TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF PRIORITISED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN OIC COUNTRIES 2022

Towards the Achievement of Prioritised Sustainable Development Goals in OIC Countries 2022

A Progress Report by SESRIC

ORGANISATION OF ISLAMIC COOPERATION

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

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Abbreviations

3G	Third Generation Mobile Technology
AOI	Agriculture Orientation Index
CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
EAGR	Exponential Annual Growth Rate
ESCAP	UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNI	Gross National Income
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
ICTs	Information and Communication Technologies
ILO	International Labour Organization
Kyrgyz Rep.	Kyrgyz Republic
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MHT	Medium-High and High-Technology Industry
MVA	Manufacturing Value Added
NEET	Not in Education, Employment, or Training
NMR	Neonatal Mortality Rate
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
SMEs	Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
TB	Tuberculosis
U5MR	Under-Five Mortality Rate
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
USD	United States Dollars
WHO	World Health Organization

Foreword

This is the fourth edition of the SESRIC report series on monitoring the progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the OIC member countries since 2019. The Report provides a quantitative assessment of the progress made by the OIC member countries group towards reaching the eight prioritised SDGs (SDGs 1-5, 8-9, and 13) based on the most recent available data. In addition to the prioritised SDGs, this edition of the Report summarizes the progress towards the remaining nine SDGs, namely SDGs 6-7, 10-12, and 14-17.

In parallel to the findings of the previous three editions, this edition also confirms that the OIC countries, as a group, would not be able to meet any of the SDGs by 2030 if they continue with the current pace of progress. However, the Report indicates some of the achievements of the OIC countries, as a group, particularly in ensuring healthy lives and educational attainment. For instance, the average child mortality rate declined from 98 to 55 deaths per 1,000 live births between 2000 and 2020. The average completion rates in primary and secondary education levels have also increased while the majority of the member countries have achieved gender parity in school education.

Yet, despite the progress made in these areas, many challenges remain in other vital areas, particularly in decent work and economic growth. For example, the average annual growth rate of real GDP per capita of the OIC least-developed countries (OIC-LDCs) group was less than half the target rate of 7%. Moreover, in 2021, more than one fifth of youth in 25 out of 30 OIC countries, for which the data are available, were not engaged in employment nor in education and training.

The Report also underscores the deceleration in the progress of OIC countries towards the achievement of the prioritised SDGs, not only due to the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic but also due to the escalating conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Considering the pre-pandemic period data, the OIC countries, as a group, were already off track towards the achievement of the SDGs. Despite the efforts to recover from the pandemic, the recently emerged global crises, such as the Russia-Ukraine war, continue to wipe away the progress recorded by the OIC countries and put them further off track towards the achievement of the SDGs.

I hope that the extensive and in-depth analysis presented in this Report will inspire the OIC countries and development partners to work together and collectively take actions as we have been left with less than eight years for the deadline of achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Nebil DABUR
Director General
SESRIC

Executive Summary

The 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. To enrich the content and scope of the Report, this year's Report includes all SDGs beside the aforementioned eight prioritised SDGs.

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 2021 (or the latest year from 2015 to 2021).

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), and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), 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), SDG 15 (life on land), and SDG 17 (partnerships), stagnant progress has been recorded for the OIC countries group putting them off track to achieve these six 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 accessible on the United Nations Statistics Division's (UNSD) Global SDG Indicators Database.

Goal 1: No Poverty

The OIC countries group has demonstrated moderate progress in eliminating extreme and other forms of poverty. In the 2000s, the OIC countries group had around 30.6% of their population living on less than 1.90 USD a day based on the data available for 31 OIC countries. By 2021, this percentage decreased to 12.4% of the population. Despite significant improvements, progress is insufficient to end extreme poverty for all people in the OIC by 2030.

The proportion of population receiving at least one social protection benefit in the OIC countries group was estimated as 25.1% in 2020, which is only around half of the world average (46.9%). Only six OIC countries (Guyana, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Bahrain, and Tunisia) had over 50% coverage which was above the global average.

In 2020, 32 OIC countries have provided access to basic drinking water services for more than 90% of their population which was above the world average. If the current trend of progress continues, by 2030, seven more OIC countries are expected to provide more than 90% of their populations with access to basic drinking water facilities.

The OIC countries group has increased their education spending as a proportion of total public spending from 14% in 2000 to over 15% in 2021, and achieved the target set by the Incheon Declaration. On the other hand, the number of OIC countries with education expenditures within the range of 15%-20% of total public spending or above was 28 in 2000, which then slightly dropped to 25 countries in 2021.

Goal 2: Zero Hunger

The OIC countries showed a stagnant progress towards SDG 2 putting the goal out of reach by 2030. Over the period from 2001 to 2019, the prevalence of undernourishment in the OIC countries as a group has fallen from 15.4% to 11% of the total population.

The proportion of children moderately or severely stunted in the OIC countries group decreased from 39.5% to 28.3% between 2000 and 2020. Although stunting, wasting, and being overweight in children have been declining, the 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 a moderate progress towards attaining SDG 3, nonetheless the progress observed is not sufficient to achieve the goal by 2030. Emergence of 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 has achieved a considerable progress in decreasing child mortality and neonatal mortality since 2000. The average under-5 mortality rate for the OIC countries group declined from 98 in 2000 to 55 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2020. Furthermore, a similar progress was recorded by the OIC countries group in decreasing the neonatal mortality rate from 36 to 23 deaths per 1,000 live births between 2000 and 2020. Such progresses, however, need to be maintained and further improved in order to achieve the related SDG 3 targets by 2030.

The universal health coverage (UHC) values in the OIC countries group improved between 2000 and 2019 from 37 to 57. Considerable improvement in the UHC service coverage index values were observed in 32 OIC countries over the past two decades with 20 points and above increases in their index values. However, the UHC service coverage index in the OIC countries also varied widely with a range of 52 points.

In 2020, the average of medical doctor density per 10, 000 population was 9 doctors. Among OIC countries, the medical doctor densities of only 15 OIC countries were higher than the global average (16.4). In 28 OIC countries, the densities of medical doctors per 10,000 population were below 10 and the situation is alarming in 15 OIC countries with less than 2 doctors 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 26 out of 46 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.

As of 2020, 17 OIC countries out of 29 countries have achieved a gender parity or disparity in favour of girls in primary education completion rate. Four more countries are estimated to achieve the gender parity by 2030. In lower secondary and upper secondary level education, gender parity or disparity in favour of girls in completion rate has been achieved by 13 and 11 OIC countries, respectively. Six more countries in lower secondary and eight more countries in upper secondary education are also expected to achieve the parity by 2030.

Participation in pre-primary education has increased from 53.9% to 66.8% in the OIC countries group from 2000 to 2020, and at the country level, eight out of 34 OIC countries with sufficient data have achieved participation rates between 90% and 100%. On the other hand, less than a quarter of children were enrolled in organised learning one year before official primary school entry age in eight OIC countries in 2020 (or most recent year). In this regard, many OIC countries need to intensify their efforts to ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood schooling and development.

There is as well an increasing need for qualified teachers in the OIC countries group. As of 2020, 19 out of 37 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 that received minimum required training have decreased in 12 OIC countries between 2000 and 2020. 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-LDCs will not be able to achieve the target of 7% GDP growth per annum unless their development pace accelerates notably. In the 2000-2020 period, the average annual growth rate of real GDP per capita was 2.1% for the entire OIC countries group and 2.6% for the OIC-LDCs group of 21 countries. Although these rates were over that of the world (1.5%), 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 — slowed after the financial crisis of 2008-2009 in the OIC region. The average rate was 1.4% between 2009 and 2021, compared to 2.9% between 2000 and 2008. Furthermore, the growth of labour productivity was over 5%, on average for only three OIC countries (Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Guyana) from 2000 to 2021. While 20 OIC countries were observed to have an average labour productivity growth between 2% and 5%, 18 member countries were observed to be between 0% and 2% in the same period. However, 15 OIC countries showed negative average labour productivity growth for the 2000-2021 period.

The average unemployment rate of the OIC countries group slightly decreased from 6.6% in 2000 to 6.5% in 2021 based on available data for 42 OIC countries. In this regard, the OIC countries group seems to miss the target of achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all by 2030 based on the pace of progress between 2000 and 2021.

As to the share of youth not in employment, education or training, it still remains high in the majority of OIC countries. In 25 of the 30 countries with data available, more than one fifth of youth is not engaged in employment, education or training. In other words, the talents and energy of one fifth of the youth in the OIC region are not being effectively used in contributing to the development of their countries.

Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

In the 2000-2020 period, manufacturing value added (MVA) as a proportion of GDP slightly decreased by 0.33 percentage point in the OIC countries group from 14.87% to 14.54%. Likewise, the world average also decreased 1.5 percentage points from 17.3% in 2000 to 15.8% in 2020. It is noteworthy to state that the OIC-LDCs group is not expected to achieve the target of doubling industry's share in their GDPs by 2030 with this slow pace of progress recorded so far. Thus, substantial levels of investment are still necessary in the OIC-LDCs to foster technological progress and economic growth.

Although research and development (R&D) expenditures have gained an increasing trend across the OIC countries in general, all OIC countries with available data yet lag behind the world average. While 0.6% of GDP was devoted to R&D by the OIC countries group, the worldwide expenditure on R&D reached 1.7% of the total GDP in 2018.

The share of MHT industries in total manufacturing value-added increased by 1.7 percentage points from 31.2% in 2000 to 32.9% in 2019 in the OIC countries group. In contrast, the world witnessed a decrease around 1.6 percentage points from 46.7% in 2000 to 45.1% in 2019. 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 the OIC countries in order to reduce the development disparities between the OIC countries and rest of the world.

A downward trend was observed in carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions intensity of manufacturing across the OIC countries. Experiencing a 0.2 kg decline from its level in 2000, the emissions per unit of MVA in constant 2015 USD was estimated as 0.8 kg in the OIC countries group in 2019. The world average of CO_2 emissions per unit of MVA was recorded as 0.4 kg CO_2 per USD in 2019 compared to its value of 0.5 kg in 2000.

Other 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), and peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16), the pace has not been strong enough to reach the goals by 2030. Meanwhile, progress across SDGs 10, 11, 15, and 17 at 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 in the form of a 4-arrow system given in Table 1 should be interpreted. The direction of the arrows shows whether the goals or targets are to be achieved by 2030 or earlier 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 that 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.

This year's Report covers all SDGs. 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 new available data. However, the availability of data is unbalanced across goals and the findings therefore may not reflect the full picture of progress towards the SDGs.

Table 1 indicates that the OIC countries group will not achieve any of the SDGs with available data 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), and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), 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), SDG 15 (life on land), and SDG 17 (partnerships), stagnant progress has been recorded for the OIC countries group putting them off track to achieve these six SDGs.

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 in future editions once data are available and accessible on the Global SDG Indicators Database maintained by the UNSD.

Table 1: Trend Visualisation of SDGs

SDGs	Prioritised SDG?	OIC 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 between 03/08/2022 and 28/09/2022 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

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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 is not promising in SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy) in the OIC countries group.

Second, the OIC has made very good 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, access to finance for SMEs, and high-tech manufacturing; the proportion of population covered by a third-generation mobile network seems to be on track in SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure). Moreover, the extinction risk across groups of species remains a threat in the OIC countries group in SDG 15 (life on land).

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 2021 or the latest year available before 2021 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. 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 (2022), ESCAP (2022), and the Sustainable Development Report (Sachs et al., 2022).

Table 2: Trend Visualisation of SDGs and Targets

SDGs	OIC Trend
Goal 1: No poverty	↗
Extreme poverty	↗
National poverty	→
Social protection	↗
Access to basic services	↗
Resilience to disasters	↗
Resources mobilization for education	→
Goal 2: Zero hunger	→
Undernourishment	→
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	↑
Schools with access to electricity	↑
Qualified teachers	↗

Table 2: Trend Visualization of SDGs and Indicators (cont.)

SDGs	OIC 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	→
Access to finance for SMEs	→
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 (cont.)

SDGs	OIC 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	↗
Human trafficking	→
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 between 03/08/2022 and 28/09/2022 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

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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:

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

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.

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 years 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:

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

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 the 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 2000-2020 is used as $EAGR_a$. The second exception is the annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person

indicator. 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, 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.

Similarly, 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
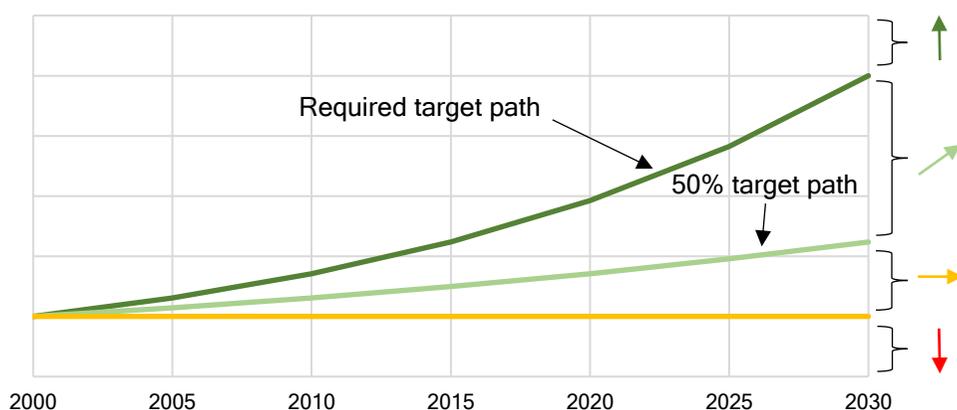
Method 2: Indicators without quantitative targets

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

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

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. It is based on the data from the first and the last years 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% per year or more 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".

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 (2022) with smaller thresholds. The methodology for indicators without quantitative targets is visualised in Figure 3.

Figure 3: SDGs Trends Methodology for Indicators without Quantitative Targets
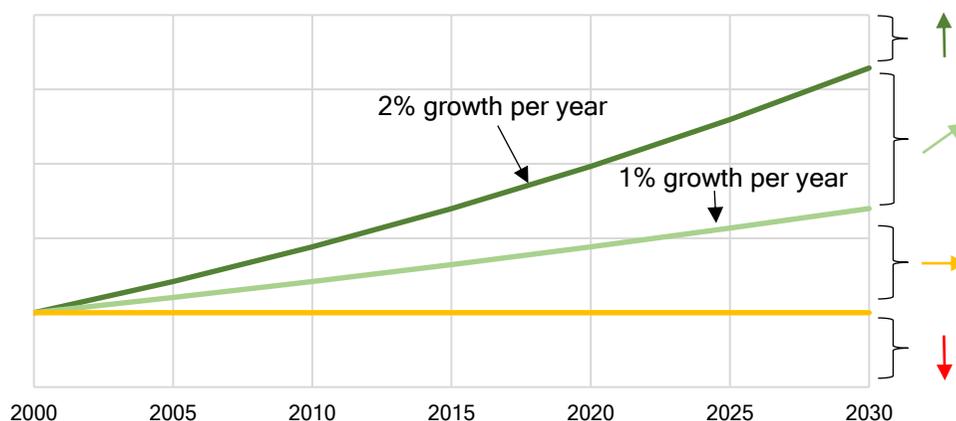
Method for calculating average scores at the goal level

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 re-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 re-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 the backbone of the problems associated with poor health, low education, and unemployment. As a result, the poor population loses the opportunities to exert their full potential, bring benefit to society, and achieve wellbeing in life. In the development economics literature, the widely used "poverty trap" theory postulates that low-income economies, particularly LDCs, have been stuck in the poverty circle. 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 cooperation across the sectors with a specific focus on education, social protection, and other universal primary needs of the people.

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 targets at eliminating extreme poverty in its all forms by 2030. SDG 1 calls for ensuring equal rights and access to resources for all groups of the population. It includes 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 creation of pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies.

Overall, OIC countries demonstrated a moderate progress in elimination of extreme and other forms of poverty covered in SDG 1 but this progress is not sufficient to achieve the goal of ending poverty in all its forms by 2030. Moreover, with the emergence of COVID-19, achievements of low-income countries and LDCs have seriously been deterred. Recently, poverty has resumed to its pre-pandemic downward trajectory but protracted impacts of the pandemic, Russia-Ukraine conflict, and high inflation rates are expected to bring between 75 million and 95 million more people to extreme poverty globally in 2022 compared to pre-COVID-19 projections (World Bank, 2022a).

More intensive efforts in poverty alleviation are essential to mitigate the lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic

Extreme poverty is defined as living on with an income below the internationally defined poverty line. Historically, international poverty line was set as a dollar-a-day at 1985 purchasing-power-parity (PPP) and this ratio has been used systematically since 1990. It is hard to define poverty precisely as the economic circumstances change and evolve; thus, the poverty measures have to be adjusted accordingly. 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 which ended 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. In October 2015, the

international poverty line was updated to USD 1.90 per day at 2011 PPP to reflect the changes in the cost of living across the world (UNSD, SDG metadata).

From 2000 through 2018, the proportion of the world population living below the international poverty line decreased from 27.7% to 8.6% (Figure 4). The proportion would drop to 8.5% in 2019 with expectations to continue dropping to 8.2% in 2020 and 7.8% in 2021 based on the pre-pandemic projections. However, the sudden emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic significantly exacerbated the achievements in poverty alleviation causing the proportion of global population living in extreme poverty to increase to 9.1% in 2021 (World Bank, 2022b). The pandemic, Russia-Ukraine conflict and associated economic impacts are expected to have negative effects for at least a couple of years ahead on poverty alleviation and achievement of sustainable development in general.

SDG target 1.1 envisions the complete elimination of extreme poverty by 2030. Around 30.6% of the population of OIC was living on less than USD 1.90 a day in the 2000s, based on the data available for 31 OIC countries. By 2021, this figure has decreased to 12.4% of the population (Figure 4). At the country level, five OIC countries (Albania, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Maldives, and United Arab Emirates) have already achieved SDG 1.1 (zero extreme poverty) as of 2021 or earlier. Progress was noteworthy in seven OIC countries (Tunisia, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Indonesia, Gambia, Pakistan and Senegal) as they managed to achieve double-digit annual progress rates in the reduction of extreme poverty ranging between 11% and 22.7% in the 2000-2021 period. By 2030, six more OIC countries, namely Tunisia, Türkiye, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Indonesia and Pakistan are expected to either achieve SDG 1.1 or decrease their extreme poverty proportions well below 1%. On the other hand, based on the most recent data more than 40% of the population in Sierra Leone, Niger, and Uganda have been living under extreme poverty conditions (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Proportion of Population below International Poverty Line (%), 2000 vs. 2021
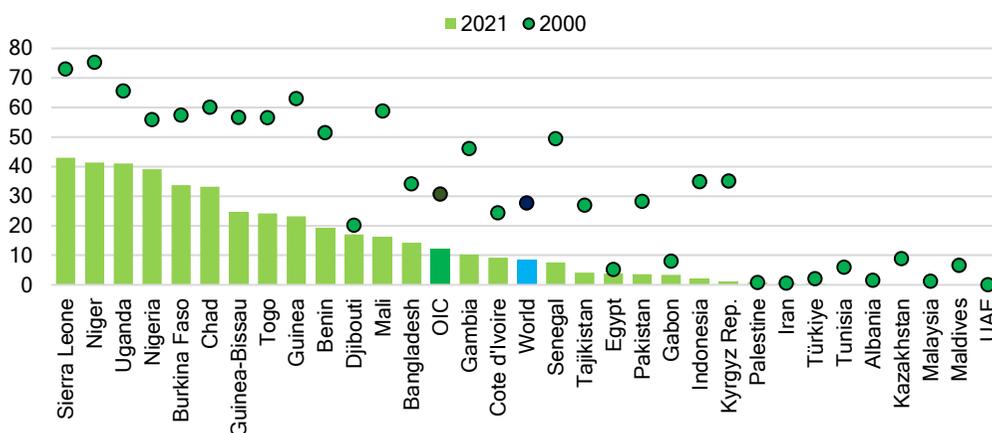
Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 03/08/2022 from OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). Please see Appendix 1 for exceptions and details.

