






MEETING ABSTRACTS

Tailoring and Implementing an Emergency Medical Team (EMT) Training Package for Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs)

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Background/Introduction: Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs) represent some of the most remote and logistically challenging locations – with thousands of islands covering vast ocean territory. Since 2017, Pacific Ministries of Health have been developing EMTs, and all have worked to train team members to be deployment-ready.¹

Objectives: To describe an EMT training package specifically tailored to PIC contexts, including curated content, practical exercises, and “talanoa” discussions to improve EMT readiness, with a focus on logistics in remote and austere PIC contexts.

Method/Description: WHO leveraged EMT training materials developed globally and regionally to continuously tailor an

in-person EMT training package, emphasizing readiness for the deployment of light, mobile clinical teams for disaster-prone small island/large ocean countries. Emphasis was placed on practical learning exercises focusing on skills and competencies needed to manage complex Pacific deployments, and to care for populations on remote, difficult-to-reach islands with limited resources and referral options.

Results/Outcomes: The Pacific EMT training program includes a mix of didactic and practical sessions coupled with a full-scale simulation exercise; it was designed with and for Pacific EMTs. The effectiveness of the training package has been evidenced through many successful national EMT deployments in several PICs, as well as through consistently positive participant feedback.

Conclusion: Tailoring training materials to specific country contexts is essential. In the Pacific, core EMT training content with an emphasis on practical activities and simulations and “talanoa” discussions reflecting on previous deployments in remote islands has been viewed by participants as critical to preparing them for real-world deployments.

References (optional)

1. Casey S, et al. Strengthening national health emergency response: Pacific emergency medical teams (EMTs). *Weekly Epidemiological Record*. 2021;96(Special Issue). apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/345531.

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