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البلدية و القروية
Ministry of Municipal & Rural Affairs

CPI PROFILE
TABUK

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

مستقبل المدن السعودية
FUTURE SAUDI CITIES

The Future Saudi Cities Programme
CPI PROFILE - TABOUK

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Introduction

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (MOMRA) jointly launched UN-HABITAT Saudi Arabia Programme titled " Future Saudi Cities Programme (FSCP)". The UN-HABITAT Office has been providing technical support to the MOMRA and targets 17 key cities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The cities include Riyadh, Makkah, Jeddah, Taif, Medina, Tabouk, Dammam, Qatif, Ihsa, Abha, Najran, Jazan, Hail, Araar, AlBaha, Buraydah, and Sakaka, to respond to national and local urban challenges.

UN-Habitat provides a new approach for measuring urban prosperity: which is holistic, integrated and essential for the promotion and monitoring of socio-economic development, inclusion and progressive realization of the urban-related human rights for all. This new approach redirects cities to function towards a path of an urban future that is economically, politically, socially and environmentally prosperous. The new approach or monitoring framework, The Cities Prosperity Index (CPI), is a multidimensional framework that integrates six carefully selected dimensions and several indicators that relates to factors and conditions necessary for a city to thrive and prosper. The six dimensions include productivity, infrastructure development, equity and social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and urban governance. The CPI uses the concept of The Wheel of Urban Prosperity and the Scale of Urban Prosperity to enable stakeholders to assess achievements in cities. The City Prosperity Index (CPI) not only provide indices and measurements relevant to cities, it is an assessment tool that enables city authorities as well as local and national stakeholders, to identify opportunities and potential areas of intervention for their cities to become more prosperous.

Under FSCP, the UN-HABITAT, MOMRA, and Municipality of Tabouk together with its Local Urban Observatory has been working on developing urban statistics and spatial information (Geographic Information System) in order to provide relevant urban information that strongly supports decision making process on urban development and urban planning in the city.

This CPI Profile Report applies the CPI framework and provide a summary of the basic information and urban statistics about the City and gives an overview of the city's achievements, opportunities and potential areas that contribute to its prosperity in areas such productivity, infrastructure development, equity and social inclusion, environmental sustainability and urban governance and legislation.

Overview of Tabouk City

Tabouk is the provincial capital and seat of the Governor of the Tabouk region. It is the headquarters of the local councils, and branches of various governmental departments. It is the largest city in North Western Saudi Arabia and is mainly a military town.

Historical Background

Tabouk is a city of great antiquity. The city is home to many ancient forts built along the old pilgrim route to Mekkah, among the most notable one is Tabouk Fort which was built by the Ottoman Turks in 1655 and has been recently restored by the Saudi Government. Tabouk was also one of the major stops on the Hejaz Railway, this also contributed allot to its growth. In 500 B.C. Tabouk (then known as Taboo) and Al-Ola, the capital of Al-Ayaneyean were major routes for incense trade. Tabouk is rich in historic monuments dating from before and after the time of the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him. Today it has combined an extraordinary past and the benefits of modern development to create a modern city with wide avenues lined with trees and street lighting.

Geography and Location

Tabouk City is situated on the north-western side of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, close to the Jordanian border; it is the northern gateway to the Kingdom. It is about 530Km from Madina and 765Km from Burayda. The city covers an area of about 300 Km^2 and the built-up area is about 86 Km^2. Tabouk is situated 2,200 feet above sea level and has a moderate climate compared to most parts of the Kingdom. Temperatures in the summer are between 26 and 46 °C and in winter they are between −4 and 18°C, with widespread frosts. Snowing is also common with temperatures reaching as low as −6 °C in some winters. Rainfall in Tabouk area is low, it falls in the winter months from November to March, and precipitation ranges between 50 and 150 mm.

Demographic Background

The city of Tabouk has a population growth rate of 4%, in 1992 the population of the city was 292555 people and by 2010 it had reached about 513000 people. In 2016 the population was estimated to be around 667,643 people. Out of the total population, about 16,880 people are 65 years old and above while 447,957 are between 15 years and 64 years old; therefore, the old age dependency ratio in the city is estimated at 3.77 which is good. The city's population is more 70% of the population of Tabouk region. The population density based on the built-up area of the city is about 7,763 people per square kilometer. The city has an estimated number of households of about 89,020 with an average household size of 7.5 persons per household.