International poverty line provides homogeneous measurement tools of extreme poverty levels, which is necessary for making comparative analysis between countries and regions. However, it does not accurately and comprehensively reflect the poverty situation in each country. Instead, national poverty lines provide more accurate estimates of poverty that are consistent with the countries' specific economic and social circumstances and are not intended for international comparisons as national poverty lines are different in each country. As of 2020, more than 40% of the population in 11 OIC countries (Sierra Leone, Togo, Afghanistan, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Chad, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, and Nigeria) have been living under national poverty levels (Figure 5).

In terms of progress assessment for 21 OIC countries with two data points, in eight OIC countries, poverty has exacerbated from 2000 to 2020, while 13 OIC countries showed some improvements based on the available data for the same period (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Proportion of Population Living below the National Poverty Line (%), 2000 vs 2020
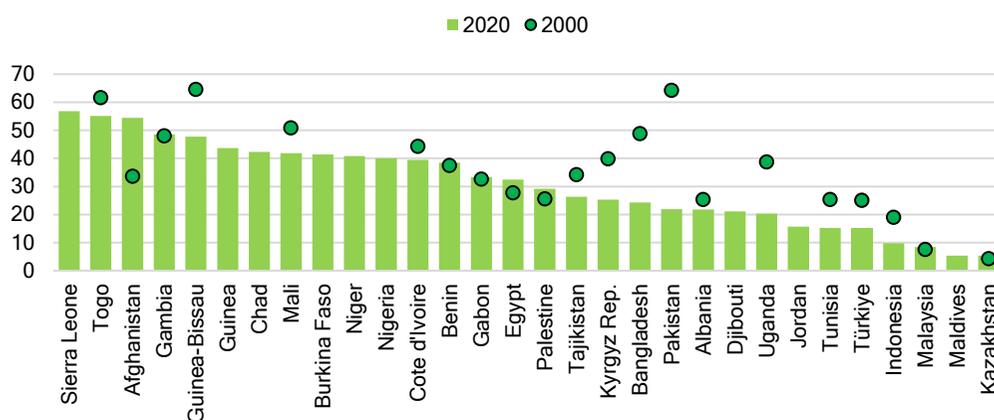
Source: Data extracted on 03/08/2022 from OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). Please see Appendix 1 for exceptions and details.

Social protection benefits should be extended to a larger portion of the target population

Social protection systems include contributory and non-contributory schemes for children, pregnant women with new-borns, 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 6 shows the proportion of population covered by at least one social protection benefit. Based on the data available for 46 OIC countries, the proportion of population receiving at least one social protection benefit in the OIC countries group was estimated as 25.1% in 2020. The world average was recorded as 46.9% in the same year. Only six OIC countries (Guyana, Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Bahrain, and Tunisia) had over 50% coverage which was above the global average. They were followed by Libya (46.2%),

Uzbekistan (42.7%), Kyrgyz Republic (41.7%), and Iraq (40.5%) in 2020. On the flip side, the proportion of population receiving any social protection payments was below 10% in 15 OIC countries (Figure 6). To be able to achieve the target by 2030, OIC countries need to show more progress in terms of population receiving benefits from at least one social protection scheme.

Figure 6: Proportion of Population Covered by at Least One Social Protection Benefit (%), 2020
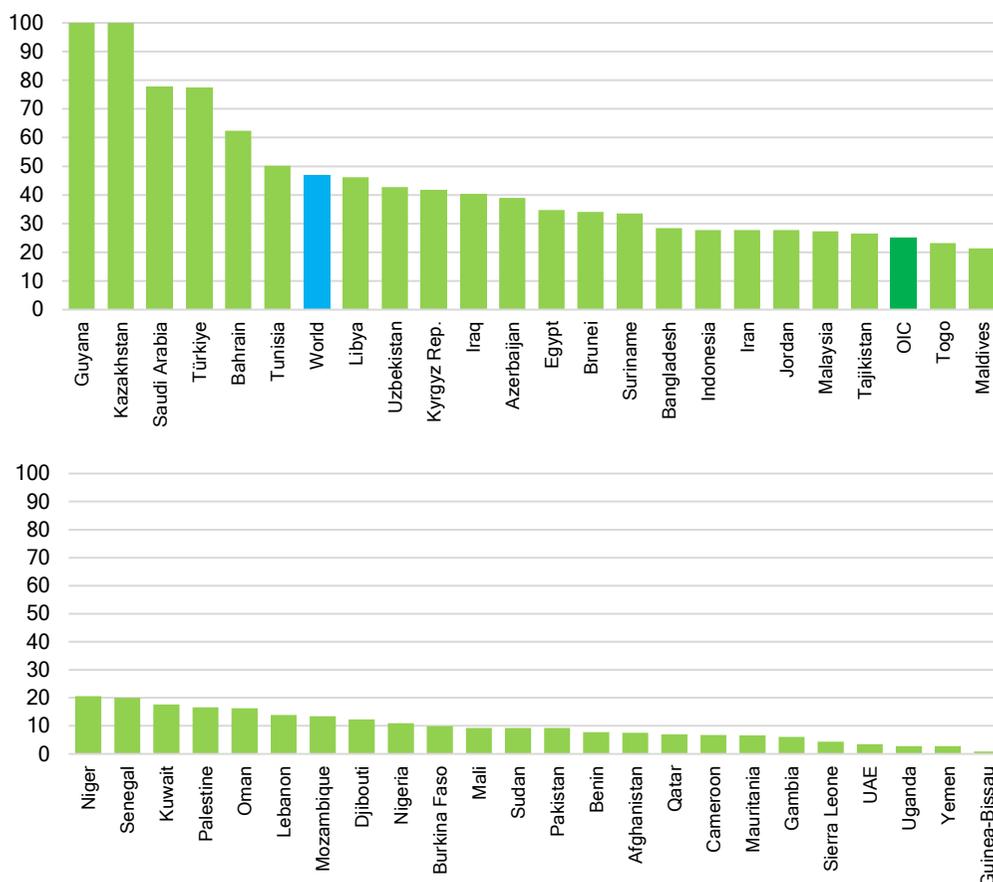
Access to basic drinking water services should be available to all population

In 2020, 32 OIC countries have provided access to basic drinking water services for more than 90% of their population which was above the world average. At the individual member country level, nine OIC countries (Bahrain, Brunei, Kuwait, Libya, Maldives, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkmenistan, and United Arab Emirates) provided all their populations with access to basic drinking water services in 2020 (Figure 7).

By 2030, 39 OIC countries are also expected to provide access to basic drinking water facilities for over 90% of their population if the current progress trend holds. In contrast, more than one third of the population in 13 OIC countries had no access to basic drinking water services (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Proportion of Population Using Basic Drinking Water Services (%), 2000 vs. 2020
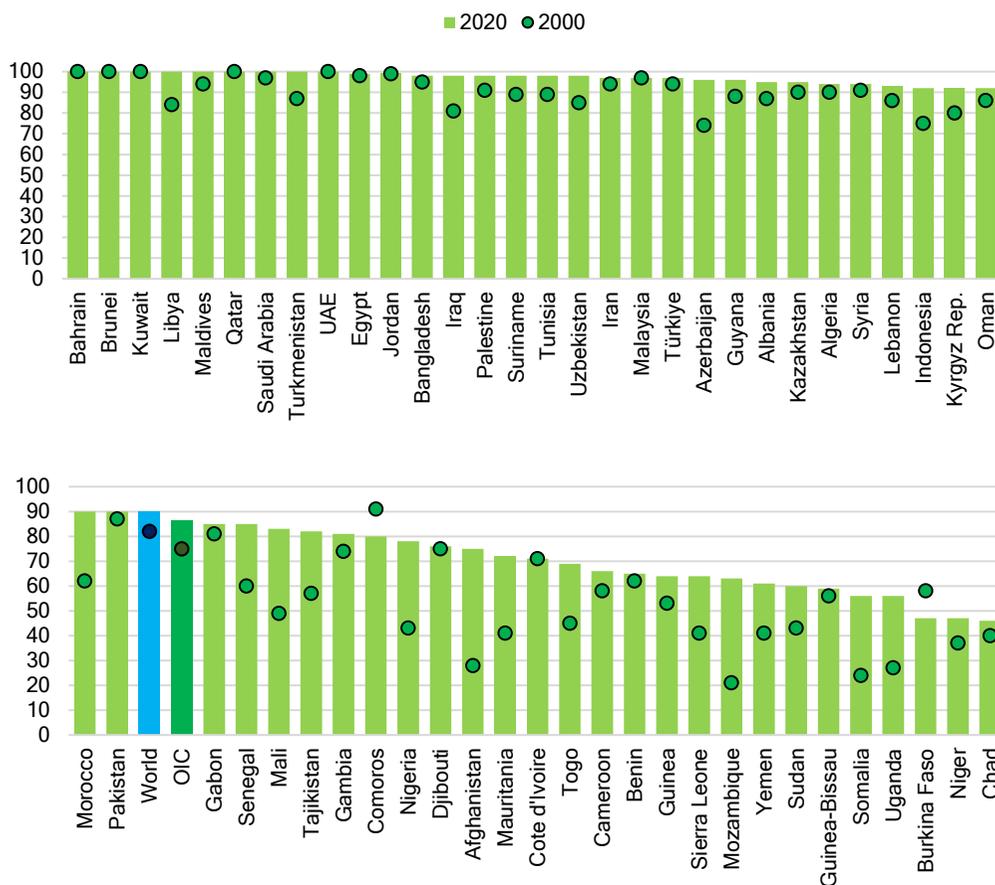
Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 03/08/2022 from OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). Please see Appendix 1 for exceptions and details.

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 specifically mention a quantifiable target, benchmark targets set in the relevant international documents have been used as reference targets for our analysis. In this connection, 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 OIC countries group has increased their education spending as a proportion of total public spending from 14% in 2000 to over 15% in 2021, and achieved the target set by the Incheon Declaration. The number of OIC countries with education expenditures within the range of 15%-20% of total public spending or above was 28 in 2000, which then slightly dropped to 25 countries in 2021 (or the most recent year) (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Proportion of Total Government Spending on Essential Services, Education (%), 2000 vs. 2021
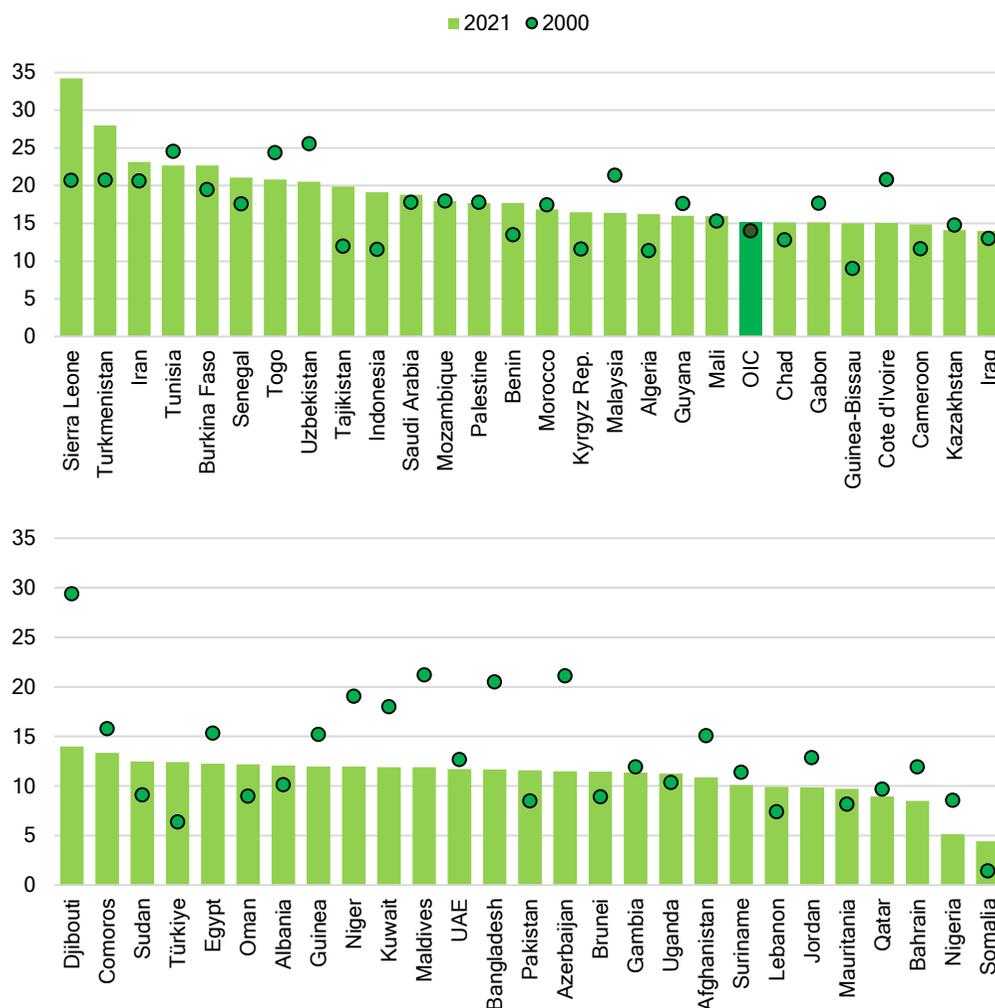
Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 03/08/2022 from OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). Please see Appendix 1 for exceptions and details.

Among the OIC countries with a downward trend in the 2000-2021 period, 11 of them (Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Guinea, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Maldives, and Niger) already achieved the desired range of 15%-20% concerning the share of education expenditures in total public spending in 2000 which then came below the 15% threshold (Figure 8) in 2021 or the most recent year.

On the other hand, the share of government spending on education in total public spending increased across 26 OIC countries in the same period. Progress has been most noteworthy for nine OIC countries (Somalia, Guinea-Bissau, Turkmenistan, Türkiye, Algeria, Indonesia, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyz Republic) and seven of them have achieved the target of Incheon Declaration by 2021 (Figure 8).

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Poverty

The COVID-19 pandemic hit especially some OIC countries hard by locking them in the poverty circle. With the contraction of economic activities, the OIC countries with limited financial capacities to mitigate the negative effects of the pandemic continue to suffer severely from this unprecedented challenge. World Bank (2022b) projects that globally 656.7 million people (under the baseline scenario) would be living in extreme poverty in 2022. This corresponds to an increase in the proportion of the global population living under the international poverty line from around 8.5% in 2019 before the crisis to a 9.1% in 2021 (post COVID-19 projections), in comparison with 7.8% (pre COVID-19 projections). Particularly, due to COVID-19 and the conflict in Ukraine from 75 million more people under the baseline scenario would be pushed to live with income levels below the international poverty line.

Observing the current economic, financial and social influences, the prospects for overcoming the negative impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on poverty are not immediately promising. Around 80% of countries have experienced higher inflation in food prices, particularly; it is twice the non-food inflation in Sub-Saharan Africa based on the World Bank (2022a) estimations. Not only the Sub-Saharan African countries but also many low and lower-middle income countries are candidates to become more vulnerable to poverty. In this connection, only substantial long-term investments on social protection and development programmes (including education and R&D) can take these vulnerable member countries to the next stages of the economic and sustainable development.

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

A large number of people across the world are suffering from hunger which is one of the main causes of death in low-income countries. Due to undernourishment, children across the globe are exposed to serious health issues, particularly their physical and cognitive development are adversely affected. This is also a hindering factor on socio-economic development of the least developed OIC countries. SDG 2 includes targets that call for reducing or eliminating the negative impacts of hunger by focusing on promotion of universal access to nutritious foods, increasing productivity of food producers, promoting resilient and sustainable practices in agriculture, investing in research and technological development in the agriculture among some others.

The OIC countries showed a stagnant progress towards SDG 2 and this progress is too slow for the goal to be met by 2030. As there is still a significant number of undernourished people and children with wasting and stunting, a rational utilisation and management of water, land, technology, other natural and human resources in the sufficient production of food is a must to achieve SDG 2 by 2030. It has become more difficult to achieve these targets considering the negative impacts of COVID-19 and Russia-Ukraine conflict on food production and supply. In this context, increased levels of funding and investment particularly through government funds and international cooperation are expected to streamline productivity of food production. In this regard, small-scale agri-businesses and farmers deserve urgent attention.

Further progress is required towards elimination of undernourishment

SDG target 2.1 envisions the complete elimination of prevalence of undernourishment by 2030. To measure progress in this regard, the proportion of undernourished people in the total population is a widely used indicator. It defines the proportion of the population regularly consuming an insufficient amount of food for living a normal and healthy life measured by caloric intake. The age, weight, height, activity levels, and population demographics of individuals in a particular country can define basic caloric requirements.

Over the period from 2001 to 2019, the prevalence of undernourishment in the OIC countries as a group has fallen from 15.4% to 11% of the total population. The global average has decreased from 13.1% to 8.4% over the same period; however, it is estimated to jump to 9.9% in 2020 due to COVID-19. Similarly, the OIC group average is also expected to increase, as the negative effect of COVID-19 is anticipated to last for at least a couple of years (Figure 9).

