

Niu Waves

Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific

Full Steam Ahead

Dear all,

Welcome to the final issue of Niu Waves for 2018, from the IPPF Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific. 2018 has been an exciting and hectic year for SROP and the Pacific Member Associations and I would like to thank all our MAs and partners for their dedication and hard work throughout the year.

Celebrating our successes isn't something we do often enough but 2018 has been a great year of achievement and continued improvement with the development and implementation of the new data management systems; three new clinic openings in Samoa, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu; three humanitarian responses in Tonga, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea; the development and launch of the Niu Vaka strategy with four year funding support from DFAT; and the visit of Dr Alvaro Bermejo, IPPF Director-General, to Vanuatu and Fiji to name but a few. We look back over some more of our highlights from 2018 on page 7.

As you read over this newsletter we hope you are as inspired as we are at SROP by the work of IPPF Member Associations in the Pacific.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Karen Hill
Director of Programmes and Operations, Pacific

Our Highlights

- The Pacific was strongly represented at ICFP in November.
- Tonga Family Health Association celebrated their 43rd anniversary and hosted Sharman Stone in the same week!
- Kiribati Family Health Association hosted their annual village symposium.
- Sera visited Central Office in London for the Evaluation Focal Points meeting.
- SROP held our annual retreat and planning workshop.
- The Pacific Humanitarian team travelled to the Humanitarian Hub in Bangkok for their planning workshop.



SROP staff with Dr Alvaro Bermejo at the Pacific Strategy launch

TFHA Day

Tonga Family Health Association (TFHA), which was launched by the King of Tonga in 1975, celebrated its 43rd anniversary on 4th December 2018 in Folaha, a rural village in Tongatapu. The occasion was marked with drama and dance performances from youth groups and was attended by Cardinal Soane Patita Mafi, the first ever cardinal from Tonga to the Diocese of Tonga and Niue, the Hon. Minister of MEIDECC, President of the Board and Karen Hill, Director of Programmes and Operations, Pacific.

December has been a big month for TFHA, as they hosted Sharman Stone, Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls and External Advisor to IPPF's Governing Council, the following week.



International Conference on Family Planning

Kathy, from Tonga Family Health Association (TFHA), Julius, from Vanuatu Family Health Association (VFHA) and Jane, Humanitarian SRH Services Adviser, attended the 5th annual International Conference on Family Planning, in Kigali, Rwanda.

IPPF and the Pacific were strongly represented with Kathy, Julius and Jane all presenting. Kathy presented an oral paper on TFHA's work on pap smears in humanitarian settings, Julius presented a poster on VFHA's response to Ambae and Jane presented on LARCs in the Ring of Fire as part of a panel discussion. Family planning in humanitarian contexts was a key focus of the conference and an area in which Pacific MAs have a wealth of experience.

Clockwise from top: TFHA staff and honoured guests at the 43rd anniversary celebrations; Julius discusses VFHA's work with Anna Gilchrist, DFAT Humanitarian, at ICFP; Jane, Kathy and Julius at ICFP.

KFHA Village Symposium

Karen, Director of Programmes and Operations, Pacific, travelled to Kiribati to attend Kiribati Family Health Association (KFHA)'s three-day Village Symposium from 11th to 13th December. Building on their work with Island Councils on the development and implementation of Island Development Plans, the Village Symposium brought together leaders and community members from nine islands across Kiribati for a friendly competition to see who had made the most progress on their goals. Through the Island Development Plans, KFHA empowers communities to take ownership of their needs and development and this symposium was the culmination of their work with Island Councils across Kiribati.

The nine islands presented their data, which they had gathered themselves, on progress in each of the four categories: Health, Peace, Economic Development and Sustainability. Aranuka, a small island with a population of just over a thousand people, claimed first place and was presented with their trophy.



16 Days of Activism

The 25th November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, marked the start of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, which culminated on 10th December with World Human Rights Day.

MAs across the Pacific and SROP commemorated the 16 Days in a variety of ways, including through drama, dance and informal lectures. At the SROP office, we focused on the role men and boys can play in ending gender based violence, led by Tura, SROP National Change Officer and male advocate.

Left from top: Samoa Family Health Association ran community outreach around the theme 'Peace Starts at Home' and asked communities to put on dramas and song around this theme;

Tonga Family Health Association ran an outreach event as part of World AIDS Day on 1st December.



