

The Director General of SESRIC, H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR addressed the 8th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development



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The 8th OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development (MCFSAD) was held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 25-27 October 2021 under the theme of "Improvement of Food Systems for Ensuring Food Security in OIC Member States". The Conference brought together Ministers of Agriculture and high level officials from 35 OIC Member Countries and representatives of relevant OIC institutions and international organizations. SESRIC was represented at the Conference by H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, Director General and Mr. Mazhar Hussain, Director of Economic and Social Research.

The Ministerial session preceded by a preparatory Senior Official Meeting (SOM) on 25-26 October 2021. The SOM reviewed the implementation of the resolutions of the 7th MCFSAD and discussed the initiatives and activities of OIC Member Countries and institutions in the domain of food security and agricultural development. During the SOM, H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, DG of SESRIC addressed the meeting and presented the main findings of the 2020 edition of SESRIC's regular report on '[Agriculture and Food Security in OIC Member Countries](#)'. The report provides a comprehensive analysis of the current state as well as the constraints and challenges of food security and agricultural development in the OIC Member Countries, exploring major issues such as agricultural production and productivity, trade in agriculture commodities, agricultural population and land use, water resources, among others. Mr. DABUR also had the opportunity to brief the participants on the programmes and activities of SESRIC in the area of food security and agricultural development under the three mandates of the Centre; i.e. statistics, research and training. While underlining the importance of intra-OIC cooperation in promoting agriculture development, Mr. DABUR, reiterated SESRIC's readiness to take part in the efforts of OIC Member Countries and other stakeholders to promote sustainable agriculture and food security in the OIC region.

The Ministerial session of the conference was held on October 27, 2021. The session started with the opening statements by the Chairman of the Seventh OIC Ministerial Conference (Kazakhstan), followed by the newly appointed chairman H.E. Dr. Bekir Pakdemirli, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of the Republic of Turkey, and address by H. E. Dr. Ahmad K. Sengendo, Assistant Secretary General of the OIC for Economic Affairs.

It was followed by a welcoming video message address from H. E. Recep Tayyip ERDOĞAN, the President of the Republic of Turkey. During the working sessions, the participants dwell upon the report of the SOM and draft resolutions and also heard the statements of Ministers and Heads of Delegations on their efforts to improve the state of food security and agricultural development in their respective countries.

The 8th MCFSAD was concluded with the adoption of the resolutions. The 9th Session of the MCFSAD is scheduled to be held in 2023.

Director General of SESRIC, H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR Addressed the 3rd Meeting of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum as Lead Speaker



In its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC-COMCEC Central Banks Forum, the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey organised the 3rd Meeting of the Forum virtually on 29 September 2021 under the theme of “Post-Pandemic Economic and Financial Priorities for OIC Countries”. The meeting brought together Governors of the Central Banks and high-level policy makers from OIC Member Countries to discuss the current global and OIC economic outlook and to exchange views on the post-pandemic economic and financial priorities for OIC Countries within the framework of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) financial cooperation agenda.

H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, Director General of SESRIC, addressed this august gathering as a lead speaker and shared with the participants an overview of the economic and financial outlook of OIC countries amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, mostly with highlights from the forthcoming research report of the Centre titled “OIC Economic Outlook 2021”. Focusing on the economic impacts of COVID-19 worldwide, Mr. DABUR started by stating that the world real GDP was expected to grow by 3.4% in 2020, according to the forecast made before the pandemic. However, it is now estimated to have contracted by 3.2%, he added. He noted that this contraction is smaller than the pessimistic projections made earlier that year, indicating that growth rates improved for many regions in the second half of 2020 thanks to eased lockdowns and strong policy responses as well as more adaptation to new ways of working. Referring to the latest estimates of the IMF, Mr. DABUR underlined that the global economy, after the contraction in 2020, is projected to grow at 6% in 2021, moderating to 4.9% in 2022. Additional fiscal supports, the anticipated speeding and widening of vaccination coverage, and the continued adaptation of all sectors of the economy to pandemic life are expected to contribute to the recovery process, he added.

Concerning the state of affairs in OIC Member Countries, Mr. DABUR stressed that the economic contraction in OIC countries in 2020 was moderate as compared to the global averages.

Before the outbreak of the pandemic, economic growth in OIC countries was projected at 3.7% in 2020, but the pandemic conditions, it actually contracted by 1.6%, he underlined. In parallel with the global recovery, Mr. DABUR mentioned that economic activity in OIC Countries is expected to recover in the next two years with a growth rate of 4.3% in 2021 and 4.5% in 2022, which is around the past ten-year average. Referring to the impact of COVID-19 in employment in the OIC countries, Mr. DABUR noted that over 4 million people across the OIC countries were pushed into unemployment in 2020, raising the total number of unemployed people to 49.3 million, according to the estimates. As a result, the unemployment rate in OIC countries climbed up from 6.4% in 2019 to 7.1% in 2020; and projections indicate a further rise in the unemployment rate to 7.2% in 2021 before easing to 6.7% in 2022, he added.

While commenting on the national policy responses to COVID-19, Mr. Nebil DABUR drew the attention of the august forum about rising concerns over the uneven recovery and divergence among countries in the post pandemic recovery period, which, he believed, should be taken into consideration in the formulation of recovery policies. In the same direction, he observed that several international organizations, such as the IMF, the UN, the World Bank, and the OECD, who all expect a strong recovery after 2020, share and highlight this common concern. This state of affairs is mostly linked to wide differences in the pace of vaccination, the extent of economic policy support, and structural factors such as reliance on tourism and trade, he added. Additionally, Mr. Nebil DABUR noted the emergence of more infectious strains of the virus, such as the Delta variant, is threatening the outlook for recovery across the world.

In his conclusion, he stressed that recovery efforts must be guided by the objective of preventing a growing cross-country divergence in economic development. Thus, transparency, communication, and stronger international coordination and cooperation are critical for more balanced and inclusive growth during the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and beyond, he finally added.

STATISTICS AND INFORMATION DEPARTMENT



OIC STATISTICS (OICSTAT) DATABASE

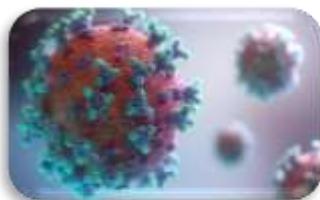


SESRIC continues updating its OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) which serves as the primary online statistical source for users all over the world who are interested in data and information about OIC countries.

In the July-December 2021 period, the OICStat Database has been revamped with new features and 12 new indicators were added in the OICStat Database which increased the number of total indicators hosted at OICStat to 1,375 under 26 categories dating back to 1970. The OICStat Database can be accessed on <https://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php>

SESRIC COVID-19 PANDEMIC DATABASE FOR OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

SESRIC continues hosting the COVID-19 Pandemic Database for OIC Member Countries which provides statistics, visualized data, and a map on the spread of



COVID-19 pandemic dating back to 25 January 2020. During the July-December 2021 period, data on people vaccinated (at least one dose) and fully vaccinated (two or more doses) in 57 OIC countries dating back to 10 January 2021 were added in the Database. SESRIC COVID-19 Pandemic Database for OIC Member Countries is updated daily and accessible through https://www.sesric.org/sesric_covid_19.php

ROSTER OF STATISTICS EXPERTS



The Roster of Statistics Experts (ROSE) serves for hosting the profiles of professionals that work in the official statistics sector or in other sectors that carry out statistical services. ROSE currently contains the professional profiles of more than 850 statistics experts of the OIC Member Countries. Between July and December 2021, 5 new experts registered in the Roster. The ROSE is accessible through: <https://www.sesric.org/rose.php>

