

A Maqāṣid Approach to Artificial Intelligence in Islamic Banking

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Abstract

This research proposes a Maqāṣid-AI framework (MAF) as a normative lens to evaluate whether the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in Islamic banking enhances Maqāṣid (the higher purposes of Islamic law). AI has significantly transformed Islamic banking, creating unique opportunities and enhancing efficiency through smart and seamless operations. Yet, Shari'ah compliance and ethical challenges such as system opacity, explainable AI, algorithmic bias, and data privacy remain. This is because current research is mainly descriptive and lacks a solid theoretical framework to evaluate the performance of AI. This research proposes a Maqāṣid framework that aligns Shari'ah ethical values with technological innovations. It addresses existing gaps in the literature by proposing an operational framework to evaluate the integration of AI with maqāṣid, including the preservation of faith (dīn), life (nafs), intellect ('aql), dignity ('ird), and wealth (māl). The MAF is developed across three key stages, Innovation in Application and Development, Regulation in Governance and Risk Mitigation, and Repercussion in Evaluation and Prevention, to uphold Islamic ethical values. From this background, the research critically assesses recent AI literature alongside the classical maqāṣid theoretical principle of maṣlaḥa (benefit maximisation) to provide a normative blueprint for regulators, Shari'ah scholars, and banking professionals seeking ethical AI adoption. The research highlights implications for corporate governance, emphasising the need for maqāṣid-based governance policies.

Keywords: artificial intelligence, Islamic banking, Maqāṣid al-Shari'ah, governance, Murabaha.

1. Introduction

Artificial intelligence (AI) has revolutionised global finance by enabling rapid data processing, personalised customer experiences, and enhanced risk management capabilities (Adznan et al., 2024). From automated fraud detection to predictive analytics, AI is reshaping the operations of financial institutions, offering

unprecedented efficiency and scalability (Salehi, 2025). Islamic banking, however, faces a unique challenge in integrating AI while ensuring compliance with Shari'ah principles, which prioritise religious permissibility (Lasmiatun & Manteghi, 2025). Balancing technological adoption and religious alignment in a rapidly developing industry adds to the complexity faced by Islamic banks. As such, innovation must be balanced with Shari'ah compliance to achieve maqāsid-based ethical objectives. This justifies the need for a framework that evaluates the compatibility of AI with Islamic values (Hassan & Lewis, 2007).

However, existing research on AI in Islamic finance is predominantly descriptive (Manneh et al., 2025), focusing on practical applications such as robo-advisors and compliance tools without a robust theoretical foundation (Najib et al., 2025). For instance, Harun et al. (2024) discussed two AI software solutions considered for deployment in Islamic banks, IRSHAD and SKIL-RSA, as AI Shari'ah robo-advisors. IRSHAD serves as a guide related to issues of zakat (obligatory almsgiving), inheritance, and investment, currently in development. On the other hand, SKIL-RSA is designed to serve as a mufti (Shari'ah scholar) that issues fatwas (legal opinions) on financial matters, subject to the approval of scholars from the Shari'ah Supervisory Board of an Islamic bank (Harun et al., 2024).

Nevertheless, the efficiency and accuracy of IRSHAD and SKIL-RSA in relation to Islamic legal rulings have not been tested; thus, the research is merely descriptive in nature (Manneh et al., 2025). AI Taqwa Compliance is another AI-driven solution developed by the Islamic Development Bank in collaboration with Islamic scholars to assist Islamic banks in achieving Shari'ah-compliant operations and adherence to Islamic Governance Standards (Islamic Finance Review, 2025). This AI solution is designed to filter prohibited content, provide transparent and auditable AI decision-making processes, ensure privacy protection, and develop training datasets to avoid promoting interest-based lending (Islamic Finance Review, 2025).

Despite the ongoing development of AI tools to assist those in charge at Islamic banks, the questions that remain are two-fold: How can these tools ensure Shari'ah values are protected? And: How can maqāsid objectives be achieved through AI adoption? To support this assertion, Yazdizadeh (2025) has revealed that recent research evaluating AI-generated definitions of Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) standards as a benchmark for Shari'ah-compliant finance found that 93.75% of AI-generated outputs were inconsistent with Islamic law. This highlights that AI-generated models trained on non-specialised data can misinterpret key terms. In practice, these problems justify the need for a systematic investigation to evaluate the alignment of AI with Maqāsid al-Shari'ah.

In essence, Islamic banking is theoretically based on maqāsid, encompassing permissibility, prohibitions, and moral filtering throughout its operations. Maqāsid serves as both a theoretical and practical compass for efficient banking services. Maqāsid al-Shari'ah refers to the intents or higher purposes of Islamic law and aims to maximise maṣlaḥa (public/common good), minimise mafsada (damages), and

establish fairness, justice, and risk-sharing in financial dealings (Mustapha & Makan, 2025). Islamic banks operate under the general theory of permissibility, allowing all aspects of operations, including intermediation, trading, lending, and financing facilities (Iqbal & Molyneux, 2005). Next is the concept of prohibition, which specifies exceptions where aspects such as interest (riba), excessive uncertainty (gharar), gambling (maisir), and injurious or harmful products and services to individuals or the community are prohibited. The third is the theory of moral filtering, which provides a clean, ethical, and sustainable means of financing (Mirakhor & Iqbal, 1987). Maqāṣid theory is a broad philosophical, analytical, and practical framework for Islamic banks to function within the ambit of Islamic law. Without a maqāṣid framework, assessing AI alignment to achieve the religious goals of Islamic banking is difficult, and risks such as algorithmic bias, black-box issues, data security, and privacy breaches could undermine them (Iqbal et al., 2025).

