



**Standing Committee for
Economic and Commercial Cooperation
of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (COMCEC)**

**Proceedings of the 23rd Meeting of the
COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group**

**“Alleviating Adverse Effects of Natural Disasters on Poor Segments of
Society in the OIC Member Countries”**



COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE 23rd MEETING OF THE
COMCEC POVERTY ALLEVIATION WORKING GROUP**

**“Alleviating Adverse Effects of Natural Disasters on Poor Segments of Society
in the OIC Member Countries”**

(September 16-17, 2024)

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1. Introduction

The 23rd Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group (PAWG) was held on 16-17 September 2024 in Ankara with the theme “Alleviating Adverse Effects of Natural Disasters on Poor Segments of Society in the OIC Member Countries”.

(The Agenda and Program of the Meeting are attached as Annex-I and Annex-II)

The representatives of 16 Member Countries, which have notified their focal points for the PAWG, attended the Meeting. The representatives of the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), OIC Labour Centre, United Nations Development and Programme (UNDP) also participated in the Meeting.

(The List of Participants of the Meeting is attached as Annex-III)

The Meeting considered the main findings of the guide titled “Alleviating Adverse Effects of Natural Disasters on Poor Segments of Society in the OIC Member Countries” which has been conducted specifically for the this year’s Meetings of the PAWG with a view to enriching the discussions.

In line with the tradition of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the Meeting commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran. Afterwards, Mr. Mehmet Celalettin AKTAŞ, Head of Department at the COMCEC Coordination Office, on behalf of Director General Mr. Selçuk KOÇ, made an opening speech. After his speech Mr. AKTAŞ gave the floor to Ms. Latifa ALSALEH, Head of Department, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as the Chairperson of the Meeting.

In the beginning, Ms. ALSALEH summarized the Program of the Meeting and gave the floor to Dr. Belgi TURAN to make her presentation on the Poverty Outlook for the OIC Member Countries. Following the presentation of Prof. Dr. Seyit Mûmin CİLASUN, Prof Dr. Nergiz Nazire DİNÇER and Prof. Dr. Ayça TEKİN-KORU presented the main findings of the guide that their team prepared, introducing the background and key concepts about natural disasters and their effects on poor segments of the society.

The five case country analysis covered in the guide namely, Egypt, Indonesia, Nigeria, Türkiye, and Japan were presented by Prof. DİNÇER. Afterwards, the representatives of Jordan and Türkiye presented their experiences in natural disaster reduction systems of their respective countries. With regard to international institutions, Ms. Ceren BALLİGÖZEN, Ms. Hülya BAYRAK and Ms. Gizem BAL from UNDP Türkiye presented their experiences in the natural disasters and their impacts. Lastly, Mr. Hasan YENİGÜL, Expert at COMCEC Coordination Office, made a presentation on the COMCEC Project Support Programs.

2. Opening Session

The Meeting started with a recitation from the Holy Quran. At the outset, Mr. Mehmet Celalettin AKTAŞ, Head of Department at the COMCEC Coordination Office, welcomed all participants to the 23rd Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group (PAWG).

Mr. AKTAŞ started his speech by explaining the efforts of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group since 2013 with the strategic objective of “Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger in the member countries”. Mr. AKTAŞ mentioned that in recent years, natural disasters have become more frequent, lasted longer, and had more severe impacts. Between 1990 and 2023, around 700 million people in OIC member countries were affected by 2,656 disasters, which were mainly caused by floods, earthquakes, and storms. He also added that these events led to the loss of approximately 737,000 lives. The financial damage from these disasters is estimated to be around USD 271 billion.

Moreover, Mr. AKTAŞ expressed that OIC Member Countries, in particular, display a concerning trend across many of these indicators, revealing increasing vulnerability and a limited capacity to prevent natural threats from escalating into full-scale disasters. He also underlined that while OIC Member Countries face a persistent problem of widespread poverty that affects the overall well-being and progress of societies, the increasing exposure of the region to natural disasters makes the problem even more challenging.

Mr. AKTAŞ pointed out that in many impoverished communities, livelihoods are often sustained through subsistence farming, informal labor, or small-scale businesses. He continued that natural disasters like floods, hurricanes, and earthquakes can devastate these sources of income by ruining crops, killing livestock, and destroying small enterprises. He also mentioned that the resulting loss of income severely impacts individuals' ability to support themselves and their families.

Lastly, Mr. AKTAŞ highlighted that addressing the impact of natural disasters in OIC Member Countries requires coordinated efforts in disaster preparedness, risk reduction and sustainable development to protect vulnerable communities and build resilience to future crises. In addition, mentioning that natural disasters are inevitable as well as addressing the root causes, such as effective disaster preparedness, resilient infrastructure and climate change, he underlined that the negative impacts can be mitigated through global cooperation

3. COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Outlook 2024

The first presentation of the Meeting was made by Dr. Belgi TURAN, Professor of Economics at TOBB ETU. She began her presentation by stating that there have been substantial increases in global income and wealth generation in recent decades. Nevertheless, these economic gains have not been shared equally across all nations. High- and upper-middle-income countries have enjoyed robust growth, whereas lower-middle- and low-income countries have encountered more significant challenges. Despite the uneven GDP growth, progress in poverty reduction - measured by the proportion of the population living below the \$2.15 poverty line - has been remarkable, with average declines ranging from 10% to 25%.

