

SESRIC Participated in the 51st Session of the UN Statistical Commission

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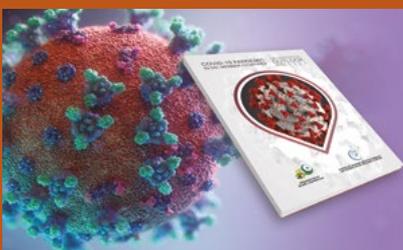


H.E. Mr Yavuz Selim Kiran, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, Paid a Courtesy Visit to SESRIC



H.E. Mr Yavuz Selim Kiran, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, paid a courtesy visit to the Headquarters of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), on 17 January 2020, in Ankara, Republic of Turkey. During his visit, H.E. Mr Yavuz Selim Kiran, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, met with H.E. Mr Nebil Dabur, the Director General of SESRIC and the Directors of the Centre along with all the staff of the Centre.

STATISTICS



Emerging at the end of 2019 in the city of Wuhan, China, the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) started affecting many countries within a very short period of time. On 11 March 2020, the WHO announced the COVID-19 as a global pandemic.

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RESEARCH



The OIC-2025 Programme of Action accords special priority to youth in OIC member countries under multiple overlapping policy areas with an aim to guide joint Islamic action.

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TRAINING



A training course on “Application of Advanced Technology for the Enhancement of Cotton Productivity in Mozambique” was organized on 27 April - 01 May 2020 through a video conferencing platform.

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SESRIC Participated in the 51st Session of the UN Statistical Commission

The delegation of SESRIC headed by H.E. Mr. Nebil Dabur, Director General, and composed of Dr. Atilla Karaman, Director of Statistics and Information Department, and Ms. Nenden Octavarulia Shanty, Researcher, participated in the 51st Session of UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) and its side events on 2-5 March 2020 in New York.

Before the start of main plenary session of the UNSC on 3 March 2020, H.E. Mr. Nebil Dabur represented SESRIC at the 35th Session of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) on 2

Director General underlined the heterogeneity among the OIC member countries concerning the production of data and mentioned that the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), the only OIC forum in the field of official statistics, plays an important role for facilitating the cooperation among the OIC member countries and other relevant stakeholders.

On 4 March, H.E. Mr. Dabur had a meeting with H.E. Amb. Jorge Chediek, Special Envoy of the UN Secretary General on South-South Cooperation and Director of the UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). The two parties praised the cooperation between the two organisations which have been reflected in the number of increasing projects. During the meeting, issues related to the launch of two joint reports of SESRIC and UNOSSC including “South-South in Action: Transforming Potentials into Shared Prosperity” and “South-South and Triangular Cooperation: Accelerating Women Social Entrepreneurship” were discussed.



March 2020. On the same day, the Director General of SESRIC was also one of the panellists of the side event of the Global Network of Institutions for Statistical Training (GIST) where he shared the modalities of SESRIC in conducting its statistical capacity development activities under its Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme and the engagement of SESRIC, as a founding member, with the GIST since 2018.

On 3 March 2020, H.E. Mr. Nebil Dabur represented SESRIC during the plenary of the 51st Session of UNSC. The Director General of SESRIC also paid a courtesy visit to the Permanent Mission of Republic of Turkey to the UN on 3 March where he thanked the Republic of Turkey, as the host country for SESRIC, for supporting the Centre since its establishment in 1978 and informed the representatives of the Turkish Mission concerning the activities of SESRIC in the field of official statistics.

H.E. Mr. Nebil Dabur realised two important meetings on 4 March 2020. H.E. Mr. Dabur first paid a courtesy visit to H.E. Amb. Aghshin Mehdiyev, Permanent Observer for the OIC to the UN. During the visit, the

H.E. Mr. Nebil Dabur moderated the Follow-Up Meeting of the OIC-StatCom on the sidelines of the 51st Session of UNSC on 5 March 2020 with a participation of 35 representatives from 17 OIC Member Countries, 3 international organisations, and 2 partner institutions. The Follow-Up Meeting covered the implementation of the resolutions of 8th Session of OIC-StatCom and preparations for the 9th Session of OIC-StatCom including composition of the Bureau members, main agenda items, and date & venue. The Follow-Up Meeting continued with an information session on Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) and TQS-Youth contributed by the two partner institutions including CDC and CDC Foundation, and SESRIC. The Follow-Up Meeting ended with the MoU Signing Ceremony between SESRIC and the State Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan on Statistics.

Following the SESRIC side event on 5 March, H.E. Mr. Nebil Dabur and H.E. Dr. Mohd Uzir Mahidin, Chief Statistician of Malaysia, signed an MoU to further the cooperation between the two institutions concerning activities on statistical capacity development for the benefit of OIC member countries.

H.E. Mr Yavuz Selim Kıran, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, Paid a Courtesy Visit to SESRIC



H.E. Mr Yavuz Selim Kıran, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, paid a courtesy visit to the Headquarters of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), on 17 January 2020, in Ankara, Republic of Turkey. During his visit, H.E. Mr Yavuz Selim Kıran, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, met with H.E. Mr Nebil Dabur, the Director General of SESRIC and the Directors of the Centre along with all the staff of the Centre.

On behalf of all SESRIC Staff, H.E. Mr Dabur expressed his warmly welcome and deep thanks and gratitude to H.E. Mr Yavuz Selim Kıran, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, for honouring SESRIC with this courtesy visit and for designating a part of his valuable time for this visit. He mentioned that this visit is a real indicator on the continuous support that SESRIC has been receiving over the last four decades since its establishment from the host country, the Republic of Turkey, and particularly from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

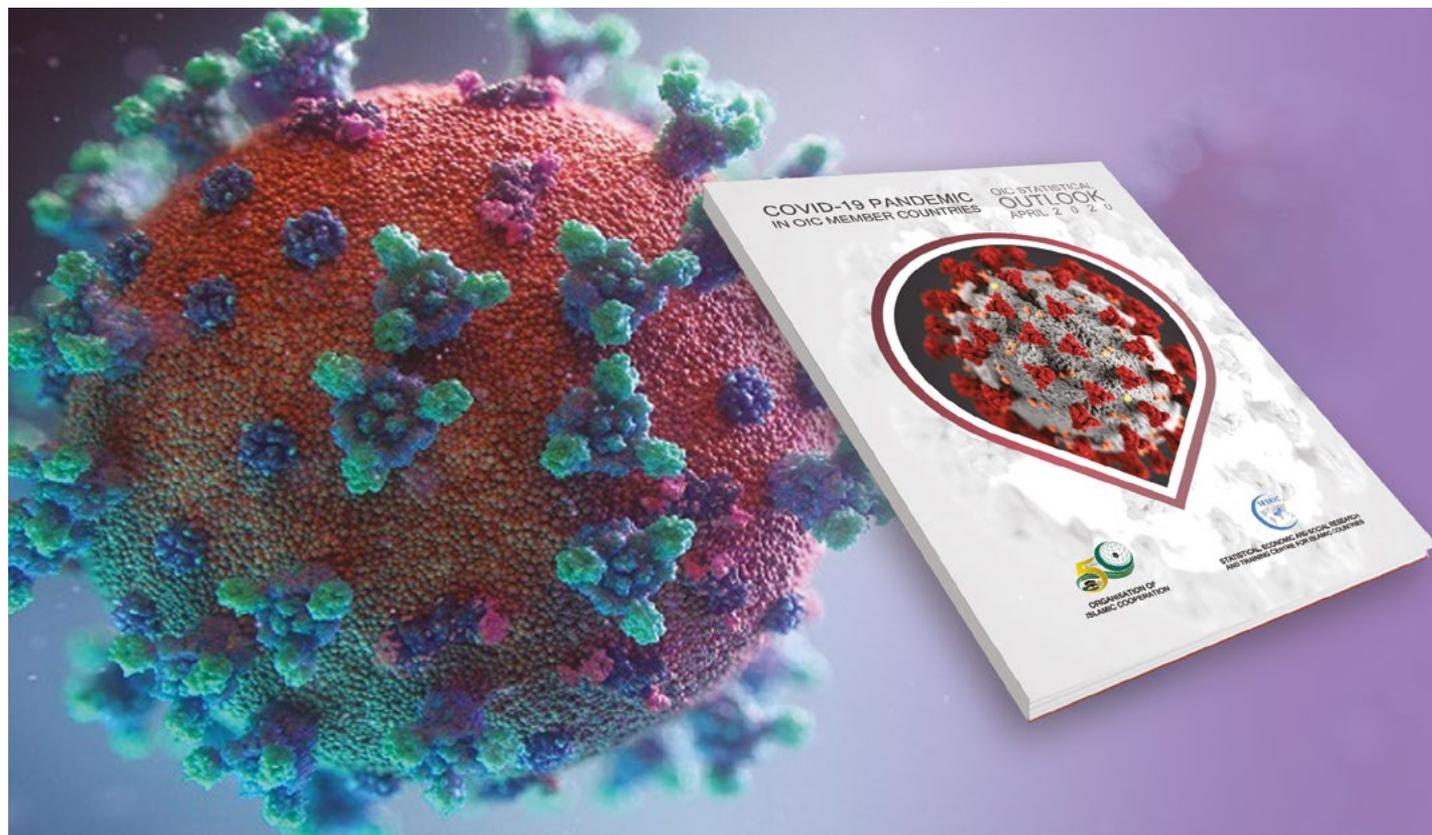
H.E. Mr Dabur, the Director General of SESRIC, briefed H.E. Mr Yavuz Selim Kıran, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, on the mandate, which has been given

to the Centre 40 years ago. In his presentation, the Director General highlighted the various modalities, which the Centre has developed over the years to implement this mandate in the three areas of statistics, research and training.

