atoll with a sizeable population scattered across many islands (with over twenty islands inhabited as of 1999)
- Historically, Jaluit has seen more fluctuation in its population than most other areas in the RMI, and within the most recent intercensal period (1988 to 1999) Jaluit was one of a few areas whose population actually shrunk
- Jaluit is a heavy ‘sender’ of migrants (meaning far more people have left than arrived), with almost all migrants moving to Majuro
- Possibly as a result of out-migration, the 2006 surveyed population revealed that many middle aged persons are “missing” from Jaluit (i.e., the population is taking on more of an hour-glass versus the more common pyramid shape)
- Jaluit had a relatively low dependency ratio at .68 (the second lowest among the areas) but overall unemployment is high

Household Characteristics

- Jaluit households appear to be less crowded in 2006 compared to 1999 (a common occurrence in most of the RMI)
- The vast majority of households are of the single-house type and are owned by the residents (who make no payments on their residence buildings)
- Almost half of households have occupants who claim to hold title to their household land, another 18 percent have family rights and 12 percent have permission from title holders
- Charcoal and electricity are the two most common cooking sources (roughly equally in prevalence) and electricity and kerosene are the top two lighting sources (with electricity more common)
- Nearly all households (98 percent) collect rainwater using some type of catchment and three fourths (74 percent) treat their water before consumption
- Leaking roofs, lack of lighting and lack of space were the top three housing problems on
- Bank financing was commonly used on Jaluit for housing improvements – with nearly 40 percent of improvements in 2005 financed by borrowing (a higher rate than on other rural areas)
- Nearly one third of households had flush toilets and pit dumping was the most common solid waste disposal method

Education

- Jobwor, Jaluit and Imiej Elementary schools did not score above 60%
- JHS seniors who took the CMI test placement test, most placed in development English and all placed in the lowest level in development math
- No teacher from Jaluit and Imiej pass the MIELT. 20% of Jabwor teachers pass the test

- 99% said completing elementary education was important
- 70% said education services was good

Health

- Half said quality of village dispensary was good
- Immunization rate was low at 56% of 2 year olds. Even at 56% rates of coverage was also low
- Half of women gave birth at home
- Ten birth rate lowest in the survey areas
- Only 10% got ill
- Of those who got ill, nearly a third sought treatment at their public dispensary
- Incidence of diarrhea was low 2%

Economic Activity and Income

- Jaluit's labor force participation rate was low at 34.2, far lower than its 1999 LFPR of 47 percent
- Jaluit had potentially the highest unemployment rate among the surveyed areas, with the two estimates (using different LFPRs) of 36.7 and 58.9 percent
- Sixteen percent of Jaluit working age persons did subsistence (mostly fishing), roughly on par with Wotje but lower than Arno and Ailuk
- The top occupations included teachers, policemen, carpenters, laborers and handicraft makers
- Just over half of workers were employed by government (more than the other rural areas), likely due to the heavy concentration of teachers on Jabor with the large high school there
- Jaluit's income levels surpassed those of Wotje, Arno and Ailuk but were notably lower than incomes in Majuro, Ebeye and Eniburr. Jaluit's per capita income equates to \$3.53 per person per day, roughly half of Majuro and Ebeye's daily rate
- Many households had earnings and salaries income (79 percent, a higher rate than the ones found in the other rural areas). The next most common income sources were social security, handicraft and copra income.
- Eight percent of Jaluit households had no workers (relatively low compared to other areas) and about one third had only one worker

Quality of Life, Poverty and Social Problems

- A relatively low percentage (12 percent) of Jaluit households claimed that their overall quality of life has deteriorated in the past three year
- The top five social problems identified by households were (in rank order): alcohol abuse, poor government services, poor transport, teen pregnancy, and hardship/poverty.
- A large percentage (65 percent) of households felt that alcohol and drug abuse was a serious problem

Food Sources and Nutrition

- Nearly three quarters of Jaluit households rely primarily on local sources of protein and fruits and vegetables – this was lower than the other rural areas
- Three quarters of households grow coconut, pandanus and banana. Crop growing in Jaluit is roughly on par with Wotje but lower than in Arno and Ailuk
- Three quarters of households raised chickens and half raised pigs – again lower rates than what was seen on Arno and Ailuk
- Jaluit had the third highest rate (at 37 percent) of households that claimed they sometimes or often did not have enough to eat