Dr. TURAN indicated the fact that in member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), we encounter a different scenario. Economic growth is largely concentrated in upper-middle-income countries, while high, lower-middle, and low-income OIC nations show varying levels of success in terms of GDP per capita. Although progress in reducing the average poverty headcount ratio in OIC countries has been noteworthy, it lags behind the global average and tends to fluctuate, unlike the steady decline observed worldwide.

She continued with the figures concerning the OIC group. Despite representing one-fourth of the world's population, OIC countries contribute only one-eighteenth of global GDP, highlighting the greater economic challenges faced by individuals in these nations compared to the global average. She mentioned that it's important to recognize that OIC countries are not a homogeneous group. Among them, 22 member states are classified among the world's 46 least developed countries, while some of the wealthiest nations are also part of the OIC. This results in a wide disparity in GDP per capita, ranging from \$87,480 in the richest member to just \$353 in the poorest. Furthermore, extreme poverty remains prevalent in lower-middle-income and low-income OIC countries, with rates reaching as high as 74% in some cases.

She underlined that while GDP growth is straightforward to target and measure, non-monetary poverty indicators are just as crucial as monetary poverty. Importantly, statistics show that GDP and development do not always align. To address this complexity, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) introduced the Human Development Index (HDI), which includes factors like health, education, and standard of living. Over the past three decades, the world has seen significant improvements in the Human Development Index (HDI). However, OIC countries, despite an increase from 0.505 to 0.645, still, on average, fall behind the global, OECD, and developing country averages regarding both growth rate and HDI level, surpassing only the least developed countries.

She stated that human development across OIC countries presents a diverse landscape. Among member countries, 37% (21 countries) are classified as having low human development, 18% (10 countries) fall into the medium development category, 28% (16 countries) achieve high development, and the remaining 17% (10 countries) are in the very high development category. Notably, income and development classifications do not always align, with some upper-middle-income countries outperforming high-income nations in development, and certain lower- and lower-middle-income countries exceeding upper-middle-income nations. This variation in GDP per capita is also mirrored in non-monetary poverty indicators, such as life expectancy, which ranges from 61.25 to 77.6 years, and mean years of schooling, which span from 3.5 to 10.3 years.

Furthermore, she added that The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), developed by the UNDP and based on individual-level surveys rather than macroeconomic data, indicates that OIC countries experience higher rates of multidimensional poverty in comparison to global and developing country averages. Only the sub-Saharan Africa region exhibits a more pronounced level of multidimensional poverty. Furthermore, the Global Hunger Index, which assesses factors such as inadequate food supply, child mortality, and child undernutrition, categorises two OIC countries as facing alarming levels of hunger, 19 as experiencing serious hunger, and 13 as dealing with moderate hunger.

In summary, Dr. TURAN informed the participants that the member countries of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) display considerable diversity with regard to poverty and development. While a considerable number of developing countries have made noteworthy progress in reducing both monetary and non-monetary poverty over recent decades, a significant proportion of countries still face considerable challenges in this regard. In the OIC region, over 335 million people continue to live in poverty, and the efforts to alleviate this situation have been further challenged by the global pandemic caused by the Covid-19.

4. Overview Presentation of the Final Draft of Guide

4.1. General Overview of the Guide and Survey Findings

The first presentation of the Meeting was made by Prof. Seyit Mümin CILASUN, Professor of Economics at TED University. Prof. Seyit Mümin CILASUN gave an overview of poverty in the OIC Member Countries and also shared the information on the motivation of the guide.

Prof. CILASUN stated that the global economy has experienced steady growth, with the GDP reaching \$101.3 trillion in 2022, nearly tripling in the last two decades, however, this growth has been uneven across nations. He expressed that OIC Member Countries' collective share of global GDP has remained between 6 and 9 per cent over the past 20 years, despite their population share rising to 25 per cent in 2022.

Prof. CILASUN informed the participants that according to EM-DAT data from the Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), 2,483 disasters were recorded in OIC Member Countries between 2000 and 2024. He mentioned that these disasters resulted in 503,351 deaths and directly impacted 599,994 people and the most frequent disasters were floods, earthquakes, and diseases, with floods leading at 1,179 cases. He also expressed that Earthquakes occurred 248 times, diseases struck 333 times, and earthquakes caused the highest number of fatalities, with 181,657 deaths, followed by tsunamis with 171,572 deaths, floods with 91,657, and diseases causing 4,994 deaths.

Prof. CILASUN stated that poverty and disasters often go hand in hand, highlighting the fact that disadvantaged communities bear the brunt of disasters. This link underscores the need to address systemic poverty issues, particularly in the OIC region where socio-economic vulnerabilities intersect with increased disaster risks.

Prof. CILASUN underscored that the primary aim of the project is to develop a comprehensive handbook that serves as a practical guide for alleviating the adverse effects of natural disasters on the poorest segments of society in OIC Member Countries. He added that the key areas of the guide are poverty alleviation through resilient infrastructure and disaster management systems, disaster preparedness with a focus on disadvantaged and exposed groups, and capacity building to enhance local disaster response mechanisms.

