POVERTY ALLEVIATION FORUM
Combating Poverty Through Solidarity, Alliances and Partnerships

Session on:
“CSOs Fighting the Poverty Battle: One Community at a Time”

The Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Jeddah (Al-Ezz 1 Ballroom), 11th of May 2023 – 13:30 to 15:30
Background

The OIC Member Countries (MCs) face numerous socio-economic challenges including poverty, fragility, violent conflict, food insecurity, human-made and natural disasters. Addressing these challenges requires the consolidated and coordinated efforts of all development partners but most importantly governments, civil society, and donors.

In 2019, the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) has approved a Civil Society Engagement Policy. The Policy recognized the importance of civil society organizations (CSOs) in making a development impact in the 57 IsDB MCs. The Policy calls for the IsDB and the Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development (ISFD) to mainstream civil society engagement in country's interventions, programs and projects.

In the same year, the Board of Directors of ISFD has approved a dedicated program to serve CSOs in IsDB member countries named “The NGOs Empowerment for Poverty Reduction Program” or “TADAMON”. In 2020 another program was approved by H.E the President IsDB and capitalizing on the success of TADAMON. The new program, called “The TADAMON Accelerator”, was developed to complement Governments’ actions in addressing the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The two programs are important flagship programs financed by ISFD, managed by IsDB Resilience and Climate Action Department and implemented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and key partners. They are aiming at empowering local CSOs in OIC member countries to improve the socio-economic well-being of hard-to-reach communities. The programs focus on effective identification of impactful CSOs, through mapping, and supporting these CSOs in delivering services rendered to refugees and remote communities. The programs focus on job creation, building resilience and stronger community livelihoods, humanitarian assistance as well as addressing environmental and energy issues at the local level.

Both The TADAMON & TADAMON Accelerator programs are rolled out in 57 IsDB member countries to empower CSOs. By using the bottom-up and top-down approach, these program will map and categorize CSOs and interlink their work, experiences, and crowdfunding campaigns on one aggregated platform (link: https://tadamon.community/).
To date, 33 OIC member countries have endorsed the TADAMON program, over 28 development partners and 19 crowdfunding platforms have already joined. More than 2,939 CSOs have signed up to the TADAMON Platform. Project implementation is currently active in 21 countries: Burkina Faso, Comoros, Djibouti, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Libya, Maldives, Morocco, Niger, Pakistan, Senegal, Somalia, State of Palestine, Sudan, Tunisia, Türkiye, and Yemen.

The “TADAMON Accelerator” kicked off in 2022. An open call for innovative CSOs programs tackling the ramifications of the COVID 19 pandemic was launched. 345 applications were received and reviewed, from which 50 CSOs (representing 28 countries) were selected. Over 14 weeks, the selected CSOs have been partaking in a learning and capacity development journey consisting of five core modules and multiple boosters. Based on agreed criteria, the Evaluation Board for the open call selected 25 winners to receive grants ranging from US$ 10,000 to US$ 40,000. The seven best CSOs were invited to attend the ISFD poverty alleviation forum to present their projects during this panel session.

Objectives of the Session

Given the global importance of the CSOs in achieving the ISFD mandate of reducing poverty, this session was developed to:

1. Highlight the essential role that CSOs play in contributing to the welfare of local communities in both the development and humanitarian spheres.
2. Address some of the needed Government support to create the enabling environment for CSOs to thrive.
3. Share some real life and specific projects where CSOs supported poverty alleviation.

Session Format

The session will be held as in-person in Ritz Carlton Hotel, Jeddah, KSA. It will be in the form of a panel discussion hosting five suggested panelists from development and humanitarian agencies, preceded by four keynote speakers and an award ceremony for the winners CSOs.
Moderator

Tariq Qureishy; Founder and CEO of MAD Talks

Tariq is a media professional and entrepreneur with over 20 years in top leadership positions. He was Regional Director EMEA in Dow Jones Markets, publisher and CEO Times/Sunday times, Bloomberg media MEA representative and he is a Harvard Business School alum and advise member of HBS Club of the GCC.

Registration

- For participants: use the following link to register in the event (https://isdb-am.org/registration-accreditations/).

- For speakers and Panelists: In addition to registration through above link, kindly use the following code (226HK81) and confirm your attendance by email to (IMohamed@isdb.org) and (EGhreiz@isdb.org), and attach 1 color passport-size photograph, and copy of your passport.