Gender Issues

- Jaluit had the highest rate of households with female heads who had no husband, 17 percent
- Boys had a slightly better attendance rate than did girls but female adults were on equal footing with males with respect to elementary, high school and college completion
- Jaluit female LFPR was low at 26.8 percent and unemployment was fairly high at 36.7 percent
- Most employed females were teachers, handicraft makers and laborers
- Full-time year-round Jaluit females earned \$6,500 compared to only \$5,700 for males, an uncommon occurrence
- Jaluit is one of just two jurisdictions that has ever produced a female Nitijela member, it has a relatively high percentage of women in council (21 percent), and 84 percent of households surveyed support more women in council and Nitijela

Government Responsibilities, Responsiveness and Elections

- Health, education, sea transport and public safety were the top responses for most important government responsibilities on Jaluit (this matched the top four cited on Arno)
- Eighteen percent of households felt that government (local and national) was non-responsive to their community needs and concerns (not very high compared to a few other areas)
- Seventy percent support the idea of a Constitutional amendment to allow for direct elections of President, on par with all areas

Key Findings: AILUK ATOLL

Basic Demographics

- Ailuk remains a small and slow-growing population
- The atoll is a net sender of migrants, most of whom have moved to Majuro

Household Characteristics

- Ailuk's household size, unlike other areas surveyed, has increased since 1999. This is likely because of consolidation of the population into households on the main island of Ailuk. The 1999 indicated that eight islands were inhabited and now only three are inhabited.
- Most land occupied by households is owned by title holders in the households or via family rights.
- Charcoal and wood are the most common sources for cooking, followed by kerosene
- Kerosene and solar are the first and second most common sources of lighting and Ailuk's solar use was higher than all other areas surveyed except for Arno (44 percent of households used solar for lighting on Ailuk, compared to 8 percent of all households surveyed)
- Almost all Ailuk homes collected rainwater using catchments as their source of drinking water
- Ailuk had the lowest percentage of households with flush toilets (only 5 percent) – and sanitation facilities was one of the key problems identified by Ailuk households

Education

- Ailuk's attendance improved in 2006 over the 1999 Census period
- Only 18% of Ailuk Public Elementary students passed the HS test
- No one at Enejelar Public Elementary passed the HS test
- None of the teachers at Ailuk and Enejelar Public Elementary passed the MIELLT administered in October of 2004
- The survey revealed school attendance rate on Ailuk Atoll is 90%, slightly above the national average of 88%. This was an improvement over the 99 Census of 70
- Ailuk Atoll represents less than 1% of the total enrolled students in public education in the RMI
- Elementary School facilities are generally in poor physical condition, they lack inadequate number of chairs and tables, and they lack of basic school equipment and supplies.
- 18% of 8th graders from Ailuk Elementary passed the 2005 HS test. Average test scores 54%
- 0% of 8th graders from Enejelar Elementary passed the 2005 HS test. Average test scores 45%
- 0% public elementary teachers passed the teacher test in 2004
- None of the public elementary school teachers are certified as required by law

- 99% of survey respondents said education was very important with 1 saying important
- 55% population completed 8th grade, substantially below the national rate of 85%, but improved slightly over the 99 Census
- 16% population completed High School, way below the national rate of 41%, however it is moving in an upward trend and it appears it is improving

Health

- 1 death in 2005 and was diabetes related
- 927 patient visits in 2005
- Serious medical procedures cannot be performed at the dispensaries
- 95% of the survey respondents said the quality of health services was good. Only 5% said it was poor.
- When sick, more two-thirds go to the dispensary for treatment
- 100% of the Ailuk Atoll population get their medicines from the dispensary
- Just above half of 2 years are immunized and 100% received all shots except BCG at 89%
- Low Contraception Use

Economic Activity and Income

- Ailuk had the highest labor force participation rate, the lowest unemployment rate, the second lowest rate for households without workers, and the highest rate of persons doing subsistence.
- At first glance, this looks impressive for an isolated atoll, but considering all of the other social and economic indicators for Ailuk (including income), this is perhaps more of a function of basic survival than anything else
- Handicraft making has become a very important industry for residents of Ailuk, surpassing copra farming and fishing. This was the top occupation among Ailuk's workers and was the most common source of income for households.
- Despite its high economic activity and low unemployment, Ailuk saw the lowest levels of household and per capita income among all the areas, with the average person living on just \$1.46 per day

