



## Seventh Session of OIC-StatCom

2 – 3 May 2018, Ankara-Turkey

### Session on “Implemented Activities of the OIC-StatCom”

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## Progress Report on “Monitoring the Food Insecurity within the Context of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda”

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### 1 Background

On 25 September 2015, the 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets that will guide the actions of governments, international agencies, civil society and other institutions over the next 15 years. The SDGs aim to end poverty and hunger while restoring and sustainably managing natural resources. They integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – and they are universal. **The 2030 Agenda is as relevant to developed countries as it is to developing nations.**

**SDG 2 is “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture”.** It has five targets spanning many dimensions of food security. The first target focuses specifically on access to food:

*“By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.”*

Two FAO indicators have been included in the SDG global indicator framework being developed by the UN Statistical Commission:

- i. Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU)**
- ii. Prevalence of Food Insecurity based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES).**

The **PoU** is an estimate of the proportion of the population facing serious food deprivation. It is derived from national-level information on:

- food supply;
- distribution of food consumption; and
- population characteristics such as the age/ sex structure and levels of physical activity.

The indicator has been used by FAO since 1996 to monitor the World Food Summit Target and, later, the MDG Target 1.C at national, regional and global levels.

The **FIES** provides estimates of the proportion of the population facing difficulties in obtaining enough food, based on direct interviews with adults. Building on two decades of experience with use of similar tools in various countries, FAO’s Voices of the Hungry (VoH) Project developed the analytical methodology for computing indicators of the prevalence of food insecurity at moderate and severe levels that are comparable across countries and cultures.

The PoU and the FIES reflect different concepts and provide complementary information. While they would be expected to show similar trends, they measure different things. People may be in a situation of moderate food insecurity yet still meet their dietary energy needs by consuming less expensive, energy dense foods, for example, or cutting back on other basic needs, with potentially negative consequences for their health and well-being.

The PoU is based on national level data available for most countries but does not provide the detailed information the FIES can provide, such as which population groups are most affected by food insecurity.

An important goal of the VoH project is to promote the adoption of the FIES methodology by national governmental institutions. The full potential of the FIES to generate statistics that can inform policy is realized when the tool is applied in national population surveys that enable detailed analyses of the food insecurity situation according to income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location, or other policy-relevant characteristics, as is already the case for a number of countries.

Monitoring progress requires a joint effort between countries and FAO. National data collected by governments should form the foundation for monitoring SDG 2. The goal is to provide information for action leading to policies that reach the most vulnerable groups in all countries.

Against this background, FAO made a presentation titled “Metrics for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security: Indicators for SDG” during the Fifth Session of the OIC-StatCom in May 2015 in Ankara, Turkey. Based on the feedback received from the participants, SESRIC and FAO collaborated together to organize two Workshops in 2017 for the benefit of OIC member countries.

## **2 Completed Activities**

### **2.1 First Edition of the Workshop on Monitoring Food Security in the Context of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda**

The First Edition of the Workshop on Monitoring Food Security in the Context of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda was co-organised by Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and Subregional Office for Central Asia of the FAO (FAO-SEC) on 22-23 February 2017 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey.

The Workshop was attended by 21 delegates from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and institutes of agricultural and rural development support of 19 OIC Member Countries including Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Gambia, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mozambique, Pakistan, Palestine, Somalia, Tajikistan, Turkey, and Uganda and by 19 representatives from 7 international organisations including Economic Cooperation Organization Regional Coordination Centre for Food Security (ECO-RCC-FS), FAO, FAO-SEC, Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), SESRIC, United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office in Turkey (UN), and World Food Programme (WFP).

The **objective of the Workshop** was to develop capacities of officials of the selected NSOs of OIC countries to advocate with national government leaders for the inclusion of the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) and food consumption modules in national surveys for monitoring SDG target 2.1.

During the Workshop, the participants were informed about both the Prevalence of Undernourishment (POU) and the FIES philosophies, and additionally the means to actualize them and the pertinence of the information they provide for food security policy. The participants also enriched their skills by listening to the various presentations on country experiences on conducting nationwide household surveys and governing food security data, and the some of the problems they encounter during the household surveys. The Workshop likewise incorporated a data analysis session in which the members found the chance to carry out analysis on FIES data.

All documents of the Workshop, including all presentations and statements, are available online at [www.sesric.org/event-detail.php?id=1628](http://www.sesric.org/event-detail.php?id=1628) and shall be consulted for more detailed information.

## **2.2 Second Edition of the Workshop on Monitoring Food Security in the Context of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda**

The Second Workshop on Monitoring Food Security in the Context of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda was co-organised by Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), Food, and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on 14-15 November 2017 in Ankara, Republic of Turkey.

The Workshop was attended by 13 delegates from the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and Ministries of Agriculture (MoAs) of 11 OIC Member Countries including Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, Iraq, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Sudan and by 11 representatives from 3 international organisations including FAO, Islamic Organization for Food Security (IOFS), Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf (GCCStat), and SESRIC.

The Workshop was a continuation of the First Edition of the Workshop on Monitoring Food Security in the Context of 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda that was held on 22-23 February 2017 in Ankara, Turkey

The objective of the Second Workshop remained the same as of the First Edition, which was to develop capacities of officials of the selected NSOs and MoAs of OIC countries to advocate with national government leaders for the inclusion of the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) and food consumption modules in national surveys for monitoring SDG target 2.1.

The covered topics of the Second Workshop were the same as the First Workshop where the participants were shared the philosophies of the Prevalence of Undernourishment (POU) and the FIES, implementation steps, and their relevance for the food security policy making processes. The presentations delivered by the country representatives enriched the session concerning the national practices on the measurement of food security and the challenges faced

during the conduct of the nationwide household surveys. The Second Workshop also hosted a session on the demonstration of data analysis with FIES data.

All documents of the Workshop, including all presentations and statements, are available online at [www.sesric.org/event-detail.php?id=1752](http://www.sesric.org/event-detail.php?id=1752) and shall be consulted for more detailed information.

### **3 The Way Forward**

Based on the feedback received from the participants of the both Workshops, there is an interest from the OIC countries to go on with conducting joint activities with FAO. In this connection, a letter of agreement may be signed with FAO where related statistics activities for OIC countries are to be jointly conducted.

For the efficient implementation of the FIES methodology by the OIC countries, there is also a clear need for raising the capacities of the food security statisticians concerning the usage of R statistical computing and graphics language. From this end, the cooperation with FAO should include the development of the R programming skills of relevant experts of the NSOs of OIC countries.

Additionally, SESRIC together with FAO may facilitate the conduct of statistics courses, study visit, and technical assistance missions for the collection, collation, and dissemination of relevant SDG 2 indicators based on a cost-sharing approach.