

Moroccan National Budget includes Gender Report



New York, December 1, 2005—UNIFEM has been collaborating with the Ministry of Finance in Morocco for the past four years, to engender their budgets-- and it seems their work has paid off. For the first time ever, the Moroccan national budget for the year 2006 has included a special annex on how it will be addressing gender equity priorities. Made possible with funding support from the government of Belgium and the European Commission, the Moroccan gender-responsive budgets initiative has and continues to work extensively with the Ministry of Finance as well as other line ministries at national and local levels.

The gender budget statement, also referred to as the budget gender report, constitutes an unprecedented achievement for Morocco. "The production of a gender report in Morocco as part of the Economic and Financial Report which accompanies the 2006 Finance Bill is at the heart of a public management reform process geared toward the achievement of results. It is a report which, in an instrumental way, addresses sustainable human development concerns where the status of women and their human rights are central and strategic for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals," says Mr. Mohammed Chafiki, Director of Studies and Financial Forecasts at the Moroccan Ministry of Finance and Privatisation.

Issued by the government, the gender report is a statement that summarizes the implications of the national or local budget on gender equity using [gender-budget analysis tools](#) and specifies targets and planned outputs vis-à-vis gender equality goals. The Moroccan gender report outlines the ongoing budget reform in Morocco, which includes as one of its objectives, the formulation of gender sensitive budgets. The ministries of finance, education, health, agriculture and rural development were identified by the report as priority sectors for mainstreaming gender in their budget formulation and implementation processes. The gender report addressed how these Ministries will seek to respond to women's priorities and address gender gaps within their mandates through their budget allocations and programmes. It is hoped that the gender report, a tool that has been used in India and France as well, will become an institutionalized exercise that will be repeated with each annual budget cycle. Gender equality advocates will subsequently be able to track trends in allocations in coming years, as well as monitor actual expenditures at end of 2006 financial year against the planned budget and women's priorities.

The inclusion of the gender report indicates the Moroccan government's commitment to gender responsive expenditures that ensure the achievement of specific targets and goals within sectors such as girls' school enrollment or illiteracy eradication. The commitment towards gender-responsive budgeting also reflects the serious measures towards efficient and equitable use of public resources and effective development.

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