

Niu Waves

Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific

Learning Across the Pacific

Welcome to the latest issue of Niu Waves, from the IPPF Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific. April has provided further opportunities for SROP and the Pacific Member Associations to continue to share learnings from across the Pacific and enhance our collaboration with regional partners.

In early April, the Pacific Humanitarian team hosted the regional MISP training of trainers workshop, in partnership with UNFPA, bringing together MAs, UNFPA staff from the sub-regional office and country posts and SROP staff. IPPF SROP was also represented at two key regional health meetings, ensuring that SRHR remains on the agenda as a crucial component of health services.

We also had some exciting visitors this month. The SROP team was thrilled to welcome Dr Jameel Zamir, who joined ESEAOR as Director of Programs this year, to the Pacific for the first time, while the Kiribati Women and Children’s Support Centre, supported by Kiribati Family Health Association, hosted Dr Sharman Stone, Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls during her visit to Kiribati.

Our Highlights

- The regional MISP training of trainers was held in Nadi, in partnership with UNFPA.
- Karen Hill, Director of Programs and Operations, Pacific, attended the Pacific Heads of Health meeting in Nadi.
- Michael Sami, SROP Organisational Development Manager, attended the Pacific Islands Health Officers Association meeting in Palau.
- Dr Sharman Stone, Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls, met with Norma Yeeting, Executive Director of KFHA, and staff at the Kiribati Women and Children’s Support Centre in Kiribati.
- SROP was thrilled to welcome Dr Jameel Zamir, who has recently joined ESEAOR as Director of Programs, to the Pacific.



Regional Health Meetings

IPPF SROP was represented at not one but two key regional meetings on health in the Pacific. With ongoing opposition to SRHR globally, it is crucial that IPPF continues to advocate for the inclusion of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services within Pacific health services.

65th PIHOA Meeting, Palau

From 25th to 29th March, Michael Sami, SROP Organisational Development Manager, attended the 65th Pacific Islands Health Officers Association (PIHOA) Executive Board Meeting in Palau. The annual meeting brings together PIHOA members, key national and regional stakeholders, development partners, as well as representatives from US federal agencies. It provides an opportunity to discuss regional and national health issues and to plot the way forward.

Michael presented on the need to promote SRHR across development and humanitarian settings in the Pacific and hosted a lively discussion.

7th Pacific Heads of Health Meeting, Nadi

From 3rd to 5th April, Karen Hill, Director of Programs and Operations, Pacific, attended the 7th Pacific Heads of Health meeting in Nadi hosted by the Pacific Community (SPC). With representatives from governments across the Pacific as well as NGOs, CSO, universities and other partners, the meeting focuses on providing recommendations to the Pacific Health Ministers Meeting.

The 2019 meeting addressed a wide-range of health issues including reproductive and maternal health, and the importance of Universal Health Coverage. With representatives from UNFPA, PIRMCCM and IPPF, reproductive health was well-covered although there was strong opposition at times.

*Michael Sami with PIHOA participants, Palau.
Credit: Ministry of Health – Republic of Palau.*



Dr Sharman Stone Visits Kiribati Women and Children's Support Centre

On 16th April, Dr Sharman Stone, Australia's Ambassador for Women and Girls, visited Kiribati Women and Children's Support Centre (KWCS) as part of her trip to Kiribati. Supported by Kiribati Family Health Association (KFHA), KWCS provides support to survivors of gender based violence across Kiribati.

Norma Yeeting, Executive Director of KFHA, met with Dr Stone during her visit to KWCS and the two participated in a round table discussion with women working to promote gender equality on 17th April. Norma shared experiences from KFHA's work and the challenges they face in promoting SRHR in Kiribati.

Dr Stone is also an external advisor to IPPF's Governing Council.



Read more about Norma Yeeting as part of our blog series on the [IPPF East and South East Asia and Oceania Regional Office website](#).

Norma Yeeting, KFHA ED, and staff at KWCS with Dr Sharman Stone.

VFHA & Wan Smol Bag

Vanuatu Family Health Association (VFHA) and Wan Smol Bag, a development theatre group which raises awareness of key issues including SRHR in Vanuatu, hosted a cultural ceremony on 5th April to promote cooperation and coordination going forward. The two organisations are the main providers of SRH and contraceptive services in Vanuatu.

The ceremony was held at the Wan Smol Bag nutrition centre and culminated in the exchange of mats and kava before staff, volunteers and management of both organisations shared kava. This represents the next stage in the relationship between the two organisations who have agreed to work more closely together going forward.



Danstan Tate, VFHA ED, presents mats and kava to WSB

Dr Jameel Zamir Visits SROP

Dr Jameel Zamir, who joined ESEAOR as Director of Programs earlier this year, visited Fiji from 11th to 16th April. As part of this busy visit, he met with the SROP development and humanitarian teams, attended part of the regional MISP training of trainers workshop, which provided an opportunity to meet representatives from each Pacific MA, as well as visiting the RFHAF clinic. Dr Jameel brings a wealth of experience and passion for SRHR to his role and we look forward to working closely together going forward.

