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Introduction

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs (MOMRA) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia jointly launched the “Future Saudi Cities Programme (FSCP)”. The UN-HABITAT Office has been providing technical support to the MOMRA and targets 17 main cities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The cities include Riyadh, Makkah, Jeddah, Taif, Medina, Tabouk, Dammam, Qatif, Al Ahsa, 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 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 made up of 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, quality of life, environmental sustainability, and urban governance and legislation. The CPI uses the concept of ‘The Wheel of Urban Prosperity’ and the ‘Global Scale of Urban Prosperity’ to enable stakeholders to assess achievements in their respective cities. The City Prosperity Index (CPI) not only provides indices and measurements relevant to cities, but it is also an assessment tool that enables city authorities, local and national stakeholders, and policy-makers to identify opportunities and potential areas of intervention for their cities to become more prosperous.

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

This CPI Profile Report applies the CPI framework and provides 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, quality of life, equity and social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and urban governance and legislation.

The CPI was developed by UN-Habitat to provide 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 an urban future that is economically, politically, socially and environmentally prosperous. The CPI is a multidimensional framework that integrates six dimensions made up of 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, quality of life, environmental sustainability, and urban governance and legislation. The CPI uses the concept of ‘The Wheel of Urban Prosperity’ and the ‘Global Scale of Urban Prosperity’ to enable cities assess achievements in terms of service delivery to their residents. The CPI not only provides indices and measurements relevant to cities, but it is also an assessment tool that enables city authorities, local and national stakeholders, and policy-makers to identify opportunities and potential areas of intervention for their cities to become more prosperous.

Historical Background

After World War 1, a village called El Zafir was the administrative center. In 1925, after the establishment of Saudi Arabian government, the seat of local government was transferred to Baljurashi, a town situated 15 miles South of El Zafir. Today the city of Al Baha is the headquarters of the Governor, local councils, and branches of government departments. It is the capital of Al Baha Region located between the resorts of Mecca and Abha. Al Baha is one of the Kingdom’s prime tourist attractions. It enjoys a pleasant climate and is surrounded by more than forty forests; its climate is moderate in summer and cold in winter; the area attracts visitors looking for a moderate climate in summers and pristine scenic views.

Geography and Location

Al Baha city is located in the center of Al-Baha region in the south-west of the Kingdom between Mecca and Aseer regions. It is surrounded by a number of cities, including Taif to the North, Beesha to the East, Abha to the South and the Red Sea coast city of Al Qunfuda to the west. The city’s urban development boundary or the built-up area covers an area of approximately 44 square kilometers. Situated about 2200 meters above sea level, the city has a mild climate with temperatures ranging between 12-23 degrees Celsius. However, in the Tihama area of the province, which is down at the coast, the climate is hot in the summer and warm in the winter and humidity ranges from 52% - 67%. Rainfall is higher in the mountainous region ranging between 229 - 581 mm while the average for the region is 100-250 mm annually.

The city is served by highways connecting it with other major cities in the Kingdom, the distances between Al Baha and other major cities are as follows: Riyadh is 839Km to the north-east, Jeddah is 502Km to the north-west, Dammam is 1450 Km to the north-east, Madinah is 1071Km to the north and Jizan is 500 Km to the south.

Demographic Background

The Al Baha province comprises 31 administrative centers and has a population of 533,001. Al Baha is relatively a small city and the built-up area of the city is about 44 square kilometers. The population of the city has been increasing steadily from 85,210 in 2004 to 95,090 in 2010, by the year 2014 the population was estimated at 116, 410 and in 2016 it was over 119,000

people. The pollution density of the city stands at 2466 people per square kilometers. Al Baha city is in a region where the population of Saudi Arabia stood at about 13% according to the 2010 census.

