

Tackling period poverty in the Pacific: Findings from the Pacific Menstrual Health Network practice & evidence generation

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FIJI/Regional



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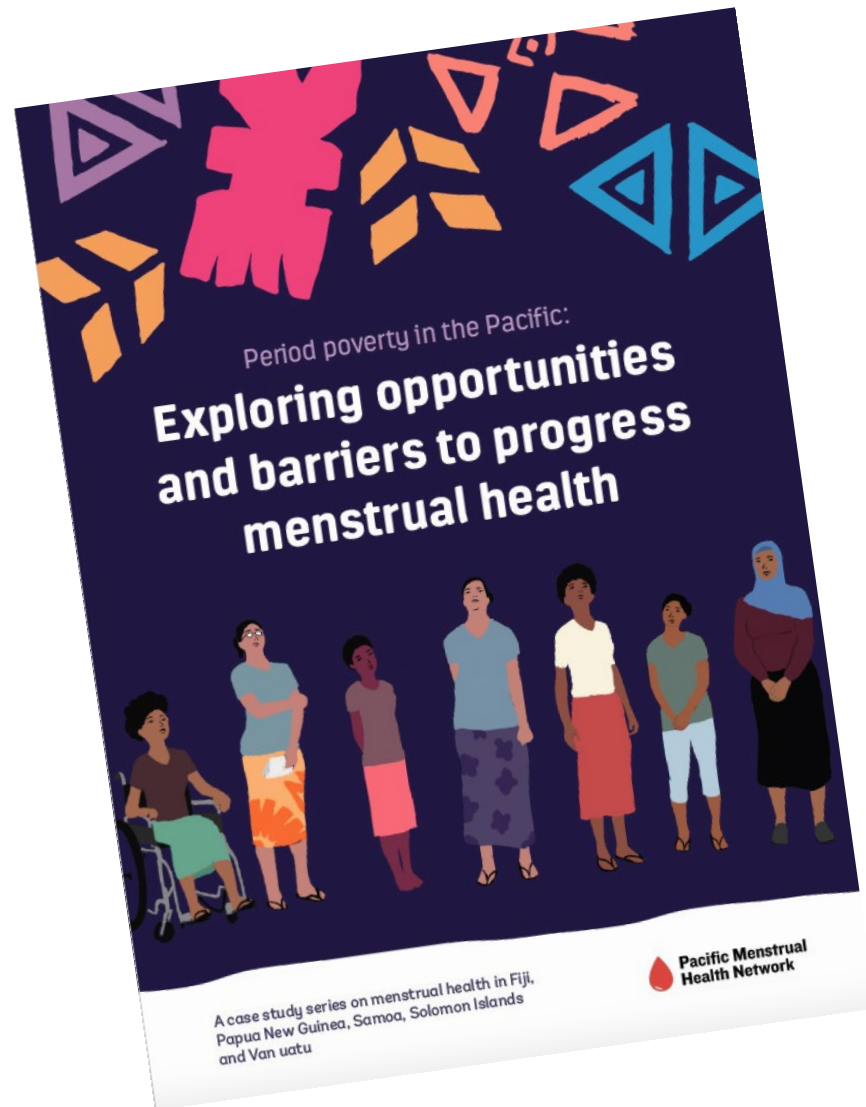


The Pacific Menstrual Health Network (2019 – current)

- Established in 2019.
- **Vision: The Pacific Menstrual Health Network are leaders and experts driving a menstrual health rights movement that supports Pacific women and girls in all their diversity to stand powerfully together and influence positive change**
- **Three objectives:**
 1. To be a strong, Pacific-led Network
 2. To advocate, influence and take action
 3. To drive learning, evidence and sharing



