

The Islamicity Foundation's Fourth Annual Report on the Islamicity Indices Program¹

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by

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1. Executive Summary:

The median overall Islamicity score improved for all countries in 2020. The 2020 Islamicity indices again show New Zealand to be the country that best reflects Islamic teachings, values, and institutions in the world. Iceland, Sweden Netherlands, and Norway complete the top five list of countries that best follow the precepts of Islam. The proper performance of these countries in the time of Covid-19 outbreak asserts the importance of well-established institutions at the time of an unprecedented pandemic outbreak. Globally, the economic (EI) and human and political rights (HPRI) performance of the 151 countries increased slightly in 2020. However, there were declines in legal and governance (LGI) and international relations (IRI) indices.

The practices of Muslim-majority countries underperformed in reflecting the teachings of the Holy Qur'an and hadiths. Even so, they performed slightly better in 2020 than they did in 2019, with an improvement of 1.2% in the median overall Islamicity index. It is noted that there is no Muslim country amongst the list of top forty countries, Malaysia and United Arab Emirates achieved the rank of 43 and 47 respectively. However, Malaysia, UAE, and Qatar were in the list of top forty (40) countries of OI Index in 2019. In 2020, Muslim countries performed better in economic and human and political rights indices relative to 2019 even with the outbreak of Covid -19. They underperformed in legal and international relation indices reversing their improvement in 2019.

To build strong institutions necessary for improving their governance practices and socioeconomic progress, Muslim countries should more closely follow the precepts of Islam and teachings of Qur'an and hadiths. Only when these countries adopt effective institutions that embody freedom and justice and are economically progressive, respective of human and political

¹ The Islamicity Foundation is incorporated as a tax-exempt organization in the U.S. state of Maryland. Although the Islamicity Foundation has been organized as a stand-alone entity, in time and, if appropriate, it could partner with a world-class university. This would afford the Foundation and its mission more visibility; it would facilitate fundraising activities; and most important, by teaching seminars on Islam and development and on Islamicity Indices, the Foundation could develop a cadre of young collaborators to better accomplish its mission around the world.

rights and in harmony with the international community, will they truly internalize and execute Islamic standards of governance.

2. Islamicity Indices

Institutions play a vital role in achieving sustainable economic growth and promotion of prosperity in societies. As Douglass North emphasized on the importance of institutions, inclusive institutions which facilitate power-sharing, productivity, innovation, education, and well-being of a society, is the main driving force for developed countries to establish prosperity and distinct themselves from those that are developing slowly. Indeed, the history of development and state capacity building in developing countries shows the domination of a powerful minority who enjoy the monopoly of wealth and resources to benefit its own circle.

The low score and high ranking of low- and middle-income countries through the range of Islamicity Indices reflects the poor governance among public agencies who are not successful to implement rule of law, property rights, and sustainable security in their societies and promote sustainable growth and prosperity. However, there are improvements which show that the development of effective and efficient institutions is a gradual process with contribution of all segments of society.

The Islamicity Indices premise that peaceful and positive change in Muslim countries will have to come about in the context of Islam. Muslims are devoted to their religion and as our results show, Islamic rules, and its recommended institutions can promote prosperity in all countries. Muslims are expected to apply Qur'anic teachings and the hadiths to develop effective institutions and focus on the capacity building of their feeble institutions and sluggish economies.

The Islamicity Indices is an annual yardstick for policymakers in Muslim countries to look beyond short-term and spontaneous measures and to instead assess their progress against the full set of factors that determine productivity and prosperity. We hope it will also serve as a call to action to engage in the visionary and bold leadership required to build a new economic agenda to develop sustainable and inclusive economies that provide opportunity for all.

The indices do not focus on personal requirements of a Muslim, such as belief commitment, daily prayers, fasting and pilgrimage. The indices are instead premised on Qur'anic goals for a successful Muslim community and the extent of a society's adherence to its institutional recommendations of good governance. Islamicity Indices is designed to reflect the adherence of Muslim countries to Islam's recommendations. Indeed, Islamic thoughts promote political and individual freedom, rule of law, accountability of rulers and governments, and socioeconomic justice.

The Indices introduce a toolkit for the citizens and policy makers in Muslim countries to ensure their government's policies adhere to the teachings of the holy book and prescriptions of the prophet surrounding economic opportunities, legal and governance affairs, human and political rights, and international relations.

It is noted that there are only seven declared Islamic countries (Afghanistan, Bahrain, Iran, Mauritania, Oman, Pakistan, Yemen) and another thirteen countries that have declared Islam as the state religion (Algeria, Bangladesh, Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates).

