Life expectancy at birth indicates the number of years a new-born infant would live if prevailing patterns of mortality at the time of its birth were to stay the same throughout its life. As death rates are falling over time, actual life spans could be higher than the life expectancy calculated with current death rates.

The life expectancy at birth may be low due to the high mortality in young age groups so that once a person survives his/her childhood, he/she may live much longer than the average life expectancy years at birth.

In 2016, life expectancy at birth on average across OIC countries was estimated as 67.3 years, a 4.7-year increase compared to that in 2000.

Despite this improvement, the OIC average was still under that of the World (72 years), Non-OIC Developing (71.8 years), and Developed countries group (81 years).

It is noteworthy that unfortunately all OIC countries had fewer life expectancy years than the average of the Developed countries group in 2016.

At the individual country level, life expectancy at birth exceeded 70 years in half of OIC countries, with Lebanon, Albania, and Qatar at the top of the list in 2016. Among OIC countries, life expectancy was the lowest in Sierra Leone, Chad, Nigeria, and Cote d'Ivoire ranging between 50 and 55 years in the same year.

Even though Sierra Leone had the lowest life expectancy years in 2016, it was the top performing OIC country which achieved a 13.1-year improvement during 2000-2016.

Uganda and Niger also increased their life expectancy with more than 10 years in the same time period.

The OIC average of life expectancy at birth varied by gender, at 69 years for females compared with 65.6 years for males in 2016. The female and male gap differed widely from 1 year to 12.6 years across OIC countries.

In 2016, life expectancy for females in OIC countries ranged from less than 55 years in Sierra Leone, Chad, and Nigeria to more than 80 years in Albania and Lebanon.

For males, life expectancy ranged from less than 55 years in Sierra Leone, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Nigeria, and Somalia to more than 75 years in Oman, Brunei, Bahrain, Albania, Maldives, UAE, Qatar, and Lebanon.

Note: The group averages of OIC, Non-OIC Developing and Developed Countries groups are weighted with the total population (Male and female total population are preferred in calculation of the averages of male and female life expectancy at birth).

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 08/04/2019 from World Bank World Development Indicators Database. Please visit OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database (http://bit.ly/2F7W8cv) for other Demography indicators.