Evaluation Focal Points Meeting, CO

Sera, SROP M&E Officer, attended the 14th annual Evaluation Focal Points Meeting, held at the Central Office in November, which brings together Monitoring and Evaluation Officers and Data Analysts from across the IPPF regions. As this was the first time SROP attended, Sera also took the opportunity to present at two brown bag sessions on general updates from the Pacific and key achievements in data, including sharing the wonderful work of Pacific MAs, in very challenging contexts, as well as our Niu Vaka Pacific Strategy.

The Evaluation Focal Points also reviewed and made recommendations on IPPF's Global Performance Results (2016 -2017) and shared best practices from across the Federation. They also discussed DHIS2 v2.30, data evaluations, review of 2017 annual data cleaning process and planning for 2018 institutional data collection. Dr Raj, from the Bangkok Humanitarian team also presented on the response in Tonga and the Humanitarian M&E framework.

Overall, the meeting was a great learning experience and an opportunity to share best practices from the Pacific.



Sera and the other evaluation focal points in Central Office

SROP Retreat

From 29th November to 1st December, SROP staff gathered just outside Suva for our annual retreat and planning workshop. After an eventful year, filled with so much travel that the office felt like a ghost town at times, it was a crucial opportunity for the whole team to come together and reflect on the highs and lows of 2018 as well as look forward to 2019.

With the launch of our Niu Vaka strategy, 2019 will be another important year for SROP and MAs across the Pacific, with new challenges to rise to and overcome and new opportunities to grasp with both hands! We look forward to continuing our Niu Vaka journey with you all.



Fiji Women's Crisis Centre Meeting

Tura, SROP Advocacy Officer, was invited to take part in the 8th Pacific Women's Network Against Violence Against Women meeting, hosted by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre, from 10th to 14th December.

The annual meeting brings together activists, governments, civil society organisations and other stakeholders from across the Pacific to review the progress made on eliminating violence against women and to look to the future and make recommendation on how to proceed as a region. SROP is thrilled to be represented at such an inspiring and important event and we look forward to opportunities to work more closely with the network going forward.



From top: SROP staff at the retreat/Christmas party; SROP staff busy planning; Tura at the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre's annual meeting.

SIPPA Joins Safenet

The Solomon Islands Planned Parenthood Association (SIPPA) has joined Safenet, the national referral system for gender based violence (GBV) services in the Solomon Islands. It is a network of selective government ministries and non-governmental organisations, who provide essential services to survivors of GBV. SIPPA will continue to provide front-line services to survivors of GBV and will refer cases within the Safenet network to ensure survivors can access the necessary services and support. Outside of the government services, SIPPA is the largest provider of sexual and reproductive healthcare in the Solomon Islands and their inclusion in Safenet will improve the support offered to survivors of GBV.

MTR of Asia Pacific Declaration on Population and Development



Matelita, Executive Director of Reproductive Family Health Association Fiji, and Rongo, Executive Director of Cook Islands Family Welfare Association, attended the Mid-Term Review of the Asian and Pacific Declaration on Population and Development in Bangkok, Thailand from 26th to 28th November.

There was also a strong Pacific youth presence.

Resource Mobilisation

Karen, Director of Programmes and Operations Pacific, conducted resource mobilisation training with Tonga Family Health Association (TFHA) from 3rd to 7th December.

TuFHA Accreditation

Tuvalu Family Health Association (TuFHA) received their accreditation visit from the ESEAOR team from 12th to 16th November.

Finance Capacity Building

Dolli, SROP Finance Officer, has visited Samoa and Solomon Islands in the last month to continue to build the finance and budget management capacity of our MAs. The finance visits focus on ensuring that all MAs are financially sound and accountable and that transactions are transparent and carried out according to financial processes and procedures.

TFHA Annual Planning

In early November, Robert, SROP Senior Programme Manager, travelled to Tonga to support Tonga Family Health Association (TFHA) during their annual work-planning retreat. The Minister for Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change and Communications (MEIDECC), the Hon. Poasi Tei also attended the opening.



From top: Matelita at the MTR of the Asia Pacific Declaration on Population and Development; Robert, the Minister for MEIDECC and the TFHA team at the TFHA retreat.

Humanitarian

Global Humanitarian Team Meeting

The Pacific Humanitarian team travelled to the Humanitarian Hub in Bangkok for their annual Global humanitarian team review and planning meeting in December. The meeting was an opportunity to take stock and reflect on the achievements of 2018 as well as develop the 2019 workplan for the global humanitarian team.

The Pacific humanitarian team shared learnings from the three responses this year in Papua New Guinea, Tonga and Vanuatu as well as the work they're doing to promote and develop the nexus between humanitarian and development activities and the workplanning process with the broader SROP team.