To build the Islamicity Indices, an all-encompassing approach is applied. All governments which profess Islamic teaching as the guiding, or one of the primary, principle for governance are considered as Muslim countries. In this regard, the index distinguishes members of Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) as a good representation of countries that profess Islam at the national level. While the OIC has 57 members, 56 states and Palestine, we have the needed data for 40-member countries that have either: a) governments that has adopted Islam as the official state religion, or b) Islam as their primary religion, or c) a significant Muslim population, or d) simply declared themselves as an Islamic republic.²

To measure the degree of 'Islamicity' of Muslim countries, the index investigates the development and enhancement of (a) free markets and strong economic performance, (b) good government governance and rule of law, (c) societies with well-formed human and civil rights and equality and (d) cordial relations and meaningful contributions to the global community.

Developing the Islamicity Indices, 151 countries are investigated, including a subset of the OIC countries for which we have data. The index aims to measure the economic, social, legal, and political development of OIC countries with the referral to Islamic standards, along with the well-documented Western rankings.³

3. Broad Developments During the Year

3.1. Overall Islamicity Index

² There is no distinction made between Sunni and Shia Muslim countries. Approximately 12-15% of the world's Muslims are Shia with the largest representation in Iran and Iraq.

³ For example, United Nations Human Development Index (UNHDI), Economist Intelligence Unit's (EIU) Democracy Index, Heritage Foundation's Index of Economic Freedom, Fraser Institute's Economic Freedom Index (Economic Freedom of the World Index), Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index and Freedom House's Freedom in the World Index, etc.

These indices are designed to investigate Economic (EI), Legal and Governance (LGI), Human and Political Rights (HPRI), and International Relations (IRI), which are combined into an Overall Islamicity Index (OI) for 151 countries that include 40 Muslim countries. The index scores and ranks all countries using a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 is highly un-Islamic and 10 is highly Islamic. Also, the performance of Islamic countries (OIC) was studied in more detail to assess their improvement or decline in 2020 relative to 2019. **Table 1** shows the best and worst performers of Overall Islamicity in 2020. The best fifteen (15) performers are mainly European high-income countries, and the worst performers are low and low-middle income countries, including ten Muslim countries.

Table 1. High and Low Ranking in Overall Islamicity in 2020

RANK	Overall	Rank	Overall
New Zealand	1	Syria	151
Iceland	2	Afghanistan	150
Netherlands	3	Sudan	149
Sweden	4	Congo, Dem. Rep.	148
Norway	5	Chad	147
Denmark	6	Burundi	146
Ireland	7	Venezuela	145
Switzerland	8	Angola	144
Canada	9	Congo, Rep.	143
Finland	10	Libya	142
Germany	11	Iraq	141
Australia	12	Mauritania	140
Luxembourg	13	Zimbabwe	139
Austria	14	Haiti	138
United Kingdom	15	Cameroon	137

Looking at **Table 2**⁴ and **Figure 1**, the median Overall Islamicity score improved for all countries in 2020.⁵ The global median OI score improved by 4.72%. Globally, the economic (EI) and human and political rights (HPRI) performance of the 151 countries increased slightly, by 1.4% and 2.5% respectively in 2020. However, there were declines of 1 and 2.5% in legal and governance and international relations areas respectively.

OIC countries improved in their Overall Islamicity (OI), Economic (EI), and Human and Political Rights (HPRI). OIC overall score grew by 1.2%. Their HPRI improved the most by 7.4%, followed by Economic Index improvement of 5.5%. The OIC International Relation Index (IRI) score saw a decline of 8.9% in 2020, reversing the growth seen in 2019. The negative trend was also witnessed in Legal and Governance Index (LGI) by a decline of 5.4% over 2019. **Figure 2** depicts the median score of all indices across all 151 countries along with the Muslim and non-Muslim countries.

Table 2. Median Islamicity Scores in 2020⁶

Description	Overall	Economic	Legal and Governance	Human and Political Rights	International Relations
All Countries	4.72	4.95	4.70	4.78	4.97
OIC Countries	3.43	3.85	2.99	3.33	3.56
Non-OIC Countries	5.18	5.06	5.19	5.57	5.40
All Countries change over 2019	5%	1.4%	-1.0%	4.3%	-2.5%
OIC Relative change over 2019	1.2%	5.5%	-5.4%	7.4%	-8.9%

⁴ This year, the Index tracked performance for 151 countries, following the same number of studied countries in 2019, down from 153 in 2018. Yemen Rep, Swaziland, and Fiji were excluded from the calculations, while Eswatini was added.

