



# SWOT OUTLOOK ON OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

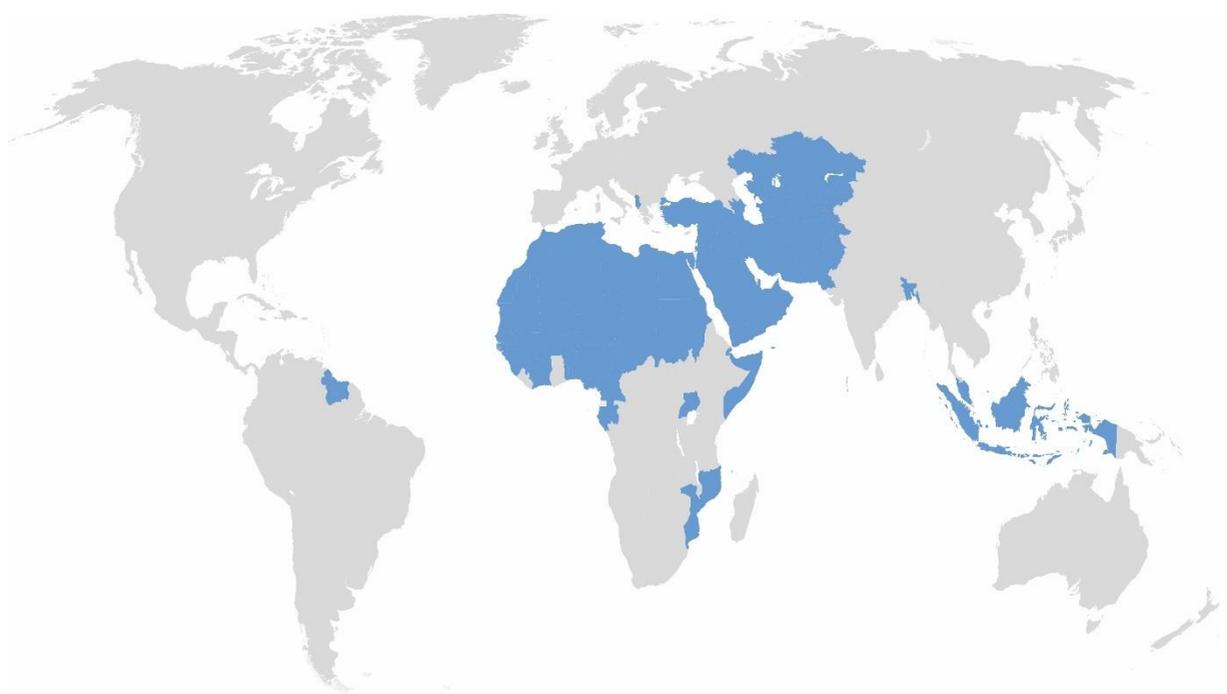
2020



ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION  
STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH  
AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES  
(SESRIC)



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Address: Kudüs Cad. No: 9, Diplomatik Site, 06450 Oran, Ankara –Türkiye  
Telephone: +90–312–468 6172 | Fax: +90–312–467 3458  
Website: [www.sesric.org](http://www.sesric.org) | E-mail: [pubs@sesric.org](mailto:pubs@sesric.org)

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For additional information, contact Statistics and Information Department of SESRIC through: [statistics@sesric.org](mailto:statistics@sesric.org)

### Acknowledgements

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# FOREWORD

The series of SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Outlook on OIC Member Countries has been initiated by SESRIC in 2011 with a view to providing specific statistical indicators on the OIC member countries, which can shed light on their performance and potentials, as a group, in various socio-economic fields based on the most recent available data.

The 2020 edition of the “SWOT Outlook on OIC Member Countries” is prepared using the SWOT methodology, which presents profiles of the group of OIC countries based on selected relevant statistical indicators on their major strengths and weaknesses as well as the opportunities and threats they face in various socio-economic areas. The report reflects the major situation of the group of OIC countries under the four main sections titled “Strengths”, “Weaknesses”, “Opportunities”, and “Threats” through easily understandable charts, summary bubbles and explanatory texts. The performance of the group of the OIC countries is also compared with the world average and the averages of both the non-OIC developing and developed countries groups.

Examples of major strengths of the OIC countries group covered in this edition include having a young population, possessing a significant portion of the world’s crude oil and natural gas reserves. As another source of the major strengths of the group, the report shows that 6 out of 8 primary maritime choke points in the world are controlled by OIC countries.

Among the major opportunities for the group of OIC countries that could have high potential to be transformed into higher economic growth and development levels are the increasing trends in personal remittances, Islamic finance assets, intra-OIC trade, and exports diversification. Moreover, having a diversified tourism ecosystem with competitive advantages in Islamic tourism and rich cultural heritage constitute another opportunity that could contribute significantly to the development of tourism and economic growth in the group of OIC countries.

# FOREWORD

On the other hand, the report highlights some of the major weaknesses of the group of the OIC countries that should be addressed. These include, among others, the low enrolment rates in education, the high child mortality rates, the underutilisation of labour force and the low annual labour productivity growth rates, the lack of sufficient funding for scientific development, and the inadequate physical and digital infrastructure. In this context, the Report also underlines the increasing gap in the level of human development over the years between the two groups of non-OIC developing countries and OIC countries in terms of the Human Development Index and other socio-economic indicators.

Increasing external debt, water scarcity and low access to improved water resources and sanitation facilities, rapid deforestation, food insecurity, and unsustainable urbanisation emerge as threats that are likely to impose serious challenges to the group of OIC countries and thus, necessitate urgent countermeasures. Furthermore, conflicts have continued being a major challenge to many OIC countries in terms of number of victims, refugees, and displaced persons.

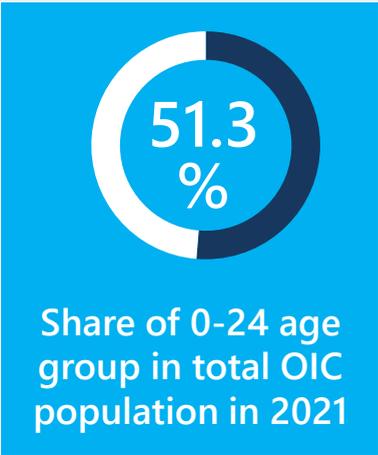
Overall, the report highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the group of OIC countries with a view to enhancing its competitiveness globally. It also highlights the major significant opportunities that could be utilised by the group with a view to furthering their growth and development, as well as the potential threats that should be seriously addressed to avoid and prevent their negative effects. With this, we hope that the SWOT Outlook on OIC Member Countries serves as a reference material for better strategic planning and policy making at the OIC level.

Nebil DABUR  
Director General  
SESRIC

The background features a pattern of light blue diagonal lines. On the right side, there is a grid of squares in various shades of blue, ranging from light to dark, creating a textured, geometric effect.

**STRENGTHS**

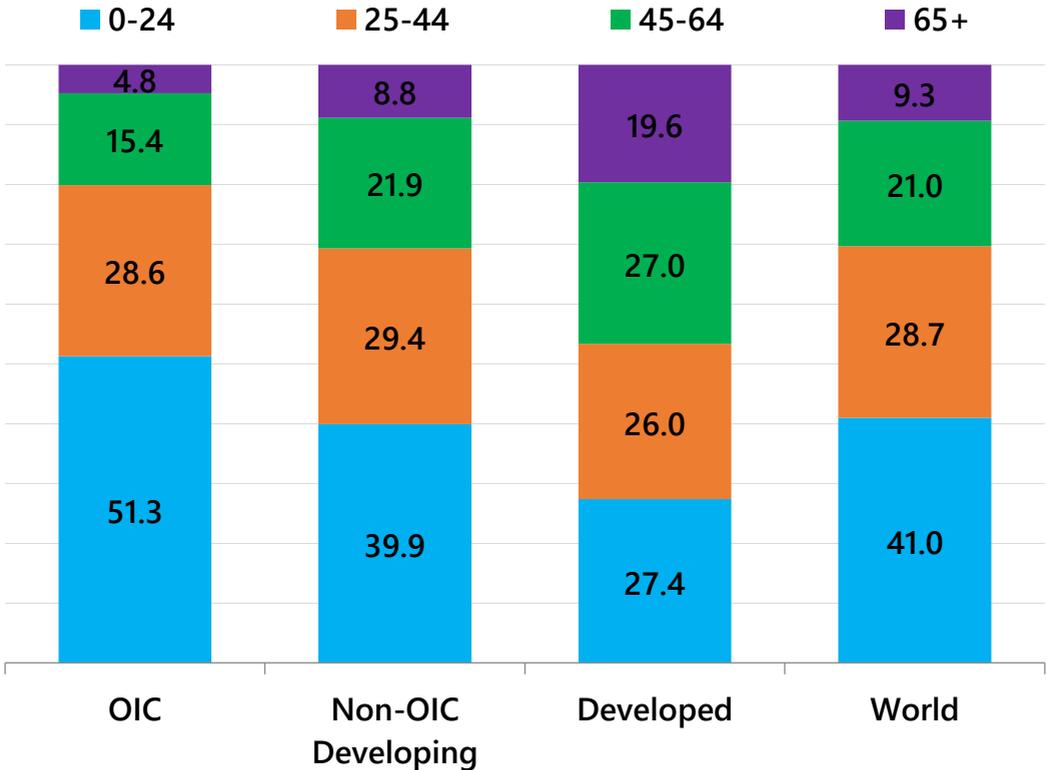
# STRENGTH: YOUNG POPULATION



The group of OIC countries with a population of 1.9 billion people accounted for 24.5% of the total world population in 2021.

Young population is an engine for socio-economic development. The share of young population (ages 0-24) corresponded to 51.3% of the total OIC population in 2021, the highest ratio among the non-OIC developing and developed countries groups and the world.

Population by Age Group (% of Total), 2021

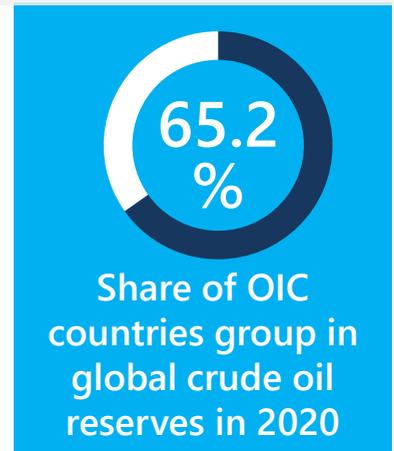


Formulation of comprehensive and multi-sectoral policies and programs by the OIC countries is a key to benefit from the economic potentials of their young and dynamic population for high economic growth and sustainable development.

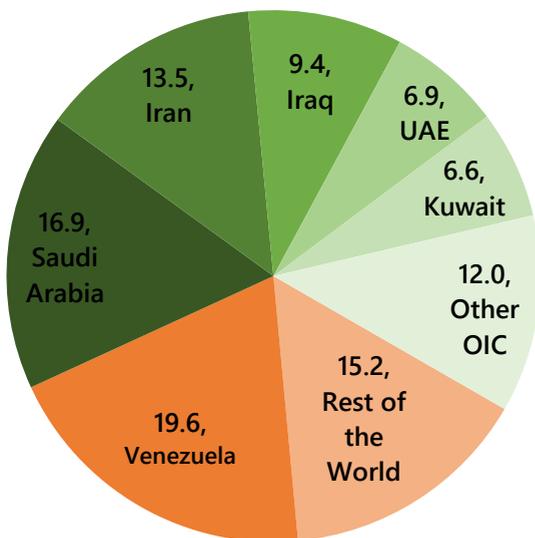
# STRENGTH: CRUDE OIL RESERVES

Crude oil is one of the main sources of energy driving world economy. 21 OIC countries claimed a share of 65.2% in total global crude oil reserves, equivalent to 1.01 trillion barrels, in 2020.

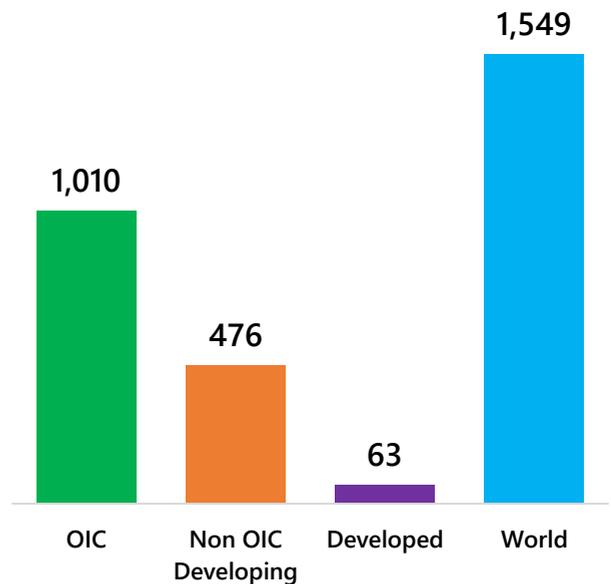
More than half of the global proven crude oil reserve blocks are situated in five OIC countries.



Shares in Global Proven Oil Reserves (%), 2020

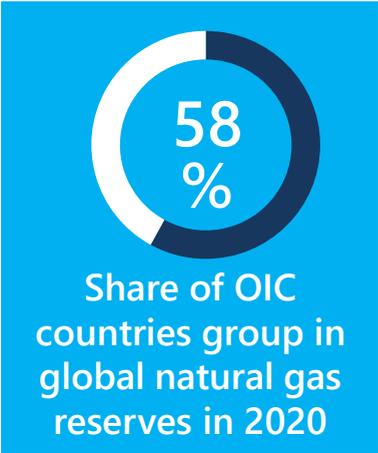


Proven Crude Oil Reserves (Billion Barrels), 2020



Having most of the global proven crude oil reserves, OIC countries are in a strong position to utilise more significant gains from these huge energy natural resources for sustainable growth and development.

