



وزارة الشؤون  
البلدية و القروية  
Ministry of Municipal & Rural Affairs

# CPI PROFILE BURAIDAH



**©Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs , 2019**  
**King Fahd National Library Cataloging-in-Publication Data**

Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs  
CPI PROFILE Buraidah. / Ministry of Municipal and  
Rural Affairs .- Riyadh , 2019

.p ; ..cm

ISBN: 978-603-8279-39-7

1- City planning - Saudi Arabia-Buraidah

I-Title

309.2625314 dc 1440/8350

**L.D. no. 1440/8350**

**ISBN: 978-603-8279-39-7**

© 2018. Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and United Nations Human Settlements Programme.  
All rights reserved

Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs  
P.O. Box : 935 - King Fahd, Riyadh, 11136  
Tel: 00966114569999  
<https://www.momra.gov.sa/>

United Nations Human Settlements Programme  
(UN-Habitat)  
P.O. Box 30030, 00100 Nairobi GPO KENYA  
Tel: 254-020-7623120 (Central Office)  
[www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)

**Disclaimer**

The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations or its Member States.

Excerpts may be reproduced without authorization, on condition that the source is indicated.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**Authors:**

*Qassim Municipality:*  
Mr. Abdulhakim Al Roshood

*UN-Habitat (Riyadh)*  
Mr. John Obure  
Mr. Mohammed Al Ahmed  
Mr. Bader Al Dawsari

*Un-Habitat (Nairobi)*  
Mr. Robert Ndugwa  
Mr. Antony Abilla  
Ms. Esther Njiru  
Mr. Julius Majale  
Mr. Denis Mwaniki  
Mr. Dennis Koech  
Mr. Walter Oriedo

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

For UN-Habitat:

Mr Robert Lewis-Lettington  
Mr. Ayman El-Hefnawi  
Ms Manka Bajaj

## **Introduction**

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

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

Under the FSCP, the UN-HABITAT, MOMRA, Qassim Municipality, and its Local Urban Observatory have been working on developing urban statistics and spatial information (Geographic Information System) in order to provide relevant urban information that strongly supports decision-making process on urban development and urban planning in Buraydah.

This CPI Profile Report applies the CPI framework to provide a summary of the basic information and urban statistics about the City and gives an overview of the city’s achievements, opportunities and potential areas that contribute to its prosperity including productivity, infrastructure development, equity and social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and urban governance.

## **Historical Background**

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

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

### **Geography and Location.**

Buraydah city is the capital of Al-Qassim Region in the north-central part of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the intersection of latitudes 26° 44' and 26° 18' north and longitudes 43° 52' and 43° 51' east; at an altitude between 600 and 650 meters above sea level. Around the city are towns such as Al Butayn to the north, Al Asyah, Al Tarafiyah and Al Rubaiah to the East, Unayzah to the South and Al Bukayriyah to the West (Hassan, 2006). Buraydah is approximately 330Km North West of Riyadh, about 700Km North East of Makkah, and about 500Km East of Madinah. The geographical area of Buraydah city is approximately 1300Km<sup>2</sup>. Buraydah has a typical desert climate, with hot summers, cold winters, and low humidity. The annual average temperature is 32°C (High), 17°C (Low) and an average annual rainfall of about 146mm.