⁵ The results do not reflect most recent developments in countries because the information (especially available indices) are largely based on 2018 and 2019 data. This time lag in available indices, in turn, results in a lag in the incorporation of most recent developments in the Islamicity Indices.

⁶ Results for Muslim countries are depicted in green.

Figure 1 – Median Score Change 2019 Vs. 2020

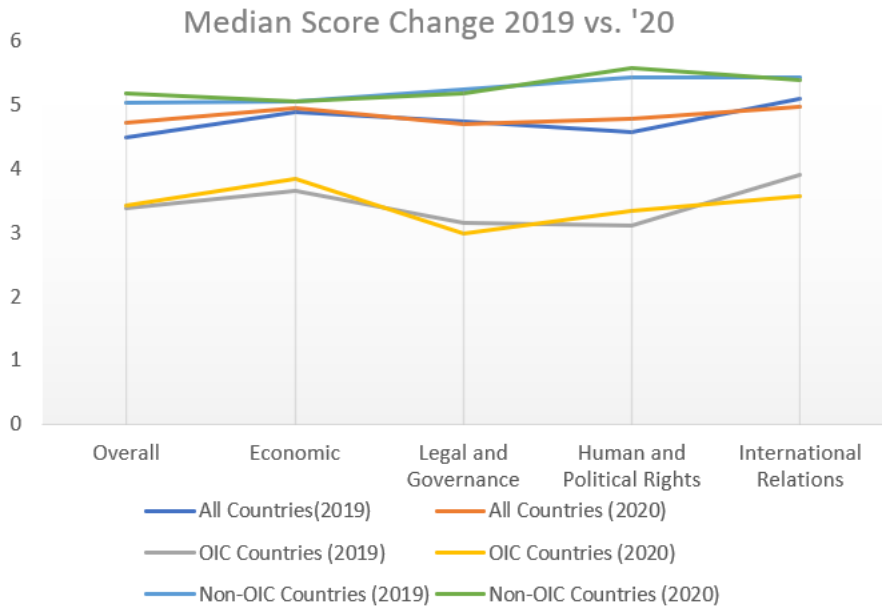
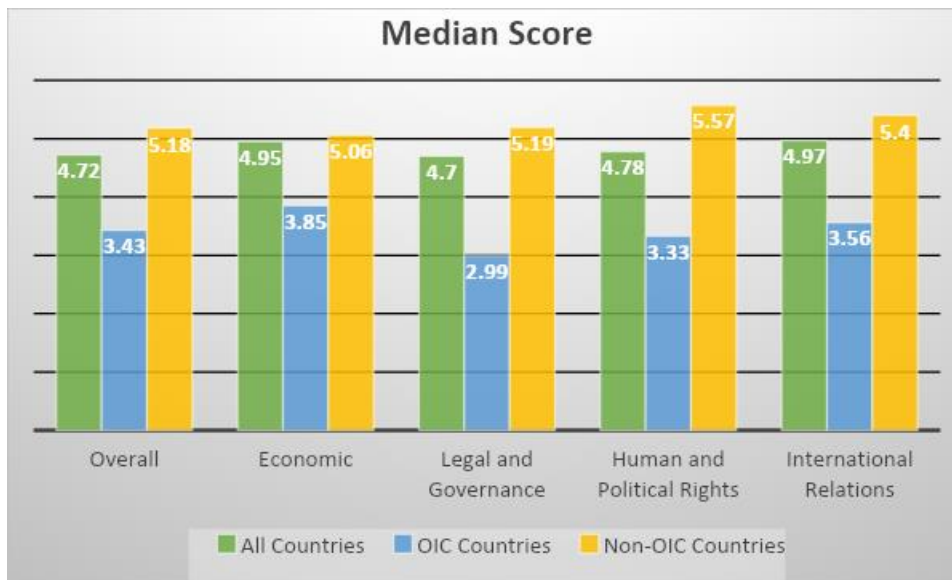


Figure 2 – Median Islamicity Score in 2020



3.2. Economic Islamicity Index

The Economic Index measures achievement in economic justice, job creation, sustainable economic growth, and adoption of sound and consistent economic and financial practices. The EI index comprises eight areas of fundamental Islamic economic principles which are addressed by 16 economic and social variables and proxies. The eight principal areas are economic opportunity and economic freedom, job creation and equal access to employment, property rights and sanctity of contracts, provisions to eradicate poverty, and provisions of aid and welfare, supportive financial system, adherence to Islamic finance, economic prosperity and economic justice. With the application of these economic criteria, the median EI score increased by 1.4% with a score of 4.95 in 2020. EI score for OIC countries increased by 5.5% during 2020 relative to 2019.