On his part, H.E. Mr Yavuz Selim Kıran, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, extended his gratitude to H.E. Mr Nebil Dabur for the hospitality. H.E. Mr Kıran also addressed the staff of SESRIC. In his address, he underlined the importance of being in unity and solidarity for Islamic Countries (Muslim Ummah). H.E. Mr Kıran also highlighted that, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey appreciates the work and studies of SESRIC and while having full trust of the experienced staff of the Centre, they will also continue extending their support to SESRIC.

Following an exchange of plaques and gifts ceremony, H.E. Mr Yavuz Selim Kıran visited SESRIC Library and a short exhibition overlooking brief history of the OIC and SESRIC. H.E. Mr. Nebil Dabur also briefed him on SESRIC Publications, which have been displayed in the Library. The meeting finalised with a family photo with all SESRIC staff in front of the SESRIC Headquarters.

STATISTICS AND INFORMATION DEPARTMENT



SESRIC COVID-19 PANDEMIC DATABASE FOR OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

SESRIC COVID-19 Pandemic Database provides statistics, visualized data, and cartographic representation through a two dimensional map on the spread of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in OIC Member States with the objective of raising public awareness and offering policy makers with a tool to guide their ongoing efforts in their fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. The database hosts data concerning confirmed COVID-19 cases, deaths, and recovered patients in 56 OIC member countries. The data is updated on a daily basis and go back to 25/01/2020. This database uses the data provided by Johns Hopkins University Center for Systems Science and Engineering (JHU CSSE) and Worldometers website. The COVID-19 Pandemic Database can be accessed through: https://www.sesric.org/sesric_covid_19.php

OIC STATISTICAL OUTLOOK 2020: COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

Emerged at the end of 2019 in the city of Wuhan, China, the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) started effecting many countries within a very short period of time. On 11 March 2020, the WHO announced the COVID-19 as a global pandemic. As of 15 April 2020, 2,015,571 confirmed cases of COVID-19 have been recorded globally, of which 197,057 cases were recorded in the OIC member countries. Out of the 127,635 COVID-19 global deaths, 7,988 were recorded in the OIC countries. On the other hand, out of the 491,567 successfully treated people around the world, 67,399 were recorded in the OIC countries. As of 15 April 2020, among the OIC countries, Iran remains the main hotspot for the disease, followed by Turkey, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, and Malaysia where all are with confirmed cases above 5,000. Against this background, this OIC Statistical Outlook report aims to shed light on the COVID-19 pandemic in the OIC member countries by considering three main indicators; namely, confirmed cases, deaths, and recoveries. The Report can be accessed through: <https://www.sesric.org/publications-so-covid.php>

DATABASE, DIRECTORIES AND ROSTERS



OIC STATISTICS DATABASE (OICSTAT)



OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database is the first and only international official statistics repository on the Member Countries of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). OICStat is periodically maintained to ensure the dissemination of most up-to-date data through the inclusion of categories and indicators on the OIC Member Countries. Designed with more “user-friendly” features, OICStat currently hosts more than **870 indicators** under **24 categories** dating back to 1985. OICStat is made available online in three official languages of the OIC (Arabic, English, and French). **OICStat Database** can be accessed on:

<https://www.sesric.org/oicstat.php>

DIRECTORY OF NATIONAL STATISTICAL OFFICES

The Centre makes the contact details of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) of OIC member countries available on <http://www.sesric.org/databases-nso.php>. Updated regularly, the **Directory of NSOs** lists the official name, head, and contact details including address, telephone, fax, website, and emails of each NSO.

DIRECTORY OF NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS



The **Directory of National Institutions in OIC Member Countries (OIC-DIR)** serves for hosting the profiles of Central Banks, Chambers, Development Agencies, Government-Funded News

Agencies, Investment Promotion Agency, Line Ministries, National and Sub-National Statistics Offices, Research Institutes, Think Tanks under Government Institutions, Training Institutes, Trade Union/Employers' Organisation, Universities/Higher Education Institutes, and other (public or public-benefit institutions).

By establishing a pool of institutions in OIC countries, the OIC-DIR is expected to facilitate communication among the public institutions/public-benefit organisations in OIC Member States with an aim at increasing the cooperation linkages.

Currently hosting profiles of **551 institutions**, the **OIC-DIR** can be accessed on:

<https://www.sesric.org/oicdir.php>

ROSTER OF STATISTICS EXPERTS (ROSE)



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 deliver services contributing to the efforts of the agencies with an embedded statistical role.

By establishing a pool of relevant expertise, the ROSE is expected to be instrumental in identifying the available

professionals in relevant domains of official statistics as per the taxonomy of Classification of Statistical Activities for the current and future statistical activities of the Centre.

In addition, the ROSE will contribute significantly to useful exchange of information and experiences within the Islamic World through enabling the flow of communication between the professionals and the relevant stakeholders.

Currently hosting profiles of **841 statistics experts**, the Roster of Statistics Experts (ROSE) can be accessed on:

<http://www.sesric.org/rose.php>

DATA DISSEMINATION AND VISUALIZATION TOOLS

OIC COUNTRIES IN FIGURES (OIC-CIF)



This module presents the most recent available information and statistical data of OIC member countries under nine sections, namely “Background”, “Geography and Climate”, “Society and Demographics”, “Government and

Politics”, “Economy and Sectors”, “OIC Member Countries in Figures”, “International Partnerships”, “Logistics” and “Special Links”.

The profile of each country will be downloadable as a report. The framework of the displayed page can be tailored based on the preferences of the user by selecting the section or indicators to be shown in the country profile report. The current version of **OIC Countries in Figures** is accessible on:

<http://www.sesric.org/oic-member-countries.php>

OIC RANKER



Running based on the data hosted at OICStat, this online module ranks the OIC member countries with respect to a selected indicator hosted in the database.

OIC Ranker is accessible on:

<http://www.sesric.org/oic-ranker.php>

OIC TOP/BOTTOM FINDER (OIC-TBF)



Also running based on the data hosted at OICStat, this online module extracts the full list of indicators in which an OIC member country is positioned at the very “Top” or “Bottom”. **OIC Top/Bottom Finder** is accessible on:

<http://www.sesric.org/oic-tbf.php>

SESRIC MOTION CHARTS (SMC)



The **SESRIC Motion Charts (SMC)**, the interactive and dynamic motion chart module available on the SESRIC web site, is fully integrated with the OICStat database.

The SMC Module allows the users to dynamically explore the trends of several indicators over time based on statistical data hosted in the OICStat Database.

The charts generated by the SMC Module are rendered within the user’s browser using the Adobe Flash technology. The produced charts are time series based bubble charts including two indicators that can be customised by the user to have either linear or logarithmic scale(s) with alternative bubble sizes based on the related indicators.

The SMC application module can be accessed on <http://www.sesric.org/smc.php>

OIC STATISTICAL OUTLOOK



Since January 2019, SESRIC has been issuing the “OIC Statistical Outlook” series as a fortnightly thematic statistical publication which will be merged as a final compendium at the end of

each year as the “Statistical Yearbook on OIC Member Countries”. Each OIC Statistical Outlook covers one of the categories hosted at OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). It provides not only the data for all OIC member countries with OIC and World level aggregate values, where applicable, but also brief analysis with figures reviewing the performance and progress of the OIC member countries in the covered thematic category. The **OIC Statistical Outlook** can be accessed through:

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

STATISTICAL YEARBOOK ON OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES 2019



The Statistical Yearbook on OIC Member Countries aims at serving as a reference publication for evidence-based decision making concerning possible areas of cooperation and integration at the OIC level and thus contributes to increasing statistical awareness among the decision makers in OIC countries. For this end, the Statistical Yearbook gives

the readers the opportunity to see not only the individual performance of OIC member countries but also that of the OIC as a group vis-à-vis the world across selected indicators.

