

Four distinctive elements of WWL methodology

Contents

1. Information is gathered as far as possible down to grass-roots level	1
2. The use of a scoring grid makes quantitative analysis possible.....	1
3. The scores for pressure and violence form a pattern.....	2
4. The scoring method makes it possible to compare countries with very different persecution situations.....	3

1. Information is gathered as far as possible down to grass-roots level

For each country being researched, violence data and detailed descriptions of pressure on Christians are supplied by:

- **In-country networks** – who contribute as much grass-roots level information as possible.
- **Open Doors country researchers** – who assemble input from their in-country networks, add their own expertise and fill out WWL questionnaires for the specific countries under research.
- **External experts** – who provide information which can be used for cross-checking the filled-out country questionnaire.
- **WWR analysts** – who combine the above research with their own monitoring results and compile a final version of the completed questionnaire.

2. The use of a scoring grid makes quantitative analysis possible

The questions in Blocks 1 to 5 of the WWL questionnaire are not answered with a simple yes or no. A set of variables are taken into consideration. These are:

- 1) The number of categories of Christian communities affected by persecution (max. 4 points);
- 2) The proportion of the general population living in the territory affected by persecution (max. 4 points);
- 3) The intensity of persecution (max. 4 points);
- 4) The frequency of persecution (max. 4 points).

A scoring grid - see table below - is used to convert the descriptive questionnaire information into numerical. A score for each Block question is calculated¹ from the average of the number of points recorded for each of the four variables.

¹ See scoring example in Appendix 2 of WWL Short Methodology and WWL Complete Methodology, available at: <https://opendoorsanalytical.org/world-watch-list-documentation/> (password: freedom).

Diagram of WWL scoring grid

	0 points	1 point	2 points	3 points	4 points
(1) Number of categories of Christian communities affected ²	None	1 out of 4	2 out of 4 <i>but see footnote 2</i>	3 out of 4 <i>but see footnote 2</i>	4 out of 4 <i>but see footnote 2</i>
(2) Proportion of general population in territory affected	None	Above 0% – 25%	26% – 50%	51% - 75%	76% - 100%
(3) Intensity ³	None	Low	Medium	High	Very high
(4) Frequency	None	Sporadic	Quite frequent	Frequent	Permanent

The resulting score for each question thus contributes to the overall score for pressure in the question's relevant Block. With the overall score for each Block calculated, the levels of pressure in the corresponding 'Spheres of life' (e.g. Block 1 = Private life; Block 2 = Family life etc.) become visible.

Please note: In Block 6 of the questionnaire a different scoring system is used: The first two questions, which deal with killings of Christians and attacks on churches and other Christian buildings, are scored up to a maximum of 30 points each. The other 10 questions together share a maximum total of 30 points.

3. The scores for pressure and violence form a pattern

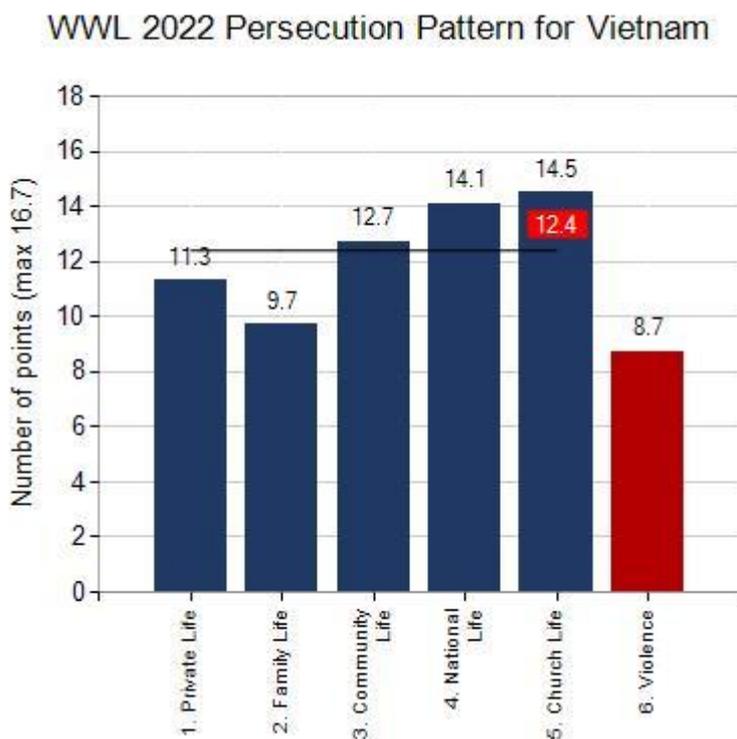
Using the scoring grid for Blocks 1-5 and collation of data for Block 6, overall scores for each Block are calculated which reveal the pattern of persecution in a country for the WWL reporting period in question. See example below (Vietnam WWL 2022), where the average pressure over all spheres of life was 12.4 points (out of a maximum of 16.7) and the highest levels of pressure on Christians occur in the Church life and National life spheres. Persecution in Vietnam has always been violent – the score for violence reached the level of 8.7 points. (However, killings do not happen on a large scale; the

² If all four categories of Christian communities (CCCs) exist in a country, each category affected receives one point. However, it often occurs that not all CCCs are present in a country and/or not all of them are affected by the persecution covered by the Block question. The scoring for this variable is then calculated according to the following table:

Points	Number of categories of Christian communities (CCCs) affected by persecution			
	4 CCCs are present in the country	3 CCCs are present in the country	2 CCCs are present in the country	1 CCC is present in the country
1	1 out of 4 affected	-	-	-
2	2 out of 4 affected	1 out of 3 affected	1 out of 2 affected	-
3	3 out of 4 affected	2 out of 3 affected	-	-
4	4 out of 4 affected	3 out of 3 affected	2 out of 2 affected	1 out of 1 affected

³ Detailed definitions of 'Low - Very high' and 'Sporadic - Permanent' can be found in Section 3.1 of the Complete WWL methodology available at: <https://opendoorsanalytical.org/world-watch-list-documentation/> (password: freedom).

recorded incidents show that the Communist government's preferred means are prison sentences or deportation.)



4. The scoring method makes it possible to compare countries with very different persecution situations

By employing the scoring grid, it becomes possible – so-to-speak – to compare apples with pears. A comparison of countries, despite their differing persecution situations, has now become possible. It is possible because the methodological starting-point focusses on what Christians experienced in their daily life (Blocks 1-4) or what difficulties the Church faced on a daily basis (Block 5) in the reporting period. Violent incidents (all recorded in Block 6) can occur in any of the Spheres of life (Blocks 1-5).

Thus, for instance, a country in which the main Persecution engine is *Islamic oppression* can be compared with a country where *Organized corruption and crime* is dominant.

For a more detailed description of WWL methodology and other background information, please see:

- Short version of WWL methodology (approx. 30 pages)
- Complete WWL methodology (approx. 100 pages)
- WWL - Frequently asked questions
- WWL – Discussion of key themes

Annually updated versions of these documents can be accessed at:

<https://opendoorsanalytical.org/world-watch-list-documentation/> (password: freedom)

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