To explore this challenge, this research poses a central question: Can AI serve as a tool to achieve Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah in Islamic banking operations? To answer this question, the research proposes a conceptual Maqāṣid-AI framework (MAF) to evaluate the alignment of AI with the higher purposes of maqāṣid. The MAF offers a normative lens and a practical guide for scholars, regulators, and practitioners. Notably, Zafar and Ali (2025) argued that one of the major limitations of AI adoption is the failure of AI-driven models to detect non-permissible transactions, thus threatening the achievement of Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah, a timely gap that this research aims to address. As a conceptual paper, a qualitative design relying on secondary data was adopted. Major online databases such as Google Scholar and Scopus (2020–2026) were used to search for relevant keywords such as Maqāṣid, AI, Islamic banking, and governance. In addition, classical maqāṣid theory was analysed, along with AI and Islamic banking literature, to operationalise the MAF.

On the whole, the research paper begins with an introduction, followed by an explanation of the methodology, an outline of conceptual AI and Islamic banking, and specific discussions on AI application. The research then outlines Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah as a theoretical foundation, discusses the conceptual framework, presents the operationalisation of the MAF, illustrates the practical scenario using Murabaha contract, and identifies potential challenges in applying the MAF. The research then discusses the implications flowing from the MAF and provides a conclusion with future directions.

2. Methodology

The research employed a qualitative design with a conceptual approach to data sourcing and analysis. Secondary data were collected from online sources such as Google Scholar, Scopus (2020–2025), and AAOIFI Sharī'ah and Governance Standards. Additional sources of data focused on AI-related literature, Islamic banking, and the classical Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah theories. Major themes were drawn. Inductively-generated keywords guiding the analysis included Islamic banking; AI opportunities and challenges; maqāṣid higher purposes of faith (dīn), life (nafs), intellect ('aql), dignity ('ird), and wealth (māl); Sharī'ah compliance; governance; Murabaha; Islamic banking regulation, operations, products, and services; AI fraud

detection; algorithmic bias; robo-advisor; credit scoring; natural language processing (NLP) for compliance; cybersecurity; system opacity; and black-box and explainable AI.

Selection began by identifying the keywords as themes and sub-themes in the data, and verifying them to ensure their relevance for inclusion in the analysis (Manneh et al., 2025). A documentary analysis approach was used on these literary materials alongside these themes and sub-themes. Solutions were proposed to the challenges of deploying AI in Islamic banking operations by aligning AI with maqāṣid ethical goals to achieve optimal Shari'ah governance and ethical compliance. The MAF was developed through consolidated literature reading, inductive reasoning, and theoretical inference. The MAF aims to ensure that technological innovation meets Maqāṣid al-Shari'ah compliance, balancing the two concepts through its three stages: innovation, regulation, and repercussion.

3. Islamic Banking and AI: A Conceptual Overview

Islamic banking operates within the framework of Shari'ah (Islamic law) as a general theory and foundational principle, aiming to promote, through financial intermediation, ethical finance, social justice, and equitable wealth distribution (Zafar & Ali, 2025). These foundational aims are comprehensively operationalised through the higher objectives of Islamic law (Maqāṣid al-Shari'ah), where public good (maṣlaḥa) is maximised and damages and harms (mafsadah) are minimised. Maqāṣid al-Shari'ah serves as an anchoring framework for Islamic banking operations. It encompasses the permissibility, prohibition, and ethical principles of Shari'ah, with the protection of faith, life, intellect, dignity, and wealth serving as its primary Maqāṣid underpinnings. Unlike conventional banking, which often emphasises profit maximisation, Islamic banking integrates moral and spiritual dimensions while pursuing profit, economic stability, and community welfare objectives (Audah, 2008). Its value-driven approach makes it a unique financial system, requiring careful evaluation of new technologies, such as AI, before adoption.

The core prohibitions in Islamic banking include riba (interest), gharar (deception), and maisir (gambling), which are seen as exploitative and destabilising (Mustapha & Malkan, 2025). Instead, Islamic law emphasises risk-sharing through models such as mudarabah (profit-sharing) and musharakah (joint ventures) and asset-backed financing such as Murabaha (cost-plus sale) and ijarah (leasing) (Belababes, 2025), ensuring transactions are tied to real economic activity (Hassan & Lewis, 2007). These principles promote fairness and reduce systemic risks, aligning with Islamic ethical goals and strengthening Shari'ah compliance, making Islamic banking distinct from conventional banking (Harun et al., 2024).