Released first in 1980, the content of the subsequent editions of the Statistical Yearbook has been continuously revised and enriched. The 2019 edition of Statistical Yearbook includes around 200 additional indicators (429 in total) and two newly introduced categories; namely, Private Sector and Youth when compared to the 2018 edition of Statistical Yearbook.

The Statistical Yearbook on OIC Member Countries 2019 can be accessed through: <http://www.sesric.org/publications-syb.php>

DID YOU KNOW? (DYK)



The Centre's website hosts the "Did You Know?" module to reflect striking facts about OIC member countries in a simple and user friendly way. It aims to highlight the current situation of OIC member countries on a specific socio-economic variable in a one-page snapshot format. The content of module is regularly updated and enriched with different indicators.

The SESRIC DYK can be accessed through:

<http://www.sesric.org/sesricdidyouknow.php>

STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING (STATCAB) PROGRAMME



The accurate, timely, reliable and consistent statistical data is of an utmost importance for policy making and strategy development in any country. The OIC member countries have varying levels of capacities for producing statistical data

in accordance with the relevant internationally-accepted statistical standards. Thus, the OIC Statistical Capacity Building (StatCaB) Programme for the Constituents of the National Statistical Systems of OIC Member Countries tries to identify statistical needs and capacities of the official statistics producing institutions of the OIC member countries in order to enhance the National Statistical Systems in member countries.

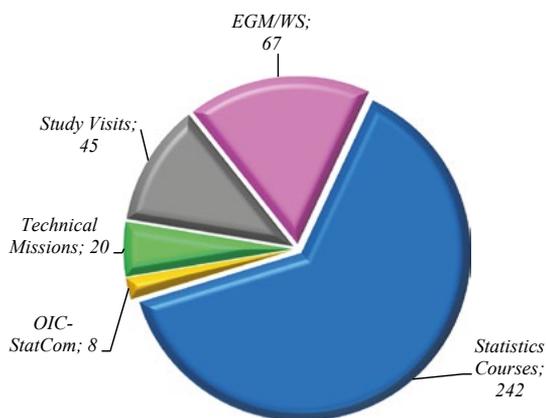
The StatCaB Programme was initiated in early 2007. It is the flagship capacity development programme of the SESRIC. Within its framework, the Centre collects information from the NSOs of OIC member countries through biennial

questionnaires, assesses their needs and capacities, and matches these needs and capacities through organizing statistical capacity development activities.

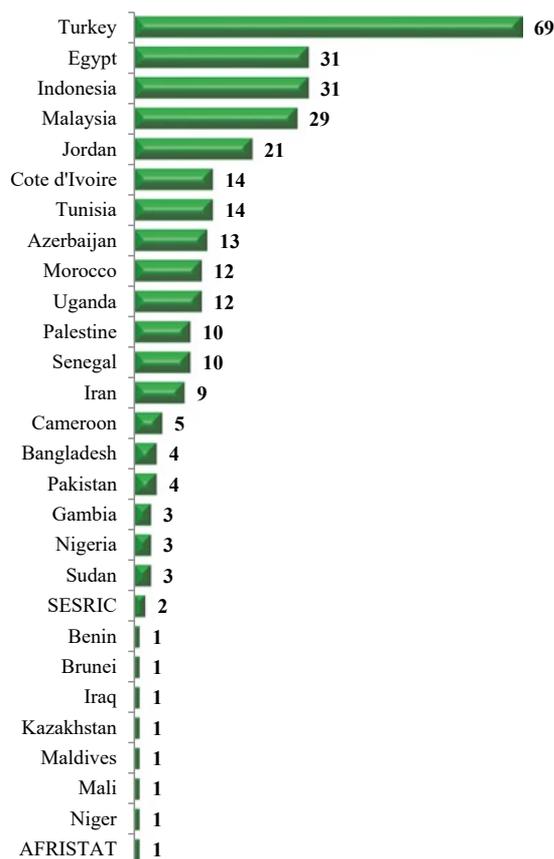
The Centre, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) also reports the implemented activities to the regular sessions of the OIC-StatCom regularly. The StatCaB questionnaire for biennium 2020-2021 was circulated to the NSOs, Embassies, Permanent Representatives and Ministries of Foreign Affairs of OIC countries in January 2019 and is available on <http://www.oicstatcom.org/statcab.php> in three official languages of the OIC.

SESRIC exerts every possible effort to expand the coverage of its statistical activities in the OIC member countries. Between 2007 and 2020, a total of 382 statistical activities were conducted including 242 short-term statistics courses, 45 study visits, 20 technical missions, 67 expert group meetings and workshops (EGM/WS), and 8 OIC-StatCom sessions.

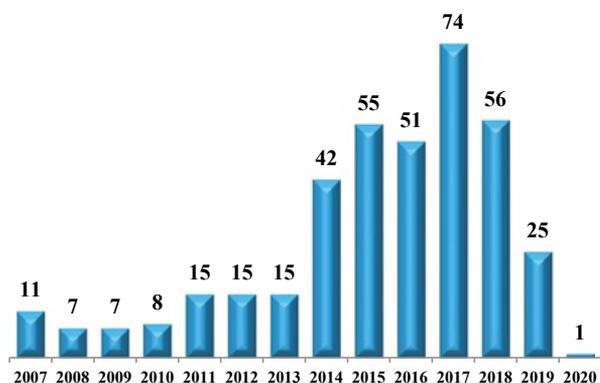
Number of Statistical Activities Conducted, by Type, 2007-2020



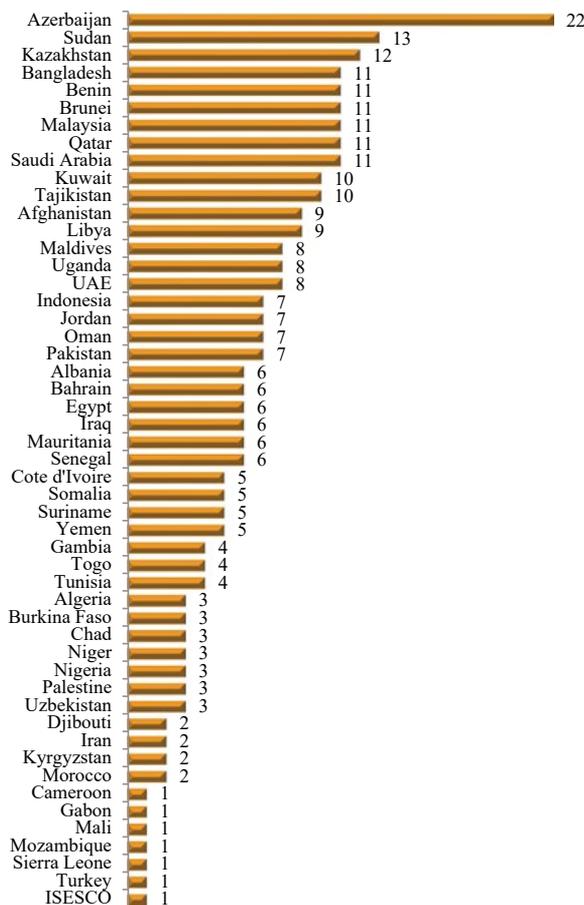
Number of StatCaB Programmes Conducted, by Provider, 2007-2020



Number of Statistical Activities, by Year, 2007-2020



Number of STATCAB Programs Conducted, by Beneficiary, 2007-2020



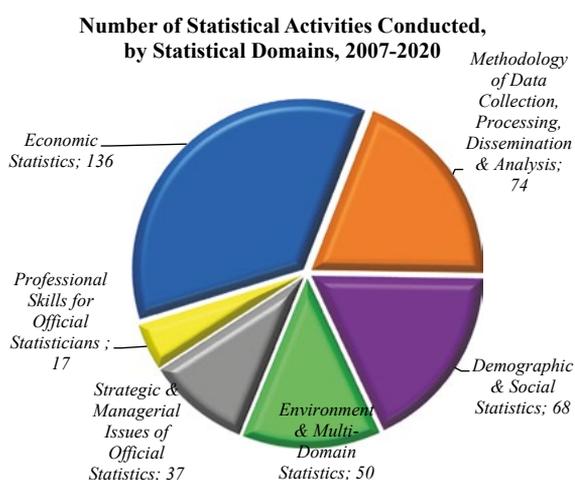
50 OIC member countries and 1 organisation benefitted from the 307 StatCaB programmes including short-term statistics courses, technical missions, and study visits between 2007 and 2019. These activities facilitated by SESRIC could not have been realized without the generous support of 26 OIC member countries and 2 organisations since 2007.

