



Direction des Etudes et des Prévisions Financières

Summary of the 2008 gender report

The new development policies undertaken by Morocco are increasingly sensitive to gender mainstreaming; which opens the way to equal access to resources, opportunities and social economic rights and reconsiders the role of all players in the development process. Within this perspective, Morocco seeks to take up the challenges of poverty alleviation and the reduction of gender-based disparities, underlined by the Millennium Development Goals.

In this context, the integration of the gender approach in budget planning and execution lies within the scope of a set of achievements and reforms undertaken by Morocco during the last few years in order to strengthen the principles of equality and equity. The National Initiative of Human Development (INDH) has recently reaffirmed this approach by stressing out the empowerment of the different categories of the population as strategic axes for the achievement of the country's human development goals.

The elaboration in an annual basis of the gender report, which has been accompanying the Finance Bill since 2005, is the fruit of the Gender Sensitive Budgeting (GSB) process launched within the framework of budget reform that seeks to institute a new culture of expenditure centred on the logic of results, performance and rendering accounts.

The gender report aims to evaluate the impact of public policies on men, women, girls and boys. It presents the current situation, in partnership with the departments engaged in the gender process, in order to establish the situation of reference and be aware of the necessary measures for better public expenditure efficiency. The report presents the concept of gender budgeting, the context of its introduction, the methodology used as well as the achievements of the departments engaged in the budget genderization process in terms of conducted policies, established programs, budget allocations and their gender impacts, measured through established or underway gender sensitive performance indicators.

The GSB process adopts a progressive and participative approach that is endorsed by the policy letters of the Prime Minister calling upon State departments to integrate the gender dimension in performance indicators as well as the PM's circular dated on March 8th, 2007 relating to gender mainstreaming in all development policies. In addition, the setting up of institutionalizing instruments of Gender Sensitive Budgeting and the increasing adhesion of departments shows the great dimension the GSB is taking in Morocco.

In this regard, the 2008 gender report has integrated six new departments that have adopted the gender dimension in elaborating their strategy bringing their total number to 17 departments. The newly integrated departments are as follows: the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Modernization

of Public Sectors, Vocational Training, the Craft Industry and Social Economy, the State Secretariat in charge of the Youth and the INDH programmes¹.

Therefore, and apart from the first section, which explains the approach, tackles methodological questions and describes the progress of the budget reform and the core of Gender Sensitive Budgeting, five poles have been identified:

- The institutional pole: the departments of Justice; Women, Family and the Disabled; Modernization of Public Services; and Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.
- Basic infrastructures pole: the departments of Water; Energy; Equipment and Transport; and Housing.
- Housing and capacity building pole: the departments of Health; State Education; Elimination of Illiteracy and Informal Education; Vocational Training and the Youth.
- Building opportunities pole: the departments of Agriculture, Employment and Social Economy.
- Intersector pole: INDH.

Analysis of actions taken by the various ministerial departments shows that a remarkable progress has been made both in the process of implementing the budget reform, based on earnings, and in the definition of gender-sensitive performance indicators.

It should be noted that despite the important role that the State has to play in reducing gender disparities, other organizations can also play an important role in implementing the process of gender-sensitive budgeting, like the Civil Society.

In addition, the INDH, which is entering its third year of implementation, opens new perspectives on the initiative of integrated women, from the outset, in the institutional arsenal of governance. The Initiative will be enriched by their participation, especially if their associations and cooperatives could catch up with the pace expected for the bringing into effect of this innovative and promising Royal Initiative.

It is important to note that, the GSB program in Morocco has reached a stage where the actions performed allow for action on the overall budget process, on defining the objectives and on the development of programs and performance indicators. An accompanying work in this direction was carried out within two main departments, the Secretariat of State in charge of Literacy and Non-Formal Education and the Department of Vocational Training. This work should serve as a model for other government departments and, ultimately, as an experience that could be shared at the international level.

The socio-economic development according to gender should be based on local and cross-cutting projects that involve the departments taking into account regional specificities and targeting the specific needs of the population. Microfinance, which has achieved encouraging results among the female population in urban and sub-urban areas, deserves to be developed. In conjunction with the big precariousness of some areas, other means of capacity building, partnership financing should be tested.

Finally, it remains that, beyond the positive impact exerted by the various programs conducted, the analysis should be more thorough, in order to ascertain the causes and constraints that impede the achievement of gender equity.

¹ The other departments are : the Ministries of Justice, National Education, Health, Agriculture, Housing, Equipment and Transport, Employment, Energy an Mining, State Secretaries in charge of water, Elimination of Illiteracy and Informal Education, Women, Family and the Disabled.