# TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PRIORITISED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN OIC COUNTRIES 2024

# Towards the Achievement of Prioritised Sustainable Development Goals in OIC Countries 2024

## A Progress Report by SESRIC

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# Abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| 3G | Third Generation Mobile Technology |
| ABR | Adolescent Birth Rate |
| AOI | Agriculture Orientation Index |
| $CO_2$ | Carbon Dioxide |
| COVID-19 | Coronavirus Disease 2019 |
| DTP3 | Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis |
| EAGR | Exponential Annual Growth Rate |
| ESCAP | UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| HIV | Human Immunodeficiency Virus |
| ICTs | Information and Communication Technologies |
| LDCs | Least Developed Countries |
| MHT | Medium-High and High-Technology Industry |
| MVA | Manufacturing Value Added |
| NEET | Not in Education, Employment, or Training |
| OIC | Organisation of Islamic Cooperation |
| OICStat | OIC Statistics Database |
| PPP | Purchasing Power Parity |
| R&D | Research and Development |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SESRIC | Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries |
| U5MR | Under-Five Mortality Rate |
| UAE | United Arab Emirates |
| UHC | Universal Health Coverage |
| UN | United Nations |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| UNSD | United Nations Statistics Division |
| USD | United States Dollars |
| WHO | World Health Organization |

# Foreword

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development continues to guide global efforts toward building a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient future for all. As we enter 2024, the window to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is narrowing, making it critical for OIC countries to accelerate efforts in areas that still lag behind. With ongoing global challenges such as economic uncertainty, regional instability, and inflationary pressures, the path forward demands renewed commitment and strategic interventions.

In this regard, I am pleased to introduce the "Towards the Achievement of Prioritised Sustainable Development Goals in OIC Countries 2024". This year's report provides a detailed analysis of where OIC countries stand in relation to the eight prioritised SDGs (SDGs 1-5, 8-9, and 13) based on the latest available data. In addition to the prioritised SDGs, the report also presents the progress towards the remaining nine SDGs. The insights drawn from this data are crucial for identifying areas where we are on track, and more importantly, where intensified efforts are required to meet the ambitious targets of the 2030 Agenda.

The findings of this report highlight notable achievements in several key areas. Many OIC countries have made significant strides in improving health outcomes and educational access. For example, the under-five mortality rate has seen a sharp decline, and educational parity between boys and girls is now a reality in the majority of member countries. These advancements are a testament to the collective efforts of the OIC community.

However, this report also serves as a reminder that persistent gaps remain, particularly in fostering inclusive economic growth and creating decent work opportunities. While progress has been made, the average GDP growth rate for the OIC's least-developed countries remains well below the 7% target, and unemployment rates continue to fluctuate, undermining long-term economic stability.

As the 2030 deadline approaches, the need for coordinated action and innovative solutions has never been more pressing. It is my hope that this report will inspire OIC countries, alongside their development partners, to take bold and decisive steps to overcome the remaining challenges and ensure that no one is left behind in our shared journey towards sustainable development.

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# Executive Summary

This report analyses whether the OIC countries group is on track to achieve the prioritised Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs 1-5, 8-9, and 13) in the light of the selected indicators. The eight prioritised SDGs were identified in 2018 based on "Tendency Survey on SDG Priorities of the OIC Member Countries". The report also covers other nine SDGs for progress analysis to enrich the content and scope.

The methods applied to show the progress of the SDGs focus on developments of the indicators and related goals over time. In this regard, the main purpose of the report is to present whether the selected indicators have moved towards or away from the related SDGs. The progress is estimated through comparing the value of the particular indicator in 2000 (or the earliest year after 2000) to the value of that indicator in 2023 (or the latest year from 2015 to 2022).

Overall, the report shows the OIC countries as a group is estimated not to be on track to meet by 2030 any of the SDGs. Although some progress has been observed in SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 14 (life below water), SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and SDG 17 (partnerships), these improvements are not sufficient to achieve the relevant SDG targets by 2030.

Regarding SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), and SDG 15 (life on land), stagnant progress has been recorded for the OIC countries group putting them off track to achieve these five SDGs.

On the other hand, insufficient levels of data on SDGs 5, 12, and 13 pose challenges to make a comprehensive progress analysis on the entirety of these goals. Thus, the report leaves the OIC level aggregate estimations to future editions once data are available on the United Nations Statistics Division's (UNSD) Global SDG Indicators Database.

## Goal 1: No Poverty

The OIC group of countries has made moderate progress in eliminating extreme and other forms of poverty. In the 2000s, about 32.3% of the population in OIC countries lived on less than US$ 2.15 per day. By 2022, this figure had fallen to 11.7%. Almost half of the OIC countries for which data are available have reached near-zero extreme poverty by 2022 or expect to reach this milestone by 2030.

However, in some OIC West and East African countries, more than 30% of the population still lives in extreme poverty, according to the latest data.

OIC countries have made a visible progress in terms of population above pensionable age benefiting from pension payments. The proportion of the population above statutory pensionable age receiving a pension in the OIC countries group increased from 20.5% to 46.9% between 2000 and 2023.

In 2022, 29 OIC countries have provided access to basic drinking water services for more than 91% of their population, which was above the world average. In contrast, more than one-third of the population in 15 OIC countries had no access to basic drinking water services. Access to basic drinking water services should be improved so that they are accessible to the entire population.

The total government spending on education slightly decreased from 16% in 2000 to 15.8% in 2023 in the OIC, still meeting the target set by the Incheon Declaration. The number of OIC countries with education expenditures within the 15-20% range of total public spending or above also declined from 19 in 2000 to 14 out of 32 countries with available data in 2023.

## Goal 2: Zero Hunger

OIC countries showed a stagnant progress towards SDG 2, putting the goal out of reach by 2030. Over the period from 2001 to 2022, the prevalence of undernourishment in the OIC countries as a group fell from 15.3% to 13.5% of the total population.

The proportion of children moderately or severely stunted in the OIC countries group decreased from 37% to 26.1% between 2000 and 2022. Although stunting, wasting, and being overweight in children have been declining, OIC countries will not be able to achieve the SDG 2 targets of ending hunger and all forms of malnutrition for all by 2030 with the current progress rates.

This slow progress urges for rational utilisation and management of water, land, technology, and other natural and human resources in the sufficient production of safe and nutritious food for all. In this context, increasing funding and investment in agricultural productivity would help to achieve the related SDGs targets.

## Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being

OIC countries, in general, have shown moderate progress towards attaining SDG 3; nonetheless, the progress observed is not sufficient to achieve the goal by 2030. The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic further poses devastating health consequences for individuals, families and communities, and threatens to

overwhelm health systems. Such problems will, however, undermine the progress made towards attaining SDG 3 by 2030.

The OIC countries group achieved a considerable progress in decreasing child mortality between 2000 and 2022. The average under-five mortality rate for the OIC countries group declined from 102 to 53 deaths per 1,000 live births. Such progress, however, needs to be maintained and further improved in order to achieve the related SDG 3 targets by 2030.

In 2022, on average, there were 9 doctors per 10,000 population in the OIC countries. The medical doctor densities of only 19 OIC countries were higher than the global average (17.3). In 27 OIC countries, the densities of medical doctors per 10,000 population were below 10 and the situation is alarming in six OIC countries with less than 1 doctor per 10,000 population.

## Goal 4: Quality Education

Despite some valuable achievements across different levels of education, OIC countries, as a group, have overall demonstrated insufficient rates of progress towards achieving the SDG 4 targets by 2030. Particularly regarding the completion rate, while 22 out of 41 OIC countries with available data have achieved or are on track to achieve the target by 2030 in primary level education, the achievers are limited to only 15 countries in lower secondary and five countries in upper-secondary level education.

The majority of OIC countries have achieved gender parity in school education. As of 2023, 35 out of 41 OIC countries have already achieved a gender parity or disparity in favour of girls in primary education completion rate. In lower secondary and upper secondary level education, such an achievement has been observed in 27 and 19 OIC countries, respectively.

There is also an increasing need for qualified teachers in the OIC countries group. As of 2023, 17 out of 36 OIC countries had over 95% of primary-level teachers who received organised teacher training. On the other hand, the proportion of teachers in primary education who received minimum required training decreased in eight OIC countries between 2000 and 2023. Accordingly, OIC countries need to take more extensive measures to attain the number of required qualified teachers by 2030.

## Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

OIC Least Developed Countries (LDCs) will not be able to achieve the target of 7% GDP growth per annum unless their development pace accelerates notably. In the 2000-2022 period, the average annual growth rate of real GDP per capita was

2.3% for the entire OIC countries group and 2.8% for the OIC-LDCs group of 21 countries. Although these rates were over that of the world (1.7%), it was less than half the target rate of 7% a year. Therefore, the OIC-LDCs need to redouble their efforts to achieve the 7% GDP growth per annum target.

Growth in labour productivity – measured by GDP per employed person – was estimated as 2.1% for the OIC countries group in the 2000-2022 period, which was slightly over that of the world (1.6%). However, the average labour productivity growth rate for the OIC countries group slowed down considerably after 2015. During the 2015-2022 period, the average labour productivity growth rate was 1%, much lower than the 2.6% observed between 2000 and 2015. Furthermore, the average growth of labour productivity between 2000 and 2022 was over 5% for only three OIC countries. While 20 OIC countries were observed to have an average labour productivity growth between 2% and 5%, 21 member countries were observed to be between 0% and 2% in the same period. However, 13 OIC countries showed negative average labour productivity growth for the 2000-2022 period.

The average unemployment rate of the OIC countries group decreased from 6.5% in 2000 to 5.9% in 2023, based on available data for 41 OIC countries. However, this improvement is not strong enough for the OIC countries group to achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all by 2030 based on the pace of progress between 2000 and 2023.

Overall, there is still more room for achieving the goal of sustained economic growth, particularly for the least developed countries of the OIC. In those countries, promoting economic diversification is very important, not just protecting them from unexpected global and national economic crises but also ensuring long-term sustainability and more inclusive growth.

## Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

In the period 2000-2022, the manufacturing value added (MVA) as a proportion of GDP saw a slight decrease in both the OIC and the world, by 0.7 and 1.3 percentage points, respectively. However, within the OIC-LDCs, this proportion moderately increased by 5.9 percentage points, rising from 11.5% to 17.4%. Despite this improvement in OIC-LDCs, the target of significantly raising industry's share of gross domestic product and doubling its share in the OIC-LDCs is not expected to be achieved by 2030 with this pace of progress recorded so far. Thus, substantial levels of investment are still necessary in the OIC to foster technological progress and economic growth.

Although research and development (R&D) expenditures have gained an increasing trend across OIC countries in general, all OIC countries with available data yet lagged behind the world average in 2022. Thus, more concerted efforts in R&D are urgently needed to enhance the research capabilities of OIC countries.

The share of medium-high and high-technology industries in total MVA decreased from 30.5% in 2000 to 27.2% in 2021 among OIC countries. In contrast, the global share increased slightly, from 45.8% in 2000 to 46.2% in 2021. As the world average is much higher than the OIC average, strong and efficient policy support for R&D and innovation activities is required in OIC countries in order to reduce the development disparities between OIC countries and rest of the world.

A downward trend was observed in carbon dioxide ($CO_2$) emissions intensity of manufacturing across OIC countries. Experiencing a 0.3 kg decline from its level in 2000, the emissions per unit of MVA in constant 2015 USD was estimated at 0.7 kg in the OIC countries group in 2021. The world average of $CO_2$ emissions per unit of MVA was recorded at 0.4 kg $CO_2$ per USD in 2021 compared to its value of 0.5 kg in 2000.

### Unprioritised SDGs (6-7, 10-12, and 14-17)

While there has been moderate progress in the OIC region on clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), life below water (SDG 14), peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16), and partnerships (SDG 17), the pace has not been strong enough to reach the goals by 2030. Meanwhile, progress across SDGs 10, 11, and 15 at the OIC countries group level has been very slow or even stagnant. On the other hand, insufficient levels of data on SDG 12 poses challenges to make a comprehensive progress analysis on the goal. Table 2 provides the progress assessment by targets for all SDGs covered in the report.

# Assessment and Methodology of Progress towards the SDGs

This section assesses the progress towards achieving the SDGs for the OIC countries group. Using data starting from 2000, it is estimated how fast the OIC countries group has been progressing towards a particular SDG and whether this pace will be sufficient to achieve the SDG by 2030 or earlier for the explicitly quantified and measurable targets. In the remaining cases, the indicator's trend is compared with the desired direction based on pre-specified thresholds.

Figure 1 shows how the assessment of indicator trends - given in Table 1 and Table 2 in the form of a 4-arrow system - should be interpreted. The direction of the arrows shows whether the goals or targets are to be achieved by 2030 based on the available data.

**Figure 1:** The 4-Arrow System for Denoting Progress Assessment of SDGs

| ↑ | ↗ | → | ↓ | : |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| The upward arrow means "on track to meet SDG" or shows "significant progress towards SDG". | The north-east arrow shows "moderate progress towards SDG" but this progress is not sufficient to achieve the goal by 2030. | The rightward arrow shows "stagnant progress towards SDG" putting the goal out of reach by 2030. | The downward arrow shows a trend with unfavourable direction and it is considered as "movement away from the SDG". | The colon shows the calculation of trend is not possible due to lack of data. |

The analysis depends on the desired direction, which can be different from the direction towards which an indicator is moving. For example, a reduction of the unemployment rate or the proportion of population below the international poverty line would be represented with an arrow facing "up" since reductions in these indicators mean progress towards SDG targets. The methodology for assessing indicators is explained further in the next subsection.

The report covers all SDGs, whether prioritised or not. The findings in the current report are also not comparable with the previous year's report, as the analysis covers an expanding set of SDG targets and indicators in light of newly available data. However, the availability of data is unbalanced across goals and the findings; therefore, it may not reflect the full picture of progress towards the SDGs.

With available data, Table 1 indicates that the OIC countries group will not achieve any of the SDGs by 2030 on the current trajectory. Although progress has been observed in SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 14 (life below water), SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and SDG 17 (partnerships), these improvements are not sufficient to achieve the relevant SDG targets by 2030.

Regarding SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), and SDG 15 (life on land), stagnant progress has been recorded for the OIC countries group, putting them off track to achieve these five SDGs.

**Table 1:** Trend Visualisation of SDGs for OIC Countries

| SDGs | Is Prioritised? | Trend |
|---|---|---|
| Goal 1: No poverty | Yes | ↗ |
| Goal 2: Zero hunger | Yes | → |
| Goal 3: Good health and well-being | Yes | ↗ |
| Goal 4: Quality education | Yes | ↗ |
| Goal 5: Gender equality | Yes | : |
| Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation | No | ↗ |
| Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy | No | ↗ |
| Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth | Yes | → |
| Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure | Yes | ↗ |
| Goal 10: Reduced inequalities | No | → |
| Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities | No | → |
| Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production | No | : |
| Goal 13: Climate action | Yes | : |
| Goal 14: Life below water | No | ↗ |
| Goal 15: Life on land | No | → |
| Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions | No | ↗ |
| Goal 17: Partnerships | No | ↗ |

**Source:** SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 01/07/2024 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

There is a lack of data preventing a comprehensive analysis on SDGs 5, 12, and 13. Thus, the report leaves the OIC level aggregate estimations to future editions once data are available and accessible on the Global SDG Indicators Database maintained by the UNSD.

Table 2 provides the progress assessment by targets selected for analysis. Overall, the variation of the goals and targets is close to each other. Some important differences, however are observed. First, despite significant progress in meeting access to energy services, the progress in the use of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency are not promising in SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy) in the OIC countries group.

Second, the OIC has made progress on access to financial services. However, challenges remain on economic growth, labour productivity, unemployment rate, and youth not in employment, education or training (NEET) in SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) where progress is very slow. The group is also going backwards in material resource efficiency.

Third, while the progress is insufficient on industry's share of employment and GDP and share of high-tech manufacturing in total manufacturing value-added; the proportion of population covered by at least a third-generation mobile network seems to be on track in SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure).

## Methodology of Progress towards the SDGs

Two methods are applied to illustrate the progress of the SDGs. These assessment methods focus on developments over time and not on the current status of the indicators. In this regard, the main purpose of the progress assessment is to measure whether an indicator has moved towards or away from the SDG.

The progress on SDG targets is estimated through comparing the value of the indicator in 2000 or earliest year available after 2000 to the value of indicator in 2023 or the latest year available before 2023 based on the exponential annual growth rate. The overall progress of the OIC countries group is then calculated as the arithmetic mean of all indicators for which the progress can be estimated. In this estimation, each SDG is covered by maximum number of targets that have indicators with data on more than 50% of the countries and each target is represented by at least one indicator.

Since only a limited number of SDG indicators have explicitly quantified and measurable targets, two methods are developed to assess progress towards the SDGs.

**Table 2:** Trend Visualisation of SDGs and Targets for OIC Countries

| SDGs | Trend |
|---|:---:|
| **Goal 1: No poverty** | ↗ |
| Extreme poverty | ↗ |
| Social protection | ↗ |
| Access to basic services | ↗ |
| Resilience to disasters | ↗ |
| Resources mobilization for education | → |
| **Goal 2: Zero hunger** | → |
| Undernourishment and food insecurity | → |
| Malnutrition | → |
| Investment in agriculture | → |
| **Goal 3: Good health and well-being** | ↗ |
| Maternal mortality | ↗ |
| Child mortality | ↗ |
| Communicable diseases | → |
| Non-communicable diseases and mental health | → |
| Alcohol consumption | → |
| Road traffic deaths | → |
| Reproductive health | → |
| Health coverage | ↗ |
| Unintentional poisoning deaths | ↗ |
| Tobacco control | ↗ |
| Immunization coverage | ↗ |
| Health worker density | ↗ |
| **Goal 4: Quality education** | ↗ |
| Completion rate | ↗ |
| Participation in early childhood education | ↗ |
| Equal access to education | ↑ |
| Qualified teachers | ↗ |

**Table 2:** Trend Visualization of SDGs and Indicators for OIC Countries (cont.)

| SDGs | Trend |
|---|:---:|
| **Goal 5: Gender equality** | : |
| Women in leadership | ↑ |
| **Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation** | ↗ |
| Safe drinking water | ↗ |
| Access to hygiene | ↗ |
| Water-use efficiency | ↗ |
| **Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy** | ↗ |
| Access to energy services | ↑ |
| Renewable energy share | → |
| Energy efficiency | → |
| Investing in renewable energy infrastructure | ↑ |
| **Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth** | → |
| Per capita economic growth | → |
| Growth in labour productivity | → |
| Resource efficiency in consumption | ↓ |
| Unemployment rate | → |
| Youth NEET | → |
| Access to financial services | ↗ |
| **Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure** | ↗ |
| Industry's share of employment and GDP | → |
| Carbon dioxide emissions | ↗ |
| Research and development | ↗ |
| High-tech manufacturing | → |
| Third-generation mobile coverage | ↑ |
| **Goal 10: Reduced inequalities** | → |
| Economic inclusion | → |
| Income inequality | → |
| Refugees by country of origin | → |
| Remittance costs | ↗ |

**Table 2:** Trend Visualization of SDGs and Indicators for OIC Countries (cont.)

| SDGs | Trend |
|---|:---:|
| **Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities** | → |
| Housing and basic services | → |
| Resilience to disasters | ↗ |
| Air quality | → |
| **Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production** | : |
| Resource efficiency in consumption | ↓ |
| Investing in renewable energy infrastructure | ↑ |
| **Goal 13: Climate action** | : |
| Resilience to disasters | ↗ |
| **Goal 14: Life below water** | ↗ |
| Marine pollution | ↑ |
| Marine conservation | ↗ |
| Sustainable fisheries | → |
| **Goal 15: Life on land** | → |
| Terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems | → |
| Sustainable forest management | → |
| Mountain ecosystems | ↗ |
| Extinction risk for species | → |
| **Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions** | ↗ |
| Intentional homicides | ↗ |
| Unsentenced detainees | → |
| Bribery | ↗ |
| Government expenditure | ↗ |
| **Goal 17: Partnerships** | ↗ |
| Domestic budget funded by domestic taxes | → |
| Debt service | ↗ |
| Worldwide weighted tariff-average | ↗ |
| FDI inflows | ↗ |

**Source:** SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 01/07/2024 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

For indicators with quantitative targets, the current estimated trend for each indicator is compared against the required or theoretical trend necessary to reach the quantitative target. For indicators without quantitative targets, the annual rate of progress is applied to measure the progress of SDGs. Similar strategies are also employed by Eurostat (2023), ESCAP (2023), and the Sustainable Development Report (Sachs et al., 2023).

## Method 1: Indicators with quantitative targets

This method is composed of three steps. In step 1, the current estimated trend for each indicator is computed based on the exponential annual growth rate (EAGR) by using the following formula:

$$EAGR_a = \frac{\ln\left(A_t / A_{t_0}\right)}{t - t_0}$$

where $t_0$ = base year, $t$ = most recent year, $A_{t_0}$ = indicator value in base year, $A_t$ = indicator value in most recent year.

Since many variables vary continuously rather than in a step-wise fashion, $EAGR$ is chosen to measure the tracking progress. $EAGR$ assesses not only the pace but also the direction of the evolution of an indicator. It is based on the data from the first and the last year of the analysed time span, which has to be at least 5 years long.

