

# THE REPRODUCTIVE AND FAMILY HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF FIJI

The Reproductive and Family Health Association of Fiji (RFHAF) aims to reach the most poor, marginalized, socially excluded and under-served populations, and empower them to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health.



## COUNTRY PROFILE



Population  
**881,000**



Total Fertility Rate  
**2.7**



Contraceptive  
Prevalence Rate  
**44.3%**



Infant Mortality  
Rate (per 1,000)  
**19/1,000**

## ABOUT RFHAF

RFHAF has a static clinic based in the capital, Suva, which provides sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) services, including:

- Family planning
- STI and HIV services
- Prenatal care
- Counselling
- Gynecological services

RFHAF is committed to changing attitudes towards SRHR in Fiji. RFHAF advocates in the community and with the government for Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE) for all, particularly in schools.

RFHAF also works extensively with **children and adults with disabilities**, conducting SRHR training with young leaders with disabilities and children in special schools.

- 1 • Advocating for SRHR in national and international forums
- 2 • Ongoing quality improvement and capacity building
- 3 • Working in partnership with local, national and regional organisations

### RFHAF operates against a backdrop of:

- High rates of adolescent pregnancy – 38/1,000
- A large youth population – 40% of the population is under the age of 18
- High prevalence of STIs – The prevalence of Chlamydia amongst pregnant women in Fiji is 29%

## PRIORITY AREAS

RFHAF prioritises hard-to-reach communities through its extensive community engagement programs. In 2016, RFHAF piloted a program which trained the *Turaga ni Koro* (Village headman) from 18 rural villages on SRHR. The training equipped them with the skills to provide basic SRHR counselling and promote SRHR in their own villages. The program will be further rolled out in 2017, increasing awareness and ownership of SRHR issues in remote villages of Fiji.

### EMERGENCY RESPONSE



On the 20th of February 2016, Tropical Cyclone Winston struck Fiji with devastating impacts. 44 people were killed, 126 injured, and 131,000 displaced from their homes. Overall, the cyclone was estimated to have impacted more than 350,000 people in the country (40% of the population). Lives were lost, crops and infrastructure were destroyed, and livelihoods were severely affected.

The RFHAF team collaborated with IPPF's humanitarian *SPRINT* team to respond to the disaster, in coordination with the Ministry of Health. Together, they reached more than 11,000 beneficiaries, spanning 37 villages and settlements in Fiji's northern and western divisions.

**Reproductive Health Medical Missions** to these villages provided a critical service, particularly for pregnant women and new mothers, who would otherwise have been without essential health services.

Medical Mission teams consisted of volunteers from RFHAF, and nurses and a doctor from the Ministry of Health. In most villages visited, the missions were the first support provided since the cyclone.

### PUTTING YOUTH FIRST

**RFHAF is committed to working with, and for, young people.**

RFHAF works with:

- School children
- Youths with disabilities
- Out-of-school youths
- Teachers & school administrators
- Village Community Leaders

In Fiji, young people have limited access to credible information about SRHR. Adolescent pregnancy and the transmission of STIs are major challenges – particularly in urban areas, yet rarely discussed, especially with young people themselves.

RFHAF aims to address this need through CSE and comprehensive youth-focused training to empower young people, involving them in:

- Peer to peer training on SRHR
- Youth SRH leadership camps
- Youth empowerment workshops



**For all enquiries, please contact:**

**Matelita Seva** – RFHAF Executive Director

92 Ratu Sukuna Rd  
Nasese, Fiji