



REPUBLIC OF TURKEY,  
MINISTRY OF FAMILY AND  
SOCIAL POLICY

# REPORT

Workshop on Innovative Social Assistance Strategies in Poverty

Alleviation

(ANKARA, 12-14 DECEMBER 2011)



Ankara, December 2011

## **I. BACKGROUND**

1. Workshop on Innovative Social Assistance Strategies in Poverty Alleviation was held in Ankara, Republic of Turkey from 12 to 14 December 2011.
2. The Workshop provided a platform:
  - To share knowledge and experience among social assistance and poverty alleviation agencies in OIC Member Countries with regard to policies, strategies, programmes and best practices for poverty alleviation;
  - To promote intra-OIC cooperation by identifying joint areas of collaboration among similar agencies in the area of mutual interest and explore solutions to common challenges;
  - To strengthen the capacity of agencies in the field of social assistance and poverty alleviation;
  - To provide participants with sufficient competence and capacity to initiate and manage sustainable reform processes in poverty alleviation relevant to the mandate and resources of the participants home organization.

## **II. ORGANIZATION OF WORK**

### **A. Attendance**

3. The Workshop was attended by representatives of the following OIC Member Countries:
  - Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
  - Republic of Azerbaijan
  - Union of the Comoros
  - Arab Republic of Egypt
  - Republic of Guinea-Bissau
  - Republic of Indonesia
  - Republic of Iraq
  - Kyrgyz Republic
  - Islamic Republic of Pakistan

- Republic of Senegal
  - Republic of the Sudan
  - Republic of Tajikistan
  - Republic of Tunisia
  - Republic of Turkey
  - Republic of Yemen
4. Also the Islamic Research and Training Institute (IRTI), an affiliate of the Islamic Development Bank Group, and the Ministry of Family and Social Policy of the Republic of Turkey participated in the Workshop as a part of organization Committee and Saudi Fund for Development, UNDP-Turkey, the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK), the Turkish International Cooperation and Development Agency (TIKA), the Foundations for Human Rights and Freedoms and Humanitarian Belief (IHH) and Ankara Development Agency (AnkaraKA) participated in the Workshop as observers.
5. The representatives of the following OIC institutions attended the Workshop as well:
- Standing Committee of Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Conference (COMCEC)
  - Islamic Research and Training Institute of Islamic Development Bank (IRTI/IDB)
  - Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC)

## **B. Documentation**

6. The documentation of the Workshop consisted of the Draft Agenda and Programme. The Workshop was also provided with the publications from SESRIC such as Annual Economic Report in English Arabic and French, three official languages of OIC, Review in English, SWOT in Arabic and English, and 2011 Outlook report on Health and introductory flyers of Social Project Support of The Ministry of Family and Social Policy of the Republic of Turkey.

### **III. OPENING SESSION**

7. The Opening Ceremony of the Workshop was held on 12 December 2011 with the recitation from the Holy Quran.
8. In his inaugural address, which was conveyed by Dr. Selim Coşkun, Advisor of Minister, Mr. Kenan Bozgeyik, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Family and Social Policy, first welcomed the delegates of the OIC Member Countries and wished the Workshop will be continuing with blessing of Allah. Mr. Bozgeyik further stated the importance of justice and emphasize that justice cannot be mentioned in such a society where poverty, unfairness and persecution exist.
9. Mr. Bozgeyik continued his statement by pointing out the significant achievement of the Turkish government in poverty alleviation especially through the two projects called Integrated Social Assistance Services and Scoring Projects. In this regard, Mr. Bozgeyik stressed the importance of experience sharing as poverty becoming a global issue.
10. Before concluding his remarks, Mr. Bozgeyik thanked the personnel of SESRIC, IRTI and General Directorate of Social Assistances and other contributors and wish that the workshop will be fruitful for all the parties dealing with the case of poverty.
11. Second opening speech is delivered by Dr. Osman Babiker, Training Division Manager, IRTI, an affiliate of the Islamic Development Bank Group. Dr. Babiker started his speech by thanking Turkey, SESRIC and distinguished experts and speakers from OIC Member Countries. Dr. Babiker mentioned that IDB group's main objective is to foster the economic development and social progress of its member countries.
12. Dr. Babiker pointed out that as an academic arm of IDB Group, IRTI is responsible for offering training facilities to develop the capabilities of professional personnel engaged in the development process in the Member Countries in areas including but not limited to the Promotion of the Private Sector, Financing Micro Enterprises, Human Capital Development, Macro Economic Management and Islamic Banking and Finance.
13. Dr. Babiker concluded his remarks by expressing IRTI's willingness in offering training facilities to Member Countries in order to satisfy the training needs of their respective

countries. He also mentioned that the Workshop will be a forum where all the participants will have the opportunity to share and reflect on experiences of their respective organizations.

