مستقبل المدن السعودية
FUTURE SAUDI CITIES

STATE OF
WOMEN AND YOUTH
IN SAUDI CITIES

UN<g>HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

وزارة الشـــؤون
البلدية و القروية
Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs

LIST OF TABLE AND FIGURES

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

FSCP: Future Saudi Cities Program

MOMRA: Ministry of Municipality and Rural Affair

UN-HABITAT: The United Nation Human Settlements Programme

CPI: City Prosperity Index

MENA: Middle East and North Africa

SDG: Sustainable Development Goals

GCC: Gulf Cooperation Council

KSCLG: King Salman Center for Local Governance

ILO: International Labor Organization

WARIF : Princess Al Anood Center for Youth Development.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Saudi Arabia is recognizing the potential that women and youth can bring to social, economic, and urban development and sustainability. Women and youth, however, face challenges that hinder the quality of their lives and potentially the realization of the country's Vision 2030.

A joint study was conducted between the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs in Saudi Arabia and UN-HABITAT to evaluate the state and status of women and youth in Saudi cities and provide guidance for additional research to develop concrete and actionable policy solutions. Data from four different studies were consolidated to provide a more comprehensive understanding of situation of women and youth in Saudi cities, according to the dimensions of UN-Habitat's City Prosperity Initiative. The study covered 17 major cities and collected data for women and youth from diverse backgrounds. The report yielded six main city-related thematic areas for the consideration of policymakers: Transport and Mobility
Housing and access to services, Public Spaces, Youth Employment, Youth and Governanc and Youth and Gender Responsive Urban Planning and Design

The study found that basic services are available in Saudi cities to all groups, however access to public services such as transportation and public spaces remains a challenge for women and youth. Gender-responsive measures are lacking in the provision of services such as transportation. Also equal opportunities for youth to access meaningful employment appear to be a challenge. The study found that women and youth are willing to contribute to their city's development, however they are unaware or unable to participate in the process.

The preliminary findings of the study found that there are opportunities for policymakers in Saudi Arabia to improve the quality of lives in cities by considering the following:

• Accessibility and affordability of services provided by the city.
• Develop an inclusive decision-making process to ensure sustainable urban development.
• Provide equal opportunities for all city dwellers to reduce economic and social inequalities.

Consider linkages of the services offered by the city for a sustainable urban design and planning.

خطو نحو المستة

adh Step Into the Future

INTRODUCTION

Saudi Arabian cities are going through an exceptional era of urbanization, caused by rapid growth of the local population and economy. In response to these trends, the country has conceptualized Saudi Vision 2030, a new transformation strategy that sets goals to improve the social and economic status of the population. Vision 2030 aims to achieve balance and sustainability in urban development and reliable service provision to the Saudi population.

In addition to the Saudi Vision 2030, the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, in partnership with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) have established the "Future Saudi Cities Program" (FSCP) with the goal of addressing urban challenges and achieving sustainable urbanization for the Kingdom. These goals are aligned with the Ministry's own Municipal Transformation Program, the New Urban Agenda, and Sustainable Development Goal 11: "Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable".

Saudi Vision 2030 and the FSCP include objectives aimed at empowering women and youth. In Saudi Arabia, women represent nearly half of the population and young people represent two-thirds of the king¬dom's population. The government has begun to recognize youth as a positive force for development and the integral role of women in the process of development.
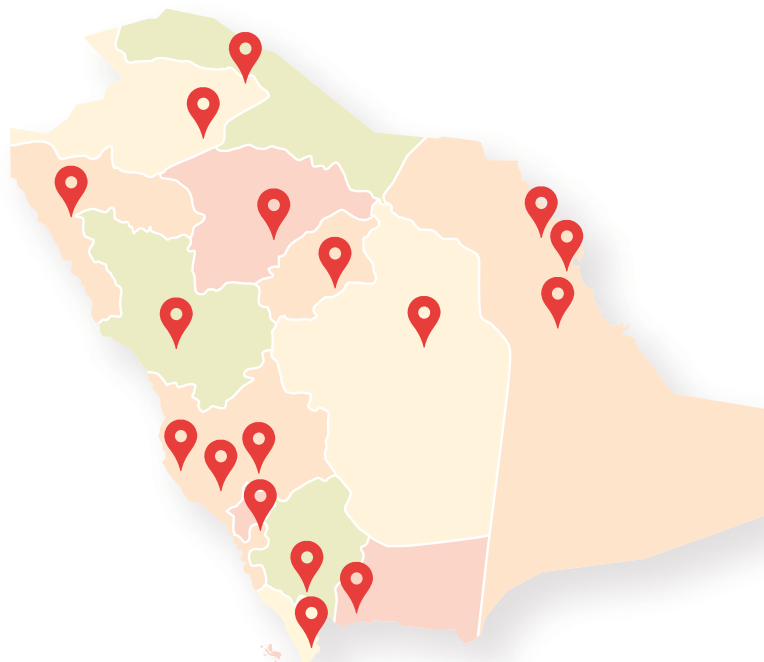
FIGURE 1:
Distribution of the 17 cities in the Future Saudi Cities Program

THE NEED FOR A 'STATE OF WOMEN AND YOUTH IN SAUDI CITIES' REPORT

Globally, youth account for 30% of the world's total population of which about 80% are in Africa, Asia and Latin America[1]. Currently, the youth population (15-29) of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region account for more than 28% of the total population[2]. Within the population of Arab countries', young people are the fastest growing segment, with around 60% of the population being under 25 years, making it one of the most youthful regions in the world.

The Gulf Cooperation Council's six member-nations make up one of the most youthful regions in today's world; one-third to one-half of the population is under the age of 25. People under 25 account for 51.5% of the population in Oman, 50.8% in Saudi Arabia, 43.9% in Bahrain, 37.7% in Kuwait, 33.8% in Qatar, and 31% in the United Arab Emirates. [3]Young Saudis are in a relatively better situation than their peers in many other Arab states, but still face enormous challenges especially in terms of Housing, Employment, Public Spaces and Transportation.

Women in the MENA region are a diverse group, including young women, women with disabilities, poor women, migrant women, elderly women and women of different religions, ethnicities and cultural backgrounds. Women represent half of the population of Saudi Arabia and of the region, but have lower literacy rates[4], employment rates[5] and representation in government when compared with men[6]. This reveals that urban planning and governance processes are not necessarily gender-responsive, and may give preference to the needs of men and boys.

As part of recent reform and of Vision 2030, the Kingdom has introduced changes to laws and regulations that seek to empower women and promoted gender equality, including access to sports and entertainment, driving and political life. As part of Vision 2030, FSCP will aim to enhance the involvement of women, and promote gender-responsive planning across the Kingdom.

For all the reasons stated, *The State of Women and Youth in Saudi Cities Report 2018* became imperative. This is the first report amongst UN-Habitat's publications that focuses on youth and women across Saudi cities. It provides a general overview of urban conditions in Saudi Arabia and provides perceptions of women and youth in matters related to their living experiences in cities. The goal of this study is to provide preliminary recommendations for policymakers to foster urban development as stipulated in the various national and internationally-agreed development goals.

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[1] United Nations (2014), «World Urbanization Prospects", the 2014 Revision.
[2] World Youth Report 2003, "Youth and the Environment", Chapter 05
[3] The Economist (2011), "Economist Intelligence Unit", Population— 2010 data.
[4] UNICEF (2015), Data available at https://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/saudiarabia_statistics.html
[5] ILO(2013)
[6] World Bank (2016), Data available at http://datatopics.worldbank.org/gender/country/saudi-arabia

SAUDI ARABIA OVERVIEW

According to the latest consensus by the General Authority for Saudi Statistics, the Kingdom's total population is estimated at 31,742,308 inhabitants. Saudi Arabia is experiencing rapid urbanization due to factors such as demographic, social and economic growth, which make the country one of the most urbanized countries in the world. Globally cities are becoming more youthful. There are more people under the age of 25 today than ever, totaling nearly three billion or almost half of the total global population. These youth live, by and large, in cities and towns. It is estimated that as many as 60% of all urban dwellers will be under the age of 18 by 2030[7].

Saudi's cities are distributed over 13 regions and 118 governorates, with most of the population being located in the capital Riyadh, as well as the secondary cities Jeddah and Dammam and the holy cities of Mecca and Medina. According to the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs[8] approximately 82.1% of the total population lives in urban areas whereas 17.9% live in a rural environment. The urbanization rates at the regions level show that 6 regions have recorded rates that exceed 80%, including the Eastern Province (93.2%), Riyadh (90.9%), Holy Makkah (87.6%), the Northern Borders (86.7%), Tabuk (85.9%), and Jouf (84.5%).

[7] UN-Habitat (2012). Cities of Youth, Cities of Prosperity. Nairobi, Kenya.
[8] MOMRA, 2016, National Report submitted to Third United Nations Conference on Sustainable Urban Development - HIII, January

INTRODUCING SAUDI CITIES

According to the UN *"World Population Prospects 2017"* [9] and the World Bank's *"World DataBank, World Development Indicators"*, Saudi Arabia is among the countries with the highest population growth rates in the world. In 2015, the annual population growth in Saudi Arabia was 2.5%. The total Saudi population has increased by 15 million during the last twenty-five years (1992-2017), almost doubling since 1990. At this annual growth rate, it is projected that the population of Saudi Arabia will reach 45 million by 2050, which means that in the next 35 years there will be a population increase of about 13.5 million.[10] It can be derived from this growth that the Kingdom will have to provide jobs, housing, infrastructure, and services for about one and a half of its current population in the next 25 years. If not properly managed, this might have substantial environmental, social, and economic impacts and could adversely affect the sustainability, prosperity, and resilience of Saudi cities.

