

**GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN
REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS (RMI)
1999-2002**

A. Objectives

1. For all ongoing and future projects and technical assistance activities to be supported by the Bank in the RMI, effort will be made to address gender and development issues to ensure the following objectives are actively pursued:

- (i) Promote more participation of women in the economy and at higher levels in Government with particular attention to the fisheries and agriculture sectors;
- (ii) Encourage active involvement of women in government decision-making processes, including by promoting the inclusion of specific gender and development considerations; and
- (iii) Promote "employability" of women through proper training and skills development.

2. Specific plans and actions will be incorporated in the design of future assistance. The Bank's strategy recognizes that, because of existing gender inequities in RMI, women are disproportionately affected by the economic downturn caused by cut back in public expenditure. It is also recognized that in spite of the matrilineal system, women's role is still predominantly as a homemaker with limited decision making powers. Moreover poor health services and lack of educational opportunities have a greater impact on women. The Bank's proposed assistance in Education/Health Sectors will target gender development and are intended to redress some of the deficiencies in these two sectors.

B. Action Plan

Ongoing and Planned Bank Operations	Gender and Development Action Plan
A. Loans	
1249-RMI Basic Education Development	provide access to basic education in outer islands with emphasis on home science and health education for girls between ages 8 and 14.
1316-RMI Health & Population Project	Primary health care and health education are specifically addressing women's health needs; seminars/conferences and health clinics are being organized mainly for women.
(1999) Ebeye Health & Infrastructure	Improve quality of life for women as well as provide community outreach program, family planning services and overall medical needs of women.

Ongoing and Planned Bank Operations		Gender and Development Action Plan
A. Loans (continued)		
(2000)	Skills Training & Vocational Education	Specific program to improve "employability" of women; programs for skills training to augment family income and development of entrepreneurship among women.
(2001)	Microfinance & Financial Institution Development (including PPTA)	Provide small business opportunities for women through community credit and opportunities for handicrafts, subsistence fisheries, agriculture projects operated and managed by women.
B. Technical Assistance		
(2001)	Tourism Development II (PPTA)	Increase employment for women in the service sector and tourism related businesses.
3161-RMI	Strengthening Census & Survey Capability	Will highlight data/statistics on women.