

# Niu Waves

Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific

## Launching the Niu Vaka

Welcome to the latest issue of Niu Waves, from the IPPF Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific, the first of 2019 and the Niu Vaka Pacific Strategy. It's been an exciting start to the year, with the beginning of the Niu Vaka, wrapping up Partnerships for Health, with closure visits to each MA, and launching the MFAT-funded SRH in Emergencies program in Cook Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu.

This month, SIPPA was thrilled to welcome the Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Honourable, Marise Payne, to their newly renovated clinic, which will be officially launched by the Australian High Commissioner to Solomon Islands, His Excellency Rod Brazier, shortly. Meanwhile, program managers and data officers from across the nine Pacific MAs gathered in Nadi for training in IPPF's data management systems, to ensure we can continue to collect and report on accurate, robust data.

Read on to find out more about what we've already been up to this year and our plans for the rest of 2019. We look forward to a busy year ahead!

### Our Highlights

- The Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs visited SIPPA as part of her trip to Solomon Islands.
- The SRHiE MFAT program in Cook Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu will begin in March.
- Following the regional DHIS training, all 2018 data has been successfully input and the first round of data cleaning has been completed.
- The mid-term review team for the SPRINT program has been selected and the MTR will begin in March.
- P4H project closure visits have been completed for all countries and SROP are currently compiling the final report.
- Tura Lewai, SROP Advocacy Officer, and Liai Iosefa-Siitia, ED of SFHA will attend CSW63, in New York, through funding from Pacific Women.



Program Managers and Data Officers at the DHIS Training

# Foreign Affairs Minister Visits SIPPA



On 6<sup>th</sup> February, Ben Angoa, Executive Director of Solomon Islands Planned Parenthood Association (SIPPA), was honoured to welcome Australia’s Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator the Honourable Marise Payne to SIPPA’s newly renovated clinic in Honiara. The Senator was joined by the High Commissioner to New Zealand and Head of the Office of the Pacific, His Excellency Ewen MacDonald, the First Assistant Secretary Pacific Bilateral Division, Mr James Gilling, and DFAT personnel from the Australian High Commission to Solomon Islands. Representatives from People with Disability Solomon Islands, the local Disabled Persons’ Organisation who were key partners during the renovation of our clinic, were also present.

Ben welcomed the Minister for Foreign Affairs to the clinic before conducting a short tour, during which they discussed SIPPA’s work, including highlights from their outreach program in partnership with the Ministry of Health and the demand for different clinical services and contraceptives, including LARCs.

The newly renovated clinic will be officially launched by the Australian High Commissioner to Solomon Islands, His Excellency Rod Brazier, shortly. Built over 50 years ago, the building is one of the oldest in Honiara and required significant modernisation to ensure that SIPPA can continue to provide high quality health services to their local community. Following the renovations, SIPPA has added three additional consultation rooms, and has reduced client wait times and improved overall client experience. Already, the clinic is seeing more clients every day.

Ben expressed his gratitude to DFAT in Honiara and Canberra, and the Australian Government more broadly, saying “the clinic that we stand in would not have been possible without your tireless support.”



Senator the Hon Marise Payne at SIPPA. Photography credit: DFAT, 2019.

# Regional DHIS Training

From 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> February, program managers and data officers from across the nine Pacific MAs gathered in Nadi for training in DHIS2, the platform that IPPF uses globally to collate and analyse data from across the Federation. Gervais Thompson, Central Office Data Analyst, traveled from London to facilitate the training.

From these sessions, MA representatives reported feeling more confident with the tool and all data from 2018 has now been input.

## CSW63

Tura Lewai, SROP Advocacy Officer, and Liai Iosefa-Siitia, Executive Director of Samoa Family Health Association (SFHA), will represent IPPF Pacific at the 63rd Commission on the Status of Women, thanks to funding from Pacific Women. Hosted by UN Women in New York from 11th to 22nd March, the theme of the event is social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. We look forward to joining forces with the broader IPPF family and strong representation of the Pacific at this high-level event.

## In the Papers

Jack Martin, SROP Senior Program Officer, was interviewed by the Island Sun News during his trip to Solomon Islands in January. He explained the importance of the Niu Vaka strategy for Solomon Islands and the Pacific more broadly and stressed how IPPF integrates gender equality in all of its work. Read the [full online article](#).

In a second interview, he also [discussed SIPPA's approach to outreach in the next year](#).

*Photos from top: representatives from SFHA and RFHAF work together; Gervais from CO presents data cleaning tools; team VFHA analyse their data; Jack Martin, SROP Senior Program Officer, in the Island Sun News.*



# RFHAF Celebrates SRH Week

Youth volunteers at the Reproductive and Family Health Association of Fiji (RFHAF) celebrated Sexual and Reproductive Health Week from 11<sup>th</sup> February, culminating on Valentine’s Day, 14<sup>th</sup> February. Throughout the week, they ran awareness sessions at the universities in Suva. On Valentine’s Day, the volunteers set up a ‘Journey of Love’ exhibition in My Suva Park, to promote physical and emotional good health, respectful relationships and integrating NCDs and SRH.

