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# OIC

## Strategy for the Empowerment of Family and Marriage Institution



***EMPOWER & ACTIVATE THE MARRIAGE & FAMILY  
INSTITUTION TO ASSUME A GREATER ROLE IN THE PRESERVATION,  
PARTICIPATION, PRODUCTIVITY, PROSPERITY, PARTNERSHIP &  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD.***

***Prepared by***

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**OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Family & Marriage Institution**



# OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Family & Marriage Institution

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

OIC	Organisation of Islamic Cooperation
FaMI	Family & Marriage Institution
FaMIES	Family & Marriage Institution Empowerment Strategy
FRT	Family Role Transformation
CESS	Comprehensive Empowerment Service System
SESRIC	Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries
ISESCO	Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
IIUM	International Islamic University Malaysia
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization
AFR	Adolescent Fertility Rate
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MPI	Multidimensional Poverty Index
STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
UNESCO	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
UN	United Nations
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
FaCBP	Family Capacity Building Programme
FWDI	Family Well-being Development Index



# OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Family & Marriage Institution

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document is the OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Marriage and Family Institution (FaMI) in the Islamic World. It provides a rational, framework, strategy and guidelines for OIC member countries to further enhance their efforts and achievements in the areas of Family and marriage institution development and empowerment. In specific terms, the document provides a strategic framework for the empowerment of FaMI through enhancement of its roles in: 1) societal development, 2) preservation of Islamic culture and way of life, 3) participation in decision making at all levels, 4) enhancing Family productivity and prosperity, 5) strengthening Family solidarity and cohesiveness, 6) engaging Families in planning & implementation of policies and action plans, 7) creating synergy among all partners and agencies managing FaMI affairs, and 8) enhancing the well-being and quality of life standards of FaMI in OIC member countries & Muslim Minority countries & supporting Families in Conflict Zones, migrants & refugees and those with special needs and disabilities.

Through this OIC strategy, we aspire towards: 1) Increasing FaMI empowerment and development activities in order to ensure enhancement of Family well-being & quality standards for all, 2) Encouraging member countries to adopt the approach of activation of Family Roles approach and implementation relevant policies, laws, plans and programs for Family empowerment, 3) Accelerating empowerment and training programs & activities geared towards enabling the members of Family to engage and participate in sustainable development agenda in line with the Islamic values and standards, 4) Coordinating & enhancing networking, alliances, relations & partnership across OIC Member States in matters of common interest relating to Family empowerment programs and activities, and 5) Cooperating & engaging with local, regional & international partners, including governments, private sector, civil society, NGOs, regional & international bodies to advance the cause of FaMIE in the Islamic world. Hence, this strategy stands for more engagement and partnership among stakeholders and relevant local and international players.

The draft strategy document advances the idea that accelerating FaMI empowerment is crucial for the sustainable development of OIC member countries. As such, the success of Family empowerment strategy is a key factor towards activating the role of Family in societal development.

The draft strategy document shows that there are persisting challenges encountering FaMI in OIC member countries. The challenges range from conceptual and intellectual, economic, health, educational, cultural, social, legal...to moral and ethical. It has been noted that these challenges hamper many countries to advance the cause of FaMI empowerment for the sake of dynamic societal development. The draft strategy document underscores six critical priority areas and processes for the enhancement of FaMI, namely: protection, participation, productivity, prosperity, partnership and cooperation and Family sustainable development. The OIC members are urged to set the key performance indicators that address the six processes and ensure continuous improvements according to the context and conditions of each country as well as the international standards for Family empowerment and development.



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The draft OIC strategy document promotes a vision to build dynamic Family and Marriage Institution, nurturing generations and playing efficient roles in preservation, participation, productivity, prosperity and sustainable development of society according to Islamic values and standards. It also takes as a mission to empower & enhance Marriage & Family Institution, enabling it to assume greater roles in the preservation, participation, productivity, prosperity, partnership & sustainable development of Muslim societies. To achieve this, commitment and intervention of governments, civil society, private sector, NGOs, industry, donors and funders and local, regional and international bodies becomes crucial.

The OIC draft Strategy focusses on ten specific strategic areas/ objectives, namely: 1) Improving marriage and Family institutions' well-being and quality of life standards, 2) Enhancing the preservation and protection of marriage and Family institutions' value system, 3) Widening the participation of Families' in all aspects of society, 4) Strengthening the marriage and Family institutions' productivity, 5) Strengthen the marriage and Family institutions' prosperity, 6) Enhancing partnership and collaboration on the implementation of marriage and Family policies across the OIC countries, 7) Strengthen and manage the marriage and Family institutions across the OIC through adequate legislations, policies and laws, 8) Strengthen and promote the marriage and Family institution through sustainable development, 9) Provide support to Muslim minority, migrant and refugee Families and marriage unions, and 10) Implement breakthrough initiatives to empower the marriage and Family institution.

The draft OIC strategy document stresses the urgency of building upon the achievements and experiences of member countries to implement the proposed strategies and action plans. It commends the important efforts undertaken by the OIC and its organs to advance the cause of FaMI empowerment in the Islamic world. It also praises the commitment and efforts undertaken by OIC member countries towards the empowerment and development of FaMI.

Last but not least, the success of this strategy lies on its implementation. As such, the main players, partners and stakeholders are urged to undertake the necessary measures to set up the proper policies, eco-system and environment for its implementation. We have to leverage on strong partnership and shared responsibilities to ensure success. Hence, improvement of delivery, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of results, successes and challenges is one important step forward. Promoting the OIC strategy for the empowerment of FaMI is another crucial step towards its realization and implementation.

I should like to acknowledge the strong financial and moral support provided by the OIC General Secretariat for the preparation of this strategy document to empower the Marriage and Family Institution (FaMI) in the Islamic World. I also extend gratitude to Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Center for Islamic Countries (SESRIC) for its immense contribution to refine this draft OIC strategy document. I would also like to thank the Islamic Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization for its continued support and the research team of the International Islamic University Malaysia for their good work.

Let us make the OIC strategy for the empowerment of FaMI result and impact-oriented strategy which will make a difference and create synergy and conducive environment for positive change.

**CHAIRMAN OF  
IIUM RESEARCH TEAM**





## I. INTRODUCTION

The positive function of Families' and marital union for the survival and wellbeing of societies is not new, as Islam, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and various international instruments have long recognized the constructive role of the marriage and Family institution for their members and the wider human community. For Islam, the Family is a divinely inspired and ordained institution, which consists of the marital union between a man and a woman. The OIC in line with the Islamic approach identifies the Family as the building block of human civilization that provides security, stability and continuity. Likewise, article 16 (3) of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and article 23 (1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights state that "the Family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by the society and the State."

Other human rights instruments also reaffirm the vital importance of the Family. For example, Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities all reiterate the Families' salient role. These international instruments specifically highlight the role of the Family in protecting the human rights of its members and providing them with an enabling environment for the enjoyment of those rights.<sup>1</sup>

Even with the realization of the significance of the Family and marital union, these two institutions are facing significant challenges around the world. The macro societal and economic transformations combined with the intensification of technology and globalization have started to influence significantly the structure, pattern and values of the marriage and Family institution. Consequently, the weakening of the marriage and Family institution has widespread detrimental effects on economic growth, demographics, health of individuals and the public, children's future and society as a whole. For example, Western societies have particularly been hit hard by the challenges to the marriage and Family institution and some have gone as far as to name it a "Family crises" (Baskerville 2009).<sup>2</sup>

The situation in OIC Member States is not as dramatic as it has been in other parts of the world. Even so, the macro global societal and economic transformations are starting to affect the marriage and Family institution across the OIC. Substantial transformations are taking place regarding Family values and marriage patterns in OIC countries. With the increasing rate of industrialization,

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<sup>1</sup> For details, see Convention on the Rights of the Child, art. 18(2)); Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, art. 23(3); Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families art. 44 (1).

<sup>2</sup> Baskerville, S. (2009). Freedom and the family: The family crisis and the future of western civilization. *Humanitas*, 22(1/2), 168.



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urbanization, globalization and educational attainment, the marriage and Family institution is starting to lose its traditional role, strength and sustainability to a varying degree in different OIC countries.

Recently, marriage rates have been declining and divorce rates have been increasing in OIC countries. Consequently, the character of marriage has changed. This is due to social, economic and technological changes. High divorce rates generate non-traditional formations such as single-parent Families whereas low marriage rates constitute a never married category that also tests the traditional Family structure. Age at first marriage (AFM) is important for marriage and Family union since older AFM affects fertility rates negatively. AFM has been increasing globally and therefore age at first birth has been increasing as well. The increase in age at first marriage does not pose a serious problem in OIC countries yet, because in 2016 it was 28 for males and 23 for females. The AFM is expected to increase eventually alongside the increased urbanization, industrialization, and educational attainment. Conversely, early marriage has negative impacts on Family and marital union because it risks the health of women and their babies. The age gap between couples causes problems such as limited cohesion between pairs and reduction in happiness and well-being of Families and marriages in OIC countries.

Other issues such as increasing divorce rates in some OIC countries, cultural contestations regarding the role and importance of the Family institution, decrease in fertility rates, and dysfunction of Families due to loss of Family values along with a number of socio-cultural and economic reasons, the marriage and Family institution in OIC countries call for special attention. All of these trends have negative outcomes for OIC countries and influences the marriage and Family institution across the OIC, therefore, an OIC level guideline that will serve as a basis for policy to empower, strengthen and sustain the Family's positive role in society, economics, and development is a timely and necessary subject matter. Many of the OIC Member States have developed their own national policies and strategies for marriage and Family institutions' development and empowerment, however, this strategy document aims to provide concrete actionable strategic goals based on shared aims, vision and inspiration to empower the marriage and Family institution across all of the OIC Member States. The next subsection elaborates on the background, objectives and the structure of the strategy document.

### A. Synopsis of the Major Activities and Initiatives at the OIC Level

The OIC and its relevant organs have undertaken a number of activities and initiatives to emphasize the importance and significance of strengthening and empowering the marriage and Family institution. In February 2017, the First Ministerial Conference on Marriage and Family Institution and Preservation of its Values took place in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Following the resolutions of the First Ministerial Meeting, the General Secretariat of the OIC in cooperation with the Islamic, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) held a workshop in Rabat, Morocco on 29-30 March 2018<sup>3</sup> During the workshop, the initial draft of the OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of the Marriage and Family, prepared by the research team from the International Islamic University Malaysia, was deliberated. It provided an opportunity to review the current and future challenges to the marriage and Family institution as well as a chance to formulate the general vision, outline and objectives of an OIC level strategic document regarding the Family and marriage.

In line with the growing prominence of the Marriage and Family Institution Empowerment for the OIC, a symposium on specific measures and indicators to achieve SDGS from a Family perspective in Member States was organized on the 28th of December in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. The symposium was attended by the delegates of 27 Member States, experts from the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRIC), the Independent Permanent

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<sup>3</sup> “Workshop for the Preparation of the OIC Draft strategy to Empower Marriage and Family Institution”, Issue 39 (2018), OIC Journal, 50; “Warshah ‘Amal li I’dad Mashru’ Istratijiyyah ‘al-Ta’awun al-Islami’ li Tamkin Mu’assasah al-Ziwaj wa al-Usrah”, Issue 39 (2018), OIC Journal, 50.



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Commission for Human Rights (IPHRC), ISESCO, the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, the Center for Research in History, Arts and Culture (IRCICA), the Islamic Center for the Development of Trade (ICDT) and the Arab Family Organization. The widespread participation of Member Countries and organs of the OIC signified the tremendous energy and relevance of the Family issue. The aim of the symposium was to discuss the ways and means in which specific measures can be taken to achieve SDGs from a Family perspective. It served as a platform where participants contributed to the knowledge on the links between the Family institution and SDGs, and identify the challenges that the Family in OIC countries face such as economic, social and cultural.

Upon a comprehensive discussion, the Family and SDGs symposium put forward several essential recommendations: 1) the need to develop special systems for social protection and skills development programs and the promotion of labor force in a manner that benefits Families, especially the ones in rural and marginalized areas, 2) stressing the need to support Families in rural areas and particularly those relying on agriculture as their main source of income to eradicate rural Family poverty and 3) taking serious efforts to address the social challenges facing the marriage and Family institution and tackle the root causes that lead to the disintegration of Families and marriage institution.

Aside from the above-mentioned initiatives directly related to the marriage and Family institution, there have been numerous forums, workshops, symposiums and expert level meetings that are indirectly linked to marriage and Family issues. These include crosscutting issues related to women, children, youth, elderly and people with special needs.

Finally, relevant OIC institutions, particularly SESRIC, have been playing an active role in addressing issues related to the marriage and Family institution. SESRIC prepared a number of reports dealing directly with the well-being of the Family and its value preservation. The 2015 SESRIC report on “*State of Gender and Family Well-being in OIC Member Countries*” highlights the importance of cohesive Families and the intersection of gender inequality in harming Family structures in OIC countries. Subsequently, SESRIC prepared a report on “*Safeguarding Family Values and the Institution of Marriage in OIC Countries*”. This strategic document examined in detail the important functions of the marriage and Family institution in the realm of economics, demographics, social and political stability along with an analysis of the current and future challenges to the marriage and Family organization. The culmination of the rising trends across the OIC that are beginning to threaten the importance and strength of the marriage and Family institution along with the strong will of the OIC to counter these threats that the *OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of the Marriage and Family Institution* has been born out of.

### **B. Overview of the Strategy Document**

As it stands today, the OIC countries are not as severely impacted by the threats to the marriage and Family institution, however, current and future projections and trends show that the marriage and Family institutions across the OIC is starting to face challenges, and this will increase in the coming years. Therefore, the current challenges facing the marriage and Family institution by Member States signals a need to enhance cooperation and provide a comprehensive guideline at the OIC level.

To address the problems facing the Family and marital union along with preventing the negative future forecasts, the OIC countries need to act now to empower and strengthen the marriage and Family institution. The aim of this strategic report is to provide an OIC level guidance via actionable goals for Member States to enhance, empower and reinforce the role of Families’ and marital union in all aspects of society.

The strategy document aims to present an umbrella analysis of the current situation and challenges facing the marriage and Family institution in the OIC. Subsequently, to overcome these issues, the document proposes a strategic action plan based on the empowerment of the marriage and Family institution. Also, the strategic plan targets to provide a roadmap for policy-makers, community leaders



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and other relevant actors to share knowledge, information and experiences on how to empower and strengthen the marriage and Family values, bonds and principles across the OIC.

To enable the realization of the objective to empower and strengthen the marriage and Family institution, the strategic document identified 10 critical thematic areas of cooperation and 165 strategic goals that were generated after reviewing the immediate concerns, existing policies and the future challenges.

The ten thematic/strategic areas of cooperation identified are as follows:

1. Improving marriage and Family institutions wellbeing and quality of life standards
2. Enhancing the preservation and protection of marriage and Family institutions value system
3. Widening the participation of Families' in all aspects of society
4. Strengthening the marriage and Family institutions productivity
5. Strengthen the marriage and Family institutions prosperity
6. Enhancing partnership and collaboration on the implementation of marriage and Family policies across the OIC countries
7. Strengthen and manage the marriage and Family institutions across the OIC through adequate legislations, policies and laws
8. Strengthen and promote the marriage and Family organisation through sustainable development
9. Provide support to migrant and refugee Families and marriage unions
10. Implement breakthrough initiatives to empower the marriage and Family institution

An earlier version of the strategic document was prepared by the research team of the International Islamic University Malaysia and presented during a Coordination Meeting at the Expert Level On: OIC Marriage & Family Institution Empowerment Strategy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 12-13 June 2019. The current draft version of the strategic plan is a concise and consolidated summary of the main document incorporating the suggestions and feedback from the relevant OIC institutions and experts to develop an effective and inclusive approach to the marriage and Family empowerment strategy. The draft *OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of the Marriage and Family Institution* will be submitted to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Experts Group Meeting to be held in October 2019. It is hoped that this draft version of the strategy will be considered and adopted at the relevant OIC fora to be implemented by Member States with a view to address the current and emerging challenges facing the marriage and Family institution.

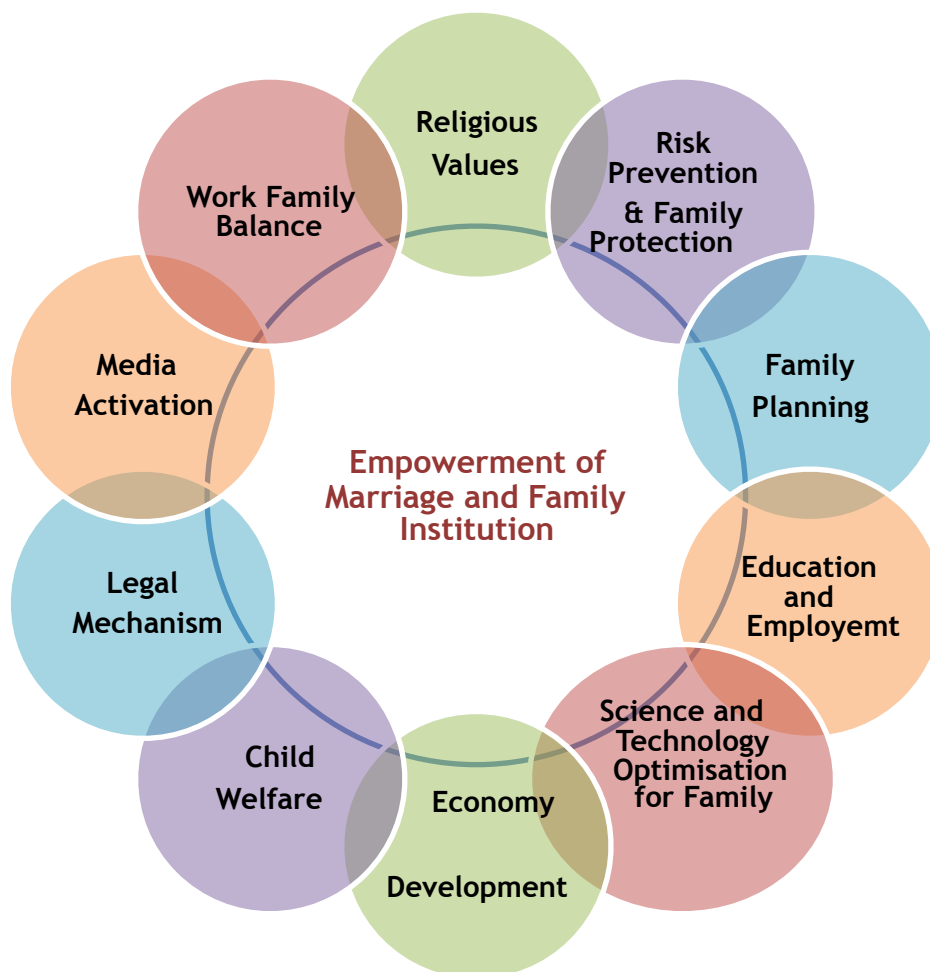
Overall, this strategy document aims to stimulate cooperation among Member States in addressing the common encounters and challenges regarding the marriage and Family institution in the Islamic World. There is a need for a strategy to counter the complex and multiple problems weakening the marriage and Family structure and function leading to increasingly put challenges to a number of OIC countries. This strategic document serves as a comprehensive guideline by providing concrete policy goals to mitigate and limit the problems that have surfaced by the disintegration trends in the marriage and Family values, patterns and arrangements. Ultimately, this strategic guidance calls for increased awareness and acceptance of the marriage and Family problem OIC countries face, for an increase in collaboration and cooperation amongst OIC Member States and for the implementation of the suggested policy objectives outlined in this strategic document.



