

Sixth Session of OIC-StatCom

5 – 6 November 2016, Konya-Turkey

Session on “Implemented Activities of the OIC-StatCom”

Progress Report on “Improving Statistical Capacities of OIC Member Countries in Poverty Statistics” (2014-SESRIC-016)

1 Project Background

As a furtherance and second phase of the previous project called “Enhancing National Capacities in Poverty Statistics of COMCEC Member Countries”, the project titled “Improving Statistical Capacities of OIC Member Countries in Poverty Statistics” (2014-SESRIC-016) aims at building statistical capacity in poverty statistics and overall contributing to the national statistical systems of OIC countries through capacity building programmes in selected OIC countries. As per the results of the questionnaire disseminated under the project 2013-SESRIC-028 and in line with the South-South cooperation, a matching was done among the provider and beneficiary countries to conduct the training programmes in poverty statistics in selected OIC countries involving the organization of a Workshop on Multidimensional Measurement of Poverty. The final step of the project included the preparation of an evaluation report to be submitted to the relevant COMCEC Fora.

2 Objective

To build statistical capacity in the compilation, production and dissemination of poverty statistics and overall contribute to the National Statistical Systems (NSS) of the OIC countries in terms of capacity building programs including about eight to ten short-term trainings and a workshop.

3 Project Purpose

To conduct a series of short-term capacity building and training programmes in poverty statistics based on the statistical capacities and needs identified through the questionnaire circulated under the 2013-SESRIC-028 project and organising a Regional Workshop on Multidimensional Poverty Measurement with the participation of national and international experts.

4 Expected Results

- Improving the technical knowledge of staff in National Statistical Offices and relevant government agencies in the area of poverty statistics based on the identified capacities and needs of OIC Member Countries under the project 2013-SESRIC-028
- Improving the cooperation and collaboration with international organizations working in the field of poverty issues
- Building on existing initiatives to develop a multi-dimensional poverty metric to complement existing income-based metrics and to effectively monitor poverty level in all OIC countries
- Raising awareness of decision makers in the OIC countries towards evidence based policy making about poverty alleviation.

5 Completed Activities

Throughout the project period that ran from April 2015 to February 2016, a total of eight short-term activities and a Regional Workshop on Multidimensional Poverty Measurement were completed.

5.1 Training Courses and Study Visits Conducted within the Project Framework

No	Subject	Date	Beneficiary	Provider	Venue
1	Training Course on 'Poverty, Living Conditions, and Cross-Cutting Social Issues Statistics'	17-19 August 2015	Burkina Faso (National Institute of Statistics and Demography)	Senegal (National Agency of Statistics and Demography)	Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso
2	Training Course on 'Poverty, Living Conditions, and Cross-Cutting Social Issues Statistics'	24-26 August 2015	Mauritania (National Statistical Office)	Tunisia (National Institute of Statistics)	Nouakchott, Mauritania
3	Training Course on 'Poverty, Living Conditions, and Cross-Cutting Social Issues Statistics'	14-16 September 2015	Togo (National Institute of Statistics and Economic and Demographic Studies)	Senegal (National Agency of Statistics and Demography)	Lomé, Togo
4	Training Course on 'Poverty, Living Conditions, and Cross-Cutting	15-17 September 2015	Cote d'Ivoire (National Institute of Statistics)	Senegal (National Agency of Statistics and Demography)	Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire



	Social Issues Statistics'				
5	Study Visit on 'Poverty, Living Conditions, and Cross- Cutting Social Issues Statistics'	27-29 December 2015	Iraq (Central Statistical Organization)	Egypt (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics)	Cairo, Egypt
6	Training Course on 'Poverty, Living Conditions, and Cross-Cutting Social Issues Statistics'	08-10 February 2016	Sudan (Central Bureau of Statistics)	Egypt (Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics)	Khartoum, Sudan
7	Training Course on 'Poverty, Living Conditions, and Cross- Cutting Social Issues Statistics'	15-17 February 2016	Tajikistan (Agency on Statistics under President of the Republic of Tajikistan)	Azerbaijan (State Statistical Committee)	Dushanbe, Tajikistan
8	Study Visit on 'Poverty, Living Conditions, and Cross- Cutting Social Issues Statistics'	16-18 February 2016	Yemen (Central Statistical Organization)	Jordan (Department of Statistics)	Amman, Jordan

5.2 Regional Workshop on Multidimensional Poverty Measurement

The Regional Workshop on Multidimensional Poverty Measurement was jointly organised by the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre of Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC), Islamic Solidary Fund for Development (ISFD) and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) Regional Office in Dakar. The course took place in Dakar Senegal from 30 November to 6 December 2015.

The aim of the course was to provide a 7-day intensive training in multidimensional poverty measurement, using the Alkire and Foster method, to statistical analysts, poverty specialists, and technical advisers, among other representatives, from national institutes of statistics, ministries, universities and international organisations located and with interests in Africa.

The course gathered 51 participants in total. The OIC member countries that participated in the Workshop were Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea Bissau, Maldives, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Senegal, Togo and Tunisia.

The training course was led by Dr. Sabina Alkire, Director of OPHI and by OPHI researchers Dr. Paola Ballon, Dr. Bouba Housseini, M. Christian Oldiges (PhD.c), and Dr. Yangyang Shen. The course was taught in French or in English with simultaneous translation to each language. It was structured as lectures with working group exercises in STATA. Participants were actively involved in discussions and working through problem sets, and were invited to share their experience by presenting their results at the end of the training.

The course content covered conceptual and technical aspects for measuring multidimensional poverty with a strong emphasis on the Alkire Foster method and included the following topics:

- Multidimensional (MD) poverty measures: motivation
- Brief introduction to the Capability Approach
- The Alkire Foster methodology of multidimensional poverty measurement;
- Normative considerations: selection of parameters – purpose, unit of measure, dimensions, indicators, cut-offs and weights;
- Estimation of multidimensional poverty and interpretation of the results;
- Subgroup decomposition and mapping;
- Multidimensional poverty dynamics;
- Institutions, policies, and communication.
- Case studies: Global Multidimensional Poverty Index, National Multidimensional Poverty Indices.

Based on the feedback forms, we conclude that participants were satisfied with the training course. The core session on “The Alkire Foster method” is the one with the highest rank. However, there seems to be a general consensus among the attendees that training was too short and that the technical content would require an extension of the length of the course.

More information on the Workshop is accessible on: <http://www.oicstatcom.org/event-detail.php?id=1329>