

**PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA**

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*National Report on the Implementation the Beijing  
Platform for action after 25 years (Beijing +25)*

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**May 2019**

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## Introduction:

The protection, promotion and empowerment of women has been one of the priorities of various government programs since the independence and has been strengthened over the past five years. The women empowerment has been an important element in all constitutions, which included the basic human rights principles, in particular the elimination of discrimination in all of its forms, specifically discrimination between men and women, as translated by all laws relating to family, nationality, work, health, protection of elderly persons and others, in alignment with the State's commitment to relevant international and regional conventions.

The dynamics of women's advancement, empowerment and integration of their issues have been accelerated by the constitutional amendments in 2008 and 2016, mainly related to increasing the participation of women in political life by adopting quotas in elected councils, as well as consolidating the principle of equality and equity to increase the participation of women in public life and women's employment and decision-making positions.

This report, that covers the period from 2014 to 2019, has been developed through the contribution of all relevant governmental agencies and ministerial sectors.

## Section 1: Priorities, Achievements, Challenges and Constraints

### 1. Priorities:

In its Action Plan for the period 2014-2019, the Government has devoted a whole Axis to the advancement of women, in which it has stressed the need for greater effort and the provision of more means to preserve women's gains and enhance the protection of their rights. The plan prioritized the promotion of women's economic integration in the areas of employment and entrepreneurship. The Government has also committed itself to strengthening measures to empower women in terms of balancing their professional and family responsibilities through the establishment of nurseries and the generalization of preparatory education for all. At the same time, the National Program of Action on combating violence against women and the strengthening of legal protection and accompaniment mechanisms continue to be strengthened.

Recognizing the importance of achieving quality education and training for women and girls, it is considered as one of the priority components of the national education policy, as it allows women in the future to realize their aspirations, fulfill their financial independence, empower and help them to cope with life challenges. To realize this goal, the government will continue its policies for continuous, compulsory and free education for all and opening vocational education and training centers covering all disciplines without discrimination between women and men, including staying home women and rural girls as well as those with disabilities. Moreover, the literacy system and the development of continuous training for the benefit of citizens with a limited educational level, especially women and girls, were also strengthened.

### 2. Achievements:

All these priorities have been translated into goals, the State has devoted the necessary efforts to achieve them over the past five years. The twelve areas identified in the Beijing Platform for Action for gender equality and the empowerment of women have been addressed by strengthening the legal framework rooting equality and protection values and mainstreaming those areas, the most important of which are:

- **The criminalization of discrimination** based on sex is defined in Act No. 14-01 of 4 February 2014 amending the Penal Code in article 295 bis 1, where penalties are defined for the perpetrators of discrimination.
- **To review crimes committed against minors** in 2014 by amending some provisions of the Penal Code under the above-mentioned law and adapting them to the provisions of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child ratified by our country,

especially in determining the minimum age of criminal responsibility and criminalizing certain dangerous forms of crime, begging with minors and their exploitation for prostitution and abduction, and the determination of penal sanctions deterrent to these crimes.

- **Penal Code Amendment Act 2015** to include the criminalization and punishment of the various forms of violence against women. It is a matter of criminalization and punishment of:
  - Spousal violence and any form of abuse against the spouse or frequent verbal and psychological violence that makes the victims in a situation that affects their dignity or physical or psychological safety. These penalties also apply to crimes committed by the former spouse, and these violations are found to be related to the previous marital relationship. The perpetrator does not benefit from the mitigation conditions if the victim is pregnant or has a disability, the crime is committed in the presence of the children or at gunpoint, or the husband who deliberately abandons the wife for more than two months with the absence of a credible reason, or who is exercising any form of intimidation to take control of the wife's property or financial resources.
  - Harassment of women in public places by touching, verbally, or by any kind of signs that are considered crimes against public morality, and increasing the penalty if the victim is a minor.
  - Any attack committed by violence, coercion or threat and related to the sexual inviolability of the victim and harassments by any act, speech or behavior of sexual nature or connotation and increasing the penalty if the perpetrator is incest or if the victim is minor or suffering from a certain physical or mental disability facilitated the crime.
- **Promote the social protection of women under Law No. 15-01** issued on January 4, 2015, which included the establishment of the Maintenance Fund that guarantees the divorced fostering woman to receive the amount of maintenance in the case of the failure of the former husband to pay or inability to do so.
- **Issue Law No. 15-12 of 15 July 2015** related to the protection of children, which provides a comprehensive legal framework, combining social protection and judicial protection of children in general and children at risk or delinquents, taking into account the specificities of each category. The aim of this law is to address the situation of children and to achieve their best interests and to facilitate the work of the specialized agencies and develop channels for coordinating their work.

This law defines the most important rights that a child must enjoy without any discrimination, especially the right to life, right to have a name and a family, access to health care, education, equality and recreation. The law also criminalizes acts that

limit the rights of the children and which may affect their private life and expose them to economic exploitation, such as employing or assigning them work that prevent them from pursuing their studies or harms their health or physical or moral integrity; and exploitation through means of communication in any way that is against public morals and established norms. Another gain mentioned in this law is the establishment of a national agency for the protection and promotion of children, headed by the National Commissioner for the Protection of Children, as well as the adoption of an annual national day for children on July 15<sup>th</sup> , coincides with the date of the aforementioned law.

- **The 2016 constitutional amendment**, emphasize the principle of equality between citizens and non-discrimination based on any grounds, specifically sex-based discrimination. The amendment promotes equality between men and women in the labor market and the promotion of women to assume decision-making positions in the public and institutional agencies and departments.

It also articulated the establishment of the National Council for Human Rights as an independent body working on the promotion and protection of human rights based on Law No. 16-13 of 3 November 2016, which defines the composition of this Council and the modalities of appointing its members and its rules and organization.

The Council tasks include:

- Provide opinions, recommendations and proposals to the Government or Parliament on any human rights issue at the national or international level;
  - Study and submit draft legislative and regulatory texts and evaluate the texts in force in light of the basic principles of human rights;
  - Contribute to the promotion and dissemination of human rights culture;
  - Receive and examine complaints of any violation of human rights and transfer them to the relevant administrative authorities, together with the necessary recommendations and, where appropriate, to the competent judicial authorities.
- At the regional level, the state ratified Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the rights of Women in Africa by the Presidential Decree No. 16-254 of 27 September 2016.
  - Promote the political representation of women through the introduction of quota system as a measure of positive discrimination under the Constitution and relevant law since 2012, which resulted in an increase in the number of women represented in the parliament and elected councils and improve the global and regional ranking of our country by registering 31.60%.

In the 2017 legislative elections, women received 120 of the 462 seats (26%) in the National People's Assembly. Moreover, the percentage of women's representation at the municipal and state councils increased by quota system. The percentage of

women's representation in 2017 was 29.69% in the local councils and 16.65% in the municipal councils. In this regard, in 2017 and 2018, a wide training program was organized to support the capacities of female candidates on the national and local levels in cooperation with United Nations agencies, including UNDP and UN Women. The program also concluded with the organizing an international symposium on the promotion of women's political participation as an essential supporter of the political reform and sustainable development process in Algeria on 17 -18 March 2018 attended approximately by 1,000 participants, expert from international agencies from Algeria and other foreign countries. The symposium issued recommendations to enhance women's political participation. In addition to what was mentioned before, a training program was launched for targeting local women, youth, elected officials and public bodies to achieve the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development through building their capacities to realize participatory democracy and to modernize the public institutions. In order to change gender-based stereotypes, a package of media programmes was developed and educational programs were strengthened with the aim to root a culture of equality and associating more the different groups of civil society in achieving this goal.

