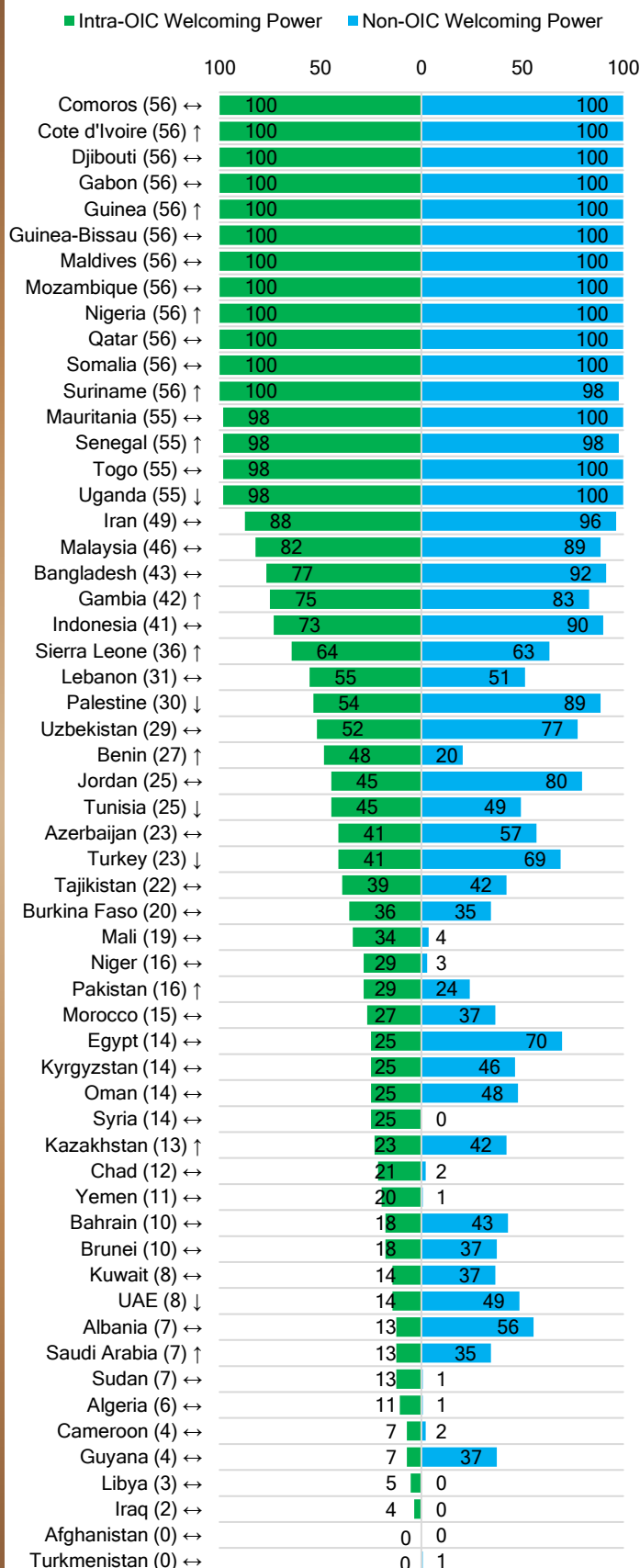


DID YOU KNOW?

2020-11

Welcoming Power of OIC Countries, Intra-OIC vs. Non-OIC (as of 16 March 2020, %)



The **Welcoming Power** shows the ability of countries in welcoming the citizens or nationals of other countries into their territories based on the current passport and visa regimes. The ease with which a country welcomes (a) national(s) of another country depends on their passport, as some countries are more forthcoming in letting visitors in than others.

The individual **Country Welcoming Power** is calculated by awarding one point for each passport of origin countries that is allowed to enter the destination country visa-free or with visa on arrival. In this instance, countries with the high welcoming scores are ranked as the most welcoming countries. The **Intra-OIC Welcoming Power** shows how many OIC countries out of the 56 (in % terms) are welcomed to the destination OIC country visa-free*. On the other hand, **Non-OIC Welcoming Power** shows how many non-OIC countries out of the 142 (in % terms) are welcomed to the destination OIC country visa-free*.

As of 16 March 2020, **12 OIC countries**, mostly in Africa; namely, **Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Maldives, Mozambique, Nigeria, Qatar, Somalia, and Suriname** have achieved a **100% Intra-OIC Welcoming Power** by allowing either visa-free or visa-on-arrival entry for all OIC countries.

As to the Non-OIC Welcoming Power, in addition to the aforementioned OIC countries except Suriname, **Mauritania, Togo** and **Uganda** complete the list of 14 OIC countries which have achieved a **100% Non-OIC Welcoming Power** as they allow either visa-free or visa-on-arrival entry for all Non-OIC countries.

25 OIC countries are able to welcome at least half of the OIC countries to their territories visa-free* with a 52% and above Intra-OIC Welcoming Power. Whereas **30 OIC countries** welcome at least 4 but less than half of the OIC countries beyond their borders visa-free*. **2 OIC countries**; namely, **Afghanistan** and **Turkmenistan**, require citizens of the other OIC countries to have visas prior to arrival.

As compared to the Intra-OIC Welcoming Power achievements recorded on 04/03/2019, **11 OIC countries**, namely **Suriname (52), Nigeria (43), Guinea (39), Senegal (22), Sierra Leone (22), Gambia (17), Pakistan (15), Kazakhstan (6), Cote d'Ivoire (3), Saudi Arabia (3), and Benin (1)** have recorded increases in their Intra-OIC Welcoming Power as shown by the numbers in the brackets.

However, **41 OIC countries** recorded **no change** and **5 OIC countries**; namely, **Uganda, Palestine, Tunisia, UAE** decreased by 1 country each and **Turkey** with 5 countries.

Furthermore; the number of Non-OIC countries welcomed by 14 OIC countries [including **Nigeria (137), Guinea (136), Sierra Leone (86), Suriname (71), Saudi Arabia (49), Senegal (38), Pakistan (30), Gambia (19), Kazakhstan (6), UAE (6), Cote d'Ivoire (4), Lebanon (2), Albania (1), and Bahrain (1)**] increased; by **41 OIC countries** did not change, and by **2 OIC countries** decreased since the last year.

Note: * Visa-free in the context of the Passport Index includes visa-free, visa on arrival and e-visa privileges. Values in parentheses in the chart show the number of OIC countries whose citizens are welcomed visa-free into the destination OIC country.

Source: SESRIC staff calculations based on data extracted on 16/03/2020 from Passport Index (<https://www.passportindex.org/>). Please visit **OIC Statistics (OICStat) Database** (<http://bit.ly/2F7W8cv>) for other Tourism category indicators.