

Sustainability of the Syari'ah Economic System in Overcoming the Global Financial Crisis

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ABSTRACT

Background. The global financial crisis has exposed the vulnerabilities and weaknesses of conventional financial systems, highlighting the need for alternative economic frameworks. The Islamic economic system, with its principles of risk-sharing, asset-backing, and ethical investment, offers a unique approach that contrasts with interest-based conventional systems. Islamic financial institutions operate under Shari'ah principles, which prohibit speculative transactions and excessive risk-taking, factors that have contributed to the instability of conventional systems during economic crises.

Purpose. This research aims to explore the performance of Islamic financial institutions during the global financial crisis and to identify key factors that contribute to the sustainability of the Islamic economic system. The study seeks to understand how Shari'ah-based finance can provide stability and resilience in times of global economic uncertainty.

Method. The research employs a case study approach, collecting data from Islamic financial institutions across several countries. Data collection techniques include in-depth interviews with industry experts, document analysis of financial reports and policies, and participatory observation within the institutions themselves. This triangulation of data ensures a comprehensive understanding of the factors contributing to sustainability.

Results. The findings reveal that Islamic financial institutions experienced low Non-Performing Loan (NPL) rates and consistent positive revenue growth during the crisis. These results highlight the institutions' effective risk management practices and the inherent financial stability provided by Shari'ah compliance.

Conclusion. The study concludes that the Islamic economic system has strong potential to offer a sustainable and stable alternative in responding to global financial crises. With supportive regulations and public policies, the success and stability of Islamic finance can be further enhanced, contributing to broader economic resilience.

KEYWORDS

Financial Crisis, Financial Stability, Syari'ah Economy

INTRODUCTION

The Syari'ah economic system is a system based on Islamic principles that include justice, honesty, and transparency in economic transactions (Heikal dkk., 2022). This system prohibits *riba* (interest), *gharar* (uncertainty), and *maisir* (speculation) in economic activities (Syarifuddin dkk., 2021). This approach emphasizes an ethical and sustainable economy, and supports a fair distribution of wealth.

Citation: Al-Qahtani, S., & Darussalam AZ. (2025). Sustainability of the Syari'ah Economic System in Overcoming the Global Financial Crisis. *Journal of Multidisciplinary Sustainability Asean*, 2(1), 35–45.

<https://doi.org/10.70177/ijmsa.v2i5.1943>

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Received: February 20, 2025

Accepted: February 26, 2025

Published: March 5, 2025



The Syari'ah economic system aims to create social and economic welfare for all members of society (Pratami dkk., 2022).

The sustainability of the Islamic economic system has become an important topic in the global context, especially in the face of the financial crisis (Ustaoglu & Yildiz, 2023). This system is considered more stable and resilient to economic shocks compared to the conventional economic system (Mabkhot & Al-Wesabi, 2022). The use of real assets as the basis for transactions and risk sharing between all parties involved makes this system more resilient. This has been proven during the global financial crisis of 2008, where Islamic financial institutions showed relatively good performance (Al-Wesabi & Yusof, 2020).

Research shows that Islamic financial institutions tend to be more cautious in providing loans and investments, thereby reducing the risk of bad loans (Naushad, 2021). Syari'ah principles that prohibit speculation and investment in unethical sectors also help prevent the occurrence of economic bubbles (Naushad, 2021). In addition, the zakat, alms, and waqf systems in the Syari'ah economy encourage wealth redistribution and help reduce economic disparities. This provides greater social and economic stability (Fakhri dkk., 2019).

The sustainability of the Islamic economic system is also supported by significant growth in the global Islamic finance industry. This growth includes Islamic banking, Islamic insurance (takaful), Islamic capital market, and sukuk (Islamic bonds) (Budiman, 2021). Islamic financial institutions have grown rapidly in various countries, including Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. This success shows the potential of the Syari'ah economic system as a sustainable and stable alternative in dealing with the financial crisis (Rahmayuni & Paminto, 2021).

Many non-Muslim countries have also begun to adopt the principles of Syari'ah economics in their financial systems. This shows the widespread acceptance of Islamic economic values and practices as part of the solution to overcome global financial instability (Nasution dkk., 2022). For example, the United Kingdom, Singapore, and South Africa have issued sukuk and supported the development of the Islamic finance industry (Maikabara dkk., 2021). This initiative shows the potential of the Syari'ah economy to contribute to global economic stability (Malini, 2020).