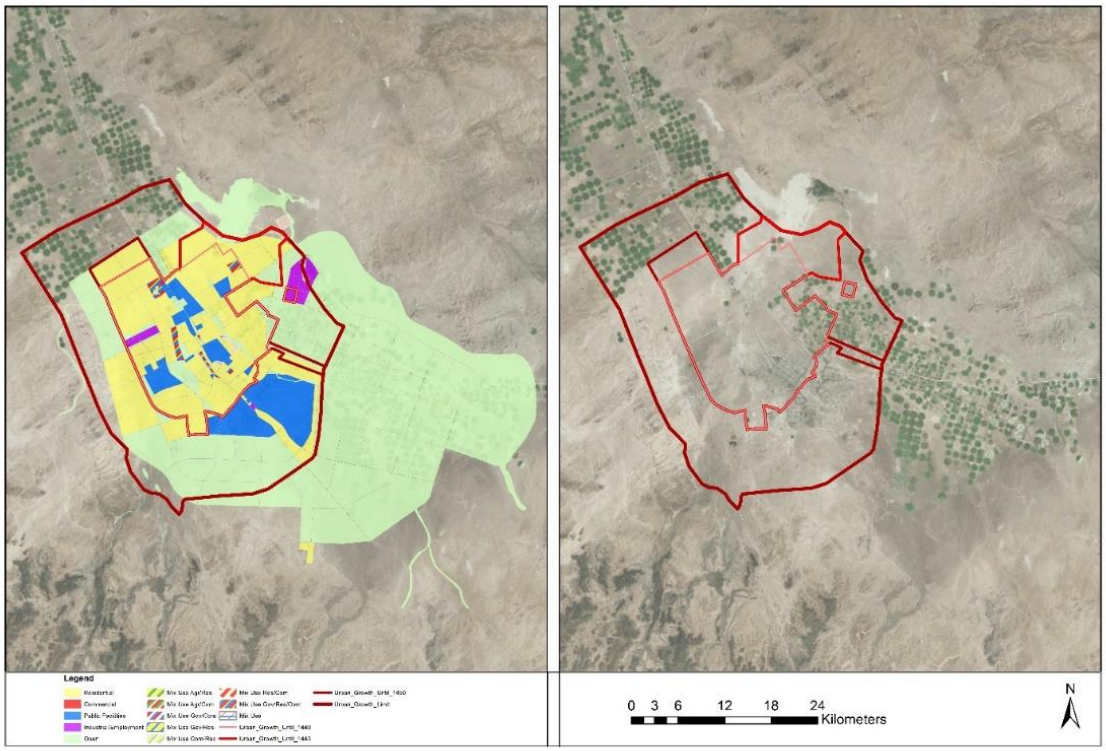
Socio-Economic Background

Tabouk has become famous for its agricultural products, particularly flowers. The region's flower exports to Europe include gladiola, lilies, and statices. The city serves as an active commercial center especially because it lies along the route of pilgrims coming from Turkey, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, and Lebanon to visit Mecca for the Hajj. Due to the moderate climate, there are some of the dairy and poultry farms scattered around the city environs. The average annual income per household is USD 33,561 (SR 125,854).

The trend on Urban Growth and Existing Spatial Plans

The city of Tabouk covers an area of about 300Km^2 and the urban footprint area or the built-up area is about 86Km^2 as of 2016. According to the data published in a 2015 UN-Habitat report[1], 65% of the built-up area of the city is densely built-up while 35% are non-built-up areas; out of the 35% which is non-built-up, 30% are open spaces and the remaining 5% are still vacant land. Apparently, all the open spaces (30%) are only found in nonresidential areas.

Figure 1: Land use and Urban Growth Limit



The figure above is showing the trend of urban growth limit control and land use for the city of Tabouk.

The City Prosperity Index (CPI) Assessment

Prosperity implies success, wellbeing, thriving conditions, safety and security, long life etc. Prosperity in cities, therefore, is about successfully meeting today's needs without compromising tomorrow and working together for a smart, competitive economy, in a socially inclusive society and a healthy, vibrant environment for individuals, families, and communities. Prosperity in cities is a process and cities can be at different levels of prosperity. In order to measure the level and also track how cities progress on the path to becoming prosperous, UN-Habitat introduced a monitoring framework: The Cities Prosperity Index (CPI). The CPI is a composite index with six

[1] Spatial Capital of Saudi Arabian Cities - Street connectivity Study for the city Prosperity initiative-2015, Pg 54.

carefully selected dimensions that captures all important elements of a prosperous city. This index along with a conceptual matrix, The Wheel of Urban Prosperity and a Global Scale of City Prosperity, are intended to help city authorities, decision-makers, partners and other stakeholders to use existing evidence and formulate clear policies and interventions for their cities.

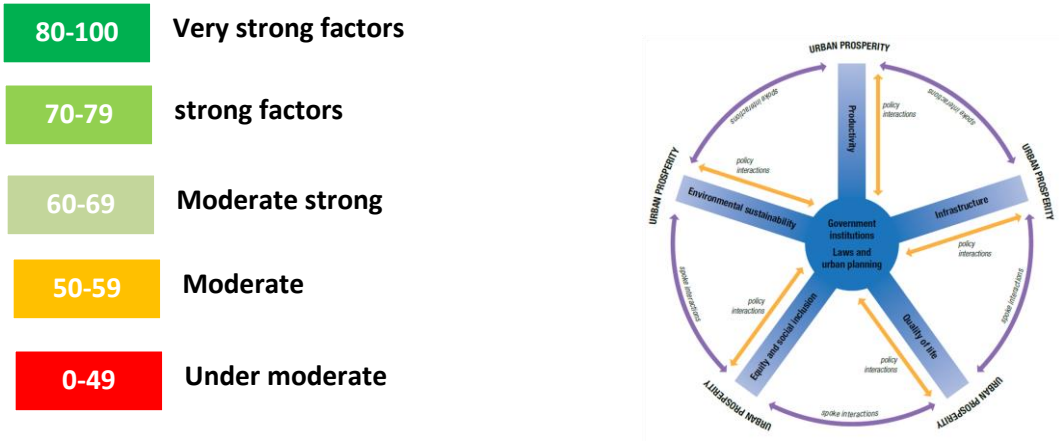


Figure 2: Scale of Urban Prosperity and the Wheel of Urban Prosperity

The UN-Habitat's Cities Prosperity Index (CPI) allows authorities and local groups to identify opportunities and potential areas for action or adjustments in order to make their cities more prosperous. The CPI is a multidimensional framework that integrates several dimensions and indicators that are not only related but have a direct and indirect influence on in regard to fostering prosperity in cities. These components are embodied in the following six dimensions: Productivity, Infrastructure Development, Quality of life, Equity and social inclusion, Environmental sustainability, and Governance and legislation. Each of the dimensions is comprised of several indicators measured differently. Since the indicators are measured in different units, the first step in the index computation involves the normalization of the indicators into values ranging between 0 and 1[2]; the normalized values are then aggregated stepwise to create the single value called the City Prosperity Index.