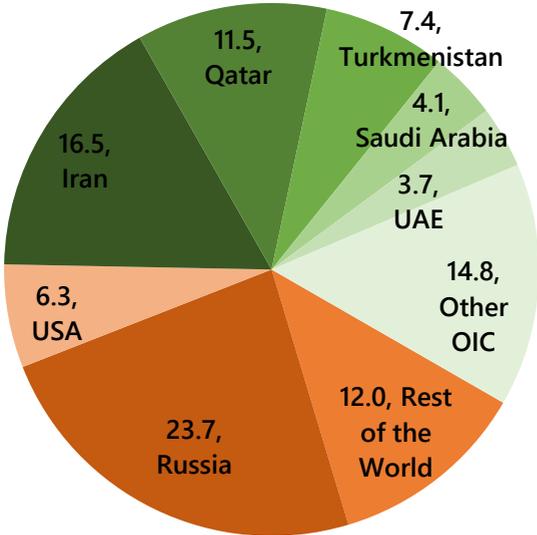
# STRENGTH: NATURAL GAS RESERVES



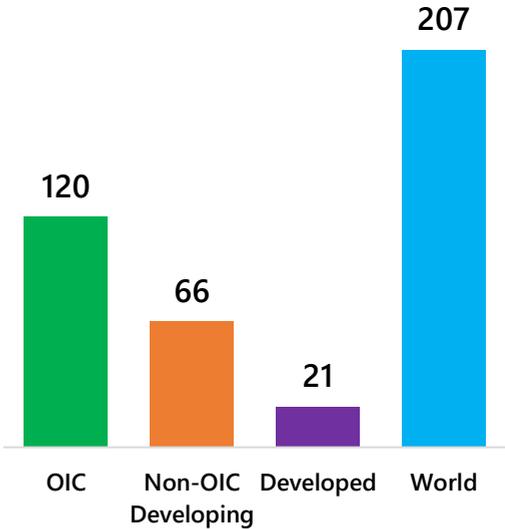
Natural gas reservoirs in the OIC countries group have trapped large volumes of natural gas compared to other country groups. It is estimated that the OIC countries group has a total natural gas reserve of **120 trillion m<sup>3</sup>**, corresponding to **58%** of the global natural gas reserves in 2020.

Five OIC countries with the largest proven natural gas reserves accounted for **43.3%** of global total reserves in 2020.

Shares in Global Proven Natural Gas Reserves (%), 2020



Proven Natural Gas Reserves (Trillion Standard Cubic Meters), 2020



Accounting for more than half of global proven natural gas reserves provides OIC countries with an array of economic and strategic advantages in trade, industrial competitiveness, and environmental protection.

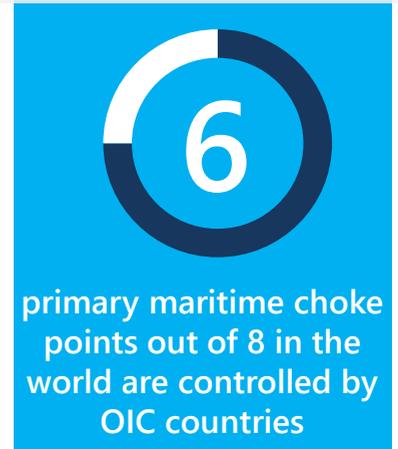
# STRENGTH: STRATEGIC TRADING REGION

Around **80%** of global merchandise is shipped via sea which makes maritime transport an essential part of international trade system. Thousands of vessels use strategic trade routes to move commercial goods efficiently. Certain points along these sea trade routes are known as **Maritime Choke Points** which are strategic, narrow passages connecting two larger areas to one another and thus give strategic advantages to the countries that control them.

Maritime choke points are typically straits or canals that see high volumes of traffic because of their optimal location. Thus, they are regarded as the primary veins for the world's major supplies.

Out of **8** primary maritime choke points in the world, the following **6** of them are controlled by OIC countries:

- Bab el-Mandeb
- Strait of Gibraltar
- Strait of Hormuz
- Strait of Malacca
- Suez Canal
- Turkish Straits



Primary maritime choke points provide the OIC countries with the strength of controlling the most critical waterways connecting international trade routes.





**WEAKNESSES**

# WEAKNESS: HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

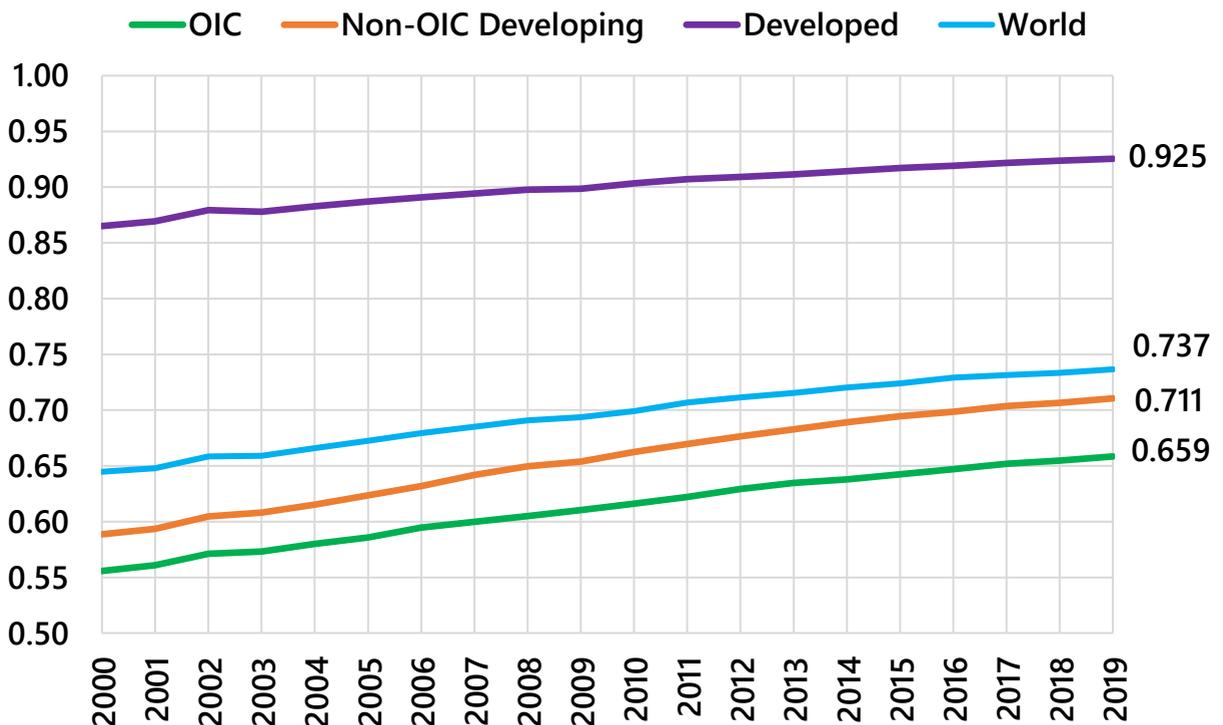


Average HDI value of OIC countries group in 2019

Human Development Index (HDI) is the normalized measure of life expectancy, education and per capita income for countries worldwide. The average HDI value of the OIC countries group in 2019 was **0.659** which was below that of the non-OIC developing countries (**0.711**), world (**0.737**) and developed countries (**0.925**).

Despite the positive trend seen in the average of the OIC countries group, the HDI gap between non-OIC developing and OIC countries groups increased from **0.033** point in 2000 to **0.052** point in 2019.

### Human Development Index Trends



The OIC countries should maximize their efforts towards closing the gap between the level of their human development and the level of the world average and that of the non-OIC developing countries.

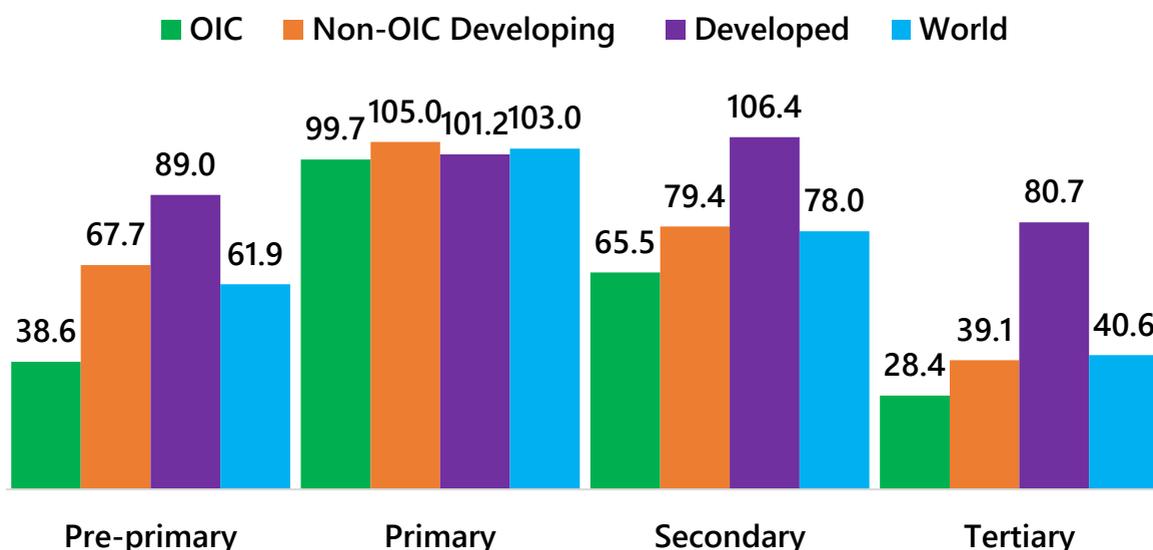
# WEAKNESS: SCHOOL ENROLMENT

The OIC countries as a group performed below the other country groups in Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in pre-primary, secondary and tertiary education in 2021 (or the most recent year). However, almost all children are enrolled in primary education in the OIC countries similar to other country groups.



On the other hand, the average GER in tertiary schools was only 28.4% in the group of OIC countries, lower than that of the non-OIC developing countries (39.1%), world (40.6%) and developed countries (80.7%). Similarly, the OIC countries group with 38.6% GER in pre-primary education was significantly below the averages of the world (61.9%), non-OIC developing countries (67.7%) and developed countries (89%).

Gross Enrolment Ratio (%), 2021



Education is a key part of human development and improving the enrolment rates in OIC countries should entail comprehensive planning, reforms and sustained investments in education sector.

# WEAKNESS: NEW-BORN AND CHILD MORTALITY

56

Deaths in children under-5 per 1,000 live births in OIC countries group in 2019

Access to health interventions for children such as vaccination, medical treatment, and adequate nutrition is of paramount importance for child survival and achieving relevant targets of SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-Being) and OIC Strategic Health Program of Action 2014-2023.

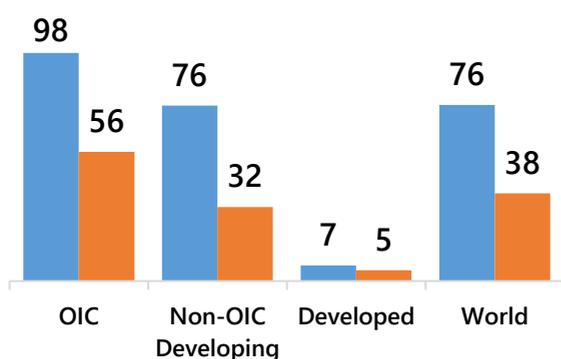
24

Deaths in new-borns per 1,000 live births in OIC countries group in 2019

The OIC countries group registered a significant decline in under-five mortality rate between 2000 and 2019. Despite the decline, an average of 56 children per 1,000 live births died before their fifth birthday in the OIC countries. A similar trend holds valid for new-borns in the OIC countries where, on average, 24 out of 1,000 live births died within the first 28 days after birth in 2019.

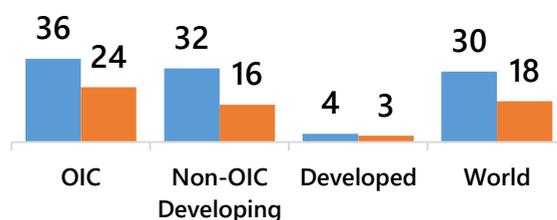
Under-5 Mortality Ratio per 1,000 Live Births

■ 2000 ■ 2019



Neonatal Mortality Ratio per 1,000 Live Births

■ 2000 ■ 2019

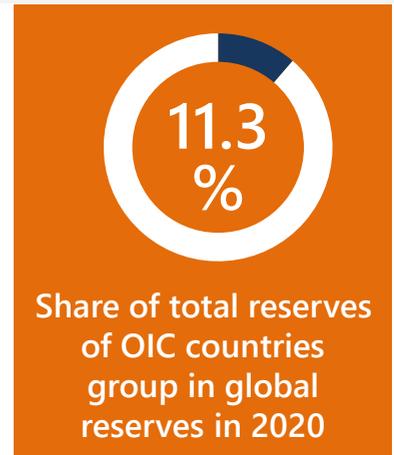


In order to end child mortality in the OIC countries, concerted actions are needed to provide families with access to quality and improved healthcare services during and after childbirth, and increasing access to clean water and sanitation services.

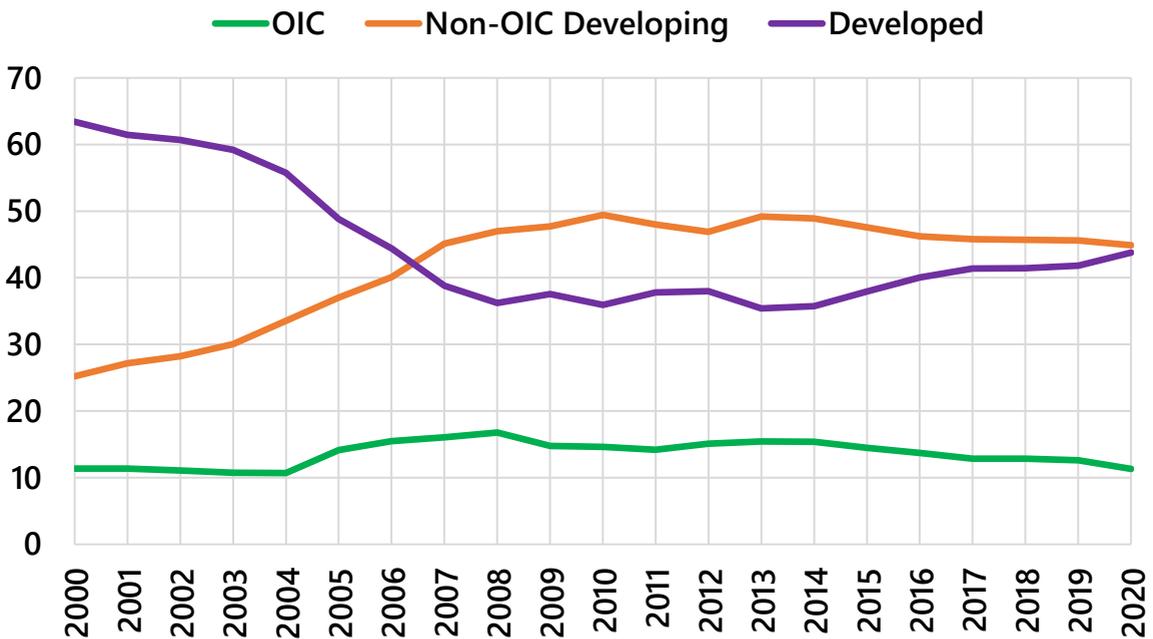
# WEAKNESS: TOTAL RESERVES

The collective share of OIC countries in total world reserves (including gold) increased from **11.4%** in 2000 to **16.8%** in 2008. However, the downward trend since then brought its share to **11.3%** in 2020.

