CPI PROFILE
ABHA

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Introduction

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (MOMRA) jointly launched UN-HABITAT Saudi Arabia Programme titled " Future Saudi Cities Programme (FSCP)". The UN-HABITAT Office has been providing technical support to the MOMRA and targets 17 key cities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The cities include Riyadh, Makkah, Jeddah, Taif, Medina, Tabuk, Dammam, Kathef, Ihsa, Abha, Najran, Jazan, Hail, Araar, AlBaha, Buraydah, and Sakaka, to respond to national and local urban challenges.

UN-Habitat provides a new approach for measuring urban prosperity: which is holistic, integrated and essential for the promotion and monitoring of socio-economic development, inclusion and progressive realization of the urban-related human rights for all. This new approach redirects cities to function towards a path of an urban future that is economically, politically, socially and environmentally prosperous. The new approach or monitoring framework, The Cities Prosperity Index (CPI), is a multidimensional framework that integrates six carefully selected dimensions and several indicators that relate to factors and conditions necessary for a city to thrive and prosper. The six dimensions include productivity, infrastructure development, equity and social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and urban governance. The CPI uses the concept of The Wheel of Urban Prosperity and the Scale of Urban Prosperity to enable stakeholders to assess achievements in cities. The City Prosperity Index (CPI) not only provide indices and measurements relevant to cities, but it is also an assessment tool that enables city authorities as well as local and national stakeholders, to identify opportunities and potential areas of intervention for their cities to become more prosperous.

Under FSCP, the UN-HABITAT, MOMRA, and 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 Kingdon, 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.
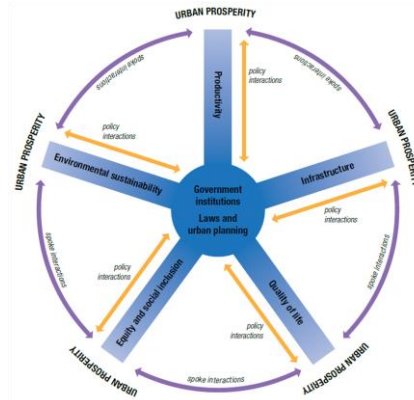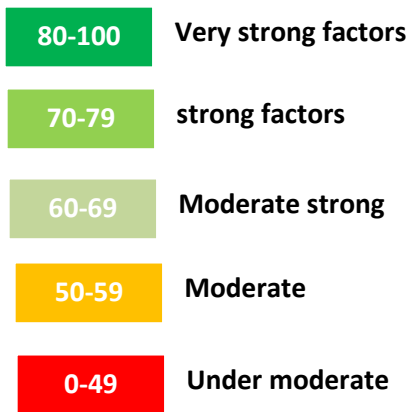
80-100	Very strong factors
70-79	strong factors
60-69	Moderate strong
50-59	Moderate
0-49	Under moderate

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

The UN-Habitat's Cities Prosperity Index (CPI) allows authorities and local groups to identify opportunities and potential areas for action or adjustments in order to make their cities more prosperous. The CPI is a multidimensional framework that integrates several dimensions and indicators that are not only related but have a direct and indirect influence in regard to fostering prosperity in cities. These components are embodied in the following six dimensions: Productivity, Infrastructure Development, Quality of life, Equity and social inclusion, Environmental sustainability, and Governance and legislation. Each of the dimensions is comprised of several indicators measured differently. Since the indicators are measured in different units, the first step in the index computation involves the normalization of the indicators into values ranging between 0 and 11; the normalized values are then aggregated stepwise to create the single value called the City Prosperity Index.