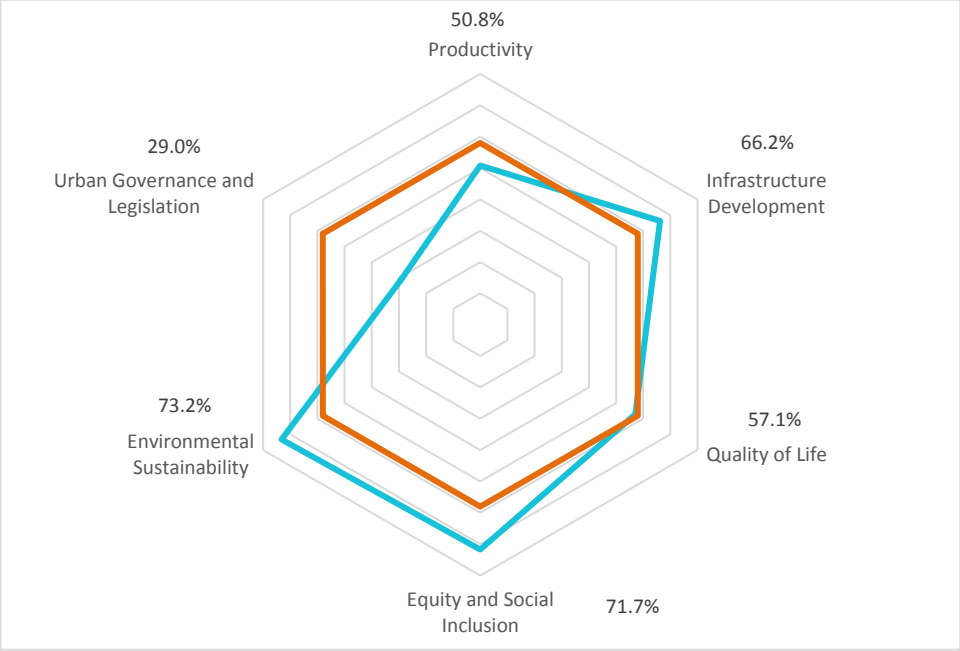
The following sections apply the CPI framework, the concept of the Wheel of Urban Prosperity and the Scale of Urban Prosperity to conduct an assessment of the level of prosperity in the city. The assessment provides an indication of the strengths or weaknesses in the factors of prosperity (in reference to the scale of urban prosperity); it also provides an indication of the level of achievement towards the set prosperity goals (based on the magnitude of the CPI scores); and highlights whether there are disparities between and within the six dimensions of prosperity (based on the concept of the Wheel of Urban Prosperity-stressing balance). An in-depth analysis of the findings will help to identify which particular sub-dimensions and indicators contribute to high or low values in each of the dimensions and the CPI scores.

[2] Can also be expressed in percentages so that values range between 0% and 100%, as used in this report.

Overall City Prosperity Index for Tabouk

The overall CPI index is the aggregate or a composite of six dimensions that relate to prosperity in cities. The findings show that the city has an overall city prosperity index score of 58%%; this means the city has moderate prosperity factors. The shape of the polygon in the chart below indicates the level of imbalance between the dimensions of the prosperity of the city. Prosperous cities have more or less of a balance between all the dimension of prosperity. Unbalanced cities with extremely high and extremely low scores are undesirable[3]. The observed weaknesses can be linked to the three moderate or under moderate dimensions (productivity with 51%, quality of life with 57%, and urban governance with 29%). The other three indicators which have shown some strength are Environmental sustainability with 73%, Infrastructure development with 66% and Equity and social inclusion with 71.7%. The radar chart below depicts the wheel of urban prosperity and illustrate the extent of the imbalance between the dimensions. The red line represents the CPI index line.

Figure 3: The City Prosperity Index Dimensions



The analysis in the following sections will dissect all the six dimensions of prosperity and identify areas of strengths and weaknesses to inform appropriate interventions.

[3] *The idea of balance is based on the concept of the wheel of urban prosperity where crooked wheel is considered to be unable to propel a city to prosperity*

The Productivity Dimension

Productivity is the efficiency and effectiveness of production efforts. The dimension measures how cities create wealth, generate income and contribute to economic growth and development of the country. The findings in the table below show that productivity of the city of Tabouk is moderate with an index score of 50.8%. The strong productivity factors that support prosperity in the city are its economic growth fundamentals such as high city product and low old-age dependency ratio with an average of 69.2% and employment with 64.4%. Although the employment environment in the city is generally rated as moderately strong, the unemployment rate is still high and the city's ability to create jobs is also moderate as indicated by the employment to population ratio; the overall unemployment rate in the city is too high (9.43%). The good thing is that the city has managed to keep informal employment low at 1.5%. The city's spatial distribution of economic productivity is still very low as indicated by the economic density of 18.7%. This could be an indication of allot of empty land parcels, poor land use mix within commercial and industrial areas and presents a need to reexamine and establish if there are possibilities for increased densification of economic or commercial activities within the commercial, industrial and residential areas.