In step 2, the required or theoretical trend value necessary to reach the quantitative target is computed by using the following formula:

$$EAGR_r = \frac{\ln\left(B_{t_1} / A_{t_0}\right)}{t_1 - t_0}$$

where: $t_0$ = base year, $t_1$ = target year, $A_{t_0}$ = indicator value in base year, $B_{t_1}$ = target value in target year.

In the final step, the ratio of actual to required growth rate is calculated as follows:

$$R_{a/r} = \frac{EAGR_a}{EAGR_r}$$

Based on this final computation, if the ratio of actual to required growth rate is 100% or more, the indicator shows "significant progress towards SDG" and the OIC countries group is on on-track to achieve the SDG target for the relevant indicator. If the ratio is at least 50% but less than 100%, the trend shows "moderate progress towards SDG", and if the ratio is at least 0% but less than 50%, the trend

shows "stagnant progress towards SDG" putting the goals out of reach by 2030. Negative ratios mean that the trend is going in the reverse direction and it is considered as "movement away from SDG". This methodology is visualised in Figure 2.

In this method, quantitative targets are explicitly mentioned in SDGs. The first exception is the target of annual growth rate of real GDP per capita for OIC countries that are not classified in the LDCs group (non OIC-LDCs). For those non OIC-LDCs, the target is determined as 5% per annum to get a better comparison within the OIC. Moreover, since this indicator is already measured as annual growth rate, the arithmetic mean of 2000-2022 is used as $EAGR_a$. The second exception is the annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person. The same targets and methodology of annual growth rate of real GDP per capita are implemented for this indicator. To obtain reasonable results from the calculations made, the following have been assumed:

- If the target is set for 0% for an indicator (for instance, the proportion of population below the international poverty line), a target value of 1% is assumed as it is already maintaining the SDG achievement level. Moreover, if the first data point is 0 in an indicator, then the first nonzero point is chosen as the base year.

- If the target is set for 100%, a target value of 95% is assumed as it is already maintaining the SDG achievement level.

**Figure 2:** SDGs Trends Methodology for Indicators with Quantitative Targets
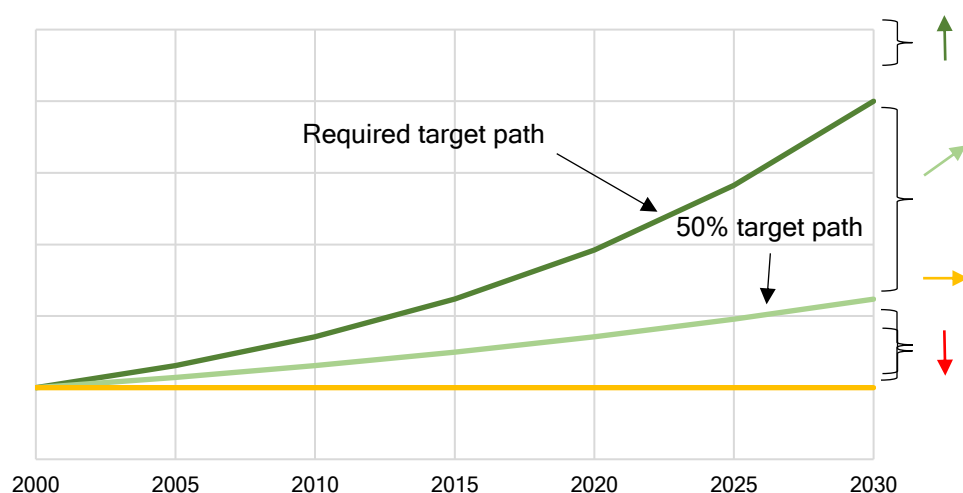
## Method 2: Indicators without quantitative targets

The assessment of trends for indicators without quantitative targets is based on the EAGR by using the following formula:

$$EAGR = \frac{\ln(A_t/A_{t_0})}{t - t_0}$$

where: $t_0$ = base year, $t$ = most recent year, $A_{t_0}$ = indicator value in base year, $A_t$ = indicator value in most recent year. It is based on the data from the first and the last year of the analysed time span, which has to be at least five years long.

Comparing the indicator trend with the desired direction is the only possible way to estimate the progress towards SDGs for indicators without targets. The observed annual growth rate is compared to the following thresholds:

- a change of 2% or more per year in the desired direction is considered "significant progress towards SDG";

- a change of more than 1% but less than 2% (including 1%) per year in the desired direction is considered "moderate progress towards SDG";

- a change of more than 0% but less than 1% (including 0%) per year in the desired direction is considered "stagnant progress towards SDG"; and

- a change in the reverse direction is considered "movement away from SDG".

**Figure 3:** SDGs Trends Methodology for Indicators without Quantitative Targets
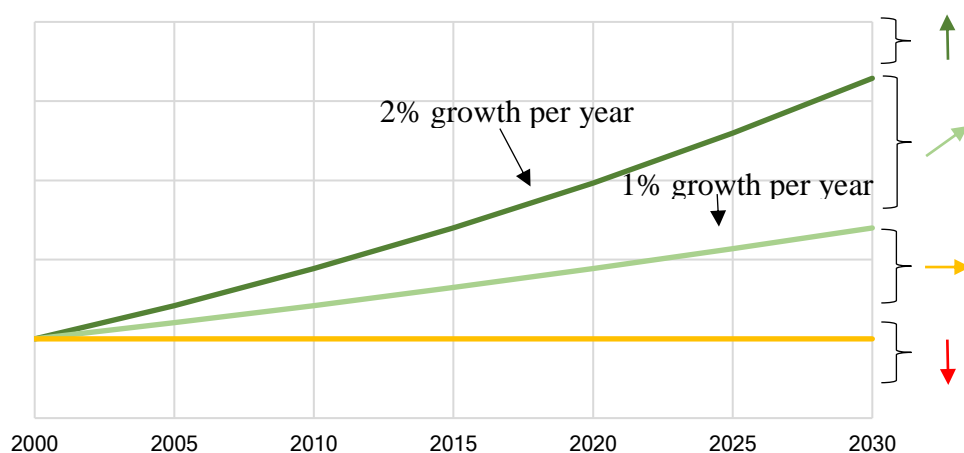
This threshold strategy provides enough variation causing a sufficient number of countries fall in all four categories. A similar threshold strategy is also employed by Eurostat (2023) with smaller thresholds. The methodology for indicators without quantitative targets is visualised in Figure 3.

### Method for calculating average scores at the goal level

The estimated progress values for indicators are inserted into a scoring function in order to compute the average estimated progress for the SDGs. The average scores on the goal level are calculated as the arithmetic mean of the scores of the indicators chosen for monitoring the respective goal. These goal-level scores range from 0 (worst score) to 4 (best score) in line with the 4-arrow system for denoting progress assessment of SDGs. The scoring functions use cut-off points broader than the thresholds used in the calculation of $EAGR$ and $R_{a/r}$ to allow for larger variability in the scores. Both threshold points are designed in harmony to ensure that indicators with and without quantitative targets have the same weight when calculating the average score at the goal level.

For indicators with quantitative targets, each indicator trend is first normalized on a scale from 0 to 4 linearly. Decreasing indicators receive a value between 0-1 where $R_{a/r}$ of -50% or below receives a score of 0. Indicator trends that show "stagnant progress towards SDG" receive a value between 1-2, where $R_{a/r}$ of 0% receives a score of 1. Indicators that show "moderate progress towards SDG" receive a value between 2-3 where $R_{a/r}$ of 50% receives a score of 2. Those indicators that show "significant progress towards SDG" or "on track" receive values between 3-4 where $R_{a/r}$ of 100% receives a score of 3 and $R_{a/r}$ of 150% or above receives a score of 4. Indicators that are already maintaining SDG achievement receive a score of exactly 3.5 as it is the mean of 3-4 interval. The score function is continuously linear as a whole.

For indicators without quantitative targets, each indicator trend is similarly normalized on a scale from 0-4 in line with the 4-arrow system for denoting progress assessment of SDGs. Decreasing indicators receive a value between 0-1 where $EAGR$ of -1% or below receives a score of 0. Indicator trends that show "stagnant progress towards SDG" receive a value between 1-2, where $EAGR$ of 0% receives a score of 1. Indicators that show "moderate progress towards SDG" receive a value between 2-3 where $EAGR$ of 1% receives a score of 2. Those indicators that show "significant progress towards SDG" receive values between 3-4 where $EAGR$ of 2% receives a score of 3 and $EAGR$ of 3% or above receive a score of 4. Indicators that are already maintaining SDG achievement receive a

score of exactly 3.5 as it is the mean of 3-4 interval. The score function is continuously linear as a whole.

To compute the overall goal trend, a target level score is first estimated using the arithmetic mean of indicators where the progress of target is measured by multiple indicators. Otherwise, the indicator score is taken as the target score. The overall goal scores are then computed as an arithmetic mean of the rescaled values of targets. An average between 0-1 corresponds to a "movement away from SDG", 1-2 to "stagnant progress towards SDG", 2-3 to "moderate progress towards SDG", and 3-4 to "significant progress towards SDG." Trends are reported at the SDG level only if trend data are available for at least three targets under a goal.

The available indicators have proved to be insufficient to calculate a meaningful average score for SDGs 5, 12, and 13. That is why their trends are marked with the ":" symbol. The tables in Appendix 2 provide the complete list of indicators used to compute the SDGs trends along with source of data and respective target values, if any.

# SDG 1. End Poverty in All Its Forms Everywhere

Poverty is a pronounced deprivation in well-being and is associated with poor health, low education, and unemployment. As a result, poor populations lose opportunities to exert their full potential, benefit society, and achieve well-being in life. The "poverty trap" theory, widely used in the development economics literature, assumes that low-income economies, particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs), are trapped in the poverty cycle. In this regard, policy measures are essential in fair and effective distribution of the resources available to national/sub-national governments as well as improving cross-sector cooperation with a specific focus on education, social protection, and other universal basic needs.

In essence, poverty alleviation is a set of measures encompassing social and humanitarian goals on the one side and economic goals on the other. SDG 1 aims to eradicate all forms of extreme poverty by 2030 and calls for equal rights and access to resources for all groups of the population. This includes the reduction of extreme and other forms of economic poverty, implementation of social protection plans, promotion of equitable access to basic services, building resilience, diminishing exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events, and developing pro-poor and gender-sensitive strategies.

Overall, OIC countries have made moderate progress in eradicating extreme and other forms of poverty, but this progress is not sufficient to achieve the goal of ending all forms of poverty by 2030.

## More intensive efforts in poverty alleviation are essential across OIC countries

Extreme poverty is defined as living on with an income below the internationally defined poverty line. Historically, this threshold was set as a dollar-a-day at 1985 purchasing-power-parity (PPP) and has been systematically used since 1990. Defining poverty precisely is challenging due to changing economic circumstances and requires adjustments to poverty measures over time. In this connection, the international poverty line was raised to USD 1.25 a day at 2005 PPP in 2008 and was used for the rest of the Millennium Development Goals period ending in 2015. While the initial "a dollar-a-day" measure was based upon an average of the eight poorest countries, the USD 1.25 a day represents the average of national poverty lines for 15 poorest countries in the world based on their per capita consumption levels. Currently, extreme poverty is defined as the percentage of the population living on less than USD 2.15 per day at 2017 PPP (UNSD, SDG metadata).

From 2000 through 2019, the percentage of the global population living below the international poverty line decreased from 29.2% to 8.9%. Pre-pandemic projections indicated that this proportion would continue to decline to 8.2% in 2020 and 7.8% in 2021 (World Bank, 2022). However, the sudden onset of the COVID-19 pandemic significantly undermined progress in poverty reduction, causing the proportion of people living in extreme poverty to rise to 9.5% in 2021. By 2022, this rate had fallen back to 9%, close to the pre-pandemic level, and the negative impact of the pandemic began to fade (Figure 4).

**Figure 4:** Proportion of Population below International Poverty Line (%), 2000 vs. 2022
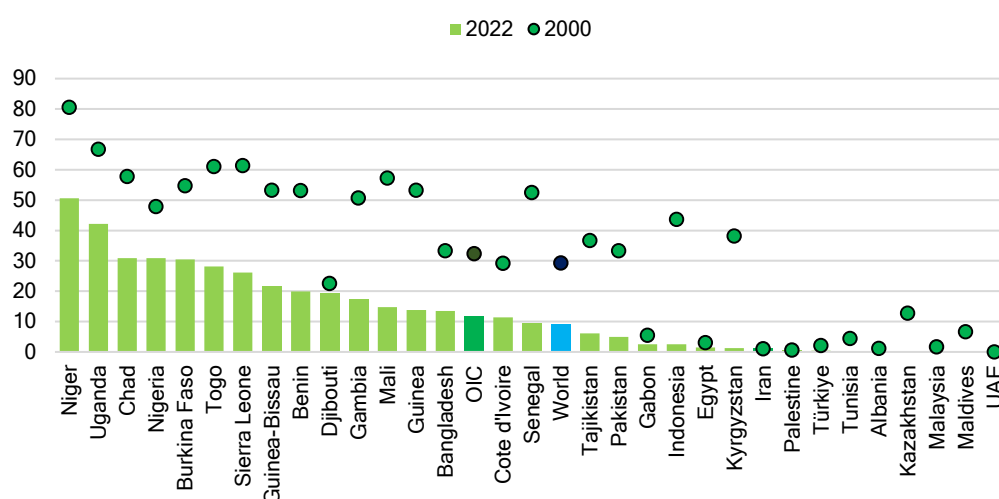


**Source:** SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 01/07/2024 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) and the UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database. Please see Appendix 1 for details.

SDG target 1.1 aims for the complete eradication of extreme poverty by 2030. In the 2000s, approximately 32.3% of the population in OIC countries lived on less than USD 2.15 a day, based on data from 30 OIC countries. By 2022, this figure decreased to 11.7%. At the country level, nine OIC countries—Albania, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, The Maldives, United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Türkiye, Palestine, and Iran—had already achieved SDG 1.1 (zero extreme poverty) by 2022, or their extreme poverty rates were well below 1%. By 2030, four additional OIC countries—Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Egypt, and Indonesia—are expected to meet the SDG 1.1 target. Conversely, according to the latest data, over 30% of the population in Niger, Uganda, Chad, Nigeria, and Burkina Faso still live in extreme poverty (Figure 4).

## Pension coverage should be extended to a larger portion of the pensionable population

Social protection systems include contributory and non-contributory schemes for children, pregnant women with newborns, people in active age, older persons, victims of work injuries, and persons with disabilities. Social protection floors provide at least a basic level in all main contingencies along the life cycle as defined in the Social Protection Floors Recommendation 2012 (no. 202) referred to in SDG 1.3 (UNSD, SDG metadata).

**Figure 5:** Proportion of Population above Statutory Pensionable Age Receiving a Pension (%), 2000 vs. 2023



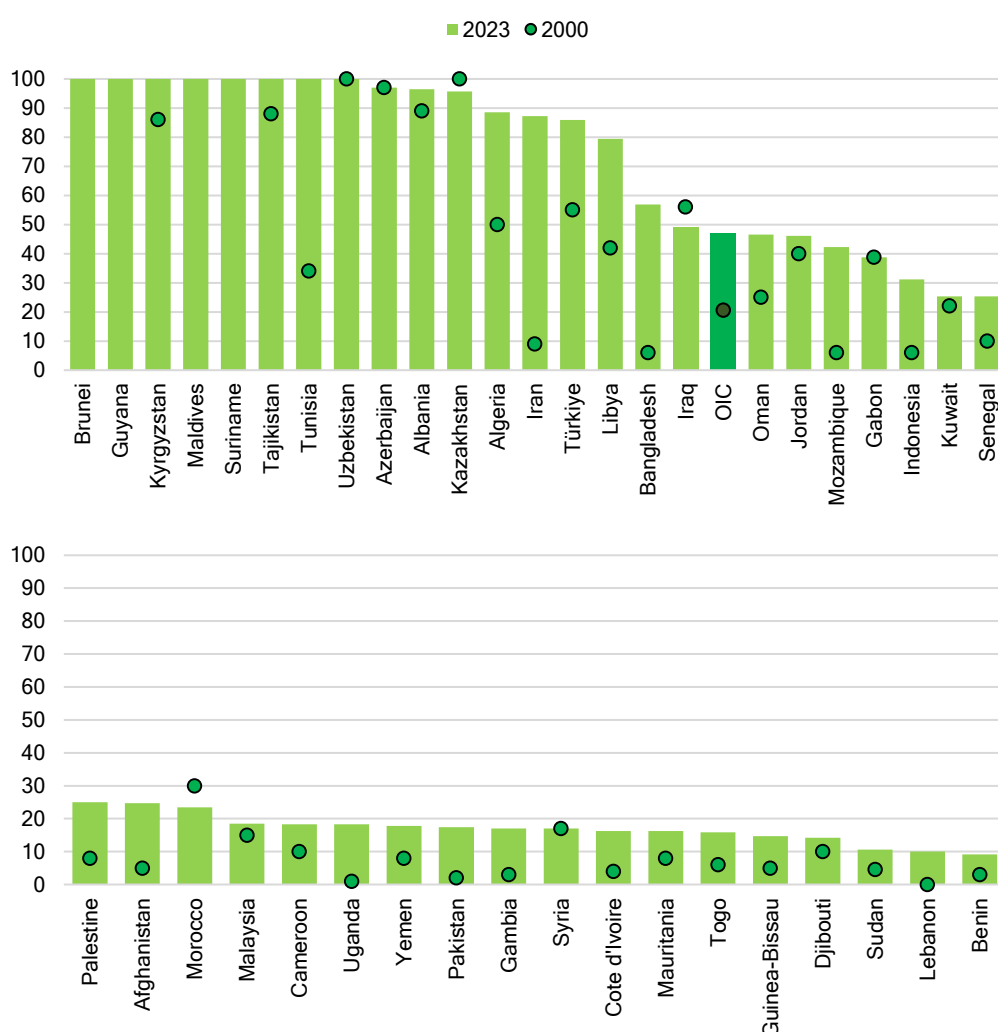**Source:** SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 01/07/2024 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). Please see Appendix 1 for details.

Figure 5 shows the proportion of the population above the statutory pensionable age receiving a pension. Based on the data available for 44 OIC countries, the proportion of population above statutory pensionable age receiving a pension in the OIC countries group increased from 20.5% in 2000 to 46.9% in 2023. Moreover, eight OIC countries (Brunei Darussalam, Guyana, Kyrgyzstan, The Maldives, Suriname, Tajikistan, Tunisia, and Uzbekistan) had a 100% coverage. They were followed by Azerbaijan (97%), Albania (96.5%), and Kazakhstan (95.7%). By 2030, Iran, Algeria, Bangladesh, Libya, and Türkiye are expected to achieve a 100%-coverage if the progress made between 2000 and 2023 continues at the same rate. Overall, OIC countries have made a visible progress in terms of population above pensionable age benefiting from pension payments (Figure 5).

## Access to basic drinking water services should be available to all population

In 2022, 29 OIC countries have provided access to basic drinking water services for more than 91% of their population, which was above the world average. Among them, eight OIC countries (Kuwait, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Libya, and The Maldives) provided all their populations with access to basic drinking water services in 2022. If the current trend of progress continues, the entire population in nine more OIC countries is expected to have access to basic drinking water facilities by 2030. In contrast, by 2022, at least a quarter of the population in 15 OIC countries had no access to basic drinking water services (Figure 6).

## OIC countries need to take urgent actions to increase the allocation of total public spending on education in the 15%-20% range

The efficient mobilization of government resources is an essential element of poverty alleviation strategies. Education, health, and other social services sectors are necessary for sustainable development. As SDG 1.a.2 does not specify a quantifiable target, benchmark targets set in relevant international documents have been used as reference points for our analysis. In this context, Education 2030, Incheon Declaration, and Framework for Action for the Implementation of SDG 4 all call for the allocation of the total public spending on education in the range of 15%-20%, which is on average equivalent to 4% to 6% of the GDP of a country.

The total government spending on education slightly decreased from 16% in 2000 to 15.8% in 2023 in the OIC, still meeting the target set by the Incheon Declaration. Globally, this ratio decreased marginally from 13.7% to 12.6%, which is below the Incheon target. The number of OIC countries with education expenditures within the 15%-20% range of total public spending or above declined from 19 in 2000 to 14 out of 32 countries with available data in 2023 (Figure 7).