The following sections apply the CPI framework, the concept of the Wheel of Urban Prosperity and the Scale of Urban Prosperity to conduct an assessment of the level of prosperity in the city. The assessment provides an indication of the strengths or weaknesses in the factors of prosperity (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

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[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 undesirable[2]. 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
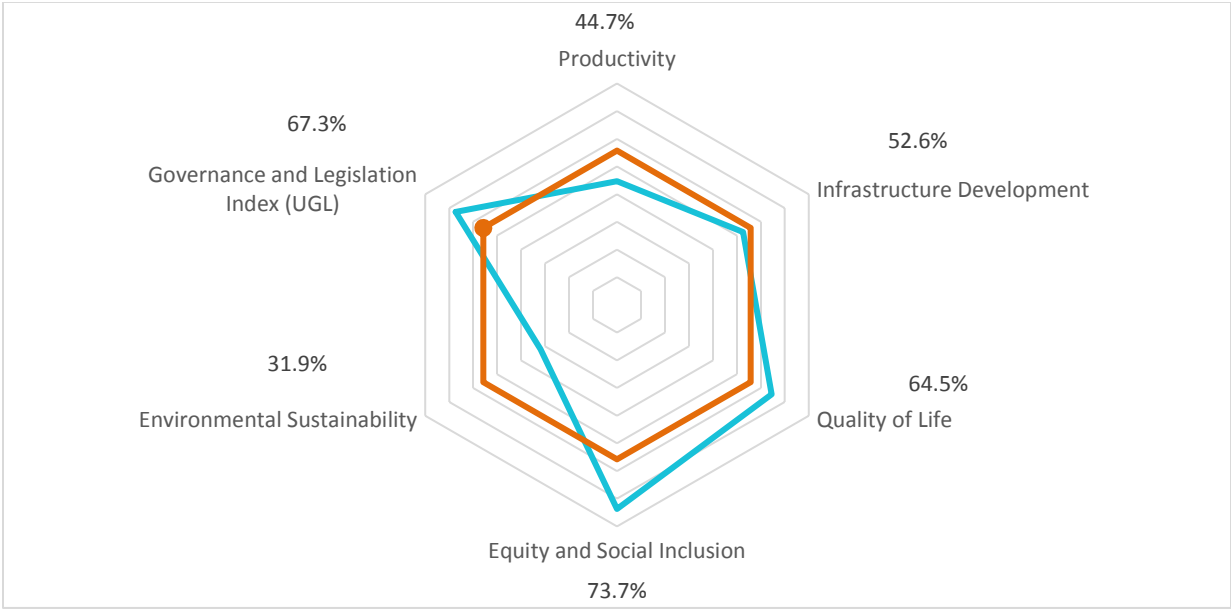
The analysis in the next sections will dissect all the dimensions and sub-dimensions of prosperity and identify areas of strength and weaknesses of the city and suggest areas which need urgent and appropriate interventions to improve the overall prosperity of the city.

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

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[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
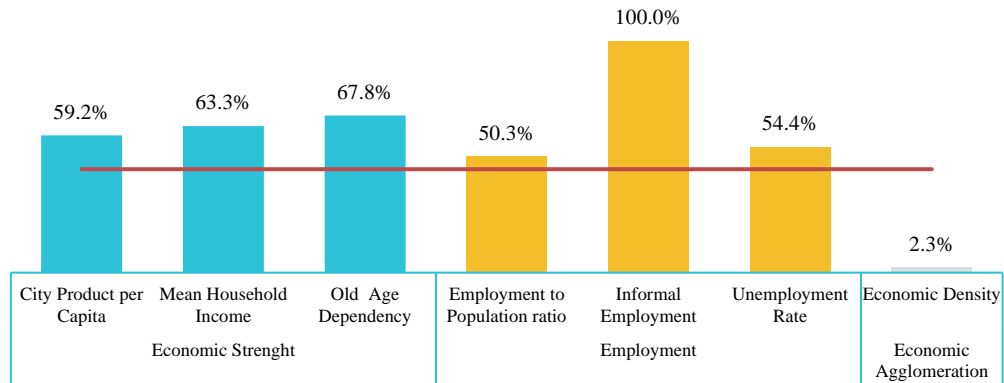
in the table show that the city of Abha has a productivity index score of 44.7% which means that it has weak factors of productivity. However, the city still has some strong elements of productivity from which it can build a stable foundation, they include moderately strong economic growth indicators (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 moderateunemployment 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.

