



**PALM STRATEGIC
Initiatives Centre**

**The Annual Strategic Report□
Regional Powers Balance and the
Strategic Strengths and Weaknesses
Based on the International Indices of
2021 and the Political Variables□**



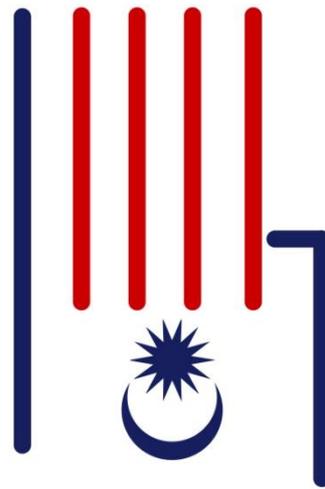
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Annual Strategic Report

(2021 – 2022)

Introduction (1)

- The year 2021 was no better than the previous years for the Arab World. The region is still in the center of the hurricane, living amid a state of turmoil. Instability has aggravated due to the social and economic pressures that resulted from the political instability, peoples' movement, and the implications of the coronavirus pandemic; all building on existing political factors and problems. All this is expected to extend to the year 2022, with higher chances of societal explosion in the region due to the social and economic outcomes of the War between Russia and Ukraine in the east of Europe, added to the political accumulations that have formed throughout the past decades.
- The negative outcomes of the coronavirus pandemic spread to cover all life aspects, affecting not only the social and psychological aspects, but also the economic ones including labor, services, and international trade. It has also influenced the density of movement and transport at the global level. Although the pandemic was planet-wide, the outcomes were graver in fragile countries that had already suffered from deficiencies in their health and economic sectors and funding capacities. Most of the regional countries subject to this study fall under this category.
- The war launched by Russia against the Ukraine in February 2022 has also had its impact on the international political and economic scene, and this impact will increase, if the war is to continue for months, which is becoming more likely.
- Considering the intertwined economic and security interests between Russia and the Arab region, the reflections of the war will be more

severe on the region than on other regions or countries, even the rest of Europe that neighbor the conflict geographically. More than 50% of Ukraine's exports of wheat in 2020 was imported by the Middle East and North Africa. In 2021, the Ukrainian wheat formed about 50% of Lebanon's imports, 43% of Libya's imports, and 22% of Yemen's imports of wheat. Egypt is the biggest importer of wheat in the world, with a large portion of its imports coming from Russia and Ukraine. In the fiscal year 2020–2021, Egypt imported 12.5 million tons of wheat, about 85% of which were from Russia and Ukraine.

- In addition, the tourism sector will be negatively affected, especially in Egypt and the UAE. For instance, 374 thousand Russian tourists visited the Emirate of Dubai in 2021. In 2014, three million Russian tourists visited Egypt, bringing in a financial revenue of about 2.5 Billion Dollars.
- Unfortunately for most regional countries, the vital sectors upon which they rely; including tourism, energy in non–oil producing countries, foreign trade, and investments; will be directly affected by the war in the east of Europe.
- Since all countries under study already suffer from structural economic defects, the recent war will add to their existing burdens, which would inevitably reflect in increased prices of the basic foodstuffs; aggravated poverty, unemployment, and inflation; and increased social security costs as direct consequences. Indirect long–term consequences include increased debts, businesses' bankruptcy, and deterioration of healthcare and education.
- Therefore, the negative economic and social outcomes are expected to extend to this year due to the war in the east of Europe, the political instability, and the coronavirus aftermath. All this may provide an

atmosphere for disturbances with an economic/social cover and a political essence in Egypt, Jordan, Algeria, Sudan, and Lebanon.

- Iran is getting ready to collect the benefits of going back to the Nuclear Deal of 2015 including the release of billions of dollars seized in the western banks and the permission to export the Iranian oil, the daily production of which is expected to rise to half a million barrels after two months of executing the agreement and to 2.5 million barrels by the end of the year. On the other hand, Turkey is expected to suffer from the consequences of war in the east of Europe, especially in the tourism sector, as about 4.7 million Russian tourists and 2.06 million Ukrainian tourists visited Turkey in 2021.

Introduction (2)

- Annually published international standards are one of the main objective tools that provide numerical data about the various countries and reflect the economic, developmental, social, demographic, and spiritual conditions. The standards are published by specialized organizations that cover certain sectors such as health, education, infrastructure, and economy. Some organizations are international, while others are private companies that provide consultations to serve the investors sector, the multi-nationality companies, or any interested body of any kind. Experience shows that the majority of indicators match the known scientific standards within an honest and transparent methodology. Despite the difficulty to give fully-accurate indicators, these organizations seek maximum applicable accuracy to minimize the error margin. Although these efforts are only recent, the issued data and results have expanded to keep up with the contemporary information revolution.
- These indicators are important because they provide a comprehensive picture of a certain country's condition, and present meaningful impressions upon which future scenarios can be deduced and predictions can be made for few years to come. The regional countries of the Middle East live in almost complete liquidity amid complicated conditions that make objective predictions a difficult task. However, the international indicators provide useful tools to evaluate the various aspects of the capacities and capabilities of the regional countries in a way that helps draw a comprehensive picture not only for today but for tomorrow as well.
- The actor countries in the region are Egypt, Turkey, Iran, the Zionist entity, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the Emirates, Algeria, Sudan, and Morocco; though with varying degrees of influence. Therefore, this paper aims to analyze and compare the strengths and weaknesses of these countries.

- The annual report does not only aim to describe and analyze the apparent and implied powers of the weighted regional countries in 2021. It also helps provide a perceptive view of 2022 in terms of the stability of conditions in countries under study; the chances of political and social disturbances; and the possibility to exploit available opportunities to promote the self, economic, scientific, and industrial power compounds as well as the individuals' skills to achieve institutional development and transparency.
- The report relies on strong independent annual indicators and standards that ensure accuracy and objectivity as systematic scientific tools that work to represent the reality with the smallest error margin. These standards are capable of drawing some features of the future by reading today's facts. Among the main international indicators upon which the study relies are the Global Competitiveness Index, the Corruption Perception Index, the Legatum Prosperity Index, the Global Innovation Index, Human Development Index, and the Networked Readiness Index.□

Executive Summary (2022 Vision)

- A quick view of the data from the indices included in the study shows that Egypt, Iran, Sudan, Algeria, Jordan and to a lesser extent Saudi Arabia and Morocco face deformities in their economic, industrial, and institutional structures and live in spreading tyranny and corruption and in absence of transparency or effective laws.
- Sudan and Egypt, followed by Algeria and Jordan (as well as Mauritania and Morocco) are worst in terms of unemployment, poverty, and inflation rates with the least annual income per capita. All these factors are further aggravated by the Coronavirus pandemic.
- Sudan, Egypt and Algeria show significant deterioration in the health, educational, and social services, even at the global level.
- Sudan, Egypt, Algeria, Iran, and –to a lesser extent– Jordan suffer from unstable business and economic atmospheres that are incapable of attracting the investments that are crucial to achieving good growth rates.
- Internal piece varies from extremely weak in Morocco, Sudan, Egypt, Israel, and Turkey to weak in Saudi Arabia and Iran.
- Some countries, such as Mauritania, are not listed in the study due to the scarcity or inaccuracy of their data, but they exhibit factors of weakness and exhaustion.
- There is a legitimacy crisis; expressed in the absence of freedoms, dominance, governmental corruption, wastage, and sacrifice of country resources for external powers in most of the countries under study.
- Traditional, technological, and production (from natural, agricultural, and animal resources) infrastructure for industry is absent in Sudan, Egypt, Algeria, and Iran.
- Internal pressure factors and social explosion elements; such as poverty, unemployment, inflation, per-capita income, political

suffocation, hopelessness and corruption; all indicate the possibility of explosion in the regional conditions in general.

- Examining all the study indices shows that the factors of social and political explosion in 2022, in addition to the aftermath of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the coronavirus pandemic, are all present to a strong degree in Egypt, Iran, Sudan, Jordan, and Tunisia and to a medium degree in Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and even Algeria which is still living in an unstable transitional state. This means that these countries are prone to internal disturbances either as a spontaneous reaction to a certain event or as a result of spreading disturbances from neighboring countries.
- There are invisible power factors that are difficult to measure with known traditional methods, but are crucial to determine the country's strength and immunity. These include the governing regime; its will and determination to achieve its purposes, its connection to regional and international powers, its people's spirit, and its ability to survive.

Comparison and Conclusions

- Despite the coronavirus implications and the intentional sabotage attempts, the country with the strongest economy among all nine countries is Turkey. Following are Saudi Arabia, Israel, and the United Emirates, according to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and taking into account the population differences. Economic growth is expected to be limited in all countries under study due to the war in the East of Europe and the coronavirus implications, except in Turkey, whose economy is expected to grow by at least 5% by the end of 2022. It is also noted that the economies of both Turkey and Israel depend on manufacturing capacities, exportation, and product quality, especially in technology. However, the economies of Saudi Arabia and the Emirates rely, as they still will in the few coming years, on oil, gas, and petrochemical industries; all of which rely on oil production.
- All study indices lead to a clear conclusion that the Egyptian state is degrading at all levels, not only when compared with the other eight regional countries, but also among all countries across the world. The order of Egypt has fallen back in all indices except that of military power.
- Iran comes next to Egypt in terms of deterioration of conditions. The size of its economy is about half of that of Turkey, and is not that far from that of the United Arab Emirates, whose total population is about 9.9 million people. Iran was also lowly ranked on the Legatum Prosperity Index, the Rule of Law Index, world peace, and misery. On the other hand, Iran achieved a relatively good rank in the outcomes of knowledge, technology, education, and scientific research and got acceptable score in human development.
- Egypt and Iran witnessed degradation in the domestic product, the ability to innovate, and human development with aggravation in economic misery. All this is related to deterioration in other indices such as corruption, institutionalism, social security, health care sector, service sector, and attention to the environment and natural resources. There is

also deterioration in market development and in the environment that could incubate businesses and investments.

- There is a significant increase in unemployment in Egypt, Iran, and Jordan; and in inflation in Egypt and Iran. There is also a decline in personal freedom and governance in the Prosperity Index, institutionalism in the Innovation Index, and corruption in the Corruption Perception Index. All this makes these three countries prone to social disturbances that would arise from life pressures and the inability of the poor and medium groups to meet their basic needs.
- Among the fields in which Israel distinguished were education, scientific research, and technological production; thus improving its domestic product, economic power, and GDP per capita. Israel was in the leading ranks at the global levels.
- **Despite the importance of the data provided by the international indices on the power of the economy and institutions, the military, health, education, electronic production, imports, and exports; there are other –possibly essential– factors for understanding the country that are not described directly by these indices. Sometimes, hidden power elements are difficult to turn into readable numbers and data that give direct conclusions. These elements include:**

1. The Legitimacy of the Regime

- There are no clear direct indices that address the legitimacy of the governing regime or the people's support of the regime's internal and external policies. Therefore, the legitimacy of the Turkish regime is incomparable to that of the Egyptian regime, which lost any legitimacy throughout the past few years. While the royal regimes in Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, and Jordan have limited legitimacy, the Iranian regime –and despite the opposition of the reform current– enjoys relative legitimacy that is based to the long list of external achievement. In Israel, on the other hand, the

political regime represents the views and orientations of the Israeli people, who democratically assign it.