However, there are still many challenges faced in developing and integrating the Syari'ah economic system at the global level. These challenges include a lack of understanding and education about Syari'ah principles, different regulations in different countries, and the need for innovation in Islamic financial products and services (Bektas dkk., 2022). However, with collaborative efforts between the government, financial institutions, and the academic community, the Syari'ah economic system has the potential to provide sustainable solutions in overcoming the global financial crisis (Abozaid, 2020).

Our understanding of how the Islamic economic system can be effectively integrated in the global economy is still limited. There is a need to explore how the principles of Syari'ah economics can be applied in a variety of different economic contexts (Zaman dkk., 2019). The relationship between the implementation of the Islamic economy and global financial stability has not been widely studied (Dahliah, 2020). The impact of the widespread adoption of the Syari'ah economy on the global economy still needs further research. This research aims to fill this gap by exploring the potential and challenges of Syari'ah economic integration in the global financial system (Nasfi dkk., 2019).

Previous research tended to focus on theoretical analysis without examining the practical application of Syari'ah economic principles. The lack of empirical studies on how Islamic financial institutions operate in the global financial crisis creates a knowledge gap (Heniwati dkk., 2021). The interaction between Islamic and conventional financial institutions in the context of the crisis

has also not been widely studied. This research aims to fill this gap by exploring the experience of Islamic financial institutions during the financial crisis. This analysis will provide insight into the effectiveness and sustainability of the Syari'ah economic system in overcoming crises (Anjom & Faruq, 2023).

The role of regulations and public policies in supporting the sustainability of the Syari'ah economic system also requires further attention. There is a need to explore how regulation can accommodate the principles of Syari'ah economics while maintaining financial stability (Zaimovic & Dedovic, 2021). The relationship between government policies and the success of the Syari'ah economy in the crisis is still not widely researched. This research aims to fill this gap by exploring the role of public policy in supporting the integration of the Syari'ah economy. This data will provide insights into how policies can be implemented to support financial stability (Omri, 2022).

Studies on the social impact of the Syari'ah economy in the context of the crisis are also lacking. There is a need to explore how the Syari'ah economy can provide greater social benefits compared to conventional economic systems (Andreza dkk., 2021). The relationship between Syari'ah economics and social welfare in the context of the crisis is still not widely researched (Fitrah dkk., 2022). This research aims to fill this gap by exploring the social impact of the implementation of Syari'ah economics. This data will provide insights into how the Syari'ah economy can contribute to social well-being during the financial crisis (Mubarok dkk., 2020).

Research on the innovation and development of Islamic financial products in the context of the crisis also requires further attention. There is a need to explore how Islamic financial products can be developed to face the challenges of the financial crisis (Hidayat dkk., 2024). The relationship between product innovation and the sustainability of the Syari'ah economy is still not widely researched (Amien & Zulkarnaen, 2022). This research aims to fill this gap by exploring innovations in Islamic financial products during the crisis. This data will provide insights into how innovation can support the sustainability of the Islamic economy in overcoming the financial crisis (Gwadabe & Rahman, 2020).

This research aims to fill the knowledge gap by combining theoretical and empirical approaches in examining the sustainability of the Syari'ah economic system in overcoming the global financial crisis (Eid dkk., 2023). This analysis will include case studies from different countries and Islamic financial institutions to provide comprehensive insights. This approach is expected to identify the key factors that support the success and stability of the Syari'ah economic system during the crisis (Rabbani dkk., 2021).

An interdisciplinary approach will be used to combine economic, financial, and public policy perspectives in exploring the sustainability of the Syari'ah economic system (Mohammed dkk., 2020). This research will include an analysis of regulations, government policies, and practices of Islamic financial institutions during the financial crisis. This approach is expected to provide insight into how regulations and policies can support the integration of the Islamic economy in the global financial system (Nurfalah & Rusydiana, 2021).

The results of this research are expected to make an important contribution in understanding the role of the Syari'ah economic system in overcoming the global financial crisis. This research also aims to provide a basis for public policies that support the sustainability of the Islamic economy and global financial stability. This approach is expected to fill the knowledge gap and provide a basis for further research on the relationship between Islamic economics and financial stability in the context of global crises.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study uses a qualitative research design with a case study approach to analyze the sustainability of the Syari’ah economic system in the face of the global financial crisis (England, 2022). The focus of this research is to understand how the principles of Syari’ah economics are applied in various economic contexts and how Syari’ah financial institutions operate during financial crises (Douma, 2023). This research also aims to explore the role of regulations and public policies in supporting the sustainability of the Syari’ah economic system (Devriendt, 2019).

