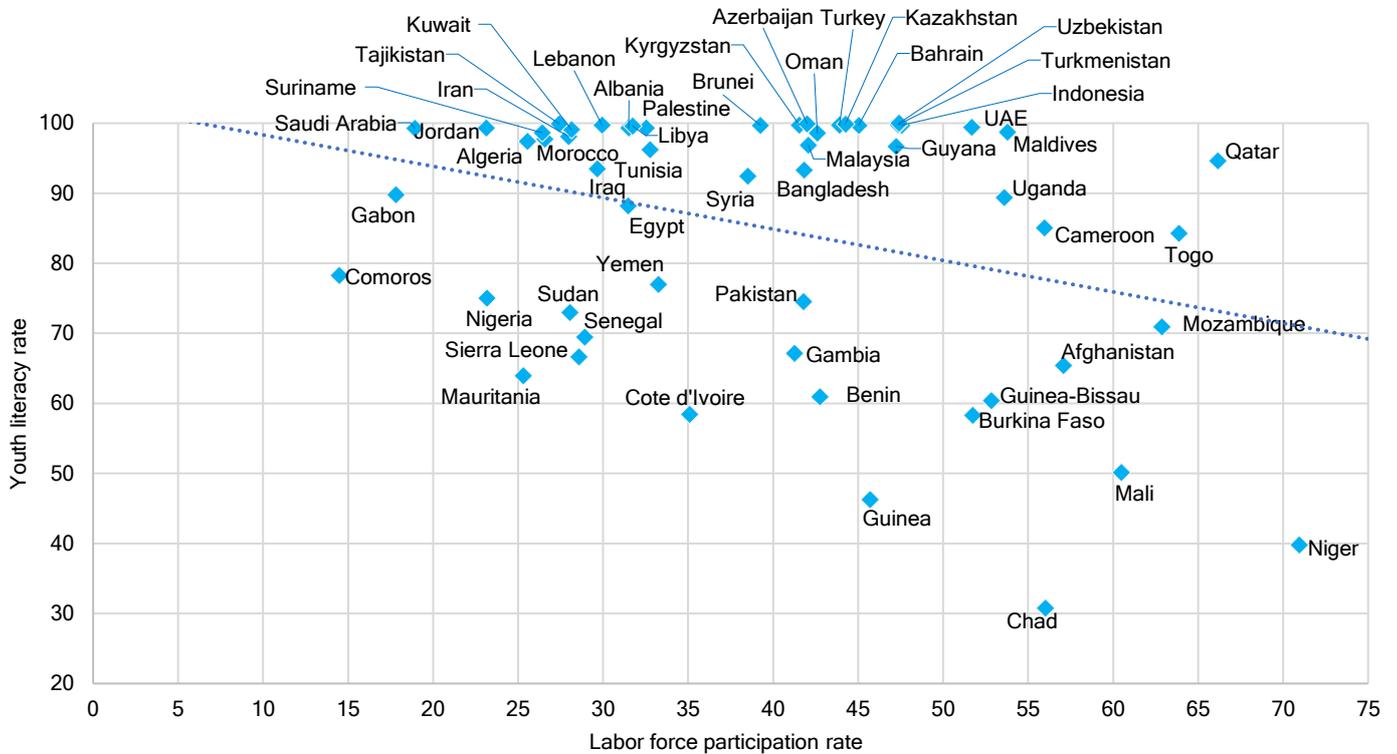


# DID YOU KNOW?

2020-16

**Youth Literacy Rate vs. Youth Labour Force Participation Rate**



- **Youth labour force participation rate** is the proportion of the population ages 15-24 that is economically active; i.e., who supply labour for the production of goods and services during a specified period.
- **Youth literacy rate** shows the percentage of the population ages 15-24 that is able to read and write.
- Countries with higher investments in their education sectors are expected to decrease their poverty rates, increase the standards of living of their citizens, and eventually contribute to the growth of their economies in the long-run.
- The sectoral composition of economies has an influence on the relationship between youth labour force participation rate and youth literacy rate.
- Based on the last year available data between 2004 and 2018, the chart above shows that **31 OIC countries** have **youth literacy rates above 90%**.
- Among them, **Uzbekistan** has a **100%-youth literacy rate** followed by the member countries with **over 99%** youth literacy rate including Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Lebanon, Turkey, Kyrgyzstan, Brunei, Indonesia, Bahrain, Libya, UAE, Jordan, Palestine, Albania, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait.
- On the other hand, **13 OIC countries** - mainly situated in Sub-Saharan Africa - have youth labour force participation rates above 50%.
- These high youth labour force participation rate countries were **Niger (71%)** which was followed by Qatar (66.2%), Togo (63.9%), Mozambique (62.9%), Mali (60.5%), Afghanistan (57.1%), Chad (56%), Cameroon (56%), Maldives (53.8%), Uganda (53.6%), Guinea-Bissau (52.8%), Burkina Faso (51.7%), and UAE (51.7%)
- Within this perspective, the regression line in the above chart presents a **negative slope between youth literacy rate and youth labour force participation rate**.
- In this respect, OIC countries with **high youth labour force participation but low literacy rates** - located closer to the right bottom corner of the chart - have **agriculture intensive economies**.

**Note:** The above chart shows the last year available data between 2004 to 2018 for youth literacy rate. To preserve the consistency, reciprocal year data were used for youth labour force participation.

**Source:** SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 30/03/2020 from World Bank World Development Indicators Database and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization Institute for Statistics (UIS), UIS.Stat Database. Please visit **OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database** (<http://bit.ly/2F7W8cv>) for other Youth indicators.