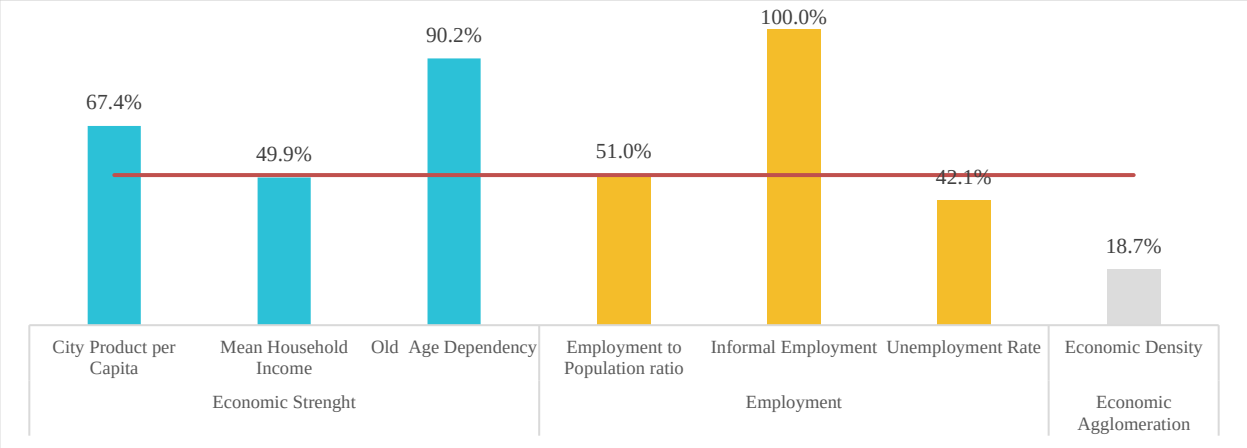
Table 1: Productivity Index (50.8%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Economic Growth (69.2%)	City Product per Capita	21,142.00	USD (PPP)/Inhab	67.4%	M. Strong
	Mean Household Income	25,516.67	USD(PPP)	49.9%	Under moderate
	Old Age Dependency Ratio	3.77	%	90.2%	V. Strong
Employment (64.4%)	Employment to Population Ratio	53.21	%	51.0%	Moderate
	Informal Employment	1.46	%	100.0%	V. Strong
	Unemployment Rate[4]	9.43	%	42.1%	Under moderate
Economic Agglomeration (18.7%)	Economic Density	160,646,258	USD (PPP)/km2	18.7%	Under moderate

Looking at the bar chart below, we can see the disparity between the indicators. The productivity index can be improved by addressing the three under moderate indicators, by a focus on increasing spatial distribution of economic and commercial activities to improve economic density; the city also needs to create more employment opportunities especially targeting the youth and women to improve the unemployment situation and also increase employment to population ratio.

[4] This indicator is approximated based on regional data

Figure 4: Productivity Indicators



The Infrastructure Development Dimension

Physical assets and amenities such as adequate piped water, sanitation, electricity, road network, and information and communications technology form part of the necessary infrastructure of a city. Adequate and efficient infrastructure is like veins and lifeblood of a city needed to sustain the population and develop its economy. The infrastructure development index for the city of Tabouk is 66.2%; this is moderately strong according to the global scale of prosperity. The strong rating is attributed to the fact that most of the indicators of infrastructure development (13 out of 19) are at least moderately strong, the other six indicators are under moderate, so they water down the strength of the city's infrastructure. The strengths of the infrastructure development dimension are particularly attributed to the housing infrastructure with 83.6%, urban mobility with 93.1% and street connectivity with 75.5%; these are the strong sub-dimensions which supports the IDI.

On the other hand, the weaknesses in the infrastructure development dimension are attributed to ICT (56%), and social infrastructure (23.0%). Street connectivity is about how often the streets or roadways intersect and how closely or not the intersections are spaced, this makes access to destinations easier by providing shorter alternative routes and saves time. Street connectivity in the city of Tabouk is a very strong pillar of prosperity; this is due to high street density (71.1%), high street intersections density (86.7%) and a high proportion of land allocated to streets (68.8%). The high street intersection density presents a great opportunity for the city to promote alternative means of transport such as walking and cycling to help reduce the excessive use of private cars even for short distances. Urban mobility refers to a set of interrelated measures designed to satisfy the need of people, goods and services to move from one place to another safely, efficiently, cost-effectively and in a timely fashion. According to the findings in the table below, the city has a very strong urban mobility system; this is attributed to the short average travel time of about 16 minutes, affordability of transport and good road safety or low traffic fatalities. The ICT Infrastructure is moderate mainly due to low internet speeds (28.9%). However, access to home computers (75.2%) and the level of internet access (63.8%) are good. Availability of good housing infrastructure in the city is another source of strength for the city; the city has managed to improve access to clean

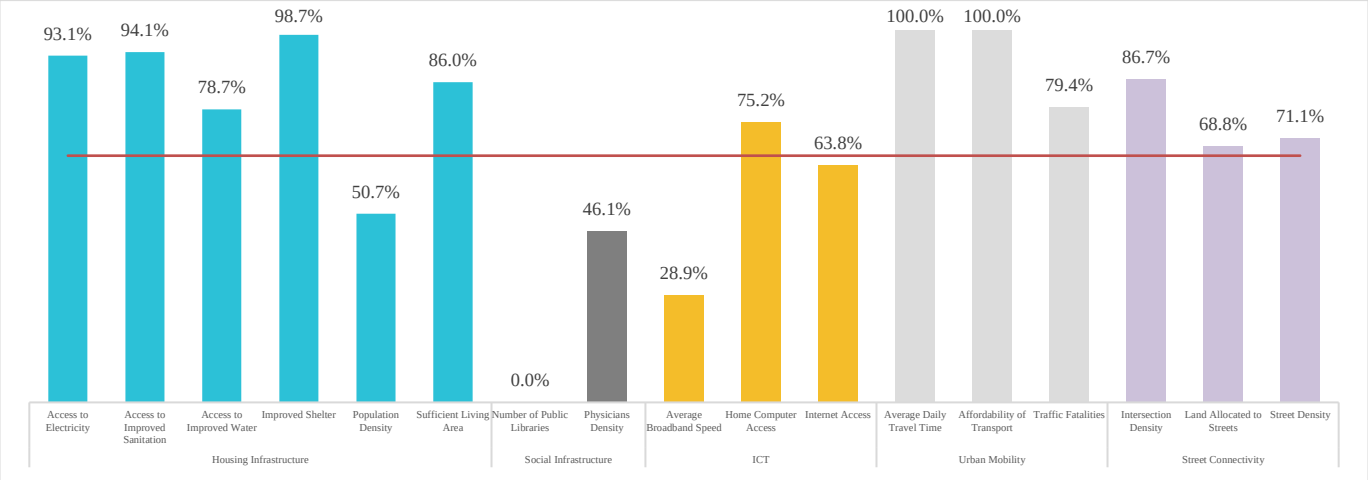
piped drinking water, electricity and sufficient living area in most of the houses, good sanitation which implies that a high number of households are connected to the sewerage system. The findings further show that the indicators of social infrastructure are under moderate and need to be improved; physician density is under moderate while the number of public libraries is negligible relative to the city population.