SFHA Community Disaster Preparedness Initiative

Samoa Family Health Association (SFHA) has joined the Community Disaster and Climate Risk Management Program through DMO, Red Cross and ADRA. This program brings together government ministries and NGOs to educate and empower communities to respond to humanitarian disasters. Local, community-focused initiatives are a crucial component of a localised humanitarian response as the communities affected by disasters are the first responders, dealing with the immediate aftermath.

Tonga Localisation Case Study

The Humanitarian team is thrilled to share their latest case study, *Localisation of Aid: Tonga Case Study*. The case study explores the learnings of the IPPF Humanitarian team and TFHA from the response to TC Gita earlier this year. Please find the case study attached to this email.

Petra & Aggie in Solomon Islands

Petra, Humanitarian Gender Specialist, and Aggie, Humanitarian Capacity Development & Partnerships Advisor, travelled to the Solomon Islands before joining the rest of the Humanitarian team in Bangkok. Petra delivered training on the Gender Based Violence Fundamentals for SIPPA and key partners while Aggie conducted a SPRINT orientation for the new Humanitarian Focal Point at SIPPA and assisted in developing the SPRINT report.



Pictures from top: the Pacific Humanitarian team in Bangkok; the SFHA team at the Community Disaster Preparedness initiative drill; SIPPA staff at the GBV workshop

2018 in Review

Data Management Improvements

We rolled out our new and improved data management system to all Pacific MAs and all received data management training this year.

Community Innovation

Kiribati Family Health Association hosted their first inter-island contest to encourage communities to take charge of their own development.

High Profile Handshakes

IPPF representatives have rubbed shoulders with royalty this year, with Tura meeting Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, on her first royal tour and Joshua Isikeli Sefesi, TFHA peer educator, receiving the Queen’s award from the woman herself.

Policy Developments and Legislative Change

This year, Cook Islands Family Welfare Association and Kiribati Family Health Association engaged with local and national policymakers to drive meaningful change in SRH policy.

SRH in Emergencies

We supported MAs in **three** countries to respond to humanitarian disasters this year.

New Clinic Openings

MAs in Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Vanuatu each opened a new clinic.



Sharing the Pacific Knowledge

2018 has been a great year for sharing what we do best in the Pacific, with MAs or SROP staff representing at multiple international conferences, several trips to Central Office, and the development of best practice notes.

Awards Galore!

Staff and volunteers at several MAs were deservedly recognised for their hard work and achievement this year. Highlights include Liai, from SFHA, receiving the maternal health visionary award from the Maternal Health Taskforce at Harvard, a first for the Pacific, and Norma, from KFHA, receiving Kiribati’s Distinguished Service Award.



The Niu Vaka

Who could forget the launch of our inaugural Niu Vaka Pacific Strategy? Dr Alvaro, IPPF Director-General, travelled to the Pacific to launch it!



SROP staff at our Christmas celebration

SRHR in the News

- IPPF has published a useful resource on how SRHR organisations can be more [meaningfully youth-centred](#).
- Last year, IPPF funded six small grants to MAs around the world to support youth-run projects tackling abortion stigma. Read the [review here](#).
- Imelda Cortez, who was jailed in El Salvador under their strict anti-abortion laws in 2017, has been [freed after spending 18 months in custody](#).

Dates for Your Diary

- Please note, **SPRINT and Partnerships for Health reports are now due**.
- 31st December: Partnerships for Health implementation closes.
- 15th January: all integrated annual workplans and budgets completed.
- 24th December – 2nd January: the SROP office will be closed.

Coming Up Next

Following the launch of the Niu Vaka strategy, SROP and our Pacific MAs have been hard at work wrapping up the Partnerships for Health project and transitioning to the Niu Vaka Pacific Strategy.

December has been a flurry of review and planning workshops and meetings and 2019 is looking to be an exciting and challenging year as we embark on our Niu Vaka journey in earnest! SROP, our Pacific Member Associations, and the federation as a whole have big plans for 2019, to expand our work and continue to provide lifesaving sexual and reproductive health services to those who need them most.

We know that 2019 will bring new challenges as we continue to champion SRH rights throughout the Pacific, but with those new challenges come new opportunities and new partnerships.

From all at SROP, we would like to thank our partners and Member Associations across the Pacific for their dedication, tireless work and the inspiration that they've been to us throughout 2018. We look forward to another challenging and rewarding year ahead and to working with you further in the new year.

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