Among the OIC countries that report their data, seven of them (Algeria, Azerbaijan, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Türkiye, and Uzbekistan) achieved the "zero undernourishment by 2030" target with a proportion of undernourished population well

below 2.5% of their total populations as of 2019. On the other hand, the prevalence of undernourishment was above the global average in 22 OIC countries. With regard to the progress, two more OIC countries (Cameroon and Tunisia) are expected to achieve the set target with a prevalence of undernourishment rate less than 2.5% by 2030. Apart from these countries, the progress of all other OIC countries will not be sufficient to meet the target if they are to continue with a similar rate of progress in eradicating undernourishment (Figure 9). Meanwhile, 11 OIC countries out of 45 with available data have demonstrated regression in tackling the prevalence of undernourishment. Among them, Somalia (59.5%), Yemen (45.4%), and Iraq (37.5%) had extremely high prevalence rates of undernourishment in 2019 (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Prevalence of Undernourishment (%), 2001 vs. 2019
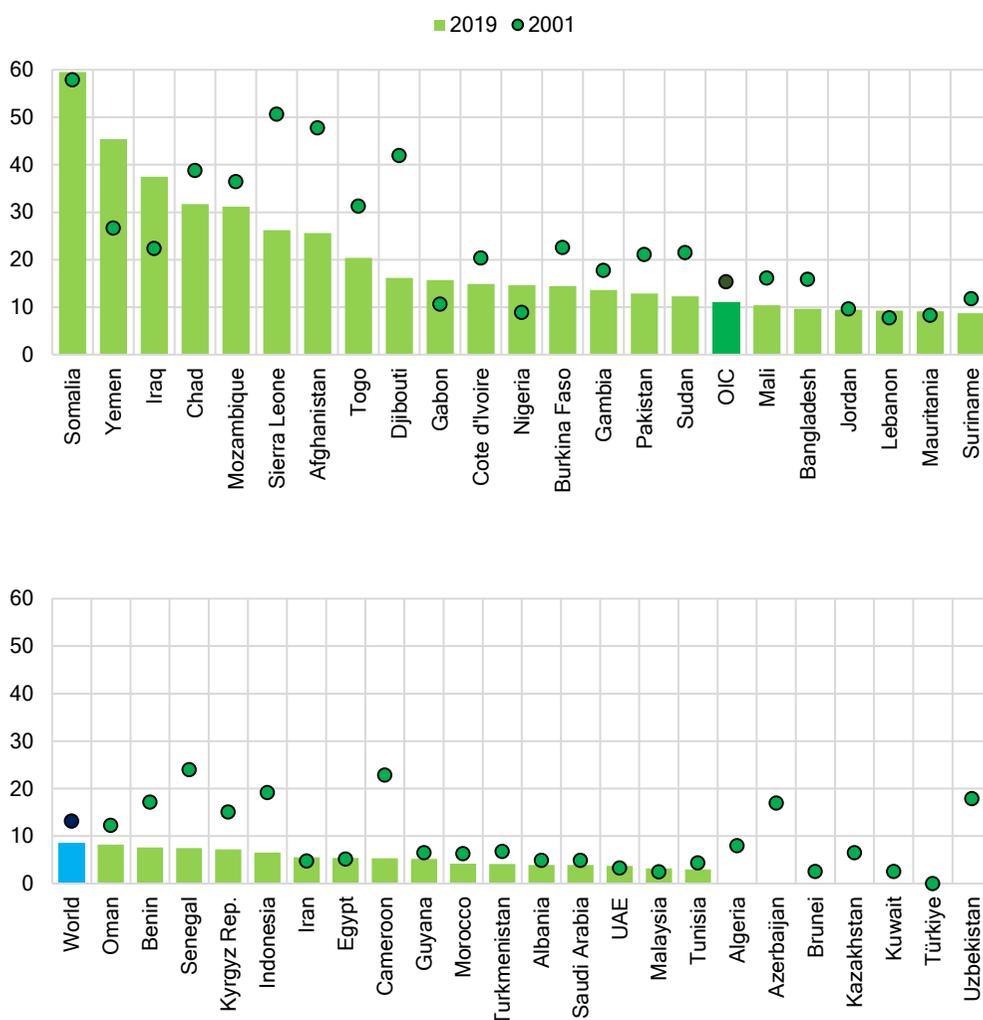
Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 16/08/2022 from OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). Please see Appendix 1 for exceptions and details.

Towards the Achievement of Prioritised Sustainable Development Goals in OIC Countries 2022   19

Stunting and wasting in children have been declining

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.

The proportion of children moderately or severely stunted in the OIC countries group decreased from 39.5% to 28.3% between 2000 and 2020. Estimations are based on the data of 38 member countries. Similarly, the global average also dropped from 33.1% to 22% over the same period. At the individual country level, only Kazakhstan and Türkiye have demonstrated sufficient progress levels that may lead them towards the complete elimination of child stunting by 2030. With regard to more immediate target to decrease proportion of children stunted by 40% in 2025 compared to their 2012 levels, being potential achievers, seven OIC countries (Kazakhstan, Cote d'Ivoire, Iraq, Tajikistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Bangladesh and Burkina Faso) are on track to achieve the SDG target. They are followed by four OIC countries (Algeria, Tunisia, Uganda, and Indonesia) with expected cuts of more than 30% from their 2012 levels by 2025. On the other hand, five OIC countries have witnessed a deteriorating situation since 2012. Due to lack of 2012 data in some member countries, progress estimation could have been possible for 29 OIC countries[1] (Figure 10).

If a child's weight-for-height is more than 2 standard deviations below the median of the WHO Child Growth Standards, the child can be regarded as "wasted". As of 2020, the proportion of children wasted were below the global average of 6.7% in 24 OIC countries. Among them Albania, Uzbekistan and Morocco showed the most rapid progress - double-digit progress rate annually - in decreasing the proportions of children moderately or severely wasted. These three countries are expected to achieve or will be very close to achieving the relevant SDG target by 2030. Additionally, eight OIC countries (Palestine, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Cote d'Ivoire, Tunisia, Iraq, Mozambique, and Algeria) are also expected to be close to achieving the target by 2030 based on the considerable level of progress they have shown.

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[1] Data point estimations for reference year 2012 have been made for 14 OIC countries. 15 OIC countries (Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kuwait, Kyrgyz Republic, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, and Uganda) were already provided with 2012 data by the main data source.

Figure 10: Proportion of Children Moderately or Severely Stunted (%), 2000 vs. 2020
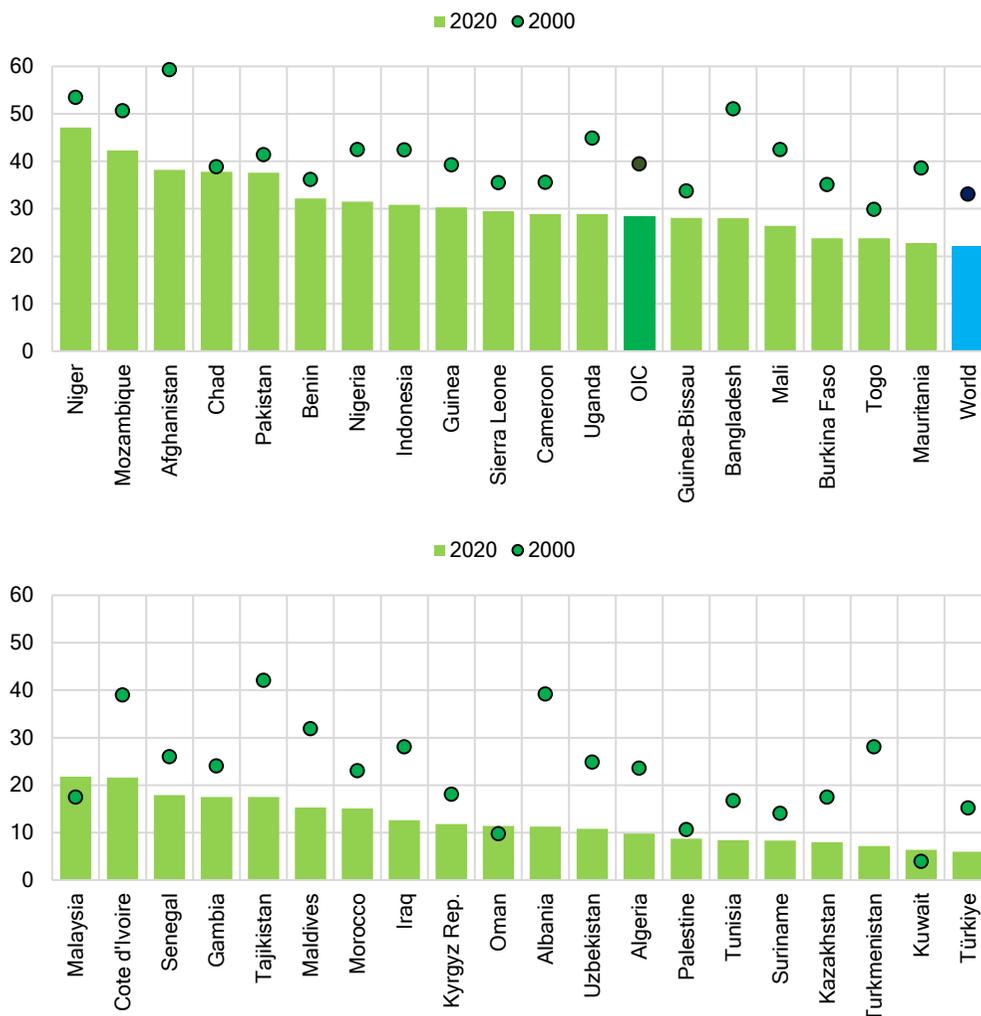
Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 16/08/2022 from OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). Please see Appendix 1 for exceptions and details.

Meanwhile, the proportion of overweight children has increased in 11 OIC countries (Tunisia, Indonesia, Oman, Cameroon, Bangladesh, Maldives, Suriname, Iraq, Togo, Guinea, and Palestine) out of 38 member countries with sufficient data for the estimations. In contrast, most significant reductions in the proportions of overweight children were observed in Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, and Nigeria based on their annual progress rates. In addition to these three countries, the proportion of children overweight is expected to be below 1% by 2030 in Mauritania and Burkina Faso.

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

SDG target 2.a calls for increasing investments in agriculture sector including research and technological development, advancement of infrastructure, and plant and livestock gene banks, particularly in the LDCs, by 2030. In this connection, 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. If the AOI value is larger than 1, it reflects that the agriculture sector receives a higher share of government spending relative to its economic value. In contrast, an AOI value smaller than 1 indicates a lower orientation to agriculture and an AOI equal to 1 means neutrality in a government's orientation to the agriculture sector (UNSD, SDG metadata).

Figure 11: Agriculture Orientation Index, 2001 vs. 2020
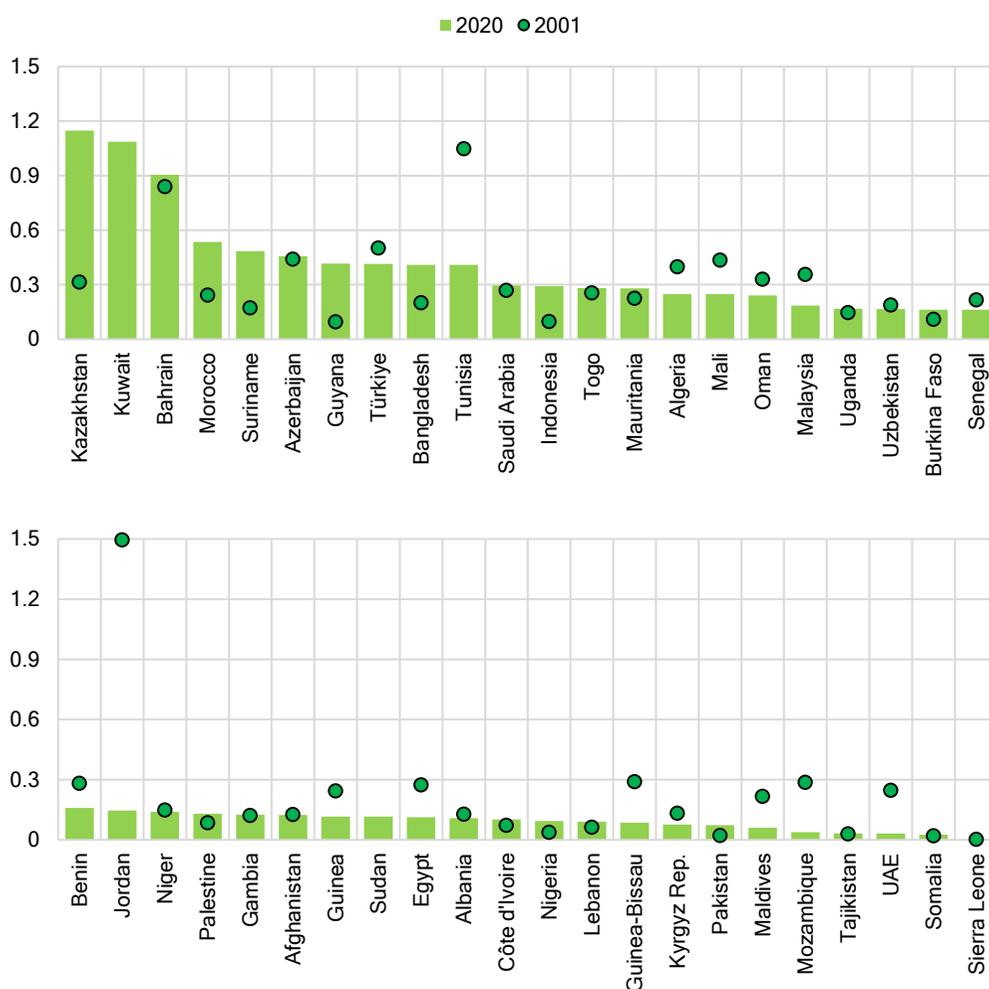
Source: Data extracted on 16/08/2021 from OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). Please see Appendix 1 for exceptions and details.

In 2020, out of 44 OIC countries with available data, only Kazakhstan and Kuwait had AOI values above 1 (1.15 and 1.09, respectively). They were followed by Bahrain and Morocco with AOI values equal to 0.91 and 0.54, respectively. On the other hand, 22 OIC countries demonstrated decreases in AOI over the period of 2001-2020 (Figure 11).

Farms and small agri-businesses should be entitled to access sufficient government support for tackling the negative impacts of COVID-19

Food security and agriculture sector development are essential for achieving zero hunger and combating poverty. COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine have posed considerable challenges globally to food security. Among many other developing economies, some OIC countries are suffering severely as the significant proportion of household expenditures in the OIC countries goes to food. Limitations on the mobility of workers in farms and in agri-businesses caused serious social and economic problems for people (World Bank, 2020a). Although, restrictions on mobility practiced during the quarantine had been largely lifted but its negative impacts have persisted throughout the pandemic. As a targeted response, support for small agri-businesses that lost income and protection of jobs in the sector would be essential across many OIC countries where significant proportion of labour force is involved in agriculture and food production.

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

Health is a fundamental human right, a precondition, and driver for the other SDGs due to its strong connections to the other aspects of sustainable development, namely water and sanitation, gender equality, climate change, and peace and stability. Concisely, good health and wellbeing of people lay the groundwork for long-term social progress and economic growth.

OIC countries in general have shown a moderate progress towards attaining SDG 3; nonetheless, the progress observed is not sufficient to achieve the goal by 2030. Majority of the OIC countries demonstrate huge gaps with the set targets and coupled with the emergence of COVID-19 pandemic and its devastating effects on the health systems.

Under-five mortality rate is still above the set target in the majority of OIC countries as of 2020

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).

Mortality rate among children under-five is a vital output indicator for child health and well-being. It is closely monitored in the public health as it demonstrates the access of children and communities to basic health interventions such as vaccination, medical treatment of infectious diseases and adequate nutrition. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development envisages to end preventable deaths of children under 5 years of age by year 2030 and countries are also aiming to reduce it to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births.

Despite the interventions put in place by countries to reduce child mortality, the U5MR was measured 55 deaths per 1,000 live births, more than twice the set target, as of 2020 in the OIC countries group and measured about 37 deaths per 1,000 live births globally in the same year. However, the U5MR has declined in both the OIC countries group and the world from 98 to 55 and 76 to 37 deaths per 1,000 live births between 2000 and 2020, respectively (Figure 12).

Individually, 27 OIC countries have already attained this target as of 2020 and among them (Qatar, Maldives, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Malaysia, Kuwait, Türkiye, Albania, and Kazakhstan) have at least as low as 10 deaths per 1,000 live births among children under 5 years. On the other side, the cases are still more than three-fold of the set target in 11 OIC countries (Somalia, Nigeria, Chad, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Mali, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Niger, and Guinea-Bissau)

Figure 12: Under-Five Mortality Rate, Both Sexes (per 1,000 Live Births), 2000 vs. 2020
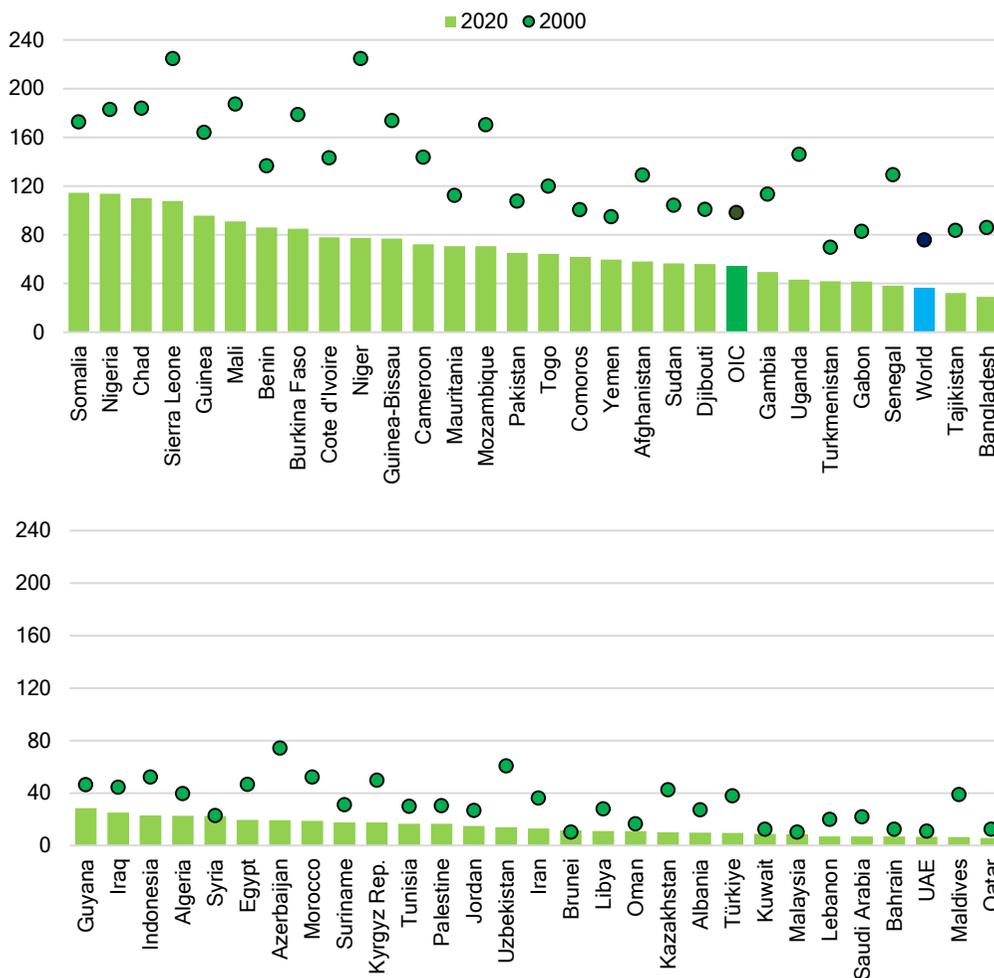
Neonatal mortality rates are on the decline in OIC countries

Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) is the probability that a child born in a specific year or period will die before reaching 28 completed days of life expressed per 1,000 live births (UNSD, SDG metadata). In this connection, the first 28 days in the life of a new-born child regarded as the neonatal period is presumably the most vulnerable time for a child in which they face the highest risk of dying. Countries are striving to end preventable deaths of new-borns and reduce neonatal mortality rate to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births by 2030.

