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*The role of the National Agency for Microcredit Management in
Fostering Small Enterprises and Enhancing Employment in
El Bayadh Province from 2005 to 2022*

MADANI Hassiba

h.madani@cu-elbayadh.dz

University Center Nour Bachir El Bayadh

(Algeria)

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Abstract

This article attempts to assess the impact of the National Microcredit Agency in supporting and financing small businesses and promoting employment opportunities in El Bayadh Province between 2005 and 2022. The research relies on data provided by the agency and employs a descriptive-analytical methodology, complemented by a case study approach.

The study concluded that microcredit serves as a source of financing for individuals looking to realize their projects and as a means of creating job opportunities in general. However, its contribution remains weak, particularly in the El Bayadh Province. The study found that the purchase of raw materials is the preferred option compared to the Triangular financing formula. There is also significant interest in the service sector, which is more favored compared to other sectors, notably the agricultural sector, due to the region's agricultural nature. This is attributed to the limited value of the provided financing. Additionally, the predominant age group benefiting from microcredit is the youth, while there is a lower participation rate among females compared to males.

Keywords : Microcredit, Small Businesses, Employment Opportunities, National Agency for Microcredit Management (ANGEM), El Bayadh Province.

1. INTRODUCTION

The field of microfinance and small-scale finance plays a pivotal role in both regional and national economic development. Microloans and small-scale financing are powerful tools for supporting individuals and small projects, thereby promoting economic growth and increasing employment opportunities. In this context, El Bayadh Province and the National Agency for Microcredit Management within it serve as a living example of how this type of financing is implemented and its impact at both the regional and national levels.

Study problem:

This research endeavors to investigate and analyze the distinctiveness of the National Agency for Microcredit Management's role in El Bayadh Province, specifically in providing financial support and assistance to small businesses. Furthermore, it seeks to assess the agency's influence on job creation within the province. Through a comprehensive exploration of this research problem, we intend to frame the following inquiry for investigation:

How does the National Agency for Microcredit Management of El Bayadh Province contribute to financing and supporting small institutions while fostering job opportunities?

Study objectives: The study aims to:

- Identifying Microcredit as a Financial Source for Small Enterprises
- Emphasizing the Role of the National Agency for Microcredit Management in Small Enterprise Financing
- Analyzing the Operations and Essential Services of the National Agency for Microcredit Management in El Bayadh Province

Study importance

this study's importance lies in its contribution to regional development, economic empowerment, job creation, and informed policymaking. It sheds light on the effectiveness of microcredit initiatives and their potential to drive positive change in El Bayadh Province and similar regions.

Study hypotheses:

The study was anchored on the following main hypothesis:

"The National Agency for Microcredit Management of El Bayadh Province significantly contributes to the financing and support of small institutions, consequently resulting in the generation of job opportunities."

Study Approach :

The study employed a descriptive approach to elucidate the pertinent concepts pertinent to the research topic. Alongside this, an analytical approach was utilized to acquire an all-encompassing comprehension of the subject, scrutinize the research problem, and deliberate on the outcomes. Moreover, a case study approach was adopted to bridge the theoretical-practical divide, with a particular emphasis on the El Bayadh Agency. The selection of this approach is rooted in its harmony with the study's essence, which encompassed on-site investigation of the El Bayadh Agency's operations.

Study Structure :

This research paper is structured into five sections. The second section provides an in-depth exploration of the literature related to the subject. In the third section, we meticulously examine the methods and outcomes of the National Agency for Microcredit Management's work. Section 4 focuses specifically on the investigation of the National Agency for Microcredit Management's role in supporting and establishing small enterprises within El Bayadh Province. Finally, in Section 5, the study concludes by succinctly summarizing key findings, highlighting research implications, and suggesting potential avenues for further exploration.

2. Literature review

2.1 Definition of a microfinance:

Muhammad Yunus, a renowned economist and professor at Chittagong University in Bangladesh, is widely recognized as the pioneer of microcredit. In 1975, he founded the Grameen Bank, which introduced the concept of providing small loans, commonly known as microcredit, to individuals who lacked access to traditional financial services. Since then, numerous organizations worldwide have adopted similar approaches, providing small loans in local currencies to individuals and small businesses (Chabha & Louggar, 2019, p. 104).

