



Interoffice Memorandum

To: Mourad Wahba
UN Resident Coordinator
Morocco

Date: 25 January 2008

From:
Assistant Administrator and Director, Partnerships Bureau
UNDP New York

Extension:

Subject: MDGF-1707: "Multi-sector Programme to fight against gender -
based violence through the empowerment of women and girls"
Morocco

File: MDGF-1707

I. Approval Status

On behalf of the MDG-F Steering Committee I am pleased to inform you that your Joint Programme "Multi-sector programme to fight against gender-based violence through the empowerment of women and girls" is hereby approved with an allocation of USD\$8.4 million for three years. This figure includes 7% for indirect costs incurred by UN Participating Organizations. Please note the 1% AA fee will be reimbursed directly to the MDTF Office and need not be included in your allocation.

II. JP design comments

We have identified a limited number of changes in Section III below ('JP re-design requirements and/or recommendations') which we require to the design of your Joint Programme. Once these adjustments have been reflected, you may proceed directly with signature of the Joint Programme document. The UN Resident Coordinator and all Participating UN Organizations should each sign the Joint Programme document in addition to the Government (including primary national counterparts). We would encourage you to ensure some visibility for this event and for the launch of activities.

We find the proposed programme a well-designed and innovative package of key interventions. The institutional and coordination mechanisms being instituted through the Programme are very clear, inclusive and participatory, at all levels, and already in the planning stage reflect the Joint Programme's potential contribution to institutionalization and coordination in the fight against Gender Based Violence. The distribution of lead tasks reflects the comparative advantages of the respective participating agencies while adopting the three 'Ones' principle: one authority, one coordination plan and one M&E system.

The final approved budget reflects a \$1.05 million reduction from the original indicative budget, in order to accommodate resource constraints in this thematic window (\$102 million in indicative budgets were approved against \$90 million available for programming).

The comments of our technical reviewer on the Joint Programme document are also attached for reference. The review is very positive and we believe includes a raft of useful recommendations your designers may wish to consider in the finalization of the document or during the course of the programme's implementation. The changes recommended by the reviewer are not formally required by the Fund, unless specified under Section 'III' below - our reviewers are sector experts and may not necessarily be fully acquainted with specifics of a given country context. The reviewer does identify a number of sections where the document would be strengthened with more details on the 'what' and 'how' of a given strategy. For example, the section on the Ministry of Education disseminating the culture



of women and girls' human rights to all schools would benefit from a few lines about 'how' this will be accomplished as well as how out of school children/girls will be reached.

We also very much concur with our reviewer's observation that on masculinity issues, tailored outreach strategies to reach men and boys (of diverse backgrounds/groups) should be detailed as this is a key underpinning of making progress on women's empowerment and VAW. Strong components (community outreach, rural sensitization, campaigns, etc) as well as 'mainstreaming' measures (i.e. in policies, laws, media, parliamentary, etc.) should be added, which complement and reinforce those already planned geared primarily to women and girls. The role of Imams identified in the Joint Programme is noted and very well-chosen given their vital role in influencing male attitudes and behaviors.

With regard to the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, we note that time-line benchmarks and number of regions targeted are provided, but the matrix does not yet reflect specific qualitative and quantitative targets nor baseline indicators (including on coverage of women vs. girls/age sub-groups, rural vs. urban, by disadvantaged groups, etc.). These should be added once the baseline data is compiled. The Monitoring framework also does not include indicators relating to UN reform or the Paris Declaration. This has been a common feature across many submissions, and the Secretariat has been tasked with investigating what is feasible within a three-year programme and developing Fund-wide M&E standards.

Finally, while we find the budget generally adequately reasoned, we do find the costs associated with surveys and studies unnecessarily high. More details on the nature and role of the 'management unit' and coordination expenses generally, are also necessary. An organization chart of some kind would be very helpful for example.

III. JP re-design requirements and/or recommendations

Changes required:

The following change is required to the Joint Programme document before finalization:

- The final Budget should be reduced to USD\$8.4 million. We would recommend these reductions be found primarily under Outcome 2 ("études et enquêtes") and from coordination costs both of which we believe could be revised downwards.

Recommendations:

- Review the strategy section of the document to incorporate some additional details (some of which can currently be found in the annexes) on the 'what' and 'how' of key outputs, including by sector/Ministry, to give a more compelling presentation of the results to be achieved. More information and data on the diverse beneficiary groups to be targeted, with some discussion on how this diversity will be incorporated into tailored strategies is also recommended.
- Identify more explicitly which components of the programme are intended to be pilots for eventual 'up-scaling' with some explanation of the strategy planned to ensure replication of the successful pilots by others.



IV. Management arrangements and delegation of authority

On receipt of a copy of the signed document, the Fund Secretariat will transfer the full three-year allocation to the custody of the Multi Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) Office pending further instructions from you.

Please note the MDTF Office will pass-through funds to Participating Organizations on instruction from you as Resident Coordinator and Co-Chair of the National MDG-F Steering Committee.

As reflected in the Fund's Framework Document (Section 9 'Formulation Process & Release of Funds) and the global MoU with Participating Organizations (Article I, 2-c) the MDTF Office will release resources on an annual, advance basis. For the first advance, these funds will be transferred on the basis of receipt of the first year Annual Workplan and the signed Joint Programme document. Subsequent annual advances will be released on instructions from you and on the basis of a) receipt of the next annual work-plan approved by the National Steering Committee; b) evidence that a formal review of the programme's progress has been undertaken not more than three months earlier, either in the form of an annual progress report (if the timing coincides) or through the minutes of a National Steering Committee where this has been discussed; and c) only when combined commitments against the existing advance have exceeded 70%. Please review the initial year budget requests carefully with participating organizations in order to ensure realistic delivery targets in this regard. The annual agency apportionment projected in the final budget attached to the signed Joint Programme document should also be reviewed and can be revised up to the time of your first funds-advance request. This is important for the reasons outlined below.