Over the last two decades, the average of global neonatal mortality rate has decreased from 30 to 17 deaths per 1,000 live births. Similar progress was also observed in the OIC

countries group where the NMR declined from 36 to 23 deaths per 1,000 live births. However, the progress recorded across individual OIC countries was not uniform. While 26 OIC countries have achieved this target as of 2020, 23 OIC countries had NMR figures as twice as the set target figure (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Neonatal Mortality Rate, Both Sexes (per 1,000 Live Births), 2000 vs. 2020
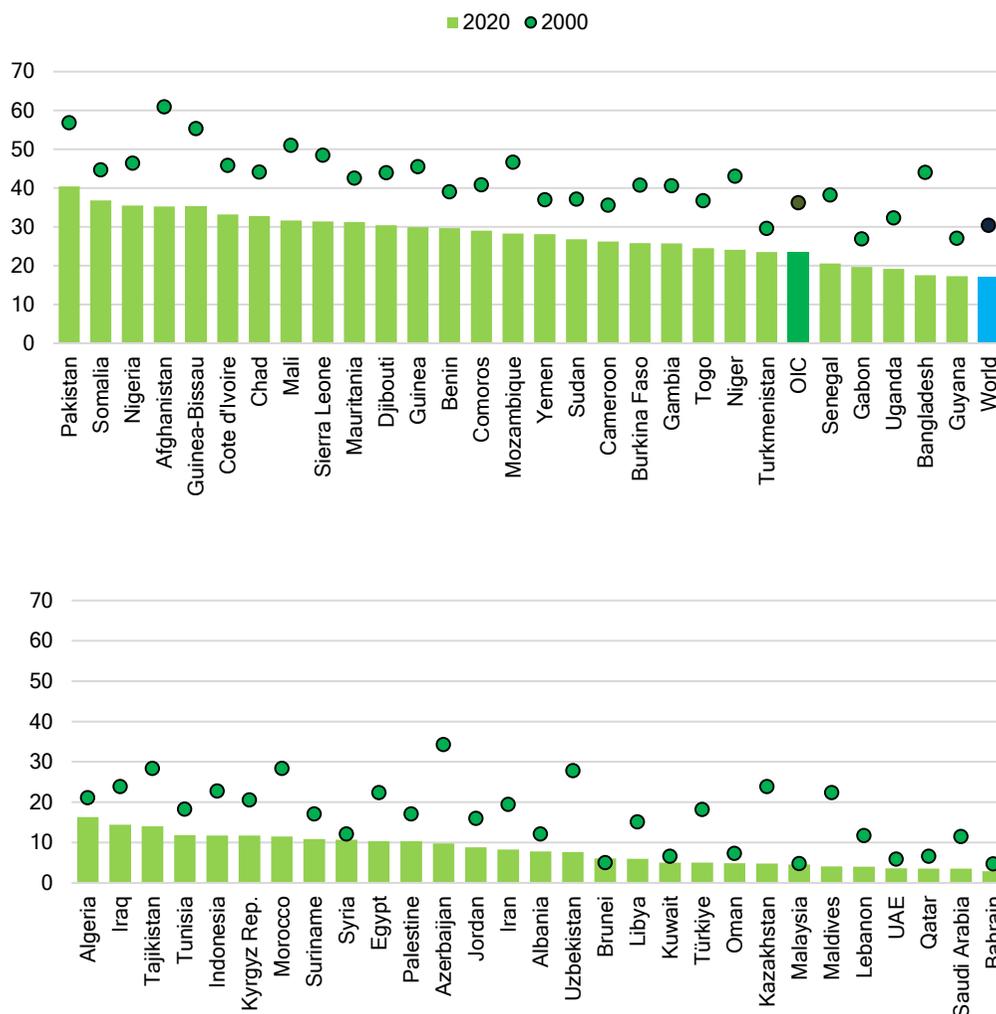
Tuberculosis cases in the OIC countries group remain high as of 2020

The tuberculosis (TB) incidence per 100,000 population is the estimated number of new and relapse TB cases (all forms of TB, including cases in people living with HIV) arising in a given year, expressed as a rate per 100,000 population (UNSD, SDG metadata). TB is one of the communicable diseases that countries aim to end by 2030. As a result of the efforts

exerted, the worldwide average of TB cases per population decreased from 174 in 2000 to 127 cases per 100,000 people in 2020. Similarly, the TB cases in the OIC countries group dropped from 192 to 158 between the years under consideration (Figure 14).

As of 2020, none of the individual OIC country has managed to show completely a zero TB case per 100,000 people. Although two OIC countries, namely Palestine and United Arab Emirates have the lowest TB averages of less than 1 per 100,000 people in 2020, TB cases were in hundreds in 19 OIC countries. Overall, TB cases declined in 47 OIC countries, increased in nine of them, and remained constant in one country between 2000 and 2020 (Figure 14).

Figure 14: Tuberculosis Incidence (per 100,000 Population), 2000 vs. 2020

Universal Health Coverage (UHC) is an index reported on a unitless scale of 0 to 100, which is computed as the geometric mean of 14 tracer indicators of health service coverage categorised under the following four broad categories, namely "Reproductive, Maternal, New-Born and Child Health", "Infectious Diseases", "Noncommunicable Diseases" and "Service Capacity and Access" (UNSD, SDG metadata).

Figure 15: Universal Health Coverage Service Coverage Index, 2000 vs. 2019
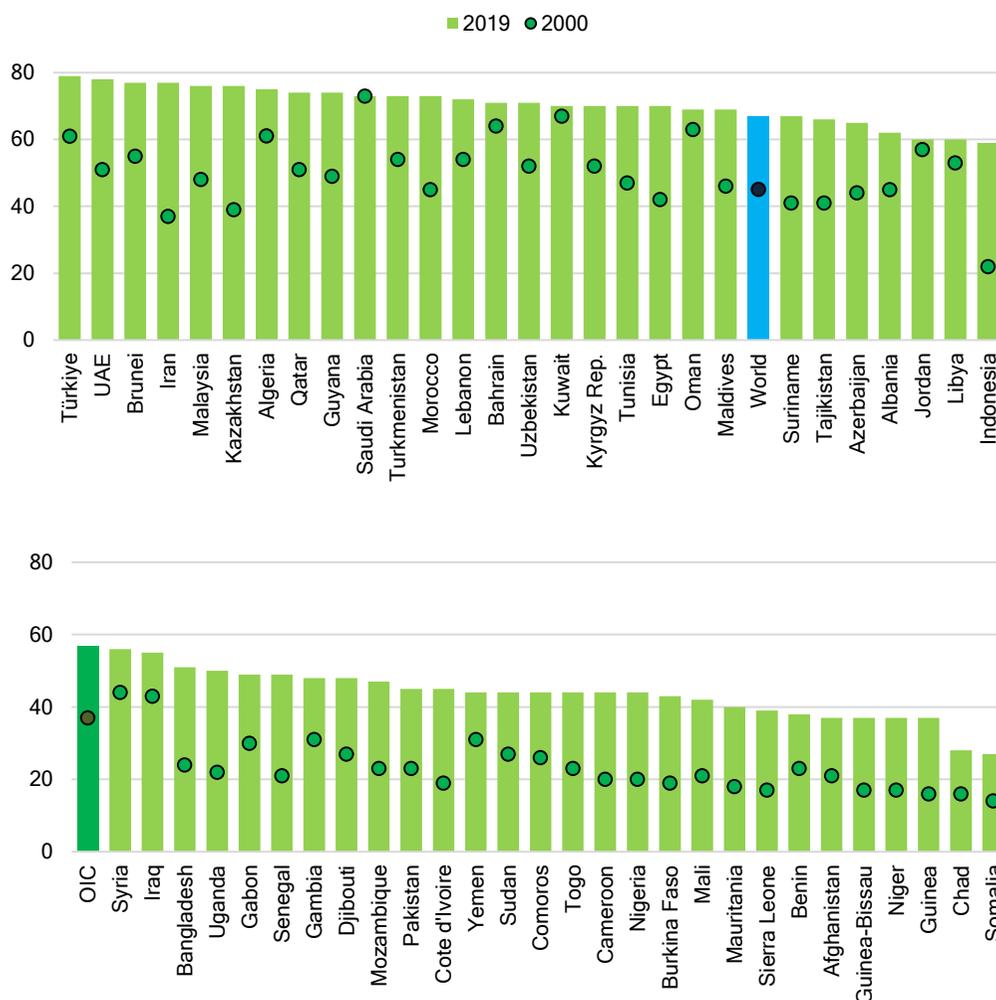

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 03/08/2022 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). Please see Appendix 1 for exceptions and details.

The UHC service coverage values in the world and OIC countries group improved between 2000 and 2019 from 45 to 67 and 37 to 57, respectively. Considerable improvement in the UHC service coverage index values were observed in 32 OIC countries over the past two decades with 20 points and above increases in their index values. However, the UHC

service coverage index in the OIC countries also varied widely with a range of 52 points between Türkiye (with the highest value of 79) and Somalia (with the lowest value of 27) (Figure 15).

More measures are required to control tobacco usage among adults in OIC countries

Age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco use among persons aged 15 years and older shows the percentage of the total population aged 15 years and over who currently use any tobacco product (smoked and/or smokeless tobacco) on a daily or non-daily basis (UNSD, SDG metadata).

Figure 16: Age-Standardized Prevalence of Current Tobacco use Among Persons, Ages 15+, Both Sexes (%), 2000 vs. 2020
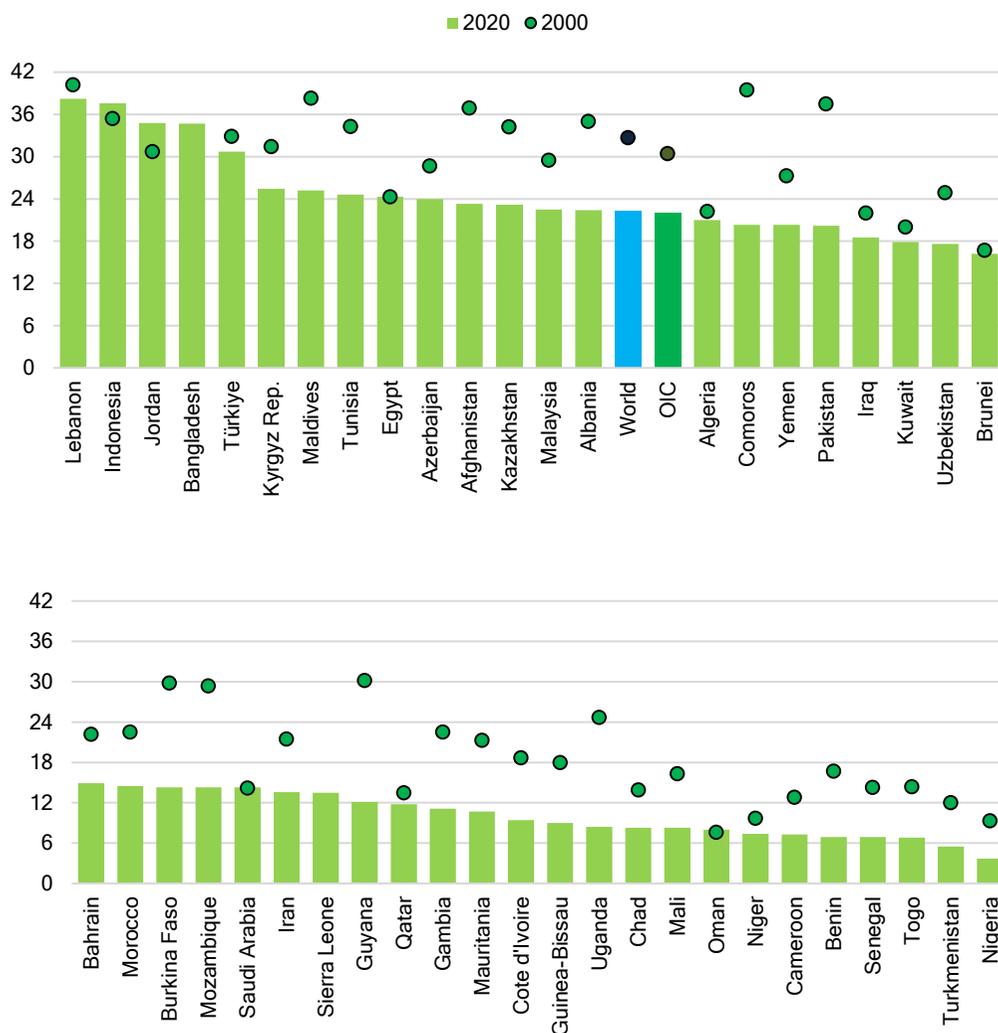
Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 03/08/2022 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). Please see Appendix 1 for exceptions and details.

Adopted in 2003, the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) acknowledges that tobacco use is a global epidemic which requires a global response. Against this campaign, the global average of the age-standardized prevalence of current tobacco-use among persons aged 15 years and older declined by 10.4 percentage points from 32.7% to 22.3% and it declined by 8.4 percentage points from 30.4% to 22.0% in the OIC countries group (Figure 16).

It is also worth noting that, the prevalence of current tobacco use declined by more than 10 percentage points over the last two decades in 14 OIC countries (Sierra Leone, Bangladesh, Comoros, Guyana, Pakistan, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Afghanistan, Maldives, Albania, Gambia, Kazakhstan, and Mauritania). However, the prevalence rate was still over 20% in 18 OIC countries in 2020.

DTP3 vaccination coverage dropped in 2020 due to 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 2020, approximately 83% of the child population worldwide received DTP3 vaccine; likewise, 79% of the child population in the OIC countries group accessed the DTP3 vaccine. The DTP3 vaccination coverage in 30 individual OIC countries was above the global average and in 25 of them, it even reached at least 90% of coverage (Figure 17).

On the other hand, in comparison with pre-COVID-19 pandemic period, access to DTP3 vaccine in the OIC countries group and the world dropped by 3.8 and 3.0 percentage points respectively between 2019 and 2020. In the individual OIC countries, access to the vaccine declined in 35 countries during the pandemic and among them, notable declines of more than 10 percentage points were observed in seven OIC countries, namely Suriname, Qatar, Azerbaijan, Djibouti, Jordan, Lebanon, and Iraq. The pandemic caused a serious setback to children immunization programs as many countries' responses and vaccination programs were geared towards the fight with COVID-19.

OIC countries have low distribution of medical doctors among the population

The density of medical doctors shows the number of medical doctors (including generalists and specialist medical practitioners) per 10,000 population in a given national and/or subnational area. The 2030 Agenda envisages an increase in health spending and hiring, training, and retention of health professionals in developing countries, particularly in the LDCs and SIDS.

Figure 17: Proportion of Target Population with Access to DTP3 Vaccine (%), 2000 vs. 2020
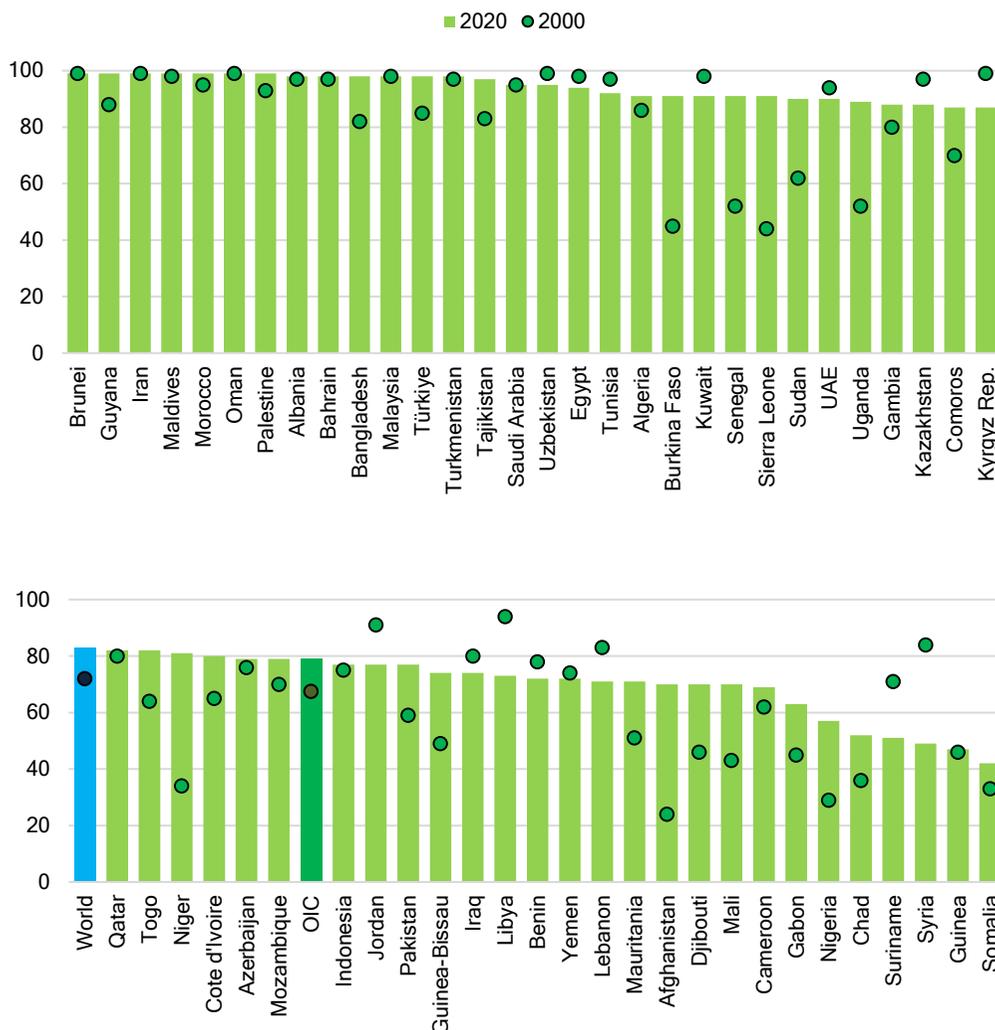
In 2020, the world average of medical doctor density per 10, 000 population was 16.4, while the average of OIC countries group based on last year available data for 49 countries since 2015 was 9 doctors per 10,000 population. Among OIC countries, the medical doctor densities of only 15 OIC countries were higher than the global average. In 28 OIC countries, the densities of medical doctors per 10,000 population were below 10 and the situation is alarming in 15 OIC countries, namely Niger, Chad, Benin, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Togo, Mozambique, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Mali, Uganda, Cote d'Ivoire, Mauritania, and Guinea-Bissau with less than 2 doctors per 10,000 population (Figure 18).