Throughout history and until 1970, the Saudi rural population was much higher than the urban population. In 1970 the urban and rural population became approximately equal (48.7% and 51.3% respectively). By 2015, the share of the urban and rural population that prevailed in 1950 was completely reversed; with the urban population at 83.1% and rural population at only 16.9% of the total population in Saudi Arabia. This trend is expected to continue to increase. According to UN DESA "World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision", the urban population share will increase to 88.7% in 2050, while the rural population share will continue declining to only 11.3 of the total population (TABLE 1).

TABLE 1:
PERCENTAGES OF URBAN & RURAL POPULATION ON SAUDI ARABIA (1950-2050)[11].

	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2015	2020	2030	2040	2050
Urban Population %	21.3	31.3	48.7	65.9	76.6	79.8	82.1	83.1	84.1	85.9	87.4	88.7
Rural Population %	78.7	68.7	51.3	34.1	23.4	20.2	17.9	16.9	15.9	14.1	12.6	11.3

[9] UN-DESA (2017). "World Population Prospects". Population Division 2017,

[10] UN-DESA. (2003). World Population in 2300

[11] UN-DESA. (2014). World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision

TABLE 2:

Distribution of Amanah, Municipalities and Village Clusters by region[12]

SOURCE:

General Department for Organizational Development (MOMRA), 2018, UN published statistical report.

Region	No of Amanah	No of Municipalities & their Categories			Number of Different Categories of Village clusters (VCC)	
		A	B	C	D	E
Riyadh	1	1	8	16	11	13
Makkah	3	0	1	6	6	15
Madinah	1	1	1	3	3	9
Qassim	1	1	3	4	7	12
Eastern Region	2	2	4	2	10	6
Assir	1	1	4	5	6	17
Tabuk	1	0	1	4	0	8
Hail	1	0	0	2	9	6
Northern Borders	1	0	0	2	1	6
Jizan	1	0	2	3	7	13
Najran	1	0	0	1	3	6
Baha	1	0	1	2	3	5
Jouf	1	0	1	3	0	5
Total	16	7	26	53	66	115

FIGURE 2:
Administration boundaries of Saudi Arabia
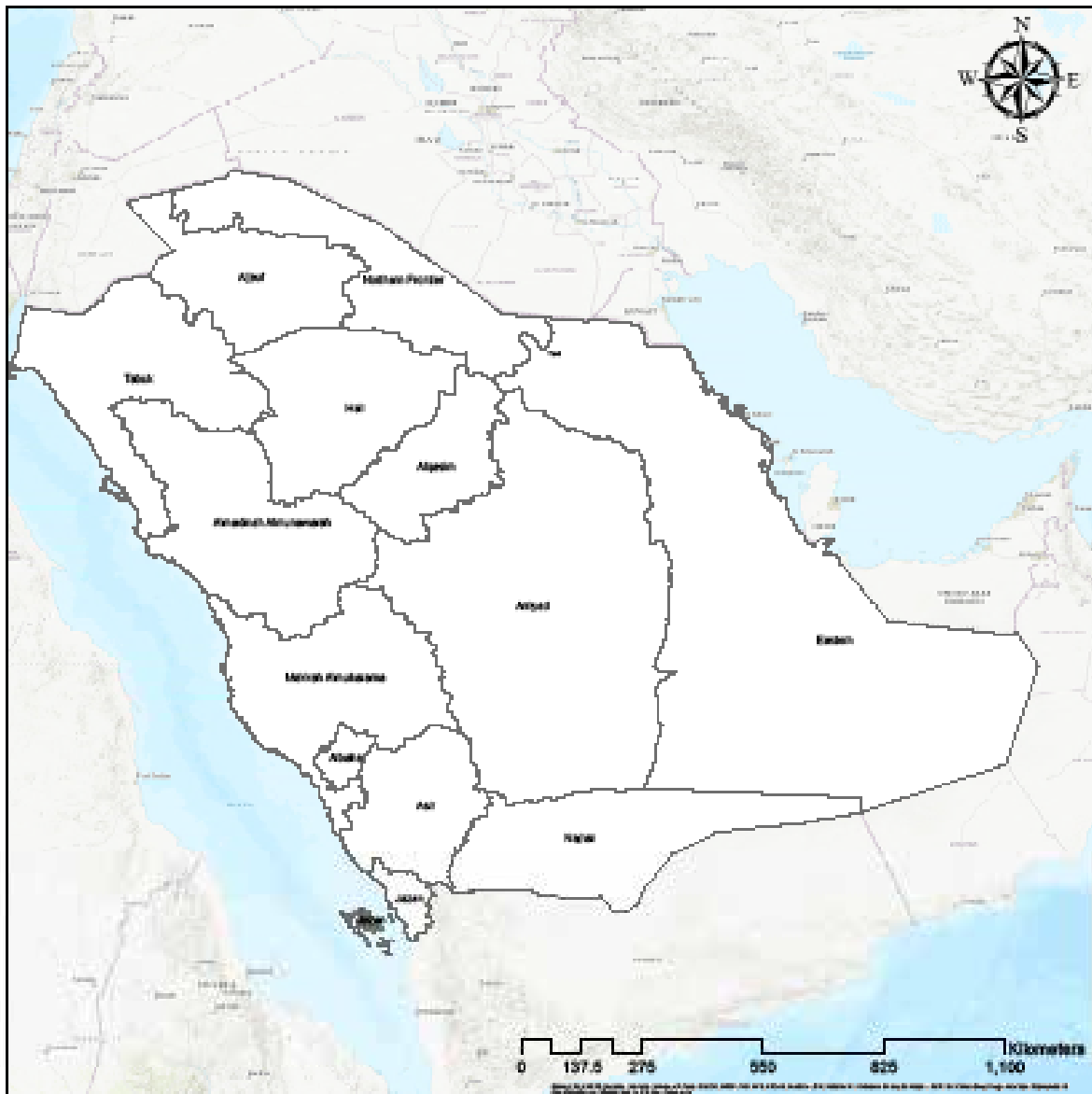
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study builds on findings from three quantitative studies and one qualitative study. This mixed method provides a comprehensive understanding of life in cities for women and youth. The quantitative studies are based on questionnaires which sought to gauge women and youth's perceptions of various dimensions of prosperity in the cities they live in. Data from the questionnaires were analysed together with a statistical survey (Youth CPI Survey) in order to provide regional, social, and economic contexts for the findings.

Data from the quantitative and qualitative studies was analyzed using identifiers and grouped based on labels. Moreover, in order to improve the accuracy of the results, data was verified by triangulating the findings. Quantitative and qualitative data supporting each other. Results with high rate of consistency are considered for policy recommendations.

The first quantitative study is a Social Media Analysis titled *"Towards Women and Youth-Friendly Saudi Cities"* conducted by King Salman Center for Local Governance (KSLG). The Center is the first think tank in the Saudi Arabia specialized in local governance affairs, and as a non-profit think tank, is uniquely positioned at the intersection of theory and practice functioning as an objective-thought partner to policymakers.

The study used a social media analysis of Twitter as a tool to examine public discourse on life in Saudi cities. The study was supplemented by a survey which covered five topics that are crucial to how youth and women experience life in their cities: transportation, employment, housing, public spaces, and public participation (particularly youth councils). The tweets were analyzed using Superfast, a social media analysis software. Data for the study included tweets between August 1, 2015 and July 31, 2016 where relevant tweets were identified using focus-group determined hashtags and terms relevant to the aforementioned five topics. On average, the search includes 22 relevant terms and hashtags, which resulted in an average of 6300 tweets per topic.

The second study is a youth Indicator Survey administered by Princess Al Anood Center For Youth Development (Warif), a civil society organization interested in the rehabilitation and development of youth, enhancing their participation in charitable and volunteer

programs. WARIF adopts and embraces youth initiatives and projects in which young leaders participate in centers of power and influence programs. They seek women and youth's perception of the services offered by major cities and their efficiency. The main objective of this study was to identify the needs of the city in order to establish the necessary plans in 17 Saudi cities. The center administered a questionnaire to 5,100 youth (with near equal representation among young men and women) in 16 major Saudi cities. The questions in the questionnaire were formed as a result of a focus group consisting of 95 youth in order to increase the reliability and relevance of the questionnaire.

Additionally, the study used data generated by the FSCP team in collaboration with Warif for the Youth City Prosperity index (CPI). The Youth CPI survey has been used to address context-specific and youth-centered issues. The purpose of the Youth CPI Survey is to provide relevant data to support evidence-based decision making on youth-related needs in cities. The study relied on large sample of over 3,000 respondents randomized sampling from 17 clustered cities.

Additional qualitative data was gathered from a training workshop involving women and youth participation in the area of urban planning and governance titled "You are Here". The workshop was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia between October 29 and November 2, 2017 involving participants from 12 major cities in Saudi Arabia where men and women were equally represented. This study was supplement with in-depth qualitative interviews conducted with 27 participants including young men and women. Finally, additional research was drawn and informed by UN-Habitat's research on women and youth issues.

FIGURE 3:
Data collection methods and thematic classification.

STATUS OF TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY

TRANSPORTATION FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH

Studies have shown that globally women and youth are more likely to use public transport than men, due often to them being unable to afford to purchase private vehicles. Youth in Saudi Arabia face a similar reality to their counterparts in the Middle East and the rest of the world. Following on from this, affordable and accessible public transportation are a pressing concern for youth.

Inhabitants of major Saudi cities heavily rely on private transportation to move around their city, with many households owning more than one car. In Jeddah, 86% of all trips are taken by car, 10% by taxi, and less than 2% by bus.[13] The state-run bus system operates a small number of routes that are severely underutilized. A network of informal and unregulated minibuses also runs within the Jeddah Governorate.