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## C. All-encompassing Principles

Before proceeding to present the review of the major challenges and the areas of cooperation, this strategic document asserts that there are ten umbrella mechanisms that should be considered as all-encompassing principles. The below all-encompassing principles are necessary for the empowerment of the marriage and Family institution and should be considered as a core objective throughout the strategic document. All of the specific policy recommendations should be employed with the aim to enhance and strengthen one or more of the principles outlined below. It is also important to note that each strategic area and the corresponding strategic goals outlined in Section III aim to empower the marriage and Family institution through targeting to enhance one or more of the proceeding all-encompassing principles.



### 1. Family Empowerment through Work-Family Balance

Work-Family balance policies are a significant factor in empowering marriage and Family institutions. Particularly, in the present day where women are more increasingly partaking in the labour market, balancing Family duties with work are becoming an ever-greater challenge for Families. Mechanisms to ease the burden on Families struggling with work-Family balance should be considered as a means to strengthen and empower the marriage and Family institution.

### 2. Family Empowerment through Religious Values





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With the spread of globalisation and intensification of technological platforms, religious beliefs and values are decreasing in their importance and significance. New global values systems concerning the marriage and Family are taking root across the OIC, especially amongst the youth. Islamic values, pretexts and beliefs should be promoted and reiterated amongst society. The importance of the marriage and Family institution from an Islamic approach needs to be highlighted and proper knowledge on this matter needs to be disseminated amongst society.

### **3. Family Empowerment through Risk Prevention**

It is vital to address risk prevention in designing strategies for the empowerment of marriage and Family institution. It is imperative to take into account the risks that can affect marriage and Family such as abuse, violence, conflict, health and amongst others poverty. By decreasing risks to the marriage and Family institution, the desire and will to form Families and marital unions will increase for individuals.

### **4. Family Empowerment through Family Planning**

Family planning is an important aspect of creating healthy and conscious Families that also influences the longevity of marriages. Therefore, Family planning should be promoted through raising awareness and disseminating information on the positive impact of Family planning.

### **5. Family Empowerment through Education and Employment**

Empowering Families especially women through education can further strengthen the marriage and Family institution. This further helps address the disparity of genders in education and employment. In addition, education on the importance and positive role of Family building should be promoted to strengthen the understanding of the salience of Families for individuals, society and humanity. Employment is a critical factor in deciding to form a Family or get married; therefore, employment opportunities are a major factor contributing to the empowerment of Families and marriage. Through targeted skill development, capacity building and education, Families are given the opportunity to build healthier and more prosperous relationships.

### **6. Family Empowerment through Economic and Financial Security**

Related to the principle above on employment is the general economic and financial situation of Families. Families need to be empowered through poverty alleviation, microfinances, skills development for the labour market and other economic support networks. Through stable economies, the marriage and Family institution is empowered and strengthened.

### **7. Family Empowerment through Child Welfare**

Empowerment strategies for the marriage and Family institution through child welfare are an important aspect of happy, healthy and stable Families, especially those with special needs children such as ones with developmental disabilities or at-risk children. It follows that these Families need special assistance or intervention to improve and strengthen their Family functioning. For the marriage and Family institution to prove its continuity and positive image to the upcoming generations', healthy homes where child welfare is sought and guaranteed is necessary.

### **8. Family Empowerment through Legal Mechanism**

States should be proactive especially in playing preventive roles regarding marital challenges, and not merely in a corrective role upon marital dissolution. Law should protect the function of the marriage and Family institution. Although Family ties in general are a private matter concerning personal relationships, there are certain periods when Family relationships call for the involvement of governmental authority. The forms of legal intervention are various, including legislation, regulation, and judicial decisions, which influence Family dynamics and deal with Family issues. Legal interventions defining the institution of marriage, promising joint or substitute decision making, and



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aiding Family caregiving may be the right means to proactively respect and empower loving Families in their proper functioning.

## 9. Family Empowerment through Media

Media in all its forms including traditional and social media are important platforms to empower the marriage and Family institution. These are arenas where individuals especially children and youth learn and adopt new values and beliefs. Media mediums need to be used to empower Families and marriage bonds by providing information on the importance of healthy marriages and Families. Creating Family media empowerment culture and programs will contribute immensely to the development of the Family.

## 10. Family Empowerment through Science and Technology

Similarly, science and technology platforms, mechanisms and tools are other important ways of Family empowerment. The integration of technology in human life is not only theoretical and selective but it has become an inherent part of human life. Almost every aspect of human life is affected by the applications of technology. The Family is no exception, as its members constitute the core of human society. Governments need to set policies and design programs for the empowerment of Family through technology and the applications of science and scientific discoveries. This will lessen the burden of Families and find more solutions that are effective to the various problems encountering Families.

## II. REVIEW OF ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF THE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY INSTITUTION IN THE OIC MEMBER STATES

An analysis of the literature and numerous studies on the issue reveal the existence of multi-factorial and interconnected web of challenges that the marriage and Family institution in OIC Member States face. These challenges range from social, economic and legal to conceptual, medical and cultural ones. To accurately develop and implement policies that will effectively empower and strengthen the marriage and Family institution across the OIC, it is imperative that these concerns be examined. This section of the strategy document provides a review of the major challenges facing the marriage and Family institution across the OIC.



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## A. Intellectual and Conceptual Challenges

Intellectual and conceptual challenges refer to attitudes and mix perceptions of individuals, communities, societies and other actors toward the concept of marriage and Family and its essence, objectives and values. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, concepts of marriage and Family are experiencing serious alterations. The value and importance attached to marital union between a man and a woman and forming Families are being tested by new trends and patterns. Late age at first marriages, dysfunctional Families, rising divorce rates and misconceptions about the positive function of the marriage and Family institution has at its roots challenges arising from lack of intellectual and conceptual knowledge.

With the impact of globalisation and postmodernist trends influencing the meaning of Family and marriage, its nature, essence, roles and function is starting to be replaced with new and multiple definitions. New patterns of same-sex marriage, single headed households, no marriage or other patterns outside of the man-woman marriages and FaMIlial types are starting to be normalized and even to an extent popularized.

The OIC is not immune to the intellectual and conceptual challenges taking place around the world. Recent trends show that age at first marriage is in a slow increase across the OIC, fertility rate is declining, and the number of individuals not married is in an upward trend. These trends imply that in the OIC, the conceptualization and intellectual understanding and adherence to the Islamic FaMIlial type is slowly eroding to be replaced by globalized norms and values. This poses a significant challenge to the strength, continuity and health of OIC societies.

## B. Religious and Ethical Challenges

The religious and ethical challenges concern the weakening of the importance and role of religion and ethics in Family life and marriage decisions. Trends to belittle religious ethics, values and beliefs regarding marriage and Family are starting to find ground in Islamic societies. These trends are having negative impacts on marriage and Family institution in various OIC countries. The weakening and debasing of religious meaning and value attached to the marriage and Family institution combined with the intellectual and conceptual challenges results in the loss of the essence, value and traditional patterns of marriage and Family life.

## C. Cultural Challenges

Similar to the above two challenges, cultural changes concerning the marriage and Family institution are increasingly becoming an issue for OIC countries. Cultural norms and values to an extent shape societies decisions and behaviours concerning forming a Family or getting married. With the impact of new globalized cultures on Family and marriage, new patterns are being born that is negatively influencing the strength, role and significance of the marriage and Family institution. The normalization of late or never marriages, forming Families without the sacred bond of marriage between a man and a woman, increasing rates of divorce and new forms of identities attached to the marriage and Family institution are having harmful effects. As the spread of globalisation intensifies and expansion technological platforms deepen across the OIC countries, they will become more vulnerable to the negative external cultural influences. OIC needs to take action now to prevent the harmful cultural norms from spreading into its society concerning the marriage and Family institution.





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Globalization promotes Western lifestyle marked by individualism, consumerism, and materialism. This individual-oriented lifestyle generates an understanding in which individual concerns and Family values are antipodes and Family formation is regarded as the sacrifice of the self. In this context, the tendencies of starting a Family and childbearing in OIC countries are likely to go down. Communication technologies and advanced travel options foster the spread of the globalizing values and Western lifestyle in OIC countries. Television series, social media, and internet impose the idea that Family poses an obstacle for individuals therefore actualization of the self requires elimination of Family-oriented and local values.

Many traditions and customs contribute to the strength of the Family in OIC countries. However, some harmful traditional practices prevail in OIC countries despite having recorded economic development and enacted regulations. These harmful traditional and cultural practices impede Families and the institution of marriage by violating women's rights and negatively affecting Family wellbeing. For example, child marriage in OIC countries is a major challenge as it negatively affects the health of women and infants, and wellbeing of the Family. According to UNICEF Global Database (2018), the OIC group had the highest rate of child marriage when compared with developed countries and non-OIC developing countries. Over the period 2010-2017, 7% of all marriages took place before 15 years old and 25.5% of all marriages were performed before 18 years old. Early marriage may result in mental and physical health problems of couples such as depression and damage the Family wellbeing. The mixture of outside cultural influences combined with the negative cultural practices within some OIC countries, the marriage and Family institution becomes challenged.

### **D. Economic Challenges**

Transformations in economic environments in a society lead to the evolution of Family values, structures and the role couples play within the Family. In addition, economic factors influence the marriage decisions of men and women. Therefore, economic stability and progress is an important element in conserving, promoting and empowering the marriage and Family institution. OIC countries have been facing a number of different economic problems that has a direct impact on the marriage and Family institution.

Unemployment is a sombre concern that affects individuals but Families as well. Since the 2000s, the total unemployment rates in the OIC countries have been fluctuating between 7.4% and 9.1%. Unemployment negatively influences Families' economic status, wellbeing, happiness and ultimately effective functioning. The economic strains caused by unemployment damages the social relations of Family members leading to frequent disputes and unhealthy homes. This results in increasing divorce rates, unhappy children who have bad experiences with Family life and health problems for the entire members of the Family. Economic difficulties do not only presently weaken the Family, but it also has implications for future generations. Children with bad experiences will become more hesitant to form their own Families in the future and will lead to a decrease in marital unions in the long run.

The labour force participation in the OIC countries has been rising over the last decade. Particularly, industrialization led to the increase in labour demand in urban areas and Families in masses migrated to cities. However, urban life requires more Family members to be active and generate income to survive and meet the basic needs. This trend increased the female labour force across the OIC Member States, which reached 39.6% in 2016-2017 period. The increased labour force of women challenges the traditional roles within the Family. Balancing work and Family is high on the policy agendas of many countries and viewed as a central issue for society to adapt to the new opportunities for women



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and the new Family model of mothers participating in the labor market. Therefore, the new labor markets trends pose a challenge for the Family and require special attention.

Poverty and hunger are an important challenge for Families in OIC countries. According to most recent Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) dataset, 36% of the OIC population experienced multidimensional poverty in 2014. Both poverty and hunger have severe implications for Families' wellbeing and healthy functioning. Not being able to meet the necessities for survival results in the deterioration of the overall wellbeing of individuals and adversely affects the strength and will of the Family to stay together and uphold Family values. Therefore, for Families to be empowered, close attention to the economic situation of Families is important.

### E. Social Challenges

Similar to other challenges above, the changes in economic structure, globalisation, urbanization and the dissemination of technology has created a number of social challenges to the marriage and Family institution. Changes in social norms and behaviours combined with demographics are posing a challenge to the marriage and Family institution in OIC countries. Demographic trends play a significant role in changing societal values in OIC countries, consequently affecting Families and marital union as well.

Since the 1990s, OIC countries have been experiencing a decline in fertility rates due to women's increasing participation in the workforce, modern contraceptive methods, and changes in personal values that emphasise self-realisation and freedom from traditional value systems. In the future, this will put many OIC Member Countries below the population replacement level of 2.1, which is the minimum required rate to maintain a stable population. Increasing life expectancy has resulted in an ageing population in OIC countries. Between 1990 and 2015, the share of the population aged 60 or over was stable in OIC countries, only increasing slightly from 5.7% in 1990 to 6.7% in 2015. However, the share of population aged 60 or over in OIC countries is projected to reach 9.3% in 2030. With rapid ageing, Families will face challenges in the absence of greater public spending on pensions and support for retired people, and expanded social insurance systems and supplemental funds for supporting home care in OIC countries will become a necessity.

OIC countries have a relatively young population compared to developed countries. In 2015, 26.7% of the world's youth lived in OIC countries and this share is projected to reach 30.9% by 2030. However, youth in OIC countries face high levels of unemployment, which stagnated at around 16% between 2000 and 2017. Youth unemployment remains as a major challenge of marriage and Family union as it impedes getting married and starting a Family, therefore, increases the age at first marriage and the age at first childbirth. Recently, marriage rates have been declining and divorce rates have been increasing in OIC countries. Consequently, the character of marriage has changed. This is due to social, economic, and technological changes. High divorce rates generate non-traditional formations such as single-parent Families whereas low marriage rates constitute a never married category that challenges the traditional Family structure.

Social issues regarding youth-Family relations and paternal participation pose as a challenge for the marriage and Family institution. OIC member countries have some of the highest shares of youth (ages 15-24) in the world. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, changing lifestyles and technological advancements have had remarkable effect on the cultural and behavioural attitudes of Muslim youth, which has a significant impact on Families. Youth in Muslim societies is becoming increasingly individualistic and consumerist. It is common for them to adopt multiple overlapping identities – even when such



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identities disrespect socially instituted norms, values and hierarchies. Family life is not the first priority of today's youth and studies show that youth are more willing to sacrifice FaMILial life for professional success. If Family policies fail to address concerns related to young people, OIC Member Countries will fail to seize effectively the opportunity offered by the youth bulge to empower marriage and Family institutions.

Finally, paternal participation in Families is important for their wellbeing. However, in OIC Member Countries, some invisible barriers keep fathers from participating in Family lives. Gender roles and social norms routinely obstruct men's participation in Family life by limiting their role as breadwinners. Being the financial contributor adds to the difficulty because work pressures also affect men's involvement in the Family – especially in low-income Families across the OIC. The relations between husband and wife are also critical for men's participation because of certain stereotypes, such as men not being able to assume parenting responsibilities with the children.

### **F. Educational and Learning Challenges**

The starting point of education is within the Family and this type of education proves to be more effective at the young age than formal education. For this reason, to have benevolent generations that realize and uphold Family values, proper education in the Family should be ensured. An important factor in the education at home lies in the education level of parents. The more educated parents are the more likely that they will provide appropriate and effective education to their children. Literacy plays an important role in improving Family welfare and national development, therefore, measures to improve youth and adult literacy rates, especially for women, should be elaborated and enhanced at all levels of the society. In the last decade, OIC countries have continuously improved their basic education indicators such as enrolment rates, year of schooling and completion numbers. The rising trends in education attainment is a positive sign for the OIC, however, certain challenges this poses to the marriage and Family institution do need attention.

With the increased education participation, particularly tertiary education enrolment, the average age at first marriage starts to rise. Moreover, the expectations of males and females from life show divergences in terms of comfort, income and joy. The increasing educational attainment influences individuals' decision, outlook and desire for marriage. More year spent on education also has a correlation with women's age at first childbirth – increase in educational years also increases women's age at first birth. Family size is also impacted by educational attainment. Better-educated women tend to have smaller Families than those less educated. The intersection of education and resultant rising age at first marriage, poses as an important risk for Family values and union, and therefore needs to be addressed by OIC countries.

Despite the increase in educational indicators across the OIC, education remains as a challenge for low-income Families. Just as increasing educational attainment has certain negative outcomes for the marriage and Family institution, low educational rates poses as an obstacle for the health and wellbeing of Families and marriages as well. When parents do not have the appropriate education or the skills to acquire a decent living employment, inter-Family relations and the healthy and happy development of children are negatively impacted. Hence, there rises a need across the OIC to balance educational attainment and preservation of marriage and Family values along with continuing to increase education and skills development of Family members.



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## G. Health Challenges

Various types of health challenges affect the wellbeing of Families. Mothers are the primary care-givers for their infants. In this regard, maternal health and wellbeing directly influences the entire sociological and physiological wellbeing of the Family. Across the OIC countries, access to reproductive healthcare and general awareness on various maternal and reproductive health interventions is present. Over the years, maternal mortality has witnessed a declining trend across the OIC Members. Nevertheless, maternal mortality rate in OIC Member Countries was 326 deaths per 100,000 births which is significantly higher than global average. The OIC Programme of Action 2025 also points to the significance of this issue by acknowledging that maternal health is a key factor in empowering women and Families. In addition, maternal, newborn and child health and nutrition is one of the six thematic areas of cooperation identified under the OIC Strategic Health Programme of Action (OIC-SHPA) 2014-2023.

