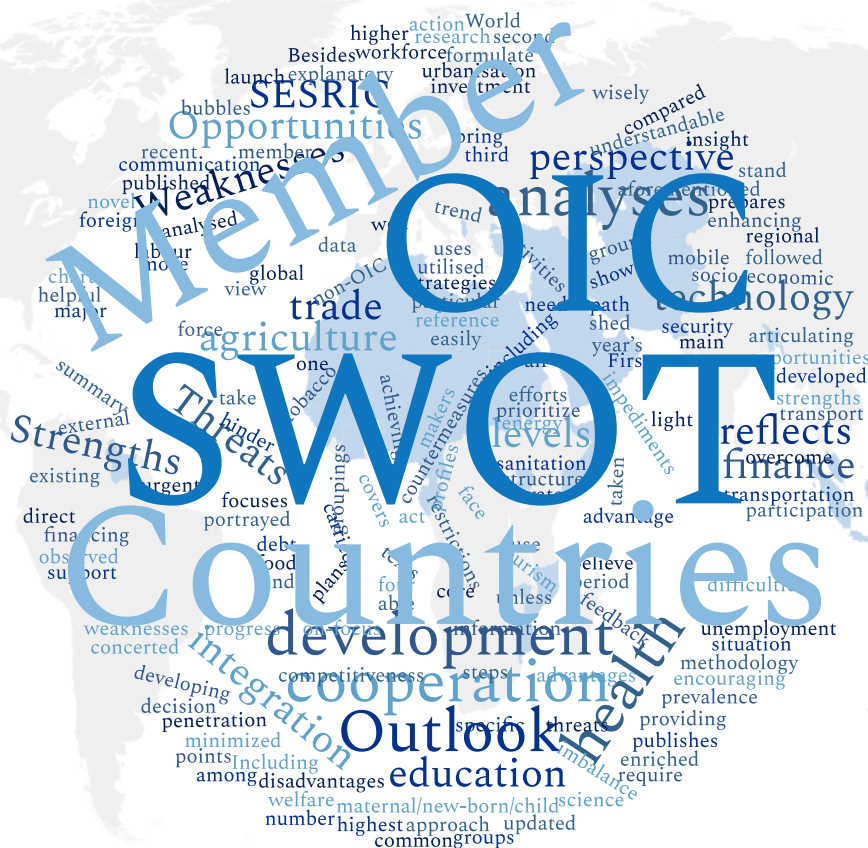


PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES OF OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

SWOT OUTLOOK 2023

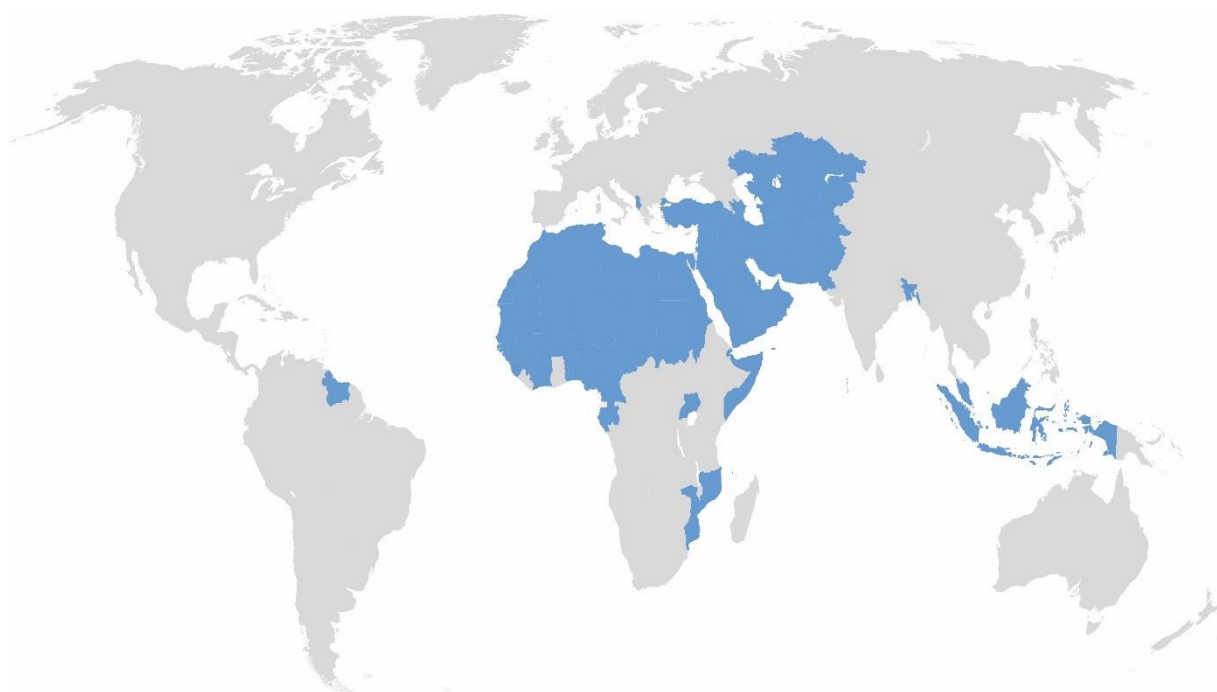


ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION
STATISTICAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES



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SWOT OUTLOOK 2023



**ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION
STATISTICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
AND TRAINING CENTRE FOR ISLAMIC COUNTRIES**

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ISBN: 978-625-7162-33-3

For additional information, contact Statistics and Information Department of SESRIC through: statistics@sesric.org

Acknowledgements

Conducted under the general guidance of H.E. Mrs. Zehra Zümürüt SELÇUK, Director General of SESRIC, this publication is a product of the Statistics and Information Department at SESRIC led by Dr. Atilla KARAMAN, Director of Statistics and Information Department, and prepared by Dr. Ahmet ÖZTÜRK, Mr. Abdulhamit ÖZTÜRK, and Mr. Syed Tahir MAHMUD. Cover design by Mr. Savas PEHLIVAN.

FOREWORD

The series of SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) Outlook on OIC Member Countries has been initiated by SESRIC in 2011 and has been enriched with new indicators for this new edition. The Report can shed light on the performance and potentials of OIC countries, as a group, in various socio-economic areas based on the most recent available data.

The 2023 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, hosting the majority of Islamic financial assets, and having diversity of cultural heritage. As another source of the major strategic 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, intra-OIC trade, and exports diversification. Moreover, having a diversified tourism ecosystem with competitive advantages in Islamic tourism constitute another opportunity that could contribute significantly to the development of tourism and economic growth in the group of OIC countries.

FOREWORD

Furthermore, the significant progress made in women's representation in parliaments will strengthen the OIC countries' efforts towards women empowerment and contribute to broader participation into decision making processes, which in turn contributes to good governance and accountability.

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. 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 water resources and sanitation facilities, rapid deforestation, food insecurity, and unsustainable urbanisation emerge as **threats** that are likely to impose serious challenges to 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.

Zehra Zümürüt SELÇUK
Director General
SESRIC

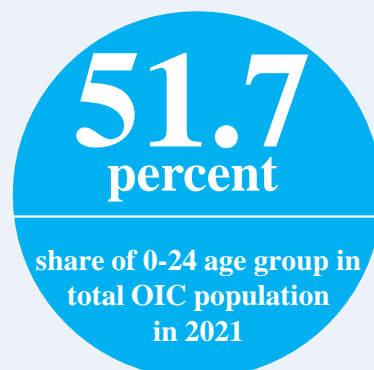
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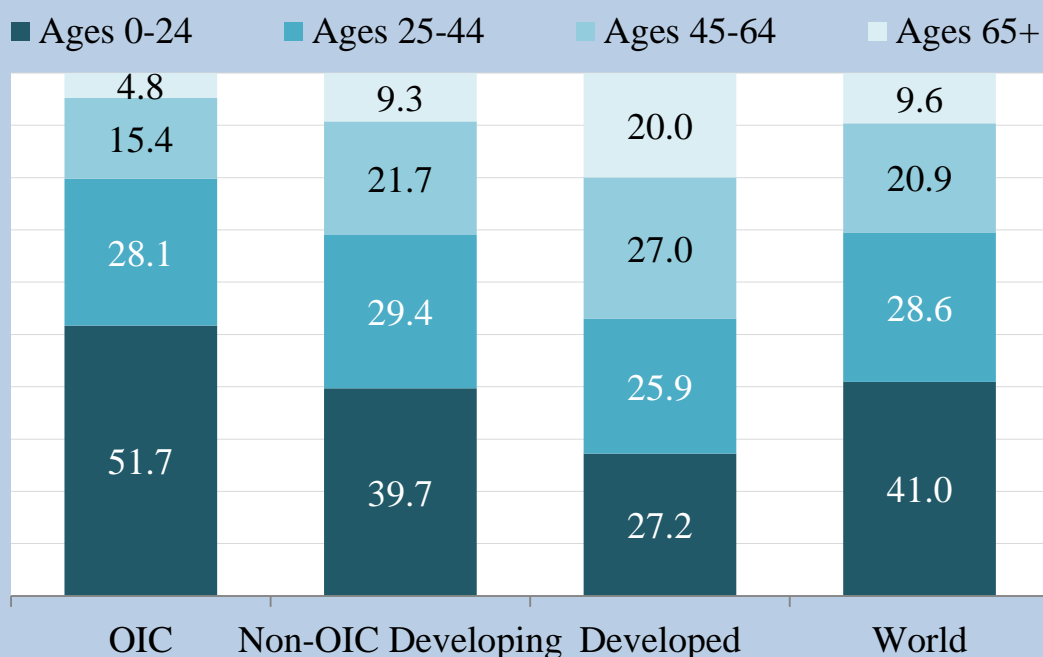


STRENGTHS

OIC countries with a population of around 2 billion people accounted for 24.9% 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 51.7% of the total OIC population in 2021, the highest ratio among the non-OIC developing and developed countries groups and the world.

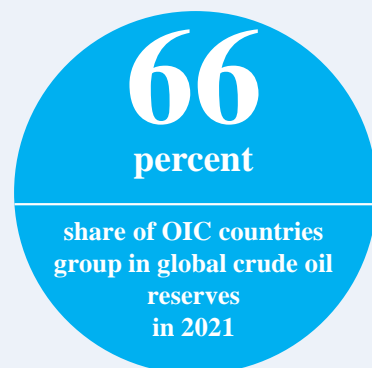


Population by Age Group (% of Total), 2021



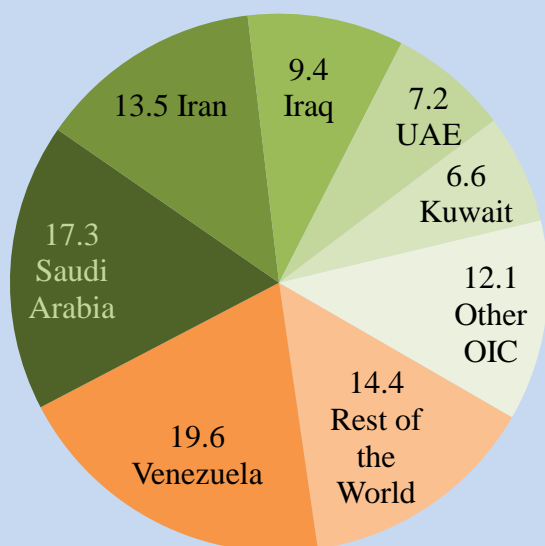
Formulation of comprehensive and multi-sectoral policies and programs by OIC countries is a key to benefit from the economic potentials of their young and dynamic population for high economic growth and sustainable development.

Crude oil is one of the main sources of energy driving world economy. 21 OIC countries claimed a share of 66% in total global crude oil reserves, equivalent to 1.02 trillion barrels, in 2021.

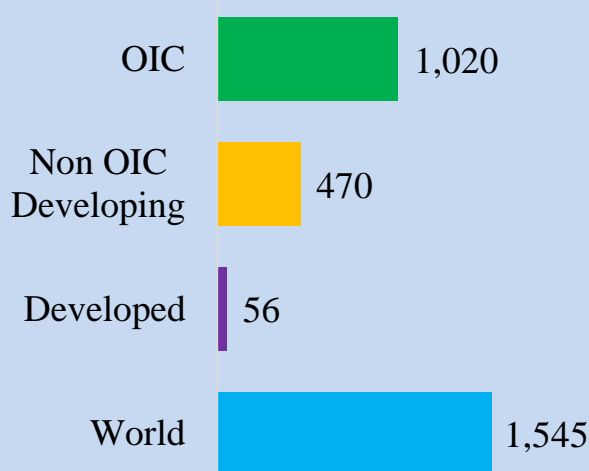


More than half of the global proven crude oil reserve blocks are found in 5 OIC countries.