Moreover, in terms of share in total world reserves, the gap between the OIC and non-OIC developing countries groups increased from **14** percentage points in 2000 to **34** percentage points in 2020.

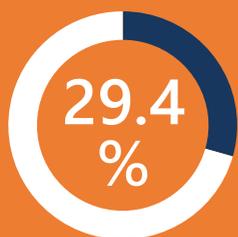


Total Reserves (including Gold) (% of World)



Steady decrease in the share of OIC countries group in world total reserves implies a higher vulnerability to external shocks, weaker buffers for future incidents of crises, and less assurances for the continuity of external trade.

# WEAKNESS: UNDERUTILISATION OF LABOUR FORCE

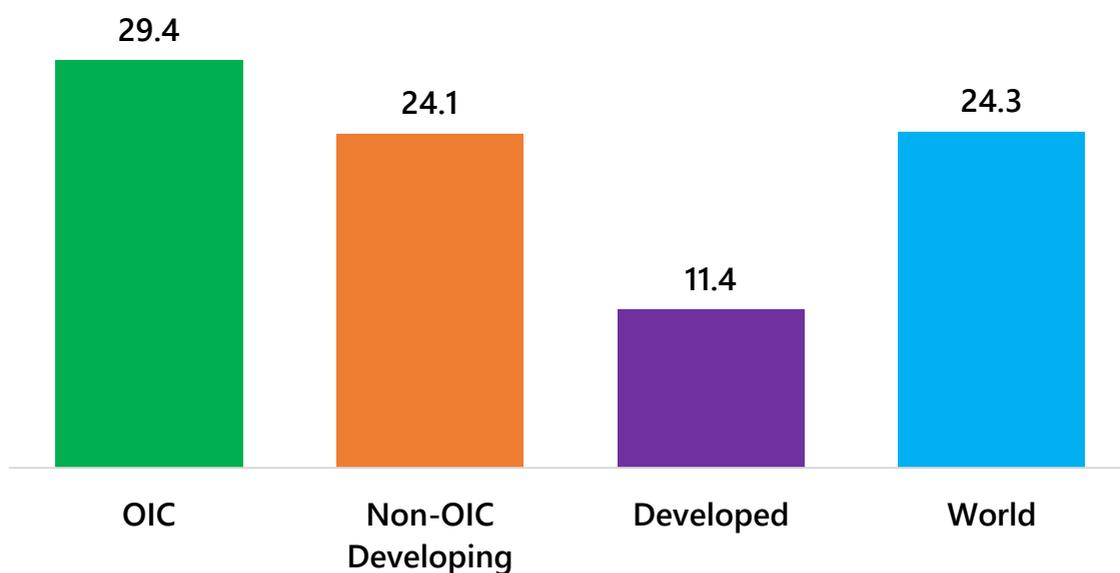


of youth in OIC countries group not in employment, education, or training in 2020

Youth (ages 15-24) who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) are a global problem as they neither participate in economic production nor invest in their future through education or training.

The average youth NEET as a percentage of the total population in the corresponding age group in the OIC countries group was **29.4%** in 2020 which was significantly above the average NEET for non-OIC developing countries (**24.1%**), the world (**24.3%**) and developed countries (**11.4%**).

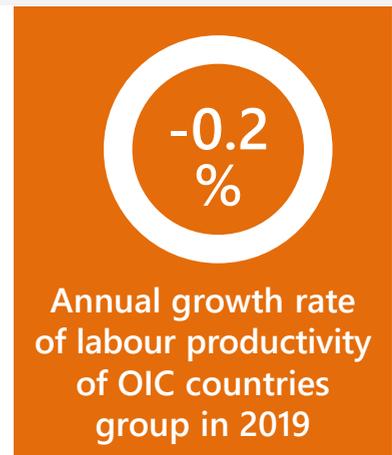
Proportion of Youth (Aged 15-24 Years) not in Education, Employment or Training (%), 2020



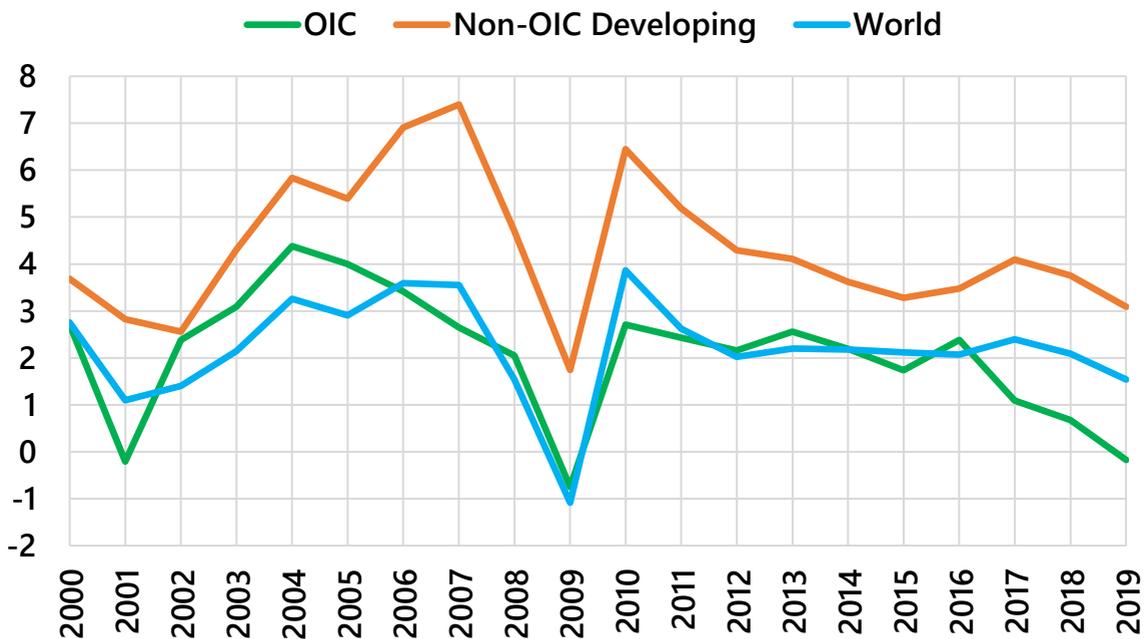
The talents and energy of approximately one third of youth in the OIC countries group are not effectively used in contributing to development. In this context, OIC countries need to formulate multi-sectoral policies to benefit from the economic potentials of youth to a higher extent.

# WEAKNESS: LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY

Labour productivity represents the total volume of output (in GDP constant 2017 international \$ at PPP) produced per unit of labour (number of employed persons/hours worked) during a given time reference period. The group of OIC countries had lower annual labour productivity growth rates compared to non-OIC developing countries group over the whole period since 2000. Moreover, the gap with the global average has critically widened over the last three years (growth of **-0.2%** in 2019 for the OIC countries group versus **1.5%** for the world), making it more difficult for the OIC countries group to catch up with the rest of the world.



### Annual Growth Rate of Labour Productivity (%)



To enhance their labour productivity, OIC countries should implement various macroeconomic policies to promote innovation, science and technology, and investment in human capital.

# WEAKNESS: RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R&D)

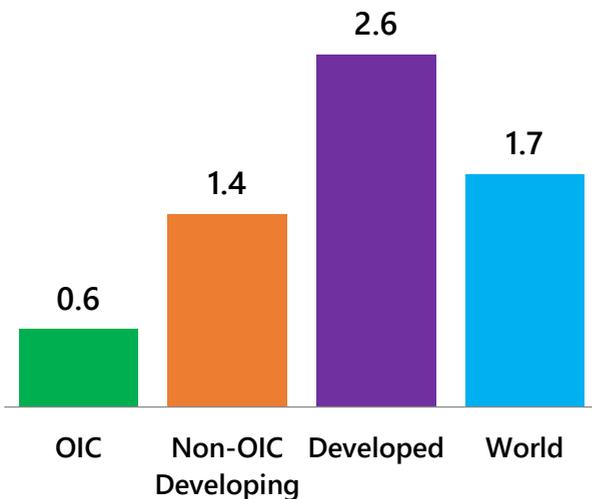


Gross Expenditure on R&D as % of GDP of OIC countries group in 2018

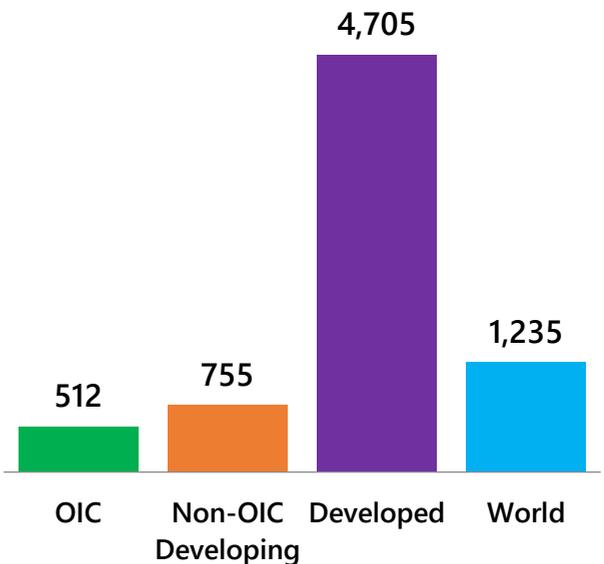
The gross expenditure on research and development (GERD) by the group of OIC countries in relation to their GDP has shown a limited growth of 0.3 percentage point during the period between 2000 and 2018. The group of OIC countries devoted an average of 0.6% of its GDP on R&D in 2018 (or the most recent year) which remained lower than that of the world (1.7%) and other groups compared.

Similarly, the group of OIC countries recorded an average number of 512 researchers per million people which is also lagging behind that of the world with 1,235 researchers, as well as the groups of non-OIC developing and developed countries with 755 and 4,705 researchers, respectively.

Gross Expenditure on Research & Development as % of GDP , 2018



Researchers per Million Inhabitants, 2018



Low shares of GERD in GDP and low number of researchers in the group of OIC countries show insufficient amount of R&D investments and support which can undermine the competitiveness and development levels of OIC countries.

# WEAKNESS: INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

102

Mobile cellular subscriptions per 100 people in OIC countries group in 2020

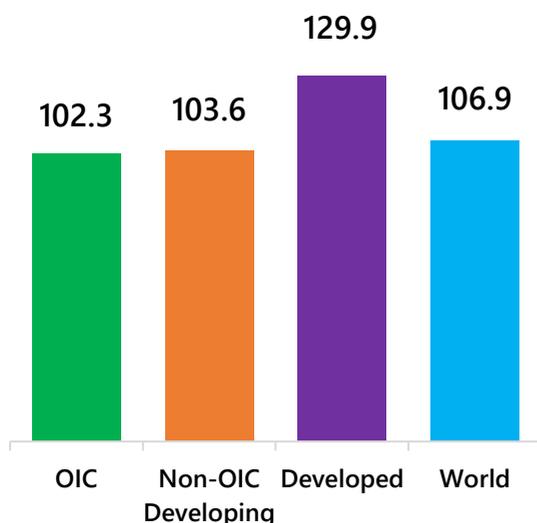
Average mobile cellular subscriptions in the OIC countries group in 2020 was reported at 102 per 100 people which is lower than that of the developed countries (130), world (107), and non-OIC developing countries (104).

5.4

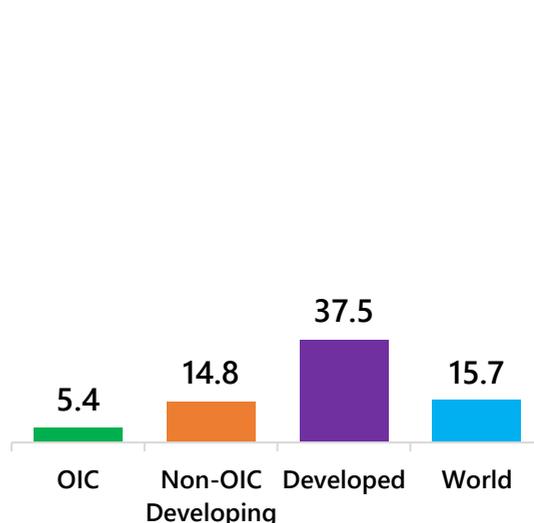
Fixed broadband Internet subscriptions per 100 people in OIC countries group in 2020

Concerning the fixed broadband Internet connection subscriptions per 100 population, the group average of OIC countries was 5.4 in 2020 that remained very low when compared to the averages of the world (15.7), non-OIC developing countries (14.8), and developed countries (37.5).

Mobile Cellular Subscriptions per 100 Population, 2020



Fixed Broadband Subscriptions per 100 Population, 2020



It is necessary to increase investments in digital infrastructure to foster economic and social development where information and communication technologies have become indispensable especially with the outbreak of COVID-19 globally.

# WEAKNESS: SEA & RAIL TRANSPORT



Share of OIC countries group in global container port traffic in 2019

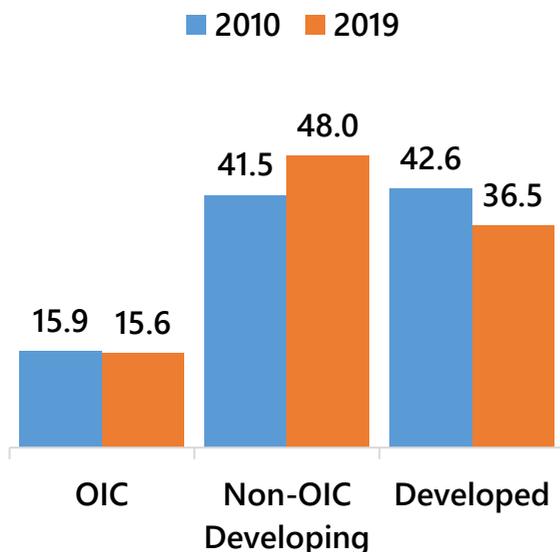
The collective share of OIC countries in total world container port traffic decreased from 15.9% in 2010 to 15.6% in 2019.



