



SAMOA Pathway Interregional Meeting Side Event

ICPD Implementation in PACIFIC SIDS:

SAMOA Pathway Actions in Reproductive Health, Gender and Youth

CONCEPT NOTE

Background:

Nearly two decades after its inception, the message of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) remains as powerful and relevant as when it was conceived. Against a background of global warming and a world that needs to feed more than seven billion people, concerns about population growth and distribution have once again become foci of international attention. Half of the world's population now live in urban areas. While this offers great development potential, it also signifies increasing inequalities and vulnerabilities.

Vulnerability is the keyword that describes the SIDS. Despite its distance from the global centres of economic power, the region is easily affected by global economic forces, such as the global financial crisis and soaring prices of fuel. The small Pacific economies are vulnerable, and if it were not for the safety nets of family support and subsistence living for many Pacific islanders, abject poverty would be rampant. The Pacific region's vulnerability to the effects of climate change is evident. The atolls in this region already suffer from those effects, through increasing droughts, floods, and loss of precious land.

Unique development challenges and the population dynamics, particularly the youth bulge, are expected to influence the ability of Pacific island countries to achieve the ICPD goals, the priorities of the SAMOA Pathway and the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly:

- Goal 3 'Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages, indicator and target 3.8 and 3.8.1 7115206
- Goal 5 'Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, indicator and target 5.2, 5.3 and 5.6
- Goal 17 'Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development', indicator and targets 17.18, and 17.19

Why focus on the SAMOA Pathway priority areas of Reproductive Health, Gender and Youth?

Reproductive Health

- Maternal health is one of the areas that made good progress under the MDGs but a number of PICTs have high stillbirth and neonatal mortality rates which reflect inadequate quality of care in the antenatal period and during and after delivery, as well as poor access to contraceptives
- unmet need for family planning for married women aged 15-49 years is 20 per cent or above in nine of 14 PICTs (Fiji, FSM, Kiribati, Nauru, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu). For all countries, CPR for all methods remains below 50 per cent, with eight PICTs having a CPR for all methods below 30 per cent (Kiribati, RMI, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga). Of concern is the declining CPR trend observed in some of the Pacific countries (RMI, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu), and lack of current data to enable trend analysis in seven countries.

Gender Equality and Gender based violence

- National violence against women prevalence studies, also known as the Family Health and Safety Studies (FHSS), completed in ten PICTs between 2010 and 2014, show that on average, two out of three women experience physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence during their lifetime, which is very high compared to global averages.
- Approximately one out of every three women had experienced physical or sexual violence, or both, by an intimate partner in the 12 months prior to the survey. In addition, the FHSS show that women in the Pacific mainly experience more severe forms of violence, and often for several years, with few options to escape.

Adolescents and Youth

- Despite the declining trend of the global birth rate among adolescent girls aged 15 to 19 from 59 births per 1000 girls in 1990 to 51 births in 2015, in ten of the PICTs adolescent birth rates (ABR) show an upward trend. These rates range between 62 and 85 births per 1,000 adolescent girls 15-19 years old in five PICTs. This indicates a high unmet need for contraception for adolescents with Nauru, RMI and Vanuatu recording levels of birth rates above 80 per 1,000 females 15-19 years old.
- Adolescent pregnancy has profound implications for girls, with diminished education and employment prospects. Adolescent mothers are more vulnerable to poverty and exclusion, and more likely to experience health complications during pregnancy and childbirth, which are the leading causes of death among adolescent girls globally.

Purpose of the Side Event

- To hear Pacific SIDS stories of investments in SAMOA Pathway actions in Reproductive Health, Gender and Youth,

- To highlight urgencies for scaled-up investments in persistent gaps and areas needing further support and targeted interventions, particularly in SDG 3, 5 and 17.

Side Event Title: ICPD Implementation in PACIFIC SIDS: SAMOA Pathway Actions in Reproductive Health, Gender and Youth

Day, Date and Time: Monday, 29 October 2018, 13.00pm to 14.30pm

Moderator: Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu, Under Secretary-General and High Representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, UN-OHRLLS (if not available then high level Tongan delegate)

Panel Members:

- (1) Honourable Fiame Naomi Mataafa, Deputy Prime Minister, Samoa (Gender advocate)
- (2) Honourable Faimalotoa Kika Stowers Minister of Women, Community and Social Development (Youth advocate)
- (3) Lord Tu’ivakano, Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Population and Development, Member of Parliament
- (4) Lord Tui’afitu, Member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Social Services, Member of Parliament *(and former Minister of Health)*

Side Event Program

MC: Samuel Ieremia – ACEO Ministry of Finance, Govt of Samoa

13.00	Opening prayer	Rev. Dr. Siasia Salesulu
13.05pm – 13.10pm	Welcoming remarks	Bruce Campbell
13.15pm	Introduction of Moderator and Panelists and theme	PSRO, Suva
13.30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Panel topic on Population and Data – Lord Tu’ivakano - Panel topic on Gender – Hon. Fiame Naomi Mataafa - Panel topic on Youth – Hon. Minister Stowers - Panel topic on Reproductive Health – Lord Tui’afitu <p>Q& A and wrapping up – Moderator</p>	Ms. Fekitamoeloa Katoa ‘Utoikamanu, UN-OHRLLS <i>(tbc)</i>
2.00pm	Vote of Thanks and thank you gift for the moderator	Bruce Campbell
	Group photo & Refreshments	

Proposed budget

Item	Cost
Catering (\$25 per person)	1500
Advocacy materials	5000
Fuel (distributing invites & etc)	500
Stationery & miscellaneous	1000
TOTAL	10,000

Targeted audience and guests

1. Country delegates
2. Cabinet Ministers
3. Dip corps
4. MPs
5. Church Leaders forum
6. NGOs
7. Ambassadors (NYC based)
8. SIDs delegates
9. National partners of UN agencies
10. Media group