Shares in Global Proven Oil Reserves (%), 2021

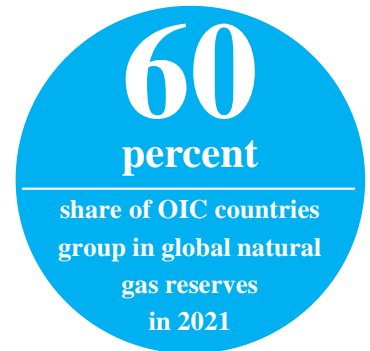


Proven Crude Oil Reserves (Billion Barrels), 2021

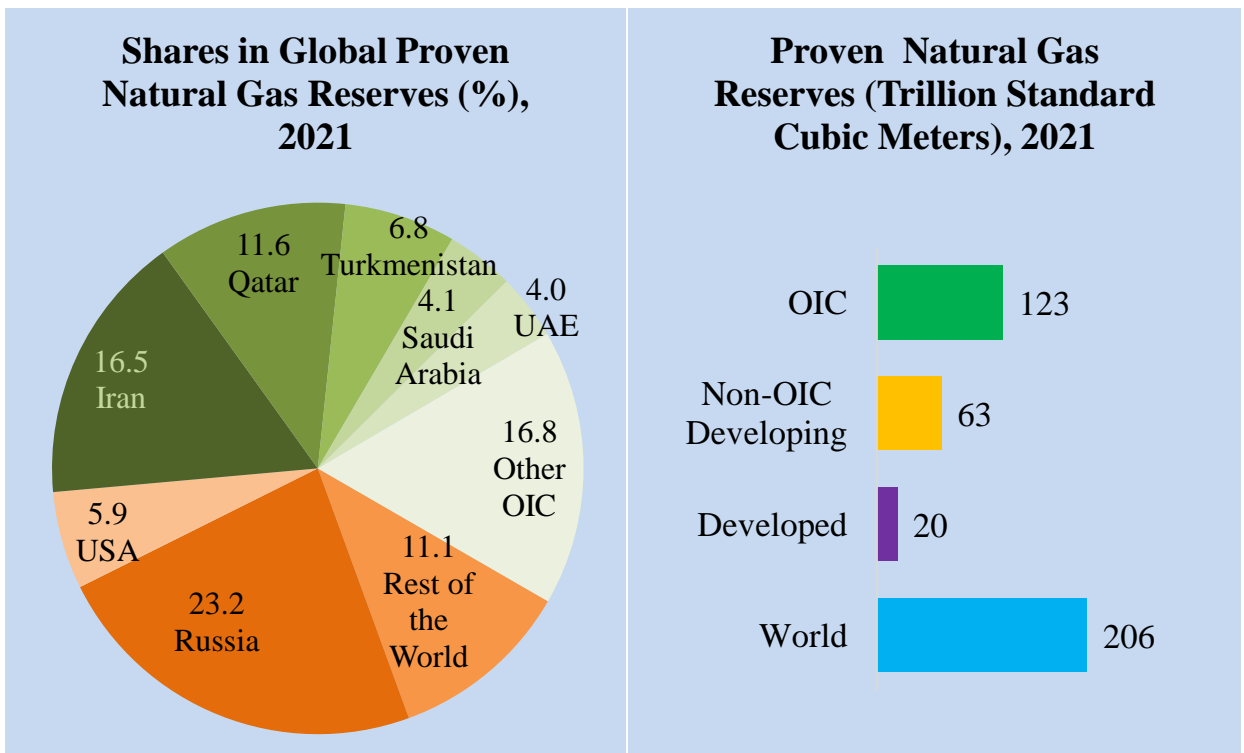


Having most of the global proven crude oil reserves, OIC countries are in a strong position to utilise more significant gains from these huge energy natural resources for sustainable growth and development.

Natural gas reservoirs in the OIC countries group have trapped large volumes of natural gas compared to other country groups. It is estimated that 23 OIC countries has a total natural gas reserve of **123 trillion m³**, corresponding to **60%** of the global natural gas reserves in 2021.



5 OIC countries with the largest proven natural gas reserves accounted for **43%** of global total reserves in 2021.



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.

Started in 1960s, modern Islamic finance activities have gained a remarkable momentum globally. The value of global Islamic finance assets went up from USD 2.2 trillion in 2015 to USD 4 trillion in 2021. The growth rate of Islamic finance assets has been around 15% in the last three years since 2019, and total value of assets is expected to reach USD 5.9 trillion in 2026.



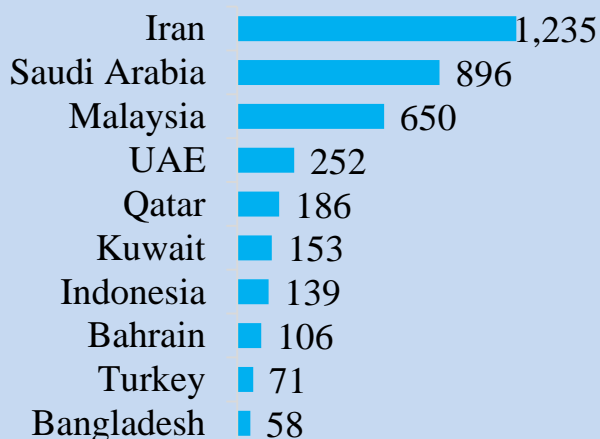
OIC countries hosted the majority of Islamic financial assets in the world. The value of assets hosted by the top-10 performer OIC countries represented a share of 95% in the global Islamic financial assets in 2021.

Value of Global Islamic Finance Assets, Trillion USD



* Forecast

Top-10 OIC Countries by Value of Islamic Finance Assets, Billion USD, 2021



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

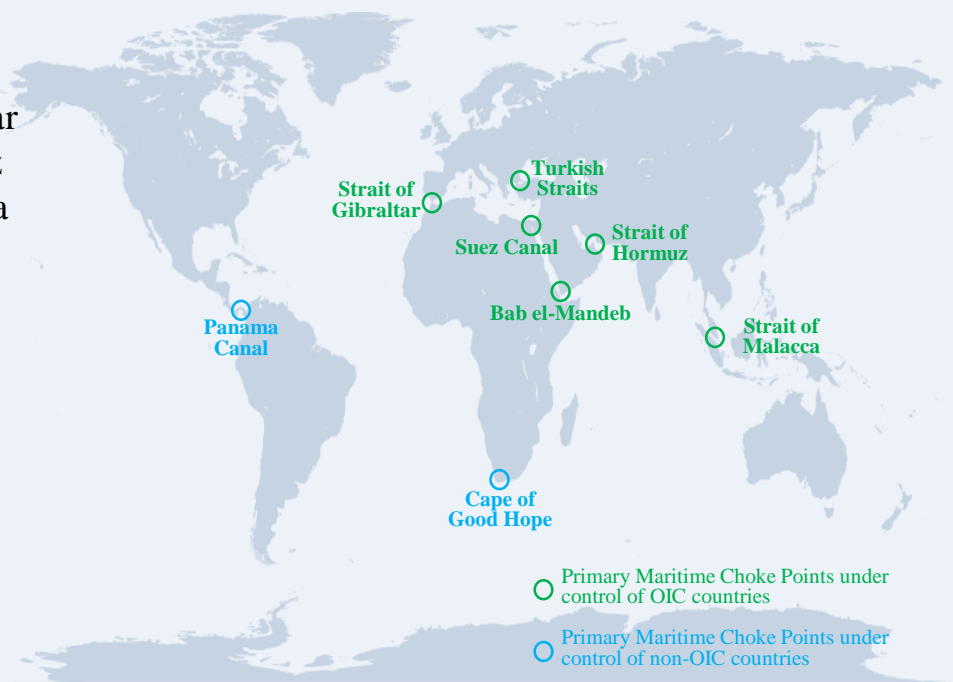
With ships carrying more than 80% of the global trade (UNCTAD, 2022) makes maritime transport an essential part of international trade system. Thousands of vessels use strategic trade routes to move commercial goods efficiently. Certain points along these sea trade routes are known as **Maritime Choke Points** which are strategic, narrow passages connecting two larger areas to one another and thus give strategic advantages to the countries that control them.

6

primary maritime choke points out of 8 in the world are controlled by OIC countries

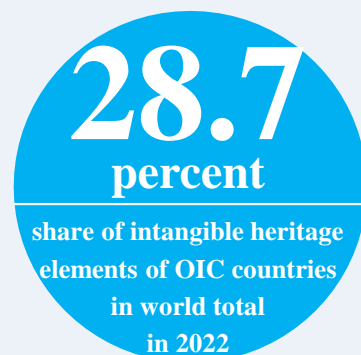
Maritime choke points are typically straits or canals that see high volumes of traffic because of their optimal location. Thus, they are regarded as the primary veins for the world's major supplies. Out of 8 primary maritime choke points in the world, the following 6 of them are controlled by OIC countries:

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

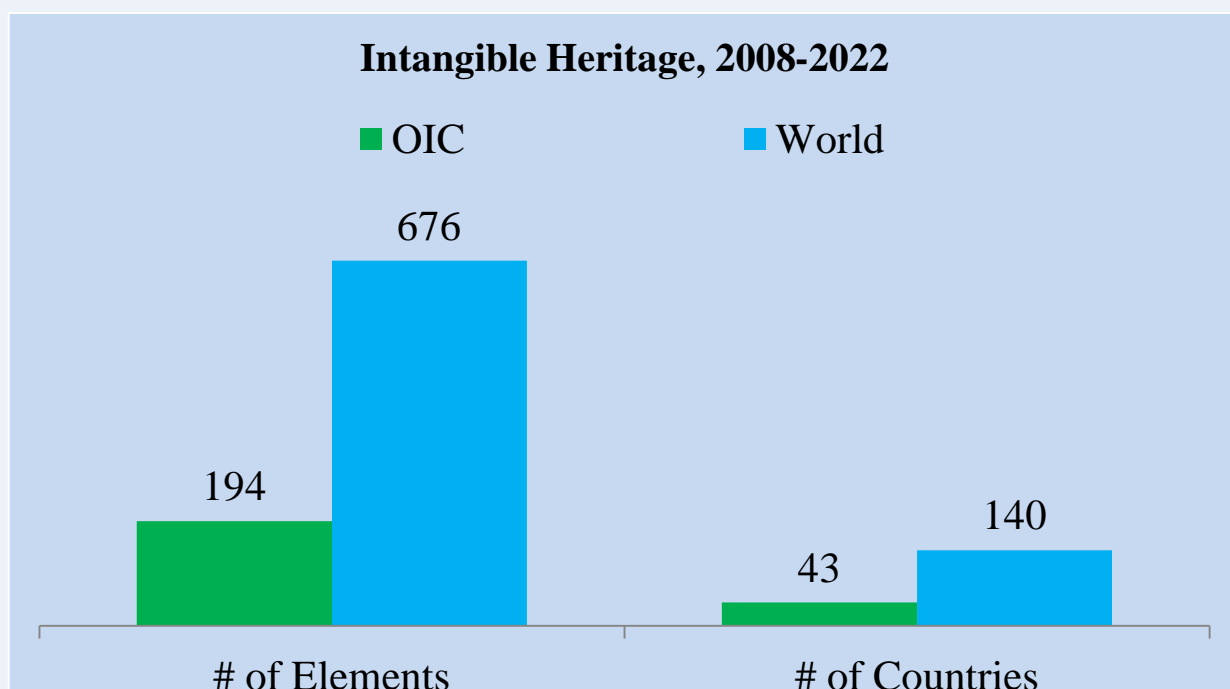


Primary maritime choke points provide OIC countries with the strength of controlling the most critical waterways connecting international trade routes.

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage decides annually to inscribe the nominations 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 2022, 194 intangible cultural heritage elements from 43 OIC countries have been inscribed in the Convention's lists which constituted 28.7% of all inscribed cultural heritage elements (676) in the world.



OIC countries should endeavour to protect and keep cultural heritage alive for the future generations as well as to take advantage of them in increasing tourism and cultural activities.

Millet	Niger	Nigeria	Sudan	Mali	Senegal	Burkina Faso	Chad	Pakistan	Guinea	Uzbekistan
	3	4	5	6	7	9	10	16	18	20
Sorghum	Nigeria	Sudan	Burkina Faso	Mali	Cameroon	Niger	Chad	Egypt		
	2	6	11	13	14	15	17	18		
Cocoa Beans	Cote d'Ivoire	Indonesia	Cameroon	Nigeria	Uganda	Guinea	Sierra Leone			
	1	3	6	7	12	17	20			
Cassava	Nigeria	Indonesia	Cote d'Ivoire	Mozambique	Cameroon	Benin	Sierra Leone			
	1	6	10	14	15	17	20			
Natural Rubber	Indonesia	Côte d'Ivoire	Malaysia	Nigeria	Cameroon	Gabon				
	2	6	7	13	19	20				
Palm Oil	Indonesia	Malaysia	Nigeria	Cameroon	Cote d'Ivoire	Guinea				
	1	2	4	9	12	18				
Tea	Turkey	Indonesia	Bangladesh	Uganda	Iran					
	4	7	8	10	17					
Wheat	Pakistan	Turkey	Kazakhstan	Iran	Egypt					
	8	11	15	17	18					
Rice	Bangladesh	Indonesia	Pakistan	Nigeria	Egypt					
	3	4	9	14	18					
Sugar Beet	Turkey	Egypt	Iran	Morocco						
	5	7	12	18						
Barley	Turkey	Iran	Morocco	Kazakhstan						
	9	13	14	16						
Coffee	Indonesia	Uganda	Côte d'Ivoire							
	3	7	14							

Many OIC countries are among

top 20

producers

of major agricultural products

Notwithstanding the low level of development in the agriculture sector and the relatively low share of OIC countries in the global agricultural production, a significant number of OIC countries were ranked among the top 20 producers of some major agricultural commodities worldwide in 2021.

To further leverage on the strength of OIC countries in the production of these commodities, it is also important to increase value-added and, therefore, their competitive advantage.



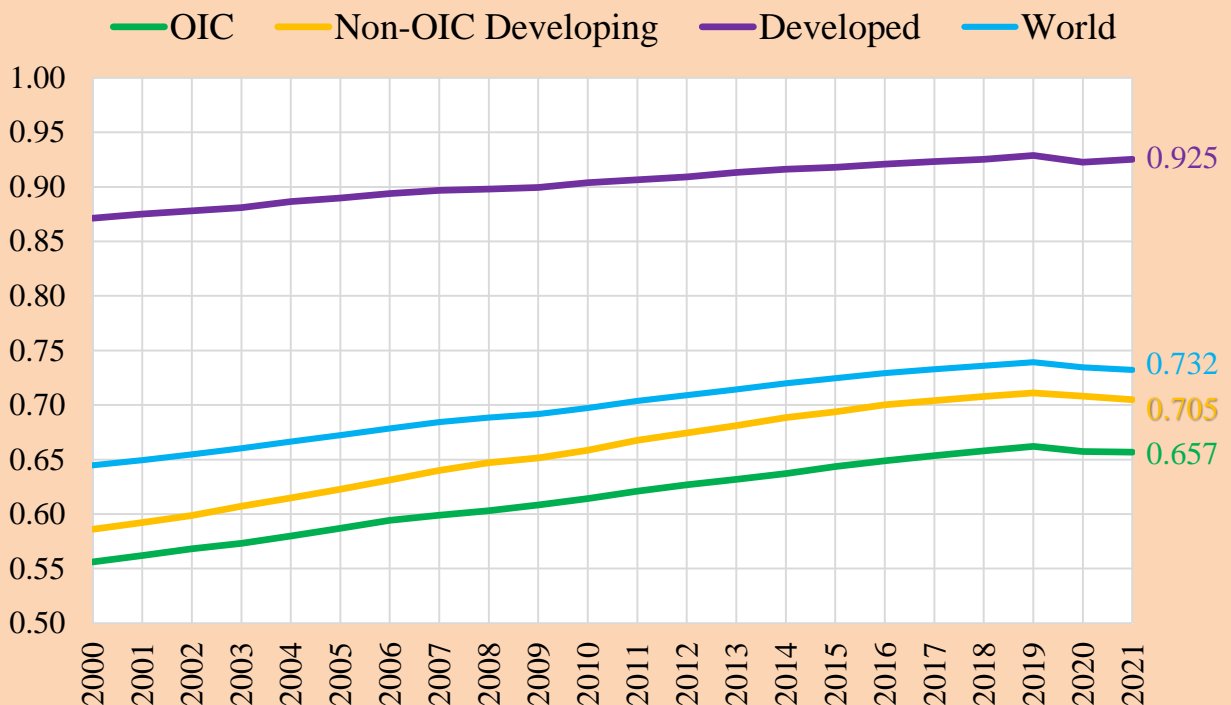
WEAKNESSES

Human Development Index (HDI) is the normalized measure of life expectancy, education and per capita income for countries worldwide. The average HDI value of OIC countries in 2021 was **0.657** which was below that of other country groups and the world. Despite the positive trend seen in the OIC average, the HDI gap between non-OIC developing and OIC countries increased from **0.030** point in 2000 to **0.048** point in 2021.