In the second part of his presentation, Prof. CILASUN provided comprehensive information on a survey designed to assess current capabilities and identify gaps, with the goal of developing effective strategies to mitigate the impact of natural disasters. He stated that the survey was conducted among governmental institutions and NGOs. He also addressed that the questionnaire is structured to provide insights into disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies and practices. It begins with an "Information on Respondent" section, where participants specify their country and sector. He added that this is followed by questions on the existence and implementation of national DRR strategies, and the role of the respondent's institution in these processes, such as participating in national working groups or providing technical expertise.

Prof. CILASUN expressed that subsequent sections focus on institutional efforts in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, including developing preparedness plans, coordinating emergency responses, and conducting risk assessments. He mentioned that the survey also covers public awareness programs targeting low-income communities and methods of communication and coordination with national beneficiaries and stakeholders and emails were sent to 260 government institutions and 535 NGOs, and 65 responses were received, including 13 from government entities and 52 from NGOs.

He stressed that the results of the survey showed that while many countries have DRR strategies, significant challenges persist, particularly in terms of budget allocations, staff shortages, and the inclusion of vulnerable groups in DRR plans.

Prof. CILASUN emphasized that key findings indicate that NGOs are actively engaged in public education, awareness campaigns, and providing humanitarian aid, whereas government institutions focus more on coordinating emergency responses and implementing policies. He stated that both sectors face obstacles like insufficient budgets, staffing shortages, and the need for stronger legal and administrative frameworks to support DRR efforts and participants stressed the importance of international collaboration, particularly with UN agencies.

4.2. Selected Case Studies

The second presentation of the Meeting was made by Prof. Nergiz Nazire DİNÇER, Professor of Economics at TED University. Prof. Nergiz Nazire DİNÇER presented the case country research on mitigating the negative effects of natural disasters on disadvantaged populations in OIC Member Countries. Natural disasters, including earthquakes, floods, and droughts, have caused significant displacement in OIC Member Countries.

Egypt

Prof. DİNÇER gave a comprehensive overview of the country's geographical context and disaster management. Prof. DİNÇER stated that Egypt faces various natural disasters, particularly in its northern coastal and Red Sea regions. From 2000 to 2024, the country experienced 16 significant disasters, including floods and rock-falls, resulting in 400 deaths and affecting over 65,000 people, with notable events like the 2008 rock-fall in El Doweika.

She pointed out that Egypt's disaster resilience system has evolved through legislative reforms, starting with Law No. 179/1956, which established civil defense mechanisms. The Higher Council for Civil Defense coordinates efforts, and the recent Prime Minister's Decree No. 3185/2016 focuses on crisis management and disaster risk reduction.

She also pointed out that Egyptian Civil Protection Authority (CPA) manages emergency responses and disaster risk reduction as a core institution and Armed Forces Engineering Authority and various NGOs enhance community resilience and disaster preparedness as a peripheral institution.

Moreover, Prof. DİNÇER highlighted the assessment of the effectiveness of Egypt's disaster risk management system. She gave the information on challenges in disaster management. She underlined that climate change is the first challenge for Egypt because rising sea levels and extreme weather heighten vulnerability. The second challenge is regarding rapid urban growth which complicates disaster management. The last one is related to economic constraints that hinder preparedness efforts.

Prof. DİNÇER informed the participants on what Egypt learned from the past disasters. She emphasized Early Warning Systems, enhanced seismic monitoring and early warning capabilities, public awareness campaigns community engagement, and international collaboration.

Lastly, she touched upon Egypt's needs for improvement. She emphasized that advanced early warning systems, infrastructure development, public awareness campaigns and interagency coordination for streamlined efforts. Prof. DİNÇER stated that Egypt's disaster resilience system incorporates international best practices, continually evolving through experience and reforms.

Indonesia

Prof. DİNÇER briefed the participants on geographical context and disaster overview of the Indonesia. She stressed that located along the Pacific Ring of Fire, Indonesia is highly prone to natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic eruptions. Major events include the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and the 2018 Sulawesi earthquake, which resulted in significant fatalities and destruction.

Prof. DİNÇER highlighted the historical evolution of the disaster management system of Indonesia. She stated that since the 1998 Aceh earthquake, Indonesia's disaster management has evolved with the establishment of the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) in 2008. The National Disaster Management Plan 2019-2024 further solidified the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) framework.

Furthermore, Prof. DİNÇER added that National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB) which Coordinates national disaster management efforts is a central institution for Indonesia, and Regional Disaster Management Agencies (BPBDs) and other ministries provide support at the local level.

Prof. DİNÇER pointed out that the assessment of the effectiveness of Indonesia's disaster risk management system. She stated that Indonesia's challenges are geographic vulnerability and inadequate infrastructure to complicate disaster management. She stated that Indonesia's community-based disaster management and early warning systems have been demonstrated to be highly effective.

Lastly, she mentioned that Indonesia's disaster management system has made significant strides but requires ongoing efforts to address geographical vulnerability and infrastructure resilience.

Nigeria

Prof. DİNÇER gave a comprehensive overview of the country's geographical context and disaster management. Prof. DİNÇER mentioned that located in West Africa, Nigeria faces various natural disasters, including floods and droughts. Major flood events, such as those in 2012, resulted in significant fatalities and displacement, exacerbated by rapid urbanization in cities like Lagos.

Prof. DİNÇER touched upon the historical evolution of disaster management in Nigeria. She underlined that Nigeria established the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) in 1999 to coordinate disaster response. The National Policy on Disaster Management emphasizes a multi-hazard approach to risk reduction.