**Figure 6:** Proportion of Population Using Basic Drinking Water Services (%), 2000 vs. 2022
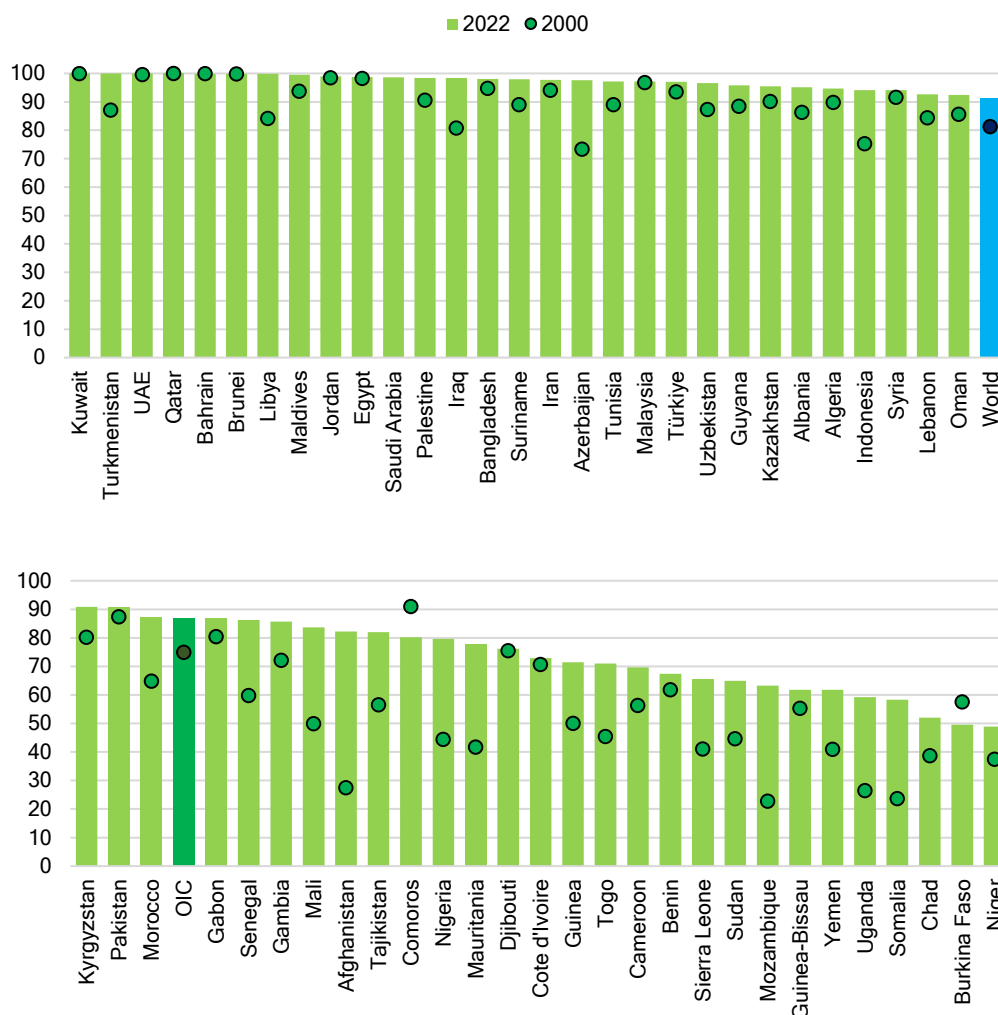
Among the 16 OIC countries with a downward trend in the 2000-2023 period, four (Tunisia, Malaysia, Guyana, and Togo) had already achieved the desired range of 15%-20% in education expenditures as a share of total public spending by 2023. On the other hand, the share of government spending on education in total public spending increased in 16 OIC countries during the 2000-2023 period. Progress has been most noteworthy for five OIC countries (Sierra Leone, Morocco, Gambia, Benin, and Oman), with increases of more than 5 percentage points over the same period (Figure 7).

**Figure 7:** Proportion of Total Government Spending on Essential Services, Education (%), 2000 vs. 2023
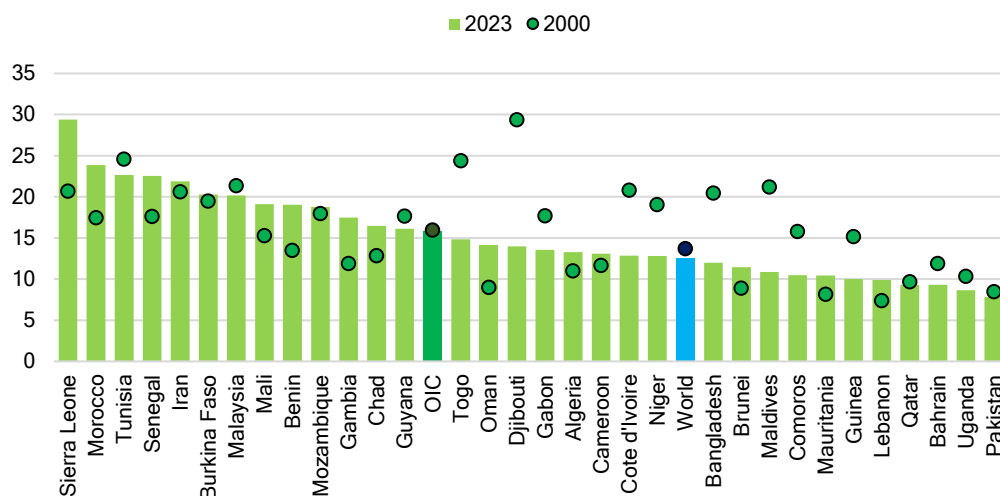


**Source:** SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 01/07/2024 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) and the UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database. Please see Appendix 1 for details.

# SDG 2. End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture

Many people around the world suffer from hunger, which is one of the leading causes of death in low-income countries. Moreover, children around the world are exposed to serious health problems due to malnutrition, and their physical and cognitive development are particularly negatively affected. SDG 2, developed to address these challenges, includes targets to reduce or eliminate the negative impacts of hunger, with a focus on promoting universal access to nutritious food, increasing the productivity of food producers, promoting resilient and sustainable practices in agriculture, and investing in research and technological development in agriculture.

OIC countries showed a stagnant progress towards SDG 2 and this progress is too slow for the goal to be met by 2030. The Russia-Ukraine conflict, global high inflation, inequalities, and climate change have further complicated these efforts in recent years. In this context, it will be important that financial support, especially through government funds and international cooperation, focuses on increasing the efficiency of food production. Special attention is required for small-scale agri-businesses and farmers to ensure they receive the necessary support and resources.

## Further progress is required towards elimination of undernourishment

SDG target 2.1 envisions the complete elimination of prevalence of undernourishment by 2030. The proportion of undernourished people in the total population serves as a key indicator for measuring progress in this area. This indicator is an estimate of the proportion of the population whose habitual food consumption is insufficient to provide the dietary energy levels necessary to lead a normally active and healthy life (UNSD, SDG metadata).

Between 2001 and 2022, the prevalence of undernourishment in OIC countries as a group decreased from 15.3% to 13.5% of the total population. During the same period, the global average dropped from 12.9% to 9.1%. Data for 51 OIC countries reveal that eight of them (Algeria, Azerbaijan, Guyana, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan) have already met the "zero undernourishment by 2030" target, with the proportion of undernourished individuals below 2.5% of their total populations as of 2022. Additionally, three more OIC countries (Saudi Arabia, Senegal, and United Arab Emirates) are expected to achieve this target by 2030. However, the progress in other OIC countries remains insufficient to meet the target if they continue with a similar rate of progress in eradicating undernourishment. Meanwhile, 14 out of 51 OIC countries with available data

have demonstrated regression in tackling the prevalence of undernourishment (Figure 8).

**Figure 8:** Prevalence of Undernourishment (%), 2001 vs. 2022
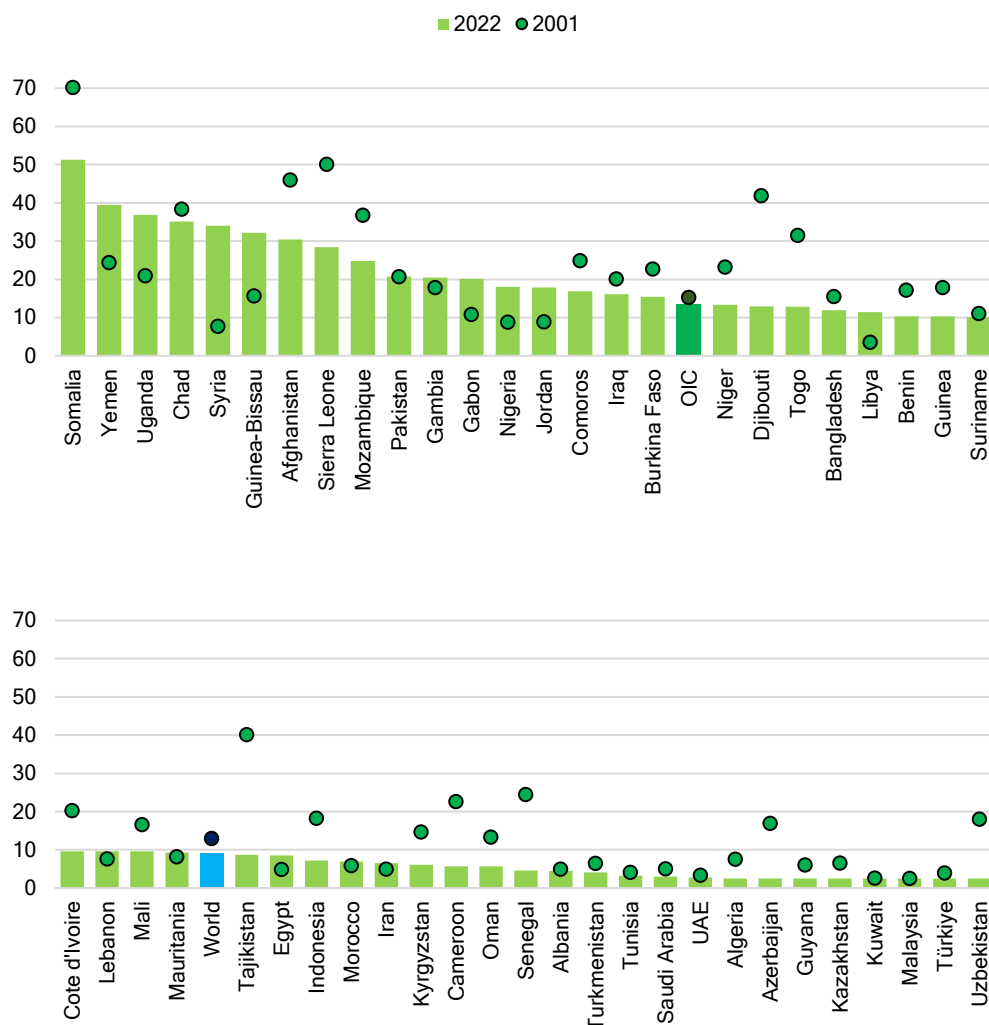
■ 2022  ● 2001



**Source:** SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 01/07/2024 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) and the UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database. Please see Appendix 1 for details.

## Stunting and wasting in children have been declining, but not enough to end all forms of malnutrition

Prevalence of malnutrition (in the forms of overweight, wasting, and stunting) measures the result part of the hunger in contrast to undernourishment, which demarcates the cause. It is important to investigate stunting as it is one of the underlying causes of child mortality. Children suffering from stunting may never grow to their full height, and their brains may never develop to their full cognitive

potential (WHO, 2017). While the intermediate SDG target is to cut by 2025 the prevalence of child stunting by 40% from its 2012 levels, the long-term target is to eliminate child stunting/wasting/overweight and all other forms of malnutrition by 2030.

**Figure 9:** Proportion of Children Moderately or Severely Stunted (%), 2000 vs. 2022
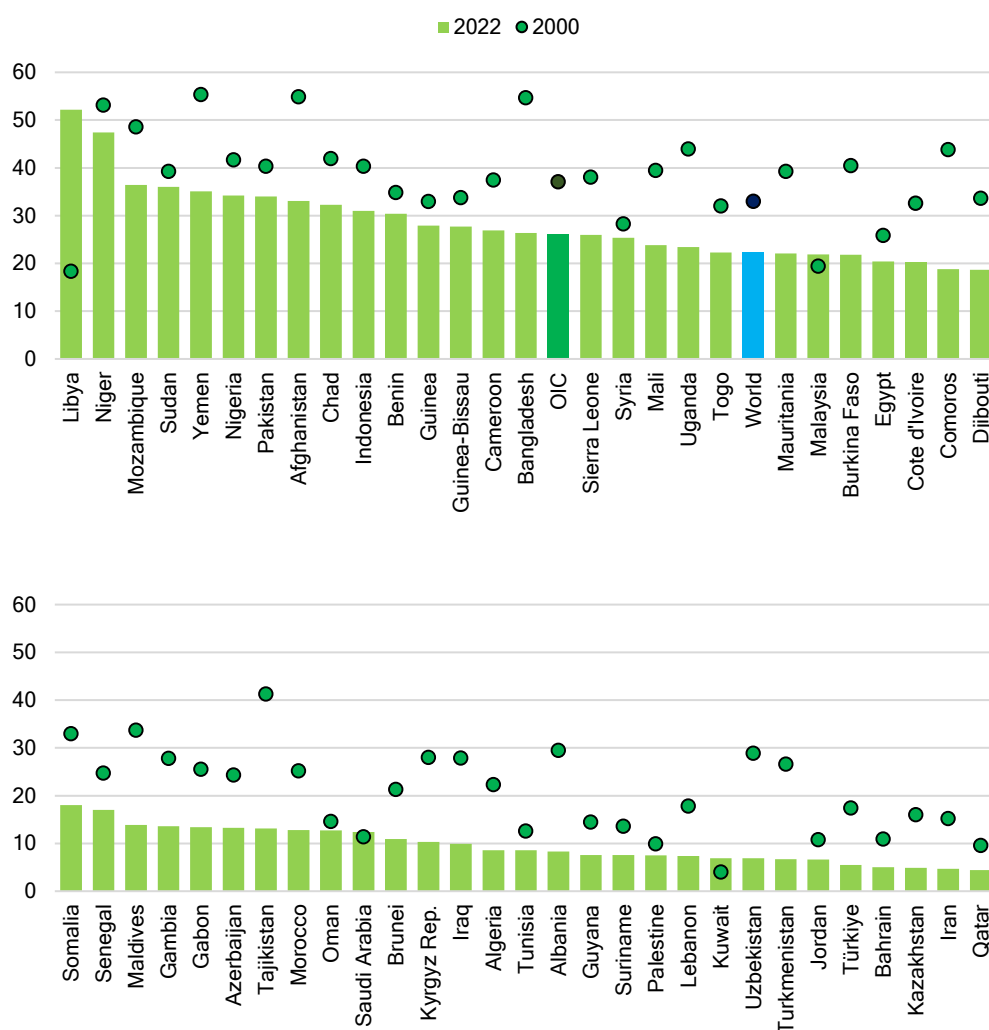


**Source:** SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 01/07/2024 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) and the UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database. Please see Appendix 1 for details.

The proportion of children moderately or severely stunted in the OIC countries group decreased from 37% to 26.1% between 2000 and 2022. Similarly, the global average declined from 33% to 22.3% over the same period. At the individual country level, nine countries (Kazakhstan, Iraq, Albania, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan,

Guyana, Turkmenistan, Comoros, and Türkiye) have managed to reduce the prevalence of stunting in children by 40% or more from 2012 levels. Unfortunately, no OIC country has made sufficient progress to ensure the complete elimination of child stunting by 2030. Moreover, four OIC countries have witnessed a deteriorating situation since 2000 (Figure 9).

Similar patterns were also observed in "prevalence of overweight (weight for height >+2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards)" and "prevalence of wasting (weight for height <-2 standard deviation from the median of the World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards)" among children under 5 years of age. Almost no OIC countries will achieve the target of ending all forms of malnutrition by 2030 with the pace of progress made so far.

## OIC countries should boost funding in research projects to promote sustainable agriculture

SDG target 2.a emphasizes the need for increased investments in the agricultural sector, including research and technological development, infrastructure improvement, and the establishment of plant and livestock gene banks, particularly in LDCs, by 2030. The Agriculture Orientation Index (AOI) is defined as the proportion of government expenditures on agriculture divided by the share of agriculture value added in GDP. An AOI value greater than 1 indicates that the agriculture sector receives a higher share of government spending relative to its economic value, while a value less than 1 suggests a lower orientation towards agriculture. An AOI of 1 reflects neutrality in a government's orientation towards the agriculture sector.

In 2022, among 42 OIC countries with available data, Kuwait (2) and Bahrain (1.1) were the only countries with AOI values above 1, indicating a higher orientation towards agriculture. They were followed by Kazakhstan (0.8), Brunei Darussalam (0.7), and Bangladesh (0.5). Conversely, 25 OIC countries experienced decreases in their AOI values between 2001 and 2022 (Figure 10).

**Figure 10:** Agriculture Orientation Index, 2001 vs. 2022
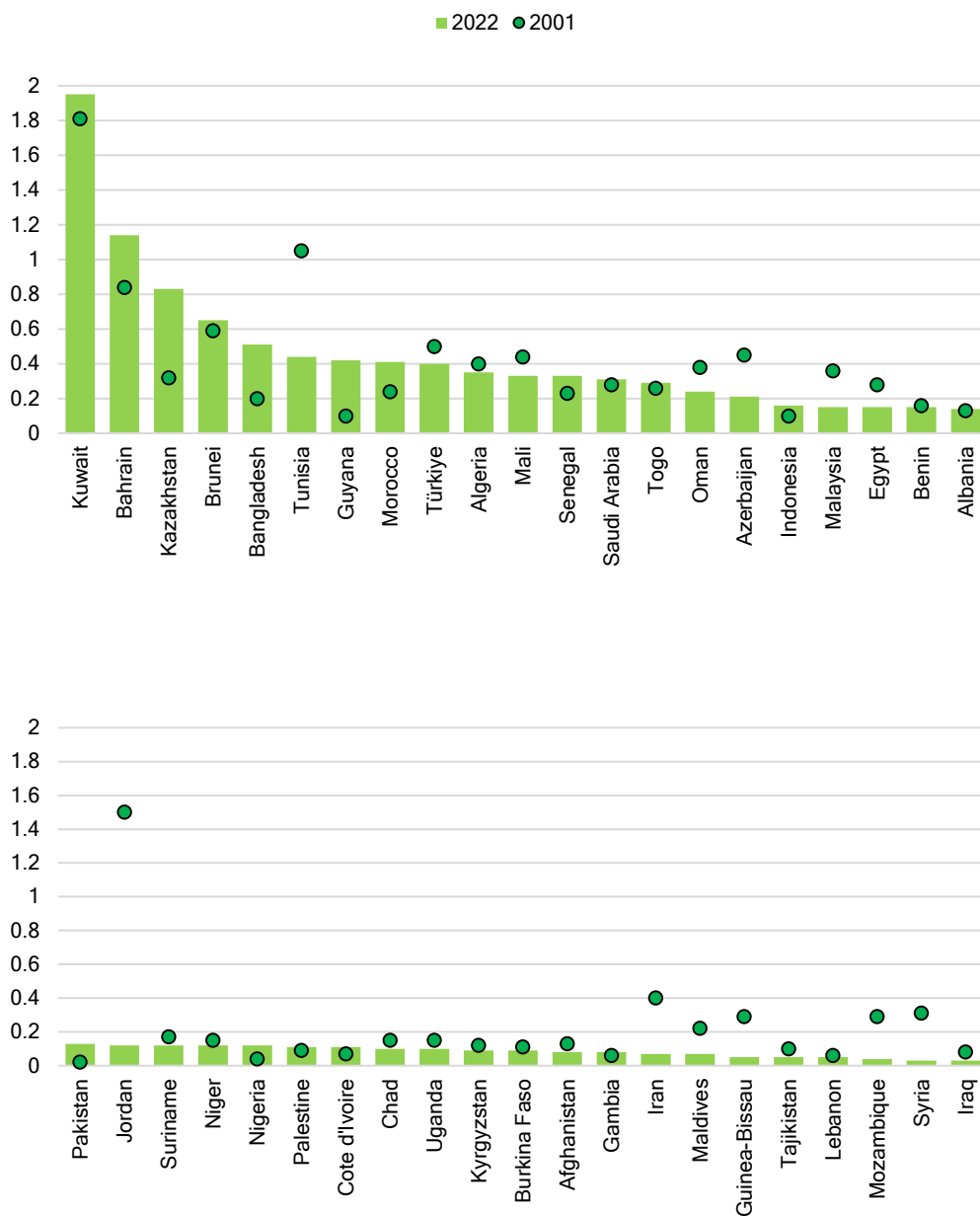
■ 2022  ● 2001





**Source:** Data extracted on 01/07/2024 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

Towards the Achievement of Prioritised Sustainable Development Goals in OIC Countries 2024

# SDG 3. Ensure Healthy Lives and Promote Well-Being for All at All Ages

Health is a fundamental human right and a key driver of sustainable development, significantly influencing other goals. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development underscores this by including SDG 3, which aims to "ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages". This goal addresses key health priorities such as maternal and child health, communicable and non-communicable diseases, and health financing and recruitment. While significant progress has been made in OIC countries, inequalities persist and progress remains uneven. Achieving SDG 3 by 2030 will require sustained commitment, innovative strategies and strengthened health systems.

## Under-five mortality in most OIC countries is still well above the set target

Under-five mortality rate (U5MR) explains the probability of a child born in a specific year or period dying before reaching the age of 5 years expressed per 1,000 live births (UNSD, SDG metadata).

This rate is a crucial indicator of child health and well-being, reflecting the effectiveness of health systems and the accessibility of essential health services. Monitoring U5MR is a priority in public health as it provides insights into the success of interventions like vaccinations, treatments for infectious diseases, and the provision of adequate nutrition.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aims to end preventable deaths of children under five years of age by 2030, with a key target of reducing the under-five mortality rate to at least as low as 25 deaths per 1,000 live births. Significant progress has been made in OIC countries over the years. Between 2000 and 2022, the U5MR in OIC countries decreased from 102 to 53 deaths per 1,000 live births. Despite this progress, the current rate is still more than twice the global target. Globally, the rate dropped from 76 to 37 deaths over the same period. This decline highlights the positive impact of health interventions and improvements in healthcare systems across many regions (Figure 11).