### 3. Constraints:

Among the obstacles that hinder the pace of women's advancement and prevent the achievement of high rates of representation in all fields:

- Lack of coordination among the different bodies in the development and implementation of gender-sensitive programs and the lack of promotion of the launched initiatives;
- uneven efforts to produce, collect and disseminate data and statistics related to gender equality and women's issues;
- The reluctance of women to enter certain fields, especially political affairs and to hold decision-making positions, despite the entrenchment of their rights in the Constitution and laws relating to the electoral system and the law of political parties.

With regard to specific measures to prevent discrimination, equality under the law and access to justice, the Constitution focuses on the principle of equality before the courts, which means that all persons can exercise the right to equal proceedings before national jurisdictions without distinction or discrimination on sex or grounds of origin, color or belief. The State guarantees to those who are in a state of incapacity or inability to pay the costs of litigation this right, so that during the period from 2015 to 2018, 28,647 out of 55,249 women benefited from legal assistance to exercise civil and criminal rights (more than 50% of accepted applications). The law punishes all forms of discrimination that deprive a person of his/her legitimate rights.

In order to support entrepreneurial and women-oriented projects, several special programs, including the National Integrated Program to Support Entrepreneurship and Women's Economic Empowerment, were launched on the occasion of the International Rural Women's Day on 15 October 2018 under the theme "Algerian Women are a key partner in sustainable local development". The programs included awareness and training activities for women (housewives, rural women, farmers, projects owners, women entrepreneurs ...) and various activities related to contracting and services provided by various states mechanisms and institutions. Training courses were also organized to support women's capacities and accompany them in launching their projects and organizing exhibitions to promote and sell their products.

Regarding **the elimination of violence against women and girls**: This issue is one of the priorities for the establishment of a society that renounces violence and hatred and guarantees women all the conditions allowing them to prosper, flourish, break into various spheres of life and eliminate violence against them in the family, work and in public space. Different stakeholders focus on results of violence on the stability of society and the punishment of perpetrators. The number of cases of violence against women who went to the justice system in 2015 was 14,351, most of them crimes of intentional beatings and injuries, declined to 13,630 in 2018.



On the economic level, the decline in the percentage of women's employment is justified by experts due to the unwillingness on women to enter the labor market on the one hand; and the difficulties of balancing professional and family life on the other.

#### **4. Challenges:**

The Government has devoted a full chapter to the protection and promotion of women in the latest work plan adopted in 2017. Future challenges are identified as follow:

- continuing the efforts to promote women's political rights and status in elected councils at the national and local levels;
- Promotion of women in decision-making positions at the level of public agencies, departments, as well as at the institutional level;
- Achieving gender equality in the labor market.

Other challenges can also be included, in particular:

- Eliminating poverty, raising agricultural productivity and ensuring food security by adopting joint sectoral programs for women, encouraging them to work in agriculture, expanding the use of resources and supporting the marketing of their products;
- Changing gender-based stereotypes and differences and promoting the image of women by encouraging media programs that promote the values of equality in their content through social media and other various media, as well as in educational programs at different levels.

The issue of women's political empowerment and the expansion of their representation in the elected councils are considered as the essence of democratic practice, good governance, women's participation in decision-making positions and their involvement in public affairs and contribution to the development process.

## Section two:

### Progress made across the 12 critical areas of concern:

#### I. Holistic development, common prosperity and decent work:

The Algerian Constitution and its legislative and regulatory texts ensure women's right to work while ensuring that they enjoy all privileges as well as protect them from the various forms of discrimination that may be inflicted on them in the work place. Algeria is keen to adapt its legal system in accordance with the international conventions it has ratified. The amended Constitution of 2016 provides for basic principles translated into various laws and legislative provisions, namely:

- To ensure equality between all citizens in rights and duties by removing obstacles that impede the prosperity of a citizen, and prevent the active participation of all in political, economic, social and cultural life.
- Promote equality between men and women in the labor market and encourage the promotion of women in positions of decision-making in public and corporate bodies and departments.
- The principle of equal opportunity in recruitment and official positions, which is set forth in article 63, "All citizens shall be equal in carrying out functions in the State without any conditions other than those prescribed by law."

The Constitution also stipulates in article 54 that occupational safety and health is a right enjoyed by the Algerian employees. In the same context, labor legislation imposed penalties on employers who violate the protection of working women by tightening the penalties provided by Law No. 88-07 on protecting, health and security in the workplace, especially for workers with disabilities who work beyond their capacity, night shifts and the discrimination between workers in employment, salary or working conditions, in accordance with the provisions of the Finance Law No. 17-11 of 2018. With respect to the area of salaries in the economic sector, the provisions of article 84 of Act No. 90-11 of the Labor Code stipulate that equal pay for workers shall be guaranteed for any work of equal value, without any discrimination.

On the other hand, the provisions of article 341 of Order No. 66-156 of 08 June 1966 including the amended Penal Code, supplemented by Law No. 15-19 of 30 December 2015, have been amended and supplemented to provide full protection for working women from any violations in the workplace by increasing the penalty of imprisonment or fines for sexual harassment offenses committed by a direct official or a colleague or any person who exploits the authority of his or her profession by issuing, threatening or coercing others to force them to respond to their sexual desires. The same punishment will be applied to anyone who harasses others by an act, verbally or a gesture with a sexual connotation. In this regard, the Labor Inspectorate oversees the application of the legislative and

regulatory provisions of labor relations to all workers without discrimination. In the past five years, inspectorates have not registered any violations in the area of discrimination against working women.

The participation of women in the labor market has witnessed remarkable progress. The results of the census conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics during the period from September 2014 to September 2018 showed an increase in the number of employed women from 1,722,000 to 1,961,000 (17.81% from 16.81%).

In this context, the Public Employment Facility and public agencies contributed to the promotion of employment in:

- **Promotion of paid work:**

The performance of the National Agency for Employment in the field of women's recruitment has evolved from 27.103 in 2014 to 47.504 in 2018, an increase of more than 57%.

- **Device of Professional integration Assistance:**

Between 2014 and 2018, 238,516 women were integrated. 105,541 women were employed in the state supported employment contracts, among them 20,270 women during 2018. In order to contribute to encouraging women to work or to reduce quitting rates and to help them balance their family and professional life, the public authorities have taken measures to strengthen the National Kindergarten Network by completing and providing 2,452 public and private kindergartens across the country, with 12.896 specialists. In order to ensure that schoolchildren are provided with assistance, which will be reflected on their working mothers, 15,087 school canteens were up to benefit more than 3,373,800 students.

- 1. Social security:**

Algeria has a social security system based on principles of solidarity, distribution and uniformity of coverage for all beneficiaries in a manner similar to the rules concerning the rights and duties of beneficiaries. It also guarantees women the same rights without discrimination, but also rights granted exclusively to women, especially with regard to the age of retirement. This system includes the nine branches mentioned in Convention No. 102 of the World Health Organization: sickness insurance, maternity insurance, disability insurance, death insurance, work accidents, occupational diseases, unemployment insurance and retirement and family allowances. The Algerian social security system covers the vast majority of population groups, including women who do not engage in any activity as described below. They are protected and benefit from the status of social insured persons.

- **Women who benefit from the coverage of the Algerian social security system:**

Paid and non employees female workers who engage in professional activities for their own business as well as special categories of women who are socially insured, including:

- Domestic Workers (such workers at employer’s place of residence and women workers employed by individuals and artists ...);
- Women who engage in special activities (such as female employees in activities of public interest, ...);
- Women who do not engage in professional activities such as female students, trainees in vocational training institutions, disabled persons and beneficiaries of solidarity grant;
- Beneficiaries of social and vocational integration agencies.

■ **Social protection of active women in the informal economy:**

The National Social Security System covers women who are active in the informal economy and are not subject to social security, as stipulated in the Finance Act of 2015, in the framework of administrative affiliation with the system of wage earners to benefit from in-kind benefits for sickness and maternity insurance for a monthly subscription of 12% on a basis equal to the minimum national guaranteed wage.

