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البلدية و القروية
Ministry of Municipal & Rural Affairs

CPI PROFILE

ABHA

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

مستقبل المدن السعودية
FUTURE SAUDI CITIES

CPI PROFILE - Abha

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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:

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

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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. 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 Abha 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.

Geography and Location of the City

Abha city is the headquarter of the Regional Governorate and capital of Aseer region. The city is located in the south-west of the Kingdom in a mountainous region with plateaus, valleys, and fertile plains. The city has a moderate climate all year round, heavy rainfall, green pasture, and agricultural plateaus surrounded by relatively dense forests compared to the rest of the country. The Abha region enjoys the highest level of rainfall in any part of Saudi Arabia. It is situated at an elevation of 2270 m (7,500 feet) above sea level.

Demographic Background of the City

In 1974 the population of Abha city was about 31000, by 1986 the population had increased past 100, 000 and to 112,320 in 1992. The population increased steadily and passed the 200,000 mark in 2004 and by 2010 it had reached about 240,000. According to the most recent population estimate, the city has a population of about 42,000 people (2016); about 21% of the population of Aseer region. The average household size in the city is 5.2 persons per household. Like many other cities in the Kingdom, Abha has a young population with about 46% falling below 24 years of age and about 54% are below 30 years of age; only 4% of its population is above 65 years.

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.

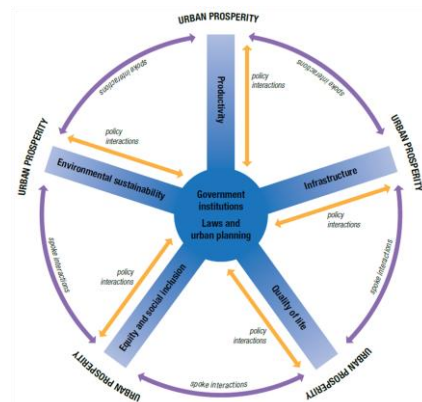
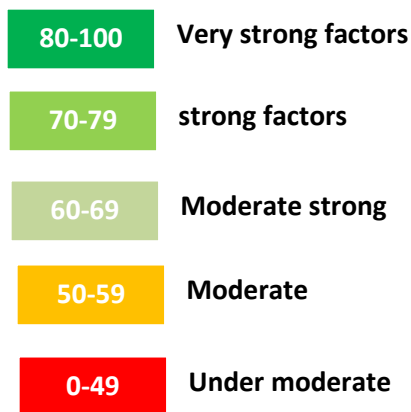


Figure 2: Scale of Urban Prosperity and the Wheel of Urban Prosperity

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 (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 sub-dimensions and indicators contribute to high or low values in each of the dimensions and the CPI scores.

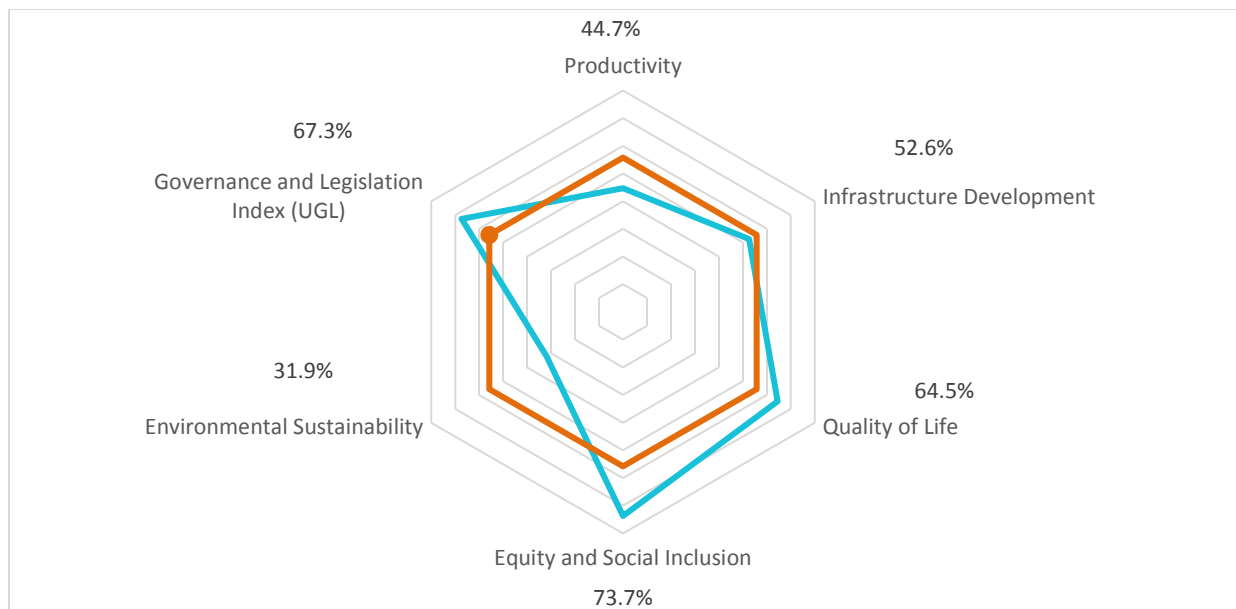
Overall City Prosperity Index for Abha City