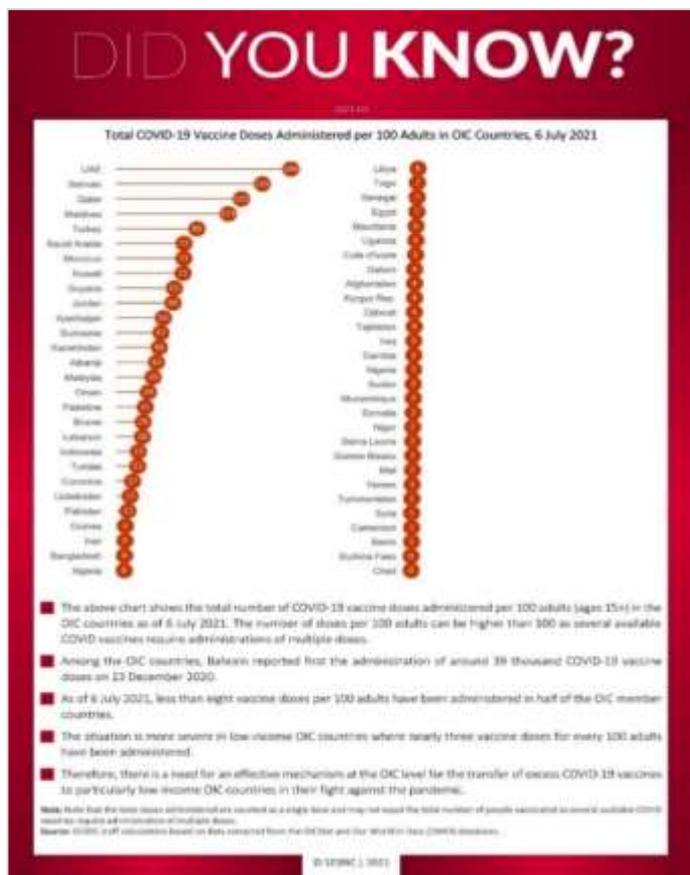
“Did You Know?” on “Total COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Administered per 100 Adults in OIC Countries”

A “Did You Know” on “Total COVID-19 Vaccine Doses Administered per 100 Adults in OIC Countries” was issued on 8 July 2021 which shows the total number of COVID-19 vaccine doses administered per 100 adults (ages 15+) in the OIC Member Countries as of 6 July 2021.

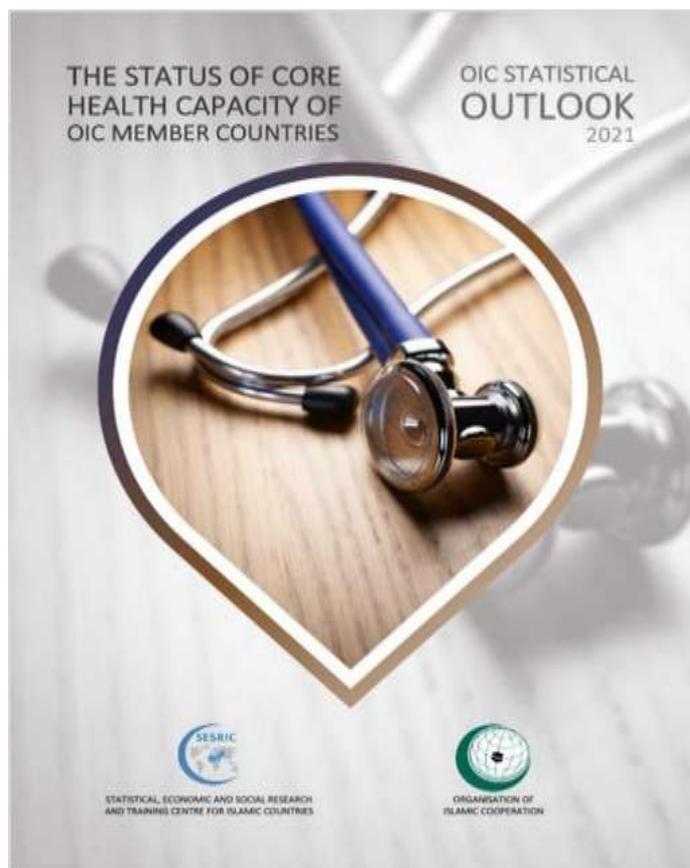
Based on the findings, less than eight vaccine doses per 100 adults have been administered in half of the OIC Member Countries. The situation is more severe in low-income OIC Countries where nearly three vaccine doses for every 100 adults have been administered.

Therefore, an effective mechanism at the OIC level is needed to be designed for the transfer of excess COVID-19 vaccines to particularly low-income OIC Countries in their fight against the pandemic.

The said DYK is accessible through: <https://www.oicstatcom.org/didyouknow.php>



OIC Statistical Outlook: The Status of Core Health Capacity of OIC Member Countries



The OIC Statistical Outlook on the Status of Core Health Capacity of OIC Member Countries, published on 13 September 2021, provides an insight on the current situation of OIC Member Countries concerning the 13 core capacities under International Health Regulations (IHR) for emergency preparedness and response.

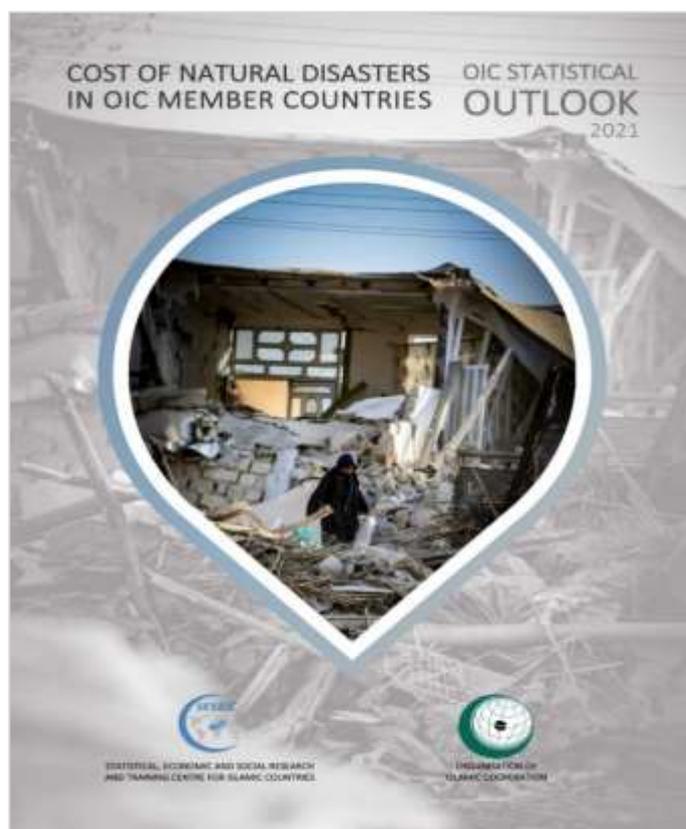
The data were based on the State Party Self-Assessment Annual Reporting (SPAR) tool that collects data using 24 indicators across the 13 core capacities and made available through the Global SDG Indicators Database of the UN Statistics Division (UNSD).

The analysis has indicated that the OIC countries group has recorded a progress in complying with IHR SPAR capacities between 2018 and 2020.

However, there is a need for concerted efforts by the OIC countries to dedicate more technical and financial resources to strengthen their core capacities and establish / strengthen national IHR committees / task forces.

The said Outlook is accessible through:
<https://www.sesric.org/publications-oso.php>

OIC Statistical Outlook: Cost of Natural Disasters in OIC Member Countries



The OIC Statistical Outlook on Cost of Natural Disasters in OIC Member Countries, published on 18 October 2021, draws attention to the increasing number of natural disasters in the group of OIC countries from 573 in the 1991-2000 period to 785 in the 2011-2020 period. As pointed out in the Report, floods were responsible for the largest number of natural disaster occurrences recorded in the group of OIC countries, with an increase from 257 in the 1991-2000 period to 470 in the 2011-2020 period.

Concerning the human cost of natural disasters, number of people affected from natural disasters in the group of OIC countries was 199 million in the 2011-2020 period. The Report shows that much of the change in the number of natural disaster occurrences over the last three decades was due to a significant rise in the number of droughts, extreme temperatures, mass movements, storms, and wildfires, which are all climate-related events.

As to the economic cost of natural disasters, the Report underlines that the cost of damages associated with natural disasters in the group of OIC countries was 42 billion USD in the period 2011-2020. In the same period, the cost of damages due to floods (27 billion USD - 65% of the total cost of natural disaster damages) was highest when compared to other natural disaster types. It was followed by the costs caused by earthquakes (8 billion USD - 18% of the total cost of natural disaster damages).

The said Outlook is accessible through:

<https://www.sesric.org/publications-oso.php>

OIC Statistical Outlook: Trade in COVID-19 Medical Supplies in OIC Member Countries



The OIC Statistical Outlook on Trade in COVID-19 Medical Supplies in OIC Member Countries, published in November 2021, presents imports, exports, and trade balance of the OIC Member Countries concerning COVID-19 medical supplies in 2019 and 2020.

Based on the analysis, the group of OIC Member Countries increased its imports from 54 billion USD in 2019 to 57 billion USD in 2020, whereas their exports increased from 20 billion USD in 2019 to 25 billion USD in 2020. This increase in exports led to decreasing the trade deficit of the group of OIC countries in COVID-19 medical supplies from around 34 billion USD in 2019 to nearly 32 billion USD in 2020.