High maternal mortality rate in OIC countries is attributed to the causes such as poor healthcare services, early marriages, adolescent childbearing and lack of education or awareness. There is a varying degree of stigmatization associated with mental health in OIC Member Countries. Cultural, social, and traditional practices prevalent in OIC countries often run counter to medical interventions focusing on mental illnesses. Stigmas associated with mental illness are visible in people's attitudes, stereotypes, and discriminatory practices. Cultural perceptions of concepts such as honor, shame, morality, spirituality, and approach to mental health interventions often drives Families into caring for mentally ill Family members within their homes or abandoning them to preserve social reputation. Furthermore, throughout OIC countries, mental healthcare resources are unequally distributed. Access to mental healthcare for individuals and Families is also affected by factors such as costs of service, location of service, social status and level of discrimination associated with it.

Families, in the 21<sup>st</sup> century are affected by macro-societal changes that influence psychological and mental health of Family members. Within a Family setting, parents or guardians suffering from mental disorders such as depression, anxiety, dementia, or substance abuse severely affects children's development, their performance in school and their psychosocial confidence. While, it is common for childhood traumas to result in adult mental disorders – Family policies in OIC countries often do not stress on the need for children's' mental healthcare. Similarly, mental disorders amongst youth are inadequately addressed in policies and programs in many OIC countries.

In Islam, special privilege is accorded to Family members that care for their elderly. Families in OIC countries tend to be multi-generational (where grandparents live with grandchildren), and the elderly members in Families are often the disseminators of cultural traditions and values, and elderly people have significant importance in extended/joint households. These characteristics place elderly population in a position to have significant impacts on a Family's well-being. Research shows that caring for an elderly parent or grandparent takes priority as a Family obligation in many OIC societies. Therefore, Families are more likely to live with their elderly rather than admitting them to dedicated facilities. In such situations, the elderly often assume the socialization and care of younger members – having influence over their character development. In cases where elderly Family members live separately, it is common for their adult children to help them with housework, financial transfers, healthcare visits, etc.

For low-income or middle-income Families caring for the elderly often becomes a burden because of the economic costs associated with their health, specific requirements such as diet and living conditions. In some cases, the elder Family members are provided for economically but are socially



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neglected due to intergenerational disconnects. In other cases, children might not be able to care for their elder Family members due to work pressures. In the worst-case scenario, the elderly Family members can experience neglect, abuse, and lack of adequate resources vital to their well-being (such as medicines) at the hands of their Families.

Finally, violence in the Family serves as a major obstacle to the wellbeing and empowerment of the marriage and Family institution. Almost all OIC countries (50 OIC countries) indicated that violence against women is a major concern in their policy agenda. In order to design effective Family policies that target to reduce FaMllial violence, OIC Member Countries need to assess critically the existing policies on violence against women and children. Overall, health challenges weaken the Family by taking away their “normal” functioning and replacing it with various types of strains. Consequently, this leads to unhealthy and dysfunctional Families. To empower Families, health issues need to be addressed in a manner that protects and guarantees the health of Family members.

### H. Legal Challenges

An important aspect of empowering the marriage and Family institution is to support the religious, cultural and social elements with well-functioning legal instruments. Many Families across the OIC face problems due to either the lack of laws or the implementation of existent laws related to the rights of the Family as an institution or the rights of individual Family members. For example, lack of laws to protect the rights of women, children and people with special needs place the Family in a vulnerable position.

Without the proper protection and support laws, the Family institution and desire for marriage weakens. Some of the existing laws and legislations are not adequate or against the spirit of Islamic standards or are not fully implemented to ensure justice and fairness in handing Family interests. Not only are legal frameworks important to protect rights of Families and their members but legal structures that actively support the continuation, preservation and development of the marriage and Family institution is needed. Therefore, across the OIC there is a need to institute laws and legislations that facilitate marriage, protect the rights of husband, wife, and children and preserve the entire Family.

### I. Challenges Facing Migrant and Refugee Families

International migration is the cross-border movement of people from one country to another because of factors that include conflict, war, natural disasters, economic or academic opportunities, and Family unions. Migration can have positive impacts on Families in various forms such as reunion, remittances and education and skills development. However, migration also results in negative outcomes for Families and OIC countries. These include brain drain, loss of labour force and the breakdown of social cohesion.

Migration poses a risk for Family union by affecting their location of residency. Migrant Families are often split up across two or more countries because some members of the Family need to stay either temporarily or permanently in the country of origin for economic, health, education or other reasons. This translates into Family members spending less or no time together, which affects their relations and happiness. Migration due to economic reasons often results in significant number of children living without one or both parents.

For children, unplanned or unwanted changes in time spent with parents reduce the quality and scope of parental education of kids, which is critical for their self-development. While many immigration





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policies deal with economic costs and legal protection of migrants, issues such as the psychosocial impacts of migration on Families are often overlooked. In addition, for individuals (who are not married) migrating to another country often results in delayed marriages because of changes in the living environment and/or financial reasons. In turn, this results in marriages at later age, delayed childbirth and Family formation.

Regarding refugee Families that are displaced (internally or externally), social exclusion on the basis of their religion, race, gender, ethnicity and language plays a detrimental role in depriving Families of their access to social services, representation, access to employment and income, health, education, and basic human rights. Refugee Families do not only face problems in host countries but are also victims of conflict, which may result in death of Family members, psychological trauma, health risks, lack of education, loss of value system, instability and amongst others severe depression. All these factors ruthlessly influence refugee Families, stability, continuity, health and normal functioning.

Addressing migrant Families within the framework of Family policies is often complicated due to interlinked policy frameworks. In 2015 alone, OIC countries accounted for more than 25 million displaced persons, 24 million internally, and more than 10 million refugees around the world. Given the number of migrants from OIC countries that are currently displaced – inclusion of social protection for migrant Families is an urgent policy issue. In the case of OIC Member Countries, policies and programs for social protection can ensure affirmative action by introducing monetary and non-monetary services such as cash transfers, psychological counselling, skills development workshops and marriage and Family preservation awareness.

### III. AREAS OF STRATEGIC COOPERATION

Based on the major issues and challenges discussed above, this section of the strategic document presents 10 critical strategic areas of cooperation and 165 specific strategic action suggestions to strengthen and empower the marriage and Family institution across the OIC Member States. The strategic areas of action have been identified after a comprehensive analysis and examination of the current and future challenges, international datasets and a review of the national, regional and international documents of relevance to the marriage and Family institution. Under each general strategic area, specific strategic goals are proposed to provide a concrete actionable roadmap for the successful implementation of the strategic objectives. It is important to highlight that each of the 10 strategic areas and 165 strategic initiatives and suggestions beneath them serve to empower the marriage and Family institution by contributing to the enhancement of one or more of the all-encompassing principles laid out at the beginning of this document (see Section I, Subsection C) and by addressing the one or more of the challenges discussed in Section II.



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## **Strategic Area 1: Improving marriage and Family institution's wellbeing and quality of life standards**

An intercutting issue that challenges the strength and preservation of the marriage and Family institution is the wellbeing and quality standards of Families and couples in the OIC. Improving the quality and wellbeing of Families and marital unions in the OIC involves enhancing their economic, social, legal and health related concerns. Strategic Area 1 aims to improve marriage and Family institutions wellbeing, healthy life style and promote quality marriage and Family lives through urging Member States to enhance further the already existent eco-systems and services offered to Family members. By providing and promoting the quality and wellbeing of the marriage and Family institution, the strength and empowerment of these important institutions will be feasible and sustained.

### **Actions**

OIC Member States are specifically advised to consider the following Strategic Goals (SGs) to improve the wellbeing and quality of the marriage and Family institution.



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- **SG 1.1:** Allocate a reasonable budget for the improvement of the marriage and Family institutions wellbeing and quality.
- **SG 1.2:** Establish Marriage Support Funds to facilitate the marriage of ready Family members to build resilient and productive Families.
- **SG 1.3:** Government and law enforcement agencies to implement the necessary policies and legal provisions to ensure peace, justice and stability for Families.
- **SG 1.4:** Efficient and preventive measures to stop all forms of violence along with physical and sexual abuse against women and children must be in place and implemented.
- **SG 1.5:** Marriage and Family institution should be provided with the necessary services and support especially economic, social, health and educational as it is the basic requirement for Families' societal development and establishing of peace, stability and safety in the Family and society.
- **SG 1.6:** Strengthen justice and equality between men and women in line with Islamic values and pretexts.
- **SG 1.7:** Address the financial conditions of the Family with a particular focus on Families living in rural areas and those that rely on agriculture as a main source of income, to contribute to the treatment of difficult conditions and the eradication of poverty in society.
- **SG 1.8:** Develop special social protection systems and skills development programs targeting Families and couples.
- **SG 1.9:** Collect and direct certain percentage of zakat, donation and *awqaf* to assist disadvantaged and in need Families.
- **SG 1.10:** Increase awareness on medical and health issues regarding Families, new couples or potential couples via traditional and digital media.
- **SG 1.11:** Organize awareness campaigns and workshops to improve Family health options in terms of diet, physical well-being and mental health.
- **SG 1.12:** Create policies to support the elderly within the framework of the traditional Family.
- **SG 1.13:** Make early education of Family members compulsory in all Muslim countries and ensure lifelong learning culture is encouraged and institutionalised.
- **SG 1.14:** Develop centres to provide guidance and services to parents on good hygiene habits and practices with emphasis on children and youth health.
- **SG 1.15:** Adopt media policies aimed at changing the negative customs and traditions prevailing in society that hinder the effective participation of the Family in the social, economic and political life.
- **SG 1.16:** Develop relevant capacity building programs for Family empowerment and training.
- **SG 1.17:** Introduce the proper curriculum imbued with values and ethics to ensure the balanced development of the personality of Family members starting from early education.
- **SG 1.18:** Create awareness among parents especially mothers on the importance of values and ethics in nurturing Family members spreading the values of respect, honour, trustworthiness, integrity, justice and fairness, cooperation, love, tolerance and moderation.
- **SG 1.19:** Enhance the role of educational institutions in the education of Families through designing proper and relevant curricula and programs especially meant for Families.





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- **SG 1.20:** Enhance awareness about reproductive and sexual education in order to reduce sexual related disease.
- **SG 1.21:** Develop government – civil society partnerships to enhance the wellbeing and quality standard for Families and couples.
- **SG 1.22:** Intra-OIC cooperation and collaboration on common challenges facing the marriage and Family institution.
- **SG 1.23:** Develop training programmes for social, health and government workers on the importance, values and functions of the marriage and Family institution.
- **SG 1.24:** Provide access to affordable Family planning services.
- **SG 1.25:** Implement a series of labour market reforms to increase labour market flexibility such as part-time work especially targeting youth population and women.
- **SG 1.26:** Provide childcare and a balanced work-Family life for parents in order to promote childbearing.

### **Strategic Area 2: Enhancing the preservation and protection of the marriage and Family institution's value system**

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In the 21st century where globalisation and technology has shrunken the space between communities; ideas, concepts and values have also started to interconnect with each other. OIC countries face threats to the marriage and Family institution's value system because of the growing dominance of different Family patterns, norms and behaviours. At the same time, late marriages or no marriages are also starting to rise across the OIC, which is directly influenced by the new global trends and norms taking hold in OIC Member States. To prevent and counter the intellectual, conceptual, cultural, social and religious challenges, there is a need to implement policies and programmes that preserve and protect the core essence of the marriage and Family institution. It is important to preserve the values and ethics of the marriage and Family to guarantee the stability, unity and continuity of societies.

#### **Actions**

OIC Member States are specifically advised to consider the following Strategic Goals (SGs) to preserve and protect the value system of the marriage and Family institution.

- **SG 2.1:** Allocate a reasonable budget to promote, protect and preserve the value system of the marriage and Family institution.
- **SG 2.2:** Promote the role of religious institutions enhancing marriage and Family values
- **SG 2.3:** Build platforms that foster a balance between Families vs. individual without violating the integrity of either.
- **SG 2.4:** Encourage fathers to participate in their children's lives through community wide programs and activities that bring children and fathers together to keep the FaMIlial relations alive and healthy.
- **SG 2.5:** Develop national strategies and identify priority areas on intergenerational social cohesion and interdependence.
- **SG 2.6:** Facilitate intergenerational solidarity through activities and programs that can bring youth and elderly people together.
- **SG 2.7:** Establishing Family counselling and guidance services and mechanisms that reiterate and reinforce the importance of the marriage and Family institution.



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- **SG 2.8:** Enhancing the religious, value and moral aspects of Family development to enable the Family to face internal and external challenges.
- **SG 2.9:** Preventing Families from breakdown by providing the necessary knowledge about marriage, relations, parenting, effective communication, childcare skills, Family planning, Family financial skills and Family management and parenting skills.
- **SG 2.10:** Educate Families about the importance of Islamic Family code and principles on Family matters.
- **SG 2.11:** Develop an integrated comprehensive Guidebook on marriage and Family issues, Family values, women rights, roles, principles and rulings from Maqasid perspective.
- **SG 2.12:** Come up with a promotional book on marriage and Family from the Islamic perspective to be promoted regionally and internationally to reflect the Islamic views, injunctions, solutions, and perspectives.
- **SG 2.13:** Utilize all forms of media and social media, publications and awareness materials along with the employment of educational, social, religious and cultural institutions to safeguard the marriage and Family institution from cultural threats and destructive internal and external elements.
- **SG 2.14:** Create policies to strengthen religious education and intellectual development of Family members especially children, adolescent and youth.
- **SG 2.15:** Strengthen media and other institutions to promote the proper understanding, functions, roles, importance and objectives of the marriage and Family institution.
- **SG 2.16:** Activate the role of schools, universities, social institutions and NGOs in protecting and preserving the essence, core values and traditional functions of the marriage and Family institution.
- **SG 2.17:** Introduce empowerment programs targeting religious, social, cultural and educational awareness to increase public knowledge on the positive impact of marriage union and Family formation.
- **SG 2.18:** Create awareness campaigns via traditional, social and other digital platforms to explain and disseminate knowledge on the meaning, identity, value and health of marriage and Family life on communities, societies and nations.
- **SG 2.19:** Combat all forms of internal and external cultural, immoral and ideological indoctrination that threatens the essence of the marriage and Family institution in the Islamic World, focusing on Aqidah and religious education, ethical and moral education and cultural, social, economic and legal empowerment.
- **SG 2.20:** Use media, religious, educational, cultural and social institutions to combat the negative impact of global cultural trends and programs geared towards reducing the importance of Family formation and marital union between men and women.
- **SG 2.21:** Respond intellectually and scientifically to the cultural trends and theories spreading unethical and value free culture and society concepts.
- **SG 2.22:** Address the output of global conferences and conventions on marriage and Family and respond to their negative contents and injunctions from an Islamic perspective.
- **SG 2.23:** Develop and implement specific education programmes and courses to teach the youth population the importance of Family values, Family formation and transferring these values to next generations.



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- **SG 2.24:** Develop partnerships with popular Muslim influencers in the field of sports, films and music to highlight the importance of the marriage and Family institution.

### **Strategic Area 3: Widening the participation of Families' in all aspects of societal development**

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When Families are negated from participating in different aspects of society their resilience and role as the driver of development are hindered. Many of the challenges discussed in the previous section are the consequence of the lack of participation of Families in the economy, social life, and political decision-making process or in the cultural and legal development of societies. In the instance that Families are left out of the societal development activities, they are weakened, and their importance is refuted. Therefore, to strengthen and empower the marriage and Family institution across the OIC, their productive, efficient and inclusive participation in all aspects of society need to be ensured. For this to happen, governments and societies need to create strong platforms, strategies, legislations, laws, policies, systems and mechanism related to the marriage and Family empowerment and participation. It is through successful integration of the Family institution into the participation processes that they will fully feel empowered and strengthened. The strategic goals below aim to provide actionable suggestions on how Families can be integrated into the participatory processes in all spheres of society.

#### **Actions**

OIC Member States are specifically advised to consider the following Strategic Goals (SGs) to integrate the marriage and Family institution as a core element of society with full participation.

- **SG 3.1:** Allocate a reasonable budget to promote, advocate and create the full participation of Families into all aspect of society.
- **SG 3.2:** Engage Family members in social relations and social responsibility activities and include the empowerment of the Family as an integral part of national development plans.
- **SG 3.3:** Ensure gender equality through providing equal opportunities for women and girls to access education, health care, decent work and participation in political and economic decision-making.
- **SG 3.4:** Promote equity and gender equality within the Family and all levels of society.
- **SG 3.5:** To combat all harmful practices against women and girls, including the marriage of underage girls, the training of prospective couples about Family management and the roles of spouses within the Family.
- **SG 3.6:** Provide financial support to disadvantaged Families and through various programmes and initiatives support their roles in societal development.
- **SG 3.7:** Promote policies that encourage the participation of all Family members in the development process, including private sector participation, incentives and microfinance for disadvantaged Families, and strengthen the role of governmental and non-governmental organizations in supporting civil society networks working in Family strengthening.
- **SG 3.8:** Enhance the role of religious, educational, media, and cultural institutions in addressing the social challenges facing Muslim Families and its members. These institutions are vital in solving many social problems including participation and challenges of the Family.
- **SG 3.9:** Enhance awareness about Islamic teachings and its value system of Family life, which should be integrated into the education and curriculum in schools and universities. This will assist in reducing all types of abuses and strengthen the Family solidarity and unity.



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- **SG 3.10:** Address the root cause of divorce abuse, poverty, extremism, violence, social break down of Family.
- **SG 3.11:** Provide vocational training programmes for Family members to increase their participation into labour force.
- **SG 3.12:** Improve unemployment benefit schemes based on needs of Families with a view to preserving Family values.
- **SG 3.13:** Promote effective parental leaves including maternity leave, parental childcare leave, paternity leave, and leave for urgent Family matter.
- **SG 3.14:** Make effective labour market reforms based on Family needs such as by adopting alternative working systems.
- **SG 3.15:** Develop more skill development programmes especially for low-income Families.
- **SG 3.16:** Facilitate childcare arrangements, such as the public provision of childcare, and evaluate them in terms of their extensiveness, quality, social inclusiveness, affordability and universality.
- **SG 3.17:** Facilitate the balance of work and Family life by promoting gender equality inside the Family and adequate changes in working conditions, including the regulation and provision of incentives to the private sector to promote Family-friendly working schedules.
- **SG 3.18:** Create policy frameworks at the national, regional and OIC levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies with a view to support Family values.
- **SG 3.19:** Develop Family-sensitive policies regarding poverty and hunger reduction.
- **SG 3.20:** Establish public community centres that promote communal participation of Families.