Table 2: Infrastructure Development Index (66.2%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Housing Infrastructure (83.6%)	Access to Electricity	93.09	%	93.1%	V. Strong
	Access to Improved Sanitation	94.05	%	94.1%	V. Strong
	Access to Improved Water	78.70	%	78.7%	Strong
	Access to Improved Shelter	98.70	%	98.7%	V. Strong
	Population Density	7,598.44	Inhab/Km2	50.7%	moderate
	Sufficient Living Area	86.00	%	86.0%	V. Strong
Social Infrastructure (23.0%)	Number of Public Libraries	0.15	#/100,000 inhab.	0.0%	Under moderate
	Physician Density	1.78	#/1,000 inhab.	46.1%	Under moderate
ICT (56.0%)	Average Broadband Speed	4.00	Mbps	28.9%	Under moderate
	Home Computer Access	75.20	%	75.2%	Strong
	Internet Access	63.80	%	63.8%	M. Strong
Urban Mobility (93.1%)	Average Daily Travel Time	16.14	minutes	100.0%	V. Strong
	Affordability of Transport	3.80	%	100.0%	V. Strong
	Length of Mass Transport Network	-	Km/1M Inhab.		-
	Road Safety (traffic fatalities)	7.19	#/100,000 inhab.	79.4%	Strong
	Use of Public Transport	-	%		-
Street Connectivity (75.5%)	Intersection Density	86.67	#/km2	86.7%	V. Strong
	Land Allocated to Streets	26.65	%	68.8%	M. Strong
	Street Density	14.21	Km/KM2	71.1%	Strong

The concept of the wheel of urban prosperity put emphasis on balanced indicators: prosperity in cities is more about the balance between the indicators than high scores only. To attain some acceptable level of balance, the city of Tabouk need to focus on raising up the indicators identified as under moderate including population density, the number of public libraries, physician density in the health sector, average broadband speed, promote usage of public transport, and mass public transport network.

Figure 5: Infrastructure Development Indicators



The Quality of Life Dimension

Access to adequate basic services and amenities improves the well-being and happiness of people. Services such as education, health, recreation, safety and security enable citizens to lead a fulfilling life and, in such an atmosphere, they can maximize their individual potentials for the betterment of the society, economy, and environment. The findings show that Tabouk has a quality of life index of 57.1%; therefore, it is rated moderate which may mean that there is a moderately low quality of life in the city. The moderate rating of the quality of life in the city can be attributed to the low performance of the education sector (40.2%) and lack of public spaces (23.2%) in the city. However, the city is doing well in the provision of health services (77.7%), and safety and security (87.5%).

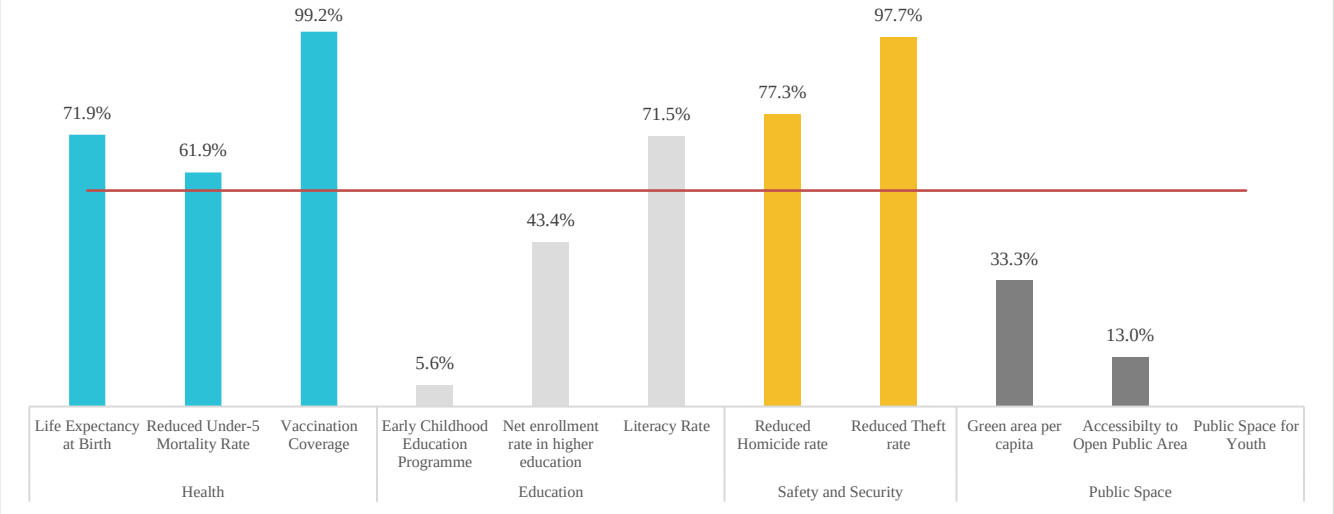
Indicators that contribute to a high score in healthcare provision in Tabouk include high life expectancy (72%), low under-five mortality (62%) and vaccination coverage (99%). Likewise, the indicators that contribute to good safety and security in the city include very low theft rate with 98% and very low homicide rate (77%). In spite of the fact that education provision in the city is rated under moderate which may be attributed to extremely low factors such a low rate of early childhood education and low net enrolment rate in higher education, the literacy level in the city is very high and it is actually one of the main sources strength for the city. Public spaces sub-dimension is rated the weakest, and this is clearly due to the very low green area per capita and very low accessibility to the available public spaces. Open public spaces refer to natural green areas with plants, trees, and grass for recreation; these areas should be available and accessible to the public. People living in urban areas should have public open spaces within 400 meters from their residence; distance defines accessibility.