However, many Saudi youth between 15 and 19 years are obliged to endure long and risky walks to their destinations. Car ownership rates show

FIGURE 4:
Modes of transportation, youth target group

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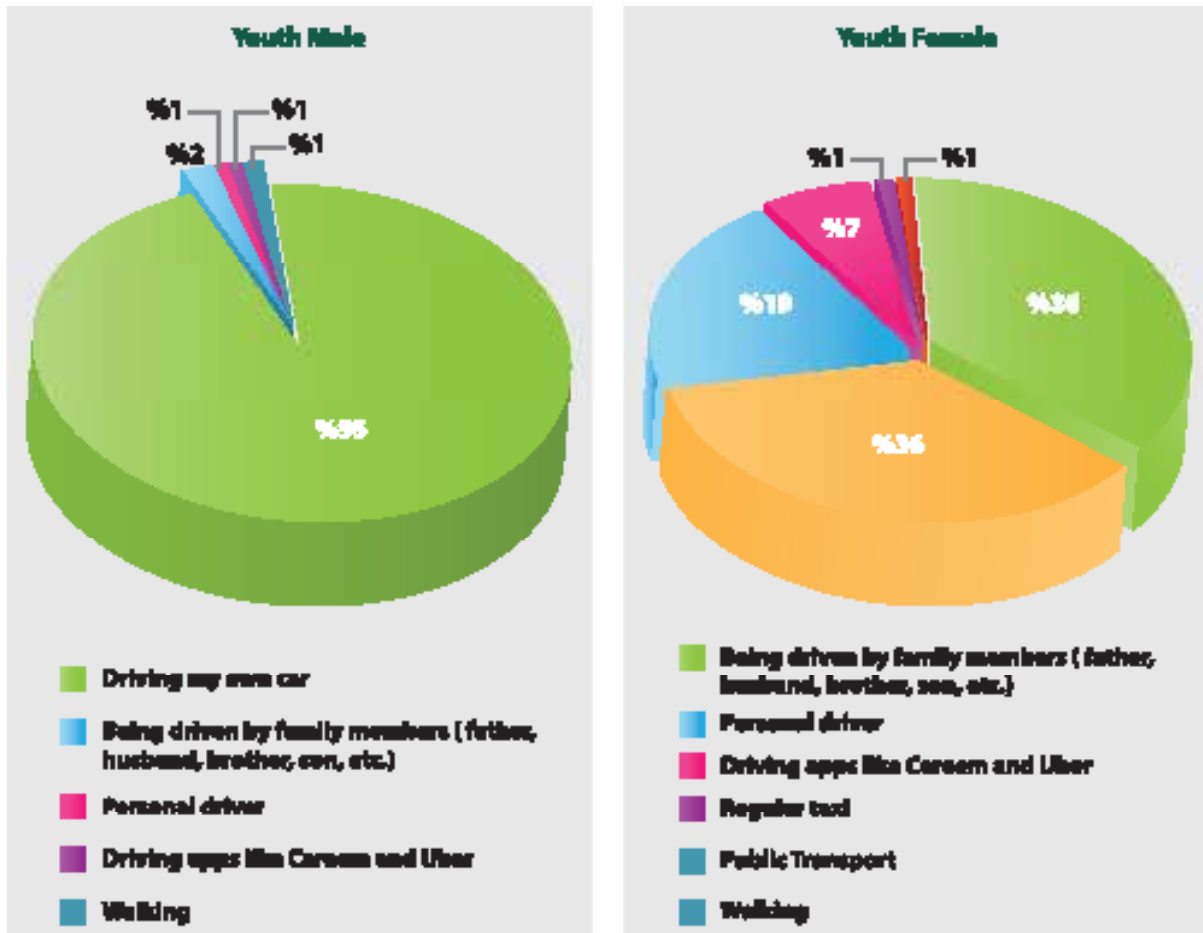
[13] Jeddah Municipality (2009), "Jeddah Strategic Plan". Urban Land Use Patterns, p.41.

that Saudis in their twenties and early thirties are more likely to own cars if they are male. The KSCLD research found that 95% of male youth indicate that they drive their own cars, compared with 36% of female youth who mostly rely on being driven by a male family member (Figure 1). Globally men's and women's experiences in their use of public transport system can vary, especially when related to security and safety. In most counties, women depend more on public transport to meet their mobility needs. In Saudi Arabia, similar to many other countries, transportation is an important issue for women, particularly for low-income women who can become marginalized by transportation difficulties.

However, mobility and transportation policies have been unfavorable towards women in Saudi Arabia restricting their ability to drive and not providing affordable and safe means of public transportation. For many years, women's inability to drive impacted their mobility and thus their access to places in the cities in which they live — including workplaces and other public spaces. Recently and for the first time in Saudi Arabia, women were granted the right to drive starting in June 2018. Saudi Arabia's King Salman has issued the decree allowing women to drive. The decree also allows the transfer of driver licenses obtained from the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

TRANSPORT AND MOBILITY CHALLENGES

The concerns of transportation among youth vary depending on the individual country and these include infrastructural challenges such as access to road infrastructure, road safety, traffic hazards and floods. In the Saudi context, three topics dominate the concerns of youth: 24% of people surveyed were concerned by traffic and road conditions, followed by 20% for traffic, flood, and road cameras, and 11% by women's right to drive with 11%. A small minority (3%) express opposition to women driving. Figure 2, below, shows each specific trend and the percentage of the issues raised on tweets.

Transpotartion Tweets

- Asking for Drivers %2
- Against women driving %3
- Poor road infrastructure %10
- With women driving %12
- Complaints about Riyadh metro construction %3
- With Uber and Kareem %2
- Complaints about Saher %7
- Traffic/Flood/Saher warning %20
- Complaints about drivers in general %2
- Complaints about traffic jam %11
- Suggesting solutions %4
- Satisfaction about future metro/train projects %4
- Car theft %2
- Need for saher/Saher for throwing trash %4
- Need for police education %2
- Need for more safety enforcement %4
- Need for professional driving %5
- Increase oil/insurance price %4

In the Saudi Youth CPI Survey, 55% of women indicated that they have a personal driver, 20% are driven by male family members (father, husband, brother, son, or other), 18% utilize ride-sharing applications such as Uber and Careem, 5% use taxis, and 2% walk. In the case of women from the youth cohort, the survey revealed that 36% of them have personal drivers and another 36% rely on being driven by a male family member; 19% uses transportation apps and 7% taxis. On the other hand, 95% of men from the youth cohort drive their own cars. These preliminary results illustrate that the group encountering most difficulties when it comes to transportation are young women, especially those from low-income families.

In fact, affordability seems to be the main reason for the 39% of women who prefer using public transportation over personal drivers, with 43% of young women and 28% of young men giving the same reason. KSLG social media research also shows that 81% of young men and 78% of young women would use public transport, if available. Out of all female responders, 68% indicated that they would make use of public transit in comparison to only the 27% of women who reported that they see no reason for using public transportation. This suggests that youth are a particularly important target group for public transport developers.

ROAD SAFETY

Among the GCC, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have the worst road safety record, with an average of 200 accidents per day in Jeddah in 2007,[14] and the UAE has the ninth-highest rate of fatalities in the world[15] About two-thirds to three-quarters of all fatalities involve motorized vehicles with the rest involving pedestrians and cyclists. In 2007, Jeddah reported 1,200 pedestrian casualties, 12% of which were fatal.[16] Most accidents are due to speeding and lack of compliance with or enforcement of traffic rules.

FIGURE 3:
Jeddah pedestrian casualties (2007)

Jeddah pedestrian casualties (2007)

other pedestrian casualties 88%

fatal pedestrian casualties 12%

■ fatal pedestrian casualties ■ other pedestrian casualties
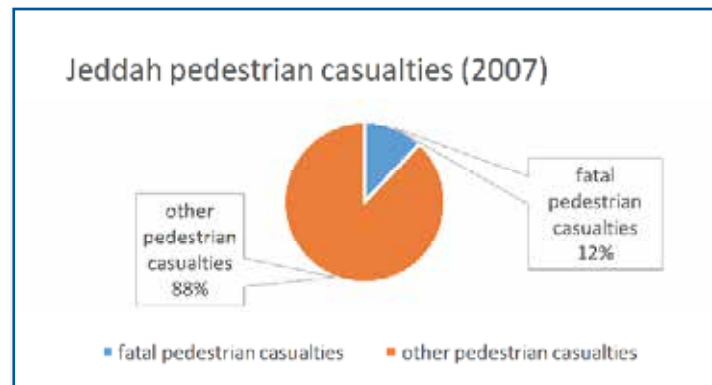
[14] Federal Research Division (2008).
[15] World Health Organization (Geneva 2009), "Time for Action", Global Status Report on Road Safety.
[16] UN-Habitat (2012)

The poor design of road networks and the city's grid layout, that isolates and surrounds neighborhoods with high-speed roadways, sidewalks and pedestrian crossings, inherently makes pedestrians more vulnerable and exposed to road accidents. A number of GCC countries, including Saudi Arabia, are looking into policies to improve the safety and comfort of pedestrian networks as part of their transportation plans.

KSLG social media research showed that there are still significant transportation problems that limit the quality of life in Saudi cities, as experienced by women and youth from both genders. Issues raised by young women and men were mostly related to congestion, bad driving behaviors and poor quality of roads. Fifty-three percent of women complain about traffic jams compared to 76% for young males; 46% of women criticize bad driving behavior, as do 68% of male youth. Twenty-five percent of women and 68% of male youth perceive the quality of roads as poor. Notably, young women stand out for experiencing particular challenges that are different from both their male counterparts and older women. In fact, 44% of female youth indicated that one of the biggest transportation concerns are related to their drivers and/or a lack of private chauffer.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Women and youth expressed concerns towards the current state of the Saudi transportation, with access to affordable and safe public transportation being important to both. Women's experiences in cities could improve with gender-sensitive measures to improve transportation and mobility.

Public transport is an important component for reducing dependence on private vehicles and making commuting more convenient and cost effective, particularly for marginalized groups like women and youth.

While the youth cohort is a rapidly growing proportion of the population in Saudi Arabia, they are overlooked when it comes to urban transport and mobility making them a vulnerable segment of the society.

Initiatives aimed at improving and developing public transport infrastructure and services have often been gender-blind because they have not factored men's and women's different uses of transport into account.