14. Mr. Mehmet Metin Eker, Director General of COMCEC Coordination Office, started his opening speech expressing his appreciation to SESRIC and Ministry of Family and Social Policy of the Republic of Turkey. Mr. Eker emphasized the importance of solidarity between OIC Member Countries.
15. Mr. Eker underlined the various programs launched under COMCEC and SESRIC to further advance member countries' fight against poverty. Mr. Eker concluded his remarks by wishing the workshop successful deliberations.
16. The opening statement of Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General of SESRIC, was conveyed by Mr. Nabil Dabour, Director of Research Department of SESRIC. In his statement, Dr. Alpay expressed his special thanks to the Ministry of Family and Social Policy of Turkey for taking part in the organization of the Workshop. He also expressed his thanks to the delegates for accepting SESRIC's invitation and designating their time to attend the Workshop.
17. In his speech Dr. Alpay elaborated on the current situation of the various aspects of poverty in the OIC Member Countries. He also draws attention of the Workshop to the basic poverty figures of OIC Member Countries. Dr. Alpay emphasized the common targets among OIC Member Countries including OIC Ten-Year Programme of Action and Millennium Development Goals.
18. Dr. Alpay also shared his belief that the Workshop would provide an invaluable platform to discuss further ways of improving the existing programmes of Poverty Alleviation in the Member Countries, besides identifying new potential areas for further collaboration.
19. Lastly, the Draft Agenda and Programme of the Workshop were adopted by the Session.

#### **IV. WORKING SESSIONS**

## **Working Session I: Knowledge and Experience Sharing on Poverty Alleviation Strategies among OIC Member Countries**

20. The session started under the moderation of Ms. Noor Baabad, Yemen. The first presentation of the Workshop was delivered by Mr. Ridvan Kurtipek, Ministry of Development of the Republic of Turkey. Mr. Kurtipek gave general overview of social policies carried out in Turkey in the areas of social expenditures, education, health, social services and regional development. He stated that poverty and inequality in income distribution will be reduced permanently through sustainable growth and policies regarding employment, education, health and working life and in this regard he gave Turkey as a successful example with national growth in the last ten years.
21. Mr. Kurtipek also listed the main problems of Turkey as rapid increase in the working-age population, high level of informal employment and inadequate employment growth in spite of high real GDP growth rates due to dissolution in agricultural economy. He mentioned that Turkey's response to these problems is to improve labour market by flexibility and social dialog, increase the sensitivity of education to labour demand and improve active labour market policies. He concluded the presentation by touching on SODES, Turkey's regional social development programme.
22. Following the first presentation, Dr. Pungky Sumadi, Director of Social Protection and Welfare, National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS) of the Republic of Indonesia, took the floor. Dr. Sumadi started with briefing the Workshop on the effects of 1997 crisis on Indonesia. He mentioned that the government and the people were paralyzed which transformed economic crisis to multi-dimensional crisis.
23. Dr. Sumadi summarized the poverty reduction strategy of Indonesia in the following areas; Food Security, Education, Health, Energy, Employment and Child Protection. Dr. Sumadi informed the Workshop about the place of social protection within the macro economic framework. He concluded his remarks by mentioning 10% chronic poverty that persists in Indonesia.
24. Mr. Maamadou Tine started his presentation with brief introduction of Senegal. Mr. Tine stated to reduce poverty in the long term, it is necessary to adopt a dynamic methodology and efficient mechanisms of protection for the needy. Besides, he mentioned that

incentives helping them to take an active part in the economic life of the country along with will of public authorities and decision makers are essential.