Individually, 28 OIC countries have already achieved the target as of 2022. Among them; Qatar, United Arab Emirates, The Maldives, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Malaysia, Kuwait, Albania, Türkiye, Brunei Darussalam, and Kazakhstan have notably low U5MRs, each recording fewer than 10 deaths per 1,000 live births. This indicates robust health infrastructures and effective public health strategies in these countries.

Looking forward, it is projected that by 2030, an additional five OIC countries (Guyana, Bangladesh, Tajikistan, Senegal, and Uganda) can meet the SDG target of reducing the U5MR to below 25 deaths per 1,000 live births. This anticipated progress highlights the ongoing efforts and commitments of these countries to enhance child health outcomes.

On the other hand, some OIC countries continue to face significant challenges in reducing child mortality rates. As of 2022, nine OIC countries still have U5MRs that are more than three times the set target, reflecting the urgent need for intensified efforts and targeted interventions in these regions.

**Figure 11:** Under-Five Mortality Rate, Both Sexes (per 1,000 Live Births), 2000 vs. 2022
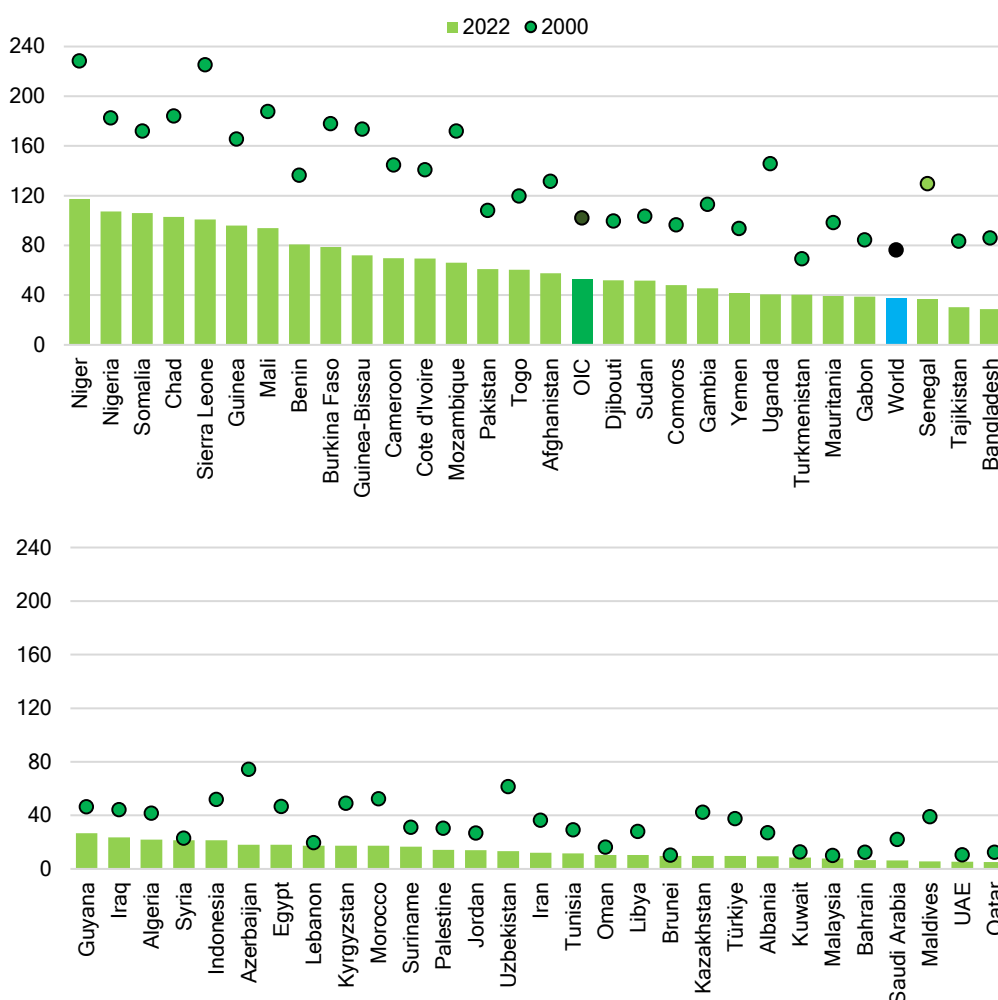


**Source:** SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 01/07/2024 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) and the UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database. Please see Appendix 1 for details.

## Improvements in adolescent birth rates do not benefit all girls equally

The adolescent birth rate is defined as the number of births per 1,000 women in the specified age groups. Reducing adolescent fertility and addressing its underlying factors are crucial for enhancing sexual and reproductive health, as well as the social and economic well-being of adolescents. Research consistently shows that women who become pregnant and give birth early face higher risks of complications or death during pregnancy and birth, and their children are more vulnerable. Therefore, preventing early pregnancies is vital for improving maternal health and reducing infant mortality (UNSD, SDG metadata).

**Figure 12:** Adolescent Birth Rate, Ages 15-19, Female (Per 1,000 Women Aged 15-19 Years), 2000 vs. 2023
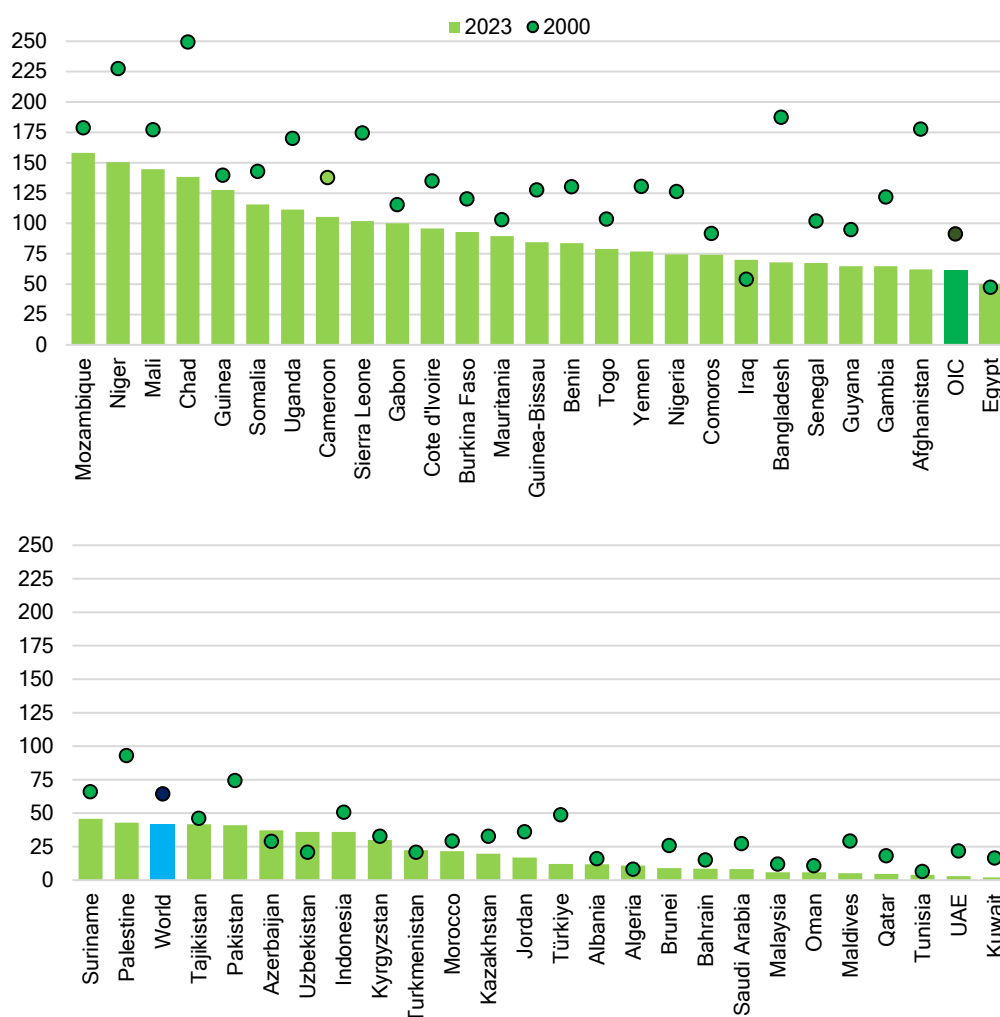


Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 01/07/2024 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) and the UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database. Please see Appendix 1 for details.

Moreover, early childbearing limits opportunities for socio-economic advancement, as young mothers are less likely to complete their education and face challenges in balancing family and work responsibilities. The adolescent birth rate also provides indirect evidence on access to relevant health services, as young people often experience difficulties in accessing sexual and reproductive health services (UNSD, SDG metadata).

Over the past two decades, the global adolescent birth rate (ABR) for young women aged 15-19 has seen a notable decline, dropping from 64 per 1,000 women in 2000 to 42 in 2023. This trend is also mirrored in OIC countries, where the ABR decreased significantly from 91 to 61 during the same period. Such a reduction highlights progress in reproductive health and education initiatives across many regions. At the individual country level, the majority of OIC countries—45 out of 51—have successfully reduced their adolescent birth rates, indicating widespread advancements in the OIC region.

However, despite this overall success, disparities remain significant within the OIC. As of 2023, there is a stark difference of 156 points between the highest and lowest adolescent birth rates among OIC countries. This gap underscores ongoing challenges in addressing the socio-economic, cultural, and policy factors that influence adolescent birth rates. The wide variance suggests that while some countries have made great strides, others may need more targeted interventions to achieve similar reductions in adolescent births.

## DTP3 vaccination coverage dropped during the COVID-19 pandemic

The proportion of the target population with access to three doses of diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTP3) refers to the percentage of surviving infants who received the three doses of diphtheria and tetanus toxoid with pertussis containing vaccine in a given year (UNSD, SDG metadata).

In 2022, approximately 84% of the child population worldwide received DTP3 vaccine; likewise, 81% of the child population in the OIC countries group accessed the DTP3 vaccine. The DTP3 vaccination coverage in 33 individual OIC countries was above the global average and in 26 of them, it even reached at least 90% of coverage (Figure 13). On the other hand, in comparison with pre-COVID-19 pandemic period, access to DTP3 vaccine dropped in 29 OIC countries between 2019 and 2022. In particular, notable declines of more than 10 percentage points were observed in seven OIC countries. The pandemic caused a serious setback to children immunization programs as many countries' responses and vaccination programs were geared towards the fight against COVID-19.

**Figure 13:** Proportion of Target Population with Access to DTP3 Vaccine (%), 2000 vs. 2022
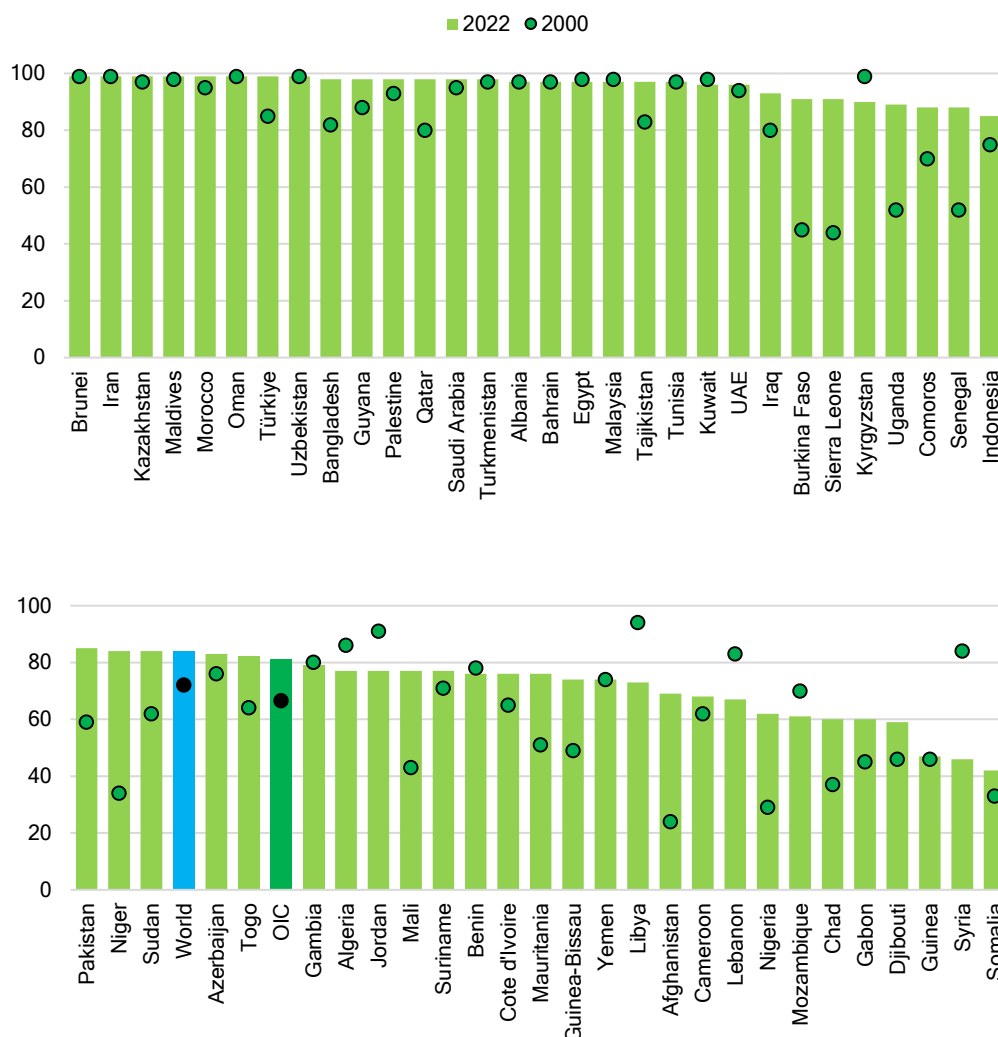
## OIC countries have low distribution of medical doctors among the population

The density of medical doctors is a critical indicator of the availability and accessibility of healthcare services within a population. This metric represents the number of medical doctors, including both generalists and specialist medical practitioners, per 10,000 people in a specified national or subnational area. In 2022, the global average density of medical doctors was 17.3 per 10,000 population. In comparison, the average density for OIC countries, based on the

most recent data available for 53 countries, was significantly lower at 9.4 doctors (Figure 14).

**Figure 14:** Health Worker Density, Medical Doctors (per 10,000 Population), 2000 vs. 2022
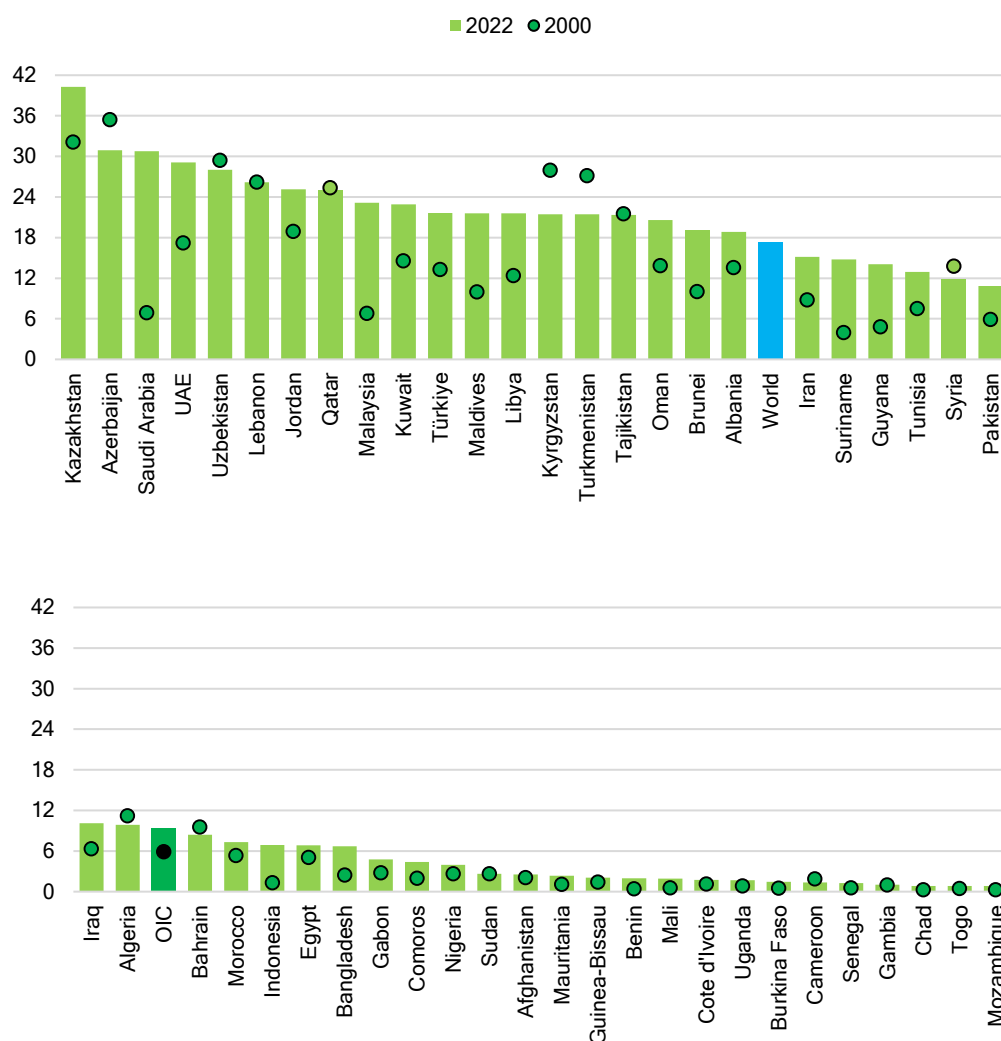


**Source:** SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 01/07/2024 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) and the UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database. Please see Appendix 1 for details.

Among OIC countries, the medical doctor densities of only 19 OIC countries were higher than the global average, indicating a relative adequacy in their healthcare workforce. In 27 OIC countries, the densities of medical doctors per 10,000 population were below 10 and the situation is alarming in six OIC countries with less than 1 doctor per 10,000 population, suggesting potential challenges in providing adequate healthcare services (Figure 14).

# SDG 4. Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Lifelong Learning Opportunities for All

Education is a primary driver that can lead to improved life and well-being of the people, particularly within disadvantaged communities. Recent advancements in the education sector have opened up new avenues for these communities to access quality education, alongside technical and practical skills, in an increasingly cost-effective manner. This aligns with the goals of SDG 4, which emphasizes the importance of providing free primary and secondary education, ensuring equal access to quality education, eliminating discrimination within the educational system, achieving universal literacy and numeracy, and expanding the supply of qualified teachers.

OIC countries have shown moderate progress towards achieving SDG 4, yet this progress remains insufficient to meet the goal by 2030. While there have been notable advancements in areas such as school completion rates and gender parity in many OIC countries, significant disparities persist across the group. If the current rate of progress remains unchanged, many OIC countries are expected to miss the SDG 4 targets by 2030.

## School completion rates have increased overall in OIC countries

Some OIC countries have faced challenges in meeting the most fundamental education targets, such as ensuring enrolment and participation of children at school, particularly for girls and other vulnerable groups of population, and providing access to basic study materials and sufficient number teachers for the students. Particularly, completion rate is an important indicator that provides essential information regarding the percentage of a cohort of children or young people who have completed that grade.

At the primary level, the global average completion rate increased from 77% to 88% in the period between 2000 and 2023. Similarly, in the OIC group of countries, based on available data for 41 OIC countries, the rate increased from 68% to 76%. With regard to the situation at the country level, completion rates were at least 95% in 16 member countries in 2023. On the other hand, six OIC countries had completion rates below 50%. Looking at the progress made between 2000 and 2023, if the rate of progress is maintained at or above the same level, about 22 out of 41 OIC countries are on track to meet the target of ensuring that all children complete primary education by 2030 (Figure 15).

In lower secondary level education, out of 41 OIC countries with available data, the completion rates were at least 95% in 10 member countries (Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Albania, Palestine, Türkiye,

The Maldives, and Qatar) in 2023. If the current rate of progress observed between 2000 and 2023 will be maintained at the same level or above, five more OIC countries (Togo, Mozambique, Tunisia, Indonesia, and Djibouti) are expected to achieve the target by 2030. The remaining countries have not demonstrated sufficient levels of improvement in the completion rates at lower secondary level education to be considered on track to achieve the target by 2030.

The situation, however, exacerbates at the upper secondary level education. Among the 38 OIC countries with sufficient data as of 2023, only in three OIC countries (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Guyana) the completion rates were at least 95%.