Youth CPI Survey Findings in this study highlighting opportunity for the following policy recommendations to improve transportation services in Saudi cities:

• Inclusive measures factoring women and youth need to be taken to improve the status, accessibility, and affordability of transportation and mobility in Saudi cities.

• Accessibility, affordability and safety of the public transport for women should be a priority for any cities' development plans.

• Considering women and youth's concerns in transportation matters may improve access to jobs, healthcare, education and basic services.

• Economically disadvantaged women and youth may benefit from cost benefits or subsidies to make public transportation more affordable.

• Expanding the coverage of the public transportation system to the urban areas not yet covered in addition to the creation of pedestrian walkways and cycling paths may help reduce the traffic congestion and create an environmentally-friendly city.

2 HOUSING AND ACCESS TO SERVICES
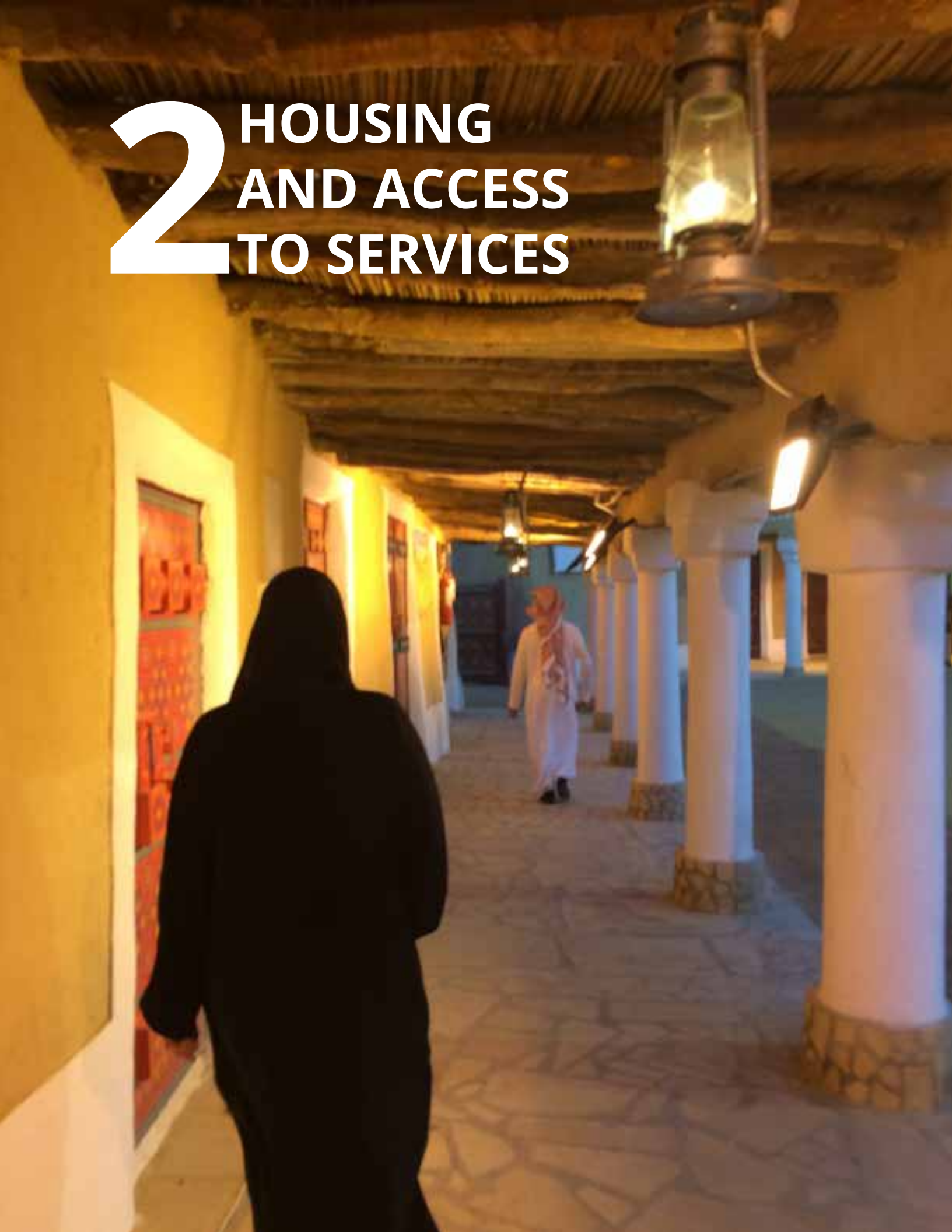
INTRODUCTION

Saudi Arabia is one of the geographically largest countries in the Arabian Gulf region. Its population, particularly the youth cohort, has been growing dramatically over the past two decades. Managing the country's rapid urbanization has been a major challenge since the oil boom of the 1970s and the provision of affordable housing to Saudi citizens has been a priority and a keystone of Saudi Arabia's urban policy since 1974. Due to the growing urbanization rate, Saudi Arabia is now facing significant urban challenges. According to MOMRA approximately 82.1 % of the total population lives in urban areas. The cost of living will also escalate, possibly reducing access to affordable housing and services among the most vulnerable and low-income sections of the population, particularly youth and women. This section will address the different issues that youth and women face in access to housing and services.

HOUSING IN SAUDI CITIES

Housing development in Saudi Arabia has changed over the last 50 years. Changes in housing design and the employment of foreign architects have both lead to the introduction of new types of housing units. The housing typology marks a clear disparity in houses inhabited by Saudis, which varies according to the region. Villas in Riyadh represent the highest ratio of houses (47% of the total houses)[17]. In Al-Qaseem, villas represent 46% of the total houses, followed by Aseer (34%), Hail (42%), the Northern Borders (27%), and Al Jouf (39%). Villas are predominantly expensive and less accessible than apartments for youth, who typically have less wealth and access to finance. Yet these statistics show that in many Saudi cities, it is villas that are the predominant form of housing being built, excluding youth from the housing market. However, apartments do represent the highest ratio in other cities such as Makkah (58%), Al-Madina (60%), the Eastern Region (44%), Tabouk (57%), Najran (32%) and Al Baha (37%).[18]

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[17] General Authority for Statistics (2016), "Demography Survey, p31"
[18] Ibid

CONSTRAINS TO OWNING A HOME

The problem of housing affordability affects most of the world's cities. In the Middle East, it affects young people in a particular way compared to other countries. The growing youth population, the increase in the price of housing and a decline in residential mobility, are some of the many factors that make housing inaccessible to young people, especially those from lower-income backgrounds. In Saudi Arabia, more than 70% of its inhabitants live in homes they do not own.

According to the KSCLG Study, youth are increasingly concerned about access to affordable housing. The research findings show that only 7% of the sample size of Social Media Analysis that conducted by (KSCLG) were home owners, 2% of those being women and 5% men[19]. The economic and financial restrictions are the major source for housing insecurity expressed by women and youth. The limited access to loans for youth and the lack of affordable housing are preventing young women and men from owning a home, which also impacts significantly on the age of marriage. For this reason, the majority of the youth population is still supported by their families, especially in the case of women who are subjects of the guardianship system where they remain under their father or other close male relative's authority until they are married. This is also another major cause of the limitations encountered by most of the Saudi women related to housing accessibility.

WATER AND SANITATION SERVICES

According to Youth CPI report[20], the indicator for the proportion of housing units with access to an improved source of water is very strong. Access to quality water is a prerequisite for maintaining good health, therefore this condition is positively affecting the overall quality of life.

The Youth CPI report show a good coverage of the sewerage system in Saudi Arabia, with at least 80% of households in all the cities having a sewerage connection, provided either by the government (public sewer line) or privately owned (septic tanks). The findings indicate that on average only 10% of households across the cities do not have access to any sewerage connection. Some cities such as cities Baha, Jizan, Makkah and Najran have the highest number of households without sewerage connections, while Damman and Riyadh have the highest number of households with sewerage connections.

[19] King Salman center for Local Governance - KSCLG (2016), Towards women and Youth-Friendly Saudi Cities Social Media Analysis
[20] Future Saudi Cities Program (FSCP),(2016), Youth CPI report

ACCESS TO CLEAN HEALTHY DRINKING WATER

The Youth CPI Survey statistics indicate that all households in most cities have access to clean potable water, either from commercial bottled water (38.6%), or connected to the city water network system and those using storage tanks. However, connection to the city water network system is the most convenient and more generally affordable; some cities have achieved high proportion of coverage in this regard, for example Riyadh (83%), Qassim (73.7%), and Hail, Hasa and Abha (around 60%).

ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY

Electricity access is a prerequisite for satisfying basic human needs, improving living standards, maintaining good health, alleviating poverty and facilitating sustainable development. The lack of access to modern energy services constrains the ability of the young population to benefit from opportunities for economic development and increased living standards. According to According to the Saudi Electricity Company the accessibility to electricity is 99.87%, but the sources of electricity may vary. The public network is used by 98.88% of Saudi households and only 0.83% of the households depend on private electricity networks. Private generators are used by 0.12% of houses inhabited. [21]

21 Saudi Electricity Company (2000-2014)

ACCESS TO INTERNET

Affordable internet access is a target of UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 9.[22] Having access to Internet means easy access to information as well as connectivity to financial, health and education services. Young men and women are most likely to be the main users of internet also for other purposes, such as social networks, games, and videos.

Nowadays, having a computer at home can improve opportunities for youth, especially to education and employment.

The research of Youth CPI, conducted by Warif in Saudi cities showed that more than half of the youth population across the cities have readily available internet and an average of 32.9% of youth reported that they have access to internet to a certain extent. Cities with the highest internet access include Riyadh, Dammam, Abha, and Hasa.

[22] United Nations (2015). Sustainable Development Goal 9: Investing in ICT access and quality education to promote lasting peace. http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2017/06/sustainable-development-goal-9-investing-in-ict-access-and-quality-education-to-promote-lasting-peace/

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Housing infrastructure under which youth live is generally good. The majority of youth across the cities live in houses with access electricity, sewerage network, clean drinking water, sufficient living area and durable shelter. However, the main housing challenges are related to the lack of affordable housing and the rising real estate prices.

