

20<sup>th</sup> October 2015

## Press Release

### Creating Waves on the Sustainable Development Goals

Health Ministries from around the region will be participating in a three-day consultation with the hope of creating waves on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), so that Pacific concerns are voiced and heard collectively at a global level.

The *Technical Experts and Ministerial Consultations on Strengthening Climate Change Resilience through Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health* will convene from October 26-28 at the Sofitel Resort in Nadi, Fiji.

The meeting also marks the first time the region will discuss *Every Woman Every Child Every Adolescent Everywhere* (EWECEAE), an unprecedented global movement of governments, multilaterals, the private sector and civil society focused on the major health challenges facing women, adolescents, children and newborns around the world.

The meeting hopes to:

- Introduce the renewed Global Strategy on Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health as a key delivery platform for the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
- Identify steps towards investment in the strategy and potential implementation mechanisms for Pacific countries, consider the impact of climate change on reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescents health (RMNCAH).
- Formulate a collective statement to present at upcoming international meetings: COP21 (December, 2015), World Humanitarian Summit (2016) the Habitat III (2016).

The Ministry of Health & Medical Services remains committed to improving health services in reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent health.

“Understanding climate change and its effects on health is important. In Fiji we are facing the brunt of Climate Change. This is not only costly but also affects social and environmental factors of health. This includes clean air, sufficient food, safe water sources and secure shelter”, said Mr Jone Usamate, the Hon. Minister for Health & Medical Services Fiji.

“This meeting will no doubt identify the gaps relating to climate change and health and pave a way forward”.

Investments in the health, wellbeing and dignity of women, young people and children have a powerful role in climate change resilience.

“The United Nations Population Fund congratulates the Fiji Ministry for Health and Medical Services, and its regional counterparts for the visionary leadership in beginning the conversation in this very critical area of health, to ensure Pacific people build their adaptive capacity in terms of the impact of climate change,” UNFPA Pacific Director and Representative Dr Laurent Zessler said.

“This meeting will bring together stakeholders in the area of reproductive, maternal, newborn, children’s and adolescents’ health and disaster management which fills a gap in climate change adaptation – we cannot talk about a resilient population if we are not investing in their capacity to be resilient and the best place to start is in fundamental health areas.”

**\*This is being hosted by the Fiji Ministry for Health and Medical Services, in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).**

**For more information contact:**

1. **Ms Ariela Zibiah**  
Communication Analyst  
UNFPA Pacific Sub-Regional Office  
M: +679 8682097  
Email: [zibiah@unfpa.org](mailto:zibiah@unfpa.org)
  
2. **Ms Evlyn Mani**  
Senior Social Media Marketing &  
Media Liaison Officer, Ministry of Health  
M: +679 9904134  
Email: [evlyn\\_health@yahoo.com](mailto:evlyn_health@yahoo.com)  
[evlyn.mani@govnet.gov.fj](mailto:evlyn.mani@govnet.gov.fj)