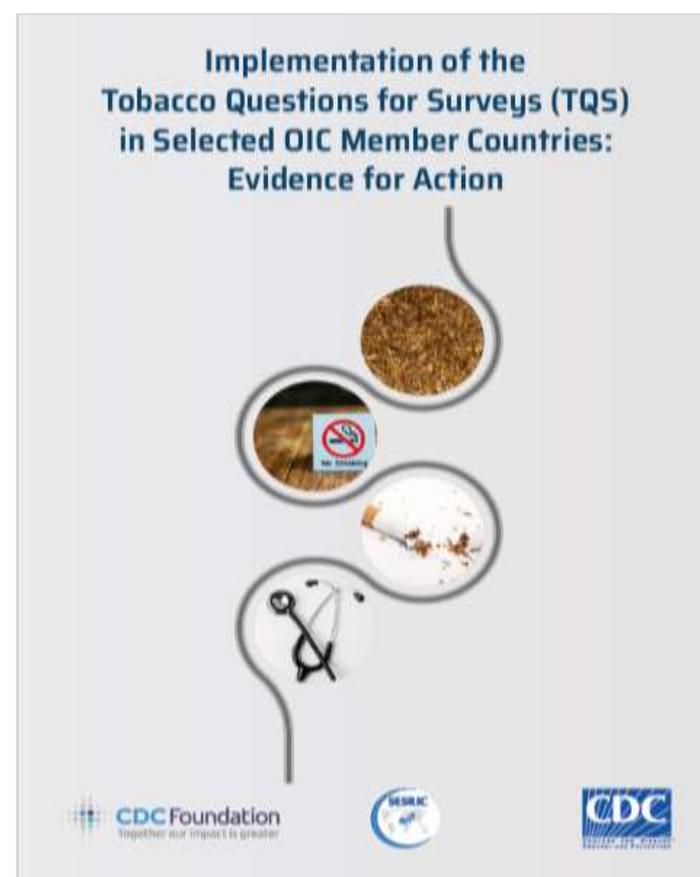
The Report underlines the insufficient and undesirable levels of investments by the OIC countries in the development and production of medical supplies as indicated by the large deficit in their trade balances in medical supplies products.

Considering the limited technical capacities of many OIC countries to produce medical supplies and given the high possibility of having pandemics in the future, it seems that there is an urgent need for the OIC countries to give special importance to this issue while preparing their national investment strategies. Accordingly, the public investment strategies of the OIC countries should prioritise allocating sufficient funds for developing their scientific and technical capacities in the development and production of medical supplies to get prepared for the future outbreaks. In this regard, it is also importance to enhance the intra-OIC partnership and cooperation as well as the cooperation with the private sector and relevant international organisations.

The said Outlook is accessible through:

<https://www.sesric.org/publications-oso.php>

Implementation of the Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) in Selected OIC Member Countries: Evidence for Action



SESRIC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and CDC Foundation launched the Report on 'Implementation of the Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) in Selected OIC Member Countries: Evidence for Action' on 8 December 2021.

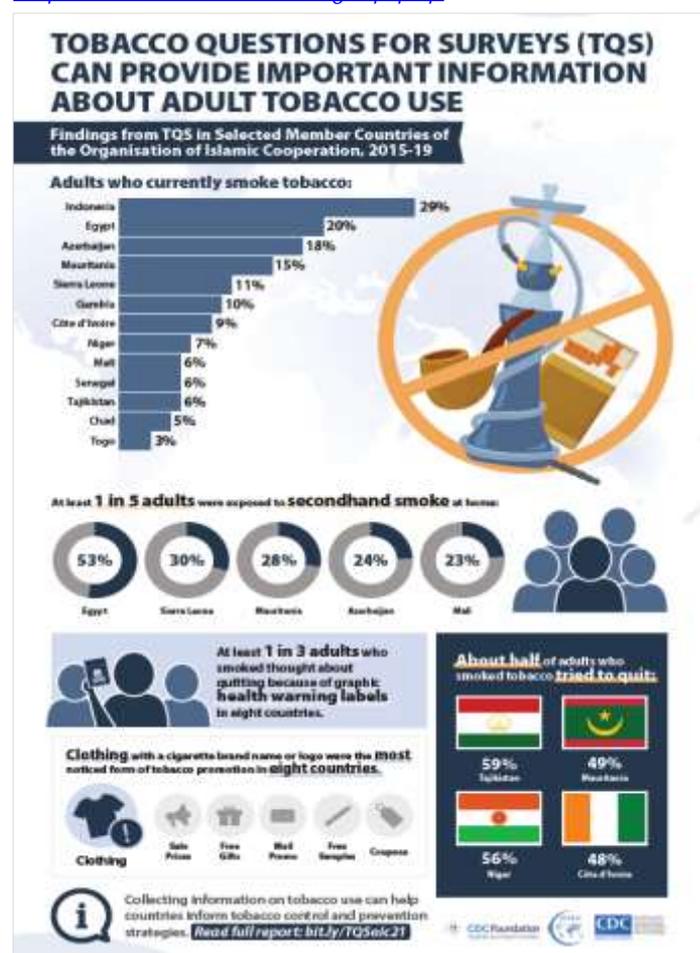
The Report presents findings from the TQS integrated surveys for 13 OIC Member Countries (Azerbaijan, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gambia, Indonesia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, and Togo) that collected data during 2015 and 2019. The Report shows that prevalence of current tobacco smoking ranged from 3.4% in Togo to 29.4% in Indonesia. However, a large number of current smokers were interested in quitting.

Moreover, the Report also indicates a strong correlation between health warnings on tobacco packaging and thinking about quitting. Therefore, these findings suggest that creating an infrastructure and environment that prompts quit attempts and supports cessation is critical in reducing tobacco-related illnesses and deaths.

The full Report is available online at <https://bit.ly/sesric-tqs-report>

For more information on TQS and TQS-Youth Integration Project, please visit:

<https://www.oicstatcom.org/tqs.php>



SESRIC STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING (STATCAB) PROGRAMME



Between July and December 2021, the following 9 statistical activities were organised under the SESRIC Statistical Capacity Building (StatCab) Programme.

- Online Training Course on 'Banking, Insurance and Financial Statistics' on 17-19 August 2021
- Online Training Course on 'Labour Supply, Demand and Productivity Statistics' on 13-15 September 2021
- Online Training Course on 'Social Protection Statistics' on 13-17 September 2021
- Online Training Course on 'Price Statistics' on 20-22 September 2021
- Online Experience Sharing Programme on 'Vocational Qualifications System' on 12-13 October 2021

- Study Visit on 'Population and Housing Census for the benefit of Bangladesh' on 8 November 2021
- Online Training Course on 'SDG 8.9 (Sustainable Tourism) Indicators' on 16-18 November 2021
- Online Training Course on 'Use of New Technologies in Statistical Surveys: New Collection Approach and Collaborative Management Technology' on 29-30 November 2021
- Online Training Course on 'Industrial Production Index' on 15 December 2021

These activities facilitated by SESRIC have been provided by 5 OIC Member Countries and benefitted by 33 member countries.

More details about the SESRIC StatCab Programme and the abovementioned activities can be accessed on:

<https://www.oicstatcom.org/statcab.php>

The following are impressions from the StatCab activities organised by SESRIC in the period July – December 2021.



Online Training Course on 'Banking, Insurance and Financial Statistics', 17-19 August 2021



Online Training Course on 'Labour Supply, Demand and Productivity Statistics', 13-15 September 2021



Online Training Course on 'Social Protection Statistics', 13-17 September 2021



Online Training Course on 'Price Statistics', 20-22 September 2021



Online Training Course on 'Industrial Production Index', 15 December 2021



Online Experience Sharing Programme on 'Vocational Qualifications System', 12-13 October 2021

SESRIC STATISTICAL EXPERIENCE SHARING WEBINAR SERIES

Between July and December 2021, SESRIC organised the following 2 webinars within the framework of its Statistical Experience Sharing Webinar Series initiated in 2020 (<https://www.oicstatcom.org/webinar-series.php>):

- Webinar on 'Remote Data Collection Methods to Overcome the Challenges Faced by the NSOs During the COVID-19 Pandemic' on 6 July 2021
- Webinar on 'Energy Statistics for the SDG 7 Indicators' on 9 November 2021

The following are impressions from the webinars organised by SESRIC in the July – December 2021 period.



