

Section 4: Building Pacific Capacity



Lesson Learned:
Invest in the community for long term sustainability.



*Jaluit Community Group
Training in Jaluit,
Republic of the Marshall
Islands (2002).*

Significance

Too often programs end in the Pacific when the funding terminates. In order for initiatives to continue in the Pacific, programs need to invest in local talent. Ongoing support, technical assistance, and opportunities for practice should be provided to develop a level of confidence and skills. Resources should be committed up front for this purpose.

PDTRC addressed capacity building at two levels. During the training preparation phase, co-facilitators were identified and encouraged to participate with the PDTRC staff in conducting the training in their community. As the cadre of in-country co-facilitators grew, PDTRC provided additional training opportunities for this group by having them plan and conduct training outside of their respective communities.

PDTRC Example

Julia Alfred has applied her training skills at three different levels. First, she participated as a Site Coordinator and Co-trainer at the first Pacific Diabetes Today training in Majuro. Subsequently, she led two additional in-country trainings on the outer atolls of Ebeye and Jaluit. She later became a regional trainer and conducted Pacific Diabetes Today training in the FSM, Chuuk State.

“The PDT trainings have certainly fulfilled the RMI Ministry of Health’s motto that ‘Health is a Shared Responsibility’ and we can defeat Diabetes if we all work together.”

Julia Alfred
Pacific Diabetes Today Site Coordinator



Lesson Learned:
Use the “learn-by-doing” approach to facilitate learning skills through experience.

Significance

People in the Pacific belong to oral-aural cultures where face-to-face interactions, observation and hands-on experiences are preferred over didactic training.

In respect of the Pacific learning styles, the training included structured opportunities for community members to share stories, work in small groups, and practice new skills.

PDTRC Example

- The Moloka‘i Diabetes Task Force integrated community activities with the PDT training. They planned and implemented an actual Diabetes Fair during the PDT training period. The group used the budget, timeline, and activity sheets from the PDT Guidebook as templates.



Yap Baanngal Health Organization Training, Yap (2003)

“I really feel that the PDT training was SUPER! I loved all of the personal stories, hands-on exercises and the talk story format. It allowed us to relate and not be ashamed to share.”

Napualani Spock
Maui – Hawai‘i
PDT Site Coordinator