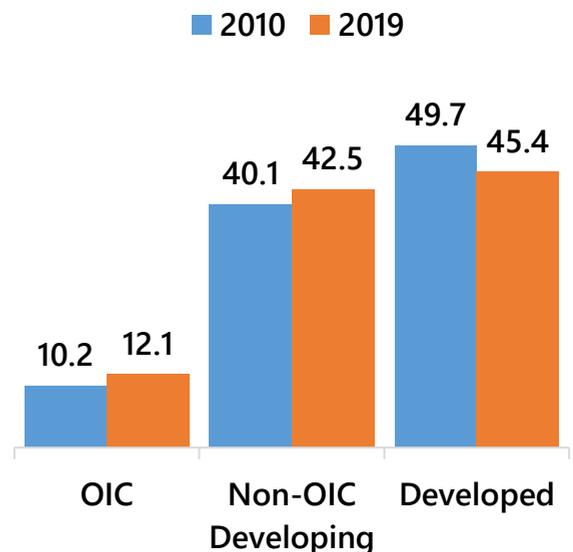
Share of OIC countries group in global rail lines, total route-km in 2019

Although its share in global rail lines (total route-km) increased in the same period, in terms of rail network density per million people, the group of OIC countries has been lagging far behind (64 km) that of non-OIC developing countries (86 km), world (125 km) and developed countries (390 km) in 2019 (or most recent year).

Container Port Traffic, Maritime Transport (% of World)



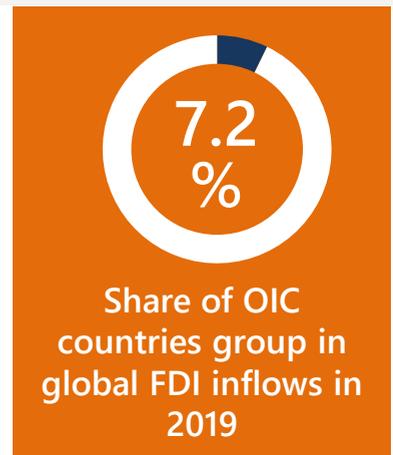
Rail Lines, Total Route-km (% of World)



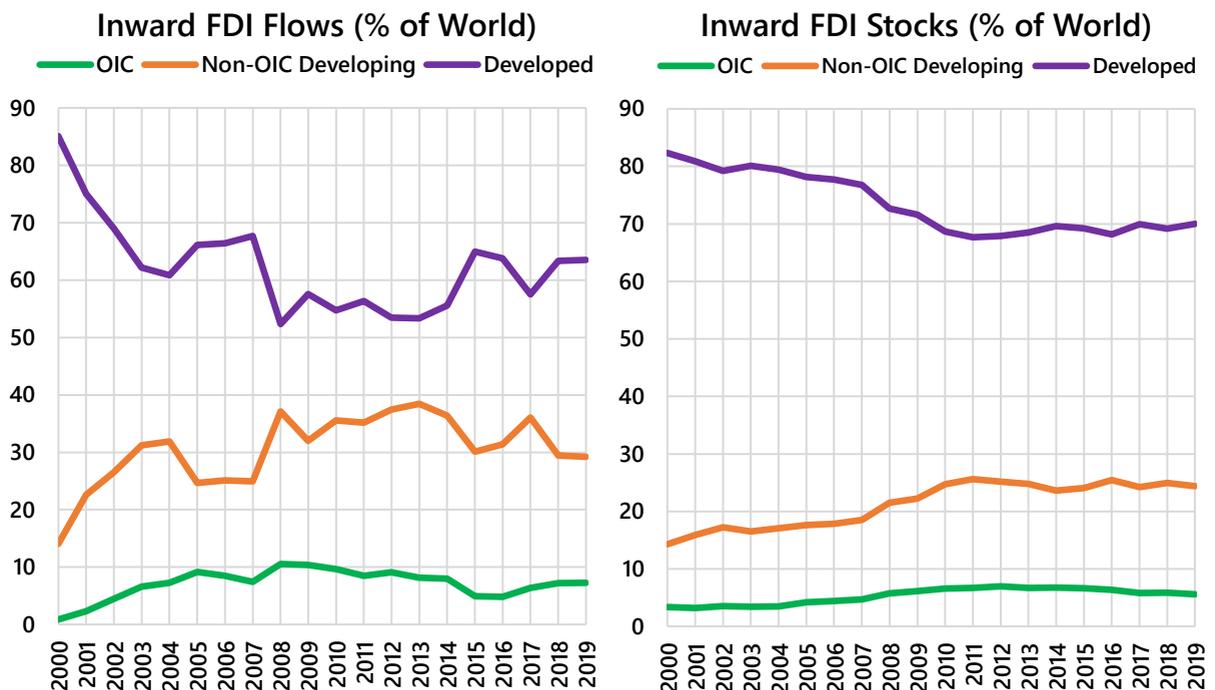
Transport planning agencies in OIC countries should apply multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral holistic approaches to ensure integration between modes of transport based on robust models for external shocks and systemic risks.

# WEAKNESS: FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT

The share of OIC countries group in global inward foreign direct investment (FDI) flows increased from **0.9%** in 2000 to **7.2%** in 2019. As the share of FDI flows to non-OIC developing countries increased more progressively from **14.1%** to **29.2%**, the gap between non-OIC developing countries and OIC countries as a group widened significantly from **13** percentage points in 2000 to **22** percentage points in 2019.



With regards to inward FDI stocks, the group of OIC countries increased its share in world total from **3.4%** in 2000 to **5.6%** in 2019. Despite the increase, the gap between non-OIC developing countries and OIC countries groups similarly increased from **11** percentage points in 2000 to **19** percentage points in 2019.



Investment attractiveness of OIC countries should be improved, particularly by developing targeted policies and creating favourable investment climate for greenfield investments.



The background features a pattern of overlapping green squares and diamonds, creating a grid-like effect. The squares are in various shades of green, from light to dark. The pattern is set against a background of thin, parallel diagonal lines that also transition from light to dark green. The overall composition is modern and geometric.

**OPPORTUNITIES**

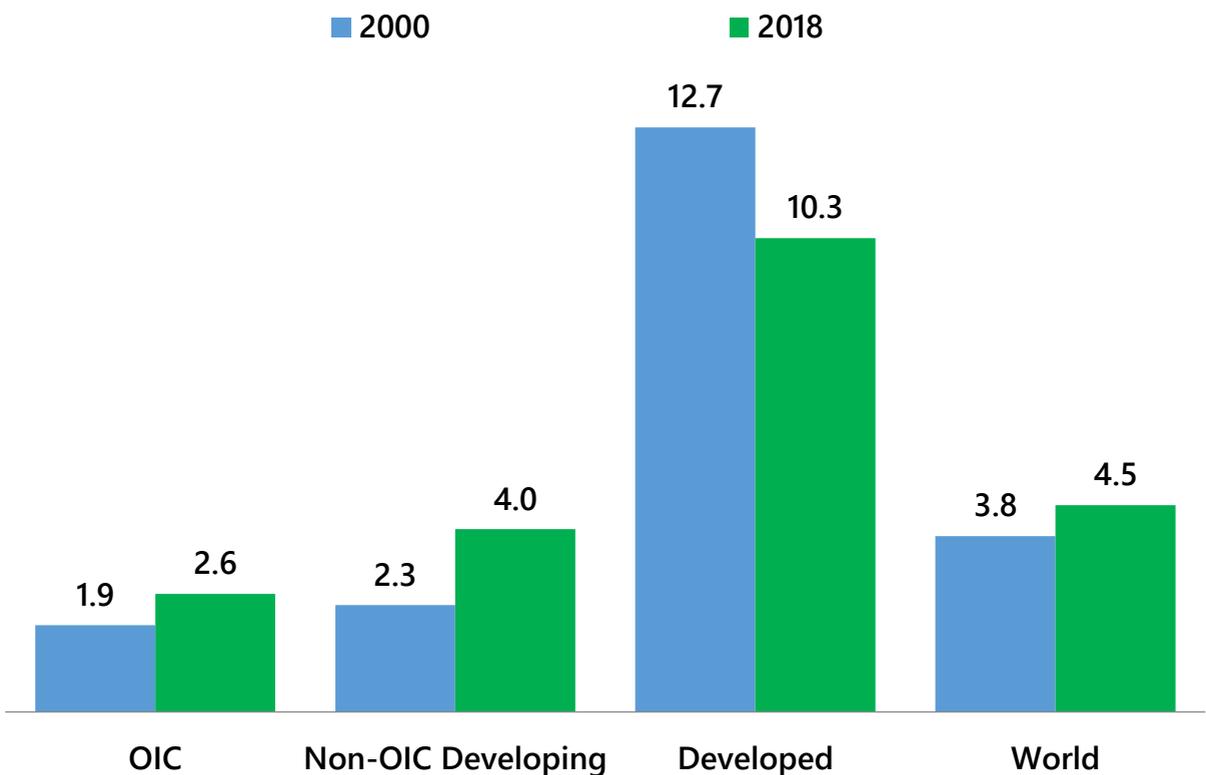
# OPPORTUNITY: PROTECTION OF GLOBAL COMMONS

2.6

Tons of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita in OIC countries group in 2018

The average carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions per capita of OIC countries group was estimated at 2.6 metric tons, which was considerably lower than the world average (4.5) and averages of both non-OIC developing countries (4.0) as well as developed countries (10.3) in 2018.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions (Metric Tons per Capita)



The world needs more commitment from countries to transform their economies for rapid decarbonisation to bend the emissions curve downwards. The OIC countries are in a stronger position for negotiations on global commons as their average CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita are lower.

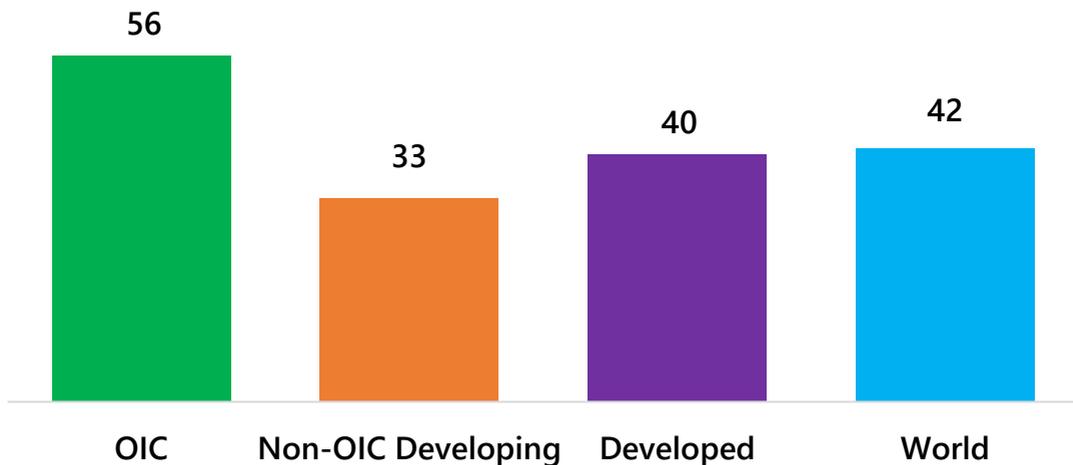
# OPPORTUNITY: ISLAMIC TOURISM

The Islamic tourism market witnessed a rapid expansion and emerged as one of the fastest growing segments of the global tourism market in recent years. In order to evaluate the overall performance of the tourism destinations in accordance with the requirements of Islamic tourism, several institutions have developed initiatives such as the Global Muslim Travel Index (GMTI).



According to the GMTI 2021 results, average score of the OIC countries group was 56, where a higher score implies a better Islamic tourism ecosystem including access, communication, environment and services. Based on the available scores of 140 countries covered in GMTI 2021, the global average score was 42, while the group average of developed countries was 40 and that of non-OIC developing countries was 33.

Global Muslim Travel Index Scores, 2021



Developing harmonised policies and guidelines together with sharing of expertise among member countries will contribute to development of Islamic tourism, economic growth and prosperity in OIC countries.

# OPPORTUNITY: TOURISM DESTINATION DIVERSIFICATION



Billion USD in  
tourism receipts of  
OIC countries group  
in 2018

In 2018, the group of OIC countries received 150 million tourists and generated USD 157 billion in tourism receipts. Intra-OIC tourist arrivals and receipts both corresponded to 37.6% of the total. Overall, international and intra-OIC tourism in the OIC countries group have been firmly improving over the last decades (SESRIC, 2020). However, there is a potential for more gains if OIC countries could transform from “sun and sea” destinations to destinations offering diversified tourism experiences for their visitors.

Diversification can be classified by niche tourism experiences such as religious tourism, cultural tourism, health/wellness tourism, sports tourism, business and conference tourism, gastronomic tourism, agrotourism, ecotourism, creative tourism, and maritime tourism, among others.

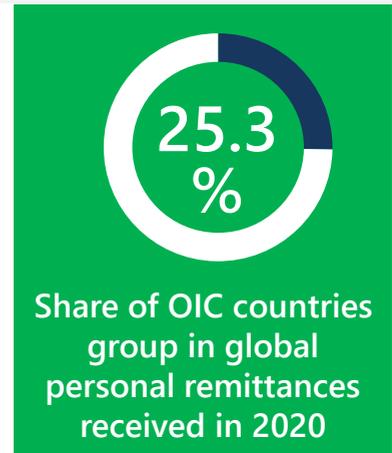
Diversification should be realised with targeted investments and planning of tourism strategies through creation of new tourism products and promotion of existing and marginalised tourist attractions and services. Particularly for health tourism, significant investments have to be allocated for creation of clinics and hospitals by also paying attention to training of the workforce. Cultural and religious tourism, for instance, should be supported with broad marketing and advertisement strategies.

OIC countries should aim for competitive, diversified, sustainable and inclusive tourism services which will enable revenue generation throughout the year, bring sustainability and transform their economies towards services sector.

Better diversification of tourism destinations will provide an opportunity to OIC countries in addressing seasonality of the tourism sector while also bringing development at local and national levels.

