

**GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN
KIRIBATI
1999 – 2002**

A. Background

1. The social, legal and economic status of Kiribati women is generally low. Outside of South Tarawa, the role of women is confined largely to domestic duties, while land tenure and community politics are reserved largely for men. As more men are forced to find work overseas, the burden on women increases. Recent developments suggest there is now a firm commitment on the part of the Government to improve the status of women. However, there is still a long way to go before real parity in the opportunities, role and power relations of men and women can be achieved.

B. Objectives

2. The main Bank's Gender and Development objectives in Kiribati are to promote equal participation of women in economic and social activities, and to encourage their active involvement in participatory and decision-making processes. Particular emphasis will be placed in gender issues during implementation of the Community Development and Participation Initiative project¹ to enhance the role of women and their voice in the decision-making process. Emphasis will also be placed on gender issues in the preparation and implementation of the proposed Outer Island Development Program. This program will directly benefit women. In fact, due to emigration, women and other vulnerable groups (poor, very young and elders) are mainly concentrated in the outer islands.

C. Action Plan

Ongoing and Planned Bank Operations		Gender and Development Action Plan
A. Loans		
1648-KIR	Sanitation, Public Health and Environment Improvement (SAPHE)	Ensure equal participation of women on the decision-making process Ensure equal Project's benefit to women
(2002)	Outer Island Development Fund	Increase financial resources to the outer islands where the majority of women are concentrated. Ensure minimum quota of women participants in training activities.

¹ TA no. 3109-KIR approved on 8 December 1998, for \$300,000

Ongoing and Planned Bank Operations		Gender and Development Action Plan
B. Technical Assistance		
3109-KIR	Community Development and Initiative Project	Ensure equal participation of women in the decision-making process.
(1999)	Strengthening Capacity to Finance and Economic Management (Phase II)	Promote gender integration through policy dialogue. Incorporate GAD lessons learned in Phase I.
(2000)	Institutional Strengthening of Urban Planning	Gender priorities to be specified during fact-finding.
(2000)	Outer Island Development Program	Increase resources to the outer islands where the majority of women are concentrated. Gender priorities to be specified during fact-finding.