### Strategic Area 4: Strengthening the marriage and Family institutions productivity

Parallel to the integration of the marriage and Family institution into all aspects of society is the concern with the productivity of the Family. Families and their members are the foundational block of societies and without their economic productivity, it is impossible to talk about the development of communities, countries or regions. Across the OIC, Families are facing significant economic challenges in terms of poverty, employment, work conditions, financial support systems, skills development and youth unemployment. These challenges seriously hinder the health functioning and wellbeing of Families, and consequently, leads to the dysfunction, weakening and breakup of Families. Economic conditions also influence marriage and fertility rates. To empower and strengthen Families the issues of productivity need to enhance and strengthened. As Families feel economically more secure, their perception of Family formation, their health and their contribution to society increases. The strategic goals outlined below aim to provide concrete steps to achieving greater productivity for the marriage and Family institution across the OIC.

#### Actions

OIC Member States are specifically advised to consider the following Strategic Goals (SGs) to improve, strengthen and empower the marriage and Family institution's productivity.

- **SG 4.1:** Allocate a reasonable budget to create policies, initiatives and programme to strengthen the productivity of Families in the economic system.



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- **SG 4.2:** Address the various dimensions of poverty, risks and vulnerabilities of Families.
- **SG 4.3:** Ensure access of the poor to health care, education, food security, and social services with a view to preserving Family unity and values.
- **SG 4.4:** Provide cash allowances towards Families caring for children or for a disabled or elderly Family member.
- **SG 4.5:** Facilitate childcare arrangements, such as the public provision of childcare, and evaluate them in terms of their extensiveness, quality, social inclusiveness, affordability and universality.
- **SG 4.6:** Ensure decent work and economic growth for Families through introducing the necessary laws, policies and relevant specialised programs by governments and legislators in OIC Member Countries to enhance the employability and productivity of Family members.
- **SG 4.7:** Develop policies aimed at increasing the employment of youth and provide skills training related to the need of the labour market.
- **SG 4.8:** Develop incentives for Family-oriented economic activities such as Family tax deductions and incentives.
- **SG 4.9:** Establish policies to promote and improve working conditions and create decent, orderly, safe, and fluid working environments for women.
- **SG 4.10:** Empower Families economically through financial support, social services and job creations that are specifically targeted to strengthen Families. For example, government quotas on hiring mothers part-time.
- **SG 4.11:** Develop private-public programmes and initiatives to support economic productivity of Families.
- **SG 4.12:** Create particular programmes and policies for rural Families. For example, specific employment opportunities in rural areas designed to facilitate women's employment and skills development.
- **SG 4.13:** Address issues related to Family economic and financial strength by providing financial assistance to engage in productive small and medium enterprise projects.
- **SG 4.14:** Provide support for Family business in the form of financing, training and incentives.
- **SG 4.15:** Access to Families for financial support from funding bodies and banks as a form of supportive and facilitative interventions by government and other relevant bodies.

### **Strategic Area 5: Strengthening the marriage and Family institutions prosperity**

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Enabling and empowering the marriage and Family institution to activate its roles at the level of preservation, participation and productivity paves the way for efficient roles at the level of prosperity and progress for the entire society. Family prosperity does not only refer to the material welfare of Families but it also designates the non-material aspects measured by the protection of life, religion, intellect, progeny, moral and ethical preservation along with affluence and happiness. OIC countries attach great importance to the prosperity of Families; however, Families are having trouble when it comes to their level of prosperity. Some OIC countries with higher per capita GDPs are able to provide economic prosperity for Families but are seldom considering the non-material prosperity of the



## OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Family & Marriage Institution

marriage and Family institution. Other OIC countries engage more in trying to make Families prosper in non-material terms but are having trouble doing so due to economic restraints. Therefore, strengthening the marriage and Family institutions prosperity requires implementing the above-mentioned strategic goals for productivity and enhancing the productivity to reach prosperity by also providing non-material guidance, support and empowerment. The strategic goals to be outlined below aim to provide a set of tangible goals to strengthen and empower the marriage and Family institution to become more prosperous in all aspects of the term.

### Actions

OIC Member States are specifically advised to consider the following Strategic Goals (SGs) to improve, strengthen and empower the marriage and Family institution's prosperity in material and non-material terms.

- **SG 5.1:** Allocate a reasonable budget to create policies, initiatives and programmes to strengthen the material and non-material prosperity of Families through empowering and educating them.
- **SG 5.2:** Undertake comprehensive researches and studies on non-material factors that influences the happiness of Families and marriages and implement their recommendation to improve Families.
- **SG 5.3:** Promote programs and policies to prevent early and forced marriages as well as child marriage to strengthen the Family institution and eradicate harming their prosperity.
- **SG 5.4:** Increase the number of public Family services such as Family consultation, mediation and training on prosperity development skills.
- **SG 5.5:** Provide social support systems for divorced people specially women and children.
- **SG 5.6:** Raise awareness to cope with social stigmas attached to individuals' marital status.
- **SG 5.7:** Improve the scope and delivery of social security services to include special provisions for Families and couples.
- **SG 5.8:** Provide legal assistance, counselling services and psychological support for early or forced-married couples
- **SG 5.9:** Promote the role of religious institutions enhancing marriage and Family prosperity by exemplifying the moral, ethical and divine role religious belief brings.
- **SG 5.10:** Improve data collection practices concerning the prevalence of healthcare issues that affect Family's wellbeing and prosperity.
- **SG 5.11:** Encourage Family-oriented mental health interventions and support mechanisms – especially mechanisms that utilize intergenerational FaMIIial relations to care for mentally unwell individuals.
- **SG 5.12:** Enhance dialogue with non-governmental organizations in supporting the marriage and Family institutions prosperity through economic, social, and psychological assistance.
- **SG 5.13:** Launch platforms to mediate dialogues between youth and their Families over traditional and contemporary subjects.
- **SG 5.14:** Develop community wide programs for Families to strengthen youth-Family relationships.





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- **SG 5.15:** Raise awareness on the advantages of active ageing and its implications on Families
- **SG 5.16:** Design policies to promote the idea of the sharing of responsibilities in Families between men and women.
- **SG 5.17:** Cope with misbeliefs and prejudices on paternal participation and the role of the father in preserving Family values.
- **SG 5.18:** Encourage fathers to participate in their Families and children's lives through community wide programs and activities that bring Families, children and fathers together.
- **SG 5.19:** Improve data collection and monitoring mechanisms at the intra-OIC level on the various forms of violence and their impact on Families.
- **SG 5.20:** Raise awareness regarding the prohibition of Family violence by Islam, legal provisions and social norms.

### **Strategic Area 6: Enhancing partnership and collaboration on the implementation of marriage and Family policies across the OIC countries**

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OIC countries differ in their national policies dealing with the marriage and Family institution. Some have successfully implemented policies while others are lacking comprehensive approaches to counter the challenges the marriage and Family institution face. Nonetheless, OIC countries need to expand, deepen and systemize their cooperation and collaboration on marriage and Family policies. Building bridges and enhancing collaboration among OIC Member Countries and stakeholders in matters related to Marriage and Family institution is crucial for the Family and society. There needs to be platforms and dialogue channels that allow OIC countries to share mutual challenges, knowledge and best practices. The challenges to the marriage and Family institution are multi-layered and complex, thus requiring a collaborative approach not only at the national level between OIC countries but also at the level of non-governmental organisations, private sector, civil society actors and communities. All these actors across the OIC need to build channels of communication and standardized approaches to mutually strengthen and empower the marriage and Family institution in the Islamic world.

#### **Actions**

OIC Member States are specifically advised to consider the following Strategic Goals (SGs) to build platforms, linkages and various forms of mediums to increase cooperation and collaboration amongst OIC Member States regarding marriage and Family policies.

- **SG 6.1:** The OIC and Member States should specifically allocate a budget to enhance collaboration and cooperation on marriage and Family policies, programmes and initiatives. This use of the budget shall be directed towards impactful marriage and Family institution projects and programs.
- **SG 6.2:** Create networks and linkages with local, regional and international bodies and organizations relevant to the preservation, empowerment and strengthening of the marriage and Family institution and eco-system. As such, there shall be a mechanism to report and assess the impact of collaborations and joint Family programs.
- **SG 6.3:** Engage of local partners such as community leaders, civil society actors and local NGOs across the OIC in the empowerment and development programs and projects related to Family and marriage. There shall be a mechanism to evaluate stakeholders and partners' engagement in Family empowerment programs and projects.



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- **SG 6.4:** Creating effective measures and mechanisms of cooperation and coordination among government and non-government departments and agencies on the effective and efficient implementation of Family empowerment & development services and programs. As such, governance and management of marriage and Family institution needs to be enhanced and further empowered by government policies and support.
- **SG 6.5:** Enhance the role of civil society, NGOs and the private sector on empowering marriage and Family institution to play its role in societal development. Shared platforms and initiatives must be designed and implemented to activate the roles of each stakeholder.
- **SG 6.6:** Create effective partnerships between governmental and non-governmental institutions to join efforts in supporting the Family to play its role in achieving the goals of sustainable development.
- **SG 6.7:** Develop specific platforms for marriage and Family related issues to be attended by relevant actors across the OIC.
- **SG 6.8:** Create steady and sustainable channels of communication between relevant ministries, agencies and actors regarding marriage and Family issues at the OIC level.
- **SG 6.9:** Develop forums where marriage and Family issues and challenges can be discussed by OIC countries and mutual solutions established and implemented for the benefit of marriage and Family institution.
- **SG 6.10:** Utilize new technologies to cost effectively build mediums of communication and to provide voice to an increased number of actors on issues related to the Family and marriage. This will provide access and opportunities to many relevant partners advance the cause of marriage and Family institution empowerment.
- **SG 6.11:** Develop OIC level programmes for Families and couples where different Families from different OIC countries can meet and exchange ideas, best practices and joint empowerment programs. (Family exchange programmes).
- **SG 6.12:** Construct an OIC regional platform for marriage and Family institution. The regional platform should be composed of a wide range of actors from local influencers to private sector. This platform will provide opportunities for cooperation and sharing of resources leading the joint Family empowerment programmes.
- **SG 6.13:** Create OIC level Family and marriage festivals, cultural and knowledge sharing forums and special days dedicated particularly to address the issues of Family as well as the celebration of Families' success and achievements in the Islamic world.
- **SG 6.14:** Enhance cooperation among Muslim countries and create partnerships in matters of interest to Family empowerment and development at the international level such as the UN.
- **SG 6.15:** Track and monitor the implementation of the OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of the Marriage and Family Institution. Provide expert support to OIC countries that need it for the easier and smoother implementation of the strategy.





# OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Family & Marriage Institution

## **Strategic Area 7: Strengthen and manage the marriage and Family institution across the OIC through adequate legislations, policies, laws & governing mechanisms**

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In addition to the sociological, economic and cultural elements to empower the Family and marital union, there is a need to create comprehensive legal frameworks that preserve, promote and support the marriage and Family institution. Some OIC countries have national legislations in place regarding the marriage and Family institution while others are lacking any form of legislative framework. However, there is a need to develop an OIC level guidance to bring about a standardized and efficient structure to deal with the legal issues facing the Family and marriage. Legislations, policies and laws that aim to preserve the marriage and Family institution should be developed to support the social, economic and cultural elements. Without the proper legal framework to enhance and strengthen the role of the marriage and Family in society, efforts to empower the marriage and Family will be limited and ineffective. Therefore, an OIC level guidance on legislations, policies and laws will enable Member States to better develop, enhance and empower the marriage and Family institution in their countries.

### **Actions**

OIC Member States are specifically advised to consider the following Strategic Goals (SGs) to improve, create or develop legislations, policies and laws to enhance and strengthen the marriage and Family institution.

- **SG 7.1:** The OIC and Member States should specifically allocate a budget for issues concerning marriage and Family institution legislations, policies and laws.
- **SG 7.2:** Improve or develop legislations that prevent harmful practices that negatively influence the marriage and Family institution such as child marriages.
- **SG 7.3:** Provide legal services for individuals negatively impacted in Families and marriages.
- **SG 7.4:** Criminalize domestic violence in all its forms by making necessary legal arrangements.
- **SG 7.5:** Develop training programs for judicial personnel on how to recognize and deal with victims of domestic violence effectively.
- **SG 7.6:** Ensure enforcement of legal provisions and policy measures adopted against domestic violence.
- **SG 7.7:** Develop mechanism to track the legal cases involving Families and marriages to understand better the issues and challenges and to develop targeted solutions.
- **SG 7.8:** Engage Family members in the process of coming up with Family law and legislations.
- **SG 7.9:** Ensure the Laws on Family matters include the proper rules to protect Family and set the proper measures to ensure the law is adequate and facilitates the establishment of rights and their implementation.
- **SG 7.10:** Embark on research and studies related to Family legislations to ensure the existence of proper assessment and factual analysis of Family status and context before establishing new laws.
- **SG 7.11:** Use new technologies and effective management approaches and solution to management matters related to the marriage and Family institution.



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- **SG 7.12:** Improve government's Family services and support programs efficient delivery and monitoring.
- **SG 7.13:** Improve coordination between government and non-government agencies on coming up with specific legislations and policies related to the marriage and Family institution.
- **SG 7.14:** Make sure that the legislations, policies and laws are in harmony with the social, communal and cultural efforts.
- **SG 7.15:** Raise awareness amongst Families and couples on their legal rights through campaigns.

### **Strategic Area 8: Strengthen and promote the marriage and Family organisation through sustainable development**

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An important aspect of empowering the marriage and Family institution is to do it through sustainable development and at the same time to implement sustainable develop through the Family. In this respect, it is a two relationship where sustainable development should incorporate the marriage and Family while marriage and Family institution should reinforce sustainable development. This Strategic Area should be considered as an overarching goal for all strategic goals mentioned in this document. OIC countries are aiming to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which many of them either directly or indirectly intersects with the marriage and Family institution. Therefore, to achieve the UN SDGs and to incorporate the culture of sustainable development across the OIC, the below strategic goals are presented.

#### **Actions**

OIC Member States are specifically advised to consider the following Strategic Goals (SGs) to incorporate sustainable development as part of the OIC culture and for the aim of Member States to achieve the UN SDGs through the marriage and Family institution.

- **SG 8.1:** The OIC and Member States should specifically allocate a budget to enhance and strengthen their sustainable development culture through the marriage and Family institution.
- **SG 8.2:** Enhance awareness programs and educative campaigns about the need for the culture of sustainability.
- **SG 8.3:** Provide funds and support to increase social equity among Family members.
- **SG 8.4:** Increase economic productivity and enhance the culture of Family business to encourage productivity and self-sufficiency.
- **SG 8.5:** Link the goals of Family development and empowerment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- **SG 8.6:** Use education and media platforms to enhance awareness and best practices regarding Family sustainable development.
- **SG 8.7:** Educational and social programs to enhance the culture of environment preservation and protection in the Family.
- **SG 8.8:** Enhance religious education on matters of environmental conservation & preservation as per the teaching of Islam.
- **SG 8.9:** Provide sustainable development programmes for Families.



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- **SG 8.10:** Develop policies, legislations and incentives that enhance and strengthen Families will and desire to become part of sustainable development.

### **Strategic Area 9: Provide support to migrant and refugee Families**

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Compared to other parts of the world the OIC countries are increasing a higher rate of migration and refugees internally within the OIC and externally to outside of the OIC. Migrant and refugee Families and couples face a number of challenges that weakens and resorts to the dysfunction of the marriage and Family institution. Adaptation to new cultures, language and economic barriers, influence of outside social norms along with many other difficulties faced by migrant and refugee Families' and marital unions call for special attention to this issue. The below outlined strategic goals aim to provide support to Muslim migrant and refugee Families and marital unions within the OIC and the ones outside of the Member States.

#### **Actions**

OIC Member States are specifically advised to consider the following Strategic Goals (SGs) to support Muslim migrant and refugee Families and marital unions.

- **SG 9.1:** The OIC and Member States should specifically allocate a budget to strengthen and support Muslim migrant and refugee Families.
- **SG 9.2:** Develop data collection, reporting, and monitoring mechanisms to better gauge the needs of migrant Families in host countries.
- **SG 9.3:** Develop education and training programmes at national and intra-OIC level for migrant and emigrant Families to prepare them for challenges associated with adapting to a new environment.
- **SG 9.4:** Establish centres for migrant communities that can provide cultural and religious services that help safeguard marriage and Family institutions.
- **SG 9.5:** Develop mechanisms in order to inform migrant Families regarding their rights and responsibilities.
- **SG 9.6:** Support the migrant and refuge Families, and provide them with the necessary needs and services such as financial, health care, education, social care, Family counselling and guidance.
- **SG 9.7:** Design plans to prevent such negative migration and displacement of Families causing them tremendous cultural, religious, social, legal and cultural problems.
- **SG 9.8:** Establish financial support funds for migrant and refuge Families to ensure their well-being and quality of life standards through private sector contribution and Islamic banks.
- **SG 9.9:** Effectively utilise the funds coming from zakat, donation and Waqaf to support project and programs for migrant and refuge Families.
- **SG 9.10:** Voice and protect the migrant and refugee Families religious, cultural, social and economic rights outside of the OIC at regional and international forums and bodies.



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## **Strategic Area 10: Develop Breakthrough Initiatives to empower the marriage and Family institution**

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Aside from the specific Strategic Areas proposed above, Strategic Area 10 presents general strategic goals for OIC Member States to implement for the empowerment of the marriage and Family institution. It is meant to encourage OIC member States to come up with focussed breakthrough initiatives that may stimulate and encourage quick change and empowerment of marriage and Family institution. The general suggestions outlined below are meant to serve as overarching goals and strategic initiatives that are critical to preserve, promote and empower the OIC marriage and Family institution. These goals are not aimed at specific OIC Member States but are goals that should be taken into consideration by all Member States.

