

**GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN
SAMOA
1999-2002**

A. Background

1. Women in Samoa enjoy a generally well-recognized status in the community where they play a significant role in community organization and management. Access to education and achievement by women in the formal education system compares well with that of men. The rate of participation by women in the country's labor force is relatively high. Women occupy a number of senior positions in the public service, and distinctions drawn on the basis of gender are relatively less common in Samoa compared to other Pacific Island countries. Despite these favorable circumstances however, success of economic undertakings by women is sometimes hampered by various factors, including limited access to credit. There are a number of active NGOs in the country interested in promoting further economic and social improvement of the condition of rural and urban women.

2. The Government of Samoa places a high importance on gender issues. In 1991, the Government established the Ministry of Women's Affairs to promote the advancement of the social and economic position of women of Samoa. In 1994 Samoa endorsed the *Pacific Platform for Action*, making an international commitment to promoting the advancement of women in practical and strategic areas of development

B. Objectives

3. The Bank's objective is to support the Government's effort to promote the economic and social advancement of women in Samoa. To that effect, the Bank will support and promote project activities which encourage equal participation of women in economic, educational and social development and promote wider involvement of women in the participatory and decision making process. During the ongoing operational cycle, there will be a number of projects which will provide opportunities for gender oriented activities.

C. Action Plan

Ongoing and Planned Bank Operations		Gender and Development Action Plan
A. Loans		
(2000)	Education Sector	<p>Consultation with stakeholders including women on all aspects of education policy and strategy.</p> <p>Ensure equal access to education and working opportunities for women Promote integration of gender issues in curriculum development for all level of education including vocational.</p>

Ongoing and Planned Bank Operations		Gender and Development Action Plan
A. Loans (continued)		
(2000)	Small Business Development (2000)	Provide particular attention to the needs of women entrepreneurs, including provision of microcredit and business advisory services. Engage stakeholders groups and NGO in project formulation and implementation to ensure that particular need of women are catered for.
1608-SAM	Financial Sector Program	Engage in dialog to promote better integration of gender issues in applicable program activities.
B. Technical Assistance		
(2000)	Small Business Development Support (ADTA) [piggy backed]	See Small Business Development loan above.
(2000)	Education Sector Support (ADTA) [piggy backed]	See Education Sector loan above.
(2001)	Economic Sector Planning and Management	Promote further gender integration at senior level of Government through policy dialogue.
(2001)	Development of Non-banking Financial Institutions	Increase financial resources for rural and poor where women are most affected.