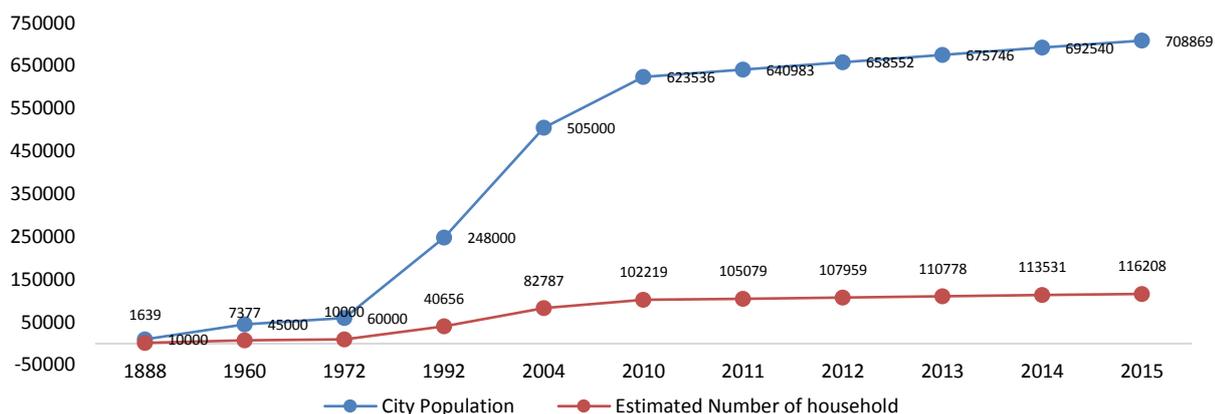
### **Demographic Background**

Population is the basic foundation for setting up any development plan and the first building block to be laid or specified when starting the preparation of any city planning study since it is the people who are the beneficiaries of any development programs. Similarly, population is at the core of the new Sustainable Development Goals "SDGs 2030" agenda which sets a "human theme" as one of the most important themes that need to be addressed, "Action for People". Therefore looking at the trends and the dynamics a city's population is right within the scope of any development agenda or program. By analyzing the demographics of a city it becomes easy to plan for more employment opportunities, services, housing, healthcare and many other things.

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

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

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



### Socio-Economic Background

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

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

**Table: The structure of urban economic activity of Buraidah City.**

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

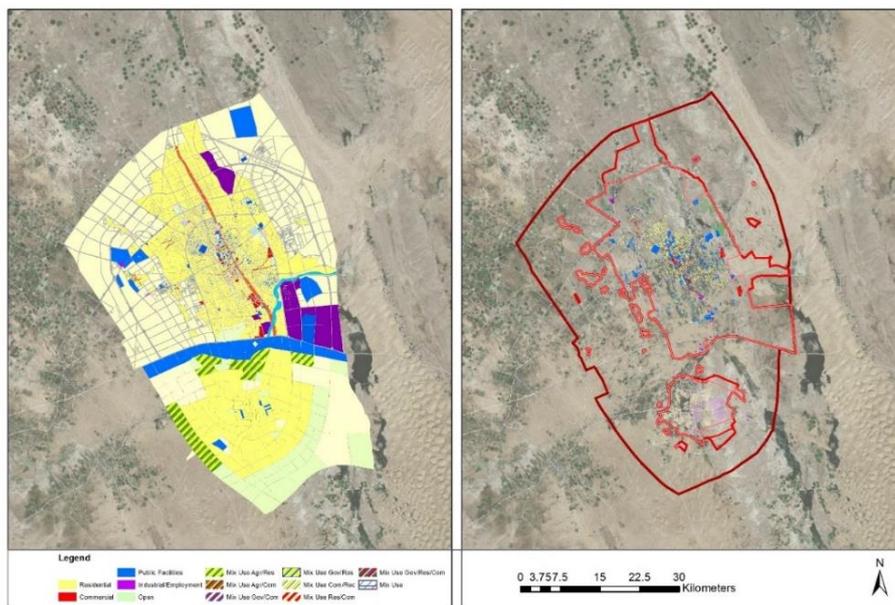
Source: Urban Observatory of Buraidah Metropolitan Area.

### The trend of urban growth and existing spatial plans:

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

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

**Figure 3: Land use and Urban Growth Limit**

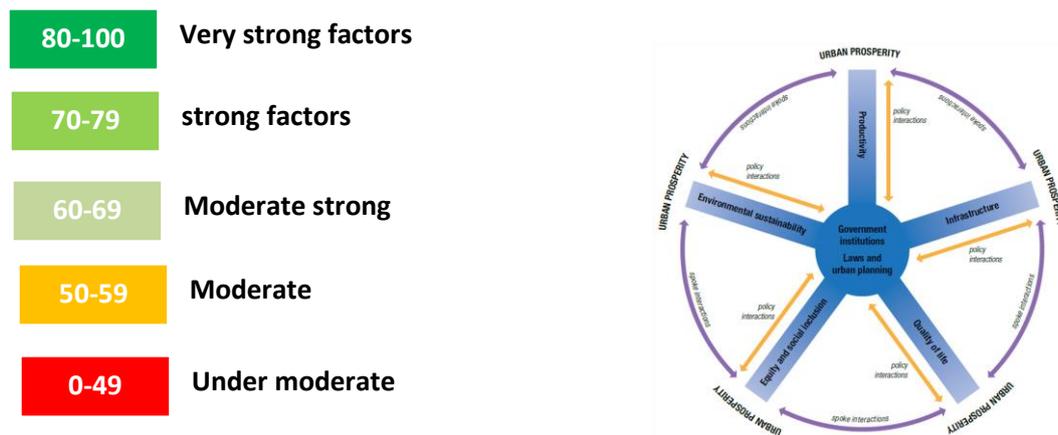


### Analysis of City Prosperity Index (CPI)

Prosperity implies success, wellbeing, thriving conditions, safety and security, long life etc. Prosperity in cities, therefore, is about successfully meeting today's needs without compromising tomorrow and working together for a smart, competitive economy, in a socially inclusive society and a healthy, vibrant environment for individuals, families, and communities. Prosperity in cities is a process and cities can

