



MAQASID INSTITUTE ANNUAL REPORT 2022

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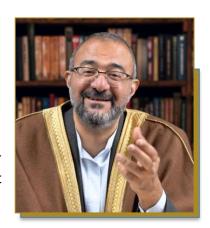
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Letter from Our President

In the Name of Allah.

By the blessings of Allah, 2022 has been a transformational year for the Institute. In this report, you will read about the milestones that we reached.



Institutionally, we have set the foundations for 3 of our programs to grow into 3 independent and specialized organizations: (1) MI Study of the Quran Program (MISQ), which completed 2 volumes of our 10-volume project of a Maqasid-based Quranic Exegesis; (2) Minhajuna, which is developing Maqasid-based research and educational programs for women and girls; and (3) MI Climate Compassion Program, which carries out research and education about environmental justice while aiming to reduce our carbon footprint through our Climate Compassion Pledge Project.

Educationally, we graduated our first cohort from the 3 graduate programs that we have developed over the past 5 years: (1) the first cohort of graduates from our Masters of Arts in Islamic Thought (MAIT) program at the International Peace College in South Africa - IPSA (and the third cohort of our Honours Programs at the same college); (2) the first cohort of our Online Postgraduate Certificate: Advanced Course in Maqasid Methodology; and (3) the launch of a one-year Certificate in Islamic Studies in Collaboration with Hayaa Network in Singapore.

Publication-wise, we launched the Journal of Contemporary Maqasid Studies (JCMS), published two issues in 2022, featuring original research articles, book reviews, dialogues, interviews, and translated articles, received from dozens of countries around the world. We also launched our long-awaiting E-Library Project, which so far features 5000 references on Maqasid Studies.

Research-wise, our Maqasid Research Network grew to include over 1000 members. Four specific research groups are working on formulating new research projects in the areas of: environment, artificial intelligence, economics, and education.

Organizationally, we had our first MI General Retreat, where all of our Board Members, Executives and Fellows were invited over a whole week to Istanbul, Turkiye. The outcome was a newly-found team spirit across the many countries of MI members, and several new projects of collaboration including the establishment of three new MI offices: Turkiye with an Endowed Fund (Waqf), India with national reach, and North America that covers activities in Canada and the USA.



I would like to thank each and every brother and sister who made all of this happen in one year, especially our MI Executive Team and staff, donor organizations and individuals, MI Fellows, researchers, activists and students everywhere. This report -and our website- offer more details.

Finally, our ambitions are much higher than the 25% increase in our raised funds and the 50% increase in our volunteer hours. We need your help in order to be able to continue our vision of valuing of divine guidance in human affairs by focalizing the Quran and the Sunnah of our beloved Prophet (s), and to achieve our goals: enable scholars in different disciplines to revive the Islamic thought via our new Magasid Methodology, apply the methodology to critical challenges and phenomena impacting our lives and the welfare of the planet, and continue to build an effective network of active Magasid-based research and educational institutions.

Peace be with you,

Jan A Al

Jasser Auda

About Us

Maqasid Institute (MI) is a global think tank that undertakes research and provides education about the maqasid of the Quran and Sunnah to demonstrate the purposefulness of all created matter, its connectivity, and the ways that humans are expected to interact in life systems. We believe that the knowledge in the Quran and Sunnah, revealed to help generations address global challenges, are the foundations of true knowledge, wisdom, justice, and mercy.

Vision

Valuing of divine guidance in human affairs by focalizing Revelation – Quran and Sunnah – in thought and practice.

Mission

We are working to achieve this through a three-fold mission that includes:

- (1) Providing the knowledge and tools that enable scholars in different disciplines to reconstruct thought in their area of specialization via a new *maqāsid* methodology.
- (2) Applying the methodology to critical challenges and phenomena impacting our lives and the welfare of the planet.
- (3) Facilitating the application of the *maqāsid* methodology in personal and community life through the expertise of *Maqāsid* Research Network (MRN) members.