2. Power of the Regime

- The regime power does not necessarily arise from it being democratically elected, it is sometimes based on its independence from the great powers, its adoption of policies that serve the interests of the country and its people, its abidance by the requirements of national security, and its will and patience to achieve the priorities and retain the achievements. Iran and Turkey (and to a lesser extent Israel) are characterized by strong political regimes. For instance, although Iran sought the Russian support in Syria and the American support in Iraq, it still enjoys independency when it comes to achieving its interests. It stood up against the USA when it had to. In addition, Turkey upset both Russia and the USA at certain points to achieve its interests, maintain its national security, and defend its economic achievements and people's prosperity.

3. Willingness to Use Hard Power and Make Sacrifices

- Iran's regime has shown commitment to its external strategic priorities and willingness to employ force and make sacrifices. For instance, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, and its external-affairs branch Quds Force, has made military achievements in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, and Afghanistan more than other countries have with their armies and weapons. In order for Turkey to face the dangers that threatened its national security, it entered low-level wars and made some sacrifices. Israel, on the other hand, is very sensitive to making human sacrifice, despite its massive military force. It prefers to launch its wars from above so as to make military achievements in little time.

- Since the Justice and Development Party took over in Turkey in 2021, it has adopted the zero-problem policy and employed soft force tools. However, the Maritime Deal with the Libyan Government of National Accord (GNA) and Operation Olive Branch in 2019 in addition to saving the Libyan GNA from falling and providing military support to Azerbaijan in its war against Armenia make Turkey one of the powers that are willing to employ hard force to maintain its national security.

Main Scenarios and Explosion Foci Expected for 2022

First: Iran

- Iran is looking forward to the lifting of American sanctions and the return to the Nuclear Agreement by the second or third quarter of 2022. The deal includes returning to the 2015–Agreement with minor modifications. Iran may turn to limited escalation against the trade interests or any US interests in the Gulf waters, Syria or Yemen in order to make other regional achievements. This is probably because Iran estimates that Biden's Administration has no interest in escalation and has no plans for getting involved in new wars.
- Iran considers its regional influence, especially in Iraq and Syria, as a redline. Therefore, it will not give in to the Israeli military pressures to exit Syria, nor will it allow any recess in its influence in Iraq and Lebanon.
- Internally, the disastrous economic conditions that have resulted from the sanctions, the spreading corruption, and the coronavirus implications are expected to be alleviated with the gradual lifting of the American sanctions, the regression of coronavirus spread, the resumption of regular oil exportation, and the gradual return of international investment and businesses. All this may mitigate the internal explosion factors that have almost threatened the survival of the regime in the past three years.

Second: Egypt

- Egypt has suffered from several problems including high rates of poverty and unemployment as well as inflation. More than 60 million Egyptians are either poor or under the poverty line. The crisis is even worsened by the implications of the war in the east of Europe and the implications of the coronavirus pandemic, all causing the regime to pressure the people to compensate for the economic losses.

- The Egyptian regime may face enormous challenges due to the impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine on the already strangulated Egyptian economy. Egypt will be among the most affected countries by the recent war due to the expected decline in tourism from Russia and Ukraine to the red sea, the rise in basic foodstuffs' prices, and the rise in oil product prices which receive the support of the Egyptian government. This will reflect on the majority of the Egyptian people, of which 60% suffer from poverty and 30% from unemployment.
- On the other hand, it seems that the Egyptian people is waiting for a chance to declare a revolution on the streets, despite the security restraints. Therefore, it is quite possible to witness a spontaneous event or a group call by any opposition current to go out to the streets and start a new revolution this year. however, the consequences are difficult to predict; perhaps military intervention, a new transitional period, or a bloody revolutionary change that would last for years.

Third: Jordan

- **Jordan is affected by several factors of instability:**
 - The economic crisis and the rise in poverty and unemployment, due to the decline in foreign support including the scarcity of Gulf aids, the implications of the coronavirus pandemic, and other possible consequences of the war in the east of Europe.
 - The rise in national spirit as the country's relationship with the Zionist entity has deteriorated for several reasons, and as a large proportion of the Jordanian people has developed a desire to have an influence on the regional surroundings.
 - The actions of the Zionist entity's extremist right wing regarding the Palestinian cause in general, and Al-Quds and the West Bank in particular.
- Zionist attacks against Masjid Al-Aqsa, a war on the Gaza Strip with a large number of martyrs, or a popular revolution in Egypt may incite the Jordanian people to call for standing up against the Zionist entity,

demand the change into a constitutional kingdom, and ask for more democracy and freedom. Nevertheless, bloodshed and long conflicts are unlikely, due to the tribal nature of the Jordanian people. The royal institution will probably respond to limited political demands.

Fourth: the State of the Zionist Entity

- The strategic environment surrounding the Entity may have improved during the last year, due to the recent normalization trend and the formal relationship agreements with the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco and the security and economic prospects resulting from the relationship with the UAE. However, the current strategic environment remains the riskiest since the establishment of the Entity's state. The risk factors that will extend to this year as well are at two levels:

First Level: Direct Risks

- Direct dangers include the possibility of confrontation at the northern borders in Lebanon, either in the context of the escalation on the Syrian lands, or due to unplanned field events that lead to a grand confrontation with Hezbollah. Such confrontation may extend to the occupied Golan lands and may witness mobilization of the Revolutionary–Guard popular groups spreading in Syria.
- Explosion on the Gaza front, despite the lack of desire of both the Entity and the resistance sects of such escalation. However, an unexpected field event, a military act by an uncontrolled group from the resistance, or a vicious attack against Masjid Al–Aqsa may lead to confrontations. If such confrontation does occur, it will be comprehensive and brutal. It may lead to a series of unpredictable regional consequences that will not serve the interests of the Zionist Entity.
- The third danger is a comprehensive change in the conditions of the West Bank, leading to armed confrontation, especially that there are dozens of armed Palestinians on the run in Jenin, Balata, Al–Am'ary,

and Nablus. Such clashes may result from any surprising event at Masjid Al-Aqsa or Al-Quds city or from assaults by settlers or the Zionist army with death of martyrs.

- The fourth danger may arise from a region that was taken for granted by the Zionists in the past years; the occupied lands of 1948. Palestinians in this region showed unprecedented reactions to the Zionist political and military institution during Al-Quds Sword battle in May 2021. Explosion on this front may be sparked by a war against Gaza, a popular or armed intifada in the West Bank, or a grave event at Masjid Al-Aqsa.

Second Level: Indirect Dangers

- The first danger is a confrontation with Iran through its missile Arsenal in Iraq. This scenario is unlikely, but still possible because Iran usually fights for its allies.
- The second indirect danger is a change in the neighboring regimes in another revolutionary wave if things do not settle or if chaos is spread. This might form a true danger to the Zionist entity.

Fifth: Turkey

- Turkey has been in the center of a regional and an international hurricane for the past few years, due to its insistence to defend its status and regional interests and to reinforce its internal strengths. This was faced by western and Arab strive to undermine its role, including the failing coup attempt that aimed to overthrow Erdogan and the Turkish regime. Pressures may increase on the Turkish lira, which lost much of its value during the last year due to the intense situation in the east of Europe after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, especially that the tourism season that was about to recover after the coronavirus pandemic dropped again.
- The Turkish policy enjoys sufficient flexibility and pragmatism to improve its relationship –though in various degrees– with the Zionist entity and perhaps with the Egyptian and Saudi regimes. It also makes

use of the European contradictions to improve the coalition of the governing party in the elections of 2023, which is considered decisive by the Turkish Justice and Development Party.

- Regionally, the regime may, with Russian support, move to control the region to the south of the M4 road, which includes the strategic Jabal Zawiya. However, a military operation is unlikely against Idlib governorate and the surrounding regions that are under the opposition's control. In Libya, Haftar would not dare repeat his attempt to conquer Tripoli and clash with the Turkish forces.

Sixth: UAE and Saudi Arabia

- The year 2021 was the final stage of the Saudi–Emirati regional thrush that was covered by the US Former President, Donald Trump. Perhaps the clearest manifestation of the end of that era was reconciling with Qatar and refraining from intervention in Libya.
- Therefore, it is expected that the war in Yemen come to an end, with a ceasefire and a negotiation operation to divide the power between the Houthis and Hadi's government. It seems that the peak of Emirati regional interferences and dreams of an extended empire has begun to end. The Emirati presence in Yemen has declined and the Emirati tools were unable to make changes to serve its interests in Tunisia or Algeria. Although it made partial achievements in Sudan, its project against the Libyan revolutionary forces failed. The Emirates is expected to further deepen its relationship with Israel, especially in security and economic aspects. Perhaps it will even mitigate its declared hostility towards Turkey, but maintain it against "political Islam". As for Saudi Arabia, it is still busy improving its image before the world, withdrawing

from the Yemen crisis and worrying about the increase of the Iranian power.

- One of the expected scenarios under the current democratic administration includes taking normalization steps with Israel and improving the relationships with Turkey. Although both the UAE and Saudi Arabia continue to support counter-revolution, their role has witnessed a significant decline. More decline is expected in 2022 in addition to decline in their influence on regional developments to serve their internal interests.