Prof. DİNÇER informed the participants on institutional framework of Nigeria regarding natural disasters. She stated that National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) is the principal institution responsible for the oversight of national disaster management. State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMAs) are responsible for the implementation of policies at the state level, acting as a peripheral institution in this regard.

Moreover, she emphasized the assessment of effectiveness of Nigeria's disaster risk management system. She highlighted the limitations of the current infrastructure and coordination challenges in Nigeria, emphasizing the need for enhanced early warning systems and investments in resilient infrastructure to improve disaster response effectiveness.

Afterwards, she expressed that community engagement and the reinforcement of policies are pivotal for the advancement of preparedness. Lastly, she highlighted that Nigeria's disaster management system is evolving, with a focus on community engagement and policy strengthening to enhance resilience against disasters.

Japan

Prof. DİNÇER presented a detailed case study covering Japan's efforts to cope with natural disasters and its endeavor on the poor segment of society. Firstly, Ms. DİNÇER informed the participants on geographical context and disaster overview of Japan. She emphasized that Japan is situated in the Circum-Pacific Volcanic Belt, making it prone to various natural disasters, including earthquakes, tsunamis, typhoons, and landslides. From 2000 to 2024, Japan recorded significant events such as the Great East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011, which caused over 15,870 fatalities and displaced nearly 470,000 individuals, highlighting the necessity for resilient infrastructure and disaster response mechanisms.

Prof. DİNÇER briefed the participants on historical evolution of disaster management. Ms. DİNÇER highlighted that the disaster management framework has evolved significantly since the Ise Bay Typhoon in 1959, leading to the establishment of the Disaster Countermeasures Basic Act in 1961. This legislation provided a structured approach to disaster prevention, response, and recovery, with subsequent revisions focused on improving evacuation processes and infrastructure resilience, especially after the 2011 earthquake. Furthermore, Prof. DİNÇER addressed the institutional framework of Japan as a best practice. She gave information on Central Disaster Management Council as a core institution and the Fire and Disaster Management Agency (FDMA) as a peripheral institution.

In addition Prof. DİNÇER gave information on assessment of effectiveness of Japan's disaster risk management system. Firstly, she elaborated challenges such as geographic and climatic exposure, demographic shifts, and urban degradation. In order to overcome these challenges Ms. DİNÇER also discussed lessons learnt from experience, such as focusing on reconstruction, citizen preparedness and specialised response teams. Lastly, she emphasised the need for multilingual signage, enhanced interagency coordination and infrastructure resilience to improve existing systems.

Finally, she mentioned that Japan's disaster management framework emphasizes prevention, preparedness, and recovery, continuously refining strategies to reduce the impacts of future disasters.

5. Experiences/Perspectives of the Member States, and International Institutions

5.1. Experiences/Perspectives of the Member States

a) Jordan

Mr. MOHAMMAD NASSAR, Head of Department, Ministry of Social Development of Jordan, made a presentation on the endeavors of Jordan regarding alleviating adverse effects of natural disasters in this respect.

He firstly expressed that in the face of climate change and its connection to multidimensional poverty reduction, Jordan has positioned itself as a leader in green development under the guidance of His Majesty King Abdullah II. Mr. NASSAR informed the participants that the country has set long-term economic and social development goals, submitting its Nationally

Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the United Nations in 2016. These focus on building resilience in vital sectors such as water and agriculture. In 2021, Jordan furthered its commitment with the launch of the National Climate Change Adaptation Plan, emphasizing sustainable growth and a climate-resilient future.

Mr. NASSAR mentioned that the Ministry of Social Development has aligned its strategic initiatives with the National Adaptation Plan, ensuring that vulnerable communities, particularly in rural areas, are better equipped to handle the effects of climate change. Additionally, he stated that Jordan actively tracks its disaster risk reduction progress in line with the Sendai Framework. Reports from 2022 indicate that climate-related disasters affected 223 homes, while 89 livelihoods were impacted, showcasing the nation's proactive response.

Furthermore, Mr. NASSAR underscored that Jordan's National Social Protection Strategy (2019-2025) underpins its broader efforts to reduce poverty and enhance resilience. Built on three pillars—Dignity, Empowerment, and Opportunity—the strategy focuses on providing social assistance, services, and decent work for all citizens. He added that in response to increasing environmental challenges, a new pillar, "Response to Shocks and Crises," has been introduced to further support vulnerable populations, highlighting Jordan's commitment to mitigating the impacts of disasters.

Mr. NASSAR emphasized that the country's success in integrating climate responses is evident through initiatives like installing solar energy systems for underprivileged families, which have helped reduce electricity costs. He proceeded to illustrate how Jordan's rapid and comprehensive response to the global pandemic, particularly through the implementation of robust social security programmes, serves to exemplify the country's resilience. Programs like Takaful 2 have enabled vulnerable populations to receive aid through electronic wallets, demonstrating innovation in crisis response.

Lastly, he highlighted that Jordan is focused on expanding its social protection systems. By 2030, it aims to reduce extreme poverty by 15% and halve the number of individuals living in multidimensional poverty. Key recommendations include creating a unified digital platform for social protection, shifting from cash assistance to productivity-focused programs, and fostering economic empowerment for the poor. He added that these efforts align with Jordan's economic modernization vision, ensuring long-term sustainability and resilience against future challenges.

b) Malaysia

Mr. Mohd Zainal OTHMAN, Principal Assistant Director, Ministry of Economy of Malaysia, made an intervention on the guide and the endeavors of Malaysia regarding alleviating adverse effects of natural disasters.

