

GRB WORK IN MOROCCO

Morocco is one of four countries in which UNIFEM's global GRB program is supporting GRB work over the period 2005-2008. Morocco was chosen as an interesting site for this work because of renewed interest on the part of the Moroccan government in advancing women's rights and because there were good opportunities for partnerships between government and civil society. Morocco is undergoing a series of government reforms, including devolution to local government, results-oriented management and budgeting, and reforms of sectoral funding systems in health, education, housing and justice. These reforms provide entry points for GRB.

GRB work in Morocco started in 2002 with an assessment study of the possibilities. The assessment report stressed the importance of working with, and building on, other reform processes rather than seeing GRB as a separate initiative. The report also pointed out ways in which GRB work could complement and strengthen what other reforms are trying to achieve. Similarly, it pointed out how GRB could contribute to key government objectives such as poverty alleviation. This study thus also served as an advocacy tool to convince the government of Morocco of the benefits of adopting a GRB approach.

The GRB initiative has engaged in capacity building and training activities for senior planners and budget professionals from the Ministry of Finance and line ministries in gender analysis and GRB. It has published and disseminated a guide on GRB and performance budgeting, and a handbook on GRB for parliamentarians and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The initiative has also supported development of gender-sensitive indicators as part of the performance-oriented budget reform. In 2005, workshops were conducted with the Ministries of Health, Education, Agriculture and Rural Development and Finance to encourage the development and use of gender-disaggregated data throughout the policy and budget cycles. Special emphasis was given to monitoring and evaluation.

The initiative is led by the Ministry of Finance, where it involves cooperative work of the Budget Directorate, the Directorate for Studies and Financial Forecasts, and the Directorate for General and Administrative Affairs.

One of the highlights in 2005 was the production by the Ministry of Finance of a Gender Report. The Gender Report was presented as an annex to the annual Economic and Financial Report for the year 2006 which accompanied the presentation of the Bill of Finance (the Budget Law). The aim is to institutionalize the Gender Report as part of the budget documents by expanding the work each year until it covers all sectors. In 2006, the Gender Report will cover the following policy areas: Education, Health, Agriculture, Justice, Family, Water, Infrastructure, Energy, Transport, Housing, Employment, Planning and Finance. In these first years the focus is on the sectors that are most important in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Compiled by Debbie Budlender based on presentation by Zineb Touimi-Benjelloun, Country Programme Director UNIFEM Morocco, during UNIFEM/UNFPA GRB Workshop in Cape Town, April 2006

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