Figure 4: Productivity Indicators

|	Economic Strenght			Employment		Economic Agglomeration
City Product per Capita	Mean Household Income	Old Age Dependency	Employment to Population ratio	Informal Employment	Unemployment Rate	Economic Density
59.2%	63.3%	67.8%	50.3%	100.0%	54.4%	2.3%

Analysis of the Infrastructure Dimension

Cities of the 21st century need to improve their infrastructure and make them resilient and adaptable to the rapid growth witnessed in many urban areas today. In addition, a sustainable and efficient infrastructure development is a key component of a city's competitiveness, on the national stage, infrastructure connects and integrates cities to enable them to serve their citizens better. Advanced infrastructure ensures access to physical assets and amenities required to sustain the city's population and ensure economic growth. The study findings show that Abha city has an infrastructure development index score of 52.6%, meaning the city's infrastructure is still has some inefficiencies. Infrastructure being one of the most important factors of growth, the city should prioritize and strengthen it. Among the moderate sub-dimension are the housing infrastructure which has low access to water, sewerage, and shelter. The ICT infrastructure is also under moderate due to low average bandwidth and low access to the internet. The main sources of strength for the infrastructure dimension includes urban mobility which is moderately strong and street connectivity which is also strong. The strong sub-dimensions can act as a foundation for growth towards an efficient system.

Table 2: Infrastructure Development Index (52.6%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Housing Infrastructure (55.5%)	Access to Electricity	84.90	%	83.8%	V. Strong
	Access to Improved Sanitation	52.18	%	43.7%	Under moderate
	Access to Improved Water	48.71	%	48.7%	Under moderate
	Access to Improved Shelter	47.41	%	47.4%	Under moderate
	Population Density	1,430.73	Inhab/Km2	9.5%	Under moderate
	Sufficient Living Area	100.00	%	100.0%	V. Strong
Social Infrastructure (20.8%)	Number of Public Libraries	0.23	#/100,000 inhab.	0.0%	Under moderate
	Physician Density	1.48	#/1,000 inhab.	41.6%	Under moderate
ICT (49.1%)	Average Broadband Speed	4.00	Mbps	28.9%	Under moderate
	Home Computer Access	77.20	%	77.2%	Strong
	Internet Access	41.10	%	41.1%	Under moderate
Urban Mobility (65.0%)	Average Daily Travel Time	21.90	minutes	100.0%	V. Strong
	Affordability of Transport	-	%	-	-
	Length of Mass Transport Network	-	Km/1M Inhab.	-	-
	Road Safety (traffic fatalities)	2.50	#/100,000 inhab.	95.0%	V. Strong
	Use of Public Transport	0.00	%	0.0%	Under moderate
Street Connectivity (72.4%)	Intersection Density	123.04	#/km2	100.0%	V. Strong
	Land Allocated to Streets	11.20	%	17.3%	Under moderate
	Street Density	63.30	Km/KM2	100.0%	V. Strong

Some of the strong indicators include access to electricity and sufficient living area under the housing infrastructure; under urban mobility, average travel time is also good; and under street connectivity, the high intersection density is very high. All the remaining indicators are weak and need urgent attention.

Figure 5: Infrastructure Development Indicators
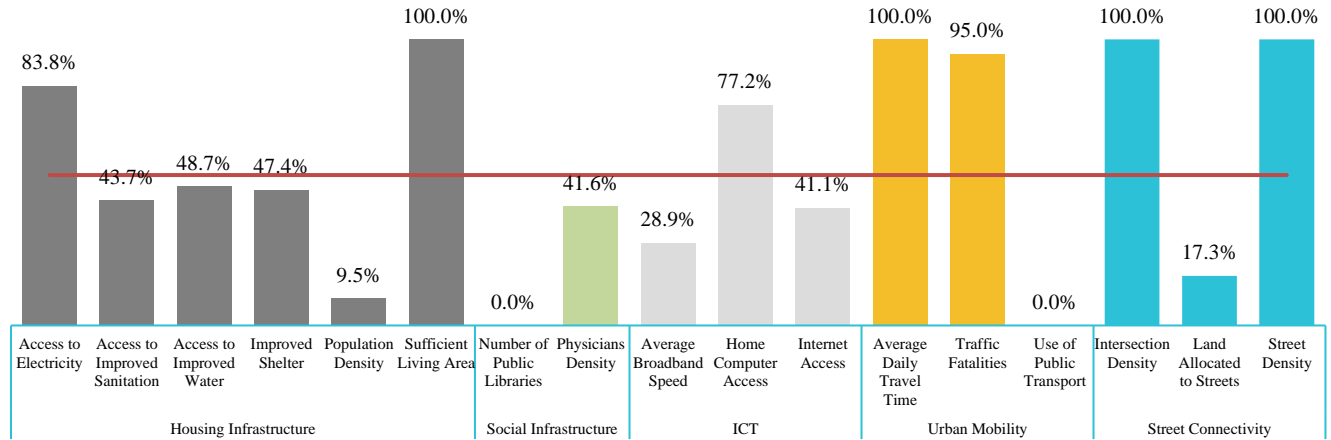
Analysis of Quality of Life Dimension