Methodology

We have developed a holistic methodology involving five key steps through which the guidance of the Quran and Sunnah can be sought in diverse fields and for contemporary challenges. The steps include (1) defining purpose; (2) performing continuous cycles of reflection on the revelation; (3) developing composite frameworks; (4) undertaking critical research of secondary sources; and (5) proposing formative theories and principles upon which further research and practice can be built. This process serves not only to reveal the nature of connectivity, but also the best ways to maintain the balance and harmony inherent in life systems. The maqasid or objectives of revelational guidance manifest through a process of emergence that is premised on deep understandings of the seven key elements of the composite framework – concepts, objectives, values, commands, universal laws, groups, and proofs – that implicitly or explicitly shape our understandings and help re-envision research, education, and community.

Our senior scholars and researchers apply the maqasid methodology to critical challenges and phenomena impacting our lives and the welfare of the planet. This is translated into general and specific (context-based) educational programs. MI further facilitates the application of the maqāsid methodology in personal and community life through the expertise of Maqāsid Research Network (MRN) members.



Program Updates

MI has both global and local/regional operations. Our global work involves research and education that is intended to support our regional offices and/or is geared to a global audience. This year was especially momentous on the global front as we successfully developed two new programs that focus on women and the climate. At the same time, we delved deeper in the study of the Quran and Sunnah and incorporated this knowledge in our education and training programs.

We also witnessed the flourishing of several of our local/regional offices. This report highlights the notable achievements of our offices in North America, India, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Turkiye. While each office is administratively independent of the others and of MI's global operations, they all draw and build on MI's intellectual resources to bring our vision and mission to life in their respective local setting.

Global

MI Special Programs

MI Study of the Quran (MISQ)



Reading and understanding the Quran is an essential duty of every Muslim but one of the biggest problems that we face in today's scholarship in terms of reading and understanding the Quran is what we can call partialism or fragmentation. The Quran deals with knowledge in a holistic and integrated way that does not admit the divisions that have been imposed on it for various disciplinary demands. All kinds of phenomena are addressed in the Quran as a seamless whole.

If we analyze the Quran *methodologically,* we come to realize that it teaches through a certain logic of connectivity and incorporates within itself a method for studying its content and the universe to which it refers. Through this logic of connectivity, the Quran connects itself to itself and the universe, leading to an undeniable holism which characterises Allah's creation.

The goal of this project is therefore to produce a new tafsir of the Quran based on the Maqasid Methodology, publishing, translating, and teaching it. Thus far, two of ten volumes covering Surah Al-Fatihah, Al-Baqarah, Al-'Imran, and Al-Nisaa have been completed as well as a 30-



episode series which covered highlights from Surah Al-Bagarah, and a 6 episode series covering Surah Al-Imran.

Minhajuna

Women and girls are systematically discouraged from serious Islamic scholarship throughout their education and lives, limiting their knowledge, access, preparation, and opportunities to utilize and benefit from revelational teachings both in their lives and to contribute to communal and global challenges.

Minhajuna is working to change this.

We are at the forefront of research and education that helps women incorporate Quranic and Prophetic teachings in every aspect of their lives, clarifies misconceptions, and encourages purposeful, connected, and holistic thinking and action. Minhajuna, or Our Method in Arabic, formerly named the Advancement of Muslim Women Project, is a special project that capitalizes on our experience and a significant and growing global demand for research, education, and other forms of programming for women.



Minhajuna focuses on research and education excellence in magasid studies as they apply to the status and affairs of women. By serving the research and educational needs of Muslim women around the globe, Minhajuna hopes to fill a significant void in advancing the scholarly interests of women and in particular Muslim women. As the name suggests, our work is guided by the seminal methodology that MI has developed over many years. We are committed to taking a purposeful, connected, and holistic approach to studying Revelation - Quran and Sunnah - so that the research, education, and training we undertake address and strengthen women in the complex contexts within which they thrive.

Climate Compassion Program

MI's environmental work builds on important scholarship and a genuine concern. We have engaged in global discussions on the impact of climate change on global food security, given seminars on practical responses for environmental stewardship and co-published a book that promotes environmental awareness. Our researchers are focused on air, water, biodiversity, and forests among other issues. Through our efforts we have striven to demonstrate the teachings of



the Quran and Sunnah, and the immense rewards that Allah promises those who safeguard His creation.

As part of our efforts, we ventured into a competitive grant process with the Templeton Grant Foundation, which offers us important lessons moving forward. Though rigorous and time consuming, we intend to keep pursuing such possibilities in the future.



