

Enhanced Islamic Well-Being Index (IWI 2.0 - 2021) for Muslim Countries

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The second (pre-Pandemic) assessment of the Islamic Well-Being Index of Muslim majority countries (IWI 2.0), first published by this author in 2013 (IWI 1.0), has been conducted using an improved, updated methodology, which reflects the essential *Maqasid al-Shari'ah* (Higher objectives of Islamic Law) as developed by Imam Abu Hamid Ghazali. The IWI provides practical insights for countries that aspire to move to a higher state. Leading countries in the *maqasid* fields could represent roles models for lagging countries. The method incorporates insights from discussions of leading Islamic scholars who developed a 'maqasid index of governance' for Muslim countries. Leading countries in IWI 2.0 are (first to third): Indonesia, Tunisia and Malaysia. Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim country and successful democracy, experienced an Islamic resurgence, reflected in its citizens' moderate values and practices. Countries showing greatest improvement in IWI rankings 2013-2021 are Turkey and Lebanon. Those that significantly worsened are Afghanistan, Nigeria, Chad and Iraq. The enhanced IWI article is expected to be published in the December 2021 edition of the *Islam and Civilisational Renewal* journal. IAIS Malaysia is providing the institutional platform and we plan to produce the Index annually.

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