



# FINANCING EQUALITY: STRENGTHENING GRB IN MOROCCO

## BACKGROUND

Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB), in which Morocco is a pioneer, aims to direct public policies and budgets towards achieving equal benefits for male and female citizens and contributing to the reduction of gender inequalities. GRB is based on the principles of good governance such as transparency, equity, democracy, accountability and participation.

As a performance-based budgeting approach, GRB aims to ensure that the collection and allocation of public resources is carried out in an equitable and efficient manner and contributes to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.





The Kingdom of Morocco has been engaged in GRB implementation since 2001 through various constitutional, legal, and political reforms. This commitment was reinforced in 2013 with the creation of the Center of Excellence for Gender Responsive Budgeting (CE-BSG), a center of expertise and the coordinator of GRB implementation. The adoption in 2015 of the Organic Finance Law (LOF) establishing programmatic public budgeting that is both performance-based and gender-responsive has legally enshrined the accountability of the various actors in

favor of reducing gender inequalities. UN Women has supported the Ministry of Economy and Finance since 2001 through a partnership renewed in 2013, aiming at the creation and development of the CE-BSG.

The GRB project was also supported by the European Union, who accompanied the various phases of preliminary work for the implementation of the GRB provisions of the LOF, and conducted Sectoral Gender Analyses (SGAs) as part of its Moussawat program, as well as by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD), who is supporting Morocco through a GRB policy-based loan and other technical support (including the development of SGAs and the improvement of the GRB information system).

Despite major successes, several challenges remain, particularly the commitment of the Ministerial Departments to mainstream gender equality in their sectoral strategies and public programs, the traceability of the amounts allocated for gender equality and the establishment of a monitoring and evaluation system for these strategies, policies and public programs.

## EQUALITY ISSUES AND PUBLIC POLICY

-  **Education :** Full primary school enrollment for both boys and girls in rural and urban areas is almost fully achieved, but only **29%** of girls with disabilities have access to school (compared to **49%** of boys) (2016).
-  **Employment:** The female labor force participation rate is only **21.5%** compared to a rate of **71%** for men (2019).
-  **Agriculture:** Women are more present in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector with a share of **46.9%** of female employment (2019). Only **1%** of women are owners of agricultural land and they represent only **1%** of elected officials in regional chambers of agriculture (2016).
-  **Healthcare:** In 2018, the proportion of births in supervised settings was of **86.1%** nationally. In rural areas this rate is of **74.2%**.

The prevalence rate of violence against women is **57%** (**58%** in urban areas for **55%** in rural areas), HCP 2019.

Sources: High Commissioner for Planning (HCP), General Directorate of Local Authorities, French Development Agency (AFD)

### The inclusion of the GRB in the Organic Law No. 130-13 on Finance Laws of 2015:

- The budget program of each department must include objectives for reducing gender inequalities, the achievement of which is measured by performance indicators (Article 39).
- The draft Budget Law tabled in Parliament is systematically accompanied by a Gender Budget Report detailing the budgetary commitment of the Ministerial Departments in favor of gender equality (Article 48).



### OUR STRATEGY FOR CHANGE

The "Financing Equality: Strengthening GRB in Morocco" program falls within the scope of the technical and financial support provided by UN Women as well as AFD and the EU for the implementation of GRB. Strongly rooted in a logic of national ownership, the strengthening of the CE-BSG as coordinator of GRB implementation in Morocco constitutes a fundamental component of the program.

#### Expected Program Outcomes:

- The CE-BSG has a detailed action plan that is shared among the different GRB actors in Morocco and addresses the main points for optimizing the implementation of GRB in Morocco.
- The CE-BSG is supported in the implementation of its action plan for strengthening GRB in Morocco, particularly through the establishment of an organizational and governance framework shared by the various GRB actors, the strengthening of the capacities of ministerial departments and parliamentarians, and the production and dissemination of GRB tools.
- The CE-BSG is supported in the promotion of GRB at the international and national levels.

**Duration of the program:** July 2019 - March 2024

**Budget:** €2,200,000



### PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHANGE

To create a favorable environment for GRB implementation, UN Women leverages its coordination and implementation mandates with a range of partners.

The "Financing Equality" program is part of an unprecedented partnership between the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Administrative Reform, UN Women, AFD, and the EU, which allows for the convergence and coordination of technical and financial support to GRB in Morocco.

The initiative is also part of a broader approach to implementing gender-responsive governance, which also relies on a partnership with the Ministry of Interior's General Directorate of Local Authorities (DGCT) for the appropriation of GRB at the local level and a partnership with the High Commissioner for Planning (HCP) to strengthen the production and dissemination of gender-responsive statistics.

### Some results achieved through UN Women 2019 - 2020 support:

- Support for gender mainstreaming in the National Water Plan. A study for gender mainstreaming in the National Water Plan has been carried out, and the gender capacities of the representatives of the Water Department and the River Basins Agencies have been strengthened;
- Support for the redesign of the Gender Budget Report. The Gender Budget Report is the primary tool for evaluating public policies in terms of gender equality principles. The new version of the Gender Budget Report now has a restructured architecture, aligning its contents with the Performance Projects and linking it to the Government Program for Equality (ICRAM 2) and sectoral strategies;
- Capacity building of the Ministerial Departments with respect to GRB. A new general training program on GRB has been launched. 40 representatives from 8 Ministerial Departments have benefited from capacity building in GRB.