0.657

average HDI value of
OIC countries group
in 2021

Human Development Index Trends



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.

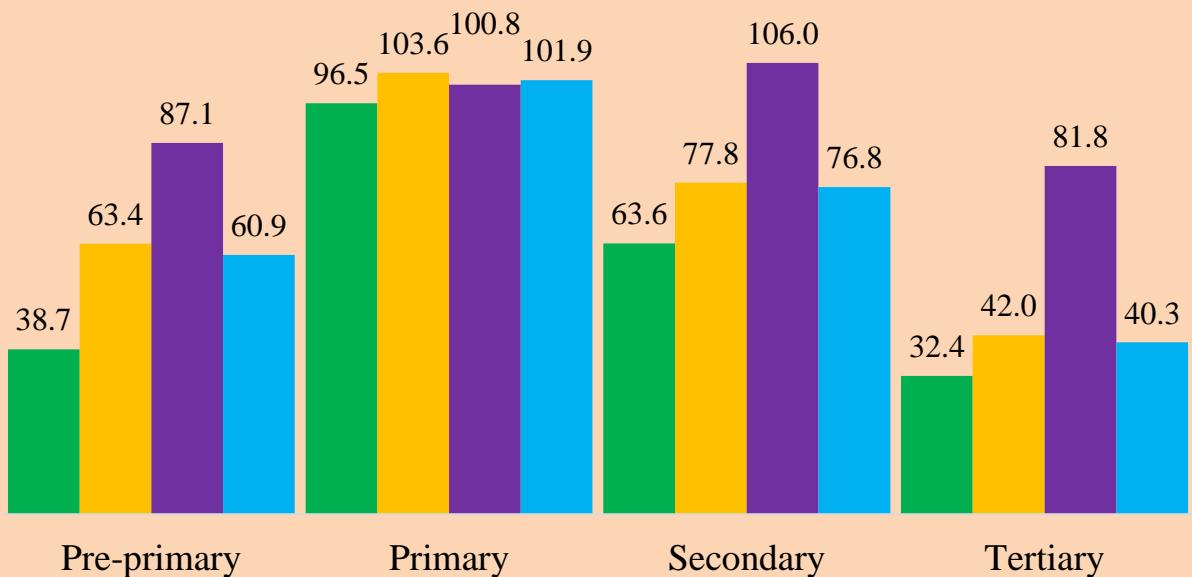
OIC countries as a group performed below the other country groups in Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in pre-primary, secondary and tertiary education in 2021 (or the most recent year). In particular, the difference in pre-primary school enrolment between non-OIC developing and OIC countries was about 25 percentage points. However, almost all children are enrolled in primary education in OIC countries similar to other country groups.

38.7
percent

GER in pre-primary
schools in OIC countries
in 2021

Gross Enrolment Ratio (%), 2021

■ OIC ■ Non-OIC Developing ■ Developed ■ World



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.

54

deaths

in children under-5 per
1,000 live births in OIC
countries in 2021

Access to health interventions for children 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

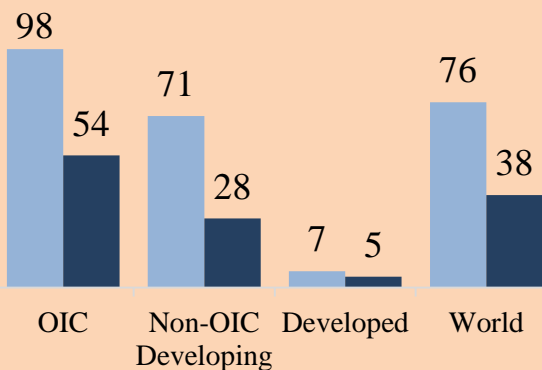
deaths

in new-borns per 1,000 live
births in OIC countries
in 2021

OIC countries registered a significant decline in child mortality between 2000 and 2021. Despite this decline, an average of 54 children per 1,000 live births died before their fifth birthday and an average of 24 out of 1,000 live births died within the first 28 days after birth in 2021.

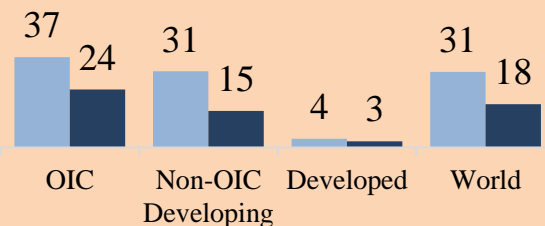
Under-5 Mortality Ratio per 1,000 Live Births

■ 2000 ■ 2021



Neonatal Mortality Ratio per 1,000 Live Births

■ 2000 ■ 2021



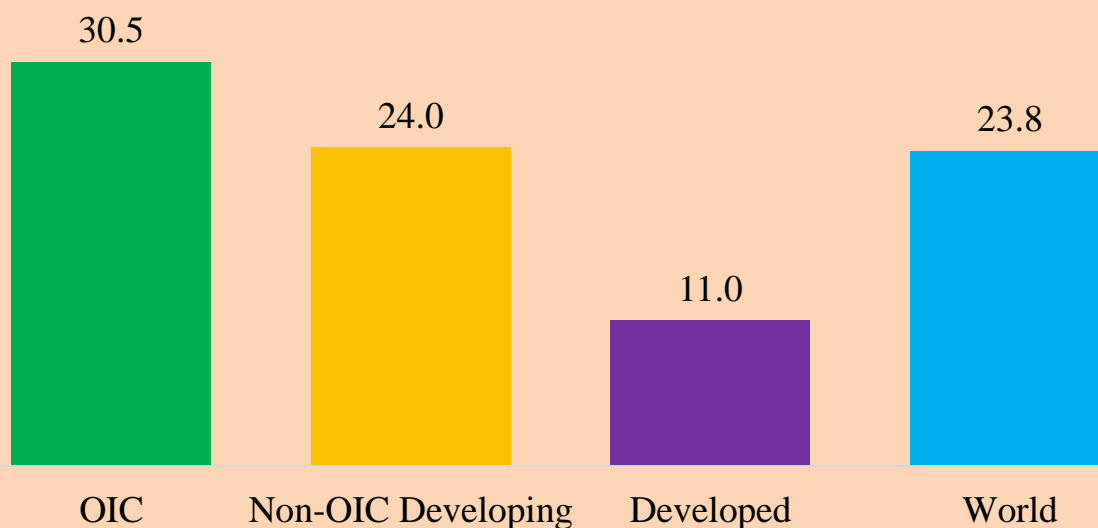
In order to end child mortality in OIC countries, concerted actions are needed to provide families with access to quality and improved healthcare services during and after childbirth, and increasing access to clean water and sanitation services.

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 was **30.5%** in 2021 (or latest year) which was significantly above the average NEET for other country groups.

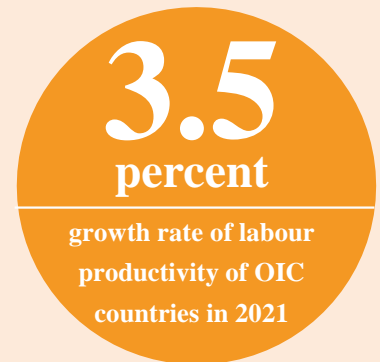


Proportion of Youth (Aged 15-24 Years) not in Education, Employment or Training (%), 2021

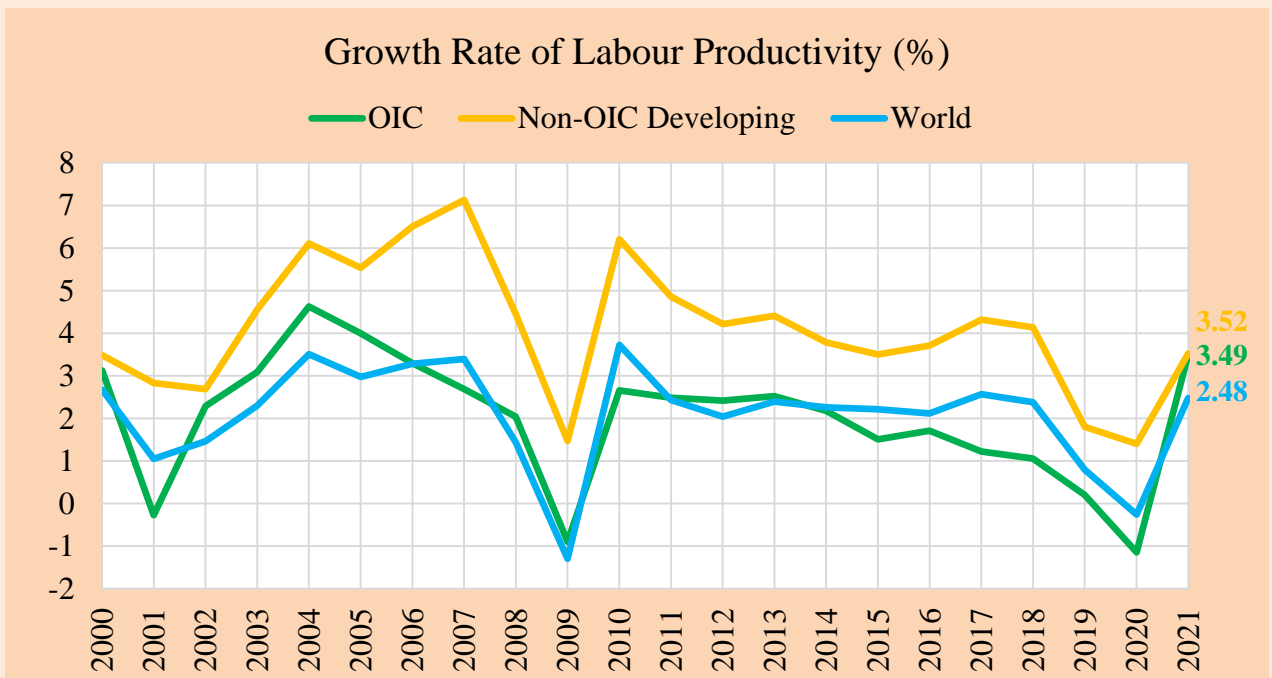


The talents and energy of approximately one third of youth in the OIC countries group are not effectively used in contributing to development. In this context, OIC countries need to formulate multi-sectoral policies to benefit from the economic potentials of youth to a higher extent.

Labour productivity represents the total volume of output (in GDP constant 2017 international \$ at PPP) produced per unit of labour (measured in terms of the number of employed persons) during a given time reference period. OIC countries had lower labour productivity growth rates compared to non-OIC developing countries group over the whole period since 2000.

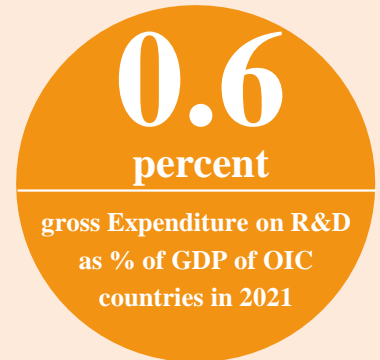


Moreover, the gap with the global average has critically widened since 2014, excluding 2021, making it more difficult for OIC countries to catch up with the rest of the world.

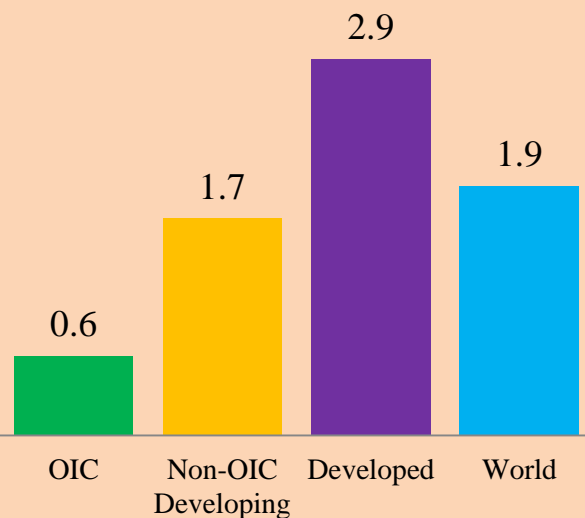


To enhance their labour productivity, OIC countries should implement various macroeconomic policies to promote innovation, science and technology, and investment in human capital.