This coverage is granted to the beneficiary during a transitional period of three years for the settlement of its professional relations or activity, with the possibility of recovering the pension contribution entitled Transition Period. Social protection is also given to the family of women who are insured socially, and this applies to the spouse, children and sponsored persons.

■ **In retirement:**

Since the legal age for retirement in Algeria is 60 years, the National Social Security System provides working women with the benefit of retirement at the age of 55, with the possibility of reducing the age of retirement for women with children by one year for each child up to three years.

Women who belong to labor market:	Number		
	2016	2017	2018
Participating women	5.795.304	6.155.724	6.602.884
Total participation	15.863.474	17.182.859	17.991.243
Percentage	<b>36.5%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>37%</b>

**II. Poverty eradication, social protection and social services:**

Algeria has worked continuously on providing social support policies in order to reduce disparities in development between different regions and groups of society by adopting a strategy to eradicate poverty, based on providing the same opportunities for each individual to obtain a job, especially for new university graduates. It is also working on expanding social protection frameworks and that everyone benefits from the same basic social services in health, education and the provision of resources such as water, electricity, gas and others.

In order to achieve these objectives, the State has established many institutions that coordinate with each other while each support a specific segment of society, including the Agency for Social Development, the National Agency for supporting Youth Employment, the National Employment Agency, the National Microcredit Agency and the National Unemployment Insurance Fund. These agencies have been established to strengthen the State's efforts to launch activities and interventions for the disadvantaged populations and to support projects, missions, or public services to harmonize subsidies, integration and social promotion, and combating poverty and marginalization. The 269 Solidarity and proximity Units (CSPs) existing throughout the country contribute to the identification of regions and pockets of poverty and social mapping at the local level. It also provides psychological, medical, social mediation and assistance services for the establishment and development of income-generating productive projects. All these agencies and mechanisms contribute through their programs to the promotion and integration of women into the labor market.

The percentage of women benefiting from them is as follows:

**A. Social and vocational assistance and integration programs:**

- **AFS:** Direct assistance paid by the State to support disadvantaged populations that are not available and unable to work, such as persons with disabilities, the elderly, the disabled, and low-income families that provide assistance to persons with disabilities. The percentage of women benefiting from this grant is 66.9% between 2014 and 2018, while benefiting from social coverage.
- **The National Agency for Employment (ANEM):** In the field of women's recruitment, the Agency recorded an increase in the number of beneficiaries from 27,103 in 2014 to 47,504 women in 2018, which is more than 57%.
- **Social Integration Activities Program (DAIS)** This is part of the policy of ensuring the social integration of the unqualified and unemployed, which registered 256,799 women in 2014-2018, equivalent to 47% of the total number of beneficiaries.
- **The Graduate youth Integration Program (PID)** aims at the temporary professional integration of young people with certificates of higher education and technical technicians graduated from the National Institutes of Training, where the period 2014-2018 recorded the number of women beneficiaries estimated at 163,890, equivalent to 80% of the total beneficiaries.
- **The professional Integration Assistance program (DAIP):** aims at the temporary professional integration of young people with higher education diplomas: during the period 2014-2018, 238,516 women were integrated.

**B. Programs for the establishment of small activities and enterprises:**

The proportion of women beneficiaries of the two public agencies to support the creation of micro-enterprises, namely the National Agency for Youth Employment Support and the National Unemployment Insurance Fund, increased significantly during the period 2014-2018 from 10.07% to 17%. The **National Agency to Facilitate Micro-credit (ANGEM)**, through

its program to eradicate poverty, combat unemployment and improve the standard of living of the population, seeks to launch income-generating projects and activities to implement the social policy of targeted and participatory support. This agency attracts a significant percentage of women benefiting from its program of economic and social empowerment and encouraging entrepreneurship, especially in rural and isolated areas, in order to achieve an adequate standard of living. The Agency provides a range of services to beneficiaries of loans such as free training courses to strengthen capacities on the procurement techniques and financial management of micro enterprises. It also includes individual accompaniment of applicants for loans and follow-up by specialized escort departments in order to ensure the success and sustainability of the established activities and to organize promotional exhibitions for their products.

Since its establishment in 2004 to 2018, the Agency has recorded 63.34 % of female beneficiaries of loans from the total beneficiaries of 877,526, of which 32.30 % have been granted to rural women to support various activities (agriculture and small and traditional businesses). To support women with disabilities, the Agency has trained its staff on sign language to facilitate communication with the deaf and mute category for the purpose of non-exclusion to ensure the success of the escort course. The various media publications have also been translated into Braille to guide blind people, including the contractor's manual. For example, 132 disabled women have been funded during the past five years, or 40.99% of all disabled beneficiaries. Older women also benefit from this system, registering 11,696 women over the age of 60 beneficiaries over the past five years or 73.13% of the total elderly beneficiaries.

- **TUPHIMO:** The purpose of this system is to create temporary jobs and to maintain public facilities by carrying out works that have economic and social benefits in municipalities with high rates of unemployment and lack of basic facilities. It aims to upgrade local and small enterprises. In 2018, the number of projects benefiting women reached 50 projects, which represents 9.7%.
- **Productive Families Support Program:** This program targets low income families and families benefiting from the solidarity grant and social integration activities to support their economic independence in meeting their needs and reducing the burden on the state, as well as women heads of households with no income or low income (which does not exceed the guaranteed basic minimum wage) and families with vocational and professional work qualifications.

The implementation of the program of supporting productive families, since its inception in 2015, has recorded the following results:

	Number:
Registered Families:	<b>10.796</b>
Families benefiting from the program:	<b>5410</b>
Number of work positions created	<b>6970</b>

- **Integration of women in agriculture and traditional industries:**

In the agricultural field, rural women have been integrated into various development projects as the cornerstone of rural society, through programs implemented within the framework of agricultural and rural policy, where we record the following data:

- 7,771 rural women benefited from several projects related to sewing, weaving, poultry farming and fruit tree plantations.
- 35% of the rural projects were implemented by rural women, ie about 60,204 projects and accompanied by all stages of their completion of projects related to fishing activities and aquaculture.
- Building the capacity of more than 200 agricultural guides and consultants at the level of agricultural institutions, agricultural chambers and forest and steppe provinces.

Numerous statistics have recorded figures reflecting the role of women in agriculture and land tenure, particularly:

- 157,205 women as an agricultural worker;
- 49,830 women with agricultural projects;
- The share of women in agricultural land ownership or rights holders of agricultural land reached 49,830 investors and 35,442 investment partners.

For reference, a national committee and local committees for the empowerment of rural women have been set up since 2012, composed of representatives of various sectors and national bodies. They aim to tackle the concerns of rural women and improve their social and economic conditions through the implementation of several programs extending from 2015 till 2019. The components of these programs include awareness and media, capacity building and training, accompanying rural women during registration of their projects, promotion and marketing of local products. Many projects have been launched for rural women at the municipal level.

Moreover, in the field of traditional industry, the regulatory texts governing the traditional industry do not distinguish between men and women in the practice of craft activities and the importance of women's work has been accorded to active women groups in our social and economic domains. This is evident in the results achieved, wherein the field of traditional handcrafts industries there were 107230 women working in the field by end of 2018. To ensure the sustainability of handcraft activities, especially the endangered ones, national efforts are being made to enhance training of 24,485 professional women benefited from training courses between 2015 and 2018, including women in the handcrafts industry. It also provides financial support to women to acquire equipment and tools such as textile machines, sewing machines, cooking ovens, crockery ...etc and benefit from shops and technical workshops to practice and marketing their products at the level of handcrafts centers.