One of the main reasons why people migrate from rural to urban areas is to improve their standard of living, the search for high quality of life. Successful cities have made this dream come true to many by offering easy access to basic services and amenities that directly affect and improve the wellbeing of citizens such as good social services, education, healthcare, recreation, safety and security. Abha city is managing well to do the same, its quality of life index is 64.5%, which means the quality of life in the city is moderately high. The good life in the city can be linked to the high level of safety and security (89%), good health care provision (73%) and access to quality education with 60%. However, access to public spaces in the city is under moderate (8%) despite the fact that public spaces are available (65%). Public spaces (including high streets, street markets, shopping precincts, community centres, parks, playgrounds, and neighborhood spaces in residential areas) play a vital role in the social and economic life of communities. They act as a 'self-organizing public service', a shared resource in which experiences and values are created and shared (Mean and Tims, 2005).

Table 3: Quality of Life Index (64.5%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Health (73.1%)	Life Expectancy at Birth	83.76	years	72.5%	Strong
	Eradicate Maternal Mortality	43.75	#/100,000 live births	58.2%	moderate
	Eradicate Under-5 Mortality	48.71	#/1000 live births	68.3%	M. Strong
	Vaccination Coverage	47.41	%	93.2%	Very Strong
Education (59.5%)	Early Childhood Education	9.54	%	7.2%	Under moderate
	Net Enrolment in Higher Education	100.00	%	40.7%	Under moderate
	Literacy Rate	0.00	%	99.5%	V. Strong
	Mean Years of Schooling	41.62	%	90.7%	V. Strong
Safety and Security (89.0%)	Homicide Rate	28.94	#/100,000 inhab.	78.0%	Strong
	Theft Rate	77.20	#/100,000 inhab.	100.0%	V. Strong
Public Space (36.2%)	Green Area per Capita	41.10	m2 / inhabitant	64.7%	M. Strong
	Accessibility to Open Public Space	100.00	%	7.8%	Under moderate

Figure 6: Quality of Life Indicators
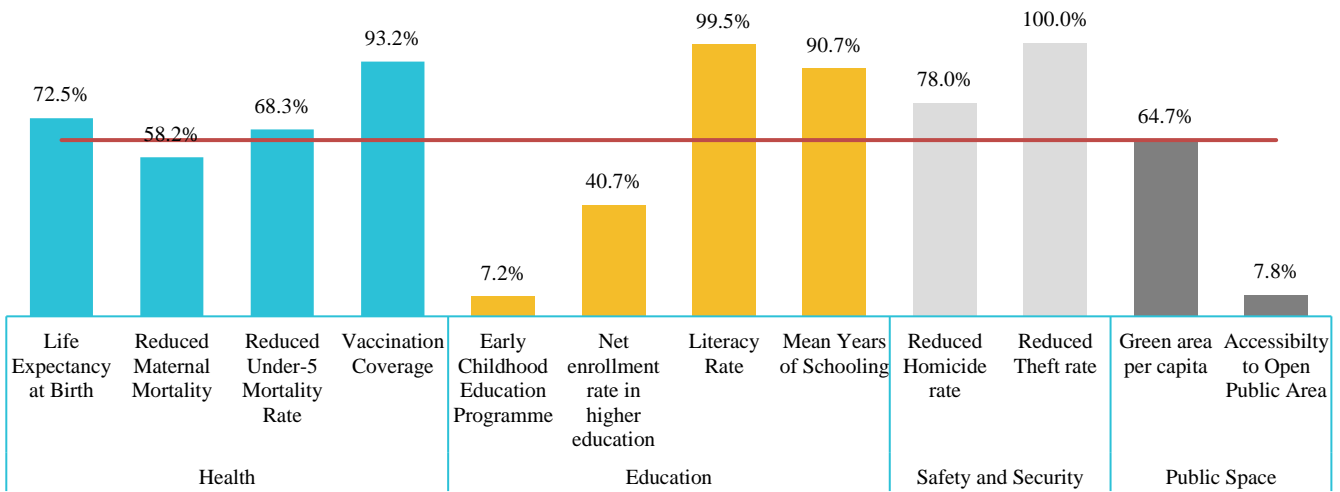
Improving the quality of life in the city would require a reduction in maternal mortality, increasing enrollment in the early childhood education program, increasing enrollment in higher education and increasing access to public spaces.