Figure 18: Health Worker Density, Medical Doctors (per 10,000 Population), 2000 vs. 2020
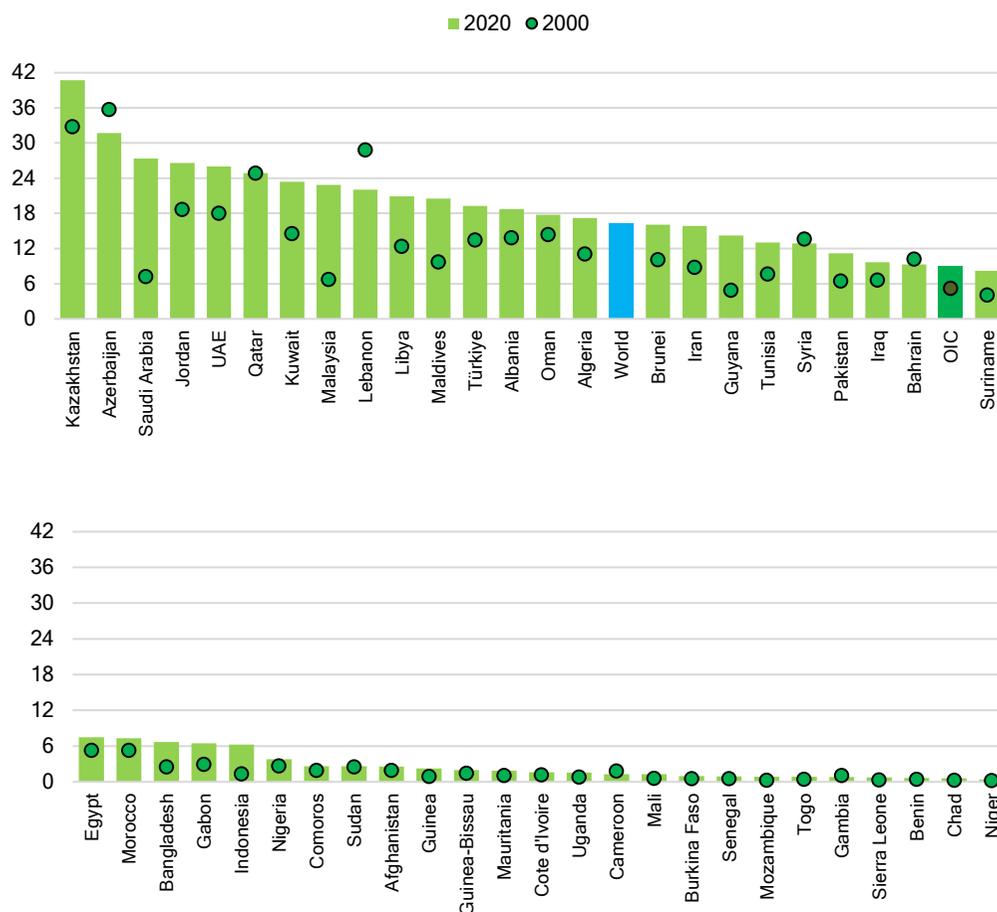
Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 03/08/2022 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). Please see Appendix 1 for exceptions and details.

The COVID-19 pandemic poses serious disruption to essential health services

Ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being at all ages is essential to sustainable development. However, at the onset of 2019, the world got engulfed in an unprecedented health crisis due to COVID-19, which unlike any other crisis has been spreading human suffering since then, destabilizing the global economy and upending the lives of billions of people around the globe. SESRIC COVID-19 Pandemic Database for OIC Member Countries (2022b) reveals that the total global number of COVID-19 cases were already above 600 million and of these about 58 million people were in the OIC countries by early September 2022. Responses and campaigns to curb a crisis of such scale have severely led to disruption of vital health services and are still continuing to pose more challenges to people's health and wellbeing and reversing the already made progress towards meeting some targets of SDG 3.

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 wellbeing of the people. New developments in the education sector today can allow providing quality education to the most disadvantaged communities as well as technical and practical knowledge with the most cost-effective methods. Notably, the modern practices of exchange of know-how and building technical capacities through vocational educational training, online education programs, capacity building, and technical cooperation projects and others well deserve to be highlighted. In this regard, SDG 4 focuses on free primary and secondary education, equal access to quality pre-primary education, eliminate all discrimination in education, universal literacy and numeracy, and increase the supply of qualified teachers among others.

In overall, the OIC countries group has demonstrated moderate progress towards SDG 4 but this progress is not sufficient to achieve the goal by 2030. Despite the progress recorded in different educational levels in OIC countries, a wide discrepancy exists among them. On the one hand, significant achievements were observed in the majority of OIC countries, concerning the participation of students in pre-school and school education. On the other hand, serious challenges were faced by some OIC countries concerning enrolment and completion rates at different grades, and increasing the supply of qualified teachers. Particularly, the situation gets worse regarding the targets showing the outcome of educational activities. If the current pace of progress does not change, many OIC countries are expected to miss the SDG 4 targets by 2030.

The situation has further exacerbated with the outbreak of COVID-19. School closures to limit the further spread of the pandemic lead to disruptions in education, especially in the disadvantaged communities where education outcomes have been adversely affected. In the period between February 2020 and October 2021, OIC countries imposed countrywide school closures due the COVID-19 pandemic for 27 weeks and exercised partially open education for 20 weeks on average, affecting approximately 432 million primary and secondary school children (SESRIC, 2022c). In this connection, there is a need for concerted actions involving the OIC countries, donors, and international organisations in promoting quality education opportunities for everyone and ensure that no one is left behind as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Completion rates in the primary and secondary education 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 primary level, global average completion rate climbed up from 77.6% in 2000 to 86.6% in 2020. Similarly, it increased from 64.5% in 2000 to 76.3% in 2020 in the OIC countries group based on data available for 46 OIC countries. Concerning the country level situation, the completion rates were at least 95% in 18 member countries in 2020 (or most recent year). On the other hand, they were below 50% in eight OIC countries (Guinea-Bissau, Somalia, Chad, Niger, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, and Benin) (Figure 19). With regard to the progress recorded between 2000 and 2020, around 26 OIC countries are observed to be on track to meet the target of ensuring all children complete primary education by 2030, if the progress rate will be held at the same level or above. (Figure 19).

Figure 19: Completion Rate, Primary, Both Sexes (%), 2000 vs. 2020
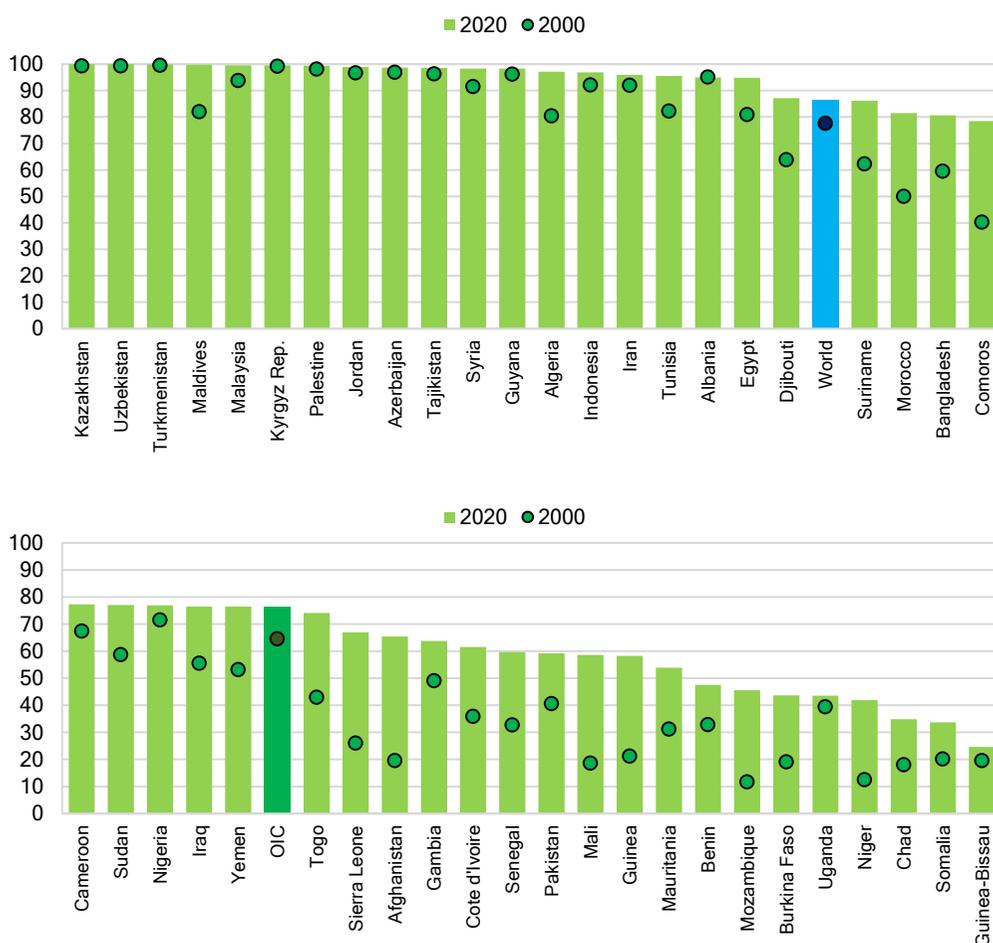
Source: Data extracted on 24/08/2022 from OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). Please see Appendix 1 for exceptions and details.

In lower secondary level education, out of 47 OIC countries with available data, the completion rates were over 95% in seven member countries (Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan, Malaysia, Maldives, and Azerbaijan) in 2020. In addition, Jordan, Albania, Tajikistan, and Palestine were close to the target with completion rates raged between 92%-94% at lower secondary level education. If the current rate of progress observed between 2000 and 2020 will be maintained at the same level or above, five more OIC countries are expected to achieve or will be very close to achieving the target by 2030. 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 46 OIC countries with sufficient data as of 2020 (or most recent year), only Kazakhstan has achieved the target with 95.5% completion rate. Additionally, four OIC countries (Albania, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan) are on track to achieve the target by 2030, according to the estimations based on the progress rates of these countries observed between 2000 and 2020. Three more OIC countries (Malaysia, Kyrgyz Republic, and Iran) have demonstrated promising progress in upper secondary school completion rates. They are projected to achieve the target by 2030 with slightly more intensified but continuous efforts.

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. Over the period from 2000 to 2020, the participation rate in organised learning one year before the official primary entry age increased from 53.9% to 66.8% in the OIC countries group, based on the data of 34 member countries, while the world average also increased substantially from 64.6% to 75.3% (Figure 20).

Concerning the country level situation, eight out of 34 OIC countries with sufficient data (Togo, Albania, Indonesia, Qatar, Pakistan, Maldives, Suriname, and Malaysia) have achieved participation rates between 90% and 100%. In addition, nine more countries (Benin, Bangladesh, Azerbaijan, Türkiye, Kyrgyz Republic, Iran, Uzbekistan, Guinea and Gambia) are on track to achieve the similar high results by 2030 based on their progress rates demonstrated between 2000 and 2020. On the other hand, less than a quarter of children were enrolled in organised learning one year before official primary school entry age in eight OIC countries in 2020 (or most recent year) (Figure 20).

Figure 20: Participation Rate in Organized Learning (One Year Before the Official Primary Entry Age), Both Sexes (%), 2000 vs. 2020
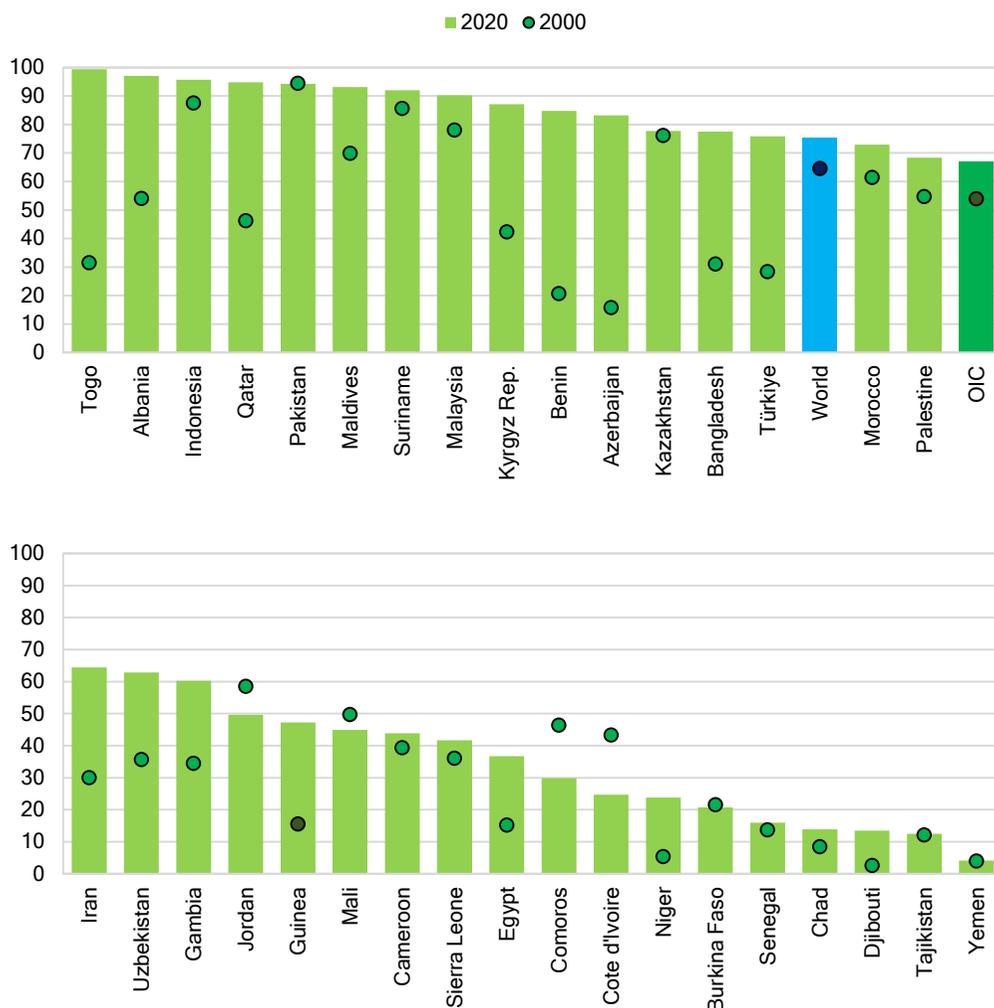
Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 24/08/2022 from OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). Please see Appendix 1 for exceptions and details.

Majority of OIC countries have achieved gender parity in school education

SDG target 4.5 envisions to eliminate the disparities and to provide equal access to education and vocational training to all by 2030, particularly for the vulnerable including the persons with disabilities, indigenous people, and female 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.

As of 2020, 17 OIC countries out of 29 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. Tajikistan, Cameroon and Iraq were also very close to achieving the gender parity in 2020 (or most recent year). Furthermore, based on their progress rates demonstrated from 2000 to 2020, four more OIC countries are expected to achieve the gender parity by 2030 (Figure 21).

Figure 21: Adjusted Gender Parity Index for Completion Rate, Primary, 2000 vs. 2020

Adjusted gender parity in lower secondary education completion rate of 13 OIC countries out of 29 with available data in 2020 (or most recent year) shows a disparity in favour of girls while 3 members countries (Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan) were very close to achieve a gender parity. Additionally, six countries (Togo, Mauritania, Guinea, Uganda, Sierra Leone, and Tajikistan) 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, gender disparity in favour of girls has been observed in 11 OIC countries out of 29 with sufficient data. Additionally, three OIC countries (Indonesia, Pakistan, and Kyrgyz Republic) were very close to a gender parity. Based on the progress demonstrated, eight more OIC countries (Cote d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Mauritania, Senegal, Pakistan, Uganda, Bangladesh, and Cameroon) will either achieve a gender parity or disparity in favour of girls by 2030. However, seven 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 22: Proportion of Teachers in Primary Education who have Received at least the Minimum Organized Teacher Training, Both Sexes (%), 2000 vs. 2020
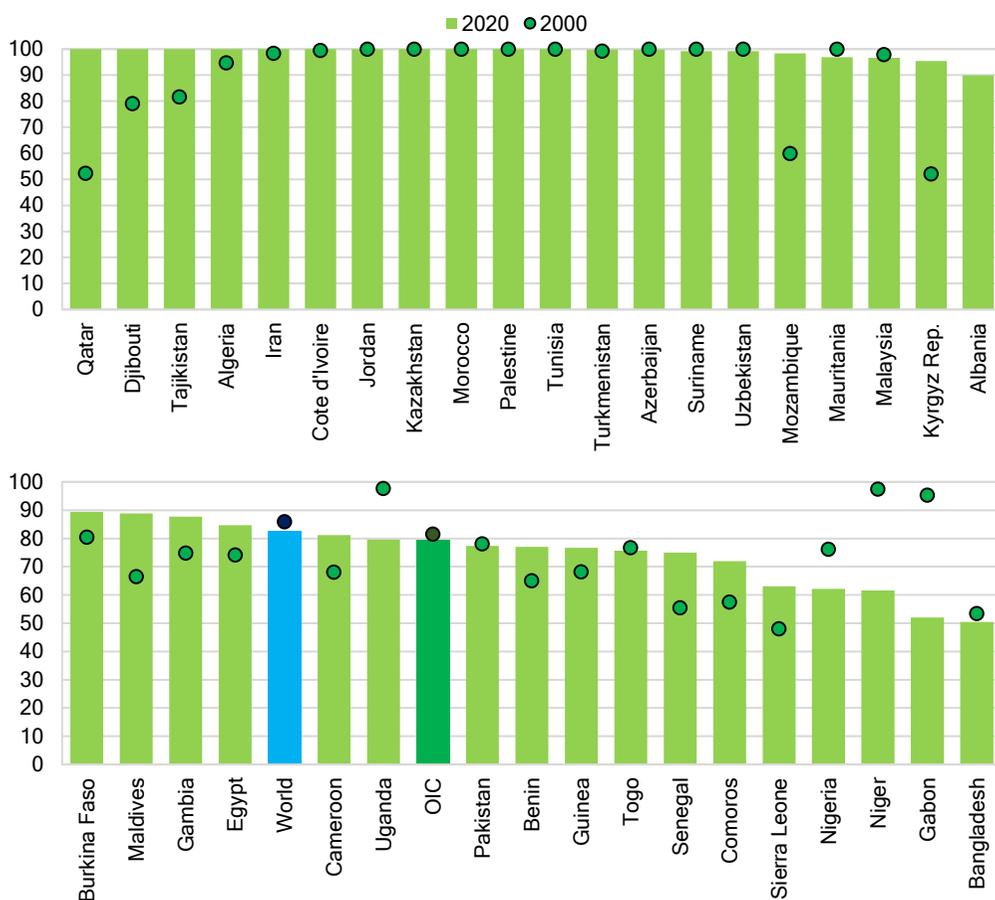

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 24/08/2022 from OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). Please see Appendix 1 for exceptions and details.