**The main initiatives in this area are outlined in the following points:**

- Developing national commercial websites and portals for the products of traditional handcrafts products and harnessing them for craftswomen to display, promote and market their products online.
- Creation of a national electronic directory of crafts for women to offer their services directly.
- Launch of the National Award for Traditional Handcrafts Industry: Two women won this national award in 2018 out of six awards.
- Participation of 9607 women, especially from the rural areas, in the various exhibitions and salons organized in 2018 in Algeria and the participation of 52 women in eight international exhibitions. The International Exhibit of Handicraft in Algeria witnessed the participation of 127 women out of a total of 265 participants.
- Celebrating the National Day of Crafts in Algeria on November 9<sup>th</sup> of each year and in 2018 the participation of women reached 2640 participant.

In the same context to support the activities of promoting women entrepreneurship and in order to achieve their economic empowerment, many national programs and initiatives have been launched, including:

- Launching media, awareness and training campaign to promote women's economic empowerment and entrepreneurship in 2017, an initiative that brought together many activists active in the field of establishment of institutions and promotion of women, including information days, promotional exhibitions and training courses.
- Launching a national program to support women entrepreneurship and economic empowerment on October 15, 2018, on the occasion of the celebration of the International Women's Day, the program included information and training activities for women and various activities on women's entrepreneurship and services provided to women by the state. This program is implemented in coordination with various partners at the local and central level.

In 2016, a national award was launched to award the best women's entrepreneurial projects and the second edition of 2018 was devoted to the best agricultural projects and initiatives for sustainable development in order to encourage the contributions of rural women and support social mobility in the rural world. The third edition of the year 2019 was devoted to the promotion of women's entrepreneurship and the best ideas for women innovators and creators.

In the commercial sector, the contribution of women has been effective in various commercial and economic activities, thanks to many privileges to increase their contribution to development. There has been a remarkable improvement in entrepreneurship, establishment of enterprises and business. The National Registry registered an increase record from 130,416



women in 2014 to 156.657 women traders by end of February 2019, a 21% rise. This number represents 7.7% of the total number of traders registered in the Commercial Register.

### **Education and training:**

The State has continued its efforts to promote the role of women in society through a number of measures that contribute to their rehabilitation by adopting a culture of human rights in general and women's rights in particular as integrated content in the curricula of the three educational stages (primary, intermediate and secondary) to integrate values of equality, fairness, justice, tolerance, cooperation and the rules of life and living together. It works to develop their civic sense and develop the values of citizenship and the principles of justice. It also guarantees citizens equal rights and duties, avoiding discrimination and violence and preferring dialogue.

In order to encourage and promotion of the education of children, especially girls in rural and remote areas, and in order to avoid their early education drop, the State has taken actions providing support including:

- compulsory free education up to 16 years without discrimination between the sexes and throughout the educational path;
- Reintegrating students who have dropped school under the age of 16, once they wish to return under applicable laws;
- Give a second chance to students who have not been able to achieve the required scores to move to the higher level through the organization of exceptional tests at all educational levels;
- offer special classes for students with learning difficulties;
- offer school transportation, feeding and health services;
- Provide grants to school children in need and offer free textbooks and school supplies.

The values of national solidarity within educational institutions are also promoted with the assistance of civil society. The continuation of girls' studies to university levels is a tool for empowering them and enhancing their role in achieving sustainable development in the future and participation in decision-making. This has been achieved through;

- **Ensuring a school seat for all baccalaureates, including girls:** The percentage of female students in higher education institutions was 62.22% in the 2017-2018 school year, an increase of 24.81% during the period 2013-2018.
- **Encourage and allow girls to continue their studies in all fields:** The percentage of female graduates in the stage of graduation during the years 2015 to 2018 respectively: 65.30%, 65.30% and 65.17%, where the percentage of females increased by 25.61% during the period 2013-2018.

During the year 2018, the percentage of female graduates in the post-graduation stage was 53.87% of the total number of graduates while registering 51.50% in the 2013-2014 academic year. Thus, the percentage of female students increased by 12.09% during the period 2013-2018.

- Within the framework of activating the rules of quality and conforming to international standards, students in the national and international cooperation program benefit from grants on the basis of equal opportunities for both sexes. It should be noted that the proportion of female students in the last two years, was nearly 80%, and the percentage of their population during the period 2014 and 2018 increased by 37.30%. The percentage of female researchers is 44% in 2017 and 2018 out of the total number of researchers estimated at 5,984, and the percentage of women in the senior posts in the sectoral central administration is 68.05% in 2017.
- Care for the students' living conditions and the quality of services provided to them is the basis of the policy for the development of higher education in Algeria through the provision of free food, transportation, accommodation and social security. In this regard, the number of universities housing facilities at the national level was 378 during 2018-2019, of which 219 were reserved for female students. The number of female university graduates in the same period reached 340,566 out of a total of 492,457 students, or 69.15%.
- Moreover, the State's fiscal policies in support of higher education continued to provide a non-discriminatory scholarship for both male and female students, accounting for 69.27% during the 2017-2018 academic year. The percentage increased during the period from 2013 to 2018 by 19.98%.

On the other hand, efforts have also been made to strengthen the capacity of women through training in order to empower them economically and increase their contribution to development through the launch of organizations, centers and institutes of vocational training, attracting the largest number of them with free training and financial assistance during training in a framework that ensures gender equality. Between 2014 and 2018, the number of vocational certificates increased to 600,909, of which 120,089 were registered in 2018.

This system provides many forms of training for certain groups of women and does not discriminate between the sexes and their field preferences. Some of them are:

- Training for the staying home women to gain qualifications and professional competence, during which a program is adapted to the preferred times of housewives. In 2018 only, 52,974 women joined the program.
- Training for girls in rural areas, who face difficulties in joining professional training institutions due to distance and lack of transportation, branches and

affiliated centers were opened in areas where women, girls and local authorities expressed their training needs in areas related to the preservation of traditional industries and handicrafts, accounting, automation, media and others. In 2018, 6636 women were enrolled in these training courses.

- Literacy - Vocational Rehabilitation: This is a form of vocational rehabilitation for a group of women who have never been enrolled in vocational training centers, which aims at eradicating illiteracy and acquiring the skills of practicing a profession in the framework of a partnership between the Vocational Training and Education Sector, the National Literacy and Adult Education Council. In 2018 the number of women enrolled in the training was 787 women.
- Women with disabilities or in danger or in prison program:

It is a program focusing on the physically disabled, youth at risk and the imprisoned in order to achieve social integration and combat exclusion. 9,044 women benefited from this program during the period from 2014 to 2018 as follows:

- Women with physical disability: 2530.
- Girl in danger: 392.
- Girls in Punitive Institutions: 6122.
- Training for girls with a limited level of education, as they have the opportunity to pursue vocational training after a period of pre-training rehabilitation.
- Develop continuous training: This program gives the opportunity to raise the level of qualification for the beneficiary groups, especially for women who have obtained a certificate in residential training or the evening classes to upgrade their level dedicated to the principle of continuous training. During 2014-2018 the number of girls in this category was 32 915 girls, of which 6397 were trained in 2018.
- Contribute and cooperate with the national agencies and the collective civil society movement concerned with the care and composition of women by organizing courses and programs directed by these organizations in urban and rural areas targeting women in a fragile and isolated situation.
- A new facility, represented in the 13 local centers, established in eight states providing services in the areas of information, sensitization, training, communication, exchange, display and sale of products. In order to break up isolation and exchange experiences with women from different regions of the country, five mobile training centers were allocated in different regions. The number of beneficiaries of this program since 2014 until the month of April 2019 was 2692 girls.

It also included a measure on entrepreneurship and management of the private institution within the course of training for professionals and students of vocational education in coordination with various support agencies for the employment of young people and the establishment of private institutions. In addition, thematic seminars and information days are organized to promote opportunities and state-made devices for their post-graduation benefits

by involving positive models from graduates of training institutions who have achieved significant successes in their projects.