The crown of our achievements in 2022, however, has been the Climate Compassion Pledge that was presented at COP 27. In partnership with the Chicago Muslims Green Team (CGMT) the Pledge suggests a moral and Islamic example of what mosques can do to protect the environment. Nine provisions outline how each mosque can, to the greatest extent possible, change their behaviour while encouraging the same among others to demonstrate environmental compassion and help reduce our ummah's carbon footprint.

Education

Masters in Islamic Thought (MAIT)

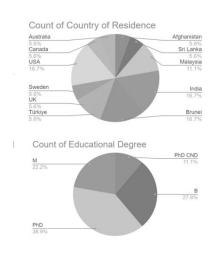
We are very pleased that the first cohort has successfully graduated from the MI-IPSA Masters in Islamic Thought (MAIT) which commenced in 2019. Notwithstanding the disruption caused by Covid 19 and the consequent lockdowns, five students managed to successfully complete all program requirements. Through a blended learning and teaching approach, MI provided the teaching staff for this program and saw the students through the thesis writing process.



Student research covered important and locally relevant topics including marriage, divorce, and mosque management. Several graduates are considering continuation of doctoral studies that apply the magasid methodology.



MOOC Postgraduate Certificate: Advanced Course in Magasid Methodology



Since the publication "Re-envisioning of Islamic Scholarship: Maqasid Methodology as a New Approach " in 2021, MI has held intensive courses in Arabic and English to intensify the discussion on the Maqasid Methodology as presented in the book. This year, MI embarked on a more ambitious plan by launching a Postgraduate Certificate through a massive online course (MOOC). Four advanced learning cohorts are expected to graduate from this program annually.

So far, two cohorts have been launched with the fall program running from September to December, and the winter program running from December to March. Each cohort includes about 35 students.

The course introduces the limitations of contemporary Islamic fiqh and guides researchers to formulate an Islamic approach to address questions and issues using an original and comprehensive understanding drawn from the Quran & Sunnah. The course has been very well received by participants from a broad array of backgrounds and interests.

Certificate in Islamic Studies in Collaboration with Hayaa Network, Singapore

As part of Minhajuna's global reach, MI has partnered with Hayaa Network in Singapore to offer a Certificate in Islamic Studies. This certificate is the inaugural offering of Maahaduna, or Our Institute. Maahaduna is designed to encourage women to learn from, with and for each other. It endeavours to generate multiple ways of knowing that allow older and younger women to connect and encourage healthy exchange intellectually, psychologically, emotionally & spiritually.



We have researched, designed and delivered the first module of this program with the remaining two to be offered in 2023. Taken together the three modules examine purposefulness, connectivity and holism in Revelation and reality. The program we have developed aims to take women from an introductory state of understanding the idea of maqasid all the way to an advanced state of having the capacity to piece their knowledge in a holistic view (tassawur) of faith and life.



Hadith and Seerah



The Sunnah, like the Quran, is at the heart of all of MI's activities and we aim to support all efforts that study any aspect of Prophet Muhammad's SAW life and mission through the maqasid methodology. MI has established an Academic Committee to develop a full-fledged maqasid approach to hadith science that has already attracted notable scholars.

This year we offered a powerful and a first of its kind course on a maqasidi approach to understanding the hadith and sunnah of the Prophet (SAW). We plan to roll this out as a MOOC in both Arabic and English in 2023.

We also contributed to an IIDR (UK) course on the Seerah of Prophet Muhammad (SAW) as part of their series on the *Pursuit of Greatness*. For our part, we examined and explained shepherding as a right of passage in the lives of all the prophets with an emphasis on what this divine decree taught the prophets and how we can benefit from it today.

Research

Research is a core activity for MI and almost all of its members are involved in research. Throughout the year we not only work on our own projects as individual scholars and practitioners, but even more important as part of research teams. This year we would like to highlight the achievement of the economics and finance research team.

With the leadership of our office in Indonesia, the economics and finance team was able to conduct a series of in-depth examinations of mainstream utility theory, conduct in depth discussions of the maqasid methodology from an economic and finance perspective and promote academic events to present maqasid-based economic thinking. Papers on waqf were presented at international conferences in Turkiye and Indonesia in partnership with MI.