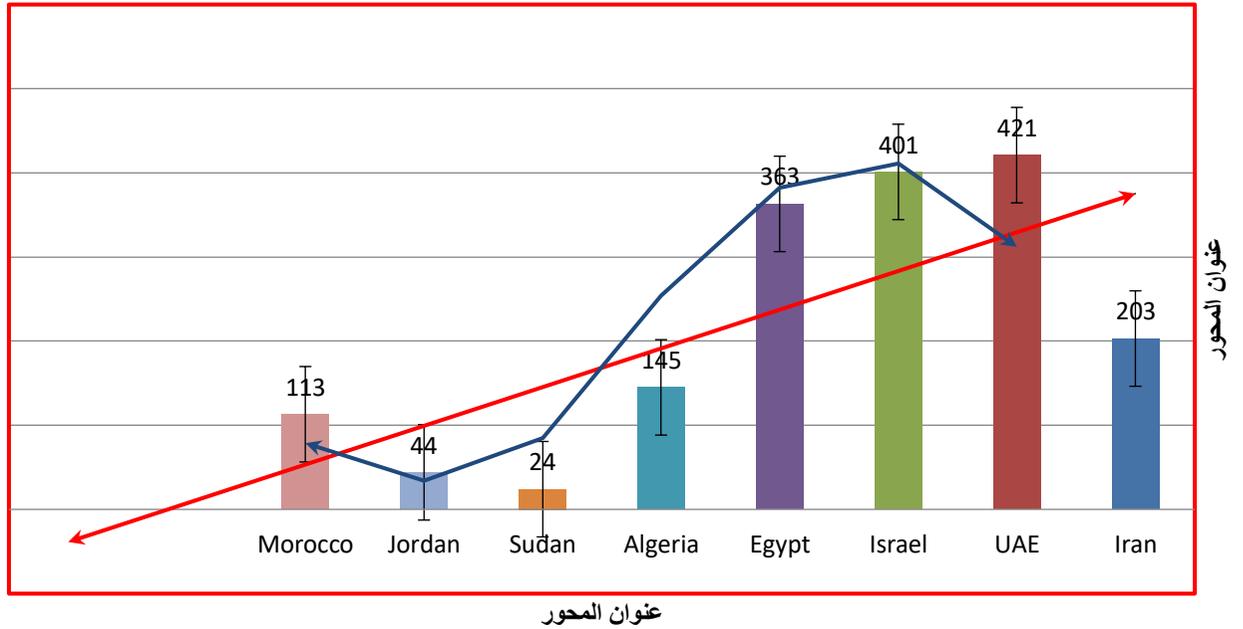
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One: Primary Information

Population – Gross Domestic Product – GDP Growth Rate – GDP per capita

No.	Country	Population (million – 2022)	Area (km) ²	GDP – (\$ billion) ۲۰۲۱	Unemployment	GDP Growth Rate	GDP per capita (1,000\$)
1.	Turkey	۸۳.۶۰	۷۸۳.۵۶۲	720	%11.2	% 1.5	12.0
2.	Saudi Arabia	۳۵.۸۴	۲.۲۴۰.۰۰۰	۷۰۰	%۶.۶	%۱.۶	۱۸.۷
3.	Iran	۸۴.۰۰	۱.۶۴۸.۰۰۰	۲۰۳	%۸.۹	%۱۷.۰ –	۴.۸
4.	The Emirates	۱۰.۰۸	۸۳.۶۰۰	۴۲۱	%۵.۰	%۶.۱ –	۴۳.۴
5.	Israel	۹.۳۰	۲۶.۸۰۵	۴۰۱	%۳.۹	%۳.۹	۳۶.۵
6.	Egypt	۱۰۶.۱۵	۱.۰۰۲.۰۰۰	۳۶۳	%۱۰.۵	%۸.۳	۳.۵
7.	Algeria	۴۵.۳۵	۲.۳۸۱.۷۴۱	۱۴۵	%۱۲.۵	%۳.۴	۳.۸
8.	Sudan	۴۵.۹۹	۱.۸۸۶.۰۶۸	۲۴	%۲۴	%8.4 –	1.9
9.	Jordan	۱۰.۳۰	۹۲.۳۰۰	۴۴	%۱۸.۵	%۲.۶	۴.۱
10.	Morocco	۳۷.۷۷	۴۴۶.۵۵۰	۱۱۳	%۱۲.۳	%۷.۸	۳.۱

Gross Domestic Product (\$Billion) - ٢٠٢١



- The previous table shows that the size of the Turkish economy is largest among the nine countries in terms of domestic product. The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) reached 720 billion dollars in 2021; a much higher number than that of Egypt (363 billion dollars), although the latter has higher population, and that of Iran (421 billion dollars). Turkey's economic growth was 1.5%. While Turkey and Israel rely on the sectors of industry, technology, and exportation to back their economies, Saudi Arabia and Iran rely on oil and gas, which contribute to more than 70% of the two countries' GDPs.
- Egypt and Sudan had the lowest GDP per capita in 2021 (with 3.5 thousand dollars and 1.9 thousand dollars, respectively). Jordan was not far with its GDP per capita, which was only about 4.1 thousand dollars.
- The table shows the size of economic pressures on the citizen, and the size of overall indebtedness of the country. For instance, the economy in Sudan, Iran, Egypt and Turkey suffers from high inflation levels compared with other economies; indicating low purchase values and high prices. Unemployment rates exceeded 10% in Iran, Egypt, Sudan, Algeria, Turkey, and Jordan; reflecting relative spread of poverty. Despite the significant difference in income levels among Iran, Egypt, Sudan, Algeria, and Jordan; the GDP per capita does not exceed \$10,000 in any of them.

Two: Summary of Countries' Powers

Result (Internal Explosion Factors)	Regime Strength	Regime Legitimacy	Regime Corruption	Technology and Innovation	Life Level	Health and Education	Poverty and Unemployment	Economy	Country	No.
Low	Weak	Very Good	High	Excellent	High	Very Good	High	Very Good	Israel	.١
Very Low	Firm	Bad	Very High	Excellent	High	Very Good	High	Very Good	UAE	.٢
Low	Firm	Bad	Very High	Very Good	High	Good	High	Very Good	KSA	.٣
Very Low	Firm	Very Good	Low	Very Good	Good	Very Good	High	Good	Turkey	.٤
High	Firm	Accepted	High	Good	Accepted	Good	High	Accepted	Jordan	.٥

High	Very Firm	Bad	Very High	Accepted	Bad	Bad	Very High	Bad	Iran	.٦
High	Weak	Bad	High	Accepted	Bad	Accepted	High	Bad	Algeria	.٧
Very High	Very Firm	Very Bad	Very High	Very Bad	Very Bad	Very Bad	Very High	Very Bad	Egypt	.٨
High	Firm	Accepted	High	Accepted	Good	Good	High	Accepted	Morocco	.٩
Very High	Weak	Bad	Very High	Accepted	Very Bad	Very Bad	Very High	Very Bad	Sudan	.١٠

Three: The Legatum Prosperity Index (2021)□

The Legatum Prosperity Index is one of the meaningful indices when reading the country's economic, health, educational, institutional, and environmental conditions as well as the two important dimensions of national security and individual safety. The index is published by the Legatum Institute in London and is based on nine sub-indices: economic quality (economic openness, financial sector success, total economy...), business environment, governance, health, education, national security and personal freedom, social capital, and natural environment.

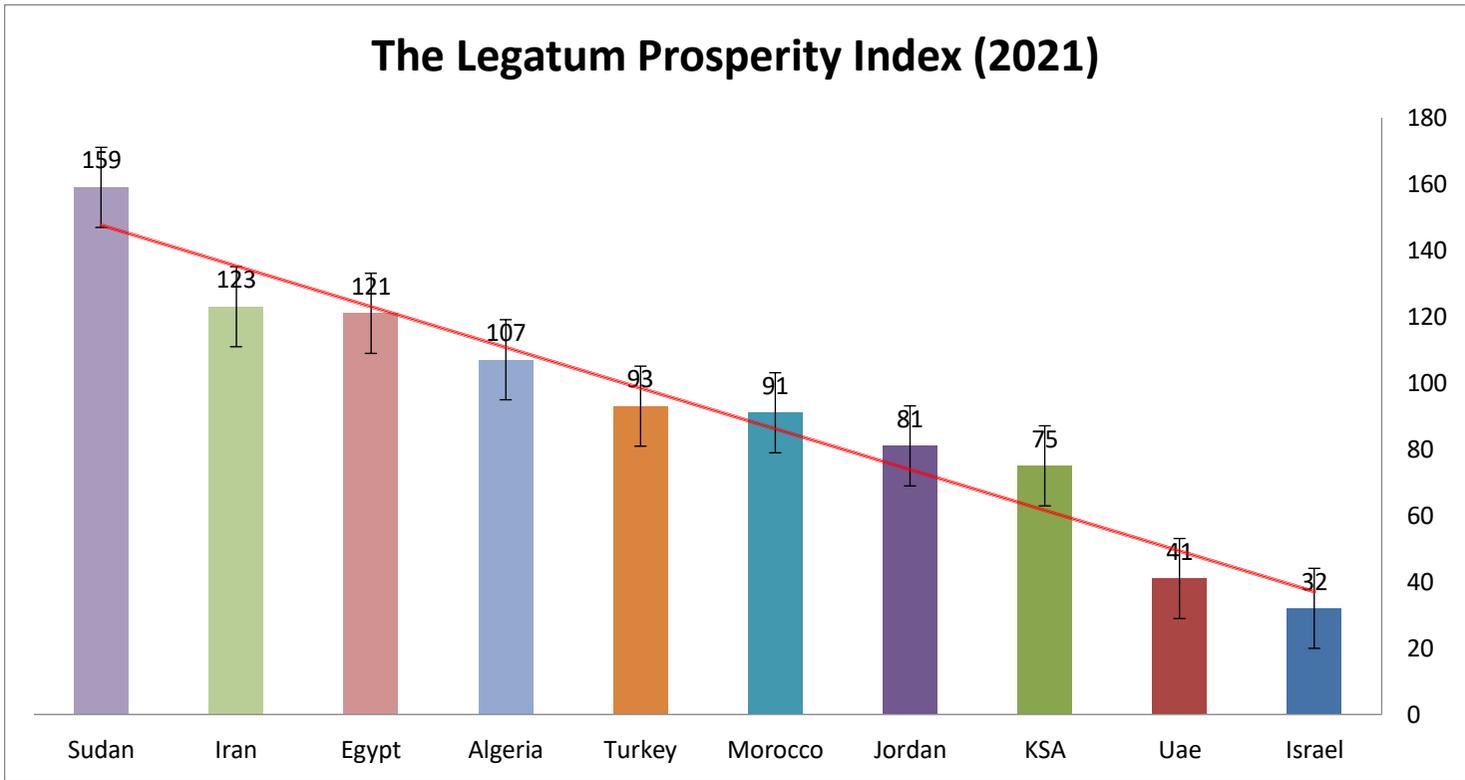
- Sudan, Egypt, Iran, and Algeria ranked 100 or more among countries according to the Prosperity Index; ranging from bad to very bad.
- Sudan had the lowest prosperity value among the nine countries under study; followed by Iran, Egypt, Algeria, Turkey, and then Morocco. The country with the highest prosperity value was Israel followed by the UAE, with values much higher than those of the former countries. Jordan and Saudi Arabia achieved intermediate values.
- The performances of Egypt, Sudan, and Iran were very poor in all sub-indices, while that of Morocco was less poor.

