

## **2019 ISLAMICITY INDICES – NIGERIA**

### **SUMMARY**

Islamicity Indices measure how a country can build the basic conditions necessary for the growth and prosperity of a society. A society cannot function effectively without having the right institutional framework in place. Five category of indices: Overall Islamicity, which in turn incorporates Economy Islamicity, Legal and Governance Islamicity, Human and Political Rights Islamicity and International Relations Islamicity, together form the Islamicity indices. The findings show that, the performance of 2019 Islamicity indices of Nigeria did not mirror the previous year's performance. Out of these indicators, only three (Overall Islamicity, Legal and Governance Islamicity and Human Rights Islamicity) recorded marginal improvements. International relations Islamicity and Economic Islamicity are the worst performers in the category. During the analysis year, Nigeria was exposed to twin shocks of the COVID-19 pandemic and sharp decline in crude oil prices, which is the mainstay of the economy. This was coupled with myriad of already existing economic problems confronting the economy. As a way forward, Nigeria needs to internalize Islamic religious teachings and institute reforms to build effective institutions that incorporate overarching political, economic, justice, and human and political rights policies so as to have a peaceful and prosperous society.

### **RANK AND SCORE: COMPARISON TO OTHER AVERAGES**

Table 1 shows the 2019 Islamicity index median rankings for the world, Muslim countries, West African countries and Nigeria's Islamicity rankings. The Overall Islamicity (OI) index, Economic Islamicity (EI) index, Legal and Governance Islamicity (LGI) index and International Relations

Islamicity (IRI) index rankings for Nigeria is the lowest among the three groupings. In all categories, Nigeria performed poorly and below the rest of the other countries in the groups.

**Table 1: Median Rankings**

Year 2019 Rank For:	OI	EI	LGI	HPRI	IRI
Global 2019	76	76	76	76	76
OIC 2019	113	103	109	112	106
West Africa, 2019	127	117.5	125.5	127	79
Nigeria 2019	131	127	137	129	87

Figure 1 shows the median score comparisons for world, OIC countries, and Nigeria. Scores in areas like OI, LGI, HPRI for Nigeria fell lower than World and OIC countries. However, in OI and EI, its score came close to OIC countries. Similarly, in IRI, it performed better than OIC countries and came close to the world median score with Nigeria having 4.70 against 5.10 for the global median score.