Mr. OTHMAN stated that natural disasters are global crisis faced by most countries around the world including OIC Member Countries as extreme weather attributed to climate change becomes more prevalent in the future. As we know, those from poor and vulnerable households are most affected by it. He mentioned that in principle, Malaysia welcomes the guide as a great initiative by COMCEC in addressing OIC region that still has issues with regards to poverty, economic hardship, limited access to essential services such as education, and healthcare, among

others. Especially since these elements are compounding challenges that are heightened with the exposure of OIC nations to natural disasters.

Mr.OTHMAN highlighted several upcoming improvements that will be made by the Malaysian government. He emphasized that Malaysia's governing document regarding the disaster management is the National Security Council Directive Number 20, however, Malaysia will be launching a new and updated Directive very soon, which unifies all agencies at district, states, and federal levels under one directive. He added that this will help to ensure and streamline multi efforts and resources from the government and private sectors as well as the community, so as to be utilized effectively.

Moreover, Mr.OTHMAN mentioned that Malaysia will also launch a new Disaster Risk Reduction Policy Framework that is important as a guiding document, in strengthening and improving disaster management, via comprehensive disaster risk reduction measures that will take into account the current scenario of climate change which is expected to lead to extreme weather.

Apart from that, Mr. OTHMAN underlined that , Malaysia had also launched a comprehensive Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) guidelines in May 2024 to assist the implementation of programme and strategy to improve the preparedness of communities and related institutions in disaster management. This guideline serves as a standard of CBDRM program that can be implemented effectively at every level of the disaster management committee and is expected to be a useful guide for implementing CBDRM programs to the non-governmental organizations (NGOs), volunteers, agencies and professionals involved in strengthening community resilience against disasters.

In conclusion Mr. OTHMAN expressed that the Government of Malaysia also strives to implement a major shift in improving targeted assistance to the needy. Therefore, the Pangkalan Data Utama (PADU) or Central Database that was launched in phases starting from January 2024 which acts as the central repository system of household in Malaysia. He stated that PADU will help the Government to enhance the selection of target groups requiring assistance effectively. Furthermore, the implementation of PADU is expected to minimize the overlapping of aid and subsidy distribution by various Government agencies as well as ensuring assistance can be provided in a timely manner. He also added that this is a significant undertaking by the Malaysian Government, and it will take time to be fully implemented.

c) Türkiye

Mr. İsmail SAVURAN, Family and Social Services Assistant Specialist, Ministry of Family and Social Services of Türkiye, made a presentation on the efforts of Türkiye regarding alleviating adverse effects of natural disasters.

Mr. SAVURAN informed the participants on social assistance and disaster response in Türkiye, particularly through the efforts of the Ministry of Family and Social Services and its various programs. He began by outlining the various forms of social protection programmes, which encompass social insurance, assistance, and work programmes, as well as employment initiatives tailored to specific demographics, including families, the elderly, people with disabilities, and disaster victims. He also mentioned that a variety of forms of assistance are available, including financial aid, educational support, healthcare assistance, food and shelter aid, and special project support.

Secondly, Mr. SAVURAN made some remarks on the disaster and emergency response in Türkiye. He provided insight into Turkey's disaster management system, including the strategies in place for preparedness and response as outlined in the Disaster Response Plan (TAMP). He also mentioned that the plan includes a number of key components, such as first-response actions, assistance with basic needs, housing, and damage assessment. The response to the devastating February 6, 2023 earthquakes is highlighted, noting the large-scale social protection measures such as continuous cash aid, distribution of in-kind aid, and coordination of support efforts across affected provinces.

Lastly, Mr. SAVURAN also addressed the challenges and potential solutions regarding the post-earthquake period. He also highlighted the challenges that emerged in the aftermath of the earthquakes, including difficulties with transportation, personnel, and the over-supply of certain aid items, which highlighted the need for improved coordination and logistics.

He indicated that steps have been taken to enhance the provision of assistance, particularly through social markets and mobile social units.

Lastly, he discussed the integration of social assistance with disaster management in Türkiye, emphasizing the importance of addressing the needs of vulnerable populations during both normal circumstances and emergencies.

5.2. Experiences/Perspectives of the International Organizations/Institutions

a) UNDP Türkiye

Experiences/Perspectives of UNDP on Natural Disasters

Ms. Hülya BAYRAK, Project Manager, addressed a presentation titled “Experiences/Perspectives of UNDP regarding natural disasters”. Ms. BAYRAK informed the participants on UNDP Türkiye’s role and experiences in disaster response, especially after earthquakes.

Ms. BAYRAK stated that UNDP Türkiye engages in collaborative efforts with various stakeholders, including the Turkish government, local authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, and private businesses, with the objective of addressing a range of development challenges. It has been extensively engaged in post-disaster responses, including the coordination of collaborative efforts.

Furthermore, she noted that the earthquake has left many individuals, particularly the elderly and disabled, particularly vulnerable due to the destruction of housing and the loss of social services. It is estimated that over 2.5 million people in the affected region have disabilities, with an additional 775,000 classified as severely disabled.

