

Niu Waves

Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific

Shifting Strategies

Welcome to the latest issue of Niu Waves, from the IPPF Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific. In just one short week, we will welcome Dr Alvaro Bermejo, IPPF Director General, to the Pacific for the first time in his tenure as DG to launch our inaugural Pacific Strategy. The team is hard at work putting the finishing touches to the strategy which will guide our work for the next four years and we look forward to sharing it with you. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have contributed to its development over the past few months.

Dr Bermejo will arrive in Port Vila, Vanuatu on Friday 26th October. On Saturday 27th, he will visit the VFHA clinic and hear more about their recent work, including the Ambae response, before joining VFHA musicians on an outreach visit. On Sunday 28th, Dr Bermejo will arrive in Suva. On Monday, he will meet with the EDs and attend an outreach visit with RFHAF, before officially launching the strategy on Monday evening. On Tuesday, Dr Bermejo will meet with key stakeholders including DFAT, MFAT, UNFPA and the Ministries of Health and Foreign Affairs. At lunchtime, he will deliver a public lecture at USP on 'Why Should We Invest in SRHR in the Pacific?'.
 We look forward to the launch and hope you can join us for these very special events.

Our Highlights

- The Pacific Strategy workshop in Nadi was success. The team of consultants are now incorporating feedback into the final draft of the strategy document.
- Liai, ED of SFHA, is one of 10 maternal health advocates recognised by Harvard.
- New Zealand Parliamentarians visited VFHA and DFAT Solomon Islands visited SIPPA.
- Jamie Isbister, DFAT First Assistant Secretary and Humanitarian Coordinator, visited SROP and the Pacific SPRINT team.

Dates for Your Diary

- 29th October: Launch of Pacific Strategy at Holiday Inn, Suva.
- 30th October: IPPF DG Public lecture at USP, Suva.
- 31st October – 2nd November: Meetings with SROP and EDs, Suva.
- 12th – 15th November: International Conference on Family Planning 2018, Rwanda.



EDs, MA representatives and SROP staff ahead of the Pacific Strategy

Pacific Strategy Workshop

From 17th to 20th September, Executive Directors and Program Managers gathered in Fiji for the Pacific Strategy workshop. During this intensive four-day period, we came together from across the Pacific to agree on the vision and mission of the strategy, as well as to prioritise themes for inclusion and to discuss the operationalization of the strategy. We would like to thank you once again for your hard work and passion during this workshop – we hope you found it as engaging and inspiring as the SROP staff did.

From this workshop, the team of consultants developed the first draft of the strategy and, having received feedback from SROP, MAs, CO and key external partners, are now hard at work on the final version.



Finance & Governance Training

From 10th to 12th September, EDs and finance managers from all Pacific MAs gathered in Nadi for Finance and Governance training. Facilitated by staff from ESEAOR, Central Office and SROP, the workshop focused on ensuring systems are in place to allow MAs to accurately monitor their finances.



Following this, EDs and MA representatives spent two days with SROP staff to review activities to date and plan for the rest of the year.

Tonga Advocacy Workshop

From 1st – 5th October, Tura, SROP National Change Officer, was in Tonga for the advocacy follow-up visit. This focussed on refreshing TFHA's advocacy skills and establishing priorities for the coming years.



To round off the visit Tura and TFHA staff attended the launch of the National Youth Parliament, further raising the visibility of TFHA and enabling the team to put their refreshed skills into practice.

VFHA Host NZ Parliamentarians

On 3rd October, four New Zealand Parliamentarians and four local New Zealand High Commission Officials visited the Vanuatu Family Health Association (VFHA) clinic. Danstan, ED of VFHA, presented a photo story of VFHA's work. The Parliamentarians also received a tour of the VFHA Cancer Screening clinic. VFHA nurses, who are currently the only ones offering cervical cancer screening in Vanuatu, discussed the challenges that women currently face in getting screening and, if necessary, treatment for cervical cancer in Vanuatu.

The NZ High Commissioner highlighted to the MPs the extent to which VFHA supports the Ministry of Health to roll out SRHR activities in the country. The team mentioned how impressed they were that VFHA managed to do so much despite their limited resources and encouraged the MA to continue the important work in the country.

UNFPA Data Check

Sera, SROP Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, was invited to attend the UNFPA Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) data validation workshop from 24th to 28th September. This workshop gave local M&E experts an opportunity to review and discuss RMNCAH data that had been collected in Pacific countries.

Tuvalu QoC Visit

From 8th to 12th October, Tarai, SROP Quality of Care Officer, visited the renovated Tuvalu Family Health Association (TuFHA) clinic for her follow-up QoC visit. Whilst there are still improvements to be made, Tarai was impressed by how much the renovations improved client experiences, including allowing for more privacy.

Additionally, TuFHA have recently trained 17 new peer educators and seven of whom completed TuFHA's second outreach trip of the year.

AUS High Comm Visits SIPPA

The Australian High Commissioner to Solomon Islands, Roderick Brazier, visited the Solomon Islands Planned Parenthood Association (SIPPA) on 5th September. He was accompanied by his wife, Mita, and colleagues, Melissa Stutsel and Jemma Malcolm.

The DFAT team praised SIPPA staff and volunteers for their dedication and tireless work, especially with youth and underserved groups across the Solomon Islands, and reiterated the impact that SRH services have on national development. Ben Angoa, ED of SIPPA, is confident that this visit has strengthened links between SIPPA and the local DFAT post.