The top ten countries that have contributed to StatCaB since 2007 are Turkey (69), Egypt (31), Indonesia (31), Malaysia (29), Jordan (21), Cote d'Ivoire (14), Tunisia (14), Azerbaijan (13), Morocco (12), and Uganda (12).

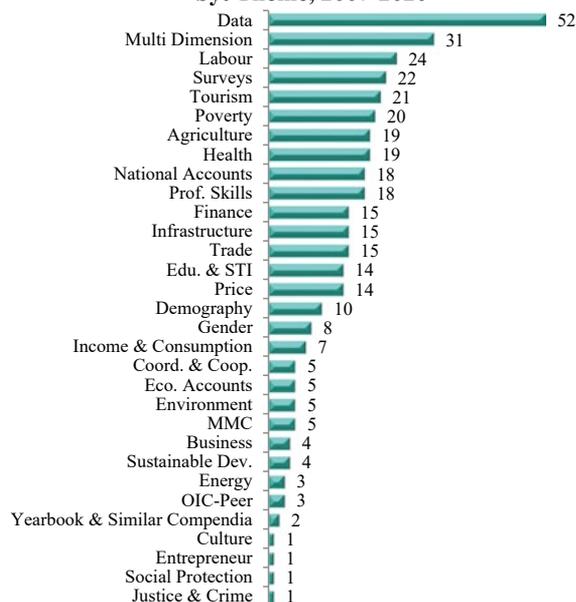
From the beneficiary perspective, Azerbaijan (22), Sudan (13), Kazakhstan (12), Bangladesh (11), Benin (11), Brunei (11), Malaysia (11), Qatar (11), Saudi Arabia (11), and Kuwait (10) are the top ten countries benefitted from StatCaB since 2007.

Analyzing the breakdown of the 382 statistical activities conducted between 2007 and 2020, 136 (36%) of activities are related to economic statistics while 74 (19%) of the statistical programmes are on methodology of data collection, processing, dissemination and analysis. Demographic and social statistics is the third domain with 68 activities accounting for 18% of all activities. Environment and multi-domain statistics is another domain where 50 (13%) activities had been conducted. Related to the managerial issues for official statistics, in total 54 activities were realized of which 37 (10%) of them were on strategic and managerial issues of official statistics and 17 (4%) aimed towards improving professional skills for official statisticians.

The breakdown of the 382 statistical activities conducted between 2007 and 2020 by theme shows that the top of list hosts 52 data related activities (14%), 31 multi-dimensional statistical activities (8%), 24 labour statistics (6%), 22 activities related to surveys (6%), 21 tourism statistics (6%), 20 poverty statistics (5%), 19 agriculture statistics (5%), 19 health statistics (5%), 18 national accounts (5%), 18 professional skills for official statisticians (5%) and 15 banking and finance statistics (4%).



Number of Statistical Activities Conducted, by Theme, 2007-2020



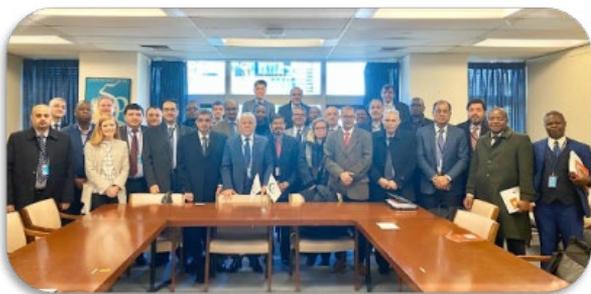
OIC STATISTICAL COMMISSION (OIC-STATCOM)



The OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) is a platform for the NSOs of the OIC Member States for sharing knowledge and exchanging experiences and best practices with a view to enhancing their technical capacities which are needed for producing high quality national statistics while being guided by the objectives and principles to strengthen the solidarity and cooperation among the Member States as set forth in the 11th Islamic Summit held in Dakar on 13-14 March 2008.

The OIC-StatCom Session is convened annually at the Headquarters of SESRIC (the Secretariat of the Commission) in Ankara, Republic of Turkey, preferably in the first week of October of each year, unless any member of the Commission submits an official invitation in a timely manner to the Secretariat to hold the Annual Session in its territory. A Follow-up Meeting shall be convened annually in the margins of the annual meetings of the United Nations Statistical Commission in New York with the participation of the representatives of the NSOs of the member countries. The aim of this Follow-up Meeting is to brief the Members of the Commission on the progress of the implementation of the resolutions adopted by the annual main Session as well as to discuss and exchange views on the provisional agenda of the upcoming Session.

FOLLOW-UP MEETING OF OIC-STATCOM IN THE MARGINS OF 51ST SESSION OF UN STATISTICAL COMMISSION



Follow-up Meeting of OIC Statistical Commission on 5 March 2020 in New York, USA

SESRIC organised the annual **Follow-up Meeting of OIC-StatCom on 5 March 2020** as a side event of the 51st Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) in New York, USA.

During the meeting, the delegates were briefed on the progress of the resolutions of the 8th Session of OIC-StatCom. The delegates shared their inputs and comments about the composition of the bureau members, draft agenda items, and date and venue of 9th Session of OIC-StatCom.

The Follow-up Meeting continued with an information session on the Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) and TQS-Youth Module contributed by SESRIC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and CDC Foundation.

SESRIC TO HOLD 9TH SESSION OF OIC-STATCOM

SESRIC, in its capacity as the Secretariat of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom), will organise the 9th Session of the OIC Statistical Commission (OIC-StatCom) on 30 September – 1 October 2020. The OIC-StatCom is a very important forum within the OIC framework for cooperation among the NSOs of the member countries. It is an instrumental platform similar to the UN Statistical Commission aiming at supporting the national statistical systems (NSS) in the member countries for development of better national strategies and policies. The website address of the OIC-StatCom is:

<http://www.oicstatcom.org/>

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT ON PRIORITISED SDGs



SESRIC launched a report titled “Towards the Achievement of Prioritised Sustainable Development Goals in OIC Countries” (available at <https://www.sesric.org/publications-detail.php?id=489>) during the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of the 35th Session of COMCEC on 25 November 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey.

The Report uses a selected set of 44 indicators fit for making a trends analysis on the prioritised SDGs including SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, and 13. The Report also analyses whether the selected indicators have moved towards or away from the related SDGs targets.

The Report reveals that the OIC countries as a group will not be able to achieve the prioritised SDGs by 2030 if they continue at the current pace. Although progress has been observed in SDGs 1, 3, 4, and 9 in the OIC countries group, these improvements are not sufficient to achieve the targets of these prioritised SDGs by 2030.

The Report presents that stagnant progress has been recorded in SDGs 2 and 8, however, it is too slow for the OIC countries group to be on track for the achievement of these two SDGs by 2030. Additionally, lack of data prevents a comprehensive analysis on SDGs 5 and 13.

The Report also calls on the OIC countries to intensify their collective efforts to close the data gaps for better monitoring the SDGs and provide a knowledge base that can contribute to the acceleration of achieving the SDGs.

PRIORITISATION OF SDGS BY OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES



SESRIC launched the Report on the Results of the Tendency Survey on SDG Priorities of OIC Member Countries at the 34th Session of COMCEC on 26 November 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey.

The Report, available at <https://www.sesric.org/publications-detail.php?id=456>, summarizes the progress recorded at the global level concerning the work on the SDG indicator framework. The Report furthermore informs the readers about the SDG priorities of the OIC countries as per the results of the Tendency Survey on SDG Priorities of OIC Member Countries designed, circulated, and collected by SESRIC since 2016 and briefs the readers about the limiting factors for the achievement of SDGs, SDG coordination

mechanism and SDG data availability in OIC countries.

The Report shows that SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure), SDG 13 (Climate Action) are the prioritised SDGs at the OIC level as per the feedback received from respondent countries. The Report also uncovers that shortage of financial resources is the most salient factor in front of the achievement of SDGs by 2030. Lack of data sources to monitor, evaluate and lack of technological/IT means have also been articulated by respondents as other critical limiting factors concerning the achievement of SDGs by 2030.

