

## © Gender and Development<sup>14</sup>

### *Situation*

- 49.2 % (census 2000) of the total population consists of women.
- Traditional gender roles continue to exist in the Maldives and hinder women and men from fully enjoying the benefits of a gender equitable society. Gender sensitization work is consistently carried out by the Ministry of Gender, Family Development and Social Security at various levels and through different mediums including media advocacy and social interaction.
- The Ministry of Gender, Family Development and Social Security oversees the institutional mechanism for the advancement of women in the Maldives.

### *International commitment*

- The Maldives ratified the Convention of the Elimination of the All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in July 1993.
- The Maldives is a party to the Beijing Platform for Action, the Commonwealth Plan of Action on Gender and Development, the SAARC Plan of Action on the Girl Child and the SAARC Convention of Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution.

### *Gender Mainstreaming*

- A Gender Management System, based on the Commonwealth model was put in place in 2001 under the Government policy of gender mainstreaming. The basic structures for this system are in place, with the establishment of a Gender Equality Council in December 2001 and the appointment of focal points in all sectors. Work continues in strengthening the system through capacity building and advocacy.
- The Sixth National Development Plan reaffirms gender mainstreaming as a priority and incorporates gender as a cross-cutting issue.

### *Priorities to establish gender equity and equality in the Maldives*

- Gender mainstreaming for the effective inclusion of gender concerns in all policies, programmes and projects.
- Empowerment of women to ensure the participation of women in the political, social and economic spheres.
- Advocacy and gender sensitization.
- Collecting sex-disaggregated data and analyzing in gender perspective.
- Addressing gender-based violence.
- Implementation of CEDAW
- Adopting a national policy on gender.
- Legal reviews and reform with a focus of Gender in the Criminal Justice System.

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- Introducing a Certificate Course in Population, Gender and Development in a local institution
- Capacity building to strengthen the national women's machinery and the Gender Management System.
- Research
- Affirmative actions for gender equity and equality.

### ***Activities undertaken in 2004***

#### 1. Advocacy and gender sensitization

- Gender sensitization and awareness raising activities
- Publication of *Hiyala an annual magazine*, advocating and addressing various issues relating to gender.
- Publication of bulletins, posters and leaflets for awareness raising and advocacy.
- Gender advocacy for media personnel.
- Design a Certificate Course in Population , Gender and Development

#### 2. Empowerment of women

- Marking of the International Women's Day
- Monitoring a revolving fund loan scheme for women.
- Monitoring the work and conducting leadership training for island women development committees.

#### 3. Addressing gender based violence

- Preparatory work for the survey on Women's health and life experiences.
- Training of social workers for addressing domestic violence and violence against women.
- Training to address cases of the instances for healthcare personnel at IGMH
- Counselling training for nurses and other healthcare personnel at IGMH
- Counselling training for nurses and other healthcare personnel to deal with cases of violence against women in all its form.
- Ground work to establish a multi-sector support system

#### 4. Implementation of CEDAW

- CEDAW reporting
- Review and analysis of the impact of the Family Law.

## *Areas of focus 2005*

### *Activities undertaken/ongoing*

- **Strengthening the Gender Management System**
- **Community Resilience activities for Tsunami affected populations**
  - Situation Assessment trips
  - Community Facilitators training
    - psychosocial support
    - Economic re-establishment
- **Gender Sensitization and Orientation Programme**
  - Gender sensitization and orientation for various target groups of Health, Education and Justice.
  - Gender sensitization of media personal
- **Implementing CEDAW**
  - Workshop for gender focal points reporting on CEDAW and to develop a reporting framework.
  - Publish report on the analysis of the impact of the Family Law and conduct awareness programmes to address the identified issues.
  - Continue work on engendering the legal system and to address issues in the Criminal Justice System.
- **Addressing the issues of Domestic Violence/ Violence against Women (DV/VAW)**
  - Establishing multi-sectoral support service for victims of DV/VAW
  - Workshop for police on investigative procedures on cases of violence against women
  - Develop, publish and distribute user-friendly information sheets / flyers on services available to victims of VAW and contact information for support services.
  - Capacity building of staff of the GAD section and other stake holders to deal cases of VAW / DV
  - Counselors training
- **Advocacy and information dissemination**
  - Publish and disseminate “ Hiyala”
  - Print an annual bulletin on status of women in Maldives
  - Publish a calendar on the current status of women in Maldives.

- Print and distribute posters.
- **Empowerment of women**
  - Marking International Women's Day
  - Training workshops to strengthen island women development committees
  - Dispersing loans to women through government loan scheme to Male'