

Niu Waves

Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific

Supporting Young Leaders

Welcome to the latest issue of Niu Waves, from the IPPF Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific. Across the Federation, IPPF puts young people at the heart of our work, not just as beneficiaries of programs but also as leaders and decision-makers and, as always, we were inspired by young leaders this month. Five youth from the Pacific joined counterparts from the rest of the ESEAOR region in Bangkok for the Asia Pacific ICPD25 Youth Consultation, hosted by UNFPA. This consultation paves the way for youth voices to be heard at ICPD25 in Nairobi in November. ICPD25 is a crucial time to reflect on the progress made since the initial ICPD conference in 1994 and to commit to moving forward.

To ensure our programs remain relevant to young people, IPPF is redeveloping its Youth Manifesto. Consultations were held throughout September and we're happy to say that Pacific voices were strongly represented. Thank you to all who completed the survey or hosted dialogues in their communities.

Our Highlights

- 5 young people from the Pacific attended the Asia Pacific ICPD25 Youth Consultation in Bangkok.
- Voices of young people across the Pacific were strongly represented in the IPPF youth manifesto consultations. We're looking forward to seeing the results!
- RFHAF are supporting the Fijian Government with their Universal Periodic Report to the UN.



IPPF youth representatives at the Asia Pacific ICPD25 Youth Consultation

Youth Manifesto Consultations

On International Youth Day in August, IPPF launched the consultation process for the Youth Manifesto, which is currently being redeveloped to ensure that the voices of young people continue to be prioritised throughout the Federation. Supported by Jack Martin, SROP Youth Officer, young people from across the Pacific were strongly represented, with most MAs exceeding the target of 50 responses per country. Jack and the Pacific MAs hosted multiple consultations, with young people from across the Pacific, who are passionate about sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who completed and shared the survey or hosted a consultation. We look forward to reading the upcoming Manifesto and ensuring that young people remain at the heart of our work across the Pacific.

Social Enterprise

Viti Simmons, SROP Social Enterprise Advisor, through [AVI](#), sadly had to finish her assignment with the SROP office early. Below, Viti reflects on her time with us.

“Working within the IPPF Federation structure provided access to resources, knowledge and personnel which is rare in many workplace environments. While on assignment I recall saying on numerous occasions that it was like being in a university with an abundance of resources on hand, global experience and knowledge you could tap into. The benefits were evident in hastening opportunities or ideas that emerged during my tenure. Working with SROP Staff and MAs to raise awareness of Social Enterprise was required.”

Viti also supported Kiribati Family Health Association (KFHA) to apply for the IPPF Social Enterprise Hub’s internship program in Sri Lanka, in October.

“Hopefully, they will be the first of many Pacific MAs from the Pacific to be awarded this Internship. It starts as a ripple effect and over time as knowledge is shared with other MAs to replicate in their unique context.

For those I met during my short assignment across the Pacific IPPF community, I thank you for your generosity of spirit and friendship.”



Cervical Cancer

Reproductive and Family Health Association of Fiji (RFHAF) Executive Director, Matelita Seva-Cadravula, joined the Fiji Cancer Society at the Lautoka Sugar Festival to raise awareness of the risk of cervical cancer. Matelita spoke about the importance of removing taboos around sexual and reproductive health. This event builds on RFHAF and the Fiji Cancer Society’s successful partnership: together, they have conducted 55 mobile clinics in businesses, communities and schools. Read more on the [Fiji Times](#).

This week marks the start of Pinktober, an opportunity to raise awareness, as well as funds to prevent and treat, cancers.

Photos: Young people at a CIFWA youth consultation; Matelita Seva-Cadravula at Fiji Cancer Society’s awareness event, photo courtesy of Baljeet Singh

ICPD25 Youth Consultation

From 23rd to 25th September, UNFPA hosted an ICPD25 Asia Pacific Youth Consultation, ahead of the upcoming ICPD25 conference in Nairobi. Five youth from the Pacific were supported to attend. 25 years on from the initial conference and the agreement of the Program of Action which has guided work on SRHR since, ICPD25 is an important time to reflect on the progress made and the way forward as well as the links between population issues and the Sustainable Development goals. Youth voices are crucial to making progress on these goals and the consultation supported young people from across Asia Pacific to develop strong recommendations ahead of the conference.



SFHA Bilateral Mid-Term Review

During September, DFAT and an independent consultant conducted the Mid-Term Review of Samoa Family Health Association's (SFHA) Bilateral Impact Project. Sera Vulavou, SROP M&E Officer, joined the team to support SFHA. The team visited SFHA's numerous outreach sites, travelling to remote outer islands.

The evaluation team fed back to key stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Women and NOLA (the local Disabled Persons' Organisation), as part of the in-country trip and the full report will be available shortly.



RFHAF Supporting Fiji's UPR

RFHAF is currently supporting Fiji's country report for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), particularly regarding sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender equality. RFHAF Executive Director, Matelita Seva-Cadavula, will present to states in Geneva in October as part of the UPR process.

Across the Pacific, MAs are key partners to government in achieving the goals of previous UPR reports. KFHA and Solomon Islands Planned Parenthood Association (SIPPA) have begun discussions with their respective governments to support their submissions in 2020.

SFHA Raising SGBV Awareness

As part of the Samoan government’s response to Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and the National Inquiry, SFHA was invited to host a talk back radio program from 25th to 27th September. The shows were hosted on three radio stations to ensure maximum coverage.