In this connection, the Report discusses the SDG data availability in OIC countries. Across 244 global indicators, trend analysis is observed to be possible for only 69 indicators (28.3% of the total indicators) with a minimum of two data points available for the SDG indicators for at least 50 per cent of the OIC countries. At the OIC level, the data availability for only SDG 9, SDG 3, SDG 7 and SDG 15 is equal to or more than 50%. It is also observed that for 112 indicators, it is not possible to do either a trend analysis or a situation analysis due to lack of data. Of these 112 SDG indicators, 67 of them are classified as Tier III, 34 of them are Tier II, and 11 of them are Tier I indicators.

COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS

TQS AND TQS-YOUTH INTEGRATION PROJECT

TQS is a component of the Global Tobacco Surveillance System (GTSS), which was developed by the World Health Organization (WHO), Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other partners to assist countries in establishing tobacco control surveillance and monitoring programs. As a result, SESRIC facilitates the integration schemes based on the Terms set forth by the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the CDC Foundation from 2014 until now.

Up to now, 14 OIC member countries, namely Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gambia, Indonesia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, and Togo have affirmed their commitment to integrate TQS into their ongoing national surveys and also ensure the regular implementation and collection of the TQS data. Of the countries who affirmed their commitments to integrate TQS into their on-going surveys, 13 of them namely Azerbaijan, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gambia, Indonesia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, and Togo, have fully completed the project.

In connection with the success of the two Workshops in 2016 (<http://www.sesric.org/event-detail.php?id=1398>) and 2017 (<http://www.sesric.org/event-detail.php?id=1737>), a third workshop on 'Transforming TQS Data into Action' (<http://www.sesric.org/event-detail.php?id=2013>) was

organised by SESRIC in collaboration with the CDC and CDC Foundation on 12-15 November 2018 in Ankara, Turkey.



Workshop on 'Transforming Tobacco Questions for Surveys (TQS) Data to Action' on 12-15 November 2018 in Ankara, Turkey

To continue the partnership between SESRIC and the CDC Foundation for the TQS and TQS-Youth integration project for the year 2019-2020, a new Subcontractor Agreement Amendment was signed in March 2019. The planned activities include following up the project with Cameroon and Palestine; facilitation of the TQS integration into the surveys of 5 additional OIC member countries; facilitation of the TQS-Youth integration into the youth surveys in 5 OIC member countries; developing a web-based data repository with data from TQS-integrated surveys from OIC member countries; and coordination with CDC, CDC Foundation to organise workshop(s).

SUBGROUP ON GENDER STATISTICS TRAINING (SGGST)

SESRIC has become a formal member of the Subgroup on Gender Statistics Training (SGGST) of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific coordinated by the UN Women (the secretariat of the Subgroup) and the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) (the secretariat of the Network) since 15 November 2018.

The main objective of the Subgroup is to ensure data users and producers in Asia and the Pacific have the necessary skills to produce, disseminate and use gender statistics widely, including for SDG monitoring. The following are overall expected outcomes of the SGGST formation:

- Awareness of the importance of gender statistics for statisticians and non statisticians
- Availability of training materials for everyone to use
- Availability of a graded repository of expert trainers for people to draw from
- Enhanced availability of gender data
- Enhanced gender-informed national policies
- Enhanced use of gender statistics for news stories and other media materials
- Enhanced understanding of gender statistics amongst civil society and the general public
- Increased number of academic institutions that train students on gender statistics (beyond students of statistics)

SESRIC representative attended three meetings of the SGGST held in 2019. The first two meetings were held in January and July 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand. In the 1st meeting, training needs across Asia-Pacific region, existing resources and expertise on gender statistics training across the region, modalities, timelines and next steps for the work of the Subgroup were discussed. In the 2nd meeting, the members of subgroup discussed further development of the training curriculum (both thematic and crosscutting areas), and the establishment of mechanisms to seek commitment to training delivery and implementation plans.



3rd Meeting of the Subgroup on Gender Statistics Training on 4-6 December 2019 in Tokyo, Japan

The 3rd meeting of the SGGST was held on 4-6 December 2019 in Tokyo, Japan with the objectives to review available and newly developed training materials for the Training Curriculum on Gender Statistics; identify a way forward to fill remaining training material gaps; finalise the repository of experts; develop implementation plans with training and academic institutions; review outreach/advocacy strategy; and design the next steps for the Subgroup and its members.

COMMITTEE FOR THE COORDINATION OF STATISTICAL ACTIVITIES (CCSA)



SESRIC became the member of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (CCSA) since 2006. CCSA is a global body of 45 international and supranational organisations, whose mandate includes the provision of international official statistics in the context of the Principles Governing International Statistical Activities, and which have a permanent embedded statistical service in their organisation and regular contacts with countries.

The Committee focuses its work on the following six main activities:

- Efficient functioning of the statistical system
- Common standards and platforms
- Development of methodologies
- Inter-institutional support
- Outreach
- Advocacy for statistics

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

The OIC-2025 Programme of Action accords special priority to youth in OIC member countries under multiple overlapping policy areas with an aim to guide joint Islamic action. This is in recognition of the fact that OIC member countries are home to over a quarter of the world's total youth, which offers unmatched advantages in the realm of industry, innovation, growth and labour power. .

STATE OF YOUTH IN OIC MEMBER STATES 2020: ENHANCING ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH

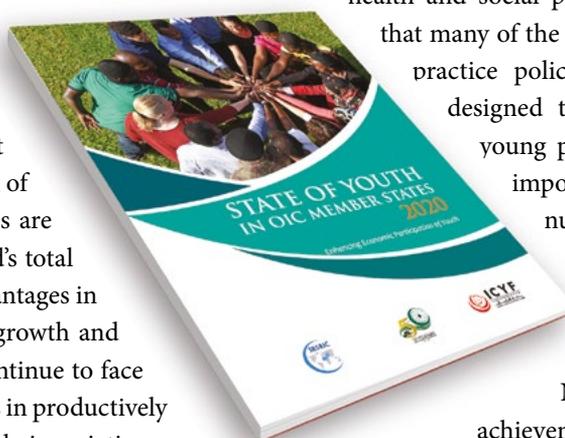
The OIC-2025 Programme of Action accords special priority to youth in OIC member countries under multiple overlapping policy areas with an aim to guide joint Islamic action. This is in recognition of the fact that OIC member countries are home to over a quarter of the world's total youth, which offers unmatched advantages in the realm of industry, innovation, growth and labour power. Yet, young people continue to face a series of challenges and constraints in productively contributing to the development of their societies.

It is within this context that SESRIC will launch the "State of Youth in OIC Member States 2020: Enhancing Economic Participation of Youth" report at the upcoming 5th Session of the Islamic Conference of Youth and Sports Ministers (ICYSM) to be held in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2020.

The main findings of the report indicate a noteworthy progress on the condition of youth in the OIC Member States. On average, at the OIC country group level, improvements have been recorded in the spheres of economy, education,

health and social participation. It further highlights that many of the OIC Member States have put into practice policies, programmes and initiatives designed to improve the overall status of young people in their countries. Equally important, the report finds that numerous Member States have taken concrete steps to implement the OIC Youth Strategy that was adopted in Baku in 2018.

Notwithstanding the notable achievements of OIC Member States, the report finds that issues such as low-economic participation, unemployment, youth inactivity and limited political and social participation combined with conflict, migration and displacement constitute serious obstacles hindering young people's potential and productive contribution to the development of OIC Member States. For example, 17.7% of youth in OIC Member States were unable to read or write in 2018. Moreover, in 2019, the OIC average for youth unemployment was 13.9% which is above the world average of 11.8%. In terms of youth labour force participation, the average of OIC Member States at 38.7% stayed well below the world average of 41.4%.