Figure 1: Median Score

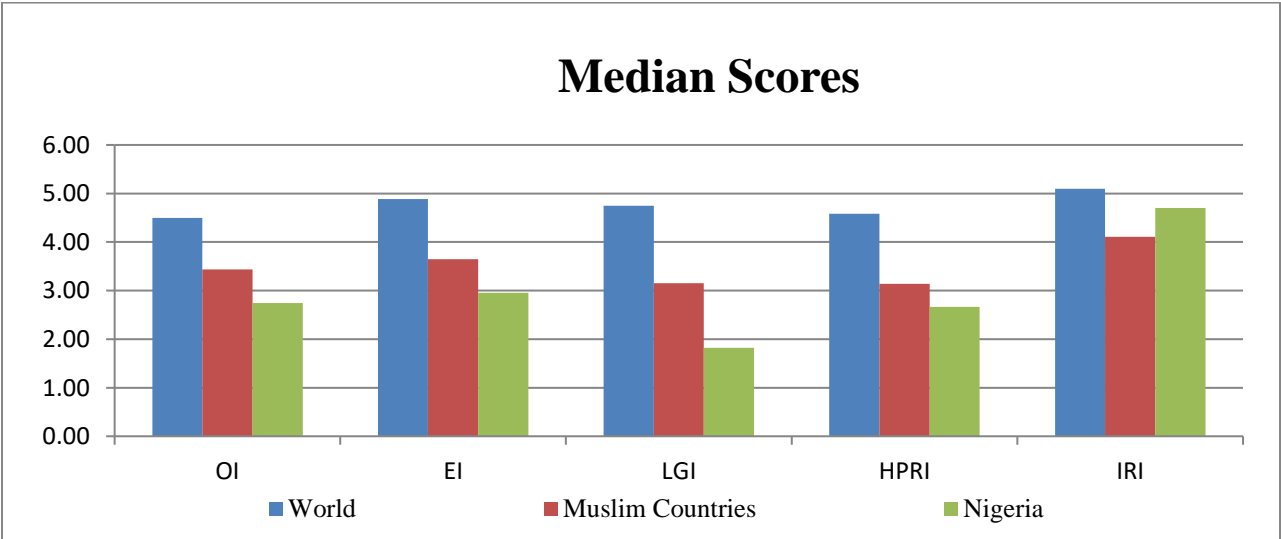


Table 2 shows the scores and percentage change in the median for 2019 relative to 2018. The performance of Nigeria relative to other countries in the groupings is not encouraging. The worst performance was realized in OI (similar to previous year's performance). Similarly, LGI registered a modest decline from 9.56 percent in 2018 to 3.39 percent in 2019. However, HPRI shows a positive change of 4.07 percent in 2019 as against a negative change of 6.16 percent recorded in 2018. In EI, the scores changes from the positive 9.56 percent recorded in 2018 to a negative figure of 12.21 in 2019. These negative performances are connected to the increasing economic challenges confronting the country ranging from unemployment, insecurity, rising poverty rate, poor legal system, poor infrastructure, pitiable healthcare system, epileptic power supply, poor education system and so on.

**Table 2: Scores and Percentage change for 2019 relative to 2018**

Median Scores For:	OI	EI	LGI	HPRI	IRI
All Countries, 2019	4.50	4.88	4.75	4.58	5.10
Muslim Countries, 2019	3.44	3.65	3.15	3.14	4.11
Nigeria, 2019	2.74	2.95	1.82	2.67	4.70
All Countries, 2018	4.70	4.80	4.82	4.81	5.03
Muslim Countries, 2018	3.28	3.45	2.84	3.47	3.37
Nigeria, 2018	2.79	3.37	1.76	2.56	4.87
Percentage change in median score relative to 2018 for World	-4.29	1.84	-1.45	-4.88	1.32
Percentage change in median score relative to 2018 for All Muslim Countries	4.77	5.72	11.09	-9.73	21.98
Percentage change in median score relative to 2018 for Nigeria	-1.74	-12.21	3.39	4.07	-3.44

**Table 3: Ranks and Scores**

Changes	OI	EI	LGI	HPRI	IRI
<b>Ranks (in spots)</b>	2	-11	1	5	-5
<b>Scores (in %)</b>	-1.65	-13.71	3.30	3.99	-3.57

Table 3 depicts the comparison in ranking and scores in Islamicity indices for 2019. Three indicators (OI, LGI and HPRI) experienced modest improvements in 2019 with improved rankings of 2, 1 and 5 places against the previous year's ranking changes of -2, -1 and -3 positions. However, International Relations recorded the worst performance with a decline of 5 positions in 2019. Looking at the overall scores, LGI and HPRI made slight improvement in 2019 while EI performed poorly. This signifies the recent worsening of the global economic condition occasioned by the 2019 coronavirus pandemic which sent the world economy in to recession. When scores are considered, it experienced a drastic drop in LGI from 8.78 percent in 2018 to 1 percent in 2019. Also, HPRI saw a modest improvement having changed from a decline of 6.16 percent in 2018 to a positive one 3.30 percent in 2019. International Relations index maintained its previous worst status with a decline of 42 percent in 2018 relative to a decline of 5.57 percent in 2019.

## **NIGERIA'S ISLAMICITY PERFORMANCE RELATIVE TO ITS PEERS**

### **The Overall Islamicity (OI) Index**

**Table 4: Changes in Overall Islamicity (OI) Rankings**

Region	Country	OI 2019	OI 2018	Change
<b>Africa</b>	Nigeria	131	133	-1.504
<b>Asia</b>	Afghanistan	148	146	1.370
<b>Africa</b>	Sudan	150	152	-1.316
<b>Middle East</b>	Syria	151	149	1.342
<b>Africa</b>	Libya	145	147	-1.361
<b>Africa</b>	Chad	146	151	-3.311
<b>Africa</b>	Mauritania	142	142	0.000
<b>Middle East</b>	Iraq	139	138	0.725
<b>Africa</b>	Egypt	134	137	-2.190
<b>Asia</b>	Pakistan	135	140	-3.571
<b>Asia</b>	Iran	132	125	5.600

