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Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs

P.O. Box : 935 - King Fahd, Riyadh, 11136

Tel: 00966114569999

<https://www.momra.gov.sa/>

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

(UN-Habitat)

P.O. Box 30030, 00100 Nairobi GPO KENYA

Tel: 254-020-7623120 (Central Office)

www.unhabitat.org

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Authors:

Qassim Municipality:

Mr. Abdulhakim Al Roshood

UN-Habitat (Riyadh)

Mr. John Obure

Mr. Mohammed Al Ahmed

Mr. Bader Al Dawsari

Un-Habitat (Nairobi)

Mr. Robert Ndugwa

Mr. Antony Abilla

Ms. Esther Njiru

Mr. Julius Majale

Mr. Denis Mwaniki

Mr. Dennis Koech

Mr. Walter Oriedo

The Future Saudi Cities Programme is a jointly implemented project managed by the Deputyship of Town Planning of the Ministry of Municipality and Rural Affairs of the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

For UN-Habitat:

Mr Robert Lewis-Lettington

Mr. Ayman El-Hefnawi

Ms Manka Bajaj

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 including Riyadh, Makkah, Jeddah, Taif, Medina, Tabuk, Damam, 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 evaluation 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; 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 the FSCP, the UN-HABITAT, MOMRA, Qassim Municipality, and its Local Urban Observatory have 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 Buraydah.

This CPI Profile Report applies the CPI framework to 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 including productivity, infrastructure development, equity and social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and urban governance.

Historical Background

According to historical accounts, Buraydah is relatively a new city, having been founded in the 9th Hijrah century. The city grew steadily partly due to its important location at the junction of major trade routes: its located at the convergence of three main axes, the Riyadh - Buraydah axis, the Ha’il - Buraydah axis, and Madina - Buraydah axis: this is a very important junction in the Kingdom. The Zubaidah route, now Zubaidah road is one of the oldest Hajj routes and allot of historical events revolve around this Zubaidah route, it begins in Iraq through North Arabian Gulf and ending in Makkah Al Mukaramah; it has been used by Hajj caravans for centuries. Zubaidah (Buraidah bin Al-Khaseeb Al-Aslami), wife of the Caliph Haroon Al Rasheed a companion of Prophet Mohamed, dug wells along this route to supply pilgrims with water and that is why it was called the Zubaidah route and the city also got its name. The growth of Buraydah into a city is also attributed to its agricultural products and animal wealth which supported trade with Hajj pilgrims from Iraq and North Arabian

Gulf region; the traditional oasis products of dates, lemon, and orange, as well as camel and sheep farming, are still important for the local economy till today.

Geography and Location.

Buraydah city is the capital of Al-Qassim Region in the north-central part of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the intersection of latitudes 26° 44' and 26° 18' north and longitudes 43° 52' and 43° 51' east; at an altitude between 600 and 650 meters above sea level. Around the city are towns such as Al Butayn to the north, Al Asyah, Al Tarafiyah and Al Rubaiah to the East, Unayzah to the South and Al Bukayriyah to the West (Hassan, 2006). Buraydah is approximately 330Km North West of Riyadh, about 700Km North East of Makkah, and about 500Km East of Madinah. The geographical area of Buraydah city is approximately 1300Km². Buraydah has a typical desert climate, with hot summers, cold winters, and low humidity. The annual average temperature is 32°C (High), 17°C (Low) and an average annual rainfall of about 146mm.