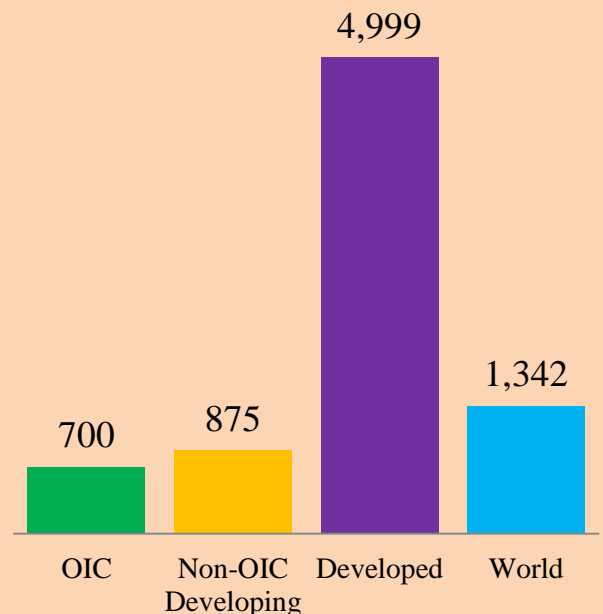
OIC countries devoted only an average of **0.6%** of their GDP to Research&Development in 2021 (or the most recent year) which was approximately one-fifth of the developed countries' average (**2.9%**) and almost one-third of the world average (**1.9%**). Similarly, OIC countries recorded an average of **700** researchers per million people, which is well behind the world and other country groups averages for 2021 (or the most recent year).



**Gross Expenditure on
Research & Development as
% of GDP , 2021**



**Researchers per Million
Inhabitants, 2021**



Low shares of gross expenditure on research and development and low number of researchers in OIC countries show insufficient amount of R&D investments and support which can undermine the competitiveness and development levels of OIC countries.

6

fixed broadband
subscriptions per 100
people in OIC
countries in 2021

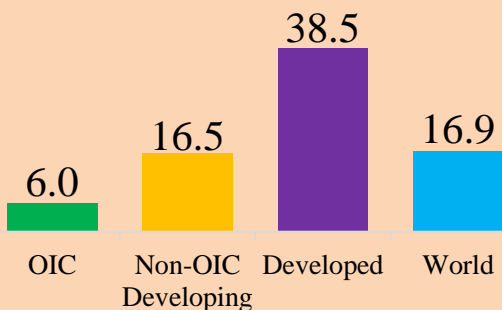
The fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 people in OIC countries was 6 in 2021, which was considerably lower than averages of the world (16.9), non-OIC developing countries (16.5), and developed countries (38.5).

50.7
percent

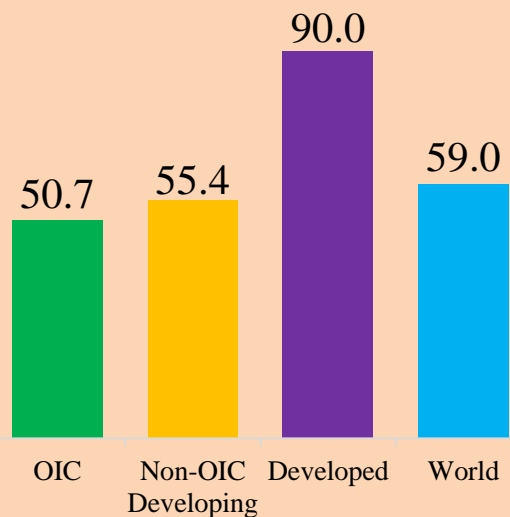
of households in OIC
countries access Internet
at home in 2021

With regards to Internet access at home, about half of OIC households had access to it in 2021 (or the most recent year), a level which was particularly lower than the developed countries' average (90%).

**Fixed Broadband Subscriptions
per 100 Population, 2021**



**Estimated Proportion of
Households with Internet Access
at Home (%), 2021**



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.

15.7
percent

share of OIC countries
group in global container
port traffic in 2020

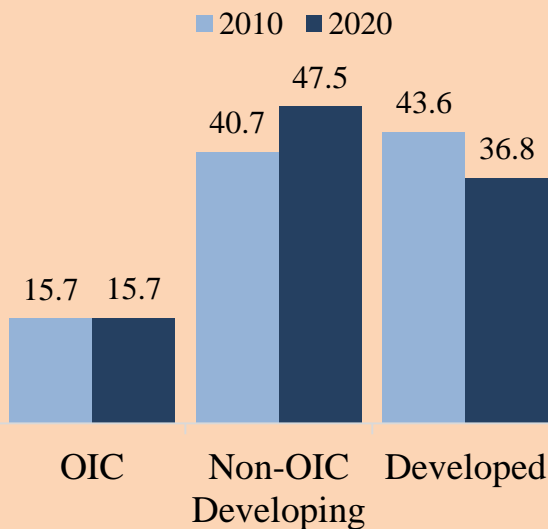
The collective share of OIC countries in total world container port traffic has remained stable at around **15.7%** since 2010. However, the gap between non-OIC developing and OIC countries has widened.

11.8
percent

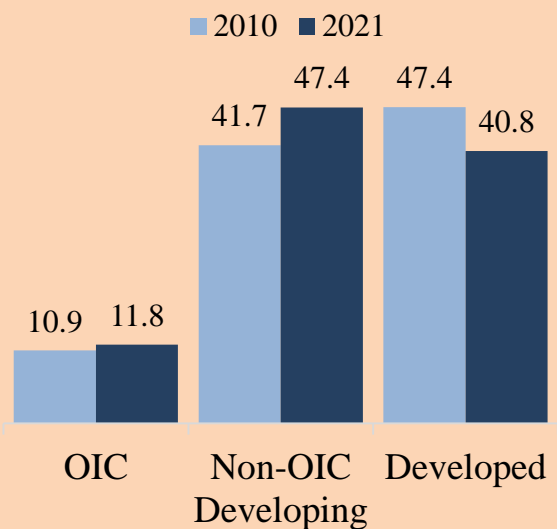
share of OIC countries
group in global rail
lines, total route-km
in 2021

Although its share in global rail lines (total route-km) increased in the same period, in terms of rail network density per million people, OIC countries has been lagging far behind (**62 km**) that of non-OIC developing countries (**105 km**), world (**133 km**) and developed countries (**387 km**) in 2021 (or latest year).

Container Port Traffic, Maritime
Transport (% of World)



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



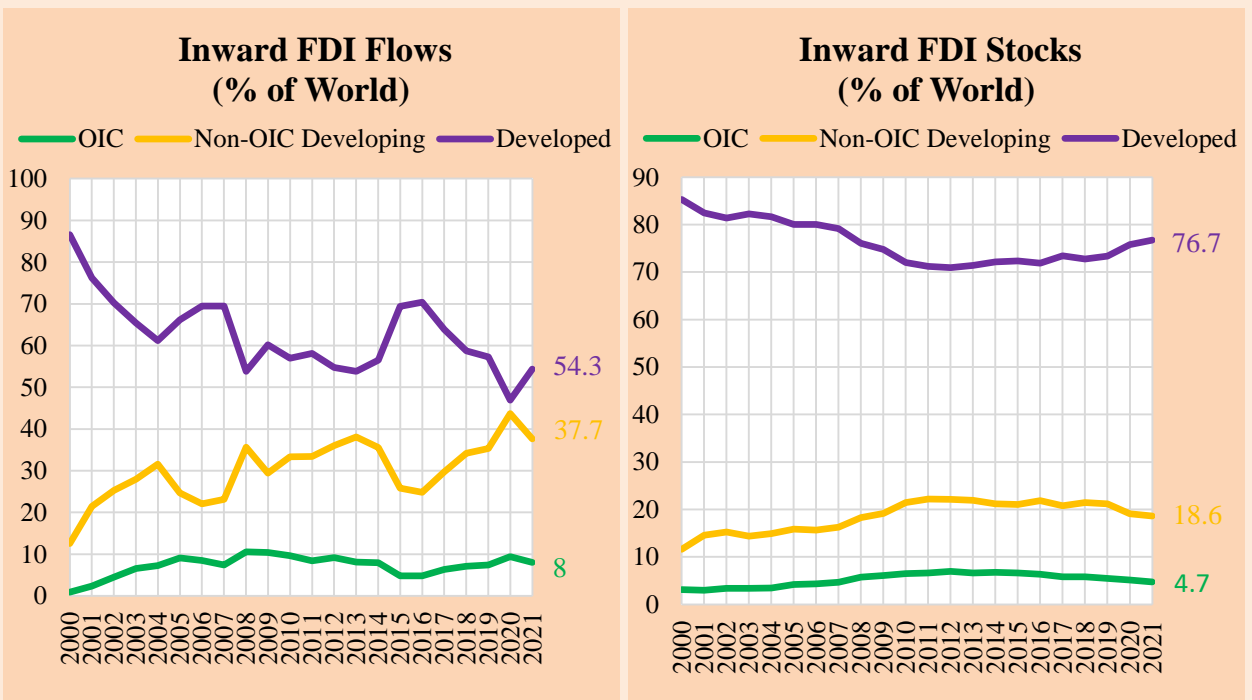
Transport planning agencies in OIC countries should apply multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral holistic approaches to ensure integration between modes of transport based on robust models for external shocks and systemic risks.

Although there was an upward trend in the early 2000s, the share of OIC countries in global inward foreign direct investment (FDI) flows has fluctuated around 8% since 2005. As the share of FDI flows to non-OIC developing countries tends to increase, the gap between non-OIC developing and OIC countries widened significantly from 12 percentage points in 2000 to 30 percentage points in 2021.

8
percent

share of OIC countries
in global FDI inflows
in 2021

With regards to inward FDI stocks, a similar trend was observed, with the gap between non-OIC developing and OIC countries increasing from 9 percentage points in 2000 to 14 percentage points in 2021.

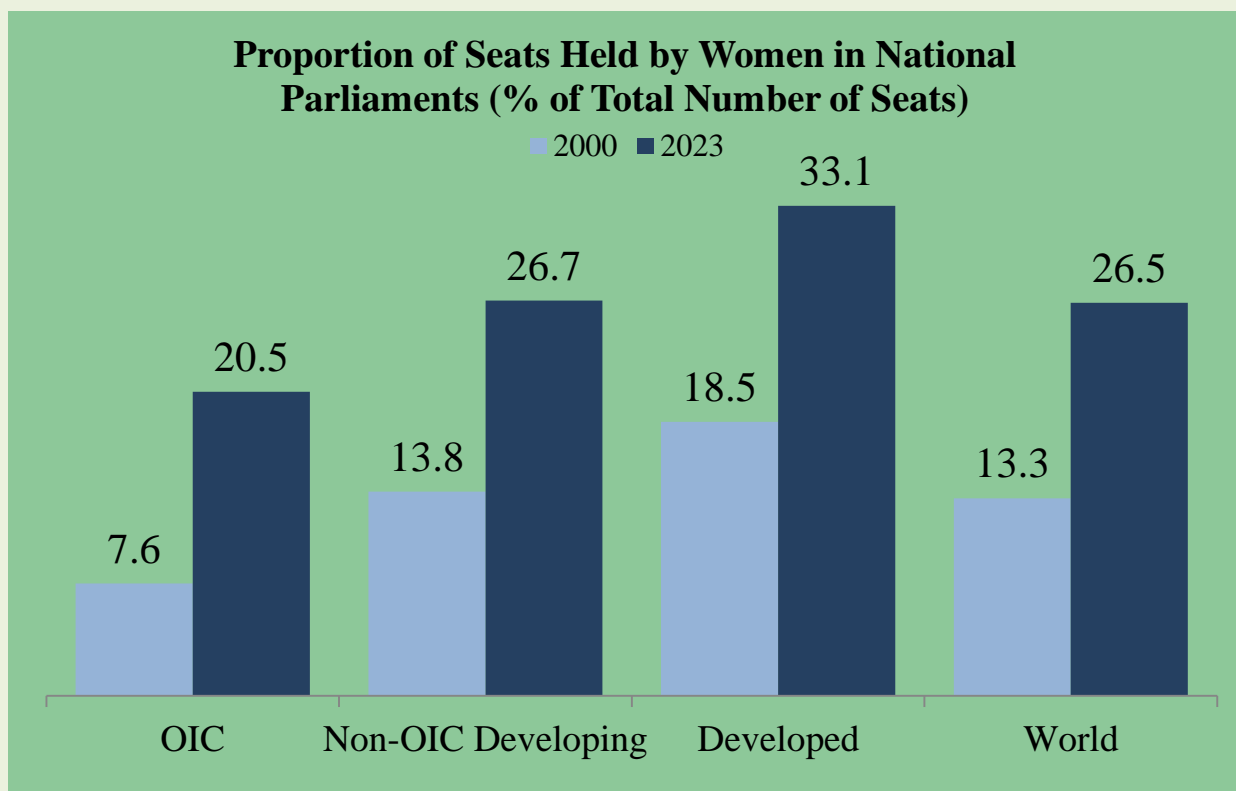
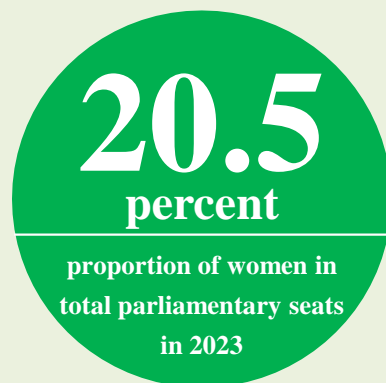


Investment attractiveness of OIC countries should be improved, particularly by developing targeted policies and creating favourable investment climate for greenfield investments.



OPPORTUNITIES

In the past two decades, OIC countries accomplished a significant progress in terms of women’s representation in politics. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments has nearly tripled, approaching the global average. However, the averages of all country groups have been lagging far behind the 50% where women have equal access to parliamentary decision-making.