Study Visit on 'Population and Housing Census for the Benefit of Bangladesh', 8 November 2021



Webinar on 'Remote Data Collection Methods to Overcome the Challenges Faced by the NSOs During the COVID-19 Pandemic', 6 July 2021



Online Training Course on SDG 8.9 (Sustainable Tourism) Indicators', 16-18 November 2021



Webinar on 'Energy Statistics for the SDG 7 Indicators', 9 November 2021



Online Training Course on 'Use of New Technologies in Statistical Surveys', 29-30 November 2021

STATISTICAL WORKSHOPS

Virtual Training Workshop on ‘**Compilation and Analysis of National Food Balance Sheets in OIC Countries**’



SESRIC organised a Virtual Training Workshop on ‘**Compilation and Analysis of National Food Balance Sheets in OIC Countries**’ in collaboration with the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC) and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on 18-20 October 2021.

81 participants from the agricultural statistics units of the NSOs and Ministries of Agriculture of 30 OIC Member Countries as well as a representative from the Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS) participated in the training workshop.

Experts of the Crops, Livestock & Food Statistics Section under Statistics Division (ESS) of FAO facilitated the three-day virtual training workshop and covered the following topics:

- Introduction to Supply Utilization Accounts (SUA)/Food Balance Sheet (FBS)
- Data for FBS Compilation Overview
- Data Assessment and Other Preliminary Considerations
- FBS Methodological Framework
- FBS Components
- Country Presentations: Experiences in the FBS compilation and main challenges
- New FBS Country Compilation Tool (Using Data on Turkey)
- Data Entry and Practical Showcase on the New FBS Country Compilation Tool

The Virtual Training Workshop was organised within the general framework of the project of SESRIC titled “**Enhancing Food Security through National Food Balance Sheets**” which was among the successful projects selected for co-funding in the 2021 implementation period of the COMCEC Project Funding.

10th SESSION OF THE OIC STATISTICAL COMMISSION



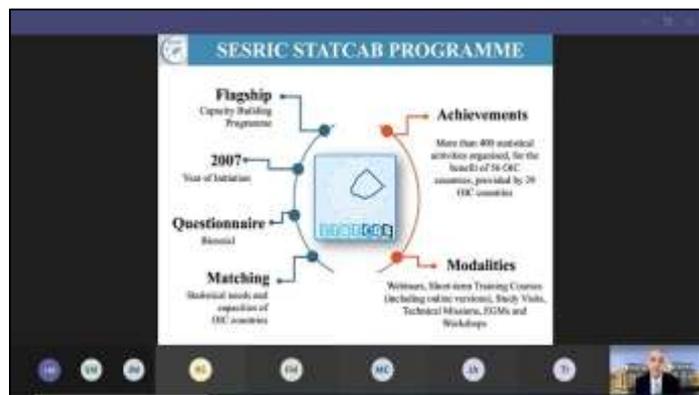
In its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), SESRIC organised the 10th Session of the OIC-StatCom on 5-7 October 2021 in collaboration with Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group through a video conferencing platform. The Session brought together 86 participants from NSOs of 33 OIC Member Countries. The Session has been also attended by representatives of 11 international and regional organisations, including, among others, Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics (AITRS), Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCC-Stat), United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNSIAP), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and World Health Organization (WHO).

The working sessions started with the two presentations made by SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the Commission, on the implementation of the Resolutions of the 9th Session of the OIC-StatCom; and the implementation of the OIC-StatCom Programme of Action for 2021-2025. The main technical agenda of the 10th Session of OIC-StatCom covered the following topics:

- 2020 Round of the World Population and Housing Census Programme: Population and Housing Census Editing;
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Monitoring and Reporting SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) Indicators; and
- Statistical Capacity Development: Efforts to Maintain Statistical Capacity Development during COVID-19 Pandemic

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Regional Webinar on ‘Embedding Climate Reporting in National Statistics’



SESRIC participated in the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) Regional Webinar on “**Embedding Climate Reporting in National Statistics**” for the Africa and the Eastern Europe regions organised virtually by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 30 September 2021. SESRIC made a presentation on its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme with a focus on its statistical capacity development activities related to SDG 13 (Climate Action) indicators during the Webinar.

The webinar was organised with a view to facilitating the enhancement of developing countries’ transparency arrangements under the Convention (UNFCCC) and the Paris Agreement in a manner that taps into potential opportunities and mainstream data collection and analysis activities for climate reporting as well as for optimal use of the existing resources and capacity at the national level.

As one of the constituted bodies of UNFCCC, the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE) assists developing Country Parties fulfil their reporting requirements under the Convention and supports the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement. The CGE has launched its 2021 webinar series on synergies at national level in data collection for climate reporting under the Convention and the Paris Agreement and monitoring of other international instruments such as sustainable development goals (SDGs) and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR).

For more information on the CGE webinar series, please visit: <https://bit.ly/3xxNZpn>

7th World Investment Forum

SESRIC participated in the Symposium on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Statistics and Development Impact as a panelist on 19 October 2021 in the margins of the 7th World Investment Forum organised by UNCTAD.



During the Symposium, SESRIC presented the results of its joint survey with UNCTAD on FDI Statistics in OIC Member Countries that was conducted for the preparations of the “**Webinar on FDI Statistics in OIC Countries**” jointly organised by SESRIC and UNCTAD on 28 June 2021. In the presentation, SESRIC underlined the need for bringing about synergies among the international organisations to jointly support the efforts of OIC Member Countries in improving their capacities to collect, collate, process, and disseminate high quality FDI statistics which will not only support the policy makers in formulating investment promotion policies but also contribute to reporting and monitoring of relevant SDGs.

Among others, the Symposium focused on the issues of FDI data compilation and analysis and its role in the formulation of FDI policies from a development perspective, and discussed ways and means to answer the specific needs of developing countries in data compilation and analysis to enable them to make informed policy decisions in the area of FDI.

The UNCTAD World Investment Forum is the pre-eminent global platform for investment and development. The Forum devises strategies and solutions for global investment and development challenges. It facilitates multi-stakeholder collective action to stimulate investment in development. Previous editions took place in Accra (2008), Xiamen (2010), Doha (2012), Geneva (2014), Nairobi (2016), and Geneva (2018).

For more information, please visit:

<https://worldinvestmentforum.unctad.org/>

Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA)

SESRIC participated in the 38th Session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) held virtually on 5 and 8 November 2021. During the session, topics related to UN World Data Forum 2021, 2030 Agenda, Coordination in the Area of Capacity Development, Statistical Performance Indicators (SPI), CCSA response to COVID-19 including its publication and survey, the Complex Risk Analytics Fund (CRAF’d), Maintenance of the “Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistics Use”, and SJAOS Special Edition on International Statistics, were discussed.



Before the meeting, SESRIC provided an input concerning its statistical capacity building activities that support the production of SDG indicators to be reported to the 53rd Session of the UN Statistical Commission. The inputs were submitted to the CCSA Secretariat on 6 October 2021.

8th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Arab Statistics Initiative (Arabstat)



SESRIC participated in the 8th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Arab Statistics Initiative (Arabstat) as a panellist on 10-11 November 2021 organised by Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

In the session on “Sustainable Development Goal Indicators” during the second day of the Meeting on 11 November 2021, SESRIC presented the findings from its recent report titled “Towards the Achievement of Prioritised Sustainable Development Goals 2021” that has been submitted to the 37th Session of the COMCEC. In the presentation, SESRIC underlined that the group of OIC countries is off-track to achieve by the year 2030 any of the eight prioritised (SDGs 1-5, 8-9, and 13) and the additional six SDGs covered (SDGs 6-7, 10-12, and 14) in the Report if they continue with the current pace of progress. The presentation also highlighted that the achievement of SDGs may become more challenging with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic which will pose more challenges for the OIC Countries towards the achievement of the SDGs.

The objective of the Meeting was to discuss the recent developments concerning the consumer price index and core inflation, financial intermediation services indirectly measured (FISIM), preparing and implementing household income and expenditure surveys, censuses, ensuring quality of statistical data, government finance statistics and public debt, SDG indicators, and foreign direct investment survey. In addition, the Meeting covered the activities and achievements of Arabstat during 2021 and discussed the work program for 2022.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.amf.org.ae/en/page/about-arabstat-0>

18th Regular Session of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPHRC)

SESRIC participated in the Thematic Debate of the 18th Regular Session of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission (IPRHC) of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation as a panellist on 23 November 2021 in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.



In the morning session of the Thematic Debate, SESRIC presented the findings from its recent report titled “Towards the Achievement of Prioritised Sustainable Development Goals 2021” that has been submitted to the 37th Session of the COMCEC. In the presentation, SESRIC underlined that none of the 14 SDGs (prioritised SDGs 1-5, 8-9, 13 and additional SDGs 6-7, 10-12, and 14) covered in the Report showed “on track” status for the achievement of the SDGs by the group of OIC Member Countries. The presentation also covered the challenges in the achievement of SDGs where the difficulties faced by member countries in financing the implementation of the SDG related projects comes as first.