### **Actions**

OIC Member States are specifically advised to consider the following Strategic Goals (SGs) as general suggestions to empower the marriage and Family institution.

- **SG 10.1:** The OIC and Member States should specifically allocate a budget for the empowerment of the marriage and Family institution. Most developed countries are spending nearly 2% of their GDP on Family related issues. The average across the OIC is much lower; therefore, OIC Member States should aim to reserve 2% of their GDPs on supporting the empowerment of marriage and Family institution.
- **SG 10.2:** Adopt a Family perspective in development goals, focusing on development programs and projects that make the Family and household economy at the heart of national development plans and policies.
- **SG 10.3:** Make vigorous efforts to adopt an integrated approach to national policies on the Family and the institution of marriage, including the strengthening of the role of the Family in the construction of the Muslim personality and in the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of women, children, youth and the elderly and those with special needs, and to preserve the educational and moral values that guarantee the support and empowerment of the Family.
- **SG 10.4:** Support mechanisms of regional and international cooperation and coordination to address Family issues and to unite the efforts of all OIC member States to interact with each other to share expertise and best practices.
- **SG 10.5:** Urge OIC Member States to transform the moral responsibility of parents towards children into specific and enforceable commitments, while seeking to include those commitments in national programs and plans that address marriage and Family issues in Muslim societies.
- **SG 10.6:** Activate the role of partnership between government agencies, local and regional authorities and civil society in educating individuals and groups through strengthening the local media for its important role in spreading awareness, achieving complementarity and cooperation among them, and holding periodic meetings between parents and educational institutions to discuss the best ways to raise children and give them virtuous moral values, and to discourage them from any immoral behaviour.
- **SG 10.7:** Carry out awareness campaigns for youth, Families and society on the importance of the Family and its role in the education of children. These campaigns include schools, institutes, cultural and social centres, factories, the media, audio and video media, social media, and activating the role of civil society in Family development and empowerment activities. Also, instil the culture and values, which build good morals in children and Family members.
- **SG 10.8:** Strengthen the capacity of educational institutions, cultural and social centres, religious leaders and civil society in Member States to assume their responsibilities in the



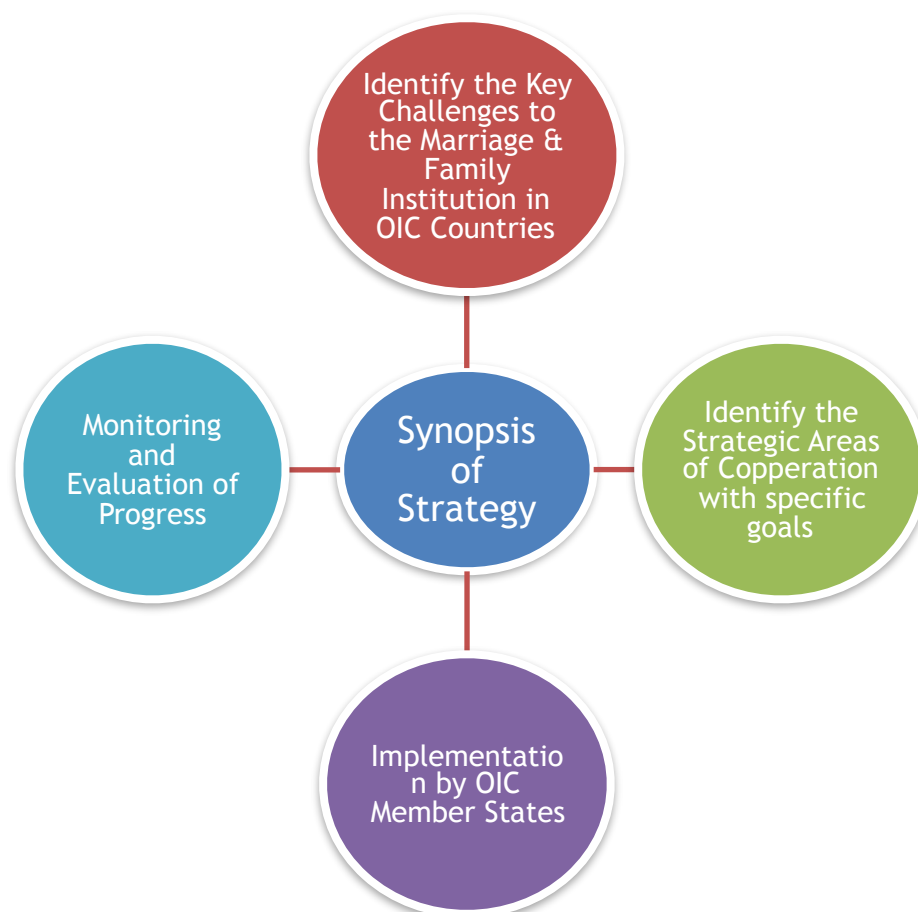
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development of human values as the basis for the integrated ethical system, which is common to human nature and has been affirmed by religions and cultures.

- **SG 10.9:** The OIC should establish specifically an OIC Institute for Marriage and Family Institution Research, Consultancy and Training Centre to assist with research, analysis, monitoring and evaluation and empowerment programs and innovative strategies and approaches.
- **SG 10.10:** Establish OIC Marriage and Family Institution Capacity Building Fund to support Families in Member States and in Muslim Minority Countries and in Conflict and War Zone Countries.

### IV. THE WAY FORWARD

The situation regarding the marriage and Family institution is not as intensely negative as it is in the developed countries. However, the trends across the OIC show that Member States are increasingly starting to experience negative influences from the global trends and will continue to experience a rise in these trends. Therefore, it is critical that the OIC Member States take action now to reverse the already negative influences on the marriage and Family institution and more importantly to prevent the growing challenges to the marriage and Family in OIC countries. The most efficient and productive way to counter these challenges is to realize the importance of the marriage and Family institution for the development and prosperity of society and within this framework empower the marriage and Family organisation in all aspects as the building block of communities, societies and humanity.



## OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Family & Marriage Institution

Within this framework, this strategic document has outlined nine major areas posing a challenge to the marriage and Family institution across the OIC. To overcome these challenges and empower the marriage and Family institution in OIC Member States, the document proposed 10 Strategic Areas with 165 specific Strategic Goals (SGs). It also proposed 32 KPIs for at the OIC level for the purpose of measuring the performance and achieving the strategic objectives.

All of the Strategic Areas and Strategic Goals target to empower the marriage and Family institution by countering the immediate and the foreseeable challenges that OIC Member States face. This requires OIC countries to take a strong commitment and significant steps in marriage and Family policy-making and implementation. Such a commitment should involve the utilization of constructive cooperation amongst OIC Member States in terms of experience and knowledge sharing as well as resource management.

Improving the situation of the marriage and Family institution across the OIC also necessitates the establishment of effective coordination mechanisms that stretch from national, regional to international levels.

It is through empowerment that Families and marital unions become a dynamic and productive agent of social development. In this regard, this strategy promotes the preservation, participation, productivity, prosperity and positive sustainable development of Families and marital unions for OIC Member States. To achieve such a goal, a holistic and collective approach of empowerment is necessary to ensure the strength, stability, continuity, safety and well-being of the marriage and Family institution in the OIC. In line with this view, the strategic document calls for the effective, timely and coordinated implementation of the proposed strategic goals. The implementation and coordination mechanism should be coupled with a systematic reporting system to collect up-to-date information about planned, implemented and completed policies and activities undertaken by OIC Member States and OIC institutions to track the progress, strengths and weaknesses.

### The Next Step

This strategy document has consolidated the strategic objectives, strategic initiatives and the key performance indicators showing the bigger picture of what needs to be done as far as the OIC Strategy for the empowerment of FaMI is concerned. It provided a platform and framework for shared efforts towards empowering FaMI in the Islamic world. The important next step is form OIC and Member States level implementation laboratories and specialized groups to come up with time line and specific prioritized plans and programs to kick off the implementation of the OIC strategy for the empowerment of FaMI.

There must be champion for the implementation and reporting of achievements and results. Constant communication with relevant stakeholders and their engagement in the implementation of strategies and action plans is crucial.

The buy-in for the implementation of this ambitious strategy needs to be geared up and promoted to relevant authorities and stakeholders. Media and communication shall play important roles towards making this strategy acceptable and implementable to different stakeholders and implementable at OIC, Members States, society, institutional, family and individual Levels.

In order to ensure the implementation and monitoring of this strategy the following guidelines are in place:

1. Identify and set up the proper KPIs and indicators suitable and relevant to the context and conditions of each member country.



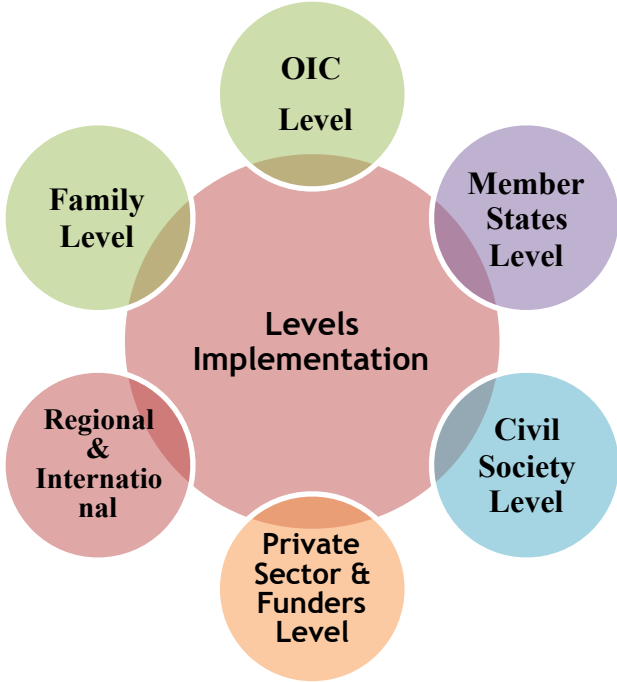


## OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Family & Marriage Institution

2. The OIC to form a specialized team to align and cascade down the KPIs at OIC level and put the necessary measures for their implementation.
3. Specify the expected outcomes and results that contribute the achievements of the goals and targets.
4. Identify and allocate the necessary recourses, people, processes and measures needed for the efficient implementation of this strategy.
5. Engaging in ongoing communication and conversation with stakeholders and implementers to ensure synergy and coordination of impactful actions and efforts.
6. Set up OIC level monitoring and reporting and performance assessment on the basis of the KPIs and indicators.
7. Ensuring continuous feedback to improve performance at all levels.
8. Ensuring that the delivery of strategy is up to the standards and follows the norms of efficient and effective delivery to save coat, time and resources. Coordination and liaison among the actors and implementers is crucial. As such, good governance, effective management, exchange of information sharing of best practices, dynamic benchmarking, synergy and performance based action will pay off and assist in achieving the desired goals and results.
9. Monitoring and reporting at OIC and member States levels are crucial for on-going review of actions and programs ensuring desired impact. The monitoring and reporting might be quarterly or biannual or yearly or by period and project depending on the type of programs and projects being implemented.
10. Evaluation and assessment of strategies, actions, results and outcomes is crucial for analyzing the success and failure as well as making the necessary changes and articulations needed in the course of implementation. This will help improve goals, strategies, policies, plans, programmes and projects.
11. Consolidated the data and information from all OIC member countries on KPIs of FaMIE and provided the necessary reports and results so as to allow members to analysis and make the necessary changes and actions towards achieving the desired result and outcomes.
12. Disseminate and promote the success and best achievement and practices to member states as a way of sharing and benchmarking for mutual benefit.
13. OIC to aggregate the information from different Member States on the implementation of KPIs of the strategy for the empowerment of FaMI and develop the OIC level report on the progress and achievements of results and goals. This will help in developing an OIC level referral mechanisms for effective delivery and monitoring of the strategy for the empowerment of FaMI in the Islamic world.
14. Promote engagement of civil society, NGOs, religious groups, the private sector and all other partners locally and internationally to create
15. Create sensitization and awareness about the importance of the strategy for the empowerment of FaMI and its future impact on Member States' family policies and societal development.
16. Ensure that all levels of implementation and intervention are synergized and coordinated for the achievement of desired goals and results. These are the main levels that need to be synergized:



OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Family & Marriage Institution





## APPENDIX 1: FAMILIES: SUMMARY OF FRAMEWORK AND GUIDELINES

This appendix provides a general framework and guidelines for the development and implementation of the OIC-FaMIE- Strategy including; definition of some concepts, principles and guidelines, references, focus areas for the activation of FaMI, key result areas, strategic objectives in a concise format.

### A. Definition of Concepts

#### Definition of Marriage

Generally, marriage is defined as a legal contract between man and woman meant to enjoy each other and form a family. Hence, those relationships that arise between a man and a woman without a legitimate contract will not be accepted according to Islamic teachings. This legal marriage aims at bringing tranquility, stability, balanced growth and development in the light of affection, compassion, cooperation, solidarity and synergy to build a cohesive family, a good society and individuals who will contribute to balanced sustainable development of societies.

In specific terms, marriage is the legal act of mutual acceptance between husband and wife in an intention to build family life and raise up balanced and good progeny enabling them to become committed vicegerent of God and responsible citizens in line with Islamic teachings and values. The Holy Qur'an states clearly: {And among His signs is that He created for you wives from among yourselves, to dwell in them, and to make between you affection and mercy. There are signs for those who think.} (Al- Rum: 21).

{وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يَتَفَكَّرُونَ.} (سورة الروم: الآية: 21).

#### Definition of Family

As Family plays a vital role in societal development especially in from an Islamic perspective, Member countries affirms the importance of marriage and Family institution from both the Shari'ah and general human perspectives and ensure their commitment and support for building balanced and productive families. They should, among others, facilitate marriage, ensure well-being and quality of life standards, protect and empower Family & marriage institution (FaMI) with the necessary services and support. Therefore, the main aims shall be to build balanced, stable, safe, productive and prosperous families aware of their national and international roles and responsibilities participating in nation building & sustainable societal development in line with Islamic values and standards.

To better appreciate the significance of the concept of Family in Islamic perspective it is worth mentioning some other definitions from other perspectives. In the article number 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights it is clearly stated that: "(1) Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution, (2) Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses and, (3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State and (4) States Parties to the present Covenant shall take appropriate steps to ensure equality of rights and responsibilities of spouses as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution. In the case of dissolution, provision shall be made for the necessary protection of any children" ( <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>).

In a 2005 interpretative document in regard to the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations under (Parental Responsibilities and Assistance from States Parties: No. 15, states that "The preamble to the Convention refers to the Family as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children. The Committee recognises that Family here refers to a variety of arrangements that can provide for young children's care, nurturance and development, including the nuclear Family, the extended Family, and other traditional and modern community-based arrangements, provided these are consistent with children's rights and best interests. ([https://www.unicef.org/protection/files/CRCGC6\\_EN.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/protection/files/CRCGC6_EN.pdf)).

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On the other hand, *Hendriks v Netherlands*, UN Human Rights Committee, No. 201/1985, No. 10.3 clearly mentioned that “the idea of the Family must necessarily embrace the relations between parents and child. Although divorce legally ends a marriage, it cannot dissolve the bond uniting father - or mother - and child. This bond does not depend on the continuation of the parents' marriage.” (<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/SDecisionsVol3en.pdf>).

The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights in its article 18 states that: “1) the Family shall be the natural unit and basis of society. It shall be protected by the State which shall take care of its physical health and moral and 2) The State shall have the duty to assist the Family which is the custodian of morals and traditional values recognized by the community.” (<http://www.achpr.org/instruments/achpr/>).

Based on the above, it is evident that Family is the foundational and developmental unit of society. It is founded upon legal sacred bond of marriage between qualified and competent man and woman in line with Islamic values and standards.

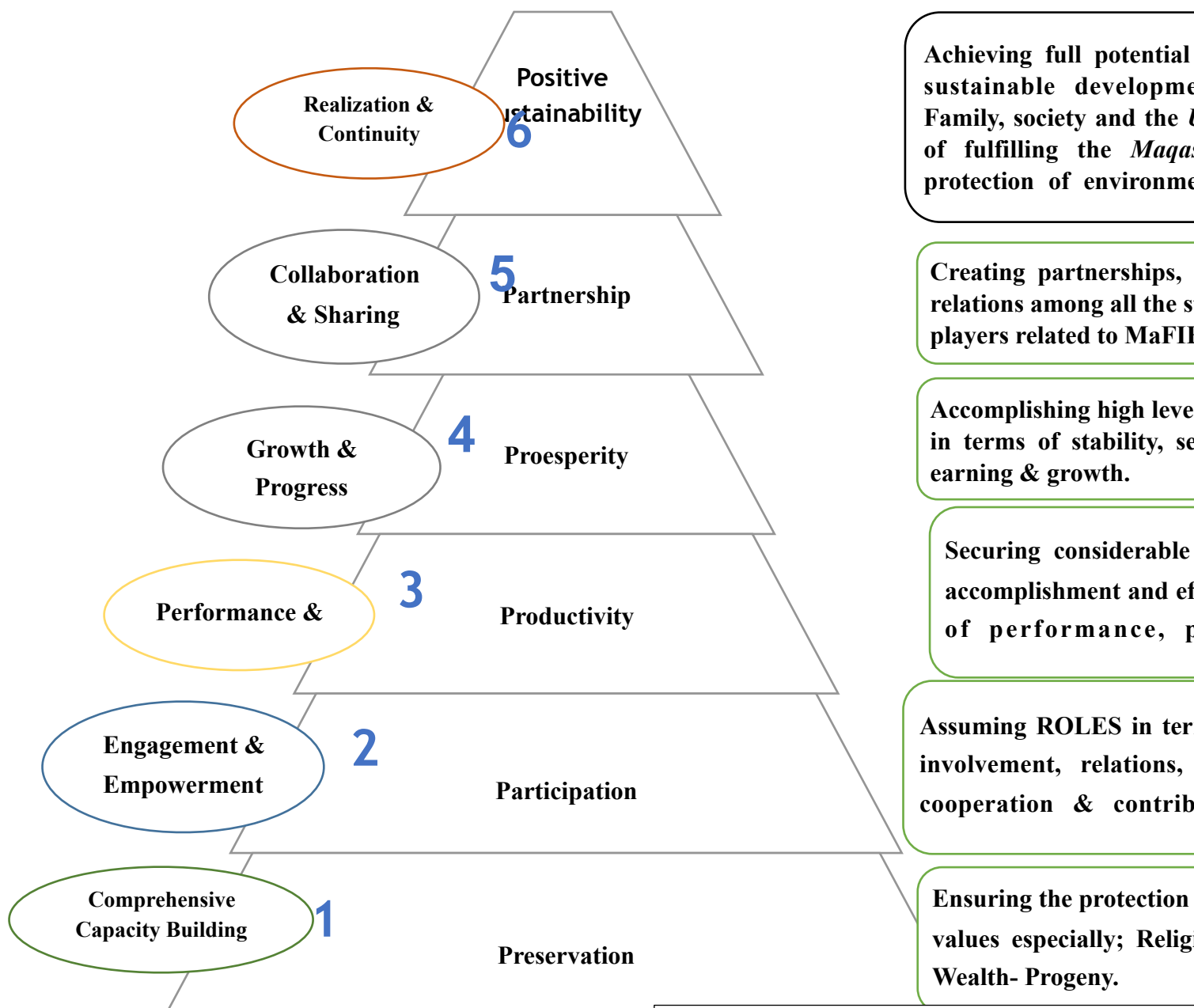
Family should be the cradle of love, respect, *mawadah* and *rahmah* and the sacred place where progeny is originated and raised up. The Family includes husband, wife, children and extended relatives and branches. In the Islamic world and due to modern economic, social, technological, cultural and industrial changes in society still both extended and nuclear Families exist facing many challenges. Usually extended Family may include, parents, children, grandparents, uncles and aunts. If managed well it helps keep respect, unity, solidarity and shared responsibility among the members.