Journal and Publications

The Journal of Contemporary Magasid Studies (JCMS) published two issues this year in January and July featuring several world-renowned scholars and researchers discussing theoretical and practical aspects of magasid. The issues contained several original research articles, book reviews, dialogues, and translations. Manuscripts were received from 57 countries based on the author's institutional affiliation. JCMS also interviews outstanding contemporary scholars and publishes the results.

E-Library

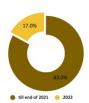


MI has developed a list of over 5000 references in the field of Magasid studies.

We have established a committee to continue updating these references with the latest contributions for the benefit of our scholars, researchers and site visitors.

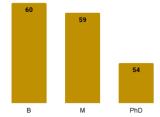
A digital library was launched in October of this year to facilitate user access as part of the magasid research ecosystem that MI is building.

Magasid Research Network

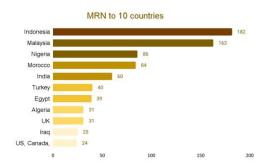


The MRN has been growing steadily. This year we gained 173 new members, which represent 17% of total membership. Part of this growth is due to the lectures and events that we undertook throughout the year.

It is interesting to note that many of these new additions have attained an undergraduate or bachelor's degree reversing an earlier trend that saw a higher proportion of PhDs.







Although our global distribution by nationality has not changed very much, the addition of Turkiye is notable and is likely due to our increased presence and activities in that locale during 2022 including our first ever MI Retreat.

Local and Regional Offices

This year saw the birth of three new MI offices including in North America, India, and Turkiye. Our flexible and streamlined approach to establishing new research and education centres is at the heart of MI's global expansion. Local/regional offices are often established at the request of scholars or organizations who seek to benefit from MI's intellectual resources including scholars, scholarship, and reputation. This, however, is not a one-way relationship. MI also benefits immensely from these initiatives by gaining access to scholars, scholarship, students, and settings for new activities. The cultural diversity which our offices around the world represent is integral to our values and enriches our understanding of the contextuality and connectivity of magasid studies.

North America

Although MI is registered in Virginia, USA, we had not until this year considered having a separate and specialized office for activities happening in or sourced from Canada and the USA. MINA was born to do just that. In one short year, this office has developed and managed the Climate Compassion Program and presented at COP27, presented on public policy in Islam at the Blavatnik School of Government, Oxford University, and organized a seminal lecture on Quran Computing and AI.





India



MI's India branch literally hit the ground running as they were officially inaugurated mid-year. During the following six months their office completed a translation of Re-envisioning Islamic Scholarship, thereby providing access to millions of Urdu speakers. They organized a seminal course with fourteen lectures on 'Coherence of Holy Quran' by esteemed scholar Dr. Mohammad Enayatullah Subhani, an international conference on maqasid in multi-religious societies, and a three-month online course on Islamic thought with a focus on methodologies and applications in collaboration with Muslim Students Organization of India.

Turkive



Our Turkiye operations made a decisive decision by adopting a waqf model for its establishment. This model has many advantages in the Turkish setting and will allow the office to be financially secure over time. In addition to organizing high level meetings for MI executives and seminars for our scholars, MI Turkiye was host to our first retreat. Through the hard work of its team, MI Turkiye has already established a credible reputation among its local

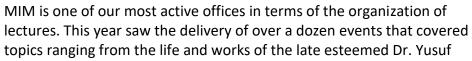
peers. This office is also working toward a translation of Re-envisioning Islamic Scholarship into Turkish as well as a summer school.

The Turkiye office has also been diligently considering the inauguration of a Centre for Phenomena Research (CPR). The goal of the CPR will be to advocate for a better world by empowering current and upcoming leaders in diverse fields with research and policy positions on global phenomena that are based on our MM.



Malaysia

MI Malaysia (MIM) was host to the first MRN meeting which brought together our lead scholars and members from around the world. In addition to paper presentations and a fruitful exchange of ideas, the meeting saw the development of a research agenda for continued cooperation among individuals and groups.



Al-Qaradawi, the preservation of faith in modern times, application of magasid methodology, wisdom of criminal punishments, and the impacts of climate change among others. Their plans for the coming year are no less ambitious.