SFHA ED Receives Maternal Health Visionary Award

On 17th September, Liai, ED of Samoa Family Health Association (SFHA), was one of just ten recipients of a Maternal Health Visionary Award, from the Maternal Health Task Force at Harvard. These awards recognise individuals who have made a significant impact in the field and who drive innovation.

Liai received the award “for her inclusive, client-centered approach to care which makes everyone feel welcomed and for her collaborative management style which inspires those who work with her to engage in creating a better future for women and their families.”

Liai is the first recipient of this award in the Pacific. Please join SROP in congratulating Liai and the SFHA team on this honour.



ICFP Preparations

Last week, Michael, Head of SROP, and Rongo, ED of Cook Islands Family Welfare Association (CIFWA) were in Auckland to review the ministerial declaration for the Asia Pacific region ahead of the International Conference on Family Planning in Rwanda next month.

Kathy, from Tonga Family Health Association (TFHA), Julius, from Vanuatu Family Health Association (VFHA) and Jane, Humanitarian SRH Services Adviser, will attend the conference. They will present an oral paper, poster presentation and panel discussion respectively.



Menstrual Hygiene Workshop

From 10th to 13th September, Robert, SROP Senior Project Manager, and Aggie, Capacity Development Partnerships Advisor (Humanitarian), attended the Criterion Institute’s Menstrual Hygiene Management workshop. The four day workshop was part of Pacific RISE, an Australian Government initiative, and focussed on social enterprises in the menstrual hygiene space.

“Menstrual Hygiene Management is a development tool that not only addresses sustainability in terms of affordability but is primarily an environmentally conscientious concept that can be undertaken by women's groups for income generation. The link to humanitarian is that I see these hygiene packs as being part of the dignity kits for women of childbearing age.” Aggie, Pacific Humanitarian Capacity Development Partnerships Advisor.

Pictures from top: SFHA ED Lealaiauloto Liai Iosefa Siitia; re-useable menstrual hygiene products

SPRINT

Jamie Isbister visits SROP

On 26th September, SROP Humanitarian had the pleasure of hosting DFAT First Assistant Secretary and Humanitarian Coordinator, Jamie Isbister. Jamie and Robyn, Humanitarian Deputy Director, discussed the SPRINT work in the Pacific region.

PNG Response Completion

The Papua New Guinea Family Health Association (PNGFHA) team has completed their response following the February earthquake. The team, which was the first to reach many remote communities since the earthquake occurred, reached a total of 5,484 beneficiaries with clinical services and awareness sessions.

Despite very challenging circumstances, the team was able to bring life-saving SRH services to those that needed them most, including treating and referring 12 emergency obstetric and new born care clients.

Ongoing Vanuatu Response

The Vanuatu government has extended the State of Emergency, following the evacuation of Ambae, to the end of November and the VFHA team are responding again on Maewo and Santo to ensure sexual and reproductive health needs are met.

Annual Pacific Humanitarian Program Review

The Annual Humanitarian Review was held on 21st September. This was a great opportunity for MAs to learn from each other as representatives from TFHA, PNGFHA and VFHA shared their 2018 emergency response experiences. The review day was also an opportunity for all MAs to share their achievements and challenges in implementing enabling environment and preparedness activities as part of the SPRINT program over 2018.



Reporting Dates

Please note, narrative and financial reports are expected for both SPRINT and Partnerships for Health between **10th and 21st December 2018**.

Pictures from top: Robyn with Jamie Isbister; PNGFHA travelling to respond to earthquake; and representatives from PNGFHA, TFHA and VFHA present on their response experiences.

PIRMCCM Join the SROP Office

The PIRMCCM, the Pacific Islands Regional Multi-Country Co-ordinating Mechanism, Secretariat has moved into the SROP office. PIRMCCM, as the overall guiding body responsible for the use of Global Fund resources in participating Pacific countries, has had a close relationship with IPPF SROP for many years and this marks the next chapter in our collaboration.

IPPF Accountable Now Report 2017

IPPF has now submitted its 2017 Accountability Report to Accountable Now, a global platform that supports NGOs to be more transparent and focused on impact. The report addresses a range of questions about the work our organisation does through the lens of accountability, transparency and good governance.

The report will now be assessed by an Independent Review Panel made up of civil society industry experts which will provide feedback on areas that we do well as well as others we can strengthen.

SRHR in the News

- The Guardian investigates Botswana's experience of [falling population growth](#).
- Malaysia became the first country in the WHO Western Pacific Region to [eliminate the mother-to-child transmission of HIV](#) and syphilis.
- Safe Abortion Action Fund (SAAF) have issued their [annual report](#).



Filipe Nagera, Acting PIRMCCM Co-ordinator

Coming Up Next

This month marks the launch of our inaugural Pacific Strategy. The Director General arrives in the Pacific on 26th October.

- Pacific Strategy launch on October 29th.
- 12th – 23rd November, Sera, SROP M&E Officer, will be in London for the Organisation, Learning and Evaluation Focal Point meeting.
- 12th – 16th November, Kathy from TFHA, Julius from VFHA and Jane, Humanitarian SRH Services Adviser, will present at the International Conference on Family Planning in Rwanda.

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

Funding support gratefully received from