be at different levels of prosperity. In order to measure the level and also track how cities progress on the path to becoming prosperous, UN-Habitat introduced a monitoring framework: The Cities Prosperity Index (CPI). The CPI is a composite index with six carefully selected dimensions that captures all important elements of a prosperous city. This index along with a conceptual matrix, The Wheel of Urban Prosperity and a Global Scale of City Prosperity, are intended to help city authorities, decision-makers, partners and other stakeholders to use existing evidence and formulate clear policies and interventions for their cities.

**Figure 4: Scale of Urban Prosperity and the Wheel of Urban Prosperity**



The UN-Habitat’s Cities Prosperity Index (CPI) allows authorities and local groups to identify opportunities and potential areas for action or adjustments in order to make their cities more prosperous. The CPI is a multidimensional framework that integrates several dimensions and indicators that are not only related but have a direct and indirect influence on in regard to fostering prosperity in cities. These components are embodied in the following six dimensions: Productivity, Infrastructure Development, Quality of life, Equity and social inclusion, Environmental sustainability, and Governance and legislation. Each of the dimensions is comprised of several indicators measured differently. Since the indicators are measured in different units, the first step in the index computation involves the normalization of the indicators into values ranging between 0 and 1<sup>1</sup>; the normalized values are then aggregated stepwise to create the single value called the City Prosperity Index.

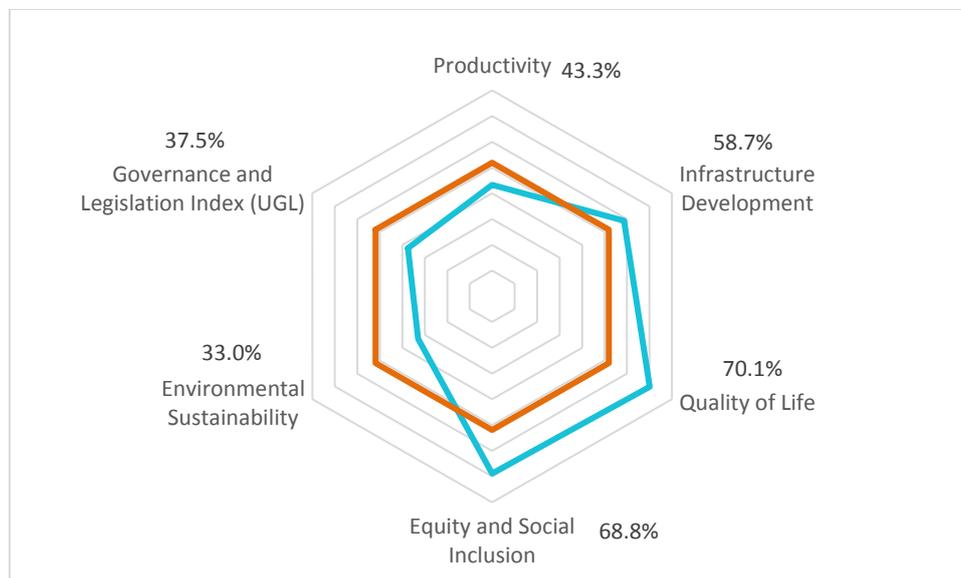
The following sections applies the CPI framework, the concept of the Wheel of Urban Prosperity and the Scale of Urban Prosperity to conduct an assessment of the level of prosperity in the city. The assessment provides an indication of the strengths or weaknesses in the factors of prosperity (in reference 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 particular sub-dimensions and indicators contribute to high or low values in each of the dimensions and the CPI scores.

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

## Overall City Prosperity Index for Burayda City

The city of Buraydah has an overall city prosperity index score of 51.9 and according to the global scale of urban prosperity, the city is rated as having moderate prosperity elements. Meaning the city still has a long way to go in the quest to achieve high prosperity. The prosperity of cities requires a good balance of strong indicators of prosperity, low scores, therefore, is an indication of either under moderate or imbalanced factors. A combination where some indicators are too low while others are very high lacks balance and therefore is undesirable<sup>2</sup>. There are some dimensions of prosperity in which the city performs dismally and thus waters down its overall prosperity. Such moderate and under moderate dimensions includes infrastructure dimension (58.7%), environmental sustainability (33%), urban governance and legislation (38%) and productivity (43%). On the other hand, quality of life dimension (70.1%) and equity and social inclusion (68.8%) dimensions are rated strong and moderately strong respectively.. This can be observed in the radar chart below which instead of taking the shape of a round wheel it actually takes the shape of a crooked polygon or flat tire (blue line).