The main objectives of the Thematic Debate were to discuss the role, importance and linkages of human rights in promoting sustainable development and identify major challenges confronting the achievement of SDGs in OIC Member Countries at different levels.

For more information, please visit: <https://oic-iphrc.org/home/activity/513>

Webinar on “Statistical Treatment of Islamic Finance in the National and International Accounts”



SESRIC participated as a panellist in the Webinar on “Statistical Treatment of Islamic Finance in the National and International Accounts” organised virtually by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) in coordination with the Joint Task Team on Islamic Finance (IFTT) and United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) on 16 December 2021.

During the Webinar, Dr. Atilla KARAMAN, Director of Statistics Department, presented a summary of the SESRIC Report titled “Current Practices of OIC Countries on Islamic Banking and Finance Data: Results of the SESRIC Survey” published in 2019 by focusing on the “Needs Assessment of Capacity Building on Islamic Banking and Finance Statistics” as well as informed the participants about the Islamic Banking and Finance indicators hosted at the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

The Webinar was organised with a view to informing compilers about the progress on the Islamic Finance Guidance Note developed by IFTT under the SNA and BPM update programme, introducing the research topics of the Islamic finance, exchanging views on the user demand on the new recommendations and exploring potential volunteers for the early implementation of the new recommendations and the experimental testing.

The IFTT has been established by the Inter Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts (ISWGNA) and Committee on Balance of Payments Statistics (BOPCOM) to carry out further research and develop methodology/guidance on the treatment of Islamic finance in national accounts and external sector statistics.

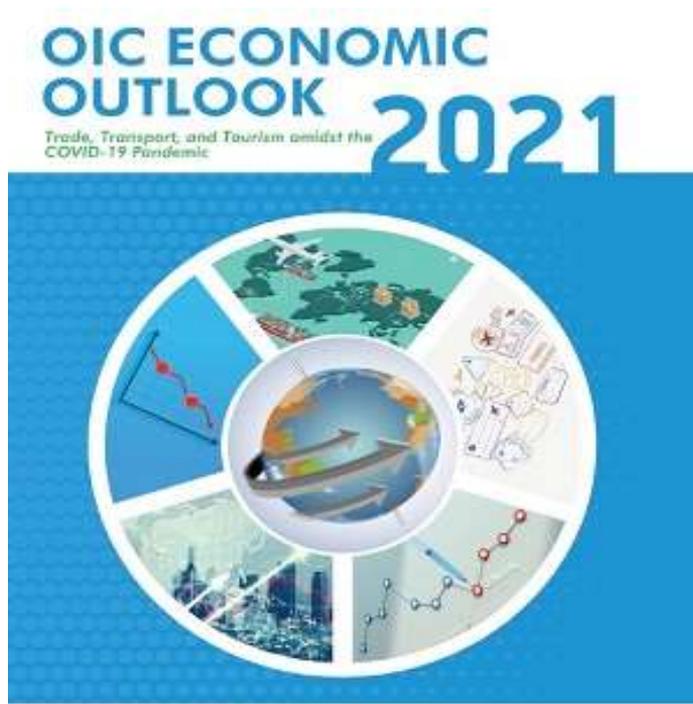
For more information, please visit:

<https://www.unescwa.org/events/statistical-treatment-islamic-finance-national-and-international-accounts>

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT



OIC ECONOMIC OUTLOOK 2021



ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION
STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES



SESRIC has launched the 2021 edition of the OIC Economic Outlook, the Centre's flagship report that explores global macroeconomic trends with the focus on the OIC countries as a group and provides a wide-range of useful statistics and analyses, including the comparison of OIC countries' economic performance with the developed countries, the non-OIC developing countries, and the world average.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused an unprecedented global health and humanitarian crisis, which has disrupted billions of lives around the world. In addition to dramatic implications for the health of people, the pandemic has also triggered a major economic and financial downturn. The Report shows that, in 2020, most of the macroeconomic indicators deteriorated significantly all over the world, and the OIC Member Countries were no exception.

Following an already weakening global economic growth due to challenges predating the pandemic, the world real GDP is now estimated to have contracted by 3.2% in 2020. After this contraction, the global economy is projected to grow at 6% in 2021 with the contribution and support of fiscal stimulus, the anticipated speeding and widening of vaccination coverage, and the continued adaptation of all sectors of the economy to pandemic life. Under the pandemic conditions in 2020, the economies of OIC countries, on average, contracted moderately by the rate of 1.6%, and they are expected to recover with a growth rate of 4.3% in 2021 and 4.5% in 2022 –around the past ten-year average.

Under the unprecedented adverse effects of the pandemic, global trade volume is estimated to have decreased by 8.5% in 2020, smaller than earlier estimates due to the fast recovery in merchandise trade. In value terms, global merchandise trade declined by 7.3%. Merchandise exports of OIC countries fell even sharper, by 17% to US\$ 1.49 trillion, and thus, accounted for a smaller share of the global exports; 8.6% in 2020 compared with 9.6% in 2019. While their exports to non-OIC countries shrank 18.5%, intra-OIC exports decreased to a lesser extent, by 9.5% to US\$ 290 billion,

which translated into an increase in the share of intra-OIC trade in total trade of OIC countries from 18.7% in 2019 to 19.5% in 2020, the highest rate achieved in the last decade.

With the pandemic wreaking havoc on labour markets worldwide, it is estimated that, relative to the fourth quarter of 2019, 8.8% of total working hours were lost in 2020. This resulted in 33 million more people becoming unemployed and the global unemployment rate rising to 6.5%, the highest level in the last three decades. In OIC countries, the number of unemployed increased by over 4 million to reach 49.3 million in 2020. Consequently, the unemployment rate bounced to 7.1% in that year from 6.4% in 2019 and remained higher than in the rest of the world.

Global FDI inflows fell by a dramatic 34.7% in 2020 to around US\$ 1 trillion mainly due to the 58.3% decline in

flows into developed countries as compared to the 12.1% drop in developing countries. Flows to OIC countries followed a similar course as developing countries and fell 12.5% to US\$ 100 billion in 2020 compared to US\$ 114 billion in 2019. Thus, the share of OIC countries in global FDI inflows rose up to 10.0%, the highest rate in the last decade.

The current edition of the Report includes a special section titled “Trade, Transport, and Tourism amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic”. This section investigates the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on three major sectors of the economy, international trade, transport, and tourism, with particular reference to the OIC Member Countries. For each of these sectors, the Report also proposes a number of policy recommendations to spearhead the recovery and enhance resilience in OIC Member Countries.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AFCFTA) ON SELECTED OIC COUNTRIES



SESRIC and the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC), a member of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group, prepared a technical report investigating the potential impacts of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) on selected OIC countries, namely Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Guinea, Mozambique, Tunisia and Uganda. The study employs the computable general equilibrium model developed by the Global Trade Analysis Project (GTAP) in order to estimate the potential long-term effects of the agreement on these countries. The report accordingly assesses output, trade and welfare effects focusing mainly on these six countries and provides some policy directions towards better utilizing the Agreement based on the projected outcomes.

To shed light on the important findings of this report, a virtual event was organised with the participation of Mr. Nebil Dabur, Director General of SESRIC; Eng. Hani

Salem Sonbol, CEO of ITFC; Mrs. Ngone Diop, Director of UNECA - Sub-regional Office West Africa; Mr. Saliou Sow, AfCFTA Chief Negotiator for Guinea; Mrs. Astou SY, Deputy AfCFTA Chief Negotiator for Senegal and Mr. Chaouki Jaballi, Director of Cooperation with Arab countries and African Union at the Ministry of Cooperation in Tunisia.

The AfCFTA, which became operational on 1 January 2021, is a major step towards boosting regional trade and economic integration among African countries. It is expected to facilitate, harmonize and better coordinate trade regimes and eliminate challenges related to overlapping trade agreements across the continent. The expected gains are not to be limited to international trade only. The agreement would support greater economic integration, foster competitiveness of the domestic industries, facilitate better allocation of resources and help to attract greater foreign direct investments.