Preliminary recommendations of this study highlight the opportunity for policymakers to addressing the economic and financial restrictions that limit the access to loans and financial services to support youth to buy a house.

3 PUBLIC SPACES

INTRODUCTION

UN-Habitat defines public spaces as sites that are accessible and enjoyable for all without a profit motive. They can take on various spatial forms, including parks, streets, sidewalks, markets and playgrounds. Good public spaces enhance community cohesion and promote health, happiness, and well-being for all citizens and establish a sense of community. Youth are frequent users of public spaces despite the fact that they rarely have a substantial influence on the planning and development of these places. Furthermore, public spaces such as community and activities centers, playgrounds, and sport spaces can have a great influence on the safety, wellbeing, and prosperity of young urban residents[23].

As explained by the UN-Habitat Street Connectivity Study[24], cities that have appropriate layouts, adequate street connectivity and sufficient open public spaces are cities that have a spatial capital. Spatial capital is suggested to be an important basis to create successful and prosperous cities. This capital can support development in various other areas and contribute to enhance social cohesion and economic productivity. Largely based on the use of the automobile, the physical layout of Saudi cities has created low-density, single-use development, with spacious houses and buildings. This is reflected in the large number of villas and larger houses, as discussed in the Housing Chapter. This configuration in cities from Saudi Arabia has led to horizontal spreading of the urban areas with high fragmentation of spaces and some level of dispersion of house and buildings, leaving huge areas of open or vacant land inside city boundaries. This has caused a lack of walkability and a significant shortage of space for public socializing.

[23] UN-Habitat (2017). Youth And Their Needs Within Public Space.
[24] UN-Habitat, (Nairobi-2015). "Spatial Capital of Saudi Arabian Cities".*Street Connectivity study for the City Prosperity Initiative.*

USE AND TYPE OF PUBLIC SPACES

KSLG social media research shows that nearly 50% of youth rated their city's public spaces as poor or very poor. The results show that women and youth are unhappy with the existing public spaces offered by the city. The ratings on public space quality presents similar trends in many of the cities examined. For example, in Riyadh, Jeddah, and Dammam only an average of 15% of the residents consider the quality public spaces good or excellent. The comments shared on Twitter related to complaints or criticisms, included requests for improvements to the parks (18%), complaints about specific behaviors in parks (12%), calls for improved safety measures (10%), and the need for more recreational activities (8%).

Given the unique cultural context of Saudi Arabia, privately-owned places such as malls can be also considered public spaces[25]. Although, when asked which types of public spaces Saudi nationals use the most, nearly 50% of the respondents unanimously answered public park and green spaces, followed by pedestrian walkways and public squares (30%). The respondents from young men and women also identified public parks and green spaces (70%), sports clubs (66%), and libraries (65%) as the most needed type of public space in cities from Saudi Arabia. Similarly, women from different age groups shared similar concerns about the use of public spaces. These issues included: the need of creation of social centers for young women (65%) and to enhance the level of safety in public spaces(60%). These results are unanimously shared by respondents from various cities in Saudi Arabia. The need for further public space appears to be a shared priority across the country.

[25] King Salman center for Local Governance report (2016), *Towards women and Youth-Friendly Saudi Cities Social Media Analysis*

SAFETY AND SECURITY

Youth development is fostered by having safe and peaceful communities and enabling environments. Crime emerges as a major impediment to the prosperity of cities and major deterrent in the use of public spaces. Youth mostly face obstacles in accessing public spaces due to a combination of high crime rates and unfit public spaces, derived from lack of lighting and proper access. Young women face the same challenges as young men, but in addition they are also especially vulnerable to harassment and discrimination; hence their need for safe public spaces becomes crucial to ensure access to the social and cultural public life of cities as well as other services, such as education, health services, employment, and leisure activities[26].

The Youth CPI Survey outcomes show that 95% of youth feel either fairly safe or very safe to live and work in their cities. This is in line with the findings of the KSCLG Social Media Study that shows that only 10% of youths are demanding for improved safety measures on their city's public spaces.

[26] UN-Habitat 2015. Youth and their needs within public space. UN-Habitat, Nairobi

ACCESS TO SERVICES AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES CENTERS

Youth centers where youth and youth groups converge have been part of the fabric of many communities for decades and have a wide range of benefits to the youths. [27] Yet a surprisingly large number of youths in many Saudi communities do not or cannot access these centers. Some of the benefits of youth activities centers include access to health and fitness facilities, team-building, a sense of identity, experience and self fulfilment. Accessibility to this youth centers is determined by how close they are located from residential areas where the youth live[28]. According to the "You are Here" training, access to youth centers are amongst the key challenges that faces youth in their cities

The Youth CPI Survey findings show that 32.8% of youth do not have access to social services. The social services in Saudi Arabia include programs relate to enhance resident's life quality, and to maximize public involvement pf developing of community activities, as well as providing assistance and remedial care to persons with disabilities[29]. Moreover 47.5% of youth stated that youth activities centers are difficult to access (meaning located more than 5 km from residential areas). This makes it very difficult for youth to access them independently by foot. The is contrary to the findings that show that 24% of the youth centers are located within one to five kilometers from residential areas and 28.5% of youth activity centers are between 250 meters and a kilometer away from residential areas.

[27] UN-Habitat (2013). *UN-Habitat One Stop Youth Resouce Centre Model*
[28] Future Saudi Cities Program (FSCP), 2016, Youth CPI Report
[29] Ministry of Labor and Social Development, (2018).

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Good public spaces enhance community cohesion and promote health, happiness, and well-being for all citizens as well as fostering investment, economic development and environmental sustainability. Improving public spaces' quality and provision together with increased walkability and public transportation use are fundamental measures to improve not only the cities' quality of life but also their environmental sustainability. Youth have both special concerns and special responsibilities in relation to the environment. A number of environmental risks and hazards disproportionately affect young people, who have to live for an extended period with the deteriorating environment bequeathed to them by earlier generations. Young people will be compelled to engage in new forms of action and activism that will generate effective responses to ecological challenges. It is therefore in the interest of the youth to ensure that environment is not depleted completely[30].

The Youth CPI Survey questionnaire indicated that more that 70% of the youths are satisfied with the level of sustainability in their cities in comparison with 26.7% think that their cities are environmentally unfriendly and unsustainable.

30 United Nations (2003), "The Global Situation of Young People ", *World Youth Report.*

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During the Training conducted by UN-Habitat in collaboration with FSCP, on Women and Youth participation in urban planning and governance in Riyadh, "You Are Here", the participants from different cities provided different recommendations regarding planning for public spaces in their cities.

Accessible public spaces are an integral part of the city's prosperity and the wellbeing of its citizens. The women and youth who participated in the various studies highlighted the importance of having access to safe, and functioning public spaces in order to create an enabling environment. There are also calls for an overall for improvement of the conditions of public spaces, particularly public parks and green spaces. Women- and youth-specific centers are of interest to the citizens. As a result, policymakers need to:

• Increase and diversify public spaces and improve the quality of existing ones.

• Address accessibility of services in the cities to make them easily reachable to city dwellers, particularly vulnerable groups among women and youth.

• Look into investing in open spaces that can contribute to the wellbeing of citizens.

• Ensure the involvement of youth in the rehabilitation of public spaces in both urban and historical areas and strengthen the participation of youth in environmental protection.

4 YOUTH AND EMPLOYMENT

INTRODUCTION

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), there are 71 million unemployed youth worldwide and 156 million young workers living in poverty. Youth employment remains a major issue and a top policy concern for governments and international organizations all over the world. The difficulty in finding employment as a way for securing a livelihood experienced by women and youth is an ongoing issue[31].

WOMEN AND YOUTH IN SAUDI LABOR MARKET

In Saudi Arabia, approximately 400,000 Saudis enter the labor market every year[32]. However, in 2016 the rate of youth unemployment was 24.2%, where 17.4% of men were unemployed and 46.3% of women. Despite representing half of the total population, youth account for only 17% of the workforce, which indicates a clear opportunity for improving productivity[33].

FIGURE 6:
Youth (24-15) labor force participation rate[34]

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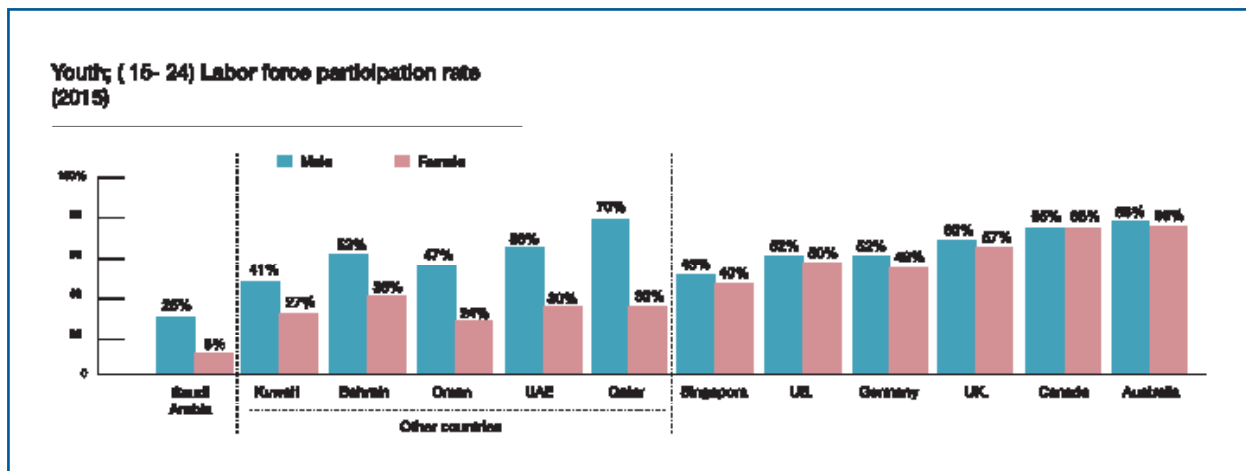
[31] ILO (2017), Youth and Employment
[32] GAS (2017) , Demography Survey, p31
[33] ILO (2017) , Youth and Employment
[34] Ibid

In 2015, among 9.1 million Saudi women who can legally work, only 20.2% of them were involved in economic activity, compared with 77.8% of Saudi men. [35]In the same year, global female unemployment was 21.8%, and among Saudi women it was even higher, at 32.8%. The high unemployment rate for women is due to the fact that (i) despite being highly educated, Saudi women tend to have skills that are not in high demand by private sector employers[36]; (ii) traditional workplaces don't provide spaces and facilities for women such as flexible working hours, transportation to the workplace, daycare facilities or woman-friendly environments.