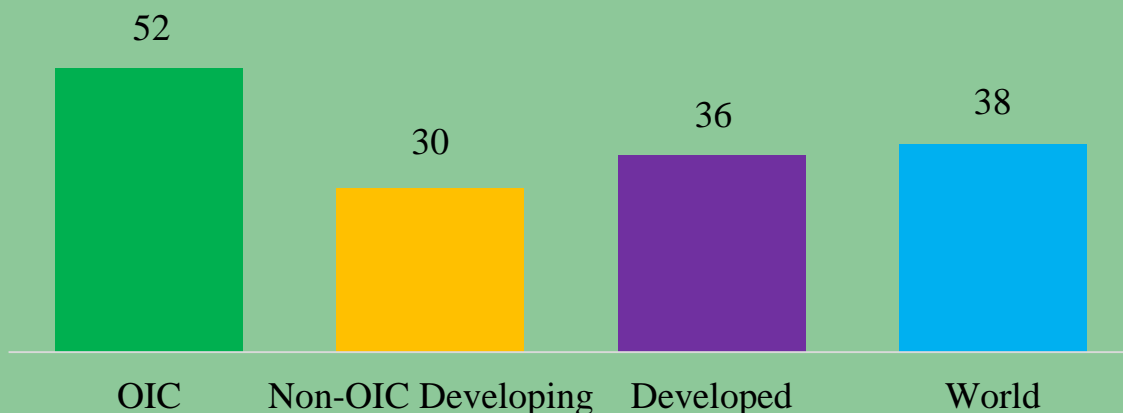
Significant progress to be recorded in representation of women in parliaments will strengthen the OIC countries' efforts in women empowerment and contribute to broader participation into decision making processes, which in turn contributes to good governance and accountability.

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).



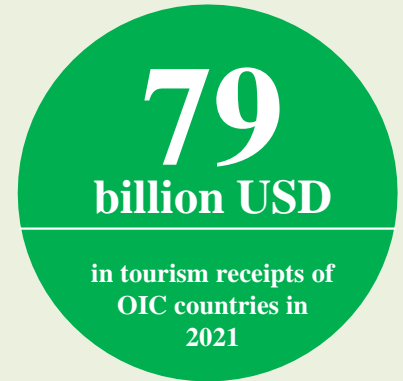
According to the GMTI 2022 results, the average score of OIC countries was 52, where a higher score implies a better Islamic tourism ecosystem including access, communication, environment and services. The average score of other country groups are smaller than that of OIC countries.

Global Muslim Travel Index Scores, 2022



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.

In 2021, OIC countries received around 55 million tourists and generated USD 79 billion in tourism receipts. Intra-OIC tourist arrivals corresponded to 45% of the total. Overall, international and intra-OIC tourism in OIC countries have been firmly improving over the last decades. 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.



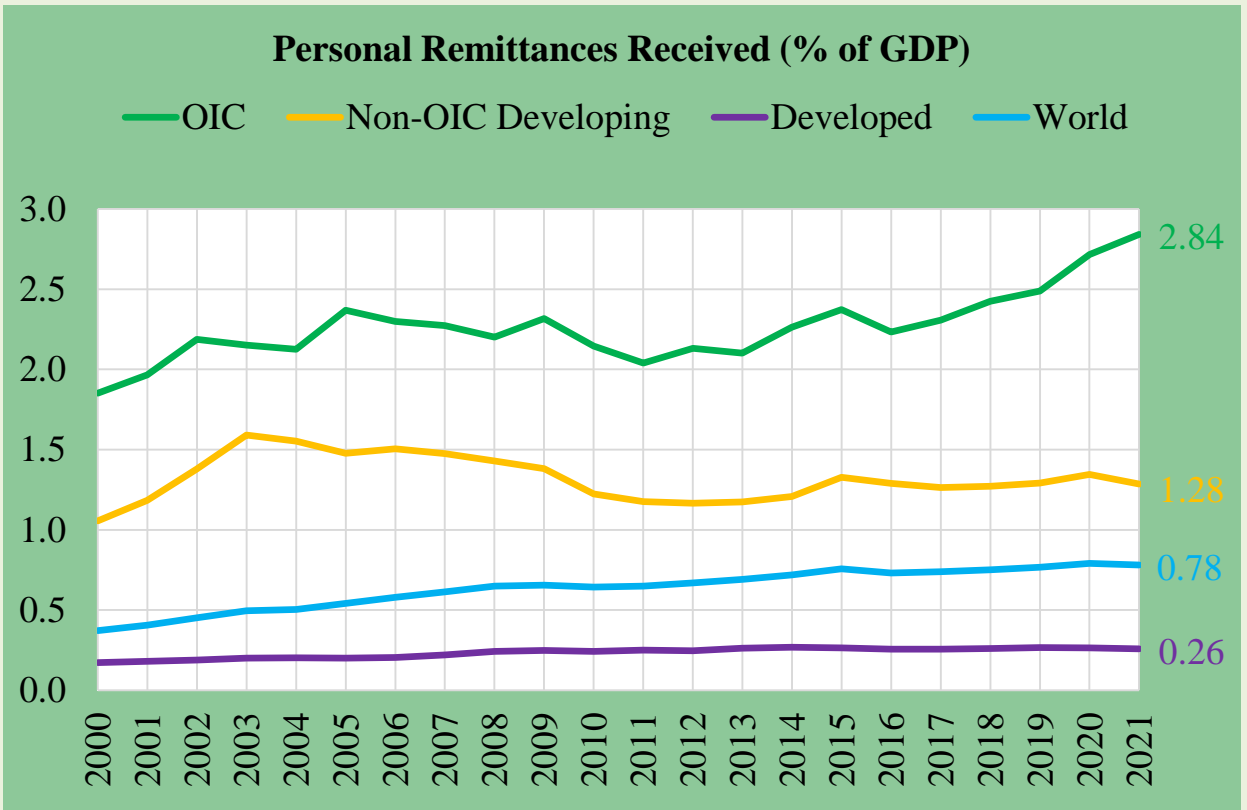
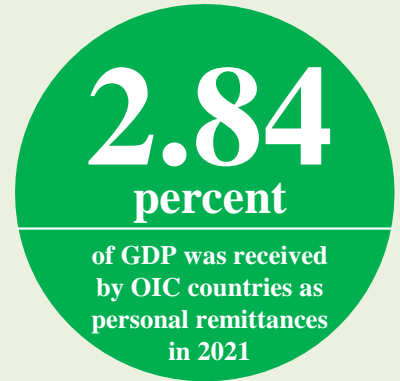
Diversification can be classified by niche tourism experiences such as religious tourism, cultural tourism, health/wellness tourism, sports tourism, business and conference tourism, gastronomic tourism, agrotourism, ecotourism, creative tourism, and maritime tourism, among others.

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.

Personal remittances as a ratio of GDP in OIC countries increased by 1 percentage point, from 1.85% in 2000 to 2.84% in 2021. However, the growth share of other country groups remained much more limited during this period. In 2021, the total personal remittances received by OIC countries equalled USD 182 billion, accounting for 24.7% of the global total.

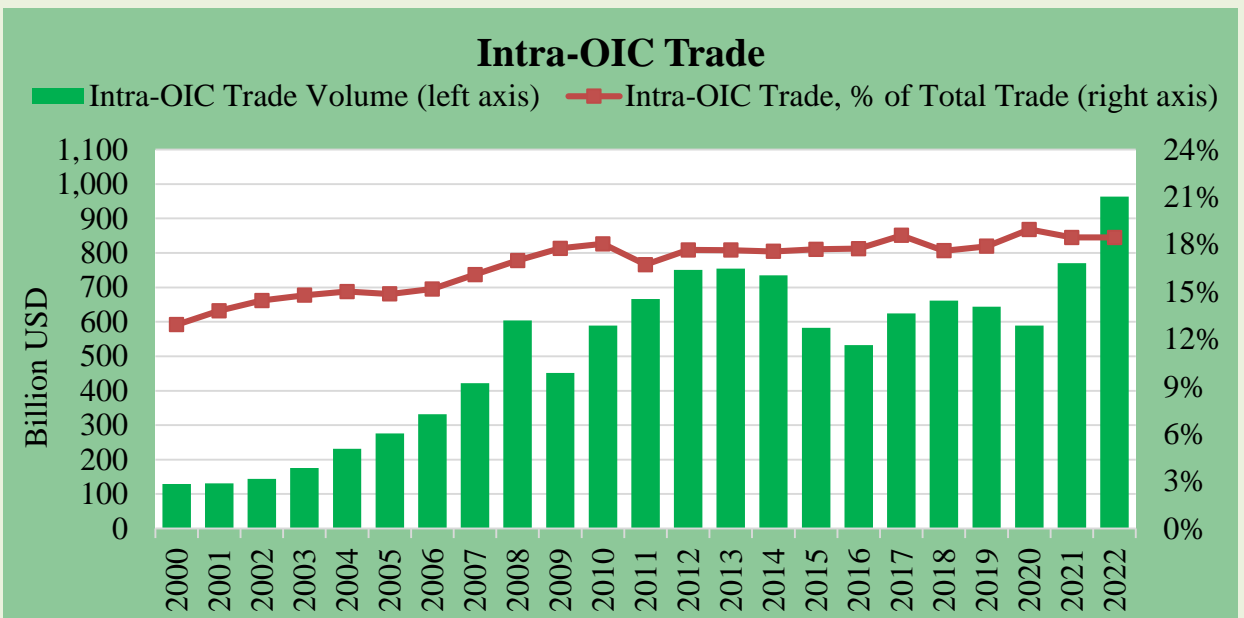


Steady increase in personal remittances improves well-being of people and may present significant potentials to boost the economies of recipient OIC countries by alleviating financial constraints and stimulating economic growth.

Over the last two decades, OIC countries witnessed several sharp falls in volume of total and intra-OIC merchandise trade. However, total intra-OIC trade increased from around USD 130 billion to USD 964 billion from 2000 to 2022. The share of intra-OIC trade in total trade of OIC countries group also increased by 5.5 percentage points from 12.9% in 2000 to 18.4% in 2022.



Through promoting further trade cooperation among OIC 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.

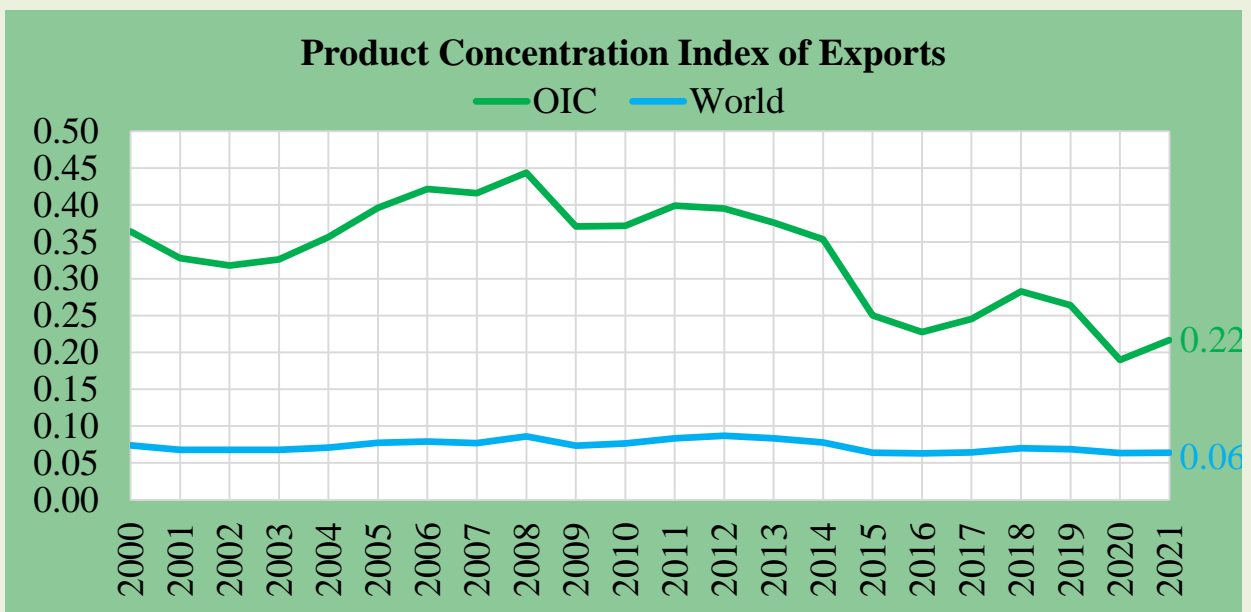


Removing the intra-OIC trade and investment barriers and improving the overall business climate could play a critical role in boosting trade and investment flows among OIC countries. Intra-OIC trade activities could help to reduce unemployment by creating new job opportunities due to increased market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

The concentration of exports in few items increases the vulnerability of countries to fluctuations in external shocks in international markets. Export product concentration index measures the degree of concentration of goods exported. 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”.

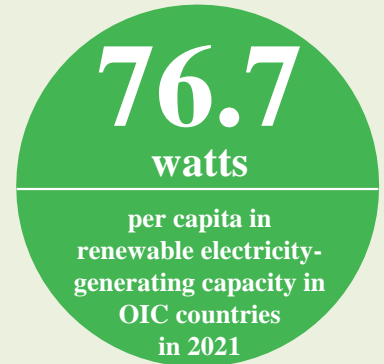


OIC countries have increasingly diversified their export products and been relieved from high dependence on few export items. The average export concentration index of the OIC countries was around 0.36 in 2000 but it decreased to around 0.2 levels in recent years and converged to the world average, indicating increased diversification in export products.

