



WEBINAR ON “THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON ELDERLY PEOPLE AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN THE OIC MEMBER STATES”



23 DECEMBER 2020
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM (GMT+3)

BACKGROUND

Over the last decade, populations are ageing at a faster rate across the world, making it an important policy issue for developed and developing countries, including OIC countries.¹ The speed of ageing in OIC countries is projected to accelerate between 2015 and 2030, and the share of population aged 60 or over will increase to 9.3% by 2030. This demographic transformation poses various challenges and is expected to affect the economic, social and cultural life in OIC countries.²

For instance, labour and financial markets, housing and transport sector, health and social protection systems, cultural life as well as family structures and intergenerational ties are all expected to witness some important changes to respond and reflect increasing needs of ageing societies. The surge in the number of people who will need care, the prolongation of support periods and therefore the erosion of family care will also be among the important results of this process.

On the other hand, one out of seven of the world population experience some form of disabilities and around 80 percent of them live in developing countries including OIC countries.³ The increased life expectancy and on-going conflicts as well as natural disasters are expected to increase the number of people with disabilities across the world. Millions of people with disabilities face various socio-economic challenges in different walks of life. For instance, persons with disabilities experience higher rates of poverty, lack of equal access to education, employment, health care, legal and social protection systems, and experience discrimination.⁴ The situation in the OIC Member States is not

¹ SESRIC (2018), State of Elderly in OIC Member Countries.

² SESRIC (2018), State of Elderly in OIC Member Countries.

³ SESRIC (2019), People with Disabilities and Special Needs in OIC Countries.

⁴ World Health Organization (WHO) & World Bank. (2011), World Report on Disability.

very different from the general trends of the world in terms of challenges and obstacles.⁵

The start of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020 has exacerbated already existing problems of vulnerable groups of societies. The pandemic especially has brought additional challenges to the quality of living standards of elderly persons and persons with disabilities caused by the increased pressure on social security and health systems across the world. The devastating effects of the COVID-19 have become particularly more visible in the developing world including several OIC member countries stemming from the ineffectiveness of public services, human capital shortages and limited financial resources. Consequently, the socio-economic well-being of elderly and persons with disabilities has started to regress.

Increasing the quality of life of elderly people and persons with disabilities and ensuring their participation in all areas of social life without discrimination are considered among the primary responsibilities of governments. This point of view was reinforced by the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Agenda is a commitment to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development by 2030 world-wide, ensuring that no one is left behind, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable—including elderly persons and persons with disabilities.

In line with the spiritual and cultural values of Islam and the universal human rights principles, the OIC has also acknowledged the importance of developing common policy actions towards improving the status of elderly people and persons with disabilities. In this context, the First Ministerial Conference on Social Development, which was held in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey on 7 - 9 December 2019, included two important documents in its agenda; namely, the

⁵ SESRIC (2019), People with Disabilities and Special Needs in OIC Countries.

“OIC Strategy on the Elderly” and “OIC Plan of Action on People with Disabilities”.⁶

It is essential for governments to ensure that elderly people and persons with disabilities enjoy all basic needs and rights without any discrimination regardless of the on-going pandemic situation. During such difficult times, additional social services need to be provided to those vulnerable groups in order to meet their growing needs. Nevertheless, intensities of local problems, national experiences and policy priorities can vary from one to another country. In this respect, social policy responses of OIC Member States may differ both in terms of scope and delivery for vulnerable groups during the pandemic.

Against this background, SESRIC and the General Directorate of Disability and Elderly Services of the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services of Republic of Turkey will jointly organise a webinar for the benefit of national authorities responsible of elderly people and persons with disabilities in OIC Member States through a video sharing and streaming platform to discuss common challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, exchange views on national practices and identify common policy solutions through enhancing intra-OIC cooperation.

OBJECTIVES & EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Webinar on “The Impact of COVID-19 on Elderly People and Persons with Disabilities in the OIC Member States” will provide a unique outlook on the recent challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic and developments related to the state of elderly and disabled people in the OIC Member

⁶ The “OIC Strategy on the Elderly” was adopted during the Conference and the “OIC Plan of Action on People with Disabilities” was reviewed. The OIC Strategy on the Elderly aims to stimulate cooperation among member states in addressing the common ageing issues and challenges. In a similar vein, the OIC Plan of Action on People with Disabilities aims to address challenges faced by people with disabilities in socio-economic life and increase their participation into the development of their societies.

States. In this regard, the webinar will identify the major and common challenges and obstacles facing elderly people and persons with disabilities in the OIC Member States during the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the panellists will present their knowledge and expertise and come up with concrete recommendations and policy suggestions for addressing the challenges and specific needs of the elderly and disabled people throughout the COVID-19 outbreak and related health emergencies. In particular, the objectives of the webinar include:

- Examining and discussing the recent state of elderly and people with disabilities in OIC Member States with a view to evaluating the current situation to identify and eliminate obstacles and barriers,
- Evaluating the policies and services of the Member States towards mitigating the additional risks facing elderly people and persons with disabilities during the COVID-19 outbreak and post-period.
- Identifying the challenges and recommending policies and best practices for improving the well-being of elderly and disabled people in OIC Member States,
- Recommending and proposing ways and means for enhancing intra-OIC cooperation in this area;
- Encouraging future cooperation and exchange of expertise among the OIC Member Countries.

METHODOLOGY

The webinar will be conducted through a video-conferencing software and streamed live. The panellists will make presentations to cover the topics mentioned above, and the audience questions and contributions will be received through live chat. The contributions will be compiled and read by the moderator in order to widen the discussion to include

various national experiences and best practices towards the wellbeing of elderly people and persons with disabilities and their COVID-19 response towards these vulnerable groups of the societies.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The Webinar primarily targets experts, professionals and decision makers from OIC Member States. It will be, however, free and open to all interested persons.

TIME AND DELIVERY MODE

The webinar will be broadcast live at 11:00 AM GMT+3 on 23 December 2020 through video streaming platform, YouTube. SESRIC YouTube channel can be accessed through: <https://bit.ly/sesric-live>

LANGUAGE

The webinar will be conducted in English.

DRAFT AGENDA

Times are Republic of Turkey local times (GMT + 3)

Wednesday, 23 December 2020 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM (GMT+3)	
11:00 – 11:15	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">- H.E. Mr. Nebil DABUR, Director General of SESRIC- H.E. Mr. Orhan KOÇ, Director General of Disabled And Elderly Services at the Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services of Republic of Turkey
11:15 – 12:30	The Impact of COVID-19 on Elderly People and Persons with Disabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>State of Elderly and People with Disabilities in OIC Member States. Delivered by Dr. Cem TINTIN, Senior Researcher, SESRIC (15 min)</i>- <i>Mr. Pepe LOUA, Chief of Section, Ministry of Social Action and Vulnerable Persons in Guinea (15 min)</i>- <i>Mr. Mohamed Ait AAZIZI, Director of Promotion of the Rights of persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Solidarity, Social Development, Equality and Family in Morocco (15 min)</i>- <i>Mr. Coşgun GÜRBOĞA, Head of Elderly Care Services, Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services of Republic of Turkey (15 min)</i>- <i>Mr. Anthony Oleja ENYOGU, National Disability and Aging Specialist, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development of Uganda (15 min)</i>
Closing Remarks	