

# ***Renewables 2023 Global Status Report Supply Module***

## **Middle East Factsheet**

### **Key Headlines:**

- The Middle East, traditionally known for its oil and gas reserves, is recognising the need to diversify its energy portfolio. Renewable energy developments in the region reflect a political shift towards reducing dependence on fossil fuels and enhancing energy security. This transition will help mitigate the risks associated with the global energy crisis and volatile fossil fuel markets. However, the transition is not coupled with a phase-out of fossil fuels.
- Africa and the Middle East combined represented only **1.6%** of global investment in renewables – around USD 8.4 billion – led by **Israel**, where investment grew 9.2% to USD 0.99 billion.
- Despite abundant solar and wind resources and growing water scarcity, the Middle East continued to lag behind other regions in the share of renewable electricity, which reached only **3.4%** in 2022 (1.7% hydropower, 1.4% solar power and 0.2% wind power).

### **Technologies**

#### **Ocean Power:**

- **Israel** connected a 100-kilowatt wave power project to the grid in 2022.

#### **Concentrating Solar Thermal Power (CSP):**

- The **United Arab Emirates** is developing a large-scale 600 megawatt (MW) hybrid CSP power plant.

#### **Solar Thermal Heating:**

- **Israel** and **Lebanon** rank in the top 20 countries globally that added solar water heating collectors in 2022.
- The US company GlassPoint committed to develop a 1.5 gigawatts-thermal solar steam plant for a mining company in **Saudi Arabia**.

### **Key drivers**

- The region is witnessing an increasing focus on renewable energy as a means to reduce carbon emissions, address climate change, and improve air quality.
- The Middle East has the potential to become a major exporter of renewable energy.
- The Middle East's focus on green hydrogen production sets it apart, as hydrogen is increasingly seen as a key component of the global energy transition.

### **Key challenges**

- Historical dependence on oil and gas resources.
- Transition to renewable energy supply involves diversifying economies that have long relied on fossil fuel revenues.