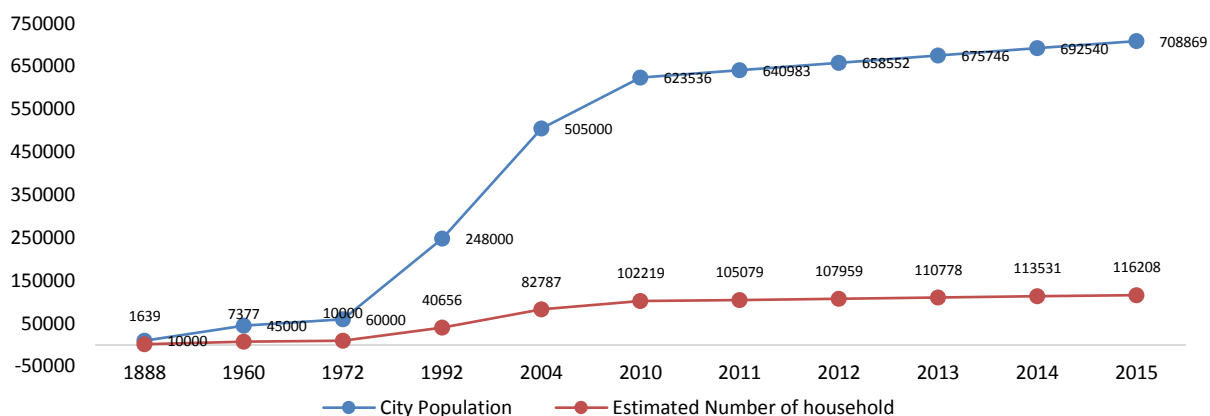
Demographic Background

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. By analyzing the demographics of a city it becomes easy to plan for more employment opportunities, services, housing, healthcare and many other things.

According to the 2010 Census, the population of Buraydah was 536396 people, this represented 41.5% of the population of Al Qassim Province and about 2 % of the population of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Between 2004 and 2009, the average annual population growth rate was 3.67%, a growth rate higher than the average for either the region or the Kingdom. Buraydah has an estimated population of 556,448 inhabitants (2016) and occupies a total footprint area of approximately 223.8km², therefore the city has a population density of about 2486 inhabitants per square kilometer. The following chart shows the trend of the population and the estimated number of households. Following the national population structure, Burayda has a young population, 46% of the city population is below 24 years and more than half of the city population are below 30 years of age; 3% of the population is above 65 years (see population pyramid below), this is an increase from 2.4% in 2010. The unemployment rate in the city is 12%, with the low employment rate it's imperative that something is done urgently to create more jobs, especially for the youths.

The population of males (57.9%) is higher than that of the females (42.1%). The difference is normally associated with the high population of expatriate workforce in the country generally, the majority of which are not accompanied by their wives or are unmarried. The average household size is 5.25 people per household, it is clearly visible from the chart below that the oil boom in the 70s had a significant impact on the household size in the city, the effect has since normalized.

Figure 2: Trends of Estimated City Population & Number of Households.



Socio-Economic Background

Buraydah has four main sectors that support its economy, they include agricultural sector, commercial sector, public sector or government agencies and the service and administrative sector. Due to its location at a junction point, the city is one of the largest trade centres / a commercial hub in the region. According to SAGIA, trade in Qassim region represent 6.6% of the total trading establishments in the Kingdom which amounted to 1.19 million establishments. Agriculture is another cornerstone of the economy of the city, a significant proportion of the city GDP come from agricultural production. The traditional oasis products of dates, lemon, orange and other fruits are still important. Wheat has also been introduced and has become so successful that Buraydah is one of the largest producers in the kingdom. Buraydah, also known as the Dates city has the largest Dates and Carmel markets in the world and exports dates to over 20 countries. To the south of Buraydah are the Al-Shibaq farms which have lots of palm trees, orchards, and vegetables. The sector that provides the most number of employment in the public and commercial sector accounting for 60%.

The table below shows the distribution of economic activities in the city of Buraidah. The table indicates that most economic activities in the city are concentrated in the public service sector, these activities could range from people employed by the government to those who provide goods and service to the government. The other key sectors are the service and the trade sector which accounts for 15.5% and 10.3% of all the activities, respectively. Other important sectors include industrial, construction and the transport sector. The agricultural sector may show a low level of economic activities but according to GDP figures, the sector has high productivity.

Table1: The structure of urban economic activity of Buraidah City.

Sectors of economic activities	Percentage
The activity of the local public administration sector (the government)	45.3
Services sector	15.5
Industry sector	2.6
Trade Sector	10.3
Transport and communications sector	1.5
Agriculture and fishing/hunting sector	1.1
The construction sector	5.8
Not working	17.9
Total	100