**Figure 5: The Six Dimensions of City Prosperity Index**



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

### Analysis of the Productivity Index (PI)

High productivity is associated with prosperity since it is directly linked to high economic growth, good employment opportunities, high income, access to services and high living standard. The findings in the table show that the city of Buraydah has a productivity index of 43.3% and is rated as under moderate. On the other hand, the city's economic growth indicators are strong with an average score of 69.7%; this strength in economic growth is associated with fairly high city product per capita (71.5%) and low dependency rate (4.18%) which imply low pressure on the productive population. These strong factors need to be strengthened further. Part of the city's weakness in productivity includes low mean household income (51.5%), the inability to provide enough employment opportunities (52.8%) to its people and low spatial distribution (7.5%) of economic benefits of prosperity; which can be attributed

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

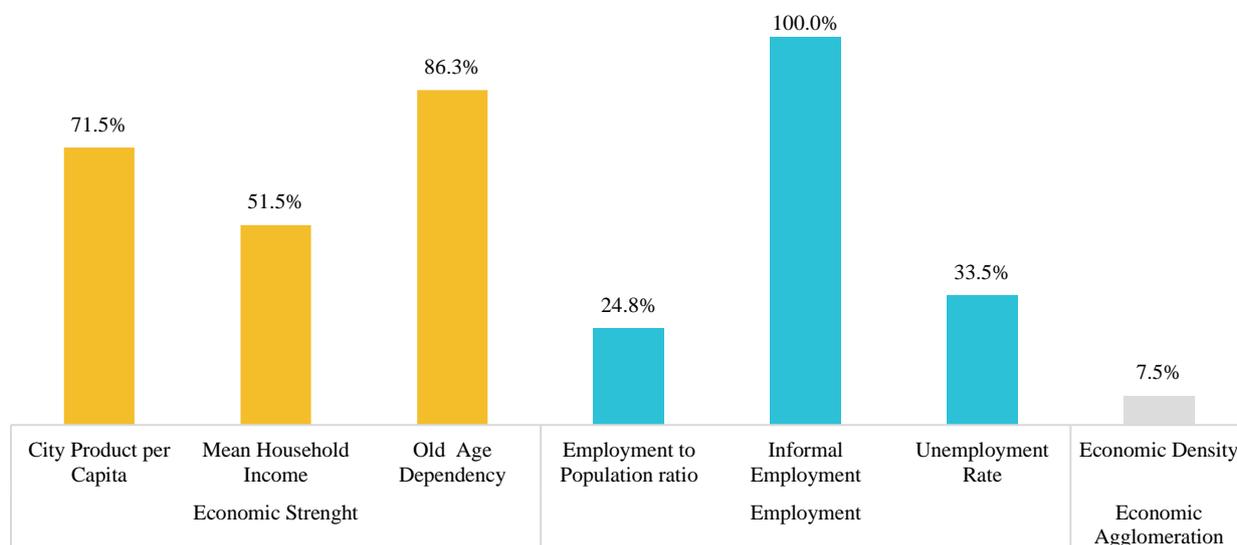
to the urban sprawl which resulted to increased geographical area with sparse footprints of economic activities.

**Table 3: Productivity Index (43.3%)**

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Economic Growth (69.7%)	City Product per Capita	25,969.07	USD (PPP)/Inhab	71.5%	Strong
	Mean Household Income	26,109.55	USD(PPP)	51.5%	moderate
	Old Age Dependency Ratio	4.18	%	86.3%	V. Strong
Employment (52.8%)	Employment to Population Ratio	41.55	%	24.8%	Under moderate
	Informal Employment	6.54	%	100.0%	V. Strong
	Unemployment Rate <sup>3</sup>	12.10	%	33.5%	Under moderate
Economic Agglomeration (7.5%)	Economic Density	64,568,522	USD (PPP)/km2	7.5%	Under moderate

To progress from under moderate to strong, Buraydah city should focus more on increasing its economic density and this will eventually increase employment opportunities and consequently improve its overall productivity. The city enjoys a high city product per capita and low old-age dependency ratio. These two economic strength indicators together with the completely diminished informal employment can act as the basis for promoting growth and enable the city to turn around and convert itself into a strong productive city that is on its path to prosperity.

