





MEETING ABSTRACTS**Development and Procurement of a National Emergency Medical Team (EMT) Cache for Pacific Island Countries**

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Background/Introduction: Pacific Island Countries and Areas (PICs) represent some of the most logistically challenging locations, covering vast ocean territory and remote islands. Light, mobile clinical response capability is critical in the disaster-prone Pacific. Beginning in January 2021, WHO researched, tailored, and procured EMT cache “kits” specifically for Pacific Island contexts, based on the core standards of the global EMT initiative.

Objectives: To research, tailor, and procure cache “kits” to ensure self-sufficiency and high-quality out-patient mobile medical care for national EMTs in PICs.

Method/Description: WHO facilitated the development of national cache kits for 10 PICs EMTs. A need for specialized equipment and supplies or “cache” for team self-reliance is critical. Through a consultative process, including Pacific EMT leadership and team members, EMT mentors, and regional partners, WHO curated and procured cache kits for 10 PICs EMTs.

Results/Outcomes: The Pacific EMT cache kit is designed for four-to-six-person teams with the capacity to deploy for a minimum of three days, with full self-sufficiency. Because of the complex and remote access to many Pacific Islands, EMT cache must be practical for transport on small aircrafts and maritime vessels. A consultative process resulted in a curated cache list for Pacific national EMTs of over 125 items, estimated to weigh approximately 440 kilograms per kit. By the end of 2022, a total 31 kits will be delivered to EMTs in ten countries.

Conclusion: The design, development, and procurement of Pacific EMT cache for national response operations will allow for increased speed and agility for response to disasters and public health emergencies.

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