In Brief

CIFWA Age of Consent Analysis

The Cook Islands Family Welfare Association (CIFWA) is finalising their situational analysis of the age of consent in Cook Islands. This research will inform advocacy activities going forward to promote the sexual and reproductive rights of all Cook Islanders and ensure that CIFWA can continue to provide high quality SRH services to all their clients.

RFHAF at the Coke Games

The Reproductive and Family Health Association of Fiji (RFHAF) set up a booth at the annual Coca Cola Games, in Suva, an athletic tournament which saw over 2,000 athletes from across Fiji compete. RFHAF provided SRHR information to competitors and spectators, and promoted Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Earlier this month, RFHAF, in partnership with the local police post, also hosted a morning wellness walk to raise awareness of sexual assault and the importance of consent.



The SROP team with Dr Jameel

Humanitarian

Regional MISP Training of Trainers

The Pacific Humanitarian team held the regional MISP training of trainers from 8th to 12th April, in Nadi. Hosted in partnership with UNFPA, the workshop brought together program and clinical staff from the nine Pacific MAs, as well as representatives from SROP, UNFPA’s sub-regional office and country posts, from as far a field as the Federated States of Micronesia. Keya Saha-Chaudhury, Senior Capacity Development Advisor, joined from the Bangkok Humanitarian Hub to support the facilitation team.

The workshop focused on the delivery of MISP in humanitarian settings and leveraged the participants’ wealth of experience of responding to crises around the world.



SPRINT Mid-Term Review

The SPRINT 3 mid-term review is currently underway. The purpose is to review the performance of the program and discuss how implementation can be improved and be best aligned with other incoming programs. Humanitarian Deputy Director, Robyn Drysdale, and MTR consultant, Tamara Kwarteng, visited Vanuatu Family Health Association from 15th – 18th April for data collection – the VFHA response to the eruptions of Manaro volcano on Ambae island was chosen to be one of two case studies for the review.

Community Disaster and Climate Risk Management Program, Samoa

From 1st to 5th April, Samoa Family Health Association (SFHA) worked with key partners under the Disaster Management Office’s Community Disaster and Climate Risk Management Program to empower communities in Samauga, Savai’i, to prepare for and respond to humanitarian disasters. Leiloa Asaasa, SFHA Program Manager, presented on the importance of SRH in emergencies.



From top: MISP ToT facilitators from IPPF and UNFPA (credit:UNFPA); participants at the MISP ToT.

PIRMCCM Update

In the week beginning 29th April, PIRMCCM host a series of meetings and workshops in the lead up to the two-day annual meeting, in Nadi. Representatives, including PIRMCCM members and partners, will travel from 11 Pacific member countries.

Learning

Free Online Courses

- *Taking a pleasure based approach to CSE*
In partnership with the Open University (UK) and the Family Planning Association of India. [Register here.](#)
- *Abortion Matters: An Introduction*
Updated. Expand your knowledge and increase your capacity to raise awareness and advocate for safe access to abortion. [Register here.](#)

Webinar: SGBV Fundamentals Training Package

15th May, 5pm Suva time

- Petra from the Pacific Humanitarian Team will share how the *SGBV Fundamentals* training package was developed, its role in assisting MAs to scale up SGBV services and its importance in humanitarian contexts. [Click here to join.](#)

SRHR in the News

- South Korea ruled that the [ban on abortion is unconstitutional](#) and the law must be revised by the end of 2020.
- The UN has watered down SRHR language in a resolution on combatting rape in conflict due to [pressure from the USA.](#)
- In collaboration with Water Aid, the Guardian has produced a photo story on [menstrual hygiene around the world.](#)

Dates for Your Diary

- May: IPPF Global report released
- 20th – 24th May: Regional LARC training, Port Vila
- 27th – 30th May: Pacific Women’s Economic Empowerment Regional Forum, Suva
- 3rd – 6th June: Women Deliver 2019 conference, Vancouver
- 3rd – 5th July: Regional Youth Forum, Kuala Lumpur
- 4th – 5th July: Regional EDS’ Meeting, Kuala Lumpur
- 5th July: Regional Executive Council Meeting, Kuala Lumpur
- 6th – 11th July: PSRH 13th Biennial Conference 2019, Port Moresby
- 13th – 15th November: The Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, Nairobi

Coming Up Next

The Regional Youth Forum, Regional Executive Directors’ and Regional Executive Council meetings will take place in Kuala Lumpur in July. We’re excited to share experiences from the Pacific and learn from others in our region.

Sera, SROP M&E Officer, will also attend CMIS training in Kuala Lumpur from 20th to 24th May, with M&E Officers from ESEAOR and SARO.

At the beginning of March, IPPF Central Office hosted a learning and sharing Indaba, to discuss priorities and ways of working. The two days were packed with ideas and discussion to drive the federation forward – we will share more in due course!

From all at SROP, we would like to thank our partners and Member Associations across the Pacific for their hard work.

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