**Figure 6: Productivity Indicators**



**Analysis of the Infrastructure Development Index (IDI)**

Good infrastructure is needed to support economic productivity, good living standards and high quality of life in a city. Physical assets and services such as piped clean water, sanitation, electricity, road network, ICT are essential in supporting the city population, economy, and ensure a better quality of

<sup>3</sup> This indicator is approximated based on regional data

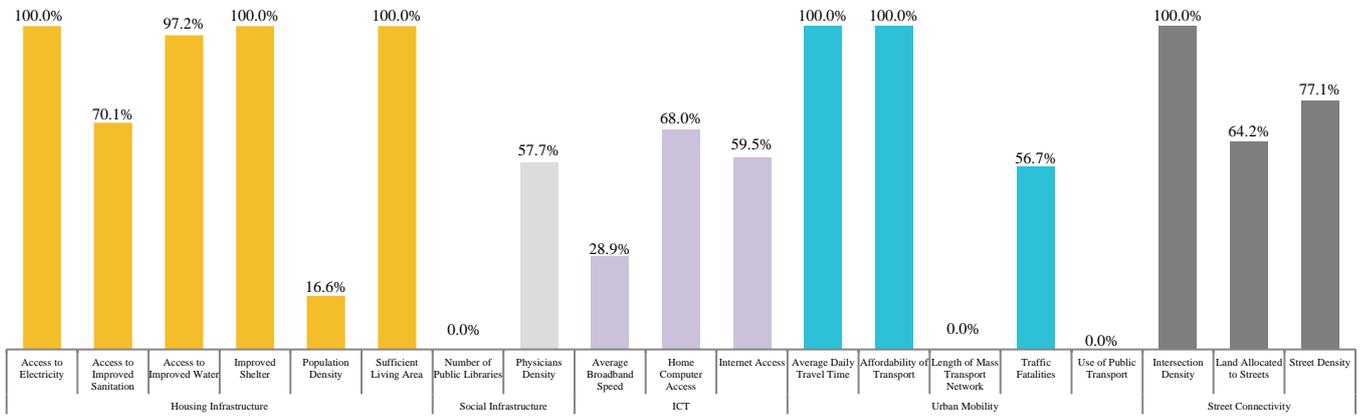
life. The city of Buraydah has an infrastructure development index of 59%, therefore its rated as moderate. This weakness is due to low scores in social infrastructure (28.9%), ICT (52.1%) and urban mobility (51.3%). Within these moderate sub-dimensions, there are certain areas where the city has done exceptionally well and should be maintained, such areas include; under ICT, ownership of home computers is moderately high (68%); under urban mobility, average daily travel time and affordability of public transport are very good with 100% each. Some of the city’s main sources of strength for development lies within its good housing infrastructure (80.7%) and street connectivity (80.4%). Most of the indicators under housing sub-dimension are strong except a very low population density (16.6%) which is due to verse land area, the rest of the indicators within the housing sub-dimension have scores ranging between 70% and 100%. The same applies to street connectivity whose indicators are all above 60%. Good street connectivity in the city should be used as a stepping stone to begin promoting walking and cycling as means of transport in the city, especially in the evenings and during seasons with favorable weather conditions.

**Table 4: Infrastructure Development Index (58.7%)**

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
<b>Housing Infrastructure (80.7%)</b>	Access to Electricity	100.00	%	100.0%	V. Strong
	Access to Improved Sanitation	74.60	%	70.1%	Strong
	Access to Improved Water	98.60	%	97.2%	V. Strong
	Access to Improved Shelter	99.90	%	100.0%	V. Strong
	Population Density	2,486.36	Inhab/Km2	16.6%	Under moderate
<b>Social Infrastructure (28.9%)</b>	Sufficient Living Area	97.90	%	100.0%	V. Strong
	Number of Public Libraries	0.18	#/100,000 inhab.	0.0%	Under moderate
<b>ICT (52.1%)</b>	Physician Density	2.71	#/1,000 inhab.	57.7%	moderate
	Average Broadband Speed	4.00	Mbps	28.9%	Under moderate
	Home Computer Access	68.00	%	68.0%	M. Strong
<b>Urban Mobility (51.3%)</b>	Internet Access	59.50	%	59.5%	moderate
	Average Daily Travel Time	16.30	minutes	100.0%	V. Strong
	Affordability of Transport	0.00	%	100.0%	V. Strong
	Length of Mass Transport Network	0.00	Km/1M Inhab.	0.0%	Under moderate
	Road Safety (traffic fatalities)	14.00	#/100,000 inhab.	56.7%	moderate
<b>Street Connectivity (80.4%)</b>	Use of Public Transport	0.00	%	0.0%	Under moderate
	Intersection Density	115.01	#/km2	100.0%	V. Strong
	Land Allocated to Streets	25.26	%	64.2%	M. Strong
	Street Density	15.41	Km/KM2	77.1%	Strong