**Figure 15:** Completion Rate, Primary, Both Sexes (%), 2000 vs. 2023
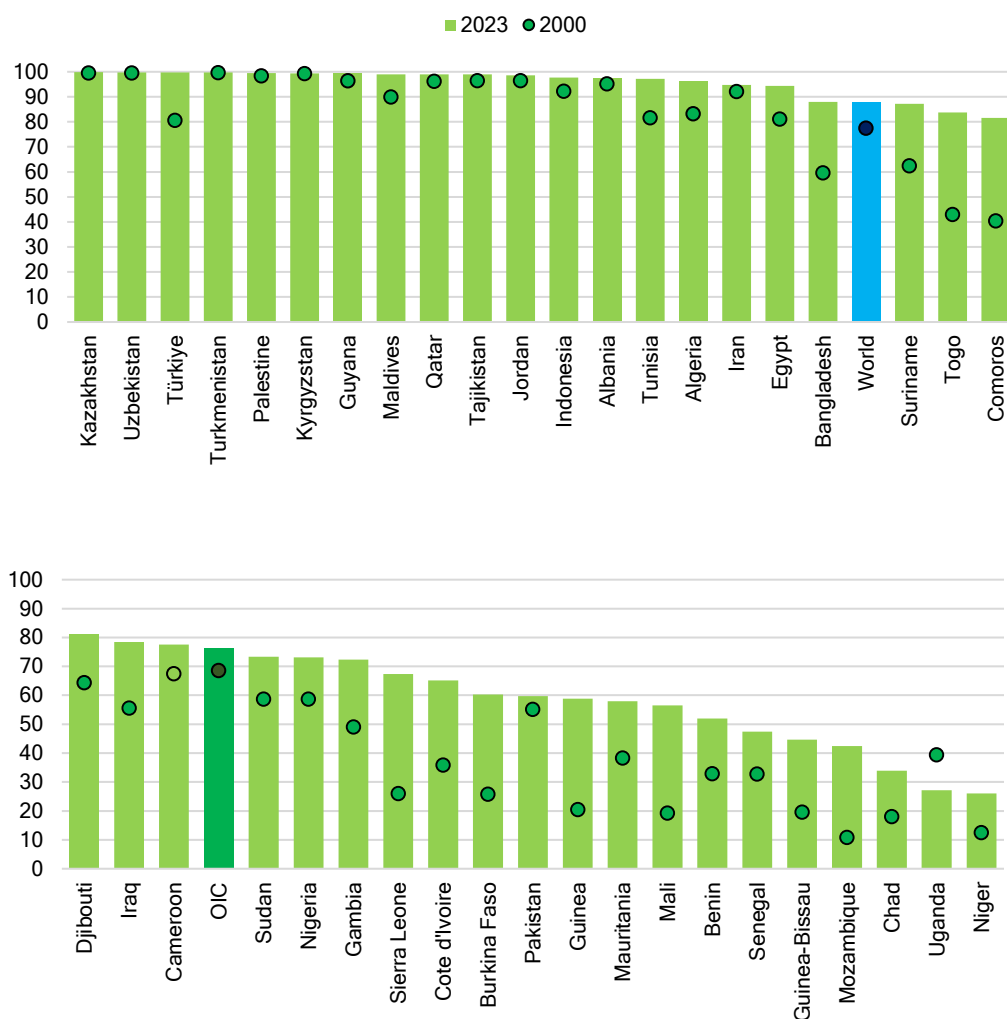
**Despite progress in enrolment, concerns still exist for the access to early childhood education for all children by 2030**

Participation rate in organised learning shows the proportion of children in a given age group enrolled in at least one organised learning program that includes both education and care. Concerning the pre-primary organised learning programs, the primary target is to provide an access to such education to all children (UNSD, SDG metadata).

Over the period from 2000 to 2023, the participation rate in organised learning one year before the official primary entry age increased from 42% to 49% in the OIC countries group, based on the data of 39 member countries, while the world average also increased from 66% to 72% (Figure 16).

Concerning the country level situation, two out of 39 OIC countries with sufficient data (United Arab Emirates and Brunei Darussalam) have already achieved participation rates of 95% or over in 2023. In addition, nine more countries (Benin, Togo, Azerbaijan, Qatar, Albania, Algeria, Kyrgyzstan, Türkiye, and The Maldives) are on track to achieve similar high results by 2030 based on their progress rates demonstrated between 2000 and 2023. On the other hand, less than a quarter of children were enrolled in organised learning one year before the official primary school entry age in 10 OIC countries in 2023 (Figure 16).

**Majority of OIC countries have achieved gender parity in school education**

SDG target 4.5 envisions eliminating the disparities and providing equal access to education and vocational training to all by 2030, particularly for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous people, and females, among others. Within this context, adjusted gender parity index value (limited to a range between 0 and 2) for completion rate with "1" indicates a parity between girls and boys. In general, a value less than 1 indicates a disparity in favour of boys and a value greater than 1 indicates a disparity in favour of girls (UNSD, SDG metadata).

**Figure 16:** Participation Rate in Organized Learning (One Year Before the Official Primary Entry Age), Both Sexes (%), 2000 vs. 2023
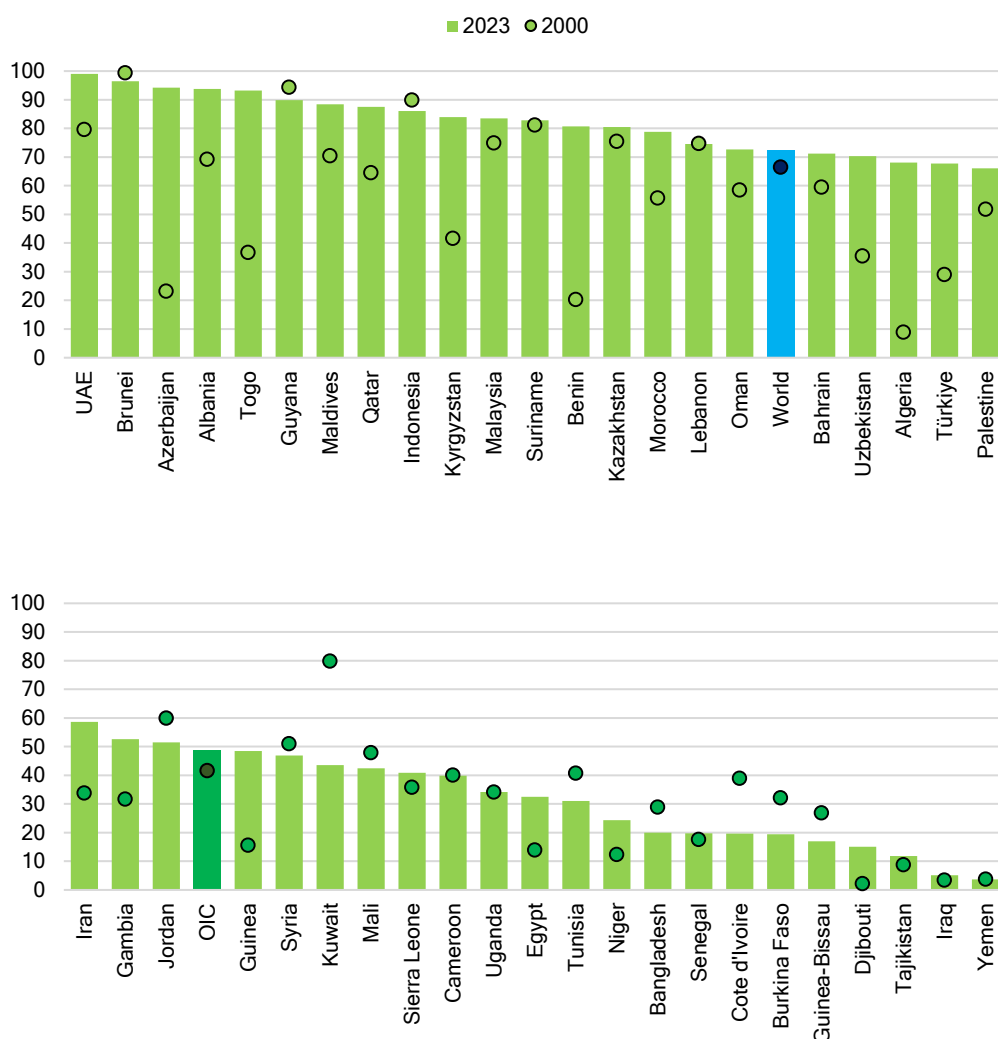


**Source:** SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 01/07/2024 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) and the UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database. Please see Appendix 1 for details.

As of 2023, 35 out of 41 OIC countries (whose data meet the criteria for progress measurement) have recorded a gender parity or disparity in favour of girls in completion rate in primary education. Furthermore, based on their progress rates demonstrated from 2000 to 2023, only three OIC countries can miss the gender parity by 2030 if their progress rate will not accelerate notably (Figure 17).

**Figure 17:** Adjusted Gender Parity Index for Completion Rate, Primary, 2000 vs. 2023
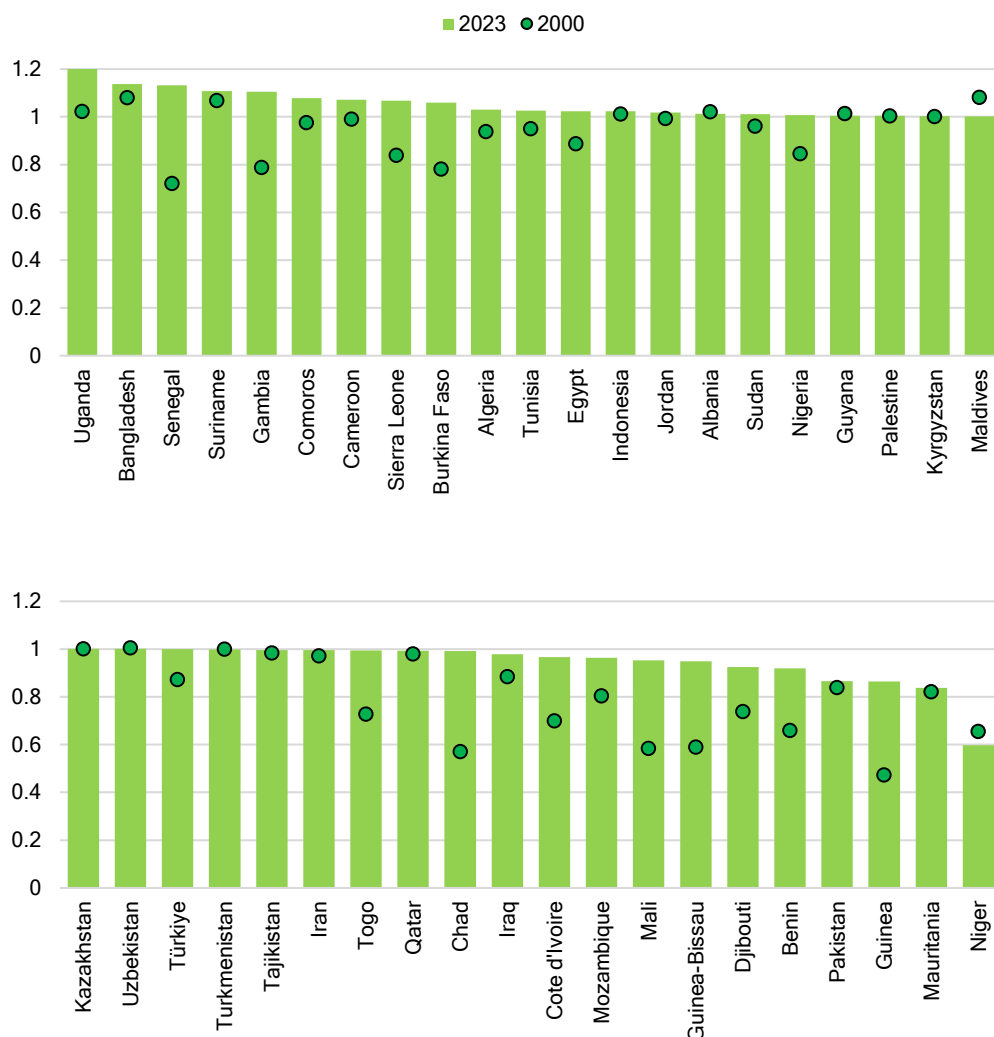
Adjusted gender parity in lower secondary education completion rate of 27 OIC countries out of 41 with available data in 2023 shows a gender parity or disparity in favour of girls. Additionally, seven countries are on track to achieve target by 2030. In contrast, gender parity levels are alarmingly low, with insufficient progress rates in seven OIC countries.

As to upper secondary education completion rates, a gender parity or disparity in favour of girls has been observed in 19 OIC countries out of 39 with sufficient data. Additionally, five more OIC countries will achieve a gender parity or

disparity in favour of girls by 2030. However, 15 member countries are out of track to accomplish the target by 2030.

## There is an increasing need for qualified school teachers in OIC countries

Qualified specialists, professionals, and overall human resources play a critical role in the development and prosperity of any country. Lacking to provide adequate education for the youth hinders the future economic growth of any country. In this regard, adequately trained teachers are considered important for the long-term progress of a country.

**Figure 18:** Proportion of Teachers in Primary Education who have Received at least the Minimum Organized Teacher Training, Both Sexes (%), 2000 vs. 2023
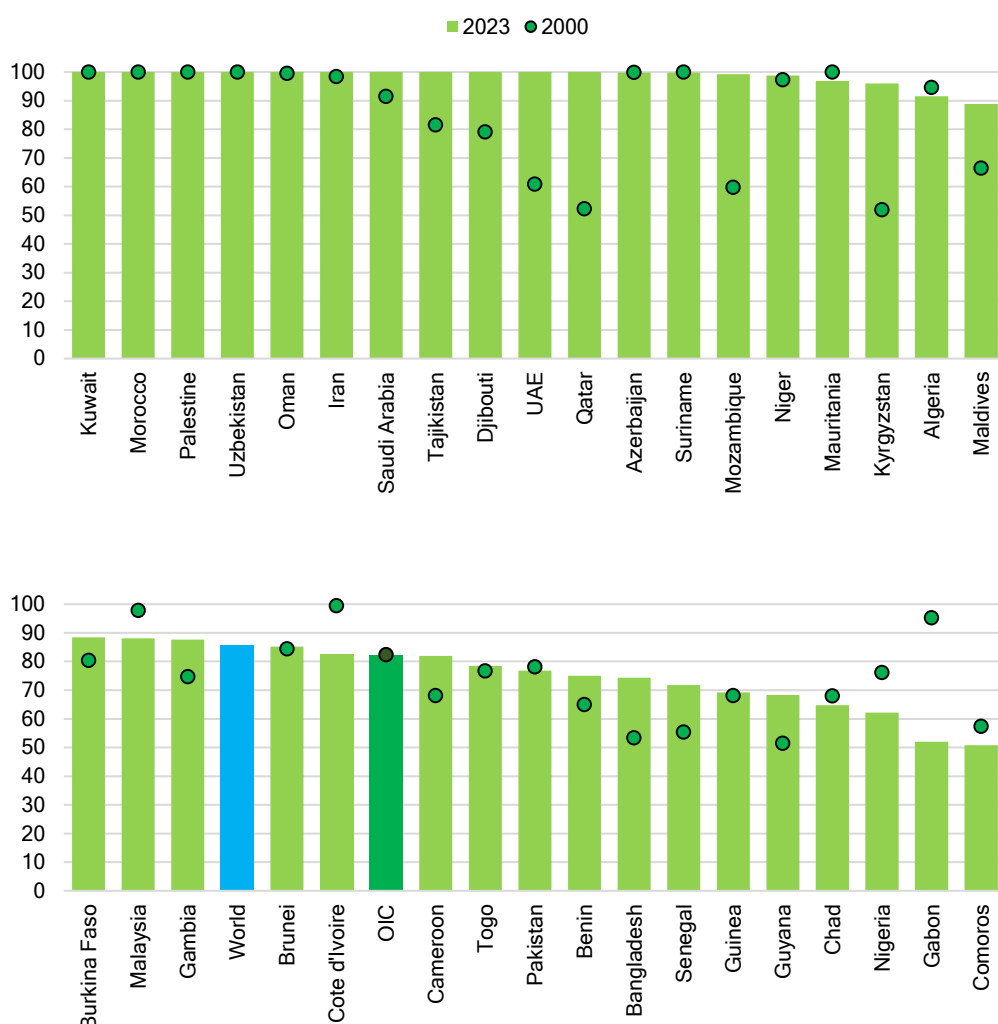


**Source:** SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 01/07/2024 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) and the UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database. Please see Appendix 1 for details.

Globally, the proportion of teachers in primary education with at least minimum teacher training was 86% in 2023. In comparison, it was 82% for the OIC countries group based on the most recent data of 36 member countries. As of 2023, at least 95% of primary-level teachers in 17 OIC countries received organised teacher training. On the other hand, this proportion has decreased in eight OIC countries between 2000 and 2023 (Figure 18). Accordingly, OIC countries need to take more extensive measures to attain the number of required qualified teachers by 2030.

# SDG 5. Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls

SDG 5 has a deep-rooted emphasis on aspects of gender equality and empowerment of women. The aspects of this goal are regarded as fundamental human rights and important elements for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world. Gender equality cuts across many SDGs as such it is a necessity to achieve several other targets under different SDGs like poverty eradication, inequality, good health and well-being for all, decent work and economic growth among others.

Adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by OIC countries implies that the countries are committed to the goal of achieving equality among all its citizens. To achieve this goal, the countries ought to tackle matters related to violence and discrimination against women, child marriage, reproductive and sexual health of women, effective participation of women at workplace, political role from parliament to local bodies and also in public life, ownership over land, and create laws and policies to ensure effective implementation of these issues. Collecting accurate data on all these aspects will make it easier to measure progress in gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls.

Yet, with less than six years left to reach the 2030 deadline, it is not possible to ascertain whether OIC countries and the world at large are on track since many indicators under this goal have data gaps and limitations, which act as a serious barrier in evaluating the progress of gender-specific targets.

## Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments has increased in the OIC countries group

The proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments is measured as the number of seats held by women members in single or lower chambers of national parliaments, expressed as a percentage of all occupied seats (UNSD, SDG metadata).

Women have historically been underrepresented in the political leadership positions. However, this has started to change in recent years. The proportion of seats held in national parliaments by women has increased, although men remain overrepresented. Globally, the proportion of women representatives in parliaments rose from 13.3% to 26.9% in the last two decades, and it rose from 8% to 21.1% in the OIC countries group within the same period (Figure 19). The increases recorded globally and in the OIC countries group are an indication that the countries are making progress towards achieving a gender-balanced representation

in their national parliaments. Despite the increases, the overwhelming majority of parliamentarians remain male.

As of 2024, United Arab Emirates has equal representation of women in the national parliament as men. In addition, women hold at least a third of the seats in national parliaments of eight other OIC countries (Senegal (46.1%), Mozambique (43.2%), Guyana (39.4%), Albania (35.7%), Uzbekistan (34.6), Uganda (33.9), Cameroon (33.9), and Suriname (31.4)). On the other hand, 11 OIC countries reported marginally low proportions of seats held by women in their national parliaments, with less than 10% (Figure 19).

**Figure 19:** Proportion of Seats Held by Women in National Parliaments (% of Total Number of Seats), 2000 vs. 2024
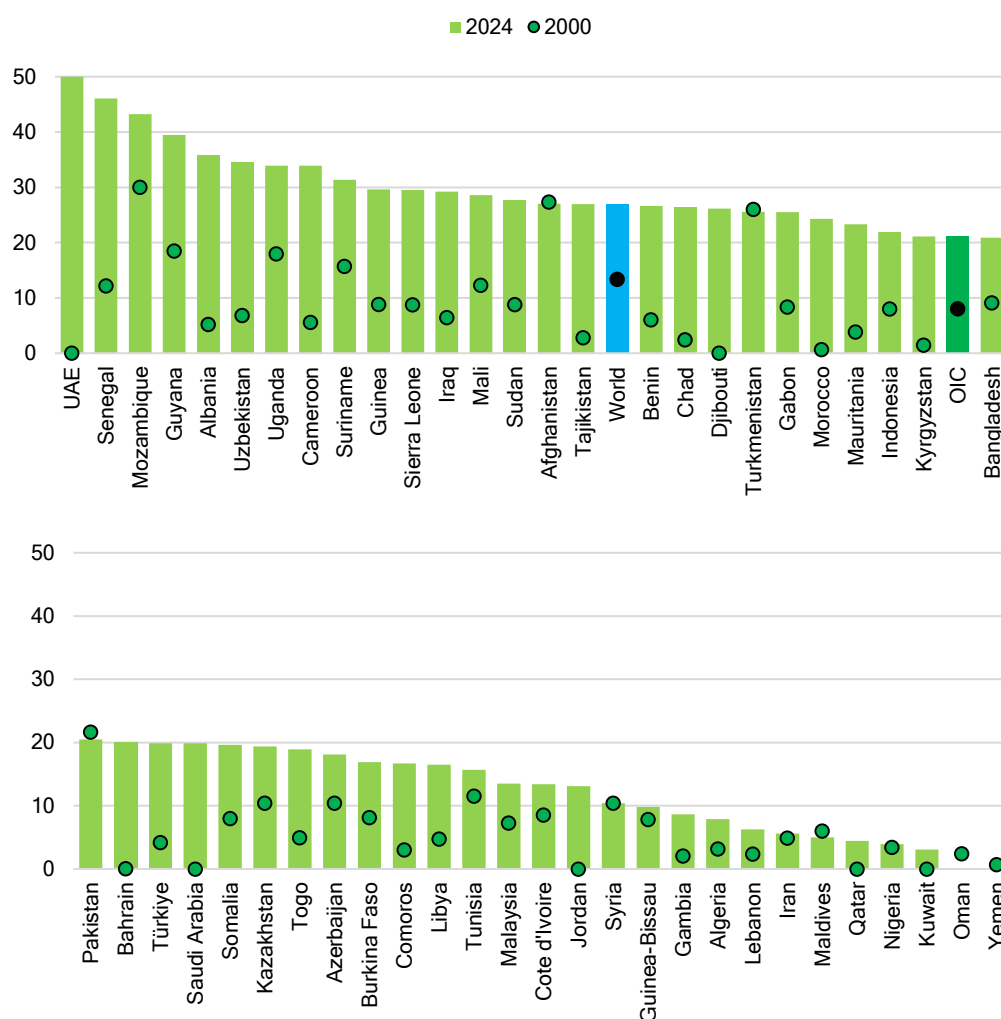


**Source:** SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 01/07/2024 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) and the UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database. Please see Appendix 1 for details.