### **Regarding health:**

#### **❖ Women and girls' access to basic health care in times of peace and war:**

Health Act No. 18-11 of 2 July 2018 devoted a whole section to the protection of maternal and children's health and another section for the protection of adolescents health, stating that the protection and promotion of adolescents and youth health is a priority for the State, particularly in guaranteeing their full development and the prevention and protection of the damaging behaviors detrimental to their health. The health care of women and girls, particularly those of women of childbearing age 15-49 years, includes all services that fall within the context of reproductive health and family planning. On the other hand, programs to combat maternal and child mortality are a public health priority.

### **Giving birth and fertility:**

In 2017, 1,060,000 live births were recorded by the civic status institutes, the fourth consecutive year in which the birth rate exceeded the threshold of one million, with a relative decline of 0.7% compared with the level recorded in 2016. The distribution of births by sex shows a sex ratio of 104 males per 100 females. The decrease in the volume of live births led to a decline in the birth rate which declined from 26.12 to 25.40 between 2016 and 2017.

While the total fertility rate was stable for the second year compared to the level of 2015, reaching 3.1 children per woman, while there is a slight increase in the average age at birth, estimated by ten points compared to the previous year, moving from 31.7 years to 31.8 years.

#### **1. Reproductive health and family planning:**

Reproductive health is an integral part of the national health policy and is an essential dimension of the national population and development policy. Reproductive health activities aim to expand access to quality family planning services and care as well as activities targeting mothers and activities aimed at safe motherhood, prevention and treatment of infertility, sexually transmitted diseases, detection of genital cancer and prevention of all forms of violence.

The reproductive health of Algeria has benefited from significant strengthening of institutional arrangements to ensure the policies and programs that have been developed. Family planning activities are currently offered at 1,407 clinics out of a total of 1,708 or 82.4%, of which 879 (62%) provide two contraceptive methods (birth control pills and IUD) And 326 (23%) offer three contraceptive methods (pills, IUD and shots), 1,372 treatment rooms out of a total of 6,226 (22%) and 518 (38%) offer at least two contraceptive methods and 193 (14%) ways to prevent pregnancy.

Regular provision and availability of contraceptives at the level of health institutions in the public sector allow the provision of services in the field of family planning and the provision of contraception so that each woman can choose quality means to obtain and use them whenever needed.

A financial amount is also allocated for the purchase of contraception from the state budget and distributed to all health institutions on a regular basis, thus achieving good governance of programs at the national level by ensuring universal access to quality reproductive health services.

## **2. Maternal and Children's health care, prevention/reduction of child and maternal mortality:**

### **2.1. Maternal and Child Health:**

Maternal and child health is an indicator of the functional health system, social justice and quality of life. Algeria has adopted various international and regional statements in this field. The protection of maternal and child health is a public health priority supported by political efforts.

#### **2.1.1. Maternal Health: Based on:**

- Prevention, detection and effective treatment of diseases prevalent during pregnancy, such as diabetes and high blood pressure, is ensured by a multi-disciplinary medical team to develop a system of detection and guidance at the central and peripheral levels;
- Follow-up of the dangerous pregnancy, which represents approximately 5% of pregnant women, is carried out through reference to the reference centers for care, estimated at 221 reference centers at the national activity (181 in the neighborhood health institutions and 40 in public hospitals);
- Promote access to pre and post-delivery medical services to reduce the maternal mortality rate to 30 per 100,000 births resulting from loss in the situation which is the leading cause of maternal mortality;
- Adaptation of the central technical services (laboratories - radiology rooms), standardization of delivery halls and arranging of neonatal health care (general treatments - neonatal revival - intensive care)
- Implementation of a broad outline for the embodiment of basic maternal / child health infrastructures in different regions of the country;
- Accelerate the reduction of maternal mortality by:
  - Implementing the recommendations of the Regional Symposium on the Special Campaign to Accelerate the Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa,
  - Establish a system to review the causes of maternal mortality: starting from 2014, every registered or registered case of death is subject to an in-depth and thorough investigation into all circumstances related to death.

- Conducting a study on the quality of reproductive health services in Algeria in 2013. This study presented the status of maternal health, in which the causes of illness and the proposal for a strategic framework to be taken care of were announced. The findings were announced on 22 January 2014.
- National Plan for Reducing and Ending Maternal deaths:

The development of a national plan to accelerate the reduction of maternal deaths for 2015-2019 reflects Algeria's commitment to regional initiatives, including the campaign to accelerate the reduction of maternal deaths in Africa. This National Plan is designed to accelerate the reduction of the maternal mortality rate for the period 2015-2019 around five strategic interventions:

- **Strategic Objective 1:** Strengthen family planning and acquisition of associated services;
- **Strategic Objective 2:** Improve the quality of services during pregnancy, delivery and postpartum;
- **Strategic Objective 3:** Reach every woman to reduce inequalities;
- **Strategic Objective 4:** Promote the participation of women, families and treatment providers to influence communities;
- **Strategic Objective 5:** Improve governance to combat maternal deaths.

In this area, Algeria ranks on the average level of maternal mortality by 57.7 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2016 compared with 117.4 / 100,000 in 1999. Coverage and awareness of early detection of cervical cancer has been expanded through:

- Conducting annual training sessions for gynecologists in the field of laparoscopic surgery;
- build capacity of specialists in early detection of cervical cancer;
- Formation of reproductive health workers on sampling techniques;
- Improve data collection techniques and review the management and evaluation system for cervical cancer screening. As of September 30, 2018, 141,126 scans have been conducted;
- Organizing study days to evaluate the national program for the early detection of cervical cancer. Representatives from all the states of the country were invited to participate in these information days in order to follow up on the program and to improve the quality and quantity of the health coverage and improve the cost of detection units.

#### **Some statistics:**

- **Maternal mortality rate:** The maternal mortality rate decreased from 60.5 per 100,000 live births in 2015 to 57.7 per 100,000 live births in 2017.

- **Proportion of births attended by qualified health care providers:** The rate of delivery under escort dropped from 96.7% in 2012 according to the preliminary data of the National Investigation known as Multiple indicator cluster Surveys (MICS4) to 97% in 2017.

### **2.1.2. Childhood Health:**

- **Dead births:** Compared to infant mortality, the number of stillbirths registered in 2017 in civic status institutions was significantly lower, with 13412 cases recorded, which is the equivalent of a relative decrease of 7% compared to 2016. This decline led to a significant decrease in the dead birth rate. A decline of 0.7 points compared to 2016. The birth rate among males was 13.5 and 11.5 for females.
- **Infant mortality:** Infant mortality was 22,240 deaths in 2017, with 31 fewer deaths than in 2016. Despite the relatively small decline in the volume of live births, the infant mortality rate has stabilized, moving from 20.9 to 21.0 between 2016 and 2017. By gender, it was 22.6 for males and 19.3 for females. Child mortality (less than 5 years) decreased from 22.3 in 2015 to 21 in 2017.
- **Under-five mortality:** The probability of mortality among children under 5 years of age was stable between 2016 and 2017, recording 24.0 and varied by gender to 25.6 for males and 22.2 for females.

### **Challenges and resolutions:**

#### **Measures included in the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030:**

- Support national programs for child protection,
- Enhancing population protection by upgrading an expanded vaccination program to cover protection from other diseases through the implementation of new vaccination schedules that allow for the introduction of four new vaccines in 2016, updated in 2018,
- Preparation of a national plan to reduce the pace of infant mortality with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which is part of the Global Strategy for Maternal and Child Health 2016-2030, ratified by Algeria.

