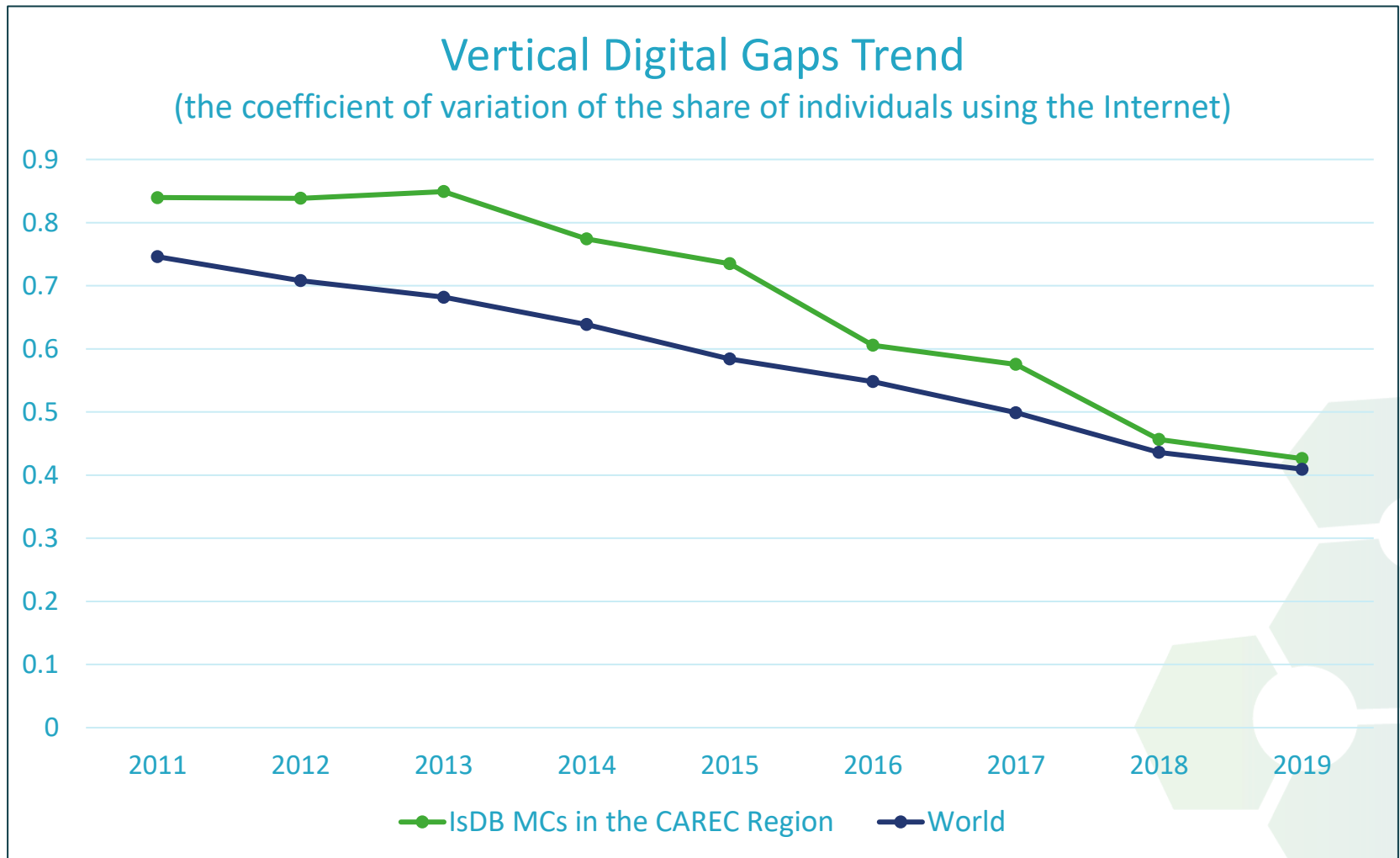


Digital Gaps across IsDB MCs in the CAREC Region



RCI for Digital Transformation

- ✓ Digital connectivity as an emerging driver of regional cooperation and integration (RCI)
- ✓ Political context: An optimal governance/policy coordination arrangement between national and global levels
- ✓ Economic reasons: To reach a critical mass for digitalization, especially for countries with small populations
- ✓ Practicalities: Learning from each other
- ✓ Digitalization and IsDB's RCI Policy
- ✓ Strengths and relevance of the CAREC Program



The Role of Partnerships in Digital Transformation

- ✓ Basic ICT Infrastructure (governments and the private sector)
 - Building a conducive environment for ICT infrastructure investments and utilizing PPP models to expand digital infrastructure networks
- ✓ Regulatory harmonization (intergovernmental coordination)
 - Cross-border data flows, cybersecurity, trade and investment facilitation
- ✓ Customizing education strategies to enhance digital skills of people and businesses (governments and the private sector)
- ✓ Cross-cutting priorities such as gender (civil society)

IsDB's Focus on Digitalization

- ✓ Digitalization as one of the key priorities of IsDB's Main Strategy, ICT Policy, and Regional Cooperation and Integration Policy
- ✓ ICT Connectivity (telecommunication network upgrade project in Turkmenistan)
- ✓ Regional-level digital transformation programs (Digital CAREC Initiative, Digital Economy in the West African Economic and Monetary Union area)
- ✓ Cross-border electronic data exchange between customs and trade facilitation agencies (e-CMR initiative in the ECO region)
- ✓ E-government platforms and services (transferring the experience of Azerbaijan's ASAN Platform)
- ✓ Social services (ICT in education, telemedicine, fintech)



Thank you