

Niu Waves

Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific

Half Year Reflections

Welcome to the latest issue of Niu Waves, from the IPPF Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific. As we enter the second half of 2019, we reflect on the last six months. It has certainly been a busy time in the Pacific as we moved into the *Niu Vaka* Pacific Strategy and launched the MFAT-funded SRH in Emergencies program in Cook Islands, Kiribati and Tuvalu. We've had several high-profile visitors to our clinics, hosted four regional trainings and driven Pacific representation at CSW and Women Deliver. In addition, we've continued to expand our work delivering SRH services to some of the most marginalised communities in the Pacific and advocating for greater support for sexual and reproductive rights.

The next six months will be similarly busy and exciting. This week, SROP staff and Pacific Member Associations are in Kuala Lumpur, with the rest of the ESEAOR family, to discuss successes and opportunities for growth and to look to the future of the Federation as a whole. We look forward to the outcomes of these discussions and to building on our successes over the next six months.

The Global IPPF Annual Report is also available now. The report summarises progress made towards achieving the Strategic Framework 2016-2022 so that everyone can realise their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Please read the [report here](#) and join us in congratulating the Pacific MAs for their contributions.

Our Highlights

- SROP welcomes Ms Tomoko Fukuda, ESEAOR Regional Director, to the regional office.
- As part of the Healthy Island initiative, VFHA launched their Planem Gud Famili report with FPNZ.
- Dr Sharman Stone, Australian Ambassador to Women and Girls, visited the TuFHA clinic.
- SROP staff and MA representatives attended the VCAT training of trainers in Suva.
- The Pacific Humanitarian team has had two abstracts accepted at the upcoming PSRH conference. This follows strong representation at the Women Deliver conference in Canada.



Participants at the VCAT training in Suva

VFHA Planem Gud Famili Report

In June, Vanuatu Family Health Association (VFHA) launched their Planem Gud Famili Blong Yumi report (“Let’s Plan our Family”). The report is part of VFHA’s Healthy Islands initiative, supported by Family Planning New Zealand, which focuses on four remote communities in Santos and North Pentecost. VFHA engage traditional leaders as SRHR champions, providing them with accurate information to pass on to their communities.

This led to an increase in contraceptive use in the targeted communities and condom dispensers can now be seen hanging from the trees in one village! The Jadelle implant was also a popular option, with community members travelling to the nearest health centre to request the implant.



Sharman Stone at TuFHA

On 12th June, Dr Sharman Stone, Australian Ambassador for Women and Girls and External Advisor to IPPF’s Governing Council, visited Tuvalu Family Health Association (TuFHA) as part of her visit to Tuvalu. Accompanied by the new Australian Ambassador to Tuvalu, Karyn Murray, Dr Stone toured the newly renovated clinic and discussed sexual and reproductive health and gender equality in Tuvalu with TuFHA’s staff, board members and youth volunteers.



From top: VFHA with Jonathan Schwass, New Zealand High Commissioner, Anna Ravendran, Family Planning New Zealand, and Emily Deeds, UNFPA Vanuatu, at the report launch; Dr Sharman Stone and Karyn Murray with the TuFHA team.

Welcome Tomoko!

SROP is pleased to welcome Ms Tomoko Fukuda, who took up the post of ESEAOR Regional Director this month. Ms. Fukuda joins the regional office from the Japanese Organization for International Cooperation in Family Planning (JOICFP), where she was Advocacy Manager and brings a wealth of SRHR experience to the role.

We look forward to working with you, Tomoko, and invite you to visit the Pacific and SROP as soon as you can!

VCAT Training

From 25th to 28th, MA representatives and SROP staff attended a four-day Values Clarification and Attitudes Transformation (VCAT) Training of Trainers in Suva. VCAT encourages participants to reflect on their own values with a view to improving patient care. Additionally, the ToT gave participants the opportunity to improve their training skills and practice the VCAT activities, ahead of returning to their workplaces where they will act as the VCAT focal point.

The training was facilitated by Evangeline Weiss and co-facilitated by Deepesh Gupta, from IPPF's South Asia Regional Office, who has done extensive work on values clarification. We will share more information about this training and its roll out across the region in due course.

WASH and SRHR

IPPF is proud to co-author *A Shared Agenda: Exploring links between water, sanitation, hygiene, and sexual and reproductive health and rights in sustainable development* with WaterAid and other partners. The report recognises that water and sanitation and SRH are essential for achieving the SDGs and provides recommendations for organisations working in each sector for greater coordination. Read [the report here](#).



Reggae Faea App

Each year, VFHA host the Reggae Faea music festival in Port Vila to advocate for and raise awareness of key SRHR issues and entertain Port Vila. This year, they have also put together a Reggae Faea app, with information on SRHR and songs from previous Reggae Faeas.