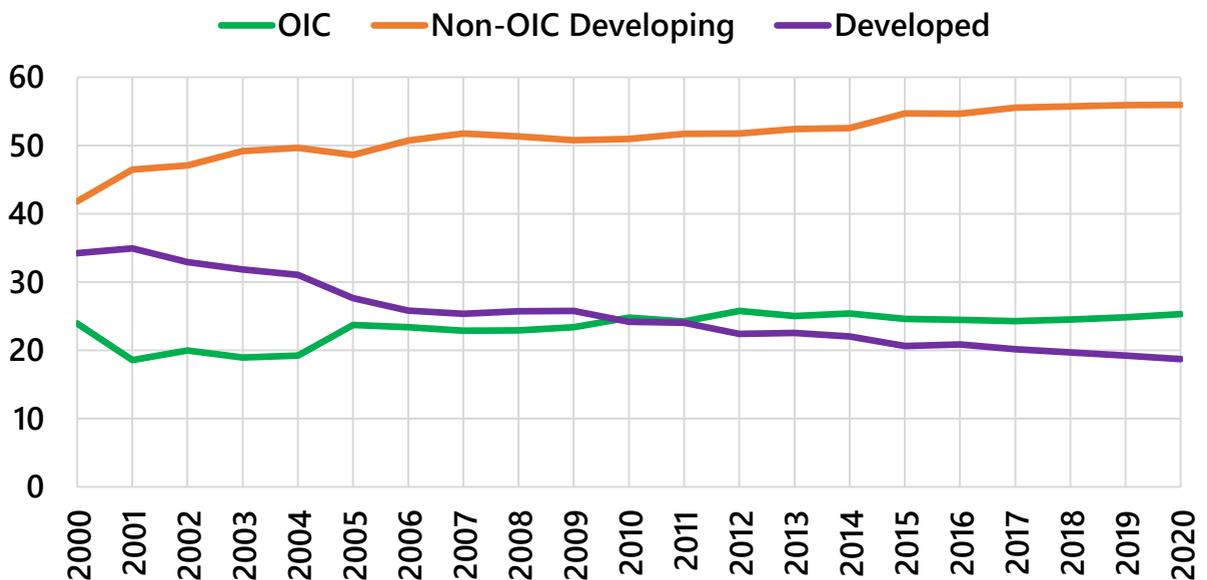
# OPPORTUNITY: PERSONAL REMITTANCES

Personal remittances inflow to the group of OIC countries increased from USD 31 billion in 2000 (23.9% of global total) to USD 166 billion in 2020 (25.3% of global total). Similarly, the group of non-OIC developing countries increased their share from 41.8% to 56.0%, whereas the group of developed countries saw a decrease from 34.2% to 18.7% over the period in focus.



In 2020, personal remittances received per capita were equal to USD 87 in the group of OIC countries which was higher than that of the world (USD 85) and non-OIC developing countries group (USD 77) but lower than that of the developed countries group (USD 116).

Personal Remittances Received (% of World)



Steady increase in personal remittances improves well-being of people and may present significant potentials to boost the economies of recipient OIC countries by alleviating financial constraints and stimulating economic growth.

# OPPORTUNITY: ISLAMIC FINANCE

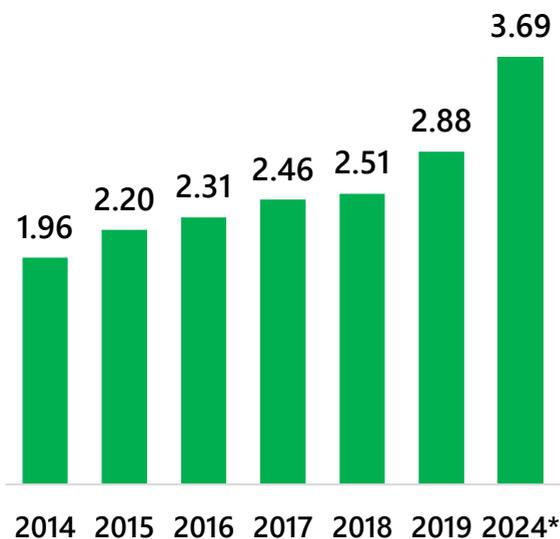


Share of top-10 OIC countries in global Islamic finance assets in 2019

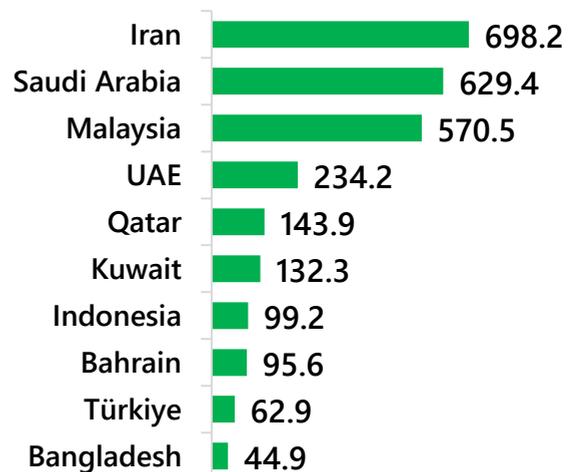
Started in 1960s, modern Islamic finance activities have gained a remarkable momentum globally, especially after the global financial crisis of 2008. The value of global Islamic finance assets went up from USD 1.96 trillion in 2014 to USD 2.88 trillion in 2019 and is expected to reach USD 3.69 trillion in 2024.

The OIC countries group hosted the majority of Islamic financial assets in the world. The value of assets hosted by the top-10 performer OIC countries represented a share of 94.1% in the global Islamic financial assets in 2019.

Value of Global Islamic Finance Assets, Trillion USD



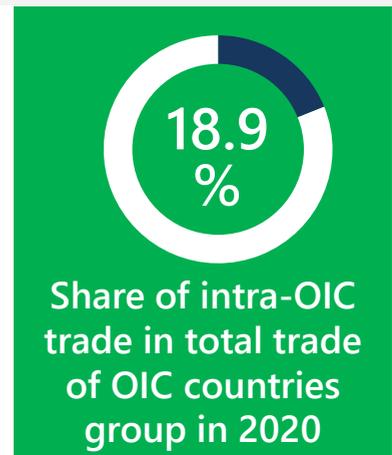
Top-10 OIC Countries by Value of Islamic Finance Assets, Billion USD, 2019



With the momentum gained after the 2008 global financial crisis, Islamic finance industry has a potential to contribute more on socio-economic development of the OIC countries by ensuring innovation in instruments and harmonisation of regulatory standards at national and global levels.

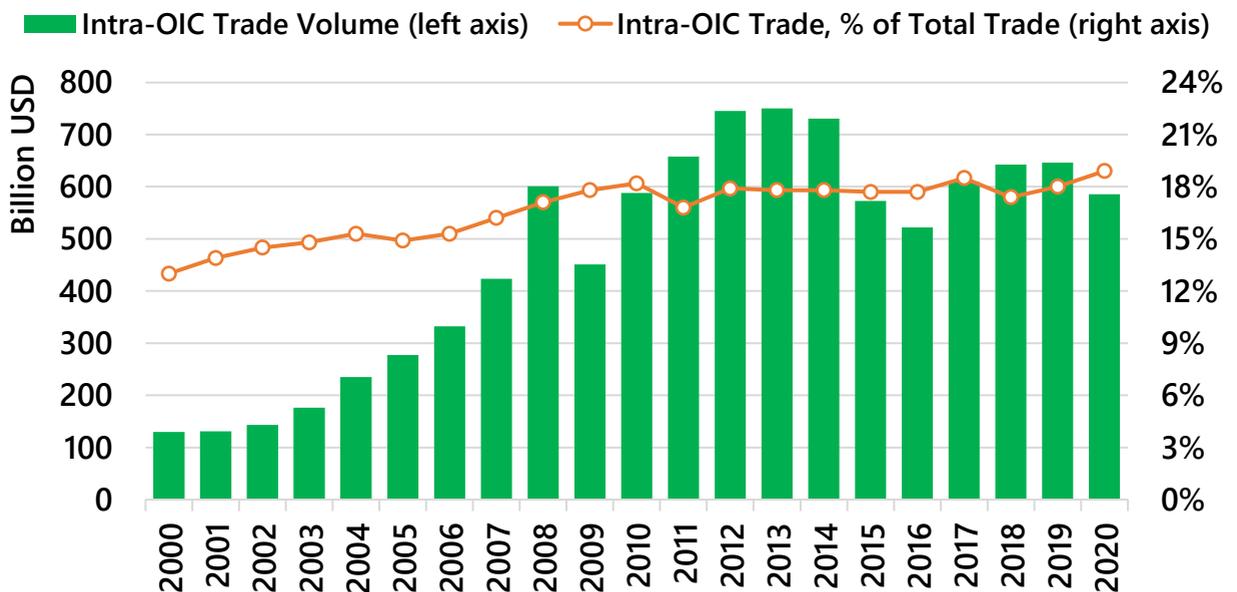
# OPPORTUNITY: INTRA-OIC TRADE

Over the last two decades, OIC countries group witnessed several sharp falls in volume of total and intra-OIC merchandise trade in 2009, 2015/2016 and recently in 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic. However, total intra-OIC trade increased from around USD 130 billion to USD 585 billion from 2000 to 2020. The share of intra-OIC trade in total trade of OIC countries group also increased by 5.9 percentage points from 13.0% in 2000 to 18.9% in 2020.



Through promoting further trade cooperation among OIC member countries, the targets set in the OIC-2025 Programme of Action, in particular to increase intra-OIC trade by 6 percentage points from 2015 levels can be achieved by 2025.

## Intra-OIC Trade



Removing the intra-OIC trade and investment barriers and improving the overall business climate could play a critical role in boosting trade and investment flows among the OIC countries. Intra-OIC trade activities could help to reduce unemployment by creating new job opportunities due to increased market size and reduced inefficiencies.

# OPPORTUNITY: EXPORT DIVERSIFICATION

0.19

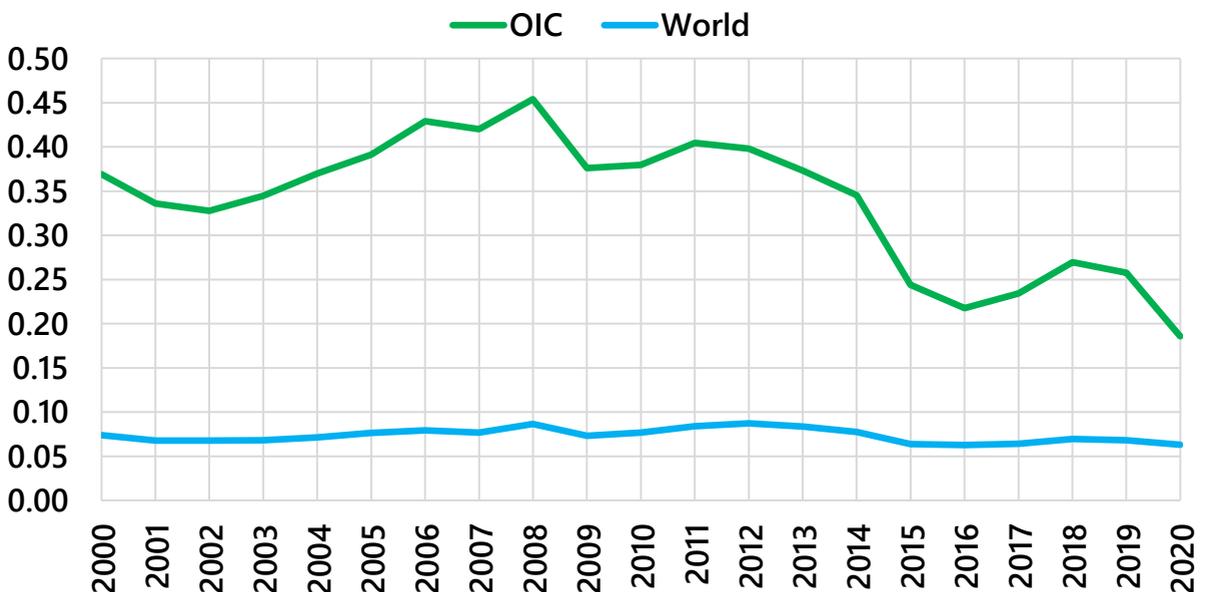
Average export concentration index of OIC countries group in 2020

The concentration of exports in few items increases the vulnerability of countries to fluctuations in international prices and other external shocks in international markets.

Export product concentration index measures the degree of concentration of goods exported (services not included). A country with highly diversified export portfolio will have an index value close to "0", whereas a country which relies on a few export items will have a value close to "1".

The OIC countries group has increasingly diversified their export products and been relieved from high dependence on few export items. The average export concentration index of the OIC countries group was around 0.37 in 2000 but it decreased to around 0.19 in 2020 and converged to the world average during the time considered, indicating increased diversification in export products.

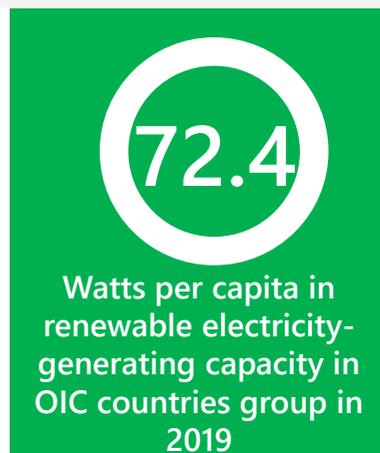
Product Concentration Index of Exports



Export diversification in OIC countries could generate a potential to improve their competitiveness in the international trade market and protect them from future crises.

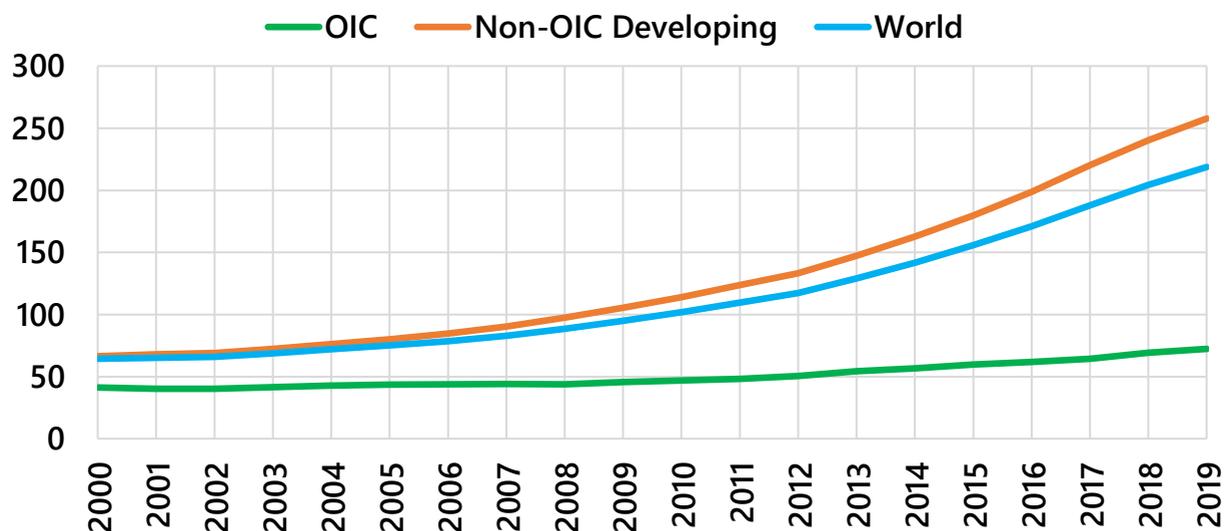
# OPPORTUNITY: RENEWABLE ENERGY

Renewable energy comes from sources such as water, wind, sun, biomass, and geothermal which are considered to be emitting zero or low greenhouse gases during their operation. Between 2000 and 2019, electricity generation from renewable sources in the OIC countries group recorded a growth of around 75% from 41.3 watts per capita in 2000 to 72.4 watts per capita in 2019.