The Saudi Ministry of Labor and Social Development has introduced policies to improve employment rates among Saudis in the private sector. Such measures include subsidies to incentivize the private sector to hire Saudis, unemployment assistance, job search assistance, and training to support sustainable employment. However, perceptions of employment challenges were shared by the participants of this study as discussed   below.

FIGURE 7:

Women's employment in private sector [37] (2005-2014)
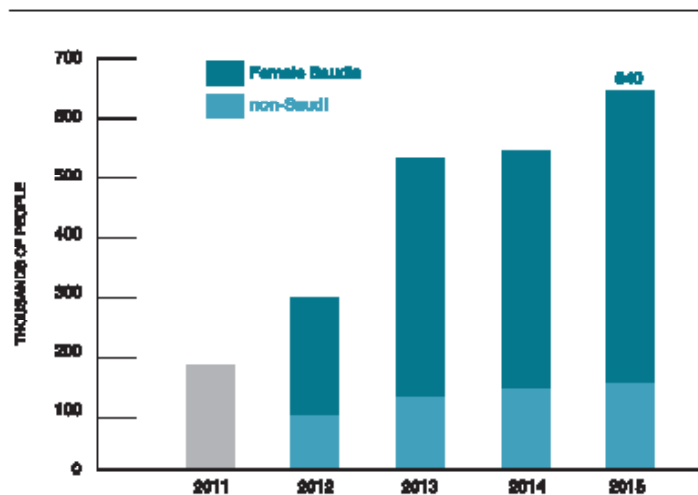
SOURCES: GOSI YEARLY REPORTS 1433 – 1435

[35] World I

[36] GOSI (2

[37] Saudi Ministry of labor and social development (2016), Saudi Labor Market Report 2016.

JOB ACQUISITION

KSCLG Social Media Study revealed that more than 60% of youth and women believe that is hard or even impossible for women to find jobs and 40% agree that it's easier for men to get jobs than women. At the same time, around 56% of youth believe that finding employment opportunities is hard, 58% of women from different age groups consider finding employment moderately difficult.

FIGURE 8:

Unemployment tweets[38]
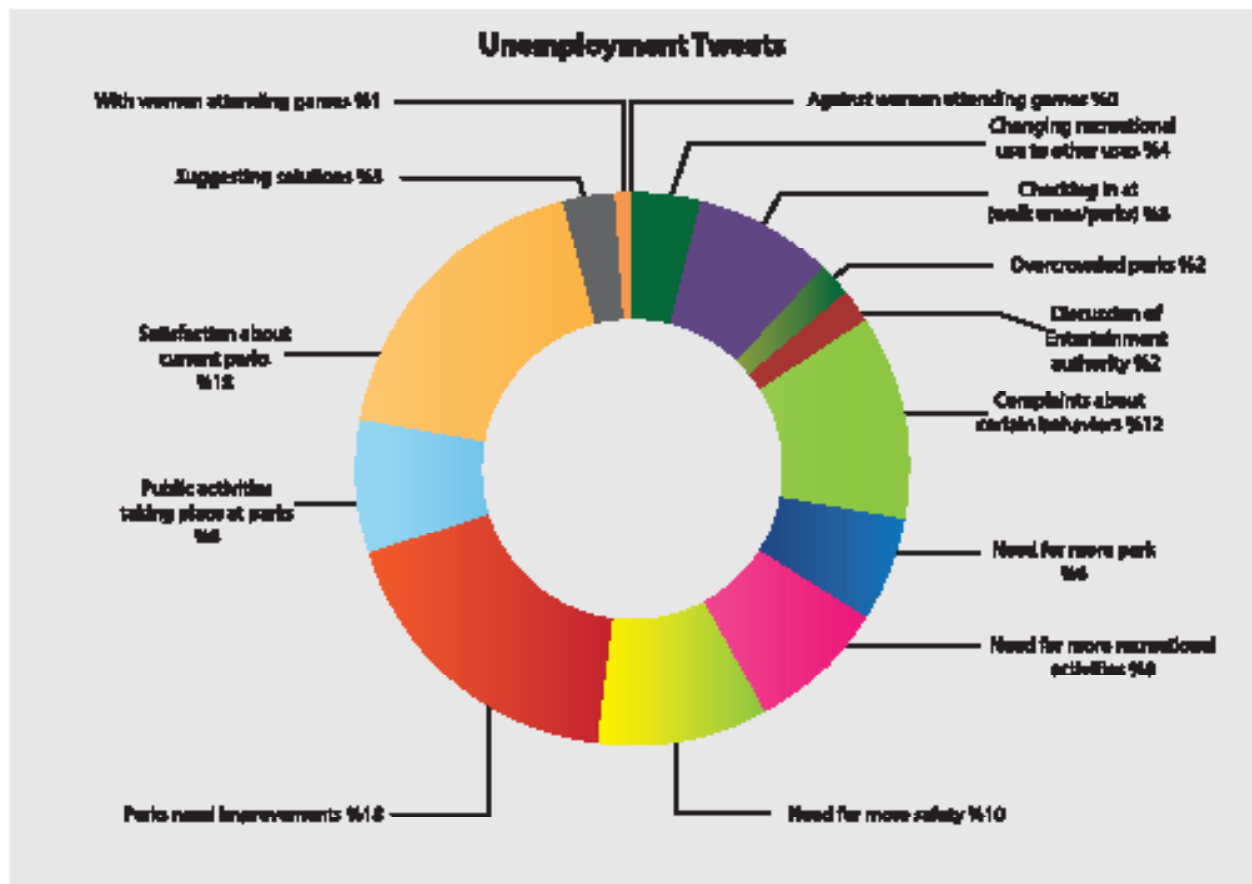
[35] World Bank (2015), *World Development Indicators ILAD analysis*

[36] GOSI (2014), Yearly Reports 1432-1435

[37] Saudi Ministry of labor and social development (2016), Saudi Labor Market Report 2016.

[38] King Salman center for Local Governance report (2016), *Towards women and Youth-Friendly Saudi Cities Social Media Analysis*

FORMAL AND INFORMAL EMPLOYMENT

The Youth CPI Survey findings on youth employment show that almost 50% of the employed youth are involved in the informal economy in comparison to 46.6% of youth in formal employment. In cities like Riyadh and Jeddah around 60% of employment opportunities are offered by the formal economy, while in cities like Makkah and Al Hail the informal economy is prevailing. Out of the formally employed youth, the public sector provides the majority of job opportunities with an average of 73.5%, while the private sector provides only the 26.5% of the employment opportunities to the youth. At the moment, over 80% of unemployed Saudi youth would prefer jobs in the public sector due to their stability and remuneration[39]. In order to address this matter, Saudi Vision 2030[40] seeks to increase the private sector's contribution to employment from 40% to 65% of GDP.

The Youth CPI Survey findings also show that over 50% of the employed youths earn less than 1000SR per month. This could also be attributed to the fact that most of the employed youth are part time and that majority of the youth have gained only primary and secondary education. However, the KSCLG Social Media Study outcomes confirm the overall dissatisfaction with the current occupation. In fact, less than 40% of youth and women consider themselves satisfied with their job, while around 60% declare that their current income doesn't allow them to have the quality of life they wish.

[39] Incarabia (2016), "Not the vision Saudi Arabia wants to see in 2030
[40] Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (2030),"Saudi Vision 2030

PROFESSIONAL GOALS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Tackling unemployment will require a coordinated set of actions across the public and private sectors. Since the job creation rate has failed to match the rate of youth population growth, entrepreneurship can be seen as a possible solution to address the Saudi's issues with youth unemployment. In a virtuous cycle, successful and innovative entrepreneurs can create wealth from their ventures and contribute to create more jobs and put the conditions for a more prosperous society[41].

The Youth CPI Survey findings show that on average over 83% of youth across Saudi cities have not been involved in any entrepreneurial activities. This can also be explained by the fact that more than 85% of youth do not have access to loans from financial institutions, while out of the 15% who applied for loans, only 6.2% are using it for business development purposes.

KSCLG Social Media Study outcomes present the needs for job of nearly half of the participants in order to be able to achieve their professional goals. While 17% of women from different age groups identified career development as a primary condition for their professional achievements, 20% of young men put self-development as a primary condition, followed by career development expressed by 16% of young men. Fifteen percent of women from different age groups expressed the need for a job in order to achieve their professional goals in comparison to 11% of young men. Additionally, 13% of women stated that they need a better transportation system in order to realize their professional goals.

41 Future Saudi Cities Program (FSCP), 2016, Youth CPI Report

EDUCATION

Higher levels of education are directly proportional to the chances of getting employment or succeeding in doing business. Education is essential not just for nurturing but also for attracting talent and bolstering innovation. Availability of highly skilled human capital, especially amongst youth, in turn attracts and generates innovation and knowledge based industries. Education opens up opportunities and improves chances of success in life.