Quality of Life, Poverty and Social Problems

- Eight out of 10 Ailuk households (81 percent) claimed that their overall quality of life has deteriorated in the past three years and 7 out of 10 claimed that they sometimes or often did not have enough to eat -- by far surpassing all other areas surveyed
- High cost of living, price of copra, and infrequent shipping were the top 3 social problems identified by Ailuk households
- Sanitation facilities were also identified as a major problem (and as mentioned earlier, Ailuk has the lowest rate of households with flush toilets at just 5 percent)
- Lack of food was also cited as a common problem

- Unlike all of the other areas surveyed, a very small portion of Ailuk households (3 percent) felt that alcohol and drug use was a serious or growing problem in their community

Food Sources and Nutrition

- Ailuk had the second highest rate of households who rely primarily on local protein sources and the highest rate of households who rely primarily on local fruits and vegetables
- Ailuk also had the highest (along with Arno) prevalence of crops and livestock grown on household premises
- Despite all this, nearly 70 percent of households claimed that they sometimes or often did not have enough to eat, suggesting that the high reliance on local foods and the high prevalence of crops and livestock may be more of a function of basic survival

Gender Issues

- Ten percent of Ailuk households were headed by females with no husband (low compared to other areas)
- Female school attendance (6 to 14 year olds) was markedly better than male attendance (97 percent compared to males' 89 percent)
- Unlike the other areas surveyed, Ailuk adult females had slightly better elementary, high school and college completion levels
- Ailuk females had the highest LFPR and the lowest unemployment rate among all females in the surveyed areas and the vast majority of working women on Ailuk made handicrafts
- Unlike most other areas, Ailuk full-time year-round working females earned notably more (\$1,028) than their male counterparts (\$594)
- Ailuk has an above average percentage of females represented in the local council (19 percent) and more Ailuk households (94 percent) support more female representation in local councils and Nitijela than all other areas surveyed (89 percent for all areas)

Government Responsibilities, Responsiveness and Elections

- Nearly all (95 percent) Ailuk households identified sea transportation as a key responsibility of government
- Ailuk had the highest percentage of households (34 percent) that felt that government (local and national) was non-responsive to their community needs and concerns
- Nearly all (95 percent) Ailuk households supported the idea of a Constitutional amendment to allow for direct elections of President

Key Findings: WOTJE ATOLL

Basic Demographics

- Since 1999 there has been consolidation within Wotje, with the total number of occupied islands falling from four to three (this phenomenon has also occurred in at least several other atolls in recent years)
- Wotje is considered a district sub-center but its population of 866 (as of 1999) made it only the ninth largest jurisdiction in the RMI
- Wotje's population is growing at a slower rate compared to the entire RMI and the atoll is a net sender of migrants, most of whom have been moving to Majuro

Household Characteristics

- Wotje households appear to be less crowded in 2006 (with 7.2 persons) compared to 1999 (8 persons). This has occurred despite the fact that some consolidation has occurred within the atoll (to the main island).
- The majority of households were single houses and are owned by their residents
- Three quarters of household land was occupied via family rights and three quarters make ekkan or eojok contributions
- Nearly 80 percent of households use charcoal or wood to cook and nearly 20 percent use electricity
- Electricity is more commonly used for lighting, with three quarters of households using electric lighting, while another 16 percent use solar energy for lighting
- Nearly all households (98 percent) collect rainwater using some type of catchment but very few households treated their water before consumption (and Wotje had the highest rate of persons with diarrhea during the survey at 7 percent)
- Nearly 1 in 5 households have some type of flush toilet and the majority of households dispose of their solid waste by dumping in pits or burning