### **III. Freedom from violence, stigma and stereotypes**

**Violence against women:** Considering that violence against women violates a human right, the State gives importance this issue as a principle enshrined in the Algerian Constitution, article 40 of which states: "The State guarantees that no one shall be inviolable and prohibits any physical or moral violence or prejudice to dignity. Cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment is punishable by law ", and article 41 states:" it is punishable by law any offenses against rights and freedoms and for any violation of the physical and moral integrity of the person. "

In response to the international resolutions that Algeria has ratified, as well as its efforts to promote the status of women, the Government adopted and implemented a national strategy against violence in 2007 through the development and protection of programs to protect fragile women. The legal arsenal guaranteeing a safe and secure life for women was also amended by adding new articles to the Penal Code in 2015 (Law No. 15-19 of 30 December 2015, amended and supplemented by Order No. 66-156 of 08 June 1966 including the Penal Code), criminalizing and punishing perpetrators of Violence in all its forms: domestic violence in all its forms (physical, verbal, psychological, economic), as well as violence against women in public spaces and sexual harassment in the workplace.

Priority has been given to combating domestic violence in particular by the husband, as well as harassment and violence in public spaces, to criminalize marital violence with deterrent punishments that may amount to life imprisonment in case of death. It includes criminalization, intimidation, degrading treatment, economic violence, depriving the wife of her property and financial resources and extorting her from intimidation and coercion.

Since the promulgation of this law, the judicial authorities have registered the following statistics concerning the cases:

- Intentional beatings and injuries by the husband: 1,512 cases in 2016 and 2,765 in 2018.
- The intentional beating and wounding by the husband with illness or disability: 64 cases in 2016 to rise to 244 in 2018.
- Intentional beating and injuries by the husband leading to death: 12 cases in 2016 and 24 cases in 2018.
- Sexual harassment by a person who exploits his power, function or profession: 104 and 28 cases of 2016 and 2018, respectively.

As for sexual harassment, either by conduct, word, or sexual connotation there were 46 cases in 2016 against 72 cases in 2018.

The implementation plan of the National Committee for the Prevention and Combating of Violence against Women is being implemented and all activities related to this area are coordinated among all relevant ministerial sectors, national agencies and associations. The plan is based on three main axes:

- Improving the quality of care for women in difficult situations;
- Information and sensitization to raise awareness among different groups of society to prevent and reduce violence;
- Supporting the preventive element to empower women in various fields through self-rehabilitation and integration into social and economic life.

On the practical side, women and girls who are the victims of violence and those in a difficult social situation are covered through the various programs and programs developed by the state and embodied by the directorates of social activity and solidarity at the national level by



strengthening the work of the "Reception, Listening, Guidance and Accompaniment" teams composed of psychologists, sociology, doctor, social assistant and law specialist. Their tasks are to provide psychological care for victims of violence, guidance, advice and accompaniment in the completion of appropriate administrative procedures. Those teams work in particular to reintegrate women into social and professional life by reintegrating them into their family, benefiting from financial or material assistance, facilitating access to training, taking advantage of job placements in the available operating programs and utilizing a microcredit for self-employment or creating a small institution. The same work is done by these teams towards women in a difficult social situation.

In addition to these groups, the "Solidarity Proximity Units" of the Social Development Agency, which is under the auspices of the Ministry of National Solidarity, Family and Women's Affairs, has 269 active units distributed throughout the state. The various fields of intervention included psychological and administrative support for women in a difficult situation and the organization of information days and awareness campaigns on violence against women.

The units are specialized in identifying disadvantaged populations and their needs, especially those in disadvantaged areas (identifying pockets of poverty). They are considered as a space for mediation through the implementation of social support and development programs prepared by the Social Development Agency. It contributes to the framing of disadvantaged populations in the field of social protection and solidarity and their proximity to the social assistance interests by facilitating reading and understanding the rules of procedures in the field of social assistance.

In order to improve the services provided and the performance of the listening, guidance and accompaniment teams, the National Centers for the reception of women victims of violence and those in difficult situation, as well as support staff of the central administration, training courses were organized for 37 of supporting staff in 2014 and for 63 in 2016 and 2017, in collaboration with UN Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in Algeria (ONU Femmes). In 2015, a guide to best practices for social and professional reintegration was prepared and distributed to professionals of the national solidarity sector at the national level.

In order to enhance social work and to ensure the provision of specialized human resources in the field in the future, the "Reception, Guidance and Accompanying Women Victims of Violence and Their Children" program was included in the program of students of the National Centers for the Training of Specialized Personnel in the Social Solidarity Sector. To this end, the teachers of the centers were also trained. This is in addition to free green line service at the disposal of citizens to receive their phone calls, through which the directorates of social activity psychological support and information and guidance, as requested by each case.

From its side, the state centers and specialized institutions ensure that women in difficult social situations, especially those who are victims of violence, adolescent girls in danger, and elderly women and women with disabilities are served. Those centers include National centers for the

reception of women and girls who are victims of violence and in a difficult situation, Dar Al Rahma institutions, SAMU Social centers, specialized centers for the protection and re-education of adolescent girls, childcare institutions, elderly houses and specialized centers in the care of persons with disabilities. There are also shelters of women and girls in a difficult situation run by national associations. All these institutions include accommodation, listening, psychological and medical assistance, and comprehensive pedagogic care.

The educational staff of the two national centers receive women victims of violence and women in a difficult situation in the center and west of the country, in addition to providing medical and psychological care, reintegrating them into the community through family mediation, rehabilitation and strengthening of their capacities through training in internal and external workshops at a training center, vocational training, awareness of their basic rights and help them to engage in social and economic life through integration and employment programs provided by the State. Between 2014 and 2018, 1,478 women victims of violence and in a difficult situation were holistically served.

In the context of the expansion of its institutional network to cater for this category, a third center was built in the eastern part of the country. The "AMANE" administrative database was developed in September 2018 as a process included in a program of cooperation with the UN Women (ONUFEMMES), an information system to collect, process and update all data about violence against women in order to make better use of it. The aim of this database is to unify the collection of data and to obtain a detailed and timely digital status. To ensure the success of this process, the relevant users were trained on how to use the electronic application of this database.

The national solidarity sector is keen on awareness and sensitization throughout the year, especially in the framework of the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on the 25<sup>th</sup> of November of each year and the organization of the 16 day campaign of activities ending in Dec 10<sup>th</sup>. Throughout the country, dedicated activities are organized including, round tables, information days, open doors, exhibitions and campaigns on local television and radio stations, with the participation of all relevant actors supported by leaflets and pamphlets on the subject. In the same context, the National Award for Combating Violence against Women was launched in 2015 to encourage all citizens to undertake innovative work in the field of combating violence against women and girls, as well as sensitization and raising awareness through the dissemination and reward of such initiatives. The four themes of the award were focused on the religious, legal, media and societal perspectives in this field.

In 2016, a workshop was also organized to engage all men at different levels to speak out and speak out about anti-violence and launch the "White Ribbon" campaign where men and young people were involved by putting a white ribbon on their cloth, expressing their opinion and their commitment not to commit acts of violence against women or girls. Moreover, gender focal points, representatives of the ministerial sectors, national agencies, members of the

National Council for Family and Women, as well as some representatives from the central administration all participated in training courses focused on the Sustainable Development Goals, a workshop on the definition of gender and how to include it in public policies, and international and legal mechanisms about gender equality such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 2018. On the other hand, in accordance with Law No. 15-01 of 4 January 2015, in the context of ensuring that women who are in a difficult situation should be guaranteed with a decent life for them and their children, the "Alimony Fund" was established to pay maintenance to divorced women and children in case of inability to implement the maintenance rule, because of either the husband's absolute abstention or inability to pay.

### **Countering Stereotypes:**

As part of the educational system reform, textbooks have become devoid of traditional stereotypes in which women were represented in traditional and social roles and duties. Instead new models have been replacing those traditional stereotypes with of model of prominent educated women, female mathematicians and other women and the need for family members to share household burdens and not only to be done by girls and women.