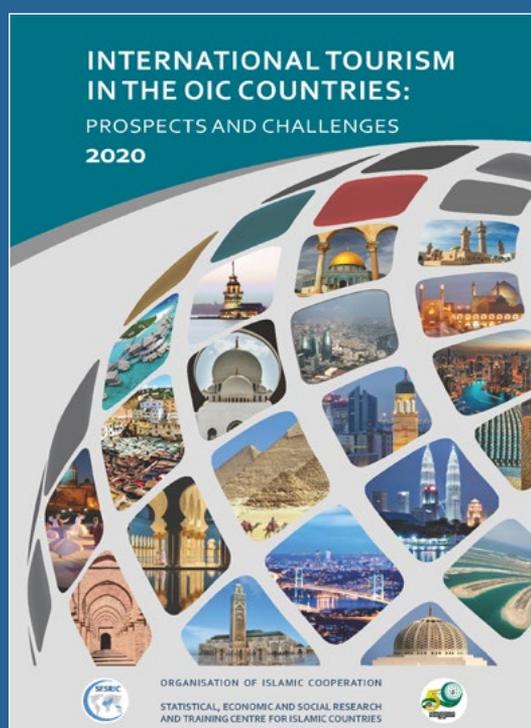


Amongst many of issues youth across the OIC countries face, limited economic participation and unemployment continue to be a central issue of concern. The global youth inactivity rate was 58.6% in 2019 while it was 61.3% in OIC Member States. 24.1% of OIC youth were not in employment, education, or training (NEET) in 2019, a proportion that is higher than the global average of 21.2%. Even worse, more than one third of young women (34.5%) were in neither employment, education nor training in 2019

in OIC Member States. To draw attention to these issues and propose possible pathways to overcome them, the 2020 Youth Report devotes a special section to “Enhancing Economic Participation of Youth”.

Overall, this report aims to facilitate multi-lateral cooperation and propose evidence-based recommendations to address the challenges faced by youth, such as unemployment, health services, radicalism, conflict, migration and political engagement.

INTERNATIONAL TOURISM IN THE OIC COUNTRIES: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES 2020



SESRIC prepared this report as the main technical background document for the 11th Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) to be held in Gabala, Azerbaijan in 2020. The ICTM convenes once every two years to review the recent developments and discuss major issues in the domain of tourism in OIC member countries.

This report provides a comprehensive assessment of the tourism performance of the OIC countries by looking into the latest available data on major tourism indicators along with the existing policy and regulatory frameworks. The report also discusses the niche markets of Islamic and health tourism which are very promising sub-sectors for the development of sustainable tourism industry in the OIC countries.

The major findings of the report reveal that OIC member countries have increased their tourism earnings from USD 157.1 billion in 2013 to USD 181.9 billion in 2018. Consequently, the total contribution of international tourism to GDP in the OIC group, on average, climbed up from 8.1% in 2013 to 8.8% in 2018. Moreover, the report provides a detailed analysis on the state of the intra-OIC tourism activities that is an important indicator to assess the level

of cooperation among the OIC member countries in the domain of tourism. The findings show that there is some improvement in intra-OIC tourism cooperation as the share of intra-OIC tourist arrivals in total OIC tourist arrivals went up from 34.4% in 2013 to 37.6% in 2018.

The report underlines that Islamic tourism is a natural fit for the OIC countries due to the existing Halal ecosystems and Muslim friendly facilities and services. The current size of the global Islamic tourism market is estimated at around USD 175 billion in 2018 and the top-10 Islamic tourist destinations in the world are members of the OIC except for Singapore. Nevertheless, the OIC countries still need more proactive policies and measures in order to capitalize on their existing comparative advantage.

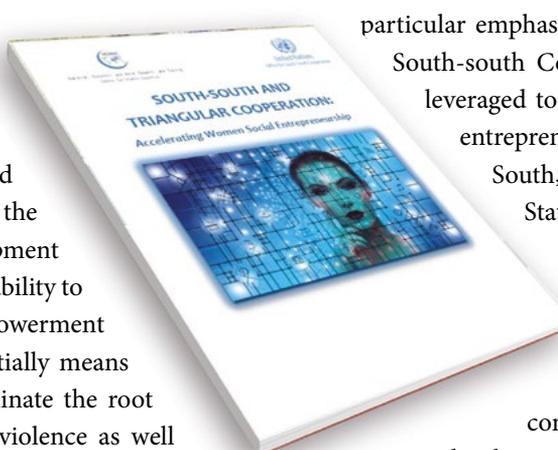
As a special theme, this report investigates the issue of promoting health tourism in the OIC member countries. Thanks to their competitive prices, well-developed healthcare facilities and skilled workforce, a number of OIC countries emerged as important players in the international health tourism map. As the worth of the global health tourism market reached around USD 100 billion, an increasing number of OIC member countries started to invest in this market and make regulatory arrangements to gain a higher share from it. In this regard, the report reviews the experiences of Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Malaysia, Morocco, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates to highlight their success in promotion of health tourism.

Lastly, the report sheds light on some major issues and challenges faced by the OIC member countries in their pursuit to develop sustainable tourism sector and enhance intra-OIC tourism cooperation and proposes policy actions to overcome these impediments in the final section.

SOUTH-SOUTH AND TRIANGULAR COOPERATION: ACCELERATING WOMEN SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The issue of women's equality and empowerment is central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is also integral to all dimensions of inclusive and sustainable development meaning that the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) depends heavily on the ability to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. What this essentially means is an urgent call to address and eliminate the root causes of all forms of gender-based violence as well as discrimination in the workplace and more broadly in society, including gender-wage gap; discriminatory laws and legislations restricting women's access to productive resources; political underrepresentation- against women that restrict their rights in public and private spheres.

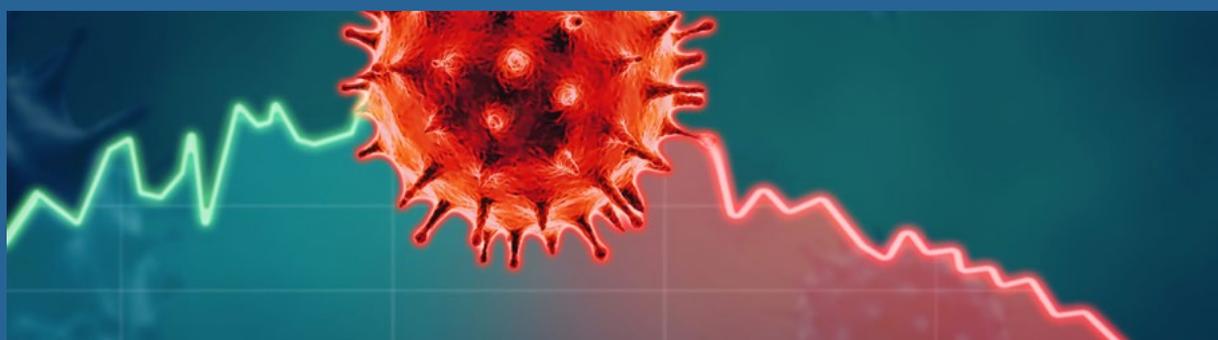
To address these sorts of challenges faced by women, the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre (SESRIC) agreed to partner on a joint publication focusing on the critical role of women in sustainable development, with a particular emphasis on the critical role of women in sustainable development, with a



particular emphasis on better understanding how South-south Cooperation (SSC) can be better leveraged to advance women's role as social entrepreneurs in countries of the global South, including many OIC Member States.

The overarching goal of the report is to generate knowledge on the ways in which women benefactors contribute to sustainable development and deepened cooperation amongst countries of the Global South in bringing about positive social change such as gender equality, poverty reduction, economic growth, elimination of discrimination and socio-economic improvements. The key questions/issues this publication addresses include the emerging role of women in advancing sustainable development, entrepreneurship and social change in the context of South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSC & TrC). In the same vein, the report also looks at the role of women as benefactors and drivers of achieving SDGs in the Islamic world, among others.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES



In the wake of COVID-19 pandemic, SESRIC is preparing this comprehensive research study to assess the potential socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on OIC Members States as well as developing policy recommendations to respond collectively to the COVID-19 crisis.

This study will provide a detailed analysis of socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 in OIC member countries by looking into major social and economic development indicators concerning production and growth, trade and finance, employment, tourism and transportation, agriculture and food security, health, education and vulnerable segments like children,

women, elderly and people with disability.

This study will also highlight national best practices in public safety measures (like social distancing, lockdown and curfew etc.), economic policy response (like stimulus packages, interest rate cuts, loan waivers, cash transfers etc.) and social policy measures (like social protection of disadvantage groups, family counseling etc.) taken by OIC member countries to counter the negative effects of COVID-19 on their economies and society at large. Based on major findings, the study will make policy suggestions at both national and OIC level to minimize the socio-economic fallout of COVID-19 in OIC member countries.