Alapati Anoi’a, SFHA Clinic Manager, took to the airwaves to raise awareness of SGBV as a health issue and the services and referral networks that can support survivors, as well as sharing information about SFHA’s services and sexual and reproductive health more generally.

Universal Health Coverage

IPPF has released a statement welcoming the adoption of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) political declaration in the United Nations General Assembly. We are pleased with member states’ recommitment to respect, protect and fulfil the right to health for all, without discrimination of any kind. We also congratulate governments’ unequivocal support to gender equality and urge them to invest domestic funds and to integrate sexual and reproductive health services into national UHC packages.

Read the [full statement here](#).

Male Advocates Workshop

From 16th to 20th September, Tura Lewai, SROP Advocacy Officer, joined the Fiji Women’s Crisis Centre (FWCC) at their Pacific Regional Dialogue on Engaging Men in the Prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls. The event brought together 40 activists and male advocates from government, civil society organisations and faith based organisations. The dialogue focused on men’s roles in ending violence against women and girls, with representatives from seven Pacific islands, as well as Australia and the United States, coming together to discuss how male advocacy can eliminate SGBV.

Preventing and responding to SGBV is a focus for IPPF globally and in the Pacific, across the humanitarian-development nexus, and effectively engaging men and boys is a key aspect of this work. The Pacific MAs currently work with communities and traditional power structures to challenge social norms which perpetuate SGBV and we are exploring ways to extend this work.



Tura Lewai at the FWCC Regional Dialogue

Humanitarian

Welcome Julie Taft, Humanitarian Director

Please join us in welcoming Ms Julie Taft, the new Humanitarian Director. Julie is a global SRH expert, who has served in senior technical positions with leading health organisations around the world as well as founding Bloco A, a non-profit in Brazil. Julie is a Registered Nurse, holds a Masters in Science in Reproductive and Sexual Health Research from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and is a Doctoral Candidate at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Julie will be attending the 2019 Annual Pacific Humanitarian Meeting in Nadi from the 29th to 30th October and looks forward to meeting MAs and partners then.



GBViE Workshop with PDF & UNFPA

In collaboration with the Pacific Disability Forum (PDF) and UNFPA, the IPPF Humanitarian team hosted a workshop in Nadi from 10th – 12th September to strengthen GBV in emergency (GBViE) programming for women and girls with disabilities. This workshop brought together MAs and the Pacific Humanitarian team, PDF and Disabled Peoples' Organisations and UNFPA representatives from Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Samoa, Kiribati, Fiji, and Tonga. To ensure that humanitarian responses are more inclusive of the needs of women and girls with disabilities, participants focused on adapting UNFPA's Dignity Kits, which are a crucial component of responses, and related programming to suit the needs of those with disabilities.



Cook Islands MISP Training

From 3rd to 11th September, Dr Robyn Drysdale, Humanitarian Deputy Director Pacific, and Aggie Dawainavesi, Humanitarian Capacity Development and Partnerships Advisor, will travel to Cook Islands to support the Cook Islands Family Welfare Association (CIFWA) team's SRH in Emergencies (SRHiE) program. Aggie will conduct MISP training for program managers and service providers at CIFWA as well as their partners, while Robyn will support CIFWA's advocacy efforts, to ensure that SRHiE and GBViE are included in national disaster response plans.

Institutional Delivery Focal Points Meeting

In September, Sala Tamani-Tupou, Humanitarian Program Manager, travelled to Central Office to represent both the Humanitarian and Development teams at the annual Institutional Delivery focal points meeting, which discusses key IPPF programs. Whilst in London, Sala had the pleasure of meeting with Jane Newnham, whom you will remember from her time as SRH Adviser with the Pacific Humanitarian team!



Photos from top: Julie Taft, Humanitarian Director; participants work together at the GBViE workshop; group photo at the GBViE workshop

Dates for Your Diary

- October: Pinktober to raise awareness of cancers, particularly breast cancer
- 14th – 16th October: ESEAOR Regional Director visits Fiji
- 29th – 31st October: Pacific Humanitarian Review, Fiji
- 13th – 15th November: The Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, Nairobi
- 28th November: IPPF General Assembly Youth Pre-Conference, Delhi
- 29th – 30th November: IPPF General Assembly, Delhi

Social Media Photo Contest!

We've got two more exciting announcements to make: firstly, we will be launching social media for IPPF in the Pacific shortly! Watch this space for more details.

To celebrate this, we're holding a photo contest this month. Send us your favourite photos on the theme of sexual and reproductive health, with a short caption of why SRH is important to you. Be as creative as you like and make sure you get consent from those in the photos. We'll post our favourites on our social media and share in the newsletter.

Send your entries to Katy at kmackey@ippf.org by 31st October.

SRHR in the News

- There were key wins for abortion rights in the region, with [New Zealand's abortion legislation passing its first read](#) and New South Wales becoming the [last Australian state to decriminalise abortion](#).
- IPPF celebrated World Contraception Day with a series of fun videos about contraceptive options! Find out more at www.IPPF.org/Contraception

Get In Touch

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Coming Up Next

There are several key events coming up for the Federation over the last few months of 2019, including ICPD25 in Nairobi and the General Assembly at the end of November in Delhi.

In the SROP office, we're hard at work planning for next year to build on the momentum from the first year of the Niu Vaka Pacific Strategy and kick off several exciting new projects that will begin next year. Additionally, we're eagerly awaiting the release of the updated IPPF Youth Manifesto which will guide our work with young people across the Pacific.

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

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