

# Niu Waves

Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific

## Upgrades & Updates

Welcome to the latest issue of Niu Waves, from the IPPF Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific. Hot on the heels of the last update, there's already been so much going on in July and August that we thought there was no point in waiting to celebrate the incredible work of our Member Associations and partners, and all that's been happening at SROP.

In the past two months, two Member Associations have undertaken humanitarian responses, three Member Associations have started or completed renovations on their clinics, two Member Associations have hosted advocacy events and the SROP office hosted Sharman Stone, Australian ambassador for Women and Girls, finished our own renovations and celebrated World Humanitarian Day, to name a few of our highlights. Development of the Pacific Strategy is well underway and we look forward to bringing together Member Associations in Nadi for the Pacific Strategy workshop.

However, it hasn't all been good news and we were saddened to hear the news of John Tangi's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this time. A champion of SRHR, let us take this opportunity to reflect on the legacy that John leaves behind. Read more about the impact that John's work has had on the Cook Islands, and the Pacific and ESEAOR region more generally, on page two.

### Our Highlights

- The Pacific Strategy in-country visits are almost complete. Next step is the Pacific Strategy workshop in Fiji.
- The Humanitarian programme is expanding to Cook Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu.
- SFHA opened their new headquarters.
- VFHA's hosted the 2018 Reggae Faea music festival.
- Sharman Stone visited SROP.
- The SROP team celebrated World Humanitarian Day.

## Pacific Strategy Update

Eight of the nine in-country consultations have been completed by the team of consultants, accompanied by SROP representatives, and the remaining consultation in Fiji is currently underway. The completed in-country visits have been successful with lively contributions from staff at all Member Associations and informative sessions with local partners and donors.

Following the completion of the in-country consultations, Executive Directors and Program Managers will gather in Fiji for the Pacific Strategy workshop which will pull together key themes from the national consultations and from which the team of consultants will develop the first draft of the strategy. Prior to the Pacific Strategy workshop, Executive Directors will have two days with the SROP office. Please contact Karen if you have particular needs that you would like addressed in this period.

Remember, we are also running a competition to find the perfect name for the strategy. If your suggestion is chosen, you'll not only have the honour of naming the program that will be implemented across the Pacific over the next four years, you'll also receive a prize, which will be presented at the Pacific Strategy launch in October. To enter, please email your suggestion to [khill@ippf.org](mailto:khill@ippf.org) by Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September.

## John Tangi's Legacy

John Tangi, IPPF Treasurer and Chairperson of the ESEAOR Regional Council, passed away in August 2018. John joined IPPF as a volunteer in the Cook Islands and went on to become the President of CIFWA. John also became the first Pacific Island Chair to the Regional Council of ESEAOR. With a region consisting of much larger countries, this historic event is testament to the presence that John had and his tenacity. He was a great leader and this was demonstrated again when he was voted Treasurer of the IPPF Governing Council, another first for the Pacific.

John was also a distinguished Member of Parliament in the Cook Islands representing the Tupapa-Maraeenga constituency. He was elected Acting Speaker of the Parliament in 2010 and became the Clerk of Parliament from September 2013.

John's work has had a lasting impact on SRH in Cook Islands, across the Pacific, and globally, and he will be sorely missed.



*John Tangi and Nora Murat, Regional Director*

## KFHA Celebrates ED's Award

As part of Kiribati's Independence Day celebrations in July 2018, Norma Yeeting was awarded the Distinguished Service Award. With only five recipients in 2018, this prestigious award recognises Norma's service to the development of Kiribati.

Following the Pacific Strategy in-country consultation, Kiribati Family Health Association (KFHA) staff, volunteers and board members gathered together in North Tarawa to commend and celebrate Norma's formidable and tireless work in advancing SRHR in Kiribati and across the Pacific. Maya, the consultant conducting the in-country consultation, and Katy, SROP Media and Communications, were honoured to be a



part of the celebrations, which included moving speeches, dance presentations and KFHA's trademark singing.

Once again, SROP would like to offer our congratulations to Norma and the KFHA team on this well-deserved honour. You can read more about the award on the [IPPF blog](#).

*Norma Yeeting leads the KFHA team in song*

# SFHA Opens New Head Office

The Samoa Family Health Association (SFHA) opened its new head office in Motootua on 9th August. The clinic was opened by former Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Julie Bishop, who delivered the keynote speech, while the Hon. Tuitama Dr Leao Talalelei Tuitama, the Samoan Minister for Health, spoke about the relationship between SFHA and the Ministry.

The opening comes as part of the bilateral support of the Australian Government to SFHA under the Impact Project, which began in June 2017. Robert, SROP Senior Project Manager, attended the launch and said, “This is so exciting to witness the opening of a newly renovated building that signifies great collaborative work between the Samoan government and the local, and only, SRH Non Governmental Organization in Samoa. The securing of the building with a great location will enable SFHA to provide SRHR service delivery to the Samoan people.”

It’s been a busy time for renovations—Tuvalu Family Health Association (TuFHA) also opened their refurbished clinic in August and the planned renovations of the Solomon Islands Planned Parenthood Association (SIPPA) clinic will begin in September.



*From left to right: Lealaialoto Liai Iosefa Siitia, SFHA ED; Seiuli Maualaivao Pepe Seiuli, SFHA President; Julie Bishop, former Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs; Afioga Tuitama Dr. Leao Talalelei Tuitama, Samoan Minister of Health; Concetta Fierravanti Wells, former Australian Minister of International Development and the Pacific; and Her Excellency Sara Moriarty, Australian Ambassador to Samoa*

# Sharman Stone Visits SROP

The Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls, Dr Sharman Stone, visited the SROP office in July 2018. The team shared the great work of our Member Associations and also discussed some of the challenges in SRHR in the Pacific and how these could be overcome.