Regional Meetings

SROP staff and Executive Directors of Pacific Member Associations gather in Kuala Lumpur this week for the ESEAOR Regional Executive Directors' and Youth Representatives' meetings. These meetings provide an opportunity for MAs to share successes and learnings with colleagues from across the region. We look forward to sharing more information in due course.

Professionalising Youth Work

Kathy Mafi, Program Manager at Tonga Family Health Association (TFHA), and Aberaam Tata, Youth Representative from Kiribati Family Health Association (KFHA), attended the USP conference on Professionalising Youth Work in the Pacific. The conference brought together experts in youth work from across the region to share experiences working with youth and to develop a curriculum on youth work to be offered at USP.



SROP Support to TuFHA

Karen Hill, Director of Programs and Operations, Pacific, and Katy Mackey, SROP Communications Officer, visited Tuvalu Family Health Association (TuFHA) in June to provide technical support to the team. Karen visited from 6th to 11th June to meet the board and provide support to the team on management and program delivery, while Katy's visit later in the month focused on reporting.

From top: Reggae Faea app poster; Katy with the TuFHA team and board members.

Humanitarian

Women Deliver

IPPF was strongly represented at the 2019 Women Deliver conference in Vancouver, Canada. Leiloa Asaasa, Program Manager at Samoa Family Health Association, spoke on two panels, including an IPPF side event on the power of localisation in humanitarian settings, organised and moderated by Dr Robyn Drysdale, IPPF Humanitarian Deputy Director. This global panel included colleagues from IPPF MAs in Colombia and Pakistan. Leiloa and Robyn also represented the Pacific at a Humanitarian pre-conference event on 'Building a Feminist Approach to Humanitarian Aid'.

Read more about Leiloa's experiences at Women Deliver and the importance of SRHR in humanitarian responses in the [Samoa Observer's interview with Leiloa](#).

Pacific Society for Reproductive Health Conference

IPPF Humanitarian work will be featured at the Pacific Society for Reproductive Health's conference 6-11 July, with two abstracts accepted. PNGFHA will present on their earthquake response work, and staff from SROP will present on 'The role of the Pacific SRH service providers in SGBV care and response'. PNGFHA ED, Michael Salini, also features on a plenary panel on the unmet need for Family Planning and investing in Adolescent SRH.

PNG SGBV Consultation and Fundamentals Training

Petra, Humanitarian Gender Specialist, visited Papua New Guinea from 3rd to 14th June to consult with PNG Family Health Association (PNGFHA) and key stakeholders before conducting Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) fundamentals training the following week in Lae.

KFHA SRHiE kick off meeting

Following the launch of the MFAT-funded SRH in Emergencies program, KFHA held the first meeting with key national stakeholders, including the Red Cross, the Disaster National Coordinator, Ministry of Health, the local Disabled Persons Organisation and UNFPA. This is the first step to ensuring that sexual and reproductive health is integrated into humanitarian responses.



From top: Robyn and Leiloa with the panel at Women Deliver; Leiloa with Helen Clark at Women Deliver.



Viti, Tura, Jack and Katy were excited to take part in a photoshoot with Australian Volunteers International (AVI), the program which supports Viti's and Katy's roles. AVI places skilled volunteers with organisations across Asia and the Pacific to build organisations' capacities in key technical areas. If you are interested in working with AVI, please get in touch with the SROP team who can help facilitate the process.

Tura and Katy at AVI photoshoot

Dates for Your Diary

- HALF YEAR REPORTING
 - SPRINT III: 5th July
 - Development: 15th July
 - SRHiEP: 5th August
- 3rd – 5th July: Regional Youth Forum, Kuala Lumpur
- 4th – 5th July: Regional Executive Directors' 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

SRHR in the News

- An article on VFHA's response to the Ambae volcano written by Jane Newnham, former Pacific Humanitarian SRH Services Advisor, published in the global Humanitarian Exchange Magazine. Read it at [Saving lives and empowering women: delivering contraceptive services in disaster response in Vanuatu](#).
- In honour of Pride month, IPPF looks back over [achievements in the LGBTIQ equality](#) in the last year.

Get In Touch

We'd love to hear from you!

- Phone: +679 3315 624
 Email: srop-info@ippf.org
 Website: www.ippfeseaor.org
 In Person: Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific
 Level 4, BSP Life Centre,
 Thomson Drive, Suva, Fiji

Coming Up Next

As the first half of the year draws to a close, we look forward to the next six months, which are sure to be just as busy as the last six, with more opportunities to reach the most marginalised people in the Pacific with SRHR.

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

Funding support gratefully received from