25. Mr. Tine lay down three pillars of strategic document of poverty reduction namely, “creation of wealth”, “reinforcement of the capacities and promotion of the basic social services” and “protection of the vulnerable groups”. He concluded his speech by thanking SESRIC, IRTI and Turkish Government and expressing his appreciation for the opportunity to learn from other experiences.
26. Mr. Muhammed Seyid Pehlivan, Ankara Development Agency, started his presentation with the historical background of Ankara Development Agency and mentioned that primary activity of development agencies is to carry of regional plan studies which include poverty alleviation strategies.
27. Mr. Pehlivan briefed the Workshop about 2011-2013 regional plan for Ankara. He also emphasized the aspects of the plan in fight against poverty, namely, development of alternative income and employment opportunities and direct activity supports.
28. In his presentation, Dr. Babiker delivered primary objective of Millennium Village Project (MVP) that is to scale up the most basic, low-cost and proven interventions in rural communities to achieve MDGs. Dr. Babiker informed the Workshop that Sudan, Mali and Sierra Leone are pilot countries of the Millennium Village Project.
29. Dr. Babiker conveyed the full support of IDB for MVP. He gave detailed information on the MVP to the Workshop. He also mentioned monitoring and evaluation specialist selection will be done by competition.
30. After all the presentations were delivered, Ms. Baabad opened the floor to discussion. Mr. Kurtipek mentioned that they use new software system built by The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) to handle coordination among 13 different databases.
31. Representative from Afghanistan, Mr. Majidee asked about methods in fight against corruption in Indonesia. Dr. Sumadi mentioned three different commissions established to investigate corruption issues.

32. Representative from Guinea-Bissau, Mr. Helder Batica asked about urban empowerment of youth and women in Indonesia. Dr. Sumadi informed the Workshop on new training centres for unemployed youth.

**Working Session II: Knowledge and Experience Sharing on Poverty Alleviation Strategies among OIC Member Countries (Continued)**

33. The session was moderated by Dr. Osman Babiker, a representative of IRTI. First, he gave the floor to Mr. Mehmet Ali Küçükçavuş, Ministry of Family and Social Policy of the Republic of Turkey to make his presentation on 'Efforts to Combat Poverty in Turkey'. Mr. Küçükçavuş began the presentation with the background information on social assistance efforts in Turkey. He also explained the programme design and implementation.
34. Mr. Küçükçavuş then touched on impact assessment studies because whether or not the pre-envisaged goals are actually accomplished occupies a crucial place in public or social policy debates. He listed the Impact Assessment Studies of Turkey on CCT and Income Generating Projects. He ended his presentation with some statistical data about social assistance strategies in Turkey.
35. Mr. Mohammed Hamid Majidee, Afghanistan, briefed the Workshop about the causes of poverty in Afghanistan and three pillars of Afghanistan's poverty alleviation strategy i.e. security, governance, rule of law and human rights and economic and social development. He further listed the challenges and constraints faced during implementation of poverty alleviation strategy. Mr. Majidee lastly remarked on the objectives and high risk areas at Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD).
36. Ms. Noor Baabad, Yemen, informed the Workshop on demographic status of Yemen and third Five Year Plan for economic and social development and poverty alleviation. She informed the Workshop on general trends in Yemen and its effort to alleviate poverty and address its causes by seven tracks.
37. Ms. Baabad concluded her remarks by mentioning that Yemen's new laws in partnership with the international community to alleviate poverty by creating national mechanisms to combat corruption and strengthen control and practice of transparency and integrity.



38. Ms. Naima Jelassi, Tunisia, delivered a speech to the Session. She laid down the basic fact and figures of poverty in Tunisia and gave overview of poverty alleviation methods deployed in Tunisia. She mentioned regional differences as a result of an inequitable sharing of wealth.
39. Ms. Jelassi emphasized the development strategy is based on a pattern of growth and global and sectorial policies. Ms. Jelassi informed the Workshop that Tunisia enacted reforms to strengthen the institutional framework, transparency and improvement of living conditions of people.
40. Ms. Hatice İlbay Söylemez, SESRIC, made an introductory presentation on the state of poverty in OIC Member Countries, OIC and SESRIC Initiatives for Poverty Alleviation. She briefed the Workshop about OIC Initiatives to fight against poverty such as Ten Year Plan of Action, The Islamic Solidarity Fund (ISFD) and The Special Program for the Development of Africa (SPDA).
41. Ms. Söylemez also informed the Workshop on the activities of SESRIC targeting poverty alleviation through various channels such as Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET), Development and Cooperation Institutions Forum (DCIs), newly initiated Islamic Microfinance Project with Islamic University of Malaysia (IUM) and Cassava Project. Under the framework of the Vocational Education and Training Programme for OIC Member Countries (OIC-VET), she introduced the ongoing programmes, including OIC International Student Internship Programme (OIC-ISIP), İSMEK Master Trainer Programme (İMTP) and Capacity Building Programmes as an instrument for poverty alleviation. She further announced the Skill Development for Youth Employment (SDYE) Programme which will be initiated in January 2012 as an employment generation project.
42. Representative of Azerbaijan, Mr. Huseyn Huseynov and Ms. Vivi Yulaswati, Indonesia, inquired about the amount of CCTs and help to disabled people in Turkey, respectively. Mr. Küçükçavuş responded by mentioning that female students are paid higher than the male students and cash transfers to the mothers of disabled and transfer of disabled children to the schools.