# SDG 8: Promote Sustained, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth, Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All

SDG 8 recognises the importance of sustained inclusive economic growth, which can lead to new and better employment opportunities while not harming the environment. It calls for job opportunities and decent working conditions that should be provided to the whole working age population. Moreover, rapid economic growth can especially help OIC countries close the economic development gap with developed countries. However, despite a projected global economic growth rate of 2.6 percent this year—a stabilization after three years of volatility amid geopolitical tensions and high interest rates— (World Bank, 2024) progress in OIC countries toward achieving SDG 8 remains stagnant. The current pace of advancement is insufficient, raising concerns that the goal may not be met by the 2030 deadline.

## Without extra efforts, OIC-LDCs will miss the 7% annual GDP growth target by 2030

Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita is calculated as the percentage change in the real GDP per capita between two consecutive years. The data for real GDP are measured in constant USD to facilitate both the calculation of country growth rates and producing regional and global aggregate data. The real GDP per capita is a proxy for the average standard of living of residents in a country or area. A positive percentage change in this indicator can be interpreted as an increase in the average standard of living of the residents (UNSD, SDG metadata).

In the 2000-2022 period, the average annual growth rate of real GDP per capita was 2.3% for the entire OIC countries group and 2.8% for the OIC-LDCs group with 21 countries. Although these rates were over that of the world (1.7%), it was less than half the target rate of 7% a year. Indeed, the annual growth rate of OIC-LDCs group ranged between -0.9% and 5.2% for almost all years from 2000 to 2022. Therefore, the OIC-LDCs will not achieve the target of 7% GDP growth per annum unless their development pace accelerates notably. This also suggests that much work remains to be done to achieve the goal of sustained economic growth, particularly for the OIC-LDCs. In those countries, promoting economic diversification is very important, as well as not just protecting countries from unexpected global and national economic crises but also ensuring long-term sustainability and more inclusive growth.

At the individual country level, only Guyana and Azerbaijan achieved an average annual growth rate of around 7% of real GDP per capita for the period 2000-2022.

Besides Guyana and Azerbaijan, four more OIC countries (Bangladesh, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan) were observed to have an average annual growth rate of real GDP per capita with 5% and more from 2000 to 2022. In the same time interval, the average annual growth rate of real GDP per capita was negative for six OIC countries (Figure 20).

**Figure 20:** Average Annual Growth Rate of Real GDP per Capita (%), 2000-2022
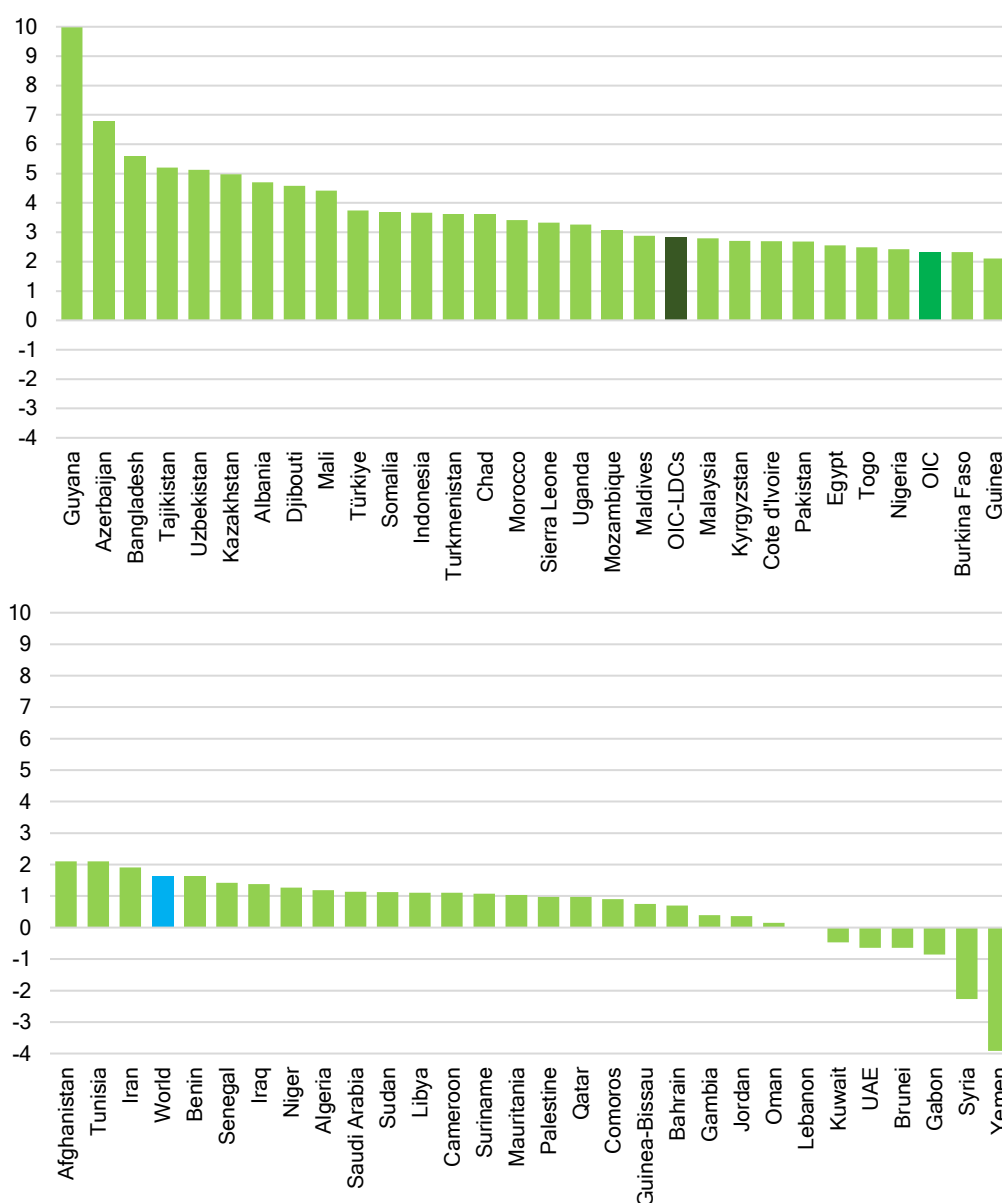


**Source:** SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 01/07/2024 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) and the UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database. Please see Appendix 1 for details.

## Despite improvements, labour productivity in OIC countries shows wide disparities

Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person conveys the annual percentage change in real GDP per employed person. It is a measure of labour productivity growth, thus providing information on the evolution, efficiency, and quality of human capital in the production process.

**Figure 21:** Average Annual Growth Rate of Real GDP per Employed Person (%), 2000-2022
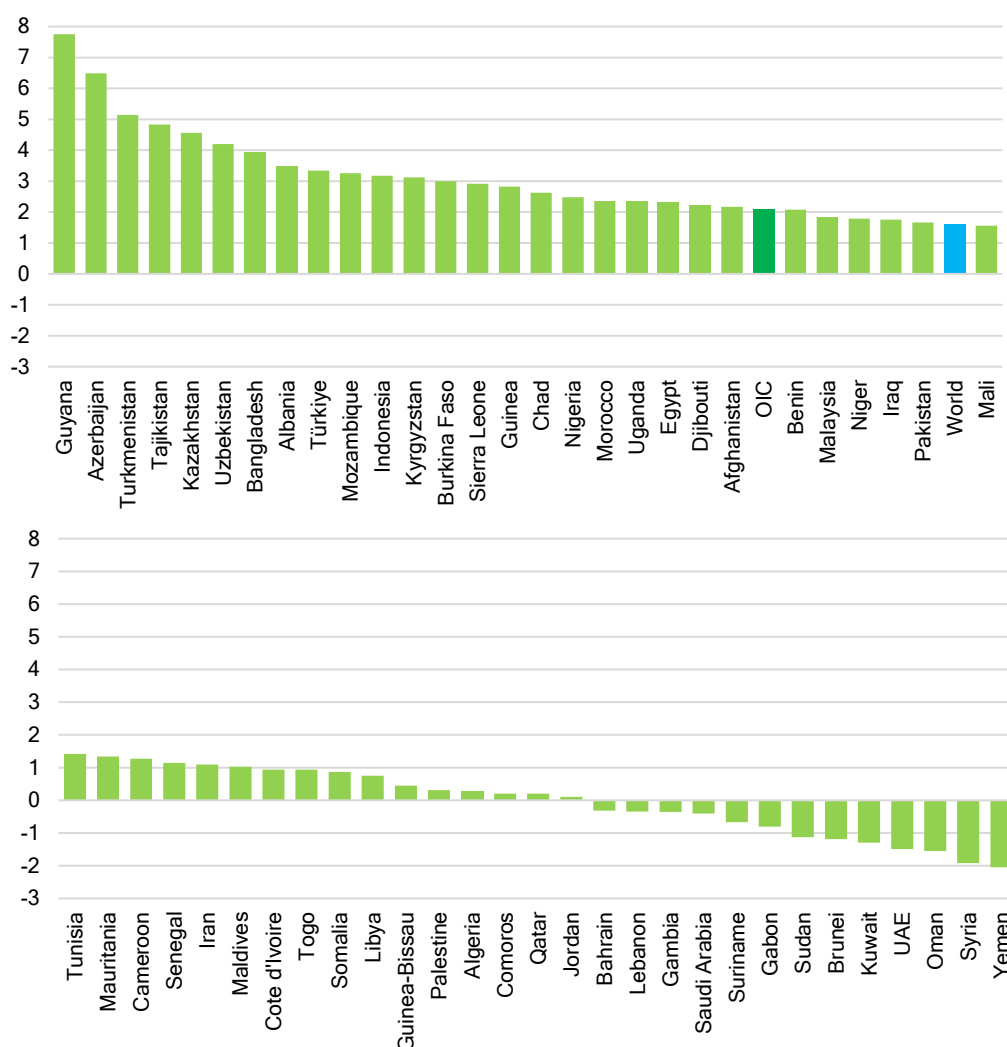


**Source:** SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 01/07/2024 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) and the UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database. Please see Appendix 1 for details.

Among others, economic growth in a country can be achieved either by increasing employment or by total factor productivity through more effective work by those

who are employed. This indicator sheds light on the productivity effect, being therefore a key measure of economic performance. Labour productivity (and growth) estimates can support the formulation of labour market policies and monitor their effects for policymakers. They can also contribute to the understanding of how labour market performance affects the living standards of employed persons (UNSD, SDG metadata).

Growth in labour productivity – measured by GDP per employed person – was estimated as 2.1% for the OIC countries group in the 2000-2022 period, which was slightly over that of the world (1.6%) (Figure 21). However, the average labour productivity growth rate for the OIC countries group slowed down considerably after 2015. During the 2015-2022 period, the average labour productivity growth rate was 1%, much lower than the 2.6% observed between 2000 and 2015. In comparison, the global average labour productivity growth rate was 1.4% between 2015 and 2022, higher than that of the OIC countries. Growth in labour productivity drives sustainable increases in earnings and living standards. The slowdown of productivity growth, therefore, suggests a negative effect on the OIC countries group in terms of the achievement of higher levels of development.

Moreover, the OIC countries group showed considerable variation in the growth of labour productivity. It was on average over 5% for only three OIC countries (Guyana, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan) from 2000 to 2022. While the average labour productivity growth rates of 20 OIC countries lied between 2% and 5%, they were between 0% and 2% for 21 OIC countries in the same period. However, 13 OIC countries showed negative average labour productivity growth for the period 2000-2022 (Figure 21).

## Rising unemployment rates constitute a serious problem for some OIC countries

The unemployment rate conveys the percentage of labour force who are unemployed. It is a useful measure of the underutilisation of labour supply. It reflects the inability of an economy to generate employment for those who actively seek work. Therefore, it may show the efficiency and effectiveness of an economy to absorb its labour force and the performance of the labour market (UNSD, SDG metadata).

The average unemployment rate of the OIC countries group decreased from 6.5% in 2000 to 5.9% in 2023, based on available data for 41 OIC countries. However, this improvement is not strong enough for the OIC countries group to achieve full

and productive employment and decent work for all by 2030 based on the pace of progress between 2000 and 2023 (Figure 22).

Long-term unemployment can have long-lasting negative impacts on individuals and society by endangering social cohesion and increasing the risk of poverty and social conflict. Large disparities exist across OIC countries in terms of unemployment rate. In the 2000-2023 period, out of 41 OIC countries with data available, the unemployment rate increased in 22 of them and decreased in 19 of them (Figure 22).

**Figure 22:** Unemployment Rate, Ages 15+, Both Sexes (%), 2000 vs. 2023
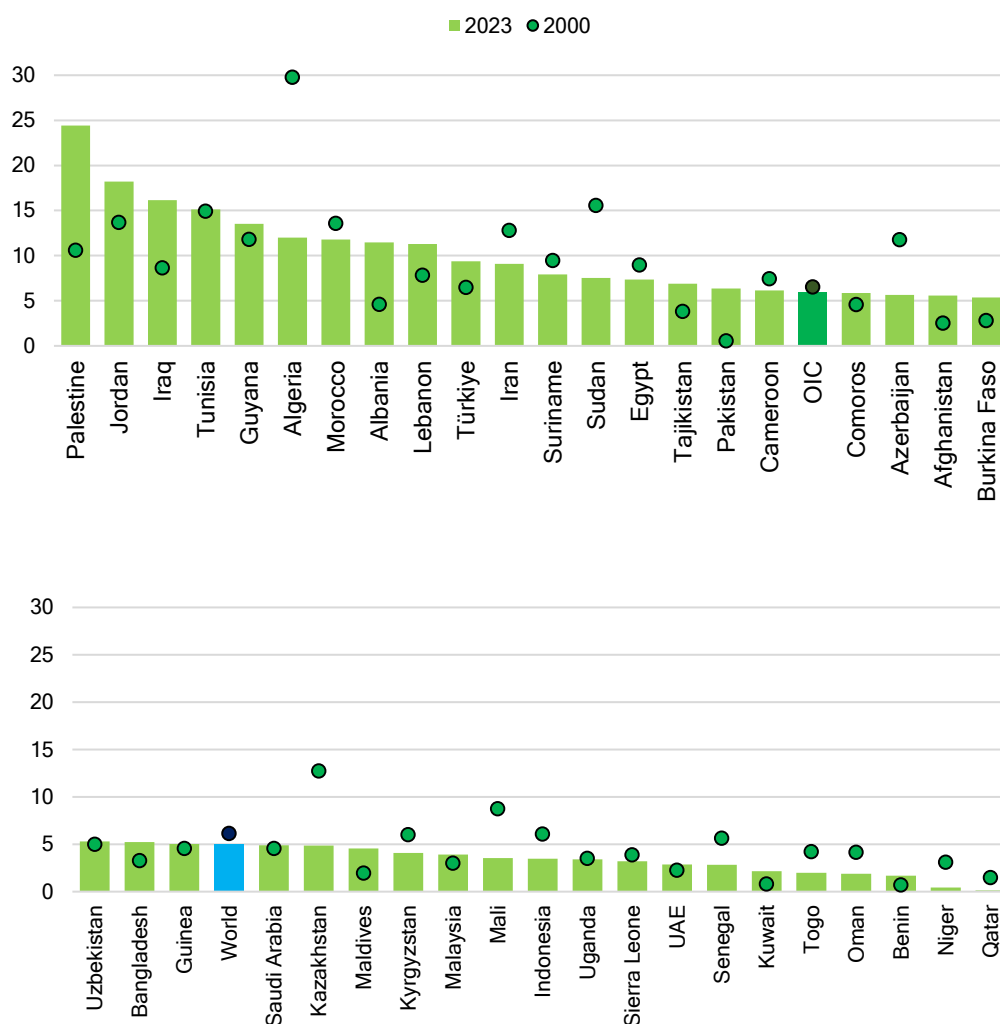
The unemployment rate was below 5% in 17 OIC countries (Qatar, Niger, Benin, Oman, Togo, Kuwait, Senegal, United Arab Emirates, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Indonesia, Mali, Malaysia, Kyrgyzstan, The Maldives, Kazakhstan, and Saudi Arabia). However, it was alarming in nine OIC countries, with over 10% based on the latest year available data (from 2016 to 2023) (Figure 22).

**Despite great improvement in share of adults with bank accounts, more than half of OIC residents still lack an account at a financial institution**

Proportion of adults with an account at a financial institution or mobile-money-service provider is the percentage of adults (ages 15+) who report having an account (by themselves or together with someone else) at a bank or another type of financial institution or personally using a mobile money service in the past 12 months.

**Figure 23:** Proportion of Adults with an Account at a Financial Institution or Mobile-Money-Service Provider (%), Ages 15+, Both Sexes, 2011 vs. 2022
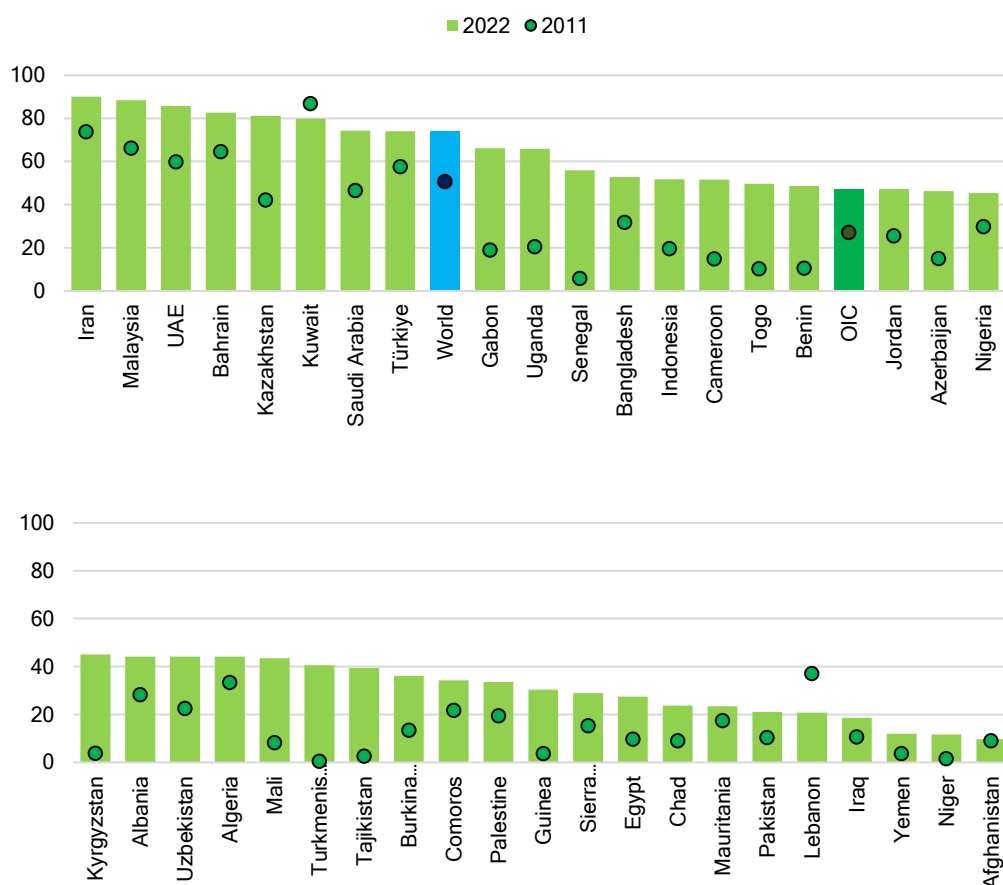
Access to formal financial services such as transactions, payments, savings, credit and insurances is essential to the ability of people to manage their lives, build their futures, and grow their businesses regardless of their income level, gender, age, education or where they live. Having access to an account at a financial institution is an important starting point for people to access a range of financial services (UNSD, SDG metadata).

Between 2011 and 2022, the proportion of the OIC's adult population with an account at a financial institution or a mobile money service increased from 27% to 47.2%, a 20-percentage points increase based on data available on 42 OIC countries. Despite this improvement, the OIC average was still under that of the world, which increased from 50.6% to 73.9% in the same period (Figure 23).

The OIC countries group has made the greatest progress towards expanding access to banking, insurance and financial services for all. Out of 42 OIC countries, 19 countries are on-track to meet the target rate of 100% by 2030 based on the pace of progress since 2011. However, the progress for 23 OIC countries is not enough to achieve this target with their available trends. Moreover, from 2011 to 2022, two countries experienced a regression. These countries need to fast-track progress.

# SDG 9. Build Resilient Infrastructure, Promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization and Foster Innovation

Investments in physical and digital infrastructure, including transport, irrigation, energy and information and communication technologies (ICTs) are crucial for achieving sustainable and inclusive development. Empirical studies indicate that investment in infrastructure has a strong relationship with growth in productivity and income as well as improvements in health and education. In this regard, SDG 9 calls for building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and fostering research and innovation.