Shari'ah governance, facilitated by supervisory boards and standards from AAOIFI and the Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB), ensures compliance with the maqāṣid principles (Khoso & Pathan, 2025). To this end, in strengthening governance efforts, there is a need for maqāṣid-based guidelines to assess AI, ensuring that technological adoption enhances rather than undermines the religious objectives of Islamic banking

(Belabes, 2024). In the Takāful industry, AI can also be deployed to assess risk, perform pricing modelling, manage claims settlement, and conduct verification (Shalhoob, 2025). RegTech and SupTech are other functions of AI in Islamic finance using process automation, fraud detection, and algorithmic asset management, aiding regulatory oversight and effective supervision (Kharisma et al., 2025).

However, AI is conceptualised as the simulation of human intelligence in machines, encompassing technologies such as machine learning (ML), NLP, and deep learning (Copeland, 2026). AI systems learn from data, recognise patterns, and make autonomous decisions with minimal human intervention (Teoh & Goh, 2023). Critical assessment of the literature provides four interconnected dimensions of AI: acting humanly, thinking humanly, acting rationally, and thinking rationally. Regarding acting humanly, AI employs the Turing test approach, conceptualising AI as a human-like interrogator using NLP, ML, robotics, and other technologies to act like humans do (Grève, 2025). In Islamic banking, this is exemplified by systems such as IRSHAD, which acts as a human guide for zakat and inheritance matters (Harun et al., 2024).

The second dimension is thinking humanly. Beyond acting humanly, AI in this dimension uses a cognitive modelling approach, including introspection, psychological experiments, and brain imaging. This approach helps AI programs map input to output corresponding to human behaviour (Russell & Norvig, 2024). This is useful for mimicking personalised customer service, such as AI robo-advisor applications in Islamic finance services. In contrast, in terms of thinking rationally, AI has become more advanced, applying the laws of thought approach as a model of rational reasoning, building intelligent systems that enhance understanding of how the world works and even enable future predictions. This is one dimension where AI resembles the repercussion stage in the MAF model, providing efficiency, accuracy, and future implications for financial services.

Yet, AI also acts rationally using the rational agent approach. In this approach, AI can act rationally by achieving a more advanced and deeper understanding of scientific applications (Russell & Norvig, 2024). This rational approach is seen in tools such as SKIL-RSA, which functions as a mufti by objectively issuing Shari'ah pronouncements and interpreting jurisprudential verdicts (Harun et al., 2024), and AI Taqwa Compliance, which rationally filters prohibited content (Islamic Finance Review, 2025).

In essence, all four these dimensions of AI are relevant in Islamic financial service delivery. The key characteristics of AI include speed, accuracy, automation, and predictive ability, which enhance efficiency in fraud detection, credit scoring, and personalised customer service (Zafar & Ali, 2025). For example, AI-driven algorithms can analyse transaction histories to predict market trends or identify anomalies, thereby reducing operational costs and improving decision-making (Harun et al., 2024).

However, even with the advanced dimension of AI in Islamic banking, risks such as algorithmic opacity (the “black-box” problem) mean that AI may lack transparency in algorithmic decision-making processes, potentially undermining Shari’ah compliance checks (Zafar & Ali, 2025). Furthermore, discriminatory bias, misuse, and over-reliance on Big Data, complex data processing, and ML (ScaDS.AI, 2023) pose significant ethical challenges, particularly in contexts requiring transparency and fairness, such as in religiously regulated environments. As such, no matter how efficient AI is in acting and thinking both humanly and rationally, it remains a machine with inherent limitations in human nature, ability, and applicability, particularly in Islamic banking applications.

4. AI Application in Islamic Banking

AI is transforming Islamic banking through innovative applications in many ways. The extensive literature survey identified the following applications of AI in Islamic banking services:

- Robo-advisors for halal (permissible) investment portfolios, screening assets for Shari’ah compliance (Adznan et al., 2024; Harun et al., 2024).
- AI-based credit scoring to promote financial inclusion via risk-sharing models (Islamic Finance Review, 2025).
- Compliance monitoring tools using NLP to detect interest, deception, or gambling in contracts (Mustapha & Malkan, 2025).
- Fraud detection systems leveraging ML to identify real-time anomalies (Belabes, 2024).
- Cybersecurity enhancements through predictive analytics to safeguard client data (Najib et al., 2025) and new product development and innovation using AI, thereby expanding Shari’ah-compliant banking services in line with customer needs (Khoso & Pathan, 2025).
- New product development and innovation using AI to create new products and expand Shari’ah-compliant services to satisfy customers’ needs (Khoso & Pathan, 2025).

These applications offer significant opportunities that improve efficiency, reduce human error, widen financial inclusion, and accelerate Shari’ah compliance checks (Iqbal & Mirakhor, 2017). For instance, Shalhoob and Babiker (2025) believed that AI can streamline contract screening, ensuring adherence to Shari’ah principles within seconds. Similarly, an article by the Islamic Finance Review (2025) claimed that credit-scoring models for Islamic microfinance banks enable access to financing for underserved communities, aligning with Islamic values of social justice and fairness (Iqbal & Mirakhor, 2017).