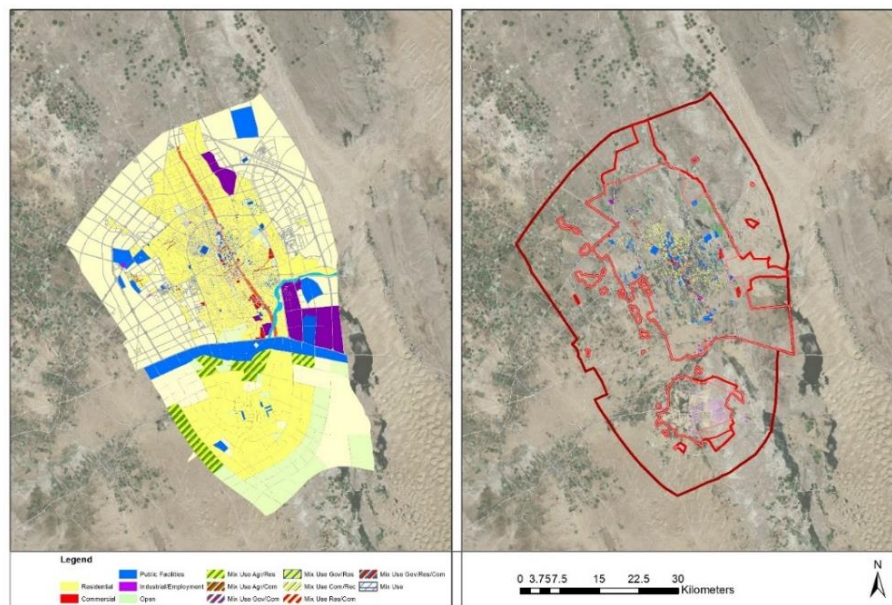
Source: Urban Observatory of Buraidah Metropolitan Area.

The trend of urban growth and existing spatial plans:

Over time the city of Burayda has had several improvements in its spatial plans and growth, most of the changes are necessitated by the increase in population and need for change in land use mix. In 1975 a Greek planning company contracted by the government developed a grid plan for Buraydah city. The 1975 plan was not implemented; by 1983, due to increase in population many modern residential developments took place outside the areas set in the 1975 plan, allot of these unplanned developments happened in the north; the proposed industrial zones in the south had not been developed as most of the industrial development took place longitudinally along the main road towards Onaizah city. An Urban Growth Boundaries study was conducted in 1987 and updated in 2007; the updated plan for the city of Buraydah was prepared by the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs (MoMRA), it emphasized the longitudinal axis from south to north "the part between King Khalid Road and King Abdullah road" and allocated for state-owned commercial residential uses. It also emphasized the horizontal axis from east to west (road of Riyadh-Medina) and allocated them to the regional service (public institutions serving the whole region), some areas were allocated for industrial use in the southeastern parts of the city and surrounded them with an agricultural belt. Some areas were allocated for agricultural investment on the south and west side of the city. Areas reserved for residential were provided for on the northern side.

The urban boundary for Buraydah Metropolitan covers a proximately 912Km², the urban built-up area also referred to as urban footprint covers an estimated area of about 223.8Km². In 2012 the population density of the city was about 600 persons per square kilometers: very low compared to other prosperous cities in the Europe and America. Land use pattern in the city may still change, about 443Km² (48%) of the city's urban area is vacant land, agricultural land within the urban boundary is estimated around 103Km². There is still a lot of room for future urban development with a good mix of land uses. Figure 2 below, shows the trend of urban growth limit control and land uses for the city of Buraydah.

Figure 3: Land use and Urban Growth Limit

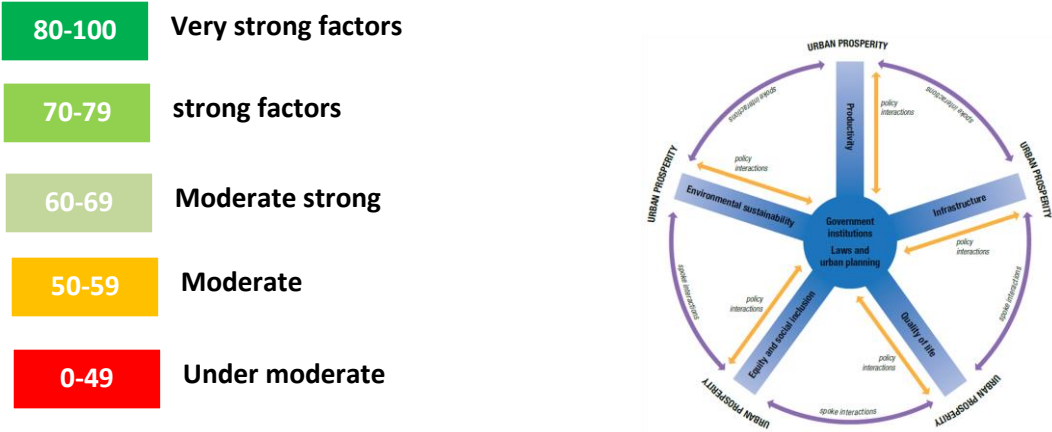


Analysis of City Prosperity Index (CPI)

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.

Figure 4: 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 1¹; the normalized values are then aggregated stepwise to create the single value called the City Prosperity Index.

The following sections applies the CPI framework, the concept of the Wheel of Urban Prosperity and

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