**Analysis of Equity and Social Inclusion Dimension**

An inclusive city promotes equitable access to services and allows all citizens to partake of the urban advantage. At the heart of a socially inclusive city is the relationship between citizens and their government and how resources are shared. Prosperity in this regard, therefore, means a city must share the benefits of its productivity among all its inhabitants and should have low or no deprivations and inequalities which requires a significant reduction in all forms of poverty and marginalization. Due to data unavailability problems only one of the three sub dimensions of equity and inclusion was used, the gender inclusion sub dimension. Based on the available data, Abha city has a gender inclusion sub dimensional index of 73.7%. This is indicative of a generally gender inclusive city.

The good performance in the gender sub dimension could be associated with fairly good gender parity in secondary school (94%) and high number of women working in the local government (98.6%), however, the number of women in the city's workforce is extremely low (28.4%) and needs to be prioritized for urgent interventions

Table 4: Equity and Social Inclusion Index (73.7%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Gender Inclusion (73.7%)	Equitable Secondary School Enrollment	0.94	-	94.0%	V. Strong
	Women in local government	49.31	%	98.6%	Strong
	Women in the workforce	14.20	%	28.4%	Under moderate

Figure 7: Equity and Social Inclusion Indicators
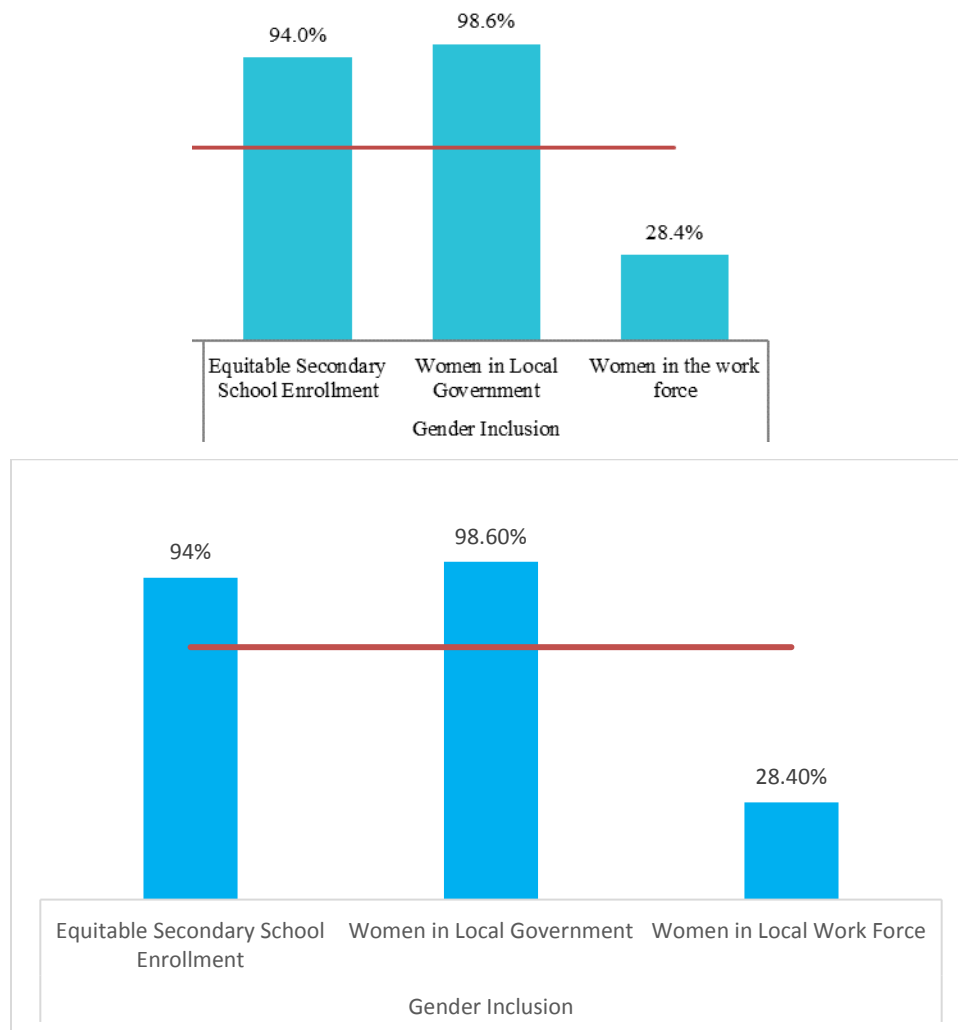
Analysis of Environmental Sustainability Dimension