Furthermore, Suhartanto et al. (2026) argued that AI as a service agent holds both promise and peril for Islamic finance in general and banking in particular. Kharisma et al. (2025) contended that ethical and Shari’ah compliance is non-negotiable in the deployment of AI to prevent harm arising from uncertainty (gharar), which may render its use impermissible in certain categories. A legal maxim upholds that “harm must be eliminated”. Drawing from this notion, the deployment of AI must be

evaluated and carefully monitored. The Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah framework will ensure that AI supports the overall objectives of Islamic banking without introducing harms such as discriminatory outcomes, loss of human oversight, or privacy breaches (Khosro & Pathan, 2025).

Going forward, some studies have affirmed that AI increases the risk of inequality and discrimination due to algorithmic bias, data management, monitoring, and continuous improvement (Zafar & Ali, 2025). To illustrate, there is an increased risk regarding the protection of customer deposits within digital banking operations, and the lack of tailored regulatory frameworks and over-reliance on technology without human oversight further complicate adoption (Kismawadi, 2025).

Zafar and Ali (2025) summarised four important areas for AI implementation in Islamic banking for achieving maqāṣid: regulators who set policies, Sharī'ah scholars who ensure compliance, technology providers who develop solutions, and customers who use and benefit from the AI solution. In recent literature, Shalhoob (2025) argued that Sharī'ah compliance is the biggest AI challenge, while Manneh et al. (2025) emphasised conformity with Sharī'ah regulatory gaps as a major challenge. Islam (2023), on the other hand, mentioned both ethical and legal challenges. According to Shalhoob and Babiker (2025), critics argue that AI lacks the capacity to comprehend and interpret the nature of Sharī'ah law, which is context-specific and complex. Djoufouet (2025) outlined ethical challenges for AI application in the Saudi Arabian context. Harun et al. (2024) and Fitria (2024) mentioned cybersecurity threats as a major challenge, while Sari (2025) explored challenges and opportunities for AI in the digital era and highlighted pressing questions regarding the need for a robust framework to evaluate Sharī'ah adequacy, which this research aimed to address.

5. Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah as the Theoretical Foundation

Maqāṣid al-Sharī'ah, the higher objectives of Islamic law, aim to promote human welfare and prevent harm (Mustapha & Malkan, 2025). Developed by classical scholars such as Al-Ghazālī (d. 505 AH) and Al-Shātibī (d. 790 AH), and refined by Ibn Ashur, maqāṣid theory establishes a hierarchy of essentials, needs, and embellishments, serving as a flexible evaluative framework for Sharī'ah-based rulings (Audah, 2008). One major theme of maqāṣid in AI application is not only attaining good (maṣlaḥa) but also maximising it, on one hand, and minimising harms, losses, or damages (mafsada), on the other, to individuals, the community, and the environment as a whole (Manneh et al., 2025). This underpins permissibility, prohibition, and the promotion of ethical principles, permitting all benefits, prohibiting all harms, and promoting ethical integrity for AI application.

Equally, modern and contemporary scholars have contributed to developing maqāṣid as a holistic jurisprudential tool for establishing legal rulings in all spheres of knowledge, including Islamic banking (Raysuni, 2005). Maqāṣid are end-oriented objectives, not rigid rules, guiding the assessment of actions and innovations (Mustapha & Malkan, 2025). For example, protecting wealth involves ensuring

economic justice, while safeguarding intellect emphasises rational decision-making free from deception (Ibn Ashur, 2018).

In juristic reasoning, maqāṣid function as the higher legal ends, while AI is just a means. Any AI solution must therefore serve the ends, that is, maqāṣid, and if it contradicts them, the solution becomes invalid as it neglects the higher purposes of the Shari'ah (Raysuni, 2005). From this perspective, AI can contribute to safeguarding key Shari'ah objectives by protecting against prohibited economic practices. In doing so, AI could support the preservation of faith through promoting justice, transparency, and ethical compliance (Adznan et al., 2024).

AI can also play a key role in the protection of life by identifying and filtering harmful products or activities, such as alcohol, drugs, weapons, and terrorism financing (Alrasheed, 2025; Al Nabhany, 2024). Similarly, since alcohol is detrimental to both health and intellect, AI systems that screen investments in wine-producing companies contribute to the preservation of human life, intellect, and health (Fitria, 2024).

In the same way, AI can help protect human dignity and honour by detecting and restricting exploitative practices, racial discrimination, privacy violations, human rights abuses, gambling, lotteries, prostitution, racism, and other activities that undermine human value (Arsyad et al., 2025). Regarding wealth, AI can support its protection and sound management by mitigating risks, promoting fair transactions, and ensuring compliance with Shari'ah financial principles (Fitria, 2024). Owing to this, AI as a tool must be critically assessed in terms of its ability to strengthen these maqāṣid objectives. This positions the maqāṣid framework as an ideal praxis for evaluating the ethical alignment of AI in Islamic banking (Abdullah et al., 2024). Moreover, as the ultimate maqāṣid development target is to promote human well-being regardless of race, age, sex, or identity (Mohiuddin & Siddiqui, 2023), this includes all stakeholders in the banking system, such as professionals, regulators, operators, Shari'ah experts, customers, and shareholders.