Figures from a study on women and media in Algeria in 2017, especially in the context of the social and employment status, shows that women in the media occupy the equivalent of 40% of leadership positions. The presence of women in decision making positions is also enhanced. For example, 6.56% of audiovisual users are women, and 15 women were appointed as local broadcast managers out of a total of 48.

The public television and radio programs are supported by periodic programs that address women's issues, present their views and their needs and highlight the leading models on daily basis. The network prioritize in its programs through local radio stations and special event quotas to support the intensified national efforts to promote and build capacity of rural women, as well as to publicize and disseminate the principles of equality and women's rights and to inform them of the various initiatives, programs and policies developed by the State to promote them.

In order to promote gender equality through the adoption of a media free from stereotypes, the Communication Sector, in coordination with UN Women, organized training courses for more than 50 media professionals of both sexes working in various newspapers, radio and television channels. A training workshop on gender equality indicators was held for 25 journalists from the radio and television institutions in cooperation with the African Union and a second training course on gender in television production and women's economic independence for 20 journalists.

On the other hand, it should be noted that the National Council for Human Rights expressed concern about the programs of some private channels that publicly incite violence against women and called upon the judicial authorities and the audiovisual authority to apply the laws in force to put an end to all forms of discrimination transmitted by the media.

The National Council for Human Rights also recommended that media outlets include in its bylaws articles that prevent all forms of discrimination, in accordance with the provisions of the Penal Code. In the same context, we note the active role played by the social collective movement in raising awareness in society about countering stereotypes. In order to value its work, the fourth edition of the National Award for Combating Violence against Women was dedicated in 2018 to the best awareness campaign and advocacy work against violence against women.

#### **IV. Gender-sensitive participation and accountability:**

The State seeks to achieve the principle of equity of opportunity and equality through:

- Promote Women in decision making positions in various fields (sectors and bodies) and as facilitators in museums and public libraries;
- Ensure equal opportunities for women to obtain employment and career development;
- Raising awareness and sensitization of women about the need to participate in all aspects of community life and access to high level positions and participation in the decision-making process;
- Participation of women in economic and social development and achieving principle of equal opportunities;
- Promote women's economic autonomy through employment and poverty eradication through changes in economic structures, especially for women in rural areas;
- Providing basic education and continuous education, literacy, training and health care for women, and opening the field of entrepreneurship and establishing their business;
- Ensure respect of international law and international, regional and local agreements.

#### **V. Peaceful communities in which no one is marginalized:**

Algeria's ratification of all international and regional conventions on human rights and women's rights in particular has promoted concrete measures for women through various reforms aimed at promoting women's rights and enhancing their representation in all fields. Enriching and amending the national legislative framework for the protection, representation and participation of women in political life is a very important step on which all strategies and policies developed by the state are based on.

In recognition of women's capabilities and status in the field of security and peace, their representation has been increased at various levels of military and security decision-making in the various lines of the security sector (the police and gendarmerie) and the National People's Army. Four women were appointed in the rank of general and one of them is in the rank of a high general. The top ranks of women in the national security ranks represent 23.17% of all women working in the National Security Service.

The Military School for Cubs has been established for girls, similar to the Military School for Boys, in recognition of the principle of gender equality. With high success rates in their educational path, the presence of women in the National People's Army is expected to increase in the next few years.

Algerian women have taken leadership positions that allow them to play a role in the stability and prosperity of the country. They exist as the President of the Council of State, the President of the National Council for Human Rights, a minister in the government, a secretary-general, a general inspector and as head of the ministries. Women are also in position of Director General, Director and Director of Public and Private Sector. Moreover, in the political sphere, Algeria has 4 women leading political parties.

The justice sector has witnessed a quantum leap in terms of promoting equality in the field of work and leadership positions. In the period between 2014 and 2018, 259 judges have been appointed at the judicial level as heads of courts, judicial chambers, state agents, members of the State Council and the Supreme Court.

In 2018, the number of women at the judicial sector was 13,728, representing 61.29% of the total number of employees in the judiciary and the number of senior positions was 1,462, or 59.99% of the total number of posts estimated at 2,437, in addition to the appointment of 15 women in higher positions.

Algeria has been keen to represent Algerian women with the diplomatic corps and the United Nations human rights bodies. There are 7 women as diplomats, 5 ambassadors, 4 general ambassadors and 6 women in elected positions in the United Nations system.

In line with Resolution 1325 of the Security Council adopted on 31 October 2000, which aims to protect women during armed conflicts and enable them to maintain peace, a draft national plan for the implementation of this UN Resolution has been prepared at the national level. It includes three components: participation, prevention and protection in peace, war and post-war situations. At the regional level, Algeria spares no effort in initiating peaceful solutions based on dialogue and negotiation between the conflicting parties aimed at establishing peace and security, particularly in the Arab States region and in Africa, as a principle of Algerian diplomacy. Algeria is constantly sharing its experience in the countering terrorism with all the countries of the region and the international community.

In December 2017, Algeria organized the First General Assembly of the African Women's Network for Conflict Prevention and Mediation (Femwise-Africa) in Constantine, Algeria in partnership with the African Union. The meeting falls within the framework of the implementation of the meeting recommendations held in December 2016 and ratified by the leaders of the African Union countries and governments in July 2017. In particular, it calls for establishing women's status and role in the peace negotiations.

On 27 and 28 November 2018, Algeria organized the second session of the Global Counter-Terrorism Working Group's West Africa Working Group on Capacity Building, during which a full session was devoted to gender mainstreaming in the countering terrorism. Where women's experiences with and response to terrorist organizations were presented and gender-based policies and programs developed in the region. Algeria has also proposed the International Day for Peaceful Living, which falls on the 16 May of each year. The initiative was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly by resolution 72/130 of 8 December 2017.

Worth noting is the establishment of the National Committee for the Prevention, Control, Organization and Operation of Trafficking in Persons was established by Presidential Decree No. 16-249 of 26 September 2016, which essentially establishes a national policy and action plan for the prevention and control of trafficking and the protection of victims.

In the area of care for women in detention, this group benefits from education and training programs in order to acquire skills and prepare them for reintegration into society. In addition, four kindergartens were opened for children accompanying their imprisoned mothers in cooperation with the International Criminal Reform Organization. This initiative will be expanded to provide coverage of the whole country. On the other hand, a guiding manual has been distributed to those working with women prisoners in order to consolidate human rights developments and international standards of treatment, which include responding to the needs of women and girls in the fields of health, psychological care and protection against violence and other areas.

#### **IV. Protecting and preserving the environment:**

The Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energies has developed a national strategy for biodiversity with an implementation plan for the period 2016-2030 to achieve economic and social development and adaptation to climate change in line with the State's efforts to preserve and use natural resources to ensure its survival for future generations.

The role of women in this plan has been given high attention due to the roles assigned to them in society, particularly in terms of preserving national heritage through the achievement of national objectives, including the intensification and strengthening of the institutional capacities of all actors, taking into account the gender dimension and involving civil society and the media. Also to raise awareness of the environmental system and to guide all members of the society to behave in order to preserve biodiversity and conserve resources.

In its most important strategic objective, the Plan outlined the promotion of universal access to the benefits of biodiversity and services provided by ecosystems, specifically in the area of health, water and electricity, taking into account the needs and empowerment of women and local populations and groups in a socially vulnerable situation, which is implemented by all stakeholders. On the other hand, we note that the National Agency for Microcredit Management in coordination with local institutions, groups and associations actively working on raising awareness of the loans beneficiaries about the importance of preserving the environment. This is being implemented through the integration of concepts of preserving natural resources and the ecosystem and how to better utilize them in the training and guidance programs. The Agencies also organize specialized courses to encourage the use of modern technologies in agriculture and benefit from them.