Education

- The survey revealed school attendance rate on Wotje Atoll is 90%, above the national average of 88%. This was an improvement over the 99 Census of 86.9%, but lower than the 1988 Census of 93.5%.
- Wotje Atoll represents 5% of the total enrolled students in public education in the RMI
- Elementary School facilities are generally in poor physical condition, they lack inadequate number of chairs and tables, and they lack of basic school equipment and supplies.
- Wotje and Wodmej Elementary school do not have HF radios to communicate with MOE administration on Majuro
- 13% of 8th graders from Wotje Elementary passed the 2005 HS test. Average test scores 49%
25% of 8th graders from Wodmej Elementary passed the 2005 HS test. Average test scores 57%

- 100% of 8th graders from St. Thomas passed the 2005 HS test. Average test scores 68%
- 90% public elementary teachers failed the teacher test in 2004
- Two-thirds of NIHS teachers failed the teacher test in 2004
- None of the public elementary school teachers are certified as required by law
- 43% of survey respondents said education quality on Wotje Atoll was satisfactory
- 35% of survey respondents said schools or no classes occurred 1-4 times a month and reason for closure 30% said no teacher was present.
- 99% of survey respondents said education was very important with 1 saying important
- 83% population completed 8th grade, below the national rate of 85%, but improved over the 99 Census
- 32.5% population completed High School, below the national rate of 41%, however it is moving in an upward trend and it appears it will continue to improve.

Health

- 5 deaths in 2005, only one was diabetes related
- 1,107 patient visits in 2005
- Serious medical cases cannot be performed at the dispensaries
- Nearly 40% of the survey respondents said the quality of health services was good and another 40% said it was satisfactory and only 10% said it was poor.
- When sick, nearly two-thirds go to the dispensary for treatment
- 98% of the Wotje Atoll population get their medicines from the dispensary
- Above average immunization coverage
- Low Contraception Use

Economic Activity and Income

- Wotje's labor force participation rate was roughly equivalent to the national LFPR in 1999, at nearly 51. Its unemployment rate was estimated at 34 to 36 percent.
- Twelve percent of working age persons did subsistence, lower than in the other rural areas
- The top five occupations: handicraft makers, copra makers, teachers, government executives (council), and religious workers.
- Wotje had the second lowest household, family and per capita income levels (ahead of Ailuk on all three) and each resident lived on roughly \$2.59 per day
- The most common income sources were earnings and salaries, handicrafts, and copra
- Eleven percent of households had no workers at all and a quarter had only one worker

Quality of Life, Poverty and Social Problems

- Twelve percent of Wotje households claimed that their overall quality of life has deteriorated in the past three years, the second lowest rate among all the areas (tied with Jaluit)
- High cost of living, no jobs, price of copra, poor transport, and alcohol abuse were the top five problems affecting the Wotje community according to respondents
- On the issue of alcohol and drug abuse, Wotje had the highest percentage of respondents who felt that alcohol (including yeast homebrew) and drugs were a serious or growing problem

Food Sources and Nutrition

- Eighty four percent of households rely primarily on local sources of protein and 81 percent rely primarily on local fruits and vegetables
- Crops are commonly grown on Wotje households, with three quarters growing coconut, breadfruit and pandanus, and chickens and pigs were also commonly raised
- Despite this, over half of Wotje households claimed that they sometimes or often did not have enough to eat

Gender Issues

- Female headed households on Wotje were 8% of the total, equaling Arno Atoll for having the lowest percentage of households in this category.
- Female school attendance (6 to 14 year olds) was markedly better than male attendance (97 percent compared to males' 86 percent), but in educational attainment adult males far outperform females in elementary and high school completion
- Unlike the other areas surveyed, Wotje adult males had better elementary, high school completion levels and while females had better college completion levels
- Wotje female labor force participation was high at 45.0 percent, but the overall number employed was not high, giving Wotje females a high unemployment rate of about 39 percent.
- The median income of Wotje female year-round workers was \$2,375 compared to the males' \$3,000.
- The vast majority of surveyed households in all areas, 89 percent, felt that more females should be represented in local councils and the Nitijela. Wotje's rate was even higher at 93 percent.
- 11 percent of the local council seats are occupied by women.

