

Summary of the 2019 edition of the Report on Results-based Budget taking into account the Gender aspect

The 14th edition of the Report on Results-based Budget taking into account the Gender aspect accompanying the 2019 Finance Bill launches the third wave of prefiguration of the Gender-Sensitive Budgeting (GSB) by involving five new ministerial departments in 2018, in accordance with the circular of the Head of Government No. 7/2018. Accordingly, the total number of departments that have been accompanied in adapting GSB is now 28 ministerial departments.

This edition of the Gender Report (GR) aims at highlighting the progress achieved by the ministerial departments at the level of integrating the principles of gender equality and equity in their programming practices, while identifying the additional efforts to employ to make of gender equality the cornerstone of the new national development model.

The efforts that have been so far made in terms of improving the legislative and regulatory framework reflect the firm and constant commitment of the Kingdom in favor of integrating, in national institutions, the culture of male-female equality, and founding public policies on the principles of gender equality.

Thus, in terms of institutionalizing gender mainstreaming in planning and programming practices, the Gender-Sensitive Budgeting Excellence Center has strengthened its actions aimed to accompany foreshadowing ministerial departments through integrating the gender dimension at the level of the “morasses budgétaires” (budgetary final proofs) and Performance Projects. The Gender-Sensitive Budgeting Excellence Center has also launched in 2018, in partnership with Expertise France, a consulting mission for the purpose of developing a gender-sensitive budgetary information system. The latter aims at identifying the needs, the indicators, the methodology of producing the data of a set of ministerial departments, suggesting a gender marking system of budgetary resources and helping the Ministry of Economy and Finance to produce supports and even successfully prepare and analyze Performance Projects and budgets of ministerial departments taking the gender dimension into account.

In terms of local governance, sustained efforts have also been made to institutionalize the gender approach. In this regard, in addition to implementing a gender equality unit at the level of the General Directorate of Local Authorities, a particular attention has been given to improving the local elected officials and executives abilities in terms of Gender-Sensitive Budgeting through creating a network of 25 territorial trainers in planning/local finances. Besides, many guides and manuals about gender approach have been produced, namely three territorial planning guides (regional, provincial/prefectural and communal) integrating gender approach; a procedures' manual related to Organizations of Equity, Equality of chances and Gender Approach at the regional, provincial/prefectural and communal level and a guide for popularizing the Gender-Sensitive Budgeting at the territorial level.

In terms of strengthening the institutional and legal framework that encourages gender equality and the fight against violence against women, and after the final adoption in July 2017 of the Act No. 79.14 relating to the Authority for Equality and Fight against all forms of Discrimination against Women, Morocco adopted in February 2018 the Act No. 103.13 on the fight against violence against women (official gazette dated March 12, 2018) that provides the country with a coherent text to efficiently fight against gender-based violence by granting the women victims of violence the required conditions and measures of legal protection.

Many actions have been carried out in order to promote the effective implementation of this Act. These actions include, in particular, the strengthening of the operational efficiency of care units for women and children victims of violence, through providing the various courts of the Kingdom (21 Courts of Appeal and 69 Courts of First Instance) with information technology tools, thus increasing the equipment rate of these structures to 66% in 2017. Besides, many conventions have been signed with associations in 2018. This provided support to 52 help centers of women victims of violence for a total amount of MAD 12 million for the purpose of ensuring the continuity and quality of the services offered.

Similarly, many programs and projects aimed to institutionalize the fight against the gender-based stereotypes in media contents are also being developed. This is reflected by the elaboration of the Act No. 83-13 amending the Act No. 77-03 relating to audiovisual communication in terms of respecting the image of woman and the fight against stereotypes, inserting special provisions in the specifications of the public pole for improving the image of woman in media, implementing the National Observatory of the Image of Woman in Media and elaborating, underway, a guide about the stereotypes in media, which aims to efficiently integrate the gender approach in media contents and the fight against sexist stereotypes in media.

In addition, the improvement of the national legal framework has been crowned by the integration of gender-related considerations in public programs and policies. It is in this way that the 2nd Governmental Plan for Equality "GPE II" (2017-2021) has been designed to render the commitments agreed in the Governmental Program tangible actions. This large-scale plan focuses on four thematic areas, namely, enhancing women's employability and economic empowerment; promoting equality between women and men in family responsibilities; women's participation in decision-making as well as the protection and realization of women's rights.

