

Niu Waves

Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific

The Launch of Niu Vaka



Message from Dr Sharman Stone

Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to announce that IPPF’s inaugural Niu Vaka Pacific Strategy 2019 – 2022 has been launched by Dr Alvaro Bermejo, IPPF Director-General, on his first visit to the Pacific. I welcome this strategy and am proud to support it not only in my capacity as Australia’s Ambassador for Women and Girls, but also as External Advisor to IPPF’s

Governing Council.

In a world where women and girls continue to face barriers in accessing the SRHR services they need, the Niu Vaka strategy represents an important next step for the Pacific region. It is a clear plan that truly reflects the unique priorities of each Pacific country and IPPF Member Association. Throughout my career, I have been passionate about the Pacific and I look forward to seeing the impact that the Niu Vaka strategy will have on the lives of Pacific people.

I wish Pacific Member Associations and the IPPF Sub-Regional Office for the Pacific the very best with the implementation of the strategy, and look forward to seeing their work in action over the next four years.

Yours,

Dr Sharman Stone

Dr Sharman Stone was a Member of Parliament in Australia 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. Dr Stone is currently one of six external advisors to IPPF’s Governing Council.

Our Highlights

- Dr Alvaro Bermejo launched the Niu Vaka strategy. Read the full report of Dr Alvaro’s first visit to the Pacific within.
- EDs, SROP staff and DFAT representatives from Canberra and Suva attended the final Partnerships for Health Project Co-ordination Committee meeting – the project stands us in good stead to launch into the Pacific Strategy.
- Tura Lewai, SROP National Change Officer, met with the Duchess of Sussex during the royal visit.



EDs with Dr Alvaro Bermejo at the launch of the Niu Vaka Pacific Strategy

Niu Vaka Launch

On 29th October, Dr Alvaro Bermejo, IPPF Director-General, officially launched IPPF’s inaugural Niu Vaka Pacific Strategy. The launch was, in true Pacific style, a loud and colourful one with a traditional Fijian welcome and dances and performances from representatives of Polynesia, Melanesia and Micronesia.

Developed for the Pacific by the Pacific, Niu Vaka moves away from providing short-term project funding to support member associations across the Pacific in a holistic and integrated way to build their capacity and sustainability, enabling them to reach more people and to ensure they can continue to do so into the future. Read more and download the strategy [here](#).



Pictures clockwise from top: Dr Alvaro launching the strategy; Tura (SROP) and Kathy (TFHA) joining the dancers from Tonga; Dr Alvaro with H.E Mr John Feakes, Australian High Commissioner to Fiji, and Ms. Kate Wallace, DFAT Assistant Secretary, Health Policy Branch, enjoying the launch festivities; Dr Alvaro receiving the traditional Fijian welcome of kava; Karen Hill giving the vote of thanks.



Dr Alvaro in Vanuatu

As part of his visit to the Pacific to launch the Niu Vaka strategy, Dr Alvaro visited Vanuatu Family Health Association. He touched down on 26th October to a lively traditional welcome at the airport, where he was greeted by VFHA staff, board members and volunteers. The next morning, Dr Alvaro visited the VFHA Port Vila clinic, where he was given him a tour of the clinic, including a photo exhibit of recent work. From there, Dr Alvaro and the team traveled to Ohlen Nabanga, where VFHA had set up a free mobile clinic. When Dr Alvaro arrived, the clinic was already in full swing and a queue of people snaked through the tents, which had been erected for the day. Dr Alvaro thanked the chief in Bislama and praised the services of VFHA.

Dr Alvaro toured the mobile clinic, attended awareness sessions and watched what was for many the highlight of the day – VFHA’s Reggae Faea performers, who quickly drew a crowd. In the evening, Dr Alvaro and the VFHA team attended Fest’Napuan to watch Stan and the Earthforce, who also celebrated the work of VFHA. The Director-General was quite a fan and had, by the next morning, already downloaded their album!

Dr Alvaro said he was impressed by the “passion, dedication and commitment” of the VFHA team – as had been shown at the mobile clinic and at his visit to the static clinic in Port Vila. In a day, the VFHA team saw 215 clients at the mobile clinic and ran awareness sessions and distributed IEC materials to many more.

This is the first time an IPPF Director-General has visited Vanuatu: Dr Alvaro said, “they don’t know what they missed.”



Pictures clockwise from top: Reggae Faea performers; Dr Alvaro and Danstan Tate at Ohlen Nabanga; Dr Alvaro receiving a tour of the mobile clinic; Karen Hill and VFHA founder Helen Walters.

Dr Alvaro in Fiji

Whilst in Fiji to launch the Niu Vaka strategy, Dr Alvaro also visited the SROP offices and met with SROP staff and the Executive Directors of MAs across the Pacific to discuss the challenges and opportunities in furthering sexual and reproductive health and rights in the Pacific.

Dr Alvaro also met with regional and local partners, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNFPA, JICA, DFAT and MFAT.



RFHAF Outreach Visit

During his time in Fiji, Dr Alvaro also attended RFHAF’s outreach visit to the Nanuku Settlement where he met with the community and observed the mobile clinic that had been established. While there, he and DFAT’s Kate Wallace met with RFHAF’s youth volunteers, hearing about their activities, including their recent CSE advocacy event with parliamentarians.