Indonesia



This year saw MI Indonesia (MII) extending its reach with numerous events aimed at spreading awareness about magasid-based thinking. Like its Malaysian counterpart, MII is very active in the organization and delivery of lectures for local consumption. Through its consistent programs, MII has served to educate local participants about our methodology, Islamic banking, good governance, awqaf, religious courts, and the figh of dealings (muamalat). It has also benefited the region through important publications and translations of magasid scholarship.

They are currently re-organizing their work to reflect the interests of their members, so that specialized research groups can work together more effectively.



Financials

The 2022 budget (Table 1) experienced about 25% increase over the previous year with a combination of an increase in funding from the Barzinji Foundation as well as new sources of funding supporting MI's flagship programs like Minhajuna. MI also received substantial support in the form of discounts and services especially for its Istanbul Retreat from the Science and Culture Foundation and in the form of free books and shipping from Awakening Records. The budget does not capture the hundreds of volunteer hours supplied by the members of MI offices. These volunteer hours increased by about 50% over the previous year when it was valued at about \$100,000, so this year's value of these hours is about \$150,000.



The financial analysis provided for the inaugural MOOC course (table 2) deployed this year with great success also shows the challenge of recovering the cost of administering the course let alone initial cost of development. The cost of adding the planned seven extra courses in 2023 will be particularly challenging without extra funding or collaboration with other partners like Hayaa Network, Singapore.

In 2023, MI executives plan to build the efforts started this year to attract research grants, formally establish a waqf in Turkiye, continue to attract more funds from individuals with specific interest in MI's flagship projects, develop grass root support in the US with the help from MI's scholars and board members, and continue to share cost with partners among other efforts. The 2023 budget (Table 3) has two parts, a funded budget given depending on the current sources of support. This budget shows a modest increase over 2022. Table 4 shows a supplementary budget needed to accommodate MI's growth and urgent funding needs. Hiring a competent business development officer to sustain the drive to raise funds from various sources is deemed as both hard to find but also potentially highly rewarding.



Fundraising

The main fundraising and donor drive was conducted with the establishment of Minhajuna and resulted in raising \$26k. Other donations amounted to about \$30,000 including a generous contribution from a board member.

A trip to Doha, Qatar, early in the year did not result in any funding, however, it garnered support for MI activities and laid important groundwork for future efforts.

Course Fees

The inaugural Magasid Methodology MOOCS course was offered with a US\$25 administration fee. A scholarship waiving the fee was offered to all. The first course offering generated \$500 in fees (from 20 students). The cost of developing the course is about \$4000 labor (excluding lecturer's fee who waived it) and about \$500 in technology and subscription fees.

Table 1: 2022 Budget

Costs	Amount US\$	Revenues	Amount US\$
Recurring office expenses	11,500	Cash at hand	20,000
Staff salaries (includes proposed US\$22K for Business Dev. Manager)	210,000	Secured donations	180,000
Tafsir project - research support (proposed)	12,000	Board raised (provisional)	60,000
Travel	6,000	Small donations (provisional)	10,000
MI Annual Seminar	15,000	Research grant (provisional)	10,000
Maqasid Research Network	1,800		
JCMS	20,000		
Miscellaneous	3,500		
Total expense:	~280,000	Total income:	280,000



Table 2: MOOC Course Budget Analysis

Costs	Amount	Revenues	Amount
One Time Setup Cost			
Course Instructor & Materials	3,000		
MOODLE Platform & Technology	500	Course fees (\$25 a seat x 20 paying students)	500
Course design	1,000		
Video Editing	500		
Technical Support - Course Setup	1,000		
Total setup cost	6,000		
Operational Cost			
Course Technical Support	500		
Teaching Assistant	1,000		
Main Instructor - Course Discussion and final review	1,000		
LMS Manager	1,000		
Media & Advertising	300		
Miscellaneous	200		
Total operational cost	4,000		
Total Expenses	10,000	Total Revenue	500

A breakeven scenario: 50 paid students at \$100 = \$5,000 (including recovering initial cost over 6 courses)