In addition to these thematic areas, there are three interdisciplinary themes related to the dissemination of the culture of equality and the fight against gender-based discrimination and stereotypes, the integration of gender in all sectoral policies and Government programs and the implementation of gender at the level of local authorities in urban, peri-urban and rural areas.

This new plan sets the necessary bases for deepening the adoption of gender equality principles through an efficient and effective public action aiming to ensure equal access for citizens to the three generations of rights.

Regarding the access to social services, even though the public authorities have deployed many strategies and programs during the last two decades in order to ensure equitable access for citizens to basic social and economic services (education, health, housing...), the so far achieved results seem insufficient to soften the progress of inequalities which are strongly felt in the rural area.

At the level of access to education, in addition to the generalization of compulsory education, several measures have been implemented to strengthen the social support and indirectly reduce the effects of social and economic factors on children's school enrollment, through encouraging a positive discrimination in favor of rural and semi-urban communities and isolated areas. With respect to the efforts made, the gender Parity Index (GPI) in public primary education has significantly increased at the national level, from 0.84 in 2000-2001 to 0.91 (91 girls versus 100 boys enrolled) in 2017-17, and from 0.75 to 0.85 at the level of junior high school education. The GPI for public high school education increased from 0.85 in 2000-2001 to 1.02 in 2016-2017 at the national level. Moreover, the generalization of school enrollment of children aged 6 to 11 has

been achieved for both sexes with a school enrollment rate for girls of 99.1% at the national level and 101.9% in the rural area during the school year 2017-2018.

Despite this positive evolution, some gender and area-related disparities persist in the junior high school and high school cycles. The school enrollment rate for girls aged 12 to 14 is 86.7% at the national level and only 72.3% in the rural area. Similarly, the school enrollment rate of girls aged 15 to 17 is only 63.6% at the national level and just 33% in the rural area. In addition, the completion rate of girls remains weak at the junior high school and high school cycles with respective rates of 70.5% and 45.4% during the school year 2017-2018. Besides, the dropping out rate of girls remains relatively high for these two cycles reaching 9.4% in the junior high school and 8.7% in the high school cycle. Some differences also persist in terms of access to preschool education, with a special rate of school enrollment of preschool education for girls of just 49.6% for the school year 2017-2018 and only 35.2% in rural areas. On another issue, the drop of illiteracy, though it shows a tendency to decrease, passing from 43% in 2004 to 32% in 2014, remains slow as it decreased only by almost 1% per year.

Regarding the access to higher education, the parity is very obvious as shown by the share of female students in the total number of higher education students, namely 49% during the university year 2017-2018.

At the level of access to health services, the implementation of various health programs allowed to reduce the maternal mortality rate during the period 2004-2017 by 68%, bringing it to 72.6 for 100,000 live births. This decrease enabled Morocco to be on the right track towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal No. 3. Despite this positive result, the disparities per residence area remain important, with a maternal mortality rate of 111.1 for 100,000 births in the rural zone against only 44.6 in the urban one. This difference slightly decreased (66.5 during the period 2010-2017 against 75 between 2004 and 2010).

In terms of access to medical coverage, Morocco has made significant advances with the continuous widening of the population benefiting from compulsory health insurance (AMO) and the Medical Assistance Regime (RAMED). This allowed to achieve a basic medical coverage rate of 54.6%. Accordingly, AMO beneficiaries were in 2016 more than 9.1 million, of whom 3.02 million from the public sector and 6.08 million from the private one. Regarding RAMED, the number of beneficiaries reached 12.44 million at the end of August 2018 for a target population of 8.5 million persons. About 49% of the beneficiaries are from the rural area and 52% are women.

At the level of access to decent housing, the implemented programs enabled Morocco to reduce the housing deficit by 67% moving from 1.24 million units in 2002 to 400,000 units in 2017. Moreover, thanks to the program of Cities Without Slums "VSB", about 59 cities have been announced as slum-free. This allowed improving life conditions of 277,583 households. The socio-economic impact of this program, taking the gender dimension into account, confirms the improvement of beneficiaries' access to basic services and infrastructures. VSB program has in fact enabled to reduce by two thirds the average distance between their new house and the nearest health center (from 30 km to 8 km), improve the drinking water network access (from 22.3% to 85.5%), relieve the burden of searching water by about 39 points and improve the rate of women's access to home ownership (from 15.3% to 18.7%).