Legatum Prosperity Index (2021) □

The Index ranks 167 countries from strongest (no. 1) to weakest (no. 167)

No.	Country	Total Index	Sub-Indices								
			Economy Quality	Life Conditions	Governance	Personal Freedom	National Security and Individual Safety	Social Capital	Education	Health	Natural Environment
1.	Israel	32	23	22	20	56	111	49	29	6	104
2.	UAE	41	21	43	43	145	49	29	45	36	116
3.	KSA	75	38	96	96	163	108	43	63	64	145
4.	Jordan	81	45	59	78	121	77	123	96	77	149
5.	Morocco	91	73	92	85	116	85	160	88	110	126
6.	Turkey	93	57	57	127	154	147	140	78	58	91
7.	Algeria	107	132	74	114	136	58	127	84	81	150
8.	Egypt	121	71	91	142	161	149	141	104	109	153
9.	Iran	123	152	75	145	165	131	89	75	61	156
10.	Sudan	159	141	134	160	157	160	148	148	123	161

The Legatum Prosperity Index (2021)



Four:International Corruption Perception Index (2021)

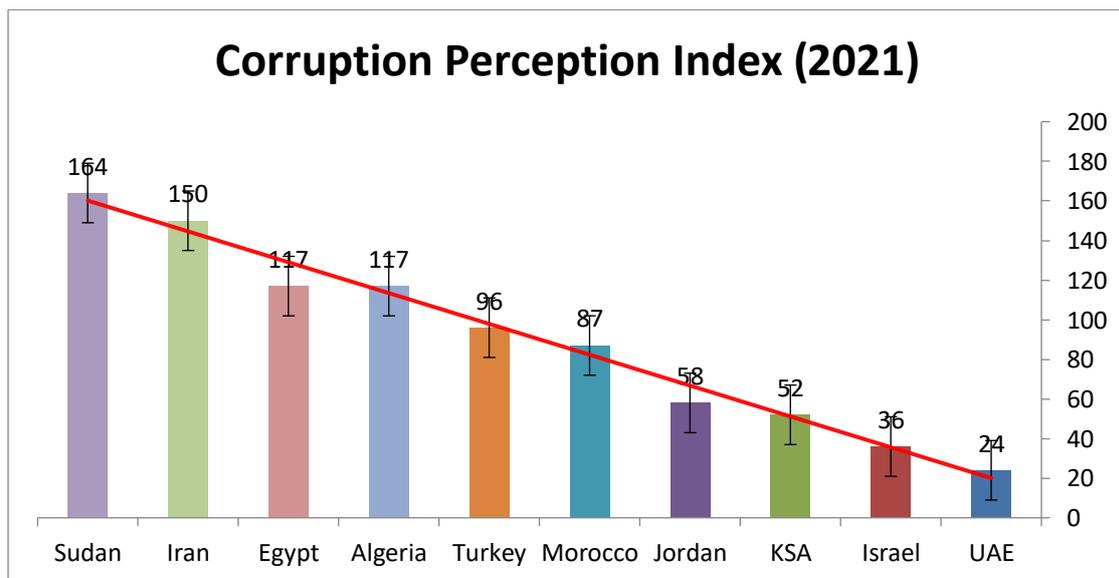
This index ranks the countries based on corruption perceptions according to experts and business professionals. Since 1995, the index has been published by the International Transparency Organization; an international non-governmental organization headquartered in Berlin.

- Sudan, Iran, Egypt, and Algeria score very low on the index, indicating that they are among the countries that harbor the highest rates of corruption. On the other hand, the UAE and Israel are among the highest ranked countries (indicating less corruption), while Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Turkey have achieved intermediate positions on the index.
- Corruption is, perhaps, the most important factor that determines a country's economic status, as it constraints prosperity and development rates. It is well known that fighting corruption and regaining transparency require serious measures that can only be achieved through uprooting the governing regime peacefully or violently.

International Corruption Perception Index (2021)

The index ranks 180 countries starting with the highest in integrity and transparency (no. 1 on the corruption index or a degree of 100 on the transparency index) and ending with the highest in corruption (no. 180 on the corruption index or a degree of 1 on the transparency index)

No.	Country	Corruption Index (180-1)	Degree of Transparency (11-11)
1.	UAE	24	69
2.	Israel	36	59
3.	KSA	52	53
4.	Jordan	58	49
5.	Morocco	87	39
6.	Turkey	96	38
7.	Algeria	117	33
8.	Egypt	117	33
9.	Iran	150	25
10.	Sudan	164	20



Five: The Global Innovation Index (2022)

The Global Innovation Index is an important tool for businessmen and long-term development strategy planners to measure the economic innovational capabilities through data on scientific production, research expenditure, patents, and the presence of a harboring environment in terms of political stability, institutionalism, infrastructure and legal regulation, and the public institutions' financial transparency. The index includes seven sub-indices based on dozens of institutional metrics of education and scientific research, infrastructure, market development, business development, knowledge and technology outputs, and innovation and creativity outputs.

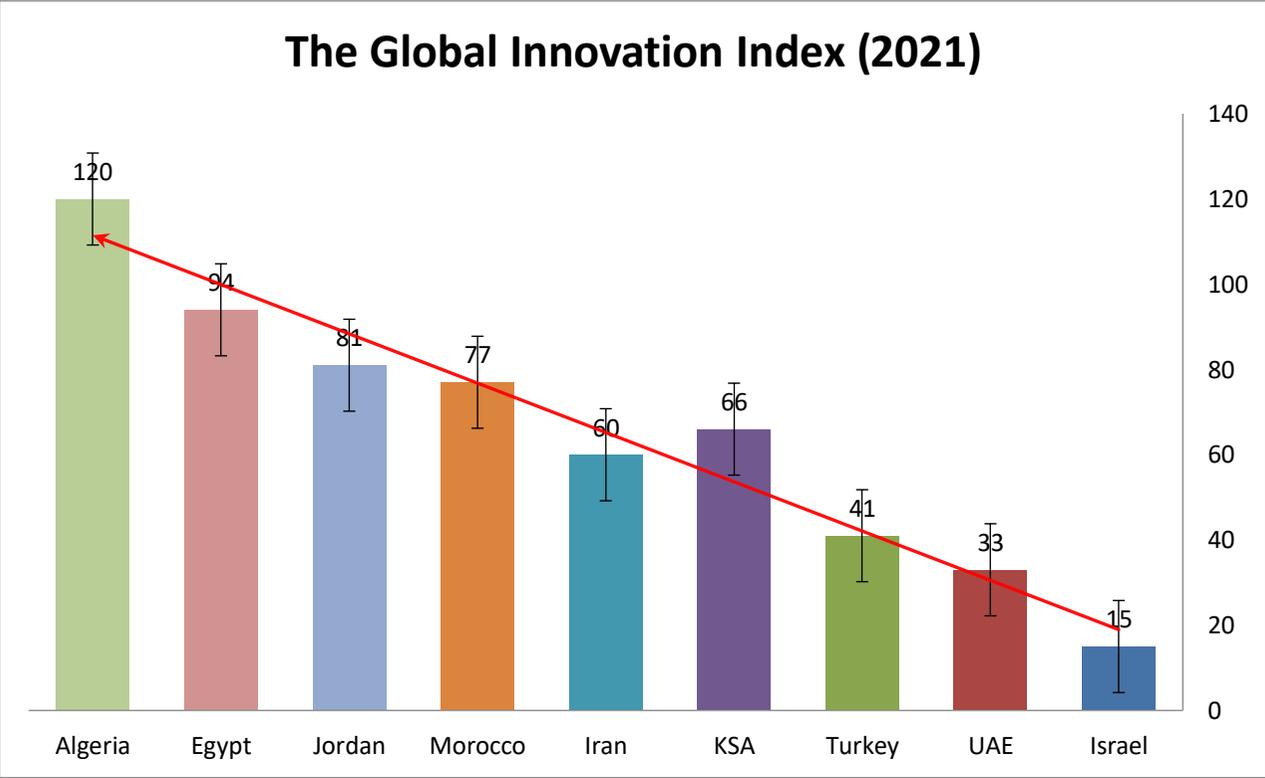
- Algeria, Egypt, Jordan and Morocco were among the lowest ranked countries, according to the index. They were all in the second half of the list, which comprises 132 countries. Sudan is not even within the ranked countries. The table also shows that Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, and Iran all ranked more than 100 on the index of business development. This indicates the unhealthy environment in terms of attracting capital and starting productive developmental businesses that push the total economy and development forward. Israel was distinguished in this index, as it was very highly-ranked compared with the countries under study and all countries in general. The United Arab Emirates and Turkey ranked relatively high.

Global Innovation Index (2022)

The index includes 132 countries ranked strongest (no. 1 – Switzerland) to weakest (no. 132 – Angola)

No.	Country	Total index	Sub-indices						
			Institutions	Human Capital and Research	Infrastructure	Market Sophistication	Business Sophistication	Knowledge an Technology Outputs	Creative Outputs
1.	Israel	15	34	19	40	8	8	6	40
2.	UAE	33	30	22	14	26	22	59	40
3.	Turkey	41	93	26	48	49	46	50	35
4.	KSA	66	101	32	54	39	89	69	78
5.	Iran	60	124	49	70	82	115	46	46
6.	Morocco	77	74	82	84	91	105	67	70
7.	Jordan	81	63	84	102	47	85	76	88
8.	Egypt	94	114	93	92	96	106	70	104
9.	Algeria	120	104	74	96	132	124	120	118
10.	Sudan	Not Ranked							

The Global Innovation Index (2021)



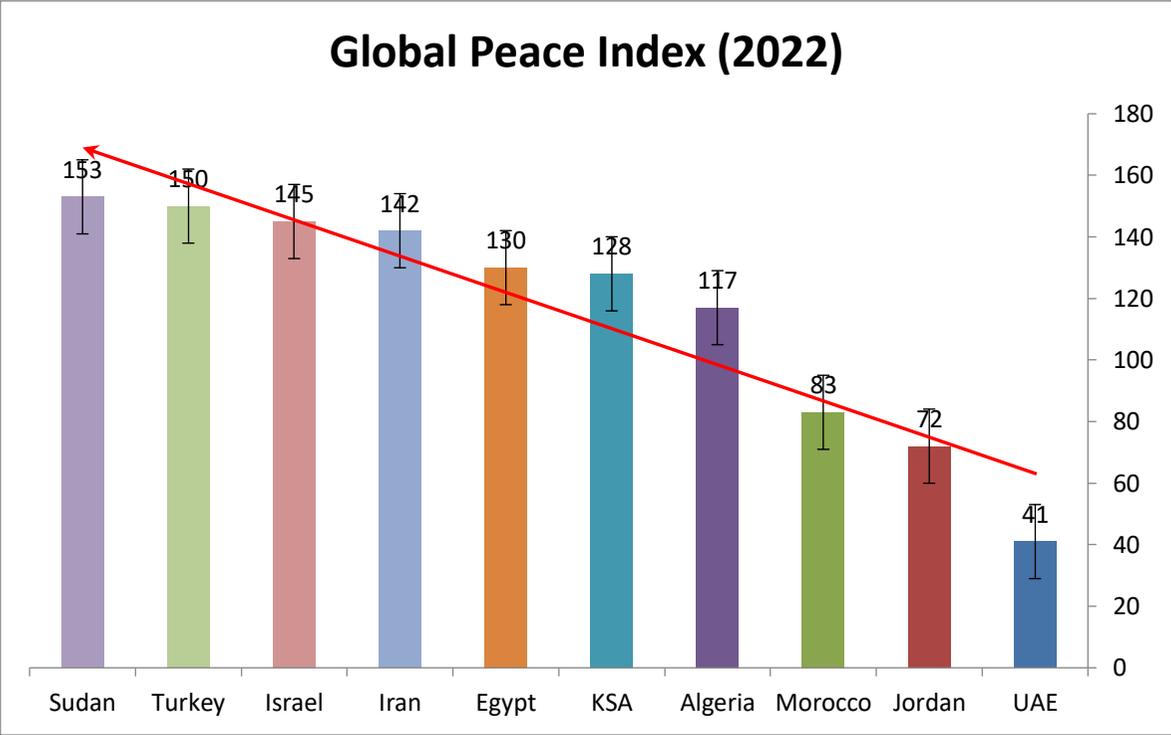
Six: Global Peace Index (2021)□

Since 2007, the Institute for Economics and Peace and the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies in Sydney University, Australia have been publishing an annual report that measures the countries' states of peace and violence based on 22 sub-indices that reflect the number of conflicts, the resulting mortalities, the political stability level, the number of police officers and prisoners, the military expenditure, the number of military force workers, the level of human rights respect, and the ease of possessing light arms. The index is important for orienting major investors and investment funds. Lack of peace, naturally, leads to refrainment from investment, for example. Other aspects vary from one country to the other, because the lack of peace, prevalence of corruption, scarcity of resources, and absence of freedom make up the perfect recipe for disaster in any country.