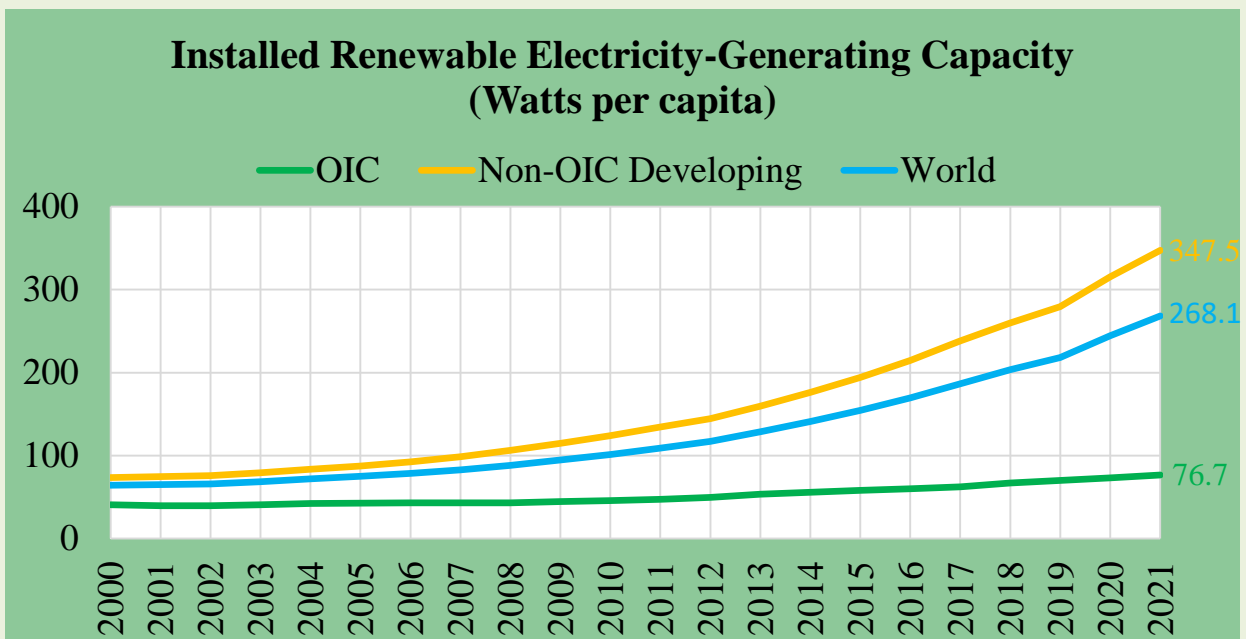


Export diversification in OIC countries could generate a potential to improve their competitiveness in the international trade market and protect them from future crises.

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 2021, the installed capacity of power plants that generate electricity from renewable energy sources in OIC countries recorded a growth of around 89% from 40.6 watts per capita in 2000 to 76.7 watts per capita in 2021.

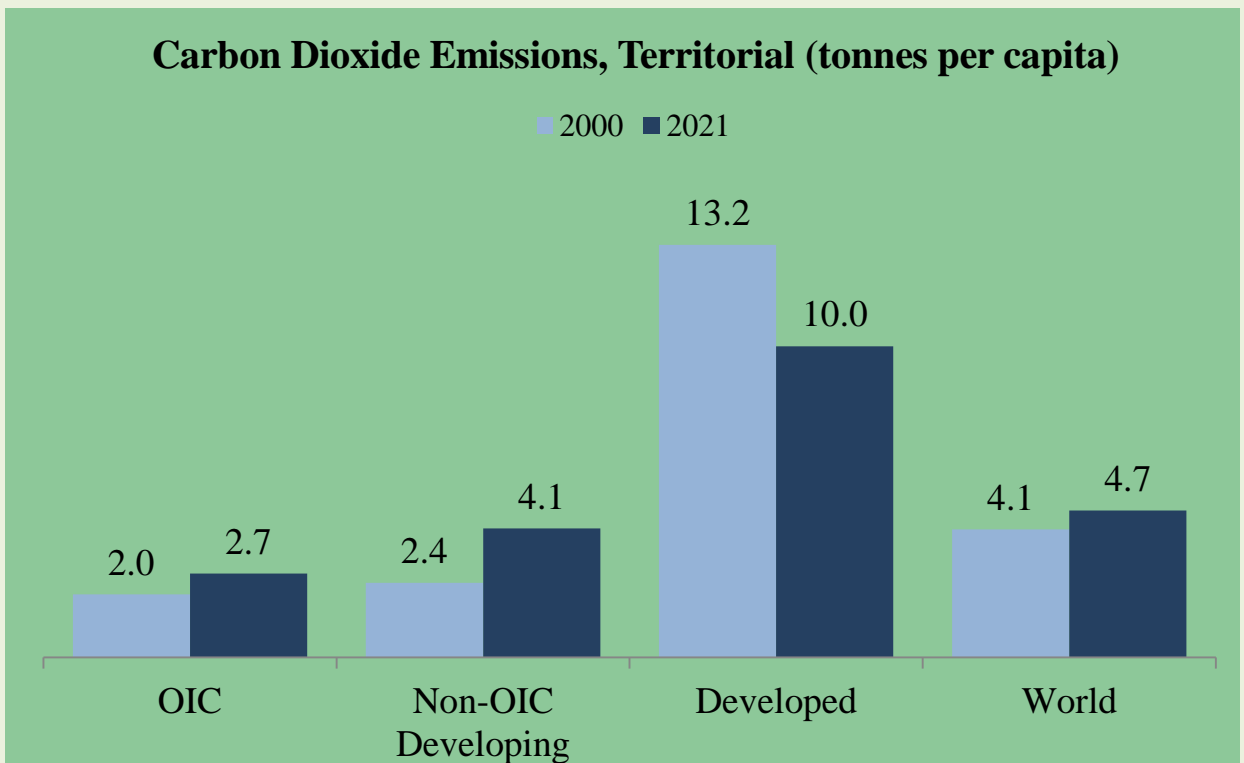
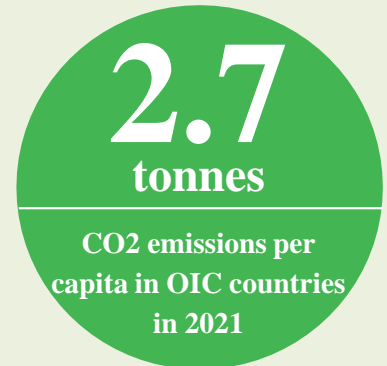


While this growth pattern is not very strong compared to other country groups, there is more room for OIC countries to increase their investments in renewable electricity generation capacity.



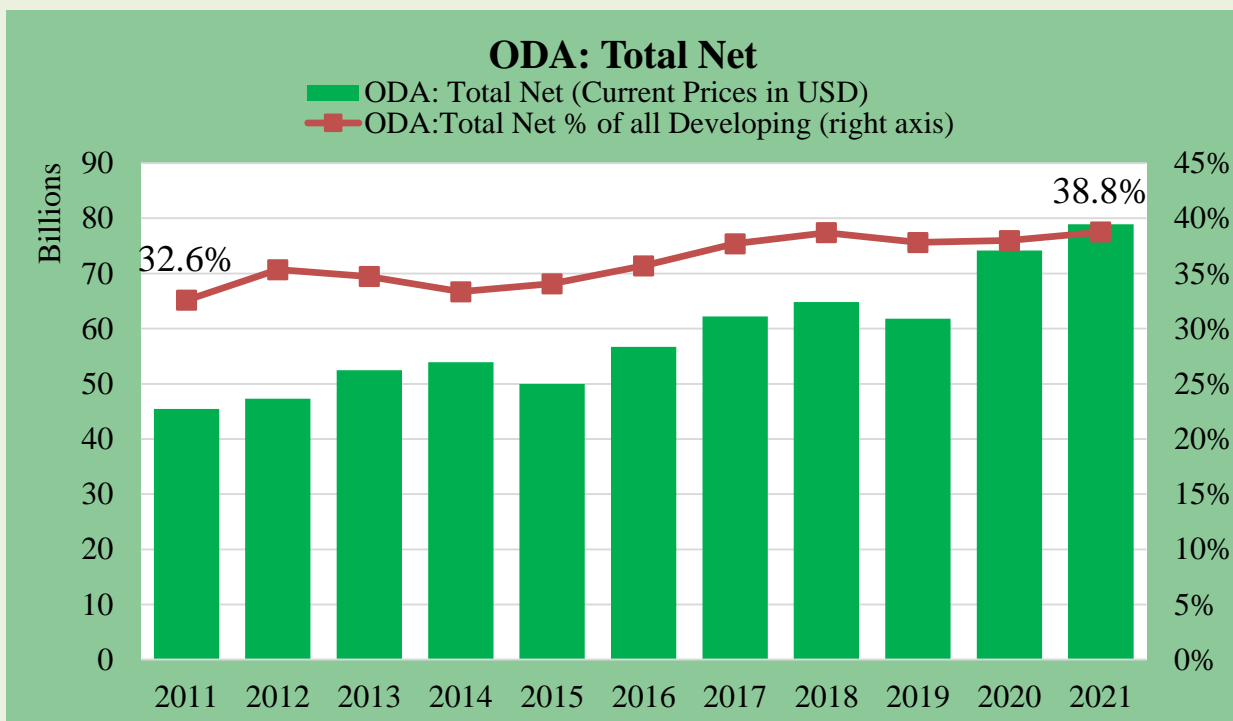
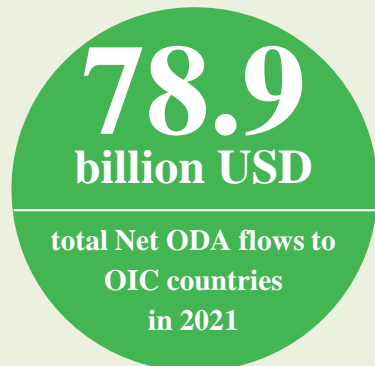
Electricity generation from renewable energy sources could be utilised as a huge potential for many OIC countries for boosting electricity access and achieving net zero climate goals.

The average carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions per capita of OIC countries was estimated at 2.7 tonnes, which was considerably lower than the world average (4.7) and averages of both non-OIC developing countries (4.1) as well as developed countries (10) in 2021. Although developed countries showed a decrease in emissions per capita, their average emissions were still about four times higher than that of OIC countries in 2021.



The world needs more commitment from countries to transform their economies for rapid decarbonisation to bend the emissions curve downwards. OIC countries are in a stronger position for negotiations on global commons as their average CO₂ emissions per capita are lower.

The net total ODA is defined as the flows disbursed by the official donor that meet the Development Assistance Committee definition as the net of repayment of principal. The total amount of ODA received by OIC countries increased by 73.8% from USD 45.4 billion in 2011 to USD 78.9 billion in 2021. The share of OIC countries in benefitting from the ODA shows a steady increase with around 6.2 percentage points from 32.6% to 38.8% between 2011 and 2021.

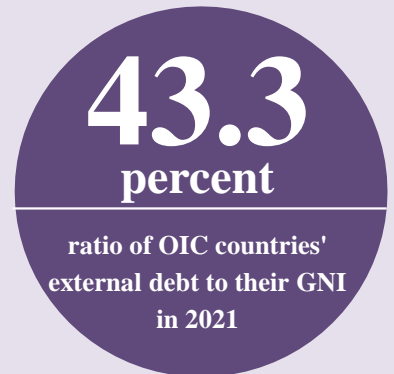


ODA is regarded as one of the main components of development cooperation and financing by and among developing countries. OIC countries can utilize the room for enlarging inflow channels by boosting bilateral and multilateral partnerships using various forms of ODA.

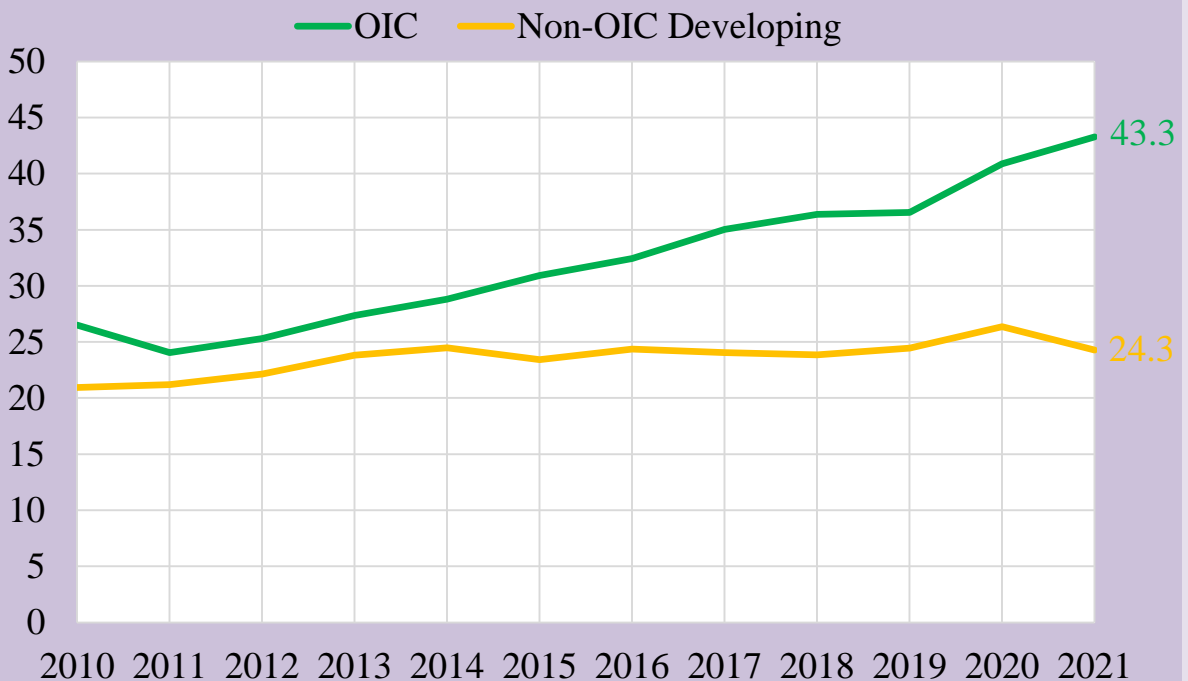


THREATS

Total external debt of OIC countries relative to their gross national income (GNI) has nearly **doubled** since 2010, reaching almost half of their total income in 2021. In addition, due to this undesirable increase in the last decade, the debt-to-GNI ratio difference between non-OIC developing countries and OIC countries increased from **2.9** percentage points in 2011 to **19** percentage points in 2021.



