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Ministry of Municipal & Rural Affairs

CPI PROFILE TAIF

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

مستقبل المدن السعودية
FUTURE SAUDI CITIES

The Future Saudi Cities Programme
CPI PROFILE - Taif

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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, Tabuk, Dammam, Kathef, 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 relate 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, but it is also 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 Taif Municipality together with its Local Urban Observatory have been working on developing urban statistics and spatial information (Geographic Information System) 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.

Historical Background of the City

The history of Taif goes back to very ancient time periods estimated at more than 2,000 years ago. The city’s location and as an early urban center during the pre-Islam Era made it acquires global

reputation it became a commercial hub attracting people from far places such as the Romans, Persians, Abyssinia, Yemen and Syria. Among the most important archaeological treasures of Taif includes a number of Islamic distinctive monuments including dams, inscriptions and architecture. One of the biggest tourist attractions is the (Maglaa Tamiah), which is a natural phenomenon, it is a huge hole deep and wide hole on the ground believed to have been created when meteorite hit the ground.

Geography and Location

The city of Taif is located in the southeastern part of Makkah between latitudes 20-22 degrees and longitudes 40-42 degrees. It is linked to Makkah by two roads: the first one is called (Aqabat Al-Hada) is 68 km long and passes through the Kara Mountains and the other one passes through (Miqat Qarn-Almanazil) and is about 90 km long. Taif is located on the eastern slopes of the Al Sarawat Mountains at an altitude of about 1700 m above sea-level and exhibits the typical hot desert climate. However, its summer climate is much cooler than other parts of the Kingdom and this makes it a pleasant refuge from extreme hot and dry weather in most parts of the Kingdom. Precipitation is low but all months see some rain with more rain in spring and late autumn than in other months. The city covers a land area of about 1036Km², out of which 95.1km² is the urban footprint area and 58% of the urban footprint area is built-up density area while the remaining 42% is the non-built-up area.

Demographic Background

The population is the basic foundation for setting up any development plan and the first building block to be laid or specified when starting the preparation of any city planning study since it is the people who are the beneficiaries of any development programs. Similarly, population is at the core of the new Sustainable Development Goals "SDGs 2030" agenda which sets a "human theme" as one of the most important themes that need to be addressed, "Action for People". Therefore looking at the trends and the dynamics a city's population is right within the scope of any development agenda or program.

In terms of population, in 1974 Taif city was the fourth largest city among the ten main cities of the Kingdom "Riyadh, Jeddah, Makkah, Taif, Madinah, Dammam, Tabuk, Buraydah, Abha, and Hail". During this period the city's population increase from 211,095 in 1974 to 416,121 in 1992. By 1992 the city had dropped in rank to position five among the same cities and the first four included Riyadh, Dammam, Jeddah, and Medinah in order of population size. This was because the economies of cities like Dammam and Medina were increasing faster. The trend continued and by 2004 the population was 519,758 and the city's rank dropped further to become the sixth largest city, it was overtaken by Makkah. According to the 2010 census the population was 580,000 and it had been overtaken in rank by two more cities (Hofuf and Almibraz) and became the eighth largest city in the Kingdom, another city Al Ahsa joined the top 10. By 2015 the city's population

was estimated to be 635,327 and there are about 118,976 households each with an average of 5 persons per household. The general population density within the built-up area of the city is about 5000 people per square kilometer. In a nutshell, the population of the city have tripled in the last three decades but in the same period moved from the fourth largest city to the eighth largest city in the Kingdom.

Socio-Economic Background

The city of Taif is one of the cities having the most diversified economic base in the kingdom. First it is considered the most touristic city in the Kingdom especially during summers thanks to its favorable weather. In summers the temperature in Taif is relatively lower than other parts of the country, this has made it the official summer capital of the state. During summer period the city is a popular tourist destination among Saudis who travel to the city to enjoy the weather (which is much cooler than Jeddah and Makkah). It also has beautiful scenery and a unique relaxed atmosphere. Other than its beautiful scenery, one of its biggest tourist attractions is the (Maglaa Tamiah), which is a natural phenomenon, it is a huge hole on the ground that is deep and wide. It is believed that it was created when meteorite hit the ground millions of years ago. The tourism industry provides thousands of jobs to local residents.

Agriculture is another major component of the local economy, traditionally the tribes in Taif area grew wheat, barley, and fruits including limes, apricots, oranges, olives, figs, peaches, pomegranates, watermelons, quince, grapes, almonds and dates. Taif is famous as an agricultural town and it is nicknamed the city of roses, and God has granted Taif a large stock of water and good fertile soil and beautiful weather which give it a good reputation.

The city is characterized by its location on a major junction made up of roads coming from the north, south, east and west. This has made the city to be considered one of the most important commercial cities in the Kingdom and also one of the most important gates to The Holy Mosque (HARAM) which adds to it greater commercial and service role. The city also has a huge military presence.

Table: The structure of the urban economic activities.

Sectors of economic activities	Percentage)
Military and government sector	35.0%
Education, health, and social services	33.5%
Industry, electricity, mining, and construction	7.0%
Agriculture	2.2%
Trade	21.8%
Tourism and recreation	0.5%
Total	100%

The economy of the city can, therefore, be summarized as follows:

- The city's urban core activities revolve around the military, government services and employment in the public sector, as well as related trade.
- Like other cities, Taif lacks a good public transport sector, most Saudi citizens depend on own private cars.
- The workers in the agricultural sector represent a small percentage due to the fact that productive agricultural areas are outside the urban area especially in areas protected from urban development and in the rest of city.
- The industrial sector and tourism and recreation have very little contribution despite huge potential.

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 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.

80-100	Very strong factors
70-79	strong factors
60-69	Moderate strong
50-59	Moderate
0-49	Under moderate

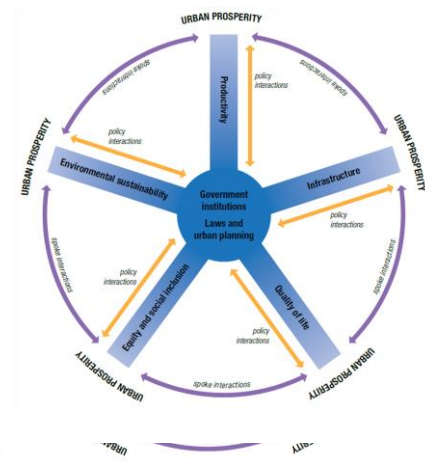


Figure 2: Scale of Urban Prosperity and the Wheel of Urban Prosperity

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 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 11; 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

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