- All countries under study, except for the UAE, Jordan and Morocco, suffer from very bad or bad peace status. The index reflects the regional instability in general with the continuous protests in several countries of the Arab Spring as well as international intervention and the poor security state in the Middle East ever since the September, 11th event until the post-Arab Spring in 2011. Regression, rather than improvement, of peace is well noticed during the past years.

Global Peace Index (2022)

No.	Country	Overall Index (١٦٣-١)	Degree (٤-١)
1.	UAE	٤١	١.٧٥
2.	Jordan	٧٢	١.٩٥
3.	Morocco	٨٣	٢.٠٥
4.	Algeria	١١٧	٢.٢٨
5.	KSA	١٢٨	٢.٤٤
6.	Egypt	١٣٠	٢.٤٨
7.	Iran	١٤٢	٢.٦٧
8.	Israel	١٤٥	٢.٧٧
9.	Turkey	١٥٠	٢.٩٥
10.	Sudan	١٥٣	٣.٠٤



Seven: Human Development Index (2022)

The index reflects the size of the country's investment in the manpower in terms of education, health, and the individual's share of Gross National Income (GNI). The index has been annually published by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) since 1990. It is based on three factors: life expectancy at birth, GNI per capita, and the number of years of schooling for the population aged 25 years or more.

- Poor and very poor performance is noted in Sudan, Morocco, Egypt, and Jordan, ranking more than a hundred. This reflects the conditions of the regular citizen in these countries, and indicates the absence of his contribution to the human development, and the negative participation in overall development. After all, how can someone who receives poor health and education services, with a low life expectancy and an income that is barely sufficient for meeting the basic life needs make positive contributions to the transference of the society from retardation and suffering to development and prosperity?
- The performance of countries that are weak on the Human Development Index is a measure of the regular citizen's satisfaction and the possibility of their rebellion against the governing authority that is responsible for their conditions.

Human Development Index (2022)

The index includes 186 countries ranking strongest (no. 1) to weakest (no. 186)

No.	Country	Overall Index (186-1)	Degree (0.904-0.377)
1.	Israel	22	0.906
2.	UAE	35	0.866
3.	KSA	38	0.857
4.	Turkey	59	0.806
5.	Iran	65	0.797
6.	Algeria	84	0.759
7.	Jordan	101	0.723
8.	Egypt	114	0.70
9.	Morocco	119	0.676
10.	Sudan	165	0.507

Eight: The World Happiness Report (2022)

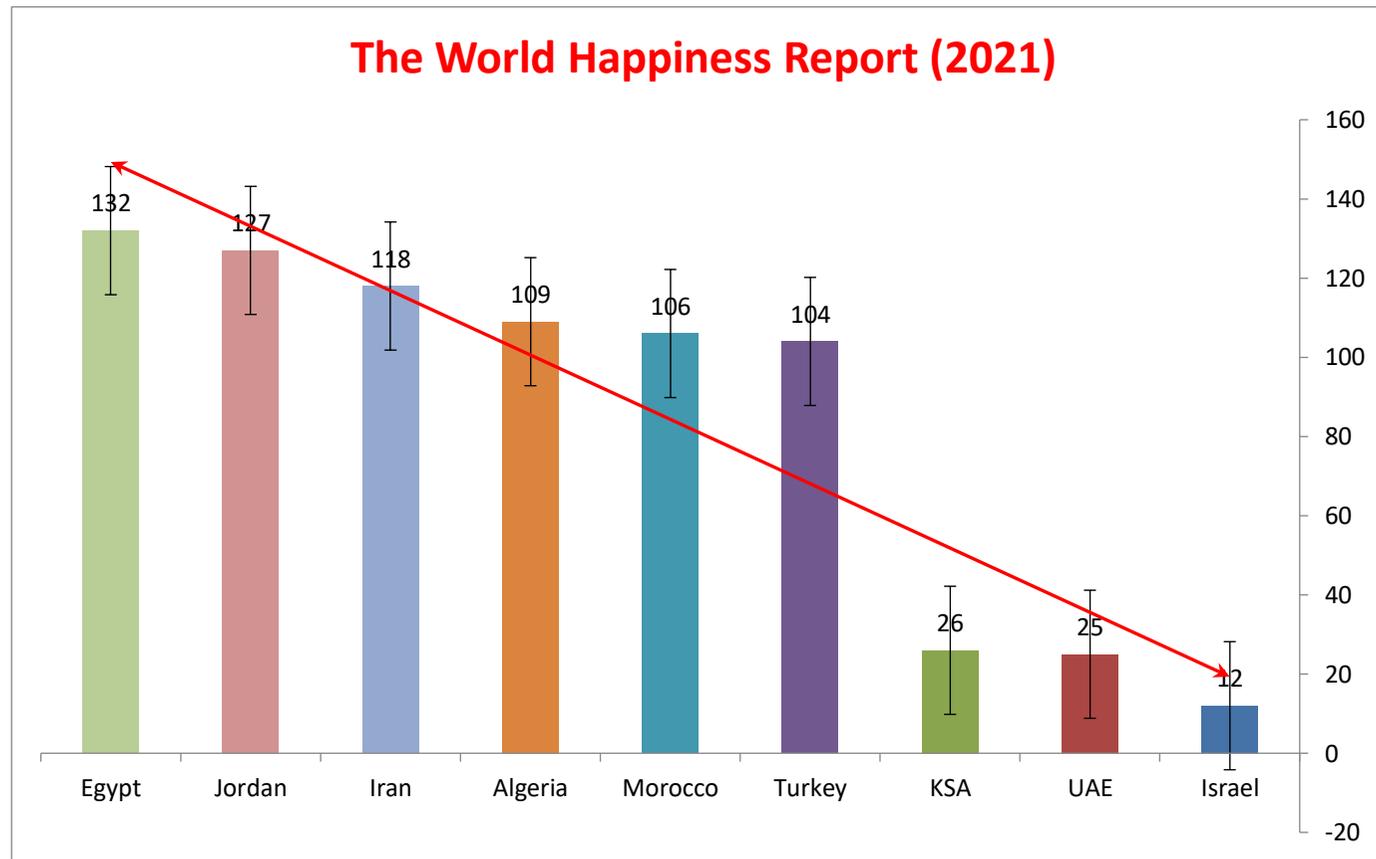
The World Happiness Report is a report published on the 21st of March of each year since 2012 by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. It is a compound index that measures how the individuals evaluate their life level and their satisfaction with their life through a survey on individuals' happiness and satisfaction. The index is based on certain axes such as the GDP per capita, the average life expectancy, as well as other axes such as social support, freedom to make life choices, life decency, and corruption.

- It appears that Sudan, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, and Algeria ranked very low on the happiness index, reflecting the poor life quality and the diminished life satisfaction and requirements of a decent life.
- The ranks of the countries under study are in line with their performance on the other indices, as this index reflects the life quality of most people groups, especially the poor and the intermediate. Life quality, in turn, reflects the income level, the individual's ability to meet their basic needs according to their income level, the education and health services, the bureaucracy in institutions, the infrastructure, the job availability, and the support of the social societies to the needy groups.
- The performances of Sudan, Egypt, Iran, and then Jordan on the happiness index are not much different from their performance on other indices.

World Happiness Report (2021)

No.	Country	Overall Index (1-149)	Degree (2.52- 7.84)
1.	Israel	12	7.15
2.	UAE	25	6.56
3.	KSA	26	6.46
4.	Turkey	104	4.94
5.	Morocco	106	4.91
6.	Algeria	109	4.88
7.	Iran	۱۱۸	4.72
8.	Jordan	127	4.39
9.	Egypt	132	4.28
10.	Sudan	Not ranked	

The World Happiness Report (2021)



Nine: The Networked Readiness Index (2021)□

The Network Readiness Index has been annually published since 2001 by the World Economic Forum in collaboration with INSEAD University. The index reflects the factors affecting the readiness of the technology network, meaning the country's ability to make utmost use of information and communication technology to develop its competitiveness and the life quality of its citizens. The index addresses information technology's role in economic development and life facilitation. It includes the degree of use and employment of information and communication technology in economy and in creating innovative job opportunities.