Globally, proportion of the teachers in primary education with at least minimum teacher training was 82.5% in 2020. In comparison, it was 79.4% for the OIC countries group based on the most recent data of 37 member countries. As of 2020, 19 OIC countries had over 95% of primary level teachers who received organised teacher training. Additionally, in three OIC countries (Albania, Burkina Faso, and Maldives), the proportion of trained teachers in primary education was close to 90%. Based on the pace of the progress attained in the 2000-2020 period, 95% (or more) of teachers in primary education in three more OIC countries will also have received at least minimum training required to teach in primary education by 2030 (Figure 22).

On the other hand, the proportion of teachers in primary education that received minimum required training have decreased in 12 OIC countries between 2000 and 2020. Among these countries, visible degradation, both in terms of annual rate of change and total change between the two years can be observed in four OIC countries (Uganda, Gabon, Niger, and Nigeria) (Figure 22).

Progress in access to education has been hampered because of school closures due to COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic affected the education institutions and systems at all levels across the world. Inequality in access to education has further widened for the vulnerable, poor, and disadvantaged communities. Particularly, it has been most vividly observed across the member countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia that already had serious challenges in achieving the SDG 4 targets even before the pandemic compared to the other member countries.

It was estimated that, over the past two years since the mass school closures came to practice due to rapid spread of COVID-19, around 147 million children missed more than half of their in-person instruction (UN, 2022). In the period between February 2020 and October 2021, OIC countries imposed countrywide school closures due the COVID-19 pandemic for 27 weeks and exercised partially open education for 20 weeks on average, affecting approximately 432 million primary and secondary school children (SESRIC, 2022c). Although the distance learning has immediately been suggested and put into practice in most of countries, more children worldwide still lack this option.

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 the 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 10 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, currently as at 1 January of reporting year, 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 26.2% in the last two decades and it rose from 8.4% to 20.6% in the OIC countries group within the same period. 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 remains male.

As of 2022, 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 seven other OIC countries, namely Senegal (42.7%), Mozambique (42.4%), Guyana (35.7%), Albania (35.7%), Cameroon (33.9%), Uganda (33.8%), and Uzbekistan (33.3%). On the other hand, 12 OIC countries reported marginally low proportions of seats held by women in their national parliaments with less than 10% (Figure 23).

Figure 23: Proportion of Seats Held by Women in National Parliaments (% of Total Number of Seats), 2000 vs. 2022
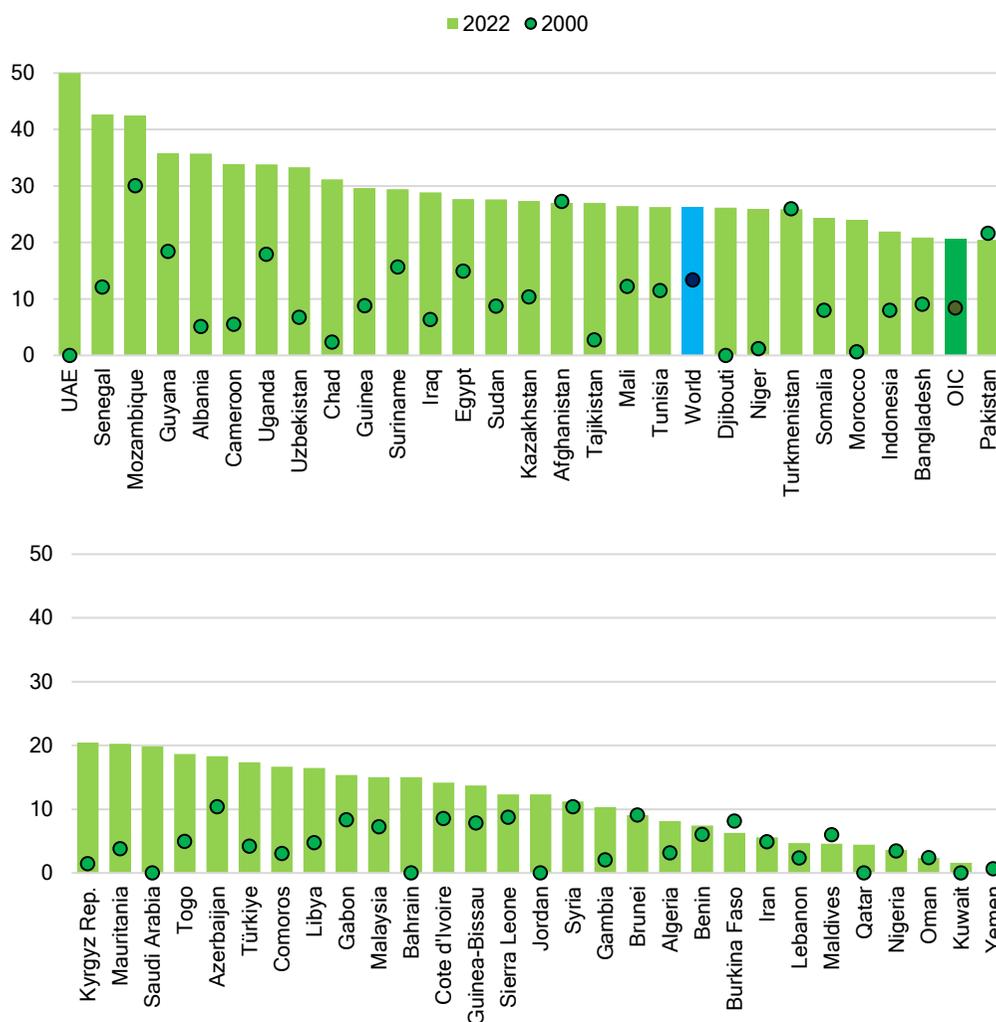
Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 03/08/2022 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). Please see Appendix 1 for exceptions and details.

Proportions of women in leadership and managerial positions in OIC countries vary widely

Proportions of women in managerial positions refers to the proportion of females in the total number of persons employed in managerial positions (UNSD, SDG metadata). Women's full and effective participation in managerial positions is one of the ways to

unlock progress on gender equality; however, women are still substantially behind men in terms of positions held in managerial. In 2020, women held only 28.3% of managerial positions in the world. Likewise, based on available data on 35 OIC countries, women held only 24.9% of managerial positions in the OIC countries group (Figure 24).

Figure 24: Proportion of Women in Managerial Positions (%), 2000 vs. 2020
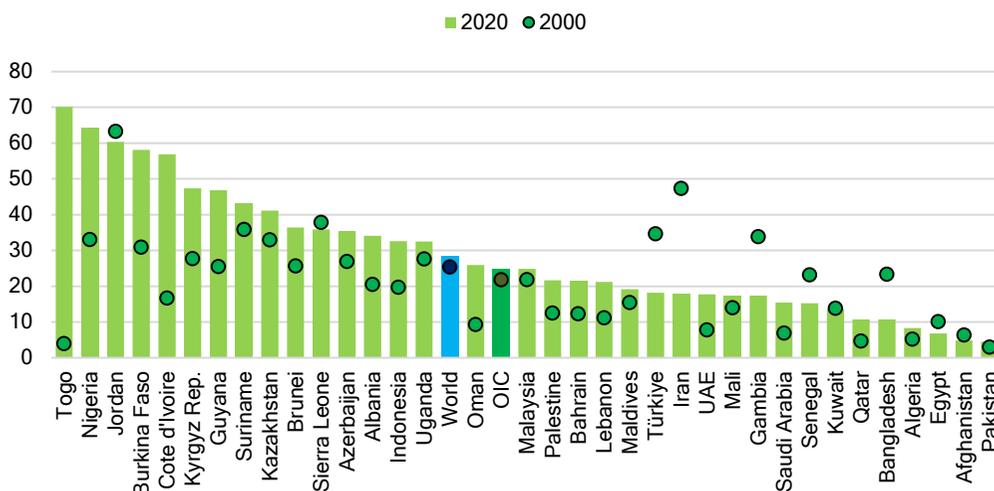
Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 03/08/2022 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). Please see Appendix 1 for exceptions and details.

Despite low proportions of women in managerial positions in both the world and OIC countries group, five OIC countries, namely Togo (70.1%), Nigeria (64.4%), Jordan (60.3%), Burkina Faso (58.1%), and Cote d'Ivoire (56.9%) have performed better in terms of women holding managerial jobs. This demonstrates that these countries have surpassed the equal opportunity mark of 50% needed for men and women in holding managerial positions as enshrined in the 2030 Agenda (Figure 24).

Women and girls have faced with increased burden of unpaid care and domestic work during the pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has hit women harder in different ways including loss of employment, reductions in paid work hours, lost earnings, and increase in violence against women and girls. These fallouts due to the crisis have serious impact on decades of fragile progress made in narrowing the gender inequality gap. The pandemic associated lockdowns, closure of schools, businesses, and restrictions to mobility and other services trapped many people at homes increasing care demands and domestic work in households everywhere around the world. Women and girls undoubtedly shouldered the major burden of such care and domestic work hence taking up more unpaid care and domestic work during the pandemic which affected their careers (UN Women, 2021; PARIS21, 2022).

In the fight against the pandemic, women have been in the forefront in many capacities as educators, health professionals, and unpaid caregivers; however, when governments created special governance and advisory mechanisms to help tackle the pandemic, proportions of women entrusted with leadership positions in the COVID-19 task forces in many countries worldwide were insignificant (UN Women and UNDP, 2021). This implies the COVID-19 pandemic further exposed the particular vulnerability of women and shows the growing body of evidence in gender inequality. It is therefore important that every COVID-19 response plan, recovery package and budgeting of resources should endeavour to consider gender equality.

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. The COVID-19 pandemic and the economic shutdown result in output contractions and employment loss across OIC countries. As a result of the pandemic, the global economy was contracted by 3.5% in 2020. Although the global economic growth was 5.7% in 2021, this recovery unfortunately is expected to slow dawn to 2.9% in 2022 and stay at 3 percent in 2023-24 due to Russia-Ukraine conflict (World Bank, 2022c).

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 2000-2020 period, the average annual growth rate of real GDP per capita was 2.1% for the entire OIC countries group and 2.6% for the OIC-LDCs group with 21 countries. Although these rates were over that of the world (1.5%), it was less than half the target rate of 7% a year. 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, in particular 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 2000-2020. Besides Guyana and Azerbaijan, three more OIC countries (Djibouti, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan) were observed to have the average annual growth rate of real GDP per capita with 5% and more from 2000 to 2020. In the same time interval, the average annual growth rate of real GDP per capita was negative for 12 OIC countries (Figure 25).

Figure 25: Average Annual Growth Rate of Real GDP per Capita (%), 2000-2020

Chart 1 (top): Average Annual Growth Rate of Real GDP per Capita (%), countries in descending order:
Guyana, Azerbaijan, Djibouti, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan, Mali, Albania, Sierra Leone, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Türkiye, Mozambique, Benin, Uganda, Morocco, Chad, Malaysia, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, OIC_LDCs, Burkina Faso, Kyrgyz Rep., Egypt, Togo, Guinea, OIC

Chart 2 (bottom): Average Annual Growth Rate of Real GDP per Capita (%), countries in descending order:
Iran, Pakistan, Tunisia, World, Suriname, Senegal, Iraq, Sudan, Cameroon, Algeria, Niger, Palestine, Jordan, Comoros, Maldives, Saudi Arabia, Mauritania, Guinea-Bissau, Qatar, Gambia, Somalia, Brunei, Bahrain, Kuwait, Gabon, Syria, Oman, Lebanon, Libya, UAE, Yemen

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 06/09/2022 from United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), National Accounts Main Aggregates Database. Please see Appendix 1 for exceptions and 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.

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 policy makers. They can also contribute to the understanding of how labour market performance affects living standards of employed persons (UNSD, SDG metadata).

Growth in labour productivity – measured by GDP per employed person – was estimated as 2% for the OIC countries group in the 2000-2021 period, which was slightly over that of the world (1.6%) (Figure 26). However, the average labour productivity growth rate for the OIC countries group slowed down after the financial crisis of 2008-2009. The average rate was 1.4% between 2009 and 2021, compared to 2.9% between 2000 and 2008. 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 towards the achievement of higher levels of development.

Figure 26: Average Annual Growth Rate of Real GDP per Employed Person (%), 2000-2021
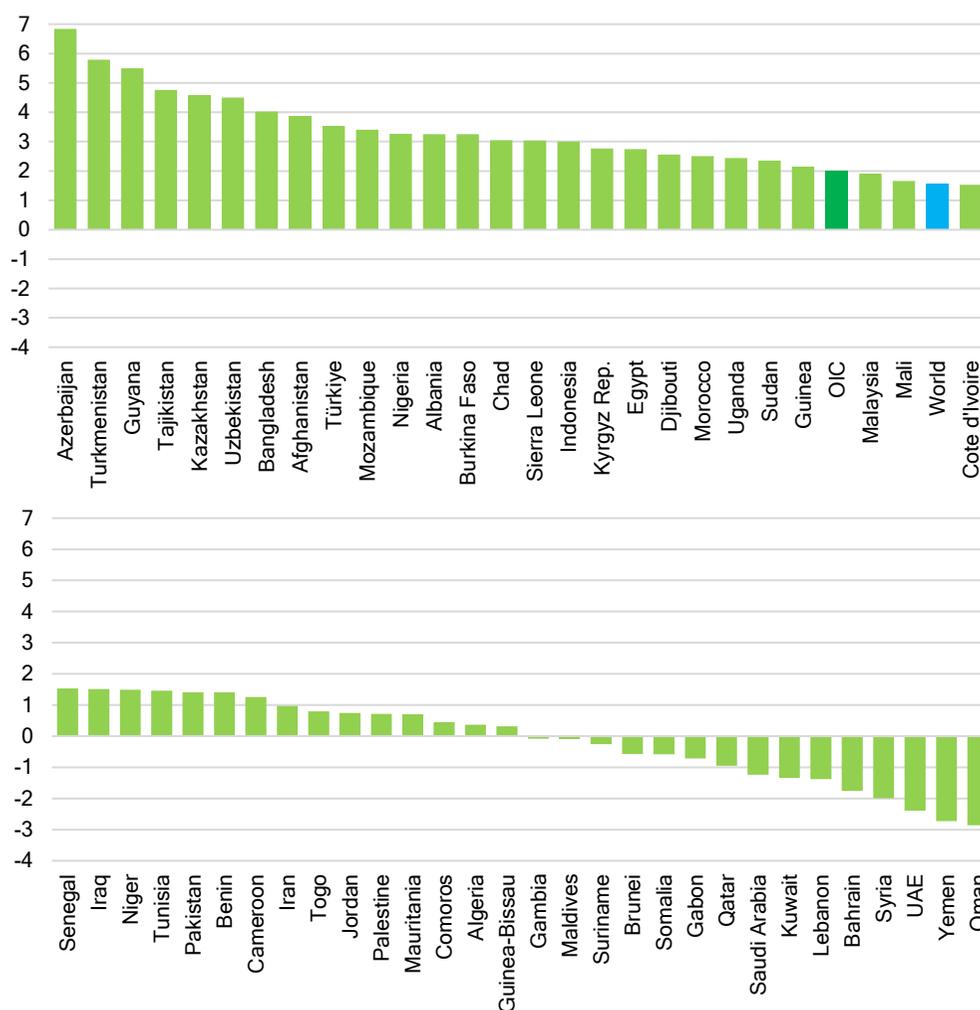
Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 06/09/2022 from OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). Please see Appendix 1 for exceptions and details.

The OIC countries group showed considerable variation in the growth of labour productivity. It was on average over 5% for only three OIC countries (Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Guyana) from 2000 to 2021. While the average labour productivity growth rates of 20 OIC countries lied between 2% and 5%, they were between 0% and 2% for 18 OIC countries in the same period. However, 15 OIC countries showed negative average labour productivity growth for the period 2000-2021 (Figure 26).

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).

Figure 27: Unemployment Rate, Ages 15+, Both Sexes (%), 2000 vs. 2021
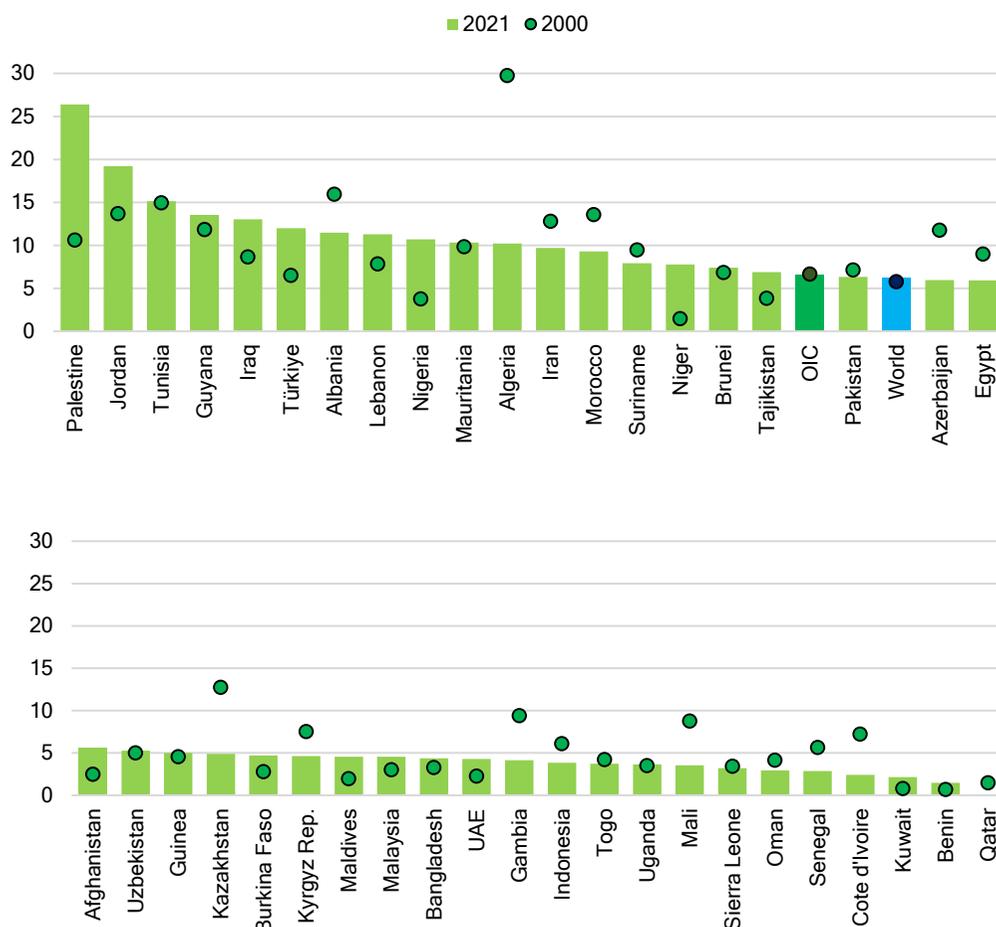
Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 06/09/2022 from International Labour Organization (ILO), ILOSTAT Database. Please see Appendix 1 for exceptions and details.