In order to allow the implementation team some flexibility to adapt the strategy to unexpected challenges and opportunities, and to empower Resident Coordinators in their oversight responsibilities, this memorandum also provides you with the authority over the three year duration of the programme and with the agreement of your National Steering Committee to (a) transfer up to \$1,000,000 or 20% of the total value of the project budget – whichever is lowest – *between Participating Organizations* identified in the original Joint Programme budget and (b) re-phase up to \$1,000,000 or 20% of the total value of the project budget – whichever is lowest - *between years*. The base-line against which these ceilings will be measured is the annual budget projection (by year and by participating organization) confirmed at the time of your first funds-advance request. The MDTF Office must be informed of any revisions of this kind, decided locally and is responsible for tracking these delegation ceilings for each programme. Any changes that fall outside these parameters will have to be referred back to the (Global) MDG-F Steering Committee for approval.

The success of the MDG-F activities will depend on your ongoing leadership and engagement. We count on you to exercise this leadership and to ensure this Joint Programme remains an ongoing, integrated effort by the UN system in support of national priorities. Please also use the National Steering Committee mechanism to help ensure national ownership by the Government in particular and involve it in important financial and programmatic oversight decisions.

The Executive Coordinator of the MDTF Office, Bisrat Aklilu, will be in contact with any specific documentation requirements to ensure the programme meets compliance requirements for UNDG pass-through arrangements.

With best wishes.



cc.

Mr. Bisrat Aklilu, Executive Coordinator, Multi-Donor Trust Fund Office

Ms. Amat Al Aleem Alsoswa, Assistant Administrator and Director Bureau for Arab States, UNDP New York

H.E. Mr. D. Juan Antonio Yáñez-Barnuevo, Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations

H.E. Mr. El Mostafa Sahel, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations

Ms. Milagros Hernando, Director-General for Planning & Evaluation, MFA Madrid

Ms. Sally Fegan-Wyles, Director, Development Group Office

MDG-F Secretariat

Multisectorial Programme to Combat Gender-Based Violence through the empowerment of Women and Girls in Morocco

Executive summary

Legal and political reforms that have taken place in Morocco during recent years demonstrate the strong will that exists to establish fundamental human rights and strengthen the country's international commitment in combating violence, particularly gender-based violence. In particular, during 2007, Morocco announced the lifting of the majority of its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the forthcoming ratification of its optional protocol.

It is clear that Combating Violence against Women and Girls and empowering women are major concerns for Morocco. This was demonstrated in the 2005 national report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which emphasized the need to mainstream gender issues in order to achieve the MDGs and which added a specific target to goal number 3, namely "to reduce violence against women by half".

The present "Multisectorial programme to combat gender-based violence through the empowerment of women and girls in Morocco" comes under outcome D of the Morocco UNDAF 2007-2010, with regard to achieving "significant progress in gender equality, protection of the rights of women and girls and participation in public, political, economic, social and cultural life". It aims to inform and protect women and girls from all forms of violence by addressing the links between poverty and vulnerability. There are two areas of strategic focus:

- (i) Support for mainstreaming gender and women's human rights in national policies and development programmes.
- (ii) Application of gender-sensitive national policies in six identified regions through the establishment of (a) multisectorial referral systems to care for women and girls who are victims of sexual violence; (b) multi-purpose premises for the empowerment of women and girls; and (c) awareness-raising and education with regard to an equal rights-based culture.

Within this framework, the programme focuses on gender-sensitive planning, programming and budgeting processes and on promoting a culture of equality with the aim of transforming gender relations. The programme supports Morocco's efforts to promote the human rights of women and girls (HRWG) and is part of the National Initiative for Human Development.

The programme has four direct outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Public policies, programmes and action plans to fight gender-based violence are reinforced and equipped with adequate financial resources.
- Outcome 2: The HRWG, in particular with regard to gender-based violence, are integrated into public policies and the local governance programmes of six regions and are adequately funded.
- Outcome 3: Women and girls who are the victims of violence are provided with care.
- Outcome 4: Women and girls are key players in development and their bargaining power has been strengthened.

The present programme, funded by Spanish Cooperation through the MDG Achievement Fund, is an initiative carried out by eight United Nations System agencies in Morocco (UNIFEM,

UNFPA, UNICEF, ILO, FAO, UNESCO, UNHCR, UNAIDS)¹ and their Moroccan partners, who are (i) The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation; (ii) Interior Ministry (IM) (NIHD, Department for Local Services/Local bodies, Department for National Security/the Police; (iii) Ministry of Justice; (iv) Ministry of Social Development, Family and Solidarity (formerly Ministry for Family, Children and Persons with Disabilities); (v) Ministry of the Economy and Finance; (vi) Ministry of Health; (vii) Ministry of Employment and Professional Training; (viii) Ministry of National Education, higher education, management training and scientific research; (ix) Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Maritime Fishing; (x) Ministry of Habous and Islamic Affairs; (xi) Ministry of Young People and Sport; (xii) the Royal Gendarmerie [*Police force with military status*]; (xiii) the High Commissioner for Planning; (xiv) l'Entraide Nationale [*Government poverty relief organisation*]; (xv) NGOs, (xvi) Universities, research institutions and researchers.

This initiative aims to combine the efforts of several institutions in a common approach to combating gender-based violence through empowering women and girls in Morocco.

¹ With technical support from the Economic Commission for Africa – ECA.