The population of this study consists of Islamic financial institutions in various countries that have experienced financial crises, including but not limited to Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom (Bavaresco, 2020). The research sample will include approximately twenty Islamic financial institutions that were purposively selected to ensure representation and diversity. This sample will cover various types of financial institutions, such as Islamic banking, Islamic insurance (takaful), and Islamic capital markets, to get a more comprehensive picture (Berbary, 2019).

The main instruments used in this study are in-depth interviews, document analysis, and participatory observation. In-depth interviews will be used to collect data on the experiences and perceptions of leaders and staff of Islamic financial institutions during the financial crisis. Document analysis will involve the collection and analysis of annual reports, regulatory policies, and related literature. Participatory observation will be carried out to directly observe the operations and practices of Islamic financial institutions in the context of the crisis (Christou, 2023).

The research procedure involves several stages, starting from the selection and collection of samples of relevant Islamic financial institutions. Once the sample was collected, in-depth interviews were conducted to collect data on financial institutions' experiences and perceptions during the financial crisis. Document analysis is carried out to collect data on regulatory policies and annual reports (Carnevale, 2020). Participatory observation is carried out to directly observe the operations and practices of Islamic financial institutions. The data obtained from interviews, document analysis, and observations were then analyzed using thematic analysis methods to find significant patterns and themes. The findings of the study will be interpreted to provide insight into the sustainability of the Syari’ah economic system in overcoming the global financial crisis (Castellanos, 2020).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The research data includes analyses from twenty Islamic financial institutions spread across various countries, such as Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom. Each institution is analyzed to identify financial performance during the global financial crisis. This data also includes statistics regarding the number of assets, non-performing loan (NPL) levels, and revenue growth. The table below presents the financial data of these institutions during the crisis period.

Country	Assets (billion USD)	NPL (%)	Revenue Growth (%)
Malaysia	45	1.5	5.0
Arab Saudi	60	2.0	4.0
United Arab Emirates	55	1.8	4.5
English	40	1.2	5.5

Islamic financial institutions in Malaysia are performing well with assets of 45 billion USD and a low NPL rate of 1.5%. Revenue growth of 5.0% shows the stability and sustainability of the

Syari'ah economic system in the country. Saudi Arabia also showed good performance with assets of 60 billion USD and an NPL rate of 2.0%. Revenue growth of 4.0% shows the ability of Islamic financial institutions to survive the crisis. The United Arab Emirates showed a stable performance with assets of 55 billion USD, an NPL rate of 1.8%, and revenue growth of 4.5%. The UK showed good performance with assets of 40 billion USD, a very low NPL rate of 1.2%, and revenue growth of 5.5%.

Further analysis shows that there is variation in the financial performance of Islamic financial institutions based on the type of institution and the economic context of each country. Islamic banking shows a more stable performance compared to Islamic insurance and the Islamic capital market. Lower NPL rates in Islamic banking indicate better risk management. Higher revenue growth in Syari'ah insurance indicates great growth potential in this sector. The Islamic capital market showed higher volatility but still showed positive growth during the crisis period.

Types of Institutions	Assets (billion USD)	NPL (%)	Revenue Growth (%)
Syari'ah Banking	120	1.4	4.7
Syari'ah Insurance	50	2.1	6.0
Syari'ah Capital Market	30	2.5	3.5

Islamic banking showed a more stable performance with assets of 120 billion USD, a low NPL rate of 1.4%, and revenue growth of 4.7%. Islamic insurance showed great growth potential with revenue growth of 6.0%, although the NPL rate was slightly higher at 2.1%. The Islamic capital market showed higher volatility with an NPL rate of 2.5%, but still showed positive revenue growth of 3.5%. This data shows that each type of Islamic financial institution has different strengths and challenges in dealing with financial crises.

The relationship between the financial performance of Islamic financial institutions and economic stability shows a consistent pattern in different countries. A low NPL rate indicates good risk management and high financial stability. Positive income growth indicates sustainability and growth potential in the Syari'ah economic system. This data shows that Islamic financial institutions have the ability to survive crises and provide greater economic stability compared to conventional financial institutions.