A microcredit can be defined as a type of loan that is extended to individuals or groups with limited or unstable income, including those who may not have traditional collateral or a formal credit history. The primary objective of microcredit is to promote economic and social inclusion by facilitating the creation of income-generating activities that produce goods and services (Fathi, 2020, p. 42).

Microfinance aims to address the financial inclusion gap by offering essential financial services to individuals and businesses who lack access to traditional forms of finance. It is a holistic approach that goes beyond providing microcredit loans and encompasses a range of financial services, including savings accounts, insurance, and payment systems. (Belhadi & Bouakkaz, 2021, p. 596)

Microfinance institutions understand that financial access is a fundamental right and a crucial tool for poverty reduction and social development (Touiti & Wuazani, 2017, p. 84). They work towards creating a more inclusive financial system that ensures equal opportunities for all, regardless of their socio-economic backgrounds or perceived risk factors. By offering tailored financial products and services. Its mission goes beyond profit-making, focusing on the greater social good and improving the lives of those who are often overlooked by mainstream financial institutions (Bauwin, February 2019, p. 9)

The efficiency of microcredits for small businesses can be assessed by various criteria such as firms' growth rate, productivity, profitability, income, and net assets, poverty reduction, and women's empowerment (Bharat Ram Dhungana, Deepesh Ranabhat, 2022). It should be noted that the microcredit program has a substantial influence on the welfare of households, and this impact is more pronounced when the credit is targeted towards women. (Pitt & Khandker, 1998), Most of these programs intentionally target women because they have more constraints of access to credit and limited access to the labor market. They have the "higher loan repayment rates than men". Similarly, the women are more likely to share the benefits of the loan with other family members, especially their children. An increase in social and political awareness, training and skills development of this disadvantaged group could also be the reasons for targeting women (Hadeifi, A.Z., Bouchetara, M. and Zerouti, M. 2022, p21).

In Algeria, the concept of microcredit is relatively recent. Microfinance was first introduced by the NGO Touiza in 1995. The government established and implemented the regulatory framework for microcredit in 1999, aligning with the objective of encouraging small-scale economic initiatives. Touiza's experience did not last without obtaining the approval of the authorities (Benhabib, Smahi, Maliki, & Baha, 2005). and the terms microfinance and microcredit are also used in relation to government measures to support the creation of microenterprises and fight unemployment, Microfinance programs in Algeria are designed to provide financial services, including microcredit, to individuals and small businesses who may not have access to traditional banking services. These programs often target vulnerable and low-income populations, including unemployed individuals, to foster entrepreneurship and job creation (zouag, 2021, p. 03).

2.2 Definition of the National Agency for Microcredit Management:

The National Agency for Microcredit Management (Agence Nationale de Gestion du Microcrédit, ANGEM) is a public agency, with a public service mission that operates according to the public budget, renewed each year by the state. (Hadeffi, A.Z., Bouchetara, M. and Zerouti, M. 2022, p28). ANGEM was established in 1999 as part of the government's efforts to combat poverty and promote economic inclusion through microcredit initiatives. (CGAP and AFD, 2006, p. 8). Indeed, the National Agency for Microcredit Management (ANGEM) in Algeria was established through Executive Decree number 04-14, issued on January 22, 2004. As per Article No. 2 of this decree, "micro-lending" refers to loans extended to segments of the population with little to no income or unstable incomes, often engaged in small and irregular economic activities. ANGEM views micro-lending as a strategic tool in the battle against unemployment, poverty, and social exclusion.

When it comes to fostering new businesses and employment opportunities, micro-lending aims to achieve several objectives, including the reduction of unemployment, poverty alleviation, and the inclusion of marginalized individuals into the formal economy. (Hadeffi, A.Z., Bouchetara, M. and Zerouti, M. 2022, p24).

ANGEM, as the designated agency, has since played a crucial role in implementing and coordinating microcredit initiatives, supporting the growth of microenterprises, and empowering individuals and communities across Algeria. (ANGEM, 2023)

ANGEM underwent two phases of development, with textual modifications made in 2011 via a presidential decree. Prior to 2012, ANGEM had devised two programs offering interest-free loans along with non-financial services: (i) aimed at purchasing commodities (AMP), and (ii) intended for establishing an activity, even if it was home-based and not necessarily a formal business. However, post-2012, a transformation occurred in its program structure. ANGEM adopted a model that combined elements of the National Agency for the Support of Youth Employment (ANSEJ), which featured mixed funding and a Triangular financing approach, capped at 1 million Algerian Dinar (DA). Agency data indicates a consistent rise in activity levels for both types of "interest-free" financing, whether for the AMP or for launching a business project. (Hadeffi, A.Z., Bouchetara, M. and Zerouti, M. 2022, p24).