Talanoa with Dr Alvaro

On 30th October, RFHAF and SROP hosted a talanoa discussion with Dr Alvaro. He gave a speech around the theme of ‘Investing in Sexual and Reproductive Health’ before opening up the discussion and taking questions from the audience. The discussion was facilitated by Mere Nailatikau. Dr Alvaro spoke on a range of topics including inclusion of LGBTQI communities and youth and access to safe abortion care.

Pictures from top: Dr Alvaro with SROP staff; Dr Alvaro and Ms. Kate Wallace, DFAT Assistant Secretary Health Policy Branch, with RFHAF youth volunteers; Dr Alvaro at the Talanoa session.

It's Been a Busy Month

Amidst all the excitement of the Niu Vaka launch, it would be easy to forget that the work of SROP and the Pacific Member Associations continues on as ever.

TuFHA Outreach

The Tuvalu Family Health Association (TuFHA) team has recently returned from their second outreach trip of the year. Conducting outreach and mobile clinics in Tuvalu is an ongoing challenge due to the geographic spread of the islands, the lack of infrastructure and the unpredictability of boat schedules.

TFHA Planning

Last week, Robert, SROP Senior Project Manager, visited Tonga Family Health Association (TFHA) to assist with their annual planning for 2019. The workshop was opened by the Minister for Internal Affairs, the Hon. Losaline Maasi, and was attended by TFHA board, staff and volunteers.

Solomon Islands Renovations

Renovations to the Solomon Islands Planned Parenthood Association's clinic in Honiara are progressing well, despite turning out to be more extensive than first believed. SIPPA have continued to provide high quality SRH services to their clients, in an improvised clinic at their temporary offices. In fact, client numbers have actually increased since the building work started!

The renovations are expected to be completed in early December.

Tura & The Duchess

Tura, SROP National Change Officer, was thrilled to represent IPPF at afternoon tea with Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, on 24th October, during her visit to Fiji as part of her first royal tour. They discussed gender equality and access to sexual and reproductive health services, issues they both hold close to their hearts.

Tura Lewai with Meghan, Duchess of Sussex

Resource Mobilisation

On 2nd November, EDs and SROP staff gathered in Suva for a resource mobilisation workshop and simulation, focused around the UNFPA Transformative Agenda. Resource mobilisation is a crucial component of the Niu Vaka strategy and MAs left the session with a better understanding of the tendering process and what they need to be successful.



Partnerships for Health Update

As the Partnerships for Health and Rights project (P4H) 2015 – 2018 comes to a close, SROP and MAs across the Pacific met with DFAT representatives from Canberra and Suva for our final Project Co-ordination Committee meeting, to look back on the successes and challenges of the project and discuss the transition to the new Pacific Strategy.

As the project wraps up, and we move towards Niu Vaka, it is important that we celebrate our successes and learn from the challenges – stay tuned for more news on P4H soon.



Humanitarian

GBV Training in Samoa

Petra, Humanitarian Gender Specialist, joined Samoa Family Health Association (SFHA) for MISP training on Savai'i before conducting gender based violence training with Jane, Humanitarian SRH Services Adviser. The training was well received with Leiloa Asaasa, Program Manager at SFHA, describing it as a “fruitful and amazing week”.



Ongoing Vanuatu Response

The VFHA team are responding once again on Maewo and Santo, following the evacuation of Ambae and the extension of the State of Emergency. As the situation becomes increasingly protracted, VFHA are working closely with the Ministry of Health and other partners to ensure sexual and reproductive health needs are met.



International Conference on Family Planning

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.

Pride in the Humanitarian System Consultation Report

The Pride in the Humanitarian System conference, held in Bangkok in June this year with strong Pacific representation, has released its consultation report. Please find a copy attached.

Pictures from top: SROP staff, EDs and DFAT at the P4H PCC meeting; SFHA MISP training; Jane and Petra with participants from the GBV training in Samoa.



EDs, DFAT and the SROP team were thrilled to find themselves in the same conference venue as the Fiji Men's Rugby Seven's team and took a minute from the PCC meeting to grab a photo!

SRHR in the News

- Mike Sami was interviewed on Pacific Mornings about the Niu Vaka Pacific Strategy. The interview starts at 3:20, [listen here](#).
- IFRC's World Disaster report focuses on ['leaving no one behind.'](#)
- UNFPA published a study on [Young Persons with Disabilities, gender based violence and SRHR](#).

Dates for Your Diary

- 12th – 15th Nov: International Conference on Family Planning 2018, Kigali, Rwanda.
- 26th – 28th Nov: Mid-Term Review of the Asian and Pacific Declaration on Population and Development, Bangkok, Thailand.
- 10th – 21st Dec: SPRINT and Partnerships for Health narrative and financial reports due.
- 31st Dec: Partnerships for Health closes.

Coming Up Next

Following the launch of Niu Vaka, SROP and MAS across the Pacific are hard at work wrapping up the Partnerships for Health project and transitioning to the Pacific Strategy.

- Robert began the process of annual integrated work planning in Tonga last week. He will be in touch shortly to schedule visits to each MA.
- The ESEAOR accreditation team is currently in Tuvalu conducting the TuFHA accreditation.
- 12th – 23rd November, Sera, SROP M&E Officer, will be in London for the Organisation, Learning and Evaluation Focal Point meeting.
- 19th – 23rd November, Cook Islands GBV training with Petra, Humanitarian Gender Specialist.
- 29th November – 1st December, SROP team planning and staff retreat.

From all at SROP, we would like to thank everyone who has been involved in the development and launch of Niu Vaka, particularly the Member Associations across the Pacific and the strategy team, Tamara Kwarteng, Siula Bulu and Maya Goldstein.

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