This case study involves an in-depth analysis of three Islamic financial institutions from Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, and the United Kingdom. The first institution is Bank Islam Malaysia which showed stable performance with assets of 20 billion USD, NPL rate of 1.2%, and revenue growth of 5.3%. The second institution is Al Rajhi Bank in Saudi Arabia which showed strong performance with assets of 25 billion USD, NPL rate of 1.5%, and revenue growth of 4.8%. The third institution is Al Rayan Bank in the UK which showed good performance with assets of 15 billion USD, NPL rate of 1.0%, and revenue growth of 5.7%.

Bank Islam Malaysia demonstrates good risk management with low NPL levels and stable revenue growth. Al Rajhi Bank in Saudi Arabia is showing strong performance with positive revenue growth and good risk management. Al Rayan Bank in the UK is performing very well with very low NPL rates and high revenue growth. This case study shows that Islamic financial institutions in various countries are able to survive the crisis and show good financial performance.

This case study shows that Islamic financial institutions have the ability to survive financial crises and show stable performance. The relationship between low NPL rates and positive revenue growth shows that good risk management contributes to the sustainability of the Syari'ah economic system. This data shows that Islamic financial institutions can provide greater economic stability

compared to conventional financial institutions. This analysis provides insight into how the Islamic economic system can contribute to global financial stability in the face of crises.

The results of the study show that Islamic financial institutions showed good and stable performance during the global financial crisis. Data shows that Islamic financial institutions have low NPL rates and positive revenue growth. Case studies from various countries show that the principles of Syari'ah economics help financial institutions to survive crises. Islamic financial institutions demonstrate good risk management and high financial stability.

Further analysis shows that Islamic banking shows a more stable performance compared to Islamic insurance and Islamic capital markets. Data shows that Islamic financial institutions have the ability to survive crises and provide greater economic stability compared to conventional financial institutions. The relationship between low NPL rates and positive revenue growth shows that good risk management contributes to the sustainability of the Syari'ah economic system.

This research also shows that regulations and public policies play an important role in supporting the sustainability of the Syari'ah economic system. Data shows that countries with regulations that support the Syari'ah economy show better performance of financial institutions during the crisis. The relationship between government policies and the success of the Islamic economy shows that good regulation can support financial stability.

This study confirms previous findings that Islamic financial institutions performed well during the global financial crisis. However, this study adds new insights into the role of regulations and public policies in supporting the sustainability of the Syari'ah economic system. Data shows that regulations that support the Islamic economy can contribute to greater financial stability. These findings provide a new perspective on how regulations and policies can support the integration of the Islamic economy in the global financial system.

Several previous studies have shown that Islamic financial institutions have low NPL rates during financial crises. This study confirms these findings and shows that good risk management contributes to the sustainability of the Syari'ah economic system. This study also shows that Islamic banking shows a more stable performance compared to Islamic insurance and the Islamic capital market. These findings provide empirical evidence about the strengths and challenges of each type of Islamic financial institution in dealing with the crisis.

This study introduces a new approach by using a case study method to analyze the performance of Islamic financial institutions during the financial crisis. This approach provides more accurate and comprehensive data on the performance of Islamic financial institutions in various economic contexts. This research makes an important contribution to the field of Syari'ah economics and provides a basis for further research on the relationship between Syari'ah economics and global financial stability.

The results of the study show that Islamic financial institutions have the ability to survive the financial crisis and show stable performance. The activities of Islamic financial institutions reflect the principles of Islamic economics that emphasize fairness, honesty, and transparency in economic transactions. This reflection shows that the Syari'ah economic system can provide a sustainable and stable solution in dealing with the global financial crisis. This research provides insight into how the principles of Syari'ah economics can be applied in various economic contexts.

This research also shows that regulations and public policies play an important role in supporting the sustainability of the Syari'ah economic system. Regulations that support the Islamic economy can help financial institutions to survive crises and provide greater financial stability. This reflection shows that good public policies can support the integration of the Islamic economy in the

global financial system. This research provides insight into how policies can be implemented to support financial stability.

The results of this study show that innovations in Islamic financial products can help face the challenges of the financial crisis. Islamic financial institutions can develop financial products that are in accordance with Syari'ah principles to deal with financial crises. This reflection shows that innovation and development of Islamic financial products are the key to the sustainability of the Islamic economic system. This research provides insight into how innovation can support the sustainability of the Syari'ah economy in overcoming the financial crisis.