The top ten score and rank changes in EI are shown in **Table 3**. Among top 10 decliners in EI score, there are four Muslim countries: Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Libya, and Mali. It is observed that Saudi Arabia, Chad, Burkina Faso, and Niger are ranked between 12th to 16th top decliners. Saudi Arabia experienced the most decline in score over 2019, by -0.84.

Looking into the ranking of EI decliners, six Muslim countries were among eleven top decliners: Turkmenistan (1st), Mali (3rd), Saudi Arabia (5th), Afghanistan (8th), Burkina Faso (9th) and Turkey (11th). Turkmenistan and Mali experienced the most rank decline in 2020 against 2019 by 26 and 23 spots respectively.

The list of top 10 improvements in Economic Index score contains five Muslim countries: Sudan, Lebanon, Egypt, Sierra Leon, and Mauritania. With 27 spot improvements in EI ranking, Lebanon achieved first place.

Table 3: Economic Islamicity – Major Score Changes

Top 10 Declines in Score

Country	2019	2020	Change
Afghanistan	2.95	2.28	-23%
Turkmenistan	3.59	2.79	-22%
Libya	2.43	1.9	-22%
Mali	3.66	3.01	-18%
Gabon	3.66	3.06	-16%
Eswatini	2.7	2.27	-16%
Botswana	5.18	4.36	-16%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	4.98	4.19	-16%

Top 10 Declines in Rank

Country	2019	2020	Change
Turkmenistan	105	131	-26
Botswana	65	88	-23
Mali	101	124	-23
Gabon	102	121	-19
Saudi Arabia	55	73	-18
Bosnia and Herzegovina	74	91	-17
Tanzania	94	109	-15
Afghanistan	126	140	-14

Top 10 Improvements in Score

Country	2019	2020	Change
Sudan	1.2	2.18	81%
Suriname	1.84	2.79	51%
Angola	1.17	1.58	35%
Lebanon	3.38	4.43	31%
Argentina	3.01	3.9	29%
Egypt	3.1	3.92	26%
Mozambique	1.85	2.3	24%
Sierra Leone	2.55	3.16	24%
Mauritania	2.21	2.72	23%
Congo, Rep.	1.61	1.96	22%

Top 10 Improvements in Rank

Country	2019	2020	Change
Lebanon	113	86	27
Argentina	124	99	25
Moldova	78	54	24
Egypt	120	98	22
Brazil	116	97	19
Zambia	131	113	18
Sierra Leone	135	119	16
Tunisia	104	90	14
Greece	67	55	12
Liberia	132	120	12

3.2. Legal and Governance Islamicity Index

The LGI index comprises five fundamental areas of Legal and Governance principles and 13 variables or proxies. The five principal areas are: legal integrity; prevention of corruption; safety and security index; management index; and governance and government effectiveness. Here, the aim is to measure prevalence of corruption, the security of property rights, voice and accountability, rule of law and the effectiveness of governance structures.

All studied countries in 2020 performed worse in median LGI scores compared to 2019, following the same pattern from 2018. All countries' median LGI score declined by 1% with a 4.70 score. The median LGI score for Muslim countries declined by 5.4% to 2.99, reversing the LGI improvement in 2019.

The list of the top ten declining scores includes Turkmenistan, Iran, Nigeria, Sudan and Chad. Turkmenistan performed the worst in LGI relative to 2019 with a 23% decline. Also, in considering the top 10 declines in ranking of LGI index, Burkina Faso, Morocco, Albania, and Saudi Arabia are among the countries with the biggest declines in ranking, with eight Muslim countries ranking between 17-30th.

As shown in **Table 4**, five Muslim countries are among the top ten score improvers in 2020. The LGI score for Syria improved between 2019-2020, from 0.34 to 0.5, and Libya's score increased from 0.65 to 0.98. In the case of ranking improvers, the only Muslim country among the top ten ranking improvers was Mauritania, with improvement of 6 spots. South Africa and Trinidad were the most ranking improvers with 10 spots.

