

2007 REPORT OF THE NUMW

Introduction:

Following the instructions of His Majesty Hassan II, the NUMW was established in 6 May 1969 according to the Dahir (Law) of 1958. It should be pointed out that the NUMW was the first women NGO that was set up in Morocco; and that there were no NGOs that engaged fully or partly with women issues before 1969.

The NUMW's actions, which are carried out for the sake of women and the family in general, are based on the Royal discourse that was addressed to the constitutive assembly of this, organisation at that time. Accordingly, the NUMW has set the following objectives:

Help Moroccan women in all fields.

Enable Moroccan women benefit of NUMW material and moral means.

Develop an interest movement-among Moroccan women- for nation's the projects and achievements.

Carry out a big campaign for raising awareness, and spreading information to make known the state's efforts for training Moroccan women, enable them to fulfil their roles as wives, mothers, and citizens.

Contribute to national efforts that aim to improve the level of the Moroccan family living.

The National Union of Moroccan Women is composed in the following structure:

- The National Office in Rabat
 - Provincial Offices and Local Sections that follow a policy of proximity in their actions.
- The National Office is assisted, in its actions, by specialised commissions:

The General Commission for Coordination

Training, studies, and projects' assessment

Coordination between provincial offices

Information (Media)

Health

Judicial affairs

Financial and administrative management

External relations

The means that NUMW deploys to carry out its programmes are: volunteering, its members' fees of adhesion, and the grants that it receives from local

authorities, and some donors.

And thanks to 30 years of work (raising awareness campaigns, information, training, women integration in development process, and the defence for a better status...) most of Moroccan women have become conscious of their rights and started claiming justice and equality.

Moreover, those efforts are also accompanied by a positive evolution at the international level- such as: UN conference of 1981 in Nairobi, Beijing, and Beijing 10- has had a positive impact on all the political and social actors in the Kingdom:

Women membership in political parties.

The emergence of NGOs that defend women and family cause.

Women's organisation in enterprises and cooperatives.

Today, being proud of the high status that Moroccan woman have achieved, the NUMW continues its efforts in supporting and helping women and the families who have not yet benefited directly or indirectly of the positive outcome of this evolution. Thus, women in closed rural zones, urban peripheries, and others are still suffering from illiteracy, health problems, poverty, exclusion, and so on.

Accordingly, each year, the NUMW publishes a report of activities, demonstrating its contribution to socio-economic and educative development of Moroccan women. Those reports are based on the information collected from the different regional, local, and provincial sections, in addition to more activities that are carried out by the National Office.

The NUMW presents the summary of its activities in 2007 in the following way:

I/ The Activities of the National Office

1.1: 8 March: the celebration of Women International Day in 8 March

This activity had mobilised the members of the different commissions for more than 90 days.

The Office of Grand Casablanca was responsible for different stages of preparation for this event. In this occasion, two conventions of partnership were prepared:

With the Ministry of Justice and NUMW for setting up 6 Judicial Listening Centres for women.

With the Moroccan Association for Family Planning and NUMW (mutual aid and cooperation)

Besides, 8 March was celebrated in Casablanca, and presided by Her Royal Highness the Princess Lalla Meryem, the President of the NUMW. The two conventions were signed by the two partners.

1.2: Inter-Associative Relation

In the framework of its relations with Moroccan and foreign NGOs, the members of the National Office had participated in many manifestations and meetings:

16 February 2007, Rabat: A Meeting of Information about the right to citizenship.

19 April 2007, Rabat: Meeting about the Organisations of Social Protection.

20 February 2007: Ceremony of Signing a project of partnership related to “supporting to family sections for the implementation of family law” between the NUMW, UNPD, and UNICEF.

22 February 2007: A National Conference on Mental Health and drug dependence, it was organised by the Ministry of Health.

19 March 2007: a National Colloquium on Sexually Transmitted Diseases. It was organised by OPALS (PanAfrican Association for Fighting AIDS) in partnership with the Ministry of Health.

April 2007: Meeting on Listening Centres with the President of six Regional Offices: Rabat, Oujda, Tangiers, Marrakesh, Fez, Casa-Anfa)

10 May 2007: First Meeting of the Piloting Committee of the project: “Supporting Family Sections for the Implementation of Family Law” it was organised by the Ministry of Justice.

22 May 2007: the First Meeting of the National Committee of Organisation of the International Congress of Population 2009. It was organised by the High Office of Planning.

25 and 26 May: Training Day about: “the National Action Plan 2006- 2015. It was organised by the National Observatory of Child Rights.

The National Action Plan (Morocco is worthy of its Children) it was organised by the National League for Child Rights.

18 June 2007: presentation of the results of the survey done about the socio economic insertion of Moroccan immigrants, it was organised by the High Office of Planning.

19 June 2007: the Signing of the guide concerning taking abused women and children in charge. This guide was signed by Her Highness the Princess Lalla Meryem, President of the National Observatory of Child Right.

A Day for defending full schooling of girls from rural areas. It was organised by the Committee of Supporting Rural Girls' schooling.

20 July 2007: an Information Day on the importance of nutritive health. It was organised by the Ministry of Health.

14 September 2007: a meeting organised by the NUMW on the multi structural programme for fighting violence based on gender, via the promotion of women and girls' independence in Morocco.

9 and 10 October 2007: a two days Workshop concerning the joint programme of the United Nations in the domain of fighting based violence on gender, via the promotion of Moroccan women and girls' independence.

11 October 2007: the Second Meeting of the follow up commission of the project: "Supporting Family Sections for the Implementation of Family Law" it was organised by the Ministry of Justice.