Furthermore, the National Agency for Microcredit Management is now under the supervision of the Ministry of Knowledge Economy, Startups, and Small Enterprises.

3. Method and Outcome of the National Agency for Microcredit Management's Work

After comprehensively outlining the agency's functions, objectives, and significance, the subsequent exploration will delve into unraveling the agency's operational methodology. This will encompass an in-depth examination of the agency's target demographic, the prerequisites for access, and the comprehensive array of financial and non-financial services it extends. Furthermore, we will spotlight the agency's pivotal interventions executed to propel its operational endeavors.

3.1 Target group and microcredit conditions:

The agency caters to all segments of society. The target demographic includes:

- Women who stay at home
- Individuals with special needs
- Victims of national tragedies
- Prospective candidates for illegal immigration
- Individuals recently released from detainment
- Those who are returning after experiencing illegal immigration
- Artisans, farmers, and ranchers
- Small-scale traders
- Graduates from universities and vocational training centers

The qualifying conditions are as follows: (<https://www.angem.dz/en/article/les-conditions-d-eligibilite-au-micro-credit/>):

- Age 18 and above, with the capability to engage in an activity.
- Absence of a steady or irregular income.
- Possession of a fixed place of residence.
- Relevant experience in the proposed activity.
- Not being a beneficiary of any subsidies for initiating the activity.
- Fulfillment of contributions to the microcredit joint guarantee fund.
- Ability to cover the personal contribution, estimated at 01% of the total activity cost.
- Commitment to a fixed schedule for repayment, including the loan to the bank.
- Determination of the interest-free advance amount provided to the National Microcredit Agency.

3.2 Financing forms, assistance and concessions for microcredit beneficiaries:

The National Agency for Microcredit Management, operating within the framework of the Microcredit System, undertakes the oversight of two financing models that incorporate interest-free advances. This supervisory role aims to enhance the effectiveness of these two models, namely:

Financing the Acquisition of raw materials:

The agency offers this grant for the acquisition of raw materials surpassing 100,000 DZD. In Southern wilayas, this expenditure can extend to 250,000 DZD. The repayment duration spans from 24 to 36 months.

Fig.(01): Financing programme for the acquisition of raw materials

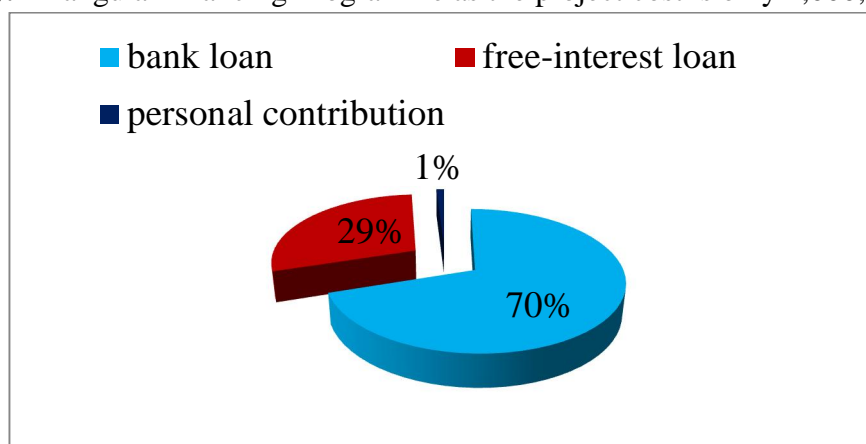


Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the Agency's data.

Triangular financing:

Within this framework, the loans are tailored for the establishment of enterprises that remain within the 1,000,000 DZD threshold. These loans necessitate a financial arrangement with a bank, featuring an exceptionally low interest rate of 100%. This funding is intended to facilitate the acquisition of essential equipment and raw materials for the business initiation. The repayment period spans from 12 to 60 months. The contribution structure encompasses a 1% personal contribution, a 29% interest-free loan, and a 70% bank loan, delineated in the following format:

Fig.(02): Triangular financing Programme as the project cost is only 1,000,000 DZD



Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the Agency's data.