According to the majority of the employers, after completing studies and entering the job market the biggest challenge that youth face when entering the job market are related to "work-readiness".[42]

The distribution of educational achievement among the youth population can help to partly explain the level of unemployment among the cities. The Youth CPI Survey statistics show that on average the literacy level among youth across Saudi Arabian cites is more than 99%. The findings also indicate that majority of the youth have secondary education (57.4%) and a Bachelor's Degree (32.8%). Regarding the educational level of Saudi female's youth, the result shows that nearly half of them have secondary Education level (52%) and Bachelor's Degree (40.4%).Most of youth males and females have earned their education within the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (94%).

VOLUNTEERING

The Youth CPI Survey findings show that on average about half of youth across all cities have never participated in any voluntary activities. Among those who have participated, majority of them reported that they participated only once or twice in a year males (15.5%) ,and females (13.9%) . This might also have an impact on the rate of job mobility. In fact, 60% of males respondents were

still employed in their first job since graduation, while only 40% of employed youth have changed jobs since graduation at the time of the survey. Similarly in females participants, where 52% of them have never changed their job since graduation, and 47% of the respondents were changed their job once or twice.

[42] Future Saudi Cities Program (FSCP), 2016, Youth CPI Report

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Availability of highly skilled human capital attracts and generates innovation and knowledge-based industries and a well-trained and skilled youth population plays a central role. Youth and women perceive job acquisition as difficult and are acquiring less stable, and lower paying jobs in the informal market. Despite the high level of literacy and education among Saudi nationals, women and youth still find challenges meeting their career goals.

In order to provide greater employment opportunities for women and youth, policymakers could consider the following policy recommendations:

• Addressing the prevalence of informal employment in smaller Saudi cities could reduce the gap in formal employment between major and smaller cities in Saudi Arabia and have positive economic outcomes.

• Employment policies aimed at increasing employment could be improved by addressing the perceived of problems of job acquisition among women and youth.

• Looking into affirmative action policies that enforce a quota for women to support their labor force participation.

• Introduction of loans and funding programs for youth could to support entrepreneurial business, particularly among youth.

• Expansion of voluntary opportunities which support job skills acquisition and social cohesion

5 YOUTH AND GOVERNANCE

INTRODUCTION

Good governance and applicable legislation are prerequisites for urban growth and sustainability; it's only through good urban governance and accountable leadership that a city can be able to deploy appropriate and effective policies, enforce rules and regulations, and create adequate institutional frameworks required for shared growth and prosperity. The role of women and youth in governance is a hot topic that concerns Saudi Arabia as well as many other countries.[43] In general, young women and men are the most engaged group when it comes to demonstrations or other form of civic and political campaign but they are often absent in the processes of decision-making on issues related to their cities and in the formulation of national policies and laws [44].

Although they comprise the majority of the population, Saudi women and youth generally are not seen as relevant players in the local governance dynamics. This has led to the marginalization and exclusion of youth from the processes of decision-making, creating a persistent challenge for the Saudi local and national governance. Recognizing young men and women as a crucial actor for the city development can provide new and improved contributions to the local and national governance structures and strategy. The formulation of a more inclusive urban policy framework can be achieved by involving youth in decision-making processes both at local and national level. This will enhance the development of processes of governance and will increase the consensus over the Kingdom's political decisions.

[43] UN-Habitat (2012). Young people, Participation, and Sustainable Development in an Urbanizing World.
[44] Harvard Kennedy School (2015)

YOUTH COUNCILS

Since the Arab Spring, the engagement of women and youth in the economic and in public life has been necessary for city economic growth and community development. In order to include Saudi youth in regional planning processes, Youth Councils were established in several regions across Saudi Arabia; however, it seems they have been implemented unevenly, varying from region to region[45]. This is also due to the fact that there is no clear mandate stating the nature and aim of their work. Even if some of the Youth Councils are active on social media by announcing their activities, they tend not to engage with other users.

The CPI Youth Survey and the KSCLG Social Media Study findings reflect the uneven implementation and the inconsistent impacts of the Youth Councils in the public sphere. The social media survey results show that youth council is a very weak topic within the social media discussions, with less than 0.01% of tweets. In fact, almost 90% of youth and women that participated in the survey are not aware of the existence of a youth council in their city, but more than 50% of the respondents declare to be interested in participating in a youth council and engage in public decision-making.

The majority of women and youth that participated in the survey think that their opinions are not heard in the local decision-making, but they are willing to participate in the decision-making processes of their cities by participating in a youth council (29%) or through voting (26%) in order to and make their voice heard.

[45] Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (2011)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Youth civic engagement leads to increased engagement in education, reduced risky behaviors, and to greater civic participation in the society later in life. Nowadays, youth tend to exhibit less characteristics of citizenship compared to those from earlier generations. Civic engagement and community development can take many forms, including through youth agencies[46], community work, sports, religious groups, music, drama and the arts.

The findings of the CPI Youth Survey show that more than half of youth across the selected cities do not engage in sporting activities at all, while 21% on average reported to get involved only once or twice a year. On average only 6.9% of youths get involved in sporting activities at least once every month and 5.1% do sports at least once every two months. This finding implies a very low level of sporting youth involvement across the cities.

When asked about the accessibility to the existing sports facilities, the results show that on average 26.7% of youth across the cities believe that the sports facilities are not easily accessible. On average, 42.1% think that the sports facilities are accessible to a certain extent, while 31.2% believe that the facilities are very accessible. This is especially true in cities such as Qassim, Tabuk, and Riyadh, in which sports facilities are easily accessible to over 80% of youth.

[46] UN-Habitat (2010-2017). Global Youth-led Development Series. UN-Habitat promotes and has research the concept of youth-led development which places the centre of development with youth and youth-led agencies.

POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

The participation of young people in the political life of their communities shows the extent to which they are empowered and engaged in the political process and have a voice in the determination of the future of their communities. Participation promotes social integration, combats exclusion, promotes youth development, and – by giving young people a stake in their society – creates bonds between generations. One of the most important political processes that require youth participation is the election processes. Political participation can also be in the form of engagement in the planning of one's city; the success of the Women and Youth Participation in Urban Planning training "You Are Here" that was held in Riyadh in November 2017, demonstrated both the desire of the youth to be engaged, and their capacity to provide relevant experience and data to a planning process especially by using interactive tools such as Minecraft.[47]

The CPI Youth Survey findings shows that more than half of youth (on average of 57.7%) are not aware of any past elections that took place within their city, municipality or region. Also, only 14.8% of the youths on average have participated in the past regional Municipal election. Among them, 30.6% did not participate because they were still under the voting limit age, while 54.6% did not participate despite having reach the voting age, even if aware of the voting process.

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[47] UN-Habitat (2016). Using Minecraft for Youth Participation in Urban Design and Governance.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Access to reliable information as well as civic, and political participation are necessary components of an inclusive governance model. The findings show that while a sizable number of women and youth expressed their willingness to participate in the decision-making process in their cities, a notable number of respondents expressed lack of interests. This indicates that there is possible resistance in engaging in the political processes, despite being aware of such activities.

Based on the aforementioned findings of Youth CPI Survey, the following recommendations provide guidance for policymakers:

• Recognizing youth as a crucial actor for sustainable urban development can provide significant contributions to the local and national governance development strategies.

• Policymakers across the national governments and municipalities should work to engage youth in positive opportunities for civic participation, which is important for a healthy youth development as well as a positive performance of the society.

6 YOUTH AND GENDER RESPONSIVE URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN

INTRODUCTION

Urban planning and design provides city and national governments with approaches, guidelines, and tools to address challenges related to urban services, infrastructure, livelihoods, transport, housing, and environment. An effective urban policy framework should look for urban development priorities that are socially and economically equitable, as well as environmentally friendly and ensure productivity, inclusiveness, and good environmental conditions in cities. Furthermore, national governments should aim to enhance the implementation of national urban strategies through regional plans for territorial development, as well as through effective coordination and monitoring mechanisms.

INVOLVING WOMEN AND YOUTH IN URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN

Urban planning establishes goals and policies for directing and managing the future growth and development of the cities. It provides city and national governments with approaches, guidelines, and tools to address fundamental issues such as the location and rate of population growth, housing and transportation needs, economic prosperity, sustainability, and environmental awareness. However, it should be taken in consideration that the urbanization process should be adapted to their different gender perspective and needs, taking into consideration the different ways in which young men and women experience urban life[48].

Like in many other Middle East countries, Saudi's women and men experience the city life in different ways, due to local factors such as cultural and religious traditions or due to the uneven impact of local and national policies on the urbanization trends. Lack of inclusive, gender-sensitive, and pro-poor policy frameworks have led to exclusion from the benefits of urban development[49]. This divide can be seen by the growing number of gated communities, private security companies, high-rise apartment complexes, shopping malls, parks, and recreational facilities designated for an exclusive part of the society; meanwhile, marginalized groups such as women, youth and the poor majority face evictions and lack of access to housing, infrastructure, and services[50].This kind of exclusive urban planning not only does not promote sustainability and economic stability, but also raises the demand for urbanization processes based on different gender roles and needs.

Urban planning should be considered a fundamental element in the larger context of urban management, together with urban governance and finance. Furthermore, discriminatory impacts of urban planning should be highlighted and taken into consideration by local and national governments. More specifically, low-income women and men as well as youth and other marginalized groups require further attention and inclusion in policies, projects, and plans.

[48] UN-Habitat (2012)
[49] Oxfam and Taylor & Francis(2017).
[50] UN-Habitat (2012)

WOMEN AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN URBAN PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE

In Saudi Arabia over 80% of the population live in the urban areas and the youth form about 20% of the population[51]. Saudi Arabian youth are an essential component of society that should be taken in consideration when attempting to achieve urban sustainability. The involvement of the women and youth in the urban planning process is essential for having an inclusive and equitable city in its design, infrastructure, facilities, and services.

In collaboration with the Future Saudi Cities Programme, UN-Habitat delivered a training on Women and Youth Participation in Urban Planning and Governance from 29th October to 2nd November, 2017. The 'You are Here' training that took place in Riyadh was prepared and delivered by Youth and Livelihood Unit and the Gender Equality Unit in response to the expressed need to empower women and the youth in Saudi Arabia regarding the urban planning and governance process.