The index includes four categories:

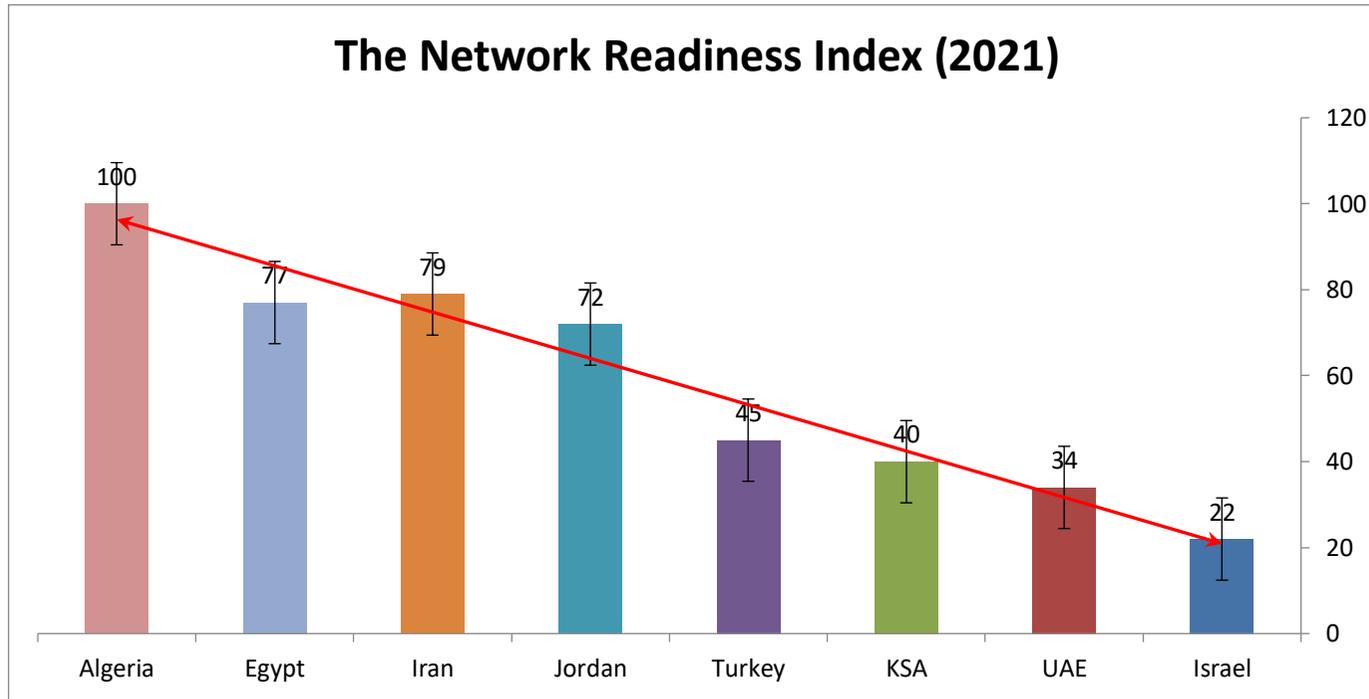
- Technological environment: includes the business environment and the legislative and innovation environment.
 - Usage Sub-index: includes the readiness of individuals, companies and the government to use and exploit ICT.
 - Governance: meaning the ability of the relevant entities to include the individuals and the companies in the digital economy.
 - Technological impact: measures the impact of information technology at the economic and social levels and the ICT infrastructure. It includes the costs of access and use of the technological infrastructure.
-
- The index reflects the general participation in new technology and the information and communication revolution. Israel came first among the countries under study, followed by the UAE and Saudi Arabia. On the other hand, as would be expected, Algeria ranked last on the list, preceded by Egypt and Iran. Turkey was relatively highly-ranked, as it was on the first half of the list of countries involved in advanced technologies and techniques. Sudan could not achieve a rank on the list.

Networked Readiness Index (2021)

The report ranks 121 countries from strongest (no. 1) to weakest (121)

No.	Country	Overall Index	Sub-Indices			
			Technological Environment	Individuals' Embrace-ment of Technology	Technological Governance	Economic and Social Impact
.1	Israel	22	21	22	28	8
.2	UAE	34	28	20	39	41
.3	KSA	40	30	27	43	66
.4	Turkey	40	46	31	48	74
.5	Jordan	72	78	63	79	81
.6	Iran	79	70	71	77	99
.7	Egypt	77	72	70	90	62
.8	Algeria	100	90	89	118	101
.9	Sudan	Not ranked				

The Network Readiness Index (2021)



Ten: SDG Global Rank (2021) □

Sustainable development is the process of developing the cities, communities, and businesses in such a way that meets the needs of the present without jeopardizing the capabilities of the future generations to meet their own needs. The SDG index categorizes countries based on their primary conditions in terms of seventeen goals: no poverty; zero hunger; good health and wellbeing; quality education; gender equality; clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; decent work and economic growth; industry, innovation, and infrastructure; reduced inequalities; sustainable cities and communities; responsible consumption and production; climate action; life below water; life on land; peace, justice, and strong institutions; partnerships for goals.

The index was designed under the supervision of independent experts under the UN General Secretariat and Bertelsmann Institution. First published in 2015, the index aims to help the countries achieve the sustainable development goals listed on the international sustainable development agenda. The report expresses the extent to which the country seeks to achieve these sustainable development goals. It does not express the country's strength or weakness, rather the regime's will and position on sustainable development. It reflects the government's interest in developing the country and its practical measures and strategic plans implemented to achieve these reports.

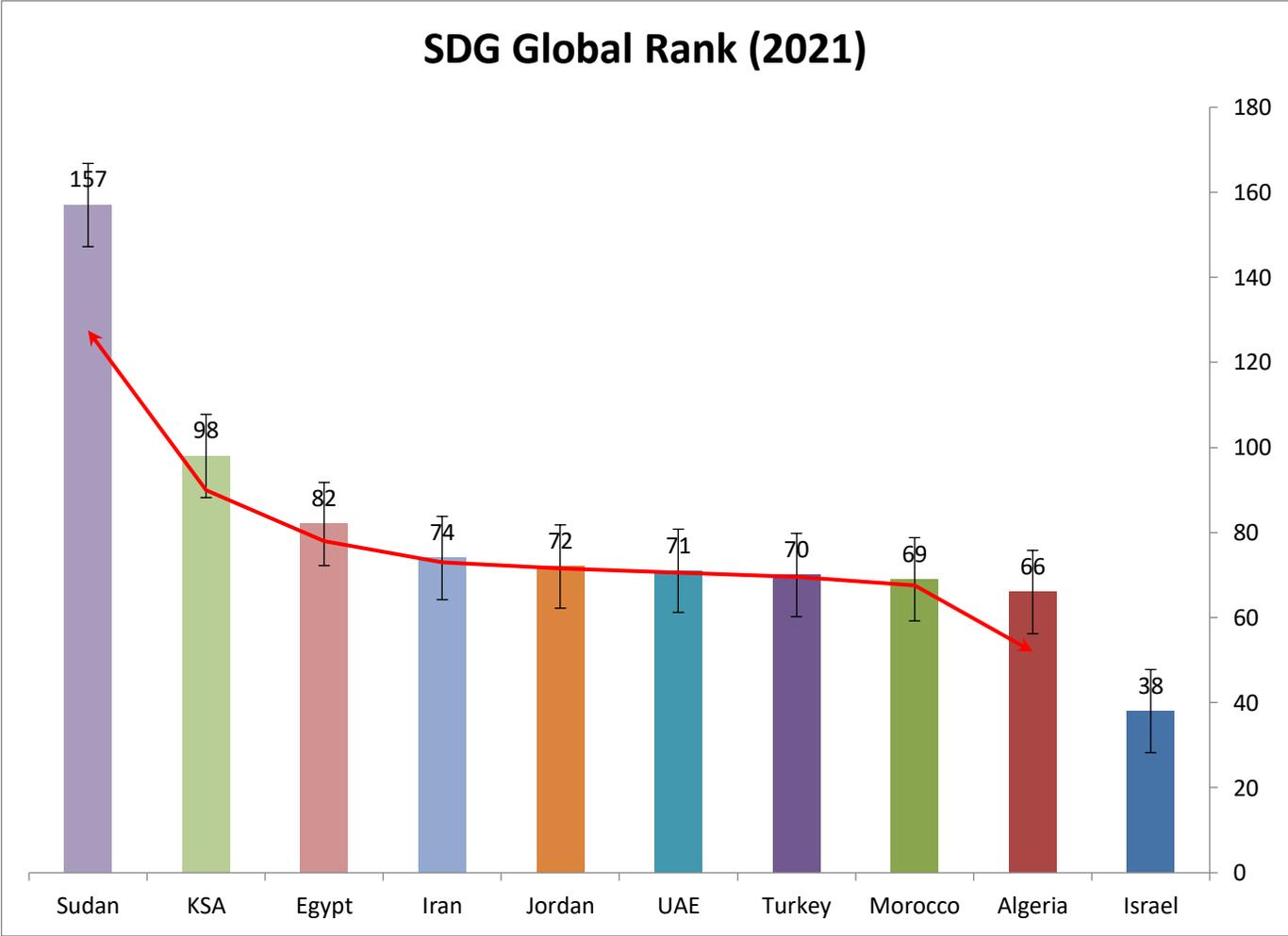
- Sudan ranked at the end of the list, preceded by Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Iran. Jordan and the UAE ranked somewhat better on the list. The ranking is in line with the countries' ranking on the other indices, especially in economy, growth rates, health, education, innovation, creativity, and efforts to minimize unemployment, poverty, inflation and high prices.

- Saudi came after Sudan on the list, reflecting poor performance. This is attributed to the wide range of goals measured by the index, which include certain goals in which Saudi Arabia's performance is considered poor such as gender equality, water, clean energy, reduced inequalities, and sustainable cities.

SDG Global Rank (2021)

No.	Country	Overall Index (160-1)	Degree (80.9-38.3)
.1	Israel	38	70.0
.2	Algeria	66	70.8
.3	Morocco	69	70.0
.4	Turkey	70	70.4
.5	UAE	71	70.2
.6	Jordan	72	70.0
.7	Iran	74	70.0
.8	Egypt	82	68.6
.9	KSA	98	66.3
.10	Sudan	107	49.0

SDG Global Rank (2021)



Eleven: Fragile States Index (2021)□

Since 2005, the Fund for Peace in collaboration with Foreign Policy Magazine in the United States have been publishing an annual report that measures the country's ability to perform its duties and effectiveness in maintaining its identity and preserving its regional interests. The index has a scale of 120 degrees to measure the performance of 179 countries around the world. It ranks the countries from the most stable and distinguished to the failing one (0–120). The index includes twelve sub–indices that cover the main political, economic, and social aspects.

- Political: addressing human rights, the governing institution's ability to perform its duties, the power of the security institution, the harmony among the political class and among the society elite, the intervention of foreign countries, and the legitimacy before the international community.
- Economic: economic development levels in the various sectors, and the productive and service power and its ability to push the country economy forward.
- Social: the numbers of emigrants, emigration and intellectual emigration, demographic pressure and demographic distribution between urban and suburban regions, violation of the law, and the spread of crimes.
 - The index estimates that Sudan, which came in the eighth rank on the list of 179 countries, is the most fragile country among the ten countries under study, followed by Egypt (rank 39), Iran (rank 43), then Turkey, Jordan, and Algeria.
 - These countries suffer from failures and crises at different levels. Sudan, for instance, which currently witnesses a political transitional state after massive protests, is still suffering from the consequences of a three–decade long civil

war. The conflict between the military and civil components is still on, with the military component insisting on taking over authority.

