

## Summary of the Note on the Regional Distribution of Investment 2020

Public investment plays an important role in the socio-economic development of the country which places the citizen at its center through the improvement of the quality of public service, the creation of job opportunities and the establishment of justice, and social and spatial equity. This is evidenced by the significant growth in its volume during the last decade, which increased from 135 billion dirhams in 2009 to 198 billion dirhams in 2020.

However, the question on the efficiency of public investment and its socio-economic impacts on all social strata remains unanswered. With this in mind, a new approach to the governance of public investment, supported by the implementation of convergent public policies meeting the different needs of the areas and capitalizing on the progress made by the new constitution has been implemented, in order to optimize the socio-economic impact through better targeting of public investment projects and better consideration of the needs of citizens.

The 5th edition of this note is structured around the following five main points:

**The first point** is devoted to the analysis of the structure and evolution of public investment, as a strategic choice of the Government. In fact, major efforts have been made in terms of public investment since the overall amount of public investment (all budget supports combined: State Budget, Public Establishments and Enterprises and Regional and Local Authorities), recorded an increase of around **18.4%** between 2011 and 2020, thus reaching **198 billion dirhams**.

This budgetary effort was supported by a sustained rate of budgetary execution which made it possible to significantly reduce the appropriations carried over to settle at around **12 billion dirhams** in 2018 against **18 billion dirhams** in 2014. Thus, the rate of implementation of the Investment Budget under the General Budget increased from **70%** in 2014 to **79%** in 2018, an increase of almost **9 percentage points**.

**The second point** focuses on the role of public investment in the reduction of social and territorial disparities. In fact, the State has implemented several actions to improve territorial governance with a view to reducing disparities between regions, the most important being the completion of the work of advanced regionalization and administrative decentralization,

the continued implementation of regional development programs and the improvement of the readability of the State budget by highlighting territorial spending.

On the social level, there are projects focusing on the continuous improvement of the population's access to basic services (roads, health, education, water, electricity, etc.), especially in the context of the implementation of the Program to combat territorial and social disparities in rural areas. In particular, the budget intended for the implementation of its action plan for the year 2019 and which amounts to **6,583 million dirhams** has allowed for the construction of more than **5,000 km** of road and rural tracks, construction or rehabilitation of more than **200** health establishments and **800** educational institutes, carrying out more than **14,000** actions to supply drinking water as well as connecting more than **300** villages to the electrical grid.

In addition to and within the framework of the implementation of the new development model of the southern provinces, significant amounts have been allocated to the continued support of the development program of the southern provinces whose overall budget is approximately **80 billion dirhams** distributed among the regions as follows: **44.7 billion dirhams** for the Laayoun region - Sakia El Hamra, **22.8 billion dirhams** for the Dakhla region - Oued Eddahab, **11 billion dirhams** for the Guelmim Oued Noun region and 1.3 billion dirhams for inter-regional projects.

For the year 2019, this program had several projects relating in particular to healthcare, connection to the electricity grid and the production of renewable energies.

**The third point** has to do with the role of public investment as a lever for private investment through the creation of the necessary infrastructure and investment in the productive sectors, with the aim of improving the attractiveness of the country and its different regions with foreign investments. Thus, in terms of infrastructure, great importance was given to roads, highways and ports. In fact, for the year 2020, the construction of the highway link with the new Nador West Med port is planned at a cost of **4.5 billion dirhams** as well as the construction of the Casablanca motorway ring road over **31.5 KM**. Also, crucial importance has been given to port and maritime projects, particularly through the construction and extension of port and maritime infrastructure as well as coastal protection works.

With regard to the railway sector, it is planned for the year 2020, the continuation of the rail connectivity projects of the ports of Nador West Med (**3 billion dirhams**) and the port of Safi (**300 billion dirhams**) as well as the completion of preparations for the program contract between the State and the ONCF.

The State has also made significant financial efforts in the productive sectors, especially in agriculture. In fact, and with the aim of improving economic growth and reducing poverty in rural areas, the agricultural sector benefits from considerable investments for the year 2020, particularly for the implementation major agricultural programs, including the production chain development program, the irrigation program and the development of agricultural land.

**The fourth point** focuses on assessing the impact of public investment at the regional level. In fact, the question of the impact of public investment at regional level is an acute one, since despite the efforts made, the 12 regions of the kingdom display different contributions in terms of the creation of national wealth. Thus, 6 regions display around 67% of the national GDP while evolving at a rate lower than the national average during the period 2001-2017.

**The last point** has to do with the reform of the public investment management system, the objective of which is to improve the socio-economic return on public investment by creating conditions favorable to sustainable and inclusive growth.

This reform aims to establish a unified framework for managing public investments at the national level, by providing benchmarks and tools to be implemented (legal texts, information system, guides, etc.) throughout the life cycle of any public investment project (identification, ex-ante evaluation, prioritization, programming, execution monitoring and ex-post evaluation) for better management of the projects proposed for public funding. This should ultimately help improve the choice of projects with the best social and economic returns.