TRAINING & TECHNICAL COOPERATION DEPARTMENT



SESRIC CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

The Centre organizes training activities under 23 sector-specific capacity building programmes. These activities are implemented through different modalities according to the capacities and needs of the OIC Member States in varied socioeconomic fields and areas. SESRIC, after matching these needs and capacities, provides training opportunities by mobilizing competent experts and facilitating the exchange of know-how, skills and experience among the national institutions of the OIC Member States. The Centre's efforts aim to develop human and institutional capacities in different sectors following South-South cooperation mechanisms.



OIC COTTON TRAINING PROGRAMME (OIC-CTP)



Training Course on “Application of Advanced Technology for the Enhancement of Cotton Productivity in Mozambique”

A training course on “Application of Advanced Technology for the Enhancement of Cotton Productivity in Mozambique” was organized on 27 April - 01 May 2020 through a video conferencing platform. The training course was conducted in line with the virtual training solutions undertaken by SESRIC in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The course, which was based on synchronous learning approaches, aimed at providing insights into usage of advanced technologies in cotton production and effects of biotic and a-biotic stresses on cotton crop.

The training course was organized within the framework of the OIC Cotton Training Programme (OIC-CTP) for the benefit of executives and experts from Mozambique Agricultural Research Institute (IIAM) and Cotton Research and Seed Multiplication Centre of Namialo (CIMSAN) of Mozambique and was provided by a competent expert from the Centre for Excellence in Molecular Biology of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.



OIC TOURISM CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (TR-CAB)



SESRIC Commemorated Dhaka as the OIC City of Tourism 2019

Dhaka was selected as the “OIC City of Tourism” for 2019 during the 10th Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (ICTM) held on 5-7 February 2018 in Dhaka, the People’s Republic of Bangladesh. Within the scope of the conference’s activities, a commemoration programme of Dhaka was organized by SESRIC on 15 October 2019. The program included an international seminar on the “Development of Muslim Friendly Tourism (MFT) in the Dhaka City” and an “Award Ceremony for the best Tour Operators in Dhaka”, where three best tour operators in the city of Dhaka have been awarded for their remarkable contribution towards the development of tourism sector in the city.

A panel discussion was also held during the seminar with the participation of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh, Islamic Tourism Centre (ITC) of Malaysia, UNWTO Office in the Republic of Uzbekistan, and National University of Gazipur in the People’s Republic of Bangladesh. Distinguished panellists and keynote speakers shared their experiences and knowledge about the importance of MFT. They deliberated on the prospects for the development of MFT in OIC Member States and the key challenges faced in this high potential niche segment in the tourism sector, particularly in the People’s Republic of Bangladesh.



DIPLOMACY CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (DIPLOMACY-CAB)



Training Course on “Conflict Resolution and Mediation for OIC Junior Diplomats”

A training course for OIC Junior Diplomats on the theme of “Conflict Resolution and Mediation” was organized by SESRIC in partnership with the Diplomacy Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey on 26-28 November 2019, in Istanbul, Turkey. A total of 34 junior diplomats from 28 OIC Member States attended the training that was delivered by four outstanding practitioners and world-renowned trainers in the field of conflict resolution and mediation.

The training course covered important diplomacy aspects, including conflict analysis, negotiation and mediation with the primary focus being the prevention and resolution of disputes throughout the OIC region. The trainees were also presented with a comprehensive framework on how disputes begin, escalate and are resolved and case studies of conflict situations were analysed to develop an understanding of the issues, obstacles and problems that occur in the OIC Member States. The course also offered interactive engagement and simulation to advance the skills needed to carry out effective mediation and conflict resolution.



CENTRAL BANKS CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME (CB-CAB)



Training Workshop on “Islamic Banking and Finance for Central Banks”

A Training Workshop on “Islamic Banking and Finance” was jointly organized by SESRIC, the International Islamic Trade Finance Corporation (ITFC) and Istanbul School of Central Banking (ISCB) for the benefit of participants from the Central Banks of the CIS Countries, and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on 25-28 November 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey.

The training workshop was designed for the staff of Central Banks engaged in the introduction and development of

Islamic Finance industry in their respective countries, including the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, Republic of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Turkmenistan and Republic of Uzbekistan.

The focus of the training workshop was to give an understanding of the different concepts in “Islamic economy” and “Islamic banking and finance”. The goal was to provide a deep understanding of the technics and the legal framework fulfilling the idea of risk sharing in daily business and financial transactions.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION

SESRIC plays a significant role in enhancing technical cooperation and collaboration among the OIC Member States by facilitating technical assistance, exchange of knowledge and best practices, skills development, and networking. The Centre also emphasise 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 in order to implement projects and activities under its technical cooperation initiatives developed to cater the needs of OIC Member States.

ACTIVITIES & PROJECTS

Training Course on “Disaster and Prehospital Emergency Medicine”

Within the framework of the project on “Strengthening Coordination and Capacity Building on Preparedness and Response for Health Emergencies in the OIC Member States”, SESRIC organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Turkey, the Federal Ministry of Health of Republic of Sudan, and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) a training course on “Disaster and Prehospital Emergency Medicine” on 23-27 March 2019 in Mogadishu, Somalia. The course was conducted for the benefit of 30 health workers from the Ministry of Health of Somalia.

The training course was provided by Sudanese and Turkish trainers and covered topics on emergency medical services, ambulance equipment, incident scene management, approach to urgent patient with trauma, basic life support, treatment algorithm for resuscitation, approach to pediatric emergencies, neonatal resuscitation program (NRP), disaster and emergency medicine management, hospital

disaster planning, SALT Triage, infectious disease control, and crush syndrome.

Benefiting from the South-South cooperation mechanism, the project is carried out within the framework of the Strategic Health Programme of Action (SHPA) 2014-2023, under Thematic Area 5 on Emergency Health Response and Interventions. The first phase of the project, which included various training of trainers in both Sudan and Turkey as well as three pilot training courses carried out by Sudanese trainers under the supervision of Turkish specialists, has been successfully completed.



REVERSE LINKAGE



Training Course on “New Approaches in Cotton Agronomy: Sowing Experiments”

A training course on “New Approaches in Cotton Agronomy: Sowing Experiments” was organized by SESRIC, in partnership with Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) and Nazilli Cotton Research Institute (CRI) of Turkey for the benefit of experts from Cotton Development Board (CDB) of the Ministry of Agriculture of Bangladesh on 19-30 January 2020 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The training course was conducted by four senior experts from Nazilli Cotton Research Institute (CRI) of Turkey



with a view to enhancing South-South cooperation between Turkey and Bangladesh under the ongoing Reverse Linkage Project on “Enhancing Capacity in Cotton Varieties Development”.

The peer to peer knowledge exchange between Turkish and Bangladeshi experts led to joint research opportunities to explore new cotton varieties appropriate for the agro-ecological conditions of Bangladesh, which contributes to the achievement of OIC 2025 Programme of Action’s priority area 2.8 of Agriculture and Food Security and also Sustainable Development Goals 8, 12 and 17.

MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENTS



SESRIC and IOFS Signed MoU to Strengthen Cooperation and Partnership

On the sidelines of the 35th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC in Istanbul, Turkey, SESRIC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 17 November 2019 with the Islamic Organisation for Food Security (IOFS), a newly established specialized institution of the OIC on food security, which started its activities at its Headquarters in Nur-Sultan, Republic of Kazakhstan in March 2018.

The MoU aims to strengthen collaboration and partnership between the two institutions in areas of food security, agriculture, and rural development to help achieve common goals and interests

of the OIC Member States following South-South and triangular cooperation mechanisms. The two institutions will work together to conduct joint research on common issues, organise training courses, symposiums and workshops, and exchange of information on food security for the benefit of the OIC Member States.

SESRIC and OSTIM Technical University Signed an MoU to Facilitate and Strengthen Technical Cooperation

SESRIC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with OSTIM Technical University to facilitate and strengthen cooperation in the areas of common interests between the two institutions on 27 February 2020 in Ankara, Turkey.

The MoU provides a framework of cooperation that aims to facilitate knowledge sharing between the two institutions towards the development of relevant national institutions of the OIC Member States. Targeted areas of cooperation include transfer of knowledge and best practices through capacity building and training activities for professionals and students in various engineering and vocational fields and scientific and technological research which contribute to the achievement of the OIC 2025 Programme of Action.



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 in order to support and supplement the OIC Member States' 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 States, and thus to 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, Projects, Training Courses and Study Visits.