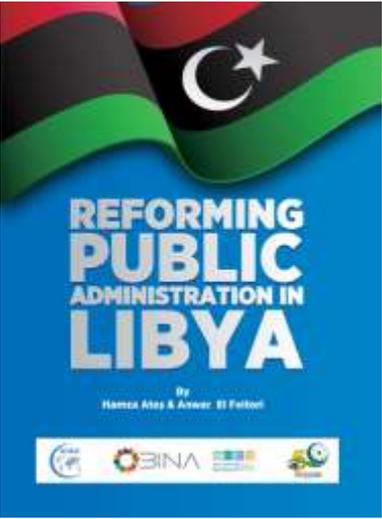
LABOUR MIGRATION TRENDS AND POLICIES IN OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES



OIC countries are both senders and receivers of millions of international migrants, accounting for 31% of global emigration and 27% of global immigration. The majority of migrants are economic migrants, who leave their country of origin purely for economic reasons. Empirical data and evidence suggest that protecting the rights of migrant workers enhances the development and productivity benefits of migration, while the violation of their rights contributes to social and economic disintegration.

In this connection, this outlook report assesses the current trends and policies in OIC countries with respect to labour migration. It presents a broad overview of the nature of migration, its impacts on development for both sending and hosting countries. It also provides a review of laws and policies pertaining to the management of migrant workers in OIC countries. A number of policy recommendations have been made for OIC countries to address some of the challenges faced by the migrant workers and better utilize their potential.

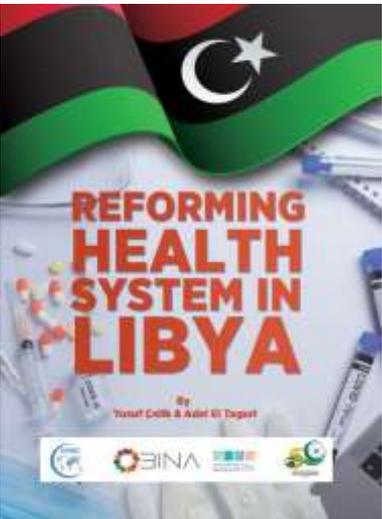
REFORMING PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN LIBYA



In partnership with Libya Program for Reintegration and Development (LPRD), SESRIC has completed a research study on “Reforming Public Administration in Libya”, which presents concrete policy options on reforming and strengthening the public administration sector of Libya.

The study proposes a comprehensive framework on how the Libyan public institutions can be reorganized to produce robust public services and better institutional performance. The study is expected to contribute to the Libyan state-building process and help the Government of Libya to ensure and sustain stability and peace in the country by employing an inclusive decision-making process and taking into consideration the views of all Libyan people regardless of their ethnicity, gender and political affiliations.

REFORMING HEALTH SYSTEM IN LIBYA



As part of the research project on reforming public administration in Libya, SESRIC has completed a sectoral case study on “Reforming Health Sector in Libya”, which provides a comprehensive review of existing challenges and offers a number of reform options on reforming the health sector.

The study proposes a set of reform proposals and priorities needed in Libya’s health sector to design a framework that is inclusive of Libya’s particular needs while also benefitting from international experiences and best practices. The study also develops a roadmap for Libyan officials so that pragmatic steps can be taken to improve the success of the reform initiatives, given the context and dynamics of the health sector in Libya.

SESRIC ORGANIZED A SEMINAR ON “ELDERLY AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES” DURING DUBAI EXPO 2020



Within the scope of the activities of the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) during Dubai Expo 2020, SESRIC organized a Seminar on “Elderly and Persons with Disabilities in OIC Member Countries” on 02 December 2021 between 16:00 and 18:00 at the Terra Auditorium in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The Seminar provided a platform to discuss and highlight the common challenges faced by the elderly and persons with disabilities, evaluate the prospects for improving their quality of life, exchange knowledge and best practices in this area, and extend efforts towards enhancing intra-OIC cooperation.

In the opening session, H. E. Mr. Fadi Farasin, Assistant Director General of SESRIC, addressed the Seminar and delivered the message of H. E. Mr. Nabil Dabur, Director General of SESRIC. Mr. Farasin expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the United Arab Emirates, the host of Expo 2020 and the General Secretariat of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for their patronage of this Seminar in these challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Farasin recognized that the elderly and persons with disabilities account for a significant portion of the population in OIC Member Countries and the quality of life of the elderly and persons with disabilities and their ability to participate in society is heavily dependent on supportive national policies and programs.

Moderated by Mr. Mazhar Hussain, Director of Economic and Social Research Department at SESRIC, the Seminar featured a panel discussion with participants from SESRIC, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA), and the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Turkey.

SESRIC ORGANIZED A SEMINAR ON “THE SITUATION OF STREET WORKING AND STREET LIVING CHILDREN IN OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES” DURING DUBAI EXPO 2020



Within the scope of the activities of the Organisation of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) during Dubai Expo 2020, SESRIC organized a Seminar on “The Situation of Street Working and Street Living Children in OIC Member Countries” on 20 November 2021 between 17:00 and 19:00 at the Terra Pavilion in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The Seminar provided a platform to discuss and highlight multidimensional challenges faced by street working and street living children and elaborate on various socio-economic policy measures and programmes to enhance the welfare of this vulnerable group in OIC Member Countries.

In the opening session, H.E. Mr. Fadi FARASIN, Assistant Director General of SESRIC, addressed the Seminar and delivered the message of H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, Director General of SESRIC. Mr. FARASIN expressed his thanks and appreciation to the he United Arab Emirates, the host of Expo 2020 and the General Secretariat of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) for facilitating the organization of the Seminar during one of the biggest international events under these challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moderated by Mr. Mazhar HUSSAIN, Director of Economic and Social Research Department at SESRIC, the Seminar featured a panel discussion with the participation of panellists from SESRIC, Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), and International Labour Organisation (ILO).

TRAINING & TECHNICAL COOPERATION DEPARTMENT



SESRIC CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

The Centre organises capacity building training activities under its 19 different sector-specific capacity building programmes. These activities are implemented through different modalities according to the capacities and needs of the OIC Member Countries in varied socio-economic fields and areas. SESRIC, after matching these needs and capacities, provides training opportunities by mobilising competent experts and facilitating the exchange of know-how, skills and experience among the national institutions of the OIC Member Countries. The Centre's efforts aim to develop human and institutional capacities in different sectors following south-south cooperation mechanisms.

The rapid adoption of digital solutions alongside the COVID-19 pandemic served well towards the continuity of activities and service delivery at a global scale. Hence, SESRIC early embraced this opportunity and introduced its online capacity building activities as a new modality to ensure smooth delivery of its training services and to reach a wider audience in such a convenient digital setting.

Through this newly adopted modality, the Centre has continued to serve the OIC Member Countries through various capacity building programmes and activities. Here are some of the selected implemented activities during the period under consideration:

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (AGRI-CAB)

Training Course on “Food Waste Reduction”



SESRIC organised a Training Course on “Food Waste Reduction” on 10-12 August 2021 through an online video conferencing platform. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute (MARDI) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industries of Malaysia, and the Solid Waste and Public Cleansing Management Corporation (SWCorp) under the Ministry of Housing and Local Government of Malaysia for the benefit of 78 experts from the relevant Ministries of 24 OIC Member Countries.

The main objective of the training course was to provide insights on how to manage and control food losses and waste (FLW) along production and supply chains, including harvest, post-harvest, retail and consumption stages. Furthermore, the training course gave an overview of the Malaysian experience in converting food waste into compost and animal feed as well as touching upon strategies and awareness-raising programmes towards wiser use of resources and food sector sustainability.

WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (WATER-CAB)

Training Workshop on “Water Monitoring Network and Early Warning System”



SESRIC, in cooperation with the Inter-Islamic Network on Water Resources Development and Management (INWRDAM), organised a Training Workshop on “Water Monitoring Network and Early Warning System” on 16-19 August 2021 through an online video conferencing platform. The training workshop was provided by competent experts from the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture of Tripoli and North Lebanon, Lebanese University and INWRDAM for the benefit of 88 participants from the National Water Resources Authorities of 21 OIC Member Countries.

The main objective of the training workshop was to strengthen the technical capacities of the professional staff through the exchange of knowledge, experience and good practices. The training workshop provided insights into relevant technical subjects such as ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (Eco-DRR), digitalization of early warning systems, traditional and rapid microbiological tests and the latest techniques of water testing and water monitoring network.

ENVIRONMENT CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (ENVIRONMENT-CAB)

Training Course on “Combat with Desertification and Drought”



SESRIC, in collaboration with the Tunisian Agency for Technical Cooperation (ATCT), organised a Training Course on “Combat with Desertification and Drought” on 06-09 September 2021 through an online video conferencing platform. The training course was provided by competent experts from the Institute of Arid Regions in Medenine, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Water Resources and Fisheries in Tunisia, for the benefit of 47 experts and executives from the relevant national authorities of 10 OIC Member Countries.