6. Conceptual Framework

The MAF conceptualises AI to realise Maqāṣid al-Shari'ah within Islamic banking. It asserts that AI is considered successful only when deployed to advance these objectives by promoting Shari'ah compliance and strengthening governance processes. In addition, complementary aims such as customer satisfaction, financial inclusion, liquidity, and risk management further enhance this process (Dasmadi et al., 2024). Together, these elements ensure that AI adoption yields ethical and Shari'ah-compliant outcomes (Abdulkadir & Bature, 2025).

The MAF is structured around three stages: Innovation, Regulation, and Repercussion. The Innovation stage uses an application and development approach, where AI systems are designed with embedded maqāṣid principles, such as interest filters in algorithms or privacy protocols to protect dignity and human rights. The Regulation stage uses a governance and risk mitigation approach, involving oversight by Shari'ah boards and adherence to AAOIFI/IFSB standards, ensuring ethical governance against reputation risk. The Repercussion stage, on the other hand,

employs an assessment and prevention approach to evaluate practical outcomes, assessing whether AI has achieved maqāṣid, such as reducing fraud to preserve wealth or ensuring fairness in credit scoring for a financing facility (Kismawadi, 2025). Table 1 presents the MAF, which maps the five goals of the Maqāṣid with the three stages of Innovation, Regulation, and Repercussion.

Table 1: Mapping of the Maqāṣid-AI framework (MAF)

Maqāṣid (Objectives)	Innovation (Application and Development)	Regulation (Risk Mitigation and Governance)	Repercussion (Assessment and Prevention)
Faith (Dīn)	Deploying AI for automated contract screening and halal investment advisory to ensure strict Shari'ah compliance.	Establishing parameters to prevent AI models from misinterpreting Shari'ah rules and issuing invalid fatwas.	Implementing human reviews and utilising juristic databases to assess AI outputs and prevent non-compliance risks.
Life (Nafs)	Utilising AI for cybersecurity, predicting threats, and filtering out terrorism financing or harmful investments.	Enforcing data protection standards to secure systems against data breaches and structural vulnerabilities.	Conducting continuous ethical hacking and deploying multi-layered defences to evaluate and safeguard system integrity.
Intellect ('Aql)	Creating AI-driven decision-support systems and tools to detect misinformation or miscommunication.	Creating governance to prevent over-reliance on AI, ensuring it does not undermine or replace human reasoning.	Utilising hybrid AI-ijtihād (independent legal reasoning) models to assess AI decisions contextually.
Dignity ('Ird)	Designing privacy-focused credit-scoring tools that promote financial inclusion and fair access to services.	Regulating algorithms to prevent discriminatory biases based on race, gender, or social class.	Performing routine bias audits and ensuring the use of inclusive datasets to verify equitable and just outcomes.
Wealth (Māl)	Integrating AI for real-time risk management, fraud detection, and new product development.	Setting strict technical standards to prevent system opacity and unjust financial outcomes.	Generating explainable AI and regulatory reporting to scrutinise financial decisions and guarantee transparency.

The MAF is a conceptual blueprint, more than just a technical framework. It is designed to guide regulators, Shari'ah scholars, and banking officials in evaluating AI adoption ethically (Najib et al., 2025). The MAF acts as a holistic, result-oriented model to ensure the achievement of maqāṣid in a flexible and multidimensional way. Rather than limiting specific objectives to single stages, it demonstrates that all five maqāṣid goals must be continuously evaluated across all three stages of the framework. By its nature, the MAF assumes that innovation captures the application of AI, regulation focuses on controlling risks in governance, and repercussion aims at prevention as a proactive measure against any eventualities of non-compliance, financial loss, or

undesired results. In essence, the MAF aligns Shari'ah compliance, financial performance, and ethical efficiency in Islamic banking with AI. This helps to ensure steady governance, improve juristic standardisation, and enhance positive customer relationships (Abimbola & Zaytun, 2025).

7. Operationalising the MAF

The MAF addresses an important shortcoming in the literature by offering a maqāsid-based evaluative framework, moving beyond descriptive studies of AI applications in Islamic banking. While most research has focused on practical implementations, this research adopts a maqāsid-based framework approach to integrate AI with Islamic ethical objectives. The MAF provides three stages for applying AI as a tool in Islamic banking operations.

7.1 Innovation

In this stage, Islamic banks apply AI for accuracy and precision as part of innovation for wealth creation through deposit mobilisation, retail banking, and development financing. In this context, AI helps Islamic banking operations to create more products meeting the needs of customers and ensuring Maqāsid al-Shari'ah compliance (Abimbola & Zaytun, 2025). From the application perspective, Islamic banks can use AI for automated contract screening and halal investment advisory to ensure strict Shari'ah compliance. This will support faith in the permissibility and prohibition aspects. Islamic banks using AI will ensure that all non-compliant items are screened out and all permissions are factored in to prevent any values conflicting with Shari'ah, which strengthens faith, boosts confidence (Belabes, 2024), and supports the maqāsid theory of faith protection by promoting more benefits (maṣlaḥa). AI innovation and application also contribute to cybersecurity against fraud, scams, terrorism financing, and harmful investments to safeguard the maqāsid of life and faith, in line with attaining maṣlaḥa. Next is the use of decision-support systems against misinformation and miscommunication for effective decision-making processes, alongside privacy-focused credit scoring, as parameters for preserving and enhancing intellect, human dignity, and honour. Additionally, risk management serves as a parameter for wealth protection within the innovation phase. The Innovation stage marks a starting point for a solid foundation, ensuring efficient application of AI tasks for streamlining innovation with Shari'ah compliance. On the whole, this stage contributes to the relevance of maqāsid theory in maximising benefits and good (maṣlaḥa).