Table 4: Legal and Government Islamicity – Major Score Changes

Top 10 Improvements in Score

Country	2019	2020	Change
Libya	0.65	0.98	50%
Syria	0.34	0.5	48%
Iraq	0.76	1.06	40%
Congo, Dem. Rep.	0.45	0.6	33%
Burundi	0.75	0.96	28%
Angola	1.28	1.51	18%
Afghanistan	0.83	0.93	12%
Ukraine	3.38	3.77	12%
Dominican Republic	3.47	3.84	10%
Mauritania	1.92	2.11	10%

Top 10 Improvements in Rank

Country	2019	2020	Change
South Africa	67	57	10
Trinidad and Tobago	69	59	10
Macedonia	73	64	9
Ecuador	105	97	8
El Salvador	106	98	8
Ukraine	104	96	8
Dominican Republic	101	94	7
Moldova	93	86	7
Mauritania	135	129	6
Brazil	77	71	6

Top 10 Declines in Score

Country	2019	2020	Change
Turkmenistan	2.22	1.72	-23%
Nicaragua	2.06	1.64	-20%
Iran	2.55	2.21	-13%
Nigeria	1.82	1.59	-13%
Eswatini	3.63	3.2	-12%
Liberia	2.9	2.58	-11%
Congo, Rep.	2.68	2.41	-10%
Zambia	3.83	3.45	-10%
Bolivia	2.73	2.45	-10%
Sudan	0.73	0.67	-9%
Chad	0.79	0.72	-9%

Top 10 Declines in Ranking

Country	2019	2020	Change
Zambia	91	104	-13
Burkina Faso	92	103	-11
Eswatini	95	105	-10
China	59	68	-9
Morocco	65	74	-9
Albania	63	70	-7
Ghana	60	67	-7
Mongolia	68	75	-7
Saudi Arabia	58	65	-7
Turkmenistan	129	135	-6

3.3 Human and Political Rights

The HPRI measures human development, civil and political rights and social well-being. The index consists of eight fundamental indicators of human development, social capital, personal freedom, civil and political rights, access to education and healthcare, level of democratic values and women's rights.

The HPRI increased by 4.3% from 2019 with a median score of 4.78. Also, OIC countries performed better in Human and Political Rights than the previous year, with an increase of 7.4 percent, OIC median score was 3.33 in 2020. In contrast with HPRI score in 2019, the index improved among all and also for Muslim countries.

The top ten score declines in HPRI are shown in **Table 5**. The list includes Mali, Chad, Afghanistan, and Libya, ranging from -9% to -11.5%. The list of major rank decliners includes five Muslim countries; Algeria, Jordan, Senegal, Turkey and Mali. Their declines range from 7 to 11 spots.

Also, the table shows top HPR score improvers in 2020. Mauritania, Azerbaijan, and Sierra Leon are the Muslim countries in the list with the change ranging from 12.5% to 20.4%.

Table 5: Human and Political Rights – Major Changes

Top 10 Declines in Score

Country	2019	2020	Change
Congo, Dem. Rep.	1.74	1.46	-16.2%
Angola	2.23	1.91	-14.5%
Nicaragua	3.46	3.03	-12.4%
Mali	2.75	2.44	-11.5%
Chad	1.48	1.31	-11.1%
Philippines	5.11	4.58	-10.4%
Congo, Rep.	2.67	2.41	-10.0%
Afghanistan	0.93	0.84	-9.4%
Haiti	2.55	2.32	-8.9%
Libya	2.63	2.4	-8.9%

Top 10 Declines in Ranking

Country	2019	2020	Change
Nicaragua	102	117	-15
Philippines	66	80	-14
Algeria	101	112	-11
Cambodia	110	121	-11
Colombia	54	64	-10
India	95	105	-10
Jordan	97	106	-9
Senegal	85	94	-9
Turkey	96	104	-8
Mali	125	132	-7

Top Improvers in Score

Country	2019	2020	Change
Ethiopia	1.4	1.74	24.4%
Madagascar	3.09	3.8	23.0%
Mauritania	1.49	1.79	20.4%
Mozambique	2.56	3.04	18.3%
Trinidad and Tobago	6.02	6.92	14.9%
Azerbaijan	3.14	3.55	13.0%
Sierra Leone	2.94	3.31	12.5%
Ecuador	5.17	5.82	12.5%
Nepal	3.05	3.34	11.4%
Malawi	3.21	3.57	11.1%

Top Improvers in Ranking

Country	2019	2020	Change
Madagascar	113	95	18
Mozambique	131	116	15
Ecuador	64	54	10
Trinidad and Tobago	51	41	10
Brazil	61	52	9
Azerbaijan	111	103	8
Malawi	108	100	8
Nepal	115	108	7
Sierra Leone	118	111	7
Tajikistan	124	118	6
Turkmenistan	126	120	6

3.4 International Relations Islamicity

The IRI index assesses two core indicators of position of peacefulness and militarization. In 2020, all countries' IRI median score declined by 2.5% with median score of 4.97, reversing the improved IRI scores for all countries in 2019. The Muslim countries had a decline of 8.9% following the significant decline of 16.1% in 2019.