Environmental sustainability allows for the needs of man to be met without jeopardizing the ability of future generations to meet their needs. As cities grow and develop the city environment must be preserved to remains healthy and livable, its natural assets and resources should well-preserved

for posterity. The findings show that the city of Abha has under moderate environmental sustainability factors with an index score of 31.9%. Waste management in the city is moderately good except solid waste recycling, and air quality is under moderate.

Table 5: Environmental Sustainability Index (31.9%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Air Quality (0.0%)	PM10	44.00	ug/m3	0.0%	Under moderate
Waste Management (63.8%)	Solid Waste Collection	99.00	%	99.0%	V. Strong
	Solid waste recycling share	0.00	%	0.0%	Under moderate
	Wastewater treatment	92.40	%	92.4%	V. Strong

The city's strong waste management system, especially in the solid waste collection and wastewater treatment can be good sources of strength for the city to build on to set a base towards environmental sustainability.

Figure 8: Environmental Sustainability Indicators
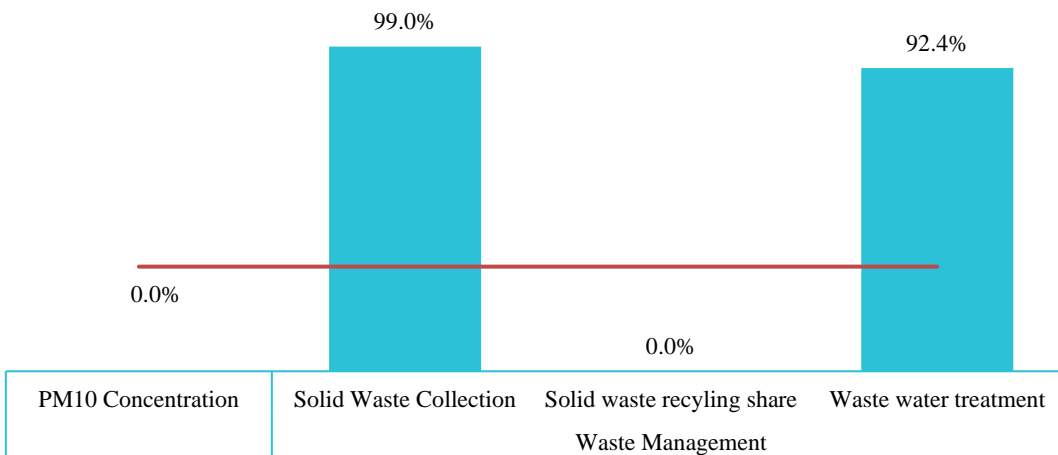
Analysis of Governance and Legislation Dimension

Good governance and suitable legislation is a key ingredient for the realization of prosperity in cities. Through effective urban governance and accountable leadership, cities can achieve sustainability and shared prosperity. Good governance and legislation enable cities to deploy appropriate and effective policies, laws and regulations and create adequate institutional frameworks. In this area the city of Abha has performed fairly well, its governance and legislation index score is 67.3%, meaning the city had good governance and legislative system. In addition, the city has achieved a high level of own revenue collection (91.4%) and municipal finance management (88.1%). Nonetheless, citizen participation is still very low.