7.2 Regulation

This stage is aimed at managing potential risks as its basic maqāsid, which is fixed and standardised for RegTech and SupTech applications. As such, a well-designed and regulated AI plays a supportive role that is fair, transparent, socially responsible, and compliant with religious principles (Isnani & Rifai, 2024). This ensures protection against the misinterpretation of inputs on Shari'ah rules, data breaches, and system vulnerabilities, safeguarding faith and life against the risk of Shari'ah non-compliance. It also regulates AI over-reliance to avoid undermining human reasoning and mitigates algorithmic bias to prevent discrimination based on social class, tribe, faith, race, or gender, thereby protecting intellect and dignity. Furthermore, the regulation

addresses system opacity and prevents unjust outcomes to safeguard wealth. This stage constitutes the core of the MAF and is highly applicable to the middle office of banking operations.

7.3 Repercussion

This is a proactive, evolving, and research-based stage designed to assess the outcomes of AI application against all potential risks. Prevention is the fundamental *maqāsid*, which utilises juristic databases, human reviews, and ethical hacking with multi-layered defences to enhance both faith and life, thereby informing the repercussion principle. It also utilises hybrid AI-*ijtihad* models, bias audits, and inclusive datasets to improve intellect and dignity, thereby strengthening regulatory outcomes. In the final segment, the framework mandates explainable AI (EDPS TechDispatch, 2023) and regulatory reporting by scrutinising AI decisions, results, and outcomes, ensuring transparency, accuracy, and fairness of its interpretation and explanation to protect wealth (Kismawadi, 2025). Moreover, innovation and repercussion are particularly applicable to front- and back-office functions, including customer service, wealth management, administration, transactions, settlements, and records in a multidimensional capacity. In contrast, regulation is more applicable to the middle office of Islamic banks, which is experiencing an expanding role with technological development (McGill, 2008).

On the whole, the MAF stages of innovation, regulation, and repercussion serve in various ways the *maqāsid* principles of *maṣlaḥa*, permissibility, prohibitions, and ethical dimensions, which are the core principles for Islamic banking operations. Furthermore, the Noble Qur'an explicitly permits sound and fair trading, prohibits interest and harmful items, and enjoins justice, benevolence, and transparency in financial dealings. All harms to individuals, communities, or the environment are prohibited to ensure a sustainable banking system. Therefore, Mohiuddin and Siddqui (2023) emphasised that *Maqāsid al-Sharī'ah* can be explained as "*maintaining human needs by realising their benefits and avoiding harm*". In addition, innovation captures value addition and continuous growth, regulation strengthens governance while avoiding reputational risk of non-compliance, and repercussion ensures future development and prevention. These are not only relevant in the broad *maqāsid* theoretical framework, but also essential for the resilience of Islamic banking in an uncertain global economy.

Figure 1 presents the stages and clarifies how innovation, regulation, and repercussion combine in sequential order to provide swift and seamless operations. These stages are flexible and can be applied by any stakeholder, including regulators, *Sharī'ah* scholars, or banking professionals. Innovation guides AI application and the entire development process, providing both opportunities and potential challenges. Regulation guides governance, supervision, compliance, and risk mitigation. This strengthens overall confidence in AI in realising opportunities and addressing challenges. Repercussion guides users in monitoring and evaluating impact, preventing negative outcomes, ensuring sustainability, and avoiding uncertainties.