The average unemployment rate of the OIC countries group only slightly decreased from 6.6% in 2000 to 6.5% in 2021 based on available data for 42 OIC countries. In this regard, the OIC countries group stays off-track for the target of achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all by 2030 based on the pace of progress between 2000 and 2021 (Figure 27).

Long-term unemployment can have long-lasting negative impacts for individuals and society by endangering social cohesion and increasing the risk of poverty and social conflict. Large disparities exist across the OIC countries in terms of unemployment rate. In the 2000-2021 period, out of 42 OIC countries with data available, unemployment rate increased in 23 of them and decreased in 19 of them (Figure 27).

The unemployment rate was below 5% in 19 OIC countries (Qatar, Benin, Kuwait, Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal, Oman, Sierra Leone, Mali, Uganda, Togo, Indonesia, Gambia, United Arab Emirates, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Maldives, Kyrgyz Republic, Burkina Faso, and Kazakhstan). However, it was alarming in 11 OIC countries with over 10% based on latest year available data (from 2016 to 2021) (Figure 27).

Share of youth not in employment, education or training still remains high in the majority of OIC countries

The share of youth (aged 15-24 years) not in employment, education or training represents a measure of youth who are outside the educational system, not in training and not in employment. It is also known as "the NEET rate". It serves as a broader measure of potential youth labour market entrants than youth unemployment as it also includes youth outside the labour force such as discouraged worker youth as well as those who are outside the labour force due to disability or engagement in household chores among other reasons. The youth NEET rate is also a better measure of the current universe of potential youth labour market entrants as compared with the youth inactivity rate as the youth NEET rate includes young persons who are not in education or training but currently available for work and seeking work (UNSD, SDG metadata).

The performance of the OIC countries concerning the youth NEET rate has been quite heterogeneous. Out of 30 OIC countries with data available, the youth NEET rate decreased in 16 of them and increased in 14 of them between 2000 and 2021. The largest decreases were recorded in Türkiye, Kazakhstan, Brunei, Albania, Indonesia, Iran, and Pakistan by over 5 percentage points. However, the youth NEET rate increased by over 5 percentage points in seven OIC countries mostly in Sub-Saharan Africa (Figure 28).

As the most recent individual country data shows, the situation is generally less favourable. More than one fifth of youth was not engaged in employment nor in education and training in 25 out of 30 OIC countries with available data in 2021. In other words, the talents and energy of one fifth of the youth in the OIC region was not effectively used in contributing to the development of their countries.

Figure 28: Proportion of Youth not in Education, Employment or Training, Ages 15-24, Both Sexes (%), 2000 vs. 2021
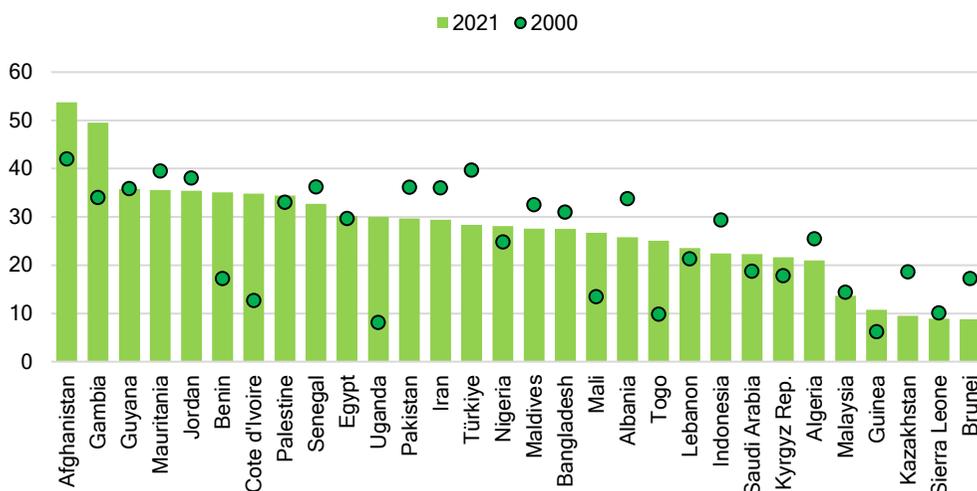
Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 06/09/2022 from OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). Please see Appendix 1 for exceptions and details.

COVID-19 continues to have severe negative economic impacts on OIC countries

The OIC economies were already fragile before the COVID-19 pandemic. The fall in economic growth rates, record-high debt levels, and fragile public finance positions in OIC countries further limit the ability to implement counter-cyclical policy in response to adverse developments (World Bank, 2020b). Against the backdrop of this fragile outlook, the productive capacities of OIC economies are compounded by the most recent global crisis triggered by the COVID-19 outbreak. Although the global economy started to recover, this recovery unfortunately would be uneven owing to especially highly unequal vaccine access across countries as well as due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict (World Bank, 2022c).

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 the 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.

Despite the current unprecedented impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the OIC countries are required to increase level of investments in infrastructure to foster technological progress and innovation where R&D has become a key player. Additionally, it is vital to facilitate financial support to small-scale enterprises especially to the specific sectors recently affected substantially by the pandemic to manage their financial necessities during these difficult times.

Significant investment is needed in the 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 2000-2020, MVA as a proportion of GDP declined slightly by 0.33 percentage-point in the OIC countries group from 14.87% to 14.54%. On the other hand, the world average decreased 1.5 percentage points from 17.3% in 2000 to 15.8% in 2020. In this perspective, the OIC-LDCs countries group is not expected to achieve the target of doubling industry's share in their GDPs by 2030 with this pace of progress recorded so far. Indeed, the share of MVA in GDP increased in nine OIC-LDCs while it declined in 12 OIC-LDCs since 2000. Therefore, the OIC-LDCs need significant levels of investment to boost their technological progress and economic growth. Furthermore, the ratio was over 20% in only four countries and less than 5% in 11 countries across all 57 OIC countries in 2020 (Figure 29).

Figure 29: Manufacturing Value Added as a Proportion of GDP (Current Prices in USD) (%), 2000 vs. 2020
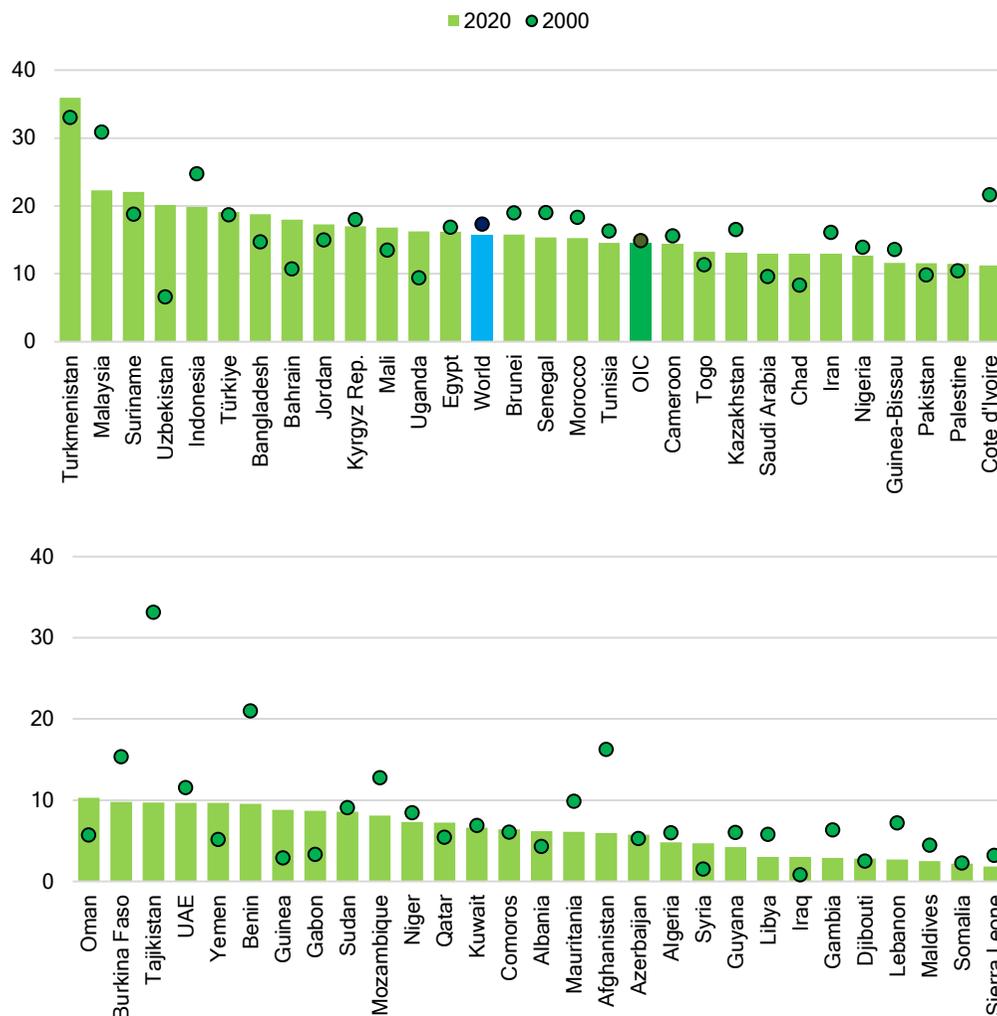
CO_2 emissions intensity of manufacturing in OIC countries group shows a downward trend

Carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions per unit of MVA shows 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 measures 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).

CO$_2$ emissions per unit of MVA in constant 2015 USD were estimated as 0.8 kg CO$_2$ per USD in the OIC countries group in 2019, with a 0.2-kg-decline from 2000. On the other hand, the world average of CO$_2$ emissions per unit of MVA was recorded as 0.4 kg CO$_2$ per USD in 2019 compared to its value of 0.5 kg in 2000 (Figure 30).

Between 2000 and 2019, majority of the 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 26 countries. In 2019, while 12 OIC countries had over 1 kg of CO$_2$ emission per unit of MVA, nine 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 30).

Figure 30: Carbon Dioxide Emissions per Unit of MVA (Kg of CO$_2$ per Constant 2015 USD), 2000 vs. 2019
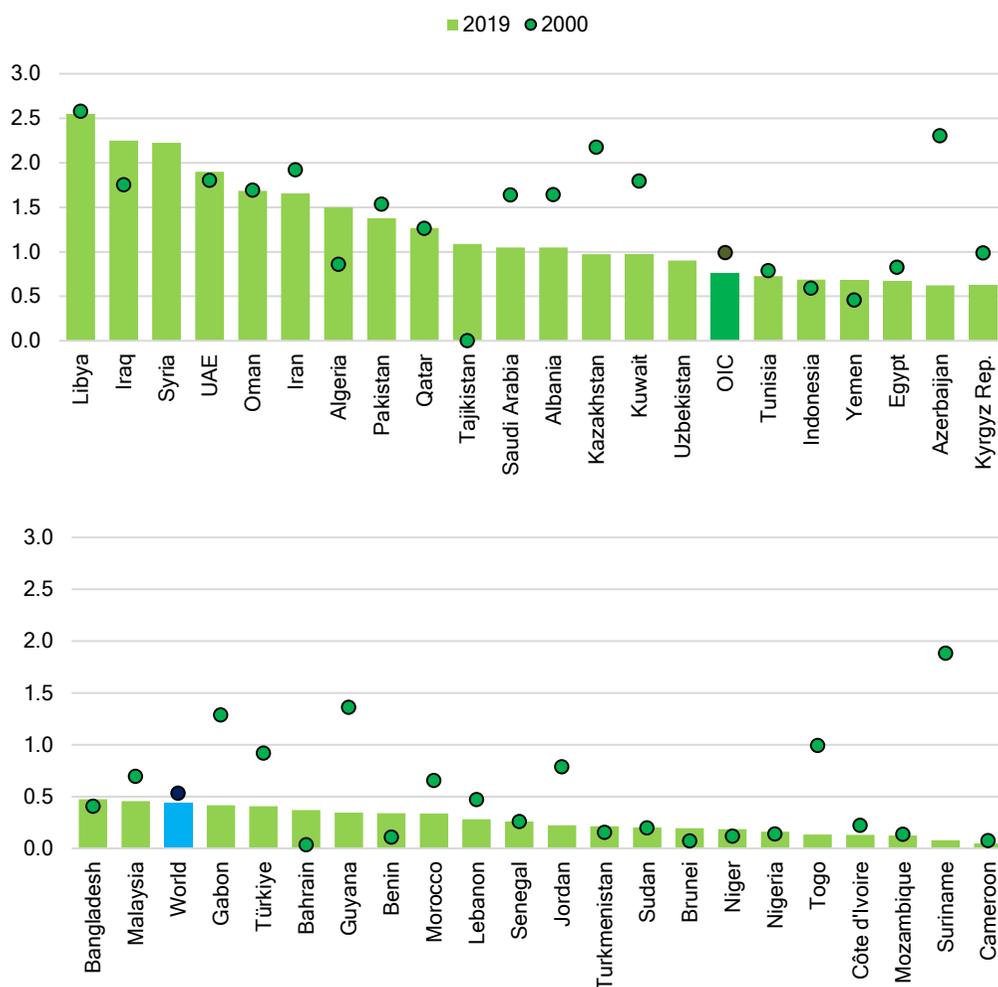
Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 03/08/2022 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). Please see Appendix 1 for exceptions and details.

Although research and development (R&D) 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. However, the R&D expenditure by OIC countries group in relation to their GDP has slightly grown about 0.3 percentage point between 2000 and 2018. While the global average was 1.7%, only 0.6% of GDP was devoted to R&D in the OIC countries group in 2018 (Figure 31).

At the individual country level, 18 out of 25 OIC countries with available data increased their R&D spending share in GDP between 2000 and 2018. Furthermore, four OIC countries (United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Egypt and Türkiye) have recorded about 0.5 percentage point and more increase in their values from 2000 to 2018. However, all OIC countries with available data are lagging behind the world average in R&D spending in GDP in 2018 (Figure 31). Thus, more concerted efforts in R&D are urgently needed to enhance the research capabilities of OIC countries.

Figure 31: Research and Development Expenditure as a Proportion of GDP (%), 2000 vs. 2018
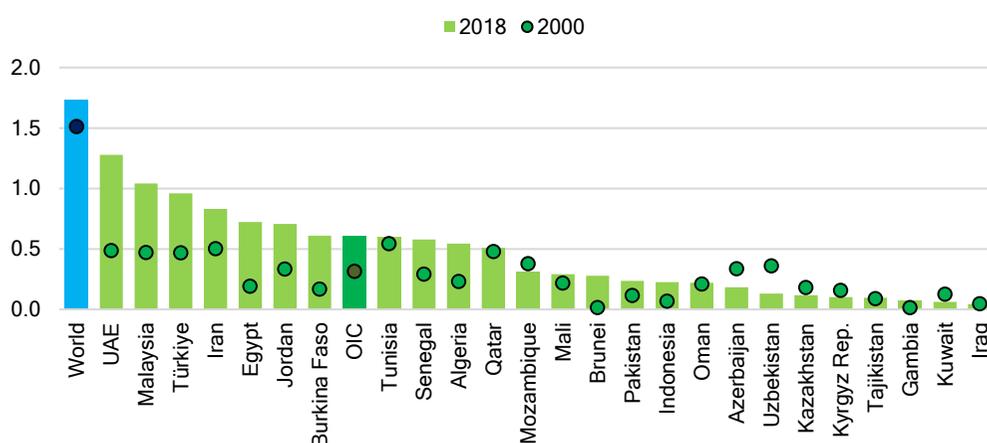
There has been an overall increase in the number of researchers in OIC countries

The researchers (in full-time equivalent) per million inhabitants is calculated as the number of R&D workers per one million people. Researchers are defined as the

professionals engaging in the development of skills and expertise with concepts and techniques through using available knowledge and the research based upon (UNSD, SDG metadata).

Based on available data on 22 OIC countries, there has been an overall increase in the number of researchers per million inhabitants from 2000 to 2018. Specifically, 14 OIC countries have increased their number of R&D workers per one million people by more than 50%. However, only five OIC countries (United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Tunisia, Iran and Türkiye) surpassed the world average in 2018 (Figure 32).

Figure 32: Researchers (in Full-Time Equivalent) per Million Inhabitants, 2000 vs. 2018
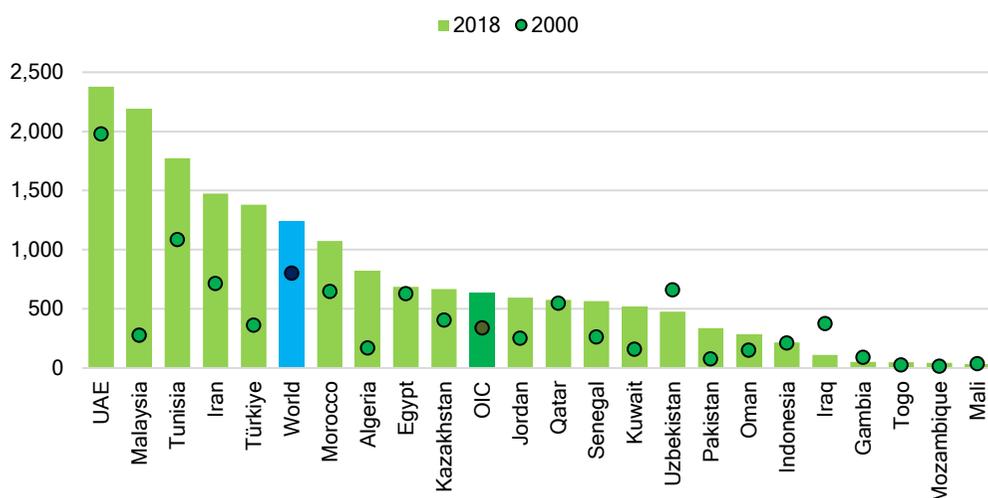

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 03/08/2022 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). Please see Appendix 1 for exceptions and details.

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. Increasing share of MHT sectors reflects both the impact of innovation and R&D activities (UNSD, SDG metadata).

The share of MHT in total MVA increased by 1.7 percentage points from 31.2% in 2000 to 32.9% in 2019 in the OIC countries group. In contrast, the world witnessed a decrease around 1.6 percentage points from 46.7% in 2000 to 45.1% in 2019 (Figure 33). 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 the OIC countries in order to reduce the development disparities between the OIC countries and rest of the world.