Table 3: Quality of Life Index (57.1%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	**Comments**
Health Care (77.7%)	Life Expectancy at Birth	73.80	years	71.9%	Strong
	Eradicate Maternal Mortality	-	#/100,000 live births	-	-
	Eradicate Under-5 Mortality	11.80	#/1000 live births	61.9%	M. Strong
	Vaccination Coverage	99.18	%	99.2%	Very Strong
Education (40.2%)	Early Childhood Education	5.61	%	5.6%	Under moderate
	Net Enrolment in Higher Education	45.93	%	43.4%	Under moderate
	Literacy Rate	75.70	%	71.5%	Strong
	Mean Years of Schooling	-	%	-	-
Safety and Security (87.5%)	Homicide Rate	5.39	#/100,000 inhab.	77.3%	Strong
	Theft Rate	32.65	#/100,000 inhab.	97.7%	V. Strong
Public Space (23.2%)	Green Area per Capita	5.00	m2 / inhabitant	33.3%	Under moderate
	Accessibility to Open Public Space	12.98	%	13.0%	Under moderate

The bar chart below is used to illustrate the level of imbalance between the indicators as depicted by the concept of the wheel of urban prosperity; it highlights the disparity among the indicators of quality of life in Tabouk. Achieving higher quality of life in the city would mean working to raise under moderate indicators such as early childhood education, net enrolment in higher education, mean years of school, the green area per capita and accessibility to open public spaces.

Figure 6: Quality of Life Indicators



The Equity and Social Inclusion Index (ESI)

Cities should ensure equitable distribution of the benefits of prosperity among all people; this allows cities to grow. The equity and social inclusion dimension measures the level of achievement of cities in the distribution or sharing of the benefits of prosperity among its inhabitants. Due to

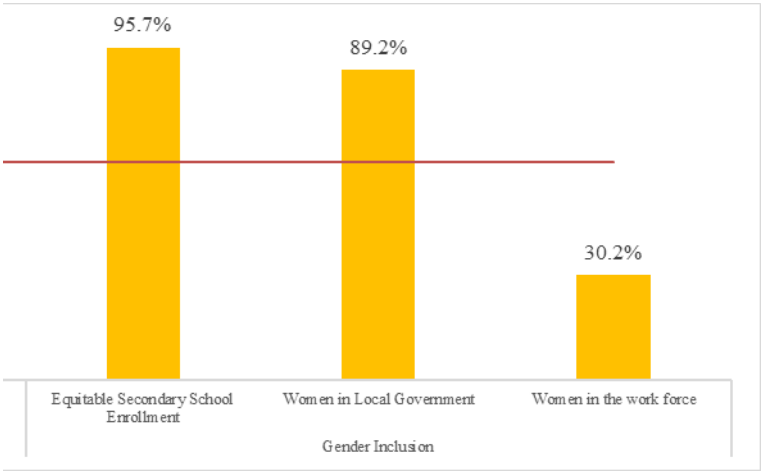
data unavailability problems only one of the three sub dimensions of equity and inclusion was used, the gender inclusion sub dimension. Based on the available data, the city of Tabouk has a gender inclusion sub dimensional index of 71.7%. This is indicative of a generally gender inclusive city.

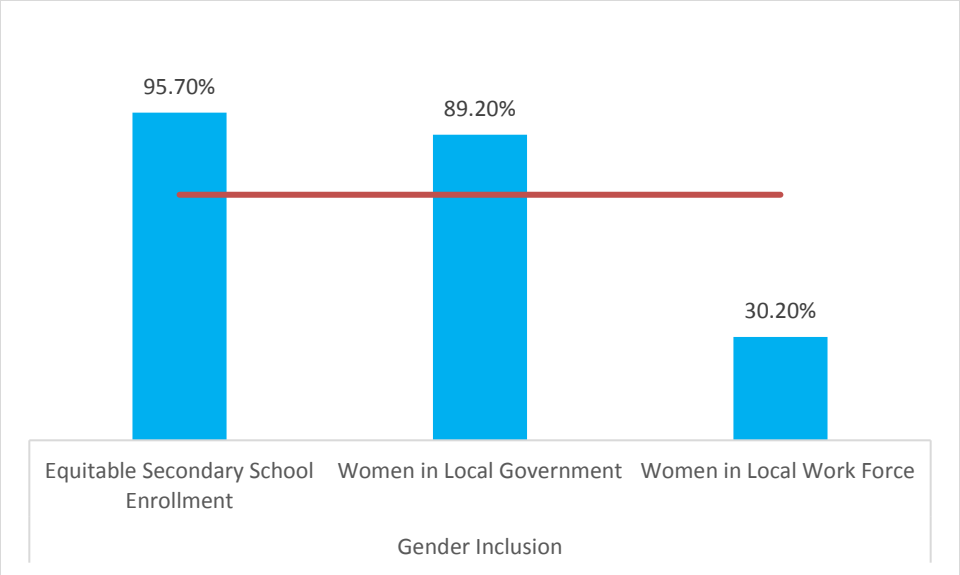
. There are considerable achievements in gender inclusion especially in terms of equitable secondary school enrollment (95.7%) and proportion of women in local government (89.2%). However, there is a need to increase the number of women in the workforce to further strengthen the element of gender inclusion in the city.

