



# **RMI Country Report Year: 2007**

**45<sup>th</sup> PIHOA Meeting  
April 14-18, 2008  
Honolulu, Hawaii**



# RMI Country Rpt.

- ✓ Health Care System
- ✓ General overview of the Year
- ✓ Success Stories
- ✓ Challenges
- ✓ Three priorities – next two years
- ✓ Briefing/Assistance



# Health Care System

- Two main hospitals
  - 90-bed facility on Majuro
  - 40-bed facility on Ebeye
  - 58 health centers in the outer islands
- Population est. 52,000
- 530 staff in the MOH: 20% is expat staff
- 32 physicians – only 8 are Marshallese



# General Overview and Challenges of 2007

- ✓ Election year for RMI – Nov. 2007
- ✓ Transportation – Airline of the Marshall Islands
  - \* national immunization survey – still on-going
- ✓ Increase prices of fuel
  - \* medical evacuations from outer islands: costs, time, distance
- ✓ Personnel – migration of health personnel
- ✓ Funding sources: personnel salaries, etc.



# Success of 2007

## ✓ MOH Re-organizational Structure

- \* more emphasis on prevention or primary health care at all levels
- \* development of overarching measures to monitor goals and objectives for RMI, MDGs, and performance based budgeting



# Success 2007

- ✓ HepB survey (CDC):
  - prevalence rate among children 1% - coverage rate for hepatitis B among infants and children: estimated at 99%
- ✓ DHS (demographic health survey) completed and coordinated by EPPSO with MOH – rich in information
  - being reviewed to be used to strengthen PH/PHC



# Success - 2007

- ✓ Majuro Hospital  
Redevelopment Project –  
awarded in 2007
- ✓ Diabetes Wellness Center
- ✓ Off-island Medical  
Referrals: decrease in  
numbers; cost savings
- ✓ Dental Preventive Services
  - school sealant program
  - Xylitol program
  - new funding



# Challenges

- ✓ MOH Re-organizational structure
  - allocation of funding, human resources, administrative functions of program areas
  - transition: staff shifting, focus on prevention, community outreach, etc.
  - impact of the re-organizational structure in the future



# Challenges

- ✓ Out-migration of medical personnel and its impact on health care services; costs for expatriate workers
- ✓ HIV/Cancer (all types)
- ✓ Diabetes Mellitus – high prevalence rates
- ✓ Comm. Diseases: STI/TB/Hansen Disease (national/international)



# Priority - 2008



- Local capacity building:  
Review 15-Yea Strategic Plan – strengthen PHC
- Finalize/amend Medical Licensing Act
- Initiate long-term plans for HRH → CMI, USP, NSB, etc
- Introduction of new vaccine(s): HPV
- Initiate “wellness concept” within the hospital setting
- Initiate Majuro Hospital Redevelopment Plan



## Three Priorities - Next 2 years

- ✓ Strengthen Public Health/PHC programs and services and local health care system:  
Diabetes Mellitus; Cancer Initiatives – HPV/tobacco; Tuberculosis/Hansen/HIV/STI
  - Majuro Hospital Redevelopment Plan
- ✓ Human Resources for Health (HRH) – short/long terms
- ✓ Health Information/Data Management – Performance Based Budgeting



# Briefing/Assistance

- HRH – TA from WHO/PIHOA in March 2008
  - draft HRH Strategic Plan; yet to be reviewed and finalized; TA from PIHOA/WHO
- QAS – TA is still necessary



# Briefing/Assistance

- Health Information System – network for Majuro is almost complete; completed installing software for HIS; still scanning medical records;
- OIHC – installed solar panels and network system for emailing data for 24 HCs; additional 12 HC to be completed by end of May 2008.



# Kommool Tata

*“Health is A Shared Responsibility”*