Training of Trainers on “Sewing”, “Woodcraft” and “Jewellery Design”

Three consecutive training of trainers (ToT) courses on “Sewing”, “Woodcraft”, and “Jewellery Design” for the benefit of trainers from Afghanistan, Jordan, Oman, Palestine, Senegal, and Uzbekistan, were organized in Ankara, Turkey, in collaboration with SESRIC and Altındağ Public Education Centre affiliated to the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Turkey on 11-15 November 2019 under OIC-VET Programme.

The courses offered advanced training and skill development for the participants by exploring new tools and technologies used in these fields. Trainers had the opportunity to practice the newly acquired skills in a friendly environment supervised by experienced and enthusiastic instructors from the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Turkey.

Participants expressed their gratitude and appreciation for SESRIC's role in organising activities that help reinforcing skills and sharing of knowledge and peer-to-peer learning which in turn contributes to the achievement of the targets of the OIC 2025 Programme of Action and the OIC-VET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025.



Sixth Meeting of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee (MAC) of the OIC-TVET Programme

SESRIC, as the executive organ of OIC-TVET, invited the members of the Monitoring and Advisory Committee to hold the “Sixth Meeting of the Committee (MAC)” on 19-20 December 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey. The meeting focused on elaboration of the implementation work plan for the “OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025”.

Representatives of the National Focal Points (NFPs) from Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Djibouti, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Mali, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Senegal, Somalia, Suriname, Tunisia, Turkey and Turkmenistan participated in the meeting along with representatives of the relevant OIC organs, including OIC General Secretariat, Islamic

Development Bank (IsDB), Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Islamic Cooperation Youth Forum (ICYF), which contributed to the success of the event.

During the meeting, participants discussed the capacities and needs of TVET institutions in their respective countries in order to develop tangible projects and activities towards the improvement of TVET systems and overcoming their challenges. At the end of the meeting, the implementation work plan was elaborated in four cooperation areas of the Roadmap and adopted to be followed for the years 2020-2025.

The execution of the work plan is aimed at contributing to the attainment of many OIC strategies in various domains, such as the OIC Youth Strategy, OIC Labour Market Strategy, and OIC 2025 Programme of Action, and as well Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 4.



The 35th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC welcomed the OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025



The OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025 was welcomed by the 35th Ministerial Session of the COMCEC held in Istanbul, Turkey, on 27-28 November 2019. SESRIC will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Roadmap,

and will endeavour to scale up South-South and triangular cooperation mechanisms in the implementation of this important strategy.

The OIC-TVET National Focal Points’ great collective work and a range of meetings and workshops held during the period 2017-2018 culminated in the development of OIC-TVET Strategic Roadmap 2020-2025. During these meetings, the National Focal Points identified four cooperation areas and 16 priority fields with 33 objectives to enhance the capacities and the performance of the TVET systems and practices in the OIC Member States.



BINA PROGRAMME

The BINA Programme is an International Development Programme that aims to help fragile states such as Libya to overcome their challenges by rebuilding human and institutional capacity based on professionalism, efficiency, transparency and good governance. The Programme is a joint initiative of SESRIC, the Libyan Programme for Reintegration and Development (LPRD) and the Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDB). SESRIC assumes the role of executing organ of the Programme.

BINA Training of Trainers on “Entrepreneurship and SME Development”

SESRIC, as the executive agency of the BINA Programme, implemented a six-day training of trainers course (ToT) on “Entrepreneurship and SME Development” on 17-22 September 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey. The beneficiaries of the training were 14 SME experts from Libya who received tailor-made training on the curriculum of the BINA Entrepreneurship and SME Project.

The course, by integrating different approaches of interactive training sessions, practical lessons, site visits, workshops and pitching sessions, was conducted in the BINA Incubator in Istanbul, and covered a series of topics such as training methodologies and dynamics; training manual and procedural process; one-on-one training on the curriculum of the entrepreneurship and SMEs’ development material; BINA Programme objectives and activities. This was followed by a post-test evaluation for the trainers to evaluate the impact of the training on their knowledge, skills and approach towards entrepreneurship and SME development.



Training Course on “Peace Building” for Libyan Social Leaders

A Training Course on “Peace Building” was organized for Libyan Social Leaders from 29 December 2019 to 14 January 2020 in Tripoli, Libya. The training was organized under the Capacity Building Project of the BINA Programme.

20 Participants attended the two-week long local training, after which 10 will be selected according to precise evaluation to participate in advanced training to be held in Istanbul, Turkey with a view to enhancing capabilities and performance of potential achievers.

The training covered a number of topics including:

- The concept of social peace in local contexts
- Collaboration for social peace
- How to create partnerships aimed at strengthening the social harmony
- Assessing the local needs for the Social Peace and Local Development Programs
- Building strong relationships through interaction with local communities

Inauguration Ceremony of the Bina Incubator

SESRIC, in partnership with the LPRD and the IsDB, organized an inauguration ceremony for the Bina Incubator on 28 November 2019 in Istanbul, Turkey. The ceremony was attended by H.E. Dr. Ali Al-Issawi, Minister of Economy and Industry of Libya, H.E. Mr. Saddik Al-Kabir, Governor of Central Bank of Libya, H.E. Mr. Abdul Razzaq Mukhtar, Ambassador of Libya to Turkey, H.E. Dr. Bandar M. H. Hajjar, President of the Islamic Development Bank Group (IsDB), H.E. Mr. Nebil Dabur, Director General of SESRIC, H.E. Dr. Waleed Al-Wohaib, Director General of

the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD), Mr. Mustafa El Sagezli, General Manager of LPRD, Mr. Saleh Jelassi, Regional Manager of the IsDB Group Regional Hub in Turkey, Mr. İsa Turgut İnci, Deputy General Manager of Yıldız Teknopark, and many other high-level representatives from different institutions and stakeholders.

The incubator will work at various levels and in partnership with relevant stakeholders to support the entrepreneurial activities and development of Start-ups in Libya by providing them advisory, mentoring, and networking support services.



Graduation Ceremony of the “NAMA Competition for Entrepreneurship”

The Graduation Ceremony of the “NAMA Competition for Entrepreneurship” took place on 02 March 2020 at BINA Incubator in Istanbul, Turkey. The event was organized within the framework of the “SME Development and Empowerment Project” of the BINA Programme.

During the event, 10 incubated projects competed after a 100-day marathon of incubation and mentorship and pitched their businesses in front of an expert jury and

distinguished guests. The ceremony concluded with the announcement of 3 winner projects which were awarded with top 3 prizes given by the organizers. Moreover, the jury chose additional five winning projects which were granted to receive a total seed loan of TRY 150,000 from the SEED Association.

“NAMA Competition for Entrepreneurship” was launched at BINA Incubator in 2019 with a view to supporting entrepreneurial activities and facilitating the creation of new ventures of the Arab Community in Istanbul, Turkey.



INTERNSHIP PROGRAMMES

The Centre has two major Internship Programmes:

- OIC International Internship Programme (OIC Intern)
- SESRIC Internship Programme

Both programmes target young adults who are citizens of the OIC Member States, below the age of 30 and already enrolled in universities (3rd year or higher or pursuing postgraduate degree)

OIC INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME (OIC INTERN)

OIC INTERN is an international internship programme that aims at guiding young people through professional career planning by reinforcing academic knowledge gained during their studies with practical applications.

The programme gives young people the opportunity of experiencing professional working environment and consequently improving their work ethics, work discipline and other skills. While giving the opportunity to get vocational and technical experience, it also enables

interns to acquire cultural interaction and intercultural communication skills.

In 2019, 800 students were interviewed within the framework of OIC Intern, of whom 600 have started their internships in 55 public and private sector institutions, bringing the total number to 1380 interviews and 940 internships, since the start of the programme. 234 more students are planned to start their internships in 2020.



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 41 (2020) Number 1

Six articles focusing on: Sukuk-based infrastructure investment, effective Sukuk-based market portfolio diversification, Russian energy sector analysis, Bangladesh economic analysis, government spending effect on economic growth in Sudan, and education's effect on holistic economic development in rural Indonesia comprised the Volume 41 (2020) Number 1 of JECD. Readers can access this issue via: https://www.sesric.org/publications-jecd-articles.php?jec_id=113

Volume 41 (2020) Number 2

Seven articles on exchange rate effects on Turkish sectoral exports, capital regulation respective of bank performance, customer satisfaction measure, risk sharing in Islamic Finance, the growing prevalence of Islamic banking in Balkan nations, credit allocation in industrial and agricultural sectors to drive economic growth, and higher education performance in OIC nations were included in the Volume 41 (2020) Number 2 of JECD. Readers can access this issue via: https://www.sesric.org/publications-jecd-articles.php?jec_id=114

