



Fourth Session of OIC-StatCom

21-23 April 2014, Ankara-Turkey

Thematic Session on “Enhancing National Capacities in Poverty Statistics”

Project Summary “Enhancing National Capacities of OIC Member Countries in Poverty Statistics”

1 Introduction

Prepared in line with the mandate given by the 2009 Economic Summit of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and adopted by the Fourth Extraordinary Session of the Islamic Summit Conference in 2012, the COMCEC Strategy is the first vision document for the COMCEC with three main principles (enhancing mobility, strengthening solidarity, improving governance) for the six main cooperation areas including trade, transport and communication, tourism, agriculture, poverty alleviation, and finance. To achieve the strategic objectives defined in the COMCEC Strategy, the COMCEC Coordination Office launched the COMCEC Project Cycle Management (PCM) Programme which called OIC Member Countries and OIC Institutions to submit project proposals in September 2013. The COMCEC PCM Programme received 98 projects from 23 OIC Member Countries (86 project proposals) and 3 OIC Institutions operating in the field of economic and commercial cooperation (12 project proposals). Of those project proposals, 15 of them have been final listed by the COMCEC Coordination Office. SESRIC is the only OIC Institution to be granted support under the COMCEC PCM Programme for 2 projects focusing on poverty statistics and tourism statistics.

The project titled “Enhancing National Capacities of OIC Member Countries in Poverty Statistics” aims at producing a policy-oriented research paper for providing insights into the nature and causes of poverty in OIC Member Countries, with a focus on formulating strategies to strengthen capacities in terms of poverty statistics and contributing to the OIC Member Countries in terms of aid effectiveness and monitoring poverty. The paper will also examine the relationship between poverty, resource availability and macroeconomic management, highlight country practices - specifically on OIC-Least Developed Member

Countries -, compare national and international approaches, reveal challenges and problems concerning poverty issues in OIC Member Countries, give specific recommendations to overcome the stated challenges and problems with a priority on multilateral cooperation and collaboration activities and exhibit innovative approaches in producing poverty indicators.

Within the framework, two Working Group meetings are planned in which the first meeting will draw the outline of the paper; the second meeting will review and finalize the draft report prepared by experts. Working in close cooperation with the COMCEC Poverty Working Group will be ensured by SESRIC. In addition to the existing focal points of the Working Group, experts from National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and other the relevant authorities of OIC Member Countries, OIC institutions and international agencies could be invited to enhance the content of the paper.

In the COMCEC Strategy, some of the output areas of poverty alleviation are aid effectiveness, effective utilization of financial resources and monitoring poverty. In Chapter 3.5, the Strategy clearly states that “Poverty alleviation is one of the main challenges of a sizeable number of OIC Member Countries. 21 out of 48 Least Developed Countries in the world are in the OIC region and one fourth of the population of the region lives on less than 1\$ a day.” Although this gives a very broad picture, the national and international policy makers have challenges in formulating effective strategies as they are not guided by a comprehensive analysis about the nature and causes of poverty due to a lack of data or indicators needed to represent the current stance of poverty in OIC countries.

In this regard, the project will contribute to achieve four main outcomes including “development of effective aid strategies and policies” (section III.1: Aid Effectiveness), “streamlined and more efficient allocation of poverty related funds in the COMCEC region” (section III.3: Effective Utilization of Financial Resources), “improved collection of accurate and reliable data” (section III.4: Monitoring Poverty) and “enhanced capacity of the member states in monitoring poverty” (Section III.4: Monitoring Poverty).

2 Overall Objective

To highlight the nature and causes of poverty and to formulate strategies for strengthening capacities in the compilation, production and dissemination of poverty statistics, and overall, contributing to the National Statistical Systems (NSS) of the OIC Member Countries in terms of poverty alleviation, monitoring poverty and aid effectiveness.

3 Project Purpose

Identifying the nature and causes of poverty through the preparation of a policy-oriented research paper with a special section that considers the statistical capacities and needs in poverty statistics, and provides effective recommendations to the OIC Member Countries.

4 Expected Results

- Preparing a policy-oriented research paper that will
 - provide a comprehensive analysis of the nature and causes of poverty in OIC Member Countries in terms of major poverty indicators and the performance of the main related sectors,
 - reveal challenges faced,
 - give specific recommendations to overcome poverty related problems,
 - exhibit country practices,
 - propose innovative approaches in compilation, production and dissemination of poverty statistics in OIC Member Countries.
- Identifying the capacities and needs of member countries in poverty statistics through questionnaires
- Raising awareness of decision makers in the OIC Member Countries towards evidence based policy making on poverty alleviation

5 Target Group

At the outset, the project will raise the awareness of decision makers in terms of poverty alleviation with a view to collate, process and disseminate poverty statistics in the OIC Member Countries. Outputs of the project will contribute to raising both quality and quantity of poverty related data. In this respect, all stakeholders related to poverty statistics will benefit from more reliable and consistent data. In general, the project will serve to increase statistical capacity in the poverty related issues for the selected countries, especially for Least Developed Member Countries, in the OIC by introducing policy-oriented recommendations through a research study.