Dr Stone was a Member of Parliament for twenty years and has been dedicated to the rights of women of girls throughout her career. In 2017, Dr Stone was appointed Australia’s Ambassador for Women and Girls and she is also an external adviser to the IPPF Governing Council.



*Sharman Stone with the SROP team*

# RFHAF Youth CSE Photo Exhibit

On 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2018, youth volunteers at RFHAF, ranging from twelve years of age to 24, shared their stories with parliamentarians through a photo story exhibition. The photos were taken by the volunteers themselves and movingly depicted the challenges that young people in Fiji face in accessing SRH services when they don't have the necessary information to make an informed choice.

Through these stories, the youth volunteers called for increased access to Comprehensive Sexuality Education. Honoured guests included the Permanent Secretary for Youth and Education and the Leader of the Opposition.



*RFHAF youth volunteers and staff with RFHAF Board Members, Mr Sepesa Rasili (President) and Mr Amini Tudrau (Treasurer)*

Matelita Seva-Cadravula, Executive Director of RFHAF, called on government to make CSE mandatory in all schools in Fiji, saying “the stakes are high: the decisions we make have the potential to make a great and lasting impact on poverty reduction and human development.”

## VFHA's Reggae Faea

Vanuatu Family Health Association (VFHA) hosted their annual music festival, Reggae Faea, in Port Vila on 14th August. This unique event, which advocates for sexual and reproductive health and rights for the people of Vanuatu through the power of music, was established by VFHA in 2010. Since then, the event has gotten bigger and better.

This year, the theme was Family Planning, with local musicians encouraging the audience to take control of their reproductive health and consciously decide when to start a family, the spacing of their children and when to stop having children.

John Botleng, President of the Port Vila Youth Council and VFHA board member, said Reggae Faea provides “a safe and friendly platform for young people to learn about their health through music, which is a powerful tool to bring people together, to share information and to express oneself.”



*Reggae Faea*

# SPRINT

## *Vanuatu—Ambae Response*

Following the volcanic eruption, and the first SPRINT response from Vanuatu Family Health Association, in 2017, the situation on Ambae has remained unstable. In July 2018, the VFHA team returned to the island to continue providing SRH services to the local communities. While they were there, the situation worsened and the government ordered a mandatory evacuation of the island. The VFHA team accompanied the evacuees on the ship to Maewo, even offering impromptu medical care en-route!

## *MFAT Design Process*

The in-country consultations for the upcoming MFAT SRH in Emergencies project have been completed. The project will extend the humanitarian programme work to Cook Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu. Robyn, Humanitarian Deputy Director and alternately Mattie, FPNZ International Programs Manager and Phoebe, IPPF Strategic Partnerships Advisor, spent a week with each Member Association, running stakeholder workshops and meeting with partners.

## *World Humanitarian Day*

To mark World Humanitarian Day on 18th August, SROP celebrated the work of the SPRINT team and the Pacific Member Associations who have responded to disasters. Proudly decked in IPPF Humanitarian orange, the team took part in a humanitarian-themed quiz and Jane, Humanitarian SRH Services Advisor, presented photos from VFHA’s ongoing Ambae response. Even the food was orange!

Our Member Associations were also represented at the Pacific Humanitarian Heroes photo exhibit in Suva, hosted by UN in the Pacific and the Pacific Humanitarian Team, as well as DFAT’s photo exhibit in Canberra. These exhibits showcased the inspiring work of our Member Associations in Tonga and Vanuatu.

## *Team Updates*

The Pacific Humanitarian team has welcomed two new team members in the last month, Sala and Petra. Sala joins us as a Program Advisor and Petra as a Gender Specialist. Please join us in welcoming Petra and Sala to the SROP team.



From top: VFHA staff on the boat to Maewo, TuFHA staff and board members consultation, the SROP team on World Humanitarian Day

## SROP Updates

As we mentioned in the last update, our rapid expansion has necessitated some changes in the office and we've spent the last month putting the finishing touches on our revamped office. We've replaced our cubicles with pod desks, repainted and hung some beautiful pictures of our Member Associations at work to inspire us.

We are also looking forward to welcoming the PIRMCCM team, who will be joining us in SROP office in September. When they do, SRH representation on the PRIMCCM will change from IPPF SROP to Ms. Liai Siitia, Executive Director of SFHA, who was nominated by her fellow EDs.



*The renovated SROP office*

## Accreditation Update

This year, SIPPA underwent the Phase 3 accreditation process, which has more checks and fewer standards than Phase 2. Using the accreditation process to strengthen their systems and processes, SIPPA has shown positive steps in taking on board suggestions by the accreditation team. A representative from the DFAT Solomon Islands post accompanied the team.

## Youth Hub Resources

IPPF launched an online Youth Hub of youth engagement resources at [www.ippf.org/youthhub](http://www.ippf.org/youthhub). These resources include a youth messaging checklist of dos and don'ts when it comes to reaching out to youth and a peer education framework guide. We hope you find these resources useful, please get in touch if you need any assistance in accessing or using them.

## Coming Up Next

The next few months are full of activity as we come to the end of the Partnerships for Health project and look forward to the launch of the Pacific Strategy.

- Finance Training from 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> September
- Pacific Strategy workshop from 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September
- Pacific Strategy launch on October 29<sup>th</sup>
- SIPPA renovations begin in September
- Julius Ssenabulya, Program Manager at Vanuatu Family Health Association will present at International Conference on Family Planning in Rwanda in November

**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