Referring **Table 6** below, seven Muslim countries were among the top 10 decliners in 2020. The list includes Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Mali, Burkina Faso, Lebanon, and Syria, ranging from a 33% to 60% percent decline. The table also shows the most decliners in the IRI score ranking. Among the list of Muslim countries, Burkina Faso had a decline of 66 spots, followed by Mali (36 spots), Tunisia (32), Niger (29), and Guinea (27).

Conversely, there were four Muslim countries among the top 10 improvers. Libya had a significant improvement in IRI score, with a 2,925 percent increase with the score of 4.01 in 2020 against the score of 0.132 in 2019. As a result, Libya had an improvement in ranking of 47 spots.

Table 6: International Relations – Major Changes

Top Declines in Score

Country	2019	2020	Change
Iraq	1.66	0.66	-60%
Pakistan	2.15	1.13	-48%
Hong Kong	8.84	4.93	-44%
Nicaragua	6.29	3.74	-41%
Saudi Arabia	1.89	1.13	-40%
Mali	4.57	2.78	-39%
Burkina Faso	6.72	4.27	-36%
Lebanon	1.13	0.73	-35%
Togo	5.43	3.58	-34%
Syria	0.1	0.07	-33%

Top Declines in Ranking

Country	2019	2020	Change
Hong Kong	3	77	-74
Nicaragua	40	110	-70
Burkina Faso	34	100	-66
Togo	63	113	-50
Mali	92	128	-36
Tunisia	79	111	-32
Niger	71	100	-29
Botswana	58	85	-27
Guinea	65	92	-27
Namibia	72	98	-26

Top Improvements in Score

Country	2019	2020	Change
Libya	0.132	4.01	2925%
Egypt	1.19	1.92	61%
Ukraine	0.66	1.06	60%
Armenia	1.26	1.92	53%
Azerbaijan	1.13	1.66	47%
El Salvador	3.38	4.7	39%
Jordan	2.18	3.01	38%
Macedonia	3.34	4.47	34%
Laos	4.73	6.16	30%
Paraguay	4.97	6.46	30%

Top Improvements in Ranking

Country	2019	2020	Change
Libya	150	103	47
Paraguay	78	37	41
Laos	85	45	40
Philippines	103	69	34
Mexico	101	68	33
Guatemala	87	55	32
El Salvador	119	89	30
Malaysia	51	24	27
Peru	108	85	23
Portugal	52	29	23

4. Islamicity Index: Focus on Muslim Countries

4.1 Overall Islamicity Index

Muslim countries with the median score of 3.43, performed slightly better in 2020 compared to 2019, with an improvement of 1.2%. Only eight Muslim countries achieved a score above 5.0 on the Overall Islamicity Index, the list includes four GCC (Persian Gulf Cooperation Council) countries. There was no Muslim country ranked among the top forty countries in the OI Index. However, Malaysia, UAE, and Qatar were in the list of top forty countries in the OI Index in 2019. Twenty-one Muslim countries were amongst the bottom quartile in the OI score, including upper and lower middle income and low-income Islamic countries.

Table 7: Overall Islamicity Index for Muslim Countries

Country	Rank	Score
Malaysia	43	6.27
United Arab Emirates	47	6.14
Qatar	51	5.84
Albania	53	5.76
Kazakhstan	59	5.26
Indonesia	62	5.17
Oman	63	5.13
Kuwait	65	5.08
Bosnia and Herzegovina	74	4.77
Bahrain	75	4.75
Jordan	84	4.51
Tunisia	85	4.44
Azerbaijan	89	4.28
Senegal	91	4.27
Saudi Arabia	93	4.14
Kyrgyzstan	94	4.11
Morocco	96	4.10
Turkey	100	3.88
Sierra Leone	108	3.63

Lebanon	114	3.49
Burkina Faso	115	3.36
Uzbekistan	116	3.34
Tajikistan	117	3.23
Bangladesh	120	3.18
Algeria	121	3.13
Niger	125	2.97
Guinea	127	2.93
Egypt	128	2.91
Turkmenistan	130	2.84
Iran	132	2.73
Pakistan	134	2.65
Nigeria	135	2.63
Mali	136	2.52
Mauritania	140	2.20
Iraq	141	2.20
Libya	142	2.05
Chad	147	1.54
Sudan	149	1.40
Afghanistan	150	1.40
Syria	151	1.06

4.2 Economic Islamicity Index

Economically, during 2020, Muslim countries performed better than they did in 2019. Indeed, their EI median score increased by 5.5% in 2020, from the median score of 3.65 in 2019 to 3.85 in 2020. 13 out of 41 Muslim countries are among upper half in scores, the list includes mainly Middle Eastern countries. The EI bottom quartile score list includes mainly Muslim-African countries, following the same pattern as 2019. Morocco is the only African country with a score higher than 5.00. Only five Muslim countries are amongst the bottom quartile countries, Afghanistan, Chad, Sudan, and Syria are classified as low income by the World Bank in 2020.

