

Islamic Finance in Tunisia

”An Ethical Pathway to Growth and Stability“

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In a world where conventional finance often struggles with instability, speculation, and inequity, Islamic finance stands out as a system rooted in ethics, fairness, and shared prosperity. Tunisia, with its rich history, cultural values, and demand for Sharia-compliant products, is perfectly placed to embrace this model.

Over the past decade, Islamic finance in Tunisia has steadily gained ground through takaful (Islamic insurance), pioneering Islamic banks, and government interest in Sukuk issuance. The real question is no longer whether Tunisia should expand Islamic finance, but how quickly it can make this shift for the benefit of its people and its economy.

Why Islamic Finance Belongs in Tunisia

Islamic finance is not a foreign idea imposed from outside, it is deeply aligned with Tunisia’s social fabric and ethical values. Unlike conventional finance, which is built on interest and speculation, Islamic finance is based on:

- Risk-sharing instead of risk-shifting
- Asset-backed transactions instead of debt-driven growth
- Ethical investment instead of speculation

At a time when Tunisia’s economy needs stability and credibility, Islamic finance offers both. It represents not just a financial alternative, but a return to fairness and balance.

Islamic Banks like **Banque Zitouna** (2010), **El Wifak Bank** (2017), and **Al Baraka Bank** are living proof that Tunisian citizens welcome Sharia-compliant banking. Their steady growth shows that people are willing to trust and adopt this model.

Takaful Providers have already carved out a place in the insurance sector, offering products based on solidarity and mutual protection rather than profit at all costs.

Sukuk , though not yet fully developed in Tunisia, represent a golden opportunity to fund infrastructure, energy, and development projects in a way that is transparent, asset-based, and inclusive.

A System that Answers Tunisia's Needs

1. **Financial Inclusion:** Many Tunisians avoid conventional banks for religious or ethical reasons. Islamic finance gives them access to safe, trusted services.
2. **Sustainable Development:** Sukuk can finance renewable energy, water, and infrastructure projects — combining economic progress with social welfare.
3. **Attracting Investment:** Regional investors from the Gulf and North Africa prefer Islamic structures. Tunisia could become a hub for this capital.
4. **Ethical Stability:** By avoiding interest and speculation, Islamic finance reduces the risks that often trigger financial crises.

The Road Ahead

Tunisia still needs stronger laws, clearer regulations, and more trained experts. But these are not barriers — they are opportunities to build a system from the ground up that reflects global best practices while staying true to our values.

Policy priorities should include:

- A clear and dedicated legal framework for Islamic contracts and Sukuk.
- Strong, independent Sharia governance to build trust.
- Training the next generation of professionals in Islamic finance.
- Starting with bold projects, like **Green Sukuk**, that show the world Tunisia is serious about ethical and sustainable finance.

Islamic finance is not just another option for Tunisia — it is the **right** option. It combines ethics with efficiency, faith with finance, and tradition with innovation.

By embracing it, Tunisia can unlock new funding sources, strengthen financial inclusion, and build an economy that serves people, not just numbers.

The world is watching. The time to act is now. Islamic finance is not the future of Tunisia — it is the present, and it is the path to prosperity, justice, and stability.