18 October 2007: Celebration of Alimentation International day. It was organised by the FAO.

28 October 2007: Inauguration of SOS Children's Village in El Jadida.

19 November 2007: Meeting about Education and Protection of Premature Children.

11 December 2007: the Second Meeting about Listening Centres with the Presidents of six Provincial Offices (Rabat, Oujda, Tangiers, Marrakesh, Fez, Casa-Anfa)

17 December 2007: Meeting at the Ministry of Justice with Human Rights Associations, concerning the Composition of the National Report about Human Rights in Morocco.

19 December 2007: a Meeting about the Exploratory Study on risky abortion in Morocco. It was organised by the Ministry of Health.

1.3: International Relations

The Union is a member in the following international organisations:

The General Union of Arab Women
The International Council of Women
The Arab NGOs' Network

From 7 to 11 November 2007, the National Office, in partnership with the Network of Arab NGOs (the Grand Maghreb Section: Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt) had organised a colloquium on Training of Trainers.

The members of the National Office had also participated in the following activities:

From 29 March to 1 April 2007: Meeting of the Executive Office of the International Council of Women (CIF) in Paris

6 and 10 September 2007: The first Meeting of the Information and Communication Technology League of Civil Society, it was organised in Egypt.

From 8 to 11 November 2007: the Meeting of the Executive Office of the International Council of Women (CIF)

From 3 to 6 December 2007. Regional Forum for the Promotion of National Alliances against Hunger in the Middle East, it had taken place in Amman(Jordan)

II/ Summary of the NUMW Activities at the Local Level

The Local Offices could mobilise 40 398 women as members and beneficiaries of the NUMW's different services:

455 women are exclusively in charge of monitoring different activities for the sake of those beneficiaries

11 000 women could benefit of literacy classes

28 943 women had benefited of a training in a number of domains (handicraft works, informatics, cooking...etc) it should be noted that 159 training centres were opened for this purpose.

Almost 728 families had profited of day nurseries, which plays an important role in liberating women of taking care of children during their working or training hours.

2.1: concerning the fight against poverty, 8124 women could be integrated in projects generating incomes, which are monitored by the NUMW.

The number of these projects is 69, and there are hundreds of women who could set up their own enterprises thanks to the NUMW' training. It should be pointed out that most of the projects carried out by the NUMW are oriented towards realising the objectives of the National Initiative for Human Development. (INDH)

Moreover, the actions of professional training respond to a programme of a medium term programme. Thus the NUMW is engaged to large raising awareness campaigns, which are focused this year on two themes: the explanation of the New Family Law, and Health.

2.2: Women Rights, in all their aspects, remain one of the Union's priority actions. Therefore, local offices have judicial commissions for assisting women who come to ask for help. They carry out campaigns for raising awareness in different modalities of application (Modawwanat Al Osra) each year, more than 10 000 women are benefit directly by these campaigns. It should be mentioned that the Union could register more than 18 000 women this year.

The convention that was signed in 8 March 2007 with the Ministry of Justice will reinforce these actions by creating for listening and judicial orientation for women. Those first centres were created in Rabat, Fez, Tangiers, Marrakesh, Oujda, and Casablanca.

It should be noted that the presidents of those provinces have had a meeting in Rabat, with the cell in charge of setting up those centres. Training for 12 executives is anticipated in 2008.

2.3: women's health is considered by the Union as one of its main preoccupation. Accordingly, in 8 March 2006, Her Royal Highness the Princess Lalla Meryem and the

Minister of Health had launched the Health Notebook for women. Thus, women are required by doctors and all hospitals of the Kingdom to have it, before any medical consulting.

This document traces back all the sanitary information of women from the age of 16. Thereafter, the Union, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, carries out raising awareness campaigns on the use of this notebook.

Besides, television announcements and direct contact actions had been realised with women:

60 000 notebooks were printed and placed for sale in all the Kingdom's bookshops. The Union had organised an information day on this notebook, which all the presidents of the NUMW's regional offices had participated in. Those presidents had organised a number of meetings with the presidents of the sections, that are more than 200 in number. For the Ministry of Health's part, it had made the notebook available for patients who come to dispensaries, health centres, and hospitals, and maternity ones. The National Office had organised campaigns of diffusion of women notebook in Rabat, Marrakesh, Khemisset, Tiflet, and Nador.

In addition, the NUMW's Office in Rabat had organised four medical campaigns, in partnership with Action Urgence, for poor women (blood tests, raising awareness, orientation, and follow-up)

More than 4000 women had benefited of consulting. A total of 2620 health notebooks were given to women who came to the Rabat Office for the consultation of the four campaigns. As far as the other offices of the NUMW are concerned, 4122 notebooks were distributed, and this was only done by 8 provincial offices. Accordingly, a total of 6742 notebooks were distributed by the NUMW's canal, with a good mark for the Rabat office which had contributed to almost 60% in this operation.

III) CURRENT ACTIVITIES

3.1: setting up 6 listening centres in six provinces: Rabat, Tangiers, Fez, Casablanca, Oujda, Marrakesh.

In addition to two meetings in 2007, training for the managers of those centres is anticipated from 20 to 22 February 2008; and they will start functioning in from 8 March 2008.

3.2: the installation of the web site that will be achieved in February 2008. The inauguration is programmed in 8 March 2008.

3.3: the preparation for the celebration of Women International Day in 8 March 2008

3.4: the Renewal of some offices that are in need of it.

3.5: the elaboration of projects of creation of 5 other judicial listening and assistance centres for women.

3.6: the preparation and organisation of a managing training for the treasurers of the NUMW's provincial offices.

3.7: a proposition of a partnership convention with the French Association for solidarity, citizenship, and Democracy of women (CLICHY DE LAVALOIS)

3.8: a proposition of a partnership convention with ESAN

3.9: the annual meeting of the Union's Presidents of the Provincial Offices in June 2008.

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