Table 8: Economic Islamicity Index for Muslim Countries

Country	Rank	Score
United Arab Emirates	27	7.45
Malaysia	35	6.95
Qatar	38	6.86
Bahrain	40	6.59
Kazakhstan	42	6.29
Oman	43	6.26
Azerbaijan	43	6.26
Kuwait	53	5.69
Albania	58	5.52
Jordan	62	5.45
Indonesia	63	5.45
Kyrgyzstan	67	5.19
Morocco	69	5.08
Saudi Arabia	73	4.97
Turkey	75	4.95
Lebanon	86	4.43
Tunisia	90	4.25
Bosnia and Herzegovina	91	4.19
Pakistan	93	4.06
Egypt	98	3.92
Uzbekistan	102	3.78
Senegal	103	3.75
Bangladesh	105	3.71
Guinea	107	3.66
Algeria	110	3.44
Niger	111	3.34

Burkina Faso	114	3.28
Tajikistan	115	3.27
Iraq	116	3.26
Sierra Leone	119	3.16
Mali	124	3.01
Nigeria	129	2.88
Turkmenistan	131	2.79
Iran	132	2.79
Mauritania	135	2.72
Afghanistan	140	2.28
Chad	142	2.22
Sudan	143	2.18
Libya	146	1.89
Syria	148	1.72

4.3 Legal and Governance Islamicity Index

Globally, countries did worse in LGI in 2020 compared the previous year. Their median score decreased by 1%. Also, the Muslim-majority countries underperformed in LGI with a decline of 5.5% in their median score. Among all Muslim countries only United Arab Emirates was among the upper quartile. Eleven Muslim countries reached the score of 5 or higher and Tunisia is the only African country among them with score of 5.0. Looking into the Muslim countries in the bottom-quartile, 19 Muslim countries were among the bottom quartile list, including upper and lower middle-income and low-income Muslim countries.

Table 9: Legal and Governance Islamicity Index for Muslim Countries

Country	Rank	Score
United Arab Emirates	36	7.31
Malaysia	42	6.79
Qatar	44	6.75
Oman	52	6.26

Jordan	58	5.48
Kuwait	60	5.45
Saudi Arabia	65	5.16
Indonesia	52	5.14
Kazakhstan	69	5.11
Albania	70	5.04
Tunisia	72	5.00
Bahrain	73	4.97
Morocco	74	4.96
Senegal	76	4.70
Turkey	83	4.25
Azerbaijan	90	3.96
Bosnia and Herzegovina	91	3.96
Burkina Faso	103	3.52
Algeria	109	3.07
Egypt	113	2.99
Kyrgyzstan	114	2.99
Niger	116	2.79
Sierra Leone	117	2.76
Uzbekistan	118	2.69
Tajikistan	121	2.57
Pakistan	126	2.29
Iran	128	2.21
Mauritania	129	2.11
Lebanon	130	2.10
Guinea	131	2.07
Mali	132	1.93
Bangladesh	133	1.93

Turkmenistan	135	1.72
Nigeria	137	1.59
Iraq	142	1.06
Libya	144	0.98
Afghanistan	146	0.93
Chad	147	0.72
Sudan	148	0.67
Syria	151	0.50

4.4 Human and Political Rights Islamicity Index

Reversing the declining performance in 2019, the 151 studied countries around the globe along with Muslim countries performed better in 2020. The median HPR index grew by 4.3% and 7.4% for all and Muslim countries, respectively.

There is no Muslim country in upper HPR score quantile. Albania was the best performer among Muslim countries with the score of 6.25. Eighteen Muslim countries are in the bottom quartile, including upper and lower middle-income and low-income Islamic countries.

