



Department of Studies and Financial Forecasts

The 2009 Gender Report Overview

The integration of gender approach in preparing and implementing the budget is part of a range of achievements and reforms Morocco has opted for in recent years to consolidate principles of equality and justice. This approach has been reasserted through the National Initiative for Human Development (INDH), which underscores the empowerment of different categories of citizens as a strategic orientation to attain the goals of the country's human development.

Together with result-oriented budget reforms, the process of Gender-Sensitive Budgeting has greatly improved since its launch in 2002. In fact, the first phase had to do with the elaboration of instruments and the consolidation of the capacity of the different actors in charge of budgets, and planners within the ministry, civil society and parliament. The second phase, which started in 2005, was marked by the refinement of an information system, the development of a system of knowledge management, the implementation of a communication strategy and the institutionalisation of gender reports to be appended to the Finance Act.

The Gender-Sensitive Budgeting (GSB) initiative is based on analytical tools and a specific approach to evaluate the impact of public policies on women, men, boys and girls, using gender-sensitive performance indicators.

Progress report on the GSB Process

The Moroccan experience is marked with the introduction of innovative tools based on appropriate budgetary techniques. This programme has reached a stage where GSB actions have an impact on the whole budgetary process, from setting objectives to elaborating programmes and performance indicators. As far as international cooperation is concerned, the Moroccan experience of gender budgeting reflects the principles of the Paris Declaration on the efficiency of development aid programmes, mainly the ones related to alignment and appropriation.

Morocco's experience has achieved worldwide reputation, thanks to progress made thus far, as Morocco is among the first countries to introduce such a progressive and pragmatic approach that has taken result-oriented management to a new level of segmentation of beneficiaries of public expenditure, and a new focus on equity and equality.

Since the implementation of the budget gender process, the approach has been increasingly adopted in Morocco. This is clearly shown by the progress recorded at the institutional and sector-based levels. The first effects at the sector-based level are positive, particularly in domains related to the development of rural women, education and literacy, and access to basic infrastructure.

Now on its fourth edition, the gender report illustrates progress accomplished at different levels. As a matter of fact, in its preparation stage, many technical workshops involved representatives from twenty ministerial departments which had introduced gender-based budgeting, some state-owned institutions, civil society practitioners and several parliamentarians.

The report includes four new departments, raising the number of departments involved in GSB to 21. These new departments are the Ministry of Foreign Trade, the Ministry of Industry, Trade and New Technologies, and the Ministry of Maritime Fishery.

The report has also been supplemented with an inter-sector-based analysis, which is intended to establish links and dynamics between the different departments, whose joint implementation of GSB action is essential to achieving the development objectives set. It also includes a statistical appendix¹, which clarifies decision making and identifies gender gaps in the different sectors under study.

This report outlines the challenges, constraints, opportunities and stakes, in view of enriching the debate around the policies pursued and developing an assessment culture and performance indicators of budget credit that is result-oriented. Evaluating public policies from a gender perspective will be completed by an analysis of performance indicators of both operating and investment budgets, and by suggestions of gender-based indicators designed to better assess the impact of public policies on relevant populations.

As in the preceding reports, the 2009 Gender Report comprises different poles organised on departments that have similar objectives, or which have the same transversal policy. These poles are:

- Institutional pole: Justice, social development, modernisation of the public sector, Economy and Finance, Foreign Trade, and Foreign Affairs and Cooperation;
- Basic infrastructure pole: Water, Energy, Equipment and Transport, and Housing;
- Empowerment and Capacity Building pole: Health, National Education, Youth, Employment and Vocational Training;
- Opportunity Consolidation pole: Agriculture, Maritime Fishery, Trade and Industry, NITC, Social Economy.

¹ Extract of document « Exhaustive Analysis of Gender-Sensitive Statistics in Morocco » published by the Ministry of Economy and Finance in 2007, in collaboration with UNIFEM