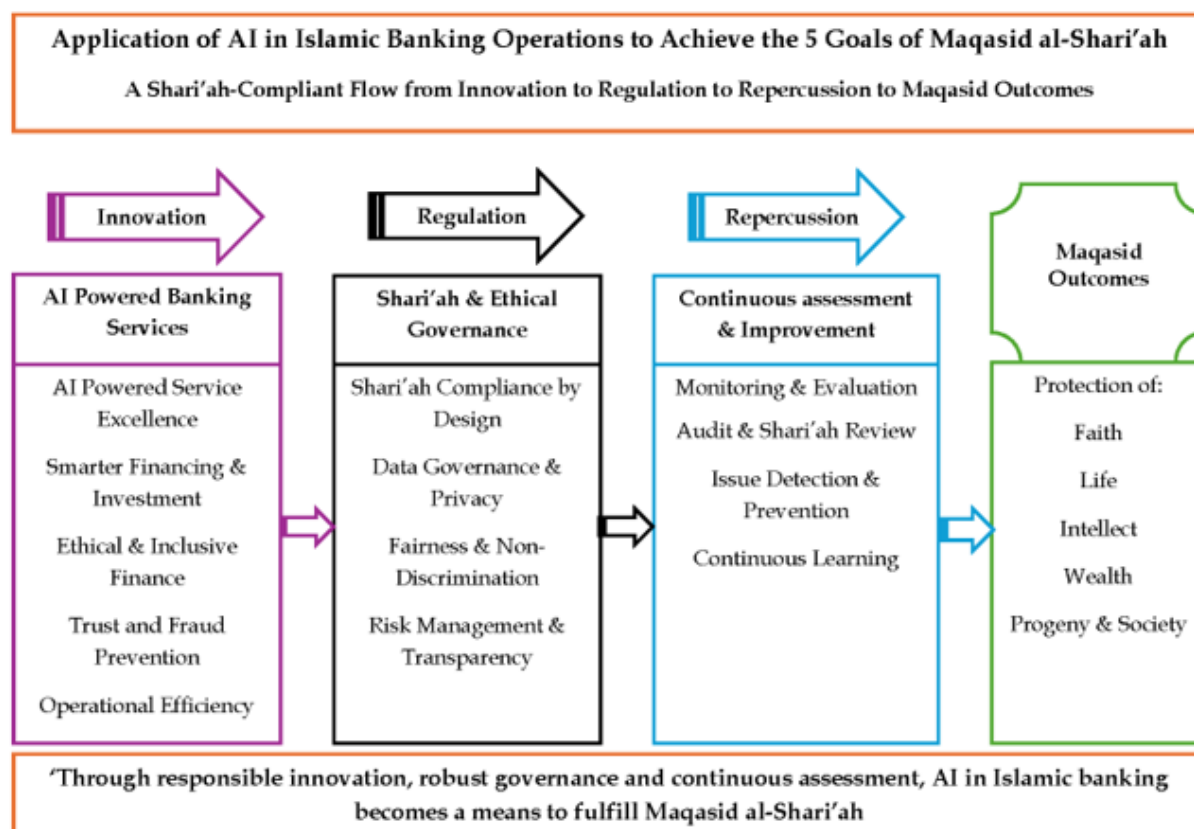


Figure 1: MAF stages

8. Practical Application: A Murabaha Scenario

Islamic banks and other financial institutions can leverage the MAF for service efficiency. Practically speaking, Islamic banks can deploy AI on a Murabaha contract from application to approval, asset purchase, contract issuance, Shari'ah compliance, and monitoring and control using the following steps.

8.1 AI Layer for Innovation

This layer is purely AI-driven. It begins with a customer approaching the bank requesting financing for a car. The bank deploys the MAF using an AI layer to assess and prepare the contract procedure. The AI verifies the customer's status and identity, and then uses credit scoring to verify their creditworthiness. Furthermore, the AI screens the asset for Shari'ah compliance, initiates preliminary contractual terms and conditions, and facilitates proper documentation. It also performs Shari'ah compliance checks, fraud and scam detection, and ongoing monitoring using AI risk assessment tools. The AI prepares Murabaha documentation incorporating the innovation for maqasid of wealth protection and mobilisation, regulation for documentation, and repercussion for monitoring the process. The template provides comprehensive terms, conditions, and disclosure of the profit margin of the contract for a swift process. In terms of the customer, the AI assesses their creditworthiness and repayment or default records, thereby hedging against the risk of default. Through this, the MAF achieves maqasid of wealth protection and enhances mobilisation.

8.2 Human Oversight Layer

This layer is human-driven for regulation and repercussion; the AI reviews the contract to screen out all prohibited items by adopting AAOIFI Shari'ah standards. However, AI in the MAF serves as an advisor, not a decision-maker, using a robo-advisor function. Human officials and the Shari'ah Supervisory Board (SSB) then cross-check and evaluate the Shari'ah compliance technologies of the AI for any violations. The SSB then approves the Murabaha AI-automated contract validation, ensuring the country's jurisdictional governance framework and juristic databases are adequately adopted. As such, maqāsid compliance is strengthened against explainable AI, black-box issues, and algorithmic bias, as proved by the existing literature (EDPS TechDispatch, 2023; ScaDS.AI, 2023). The AI will ensure due diligence in relation to the customer's payment of the commitment fee, unilateral promise, agency agreement, method of engagement with the car dealer, as well as the associated documentation and repayment arrangements. Ultimately, this layer allows the Islamic bank to combine AI with human oversight for a dual benefit: maximising efficiency (maṣlaḥa) and reducing redundancy, tediousness, and risk (mafsada) as part of the maqāsid lens.

8.3 Maqāsid Layer

This layer combines Innovation, Regulation, and Repercussion as a whole. Under this, the MAF ensures maqāsid ethical compliance in all three stages for the customer, the asset, and the bank. This safeguards the customer, the underlying asset, and the bank against identity fraud and other non-compliant practices. Consequently, wealth is protected, while faith and life are also protected against cyberterrorism financing, scams, and fraud. Intellect is protected against financing or investing in wines, illicit drugs, and prohibited substances, and dignity is protected against gambling, prostitution, and human trafficking, in line with maqāsid principles. AI can serve as a social finance assessment tool for zakāh calculation, collection, and distribution when due. Additionally, the AI-waqf initiative can be used to enhance financial inclusion, social justice, and sustainable wealth distribution by leveraging AI robo-advisors and AI-automated screening for waqf assets.