An overall index includes all the six dimensions of the CPI and gives a general outlook of the level of prosperity in the city. The city of Abha has an overall CPI index score of 55.8%, this according

¹ Can also be expressed in percentages so that values range between 0% and 100%, as used in this report.

to the global scale of urban prosperity implies that the city's productivity comprises moderate elements. Prosperous cities tend to have a good balance of strong indicators within all the dimension of prosperity. A configuration where some indicators are too low while others are very high is undesirable². The moderate rating, therefore, suggests that the city has weak dimensions and some internal disparities between sub-dimension and associated indicators. Among the dimensions in which the city performs dismally includes infrastructure development (52.6%), environmental sustainability (31.9%), and productivity (44.7%). Two dimensions are rated as moderately strong ;quality of life dimension with 64.5%, and urban governance and legislation with 67.3% , while equity and social inclusion is rated strong (73.7%) The blue line in figure 2 below illustrates how the blend between the weak and strong indicators culminates into a polygon with an irregular shape instead of the shape of a round wheel like the one shown in orange (mean index)

Figure 3: City Prosperity Index Dimensions



The analysis in the next sections will dissect all the dimensions and sub-dimensions of prosperity and identify areas of strength and weaknesses of the city and suggest areas which need urgent and appropriate interventions to improve the overall prosperity of the city.

Analysis of the Productivity Dimension

Productivity is a measure of a city's efficiency in wealth creation. Cities are key drivers of economic growth in every country. The productivity dimension captures the efficiency with which cities create and contributes to economic development in the country. Knowledge of how cities generate income and how they create and distribute employment opportunities to its population is

² It's based on the concept of a round wheel, the urban wheel of prosperity, capable of driving a city to prosperity.

important in promoting prosperity. The following table breaks down the productivity dimension into its sub-dimensions and highlights areas of strength and weaknesses the city has. The findings

in the table show that the city of Abha has a productivity index score of 44.7% which means that it has weak factors of productivity. However, the city still has some strong elements of productivity from which it can build a stable foundation, they include moderately strong economic growth indicators (63.4%) and good employment situation (68.2%). The under moderate point in the productivity configuration of Abha is its economic agglomeration which is can be associated with an under moderate economic density (2.3%). Economic agglomeration plays an important role in economic growth and development. Density brings people and firms close together which makes it easier to share and exchange information, invent new technologies, and launch new firms as well as maximization of the utilization of the available resources.

Table 1: Productivity Index (44.7%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Economic Growth (63.4%)	City Product per Capita	14,037.33	USD (PPP) /Inhab	59.2%	moderate
	Mean Household Income	30,665.53	USD(PPP)	63.3%	M. Strong
	Old Age Dependency Ratio	6.81	%	67.8%	M. Strong
Employment (68.2%)	Employment to Population Ratio	52.89	%	50.3%	M. Weak
	Informal Employment	5.05	%	100.0%	V. Strong
	Unemployment Rate	6.44	%	54.4%	moderate
Economic Agglomeration (2.3%)	Economic Density	20,083,573	USD (PPP) /km2	2.3%	Under moderate

All indicators of economic growth are moderately strong except city product per capita which is moderate. The city also draws its strength from its good employment indicators such as very low informal employment rates (5.05%) and fairly moderate unemployment rates (54.4%). However, the city still suffers from very low employment to population ratio (50.3%), meaning the city's ability to create more jobs for its people is also low. Looking at the demographic structure of the city the level of employment to population ratio should be improved so that the city can create more jobs for the youths.

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