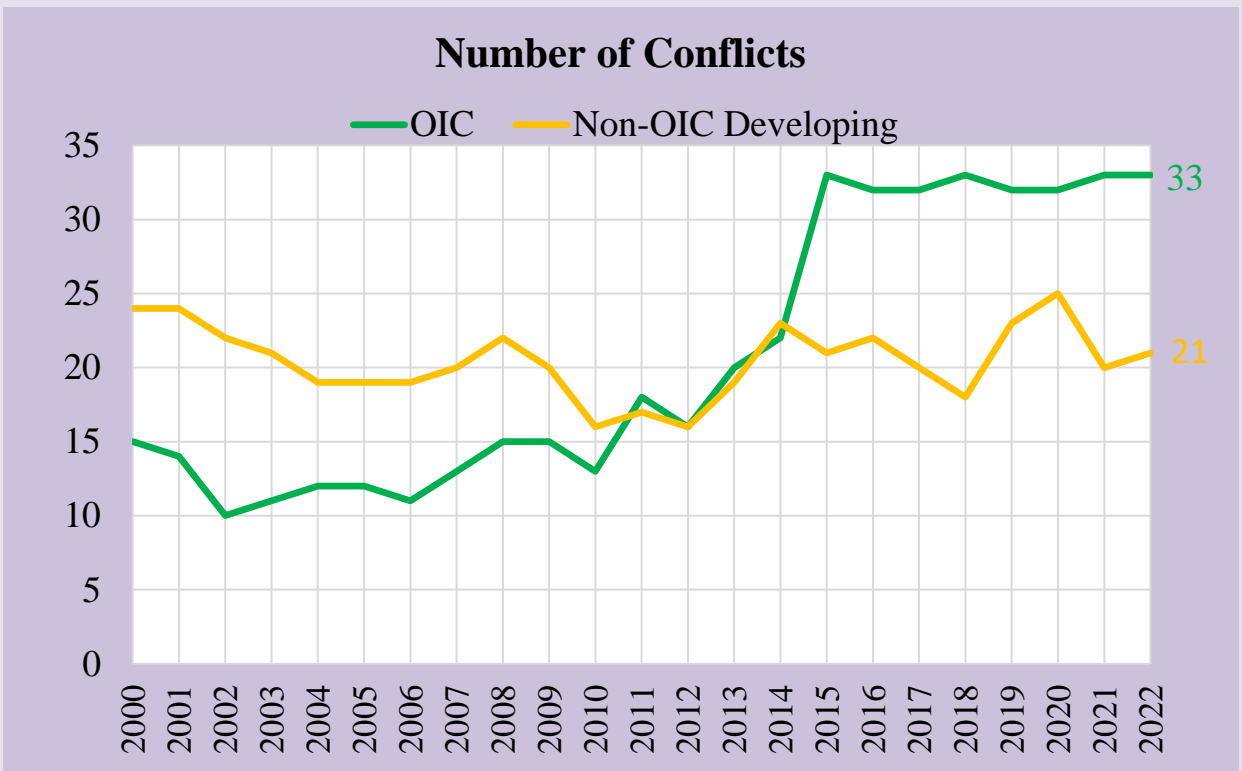
External debt stocks (% of GNI)



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.

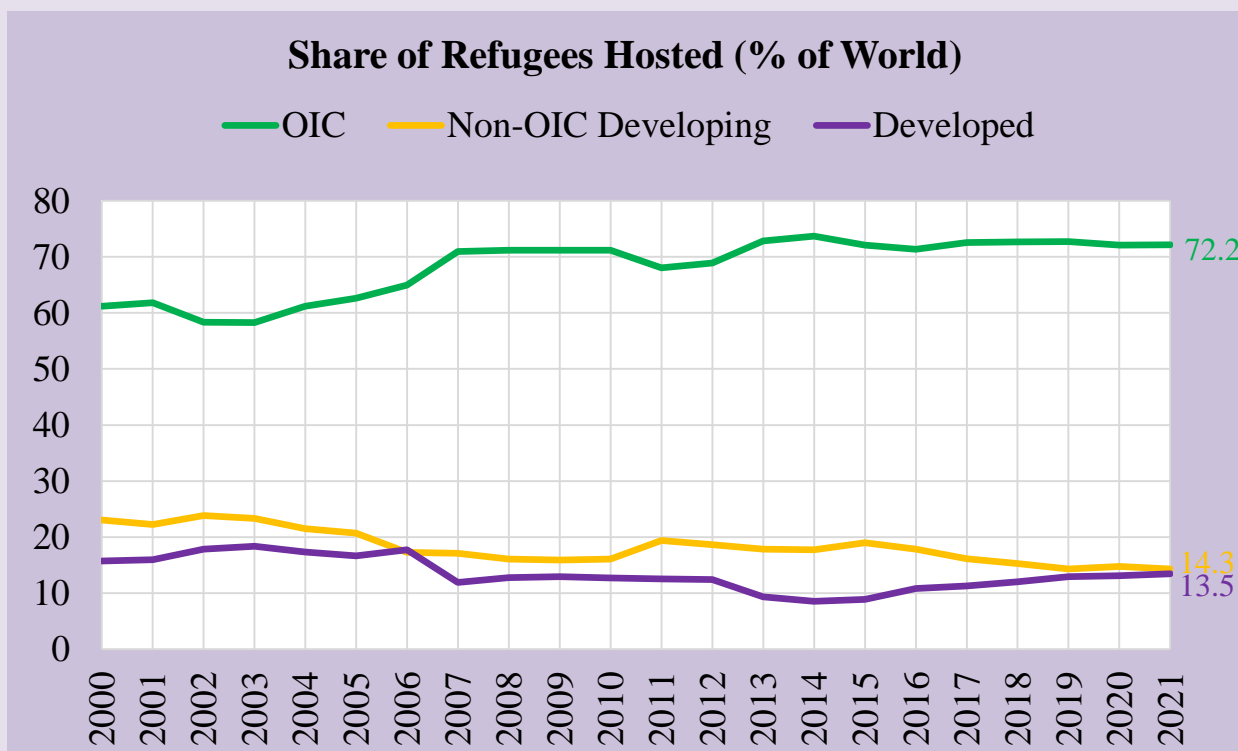
Armed conflicts remain major threats to people’s lives in most parts of the world. While the trend of armed conflict has not changed dramatically in other parts of the world, there is an upward trend in the OIC region. Between 2000 and 2022, the number of armed conflicts involving OIC countries as a side increased from 15 (38.5% of world total) to 33 (60% of world total). This led to weak and unstable circumstances for many OIC countries.

60
percent
of armed conflicts in the world involved OIC countries in 2022



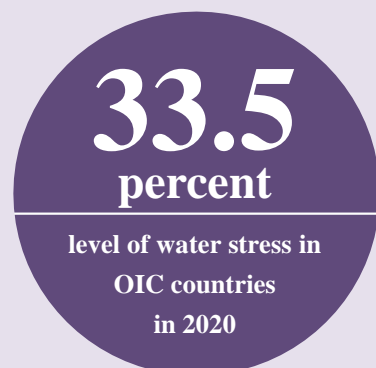
Conflicts and humanitarian crises have adverse effects on the populations and development trajectories of OIC countries. To mitigate the burden and consequences of such crises, joint peace mediation Islamic and humanitarian action should be key priorities.

The major responsibility for hosting displaced populations in the world falls on the shoulders of OIC countries. In the last two decades, the share of refugees hosted in OIC countries has increased by 11 percentage points. At the end of 2021, about **three-quarters** of the world's refugees were hosted by OIC countries. The remaining of 14.3% and 13.5% were hosted by non-OIC developing and developed countries, respectively.



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.

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 33.5% in 2020, above the 25% threshold value. It is significantly higher than the average water stress levels in non-OIC developing countries (13.1%), world (16.8%) and developed countries (18.2%).



Given their higher levels of water stress, OIC countries face potentially negative effects on the sustainability of their water resources and economic development.

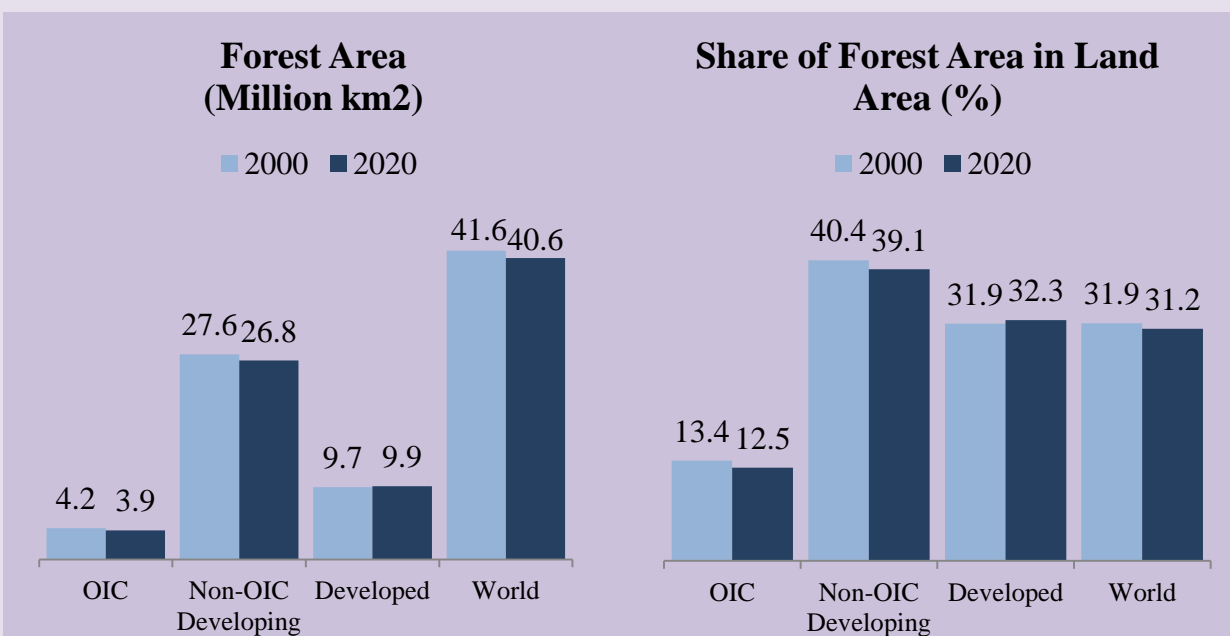


Water stress has multiple causes, ranging from climate to demography to land use. To support controlling and reducing their water stress levels, OIC countries should strengthen their integrated water resources management.

The total forest area of OIC countries decreased from 4.2 million km² in 2000 to 3.9 million km² in 2020. Similarly, the share of forest area of the OIC countries in the world total decreased from 10.1% in 2000 to 9.7% in 2020.

The share of forests in total land area of the OIC countries also fell from 13.4% in 2000 to 12.5% in 2020, which is below the world average of 31.9% and 31.2% in respective years.

In the last two decades, around 7% 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 preventing deforestation in OIC countries.

270 million

people in OIC countries without access to basic water resources in 2020

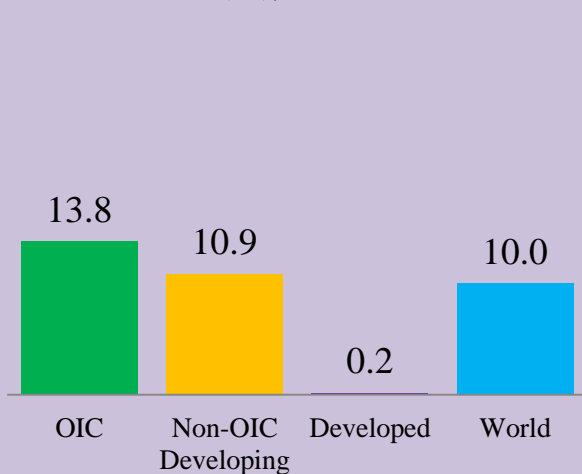
The lack of basic services undermine the economic growth and quality of life. In 2020, a significant portion of the OIC population had no access to both basic drinking water and sanitation services.

620 million

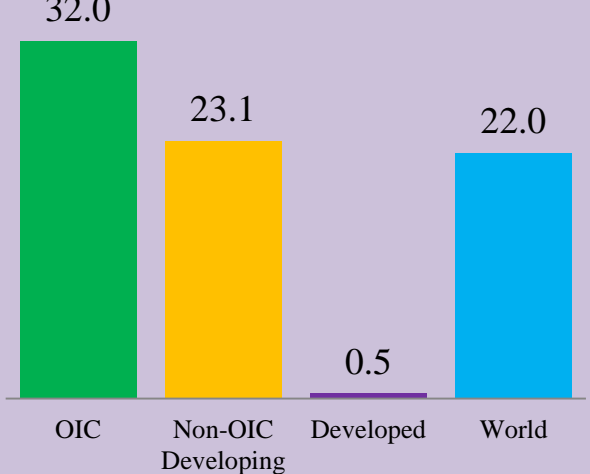
people in OIC countries without access to basic sanitation in 2020

Around 13.8% of total OIC population (270 million people) lived without having access to basic drinking water resources in 2020. Moreover, 32% of total OIC population (620 million people) had no access to basic sanitation facilities in the same year.

Population without Access to Basic Drinking Water Services (%), 2020



Population without Access to Basic Sanitation Services (%), 2020



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

220
million

undernourished people in
OIC countries
in 2021

In 2021, around 220 million people in the OIC countries, corresponding to 11.3% of total population of the OIC and 28.6% of the total undernourished people in the world, faced hunger.

24

number of LIFDCs in
OIC countries group
in 2023

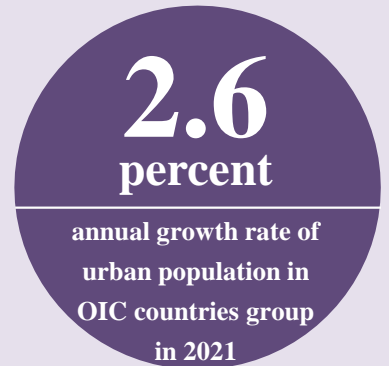
According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, July 2023), food production remains inadequate in 44 low-income food deficit countries (LIFDCs), of which 24 are OIC countries.