Table 10: Human and Political Rights Islamicity Index for Muslim Countries

Country	Rank	Score
Albania	50	6.25
Bosnia and Herzegovina	56	5.65
Malaysia	70	5.05
United Arab Emirates	77	4.66
Kazakhstan	78	4.63
Kuwait	79	4.59
Qatar	81	4.56
Lebanon	82	4.48
Tunisia	83	4.42
Indonesia	86	4.29

Kyrgyzstan	89	4.06
Oman	92	3.97
Bahrain	93	3.92
Senegal	94	3.89
Saudi Arabia	102	3.56
Azerbaijan	103	3.55
Turkey	104	3.54
Jordan	106	3.43
Uzbekistan	108	3.39
Iran	116	3.34
Sierra Leone	111	3.31
Algeria	112	3.31
Burkina Faso	115	3.06
Tajikistan	118	2.96
Morocco	119	2.94
Turkmenistan	120	2.93
Bangladesh	121	2.93
Iraq	128	2.53
Nigeria	129	2.51
Mali	132	2.44
Guinea	133	2.44
Niger	135	2.41
Libya	136	2.40
Egypt	138	2.26
Pakistan	139	2.15
Mauritania	144	1.79
Chad	147	1.31
Syria	149	1.18

Sudan	150	1.08
Afghanistan	151	0.84

4.5 International Relations Islamicity Index

Globally, in 2020, the 151 studied countries did worse in IR median score than in 2019, with a 2.5% change. Muslim-majority countries underperformed relative to the global performance with a decline of 8.9% in the IR median score. As in 2019, Sierra Leone earned the best score (8.28) among Muslim countries with the global rank of 8. Also, Libya was the best improver among Muslim countries with the change of 2,925% over the previous year. Twenty Muslim countries are in bottom quartile, including upper and lower middle income and low-income Islamic countries.

Table 11: International Relations Islamicity Index for Muslim Countries

Country	Rank	Score
Sierra Leone	8	8.28
Indonesia	20	7.45
Malaysia	24	7.22
Albania	36	6.59
Senegal	46	6.13
Tajikistan	54	5.76
Bangladesh	59	5.60
Turkmenistan	63	5.46
Bosnia and Herzegovina	65	5.43
Qatar	77	4.93
Nigeria	80	4.87
Kazakhstan	85	4.74
Guinea	92	4.60
United Arab Emirates	95	4.50
Burkina Faso	100	4.27
Niger	100	4.27

Libya	103	4.01
Kuwait	104	3.97
Kyrgyzstan	107	3.87
Tunisia	111	3.68
Uzbekistan	116	3.44
Morocco	123	3.11
Jordan	124	3.01
Oman	126	2.95
Mali	128	2.78
Chad	132	2.35
Mauritania	133	2.28
Sudan	134	1.99
Egypt	135	1.92
Afghanistan	138	1.85
Algeria	139	1.72
Iran	140	1.69
Azerbaijan	141	1.66
Bahrain	142	1.62
Pakistan	143	1.13
Saudi Arabia	144	1.13
Turkey	146	0.93
Lebanon	147	0.73
Iraq	148	0.66
Syria	151	0.07

6. Summary

The index results, for 2020, again shows non-Muslim countries performing the best, whereas Muslim majority countries are largely at the bottom of the list. The best performing countries are aligned with Islamic thoughts and established the most successful results in the world. The results

reveal how important institutions are to achieve prosperity in societies. The 2020 Islamicity indices again show New Zealand to be the country that best reflects Islamic teachings, values, and institutions in the world. Iceland, Sweden Netherlands, and Norway complete the top five list of countries that best follow the precepts of Islam as compared to Muslim-majority countries. Among Muslim countries, Malaysia and United Arab Emirates achieved the rank of 43 and 47 respectively. Eight (8) Muslim countries are among the fifteen (15) worst performers of overall Islamicity index. The last spots on the list are again occupied by Syria, Afghanistan, Sudan, and Chad, ranging from 151 to 147.

The results of indices reveal the vital role of institutions for prosperity and justice in societies. Common shortcomings across Muslim countries include a weak rule of law, pervasive culture of corruption, inconsistent and shortsighted economic policies, low social capital, injustice, absence of freedom, human and political rights violations, strife and armed conflicts are major components of country's poor development. On the other hand, the performance of successful countries across all indices is stable for a long time. The indices reveal that Muslim countries who profess Islam and the teachings of the Qur'an are not as Islamic in their practices as are many non-Muslim countries.

Looking across the board, justice, rule of law, freedom and equitable opportunity to pursue individual dreams are at the foundation of successful societies. In the case of Islam, justice and freedom are at its heart. However, most Muslim societies are burdened by injustice and oppression. The Islamicity Indices provide the moral instrument for a successful turnaround for each country, highlighting strengths and weaknesses, for establishing flourishing societies.