43. Mr. Majidee stressed that all activities in Afghanistan are heavily donor supported as a response to question on resource of the activities.
44. Mr. Helder Batica, Guinea-Bissau, queried Ms. Baabad about gender equality in Yemen. Ms. Baabad responded by mentioning new rules for divorce and various NGOs active in Yemen.

### **Working Session III: Social Assistance Methods in Poverty Alleviation and Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Social Assistance Strategies**

45. Mr. Hamid Majidee, a representative of Afghanistan, moderated the last session of the Workshop on the first day. The Session started with Mr. Serkan Koç's presentation, TUBITAK, where he summarized use of ICT in Integrated Social Assistance Services Project of Turkey. He underlined the problems in Social assistance such as, deliverance of aid to correct destination, transparency, prevention of duplications, reducing administrative cost and delivering on time.
46. Mr. Koç then explained the implementation of ICT in the various phases of social assistance from investigation to scoring. He further briefed the Workshop on the post training evaluations and results of the project.
47. Ms. Esra Demirci Akyol, Ministry of Family and Social Policy of the Republic of Turkey on waqf system. Ms. Akyol started with definitions of poverty and charity and Islamic background of sadaqa and zakat.
48. Ms. Akyol also informed the Workshop on the historical development of waqf system from Ottoman period to current status in Republic of Turkey. She further pointed out that charity acts are institutionalized under the waqf institution and stressed that as long as there is change in societies, poverty alleviation strategies will also change.
49. Ms. Vivi Yulaswati, Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS) of the Republic of Indonesia, focused on the establishing vulnerability monitoring and social assistance. She also informed the Workshop that Indonesia's Community Driven Development (CDD) Program is the largest CDD program in the world and gave insight about program components and its effectiveness against crisis.

50. Ms. Yulaswati finished her presentation by pointing out possible cooperation areas including exchange of experience, training and capacity building programs in evaluation, statistical cooperation in MDG monitoring indicators and study visit among OIC Member Countries.
51. During discussion session, Mr. Koç emphasized that reaching poor people who are not aware of social assistance programmes is the main difficulty his Ministry trying to resolve. He also underlined that all databases are providing just facts hence there is no error margin in the evaluation process.
52. Ms. Gaafarawi inquired from Ms. Yulaswati how Indonesia handled the removal of oil subsidy. Response was implementation of massive socialization and delivering to the public the idea that excess money will be used in fight against poverty.
53. The representatives were hosted at a dinner in Ankara Palas by Ministry of Family and Social Policy.

#### **Working Session IV: Strategies and Methods in Poverty Reduction**

54. Ms. Jülide Yıldırım Öcal, Gazi University Statistics Department, briefed the Workshop on the targeting methods used in social assistance projects and evaluation process in Turkey. Ms. Öcal mentioned the social risk mitigation project designed to empower and expand the available social safety net programs and to alleviate the impact of the recent economic crisis on poor households.
55. Ms. Öcal also mentioned the scoring project undertaken by TUBITAK. She informed the Workshop that the project uses proxy mean testing together with regular home visit by a social worker. She also pointed out that test scores and cut points will be region specific, so that regional economic conditions will be taken into account.
56. Ms. Ibtissam Al Gaafarawi, Egypt, started her presentation with poverty profile of Egypt and she listed the pillars of Egypt poverty reduction strategy, economic development, human development, social safety nets and provision of basic services.
57. Ms. Gaafarawi informed the Workshop on cash transfers, social fund for development and food subsidies. She pointed out the problems of these systems, namely, costliness and large

leakages. She concluded her presentation by outlining way forward for Egypt in poverty alleviation strategies.

