

Workshop on the “Role of NGOs in the Implementation of OIC Strategic Health Program of Action 2014-2023 (OIC-SHPA)”

7-8 April 2014
SESRIC HQ, Ankara, Turkey

FINAL COMMUNIQUÉ

The representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working in the development field of health related areas and participating in the Workshop on the “Role of NGOs in the Implementation of OIC Strategic Health Program of Action 2014-2023 (OIC-SHPA)” held at SESRIC HQ in Ankara, Republic of Turkey, on 7-8 April 2014;

Having examined the OIC Strategic Health Program of Action, which was adopted by the Fourth Islamic Conference of Health Ministers (ICHM) held in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia; in October 2013, reviewed the Health Report 2013 and considered different aspects of the health status in the OIC countries, including recent health developments and situations, concerns and challenges, requirements, and priorities;

Having been informed by the detailed presentations made by the representatives of the different participating NGOs in this workshop, highlighting the presence of a wide range of expertise in areas crucial to contribute to the implementation of the OIC-SHPA 2014-2023, including expertise in supporting: capacity building, strategy development, project and programme planning/designing, resource mobilisation, mentoring capability etc.;

Recognizing that health security is a fundamental factor in the maintenance of international peace and security, and is a prerequisite for development, and thus, health improvement is dependent, to a large extent, upon sound and comprehensive policies and strategies of the governments, and cooperation among states, international organizations and non-governmental organizations;

Desiring to achieve the objective of Joint Islamic Action, a new OIC vision for the people in the OIC Member Countries to face the challenges in the 21st century, solidarity in action in dealing with public health issues particularly prevention, control, elimination and eradication of diseases, disorders and epidemics;

Mindful that in today's highly mobile, interdependent and interconnected world, communicable diseases can spread much faster than at any time in history and the threat of newly emerging diseases is growing and can lead to significant loss of lives and have a negative impact on OIC economies;

Noting that, according to the findings of the OIC Health Report 2013, over the last few decades many OIC member countries have attained significant improvement in different health indicators consequently recording declining trends in mortality rates both for adults and children and the average life expectancy rate at birth has also been improved; however, as a group, they are still lagging behind the world average in many health indicators;

Also noting with concern that last three polio endemic countries in the world are OIC member countries; out of the 106 malaria-endemic countries worldwide, 43 are OIC countries; the OIC member countries accounted for 33% of the total tuberculosis-related deaths worldwide; and currently, 9 million people with HIV/AIDS are living in the OIC countries, corresponding to 28% of the world total infected people;

Noting that more than 36 million people die annually from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) (63% of global deaths) —mainly cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes. Low- and middle-income countries already bear 86% of the burden of these premature deaths, resulting in cumulative economic losses of US\$7 trillion over the next 15 years and millions of people trapped in poverty;

Acknowledging that most of the premature deaths from NCDs are largely preventable by enabling health systems to respond more effectively and equitably to the health-care needs of people with NCDs, and influencing public policies in sectors outside health that tackle shared behavioural risk factors—namely tobacco use, unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, substance abuse and the use of alcohol. NCDs are now well-studied and understood, and this gives all OIC countries an immediate advantage to take action for health promotion activities to tackle the NCDs;

Taking note of the on-going efforts at the international and OIC level to support the building of institutional health infrastructure and facilitate the exchange of knowledge and know-how, best practices and models, experience and expertise among the OIC member countries;

Reaffirming that observance of principles of Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Unity, Volunteerism, Universality, Integrity, Transparency, Accountability and Inclusion is of significant importance in realization of health equity, which is built upon people having access to the resources, capacities and capabilities they need to act upon the circumstances of their lives that determine their health is a cornerstone of individual, community, societal and international well-being;

Recalling that the OIC-SHPA attached importance on the involvement of NGOs in the implementation of the OIC-SHPA and improvement delivery of quality health care services through effective coordination and cooperation with all social sectors, and development of a roadmap for achieving universal health coverage;

Noting the support and acknowledgement of the importance of engaging civil society in the implementation of the OIC-SHPA by the Eighth Meeting of the OIC Steering Committee on Health held in March 2014 in Jakarta, Republic of Indonesia;

Inspired by the shared common views towards addressing the health challenges in the OIC member countries, hereby agree on the followings:

1. Express our profound gratitude and deep appreciation to the OIC General Secretariat, Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) and Islamic Development Group (IDB) for organizing the Workshop on the “Role of NGOs in the Implementation of OIC Strategic Health Program of Action 2014-2023 (OIC-SHPA)”;
2. Acknowledge the need for the provision of international integrated efforts in OIC community to facilitate, implement and monitor programs to mitigate challenges in health domain faced by the OIC member countries, and thus establish the OIC Ibn Sina Health Alliance of NGOs (hereafter Alliance) as one of the means to contribute to the achievement of the vision of Healthy OIC Community;
3. Request SESRIC to represent, publicize and raise awareness about the Alliance in both OIC and international level, and establish close communication channels and networking among the members of the Alliance;
4. Urge the OIC and the Alliance to develop, strengthen and maintain global partnerships and undertake joint actions to ensure solidarity, trust, transparency and optimal synergy and impact through exchange of experts, capacity building and training programs, joint projects, and study visits for the benefit of the member states;
5. Reaffirm commitment and support to the efforts made by OIC institutions, including OIC General Secretariat, SESRIC and IDB, and other international organizations such as the WHO, UNICEF and UNFPA working together with the civil society assisting the OIC member countries to promote and intensify research and development efforts for product development and health systems research that can greatly enhance public health services;
6. Call on the Alliance to support and follow up with IDB’s programme on “Alliance to Fight Obstetric Fistula” and “Seeing the Light” as part of poverty alleviation programme and to support programmes on maternal and child health and nutrition;
7. Emphasize the importance of the increasing awareness, education and participation among the youth in health issues in general;

8. Call upon the relevant NGOs and institutions to support the development of tobacco, alcohol, technology addiction and substance abuse control programs in OIC countries to protect society and particularly youth from the devastating health, social and economic consequences of tobacco, alcohol, technology and drug use;
9. Calls upon the relevant NGOs and Institutions to work with the OIC countries in collaboration with WHO on strengthening national disease prevention, surveillance, control, preparedness and response as part of health security and commitment of countries to implement the International Health Regulation (IHR 2005) including addressing emerging diseases and building core capacities;
10. Strongly affirm that polio eradication is an urgent priority for all OIC community, and fully commit to mobilize political, religious and financial support that is needed to achieve this historic goal;
11. Request establishing a working group comprising of participants of the Workshop “Role of NGOs in the Implementation of OIC Strategic Health Program of Action 2014-2023 (OIC-SHPA)” in coordination with SESRIC to develop: a) Terms of Reference (ToR) for the OIC Ibn Sina Health Alliance for NGOs to be adopted through circulation by the end of May 2014; and b) vision and five years plan of action for the period of 2015-2020 to be adopted through circulation by the end of July 2014;
12. Convene the Meeting of the Alliance on an annual basis and to adopt a Final Communiqué at the end of each Meeting which shall stipulate the consensus, common views, decisions and recommendations of the members of the Alliance;
13. The next Meeting of the Alliance shall be held in Ankara, Turkey in April 2015.