Table 3: 2023 Budget

Costs	Amount US\$	Revenues	Amount US\$
Recurring office expenses	4,500	Cash at hand	0
Staff salaries	183,000	Secured donations	175,000
Advancement of Muslim Women	37,500	Advancement of Muslim Women	37,500
Quranic Studies (MISQ) - Tafsir Project	30,000	Quranic Studies (MISQ) - Tafsir Project	30,000
Travel	7,000	Research grant (provisional)	10,000
Maqasid Research Network	2,000		
JCMS	25,000	Board raised (provisional)	30,000
Miscellaneous	3,500	Small donations (provisional)	10,000
Total expense	292,500	Total income	292,500

Table 4: Proposed items (unfunded)

Costs	Amount US\$
Tafsir project - research support	50,000
MI Annual Seminar	20,000
Researcher A	20,000
Researcher B	20,000
Business Development	40,000
MOOCs Course Support	35,000
JCMS - Research Awards	5,000
Office support	10,000
Total	200,000



We have many exciting initiatives on the horizon for 2023. All our special projects including MISQ, Minhajuna and the Climate Compassion Project have formulated detailed plans to continue and expand on the solid foundation laid this year. The Quran tafsir will continue, Allah willing, with another volume and a monthly program. Minhajuna is developing several new courses, a weekly blog, and a ladies intellectual café. The Climate Compassion Project will continue to advocate for a cleaner and greener community through partnerships with pro-environment organizations. Our Hadith Studies Program will offer a MOOC and we are designing a full program in Seerah.

Our research groups are intensifying efforts to attract committed members, disseminate the MM, increase publications, and seek diverse grant sources. MI will support these efforts by developing a policy for membership, participation, and incentives for research groups. We will also work to integrate the work of these groups more efficiently across MI and its offices and leverage their expertise in our educational offerings.

Our local/regional offices have each formulated their detailed plans for the coming year. Common to these plans are the continued organization of local lectures, specialized and general courses, translation, journal contributions and fundraising. MI Turkiye will continue its search for a suitable physical premises to house its activities and further its identity locally and globally.

The Journal of Contemporary Maqasid Studies has plans to try to generate revenues through subscriptions, printing, and sales. It hopes to attract more competitive contributors, and researchers by improving its marketing strategy, extending the scope of invitations to all kinds of papers within the journal's scope and amplifying its visibility. Two new issues are planned for 2023.



Gratitude



{عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه عن النبي صلى الله عليه } وسلم قال: «مَنْ لمْ يشْكُر النَّاسَ لَمْ يشْكُر الله} Prophet Muhammad (SAW) had stated that "He who does not thank people, does not thank Allah."



There is no way that MI could achieve what it has without the generous support of all those involved in its mission. Our staff has shown outstanding initiative during the past year. We are strong today because of their drive and motivation. We know that every staff member goes beyond the call of duty to make MI initiatives happen and we ask Allah to reward you infinitely where we have fallen short.

Even more, we cannot adequately thank those who volunteer their time to support our work. Volunteers are truly a unique blessing. These individuals teach us all to go the extra mile especially in challenging times. We would not be here today without their unyielding support and contributions. Although we calculated the value of volunteer hours in dollars above, this is indeed an inappropriate measure of your value to us. We know that there is no price tag for your generosity.

To our donors, your generosity brings this all together. Your support helps us to undertake research, design and deliver programs, form partnerships and grow at a steady pace. Whether as a one-time or recurring gift, every dollar has made a difference to our work. We gratefully look forward to your continued support for years to come.

From all of us at MI - THANK YOU!

Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Together we can make the dream of Islamic renewal a reality.



Donation Portal & Wire Transfer

Contact

Dr. Zaid Barzinji, Executive Director of Magasid Institute zbarzinji@magasid.org +1 801-414-4017 (Whatsapp number)

Paypal

paypal.me/magasid

Money wiring information

Business name: The Magasid Institute

Business address: 597 Summit Oaks Ct, Nashville, TN 37221, USA

Business phone number: +1 801 414-4017

Bank name: Bank of America

Business checking account number: 435041196483 Bank routing number for money wires: 026009593

Bank SWIFT Code: BOFAUS3N

Bank Wire address: 222 Broadway, New York, NY 10038, USA

Write your check to

The Magasid Institute 597 Summit Oaks Ct. Nashville, TN 37221

May Allah SWT bless YOU!