The National Microcredit Agency provides the following forms of assistance:

- An interest-free advance intended for procuring raw materials, which constitutes 100% of the overall project expense, capped at 100,000 Algerian dinars (100,000 DZD). In certain cases, this cost may extend to as much as 250,000 DZD.
- An interest-free advance amounting to 29% of the total project cost, provided the total does not surpass 1,000,000 Algerian dinars.

3.3 Statistics from the National Agency for Microcredit Management:

3.3 .1 Loan statistics categorized by type of financing:

Loans disbursed based on the funding structure are classified into two types of financing, as depicted in the table below:

Table (01): Distribution of loans by type of financing until March 31, 2023

Type of financing	number of loans	Share by programme
purchase raw materials financing	836996	%91.46
Triangular financing	78055	%8.54
total	915051	%100

Source: Based on website: <https://www.angem.dz/ar/article/prets-octroyes/> accessed on 05/05/2023)

Upon analyzing Table 1, it becomes apparent that the aggregate sum of the granted loans is 91,5051. A significant majority of these loans, accounting for 836,996 loans, is allocated for the procurement of raw materials, comprising 91.46% of the overall loans disbursed. This percentage is notably higher compared to the triple financing scheme for project establishment, which constitutes 7,055 loans or 8.54%. This variance can be attributed to the simplified administrative processes associated with raw material acquisition financing, in contrast to the more complex triangular financing mechanism.

3.3 .2 Loan statistics categorized by business sector:

Loans disbursed based on business sectors are divided into various categories, as illustrated in the following table:

Table (02): Distribution of loans by business sector until March 31, 2023

sectors	number of loans	Share(%)
agriculture	123715	13.52
small industry	361171	39.47
BPW	81531	8.91
services	180997	19.78
crafts	161140	17.61
trade	5582	0.61
fishing	915	0.10
total	915051	100

Source: Based on website: <https://www.angem.dz/ar/article/prets-octroyes/> accessed on 05/05/2023)

From Table 2, we can observe that the small industry sector accounts for the largest share of financing at 39.47%. This can be attributed to the alignment of the agency's loan amounts with the needs of this sector. Following that, the services sector holds the second position at 19.78%, characterized by its relatively low costs and lower entry barriers. The crafts sector comes in next at 17.61%, indicating a substantial participation from both homemakers and artisans. The agricultural and construction sectors follow with 13.52% and 8.91% respectively. On the other hand, the trade and fishing sectors exhibit minimal borrowing, constituting only 0.61% and 0.10% of the total loans granted, respectively.

3.3 .3 Loan statistics classified by gender:

The subsequent table provides a breakdown of loans granted based on gender as follows:

Table (03): Distribution of loans by gender until March 31, 2023

Beneficiary's gender	number of loans	Share(%)
woman	578711	63.25
men	336340	36.75
total	915051	100

Source: Based on website: <https://www.angem.dz/ar/article/prets-octroyes/> accessed on 05/05/2023)

Analyzing Table 3, it is evident that the majority of loans granted are attributed to the female group, accounting for 63.25% of the total loans provided. In contrast, the male category accounted for 36.75%, suggesting a significant turnout of women and their alignment with the projects supported by these loans.

3.3.4 Loan statistics categorized by age:

Below is the table illustrating the distribution of loans by age:

Table (04): Distribution of loans by age until March 31, 2023

age	number	Share(%)
29-18 years old	325392	35.56
30-39 years old	285862	31.24
40-49 years old	170199	18.60
50-59 years old	95989	10.49
60 years and more	37609	4.11
total	915051	100

Source: Based on website: <https://www.angem.dz/ar/article/prets-octroyes/> accessed on 05/05/2023)

From Table 4, it's evident that the youth demographic constitutes the most substantial demand, accounting for 66.80% of the total. Within this category, the age group ranging from 18 to 29 years received the most loans at 35.56%, followed by the 30 to 39 age group at 31.24%. Subsequently, the 40 to 49 age group obtained 18.60% of the loans. The older age group exhibits comparatively lower proportions in contrast to the other groups.