# Spotlight CSO Consultation

On 23<sup>rd</sup> January, Tura Lewai, SROP Advocacy Officer, Katy Mackey, SROP Communications Officer, and Sala Tupou, Humanitarian Program Advisor Pacific, dialed in to the CSO consultation session for the joint EU and UN -funded Spotlight Initiative to Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls. The online consultation brought together CSOs from across the Pacific to give their feedback on the initial design of the initiative, which is in its early stages. Tura and the IPPF team ensured that the importance of SRH for achieving gender equality was strongly noted and that the need for localisation was prioritised.



# P4H Closure

Throughout January, the Partnerships for Health program team visited each of the eight MAs who were part of the project to understand its impact. The program officer sat down with the MA program team, volunteers and board members as well as key stakeholders to discuss how the project had driven lasting change.

As part of this trip, each MA also received a one-day introduction to resource mobilisation and discussed how to operationalise the Niu Vaka strategy, including reviewing workplans, targets and indicators with the program officer



Photos from top: clinical staff at RFHAF; VFHA Resource Mobilisation Session; consultation with counsellor at Betio Town Council, Kiribati.

# Humanitarian

## *Launching the MFAT SRHiE Program in Cook Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu*

We are delighted to announce that the details have been finalised and the contracts signed for the upcoming MFAT-funded SRH in Emergencies program. This enables the extension of the humanitarian program to Cook Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu with Family Planning New Zealand (FPNZ) as a key partner. The IPPF Pacific Humanitarian team will hold the Inception meeting for the program in Wellington (hosted by FPNZ) from 11-12 March, bringing together the MAs, FPNZ team, and MFAT. During this time, the IPPF Humanitarian team will also deliver MISP training for FPNZ.

## *Mid Term Review*

The Mid Term review for the DFAT-funded SPRINT 3 program will begin shortly and the team has been selected. Cindy Carlson will lead the team and is joined by Tamara Kwarteng. The MTR will review the performance of the SPRINT 3 program to date and make recommendations of how implementation can be improved and how the program can better align with other incoming programs. Tamara from the MTR team will visit Vanuatu from 15th - 18 April.

## *In the Media*

Following the alert for cyclone Mona in early January, which fortunately did not make landfall in Fiji, Robyn Drysdale, Deputy Director of the Humanitarian Program Pacific, and Sala Topou, Humanitarian Program Advisor Pacific, were interviewed on the Fiji One Breakfast Show about the work IPPF and our MAs do in humanitarian settings and the impact that this has.

[Watch Robyn's interview](#)

[Watch Sala's interview](#)

## *Regional MISP ToT*

In April, the Pacific Humanitarian team will host a regional MISP Training of Trainers for the Pacific MAs, including both the MAs who were served by the existing SPRINT program and Kiribati, Cook Islands and Tuvalu, who will be served by the upcoming MFAT SRHiE program. UNFPA and SROP staff will also join to promote coordination between agencies and between humanitarian and development staff.

## *Petra in Tonga*

Petra, Humanitarian Gender Specialist, will be in Tonga from 12<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> February to consult with Tonga Family Health and key SGBV stakeholders before conducting Sexual and Gender Based Violence fundamentals training the following week.



*From top: Stakeholders meeting at TuFHA for the MFAT program design; Robyn consults with stakeholders in Kiribati for the MFAT program design; Sala Tupou on Breakfast at Fiji One*



## SRHR in the News

- A year on from the 2018 referendum, campaigners in Ireland reflect on the campaign to [legalise abortion](#).
- This January marked two years since Trump reinstated the global gag rule. Read more about the impact of the policy on [the Guardian](#) and the [IPPF website](#).

### Dates for Your Diary

- 25<sup>th</sup> February: UNFPA Expression of Interest for Partnership due
- 28<sup>th</sup> February: P4H Completion Report
- 8<sup>th</sup> March: International Women's Day
- 11<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> March: Commission on the Status of Women (CSW63), New York
- 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> April: Pacific MISP ToT, Nadi
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> June: Women Deliver 2019 conference, Vancouver
- 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May: Pacific Women's Economic Empowerment Regional Forum, Suva
- 6<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> July: PSRH 13th Biennial Conference 2019, Port Moresby
- 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> November: The Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, Nairobi

## Coming Up Next

With the launch of the Niu Vaka Pacific Strategy, 2019 will be a busy and exciting year for IPPF in the Pacific. To ensure we continue to provide the highest standard of services in normal and crisis times, we will be running regional trainings on:

- LARCs
- VIA cervical cancer screening
- MISP training of trainers

Resource mobilisation and organisational sustainability is key to the successful of the Niu Vaka strategy and will be a major focus for this year, with in-country workshops scheduled to build on the introduction given during the P4H closure visits.

It is also crucial to share the learnings from the Pacific this year, building on our significant presence at international events and conferences in 2018. We will be supporting MAs and SROP staff to present key successes and lessons learnt at conferences throughout the year, starting with CSW63 in March.

**From all at SROP, we would like to thank our partners and Member Associations across the Pacific for the productive and galvanising start to the year.**

Funding support gratefully received from