Prevalence of Undernourishment (% of Population), 2021

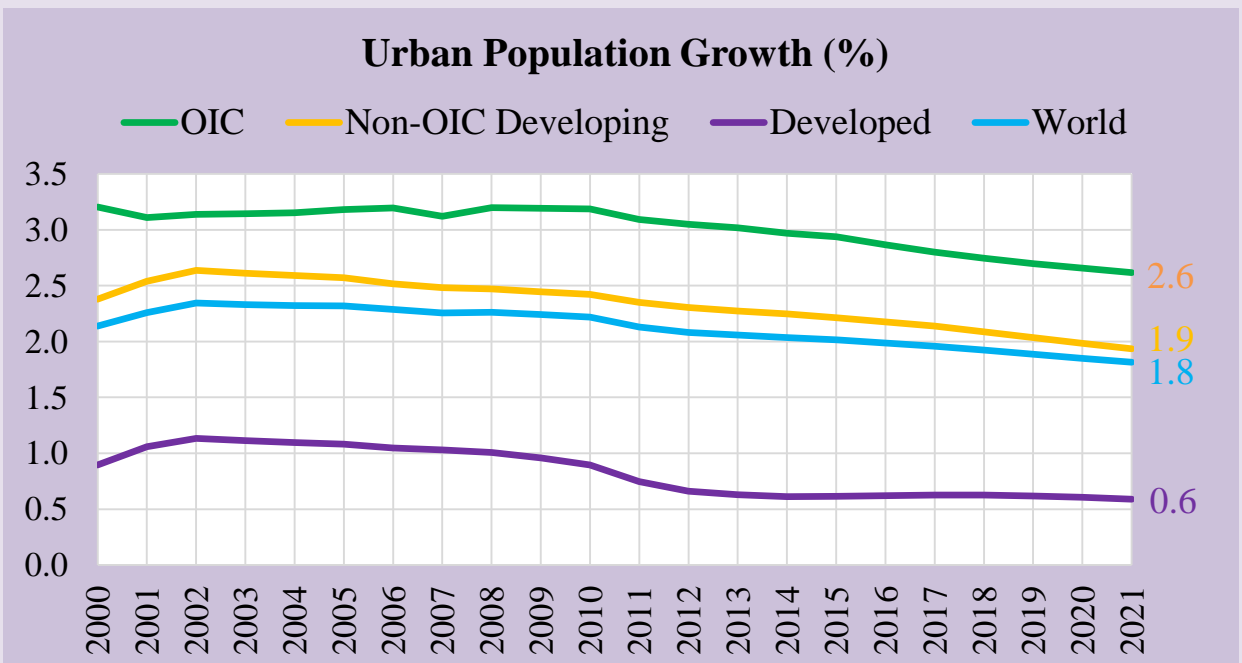


Undernourishment is a serious problem for over 10% of the total OIC population. Sustainable agricultural practices need to be implemented by the member countries to improve their agricultural productivity and thus their state of food insecurity and poverty.

Urbanisation is defined as a population shift from rural to urban areas because of greater socio-economic opportunities cities offer. In 2021, around 52% of the total OIC population lived in urban areas which was 41% in 2000. While the world average saw an increase from 46% in 2000 to 57% in 2021, the developed countries group average was the highest with 77% in 2000 with a jump to 82% in 2021.



On the other hand, despite a slight fall from 3.2% in 2000, the growth rate of urban population in the group of OIC countries was the highest with 2.6% in 2021 among all other groups.



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.

ACRONYMS / ABBREVIATIONS

CO ₂	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
GMTI	Global Muslim Travel Index
GNI	Gross National Income
HDI	Human Development Index
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
ILO	International Labour Organisation
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
LDC	Least Developed Countries
LIFDCs	Low-Income Food Deficit Countries
NEET	Not in Employment, Education or Training
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OIC	Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity
R&D	Research and Development
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, simple 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 2022. Two reference points are the base year which is generally 2000 and the last year 2022. For the base year, in the cases where 2000 data is not available, the earliest data from 2001 to 2005 was used. For generating data for the reference year 2022, in the cases where 2022 data is not available, the latest year data starting from 2021 to 2015 was used to focus on progress made in recent years.

SECTION SPECIFIC NOTES AND EXCEPTIONS

STRENGTHS

YOUNG POPULATION: Population by Age Group

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 23/06/2023 from the United Nations Population Division (UNPD), World Population Prospects (WPP) 2022.

CRUDE OIL RESERVES: Proven Crude Oil Reserves

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 24/05/2023 from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Annual Statistical Bulletin. All countries classified under “others” in the database were included in the group of non-OIC developing countries.

NATURAL GAS RESERVES: Proven Natural Gas Reserves

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 24/05/2023 from the OPEC, Annual Statistical Bulletin. All countries classified under “others” in the database were included in the group of non-OIC developing countries.

ISLAMIC FINANCE: Value of Global Islamic Finance Assets

Source: ICD and Refinitiv (2022).

INTANGIBLE HERITAGE: Intangible Heritage

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 07/06/2023 from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) - Intangible Cultural Heritage List.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS: Top 20 producers of major agricultural products

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 28/09/2023 from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), FAOSTAT Database.

APPENDIX: TECHNICAL NOTES

WEAKNESSES

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT: Human Development Index Trends

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 26/05/2023 from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Human Development Data Center.

Notes: Aggregate Human Development Index (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 accessed from the UNPD, WPP 2022. The most recently revised historical data available and the same methodology applied to compute 2021 HDI values (UNDP, 2023a) were used for computing the HDI trends, 2000–2021.

SCHOOL ENROLMENT: Gross Enrolment Ratio (%)

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 16/06/2023 from the UNESCO, Institute for Statistics (UIS), UIS.Stat Database.

Notes: OIC, non-OIC developing, and developed countries group 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 UNESCO, Institute for Statistics UIS, UIS.Stat Database. The world aggregate values were extracted from the original 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 05/06/2023 from the United Nations Statistics Division, 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” and “Population, Ages 0-1”, respectively, as the weight accessed from the UNPD, WPP 2022. The world aggregate values were extracted from the original database.

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

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 07/06/2023 from the International Labour Organization (ILO), ILOSTAT Database.

Notes: OIC, non-OIC developing, and developed countries group averages for “Proportion of Youth (Ages 15-24 Years) not in Education, Employment or Training (%)” were estimated using “Population, 15-24” as the weight accessed from the UNPD, WPP2022. The world aggregate value was extracted from the original database.

APPENDIX: TECHNICAL NOTES

LABOUR PRODUCTIVITY: Output per Worker (GDP Constant 2017 International \$ at PPP) -- ILO Modelled Estimates

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 07/06/2023 from the ILO, 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 ILO, ILOSTAT Database. The world aggregate values were extracted from the original database. 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; (ii) Researchers per Million Inhabitants

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 14/04/2023 from the, UNESCO, UIS, UIS.Stat Database.

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 UNSD, National Accounts Main Aggregates Database. 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 UNPD, WPP 2022. The world aggregate values were extracted from the original database.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY: (i) Fixed Broadband Subscriptions per 100 Population; (ii) Estimated Proportion of Households with Internet Access at Home (%)

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 26/04/2023 from International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Notes: OIC, non-OIC developing, developed countries group, and the world averages for “Fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 population” and “Estimated Proportion of Households with Internet Access at Home (%)” were estimated using “Population, Total” as the weight accessed from the UNPD, WPP 2022.

APPENDIX: TECHNICAL NOTES

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

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 13/06/2023 from the UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database.

(ii) Rail Lines, Total Route-km:

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 13/06/2023 from the World Bank, WDI Database.

Notes: The world average for “Rail lines (Total Route-km, per 1 Million People)” was estimated using “Population, Total” as the weight accessed from the UNPD, WPP 2022.

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

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 14/06/2023 from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UNCTADSTAT Database.

OPPORTUNITIES

WOMEN IN PARLIAMENTS: Proportion of Seats Held by Women in National Parliaments (% of Total Number of Seats)

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 22/05/2023 from the UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database.

Notes: OIC, non-OIC developing, and developed countries group averages for “Proportion of Seats Held by Women in National Parliaments (% of Total Number of Seats)” were estimated using “Number of Members who currently Hold Seats in Parliament” as the weight accessed from the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Parline database on national parliaments. The world aggregate values were extracted from the original database.

ISLAMIC TOURISM: Global Muslim Travel Index Scores

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 12/04/2023 from the Global Muslim Travel Index (GMTI) 2022 Report.

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

PERSONAL REMITTANCES: Personal Remittances Received (% of GDP)

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 15/05/2023 from the World Bank, WDI Database.

Notes: OIC, non-OIC developing, developed countries group, and the world averages for “Personal Remittances Received (% of GDP)” were estimated “GDP, Current Prices” as the weight accessed from the UNSD, National Accounts Main Aggregates Database.

APPENDIX: TECHNICAL NOTES

INTRA-OIC TRADE: Intra-OIC Trade

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 15/06/2023 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

EXPORT DIVERSIFICATION: Product Concentration Index of Exports

Source: Extracted on 23/06/2023 from the UNCTAD, UNCTADSTAT Database.

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

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 23/06/2023 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 UNPD, WPP 2022. The world aggregate values were extracted from the original database.

PROTECTION OF GLOBAL COMMONS: Carbon Dioxide Emissions, Territorial (tonnes per capita)

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 12/04/2023 from the Global Carbon Atlas.

Notes: OIC, non-OIC developing, and developed countries group averages for “Carbon Dioxide Emissions, Territorial (tonnes per capita)” were estimated using “Population, Total” as the weight accessed from the UNPD, WPP 2022. The world aggregate values were extracted from the original database.

OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (ODA): The net total ODA

Source: SESRIC (2023b)

THREATS

DEBT ACCUMULATION: External Debt Stocks (% of GNI)

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 23/06/2023 from the World Bank, WDI Database.

Notes: OIC and non-OIC developing countries group averages for “External Debt Stocks (% of GNI)” were estimated using “GNI at current prices in USD” as the weight accessed from the UNSD, National Accounts Main Aggregates Database.

ARMED CONFLICTS: Number of Conflicts

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 23/06/2023 from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP), PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset version 23.1.

APPENDIX: TECHNICAL NOTES

INCREASING NUMBER OF REFUGEES: Refugees Hosted

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 17/05/2023 from the World Bank, WDI Database.

WATER STRESS: Water Stress Level (%)

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 23/06/2023 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 the difference between “Total Renewable Freshwater Resources (TRWR)” and “Environmental Flow Requirements (EFR)” as the weight all accessed from the FAO, AQUASTAT Database.

DEFORESTATION: Forest Area

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 26/04/2023 from the UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database.

Notes: OIC, non-OIC developing, and developed countries group averages for “Share of Forest Area in Land Area (%)” were estimated using “Land Area” as the weight accessed from the UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database. The world aggregate value was extracted from the original database.

INSUFFICIENT DRINKING WATER RESOURCES AND SANITATION FACILITIES: (i) Population without Access to Basic Drinking Water Services; (ii) Population without Access to Basic Sanitation Services (%)

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 23/06/2023 from the UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database.

Notes: OIC, non-OIC developing, and developed countries group averages for “Population without Access to Basic Drinking Water Services (%)” and “Population without Access to Basic Sanitation Services (%)” were estimated using “Population, Total” as the weight accessed from the UNPD, WPP 2022.

FOOD INSECURITY: Prevalence of Undernourishment (% of Population)

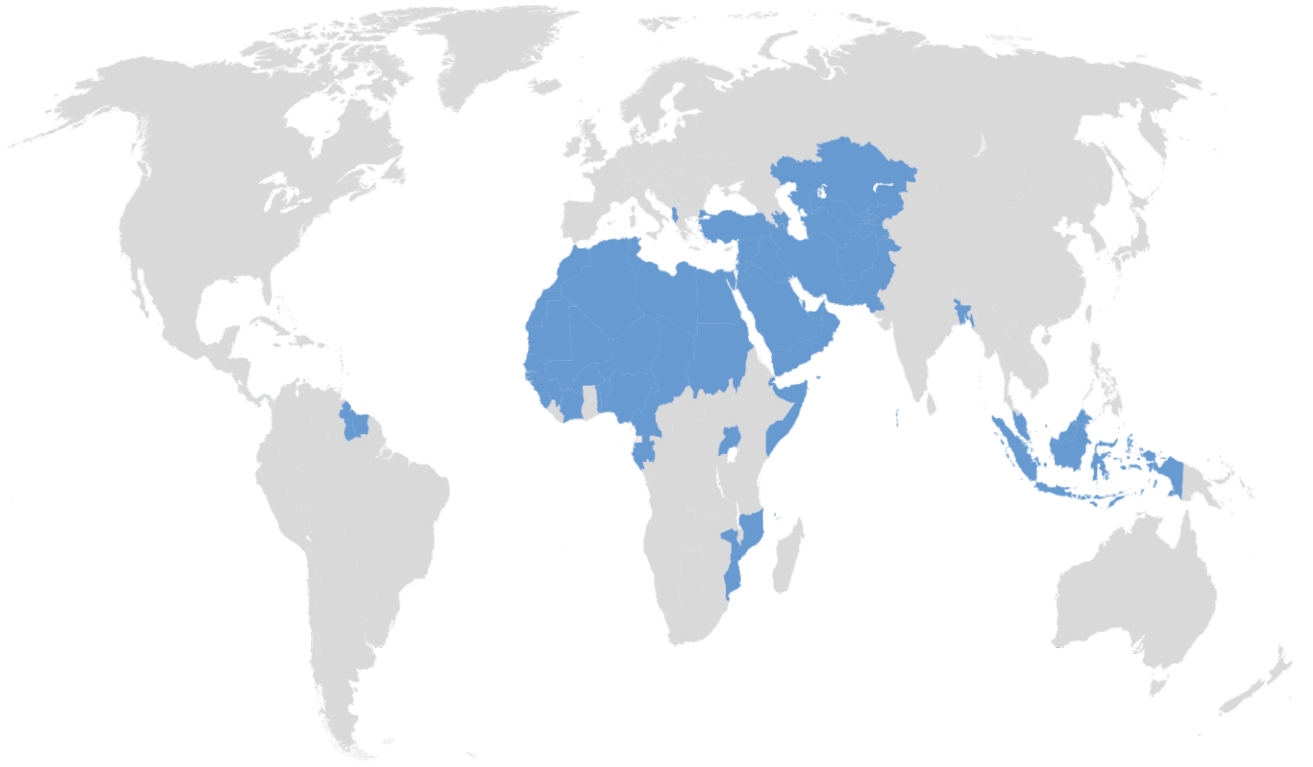
Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 05/05/2023 from the UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database.

Note: OIC and non-OIC countries group averages for “Prevalence of Undernourishment (% of Population)” were estimated using “Population, Total” as the weight accessed from the UNPD, WPP 2022.

UNSUSTAINABLE URBANISATION: Urban Population

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 23/06/2023 from the UNPD, World Urbanization Prospects 2018 Revision.

Note: 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
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