4. The Role of Microcredit in Supporting, Establishing Small Enterprises, and Creating Jobs in El Bayadh Province

In this section, we will delve into the outcomes achieved by the National Agency for Microcredit Management in El Bayadh Province. Our primary focus will be on the role of microcredit in supporting and establishing small enterprises and its impact on job creation. The following analysis will offer a comprehensive overview of the agency's accomplishments from 2005 to 2022, as outlined below:

4.1 Loan statistics pertaining to the procurement of raw materials:

The agency provides interest-free loans not exceeding 10 million centimeters for the acquisition of raw materials. These loans are distributed as illustrated in the following table:

Table (05): The agency's performance from 2010 to 2022

years	Submitted Files	Eligible Files	Financed Files
2010	935	935	914
2011	2241	2219	1968
2012	2275	2203	1993
2013	773	763	751
2014	654	649	648
2015	958	943	941
2016	212	209	202
2017	100	99	92
2018	588	577	567
2019	635	623	622
2020	290	288	286
2021	216	209	168
2022	70	68	68
total	9947	9785	9220

Source: Data from the National Agency for the Management of Microcredit - EL BAYADH

Table 5 demonstrates that the National Agency for Microcredit Management in El Bayadh Province, funded a total of 9,220 files between 2010 and 2022. Among the 9,947 files submitted to the agency, 9,785 were successfully rehabilitated for development purposes. Notably, the peak years were 2011 and 2012, during which 1,968 and 1,993 files were funded, respectively. Conversely, the lowest count was observed in the final year of 2022, with only 68 files receiving funding.

4.2 Loan statistics related to triangular financing:

The agency provides Triangular Financing loans not exceeding 100 million centimetres for project establishment, as illustrated in the following table:

Table (06): The agency's project outcomes from 2010 to 2022

years	Submitted Files	Eligible Files	Financed Files
2010	78	64	17
2011	110	102	7
2012	63	40	14
2013	29	26	13
2014	91	79	29
2015	150	130	40
2016	34	30	19
2017	29	25	19
2018	32	21	19
2019	68	57	21
2020	72	60	7
2021	80	61	25
2022	38	36	28
total	874	731	258

Source: Data from the National Agency for the Management of Microcredit - EL BAYADH-

From Table 6, it is evident that the National Agency for Microcredit Management in El Bayadh has financed a total of 258 projects. This funding was extended after rehabilitating 731 out of the 874 deposited files. It can be observed that triple financing was found to be less popular compared to financing for the purchase of raw materials.

4.3 Statistics related to loans granted by business sector:

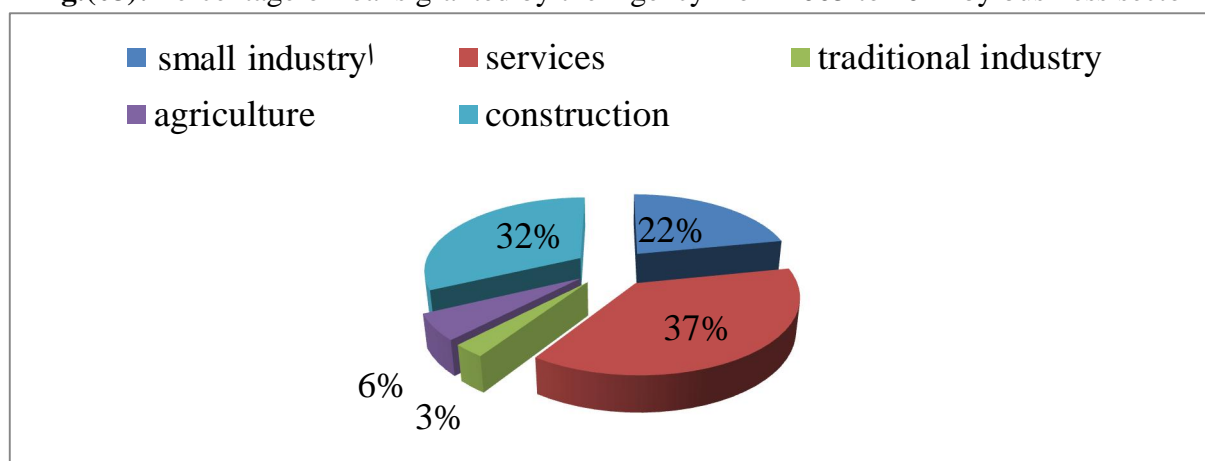
The loans granted by the National Microcredit Agency are allocated across various sectors, with these sectors differing from region to region. The agency supports five distinct sectors, as depicted in the following table:

Table (07): The project loans provided by the Agency categorized by business sector from 2005 to 2022

years	business sector					
	small industry	services	crafts	agriculture	BPW	total
2005	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	0	0	0	0	0	0
2007	4	11	1	0	2	18
2008	11	12	0	0	16	39
2009	10	15	2	1	9	37
2010	8	3	1	0	5	17
2011	1	4	0	0	2	7
2012	2	5	0	1	6	14
2013	3	6	1	1	2	13
2014	4	11	1	1	12	29
2015	9	12	2	2	15	40
2016	3	6	0	1	9	19
2017	5	4	1	1	8	19
2018	2	6	0	2	9	19
2019	6	5	1	1	8	21
2020	0	3	0	2	2	7
2021	0	17	0	6	2	25
2022	9	12	0	1	6	28
total	77	132	10	20	113	352

Source: Data from the National Agency for the Management of Microcredit - EL BAYADH-

Fig.(03): Percentage of loans granted by the Agency from 2005 to 2022 by business sector



Source: Prepared by the researcher on the basis of information provided in table 7

Table 7 and Figure 3 depict that the total number of granted loans is estimated at 352. The largest share was observed in the service sector, comprising 132 loans, which corresponds to 37.50%. Following closely is the construction and reconstruction sector with 113 loans, constituting 32% of the total. This prominence is due to the comparatively lower cost of projects in these categories and

the reduced requirement for extensive experience. These two sectors collectively accounted for the majority share at 68.6%. The small industries sector held 21.88% due to the agency's provision of modest amounts that align with this type of industry.

The last two sectors, despite being specific to the region, had the lowest proportions. Agriculture obtained 20 loans, making up 5.68%, while crafts secured 10 loans, equivalent to 2.84% of the total.

4.4 Statistics related to loans granted categorized by gender:

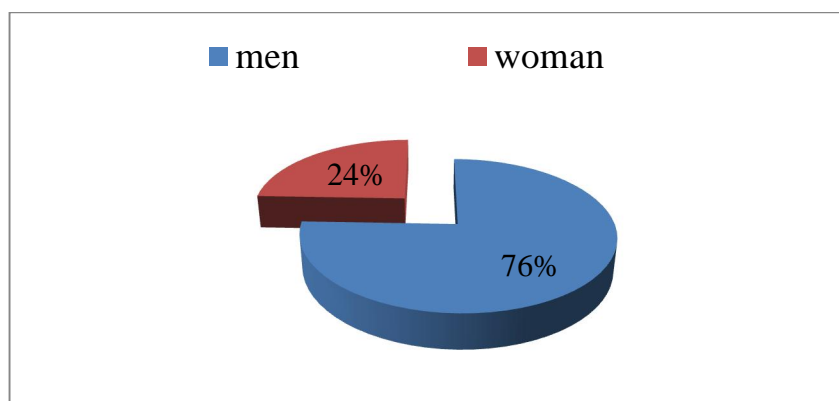
The following table provides a breakdown of loans granted by gender as follows:

Table (08): Statistics of loans granted by gender from 2005 to 2022

years	Financed Files		
	men	woman	total
2005	0	0	0
2006	0	0	0
2007	13	5	18
2008	29	10	39
2009	27	10	37
2010	13	4	17
2011	4	3	7
2012	8	6	14
2013	9	4	13
2014	22	7	29
2015	36	4	40
2016	15	4	19
2017	16	3	19
2018	11	8	19
2019	13	8	21
2020	5	2	7
2021	19	6	25
2022	26	2	28
total	266	86	352

Source: Data from the National Agency for the Management of Microcredit - EL BAYADH-

Fig.(04): Percentage of loans granted by the Agency from 2005 to 2022 based on gender



Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the information presented in table 8

Table 8 and Figure 4 illustrate that the loans granted by the Agency were predominantly given to males, amounting to approximately 76%. This proportion significantly outweighs the percentage of loans granted to females, which accounted for a smaller portion of around 24%. This difference reflects a limited participation of females, potentially influenced by the region's distinct characteristics, cultural norms, and traditions.