**Table 5: Changes in Overall Islamicity (OI) Scores**

Region	Country	OI 2019	OI 2018	Change
<b>Africa</b>	Nigeria	2.75	2.793	-1.540
<b>Asia</b>	Afghanistan	1.66	1.939	-14.389
<b>Africa</b>	Sudan	1.2	1.248	-3.846
<b>Middle East</b>	Syria	1.065	1.823	-41.580
<b>Africa</b>	Libya	1.82	1.935	-5.943
<b>Africa</b>	Chad	1.813	1.687	7.469
<b>Africa</b>	Mauritania	1.926	2.193	-12.175
<b>Middle East</b>	Iraq	2.22	2.364	-6.091
<b>Africa</b>	Egypt	2.63	2.416	8.858
<b>Asia</b>	Pakistan	2.62	2.295	14.161
<b>Asia</b>	Iran	2.738	3.127	-12.440

Table 4 and Table 5 show the OI scores and ranking relative to the previous year for Muslim countries that have similar Islamicity performance as Nigeria. In the indices, Nigeria has one of the worst declines in both rankings and scores. Its performance is only above Libya (1.361) and

Sudan (1.316) among the eleven countries. However, in scores, Egypt and Pakistan have the highest improvement with the former having 8.858 percent and the latter, 14.161 percent.

### **Economic Islamicity (OI) index**

The Economic Islamicity (OI) index measures a country's adherence of Economic Islamicity with the main goal of having a prosperous economic system based on fulfillments of societal basic needs. It is also concerned with areas such as job creation, economic justice with sustained economic development and transparency in financial dealings. The index is based on eight areas of fundamental Islamic and economic opportunity and freedom, job creation and equal access to employment, property rights and sanctity of contracts, good poverty alleviation policies and provision of supportive financial system, adherence to Islamic finance, economic prosperity and economic justice.

**Table 6: Changes in Economic Islamicity (EI) rankings**

Region	Country	EI 2019	EI 2018	Change
<b>Africa</b>	Nigeria	127	116	9.48
<b>Asia</b>	Afghanistan	126	137	-8.03
<b>Africa</b>	Sudan	150	151	-0.66
<b>Middle East</b>	Syria	145	135	7.41
<b>Africa</b>	Libya	140	145	-3.45
<b>Africa</b>	Chad	137	142	-3.52
<b>Africa</b>	Mauritania	141	133	6.02
<b>Middle East</b>	Iraq	111	92	20.65
<b>Africa</b>	Egypt	120	139	-13.67
<b>Asia</b>	Pakistan	103	124	-16.94
<b>Asia</b>	Iran	129	119	8.40

**Table 7: Changes in Economic Islamicity (EI) scores**

Region	Country	EI 2019	EI 2018	Change
<b>Africa</b>	Nigeria	2.955	3.366	-12.210
<b>Asia</b>	Afghanistan	2.598	2.629	-1.179
<b>Africa</b>	Sudan	2.958	1.38	114.348
<b>Middle East</b>	Syria	1.835	2.669	-31.248
<b>Africa</b>	Libya	2.42	2.139	13.137
<b>Africa</b>	Chad	2.535	2.411	5.143
<b>Africa</b>	Mauritania	2.211	2.741	-19.336
<b>Middle East</b>	Iraq	3.41	4.187	-18.557
<b>Africa</b>	Egypt	3.109	2.52	23.373
<b>Asia</b>	Pakistan	3.64	3.094	17.647
<b>Asia</b>	Iran	2.87	3.297	-12.951

Based on these areas, the percentage median rankings and score are presented in Table 6 and Table 7. Nigeria had slight improvement in the median ranking of 9.48 percent in 2019 as against the 9.84 obtained in 2018. Conversely, its median score is among the lowest among the countries with similar scores experiencing a decline of 12.21 percent in 2019. Its performance had a drastic drop when compared with its preceding year when it was ranked the 7<sup>th</sup> best Muslim country in having the greatest improvement in OI Islamicity. Sudan had the greatest improvement in score with 113.24 percentage increase for the year.

### **Legal and Governance Islamicity (LGI) index**

The LGI is evaluated based on five fundamental areas of legal and governance principles which are represented by 13 variables. These five areas are: Legal and integrity, fight against corruption, safety and security index, management index and government effectiveness in governance. The main aim of the index is to measure the degree of corruption prevalent in the country, property

rights protection, voice and accountability, rule of law and the effectiveness of the governance structure.

