



Department of Studies and Financial Forecasts

DENI

**Executive Summary of the Gender Report A ppended to the
F inance A ct 2010**

Including Gender approach in phases of the budget preparation and implementation is a part of a set of achievements and reforms performed in Morocco during the last years in order to promote values of equity and equal opportunity.

The 2010 Gender Report (GR 2010) outlines the progress made in terms of appropriation, distribution and adjustment since the launch of gender-sensitive budgeting in 2002. This progress has been the result of an integrated, progressive and volunteer-based approach taking into account capacities of the ministerial departments.

The fifth edition of this report highlights accomplishments in terms of equal access to civil, political, economic and social rights.

The GR 2010 revolves around the following three main areas that bring together government departments with the same policy and goals:

- ***Equal access to civil and political rights:*** justice, social development, modernizing public sectors, economy and finance, foreign trade, foreign affairs and cooperation as well as communication.
- ***Equal access to social rights:*** National Initiative for Human Development, infrastructure and transport, health, education and literacy, vocational training and youth.
- ***Equal benefit from economic rights:*** employment, agriculture, fishing, trade and industry, new information and communication technologies, tourism, arts and crafts and social economy.

In keeping with Morocco's increasing awareness of gender equality in legislation and development policies, major accomplishments in civil and political rights' field related to withdrawing reservations about the CEDAW, particularly aspects pertaining to the citizenship code, the reform of family code and the national policies for gender equality as well as fighting violence against women. The new electoral code includes provisions to promote women's political participation. In 2009, a 12% quota was set up to increase women's representation in elected councils. Besides, the review of the local councils' charter allowed for setting up an equity

commission in each local council to make propositions and address issues of gender equal opportunity and equity.

Significant progress has been made in the area of women's social rights; namely access to basic infrastructure, health services, education and training through the National Initiative for Human Development. Actually, this initiative has greatly contributed to improve the population's living conditions, especially those of the female section; upgrading their access to water, energy and housing. A new health policy aims to narrow the gap in health benefits and reduce the maternal and child mortality rate, especially in rural areas. Similar social programs in the sector of education have been launched to improve the quality of education, curb school drop-outs and promote gender equality as mentioned in the urgency plan (2009-2010), proceed with the plan *million school bags* and launch the financial aid oriented program *Tayssir*.

Equal participation of men and women in economic decision making, a fair distribution of resources and easier integration in the professional world are all ways that significantly enhance the opportunities of better employment and higher incomes. The individual stands at the heart of social economy. Social programs permit to face social deficits in certain sectors such as agriculture and arts and craft and contribute to provide better access to basic infrastructure and fight poverty, social vulnerability and unemployment.

The GR 2010 further underscores the will of public authorities to promote gender-based budgeting. No less than 25 government departments now embrace the gender approach in their budgeting procedures. The ministries of Tourism, Communications, and Arts and Crafts have recently subscribed to this approach. Other departments are reviewing their budgeting procedures in accordance with the guidelines of the gender approach.

Analysis conducted on government departments committed to the gender sensitive budgeting allowed to highlight the achievements and at the same time to point to the weaknesses and the challenges to overcome for a better management of public spending.

This further increases the prospect of extending this approach to all government departments, allows for a closer inter-sector analysis of programs conducted within the framework of result-based budgetary reforms, and enhances gender-sensitive performance indicators.

This process, which takes full account of the gender dimension, is expected to endorse issues of equal opportunity as outlined in the Finance Act. It will also help devise and implement integrated and coherent public policies in various sectors.

Several challenges are yet to overcome. For the GSB (Gender Sensitive Budgeting) to gain ground in Morocco, there should be a wider endorsement by government departments, parliament members as well as operators from civil society. In fact, women's groups in Morocco are strongly committed to promoting the gender approach. They have launched local operations to raise GSB awareness and call for training programs in local planning and budgeting.

It is important to step up and extend support and guidance programs launched by government departments. Such programs are geared towards defining objectives and setting

performance indicators in an attempt to depart from previous budgeting practices through a better allocation of resources.

A gender-based information system is a crucial element in the process of devising, monitoring and evaluating public policies aimed at promoting gender equality and decision-making. It serves as a viable tool in the analysis and assessment of the impact of these policies.

Gender-based statistics are now readily available following the upgrading and fine tuning of the national information system. The Ministry of Economy and Finance's report of 2007 "l'examen exhaustif des statistiques sensibles au genre" and the High Planning Commission's study of 2008 "la femme marocaine en chiffres" are cases in point. The national system of information has been further consolidated by the findings from the reports on the living standards of Moroccan households for the period 2006-2007 and the NIHD's perception survey. This consolidation trend is set to continue with ongoing studies on issues such as time and budgeting as well as the increase of violence against women.

The follow-up procedure, CBMS (Country Based monitoring system), piloted since 2007 in two local boroughs, Essaouira and Bouaboud (one urban, the other rural), came in response to the need for up-to-date local information to speed up the process of local gender budgeting and planning in accordance with the guidelines of the gender approach.