Moreover, Ms. BAYRAK stressed the UNDP's Perspective on Recovery. She articulated that the UNDP's objective is to enhance resilience and sustainability through environmentally conscious, inclusive, and accountable reconstruction initiatives. She stated that the UNDP places

significant emphasis on disaster risk reduction, community involvement, and the utilization of sustainable solutions. In this regard, she highlighted the existence of specific focal points within the aforementioned scope. She provided illustrative examples of the aforementioned key areas, including the revitalization of livelihoods and the provision of business continuity support, the enhancement of care services and the advancement of support for susceptible populations, and the resolution of waste management issues and the restoration of cultural heritage.

Ms. BAYRAK also provided the participants with a detailed account of the project's achievements. She stated that over 1,600 individuals had benefited from social services, with community centres and mobile units activated and over 1,000 individuals having received training. Furthermore, 324 people had been employed through project activities. Furthermore, she indicated that waste management systems had been enhanced, with the provision of equipment to municipal authorities.

Lastly, she presented the insights gained from these experiences. It was observed that accurate, up-to-date data is of critical importance for effective disaster response and that skills vital to recovery continue to be in short supply in the region. Then, she highlighted the potential for synergies to be created through collaboration with projects undertaking similar activities in the same provinces, citing the Turkish experience as an illustrative example.

UNDP Türkiye Climate Change and Environment Portfolio

Gizem BAL, Project Manager in UNDP Türkiye, made a presentation titled “Climate Change and Environment Portfolio”. At the outset, Ms. BAL gave some information on overview of UNDP Türkiye. At the outset, Ms. BAL provided an overview of UNDP Türkiye. She stated that Türkiye Country Office, which employs approximately 200 individuals, prioritizes the following three areas of focus: inclusive governance, sustainable growth, and climate change. It engages in collaborative efforts with the Turkish government and a multitude of local and international partners to confront the country's developmental challenges.

Ms. BAL touched upon that climate change and environment portfolio includes projects related to climate change and disaster management, chemicals and waste management, and biodiversity and natural resource management. She mentioned that The Revision of Türkiye's GHG Reduction Target and Developing Long Term Low Carbon Strategy Project focuses on revising national greenhouse gas (GHG) targets and designing a long-term strategy to transition toward a low-carbon economy and Promoting Energy-Efficient Motors in Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in Türkiye, aimed at upgrading energy systems in SMEs to improve overall energy efficiency and contribute to national climate goals.

Additionally, she stated that the Climate Change and Biodiversity Grant Programme supports initiatives that combine climate action with biodiversity conservation, encouraging projects that enhance ecosystems' resilience to climate change. Then, Ms. BAL emphasized that in the realm of chemicals and waste, The Environmentally Sound Management of Earthquake Debris and Safe Disposal of Hazardous Wastes Project focuses on developing strategies to manage debris and hazardous materials in the aftermath of natural disasters such as earthquakes, and the Identification and Remediation of Contaminated Sites with Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Project deals with the assessment and remediation of areas contaminated by toxic pollutants that pose long-term health and environmental risks.

In addition, she mentioned that the Scaling Up Sustainable Cooling Project encourages the adoption of energy-efficient cooling technologies, which are crucial as global temperatures rise, increasing the demand for cooling solutions while reducing energy consumption and emissions.

Furthermore, she pointed out that several projects in Türkiye focus on biodiversity and natural resource management to ensure sustainable development while protecting ecosystems. Firstly she stated that the Promoting Low-Cost Energy-Efficient Wooden Buildings in Türkiye Project advocates for the use of wood in building construction as an eco-friendly, renewable alternative to traditional materials. This approach not only reduces carbon emissions but also promotes energy efficiency in housing. In marine ecosystems, the Addressing Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Threats at Key Marine Biodiversity Areas Project works to protect marine biodiversity by identifying and controlling invasive species that threaten local ecosystems.

She highlighted that the Integrated Natural Resource Management in Very Humid Climatic Regions of Eastern Black Sea Region in Türkiye Project focuses on sustainable land and water management in the Eastern Black Sea region, where the unique climate poses challenges for resource use. The project supports local agricultural and forestry activities while ensuring environmental protection. Lastly, she expressed that the GEF-8 Umbrella Programme to Support Development of Biodiversity Finance Plans (BIOFIN) aims to develop financial strategies to support biodiversity conservation in Türkiye. Through this initiative, Türkiye integrates biodiversity into its national financial planning, ensuring sustainable funding for long-term conservation efforts.

Lastly, she stressed the best practices, achievements and project impacts. In regard to recycling and waste management, projects have been developed a range of innovative solutions, including mobile applications, waste management systems, and educational tools, with the objective of fostering greater citizen engagement and environmental protection. Furthermore, she stated that, with regard to training and capacity building, a series of workshops, field visits and training sessions have been conducted with the objective of enhancing institutional capacity and promoting best practices in waste management, cooling solutions and adaptation strategies. She also mentioned that climate change and environment portfolio has secured a total budget of \$37 million, and significant progress has been made in training, capacity building, and establishing long-term strategies for climate adaptation and waste management.

[UNDP Enhancing Climate Adaptation Action in Türkiye Project](#)

Ms. Ceren BALLIGÖZEN, Consultant in UNDP Türkiye, made a presentation titled “Enhancing Climate Adaptation Action in Türkiye Project”. In her presentation, Ms. BALLIGÖZEN provided an overview of the projected impacts of climate change on Türkiye by the end of the 21st century.