**Table 8: Changes in Legal and Governance Islamicity (LGI) rankings**

Region	Country	LGI 2019	LGI 2018	Change
<b>Africa</b>	Nigeria	137	138	-0.72
<b>Asia</b>	Afghanistan	143	141	1.42
<b>Africa</b>	Sudan	147	151	-2.65
<b>Middle East</b>	Syria	151	145	4.14
<b>Africa</b>	Libya	149	152	-1.97
<b>Africa</b>	Chad	144	148	-2.70
<b>Africa</b>	Mauritania	135	131	3.05
<b>Middle East</b>	Iraq	145	147	-1.36
<b>Africa</b>	Egypt	108	112	-3.57
<b>Asia</b>	Pakistan	126	137	-8.03
<b>Asia</b>	Iran	124	119	4.20

**Table 9: Changes in Legal and Governance Islamicity (LGI) Scores**

Region	Country	LGI 2019	LGI 2018	Change
<b>Africa</b>	Nigeria	1.819	1.759	3.411
<b>Asia</b>	Afghanistan	0.834	1.247	-33.119
<b>Africa</b>	Sudan	0.73	0.637	14.600
<b>Middle East</b>	Syria	0.34	1.029	-66.958
<b>Africa</b>	Libya	0.65	0.605	7.438
<b>Africa</b>	Chad	0.79	0.817	-3.305
<b>Africa</b>	Mauritania	1.921	2.211	-13.116
<b>Middle East</b>	Iraq	0.759	0.931	-18.475
<b>Africa</b>	Egypt	3.4249	2.979	14.968
<b>Asia</b>	Pakistan	2.27	1.928	17.739
<b>Asia</b>	Iran	2.547	2.696	-5.527

In light of the above criteria, Nigeria's LGI median ranking deteriorated from the 5.34 percent improvement in 2018 to a decline of 0.72 percentage points in 2019. In fact, it obtained the lowest ranking among the countries with similar Islamicity rankings. Conversely, it had a positive



score improvement of 3.411 percent in 2019 making it among the best performer in the country groupings. This is a significant improvement achieved from the previous year's score, a decline of 0.92 percent. Taking the entire sample of countries in the table, their decline in score had a wide range from 3.305 to 66.95%.

### **Human and Political Rights Islamicity (HPRI)**

The HPRI index measures human and development, social wellbeing and civil and political rights. These three indicators are combined alongside eight fundamental areas such as human development; social capital; freedom of speech, civil and political rights, women's rights, access to education, access to healthcare, and level of democratic values. The index is made up of 15 variables.

**Table 10: Changes in Human and Political Rights Islamicity (HPRI) index Scores**

Region	Country	HPRI 2019	HPRI 2018	Change
<b>Africa</b>	Nigeria	129	134	-3.73
<b>Asia</b>	Afghanistan	151	148	2.03
<b>Africa</b>	Sudan	150	151	-0.66
<b>Middle East</b>	Syria	148	139	6.47
<b>Africa</b>	Libya	130	118	10.17
<b>Africa</b>	Chad	146	152	-3.95
<b>Africa</b>	Mauritania	144	149	-3.36
<b>Middle East</b>	Iraq	134	138	-2.90
<b>Africa</b>	Egypt	138	140	-1.43
<b>Asia</b>	Pakistan	140	147	-4.76
<b>Asia</b>	Iran	114	95	20.00

**Table 11: Changes in Human and Political Rights (HPRI) Islamicity Scores**

Region	Country	HPRI 2019	HPRI 2018	Change
<b>Africa</b>	Nigeria	2.66	2.562	3.825
<b>Asia</b>	Afghanistan	0.931	1.717	-45.778
<b>Africa</b>	Sudan	1.12	1.39	-19.424
<b>Middle East</b>	Syria	1.199	2.17	-44.747
<b>Africa</b>	Libya	2.63	3.1316	-16.017
<b>Africa</b>	Chad	1.48	1.272	16.352
<b>Africa</b>	Mauritania	1.488	1.455	2.268
<b>Middle East</b>	Iraq	2.41	2.283	5.563
<b>Africa</b>	Egypt	2.196	2.065	6.344
<b>Asia</b>	Pakistan	2.13	1.878	13.419
<b>Asia</b>	Iran	2.547	3.895	-34.608

The HPRI index ranking for Nigeria is not impressive when compared with the previous year's ranking. Although it had a negative performance in the previous year (6.16%), it became even worse in 2019 with a further decline of 3.73% in ranking. On the contrary, the median score for Nigeria improved in 2019 having a positive value of 3.825 percent as against the decline of 6.16% in 2018. In fact, its scores fared relatively well among the eleven benchmarked countries.