58. Ms. Ece Mutluçağ, Ministry of Family and Social Policy of the Republic of Turkey, briefed the Workshop on aims, grounds and types of project supports in Turkey. She underlined that the aim of the support is to enable people in the target population to start their own business, hence to put them out of the target population of social assistances and social inclusion.
59. Ms. Mutluçağ mentioned that project supports are beneficial in various areas including social justice, income distribution/capital, education/social participation, equal opportunity, human capital and socio - economic development. She concluded her remarks by showing examples of the shops established by project supports.
60. Mr. Caner Esenyel, Ministry of Family and Social Policy of the Republic of Turkey, presented the Workshop with information on Conditional Cash Transfer programme of Turkey. Mr. Esenyel stressed that the main principle of CCTs is to prevent intergenerational transfer of poverty from family to children via strengthening human capital by emphasizing programs on basic services such as education and health.
61. Mr. Esenyel gave brief information on Family, Health, Education and Special Assistance programmes of Turkey. Mr. Esenyel also informed the Workshop on how the CCT targeting mechanism works in action. He concluded his remarks with statistical data regarding the implementation of CCTs in Turkey.
62. Ms Khulood Tawfeeq, Iraq, inquired from Dr Gaafarawi about the under-coverage of the poor and about CCT programmes in Egypt. Dr Gaafarawi explains that cash transfers is allocated only to certain categories of the poor mainly the unemployable poor, and with more than four million households living in poverty the government of Egypt seeks to change the law to expand the coverage of the poor to other categories. Concerning CCT, child school allowance is the only conditioned programme, to expand conditionality to other areas such as health we must ensure enough supply of health services.
63. Mr. Esenyel underlined that thirteen different databases are all accessed with single identity number as a response to question about the security concerns and relation between databases.

## **Working Session V: Discussion on ways and means of developing and enhancing the technical cooperation among OIC Member Countries in poverty alleviation strategies**

64. The last working session of the Workshop started with a presentation by Dr. Nevzat Firat Kunduracı, Ministry of Family and Social Policy of the Republic of Turkey on Cooperation among OIC Member Countries in the Social Assistance Field. He reminded the Workshop about the relations between various aspects such as social problems, environment, disability and poverty.
65. Mr. Kunduraci reiterated the effect of globalization on cooperation and interaction. After briefly mentioning socio-economic situation of OIC Member Countries Mr. Kunduraci underlined the socio-cultural differences between the west and OIC Countries. He concluded his remark with SWOT analysis of poverty strategies of OIC Member Countries.
66. Moderator Mr. Selcuk Koç, Head of Department of Regional and Multilateral Cooperation at COMCEC Coordination Office, briefed the participants about the discussion session rules. The participants were then separated into three groups to identify the potential projects for collaboration and to finalize other proposals. Representatives of the groups informed the Workshop about their discussions and proposed the following areas and projects promoted by the national focal points for consideration and implementation;

Group 1; Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Saudi Fund, Ministry of Family and Social Policy and IHH

Reporter: Dr. Ibtissam Gaafarawi

The group proposed couple of recommendations under three categories,

### **1. Capacity Building and Training;**

- Government initiatives should be enhanced to work cooperatively,
- More emphasis should be given to evaluation since it is missing in Member Countries and the results should be dispersed throughout the countries to have better policies,
- Technical experience should be shared not only with OIC Member Countries but also with international institutions and NGOs,

-E-Conferences should be implemented to have a better and quick network and training.

## **2. Support SESRIC Role;**

- SESRIC should be more active and coordinate different countries and given support to play a more active & vital role in coordination of many countries in poverty alleviation area,

All Member countries should provide more support to SESRIC to play a more active & vital role to enhance coordination and cooperation in areas of poverty alleviation,

-The cooperation mechanism should be clear,

- Data collection and databases should be on a regular basis and exchange of experts should be enhanced,

- Encourage exchange of expertise to enhance data collection skills and to build accurate databases on regular bases,

-A database on the expertise and needs regarding poverty alleviation from each country should be created and this database is expected to have a vital role in the future in trainings (especially in the exchange of experts) and data sharing.

## **3. Finance;**

- People's awareness about OIC and IDB's activities should be raised,

-IDB should have clear mechanism for financing the projects and financial evaluation should be made by an independent body.

Group also proposed design, implementation and evaluation of data collection and update and to develop statistical skills on poverty should be covered in trainings.