Socio-economic Background

Al Baha city is the headquarter of a province well known for its beauty, it has forests, wildlife areas, valleys and mountains that attract visitors from all parts of the kingdom and the Persian Gulf area. Al Baha city is one of the Kingdom's prime tourist attractions which is surrounded by more than forty forests, valleys, and mountains. The Sharif of Mecca called it the garden of Hijaz area. The city is also very famous for the production of high quality of honey, in 2010 the city hosted the third International Honey Festival which was attended by farmers and people from 10 Arab states producing honey. The city also hosts the Al-Baha Tourism Festival which takes place every summer and holds a number of activities and sports events, as well as a number of cultural, literary and religious programs. Equestrian and Olympic marathon activities, as well as air shows, are also available during the festival. The region is rich in ancient mining sites which were among the major gold mining areas in the kingdom.

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. To measure the level and track how cities progress on the path to becoming more 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.

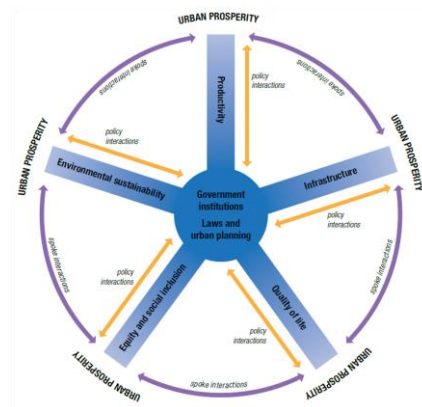
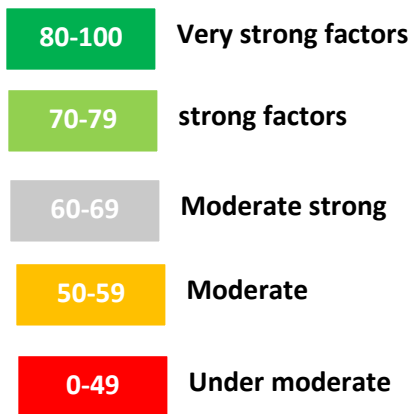


Figure 3: Scale of Urban Prosperity and the Wheel of Urban Prosperity

The UN-Habitat's Cities Prosperity Index (CPI) allows authorities and local groups to identify opportunities and potential areas for action or adjustments to make their cities more prosperous. The CPI is a multidimensional framework that integrates several dimensions and indicators that are not only related but also have a direct and indirect influence on 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; 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 the Global Scale of Urban Prosperity to assess the level of prosperity in the city of Jazan. The assessment provides an indication of the strengths or weaknesses in the factors of prosperity (as per 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). An in-depth analysis of the findings will help to identify which sub dimensions and indicators contribute to the high or low values in each of the dimensions and the CPI scores.

Data Challenges and Solutions.

One of the biggest challenges facing CPI implementation work is the unavailability of data at the city level. The problem is compounded by the fact that most statistics officially produced in Saudi Arabia are at regional level and are not segregated by rural and urban i.e. city boundaries are not considered. The other problem is that CPI contains some unique indicators that have not been part of the list of indicators generally produced in standard official reports. For example, city GDP, the share of renewable energy and length of mass public transport system etc. Such indicators do not have any official data sources. However, the indicators are very important, for example, mass public transport system is very important for a large city but all cities in Saudi Arabia do not have proper public transport system; the level of usage of the available public bus transport system is also very low.

In situations like this, instead of giving all cities scores of zeros to make it a constant in the dataset, we have decided to exclude them to avoid underestimation of the CPI and the computational challenges that come with zeros where calculations involve roots of numbers.

For the same reason of data unavailability, the Governance and legislation dimension was not included. The following indicators were not included as well: Economic specialization, Access to improved water, Sufficient living area, Average broadband speed, Length of mass public transport system, Mean years of schooling, Access to public spaces, Gini coefficient, Poverty rate, Slum households, Youth unemployment rate, PM₁₀, PM_{2.5}, CO₂ emission, Share of renewable energy consumption, Public spaces for youth and solid waste collection.

Due to variations in the number of indicators included for different cities, it is not accurate to do a blanket comparison of the level of prosperity between cities. It is, therefore, advisable to look at each city individually and maybe compare dimensions or sub-dimensions where a same number of indicators are used. The indicator list will continue to be refined and more data collected so that the missing indicators can be included in future CPI analysis, and then comparisons between cities will be more accurate at all levels.

In the interest of reliability and accurate estimations, it is better to include few reliable and accurate

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