During the same period, the world average increased from 64.5 to 218.8 watts per capita and that of non-OIC developing countries increased from 66.6 to 257.8 watts per capita.

Installed Renewable Electricity-Generating Capacity  
(Watts per capita)



Electricity generation from renewable energy sources could be utilised as a huge potential for many OIC countries for boosting electricity access and achieving net zero climate goals.

# OPPORTUNITY: INTANGIBLE HERITAGE

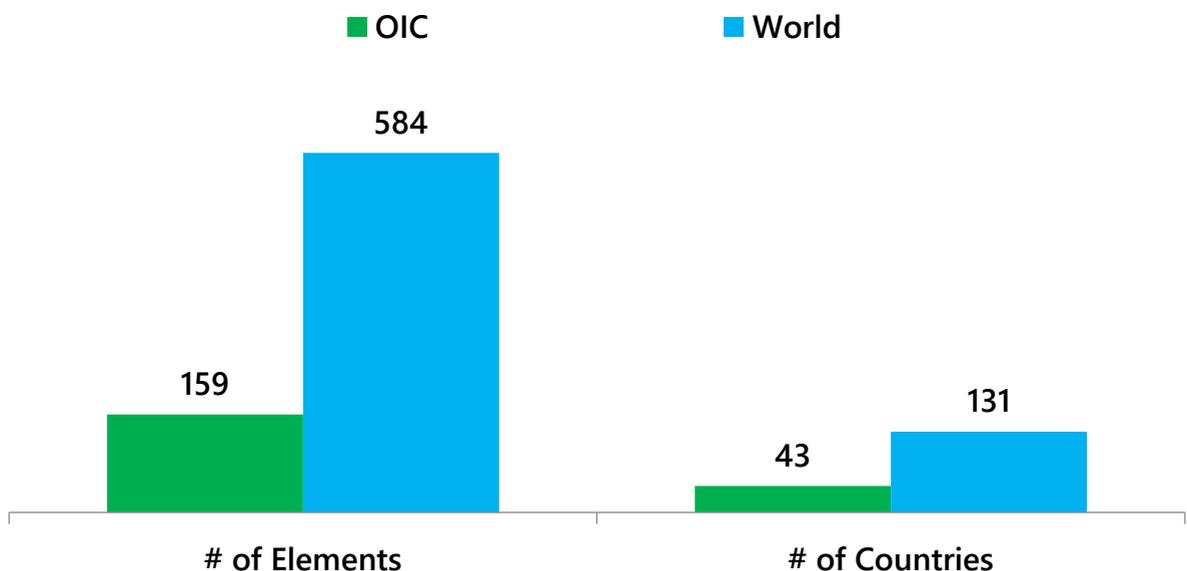


Share of intangible heritage elements of OIC countries group in world total in 2020

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage decides annually whether or not to inscribe the nominations of cultural practices and expressions of intangible heritage in the UNESCO's Lists of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. These lists serve for demonstrating the diversity of cultural heritage in countries, raising awareness about its importance, and mobilising international cooperation on appropriate safeguarding measures.

Between 2008 and 2020, 159 intangible cultural heritage elements from 43 OIC countries have been inscribed in the Convention's lists which constituted 27.2% of all inscribed cultural heritage elements (584) in the world.

Intangible Heritage, 2008-2020



The increasing number of intangible cultural heritage elements of the OIC countries presents an opportunity to protect and keep cultural heritage alive for the future generations as well as to increase tourism and cultural activities.



# THREATS

# THREAT: DEBT ACCUMULATION

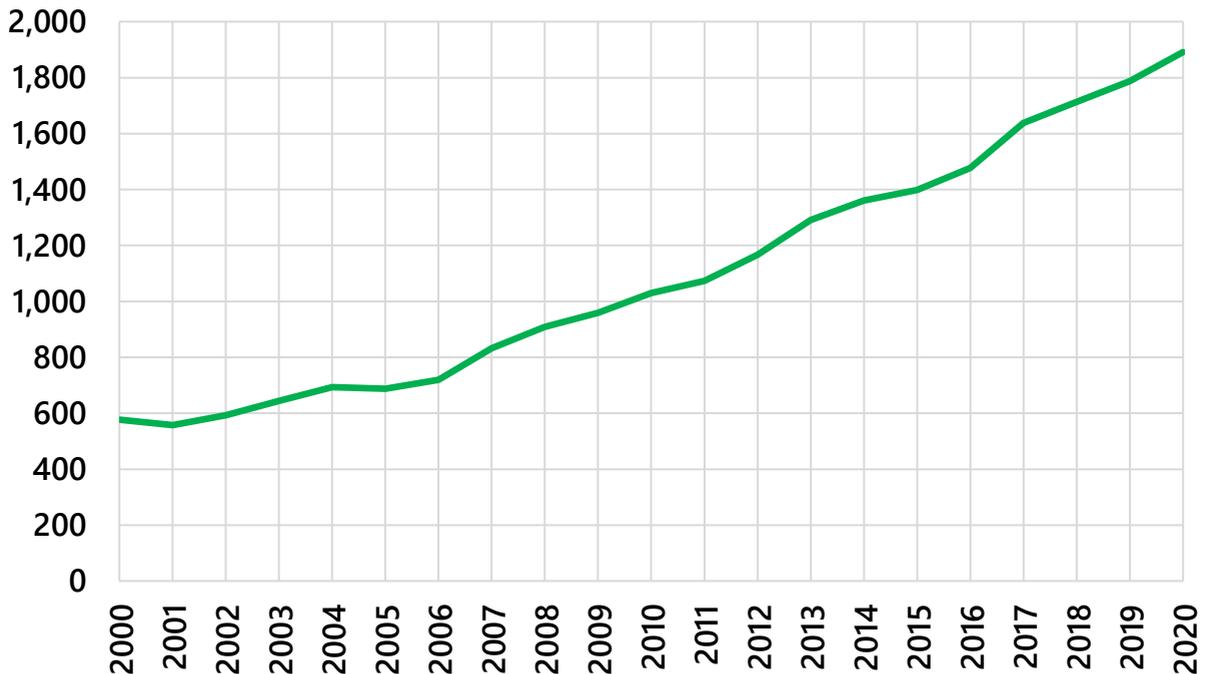
1.9

Trillion USD of total external debt stock of OIC countries group in 2020

Total external debt stock of OIC countries group increased by USD 103 billion or 5.8% to USD 1.9 trillion in 2020, up from USD 1.8 trillion in 2019.

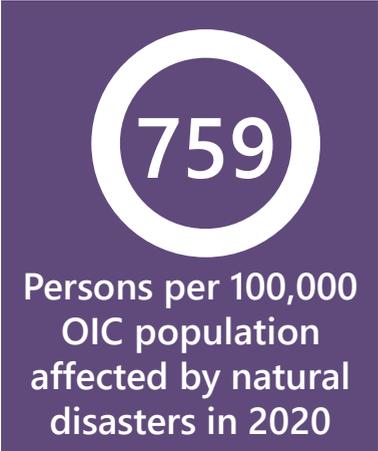
During the last two decades, the group of OIC countries has increased its total external debt stocks by 3.3 times. Moreover, the external debt stock is expected to grow globally, including for the OIC countries, due to increased public spending in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Total External Debt Stocks of OIC Countries Group  
(Current Billion USD)

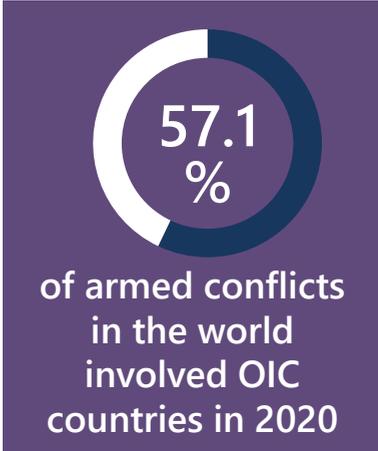


During difficult times such as COVID-19 pandemic, OIC could play a key role in conveying the voice of its member countries, particularly with LDC status, to multilateral institutions and creditor countries concerning debt relief and restructuring issues.

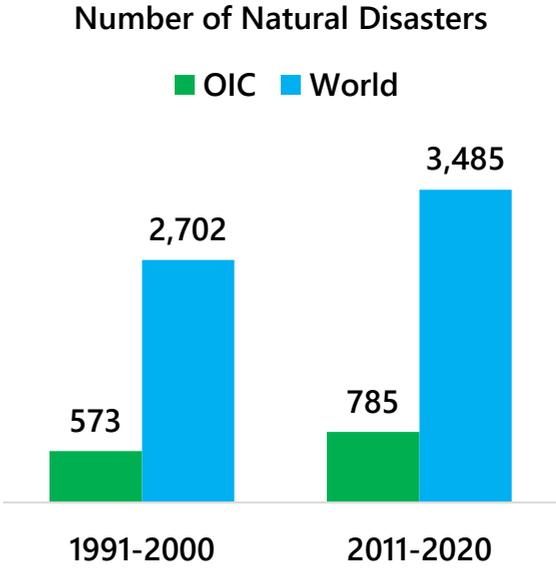
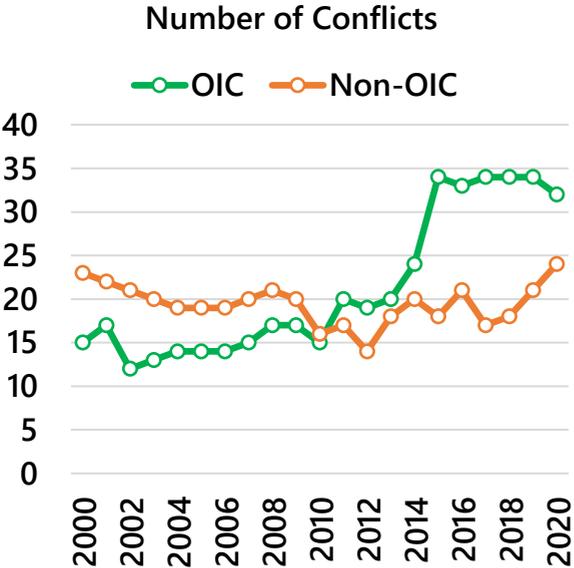
# THREAT: NATURAL AND MANMADE DISASTERS



Between 2000 and 2020, the number of armed conflicts involving OIC countries as a side increased from 15 (39.5% of world total) to 32 (57.1% of world total).

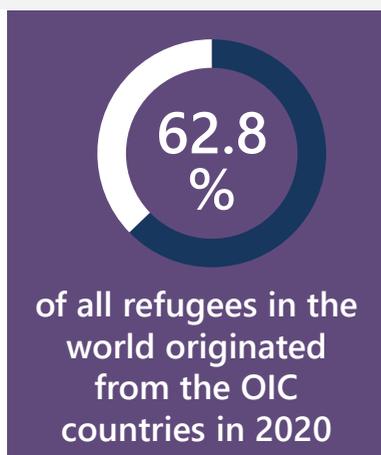


On the other hand, the number of natural disasters in the group of OIC countries increased from 573 (21.2% of world total) in the period 1991-2000 to 785 (22.5% of world total) in the period 2011-2020.

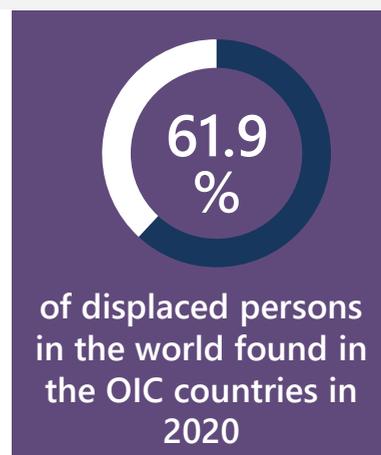


Natural disasters, conflicts, and humanitarian crises have adverse effects on the populations and development trajectories of OIC countries. To mitigate the burden and consequences of such crises, joint Islamic humanitarian action is a key priority.

# THREAT: REFUGEES AND DISPLACED POPULATION



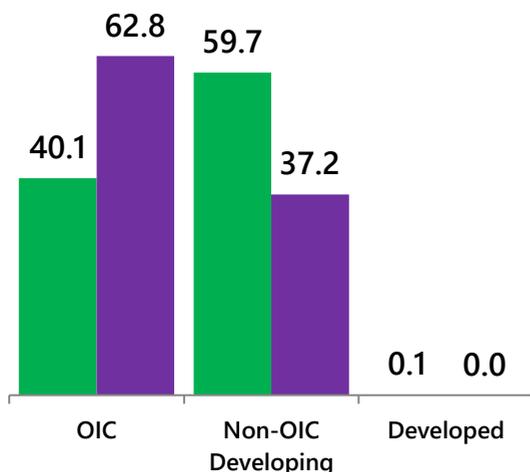
In 2020, 62.8% of the refugees in the world originated from the OIC countries. Between 2000 and 2020, the share of refugees originating from the OIC countries in the world total increased by 22.7 percentage points.



There were also 29.8 million internally displaced persons in the OIC countries, corresponding to 61.9% of the global total in 2020.