The main training objectives were to (i) raise awareness of participants on the various avenues available for engagement with local and national authorities on urban planning and governance; (ii) develop participants' understanding of the urban planning process; (iii) build capacity of partners to engage their networks and communities and involve other young people in urban planning and governance processes; (iv) develop clear priorities for young men and women in each Saudi city; (v) develop a plan of action for each participant to engage youth in their city and to engage with their local authorities.

In order to have a diversity with regard to gender, geographical, educational, and professional background the 30 participants were selected by Warif from 12 Different cities in Saudi Arabia: Riyadh, Jeddah, Maddinah, Damam, Al Baha, Tabuk, Al Hail, Abha, Najran, Majmaah, Arar, Skaka, AlHasa, Taief. There was an almost 50/50 gender balance that was consider one of the achievements of this training.

The training was successful, and was marked by the full engagement from the participants during the whole five days. The five days training gave the participants a broad understanding of what is involved in urban development, covering global, regional and national trends. It outlined the importance of youth and the urban governance and planning, using case studies. Also, the session explained the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how this related to the Saudi Vision 2030.

The Minecraft session was demonstrated as a practical and user-friendly method for young people to engage in urban planning. This session got the full attention of the participants as a new tool of urban planning. The participants understood that the aim of Minecraft is to be used for participation of different age's groups with different academic or professional background. During the training, the participants were split into groups from the same or similar cities, the group work and especially the gender mix created a good synergy between the participants which was seen positively by the organizers and the participants.

[51] WAREF, Anood (2016), *"Saudi Youth indicators*

OUTCOMES OF THE TRAINING AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The participants to the 'You are Here' training have learned and strength their knowledge in the following:

• A policy framework overview: Vision 2030, SDGs
• Tools and methods of engaging young people in planning processes
• Understand the power structure within a community (whom we need to listen to and talk with?)
• Appreciate problems of marginalized groups and the building of inequalities in the society linked to public space, in particular disadvantaged men and women
• Build capacity of participants to identify key priorities for improving their neighborhoods and cities Develops mapping skills of participants
• Urbanization and the Demographic Bulge in the Saudi and the global context
• The point of view of the participants in the Bujayri Public space and how it can be improved.
• Using Minecraft as an urban design tool. Minecraft was demonstrated as a practical and user-friendly method for young people to engage in urban planning.
• Participants were able to their vision for the public space in a visual and interactive manner.

• Implement a Public transport that all citizens can use with the respect of the cultural and religious aspect of the country.
• Making the cities and urban areas safer and resilient,
• Policy regarding the urban legislation, housing, and environmental sustainability
• The need to protect and rehabilitate historical and tourist areas that represent Saudi cultural heritage
• Expansion of green areas within the urban areas.
• Consider the city's important needs (economic, social, environmental, health) and work to develop them and to make every citizen able to feel as part of the society and none should be left behind.
• Directing energy consumption towards sources that are not polluting the environment.
• Giving the opportunity for the Young women and men to meet decision makers in order to express their concerns and needs in their cities.
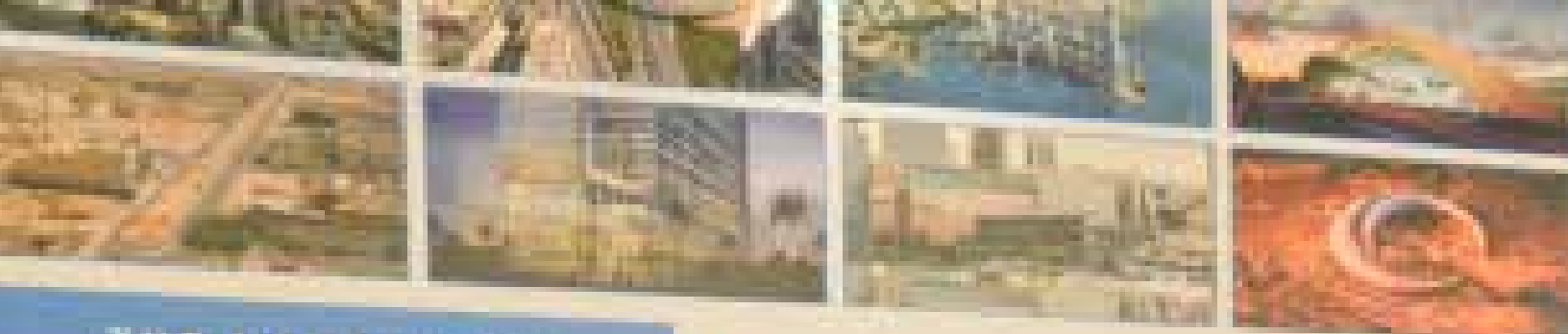
THE URBAN WALL

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS
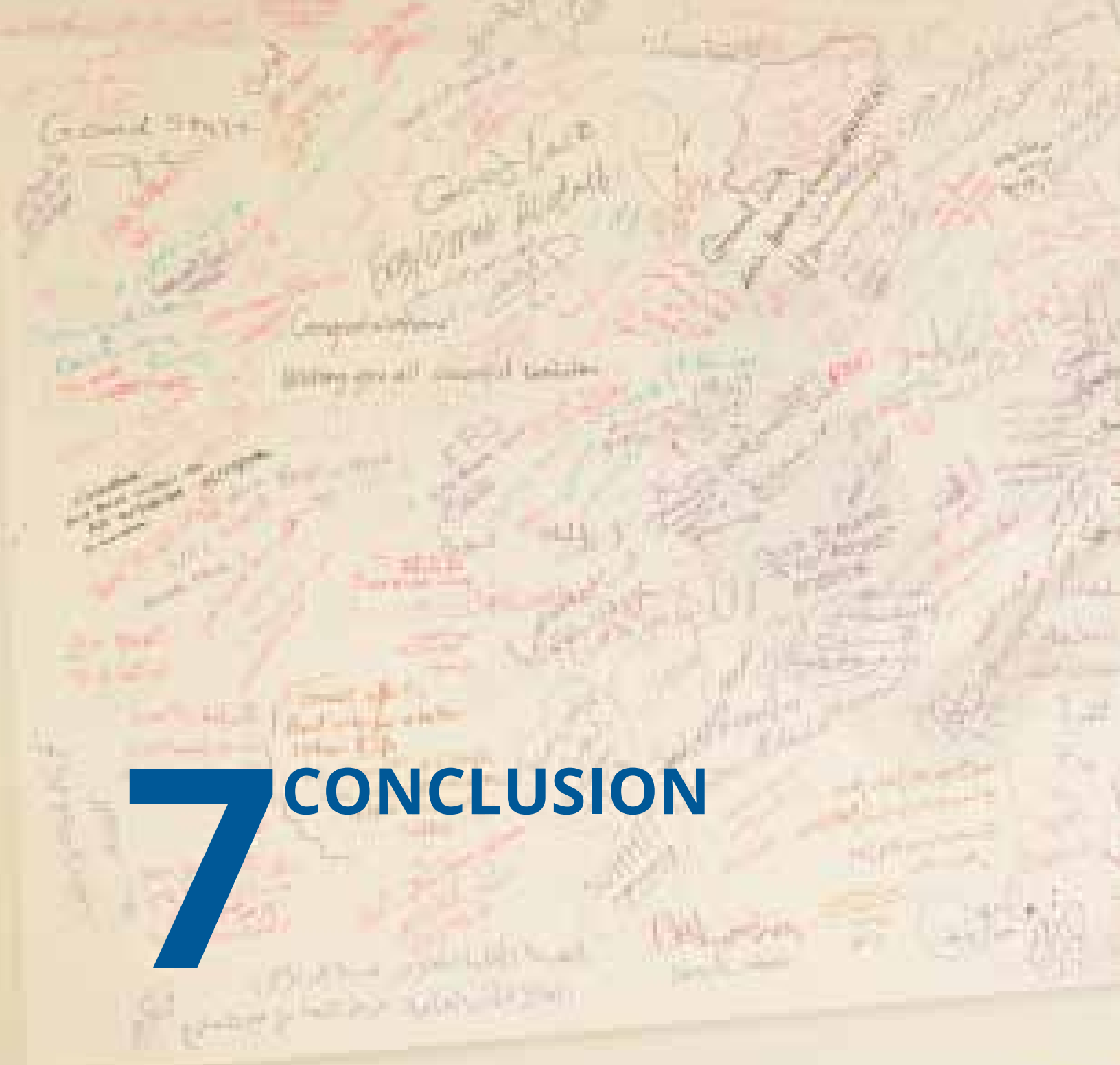
7 CONCLUSION

INTRODUCTION

This Report has demonstrated that women and youth are a significant vulnerable group in Saudi cities. Cities overall provide basic utility services such as water, energy, and sanitation. Other public services such as transportation and recreational and public spaces were available in various degrees among large and small cities. Women and youth almost unanimously expressed constraints in accessing these public services. For women in particular, a gender sensitive aspect in public transportation was lacking such as design and safety. Similarly, equal opportunities that can support a sustainable livelihood such as financial services and formal employment seemed particularly difficult for youth. Even though women and youth shared their willingness to contribute to the development of their cities, there seems to be resistance in engaging in the political processes which is perhaps a result of their lack of a systematic and meaningful public engagement process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

• Accessible and affordable services. Measures need to be taken not only ensure the provision of service, but also their accessibility and affordability. Access to services are an integral part of the city's prosperity and the wellbeing of its citizens especially for women and youth

• Inclusive decision-making processes. A platform for meaningful involvement and active partnership of women and youth alongside governments and local authorities is important for inclusive, responsive, and sustainable urban development.

• Equal opportunities for all. To improve the quality of life among youth and women amongst other groups, maximize livability in cities, efforts need to be made to reduce economic and social inequalities, and provide equal opportunities for all.

• Consider linkages. It is essential to take into consideration the linkage of the services offered by the city for a sustainable urban design and planning.

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