Table 6: Governance and Legislation Index (67.3%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Participation & Accountability (46.5%)	Municipal Voter turnout	46.50	%	46.5%	Under moderate
Municipal Finance (88.1%)	Own revenue collection	22.40	%	91.4%	V. Strong
	Days to start a business	7.00	Days	73.0%	Strong
	Local expenditure efficiency	100.00	%	100.0%	V. Strong

Figure 9: Governance and Legislation Indicators
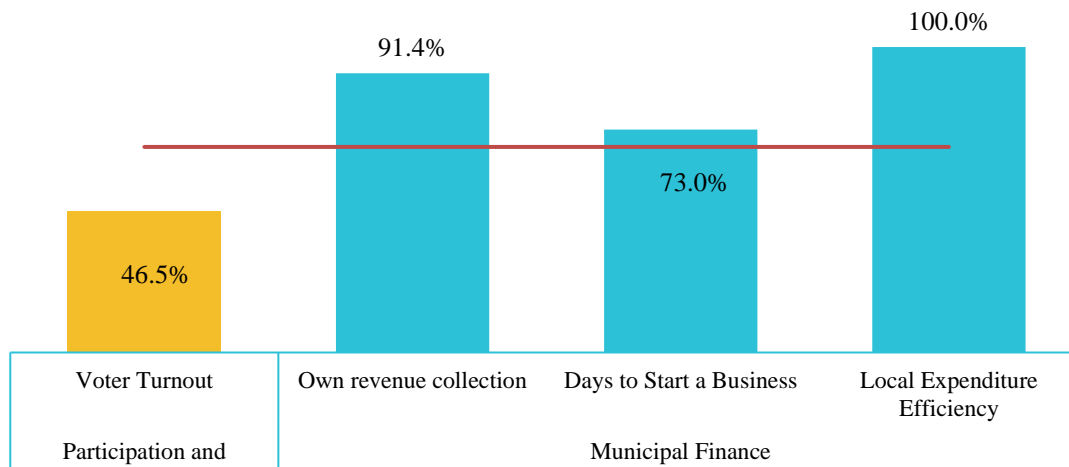
Although data on governance and legislation was largely unavailable, the available data indicates more voter registration and education is needed.

SWOT Analysis based on City Prosperity Index Assessment

This section attempts to analyze the findings of the CPI and use it to highlight areas of Strength, Weaknesses or Challenges, Opportunities for growth and possible Threats that the city may have so that appropriate recommendations and action plans can be formulated.

