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 2017, life expectancy at birth on average across OIC countries was estimated as 68 years, a 5.4-year increase compared to that in 2000.

Despite this improvement, the OIC average was still under that of the World (72.4 years), Non-OIC Developing (72.1 years), and Developed countries group (81.2 years).

It is noteworthy that unfortunately all OIC countries had life expectancy years lower than that of the Developed countries group in 2017.

At the individual country level, life expectancy at birth exceeded 70 years in 30 OIC countries, with Qatar, Lebanon, and Albania, at the top of the list in 2017.

Among OIC countries, life expectancy was the lowest in Chad, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Somalia, and Cote d’Ivoire ranging between 53.7 and 57 years in the same year.

Uganda was the top performing OIC country which achieved a 16.3-year-improvement during the 2000-2017 period.

Following Uganda; Sierra Leone, Niger, Mali, Mozambique, and Burkina Faso 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 69.7 years for females compared with 66.3 years for males in 2017.

The female and male gap differed widely from 1.1 year to 12 years across the OIC countries.

In 2017, life expectancy for females in OIC countries ranged from less than 55.1 years in Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and Chad to more than 80 years in Qatar, Lebanon, Maldives, Albania, and Turkey.

For males, life expectancy ranged from less than 55.1 years in Chad, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, and Somalia to more than 75 years in Qatar, Lebanon, UAE, Maldives, Albania, Bahrain, Oman, Algeria, and Iran.

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 used correspondingly in calculation of the averages of male and female life expectancy at birth).

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 26/03/2020 from World Bank World Development Indicators Database. Please visit OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database (http://bit.ly/2F7W8cv) for other Demography indicators.