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Concept Note on Flour for Humanity

Depending on the data generated lately by respectful specialized organizations of the UN, that indicated that humanity could face a massive famine because of the fallback effect of the COVID-19 pandemic that struck the aid efforts in 2020. This threat is particularly acute in low-developed countries in different regions: Asia, Central America, the Middle East, and Africa. COVID-19 contributed to the exacerbation of pre-existing famine factors in these countries. Countries with a potential threat of famine include many of them from OIC/IOFS region.

Border closures, supply disruptions and labor shortages for harvesting, falling incomes of a large portion of the population due to the shutdown of many businesses are some of the reasons for the current food crisis. Flour remains the core product of essential consumption in the MS of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the situation is aggravated by the critical dependence of most MS on external wheat supplies. All the above-mentioned factors that could lead to disastrous consequences for millions of people. According to preliminary estimates, there are about 27-30 million people in the risk zone in 20 OIC member countries, and they need external food assistance.

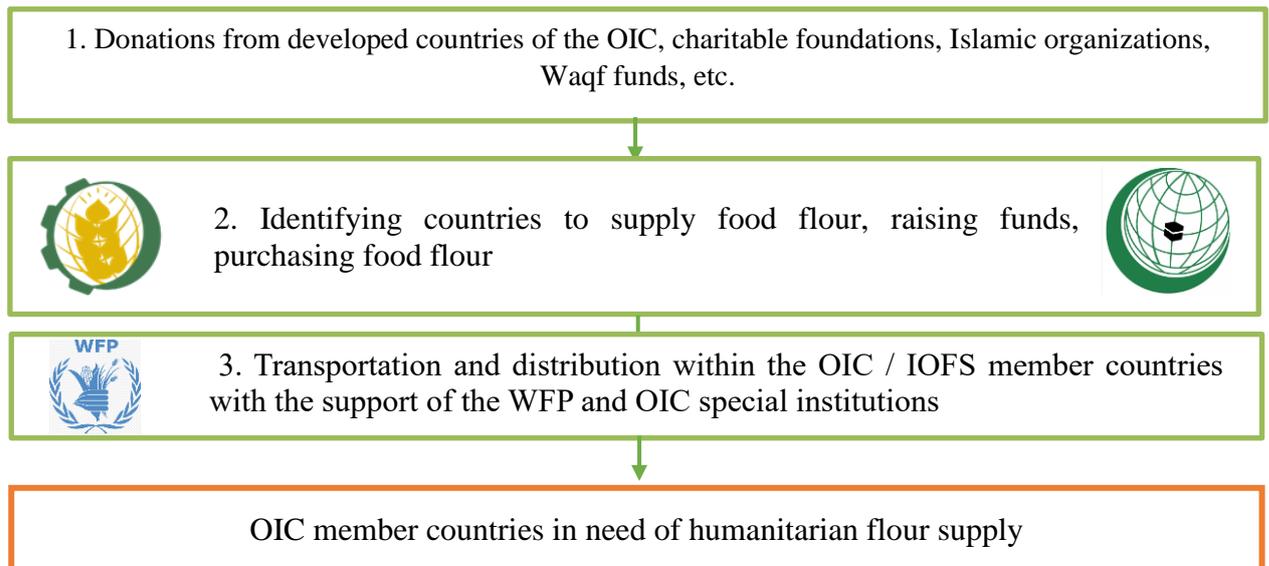
International humanitarian agencies are taking action to avoid the widespread famine that the coronavirus pandemic could cause. The IOFS, as a specialized institution of the OIC, is concerned about the humanitarian situation in the Member Countries and this considered to be the most important challenge nowadays. In this regard, the Islamic Organization for Food Security calls on countries to provide urgent humanitarian aid to countries in need and initiates the "Flour for Humanity" program, which is designed to mitigate the consequences of the impending humanitarian disaster among OIC Member States. With the help of grain producers where all suppliers of flour could be engaged and authorized. Some of them could be Kazakhstan, whose authorities are expressing their readiness to take an active part in this project.

It is important to note that this year, in the midst of a severe crisis caused by the pandemic, the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan provided humanitarian assistance to neighboring countries, for example, Afghanistan received assistance in the form of 1,900 tons of flour, 500 tons of pasta, 4,000 liters of sunflower oil and 200,000 cans of condensed milk. By the end of this year, the Republic of Kazakhstan intends to supply humanitarian aid to the Republic of Tajikistan, the Kyrgyz Republic in the form of flour, in the amount of 5 thousand tons to each country, for a total amount of over 3 million US dollars.

Given the scale of the disaster, it is proposed to extend the "Flour for Humanity" program over a medium-term period, about 5 years.

According to the IOFS Secretariat proposal, the main countries in desperate need of humanitarian flour are: Somalia, Yemen, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Palestine and Lebanon.

The proposed scheme of interaction between the parties



Program governance organs

The governing bodies of the program will consist of a Steering Committee, a Tender Committee, and an Office.

The Steering Committee is the main collegial decision-making body for the program. Decisions will be made based on the principles of transparency, objectivity and effective program management. The Steering Committee will report to the Executive Boards and General Assembly of the IOFS. The main functions of the Steering Committee based on objective and relevant criteria: classification of needy OIC/IOFS MS (critical/medium/moderate), in accordance with qualifications, approval of the timing and amount of assistance for OIC/IOFS MS, budget allocation, appointment of members of the Tender Committee, procurement methods among others. The Steering Committee will be composed of donor representatives, both IOFS and OIC secretariats.

The Tender Committee will carry out the procedure for the purchase of flour among the OIC/IOFS MS: prepare announcement for purchasing, the evaluation of proposals and the selection of the winners. The Tender Committee is appointed by the Steering Committee and consists of authorized donor representatives and the IOFS Secretariat.

The functions of the Office are to provide administrative, communication and logistical support for the activities of the Steering Committee and the Tender Committee: preparation of materials for consideration and approval, correspondence, organization of meetings among others.

Prior to establishment of the Office, including allocation of running cost sources of its content are determined, its functions will be performed by the IOFS Secretariat.

Interaction and harmonization of actions with the national programs of the IOFS/OIC member states and international organizations

The aim of the program is to provide timely humanitarian aid to fraternal OIC MS. The most effective way to achieve this goal is to closely interact with international and national bodies via strengthening their capacities, as well as using their competence, proven practice, and existing infrastructure. Cooperation with national authorities on humanitarian issues (frequently their activities covering foreign countries) will allow responding quickly and effectively work to provide assistance to those in need. After all, national authorities usually provide first aid at the initial stage of an emergency, long before the arrival of international humanitarian assistance. The program should function with the maximum reduction of links in the chain of humanitarian activities by strengthening relationships with national authorities: coordination of efforts, creation

of common mechanisms, among others. Interaction with national and international authorities will create an effectively and fairly autonomously operating ramified humanitarian system.

Logistics and transportation

The logistics and transportation of humanitarian flour to the poorest OIC Member States, as well as its distribution among vulnerable groups of the population, will be carried out with the assistance of the UN World Food Program and OIC specialized institutions. For a flexible and operational approach in the implementation of the program, part of the assistance will be carried out through the national authorities of the OIC/IOFS Member States.

**The Secretariat
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