The main objective of the training course was to provide insights on the causes, factors and manifestation of the global phenomenon of desertification and drought while emphasizing the ways and means of resisting the consequences and combating with the phenomenon. Furthermore, the training course gave an overview of the Tunisian experience and strategy in the field of soil erosion control and watershed management, as well as the area of controlling wind erosion and combating desertification.

CENTRAL BANKS CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (CB-CAB)

Training Course on “Risk Management in Islamic Financial Institutions”



SESRIC organised a Training Course on “Risk Management in Islamic Financial Institutions” on 14-16 December 2021 through an online video conferencing platform. The course was provided competent experts from Bank Indonesia for the benefit of 59 experts and executives from the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of 18 OIC Member Countries.

The main objective of the training course was to strengthen the technical capacities of the professional staff at the Central Banks and Monetary Authorities of the OIC Member Countries through sharing of knowledge and experience. The training course provided insights into relevant technical subjects such as the macroprudential aspect of Islamic economics and finance, IFSB Standard of PSIFIS, Basel and IFSB Standard of risk management, risk-based capital for Islamic banks, among others.

SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTIONS CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (SSI-CaB)

Training Workshop on “Management of Social Security Systems”



SESRIC organised a Training Workshop on “Management of Social Security Systems” on 25-27 October 2021 through an online video conferencing platform. The training workshop was provided by competent experts from the Social Security Institution (SGK) of the Republic of Turkey for the benefit of 38 experts and executives from the National Social Security Institutions of 19 OIC Member Countries.

The main objective of the training workshop was to strengthen the technical capacities of the professional staff at the National Social Security Institutions of the OIC Member Countries through the exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices. The training workshop provided insights into relevant technical subjects such as social security management for developing countries, universal health insurance systems, short term and long term insurance branches in the Turkish Social Security System, among many others.

IBNSINA HEALTH CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (IBNSINA-CAB)

Training Course on “Epidemiology of Communicable Diseases and the Management of Epidemics”



Within the framework of SESRIC’s IbnSina Health Capacity Building Programme (IbnSina-CaB), SESRIC, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey, organised a Training Course on “Epidemiology of Communicable Diseases and the Management of Epidemics” on 04-07 October 2021 through an online video conferencing platform. The training course was provided by renowned experts who are the members of the Coronavirus Scientific Advisory Board of the Republic of Turkey for the benefit of 85 participants from the Ministries of Health of 17 OIC Member Countries.

The main objective of the training course was to bring together participants from the Ministries of Health of the OIC Member Countries to strengthen their technical capacities on different aspects of the topic, including holistic pandemic management and health policies, contact tracing, treatment, diagnosis and intensive care practices in COVID-19 cases, and protective measures.

Training Course on “**Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Care in Sub-Saharan Africa**”



Within the framework of SESRIC’s IbnSina Health Capacity Building Programme (IbnSina-CaB) and in line with the relevant resolutions of the 6th and 7th Sessions of the Islamic Conference of Health Ministers (ICHM), the Centre organised a Training Course on “Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Care in Sub-Saharan Africa” on 06-08 December 2021 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training course was provided by competent experts from the Ministry of Health of the Kingdom of Morocco for the benefit of 29 experts and executives from the Ministries of Health of 11 OIC Member Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The main objective of the training course was to strengthen the technical capacities of the healthcare professionals at Ministries of Health of the OIC Member Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa in order to enhance the quality of services for maternal, newborn, and child health, as well as effective monitoring and evaluation of these services in their respective countries. The training also provided insights into the Moroccan experience, mechanisms and strategy that could be transferred to other OIC countries in the region with the aim of accelerating reduction in maternal, newborn and child mortality within the framework of the thematic area three of the OIC-Strategic Health Programme of Action (OIC-SHPA) 2014-2023.

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (OSH-CAB)

Training Workshop on “**Improving and Fostering OSH Culture in Workplaces**”



Within the framework of its Occupational Safety and Health Capacity Building Programme (OSH-CaB) and in line with the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) Work Plan 2021-2022, SESRIC, in collaboration with the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health (DGOSH) at the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey, organised a Training Workshop on “Improving and Fostering OSH Culture in Workplaces” on 18-21 October 2021 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training workshop was provided by competent experts from the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health (DGOSH) of the Republic of Turkey and other prominent international experts in the field for the benefit of 42 experts and executives from the OSH Authorities and relevant national institutions of 18 OIC Member Countries.

The main objective of the training workshop was to bring together participants from the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Institutions of the OIC Member Countries to develop and enhance the technical knowledge and skills on improving and fostering OSH culture at workplaces. The training workshop also aimed to provide insights into the mechanisms and tools towards controlling occupational risks that occur within companies to better address the challenges faced in this field and maintain a safety culture in the work environment.

PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICES CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (PES-CAB)

Training Workshop on “Developing a Successful Employment and Skills Strategy”



SESRIC, in collaboration with the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR), organised a Training Workshop on “Developing a Successful Employment and Skills Strategy” on 28-30 September 2021 through an online video conferencing platform, within the framework of its Public Employment Services Capacity Building Programme (PES-CaB) and in line with the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET) Work Plan 2021-2022.

The training workshop was provided by competent experts from the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) for the benefit of 77 experts and executives from the public employment services agencies/authorities and relevant national institutions of 23 OIC Member Countries.

The training workshop provided in-depth perspectives on developing a successful employment and skill improvement strategy that will promote sustainable and robust growth at national levels, especially for the recovery process in the post-COVID-19 era. The training also provided insights on how to carry out more inclusive and comprehensive skill development strategies to respond to the need of the labour market.

TOURISM CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (TOURISM-CAB)

Training Course on “Effective Strategic Planning for the Promotion of Sustainable Tourism Development”

SESRIC organised a Training Course on “Effective Strategic Planning for the Promotion of Sustainable Tourism Development” on 24-26 August 2021 through an online video conferencing platform.



The training course was provided by a competent expert from the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Arts of the Republic of Benin for the benefit of 36 participants from the National Tourism Authorities of 13 OIC Member Countries.

The main objective of the training course was to strengthen the technical capacities of the participants in developing strategic planning for the advancement of the tourism sector in their respective countries. The course also provided insights into various subjects, including the concepts and implications of sustainable tourism development, the approach, method and tools used in elaborating effective strategic planning for sustainable tourism development at national and local levels.

DIPLOMACY CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (DIPLOMACY-CAB)

Training Course on “Cultural Diplomacy for OIC Junior Diplomats”



SESRIC organised in partnership with the Diplomacy Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey a Training Course on “Cultural Diplomacy for OIC Junior Diplomats” on 13-16 September 2021 through a video conferencing platform. The training course was attended by 86 young diplomats from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of 33 OIC Member Countries.

The main objective of the training course was to provide knowledge on the association between cultural diplomacy and foreign policy and identify processes to formulate and monitor effective cultural diplomacy practices. The training course also provided insights into the historical developments in cultural diplomacy and the impact that globalization and technological advancement have had on its practice.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION

SESRIC plays a significant role in enhancing technical cooperation and collaboration among the OIC Member Countries by facilitating technical assistance, exchange of knowledge and best practices, skills development, and networking. The Centre also emphasises the importance of “**region and country-specific development projects**” that are tailored according to the characteristic and needs of each region. Therefore, SESRIC partners with national, regional and international institutions to implement projects and activities under its technical cooperation initiatives developed with a view to addressing the needs of the OIC Member Countries.

NETWORKS

SESRIC brings together the national institutions from the OIC Member Countries working in a wide range of socio-economic domains to establish closer cooperation for sharing and exchanging knowledge, experience and conducting joint initiatives, projects and programmes through the Centre’s networking cooperation modality. Every year, the Centre analyses the needs for such networks and holds networking meetings in close cooperation with the National Focal Points of the relevant institutions. SESRIC currently hosts two main Networks; the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET) and the OIC Public Employment Services (OIC-PESNET).

OIC OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH NETWORK (OIC-OSHNET)

Training Course on “The Application of the OIC/SMIIC Standards on OSH”



In its capacity as the OIC Technical Coordinator of the OIC-OSHNET, SESRIC facilitated the organization of a virtual Training Course on “**The Application of the OIC/SMIIC Standards on OSH**” on 21-23 June 2021. The training course was organised by the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health (DGOSH) of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC-OSHNET, within the framework of the OIC-OSHNET Work Plan 2021-2022

The training course aimed to shed light on the importance of the OIC/SMIIC General Guidelines on OSH Standards and provide insights into relevant technical subjects such as general OSH requirements, physical and biological factors, risk assessment, safe working at height, personal protective equipment, and ergonomics.