Table 7: CPI Based SWOT Analysis

STRENGTH	WEAKNESSES
1. Good economic growth factors such as moderately high household income, low old-age dependency ratio, and good employment factors are good and show the city has the potential for economic growth. 2. Road and street infrastructure and key foundations of economic growth, therefore good urban mobility and street connectivity is a big strength to build on. 3. Good healthcare and good safety and security, as well as political stability, ensures high quality of life and provide a conducive environment for growth and development. A healthy population is productive, happy and peaceful. 4. The city has a good base for equity and inclusion. Economic and gender inclusion factors are very strong. It has a good foundation to achieve higher levels of economic, social and gender inclusion. Low level of poverty in the city is good, many people are economically empowered to participate in economic development. 5. For environment, the city has good solid waste collection and water treatment system. 6. On governance, it has a very good municipal finance management system.	1. Low economic density- possibly due to many undeveloped land parcels or sprawl, this may call for re-examination and further investigation to establish the need for increased densification of economic or commercial activities within the commercial, industrial and even residential areas in the city. 2. Housing has poor access to improved water, sanitation and shelter – reduces the quality of life in the city and heighten deprivation level. 3. Social infrastructure - few public libraries – libraries promote learning and access to information and provide empowering knowledge. A low number of physicians may affect the quality of health services. 4. ICT infrastructure has low internet access and low broadband speeds – limits innovation and growth in the ICT sector. Low internet access stifled development and information flow in the ICT sector. 5. Use of public transport is very low and there is over-dependence on private cars for transport even for short distances, not good for the environment and lack of physical activity is not good for health. 6. Low women in the workforce – literacy and education level among Saudi women is considerably high; this is a critical economic resource in terms of manpower. Youth unemployment is also a problem.
OPPORTUNITIES	**THREATS**
1. Good and Stable economic fundamentals create a good environment for growth and development in many areas of the economy. Eradication of the informal employment is a big advantage. 2. High street intersection density and street density which should encourage alternative means of transport such as walking and cycling especially in early morning and evening during favorable weather. 3. Literacy and education level among Saudi women is growing considerably due to equitable enrolment rates; this is a critical economic resource in terms of manpower that can be used to fill the gaps of skilled manpower that the economy needs. And to increase the number of women in the workforce. 4. For the environment – the high level of solid waste collection is a good starting point to encourage recycling and ensuring a clean environment.	1. No renewable energy – complete dependence on fossil fuel which is not renewable source may not be the best for the city. Investment in other renewable energy sources such as the solar and the wind is advisable.

Local Urban Observatories

Introduction

Global Urban Observatory Network (GUO-Net) is a worldwide information and capacity-building network established by the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-HABITAT) to help implement the New Urban Agenda at the national and local levels. The GUO-NET consists of national and city-level institutions that function as National and Local Urban Observatories.

The purpose of GUO-Net is to support governments, local authorities and civil society:

- To improve the collection, management, analysis and use of information in formulating more effective urban policies;
- To improve information flows between all levels for better urban decision-making;
- To stimulate broad-based consultative processes to help identify and integrate urban information needs;
- To provide information and analyses to all stakeholders for more effective participation in urban decision-making;
- To share information, knowledge and expertise using modern information and communication technology (ICT);
- To create a global network of local, national and regional platforms for sharing information about the implementation of the New Urban Agenda;
- To share some tools and benefits provided by the GUO network;
- Training on using the urban indicator toolkit for data collection and analysis;
- Training on how to use the results of the urban indicators data for fundraising activities;
- Conferences of the network members for information exchange and city-to-city networking;
- Access to internet resources available at UN-Habitat's website including urban indicators databases and Urban Info system;
- Data used for evaluations done for the World Cities Report published biannually by UN-Habitat.

UN-HABITAT achieves these objectives through a global network of local, national and regional urban observatories and through partner institutions that provide training and other capacity-building expertise.

The UN-Habitat and MOMRA have previously established Local Urban Observatories in the 17 cities covered by the FSCP. A rapid survey conducted by UN-Habitat-KSA in June 2015 targeting the 17 LUO/cities, found out that only 15 LUOs existed. The findings also showed that 88% of Local Urban Observatories are under Municipal Departments while 12% are under Authority for Development within Municipality. It also revealed that 71% of the Local Urban Observatories were active while the operations of 23% of them were suspended due to unaccomplished staff/contractual arrangements.

Some of the data the Local Urban Observatories are required to collect in collaboration with the Municipals are GIS-related, so there is need to have collaborative work relations between the

LUOs and the GIS departments within the Municipalities. The survey revealed that in terms of connections with the GIS departments, 59% of the LUOs have work relations with the GIS department while 18% do not. There was evidence that 71% of the LUOs have GIS data while 6% do not have.

ABHA – Local Urban Observatory.

The Local Urban Observatory for Abha city was established six years ago; it is located within the municipality and is responsible for developing tools, collecting and analyzing urban indicators at the city level. By June 2015, the LUO had a total of 15 employees, of which 13 were Consultants -a private consulting firm provided 9 out of the 13 consultants contracted to manage the LUO, the other two were government staff. The contract with the consulting firm has lasted over 30 months now.

Performance of the Observatory

LUO in Abha has produced four rounds of urban indicators and now working on the fifth round and had so far produced a total of 140 urban indicators.

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