To boost the development level of OIC countries and catch the others in different areas, advancing the infrastructure of the member countries is essential. Though there has been a progress recorded at the OIC level on some of the indicators under SDG 9, these remain mostly at moderate levels and are projected not to achieve the targets by 2030.

## Significant investment is needed in OIC countries to boost technological progress and economic growth

Manufacturing value added (MVA) as a proportion of GDP is a ratio of MVA to GDP. Researchers and policy makers widely use MVA to assess the level of industrialization of a country. The share of MVA in GDP reflects the level of national development of a country in general, as manufacturing is one of the principal engines of economic development (UNSD, SDG metadata).

In the period 2000-2022, the MVA as a proportion of GDP saw a slight decrease in both the OIC and the world, by 0.7 and 1.3 percentage points, respectively. However, within the OIC-LDCs, this proportion moderately increased by 5.9 percentage points, rising from 11.5% to 17.4%. Despite this improvement in OIC-LDCs, the target of significantly raising industry's share of gross domestic product and doubling its share in the OIC-LDCs is not expected to be achieved by 2030 with this pace of progress recorded so far. Therefore, OIC countries need significant levels of investment to boost their technological progress and economic growth. Furthermore, in 2022, only six of the 57 OIC countries had a ratio above 20%, while in 10 countries, the ratio was below 5% (Figure 24).

**Figure 24:** Manufacturing Value Added as a Proportion of GDP (Current Prices in USD) (%), 2000 vs. 2022
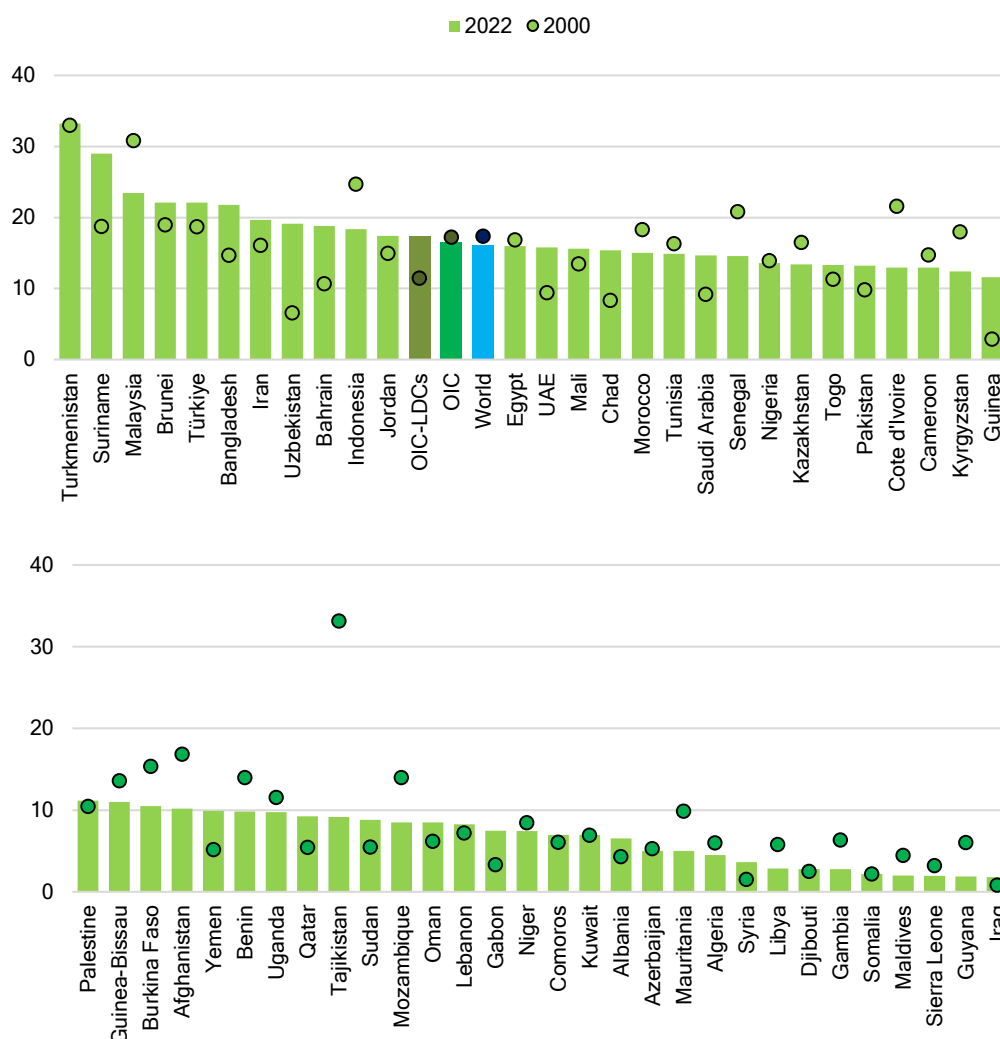
## Carbon dioxide emissions intensity of manufacturing in OIC countries group shows a downward trend

Carbon dioxide emissions per unit of MVA show the ratio between $CO_2$ emissions from fuel combustion and MVA. It is measured in kilogrammes (kg) of $CO_2$ equivalent per unit of MVA in constant 2015 USD. $CO_2$ emissions per unit of MVA measure the carbon intensity of the manufacturing economic output and its trends. Even though manufacturing industries are generally improving their emission intensity as countries move to higher levels of industrialization, emission

intensities can also be reduced through structural changes and product diversification in manufacturing (UNSD, SDG metadata).

In 2021, $CO_2$ emissions per unit of MVA in OIC countries were estimated at 0.7 kg $CO_2$ per USD (constant 2015 USD), reflecting a decline of 0.3 kg from 2000. The global average for $CO_2$ emissions per unit of MVA was 0.4 kg $CO_2$ per USD in 2020, down from 0.5 kg in 2000 (Figure 25).

**Figure 25:** Carbon Dioxide Emissions per Unit of MVA (Kg of $CO_2$ per Constant 2015 USD), 2000 vs. 2021
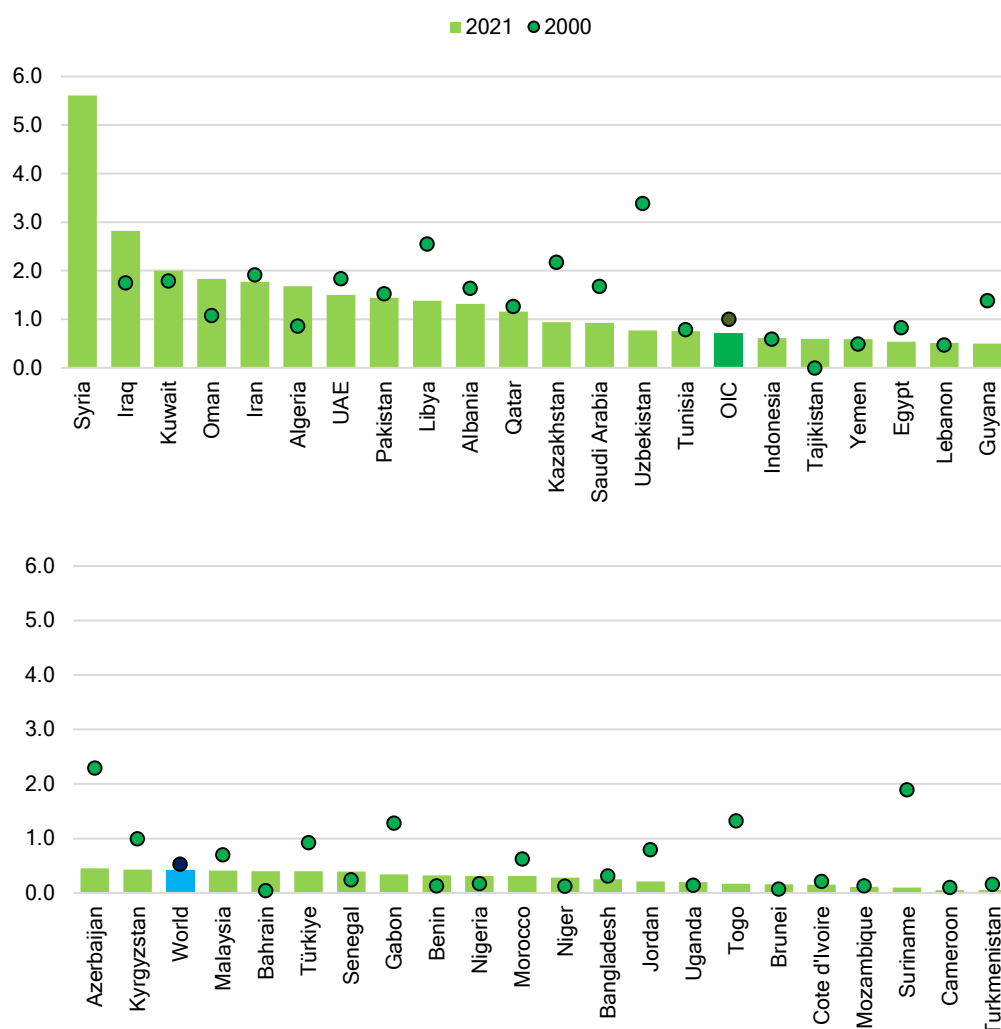
Between 2000 and 2021, majority of OIC countries decreased their $CO_2$ emissions per unit of MVA. Out of 42 OIC countries with available data, $CO_2$ emissions per

unit of MVA decreased in 27 countries. In 2021, while 11 OIC countries had over 1 kg of $CO_2$ emission per unit of MVA, 10 of them were between 0.5 and 1 kg of $CO_2$ emission per unit of MVA, and 21 OIC countries were below 0.5 kg of $CO_2$ emission per unit of MVA (Figure 25).

## Although research and development expenditures are on the rise, all OIC countries lag behind the world average

Research and development (R&D) expenditure as a proportion of GDP is the amount of gross domestic spending on R&D divided by the total output of the economy. As a key enabling factor for sustainable and inclusive growth, it is a vital contributor to human capital development by creating knowledge and improving skills to devise cutting-edge solutions (UNSD, SDG metadata). The OIC economies can increase their competitiveness with other countries and regions by strengthening their scientific and technological infrastructure.

**Figure 26:** Research and Development Expenditure as a Proportion of GDP (%), 2000 vs. 2022
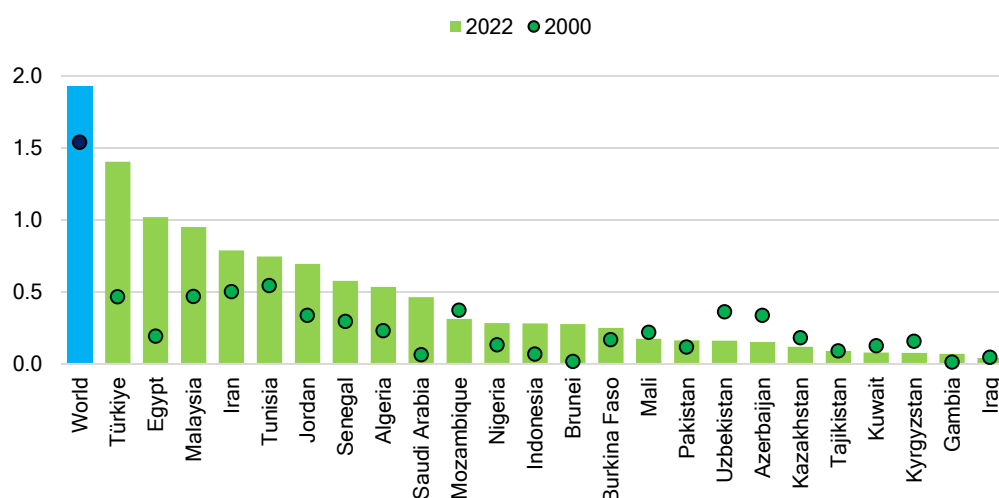


**Source:** Data extracted on 01/07/2024 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) and the UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database.

R&D expenditures are on the rise across OIC countries, 16 out of 24 OIC countries with available data increased their R&D spending share in GDP between 2000 and 2022. Notably, two OIC countries (Türkiye and Egypt) have R&D spending exceeding 1% of GDP. However, all OIC countries with available data still lag behind the global average in R&D spending as a proportion of GDP in 2022 (Figure 26). Thus, more concerted efforts in R&D are urgently needed to enhance the research capabilities of OIC countries.

## Despite improvements, OIC countries showed considerable variation in higher-technology manufacturing

The proportion of medium-high and high-technology (MHT) industry value added in total MVA is a ratio value between the value added of MHT industry and MVA. Industrial development requires a structural transition from resource-based and low-technology activities to MHT activities. A modern, highly complex production structure based on R&D and innovation offers better opportunities for skills development and economic growth. MHT activities, in this regard, are the high-value addition industries of manufacturing. The increasing share of MHT sectors reflects both the impact of innovation and R&D activities (UNSD, SDG metadata).

**Figure 27:** Proportion of MHT Industry Value Added in Total MVA (%), 2000 vs. 2021
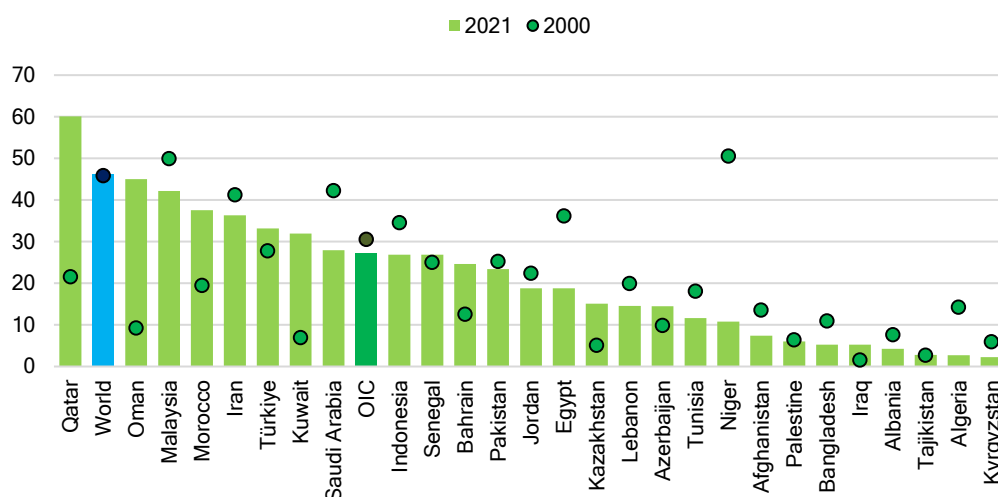


**Source:** SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 01/07/2024 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat) and the UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database. Please see Appendix 1 for details.

The share of MHT industries in total MVA decreased from 30.5% in 2000 to 27.2% in 2021 among OIC countries. In contrast, the global share increased slightly, from 45.8% in 2000 to 46.2% in 2021 (Figure 27). As the world average is much higher than the OIC average, strong and efficient policy support for R&D and innovation activities is required in OIC countries in order to reduce the development disparities between OIC countries and the rest of the world.

At the country level, the proportion of MHT industries in total MVA increased 10 percentage points or more in six OIC countries (Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Morocco, Bahrain, and Kazakhstan). Overall, while the share of MHT manufacturing increased in 11 OIC countries, it decreased in 16 OIC countries during the 2000-

2021 period based on data available for 27 OIC countries. Only Qatar had a share of MHT manufacturing higher than the world average in 2021. As these figures reveal, accelerated actions need to be taken by OIC countries to support MHT industries for sustainable technological progress.

## Coverage by a mobile cellular signal has become almost universal in many OIC countries

Proportion of population covered by a mobile network refers to the percentage of people living within range of a mobile-cellular signal, irrespective of whether or not they are mobile phone subscribers/users. Third-generation mobile technology (3G) provides increasingly high-speed, reliable, and high-quality access to the Internet and its increasing amount of information, content, services, and applications. In this regard, higher-speed mobile networks are essential for overcoming infrastructure barriers, helping people join the information society, and benefiting from the potential of ICTs, particularly in the least developed and rural areas (UNSD, SDG metadata).

Mobile cellular services have spread much faster than anticipated. Between 2010 and 2022, 3G network coverage almost tripled to reach 90% of the total OIC population. However, in 2022, about 95% of the world population is covered by at least a 3G mobile network.

At the country level, at least 95% of people in 30 OIC countries accessed the Internet through at least a 3G network by 2022. Moreover, this proportion was between 50% and 95% in 23 OIC countries, and it was below 50% in four OIC countries (Figure 28).

The same expansion trend is observed for the 4G mobile networks. The proportion of the population covered by at least a 4G mobile network (%)—which refers to the percentage of inhabitants living within the range of LTE/LTE-Advanced, mobile WiMAX/WirelessMAN, or other advanced mobile-cellular networks, regardless of whether they are subscribers—increased from 12% to 82% of the total OIC population during this period. In 2022, 90% of the global population had access to a 4G mobile network.

However, living within the range of mobile-cellular networks across OIC countries does not mean that all people are able to take advantage of them. Greater efforts are still needed to expand, particularly the coverage of 3G or higher-quality networks to rural and remote parts of the areas in all member countries. Moreover, these services need to be provided to the most disadvantaged and at-risk population groups at affordable prices.

**Figure 28:** Proportion of Population Covered by at least a 3G Mobile Network (%), 2000 vs. 2022
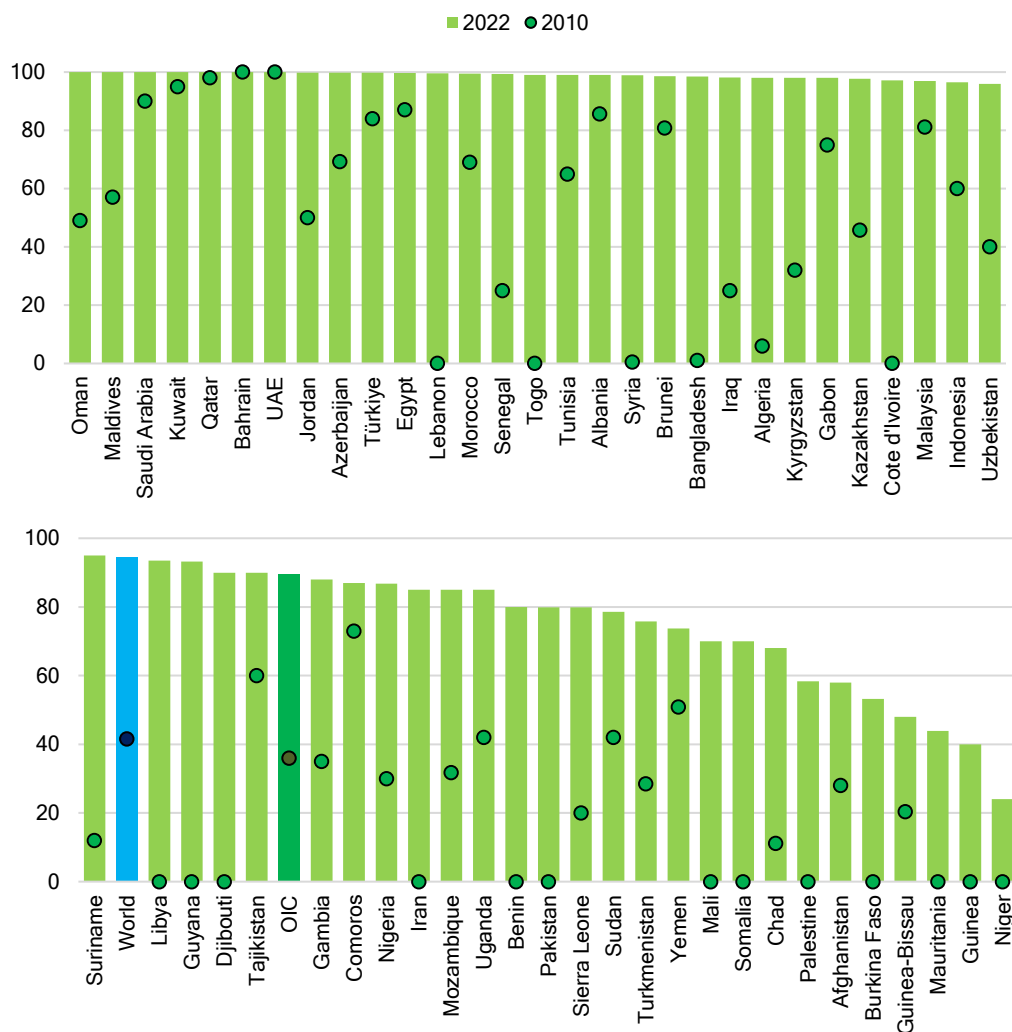
# SDG 13: Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and Its Impacts

The climate crisis worldwide continues to occur as the global community shies away from the full commitment required to reverse the worsening situation. Failure in global efforts to mitigate the numerous human activities from pollution, deforestation, and other environmentally unfriendly activities continues to intensify the frequency and severity of natural disasters, leading to loss of lives, disruption of livelihoods and economic losses.

In order to take urgent action, SDG 13 emphasizes combating climate change and its impacts by 2030. The adoption of the Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 in 2015 by countries is in pursuance of this goal and envisages a sustainable environment and climate-resilient economies and societies by 2030.