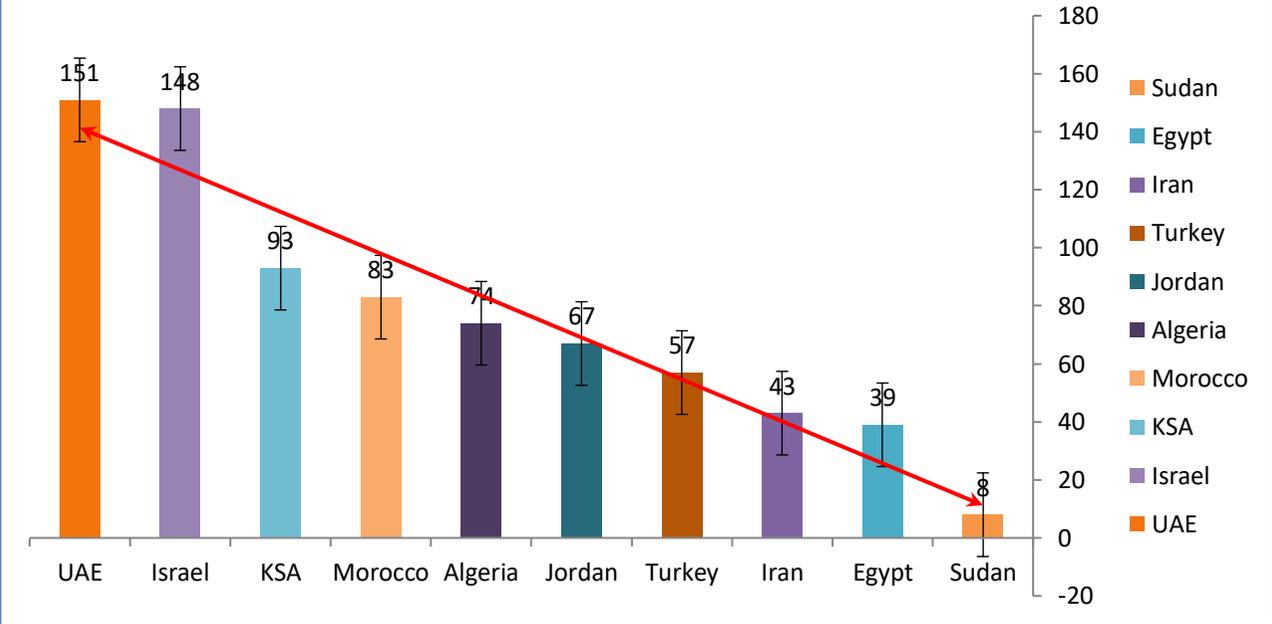
- Egypt may witness social disturbances due to the political and economic situations.
- Iran has suffered from the American sanctions since 05/2019 that paralyzed the Iranian economy and raised poverty and unemployment rates.
- Turkey has the problems of the Kurds to the north–east of Syria; the Syrian refugees that comprise more than 3.5 million; and the conflicts with the NATO, the American administration, and Greece.
- Israel suffers from internal extremism, racism, fascist speech, and conflicts between the Right religious current and the secular powers that refuse giving any authority to the religious. In addition, it is surrounded by a very dangerous environment, due to the continuous increase in the power of the resistance and its ability to target the Israeli internal front.

Fragile States Index (2021)

Degree (١٢٠-٠)	Overall Index (١٧٩-١)	Country	No.
١٠٥.٢	٨	Sudan	.١
٨٥.٠	٣٩	Egypt	.٢
٨٤.٥	٤٣	Iran	.٣

٧٩.٧	٥٧	Turkey	.٤
٧٦.٨	67	Jordan	.٥
٧٣.٧	٧٤	Algeria	.٦
٧١.٥	٨٣	Morocco	.٧
٦٩.٧	٩٣	KSA	.٨
٤٣	١٤٨	Israel	.٩
٤٠.٣	١٥١	UAE	١٠

Fragile States Index (2021)



Twelve: The Ease of Doing Business Index (2020)□

This is a compound index that measures the organized governmental procedures of business activities; that is the investment attraction and encouragement procedures made by the various governments.

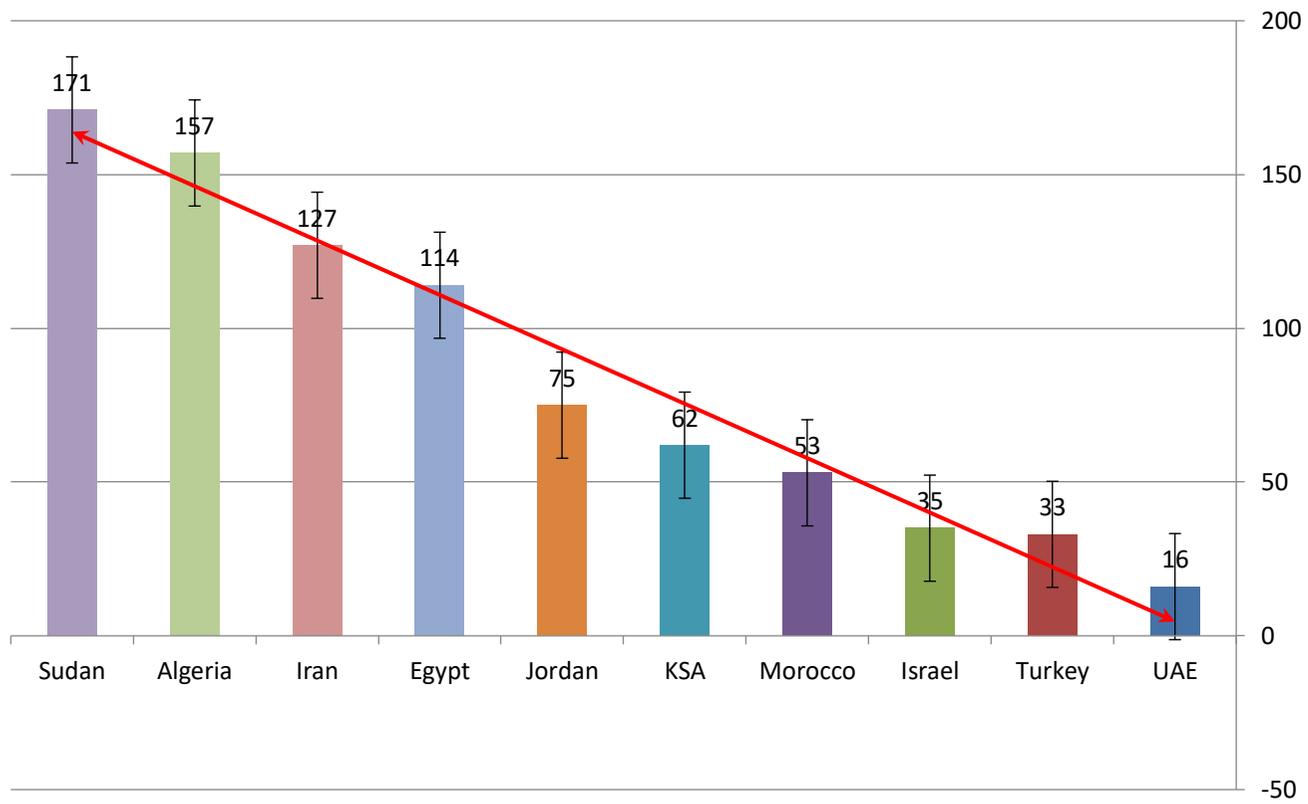
The index is based on ten subindices: starting a business, dealing with construction permits, getting electricity, registering property, getting credit, protecting investors, paying taxes, trading across borders, enforcing contracts, and resolving insolvency.

- According to the index, the ranking of the ten countries under study was not encouraging. Algeria, Sudan, Iran and Egypt all ranked more than 100. For instance, Sudan ranked 171 and Algeria 157. On the other hand, the UAE ranked 16, Turkey ranked 33 and Israel ranked 35. The very low ranks of Algerian Sudan, Egypt and Iran reflect the bad political conditions, the spread of corruption, the absence of transparency and the presence of a discouraging environment for investments.

The Ease of Doing Business Index□

No.	State	Total Index (١٩٠-١)	Degree (٨٦.٨-٢٠٠)
1.	UAE	١٦	٨٠.٩
2.	Turkey	٣٣	٧٦.٨
3.	Israel	٣٥	٧٦.٧
4.	Morocco	٥٣	٧٣.٤
5.	KSA	٦٢	٧١.٦
6.	Jordan	٧٥	٦٩.٠
7.	Egypt	١١٤	٦٠.١
8.	Iran	١٢٧	٥٨.٥
9.	Algeria	١٥٧	٤٨.٦
10.	Sudan	١٧١	٤٤.٨

The Ease of Doing Business Index



Thirteen: Rule of Law Index□

(transparency, corruption, justice, rule of law, equality)

The international Rule of Law index published by the World Justice Program measures the rule of law in 139 countries around the world, based on more than 120,000 household and 3,800 expert surveys. In its methodology, the index measures the rule of law performance in the countries based on 44 factors categorized under eight primary criteria: Constraints on Government Powers, Absence of Corruption, Open Government, Fundamental Rights, Order and Security, Regulatory Enforcement, Civil Justice, and Criminal Justice.

The country gets a score from 0 – 1 for each of the mentioned factors. The closer the score to zero, the weaker the rule of law in the country, while the closer the score to one, the stronger the rule of law in the country.

The World Justice Program is an independent multi-specialty organization established in 2006 that works to reinforce the rule of law across the world. The Project believes that the efficient rule of law minimizes corruption, fights poverty and disease, and protects people against minor and major injustices.

