



**Statement of DG of SESRIC at the
Workshop on the Comprehensive Refugee Response
Framework**

(Presentation of SESRIC Activities towards Refugees)

29-30 April 2018, Dead Sea, Jordan

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



**Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatullahi wa Barakatuhu,**

I would like to express once again our gratitude to the OIC General Secretariat and UNHCR for giving us the opportunity to present our activities towards refugees in OIC countries and share our reflections on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework.



A humanitarian crisis is a situation that presents a widespread threat to health, life or property. When people feel unsafe in a location, they tend to move to safer places.

While many migrants move voluntarily to have access to better economic opportunities and different lifestyles, extreme natural events, conflicts and oppressions lead to situations of sudden displacement and force people to move within or even across the borders.



Armed conflicts today account for the bulk of the displacement of civilian populations within or across the boundaries, particularly in Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq. In total, conflict and violence account for around 60% of forced migration. Political instability, weak governance and state repression as sources of humanitarian crises are among the major factors forcing thousands of people to flee across borders, such as in Libya and Somalia.



According to our reports, there is a clear upward trend in the number of displaced people over the period under consideration. As of 2015, OIC countries account for more than 60% of all displaced population in the world with more than 25 million displaced persons.

Moreover, more than 70% of new displacements are taking place in OIC countries over the last three years.



Population growth, economic backwardness, weak governance, armed conflict, political violence, as well as poor urban planning are important factors that further weaken resilience and exacerbate the impacts of natural hazards and escalate displacement.

Potentially every State could be confronted with such displacement, either as a country of destination, transit or origin.



This requires better preparedness and cooperation by states and the international community to prevent and respond to displacement and its causes.

Furthermore, initial temporary displacement, whether within or across borders, may become protracted. Irregular and unplanned settlement of displaced people may result in rapidly expanding cities that are further vulnerable to environmental as well as socio-economic challenges.



**Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Given the immense increase in the number of refugees over the last years, as SESRIC, we embarked on various capacity building, research and awareness raising activities in order to support the refugees for a better and decent life.

I would like to briefly summarize some important completed and ongoing activities that SESRIC initiated.



In February 2016, SESRIC organized a **Workshop on Syrian Refugees** with the objective of building an interactive forum for the hosting countries and relevant institutions in order to share their knowledge and experience in dealing with the provision of fundamental humanitarian services for Syrian refugees.

The workshop was attended by participants from the countries that host the Syrian Refugees, namely Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt.



There were six thematic breakout sessions during the workshop, namely, (i) sheltering and housing, (ii) health, (iii) education, (iv) employment, (v) civil and human rights, and (vi) social integration and cohesion.

The workshop provided recommendations on new modalities and approaches for enhancing human and institutional capacities to meet the needs of refugees particularly in each of these areas.



After the workshop, SESRIC prepared a report titled **“Humanitarian Needs of Syrian Refugees: Challenges of the Neighbouring Countries”**.

This report has been prepared with a view to providing the most recent information on the current state of refugees in the neighbouring countries and challenges faced by host communities, namely in Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Egypt, based on the existing statistics, surveys and studies in the literature.



By benefiting from the views and observations shared by the experts during the workshop, the report provided several policy recommendations on how to improve the conditions for refugees, local communities and public authorities to face the humanitarian needs of these millions of refugees.

In June 2016, SESRIC, SETA and OIC-ICHAD jointly organised a workshop on “**Roadmap for the Education of Syrian Refugee Children**” in Istanbul.



The main objective of the workshop was to discuss the current status of the education of Syrian children in Turkey in order to advise applicable policy recommendations on removing barriers to education and to improve coordination mechanism among partners. The workshop was attended by the representatives of the government agencies, NGOs and international institutions.

In January 2017, SESRIC organised a training course on “**NGO Management**” in partnership with OIC-ICHAD and some NGOs to develop the capacities of Syrian NGOs.



In November 2017, a workshop on **Developing Syrian Refugees and IDPs Education** has been organized in Istanbul by IDB, SESRIC, ISESCO and Relief Worldwide. The aim of the workshop was to gather specific proposals in response to the difficulties Syrian refugees are facing regarding education, which have affected mostly the children.

In addition to these completed activities, we have also three ongoing initiatives targeting specifically the refugees.



In October 2017, SESRIC and Yunus Emre Institute started a joint **Training Programme for Syrian and Iraqi Refugees** residing in Turkey. The joint Programme aims at improving the potential and skills of refugees residing in Turkey in the domain of information technology, network management and web application development, which are considered to have a high potential of employment. 15 refugees from Syria and Iraq residing in Turkey currently participate in the 9-month training programme.



In November 2017, SESRIC, together with Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA), The Credit Guarantee Fund of Turkey (KGF), Turkish Red Crescent (KIZILAY), Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of Turkey (AFAD), the Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchange of Turkey (TOBB) and UNDP jointly launched "**Syrian Palestinian Employment and Entrepreneurship Development – SPEED**" Project during the 33rd Ministerial Session of COMCEC.



The project underlines the partnering institutions' mutual concern to enhance the effectiveness of their development efforts that will serve as the driver of economic empowerment and resilience of youth living in an environment of continuous fragility, violence or conflict.

In addition to these, together with IDB, we are planning to organise a workshop on “**Enhancing the Humanitarian Response through NGOs in OIC Countries**” within the framework of the OIC NGO Capacity Building Programme (OIC NGO-CaB) in Jeddah in September 2018.



The main objective of the workshop is to understand the challenges facing NGOs in OIC/IDB Member Countries in the humanitarian area in order to develop better response mechanisms.

Additionally, the workshop will provide the platform for humanitarian NGOs and key actors to share their experiences and challenges in OIC/IDB conflict-affected and fragile member countries or regions.



Distinguished Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

“New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants” was a critical milestone in broadening protection for refugees and supporting the countries that shelter them.



In this context, we attach great importance to the application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework to all situations involving large movements of refugees in accordance with the needs of the refugees in question and the countries and communities hosting them.

Millions of refugees around the world today have no access to timely and durable solutions. It is therefore important to seriously take account of the rights, specific needs,



contributions and voices of refugees for immediate and durable solutions.

As SESRIC, we will continue to support refugees through various activities and contribute to the global, regional and national efforts towards improving the state of refugees in the host countries.

At the end, I would like to express my thanks to all participants for dedicating time for this important meeting which is held at a time of great challenges to many OIC countries.



I wish all of us success in our deliberations, and thank you for your kind attention.