

## Working towards Menstrual Equity in the Republic of the Marshall Islands

Days for Girls Australia's Oceania Team is working with the UN International Office of Migration regional office in Majuro Republic of the Marshall Island to improve access to menstrual products for all girls and advance menstrual equity. Days for Girls needs to raise US\$20,000 to ensure the success of this project.

### Project Objective

This project aims to reach every school girl from Grade 6 to Grade 12 with a DfG Menstrual Health Kit and menstrual health education. We will reach 1,442 middle school students and 1,821 high school students.

### DfGAL - Project Budget

Kits for the Marshall Island - 3,726				
	Unit Cost US\$	Cost for total project US\$	Funded by DfG Teams US\$	Funding Required US\$
Kit Material Cost	\$11.50	\$42,849	\$42,849	
Underwear	\$4.00	\$14,904		\$14,904
Face-washers	\$0.50	\$1,863		\$1,863
Transportation	\$0.85	\$3,167		\$3,167
		\$62,783	\$42,849	\$19,934

To date DfGAL has received funding to the value of US\$14,380 leaving approximately US\$5,554 to be funded.

## IOM - Contribution

IOM share of the Project is approximately US\$68,000 and will cover the cost for

- Training for distribution
- Travel to/from Atolls
- Per diem
- Distribution Costs
- Coordination Meetings
- Transportation of the Kits from Majuro to the other Atolls

## Background

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) is located in the western Pacific Ocean, half way between Australia and Hawaii, north of the equator and west of the International Date Line.

RMI is an archipelago of 29 atolls, five low coral islands and 1,151 islets that shares maritime borders with the Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati and Nauru. RMI's land mass totals 113 square kilometres spread over an exclusive economic zone of 1.2 million square kilometres.

RMI has a population of approximately 55,000 people, and the capital is Majuro.

## Pilot Projects

In 2017, Mary Connelly-Gale started the conversation around menstrual health and what products and education were available to the RMI girls. This meeting included the two prominent women in the Marshall Islands, Anta John Kabua the Leroij (a traditional Chief) and Abacca Anjain-Maddison the Deputy Chief Secretary (second highest public servant role in RMI). During the meeting, all parties agreed to trial the Kits and education in RMI.

In June 2018, 12 ladies, including Abacca Anjain-Maddison (Deputy Chief Secretary) and Kitlang Kabua (future Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade), undertook the DfG Ambassador of Women's Health training so that they could deliver the DfG Education program along with the DfG Kits. During 2018 and 2019, 1,536 girls and women received a DfG Kit across eight atolls, and many more participated in the DfG Education.

In 2020, IOM undertook a research project of 3,400 households on Menstrual Health Management in RMI. This research found that:

- Almost half of the participants said they missed school (45.6%) during their period
- Nearly half of the participants missed work (44.1%) during their period

In 2023, IOM worked with the Marshall Islands and Australian Governments to distribute 600 Dignity Kits, including reusable menstrual pads and provide additional Kits to other NGOs. IOM recognises that producing reusable pads in the RMI is critical to long-term sustainability.

## Project Details

Days for Girls will partner with the UN's International Office of Migration (IOM) regional office on this project. The project will commence in October 2023 and take approximately six months to deliver.

Days for Girls will provide IO with 3,726 Kits, covering 1,442 middle school students and 1,821 high school students. Each student and female teacher will receive a DfG Menstrual Kit and the DfG Education. The remainder of the Kits will be distributed to college students and held for the 2024 grade six students.

This project will also empower the young women of RMI. IOM will be working with the Miss Marshall Island Candidates. These young women have a requirement to undertake some volunteer work, which will include training to deliver the DfG Education program to the students and their mothers. They will also learn how to be advocates in their community.

There are currently two DfG teams in RMI. These teams will be able to support the next group of grade 6 students coming through and the female students attending the College of the Marshall Islands and the Majuro Campus of the University of South Pacific.

This project has been designed to ensure longevity and is sustainable in the future.