6 Contribution to the Multilateral Cooperation among the OIC-StatCom Members

This project will mainly serve to finding effective ways and methods for monitoring poverty in all the Least Developed Member Countries in the OIC. In the short and middle term, the

project aims at bridging the gaps in poverty statistics through recommending strategies and policies towards collecting and disseminating more reliable and consistent data. At the initial phase of the project, questionnaires will be circulated to the countries under scope in order to identify their needs and capacities. In the second phase, with the participation of selected NSOs, two meetings will be organized to draw a concrete roadmap for OIC Member Countries in the form of a research study. Moreover, in the long term, outputs of the project are expected to serve as an example for developing the capacities of poverty statistics in other member countries through raising awareness of decision makers in the OIC Member Countries.

7 Activities to be Carried Out

- **Activity 1 - Preparation of Terms of Reference:** A terms of reference for the analytical study will be prepared.
- **Activity 2 - Questionnaire Design and Circulation:** To identify the needs and capacities in poverty statistics, the questionnaires will be designed and circulated in three official languages of the OIC.
- **Activity 3 - Questionnaire Evaluation:** After translation to English, all the received questionnaires will be analyzed thoroughly.
- **Activity 4 – Organization of First Meeting:** Organization of the first meetings could be facilitated in cooperation and collaboration with the COMCEC Poverty Working Group and with the participation of experts from NSOs in order to draw the outline of the policy-oriented research paper,
- **Activity 5 - Drafting of the Research Paper:** After the first meeting, the draft research paper will be prepared with the inputs provided by the stakeholders to be submitted to the second meeting.
- **Activity 6 – Organization of Second Meeting:** Organization of the second meeting could be facilitated in cooperation and collaboration with the COMCEC Poverty Working Group and with the participation of experts from NSOs in order to review and finalize the draft report prepared by experts.
- **Activity 7 - Finalization of Draft Research Paper and Preparation of an Executive Summary:** The draft research paper submitted to the second meeting will be finalized and an executive summary will be prepared to announce the findings from the questionnaires received and highlight the policy recommendations from the research paper to be included in the COMCEC Economic Summit.



8 Work Plan

ACTIVITY	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Month 4	Month 5	Month 6	Month 7	Month 8	Month 9
Activity 1 - Preparation of Terms of Reference:									
Activity 2 - Questionnaire Design and Circulation									
Activity 3 - Questionnaire Evaluation:									
Activity 4 – Organization of First Meeting:									
Activity 5 - Drafting of the Research Paper:									
Activity 6 – Organization of Second Meeting:									
Activity 7 - Finalization of Draft Research Paper and Preparation of an Executive Summary:									

9 Logical Framework Matrix

	Intervention Logic	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Sources Of Verification	Risk And Assumptions
Overall Objective	To highlight the nature and causes of poverty and to formulate strategies for strengthening capacities in the compilation, production and dissemination of poverty statistics, and overall, contributing to the National Statistical Systems (NSS) of the OIC Member Countries in terms of poverty alleviation, monitoring poverty and aid effectiveness			
Project Purpose	Identifying the nature and causes of poverty through the preparation of a policy-oriented research paper with a special section that considers the statistical capacities and needs in poverty statistics, and provides effective recommendations to the OIC Member Countries.	Most of the member countries have no data or missing data in terms of poverty indicators (i.e. GINI Index, income share held by income groups, poverty gap at selected threshold levels, poverty headcount ratios, poverty indices) in international sources such as World Bank (WDI Online), Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)	Poverty Statistics reported by national and international stakeholders	Willingness and readiness of countries in the region to report their needs and capacities in poverty statistics

	Intervention Logic	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Sources Of Verification	Risk And Assumptions
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organization of two meetings that could be facilitated under the umbrella of COMCEC Poverty Working Group with the participation of experts from NSOs in order to <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) draw the outline of the policy-oriented research paper, 2) review and finalize the draft report prepared by experts, - Preparation of questionnaires in three official languages of the OIC to identify the needs and capacities in poverty statistics - Desk-based analysis for collected questionnaires - Preparation of an executive summary to OIC countries in order to announce the findings from the evaluations received and highlight the policy recommendations to be included in the COMCEC Economic Summit 	<p>MEANS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Human resources -Work contract -Service contract 	-	-