The bar chart below illustrates the extent of achievement in each indicator and the level of balance or disparity within each sub-dimension as depicted by the concept of the wheel of urban prosperity; it shows the extent to which the existing configuration of the infrastructure dimension can create a functional balance for the city to prosper. The varying heights of the bars indicate the levels and disparities existing between indicators within each sub-dimension. As shown the existing configuration of the infrastructure dimension cannot propel the city to greater heights of prosperity unless something is done to improve on the indicators identified as moderate, such indicators are population density, number of public libraries, physician density, internet access, length of mass transport network, traffic fatalities and use of public transport.

**Figure 7: Infrastructure Development Indicators**



## Analysis of Quality of Life Index (QoLI)

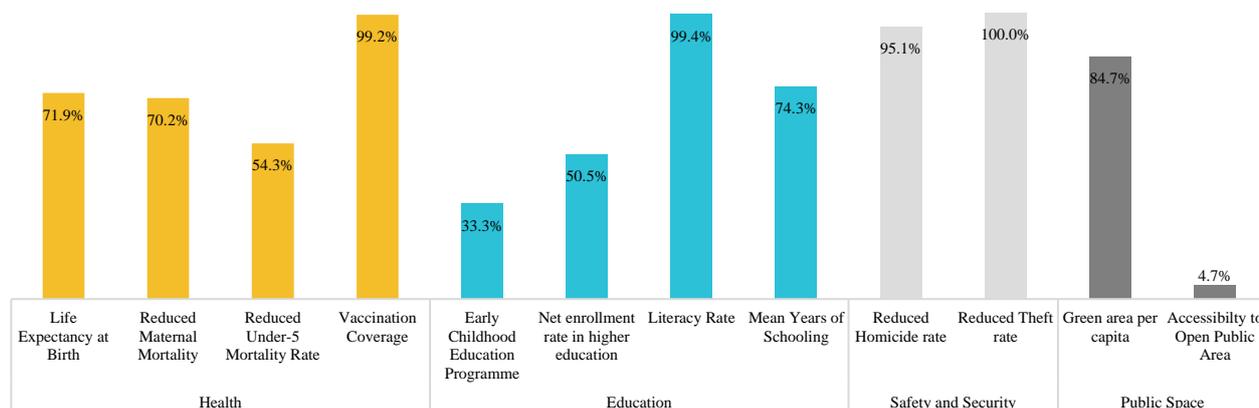
The quality of life may loosely mean happiness and wellbeing of individuals and society, a prosperous city ensures that its residents have access to adequate basic services and amenities that has direct positive impact on the wellbeing and happiness of the people. The quality of life dimension, therefore, measures the level of achievements in the provision of such services. The findings show that the quality of life index of the city of Buraydah is 70.1% (rated strong), implying that the city has strong factors that support a good quality of life. The strongest pillar that supports the good quality of life in the city is safety and security (97.6%); in fact, this is a key ingredient in ensuring stability, peace, and tranquility in a city as well as a factor for attracting foreign and local investments for economic growth. The findings further indicate that the health sub-dimension is also strong (73.9%), however, there is high mortality rate among children under 5 years, at 54.3% (17 deaths of children for everyone thousand children born alive). Since all the other indicators under health are strong with scores ranging between 70% and 99%, the rate of under 5 mortality in the city is a big drawback for the health sector. Education has a score of 64.4%, the sub-dimension is therefore rated as moderately strong, this is particularly because it has a combination of strong and under moderate indicators; the under moderate ones are (Early Childhood Education, 33.3% and Net Enrolment in Higher Education, 50.5%) and the strong indicators are (Literacy Rate, 99.4% and Mean Years of Schooling, 74.3%). This could mean that while the city has done well in investing in other levels of education resulting to high literacy rate and on average many years of schooling, there is need to do more investment in educational programmes that promote education in the early years of childhood. Research has shown that one year of investment into early childhood education improves the overall human resources quality of nations by a factor of 2.