Regarding the access to roads and transports, the Rural Roads National Program PNRR (launched in 1995) enabled to increase the rate of the rural population accessibility to 79.3% in 2017 against 54% in 2005. The assessment of this program's impact shows that the improvement of roads accessibility helped reduce the inequalities between the sexes particularly at the level of registration in primary education which has significantly increased for girls compared to that of boys (increase by 7.4% of the proportion of girls registered in school against a global increase of 5.8%) and at the level of access to health services (the number of women's check-ups registered an average increase of 500%).

At the level of access to drinking water, the gender dimension is explicitly taken into account in the programs of drinking water supply, namely, the programs of group supply of drinking water for rural populations (PAGER), the program of schools and mosques sewage system in the rural area as well as the program of drinking water supply and sewage system in the rural area. In terms of achievements, PAGER beneficiaries reached in 2017 13.36 million rural zones inhabitants of whom women and girls represent 49.6%. Regarding the program of supplying schools with drinking water and sewage system, it enabled, in 2017, to equip about 126 rural schools with sewage system. Girls represent 47% of its beneficiaries.

At the level of access to energy, in 2017, the Global Rural Electrification Program (PERG) allowed to electrify about 39,943 villages which is the equivalent of 2,111,100 beneficiary households. The rural electrification rate (TER) therefore reached the level of 99.57% in 2017. Besides, this program generated a positive impact on the economic and social development of the target zones. It contributed to the improvement of the life conditions of the beneficiary population through raising hygiene conditions, widening the access to health services, strengthening security in villages thanks to street lighting and improving the school conditions by extending the duration of school work in school and at home.

Regarding the access to healthy environment, the year 2018 is marked by the presentation of the final draft of the strategy related to institutionalizing the integration of gender dimension in the sector of environment and sustainable development. This strategy comprises two axes, namely the development of a lasting institutional framework in order to ensure the adoption of equality in the sustainable development sector and the integration of the gender approach in the planning, implementation and follow-up of projects in the field of sustainable development.

In terms of the fight against rural poverty, social exclusion and precarity, 44,000 projects and activities have been deployed as part of the National Initiative for Human Development (INDH) during the period 2005-2017. These concentrated on the improvement of access to social services (education, health...), and to basic infrastructures, on socioeconomic integration of the target populations (women, youth...), the fight against precarity and on the strengthening of local governance.

As part of the continuity of the achieved progress, a 3rd phase of INDH for the period 2019-2023 has been launched by His Majesty the King on September 19, 2018. This new phase grants a preeminent position to the promotion of gender equality, particularly through support programs for persons in situation of precarity, the support of future generations' human development and the adoption of a new generation of income-generating and job-creating initiatives.

As part of the efforts made at the level of strengthening women equal access to economic opportunities, various ambitious programs, of global and sectoral nature, have been developed for the purpose of promoting the participation of Moroccan women in the economic activity. These programs relate to developing income-generating activities for women, strengthening their economic empowerment as well as their access to economic decision-making positions. However, despite the efforts made in this regard, ensuring sufficient and high quality job opportunities for women still remains a big challenge taking with the persistence of many constraints in this level.

At the level of employment, the results of the main employment promotion programs show encouraging prospects:

- "Idmaj" program enabled to create 89,077 positions at the end of 2017 of which 52% in favor of women. During the first quarter of the year 2018, the jobs created as part of this program reached 23,750 persons of which 51% are women.
- At the end of December 2017, about 18,612 job seekers benefited from the program "Taehil". Women represent 60% of its beneficiaries in the branch of "Contractual Training for Employment".