Training Course on “**Definition, Classification and Regulations on Biological Agents: A Global Perspective**”



In its capacity as the OIC Technical Coordinator of the OIC-OSHNET, SESRIC facilitated the organization of a virtual Training Course on “**Definition, Classification and Regulations on Biological Agents: A Global Perspective**” on 20-22 September 2021. The training course was organised by the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health (DGOSH) of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC-OSHNET, within the framework of the OIC-OSHNET Work Plan 2021-2022.

The training course covered the following topics:

- Definition and Classification of Biological Agents,
- Identification of Industries and Jobs That Expose Workers to Biological Agents,
- Routes of Exposure to Biological Agents and Health Effects Associated with Biological Agents,
- Health Surveillance of Workers Exposed or Potentially Exposed to Biological Agents,
- Biological Agents Risk Assessment,
- Implementing Control Measures to Eliminate, Prevent or Control Biological Risks,
- Preventing COVID-19 at Work: Global Responses.

Training Workshop on “Data Collection and Analysis in Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)”



In its capacity as the OIC Technical Coordinator of the OIC-OSHNET, SESRIC facilitated the organization of a virtual Training Workshop on “Data Collection and Analysis in Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)” on 01-04 November 2021. The training workshop was organized by the Tunisian Occupational Health and Safety Institute (TOSHI) of the Republic of Tunisia for the benefit of Arabic and French speaking country groups from the National OSH Authorities of OIC Member Countries within the framework of the OIC-OSHNET Work Plan 2021-2022.

The training workshop aimed at strengthening the technical capacities of the participants on how to maintain and use occupational accidents’ statistics to promote prevention of occupational risks in companies as well as developing an action plan at national levels. The training also provided insights into various subjects, including the process for collecting and analysing statistics at regional and national levels, statistics of work accidents as a tool for help, and guidance in companies.

Online Annual Meeting of the National Focal Points (NFPs) of the OIC-OSHNET



SESRIC, in its capacity as the OIC Technical Coordinator of the OIC Occupational Safety and Health Network (OIC-OSHNET), in collaboration with the Directorate General of Occupational Safety and Health (DGOSH) of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security of the Republic of Turkey, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the Network, organized the Online Annual Meeting of the National Focal Points (NFPs) of the OIC-OSHNET on 30 November 2021.

The Meeting brought together 53 senior-level representatives of National OSH Authorities in 33 OIC Member Countries to discuss the progress achieved in the Work Plan for the year 2021, which was adopted during the 4th Meeting of the Network in October 2020, and to evaluate the implemented activities and their outcomes towards the realisation of the objectives and targets of the Work Plan. The Meeting also reviewed the planned activities under the Work Plan for the upcoming year 2022 and considered ways and means of realising them within the given timeframe.

OIC PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICES NETWORK (OIC-PESNET)

Training Course on “Skills Training Services”



In its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC Public Employment Services Network (OIC-PESNET), SESRIC facilitated the organization of a virtual Training Course on “Skills Training Services” on 22-23 November 2021. The training course was organized by the State Employment Agency under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan within the framework of the OIC-PESNET Work Plan 2021-2022.

The training was provided by a competent expert from the State Employment Agency of Azerbaijan for the benefit of 63 participants from the national public employment services (PES) agencies/ authorities of 17 OIC Member Countries. This training course aimed at strengthening the technical capacities of the participants on different aspects of the topic, including labour market expectations, learning concepts and strategies, creating a learning atmosphere and developing skills in employment.

PORTALS

SESRIC develops and maintains various web portals in line with the decisions taken at the relevant OIC Fora to strengthen communication, cooperation, and knowledge sharing among the relevant stakeholders in the OIC Member Countries. The portals act as the main information sharing platforms in the relevant fields, facilitate coordination of activities and serve as a library for all publications and reports related to these areas. Currently, SESRIC hosts OIC-OSHNET Portal, OIC Portal on Water Resources, OIC-Health Portal and Tobacco-Free OIC Portal; all of which can be accessed through the SESRIC website: <https://www.sesric.org/>

OIC-VET PROGRAMME

The Vocational Education and Training Programme for the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET) is a programme developed by SESRIC to support and supplement the OIC Member Countries' efforts to overcome the current challenges and limitations faced in the area of technical and vocational education and training (TVET). The programme aims to enhance the quality of TVET systems in the OIC Member Countries and, thus, contribute to the development and competitiveness of their economies. The OIC-VET Programme's activities are implemented through different modalities such as training of trainers (ToT) courses, training workshops, training courses and webinars. Here are some implemented activities during the period under consideration:

Training Course on “Developing of Occupational Standards, Qualifications and Skills Assessment Materials”



Within the framework of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for the Member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC-VET) and in line with the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025, SESRIC organised a Training Course on “Developing of Occupational Standards, Qualifications and Skills Assessment Materials” on 30 June-07 July 2021 through an online video conferencing platform.

The training course was provided by competent experts from the National Training Centre for Training of Trainers and Training Engineering of the Republic of Tunisia for the benefit of 89 experts and executives from the TVET Authorities and relevant national institutions of 21 OIC Member Countries.

The main objective of the training course was to provide insights into the concepts and practices of developing occupational standards as well as the utilisation of occupational standards in designing vocational qualifications and TVET programmes. The course also focused on the materials, guidelines and techniques used for the assessment of vocational qualifications and skills.

Training Workshop on “Developing Strategies on Enhancing Public Perception of TVET”



SESRIC organised a Training Workshop on “Developing Strategies on Enhancing Public Perception of TVET” on 21-23 September 2021 through an online video conferencing platform. The training workshop was provided by competent experts from the Technical and Vocational Education Training Division of the Ministry of Education Malaysia for the benefit of 108 experts and executives from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Authorities and relevant national institutions of 26 OIC Member Countries.

The training workshop brought together participants from the national TVET Authorities of the OIC Member Countries to discuss the multi-dimensional reasons adversely influencing the image of TVET amongst the public and consider ways and means of improving the public perception of TVET. The training also provided insights into various strategies and practices that help enhance the image of TVET at national levels by highlighting the importance of ensuring inclusive, equitable, and quality TVET for all.

Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “**Business** Formation and Entrepreneurship Skills **Development**”



SESRIC, in collaboration with the OIC-Gambia Secretariat, organised a Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on “**Business** Formation and Entrepreneurship Skills **Development**” on 08-10 November 2021 through an online video conferencing platform. The ToT course was provided by a competent expert for the benefit of trainers and professionals from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Institutions in the Gambia.

The main objective of the ToT course was to equip the participating trainers with the skills needed to plan and manage trainings as well as to conduct mentoring sessions for entrepreneurs according to international standards. The ToT course also focused on providing both theoretical and practical aspects of business formation and entrepreneurship to assist TVET trainers in delivering quality education to the Gambian entrepreneurs and help them overcome the challenges faced in their businesses.

Training Course on “**Strengthening** Institutional Capacity on Vocational **Qualifications**”



SESRIC organised a Training Course on “**Strengthening** Institutional Capacity on Vocational **Qualifications**” on 13-15 December 2021 through an online video conferencing platform. The training course was provided by competent experts from the College of the North Atlantic-Qatar (CNAQ) for the benefit of 96 experts and executives from the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Authorities and relevant national institutions of the 29 OIC Member Countries.

The main objective of the training course was to provide insights into the mechanisms and practices of developing vocational qualifications in order to create and operate a quality-assured national qualifications system in line with labour market demands. The course also focused on the materials, guidelines, and techniques used to assess vocational qualifications.

JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Journal of Economic Cooperation and Development (ISSN 1308-7800), previously titled the Journal of Economic Cooperation among Islamic Countries (ISSN 0252 - 953X), is a journal of applied research in development economics. The Journal welcomes original papers dealing with important economic and social issues of immediate concern to the developing countries. It will give special attention to those papers which deal with the potentials for and possibilities of promoting and expanding economic and technical cooperation among the developing countries. The Journal appears in English, in March, June, September and December. The Journal is indexed/abstracted in SCOPUS, JEL/Econlit, i-Journals, i-Focus and i-Future.

Volume 42 (2021) Number 3

Eight articles that examine current drivers of economic growth in selected developing countries, including OIC Member Countries, mainly in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and the South-East Asia region comprised Volume 42 (2021) Number 3 of JECD.

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Volume 42 (2021) Number 4

Eight articles focusing on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Selected Muslim Countries, Islamic stock markets immune from contagion during the financial crisis and Fiscal Response to Foreign Aid in an Aid-Recipient Economy comprised Volume 42 (2021) Number 4 of JECD.

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