As for the activism of civil society organizations that strive to establish a culture of preserving the environment through its various activities, we mention, for example, the Association of Women in the Green Economy, an association of an ecological nature established in 2013 seeking to develop activities and launch initiatives to educate women about environmental risks and areas related to the green economy, through training and accompaniment in the establishment of green institutions, recycling and awareness of the importance of waste sorting. It works with many partners in the sectors of employment, national solidarity, family, women's issues, water resource and the environment.

In another context, the state is committed to develop plans and strategies aimed at achieving water security for all citizens by providing the provision of this principle as a human right guaranteed, which in turn contributed to the promotion of the quality life of state citizens. Constructing dams witnessed a significant increase in 2018, amounted to 80 water dams, which led to an increase in water storage capacities and the elimination of the biggest problems that threaten social and economic stability as the most important criteria for improving the living conditions of the citizen.

**- Some statistics of the sector on the participation rate of women in various structures:**

Women's participation in the various structures of the water resources sector is estimated at 13% while the number of women employed in the central administration of the Ministry of Water Resources is 229 women employees, i.e. 52% of the total number of posts and 2,919 female employees at the local water resources directorate, i.e. 38%, While the number of female employees in public institutions with an industrial and commercial nature is estimated at 5,284 employees, or 10% of the employees.

**A. In the field of drinking water:**

In the year 2018, the rate of access to drinking water reached 98% across the national territory, up from 78% in 1999, which would allow the increase of the supply of water to 123 liters per day per citizen. This ratio will rise to 180 liters per person by the end of 2019, which will meet the water needs of 47 million people by 2035.

## **B. In the field of sanitation and decontamination:**

This field witnessed giant investments, with the percentage of connecting households to sewerage services reaching 95%. Our country is also able to treat 80% of the waste water based on processing capacity of 600 million cubic meters per year. The sewerage system has witnessed a significant development over the past 15 years. It has increased from 21,000 km in 1990 to 61,800 km in 2013. Algeria also has 177 sewage treatment plants and has completed 85% of it. The sector also continued to work on seawater desalination through the completion of 11 seawater desalination plants to produce 2.1 million m<sup>3</sup> / day, which had a positive role in supporting water supply in the western region of Algeria, which was hardest hit by the drought.

## **C. In the field of irrigation areas and their impact on the citizen's lives:**

The irrigated areas fall within the irrigation program for the years 2017-2022, which aims to move from an irrigation area of 1.136.000 hectares in 2013 to an area of irrigation covering 2,136,000 hectares by 2022, an increase of 1 million hectares. Therefore, the sector seeks to mobilize arable water in order to ensure food security and enhance the role of the rural citizen to promote and develop the national economy. The agricultural production will witness high growth rates, which will improve the living standard of citizens and therefore provide decent income. The development of agriculture in the irrigated areas will enable the creation of jobs in the agriculture sector. The State has implemented a program to implement 273 structural projects during the period 2015-2035 to facilitate the living conditions of the citizen and to devote the public service to all.

As for the participation of women in this sector and allowing them to demonstrate their practical and leadership capabilities and enabling them economically to participate in all forms of development, their presence is witnessing a significant increase in their involvement in the design, implementation and evaluation of programs and water security policies.

## **Section III National institutions and procedures**

Algeria has developed several institutions and mechanisms to follow up the embodiment of national policy in the area of the protection and promotion of women and the constitutional principle of gender equality. The most important of which are:

- Ministry of National Solidarity, Family and Women's Issues;
- The National Council for the Family and Women which was established in 2007 as a consultative body composed of representatives of various ministerial sectors, associations, university professors and researchers. The Council presents its views and raises its proposals on all issues that enhance the status of women and strengthen social cohesion among members of the constituent families;



- The National Council for the Advancement of Persons with Disabilities, which is also an advisory body;
- The National Council for Human Rights which was established under the provisions of the Constitution of 2016, includes Committee on Women, Children and Fragile Groups, among many of its specialized committees;
- The Gender Focal Points Committee, established in November 2016, consists of representatives of ministerial sectors and national bodies, working on the preparation of programs and activities to enable women to achieve and promote equality between men and women at all levels. And seeks to incorporate the gender concepts into all sectoral programs and to gather information on the extent of women's participation in all areas;
- A sectoral national committee in charge with monitoring the follow-up of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals composed of the relevant ministerial sectors. The Committee prepared the National Progress Report (2016-2018) on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in Algeria as the national voluntary report to be presented at the United Nations level in July 2019.

#### **Section Four: Data and statistics**

Gender based statistics is among the important tools to measure the social relationship between men and women and impact of policies and programs implemented to achieve equality. Some indicators have been specified to measure the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

#### **The most important producers of gender statistics in Algeria:**

- **Ministry of National Solidarity, Family and Women's Issues:**

Based on its mandate and competence, the Ministry seeks to intensify national efforts to achieve policies to promote gender equality, where a database and information on the subject are being developed to encourage all sectors and bodies to adopt gender statistics indicators through their representatives in the National Council for Family and Women. In addition, the ministry's institutions are working on building an information system for many groups, including women in difficult situations, women who are beneficiaries of the alimony fund, citizens with no social insurance, women victims of violence in centers, elderly people and childcare.

Since 2015, the State has accelerated the process of digitizing and modernizing public administration, including:

- National automated register of civil status;
- The nationality registry and the national criminal record;
- The results of the national education sector examinations;

- Modernizing the social security sector;
- Payment of various bills related to public services (water, electricity, telephone ...).

This update allowed the facilitation of national administrative matters for many citizens, especially when the request for electronic version of many of these documents. All these programs or digital tools take into consideration many indicators related to age, gender, etc.

- **National Office of Statistics:**

It is the main organ or body in the national statistical system, where it provides citizens with the most important statistical data on regular basis, such as the general population statistics, multiple demographic statistics, health, employment and unemployment statistics. The general population and housing census will take into consideration many of the indicators adopted in defining the status of equality between men and women through the collection and analysis of many aspects through this important process.

- **Sectoral Statistics:**

The ministerial sectors rely on the production of many statistics and increasingly integrate gender statistics. One of the most important priorities is to follow up this format to establish a public database on gender equality at the sectoral level:

- Establishment of a national technical committee responsible for developing gender database frameworks and mechanisms.
- Study the production of gender statistics at the level of each sector, with provisions of improving them.
- Ensure the updating of the database periodically.
- Issuing an annual report on the published data and gender data collected and deliver them to decision-makers and researchers.

### **Sustainable Development in Algeria**

Algeria, like the rest of the world, seeks to realize the 17 Goals of Sustainable Development, especially in regard to equality between men and women in all fields and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls. In line with these objectives, Algeria has developed sectoral strategies in the social, economic and financial fields related to improving the level of economic growth outside the hydrocarbons sector, in addition to improving the living conditions of the citizens while paying attention to the environmental dimension as required by sustainable development. In order to prepare the national report on achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in 2017, has set up a joint sectoral committee to pursue these objectives.

**Indicators of SDG #5 on Gender Equality that are key priority:**

1. Eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere.
2. Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including human trafficking, sexual exploitation and other forms of exploitation.
3. Recognition and appreciation of unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services and infrastructure, the development of social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and family, as appropriate at the national level.
4. Ensure full and effective participation of women and equal opportunities for women to lead on an equal bases with men at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.
5. Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and reproductive rights, as agreed in accordance with the Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the final documents of their review conferences.

To develop its statistics, Algeria count on the National Statistics Bureau that ensures data collection and statistics in all fields, which is considered a member of the Joint Sector Committee to follow up and reflect the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and contribute its statistics to enrich the indicators. The priority divisions in the surveys are:

- Geographic location
- Sex,
- Age,
- Marital status,
- Education,
- Income,
- Disability,

In conclusion, it should be noted that all government programs underpinned by the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women are in line with the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.