Table 4: Equity and Social Inclusion Index (71.7%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Gender Inclusion (71.7%)	Equitable Secondary School Enrollment	0.96	0 - ∞	95.7%	V. Strong
	Women in local government	44.59	%	89.2%	V. Strong
	Women in the workforce	15.11	%	30.2%	Under moderate

Figure 7: Equity and Social Inclusion Indicators





The Environmental Sustainability Index (ESI)

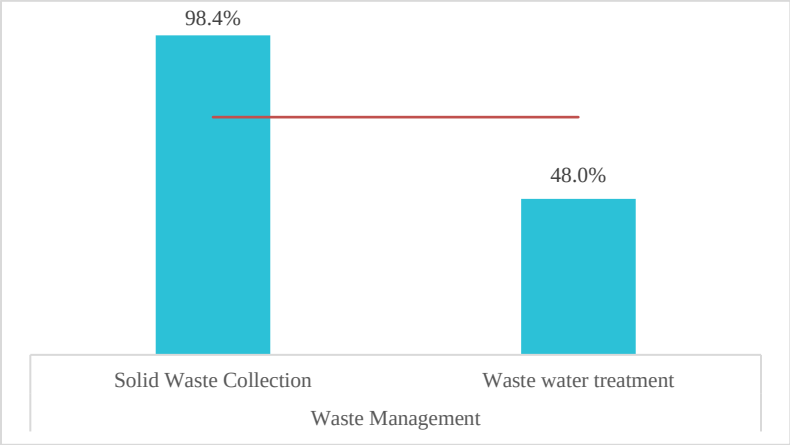
Environmental sustainability is about harvesting the natural resources, reducing pollution creation, and depletion of non-renewable resources in a manner that can be continued indefinitely. Prosperous cities ensure that as they grow and develop economically the city's environment is not destroyed or degraded but remains healthy, liveable and preserved for the sake of the future generation. This dimension, therefore, measures the level of achievements made to ensure environmental sustainability. Due to data unavailability issues, the assessment was done based on the waste management sub-dimension only. The results of the analysis contained in the table below show that the city of Tabouk performs fairly well in this regard, its ESI is 73.2%, which is strong. Solid waste collection in the city is very good but on the other hand wastewater management is still below average.

Table 5: Environmental Sustainability Index (73.2%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Waste Management (73.2%)	Solid Waste Collection	98.41	%	98.4%	V. Strong
	Solid waste recycling share	-	%	-	-
	Waste water treatment	48.00	%	48.0%	Under moderate

The other challenge the city is facing is the recycling of solid waste; although the waste collection is very well managed and solid waste collection is almost 100%, there is no evidence that the collected solid wastes are being recycled. This is environmentally counterproductive since the solid waste will eventually form landfills and results in environmental pollution.

Figure 8: Environmental Sustainability Indicators



The Governance and Legislation Index (GLI)

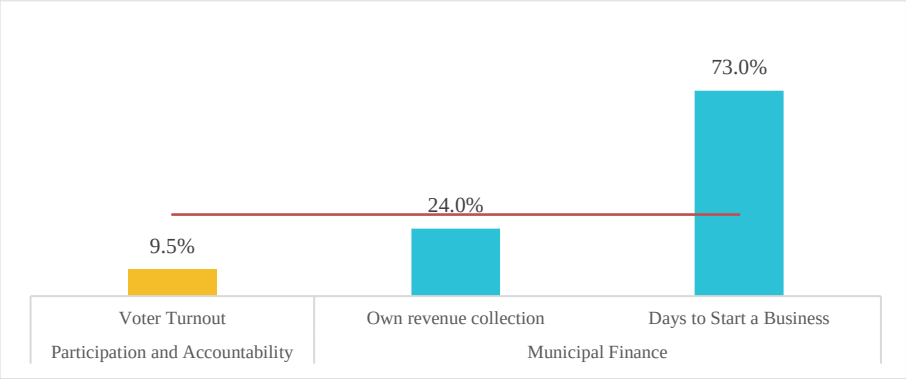
Good urban governance and legislation help in the management of the city affairs, people, and finances. The growth in all aspects of prosperity depends on how the city is governed and the type of legislation that are in place. Good governance and appropriate legislation are required for the smooth running and development in cities. Although there was insufficient data for an in-depth and comprehensive analysis of this dimension, the available data indicate that governance and legislation in the city are under moderate (29%). The findings also show that municipal finance and the civic participation sub-dimensions are very low. There is evidence that municipal finance is still below average (48.5%); this general weakness in the management of municipal finances can be attributed to poor revenue collection. The city, however, has managed to reduce the number of days required to register and start running a new business to only seven days.

Table 6: Legislation and Governance Index (29%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Participation & Accountability (9.5%)	Municipal Voter turnout	9.50	%	9.5%	Under moderate
Municipal Finance (48.5%)	Own revenue collection	24.00	%	24.0%	Under moderate
	Days to start a business	7.00	Days	73.0%	Strong
	Local expenditure efficiency	-	%	-	-

To achieve higher levels of urban governance and legislation, the city should focus on increasing public participation and accountability, increase revenue collection and ensure high efficiency in local expenditures.

Figure 9: Governance and Legislation Indicators



SWOT Analysis based on City Prosperity Index

This section attempts to use the analysis and the findings of the CPI to identify areas of Strength, Weaknesses or Challenges, Opportunities for growth and possible Threats that the city may have so that appropriate recommendations and action plans can be considered.