#### **International Relations Islamicity (IRI) index**

The IRI index is used to measure the degree of globalization and militarization of a country. Table 13 shows the IRI median rankings of Nigeria in 2019 relative to 2018. Its 2019 ranking improvement of 6.01% is way below the previous year's ranking improvement of 105%, though its performance is among the top 5 in the selected countries in the same table. Also, the 2019 score change for Nigeria was a negative 3.471% against the improvement of 21.68% obtained in 2018. Libya had the greatest declines and Chad is the best performer.

**Table 12: Changes in International Relations Islamicity (IRI) index Ranking**

Region	Country	IRI 2019	IRI 2018	Change
<b>Africa</b>	Nigeria	87	82	6.10
<b>Asia</b>	Afghanistan	131	129	1.55
<b>Africa</b>	Sudan	129	135	-4.44
<b>Middle East</b>	Syria	151	151	0.00
<b>Africa</b>	Libya	150	145	3.45
<b>Africa</b>	Chad	118	119	-0.84
<b>Africa</b>	Mauritania	128	130	-1.54
<b>Middle East</b>	Iraq	140	142	-1.41
<b>Africa</b>	Egypt	143	141	1.42
<b>Asia</b>	Pakistan	134	134	0.00
<b>Asia</b>	Iran	139	140	-0.71

**Table 13: Changes in International Relations Islamicity (IRI) index Scores**

Region	Country	IRI 2019	IRI 2018	Change
<b>Africa</b>	Nigeria	4.7	4.869	-3.471
<b>Asia</b>	Afghanistan	2.417	2.614	-7.536
<b>Africa</b>	Sudan	2.616	2.255	16.009
<b>Middle East</b>	Syria	0.009	0.621	-98.551
<b>Africa</b>	Libya	0.132	1.176	-88.776
<b>Africa</b>	Chad	3.377	3.366	0.327
<b>Africa</b>	Mauritania	2.616	2.582	1.317
<b>Middle East</b>	Iraq	1.6856	1.438	17.218
<b>Africa</b>	Egypt	1.192	1.471	-18.967
<b>Asia</b>	Pakistan	2.152	2.255	-4.568
<b>Asia</b>	Iran	1.656	1.601	3.435

**GENERAL OUTLOOK: ANALYSING CHANGES IN THE INDICES****ECONOMIC ISLAMICITY (EI) INDEX**

Nigeria's economy was gradually recovering from the recent 2016 recession with economic growth rate projected at 2.3 percent, slightly higher than the 1.9 percent realized in 2018 before the outbreak of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. One of the main causes of this crisis was

a decline in revenues occasioned by drop in oil prices in 2014, which badly affected its budgetary allocations. As a way of reducing this over reliance on crude oil, the government is aggressively pushing for bold reforms to grow the non-oil sector of the economy. The last quarter of 2019 has a projection of 2.3 percent GDP growth. This is partly possible due to significant performance realized in the service sector particularly telecommunications. The Northern part of the country is grappling with many security challenges and is the region that supplies the vast majority of the agricultural produce consumed in the country. Insurgency, kidnapping, and farmer-herder crisis continues to create instability in the region. Most farmers have abandoned their farming activities for fear of getting kidnapped or killed. These further exacerbated the existing food crisis causing spike in price of commodities such as rice and maize.

#### **LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE (LGI) ISLAMICITY**

The 2019 LGI ranking for Nigeria is among the worst performers among Muslim countries. It went from the 5.34 percent improvement obtained in 2018 to a 0.72 percentage decline in 2019. This is somewhat alarming as the continued government effort in fighting corruption has not yielded positive results. This poor ranking is further corroborated by the 2019 report obtained from corruption perception index where Nigeria was ranked 146 out of 180 least corrupt countries against 144 out of 175 in 2018. Similarly, the legal system of the country is seen as one of the most corrupt institutions in the country. In most cases, laws existed on paper and they are applied differently depending on the social status of a person. Those with deep pockets get to escape justice and go unpunished. There is rampant court hearing adjournment and severe backlogs due to pervasive corruption in the judicial system.