### **B. Family Role Activation: Focus Areas of FaMIE**

In order to activate the roles of marriage and Family institution across OIC member countries there should be a clear understanding of the current situation, status and position of Family. In the Islamic world, more importantly Family is crucial for the existence, development, continuity and rejuvenation of society. Given, the socio-cultural and religious dimensions, Family is considered as a sacred bond with religious, civilizational and socio-economic substance and role. The empowerment of Family should take into account the need for Family role activation in order to assume the desired relevant responsibilities in our present and future contexts. The illustration shows the levels of Family roles revolving around six main processes: preservation, participation, productivity, prosperity, partnership and positive sustainability. Generally speaking, the roles and responsibilities of Family in the Islamic world need to be re-activated along the following six focus areas:



# OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Family & Marriage Institution



C. OIC-FaMIE-Strategy: Brief Summary of Current

Illustration No. 1: Family Role Activation Approach



### WEAKNESSES OF MaFI

- Negative impact on mental, psychological and general health on the wellbeing of family members in many countries.
- Lack of Family development indicators in the priorities of national strategies pertaining to MaFI in some countries.
- Lack of competent and qualified human capital in charge of family and marriage institutions' matters at national and agencies.
- Lack of coordination among government and non-government agencies and players handling MaFI in many countries resulting in weak services and delivery.
- Shortage of financial support and funds to enhance Family development programs and activities.
- Lack of financial support to provide the necessary services and comprehensive care to MaFI.
- Lack of Islamic world collective strategy on handling MaFI issues and problems.
- Lack of information and data on the state of MaFI in the Islamic world.
- Less emphasis and prioritization of MaFI issues in the national developmental and social strategies and policies in many countries.
- Shortage of in-depth and scientific researches and studies on the current situation and status of MaFI in the Islamic world.
- Lack of comprehensive MaFI programs and projects that can strengthen the preservation, participation and development of MaFI in some Muslim countries faced with many challenges.
- Lack of effective systems, mechanisms and tools to measure the participation, preservation, productivity and development of MaFI in the Islamic World as a whole.
- Lack of Family Capacity Building Funds and Programs in the Islamic world as a whole.
- Lack of economic, social, political, scientific and technological, educational empowerment of MaFI in some countries.

### STRENGTH OF MaFI

- Diversity and richness of MaFI in the Islamic world and its commitment to Islamic values and identity.
- Clarity and originality of the concept, objectives, functions and substance of the concept MaFI in the Islamic World.
- Existence of national policies strategies, Laws and regulations for the protection and empowerment of MaFI in many Muslim countries.
- Existence of Local, regional and international Bodies and agencies catering for the empowerment and development of MaFI through various services.
- Several Muslim countries developed Family capacity building programmes.
- Existence of resources and expertise in many Muslim countries to cater for the well-being & quality standards of life of families.
- Strong reservoir of MaFI values and *maqasid*.



## THREATS

- Mot...
- Disintegration of Family and alarming rates of divorces, Unemployment, Migration, illirarcy...ect. in several Muslim
- Increase in rates of poverty, hunger, vilonce, and abuse of family in several Muslim countries.
- Widening economic and social disparities between families.
- Spread of violence, abuses, drug addiction and health problems among youth, adolescent...ect.
- Negative impact of external ideological and intellectual trends and movements on family fabric & marriage values.

## OPPORTUNITIES

- Strengthening peace, stability, safely and development of MaFI.
- Bigger opportunities on partnership and collaboration among Member countries on MaFI empowerment and develop
- develop successful models and best practices on MaFIE in the Islamic World provides hope and real cases of su development of MaFI.
- International support for MaFI empowerment and existence of family capacity building programmes.
- Engagement of Private sector and civil society along with governments on MaFI empowerment through providing purpose.
- Captalise on existence of Arab Strategy for Family and other Islamic Countries national and regional strategies a empowerment and development.

### D. OIC-FaMIE-Strategy: Guidelines and Principles

Taking into account the above explanation, the current OIC-FaMIE-Strategy aspires towards, among others, establishing a common shared guiding approach and framework for marriage and Family institution empowerment in the Islamic world.

In specific terms, this strategic document provides a comprehensive strategy for the empowerment of FaMI through enhancement of its roles in:

- societal development,
- preservation of Islamic culture and way of life,
- participation in decision making at all levels,
- enhancing Family productivity and prosperity
- strengthening Family solidarity and cohesiveness,
- engaging Families in planning & implementation of policies and action plans,
- creating synergy among all partners and agencies managing FaMI affairs,
- enhancing the well-being and quality of life standards of FaMI in OIC member countries & Muslim Minority countries &
- supporting Families in Conflict Zones, migrating & refuge and those with special needs and disabilities.

The current strategy for the empowerment of FaMI proposes the following principles and guidelines to be taken into account by OIC member countries:

### Marriage & Family Strategy: Guidelines and Principles

<b>1</b>	<b>Promote</b> Family empowerment and activation of roles in OIC member countries leading to strengthening productivity, prosperity, stability, safety and development of Families as a driving force behind societal development.	<b>F a m i l y     R o l e Activation Oriented</b>
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## OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Family & Marriage Institution

2	<b>Advance</b> comprehensive capacity building agenda to provide services and support for Family members' progress and participation in societal development. The governments and relevant players have to allocate funds and means to enhance capabilities of Families to assume their roles and responsibilities through empowerment approach.	<b>Stressing Family Capacity Building</b>
3	<b>Recognise</b> the cultural, ethnic, linguistic and socio-economic and political status of member countries emphasising that the OIC-FaMIE-Strategy is not meant to be a blue print for a specific country but it is a guiding and enriching document for empowerment of FaMI in the Islamic world.	<b>Strategy document recognizing diversity and richness of Member Countries</b>
4	<b>Consider</b> Marriage & Family Institution as a whole and not some of its members or elements or issues. The strategy of empowerment must be comprehensive to address all issues and challenges encountering Family including, parents, children, adolescents, adults, elders, marriage, employability, well-being, quality of life, health, education, environment and ecosystem, risks and problems, potentials and opportunities, culture and religion, values	<b>All-Encompassing Family Strategy</b>
5	<b>Develop</b> comprehensive and collaborative OIC-FaMIE-Strategy that engages all stakeholders and bring together governments, civil society, private sector, NGO's and local, regional and international bodies to develop effective programs and plans for Family empowerment and development.	<b>Engaging Stakeholders and partners</b>
6	<b>Stress</b> the importance of outcomes and impact rather than objectives and doing activities. The impact and transformation through empowerment programs must be seen and measured so as to ensure success of policies, plans and programs enhancing Family preservation, participation, productivity, prosperity, partnership and positive sustainable development.	<b>Stressing Outcomes and Impacts</b>
7	<b>Urge</b> member countries to pull together their resources and strengths in order to address the challenges encountered by Marriage and Family Institution in the Islamic world & in Muslim Minority countries through providing resources, expertise and collective services and support programs.	<b>Stressing cooperation, collective efforts and sharing of resources</b>
8	<b>Develop</b> and share successful mechanisms and best practices on ensuring effectiveness of the support and eco-systems and services so as to respond to the real needs and challenges facing Family and marriage institution.	<b>Sharing of Best Practices and Successful Strategies among OIC Members</b>
9	<b>Shoulder</b> Family empowerment responsibilities among stakeholders and social players. It should not rest solely upon the Family members. Responsibility shall be shouldered by OIC member countries as well as global community including United Nations and other organs.	<b>Implementation of Strategy is a Shared Responsibility</b>
10	<b>Strengthen</b> Marriage & Family Institution in Muslim minority and conflict zone countries. Special consideration is given to Families with special needs and vulnerable Families and children Relevant and appropriate plans and programs need to be designed to cater for those deserving Families and communities	<b>Addressing Family in Minority and Conflict Zone countries</b>





## OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Family & Marriage Institution

11	<b>Integrate</b> and benefit from common human values and ethics in areas of marriage and Family empowerment and development	<b>Benefit from Common Human Values on marriage and Family matters</b>
12	<b>Recognise</b> the human urge to form Families through legal marriage stressing the importance of marriage and Family in societal development.	<b>Support Creation of New Families</b>
13	Protect FaMI by the Law. It must be defined, protected and developed in light of Islamic values and the existing Laws and regulations in OIC member countries.	<b>Protection of Family &amp; Marriage by the Law.</b>
14	<b>Enhance</b> local, regional and International awareness about FaMI and the urgency of empowerment and development at all levels leading to more resilient Family strategies and impactful programs. The use of media in all its form is crucial.	<b>Family Empowerment must be Communicated &amp; Promoted through Media, Social Media and other Platforms</b>
15	<b>Enhance</b> national integrated Family policies based on clear visions and strong strategic objectives and goals resulting in impactful regulations, legislations, strategies and plans for Family protection, participation, productivity, prosperity and sustainable development.	<b>Enhanced National Family Policies</b>
16	<b>Preserve</b> the rights of Family and its member according to the teachings of Islam & common human values.	<b>Protection of Family Rights</b>
17	<b>Provide</b> the necessary health care and support to its citizen that make the core of Family.	<b>Provide Necessary Services and Support for FaMI Well-being</b>
18	<b>Safeguard</b> FaMI, deepen its solidarity and bond, preserve its Islamic identity and provide the necessary means to strengthen its roles and capabilities in light of Islamic values.	<b>Enhance Family Solidarity and Islamic Identity</b>
19	<b>Introduce</b> necessary measures to empower Family to play its roles in the protection of religion, human life, human intellect, human wealth and Progeny.	<b>Stress the Protection of the five values</b>
20	<b>Ensure</b> equality between men and women taking into consideration the nature, functions, objectives and complimenting roles of both of them in light of Islamic values.	<b>Positive Equality in Family</b>
21	<b>Defend</b> FaMI from all forms of degradation, disintegration and international and external threats including ideological threats, deviant teachings, terrorism and extremism, negative impact of globalization and postmodernism trends	<b>Empower Family against Threats and Disintegration</b>
22	<b>Collaborate</b> with Families and other stakeholders and societal players to address the issues of Family-work balance in this context, there is a need for fluid and facilitative eco-system. It needs empowerment of Family members through measures such as: friendly and fluid work environment approach, Family-Work balancing skills, Family communication skills, parenting skills, Family management, Family planning, Family financial management skills, Family counselling, Family well-being.	<b>Enhance Fluid and Facilitative Eco-system &amp; Work Environment</b>



## OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Family & Marriage Institution

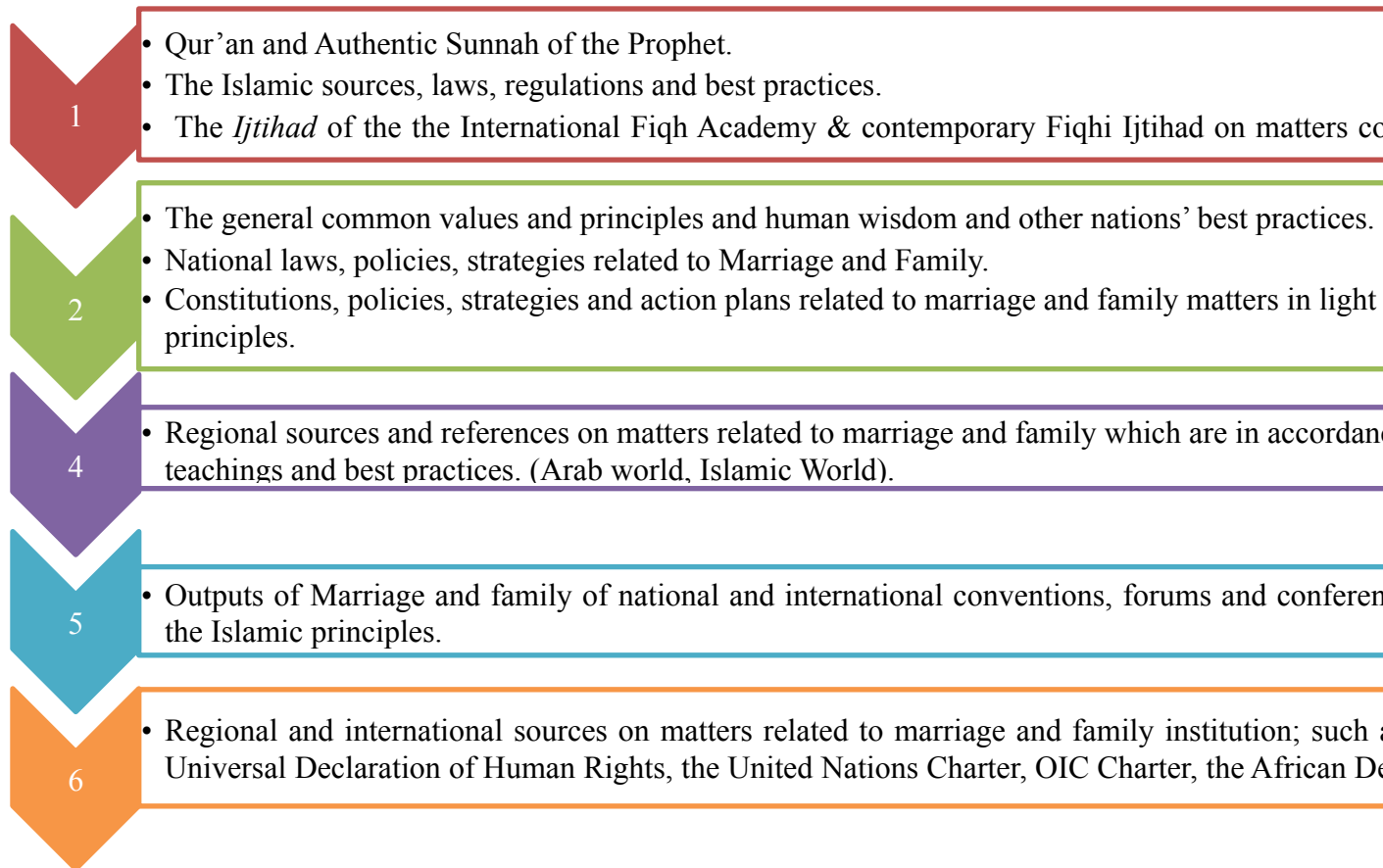
23	<p><b>Coordinate</b> FaMI developmental centered policies and strategies. It is important to address the issues of FaMI from a multi-factorial approach stressing the FaMI centered policies and strategies. It should not be solely the responsibility of those agencies handling Family matters but engaging all the relevant stakeholders and agencies.</p>	<p><b>FaMI Developmental and Coordinated Centered Policies</b></p>
24	<p><b>Tackle</b> the issues of violence in Families, child abuse, children negligence, women abuse, mental, psychological, physical and sexual abuse, abuse of orphans' rights...through creating support programs and mechanisms to reduce these form of Family abuse and disrespect.</p>	<p><b>Prioritise Issues of Family Violence and Abuse</b></p>
25	<p><b>Guarantee</b> the rights of individuals and their Families especially in case of disability, chronic disease, elderly, aging and special needs ensuring a social solidarity system to care and support Families financially and morally.</p>	<p><b>Guarantee protection of special needs, needy and Elderly groups</b></p>
26	<p><b>Enhance</b> the new approaches to Family conflict resolution such as amicable and mediation approaches to settle disputes and enhance Family cohesiveness and solidarity.</p>	<p><b>Comprehensive Family Conflict Resolution</b></p>

### E. OIC-FaMIE- Strategy: Sources and References

The OIC strategy for the empowerment of FaMI will use as sources and references the following:



## OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Family & Marriage Institution



### F. OIC-FaMIE- Strategy: Statement of Strategic Directions

Given the current situation and challenging issues facing marriage and Family institution across OIC member countries and in Muslim Minority Countries, the OIC-FaMIE- Strategy advances the following Strategic Directions for preservation, empowerment and transformation of marriage and Family institution. OIC-FaMIE- Strategy aspires to:

- build Marriage and Family Institution and eco-systems that can enhance well-being, quality of life, self-sustaining capabilities and dynamic societal participation of Family members in sustainable development activities;
- preserve the core value system of marriage and Family institution in light of Islamic teachings and Islamic cultural and civilisational values and best practices;
- provide the necessities, needs and complementary values for Family members so as to enjoy comprehensive healthy life style in a stable, prosperous, progressive, loving, caring and participative environment.
- empower and transform Marriage and Family Institution and eco-system through education, training, knowledge and capacity building activities to ensure dynamic participation of Family member in national development activities.
- enhance social relations network and partnership among Families and other societal institutions and players so as to preserve, empower and transform the role of Family and participation in development.
- provide opportunities and access to Family members to work, education and other related areas of societal participation.



## OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Family & Marriage Institution

In more specific terms, the OIC strategic framework emphasises the following general direction statements that need to be attended to and achieved in a period of 10 years. The OIC member countries will have Marriage and Family institutions and eco-systems that are:

<b>Marriage &amp; Family Strategy: Statement of Directions</b>		
<b>1</b>	Strengthened FaMI well-being & Quality standard of life through providing necessary support & services including health care, education, food, clean water, housing, safety & other needs of life in line with Islamic values & standards.	<b>Well-being &amp; Quality Standards of Life</b>
<b>2</b>	Protected FaMI from all types of internal & external threats and negative elements. (cultural, social, ethical, intellectual, religious, behavioural & negative impacts of globalisation & post-modernism & threats of terrorism, extremism & islamophobia ...).	<b>Protection &amp; preservation</b>
<b>3</b>	Enjoying robust and integrated environment and eco-system imbued with Islamic values	<b>Values</b>
<b>4</b>	Enhanced FaMI matters' Governance and Management	<b>Governance</b>
<b>5</b>	Increased Family prosperity & sustainable development through inculcating the culture of social equity, economic productivity, environmental conservation & preservation of wealth in all its forms in line with Islamic values and standards	
<b>6</b>	Strengthened FaMI access to justice and legal redress	<b>Justice</b>
<b>7</b>	Increased FaMI participation in societal development	<b>Participation</b>
<b>8</b>	Robust FaMI Capacity Building programs	<b>Capacity building</b>
<b>9</b>	Strengthened FaMI- Stakeholders- partnership & collaboration at all levels	<b>Partnership</b>
<b>10</b>	Increased productivity and income for qualified Family household.	<b>Productivity</b>
<b>11</b>	Reduced Illiteracy among members of Muslim Families in the Islamic World.	<b>Illiteracy</b>
<b>12</b>	Reduced poverty & hunger among needy Families in the Islamic World.	<b>P o v e r t y &amp; hunger</b>
<b>13</b>	Reduced cases of divorce, abuse and violence against Family members.	<b>D i v o r c e &amp; violence</b>
<b>14</b>	Increased access to employability and job opportunities for members of Families in the Islamic World.	<b>Employability &amp; work</b>



## OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Family & Marriage Institution

15	Achieved high Family engagement & participation in decision making and societal developmental activities at all levels such as; political, educational, administrative, economic, legal, social, cultural, scientific & technological.	<b>Engagement &amp; Decision Making</b>
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### G. OIC-FaMIE- Strategy: Key Result Areas

For the success of OIC Strategic framework for preservation, empowerment and transformation of marriage and Family institution and eco-system, it is crucial to identify the key result areas (KRA) that need to be addressed. Key Result Areas are priority and impactful areas that have direct impact on performance and achievement of results and goals. The following are some key result areas are of priority:

KEY RESULT AREAS		
1	Existence and implementation of comprehensive national Marriage and Family Policy, strategy and action plan for FaMI empowerment	<b>National Policy</b>
2	Strong governance and management of Marriage and Family institution affairs	<b>Governance</b>
3	Robust Marriage and Family comprehensive eco-system	<b>Eco-system</b>
4	Sustainable Family Capacity building Funds and programs	<b>Funds</b>
5	Robust Marriage and Family empowerment value system	<b>Value system</b>
6	Family participation and productivity through job opportunities and decision making roles	<b>Participation</b>
7	Government quality delivery of Family support programs and services enhancing Family well-being and quality standards of life.	<b>Delivery</b>
8	Provide an effective environment for involving beneficiaries stakeholders of all groups in the development and implementation of policies and plans to empower the FaMI	<b>Stakeholders</b>
9	Strong partnership, coordination and collaboration among societal players such as society, government, private sector, NGOs...	<b>Partnership</b>



# OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Family & Marriage Institution

10	Existence of robust information and database system at OIC and for member countries level for FaMIE	<b>Robust data system</b>
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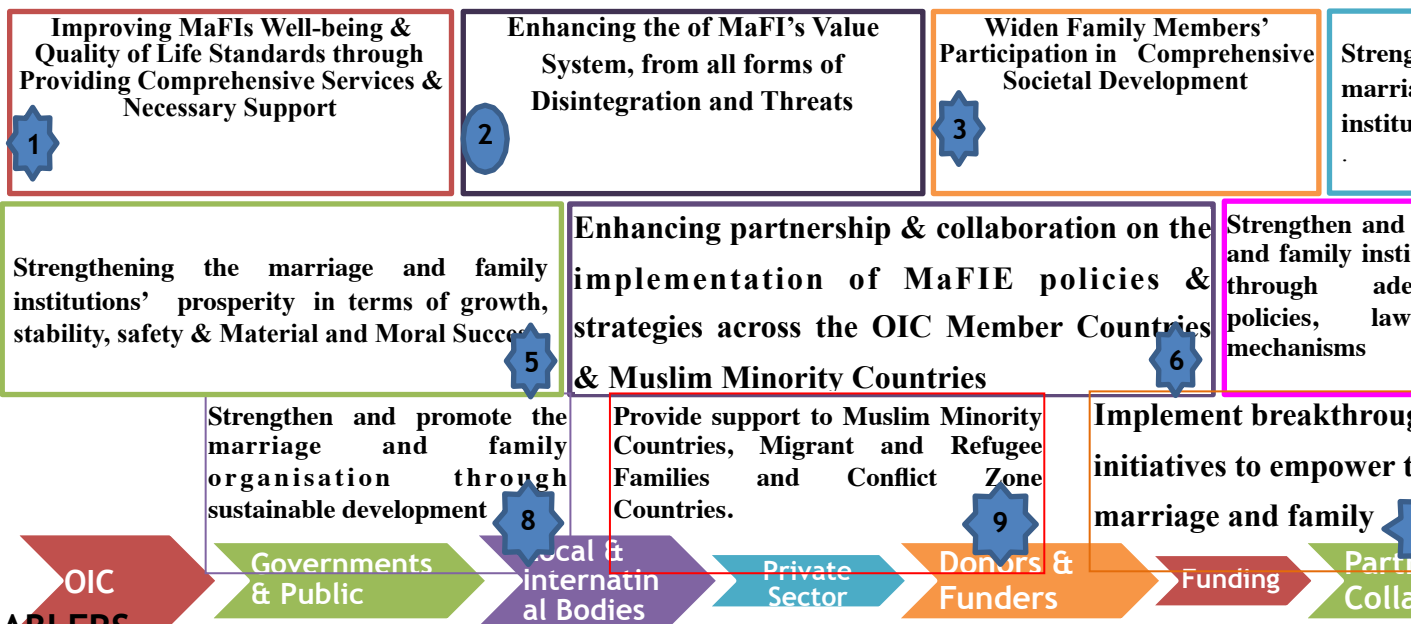
## H. OIC-FaMIE- Strategy: Outline of the Strategic Map

**VISION** *To build dynamic Family and Marriage Institution nurturing generation and playing efficient roles in preservation, participation, productivity, prosperity and sustainable development of society according to Islamic values and standards.*

**MISSION** *Empowering & enhancing Marriage & Family institution enabling it to assume greater roles in preservation, participation, productivity, prosperity, partnership & sustainable development of the Islamic World.*

**VALUES** *Mawadah wa Rahmah- Cooperation- Trust- Respect -Takrim*

### STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



For the purpose of implementation, the OIC will oversee the performance at the OIC level:

### Selected KPIs for FaMIE





## OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Family & Marriage Institution

% of budget allocated for FaMIE activities and programs by OIC and its organs & OIC member States (we may include: Private Sector, donors and funders in respective members States and relevant international bodies and organizations).	<b>Financial &amp; Funding</b>
# of Support Funds created to provide services for enhancement of FaMI's well-being and quality standards of Life in Member Countries, Muslim Minority Countries, Migrant and Refugee Families	<b>Financial &amp; Funding</b>
% of reduced poverty and hunger cases in FaMI in the Islamic world especially in rural, remote and affected areas	<b>Poverty and hunger</b>
% of reduced divorces cases and other forms of violence against women and children in member countries	<b>Divorce &amp; violence</b>
Rating in OIC Family well-being and Quality Standards of Life Index (Introduce OIC Rating))	<b>Well-being</b>
# of OIC member countries created specific FaMI Annual Capacity Building Fund and Programs.	<b>Capacity building</b>
Existence of National program to address the financial and related services focusing on FaMI in rural areas	<b>National Program (Rural Areas)</b>
Existence of policies and & financial assistant programmes catering for Elderly groups in OIC member countries	<b>Elderly Group</b>
Existence of structured Media strategies and mechanisms to promote FaMI empowerment in OIC member countries	<b>Media strategies</b>
Rating on FaMI Religiously and Applied Values Index (Introduce OIC Index)	<b>Religiosity and values Index</b>
Increase government–civil society & private sector partnerships to enhance the well-being and quality standard for Families and couples (funding-services- programs)	<b>Partnership</b>
# of yearly Intra-OIC cooperation and collaborations on common services and challenges facing the marriage and Family institution	<b>Cooperation (Intra-OIC)</b>
% of reduced illiteracy among Families in OIC members countries	<b>Illiteracy</b>
% of increase in household income in OIC member countries	<b>I n c o m e &amp; productivity</b>
% of reduced mortality and critical health problems especially in rural areas in OIC member countries.	
% of women participation in decision making (at all levels) in OIC members countries.	<b>Participation &amp; engagement</b>
Increase in gender equality through providing equal opportunities for women and girls to access education, health care, decent work and participation in political and economic decision-making	<b>G e n d e r equality</b>
% of decrease of immoral and unlawful activities and cases among youth, women and adolescent in OIC member countries.	<b>Legal redress &amp; Justice</b>
Existence of policies and practical measures to support women fluid work environment and provide relevant support and incentives	<b>Fluid Work Balance</b>



## OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Family & Marriage Institution

Existence and implementation of policy frameworks at the national, regional and OIC levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies with a view to support Family values	<b>Family development based on values</b>
% of jobs created for FaMI aimed at increasing the employment of youth and women and provide skills training related to the need of the labor market	<b>Employability</b>
Increase of incentives provided for Family-oriented economic activities; such as Family tax deductions and incentives in OIC member countries	<b>Incentives</b>
Existence of specific FaMI robust data collection, mining and reporting system at OIC level	<b>Data &amp; and reporting System</b>
Reports of efficient utilization of new technologies to cost effectively build mediums of communication and to provide voice to an increased number of actors on issues related to the Family and marriage institution.	<b>Use of technology and innovation</b>
# of yearly OIC level programmes and trainings especially budgeted for FaMI empowerment	<b>Training programmes</b>
# of yearly FaMI empowerment programmes collaborated with relevant international bodies in OIC member countries	<b>International Collaboration</b>
# of programmes and activities geared towards voicing and protecting the Muslim minorities, migrant and refugee Families religious, cultural, social and economic rights outside of the OIC at regional and international forums and bodies.	<b>M u s l i m minorities, Migrant and R e f u g e Families</b>
Increase the participation of educational institutions, cultural and social centres, religious leaders and civil society in Member States in the development FaMI of human values as the basis for the integrated ethical system, which is common to human nature and has been affirmed by religions and cultures. (# of programs, funds allocated, opportunities provided, # seats for education and leaning...)	<b>E d u c a t i o n, culture, social and religious actors</b>
Level of implementation of SDGs relevant to Family and marriage institution empowerment	<b>SDGs</b>
Rating in the FaMI Quality Service Index in the OIC member states (this shall include governance, management service delivery, results and impacts...etc.	<b>Governance &amp; management</b>
Existence of Robust Marriage and Family comprehensive eco-system	<b>Eco-system</b>
Rating in OIC FaMI prosperity Index (Introduce OIC Index)	<b>Prosperity</b>



**OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Family & Marriage Institution**

**ANNEX: SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC AREAS AND STRATEGIC GOALS**



## OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Family & Marriage Institution

Area of Cooperation	Strategic Goals (SGs)
<b>Strategic Area 1:</b> Improving marriage and Family institutions wellbeing and quality of life standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="427 360 1326 421">▪ <b>SG 1.1:</b> Allocate a reasonable budget for the improvement of the marriage and Family institutions wellbeing and quality</li> <li data-bbox="427 465 1385 526">▪ <b>SG 1.2:</b> Establish Marriage Support Funds to facilitate the marriage of ready Family members to build resilient and productive Families</li> <li data-bbox="427 571 1337 631">▪ <b>SG 1.3:</b> Government and law enforcement agencies to implement the necessary policies and legal provisions to ensure peace, justice and stability for Families</li> <li data-bbox="427 654 1369 748">▪ <b>SG 1.4:</b> Efficient and preventive measures to stop all forms of violence along with physical and sexual abuse against women and children must be in place and implemented</li> <li data-bbox="427 770 1369 887">▪ <b>SG 1.5:</b> Marriage and Family institution should be provided with the necessary services and support especially economic, social, health and educational as it is the basic requirement for Families' societal development and establishing of peace, stability and safety in the Family and society</li> <li data-bbox="427 909 1310 969">▪ <b>SG 1.6:</b> Strengthen justice and equality between men and women in line with Islamic values and pretexts</li> <li data-bbox="427 1014 1369 1131">▪ <b>SG 1.7:</b> Address the financial conditions of the Family with a particular focus on Families living in rural areas and those that rely on agriculture as a main source of income, to contribute to the treatment of difficult conditions and the eradication of poverty in society</li> <li data-bbox="427 1153 1385 1214">▪ <b>SG 1.8:</b> Develop special social protection systems and skills development programs targeting Families and couples</li> <li data-bbox="427 1236 1374 1296">▪ <b>SG 1.9:</b> Collect and direct certain percentage of zakat, donation and <i>awqaf</i> to assist disadvantaged and in need Families</li> <li data-bbox="427 1319 1369 1379">▪ <b>SG 1.10:</b> Increase awareness on medical and health issues regarding Families, new couples or potential couples via traditional and digital media</li> <li data-bbox="427 1402 1369 1462">▪ <b>SG 1.11:</b> Organize awareness campaigns and workshops to improve Family health options in terms of diet, physical well-being and mental health</li> <li data-bbox="427 1485 1289 1545">▪ <b>SG 1.12:</b> Create policies to support the elderly within the framework of the traditional Family</li> <li data-bbox="427 1568 1353 1628">▪ <b>SG 1.13:</b> Make early education of Family members compulsory in all Muslim countries and ensure lifelong learning culture is encouraged and institutionalised.</li> <li data-bbox="427 1650 1321 1711">▪ <b>SG 1.14:</b> Develop centres to provide guidance and services to parents on good hygiene habits and practices with emphasis on children and youth health</li> <li data-bbox="427 1733 1390 1794">▪ <b>SG 1.15:</b> Adopt media policies aimed at changing the negative customs and traditions prevailing in society that hinder the effective participation of the Family in the social, economic and political life</li> <li data-bbox="427 1816 1394 1877">▪ <b>SG 1.16:</b> Develop relevant capacity building programs for Family empowerment and training</li> <li data-bbox="427 1899 1374 1993">▪ <b>SG 1.17:</b> Introduce the proper curriculum imbued with values and ethics to ensure the balanced development of the personality of Family members starting from early education</li> </ul>



## OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Family & Marriage Institution

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 1.18:</b> Create awareness among parents especially mothers on the importance of values and ethics in nurturing Family members spreading the values of respect, honour, trustworthiness, integrity, justice and fairness, cooperation, love, tolerance and moderation</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 1.19:</b> Enhance the role of educational institutions in the education of Families through designing proper and relevant curricula and programs especially meant for Families</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 1.20:</b> Enhance awareness about reproductive and sexual education in order to reduce sexual related disease</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 1.21:</b> Develop government – civil society partnerships to enhance the wellbeing and quality standard for Families and couples</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 1.22:</b> Intra-OIC cooperation and collaboration on common challenges facing the marriage and Family institution</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 1.23:</b> Develop training programmes for social, health and government workers on the importance, values and functions of the marriage and Family institution</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 1.24:</b> Provide access to affordable Family planning services</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 1.25:</b> Implement a series of labour market reforms to increase labour market flexibility such as part-time work especially targeting youth population and women</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 1.26:</b> Provide childcare and a balanced work- Family life for parents in order to promote childbearing</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Area 2:</b> Enhancing the preservation and protection of the marriage and Family institution's value system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 2.1:</b> Allocate a reasonable budget to promote, protect and preserve the value system of the marriage and Family institution</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 2.2:</b> Promote the role of religious institutions enhancing marriage and Family values</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 2.3:</b> Build platforms that foster a balance between Family vs. individual without violating the integrity of either</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 2.4:</b> Encourage fathers to participate in their children's lives through community wide programs and activities that brings children and fathers together to keep the Familial relations alive and healthy</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 2.5:</b> Develop national strategies and identify priority areas on intergenerational social cohesion and interdependence</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 2.6:</b> Facilitate intergenerational solidarity through activities and programs that can bring youth and elderly people together</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 2.7:</b> Establishing Family counselling and guidance services and mechanisms that reiterate and reinforce the importance of the marriage and Family institution</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 2.8:</b> Enhancing the religious, value and moral aspects of Family development to enable the Family to face internal and external challenges</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 2.9:</b> Preventing Families from breakdown by providing the necessary knowledge about marriage, relations, parenting, effective communication, child care skills, Family planning and Family financial skills</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 2.10:</b> Educate Families about the importance of Islamic Family code and principles on Family matters</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 2.11:</b> Develop an integrated comprehensive Guidebook on marriage and Family issues, Family values, women rights, roles, principles and rulings from <i>Maqasid</i> perspective</li> </ul>



## OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Family & Marriage Institution

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 2.12:</b> Come up with a promotional book on marriage and Family from the Islamic perspective to be promoted regionally and internationally to reflect the Islamic views, injunctions, solutions, and perspectives</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 2.13:</b> Utilize all forms of media and social media, publications and awareness materials along with the employment of educational, social, religious and cultural institutions to safeguard the marriage and Family institution from cultural threats and destructive internal and external elements</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 2.14:</b> Create policies to strengthen religious education and intellectual development of Family members especially children, adolescent and youth</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 2.15:</b> Strengthen media and other institutions to promote the proper understanding, functions, roles, importance and objectives of the marriage and Family institution</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 2.16:</b> Activate the role of schools, universities, social institutions and NGOs in protecting and preserving the essence, core values and traditional functions of the marriage and Family institution</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 2.17:</b> Introduce empowerment programs targeting religious, social, cultural and educational awareness to increase public knowledge on the positive impact of marriage union and Family formation</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 2.18:</b> Create awareness campaigns via traditional, social and other digital platforms to explain and disseminate knowledge on the meaning, identity, value and health of marriage and Family life on communities, societies and nations</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 2.19:</b> Combat all forms of internal and external cultural, immoral and ideological indoctrination that threatens the essence of the marriage and Family institution in the Islamic World, focusing on <i>Aqidah</i> and religious education, ethical and moral education and cultural, social, economic and legal empowerment</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 2.20:</b> Use media, religious, educational, cultural and social institutions to combat the negative impact of global cultural trends and programs geared towards reducing the importance of Family formation and marital union between a men and a women</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 2.21:</b> Respond intellectually and scientifically to the cultural trends and theories spreading unethical and value free culture and society concepts.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 2.22:</b> Address the output of global conferences and conventions on marriage and Family and respond to their negative contents and injunctions from an Islamic perspective</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 2.23:</b> Develop and implement specific education programmes and courses to teach the youth population the importance of Family values, Family formation and transferring these values to next generations</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 2.24:</b> Develop partnerships with popular Muslim influencers in the field of sports, films and music to highlight the importance of the marriage and Family institution.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Area 3:</b> Widening the participation of Families in all aspects society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 3.1:</b> Allocate a reasonable budget to promote, advocate and create the full participation of Families into all aspect of society</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 3.2:</b> Engage Family member in social relations and social responsibility activities and include the empowerment of the Family as an integral part of national development plans</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 3.3:</b> Ensure gender equality through providing equal opportunities for women and girls to access education, health care, decent work and participation in political and economic decision-making</li> </ul>





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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 3.4:</b> Promote equity and gender equality within the Family and all levels of society</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 3.5:</b> To combat all harmful practices of women and girls, including the marriage of underage girls, and to train prospective couples about Family management and the roles of spouses within the Family</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 3.6:</b> Provide financial support to disadvantaged Families and through various programmes and initiatives support their roles in societal development</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 3.7:</b> Promote policies that encourage the participation of all Family members in the development process, including private sector participation, incentives and microfinance for disadvantaged Families, and strengthen the role of governmental and non-governmental organizations in supporting civil society networks working in Family strengthening</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 3.8:</b> Enhance the role of religious, educational, media, and cultural institutions in addressing the social challenges facing Muslim Families and its members. These institutions are vital in solving many social problems including participation and challenges of the Family</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 3.9:</b> Enhance awareness about Islamic teachings and its value system of Family life, which should be integrated into the education and curriculum in schools and universities. This will assist in reducing all types of abuses and strengthen the Family solidarity and unity</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 3.10:</b> Address the root cause of divorce abuse, poverty, extremism, violence, social break down of Family</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 3.11:</b> Provide vocational training programmes for Family members to increase their participation into labour force</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 3.12:</b> Improve unemployment benefit schemes based on needs of Families with a view to preserving Family values</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 3.13:</b> Promote effective parental leaves including maternity leave, parental childcare leave, paternity leave, and leave for urgent Family matter</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 3.14:</b> Make effective labour market reforms based on Family needs such as by adopting alternative working systems</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 3.15:</b> Develop more skill development programmes especially for low income Families</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 3.16:</b> Facilitate childcare arrangements, such as the public provision of childcare, and evaluate them in terms of their extensiveness, quality, social inclusiveness, affordability and universality</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 3.17:</b> Facilitate the balance of work and Family life by promoting gender equality inside the Family and adequate changes in working conditions, including the regulation and provision of incentives to the private sector to promote Family-friendly working schedules</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 3.18:</b> Create policy frameworks at the national, regional and OIC levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies with a view to support Family values</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 3.19:</b> Develop Family-sensitive policies regarding poverty and hunger reduction</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 3.20:</b> Establish public community centres that promote communal participation of Families</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Area 4:</b> Strengthening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SG 4.1:</b> Allocate a reasonable budget to create policies, initiatives and programme to strengthen the productivity of Families in the economic system</li> </ul>



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Strengthening the marriage and Family institutions productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SG 4.2:</b> Address the various dimensions of poverty, risks and vulnerabilities of Families</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 4.3:</b> Ensure access of the poor to health care, education, food security, and social services with a view to preserving Family unity and values</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 4.4:</b> Provide cash allowances towards Families caring for children or for a disabled or elderly Family member</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 4.5:</b> Facilitate childcare arrangements, such as the public provision of childcare, and evaluate them in terms of their extensiveness, quality, social inclusiveness, affordability and universality</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 4.6:</b> Ensure decent work and economic growth for Families through introducing the necessary laws, policies and relevant specialised programs by governments and legislators in OIC Member Countries to enhance the employability and productivity of Family members</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 4.7:</b> Develop policies aimed at increasing the employment of youth and provide skills training related to the need of the labor market</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 4.8:</b> Develop incentives for Family-oriented economic activities such as Family tax deductions and incentives</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 4.9:</b> Establish policies to promote and improve working conditions and create decent, orderly, safe, and fluid working environments for women</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 4.10:</b> Empower Families economically through financial support, social services and job creations that are specifically targeted to strengthen Families. For example, government quotas on hiring mothers part-time</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 4.11:</b> Develop private-public programmes and initiatives to support economic productivity of Families</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 4.12:</b> Create particular programmes and policies for rural Families. For example, specific employment opportunities in rural areas designed to facilitate women's employment and skills development</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 4.13:</b> Address issues related to Family economic and financial strength by providing financial assistance to engage in productive small and medium enterprise projects</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 4.14:</b> Provide support for Family business in the form of financing, training and incentives</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 4.15:</b> Access to Families for financial support from funding bodies and banks as a form of supportive and facilitative interventions by government and other relevant bodies</li> </ul>	
<b>Strategic Area 5:</b> Strengthening the marriage and Family institutions prosperity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SG 5.1:</b> Allocate a reasonable budget to create policies, initiatives and programme to strengthen the material and non-material prosperity of Families.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SG 5.2:</b> Undertake comprehensive research on non-material factors that influences the happiness of Families and marriages.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 5.3:</b> Promote programs and policies to prevent early and forced marriages as well as child marriage to strengthen the Family institution and eradicate harming their prosperity.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 5.4:</b> Increase the number of public Family services such as Family consultation and mediation.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 5.5:</b> Provide social support systems for divorced people specially women and children.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 5.6:</b> Raise awareness to cope with social stigmas attached to individuals' marital status.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 5.7:</b> Improve the scope and delivery of social security services to include special provisions for Families and couples.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 5.8:</b> Provide legal assistance, counselling services and psychological support for early or forced-married couples</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 5.9:</b> Promote the role of religious institutions enhancing marriage and Family prosperity by exemplifying the moral, ethical and divine role religious belief brings.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 5.10:</b> Improve data collection practices concerning the prevalence of healthcare issues that affect Family's wellbeing and prosperity.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 5.11:</b> Encourage Family-oriented mental health interventions and support mechanisms – especially mechanisms that utilize intergenerational Familial relations to care for mentally unwell individuals.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 5.12:</b> Enhance dialogue with non-governmental organizations in supporting the marriage and Family institutions prosperity through economic, social, and psychological assistance.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 5.13:</b> Launch platforms to mediate dialogues between youth and their Families over traditional and contemporary subjects.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 5.14:</b> Develop community wide programs for Families to strengthen youth-Family relationships.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 5.15:</b> Raise awareness on the advantages of active ageing and its implications on Families</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 5.16:</b> Design policies to promote the idea of the sharing of responsibilities in Families between men and women.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 5.17:</b> Cope with misbeliefs and prejudices on paternal participation and the role of the father in preserving Family values.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 5.18:</b> Encourage fathers to participate in their Families and children's lives through community wide programs and activities that bring Families, children and fathers together.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 5.19:</b> Improve data collection and monitoring mechanisms at the intra-OIC level on the various forms of violence and their impact on Families.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 5.20:</b> Raise awareness regarding the prohibition of Family violence by Islam, legal provisions and social norms.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Area 6:</b> Enhancing partnership and collaboration on the implementation of marriage and Family policies across the OIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SG 6.1:</b> The OIC should specifically allocate a budget to enhance collaboration and cooperation on marriage and Family policies, programmes and initiatives.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SG 6.2:</b> Create networks and linkages with local, regional and international bodies and organizations relevant to the preservation, empowerment and strengthening of the marriage and Family institution and eco-system.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 6.3:</b> Engage of local partners such as community leaders, civil society actors and local NGOs across the OIC in the empowerment and development programs and projects related to Family and marriage.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 6.4:</b> Creating effective measures and mechanisms of cooperation and coordination among government and non- government departments and agencies on the effective and efficient implementation of Family empowerment &amp; development services and programs.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 6.5:</b> Enhance the role of civil society, NGOs and the private sector on empowering marriage and Family institution to play its role in societal development.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 6.6:</b> Create effective partnerships between governmental and non-governmental institutions to join efforts in supporting the Family to play its role in achieving the goals of sustainable development.</li> </ul>



## OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Family & Marriage Institution

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 6.7:</b> Develop specific platforms for marriage and Family related issues to be attended by relevant actors across the OIC.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 6.8:</b> Create steady and sustainable channels of communication between relevant ministries, agencies and actors regarding marriage and Family issues at the OIC level.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 6.9:</b> Develop forums where marriage and Family issues and challenges can be discussed by OIC countries and mutual solutions established.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 6.10:</b> Utilize new technologies to cost effectively build mediums of communication and to provide voice to an increased number of actors on issues related to the Family and marriage.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 6.11:</b> Develop OIC level programmes for Families and couples where different Families and couples from different OIC countries can meet (Family exchange programmes).</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 6.12:</b> Construct an OIC regional platform for marriage and Family institution. The regional platform should be composed of a wide range of actors from local influencers to private sector.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 6.13:</b> Create OIC level festivals and special days dedicated particularly to the celebration of Families.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 6.14:</b> Enhance cooperation among Muslim countries and create partnerships in matters of interest to Family empowerment and development at the international level such as the UN.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 6.15:</b> Track and monitor the implementation of the OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of the Marriage and Family Institution. Provide expert support to OIC countries that need it for the more easy and smooth implementation of the strategy.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Area 7:</b> Strengthen and manage the marriage and Family institution across the OIC through adequate legislations, policies and laws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SG 7.1:</b> The OIC should specifically allocate a budget for issues concerning marriage and Family institution legislations, policies and laws.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SG 7.2:</b> Improve or develop legislations that prevent harmful practices that negatively influence the marriage and Family institution such as child marriages.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 7.3:</b> Provide legal services for individuals negatively impacted in Families and marriages.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 7.4:</b> Criminalize domestic violence in all its forms by making necessary legal arrangements.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 7.5:</b> Develop training programs for judicial personnel on how to recognize and deal with victims of domestic violence effectively.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 7.6:</b> Ensure enforcement of legal provisions and policy measures adopted against domestic violence.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 7.7:</b> Develop mechanism to track the legal cases involving Families and marriages to understand better the issues and challenges and to develop targeted solutions.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 7.8:</b> Engage Family members in the process of coming up with Family law and legislations.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 7.9:</b> Ensure the Laws on Family matters include the proper rules to protect Family and set the proper measures to ensure the law is adequate and facilitates the establishment of rights and their implementation.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 7.10:</b> Embark on research and studies related to Family legislations to ensure the existence of proper assessment and factual analysis of Family status and context before establishing new laws.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 7.11:</b> Use new technologies and effective management approaches and solution to management matters related to the marriage and Family institution.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 7.12:</b> Improve government’s Family services and support programs efficient delivery and monitoring.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 7.13:</b> Improve coordination between government and non-government agencies on coming up with specific legislations and policies related to the marriage and Family institution.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 7.14:</b> Make sure that the legislations, policies and laws are in harmony with the social, communal and cultural efforts.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 7.15:</b> Raise awareness amongst Families and couples on their legal rights through campaigns.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Area 8:</b> Strengthen and promote the marriage and Family organisation through sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SG 8.1:</b> The OIC and Member States should specifically allocate a budget to enhance and strengthen their sustainable development culture through the marriage and Family institution.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SG 8.2:</b> Enhance awareness programs and educative campaigns about the need for the culture of sustainability.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 8.3:</b> Provide funds and support to increase social equity among Family members.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 8.4:</b> Increase economic productivity and enhance the culture of Family business to encourage productivity and self-sufficiency.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 8.5:</b> Link the goals of Family development and empowerment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 8.6:</b> Use education and media platforms to enhance awareness and best practices regarding Family sustainable development.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 8.7:</b> Educational and social programs to enhance the culture of environment preservation and protection in the Family.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 8.8:</b> Enhance religious education on matters of environmental conservation &amp; preservation, as it is one of the Maqasid of Islam and a forum of Ibadah.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 8.9:</b> Provide sustainable development programmes for Families.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 8.10:</b> Develop policies, legislations and incentives that enhance and strengthen Families will and desire to become part of sustainable development.</li> </ul>
<b>Strategic Area 9:</b> Provide support to migrant and refugee Families and marriage unions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 9.1:</b> The OIC and Member States should specifically allocate a budget to strengthen and support Muslim migrant and refugee Families.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 9.2:</b> Develop data collection, reporting, and monitoring mechanisms to better gauge the needs of migrant Families in host countries</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 9.3:</b> Develop education and training programmes at national and intra-OIC level for migrant and emigrant Families to prepare them for challenges associated with adapting to a new environment.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 9.4:</b> Establish centres for migrant communities that can provide cultural and religious services that help safeguard marriage and Family institutions.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 9.5:</b> Develop mechanisms in order to inform migrant Families regarding their rights and responsibilities.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 9.6:</b> Support the migrant and refuge Families, and provide them with the necessary needs and services such as financial, health care, education, social care, Family counselling and guidance.</li> </ul>





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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 9.7:</b> Design plans to prevent such negative migration and displacement of Families causing them tremendous cultural, religious, social, legal and cultural problems.</li> <li>▪ <b>SG 9.8:</b> Establish financial support funds for migrant and refuge Families to ensure their well-being and quality of life standards through private sector contribution and Islamic banks.</li> <li>▪ <b>SG 9.9:</b> Effectively utilise the funds coming from zakat, donation and Waqaf to support project and programs for migrant and refuge Families.</li> <li>▪ <b>SG 9.10:</b> Voice and protect the migrant and refugee Families religious, cultural, social and economic rights outside of the OIC at regional and international forums and bodies.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Strategic Area 10:</b></p> <p><b>Develop Breakthrough Initiatives to empower the marriage and Family institution</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>SG 10.1:</b> The OIC and Member States should specifically allocate a budget for the empowerment of the marriage and Family institution. Most developed countries are spending nearly 2% of their GDP on Family related issues. The average across the OIC is much lower; therefore, OIC Member States should aim to reserve 1.5% of their GDPs on supporting the strengthening and empowering of Families.</li> <li>▪ <b>SG 10.2:</b> Adopt a Family perspective in development goals, focusing on development programs and projects that make the Family and household economy at the heart of economic plans, and make Family empowerment a priority in national policies in member states.</li> <li>▪ <b>SG 10.3:</b> Urge Member States of the OIC to make vigorous efforts to adopt an integrated approach to national policies on the Family and the institution of marriage, including the strengthening of the role of the Family in the construction of the Muslim personality and in the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of women, children, youth and the elderly and those with special needs, and to preserve the educational and moral values that guarantee the support and empowerment of the Family.</li> <li>▪ <b>SG 10.4:</b> Support mechanisms of regional and international cooperation and coordination to address Family issues and to unite the efforts of all OIC member States to interact with other international expertise and best practices.</li> <li>▪ <b>SG 10.5:</b> Urge OIC Member States to transform the moral responsibility of parents towards children into specific and enforceable commitments, while seeking to include those commitments in national programs and plans that address marriage and Family issues in Muslim societies.</li> <li>▪ <b>SG 10.6:</b> Activate the role of partnership between government agencies, local and regional authorities and civil society in educating individuals and groups through strengthening the local media for its important role in spreading awareness, achieving complementarity and cooperation among them, and holding periodic meetings between parents and educational institutions to discuss the best ways to raise children and give them virtuous moral values, and to discourage them from any immoral behaviour.</li> <li>▪ <b>SG 10.7:</b> Carry out awareness campaigns for youth, Families and society on the importance of the Family and its role in the education of children. These campaigns include schools, institutes, cultural and social centres, factories, the media, audio and video media, social media, and activating the role of civil society in Family development and empowerment activities. Also, instil the culture and values, which build good morals in children and Family members.</li> <li>▪ <b>SG 10.8:</b> Strengthen the capacity of educational institutions, cultural and social centres, religious leaders and civil society in Member States to assume their responsibilities in the development of human values as the basis for the integrated ethical system, which is common to human nature and has been affirmed by religions and cultures.</li> </ul>





# OIC Strategy for the Empowerment of Family & Marriage Institution

- **SG 10.9:** The OIC should establish an OIC Institute for Marriage and Family Institution Research, Consultancy and Training Centre to assist with research, analysis, monitoring and evaluation and empowerment programs and innovative strategies and approaches.
- **SG 10.10:** Establish OIC Marriage and Family Institution Capacity Building Fund to support Families in Member States and in Muslim Minority Countries and in Conflict and War Zone Countries.