Achievements – Documenting opportunities and barriers to Pacific MH



- Reviewed 119 documents; interviewed 39 Pacific MH actors across 5 countries
- Findings – key highlights:
 - Policy commitments are school-focused; MH and SRHR are absent from national policies/strategies;
 - DRR & Humanitarian response has led to greater MH action but need to strengthen gender focus;
 - People with diverse SOGIESC and women with disabilities, women in high poverty settings, rural women largely missed in current MH efforts
- Recommendations:
 - Ensure strengthened education focus, go beyond schools, use gender justice lens AND tackle harmful norms
 - Advocate for women’s leadership & inclusion of diverse groups, including Indigenous and local communities
 - Strengthen Pacific monitoring and accountability systems

Achievements

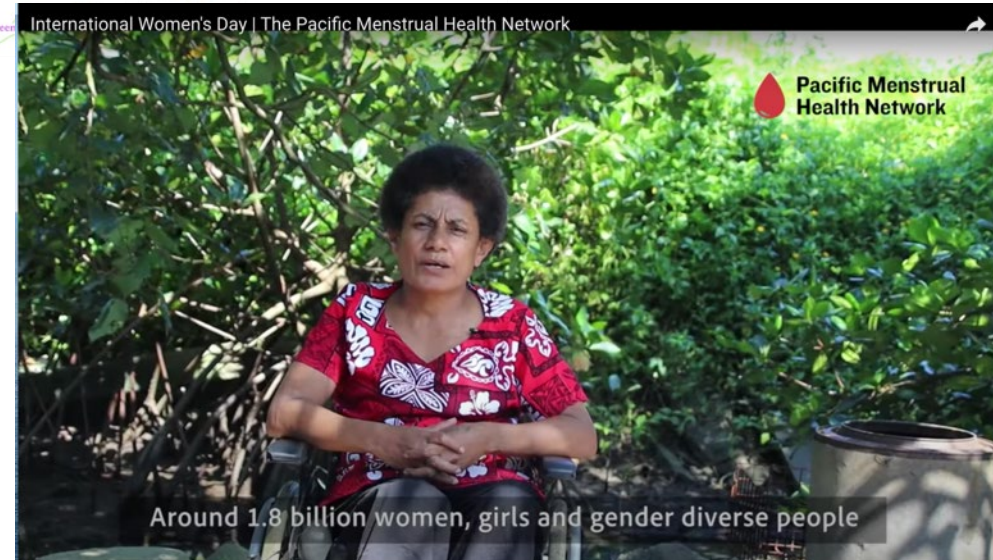
- Shifted to a more Pacific-led, gender just & SRHR informed model
- Pacific representation on Global MH Collective and at Global Period Poverty Forum
- Facilitated 3 annual menstrual health online learning events with diverse Pacific speakers
- Undertaking national advocacy in Vanuatu, Fiji and PNG
- Led two annual menstrual health rights campaigns - two videos published
- Leading a menstrual health Community of Practice in PNG
- In Vanuatu, influenced the sanitation working group to address MH
- In Fiji, facilitated MH education with girls with hearing impairments, WASH education in CC/DRR work



#pacificperiods



International Women's Day | The Pacific Menstrual Health Network



Evaluation findings: Effectiveness of the Network

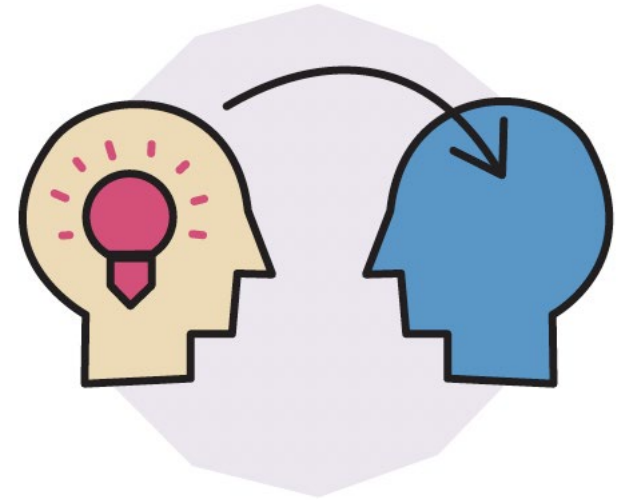
Overall the Network has enabled:



Collective action



Collaborative national and regional advocacy



Sharing and learning

Why? The enabling factors

- The key enabling factor to the Network's success is that it is Pacific-led and builds on existing strengths of groups & networks


WaterAid Led (2019-21)

Limited ownership and connection between members, slow progress


Pacific-Led (2021-22)

Improved momentum, ownership, communications and engagement

Other important enabling factors are:

 Goodwill and commitment of members

 Supportive environment

 WaterAid's approach – listening to members, navigating COVID-19, network to pursue its goals

‘The benefit of this Network is we have the opportunity to learn from each other. Before the Network, we did not know who was working in the same space ...The Network has allowed me to understand what everyone is working on.’

– Network member

“As a Pacific feminist group, we enjoy sharing intersectional and interlinkage concepts and human rights frameworks in the Network. All our work can be linked and strengthened, when the principles of work are clear.”

-Network member

“When it comes to menstrual health, we now have the leveraging tool called the Pacific Menstrual Health Network - that gives us hope for change.”

– Network member

Is the Network an effective modality?

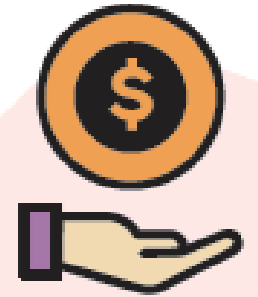
The evaluation found that the network modality is likely to be the most appropriate option to achieve action on MH in the Pacific, because:



It is led and driven by members



It enables cross-regional collaboration



It can harness external sources of funding and operational support through WaterAid

<https://www.wateraid.org/au/pacific-menstrual-health-network-evaluation-report-2022>

Recommendations

1. Continue to be Pacific-led.
2. Ensure a strong gender justice & SRHR frame
3. Increase Network visibility to a broader audience, including Indigenous & local groups
4. Enhance national menstrual health networks.
5. Build on successes of the menstrual health movement – Better data & gender analysis, more policy advancements, & International Days as key advocacy opportunities
6. Facilitate ongoing dialogue of shared values & relationship-building to determine shared priorities.
7. Explore how advancement of menstrual health & justice can be increased in the Pacific.
8. The Network will consider options related to effectiveness, sustainability and accountability.



Key takeaways and insights

1. We are Pacific-led, feminist, intersectional and work in interlinked ways
2. Menstrual health and rights is everyone's business, a WASH issue, and we will demonstrate and share resources and support
3. Menstrual health is a core part of gender justice and SRHR. We are part of the women's human rights work, SDGs/Agenda 2030, Beijing POA, UN Water Conference
4. We are an emergent network and depend on mobilisation and organising to build together
5. We appreciate & call on our local and Indigenous strength, national influence, regional connectivity and global movement strength for menstrual health and rights.
6. We will continue to work on both material everyday realities and systemic change for Pacific people who menstruate.



Note: PMHC Member, DIVA and Na I Soqosoqo Vakamarama I Taukei Session on Thursday 16 Feb, 9am-1230pm, Room A. JOIN US!



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RETHINK CIVILISATIONAL
STRUCTURE. RECONNECT,
REWILD AND REPAIR.
REBUILD WITH LOVE & CARE
ECONOMY AT THE CENTRE.
RESTORE BALANCE**

Water and WASH Futures Conference 13-17th February 2023

www.washfutures.com

Attending the Conference? Haven't signed up for our session?
Thursday 16 Feb, 9am-1230pm, Room A. JOIN US!

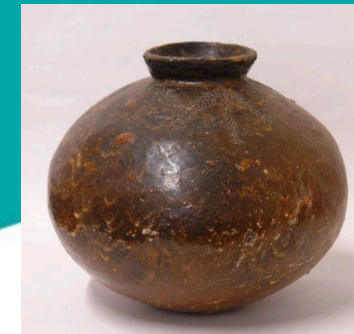
**Pacific Feminist Movements :
Sharing Lessons for GenderJust Water
and WASH Futures**

Contact the Alliance if you can support, or would like to contribute to our work in some way:

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