5.5 Statistics on the number of positions or jobs created categorized by gender:

The subsequent table displays the number of positions or jobs created categorized by gender:

Table (09): The agency's outcomes: Number of job positions created by gender from 2005 to 2022.

years	Number of job positions created		
	men	woman	total
2005	0	0	0
2006	0	0	0
2007	19	7	26
2008	44	15	59
2009	40	15	55
2010	19	6	25
2011	6	4	10
2012	12	9	21
2013	13	6	19
2014	33	11	44
2015	54	6	60
2016	23	6	29
2017	24	5	29
2018	17	12	29
2019	19	12	31
2020	8	3	11
2021	29	9	38
2022	39	3	42
total	399	129	528

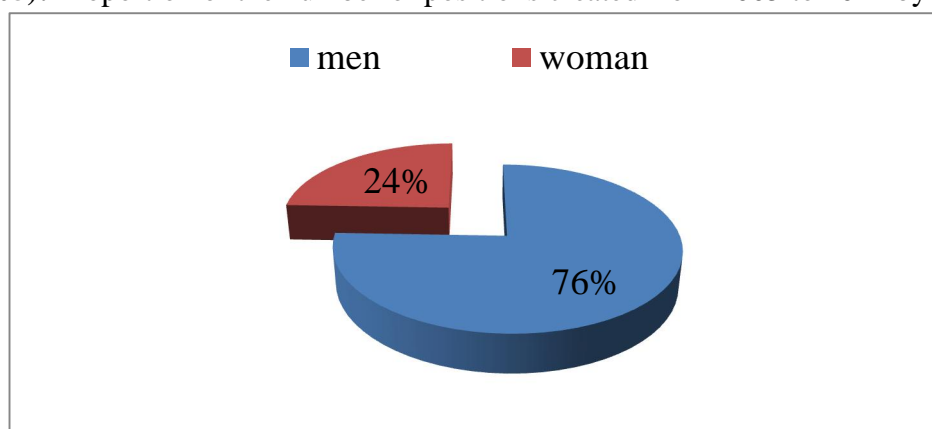
Source: Data from the National Agency for the Management of Microcredit - EL BAYADH-

Note:

Occupancy positions shall be calculated as follows:

1 beneficiary (funded file) \times 1.5 = position

Fig.(05): Proportion of the number of positions created from 2005 to 2022 by gender



Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the information presented in Table 9.

Table 9 and Figure 5 illustrate that the number of jobs created for males accounted for 75.57%, signifying a substantial majority compared to females. As previously discussed regarding projects financed by gender, this proportion for females is 24.43%, representing approximately one quarter of the positions created for males.

4.6 Statistics regarding project loans categorized by age:

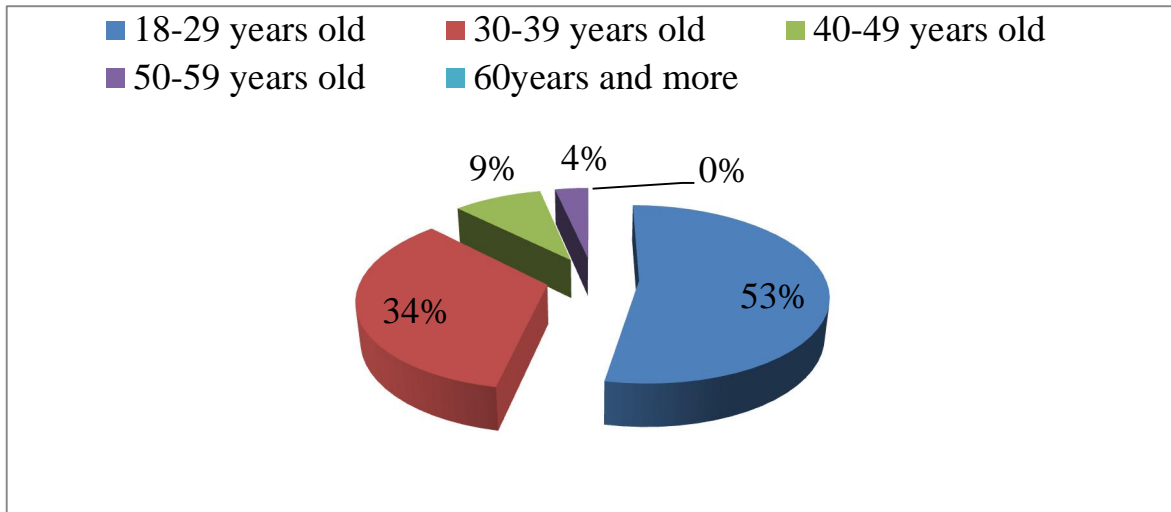
The subsequent table displays the breakdown of loans granted categorized by age:

Table (10): The agency's outcomes from 2005 to 2022: Project loans categorized by age

years	age					total
	18-29 years old	30-39 years old	40-49 years old	50-59 years old	60years and more	
2005	0	0	0	0	0	0
2006	0	0	0	0	0	0
2007	9	7	2	0	0	18
2008	21	12	5	1	0	39
2009	19	12	4	2	0	37
2010	11	6	0	0	0	17
2011	5	1	1	0	0	7
2012	8	3	2	1	0	14
2013	9	4	0	0	0	13
2014	13	11	3	2	0	29
2015	17	16	5	2	0	40
2016	10	8	1	0	0	19
2017	9	7	2	1	0	19
2018	11	6	2	0	0	19
2019	14	5	1	1	0	21
2020	4	3	0	0	0	7
2021	12	9	3	1	0	25
2022	15	11	1	1	0	28
total	187	121	32	12	0	352

Source: Data from the National Agency for the Management of Microcredit - EL BAYADH-

Fig.(06): Percentage of loans granted from 2005 to 2022 based on age group.



Source: Prepared by the researcher based on the information presented in table 10

From Table. 9 and Figure. 4, it's evident that the 18 to 29 age group is the most preferred demographic, comprising 53.13% of the granted loans, which is over half of the other age groups. Following closely is the 30 to 39 age group with a loan percentage of 34.38%. Notably, these two categories collectively account for the majority share of 87.51%.

The third-ranking category is the 40 to 49 age group, securing a loan percentage of 9.09%. Subsequently, the 50 to 59 age group receives 3.41% of the loans. The age group of 60 years and above does not have any presence in the loans.

This analysis suggests that the National Agency for Microcredit Management plays a vital role in extending financial support and aid to small enterprises in El Bayadh Province. Additionally, it implies that the agency's initiatives have a positive influence on generating employment opportunities within the region.

5. CONCLUSION

By presenting the experience of the National Agency for Microcredit Management in El Bayadh Province, we gain insight into its success in supporting and guiding small enterprises and fostering job creation within this region. However, the contribution observed remains modest and insufficient. Notably, the agriculture sector has experienced limited engagement, constituting only 6% of the activity, despite the region's distinct characteristics. This may be attributed to undervaluation and other factors.

Conversely, the service sector stands out as the most embraced area, accounting for 37.50% of the supported endeavors. It's noteworthy that financing for the purchase of raw materials is more appealing compared to the triple financing approach. A noticeable gender disparity exists, with a lower participation of females compared to males. This imbalance is rooted in the region's specific context, customs, and traditions.

The youth demographic, particularly those aged 18 to 29, emerges as the most active group. To truly realize the Agency's role in bolstering and guiding small enterprises, including the generation of job opportunities, a comprehensive strategy needs to be implemented.

Therefore, the study provides the following recommendations for the National Agency for Microcredit Management in El Bayadh Province:

- Enhance the efficiency and speed of administrative procedures, particularly for project loan evaluations.
- Conduct audits of funding amounts, considering the rising costs of raw materials and equipment and the depreciation of the national currency.
- Explore the possibility of relabeling the loan provided by the National Agency for Microcredit as a "beneficial loan" while implementing formats aligned with Islamic financing principles. This is especially relevant considering the growing interest of traditional banks in adopting Islamic banking practices.
- Intensify awareness campaigns and actively engage women's groups by organizing workshops and symposiums aimed at encouraging their participation and fostering their independent projects.

These recommendations aim to further streamline operations, adapt to economic conditions, explore innovative financing methods, and promote inclusivity and entrepreneurship among women in the region.

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