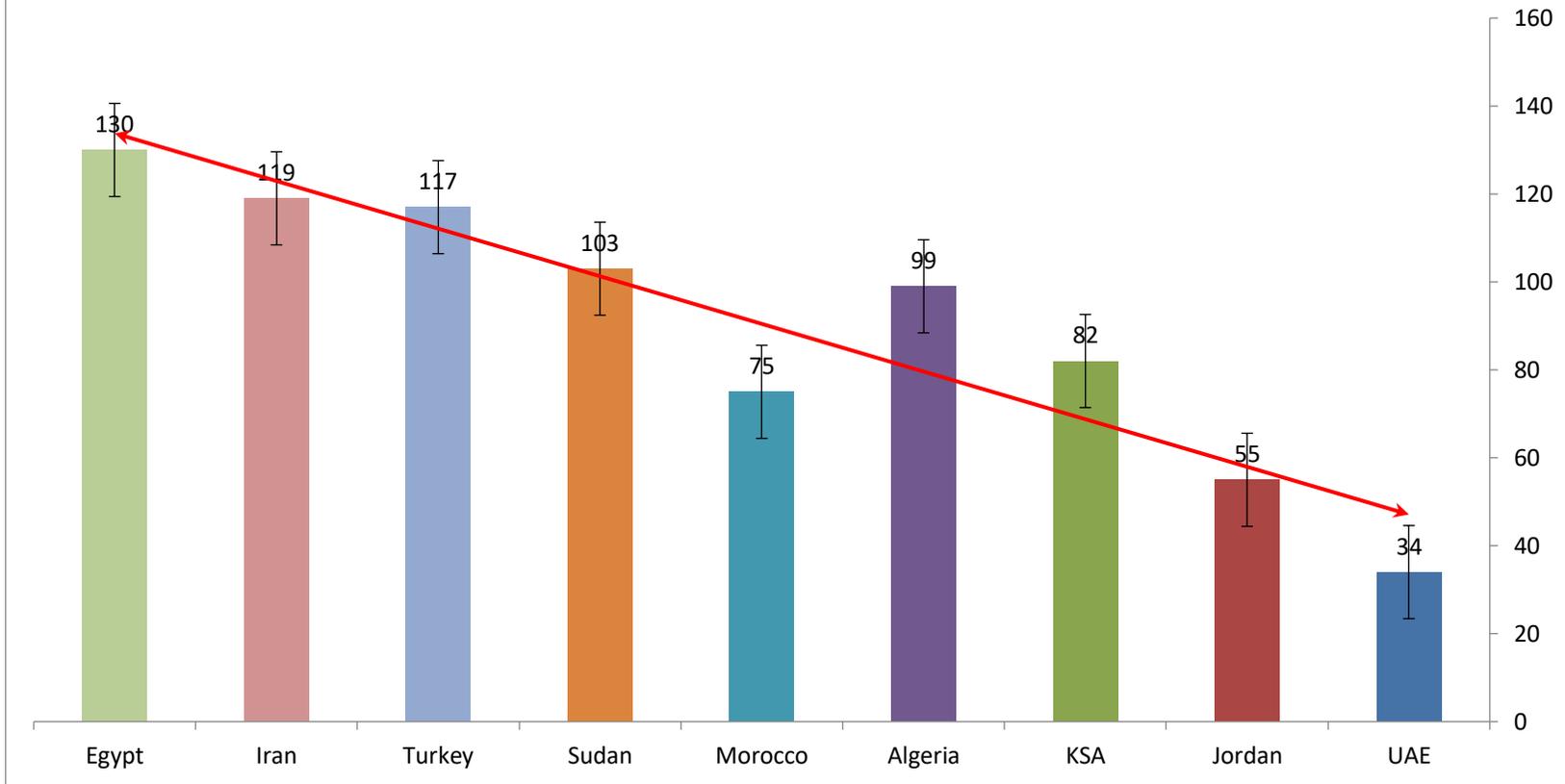
- Egypt, Iran, Turkey, and Sudan all came at the end of the list. Saudi Arabia and Israel were not included on the index due to unavailability of data. The surprising outcome was that Egypt ranked (136) among 139 countries, indicating a very bad rule of law performance. On the subindices, Egypt ranked 139 on Open Government, 138 on Fundamental Rights, 138 on Constraints on Government Powers, and 130 on Regulatory Enforcement.

The index ranks 139 countries from best (no. 1) to worst (no. 139)
 Scores are 1 (best) to zero (worst)

	Country	Global Rank <u>1-139</u> <u>0-1</u>	Sub Indices							
			Government Powers	Absence of Corruption	Open Government	Fundamental Rights	Order and Security	Regulatory Enforcement	Civil Justice	Criminal Justice
1.	Israel		No information							
2.	UAE	34 (0.64)	63 (0.56)	18 (0.80)	128 (0.35)	105 (0.45)	11 (0.91)	26 (0.71)	30 (0.66)	23 (0.67)
3.	Jordan	55 (0.59)	97 (0.46)	46 (0.59)	106 (0.40)	94 (0.48)	56 (0.76)	56 (0.55)	46 (0.61)	41 (0.56)
4.	KSA		No information							
5.	Algeria	82 (0.49)	88 (0.48)	74 (0.45)	147 (0.35)	106 (0.45)	62 (0.75)	80 (0.48)	55 (0.62)	76 (0.43)
6.	Morocco	90 (0.49)	75 (0.51)	89 (0.42)	97 (0.43)	110 (0.43)	91 (0.68)	58 (0.53)	69 (0.53)	99 (0.63)
7.	Sudan	116 (0.42)	103 (0.45)	97 (0.40)	105 (0.40)	125 (0.38)	104 (0.64)	133 (0.36)	125 (0.40)	92 (0.37)
8.	Turkey	117	134	69	107	133	83	119	113	103

		(0.42)	(0.28)	(0.46)	(0.43)	(0.31)	(0.70)	(٠,٤١)	(0.43)	(0.36)
9.	Iran	119 (0.42)	128 (0.35)	96 (0.40)	137 (٠,٢٨)	139 (٠,٢٢)	66 (0.74)	98 (0.45)	65 (0.54)	98 (0.36)
10	Egypt	136 (0.35)	138 (0.24)	104 (0.38)	139 (0.22)	138 (0.28)	113 (0.63)	130 (0.36)	130 (0.37)	109 (0.34)

Rule of Law Index (٢٠٢١)



Fourteen: Global Health Security Index (2021)

The Global Health Security Index is among the most comprehensive indices for health security aspects, as it evaluates the global health security in 195 countries. The index is jointly published by the Nuclear Threat Initiative, the Johns Hopkins Medical Center, and the Economic Intelligence Unit in the Economist Magazine. The index aims to make measurable changes in the national health security and improve the international capabilities to fight the contagious diseases that can lead to pandemics. According to the WHO, health security includes the activities that are required to decrease the risk of acute public health incidents that jeopardize the collective health of the populations who live within or near the danger zones.

The Global Health Security Index (2021) evaluates the countries across six categories, 37 indicators, and 171 questions, using the public-accessed information.

- Prevention: protection against the spread of the causative pathogens in the society.
- Rapid response: response and action to mitigate the spread of an epidemic.
- Health system: Sufficient and robust health system to treat the sick and protect health workers
- Detection and Reporting: early detection and reporting on epidemics with potential international concerns.
- Abidance by international regulations: commitments to improving national capacity, financing plans to address gaps, and adhering to global norms.
- Risk environment: Overall risk environment and country vulnerability to biological threats
- Algeria, Egypt, Sudan, Morocco, Iran, and Jordan came at the bottom of the Global Health Security Index list. This indicates these countries' low health security levels in terms of their health systems, their capability to face epidemics,

and their ability to contain the epidemic within their political borders in collaboration with the international community and organizations.

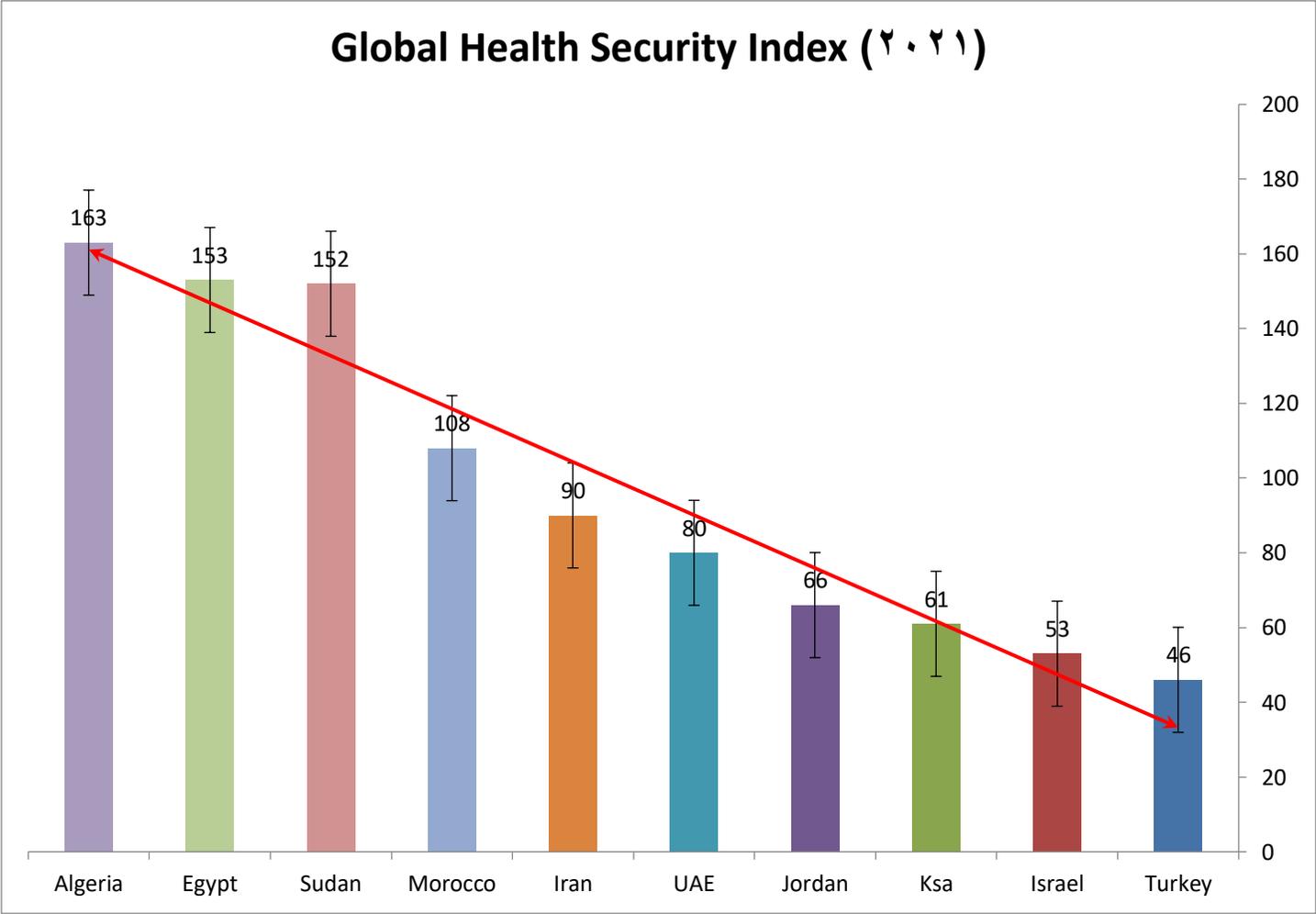
- The ranks of the countries under study are in line with their performances on other indices. The index expresses the country's internal health security level, which requires transparency and sufficient budgeting to cover the costs of providing internal healthcare and fighting epidemic.
- Turkey ranked higher than other countries, despite a GDP per capita much lower than that in Israel and the UAE. This reflects the attention given by the Turkish government led by the Justice and Development Party to the basic development sectors: healthcare, education, and infrastructure.

Global Health Security Index (2021)

No.	State	Total Index (195-1)	Degree (95.7- 16.0)
.11	Turkey	46	50.0
.12	Israel	53	47.2
.13	KSA	61	44.9
.14	Jordan	66	42.8
.15	UAE	80	39.6

.۱۶	Iran	90	36.5
.۱۷	Morocco	108	33.6
.۱۸	Sudan	152	28.3
.۱۹	Egypt	153	28.0
.۲۰	Algeria	163	26.2

Global Health Security Index (٢٠٢١)



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