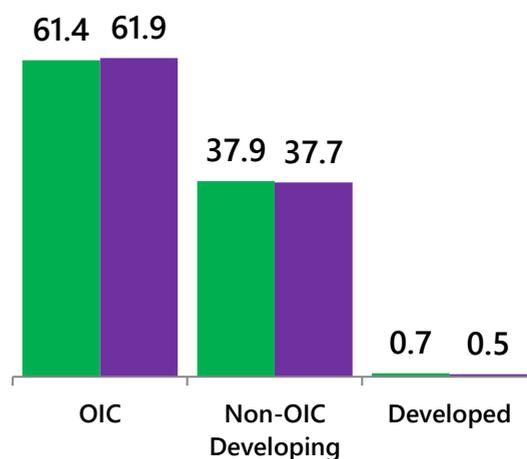
Share of Refugees by Country of Origin in World Total (%)

■ 2000 ■ 2020



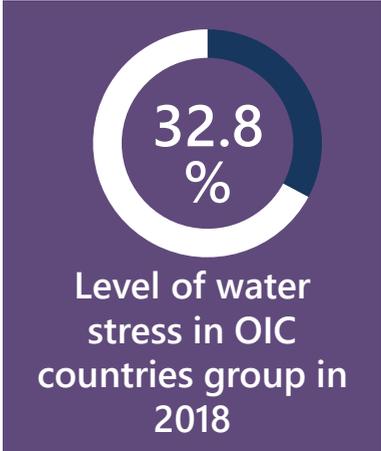
Share of Internally Displaced Persons in World Total (%)

■ 2009 ■ 2020



Conflicts have continued to be a challenge for OIC countries in terms of number of victims, refugees, and displaced persons. Inadequate response mechanisms, lack of risk assessment and early warning, and absence of a coordinated recovery program can lead to long-term development lags.

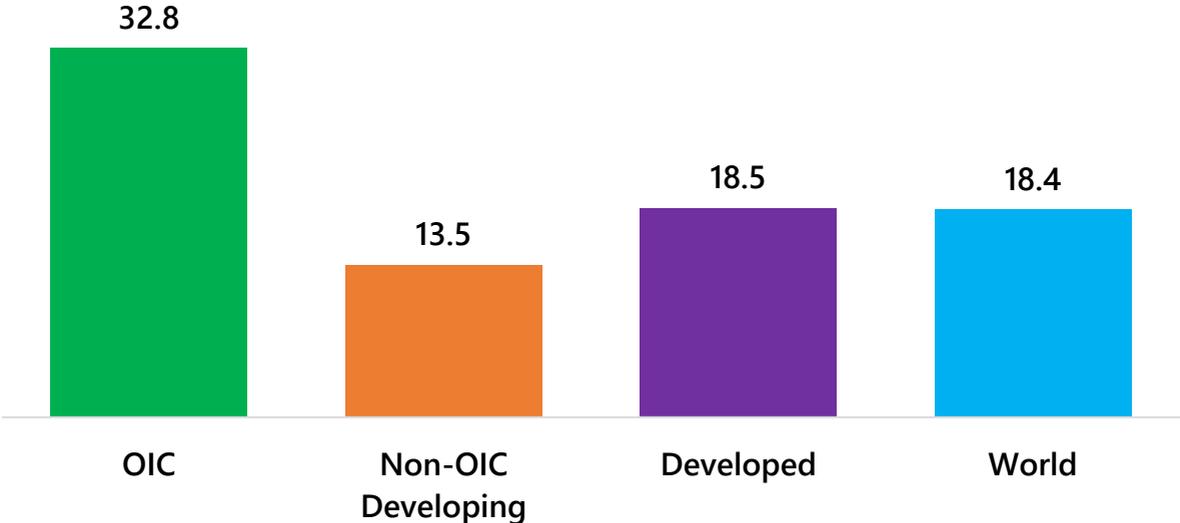
# THREAT: WATER STRESS



The level of water stress provides an estimate of the pressure exerted by all economic sectors on a country's renewable freshwater resources. A value above 25% means that there is water stress in the country.

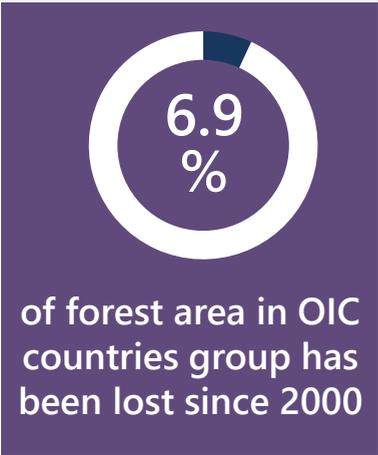
Water stress level in the group of OIC countries was 32.8% in 2018, above the 25% threshold value. It is significantly higher than the average water stress levels in non-OIC developing countries (13.5%), world (18.4%) and developed countries (18.5%). Given their higher levels of water stress, OIC countries face potentially negative effects on the sustainability of their water resources and economic development.

Water Stress Level (%), 2018



Water stress has multiple causes, ranging from climate to demography to land use. To support controlling and reducing their water stress levels, the OIC countries should strengthen their integrated water resources management.

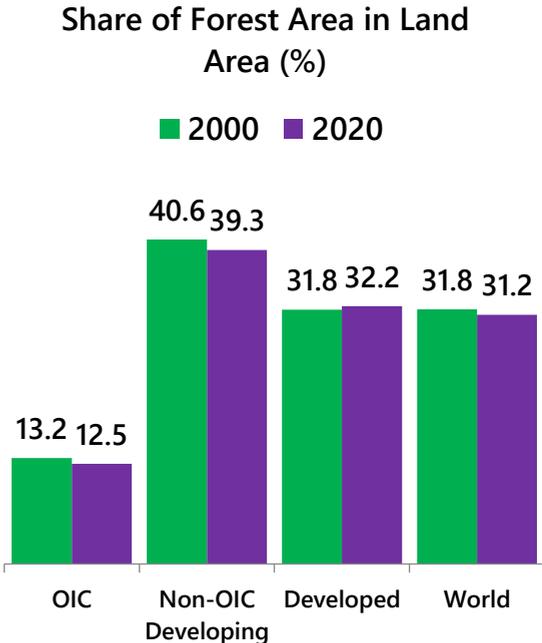
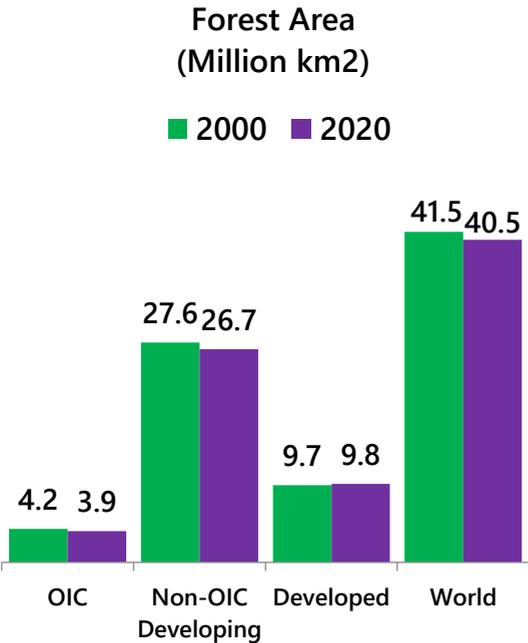
# THREAT: DEFORESTATION



The total forest area of OIC countries group decreased from 4.2 million km<sup>2</sup> in 2000 to 3.9 million km<sup>2</sup> in 2020. Similarly, the share of forest area of the OIC countries group in the world total decreased from 10.2% in 2000 to 9.7% in 2020.

The share of forests in total land area of the OIC countries group also fell from 13.2% in 2000 to 12.5% in 2020, which is below the world average of 31.8% and 31.2% in respective years.

In the last two decades, around 6.9% of the total forest area in the group of OIC countries has been depleted or lost due to forest degradation.



Forests regulate ecosystems and protect biodiversity. Their loss will impact the environment and carbon cycle, and result in reduced agricultural productivity affecting everyone. Enforcement of forest conservation and expansion policies is a key in the prevention of forest depletion in the OIC countries.

# THREAT: DRINKING WATER RESOURCES AND SANITATION FACILITIES

263

Million people in OIC countries group without access to improved water resources in 2020

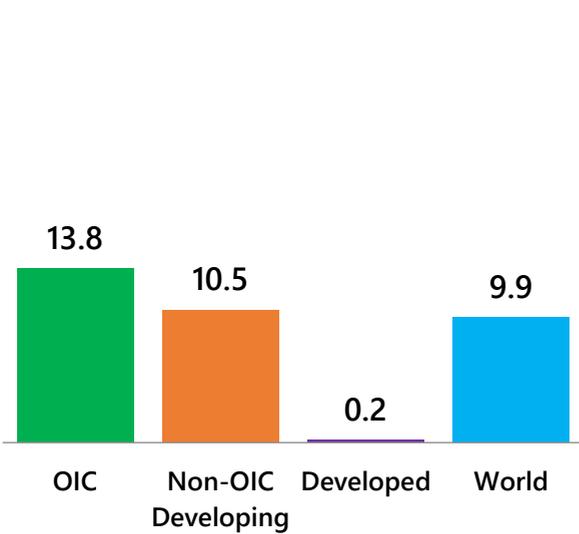
In 2020, a significant portion of the population of OIC countries group had no access to both improved drinking water resources and sanitation facilities.

594

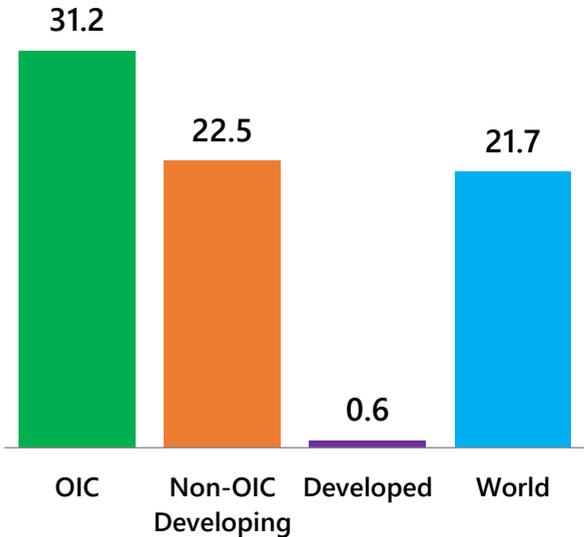
Million people in OIC countries group without access to improved sanitation in 2020

Around 13.8% of total OIC population (263 million people) lived without having access to improved drinking water resources in 2020. Moreover, 31.2% of total OIC population (594 million people) had no access to improved sanitation facilities in the same year.

Population without Access to Improved Drinking Water Resources (%), 2020



Population without Access to Improved Sanitation Facilities (%), 2020



Safe drinking water and improved sanitation are crucial to human health and wellbeing. Millions of people with no access to improved drinking water resources and improved sanitation are vulnerable to water-borne diseases and malnutrition, which are leading causes of death especially among children under five.

# THREAT: FOOD INSECURITY

197

Million undernourished people in OIC countries group in 2019

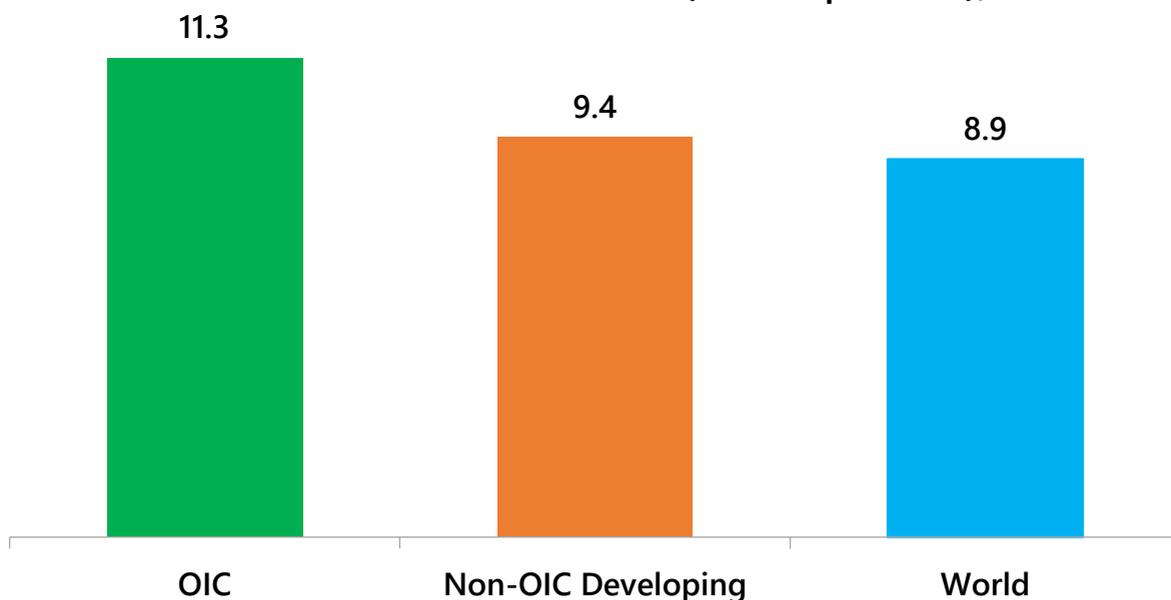
In 2019, around 197 million people in the OIC countries group, corresponding to 11.3% of total population of the OIC countries group and 28.8% of the total undernourished people in the world, faced hunger.

26

Number of LIFDCs in OIC countries group in 2021

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, June 2021), food production remains inadequate in 47 low-income food deficit countries (LIFDCs), of which 26 are OIC countries.

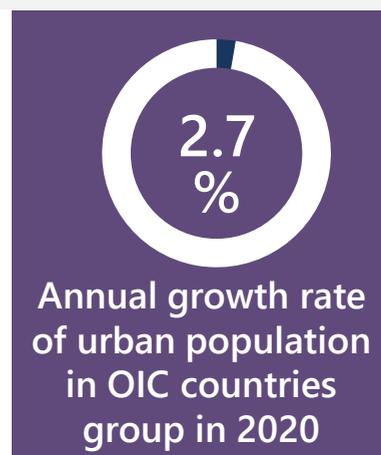
Prevalence of Undernourishment (% of Population), 2019



Undernourishment is a serious problem for over 10% of the total OIC population. Sustainable agricultural practices need to be implemented by the member countries to improve their agricultural productivity and thus their state of food insecurity and poverty.

