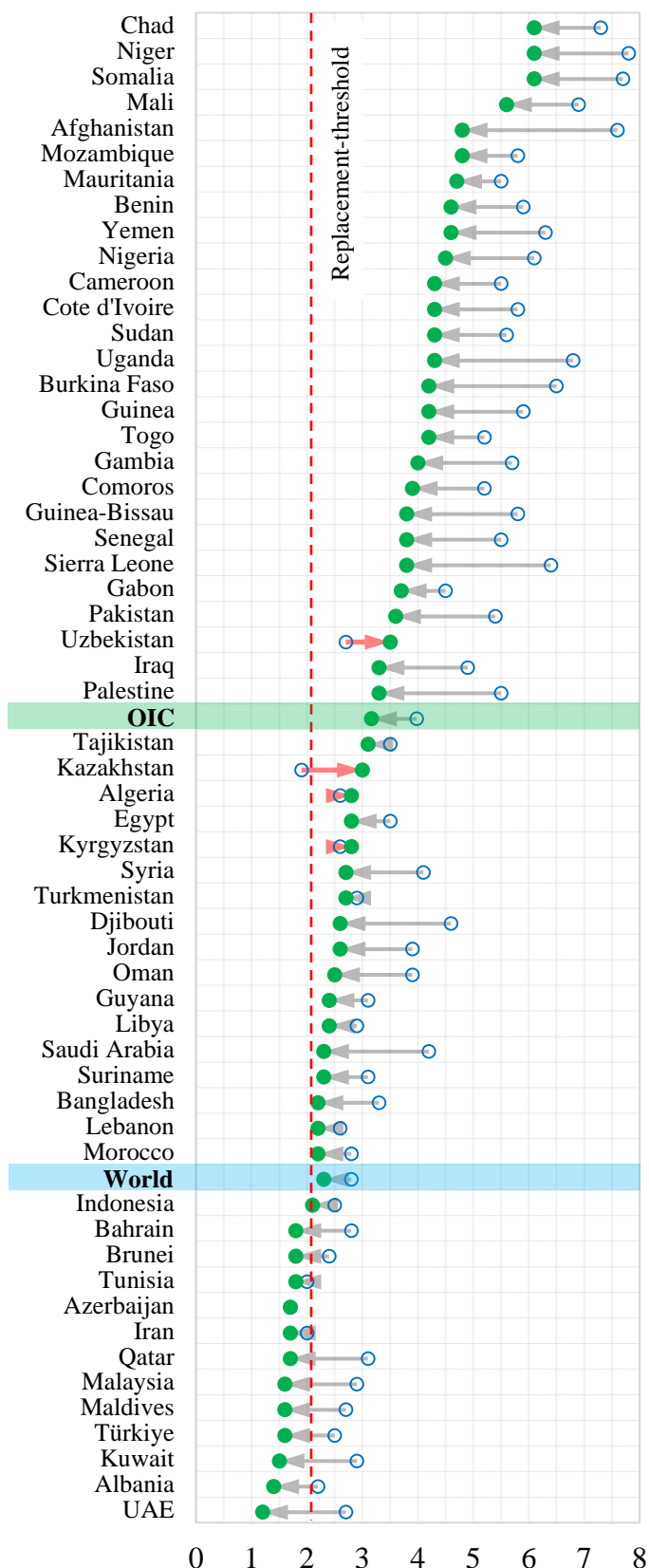


## Total Fertility Rate (Births per Woman)

○ 2000 ● 2023



**Source:** SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 14/03/2025 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) and the United Nations Population Division (UNPD), World Population Prospects. The red line in the graph marks the replacement-level fertility rate, defined as 2.1 children per woman.

- **Total fertility rate (TFR)** refers to the average number of children a woman would bear if she were to live through her entire reproductive years, assuming she experienced the current age-specific fertility rates throughout her life.
- A TFR of **2.1 children** per woman is generally considered the replacement level—sufficient to maintain a stable population over time, assuming no migration and constant mortality rates. However, in some developing countries with higher mortality rates, particularly among children, the replacement threshold may be as high as 3.5.
- Globally—and across OIC countries—fertility rates have steadily declined since the 1990s, and this trend is expected to continue in the coming decades.
- In OIC countries, the average TFR dropped from 4.0 in 2000 to 3.2 in 2023. Despite this decline, the average rate remains higher than the global average, which was 2.3 in 2023.
- Between 2000 and 2023, a decline in total fertility rate was observed in 53 OIC countries. In 36 of these countries, the decrease was particularly notable—exceeding one child per woman—indicating a significant demographic transition.
- On the other hand, modest increases in fertility (equal to or greater than 0.2 points) were observed in **Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Algeria** during the same period.
- Despite the overall downward trend, most OIC countries still maintain fertility rates above the replacement level, supporting both population growth and long-term economic potential.
- This demographic profile presents a window of opportunity for many OIC countries, as maintaining fertility levels above replacement rate can contribute to a growing labour force, economic expansion, and the sustainability of social security systems.
- Policymakers are encouraged to promote pro-family policies to sustain fertility near replacement levels. These may include comprehensive support for families, such as paid parental leave for both parents, family allowances, access to quality childcare services, and enhanced job security.