Firstly she began by discussing projected climate changes for Türkiye under a pessimistic scenario (RCP8.5). She mentioned that by the end of the century, the average temperature is expected to rise by 5-5.5°C, while precipitation is projected to decrease by 15-20%. Ms. BALLIGÖZEN underlined that regionally, Eastern and Southeastern Anatolia will experience the highest temperature increase, up to 6°C. Meanwhile, the Aegean and Mediterranean regions may see a precipitation drop of up to 25%.

Moreover, Ms. BALLIGÖZEN provided the participants with information on the potential consequences of extreme climate hazards, including heat waves, heavy precipitation, and meteorological drought. She stated that changes in frequency of extreme hazards were obtained

to identify the areas potentially more exposed to climate change and added that the frequency of extreme climate hazards will also increase, particularly heat waves, which could occur every year by the 2070s, and meteorological droughts, which are expected to become more intense and persistent.

Ms. BALLIGÖZEN mentioned that heavy precipitation predictions show higher spatial and temporal variability. By the end of the century, heavy precipitation events may happen less frequently in the south of Türkiye, while more frequent is expected in the north. She emphasized that, according to the RCP8.5 pessimistic scenario in Türkiye, droughts are projected to become more intense, severe and persistent in Türkiye. She illustrated that a meteorological drought of two years' duration may occur with increasing frequency and that a meteorological drought of 100 years' duration may occur approximately every five years by the end of this century.

Additionally, she highlighted the vulnerability and risk assessments carried out for Türkiye. She stated that the assessments encompass ten sectors, including agriculture, ecosystems, water management, and public health, and identify the regions and populations most vulnerable to climate-related hazards.

Lastly, she proceeded to emphasize the necessity for the formulation of climate adaptation plans, particularly in regions identified as vulnerable, with the objective of addressing prospective climate-related risks and ensuring the protection of the most vulnerable populations from the adverse effects of disasters.

6. COMCEC Financial Support Programs

Mr. Hasan YENİGÜL, Program Coordinator at the COMCEC Coordination Office, made a presentation on COMCEC Financial Support Instruments, namely COMCEC Project Funding, COMCEC COVID Response Program and COMCEC Al-Quds Program.

Mr. YENİGÜL informed the participants about the essentials and details of the COMCEC Project Funding. In his presentation, Mr. YENİGÜL gave information on the main characteristics of COMCEC Project Funding, namely its objectives, sectoral areas, priorities, actors, project types etc.

He also touched upon the sectoral/thematic improvements under COMCEC Project Funding. In this respect, he pointed out that small and medium enterprises area was newly added cooperation area, which member countries and OIC institutions can submit project proposals.

Mr. YENİGÜL continued his presentation by highlighting the timeline and budget limits for the project submission. He stressed the importance of finding a project idea and informed the participants on how they can find project topics. He also explained the main project types along with the criteria for being an applicant for a project.

He informed the participants about the Project Preparation and Submission Guidelines as well as Project Management Information System. Lastly, participants were informed about the poverty alleviation projects implemented under the COMCEC Project Funding in 2024.

7. Closing Remarks

The Meeting ended with closing remarks of Ms. Latifa ALSALEH, Chairperson of the Meeting from Head of Department, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Mr. Mehmet AKTAŞ, Director at the COMCEC Coordination Office.

In her closing remarks, Ms. ALSALEH conveyed her appreciations to all the presenters and participants for the fruitful deliberations made during the Meeting. Afterwards, Mr. AKTAŞ expressed his thanks and appreciation to all participants for their contributions to the discussions throughout the Meeting. The Meeting ended with vote of thanks.



AGENDA
THE 23rd MEETING OF THE COMCEC
POVERTY ALLEVIATION WORKING GROUP

(September 16-17th, 2024; Ankara)

*“Alleviating Adverse Effects of Natural Disasters on Poor Segments of Society
in the OIC Member Countries”*

Opening

1. “Alleviating Adverse Effects of Natural Disasters on Poor Segments of Society in the OIC Member Countries” (Scope, Conceptual Framework and Methodology)
2. Lessons Learnt from the Selected Case Studies
3. Experiences/Perspectives of the Member States, International Institutions, and NGOs on the Subject
4. COMCEC Project Support Programs
5. Policy Debate Session: Formulation of Policy Recommendations for the 40th COMCEC Ministerial Session

Closing

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**The link for participation will be provided by the CCO in advance of the meeting.*



PROGRAMME
23rd MEETING OF THE COMCEC POVERTY ALLEVIATION WORKING GROUP
(September 16-17, 2024, Grand Mercure, Ankara, Türkiye)
**“Alleviating Adverse Effects of Natural Disasters on Poor Segments of Society
in the OIC Member Countries”**

September 16th, 2024

- 08.30 - 09.00** Registration
- 09.00 - 09.05** Recitation from Holy Qur’an
- 09.05 - 09.15** Opening Remarks
- 09.15 - 09.35** Outlook of Poverty in the OIC Member Countries
- Presentation : *Dr. Belgi TURAN*
Consultant, COMCEC Coordination Office
- 09.35 - 09.45** Discussion
- 09.45 - 10.15** Presentation of the Draft Guide
- Presentation : *Prof. Dr. Seyit Mümin CİLASUN*
Consultant
- 10.15 - 10.45** Discussion
- 10.45 - 11.00** Coffee Break
- 11.00 - 11.40** Lessons Learnt from the Selected Case Studies and the Policy Options
- Presentation : *Prof. Dr. Nergiz Nazire DİNÇER*
Consultant
- 11.40 - 12.10** Discussion
- 12.10 - 14.00** Lunch
- 14.00 - 15.00** Experiences/Perspectives of the Member States
- *Jordan*
- *Türkiye*
Discussion
- 15.00 - 15.15** Coffee Break
- 15.15 - 15.45** Experiences/Perspectives of International Institutions
- Presentation : *UNDP*
Discussion