## HUMAN AND POLITICAL RIGHT (HPRI) ISLAMICITY

The HPRI ranking for Nigeria in 2019 has improved slightly in relation to the previous year's ranking. But when relative change in score is considered, it becomes worse than that obtained in 2018. It achieved a relative decline of 3.73% in ranking in 2019 as against a decline of 6.16% in 2018. This implies that the conditions of human and political rights of the citizen are deteriorating. Nigeria has been experiencing series of geopolitical tension especially coming from its borders. Domestically, there are rampant kidnappings and armed robbery which continued to wreak havoc on the country's security. The poor HPRI ranking negates the 2019 Freedom House report which shows no change in status for the same period. It reported a score of 50 (out of 100) in 2019, 2018 and 2017 respectively<sup>1</sup>.

Essential sectors like healthcare and education continued to suffer from underfunding and neglect. With a population growth rate of about 2.5 percent above that of economic growth rate, the masses have limited access to affordable quality healthcare. Good care is only afforded by the rich, the elite, which is way beyond the reach of ordinary citizens. Also, the education sector is no different. In 2019, its budgetary allocations was up by 7.05 percent, which was marginally higher than the previous year's 7.04 percent budget. The country's budget provisions have always hovers between five to seven percent of the national budget<sup>2</sup>. This figure is still far below the minimum recommended for developing countries by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) which is 26 percent of total national budget.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://freedomhouse.org/country/nigeria/freedom-world/2019>

<sup>2</sup> <https://punchng.com/2019-budget-education-gets-n620-5bn-against-unescos-advice/>

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS INDEX (IRI)**

Two essential metrics, militarization and globalization are used to measure this index. The Nigeria's IRI ranking for 2019 was far lower compared to that of 2018. It had a positive change of 6.0% in 2019 as against 105% in 2018. Also, its score declined by 3.47% in 2019 as against 21.68% improvement in 2018. The country's 2019 defense budgetary gets among the highest budgetary allocations. Despite this large share, the country's security situation continues to face the threat of Boko-Haram attacks (though operating at a lower level), farmer/herder clashes, kidnappings, banditry and so on. The recent Global Peace Index (GPI) ranks Nigeria 148 out of 163 independent countries, a position it maintained for two consecutive years. This shows that Nigeria is among the least peaceful countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and in Muslim countries in general.

## **THE IMPACT OF THE 2019 CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC ON NIGERIAN ECONOMY AND THE GOVERNMENT POLICIES TO COMBAT IT.**

The outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) which started from the city of Wuhan in China in late 2019 has wreaked havoc to almost all economies around the world and Nigeria is no exception. Although Nigeria's economy was already fragile even before the outbreak of the pandemic, and is contending with weak recovery occasioned by the 2014 crash in crude oil price. Nigeria has a total of 46,867 confirmed cases with 950 deaths<sup>3</sup> as of this writing. Almost all sectors of the economy were badly hit and many households have lost their livelihood while several businesses were shut down. As a way to curb the spread of the virus, many governments adopted measures to curtail the spread by imposing full or partial lockdown causing untold hardship to citizens. In

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<sup>3</sup> <https://covid19.ncdc.gov.ng/>

Nigeria, the same measures were taken and their consequences were: disruption in supply chain, drastic drop in crude oil price due to weakening global demand, closure of financial markets and restriction of movements which destabilizes commercial and economic activities and layoffs<sup>4</sup>. For example, in Nigeria, the aviation sector which is one of the worst hit sectors has lost more than 100,000 employees due to the pandemic. As the country is heavily reliant on crude oil for its government expenditure, the sharp fall in oil prices forced the government to revise its 2020 budget by slashing its revenue projection by 40 percent<sup>5</sup>. This development has also necessitated the government to seek emergency funds from multilateral lenders like the African Development Bank (ADB), International Monetary Funds (IMF), and The World Bank to enable the country to implement the budget, as well as help the most vulnerable people and businesses.

The health sector in Nigeria has suffered long years of neglect and underfunding. Before the onset of the pandemic, many Nigerians go abroad on medical tourism. The outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed its decay and the shortages of basic infrastructure necessary to limit the spread of the virus. There were basically very few available ventilators to use for patients even though the country tried developing its indigenous ventilators which are yet to be available for commercial use. There were shortages of Personal Protective Equipment's (PPEs) which hinders health workers ability to work efficiently. As a way to solving this acute shortages of equipment's, the government has introduced import duty waivers for pharmaceutical companies, Onyekwena and Ekeruche (2020), as well as provision of grants to

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<sup>4</sup> [https://en.as.com/en/2020/08/04/latest\\_news/1596547342\\_755833.html](https://en.as.com/en/2020/08/04/latest_news/1596547342_755833.html)

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/headlines/386844-nigeria-reduces-2020-budget-slashes-revenue-projection-by-40.html>

manufacturing companies. It also directed all commercial banks to support the pharmaceutical industry and the healthcare industry<sup>6</sup>.