The Cancun Agreement in 2010 was the first United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) document to mention a limit to global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels (UNFCCC, 2010). The UN Climate Action Summit also recognizes that stabilising the global average temperature at 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels is the socially, economically, politically and scientifically safe limit to global warming (UN, 2019). Against this background, all countries need to scale up their efforts in reducing emissions in all sectors to avoid a climate catastrophe in our planet.

## Number of directly affected persons attributed to disasters has varied widely in OIC countries

Every year, natural disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, landslides, hurricanes, floods, wildfires, heat waves, and droughts occur worldwide. Their occurrences often result in the destruction of the physical, biological and social environment, which in turn have a far-reaching impact on the survival, well-being and health of the affected people.

One of the important indicators for studying this phenomenon is the number of people directly affected by disasters per 100,000 population. This refers to the number of people who have suffered injury, illness or other health effects; who were evacuated, displaced, relocated or have suffered direct damage to their livelihoods, economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets by disasters expressed per 100,000 population (UNSD, SDG metadata).

The number of directly affected persons attributed to disasters per 100,000 population has varied greatly in OIC countries between 2005 and 2022. Based on last year available data for 44 OIC countries, the number of people affected by disasters remained considerably high above 1,000 per 100,000 persons in 11 OIC countries in 2022. Followed by another set of 11 OIC countries whose figures were in hundreds and it was below 100 per 100,000 persons in 22 OIC countries.

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# Appendices

## Appendix 1: Technical Notes

The estimations found in this report are based on the data accessed from the UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database and duly considered the SDG Indicators Metadata Repository.

Weighted aggregate values of indicators are preferred at the OIC level to provide more robust estimates, although when the weighted estimations are not possible, arithmetic averages are used to provide a meaningful picture.

When data on a defined SDG indicator is not sufficiently available, we have selected two reference points, laying furthest away from each other over the period from 2000 to 2023, in order to estimate the progress towards SDGs.

Two reference points are the base year, which is generally 2000, and the last year, 2023. For the base year, in the cases where 2000 data is not available, the earliest data from 2001 to 2010 was used. For generating data for the reference year 2023, in the cases where 2023 data is not available, the latest year data, starting from 2022 to 2015, was used to focus on progress made in recent years. The dataset generated through the aforementioned method was also used to calculate the OIC aggregate values.

## Selection of indicators

Indicators for each SDG were selected based on the following criteria:

- Data should be available for 28 OIC member countries out of 57 as much as possible.
- Data should be available for at least two time periods, the base year and the last year.
- Every target is represented at least by one indicator.
- Each goal is represented by at least three targets, except for SDGs 5, 12, and 13 (due to insufficient number of indicators).
- It should be among the indicators suggested by UNSD and made available at UNSD Global SDG Indicators Database.
- There should be clear and concise metadata.

## Goal Specific Notes and Exceptions

### SDG 1

**Figure 4:** OIC averages for "Proportion of Population below the International Poverty Line (%)" were estimated using the "Population, Total" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

**Figure 5:** OIC averages for "Proportion of Population above Statutory Pensionable Age Receiving a Pension (%)" were estimated using the "Population, Ages 65+" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

**Figure 6:** OIC averages for "Proportion of Population Using Basic Drinking Water Services (%)" were estimated using the "Population, Total" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

**Figure 7:** OIC averages for "Proportion of Total Government Spending on Essential Services, Education (%)" were estimated using the "General Government Final Consumption Expenditure, Current Prices (USD)" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

### SDG 2

**Figure 8:** OIC averages for "Prevalence of Undernourishment (%)" were estimated using the "Population, Total" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

**Figure 9:** OIC averages for "Proportion of Children Moderately or Severely Stunted (%)" were estimated using the "Population, Ages 0-4" as the weight accessed from the United Nations Population Division (UNPD), World Population Prospects.

### SDG 3

**Figure 11:** OIC averages for "Under-Five Mortality Rate, Both Sexes (per 1,000 Live Births)" were estimated using "Live Births Surviving to Age 1" as the weight accessed from the United Nations Population Division (UNPD), World Population Prospects.

**Figure 12:** OIC averages for "Adolescent Birth Rate, Ages 15-19, Female (Per 1,000 Women Aged 15-19 Years)" were estimated using "Population, Female, Ages 15-19" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

**Figure 13:** OIC averages for "Proportion of Target Population with Access to DTP3 Vaccine (%)" were estimated using "Population, Ages 0-1" as the weight

accessed from the United Nations Population Division (UNPD), World Population Prospects.

**Figure 14:** OIC averages for "Health Worker Density, Medical Doctors (per 10,000 Population)" were estimated using the "Population, Total" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

## SDG 4

**Figure 15:** OIC averages for "Completion Rate, Primary, Both Sexes (%)" were estimated using the "Population, Ages 15-19" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

**Figure 16:** OIC averages for "Participation Rate in Organized Learning (One Year Before the Official Primary Entry Age), Both Sexes (%)" were estimated using the "School Age Population, Pre-Primary Education, Both Sexes" as the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

**Figure 18:** OIC averages for "Proportion of Teachers in Primary Education who have Received at least the Minimum Organized Teacher Training, Both Sexes (%)" were estimated using the "Teachers, Primary Education, Both Sexes" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

## SDG 5

**Figure 19:** OIC averages for "Proportion of Seats Held by Women in National Parliaments (% of Total Number of Seats)" were estimated using "Total Number of Seats in the National Parliaments" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

## SDG 8

**Figure 20:** OIC averages for "Real GDP per capita" were computed by dividing "GDP, Constant 2015 Prices" by "Population, Total" all accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). The annual growth rate of real GDP per capita in year t+1 is then calculated using the following formula: $[(G(t+1) – G(t))/G(t)] \times 100$, where $G(t+1)$ is real GDP per capita in 2015 USD in year t+1 and $G(t)$ is real GDP per capita in 2015 USD in year t.

**Figure 21:** OIC averages for "Real GDP per Employed Person" were computed by dividing "GDP, Constant 2015 Prices" by "Employment, Total" all accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). The annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person in year t+1 is then calculated using the following formula: $[(G(t+1) – G(t))/G(t)] \times 100$, where $G(t+1)$ is real GDP per employed person in

2015 USD in year t+1 and G(t) is real GDP per employed person in 2015 USD in year t.

**Figure 22:** OIC averages for "Unemployment Rate" were estimated using "Labour Force, Total" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

**Figure 23:** OIC averages for "Proportion of Adults with an Account at a Financial Institution or Mobile-Money-Service Provider (%), Ages 15+, Both Sexes" were estimated using "Population, Ages 15+" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

## SDG 9

**Figure 24:** OIC averages for "Manufacturing Value Added as a Proportion of GDP (Current Prices in USD) (%)" were estimated using "GDP, Current Prices (USD)" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

**Figure 25:** OIC averages for "Carbon Dioxide Emissions per Unit of MVA (Kg of $CO_2$ per Constant 2015 USD)" were estimated using "Manufacturing, Value Added, Constant 2015 Prices (USD)" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). Data for Syria for 2000 (19) is not shown in the figure due to its outlier nature.

**Figure 27:** OIC averages for "Proportion of MHT Industry Value Added in Total MVA (%)" were estimated using "Manufacturing, Value Added, Current Prices (USD)" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

**Figure 28:** OIC averages for "Proportion of Population Covered by at least a 3G Mobile Network (%)" were estimated using "Population, Ages 15+" data as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

## Appendix 2: List of Indicators Selected for Assessment and Methodology of Progress towards the SDGs

**Goal 1:** End poverty in all its forms everywhere

| Sub-theme | Source | Indicator | Target Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| Extreme poverty | SDG | Proportion of population below international poverty line (%) | 0 |
| Social protection | SDG | Proportion of population above statutory pensionable age receiving a pension, both sexes (%) | 100 |
| Access to basic services | SDG | Proportion of population using basic drinking water services (%) | 100 |
| | SDG | Proportion of population using basic sanitation services (%) | 100 |
| Resilience to disasters | SDG | Directly affected persons attributed to disasters (per 100,000 population) | None |
| | SDG | Direct economic loss attributed to disasters relative to GDP (%) | None |
| Resources mobilization for education | SDG | Proportion of total government spending on essential services, education [UIS methodology] (%) | None |

**Goal 2:** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

| Sub-theme | Source | Indicator | Target Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| Undernourishment and food insecurity | SDG | Prevalence of undernourishment (%) | 2.5 |
| | SDG | Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the all ages, both sexes (%) | 2.5 |
| Malnutrition | SDG | Proportion of children moderately or severely stunted, ages <5Y (%) | 0 |
| | SDG | Proportion of children moderately or severely overweight, ages <5Y (%) | 0 |
| | SDG | Proportion of children moderately or severely wasted, ages <5Y (%) | 0 |
| Investment in agriculture | SDG | Agriculture orientation index for government expenditures | None |

**Goal 3:** Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

| Sub-theme | Source | Indicator | Target Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| Maternal mortality | SDG | Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births) | 70 |
| Child mortality | SDG | Under-five mortality rate, both sexes (per 1,000 live births) | 25 |
| | SDG | Neonatal mortality rate, both sexes (per 1,000 live births) | 12 |
| Communicable diseases | SDG | New HIV infections, all ages, both sexes (per 1,000 population) | 0 |
| | SDG | Tuberculosis incidence (per 100,000 population) | 0 |
| | SDG | Malaria incidence, population at risk (per 1,000 population) | 0 |
| Non-communicable diseases and mental health | SDG | Mortality rate attributed to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes or chronic respiratory disease (probability), ages 30-70, both sexes (%) | Reducing at least by one third |
| | SDG | Suicide mortality rate, both sexes (per 100,000 population) | None |
| Alcohol consumption | SDG | Alcohol consumption per capita within a calendar year, ages 15+, both sexes (litres of pure alcohol) | None |
| Road traffic deaths | SDG | Death rate due to road traffic injuries, both sexes (per 100,000 population) | Reducing at least by half |
| Reproductive health | SDG | Proportion of women of reproductive age who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods, ages 15-49 (%) | 100 |
| | SDG | Adolescent Birth Rate, Ages 15-19, Female (per 1,000 women aged 15-19) | 0 |
| Health coverage | SDG | Universal health coverage (UHC) service coverage index | 100 |
| Unintentional poisoning deaths | SDG | Mortality rate attributed to unintentional poisonings, both sexes (per 100,000 population) | None |

| Sub-theme | Source | Indicator | Target Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tobacco control | SDG | Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons, ages 15+, both sexes (%) | None |
| Immunization coverage | SDG | Proportion of the target population with access to 3 doses of Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis (%) | 100 |
| | SDG | Proportion of the target population with access to Measles-Containing-Vaccine second-dose (%) | 100 |
| | SDG | Proportion of the target population with access to Pneumococcal Conjugate 3rd dose (%) | 100 |
| Health worker density | SDG | Health worker density, dentists (per 10,000 population) | None |
| | SDG | Health worker density, medical doctors (per 10,000 population) | None |
| | SDG | Health worker density, nursing and midwifery personnel (per 10,000 population) | None |
| | SDG | Health worker density, pharmacists (per 10,000 population) | None |

**Goal 4:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

| Sub-theme | Source | Indicator | Target Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| Completion rate | SDG | Completion rate, primary, both sexes (%) | 100 |
| | SDG | Completion rate, lower secondary, both sexes (%) | 100 |
| | SDG | Completion rate, upper secondary, both sexes (%) | 100 |
| Participation in early childhood education | SDG | Participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age), both sexes (%) | 100 |

| Sub-theme | Source | Indicator | Target Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| Equal access to education | SDG | Adjusted gender parity index for participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age) | 1 |
| | SDG | Adjusted gender parity index for completion rate, primary | 1 |
| | SDG | Adjusted gender parity index for completion rate, lower secondary | 1 |
| | SDG | Adjusted gender parity index for completion rate, upper secondary | 1 |
| Qualified teachers | SDG | Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications, pre-primary, both sexes (%) | None |
| | SDG | Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications, primary, both sexes (%) | None |
| | SDG | Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications, lower secondary, both sexes (%) | None |
| | SDG | Proportion of teachers with the minimum required qualifications, upper secondary, both sexes (%) | None |

**Goal 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

| Sub-theme | Source | Indicator | Target Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| Women in leadership | SDG | Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (% of total number of seats) | None |
| | SDG | Proportion of women in managerial positions (%) | None |

**Goal 6:** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

| Sub-theme | Source | Indicator | Target Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| Safe drinking water | SDG | Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%) | 100 |
| | SDG | Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%) | 100 |
| Access to hygiene | SDG | Proportion of population with basic handwashing facilities on premises (%) | 100 |
| | SDG | Proportion of population practicing open defecation (%) | 0 |
| | SDG | Water use efficiency (USD per m$^3$) | None |
| Water-use efficiency | SDG | Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources (%) | None |

**Goal 7:** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

| Sub-theme | Source | Indicator | Target Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| Access to energy services | SDG | Proportion of population with access to electricity (%) | 100 |
| Renewable energy share | SDG | Renewable energy share in the total final energy consumption (%) | None |
| Energy efficiency | SDG | Energy intensity level of primary energy (megajoules per constant 2017 PPP GDP) | Reducing at least by half |
| Investing in renewable energy infrastructure | SDG | Installed renewable electricity per capita, generating capacity, all renewables (watts) | None |

**Goal 8:** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

| Sub-theme | Source | Indicator | Target Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| Per capita economic growth | SDG | Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita (%) | OIC-LDCs: 7 Non OIC-LDCs: 5 |
| Growth in labour productivity | SDG | Annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person (%) | OIC-LDCs: 7 Non OIC-LDCs: 5 |
| Resource efficiency in consumption | SDG | Domestic material consumption per capita, all raw materials (tonnes) | None |
| Unemployment rate | SDG | Unemployment rate, ages 15+, both sexes (%) | None |
| Youth NEET | SDG | Proportion of youth not in education, employment or training, ages 15-24, both sexes (%) | None |
| Access to financial services | SDG | Proportion of adults with an account at a financial institution or mobile-money-service provider, ages 15+, both sexes (%) | 100 |

**Goal 9:** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

| Sub-theme | Source | Indicator | Target Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| Industry's share of employment and GDP | SDG | Manufacturing value added (current prices USD) as a proportion of GDP (%) | OIC-LDCs: Doubling the share Non OIC-LDCs: None |
| | SDG | Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment (%) | OIC-LDCs: Doubling the share Non OIC-LDCs: None |
| Carbon dioxide emissions | SDG | Carbon dioxide emissions per unit of manufacturing value added (kg of $CO_2$ per constant 2015 USD) | None |

| Sub-theme | Source | Indicator | Target Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| Research and development | SDG | Research and development expenditure as a proportion of GDP (%) | None |
| | SDG | Researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants | None |
| High-tech manufacturing | SDG | Proportion of medium and high-tech industry value added in total value added (%) | None |
| Third-generation (3G) mobile coverage | SDG | Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, 3G (%) | None |

## Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

| Sub-theme | Source | Indicator | Target Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| Economic inclusion | SDG | Proportion of people living below 50 percent of median income (%) | None |
| Income inequality | SDG | Labour share of GDP (%) | None |
| Refugees by country of origin | SDG | Refugees by country of origin (per 100,000 population) | None |
| Remittance costs | SDG | Average remittance costs of sending $200 to a receiving country as a proportion of the amount remitted (%) | 3 |

## Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

| Sub-theme | Source | Indicator | Target Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| Housing and basic services | SDG | Proportion of urban population living in slums (%) | 0 |
| Resilience to disasters | SDG | Directly affected persons attributed to disasters (per 100,000 population) | None |
| | SDG | Direct economic loss attributed to disasters relative to GDP (%) | None |
| Air quality | SDG | Annual mean levels of fine particulate matter, total (micrograms per m$^3$) | None |

**Goal 12:** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

| Sub-theme | Source | Indicator | Target Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| Resource efficiency in consumption | SDG | Domestic material consumption per capita, all raw materials (tonnes) | None |
| Investing in renewable energy infrastructure | SDG | Installed renewable electricity per capita, generating capacity, all renewables (watts) | None |

**Goal 13:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

| Sub-theme | Source | Indicator | Target Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| Resilience to disasters | SDG | Directly affected persons attributed to disasters (per 100,000 population) | None |
| | SDG | Direct economic loss attributed to disasters relative to GDP (%) | None |

**Goal 14:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

| Sub-theme | Source | Indicator | Target Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| Marine pollution | SDG | Chlorophyll-a deviations, remote sensing (%) | None |
| Marine conservation | SDG | Average proportion of marine key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas (%) | None |
| Sustainable fisheries | SDG | Sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP (%) | None |

**Goal 15:** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
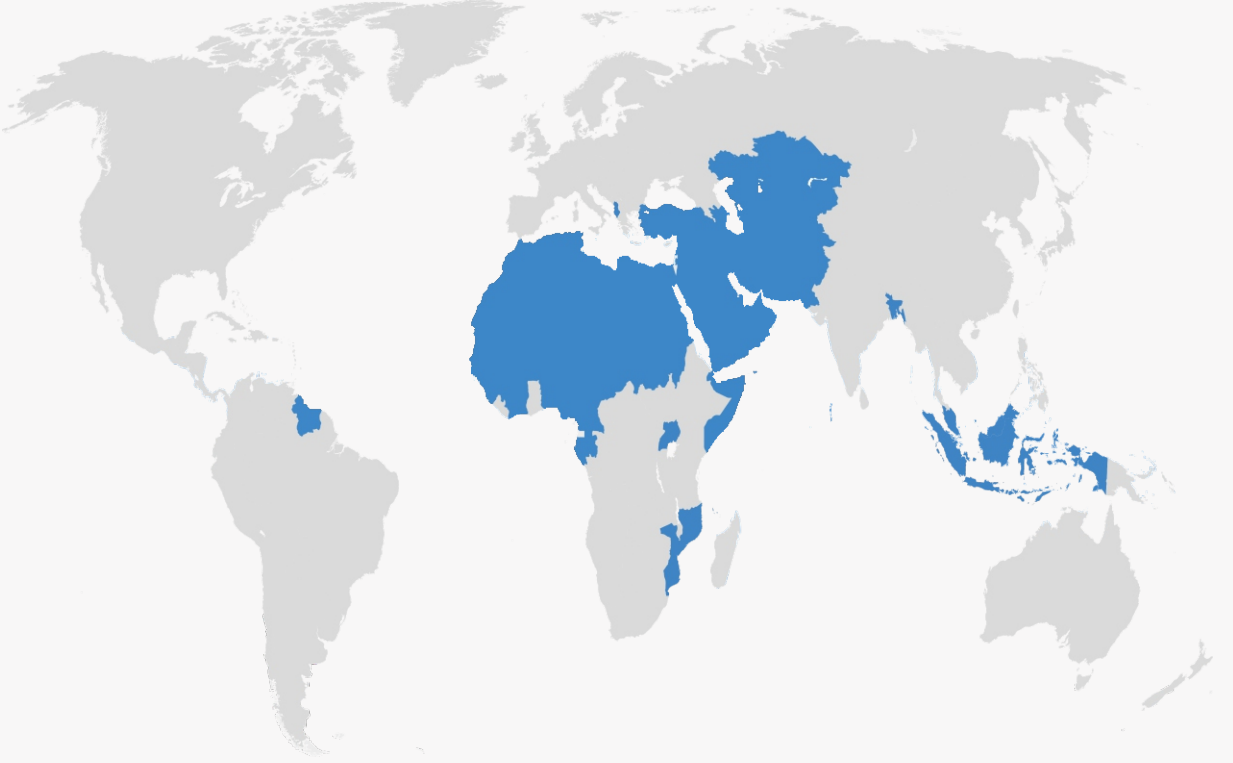
| Sub-theme | Source | Indicator | Target Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| Terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems | SDG | Forest area as a proportion of total land area (%) | None |
| | SDG | Average proportion of freshwater key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas (%) | None |
| | SDG | Average proportion of terrestrial key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas (%) | None |
| Sustainable forest management | SDG | Above-ground biomass in forest per hectare | None |
| | SDG | Proportion of forest area with a long-term management plan (%) | None |
| | SDG | Proportion of forest area within legally established protected areas (%) | None |
| Mountain ecosystems | SDG | Average proportion of mountain key biodiversity areas covered by protected areas (%) | None |
| Extinction risk for species | SDG | Red list index | 1 |

**Goal 16:** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

| Sub-theme | Source | Indicator | Target Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| Intentional homicides | SDG | Victims of intentional homicide, both sexes (per 100,000 population) | None |
| Unsentenced detainees | SDG | Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population (%) | None |
| Bribery | SDG | Bribery incidence, % of firms experiencing at least one bribe payment request | None |
| Government expenditure | SDG | Primary Government Expenditures as a Proportion of Original Approved Budget (%) | None |

**Goal 17:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

| Sub-theme | Source | Indicator | Target Value |
|---|---|---|---|
| Domestic budget funded by domestic taxes | SDG | Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes (%) | None |
| Debt service | SDG | Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services (%) | None |
| Worldwide weighted tariff-average | SDG | Worldwide weighted tariff-average, most-favoured-nation status, total or no breakdown products (%) | None |
| | SDG | Worldwide weighted tariff-average, preferential status, total or no breakdown products (%) | None |
| FDI inflows | SDG | Foreign direct investment, net inflows, as a proportion of GDP (%) | None |