15.45 - 16.30 Utilizing the COMCEC Project Support Programs

- *Presentation by Hasan YENİGÜL
COMCEC Coordination Office
Discussion*

September 17th, 2024

09.30 - 11.45 Policy Debate Session: Formulation of Policy Recommendations for the 40th COMCEC Ministerial Session on Alleviating Adverse Effects of Natural Disasters on Poor Segments of Society in the OIC Member Countries

A policy debate session was held to come up with a set of policy recommendations to address adverse effects of natural disasters on poor segments of the society in the Member Countries.

Discussion

11.45 - 12.00 Closing Remarks and Family Photo

12.00 - 14.00 Lunch



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

23rd Meeting of the COMCEC Poverty Alleviation Working Group (16th-17th September 2024 - Ankara)

A. MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE OIC

REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

- Mr. ALFRED ZYLYFTARI
Specialist at Sector of Trade Policy and Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

- Mr. ILYAS BALAKISHIYEV
Advisor, Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

- Dr. MD RASHEDUR RAHMAN SARDAR
Deputy Secretary, Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, Bangladesh

REPUBLIC OF BENIN

- Mr. VODOUNOU KOISSEDAVID
Expert, Ministry of Economy and Finance

REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON

- Dr. NKWAH AKONGNWI
Counsellor, Embassy of Cameroon in Türkiye

REPUBLIC OF GABON

- Ms. FRANCOISE CAROLE DOUBY MAYANDJI
Second Secretary, Embassy of Gabon in Ankara

HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

- Mr. MOHAMMAD NASSAR
Head of Department, Ministry of Social Development

THE STATE OF KUWAIT

- Ms. JAMANAH AHMAD
Foreign Relation Researcher, Ministry Of Finance

MALAYSIA

- Mr. MOHD ZAINAL OTHMAN
Principal Assistant Director, Ministry of Economy

REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

- Ms. ELSA ALFAI
Officer, Ministry of Economy and Finance
- Ms. HANIFA ISMAIL IBRAHIMO
Officer, Ministry of Economy and Finance

THE STATE OF PALESTINE

- Ms. SAEDA ALATTRASH
Director, Ministry of Social

STATE OF QATAR

- Dr. MASOUD ALMARRI
Head of Department, Food Security Department - Ministry Of Municipality
- Mr. SALEH ALRUMAIHI
Expert, Head of Technical Office

KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

- Ms. LATIFA ALSALEH
Head of Department, Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development

REPUBLIC OF TOGO

- Mr. SAYIBOU INOUSSA
Expert, Agence Nationale De La Protection Civile (ANPC-TOGO)

REPUBLIC OF TUNISIA

- Mr. NAJET DKHIL
General Manager, Ministry of Social Affairs

TÜRKİYE CUMHURİYETİ

- Mr. ALİ ÜSTÜNYER
Head of Department, Ministry of Family and Social Services
- Mr. ERCAN DANSUK
Senior Expert, Ministry of Family and Social Services
- Ms. ÇİĞDEM İREM KAYA
Expert, MOFSS
- Mr. İSMAİL SAVURAN
Assistant Expert, Ministry of Family and Social Services
- Ms. MİNE DÖRTKARDEŞLER
Assistant Expert, MOFSS

B. THE OIC SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING CENTER FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES (SESRIC)

- Dr. AHMET OZTURK
Senior Expert
- Dr. IPEK DEDEOGLU
Researcher

- Mr. MOYNUL AHSAN
Researcher
- Ms. ESMA DEMİRTAŞ
Technical Expert

**C. SPECIALIZED ORGANS OF THE OIC
OIC LABOUR CENTRE**

- Mr. NIJAT MAMMEDZADA
Expert

**D. INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)**

- Ms. CEREN BALLİGOZEN
Consultant, UNDP TÜRKİYE
- Ms. HÜLYA BAYRAK
Project Manager, UNDP
- Ms. Gizem BAL
Project Manager, UNDP

E. COMCEC COORDINATION OFFICE

- MEHMET ASLAN
Head of Department
- CAN AYGÜL
Head of Department
- MEHMET C. AKTAŞ
Head of Department
- HASAN YENİGÜL
Expert
- ÖZGÜL YÜKSEL
Expert
- Dr. SEYİT MÜMİN CILASUN
Consultant, TED University
- H.E. Assoc. Prof. Dr. BELGİ TURAN
Consultant, Professor, TOBB University of Economics and Technology
- Ms. AYÇA TEKİN KARA
Consultant, TED University
- Ms. NERGİZ DİNÇER
Consultant, TED University
- MİNE DEMİR
Assistant Expert
- OZAN LİF
Officer
- SELİM UYAR
Translator
- HANDE ÖZDEMİR
Translator

- HAVVA YILMAZ
Officer
- YELİZ DURAN
Officer