People are the real wealth of nations, and therefore the OIC 2025 Programme of Action and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development put people at the centre to ensure an equitable, sustainable and stable world.

Total population as a concept covers all residents regardless of legal status or citizenship. Population estimates are usually based on national population censuses. Estimates for the years before and after the census are interpolations or extrapolations based on demographic models.

Birth rates, death rates, and international migration are factors directly determines a country’s population growth.

In the period 2000-2017, the OIC population grew from 1.3 billion to 1.8 billion at an average annual rate of 2% which was higher than that of the World (1.2%), the Non-OIC Developing (1.1%), and the Developed Countries group (0.6%).

The average annual population growth rates differed significantly across the OIC countries. The difference between highest and lowest annual population growth rate among OIC countries was over 9 percentage points.

The populations of the Arab countries of the Gulf except Saudi Arabia had the fastest growth among the OIC countries, increasing at a rate of over 4% annually in the 2000-2017 period. Five Arab countries of the Gulf including Qatar, UAE, Bahrain, Oman, and Kuwait increased their population with at least double in size during this period.

Similar to population growth rates, the size of the population of the OIC countries differentiate noticeably. Indonesia, Pakistan, Nigeria, and Bangladesh were among the World’s most crowded countries with populations exceeding 150 million and with Indonesia over 250 million people. These four countries constituted 45% of the total OIC population in 2017.

On the other hand, six OIC countries had less than 1 million people, including two, Brunei and Maldives, with fewer than 500 thousand people in 2017. Other four countries with population less than 1 million people were Suriname, Guyana, Comoros, and Djibouti.

It is noteworthy that only the population of Albania decreased during the 2000-2017 period.

Note: The values in the parentheses next to country names indicate the population (in millions) in 2017.

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.

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