Government Responsibilities, Responsiveness and Elections

- Education, health and sea transport were the top three responses for most important government responsibilities on Wotje
- Wotje had the lowest percentage of households (12 percent) that felt that government (local and national) was non-responsive to their community needs

and concerns – most on Wotje said government was responsive or somewhat responsive

- Seven in 10 households support the idea of a Constitutional amendment to allow for direct elections of President

2006 RMI Community Survey

Lessons Learned

1. Surveyors

Best option is to advertise, screen, test and hire the most literate, bilingual, outgoing and professional surveyors. Using volunteers (e.g., Ebeye) and govt workers (e.g. Majuro) means compromising quality. Also, the better the pay, usually the better the quality of surveyors EPPSO can attract. Paying \$5 per HH is on the very low end of the typical range for surveys these days. All in all, perhaps 1 in 5 surveyors in this survey was very good, 3 in 5 were so-so, and another 1 in 5 probably should not have been hired.

2. Training

1.5 days of training was barely enough – the most important part that needs to be expanded is the practice interviewing. EPPSO only did this for half a day or so and EPPSO should have done it for at least one day. This ensures that EPPSO catches errors early and raise the overall potential for good quality data collection. For example, the employment questions ended up being problematic especially for the surveyors who weren't as easily trainable – more training and practice up-front could have improved this.

3. Questionnaire

It became obvious very quickly in the first month of the project that survey design, testing and finalization (formatting, printing, etc.) takes at least a month to do. Sufficient time should be allotted to preparing and finalizing questionnaires, especially considering the other prep work that needs to be done before actual surveying begins. As for length, this questionnaire was at the very high end of typical questionnaire lengths – many questions results in interviewer and interviewee burden – EPPSO noticed this in this survey! Some households took over 3 hours and multiple visits to complete! That's too much for this type of survey. EPPSO also needs to ensure that none of the questions were “leading.” Some people raised this issue. Also, EPPSO needs to ensure that the sequencing of questions makes sense.

4. Project Management/Staffing

This project's organizational structure was very “flat” - two full-time supervisors overseeing nearly 40 surveyors. That means that insufficient supervision was sometimes occurring – rule of thumb can be to have at least one supervisor for every 5 surveyors. Supervisors need to stay on top of surveyors, track their progress, manually edit their forms – all to ensure highest quality. EPPSO sacrificed a bit in this area because EPPSO did not have sufficient eyes watching over the surveyors. Also, using EPPSO staff to do surveying and other work is okay, but it often detracted them from their EPPSO work, and vice versa (their

EPPSO work detracted them from survey work). The more dedicated staff the better.

5. Ebeye

Next time, someone **MUST** stay on Ebeye full time. EPPSO should not have supervisors go back and forth from Majuro – the gaps created problems and delays.

6. Coding and Keying

The Industry and Occupation codes were not done according to “international best practice” and as a result the data are not as usefully presented as they could be. EPPSO needs to have a standard set of I/O and other codes and perhaps EPPSO can do this as a side project before the next large survey or census. EPPSO has different codes, for example, for types of toilets, income sources, etc. This needs to be standardized so EPPSO can compare over time.

The two keyers EPPSO hired made mistakes, especially early in the process. EPPSO did not sufficiently train them before EPPSO threw them into the deep end. Because of time constraints, EPPSO rushed and this resulted in keying errors on their part – errors that required 3 full days to “clean up” by John and Ben later on... Next time, EPPSO **MUST** give them sufficient training and verification and practice. Surely, some of the keying errors weren’t caught. Also, the keying screens needed more time to develop and perfect. Keyers should not scroll at any time between screens as that increases room for error.

7. Edit and Tabulation

Originally, EPPSO had scheduled for our programmer (from U.S. Census Bureau) to be here for 3 weeks to do all the edit and tab. Looking back, this was a much better idea than having him do the edit and tab from abroad. But even 3 weeks would have probably been insufficient, in hindsight. Next time, a programmer should be in Majuro, and at least 3 weeks should be available to do the edit and tab **AFTER** the keying is all done!

8. Schedule/Timing

Twenty weeks were allotted for this project, from start to finish. EPPSO did not build in sufficient slack time, and as a result of the delays in surveying, coding, keying and edit/tab, the project ran over its final date of May 19. Next time, more time should be allotted. For this size of survey, perhaps 24 weeks would have been perfect.

In less than 5 months, nevertheless, the survey successfully covered nearly 10,000 in 1,200 homes across 6 far flung islands and atolls! 90% of the total work expended on this project was Marshallese.

26 May, 2006