Group 2; Yemen, Iraq, Comoros, Senegal, Indonesia and Pakistan

Reporter: Mr. Masood Hasan

The group proposed couple of recommendations as,

## **1. Financial cooperation;**

- Easier access for resources bilateral and multilateral should be presented Technical Assistance;

- Experts should be exchanged among the member countries.

## **2. Research Opportunities;**

- Researches that have been done by SESRIC should be shared with member countries and MCs should be widely informed about these researches.

## **3. Technical Training;**

- Training of Trainers and Teacher's Training in the areas of Rehabilitation of mentally ill people, Child protection system, Women Empowerment, Health System and security should be implemented,

- Knowledge sharing should be facilitated on poverty alleviation among the countries.

Group 3; Afghanistan, Tunisia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Yemen, Sudan

Reporter: Mr. Hamid Majidee

The group proposed following;

- Capacity Building Programme should be initiated on the areas of; Knowledge Sharing on CCT (Conditional Cash Transfer) Program, Islamic Banking System and Islamic Finance, Waqfs and Community Awareness,

-Sub-category programs should be developed based on common interests or theme among MCs on poverty alleviation,

-The role of IDB, OIC and SESRIC to facilitate knowledge sharing should be enhanced,

-The governance body of IDB, SESRIC and OIC should put an effort to influence political, economic and education system in each country,

-Objectives, deliverables of funds should be clarified / made transparent to allow MCs to maximize the share of these funds.

### **Field Trip: Keçiören Social Assistance and Solidarity Waqf**

67. The Representatives of the Workshop had a field trip to Keçiören Social Assistance and Solidarity Waqf. The District Governor of Keçiören Mr. Mustafa Güler welcomed

representatives and gave information about the Waqf. After his presentation, Mr. Güler answered the questions from representatives. The Representatives also visited clothing store and warehouses of the Waqf.

68. The District Governor of Keçiören, hosted dinner on honour of the representatives of the Workshop. Mr. Güler expressed his appreciation of cooperation among OIC Member Countries.

### **Closing Session**

69. The Closing Session of the Workshop was held on 14 December 2011. Dr. Osman Babiker, IRTI, made a presentation on Poverty Reduction Strategies in Sudan. He underlined the strong reference and commitment to the MDGs in Sudan National Strategic Plan.
70. Dr. Babiker summarized the progress on health and education sectors. Dr. Babiker mentioned the effect of economic liberalization and pro-longed civil war and economic sanctions as the main causes of poverty in Sudan.
71. Ms. Esra Ahmed Yahia Abdelmageed and Mr. Ismail Hamad Abdel Karim, Sudan, briefed the Workshop about the African City of Technology (ACT), property-based venture capital that brings science, technology, industry and business together. They also mentioned as a technology free zone area ACT is equipped with a flexible governance model with the necessary authorities to achieve its mission.
72. After the presentations, Dr. Pungky Sumadi, moderator of the Closing Session, open the Final Communiqué to the discussion. After considerations from representatives the Final Communiqué was adopted.
73. Dr. Sumadi presented the Draft Recommendations to the Session and highlighted important points of agreement contained in the recommendations. The Session then adopted the Recommendations of the Workshop on Innovative Social Assistance Strategies in Poverty Alleviation.
74. Dr. Savaş Alpay, Director General of SESRIC, made a closing statement at the Session. Dr. Alpay emphasized that in order to have successful fight against poverty SESRIC will deploy all of its efforts to strengthening the cooperation of all OIC Member Countries. Dr.



Alpay concluded his statement by thanking all delegations, OIC institutions, and organizers for their valuable contribution to the Workshop on Innovative Social Assistance Strategies in Poverty Alleviation.

75. Dr. Osman Babiker, Training Division Manager, IRTI, thanked the representatives for valuable contributions during the workshop in his closing speech.
76. Dr. Selim Coşkun, Advisor to Minister, Ministry of Family and Social Policy of the Republic of Turkey, thanked all the representatives for taking part in this valuable workshop and also wished the representatives from OIC Member Countries safe trip home.
77. The representative of Senegal, Mr. Maamadou Tine had final speech on behalf of the participants of the Workshop. Mr. Tine gave special thanks to SESRIC personnel. Mr. Tine underlined that getting know valuable representatives from different countries as one of the main achievements of the Workshop.
78. Mr. Tine stressed that the field trip was also one of the most useful part of the Workshop because it helped them to see social assistance in action.
79. The Workshop concluded with the recitation of Holy Quran by Mr. Hamad Ismail Hamad, Sudan.