Figure 33: Proportion of MHT Industry Value Added in Total MVA (%), 2000 vs. 2019
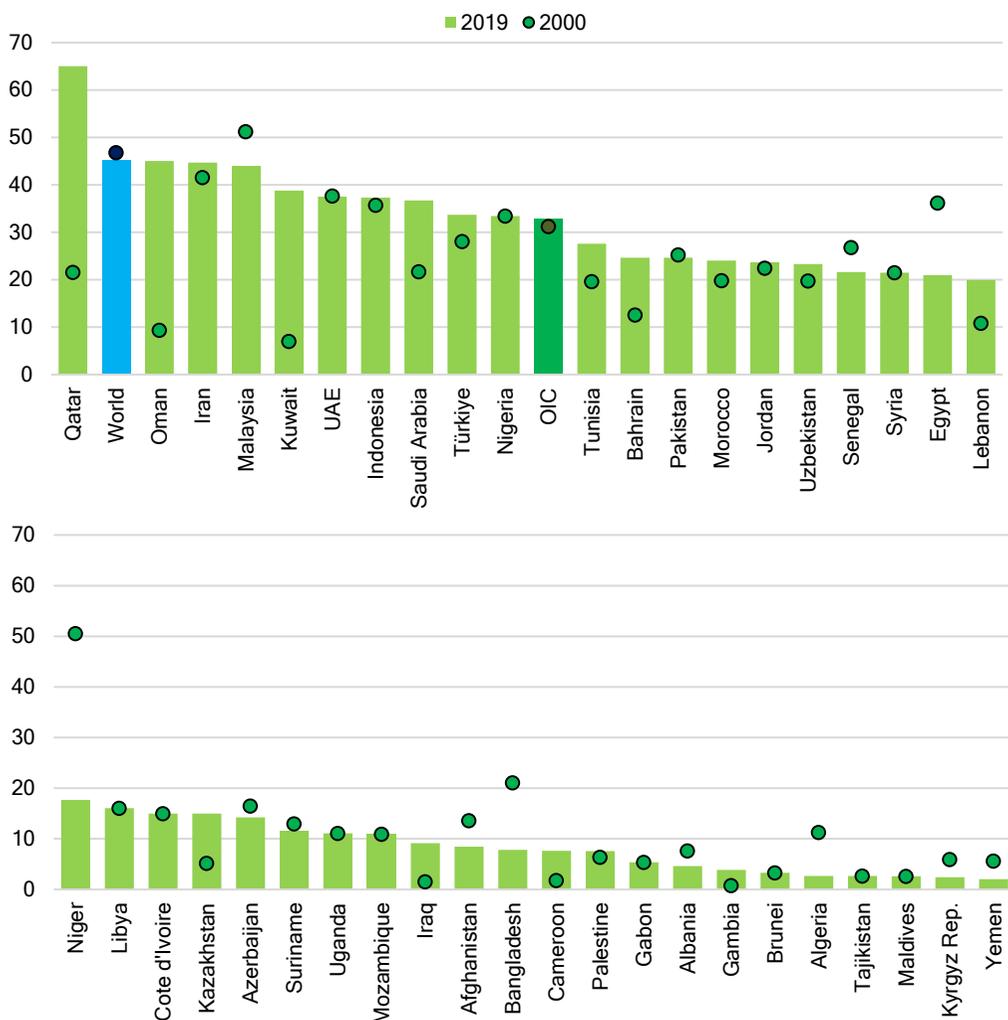
At the country level, the proportion of MHT industries in total MVA increased 10 percentage points or more in six OIC countries (Qatar, Oman, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Kazakhstan). Overall, while the share of MHT manufacturing increased in 18 OIC countries, it stagnated in nine countries and decreased in 15 OIC countries during the 2000-2019 period based on data available for 42 OIC countries. Only Qatar had a share of MHT manufacturing higher than the world average in 2019. As these figures reveal, accelerated actions need to be taken by the 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 benefit from the potential of ICTs, in particular in the least developed and rural areas (UNSD, SDG metadata).

Figure 34: Proportion of Population Covered by at least a 3G Mobile Network (%), 2000 vs. 2020
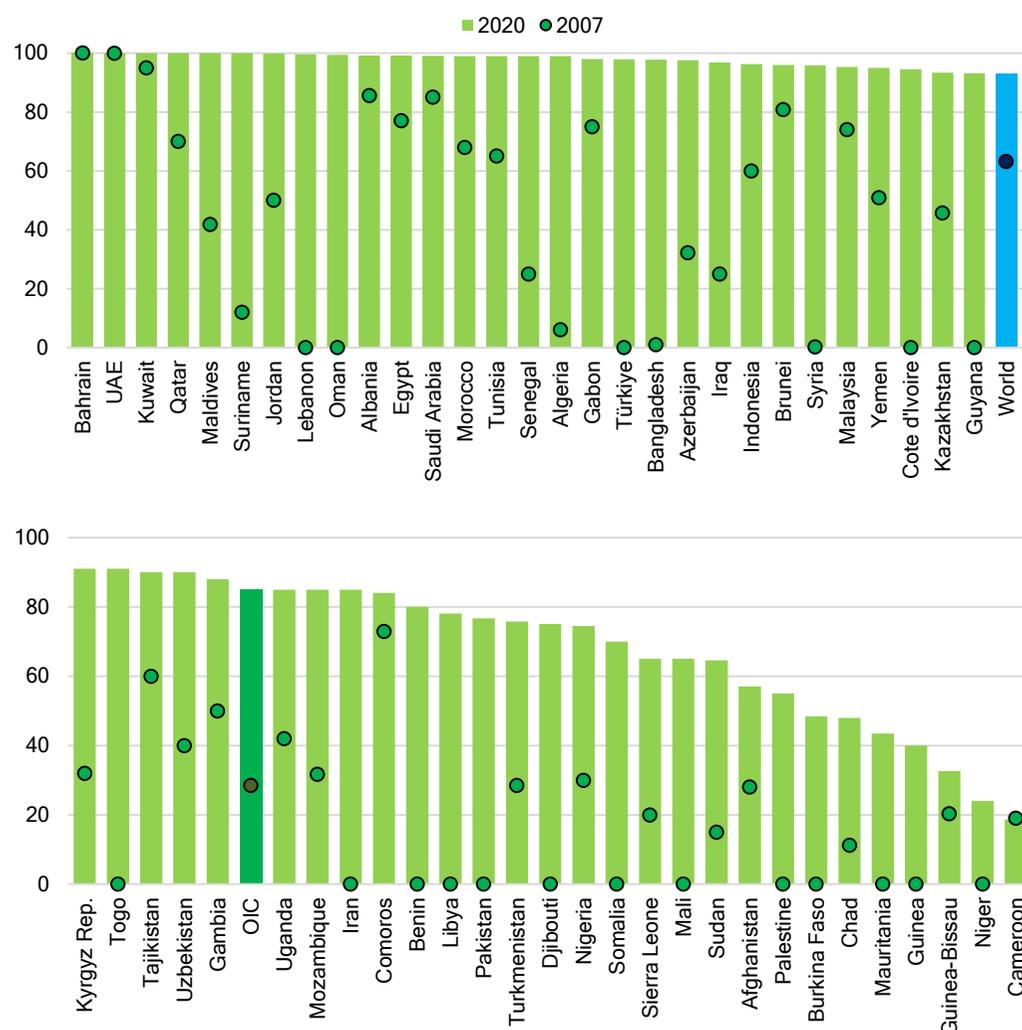
Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 03/08/2022 from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). Please see Appendix 1 for exceptions and details.

Mobile cellular services have spread much faster than anticipated. Between 2007 and 2020, 3G network coverage almost tripled to reach 85% of the total OIC population. However, in 2020, about 93% of the world population is covered by a 3G mobile network.

At the country level, at least 90% of people in 33 OIC countries accessed the Internet through a 3G network by 2020. Moreover, the proportion of population covered by a 3G network was between 50% and 90% in 17 OIC countries, and it was below 50% in seven OIC countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Niger, and Cameroon) (Figure 34).

However, living within the range of mobile-cellular networks across the 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 with affordable prices.

The OIC countries need to increase their investments in infrastructure, manufacturing and technology to speed up the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic

Despite the current challenges to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic, it is necessary to increase investments in infrastructure to boost technological progress and innovation where ICTs have become indispensable and a must for all communities to address the new digitalization needs and mitigate the negative impacts of this crisis. Economies with a diversified industrial sector and strong infrastructure (e.g., information and communication technology, transport, and utility services) sustained less damage and are experiencing faster recovery from the negative shocks of the pandemic (UN, 2022).

SDG 13: Take Urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and Its Impacts

The climate crisis worldwide continues to occur as 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 actions, SDG 13 emphasizes to combat 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 into 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 the OIC countries between 2005 and 2020. Based on last year available data for 41 OIC countries, the number of people affected by disasters remained considerably high above 1,000 per 100,000 persons in nine OIC countries. Followed by

another set of nine OIC countries whose figures were in hundreds and it was below 100 per 100,000 persons in 23 OIC countries.

The largest decrease ever in CO_2 emissions was recorded during COVID-19 pandemic

Social and economic disruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 reduced the global energy demand, which resulted into a 5.2% (approximately 2 billion metric tonnes) decrease in global carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions in 2020. This shrinkage in CO_2 emissions was the largest decrease ever and nearly five times greater than the decline recorded in 2009 following the global financial crisis. However, this achievement was short-lived as phasing out of COVID-19 related restrictions and the escalation of the conflict between Ukraine and Russia led to an increase in demand for hydrocarbon-based energy sources. As a result, 2021 saw a 6% increase in energy-related CO_2 emissions, which was their highest level ever and completely reversing the pandemic-related reduction seen in 2020 (UN, 2022).

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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 2021, in order to estimate the progress towards SDGs.

Two reference points are the base year which is generally 2000 and the last year 2021. For the base year, in the cases where 2000 data is not available, the earliest data from 2001 and onwards was used. For generating data for the reference year 2021, in the cases where 2021 data is not available, the latest year data starting from 2020 to 2015 was used to focus on progress made in recent years. The dataset generated through the aforementioned method was also used for calculating 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: Proportion of Population below International Poverty Line (%), 2000 vs. 2021

The OIC average for "Proportion of Population below the International Poverty Line" was estimated using the "Population, Total" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

Figure 6: Proportion of Population Covered by at Least One Social Protection Benefit (%), 2020

The OIC average for "Proportion of Population Covered by at Least One Social Protection Benefit" was estimated using the "Population, Total" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

Figure 7: Proportion of Population Using Basic Drinking Water Services (%), 2000 vs. 2020

The OIC average for "Proportion of Population Using Basic Drinking Water Services" was estimated using the "Population, Total" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

Figure 8: Proportion of Total Government Spending on Essential Services, Education (%), 2000 vs. 2021

The OIC average for "Proportion of Total Government Spending on Essential Services, Education" was estimated using the "General Government Final Consumption Expenditure, Constant 2015 Prices" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). As different base year data were used for some OIC countries, government expenditures at constant prices have been preferred instead of current prices as the weight.

SDG 2

Figure 9: Prevalence of Undernourishment (%), 2001 vs. 2019

The OIC average for "Prevalence of Undernourishment" was estimated using the "Population, Total" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

Figure 10: Proportion of Children Moderately or Severely Stunted (%), 2000 vs. 2020

The OIC average for "Proportion of Children Moderately or Severely Stunted" was estimated using the "Population, Ages 0-4" as the weight accessed from the United Nations Population Division.

SDG 3

Figure 12: Under-Five Mortality Rate, Both Sexes (per 1,000 Live Births), 2000 vs. 2020

The OIC average for "Under-Five Mortality Rate, Both Sexes" was estimated using "Population, Ages 0-4" as the weight accessed from the United Nations Population Division.

Figure 13: Neonatal Mortality Rate, Both Sexes (per 1,000 Live Births), 2000 vs. 2020

The OIC average for "Neonatal Mortality Rate, Both Sexes" was estimated using the "Population, Ages 0-4" as the weight accessed from the United Nations Population Division.

Figure 14: Tuberculosis Incidence (per 100,000 Population), 2000 vs. 2020

The OIC average for "Tuberculosis Incidence" was estimated using the "Population, Total" data as the weight accessed from OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

Figure 15: Universal Health Coverage Service Coverage Index, 2000 vs. 2019

The OIC average for "Universal Health Coverage Service Coverage Index" was arithmetic mean values of the countries with available data.

Figure 16: Age-Standardized Prevalence of Current Tobacco use Among Persons, Ages 15+, Both Sexes (%), 2000 vs. 2020

The OIC average for "Age-Standardized Prevalence of Current Tobacco use Among Persons, Ages 15+, Both Sexes" was estimated using "Population, Ages 15+" as the weight accessed from OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

Figure 17: Proportion of Target Population with Access to DTP3 Vaccine (%), 2000 vs. 2020

The OIC average for "Proportion of Target Population with Access to DTP3 Vaccine" was estimated using "Population, Ages 0-4" as the weight accessed from the United Nations Population Division.

Figure 18: Health Worker Density, Medical Doctors (per 10,000 Population), 2000 vs. 2020

The OIC averages for "Health Worker Density, Medical Doctors" were estimated using the "Population, Total" data as the weight accessed from OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

SDG 4

Figure 19: Completion Rate, Primary, Both Sexes (%), 2000 vs. 2020

The OIC average for "Completion Rate, Primary, Both Sexes" was estimated using the "School Age Population, Primary Education, Both Sexes" as the weight accessed from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Institute for Statistics (UIS), UIS.Stat Database.

Figure 20: Participation Rate in Organized Learning (One Year Before the Official Primary Entry Age), Both Sexes (%), 2000 vs. 2020

The OIC average for "Participation Rate in Organized Learning (One Year Before the Official Primary Entry Age), Both Sexes" was estimated using the "School Age Population, One Year Before the Official Primary Entry Age, Both Sexes" as the weight accessed from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Institute for Statistics (UIS), UIS.Stat Database.

Figure 22: Proportion of Teachers in Primary Education who have Received at least the Minimum Organized Teacher Training, Both Sexes (%), 2000 vs. 2020

The OIC average for "Proportion of Teachers in Primary Education who have Received at least the Minimum Organized Teacher Training, Both Sexes" was estimated using the "Teachers, Primary Education, Both Sexes" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

SDG 5

Figure 23: Proportion of Seats Held by Women in National Parliaments (% of Total Number of Seats), 2000 vs. 2022

The OIC average for "Proportion of Seats Held by Women in National Parliaments" was estimated using "Total Number of Seats in the National Parliaments" as the weight accessed from OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

Figure 24: Proportion of Women in Managerial Positions (%), 2000 vs. 2020

The OIC average for "Proportion of Women in Managerial Positions" was estimated using "Population, Ages 15+, Female" as the weight accessed from the United Nations Population Division.

SDG 8

Figure 25: Average Annual Growth Rate of Real GDP per Capita (%), 2000-2020

The OIC average for "Real GDP per capita" was estimated using "Population, Total" as the weight accessed from 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. Average annual growth rate of real GDP per capita for Sudan is for the 2009-2019 period. Therefore, the annual growth rate of 2008 for the OIC-LDCs group is excluded in calculation of the "Average Annual Growth Rate of Real GDP per capita" as including Sudan affects the group's average value significantly.

Figure 26: Average Annual Growth Rate of Real GDP per Employed Person (%), 2000-2021

The OIC average for "Real GDP per Employed Person" was estimated using "Total Employment, Age: 15+ -- ILO modelled estimates" accessed from the ILOSTAT database. 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 2010 USD in year t+1 and $G(t)$ is real GDP per employed person in 2010 USD in year t. Data for Libya are not included due to outliers.

Figure 27: Unemployment Rate, Ages 15+, Both Sexes (%), 2000 vs. 2021

The OIC average for "Unemployment Rate" was estimated using "Total Labour Force, Age: 15+ -- ILO modelled estimates" as the weight accessed from the ILOSTAT database.

SDG 9

Figure 29: Manufacturing Value Added as a Proportion of GDP (Current Prices in USD) (%), 2000 vs. 2020

The OIC average for "Manufacturing Value Added as a Proportion of GDP" was estimated using "GDP, Current Prices (USD)" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

Figure 30: Carbon Dioxide Emissions per Unit of MVA (Kg of CO_2 per Constant 2015 USD), 2000 vs. 2019

The OIC average for "Carbon Dioxide Emissions per Unit of Manufacturing Value Added" was estimated using "Manufacturing, Value Added, Constant 2015 Prices (USD)" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). Data for Syria for 2000 (17.1) is not shown in the figure due to its outlier nature.

Figure 31: Research and Development Expenditure as a Proportion of GDP (%), 2000 vs. 2018

The OIC average for "Research and Development Expenditure as a Proportion of GDP" was estimated using the "GDP, Constant 2015 Prices (USD)" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

Figure 32: Researchers (in Full-Time Equivalent) per Million Inhabitants, 2000 vs. 2018

The OIC average for "Researchers (in Full-Time Equivalent) per Million Inhabitants" was estimated using the "Population, Total" data as the weight accessed from OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

Figure 33: Proportion of MHT Industry Value Added in Total MVA (%), 2000 vs. 2018

The OIC average for "Proportion of MHT Industry Value Added in Total Value Added" was estimated using "Manufacturing, Value Added, Current Prices (USD)" as the weight accessed from the OIC Statistics Database (OICStat).

Figure 34: Proportion of Population Covered by at least a 3G Mobile Network (%), 2000 vs. 2020

The OIC average for "Proportion of Population Covered by at least a 3G Mobile Network" was estimated using "Population, Total" data as the weight accessed from OIC Statistics Database (OICStat). The first year available data for the world average is 2014.

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
National poverty	SDG	Proportion of population living below the national poverty line (%)	Reducing at least by half
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 (%)	None

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

Sub-theme	Source	Indicator	Target Value
Undernourishment	SDG	Prevalence of undernourishment (%)	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

Sub-theme	Source	Indicator	Target Value
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
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
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
	SDG	Completion rate, primary, both sexes (%)	100
Completion rate	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
	SDG	Adjusted gender parity index for participation rate in organized learning (one year before the official primary entry age)	1
Equal access to education	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
	SDG	Proportion of schools with access to electricity, primary (%)	100
Schools with access to electricity	SDG	Proportion of schools with access to electricity, lower secondary (%)	100
	SDG	Proportion of schools with access to electricity, upper secondary (%)	100
	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
Qualified teachers	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

Target	Source	Indicator	Target Value
Safe drinking water	SDG	Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	100
Access to hygiene	SDG	Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	100
	SDG	Proportion of population with basic handwashing facilities on premises (%)	100
	SDG	Proportion of population practicing open defecation (%)	0
Water-use efficiency	SDG	Water use efficiency (USD per m^3)	None
	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
Access to finance for SMEs	SDG	Proportion of small-scale industries with a loan or line of credit (%)	None
Carbon dioxide emissions	SDG	Carbon dioxide emissions per unit of manufacturing value added (kg of CO_2 per constant 2015 USD)	None
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
Human trafficking	SDG	Detected victims of human trafficking, all ages, both sexes	0
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

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