**Total fertility rate** represents the number of children that would be born to a woman if she were to live to the end of her childbearing years and bear children in accordance with current age-specific fertility rates. It is computed by summing up the age-specific fertility rates defined over five year intervals.

The total fertility rate of 2.1 children per woman sustains current population level ("replacement rate") in case there is no net migration and mortality remains unchanged. However, the current scientific literature states that the threshold can be as high as 3.4 in some developing countries because of higher mortality rates.

Total fertility rate declined across the OIC countries, falling on average from 3.9 children per woman of childbearing age in 2000 to 3.3 in 2017. Despite this decline over the last 17 years, this rate was above that of the World (2.4), the Non-OIC Developing (2.2) and the Developed Countries (1.6) group in 2017.

During the 2000-2017 period, the decline in total fertility rate by at least one child per woman on average was particularly observed in 24 OIC countries including Afghanistan, Yemen, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Djibouti, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Chad, Pakistan, Somalia, Qatar, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, Syria, UAE, Iraq, Cote d'Ivoire, Comoros, Bangladesh, Benin, Togo, and Sudan.

However, there was a moderate recovery in average total fertility rates in 7 OIC countries including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Algeria with more than 0.5 point between 2000 and 2017.

In 2017, with seven births per woman, fertility was estimated to be the highest in Niger among the OIC countries. Niger was followed by Somalia, Mali, and Chad where the total fertility rate was around six births per woman.

Among the OIC countries, total fertility rate was estimated to be below the replacement rate of 2.1 in 12 OIC countries including UAE, Albania, Brunei, Qatar, Azerbaijan, Maldives, Bahrain, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Turkey, Kuwait, and Lebanon in 2017.

**Note:** The red line in the graph shows the replacement fertility rate (2.1 children per woman). The group averages of OIC, Non-OIC Developing and Developed Countries groups are weighted with the female population (15-49) in 2000 and 2017.

**Source:** SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 24/03/2020 from World Bank World Development Indicators Database. Please visit OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database (http://bit.ly/2F7W8cv) for other Demography indicators.