

PACIFIC MENSTRUAL HEALTH NETWORK EVALUATION FINDINGS 2022

“

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

”

Effectiveness of the Network

Overall, the Pacific Menstrual Health Network has taken significant steps towards establishing itself as a collaborative member-driven, Pacific-led platform to progress menstrual health in the Pacific. It has enabled:



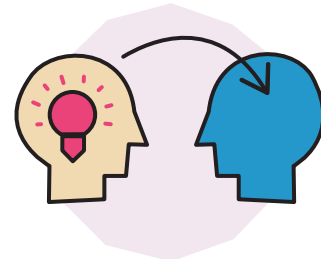
Collective action

- Allowed like-minded people to connect and pursue a shared vision.
- Provided added credibility to national-level work on menstrual health – enabling further reach and influence.
- Collective action was seen to be more effective than individual approaches on sensitive issues.



Collaborative national and regional advocacy

- Developed and implemented shared communication campaigns on social media.
- Built evidence on menstrual health to inform advocacy.
- Advocated to national governments and regional organisations for stronger action on menstrual health.



Sharing and learning

- Enabled sharing of ideas and knowledge across contexts.
- Enabled members to extend their practical advocacy skills such as video production.
- Members reported feeling empowered and supported.

“ We talk one ‘language’, because we all have cultural barriers and stigma; through the Network we learn from each other - Network Member ”

The key enabling factor to the Network’s success is that it is Pacific-led.

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:

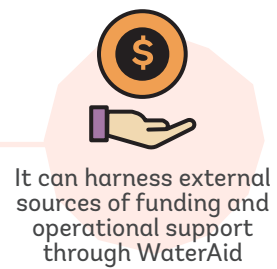
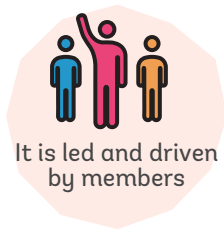
▶  Goodwill and commitment of members

▶  Supportive environment

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

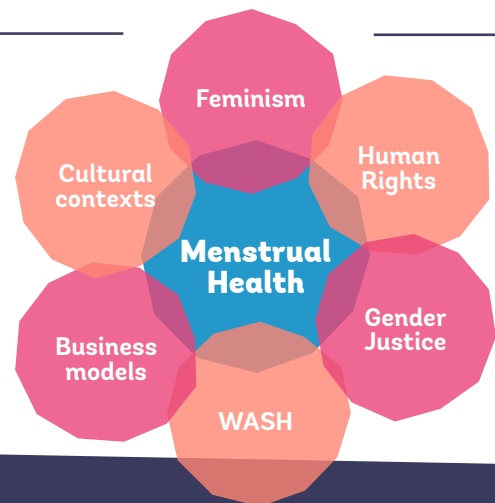
The evaluation found that the network modality is likely to be the most appropriate option to achieve action on menstrual health in the Pacific at this time.

This is because:



The Network could be further strengthened by:

- **Navigating different frames of reference** - members come with different cultural contexts, business models and world views for addressing menstrual health – there is value in more explicitly agreeing what a collective approach entails
- **Strengthening communication between WaterAid and Network Members**
- **Dreaming bigger** – moving from raising awareness to aiming for real transformational change



Key Recommendations

- The Network should continue to be Pacific-led.
- There is benefit in increasing awareness about its vision and function to a broader audience.
- Members should continue to build and enhance national networks, including through support and resources provided by the Network.
- Members should maximize and build on the successes of the menstrual health movement in the Pacific – continuing to use International Days as key advocacy moments and developing case studies and pilot projects.
- Members would benefit from ongoing dialogue, reflection and negotiation of shared values to determine shared priorities and celebrate members' contributions.
- WaterAid should support the Network for the next three years through funding, program management and facilitating a planning phase.
- The planning phase should explore how change happens in the Pacific, understanding strengths of members to prioritise efforts and the strengths and limitations of different modalities to bring about change.
- WaterAid should support Network members to consider options related to a more sustainable model in future.



Background

The Pacific Menstrual Health Network (PMHN) was developed with support from WaterAid Australia to strengthen collective advocacy, action and shared learning on menstrual health across Fiji, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands.

Phase 1 of the project (2019 – 2022) focused on establishing and building relationships, setting up governance structures and building a good understanding of the menstrual health ecosystem in the five countries across the Pacific.



Evaluation Methodology

- **Timeframe:** April-June 2022
- **Team:** Jodie Kane, Hannah Tamata and Deborah Rhodes, engaged by WaterAid Australia
- **Aim:** to document progress to date and inform the design of the second phase of the project

The evaluation involved:

- Desk review of project documents
- 13 interviews with eight PMHN member organisations and WaterAid staff
- A validation workshop