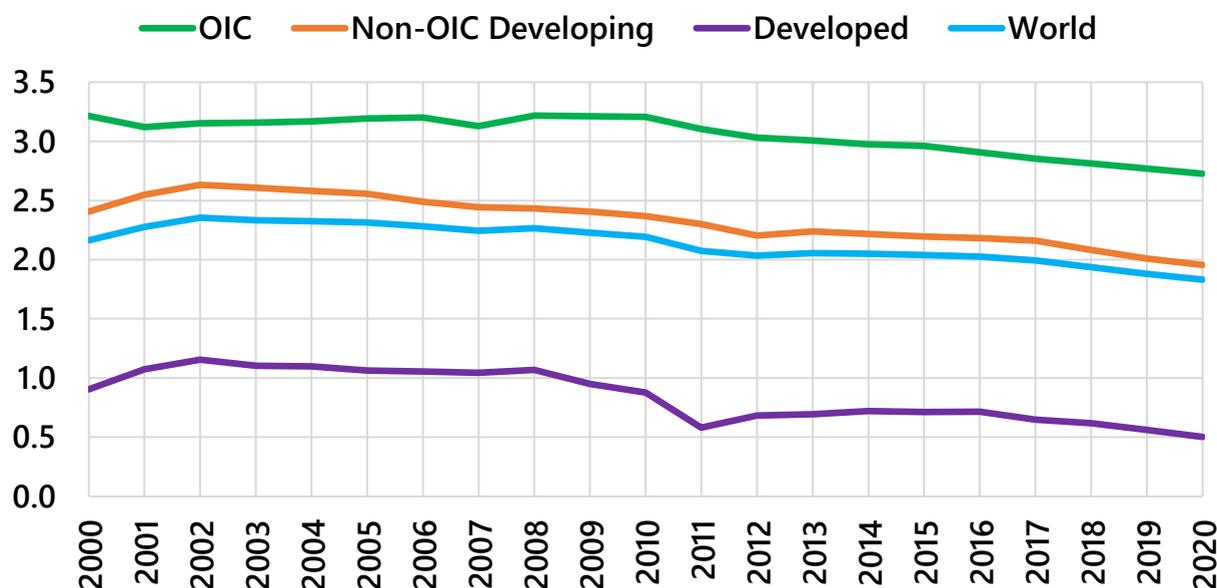
# THREAT: UNSUSTAINABLE URBANISATION

Urbanisation is defined as a population shift from rural to urban areas because of greater socio-economic opportunities cities offer. According to FAO (2010), urban growth is being driven by a mass influx of rural people seeking to escape hunger, poverty and insecurity. In 2020, around 51% of the total OIC population lived in urban areas which was 42% in 2000. While the world average saw an increase from 47% in 2000 to 56% in 2020, the developed countries group average was the highest with 77% in 2000 and 82% in 2020.



On the other hand, despite a slight fall from 3.2% in 2000, the annual growth rate of urban population in the group of OIC countries was the highest with 2.7% in 2020 among all other groups.

Urban Population Growth (Annual %)



If not managed properly, negative effects of unsustainable urbanisation such as unemployment, poverty, lack of sanitation, increasing crime rates and pollution among others, will prove to be detrimental to the cities and OIC countries as a whole.

# ABBREVIATIONS

CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon Dioxide
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GER	Gross Enrolment Ratio
GERD	Gross Expenditure on R&D
GMTI	Global Muslim Travel Index
HDI	Human Development Index
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
LDC	Least Developed Countries
LIFDCs	Low-Income Food Deficit Countries
NEET	Not in Employment, Education or Training
OIC	Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
R&D	Research and Development

# ABBREVIATIONS

SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SESRIC	Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats
UCDP	Uppsala Conflict Data Program
UIS	UNESCO Institute for Statistics
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
USD	United States Dollar
WDI	World Development Indicators

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# APPENDIX: TECHNICAL NOTES

The estimates found in this Report are based on latest data extracted from databases of international agencies. The detailed sources of data are given below. Weighted aggregate values of indicators are preferred for the country groups to provide more robust estimates and avoid the bias, although when the weighted estimations are not possible, unweighted averages are used to provide a meaningful picture.

When data on a defined indicator is not sufficiently available, two reference points have been selected, laying furthest away from each other over the period from 2000 to 2020. Two reference points are the base year which is generally 2000 and the last year 2020. For the base year, in the cases where 2000 data is not available, the earliest data from 2001 and onwards was used. For generating data for the reference year 2020, in the cases where 2020 data is not available, the latest year data starting from 2019 and backwards was used.

## SECTION SPECIFIC NOTES AND EXCEPTIONS

### STRENGTHS

#### YOUNG POPULATION: Population by Age Group

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 19/11/2021 from the United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019).

#### CRUDE OIL RESERVES: Proven Crude Oil Reserves

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 16/11/2021 from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Annual Statistical Bulletin.

# APPENDIX: TECHNICAL NOTES

## **NATURAL GAS RESERVES: Proven Natural Gas Reserves**

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 16/11/2021 from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Annual Statistical Bulletin.

## **WEAKNESSES**

### **HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: Human Development Index Trends**

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 3/12/2021 from the United Nations Development Programme, Human Development Data Center.

Notes: Aggregate HDI values for country groups were calculated by applying the HDI formula to the weighted group averages of component indicators. Life expectancy and GNI per capita were weighted by total population, expected years of schooling was weighted by population ages 5-24 and mean years of schooling was weighted by population ages 25 and older. Population data were extracted on 09/12/2021 from the United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). The most recently revised historical data available and the same methodology applied to compute 2019 HDI values (UNDP, 2021a) were used for computing the Human Development Index trends, 2000–2019. Therefore, the trend provides a time series of HDI values allowing 2019 HDI values to be compared with those for previous years.

### **SCHOOL ENROLMENT: Gross Enrolment Ratio**

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 25/11/2021 from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Institute for Statistics (UIS), UIS.Stat Database.

# APPENDIX: TECHNICAL NOTES

Notes: OIC, non-OIC developing, developed countries group, and the world averages for “Gross Enrolment Ratio, Pre-Primary/Primary/Secondary/Tertiary, Both Sexes” were estimated using “School Age Population, Pre-Primary / Primary / Secondary / Tertiary Education, Both Sexes” as the weight accessed from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Institute for Statistics (UIS), UIS.Stat Database.

NEW-BORN AND CHILD MORTALITY: (i) Under-5 Mortality Ratio per 1,000 Live Births; (ii) Neonatal Mortality Ratio per 1,000 Live Births

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 16/11/2021 from the UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database.

Notes: OIC, non-OIC developing, and developed countries group averages for “Under-5 Mortality Ratio per 1,000 Live Births” and “Neonatal Mortality Ratio per 1,000 Live Births” were estimated using “Population, Ages 0-4” as the weight accessed from the United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019). The world aggregate values were extracted from the original database.

TOTAL RESERVES: Total Reserves (Including Gold)

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 02/11/2021 from the World Bank, WDI Database.

UNDERUTILISATION OF LABOUR FORCE: Proportion of Youth (Ages 15-24) not in Education, Employment or Training

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 1/12/2021 from the International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT Database.

# APPENDIX: TECHNICAL NOTES

Notes: OIC, non-OIC developing, developed countries group, and the world averages for “Proportion of Youth (Ages 15-24) not in Education, Employment or Training (%)” were estimated using “Total Population, Both Sexes Combined, by Five-Year Age Group (15-19 and 20-24)” as the weight accessed from the United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019).

**LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY: Annual Growth Rate of Labour Productivity**

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 3/11/2021 from the International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT Database.

Notes: OIC and non-OIC developing countries group averages for “Output per Worker (GDP Constant 2017 International \$ at PPP) -- ILO Modelled Estimates” were estimated using “Employment by Sex and Age -- ILO Modelled Estimates, Total, 15+” as the weight accessed from the International Labour Organization, ILOSTAT Database. The world aggregate values were extracted from the original database. Annual Growth Rate of Labour Productivity is then calculated using the following formula:  $[(G(t+1) - G(t))/G(t)] \times 100$ , where  $G(t+1)$  is output per worker in 2017 International \$ at PPP in year  $t+1$  and  $G(t)$  is output per worker in 2017 International \$ at PPP in year  $t$ .

**RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R&D): (i) Gross Expenditure on Research & Development as % of GDP:**

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 24/11/2021 from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Institute for Statistics (UIS), UIS.Stat Database.

# APPENDIX: TECHNICAL NOTES

Notes: OIC, non-OIC developing, and developed countries group averages for “Gross Expenditure on Research and Development as a % of GDP” were estimated using “GDP, Current Prices” as the weight accessed from the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), National Accounts Main Aggregates Database. The world aggregate value was extracted from the original database.

(ii) Researchers per Million Inhabitants:

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 22/11/2021 from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Institute for Statistics (UIS), UIS.Stat Database.

Notes: OIC, non-OIC developing, and developed countries group averages for “Researchers per Million Inhabitants” were estimated using “Population, Total” as the weight accessed from the World Bank, WDI Database. The world aggregate value was extracted from the original database.

**INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY:** (i) Mobile Service Subscriptions per 100 Population; (ii) Fixed Broadband Subscriptions per 100 Population

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 1/12/2021 from International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Notes: OIC, non-OIC developing, developed countries group, and the world averages for “Mobile-cellular subscriptions per 100 people” and “Fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 population” were estimated using “Population, Total” as the weight accessed from the World Bank, WDI Database.

# APPENDIX: TECHNICAL NOTES

**SEA AND RAIL TRANSPORT: (i) Container Port Traffic, Maritime Transport**

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 2/11/2021 from the UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database.

**(ii) Rail Lines, Total Route-km; (iii) Rail lines (Total Route-km, per 1 Million People):**

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 2/11/2021 from the World Bank, WDI Database.

Notes: OIC, non-OIC developing, developed countries group, and the world averages for “Rail lines (Total Route-km, per 1 Million People)” were estimated using “Population, Total” as the weight accessed from the World Bank, WDI Database.

**FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT: (i) Inward FDI Flows; (ii) Inward FDI Stocks**

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 8/11/2021 from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UNCTADSTAT Database.

## OPPORTUNITIES

**PROTECTION OF GLOBAL COMMONS: Carbon Dioxide Emissions (Metric Tons per Capita)**

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 16/11/2021 from the World Bank, WDI Database.

Notes: OIC, non-OIC developing, and developed countries group averages for “Carbon Dioxide Emissions per Capita” were estimated using “Population, Total” as the weight accessed from the World Bank, WDI Database. The world aggregate values were extracted from the original database.

# APPENDIX: TECHNICAL NOTES

## ISLAMIC TOURISM: Global Muslim Travel Index Scores

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 9/12/2021 from the Global Muslim Travel Index (GMTI) 2021 Report, CrescentRating and Mastercard (2021).

Notes: OIC, non-OIC developing, developed countries group, and the world averages for “Global Muslim Travel Index Scores” were estimated using the unweighted average of the countries with available data.

## PERSONAL REMITTANCES: Personal Remittances Received

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 24/11/2021 from the World Bank, WDI Database.

Notes: OIC, non-OIC developing, developed countries group, and the world averages for “Personal Remittances Received per capita” were estimated using “Population, Total” as the weight accessed from the World Bank, WDI Database.

## ISLAMIC FINANCE: (i) Value of Global Islamic Finance Assets, Trillion USD and (ii) Top-10 OIC Countries by Value of Islamic Finance Assets, Billion USD, 2019

Source: SESRIC. (2021). Halal Industry in OIC Member Countries: Challenges and Prospects

## INTRA-OIC TRADE: Intra-OIC Trade

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 24/11/2021 from International Monetary Fund (IMF), Direction of Trade Statistics (DOTS).

## EXPORT DIVERSIFICATION: Product Concentration Index of Exports

Source: Extracted on 8/11/2021 from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UNCTADSTAT Database.

# APPENDIX: TECHNICAL NOTES

**RENEWABLE ENERGY:** Installed Renewable Electricity-Generating Capacity (Watts per capita)

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 9/11/2021 from the UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database.

Notes: OIC and non-OIC developing countries group averages for “Installed Renewable Electricity-Generating Capacity (Watts per capita)” were estimated using “Population, Total” as the weight accessed from the World Bank, WDI Database. The world aggregate values were extracted from the original database.

**INTANGIBLE HERITAGE:** Intangible Heritage

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 26/11/2021 from the UNESCO - Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

## THREATS

**DEBT ACCUMULATION:** External Debt Stocks

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 9/11/2021 from the World Bank, WDI Database.

**NATURAL AND MANMADE DISASTERS:** (i) Number of Conflicts

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 10/12/2021 from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP), PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset version 21.1.

(ii) Number of Natural Disasters:

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 13/10/2021 from Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED), EM-DAT International Disaster Database.

# APPENDIX: TECHNICAL NOTES

Notes: OIC, non-OIC developing, developed countries group, and the world averages for “Number of Directly Affected Persons Attributed to Natural Disasters per 100,000 Population” were estimated using “Total Population, Both Sexes Combined” as the weight accessed from the United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019).

REFUGEES AND DISPLACED POPULATION: (i) Refugee Population by Country of Origin; (ii) Internally Displaced Persons

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 8/12/2021 from the World Bank, WDI Database.

WATER STRESS: Water Stress Level

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 2/12/2021 from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), AQUASTAT Database.

Notes: OIC, non-OIC developing, developed countries group, and the world averages for “Water Stress” were estimated using “Total Renewable Water Resources”, “Total Freshwater Withdrawal” and “Environmental Flow Requirements”.  
$$\text{Water Stress} = 100 * \frac{\text{Total freshwater withdrawal}}{([\text{Total renewable water resources}] - [\text{Environmental Flow Requirements}])}$$
 accessed from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), AQUASTAT Database.

DEFORESTATION: Forest Area

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 1/12/2021 from the World Bank, WDI Database.

# APPENDIX: TECHNICAL NOTES

**DRINKING WATER RESOURCES AND SANITATION FACILITIES:** (i) Percentage of Population without Access to Improved Drinking Water Resources; (ii) Percentage of Population without Access to Improved Sanitation Facilities

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 17/11/2021 from the World Bank, WDI Database.

Notes: OIC, non-OIC developing, developed countries group, and the world averages for “Percentage of Population without Access to Improved Drinking Water Resources” and “Percentage of Population without Access to Improved Sanitation Facilities” were estimated using “Population, Total” as the weight accessed from the World Bank, WDI Database.

**FOOD INSECURITY: Prevalence of Undernourishment**

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 17/11/2021 from the World Bank, WDI Database.

Note: OIC and non-OIC countries group averages for “Prevalence of Undernourishment” were estimated using “Population, Total” as the weight accessed from the World Bank, WDI Database. The world aggregate value was extracted from the original database.

**UNSUSTAINABLE URBANISATION: Urban Population Growth**

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 10/11/2021 from the World Bank, WDI Database.

Note: Annual growth rate of urban population is calculated using the following formula:  $[(G(t+1) - G(t))/G(t)] \times 100$ , where  $G(t+1)$  is urban population in year  $t+1$  and  $G(t)$  is urban population in year  $t$ .



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

Kudüs Cad. No:9 Diplomatik Site 06450 ORAN-Ankara, Turkey  
Tel: (90-312) 468 61 72-76 Fax: (90-312) 467 34 58  
Email: [ocankara@sesric.org](mailto:ocankara@sesric.org) • Web: [www.sesric.org](http://www.sesric.org)