This practical scenario illustrates how the MAF could be applied in real-world Islamic banking operations. The MAF clearly ensures a Murabaha contract is validated, the permissibility of the underlying asset is confirmed, the contractual agreement is completed, and ownership, purchase-sale, and delivery requirements are met. This assists the bank in reducing human error, saving time and effort, and achieving better documentation, reporting, and auditing as part of RegTech and SupTech applications, while reducing overdependence on manual Shari'ah reviews.

9. Potential Challenges of Using the MAF

Despite the promising potential of the MAF, there are still challenges in its implementation. These are hypothetical challenges that can help in addressing issues for a successful deployment of the MAF.

9.1 Shari'ah Compliance and Ethical Issues

One of the major constraints is always the Shari'ah compliance and ethical dimensions of contractual procedures (Hamadou et al., 2024; Shalhoob & Babiker, 2025), as Shari'ah non-compliance entails reputational damage and eroding of trust, leading to diminished stakeholder confidence and a consequent loss of normative legitimacy (Manneh et al., 2025). As such, the MAF attempts to limit these issues, yet its application may come with constraints. Ensuring halal compliance by preventing deception, gambling, prohibited products, racial and ethnic discrimination, privacy violations, and products that are harmful to human health, society, or the environment is important, as algorithmic bias, AI explainability, and black-box assessment remain significant challenges to the effective and ethical use of AI (EDPS TechDispatch, 2023; ScaDS.AI, 2023). Therefore, human oversight, technical expertise, and strong regulation mechanisms are important.

9.2 Technical Expertise

Salehi (2025) emphasised that knowledge and skills gaps in technical expertise on AI solutions, as an emerging technological revolution within Islamic banking, pose a barrier for financial professionals in both operational and integration aspects (Shalhoob & Babiker, 2025). Therefore, for a successful implementation of the MAF, Islamic banks need to invest significantly in human resource development, capacity-building, short and customised certification programmes, and research to bridge the existing gap (Manneh et al., 2025).

9.3 Regulatory Challenge

According to Islam (2023), the lack of universal regulation and standardisation for AI as an Islamic banking operational guide is a major challenge that affects AI performance (Sari, 2025). Uniformity is crucial to make AI adoption and deployment easier and more accessible. For instance, AAOIFI Shari'ah and Governance Standards and the IFSB Prudential Standards should serve as a general framework for prudential RegTech in the sector, helping to address challenges arising from diverse regulations and fatwa resolutions (Rehan, 2024). The essence of Shari'ah lies in regulation. This aspect should standardise Shari'ah-based datasets, harmonise AI-governance standards across jurisdictions, and ease implementation challenges for the MAF (Shalhoob, 2025), thus maintaining the confidentiality and integrity of AI in overall financial operations (Djoufouet, 2025).

10. Conclusion

The use of AI in the Islamic banking system is accompanied by promises and risks, opportunities and challenges, and strengths and weaknesses. AI has the potential to increase the efficiency of banking operations, enable swift procedures, ensure proper recording, and minimise human error and tedious manual work, yet there is always the risk of non-compliance with Shari'ah and maqāsid ethical values. As such, the MAF aims to bridge this gap by providing a tailor-made solution. Islamic banks can incorporate AI using the MAF in their banking product and service offerings to achieve the five universal goals (maqāsid) of Shari'ah. The MAF offers a novel tool for banking officials, managers, customers, and regulators, providing a viable solution for

an easier banking experience, sound regulation, and effective supervision. This enhances positive customer relationships and satisfaction. It also reduces wasted time, effort, and resources. Through its three stages, the MAF integrates maqāṣid into AI solutions to ensure that innovation effectively enhances regulation and repercussion prevents future risks and eventualities.

The implications of this research are threefold: 1) regulators should adopt maqāṣid-informed AI governance that goes beyond compliance checklists; 2) banks must ensure that AI enhances ethical objectives such as wealth preservation and fairness; and 3) scholars can use the MAF as a foundation for further theorisation and empirical testing. The limitation of the MAF lies in its conceptual nature, necessitating practical validation. Nevertheless, this conceptual framework serves as a foundational normative tool, uniquely equipping regulators, Sharī'ah scholars, and banking officials to navigate the complex ethical and compliance considerations of AI in contexts where purely technical models are insufficient.

Moreover, the MAF strictly aligns innovation with maqāṣid to filter non-compliant products and activities, including gambling, pork-related products, alcohol, terrorism financing, human trafficking, fraud, and algorithmic bias based on race, ethnicity, or religion. This safeguards the maqāṣid of faith, life, intellect, human dignity, and wealth. Future research should focus on the empirical validation of the MAF through case studies and its application in other Islamic finance areas, such as Islamic social financing of zakāh (obligatory charity), waqf (endowment), and takāful (Islamic insurance), and Islamic capital market products and services, to refine and expand its practical utility.

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