Access to public spaces is a vital indicator in the integration of the city's population. In Buraydah this is important as the indicator for public spaces has a score of 44.7%, which means it is also rated as under moderate; However, the city has high green area per capita, therefore the weakness can only be associated with low accessibility to the available public spaces (green areas).

**Table 5: Quality of Life Index (70.1%)**

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
<b>Health (73.9%)</b>	Life Expectancy at Birth	73.80	years	71.9%	Strong
	Eradicate Maternal Mortality	8.05	#/100,000 live births	70.2%	Strong
	Eradicate Under-5 Mortality	16.51	#/1000 live births	54.3%	moderate
	Vaccination Coverage	99.20	%	99.2%	Very Strong
<b>Education (64.4%)</b>	Early Childhood Education	33.27	%	33.3%	Under moderate
	Net Enrolment in Higher Education	50.53	%	50.5%	Moderate
	Literacy Rate	99.40	%	99.4%	V. Strong
	Mean Years of Schooling	10.40	%	74.3%	Strong
<b>Safety and Security (97.6%)</b>	Homicide Rate	1.44	#/100,000 inhab.	95.1%	V. Strong
	Theft Rate	5.03	#/100,000 inhab.	100.0%	V. Strong
<b>Public Space (44.7%)</b>	Green Area per Capita	12.71	m <sup>2</sup> / inhabitant	84.7%	V. Strong
	Accessibility to Open Public Space	4.70	%	4.7%	Under moderate

**Figure 8: Quality of Life Indicators**



Compared to the infrastructure dimension, the bars in the chart above shows that quality of life is closer to providing a functional balance, it is progressing well and only four out of the 12 indicators are rated as moderate; while holding other factors constant the city needs to focus on and improve on the four weaker indicators to push the QoLI to the strong position.

### Analysis of Equity and Social Inclusion Index (ESII)

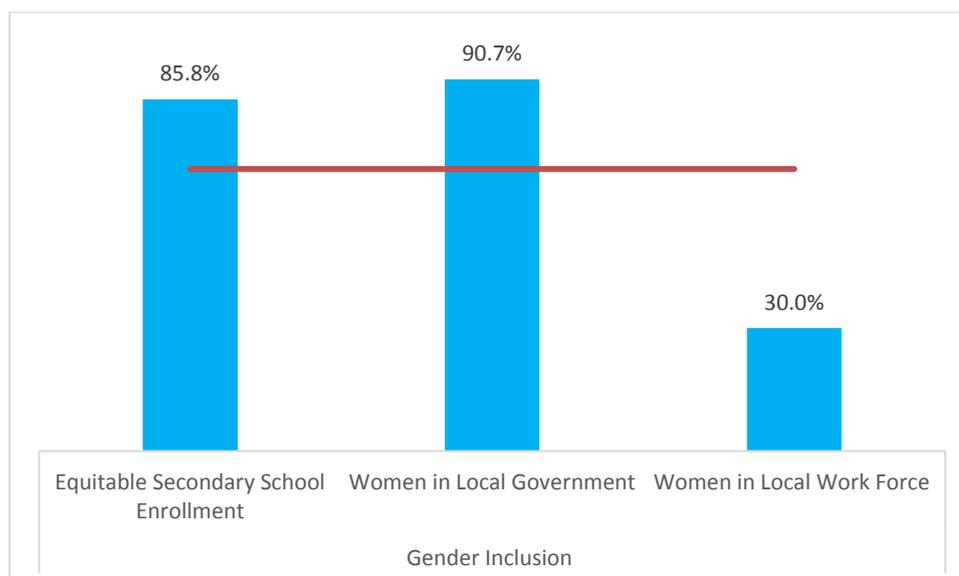
Cities which are socially inclusive and economically equitable are more likely to be more productive and have a higher standard of living and quality of life. This dimension measures how cities share the benefits of prosperity among its inhabitants and how it safeguards the interests of the minority. No city can claim to be prosperous when a significant segment of its inhabitants live in poverty and deprivation. The equity and social inclusion dimension measures the level of achievement of cities in the distribution or sharing of the benefits of prosperity among its inhabitants. 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, the city of Buraidah has a gender inclusion sub dimensional index of 68.8%. This is indicative of a fairly gender inclusive city.

The moderately strong level of gender inclusion in the city can be associated with high equitable secondary school enrolment rate with 86% and a high number of women in local government with 91%. Gender inclusion in the city is generally good except that the proportion of women in the labour force is still too low (30%), this also affects women access to employment opportunities. To achieve a higher level of prosperity and the required balance among the indicators of the gender sub-dimension, there is a need to focus on increasing employment opportunities available to women.