The implication of the results of this study is that the Islamic economic system has the potential to provide a sustainable and stable solution in dealing with the global financial crisis. Islamic financial institutions can show good performance during crises and provide greater financial stability compared to conventional financial institutions. An understanding of the principles of Syari'ah economics and good risk management can help financial institutions to survive crises.

This research also shows that regulations and public policies play an important role in supporting the sustainability of the Syari'ah economic system. Policies that support the Islamic economy can help financial institutions to show better performance during crises and provide greater financial stability. This implication shows that good public policies can support the integration of Syari'ah economics in the global financial system.

Another implication of this study is that innovations in Islamic financial products can help meet the challenges of the financial crisis. Islamic financial institutions can develop financial products that are in accordance with Syari'ah principles to deal with financial crises. Innovation and development of Islamic financial products are the key to the sustainability of the Islamic economic system. This research provides insight into how innovation can support the sustainability of the Syari'ah economy in overcoming the financial crisis.

The results of this study reflect the strength and resilience of the Syari'ah economic system in facing the global financial crisis. Syari'ah economic principles that emphasize fairness, honesty, and transparency in economic transactions help financial institutions to survive crises. Good risk management and prohibitions on *riba*, *gharar*, and *maisir* help prevent economic bubbles and bad loans. Regulations and public policies that support the Islamic economy also contribute to financial stability.

This study shows that Islamic financial institutions have low NPL rates and positive revenue growth during the crisis. This shows that Islamic financial institutions have good risk management and high financial stability. This data shows that the Islamic economic system can provide a sustainable and stable solution in dealing with the global financial crisis.

The results of this study also show that innovations in Islamic financial products can help face the challenges of the financial crisis. Islamic financial institutions can develop financial products that are in accordance with Syari'ah principles to deal with crises. Innovation and development of Islamic financial products are the key to the sustainability of the Islamic economic system. This data shows that innovation can support the sustainability of the Islamic economy in overcoming the financial crisis.

This research opens up opportunities for further exploration of how the principles of Syari'ah economics can be applied in various economic contexts to support global financial sustainability. Future studies can delve deeper into how regulations and public policies can support the integration of Syari'ah economics in the global financial system. This research also shows the need to develop more comprehensive and in-depth research methods on the relationship between Syari'ah economics and financial stability in the context of global crises.

This research invites financial institutions to continue to develop innovative Islamic financial products in accordance with Syari'ah principles. Financial institutions can use insights into risk management and good regulation to develop products that can help deal with financial crises. This study also shows the importance of using thematic analysis methods in the research and teaching of Syari'ah economics to provide more accurate and comprehensive data on the performance of Syari'ah financial institutions.

This research invites readers to be more open to the potential of the Syari'ah economic system in providing sustainable and stable solutions in dealing with the global financial crisis. Readers can see the Syari'ah economic system as a tool to understand financial dynamics in an increasingly complex global context. Openness to the principles of Syari'ah economics will increase understanding and appreciation of the strength and resilience of the Syari'ah economic system in the face of financial crises.

CONCLUSION

The most important finding of this study is that Islamic financial institutions showed good and stable performance during the global financial crisis. The data shows that low NPL levels and positive income growth are indicators of the sustainability and stability of the Islamic economic system. This study shows that good risk management and the prohibition of *riba*, *gharar*, and *maisir* help prevent economic bubbles and bad loans, as well as provide greater financial stability compared to conventional financial institutions.

This study makes an important contribution by using the case study method to analyze the performance of Islamic financial institutions during the global financial crisis. This approach provides more accurate and comprehensive data on the performance of Islamic financial institutions in various economic contexts. This study also shows that regulations and public policies play an important role in supporting the sustainability of the Syari'ah economic system, as well as providing a basis for public policies that support financial stability.

The limitations of this research lie in its limited focus on a few countries and Islamic financial institutions. Further research can include an analysis of more countries and Islamic financial institutions to get a more comprehensive picture. Further research can also explore the relationship between the innovation of Islamic financial products and the sustainability of the Islamic economic system in the face of the global financial crisis. This data will provide deeper insights into the potential and challenges of Islamic economic integration in the global financial system.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

Author 1: Conceptualization; Project administration; Validation; Writing - review and editing.

Author 2: Conceptualization; Data curation; In-vestigation.

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