Table 7: CPI-based SWOT Analysis

STRENGTH	WEAKNESSES
1. Good economic growth fundamentals such as moderately high GDP per capita, and low old-age dependency ratio forms a good basis for prosperity. 2. Elimination of informal employment is a good thing for the employment environment. 3. High literacy rate: the youth and women have untapped potential to contribute allot to economic growth. There is allot of unutilized skilled manpower (human capital), especially among women. 4. Good housing infrastructure – good for the growth of the housing sector and city dwellers. 5. Street connectivity is good, particularly on street density and intersection density. Should encourage more walking/cycling during favorable weather. 6. Good urban mobility indicators which can support efficient movement of people, goods, and services and spur development in the city. 7. There are good safety and security and political stability which provide a conducive environment for growth and development. 8. There is good healthcare provision in the city: a healthy population is productive, happy and peaceful. 9. Good social and Gender inclusion – good starting point towards an inclusive city. 10. Good waste management is a good foundation for a clean environment.	1. Employment – high unemployment rate, low employment to population ratio and low women in workforce. 2. Urban mobility is weak - Use of public transport is very low may be due to over-dependence on private cars for transport even for short distances. 3. ICT sector is weak: mainly due to low average broadband speed. 4. Social infrastructure: is too low –public libraries and number of physicians. 5. Education sector – early childhood education is weak and it's the foundation of education coverage and enrolment in secondary schools is also weak. 6. Few public spaces in the city and the available ones are easily accessible to the public. 7. Municipal financial management is generally weak. Revenue collection needs to be looked at.

OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
1. ICT sector is weak: mainly due to low average broadband speed. But there is high internet access and ownership of home computers which presents a good incentive to increase broadband speeds. 2. The eradication of informal employment is one of the city's best opportunities to achieve more control of the employment sector. 3. High street intersection density and street density which should encourage alternative means of transport such as walking and cycling especially early morning and evening. 4. Good economic growth fundamentals, good safety & security and political stability in the city provide a conducive environment for attracting foreign investments.	1. The unemployment rate is still high in the city. 2. Low employment to population ratio which is a measure of the ability of the city to create jobs is not good in a country with generally young population; bulging youth population mean high labour force in near future. 3. Early childhood education is the basic entry point into the education system, many children may pass the school entry age unnoticed.

LOCAL URBAN OBSERVATORY

Introduction

Global Urban Observatory Network (GUO-Net) is a worldwide information and capacity-building network established by the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT) to help implement the New Urban Agenda at the national and local levels. The GUO-NET consists of national and city-level institutions that function as National and Local Urban Observatories.

The purpose of GUO-Net is to support governments, local authorities and civil society:

- To improve the collection, management, analysis and use of information in formulating more effective urban policies;
- To improve information flows between all levels for better urban decision-making;
- To stimulate broad-based consultative processes to help identify and integrate urban information needs;
- To provide information and analyses to all stakeholders for more effective participation in urban decision-making;
- To share information, knowledge, and expertise using modern information and communication technology (ICT);
- To create a global network of local, national and regional platforms for sharing information about the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;
- To share some tools and benefits provided by the GUO network;
- Training on using the urban indicator toolkit for data collection and analysis;
- Training on how to use the results of the urban indicators data for fundraising activities;
- Conferences of the network members for information exchange and city-to-city networking;
- Access to internet resources available at UN-Habitat's website including urban indicators databases and Urban Info system;
- Data used for evaluations done for the World Cities Report published biannually by UN-Habitat.

UN-HABITAT achieves these objectives through a global network of local, national and regional urban observatories and through partner institutions that provide training and other capacity-building expertise.

The UN-Habitat and MOMRA have previously established Local Urban Observatories in the 17 cities covered by the FSCP. A rapid survey conducted by UN-Habitat-KSA in June 2015 targeting the 17 LUO/cities, found out that only 15 LUOs existed. The findings also showed that 88% of Local Urban Observatories are under Municipal Departments while 12% are under Authority for Development within Municipality. It also revealed that 71% of the Local Urban Observatories were active while the operations of 23% of them were suspended due to unaccomplished staff/contractual arrangements.

Some of the data the Local Urban Observatories are required to collect in collaboration with the Municipals are GIS-related, so there is need to have collaborative work relations between the LUOs and the GIS departments within the Municipalities. The survey revealed that in terms of connections with the GIS departments, 59% of the LUOs have work relations with the GIS department while 18% do not. There was evidence that 71% of the LUOs have GIS data while 6% do not have.

TABOUK – Local Urban Observatory.

The Local Urban Observatory of Tabouk was established in 2014 (3 years in operation) as a department located within the municipality to be responsible for developing tools, collecting and analyzing urban indicators at the city level. Tabouk LUO has a total of 8 employees, out of which 6 are Non-Saudi Consultants provided by a private consulting firm contracted to do technical management of the LUO, one is a Saudi consultant and the other is a government staff. The contract with the consulting firm has lasted over two years now.

Performance of the Local Urban Observatory

Tabouk LUO has produced one round of indicators and now working on the second round of urban indicators, so far they have produced less than 60 urban indicators. This puts Tabouk LUO as the last best performing LUO after Makkah with 300 urban indicators; the other are Taif (221), Abha (140), and Skaka (137). In addition to producing urban indicators, LUOs are also required to assist in the collection and production of CPI indicators, according to a rapid survey conducted by UN-Habitat-KSA in June 2015, Tabouk had produced a total of 21 CPI indicators, to date they have produced a total of 51 out of a possible 74 indicators, this placed it among cities with the highest number of CPI indicators.

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