

REGIONAL CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS FORUM

Position Papers on Priority Areas

PROMOTING AND SAVING WOMEN'S LIVES AND ENDING PREVENTABLE DEATHS FROM CERVICAL CANCER, MATERNAL MORTALITY AND NCDs

We call on Leaders to expand the focus of the cervical cancer priority to include a broader focus on promoting and saving lives by ending preventable deaths from maternal mortality and NCDs.

Cost effective solutions already exist and we recommend that Leaders mobilise resources behind these practical solutions outlined in the PIF CSO Forum Position Paper.

Civil Society calls for:

1. Leaders to commit to improve women's health recognising that the Pacific will not achieve MDGs 3 or 5 by end of 2015.
2. Increased investment in basic health services to ensure available, acceptable, affordable, accessible and quality health care for women and girls through demonstrated, effective initiatives including:
 - Mobile health services
 - Village health volunteer programs
 - More and better stocked aid posts
3. Implementation of comprehensive and integrated cervical cancer prevention program across the Pacific including access to HPV vaccination, cervical screening and treatment.
4. Ownership by all levels of government to ensure delivery of health services at a local level.
5. Providing cost effective solutions to enhance women's health including:
 - a. Providing information and community education of women and girls, at all levels and sectors on basic health, nutrition, cervical cancer, NCDs, maternal and child health
 - b. Cervical cancer screening using visual inspection with acetic acid
 - c. Access to HPV vaccination for all girls
 - d. Access to comprehensive family planning services
 - e. Implementing village health volunteer programs
 - f. Mobilise regional purchasing of medical supplies
6. Tackle the gendered inequality issues that are preventing women from accessing health care. Inform and empower women about their right to health care. Engage men and boys as part of the solution.
7. We call upon the strengthened implementation of the 40th PIF Gender Declaration, the Pacific Conference on Parliamentarians for Advocacy on ICPD

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beyond 2014 and Pacific Policy Framework for Achieving Universal Access to Reproductive Health Services and Commodities.

8. Women in the Pacific face many health challenges which need to be addressed in order to fulfil the Framework for Pacific Regionalism's vision of a region of healthy and productive people:
 - Cervical cancer mortality - Papua New Guinea 21.7; Fiji 20.9; Solomon Islands 17.9 and Vanuatu 9.8; 2 per 100,000 in Western Asia, Western Europe and Australia/New Zealand per 100,000 women.
 - Maternal mortality rates - Oceania 484; Papua New Guinea 594; Solomon Islands 183, Kiribati 101 and Vanuatu 139; East Asia and Pacific average 74 per 100,000 women.
 - Child mortality rates - Papua New Guinea 61; Kiribati 58; Marshall Islands 38; FSM 36; Nauru 37; Solomon Islands 30; Tuvalu 29; East Asia and Pacific average 17 per 100,000 women.