

## TAMKINE PROGRAMME: COMBATING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN MOROCCO

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The legal and political reforms implemented in Morocco in recent years reflect the country’s determination to establish fundamental human rights and reinforce its international commitment to combating violence, in particular gender-based violence. This determination is also apparent in the announcement of the lifting of certain reserves regarding the CEDAW now incompatible with the current regulatory framework.

The fight against violence against women and girls and the empowerment of women are a major concern in Morocco. Moreover, this concern was stressed in the 2005 national report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which emphasised the transversal gender mainstreaming dimension in the attainment of the MDGs, and thus added a specific target to goal 3, namely “to halve violence against women”.

In this context, the TAMKINE (“empowerment” in Arabic) Programme, launched in Marrakech on 30 May 2008, is part of the policy of eliminating violence against women through the attainment, according to one of the results of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for Morocco (UNDAF), of “significant progress as regards gender equality, the protection of the rights of women and girls and their participation in political, economic, social and cultural life”.

This is a pioneering experience in multi-sectoral joint coordination since it involves 13 ministerial departments in Morocco, 8 United Nations agencies (UNIFEM, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNESCO, FAO, UNAIDS, UNHCR and ILO) and a large number of NGOs involved in combating violence.

Financed by the Spanish Cooperation in the framework of the Fund for the Attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the aim of TAMKINE is above all to prevent and protect women and girls against all forms of violence (physical, verbal, psychological, sexual and economic) by establishing the direct link between their condition of poverty and vulnerability, but above all, and this is one of the fundamental characteristics of the Programme, by emphasising the means by which the combat must be carried out moving forward, namely the empowerment of women and girls.

In recent years Morocco has recorded an increase in Sub-Saharan migrants who are exposed to various forms of violence and vulnerability. That is why certain activities of the TAMKINE Programme, which reflect its main areas of action, are also intended to benefit migrant or refugee women and girls. These actions include, among others, better access for women, including migrants and/or refugees, to quality services as regards support centres, including support for women in dealing with the courts, health and police authorities, as well as economic, social and political empowerment.

Efforts have been made to enable migrant/refugee women and their children to benefit from free general medical consultations, as well as care for pregnant women. Dialectal Arabic courses (essential to avoid refugee women living in isolation and to facilitate the integration of their children into the Moroccan State education system) are organised on a regular basis.

Therefore, the aim is above all to put an end to the deprivation of choices from which women in Morocco suffer when it comes to empowerment and the allocation of resources and, accordingly, their accomplishments, which are essential for their empowerment. The institutionalisation of these individual and family (micro level) changes and their dissemination at social level are also central to the TAMKINE Programme.

The strategies put in place in the framework of the implementation of the Programme rely fundamentally on the advocacy actions of civil society, the capacity building of the institutional stakeholders in the area of gender-based violence, the development of data on this violence and finally the institutionalisation of territorial coordination mechanisms between stakeholders involved in protecting female victims of violence and their empowerment. The Programme is being implemented in 6 of the Kingdom's 16 regions, identified on the basis of criteria combining poverty and gender disparity rates (illiteracy/early school leaving/unemployment).

During this first year of the Programme, chiefly devoted to launching the programme's various activities, the Ministry of Social Development, the Family and Solidarity, as lead partner, has been able, initially, to focus greater attention on reinforcing coordination, cooperation and information mechanisms in this area between, on the one hand, the institutional partners and, on the other hand, between institutions and NGOs.