- As part of "Tahfiz" program, aiming to promote employment, about 5,446 protocols have been deposited and validated for 5,446 employees 36% of whom are women, since its start until the end of December 2017. During the first quarter of 2018, 1,035 Tahfiz protocols have been validated for 1,035 employees (36% of whom are women) and to the benefit of 526 businesses.
- Self-employment program, aiming to encourage the creation of very small businesses (TPE) enabled to support 2,425 projects holders at the end of December 2017, 27% of whom are women. This program allowed starting 1,296 businesses in 2017 (27% of which by women); therefore creating 2,709 jobs, i.e. about 2 positions per business. During the first quarter of 2018, about 511 candidates have been supported by said program, 33% of whom are women.

At the sectoral level, many measures for women's economic empowerment have been deployed in the sector of agriculture, particularly through upgrading local products groups, to the benefit of 109 cooperatives 100% female for a total number of 5,807 women. Other measures have been taken at the level of female farmers' access to modern distribution markets, namely the signature of conventions and partnerships with two important distribution networks in favor of 20 groups presided by women out of a total of 46 producer groups and the participation of producer groups in international fairs in favor of 7,677 member women representing 38% of the total number of the local products groups members.

Similarly, many actions have been taken in favor of women working in the sector of fisheries, particularly in rural zones in order to integrate their activities in the organized production and marketing networks.

The issue of gender equality and economic empowerment of women is also taken into account in the field of crafts. Women represent about 30% of the beneficiaries of individual premises and are also part of the craftsmen groups that exploit the infrastructures provided for this purpose. Similarly, during the period 2012-2017, about 65 production spaces "Dar Sanaa" dedicated to craftswomen, particularly in the rural area, have been created for 3,180 women beneficiaries exercising the jobs of rural carpet, embroidery and sewing. In addition, 26 craft brands have been created for craftswomen, i.e. 50% of the total number of labeled brands. Similarly, the female participation in national and regional fairs of social and solidarity economy and in touring markets was significant exceeding, respectively, 60% and 70%. In the margin of fairs, training workshops have been organized for 3,400 representatives of cooperatives and social businesses in different modules with a female presence exceeding 70%.

Women's access to income-generating projects and self-employment was also a priority of the Government. The creation of self-entrepreneur status was timely to promote the spirit of entrepreneurship among women holding projects. In this way, between 2015 and 2016, about 31,234 businesses have been created, 40% of which by women.

At the same level, special measures have been taken to promote female entrepreneurship, particularly the improvement of women entrepreneurs' access to financial services, like the creation of the guarantee fund "Ilayki" dedicated to businesses managed by women. This fund was reviewed in 2017 for the purpose of widening its action field to reach businesses that are predominantly owned by one or more women and include short-term bank loans. Thus, during the year 2017, this fund treated about 347 files for a guaranteed loans volume of MAD 90.88 million benefiting the sectors of commerce and industry by 29% and 8% respectively.

Despite the efforts made in terms of improving women's access to employment, loans and entrepreneurship, the participation of women in the employment market is still weak. The activity rate, for the year 2017, shows an important difference between the two sexes (71.6% for men and 22.4% for women). At the level of evolution, the female activity registered a continuous decrease during the last years, moving from 28.1% in 2000 to 22.4% in 2017. This downward trend is

particularly explained by the weak participation of women in the economic activity, mainly in the rural area.

The weakness observed at the level of female activity reveals mainly the difference between the employment rate between men and women; 66.6% for men against 18.8% for women. Accordingly, the man/woman parity at the level of employment shows that men are three times more numerous to occupy a job than women. By place of residence, man/woman parity is more unequal in urban area than in rural one (4 times in urban area and twice in rural one).

The analysis of women's employment in the economic sectors shows that women remain mainly active in three weak-productivity sectors, namely agriculture, textile industries and social services. In 2016, female employment rates in these three sectors are 40.9%, 44.4% and 43.5% respectively. Similarly, entrepreneurship is strongly marked by gender inequalities, since women represent only 14.1% of "Independents" and 8.6% of "Employers" status in 2016.

Finally, the analyses carried out as part of the Report on Results-based Budget taking into account the Gender aspect accompanying the Finance Bill 2019 enabled to reveal the improvements that have been achieved at the level of decreasing gender inequalities. However, these analyses have shown the persistence of some failures that must be solved in order to consolidate the bases of an inclusive development at the social and local levels. The consolidation of the structural measures in the framework of GSB would, in many aspects, be the best means to achieve this target.