The government of Nigeria took several measures aimed at containing the spread of the virus and its impact so as to alleviate the sufferings of the masses and provide support to households and businesses to get back on their feet. The government rolled out several of palliatives (through cash transfers and food stuff) in order to cushion the impact of the pandemic on people. Although the cash transfer was marred by many irregularities as the worst affected were rural dwellers that lack formal banking, the monies did not reach the target as intended. The cash transfer was done physically which makes it hard for it to reach to those in the most remote areas. Also, the Apex bank has rolled out intervention funds aimed at supporting the manufacturing and agricultural sector. Small and Medium (SMEs) businesses were given interest free loans or a single digit interest rate for loans to help them get kick start their business.

#### **POLICIES NEEDED TO IMPROVE ON THE COUNTRY'S INDICES FOR THE COMING YEAR**

The 2019 Islamicity indices LGI and HPRI had the worst performance compared to the previous year. Both of these indicators have a negative ranking performance, making them one of the worst performers in the Muslim countries. As a way to improve on the country's upcoming indices, there is need for the government to implement bold reforms, which will enable an upward movement of the indices ranking and scores. There are many unemployed youth in the country that are either underpaid or not duly remunerated. The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) ranks Nigeria 21st among 181 countries with an unemployment rate of about 23.1%. The

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<sup>6</sup> <http://apanews.net/en/news/nigerian-economy-and-traumatic-impact-of-covid-19-pandemic>



current economic challenges bedeviling Nigeria are way beyond the power of government alone. There is need for the government to open up more ways and opportunities for private investors to come in. A public-private partnership arrangement with local and international companies and in different sectors of the economy will go a long way to broaden employment opportunities for citizens. Also, it is the duty of the government to invest in social programs and providing social amenities for the wellbeing of the citizens. As it stands, the road network of the country is either very poor or has a lot of dangerous pot holes causing series of accidents across the country. Although there are massive road construction's projects going on in the country, more effort is needed so as to speed up the completion and reduce the number of fatalities. Policies aimed at strengthening the poor infrastructure, especially in the health care sector, should be adopted. Generous amount of money needs to be pumped to the healthcare sector. There is need to create more primary healthcare facilities to support the secondary ones. Special disease hospitals, such as those for cancer and infectious disease, needs to be set up to cater for the surging increase in these diseases. This is because, accesses to essential goods and services such as food, medical care, sound mental and physical health, are the key to having healthy and happy citizens. The lack of provision of these basic amenities is the main root cause of widespread anxiety and despair among citizens. Finally, for the country to achieve a meaningful and continuous economic development, the legal framework needs to be strengthened in order to ensure proper application and enforcement of the law.

## **CONCLUSION**

The overall analysis was possible using 46 different indicators to measure how far a country adhered to Islamic teachings and practices. Four main focus areas of Economic, Legal and

Governance, Human and Political Rights and International Relations Islamicity Indices, and the Overall Indices that incorporated these four, were analyzed. The result shows that the 2019 Islamicity indices performance of Nigeria is far worse than its previous year's performance in 2018. The country is still struggling to contend with many challenges, especially in the areas of security, health care, food security, high poverty rate, weak trust system, misaligned economic policies, weak or non-existent institutions, endemic corruption and unequal opportunities among citizens. This is coupled with long years of neglect in physical and educational investment in infrastructure which led to massive underdevelopment of the country. These aforementioned problems are not in harmony with Islamic teachings which preaches justice, equality and fairness in all affairs of mankind. Mankind is not only supposed to respect rules provided by Allah but also the manmade ones provided they do not contradict the former. As a way forward, the country has to have a holistic approach towards solving problems. There is need for good economic and political governance. There is need for bold reforms in line with what is ordained by the teachings of Islam. Building sound institutions is necessary to ensuring effective functioning of each sector of the economy. Also, good economic and political governance are keys to achieving a just and equitable society that will help in building harmony, peace/security and economic progress for a better Nigeria.

#### Reference

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