**Table 6: Equity and Social Inclusion Index (68.8%)**

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Gender Inclusion (68.8%)	Equitable Secondary School Enrollment	0.86	0 - ∞	85.8%	V. Strong
	Women in local administration	45.33	%	90.7%	V. Strong
	Women in the workforce	14.98	%	30.0%	Under moderate

**Figure 9: Equity and Social Inclusion Indicators**



**Analysis of Environmental Sustainability Index (ESI)**

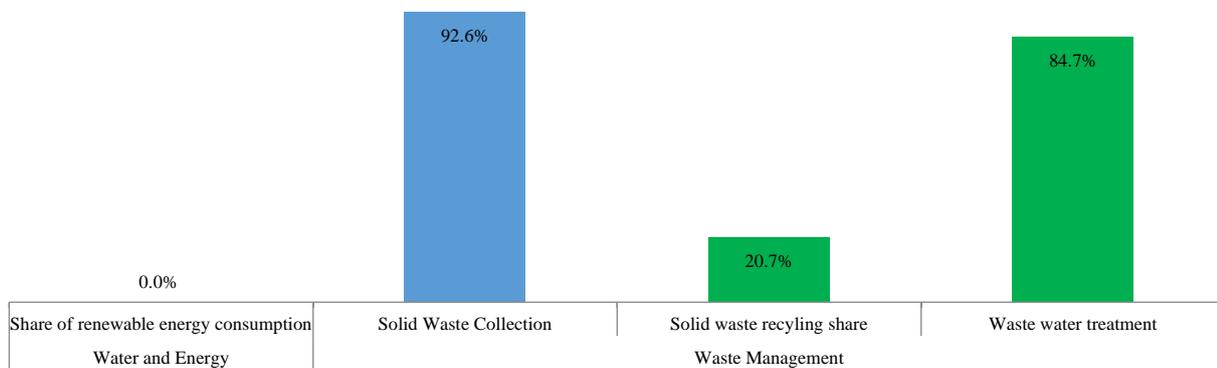
Prosperous cities should ensure that as they utilize environmental resources in the processes of production, economic growth, and development, the environment is not depleted and remains healthy and livable for new generations to come. Generally, the city of Buraydah has done very little to conserve its environment, it has environmental sustainability index of 33.0%, meaning very weak effort to conserve the environment. Most of the weaknesses in environmental conservation are associated with lack of renewable sources of energy (0%) and poor solid waste recycling (20.7%). On the other hand, solid waste collection (92.6%) and wastewater treatment (84.72%) are very good.

**Table 7: Environmental Sustainability Index (33.0%)**

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Water and Energy (0.0%)	Share of renewable energy consumption	0.00	ug/m <sup>3</sup>	0.0%	Under moderate
Waste Management (66.0%)	Solid Waste Collection	92.60	%	92.6%	V. Strong
	Solid waste recycling share	10.34	%	20.7%	Under moderate
	Waste water treatment	84.72	%	84.72%	V. Strong

The undoing for the city is its inability to establish a proper solid waste recycling system and low consumption of renewable energy. The absence of a functional solid waste recycling system exposes the environment to the risk of growing landfills which will soon cause lots of environmental pollution. The city should begin to diversify its sources of energy to include renewable sources such as the sun and wind power.

**Figure 10: Environmental Sustainability Indicators**



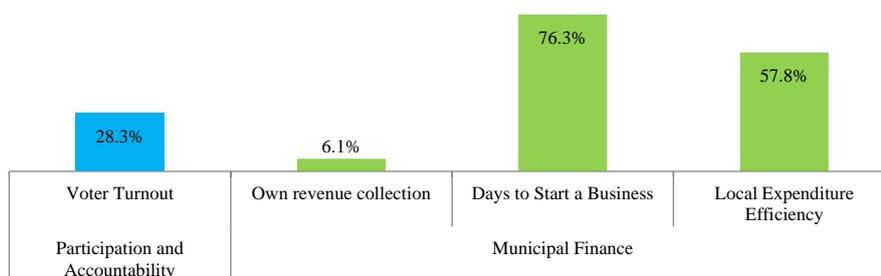
### Analysis of Legislation and Governance Index (LGI)

The five dimensions of prosperity can only reach their full potential in an environment with appropriate legislation and good governance; where instruments of power, urban planning, laws, regulations, and institutional frameworks, creates conditions for the control and effective functioning of all the other dimensions of prosperity. In governance and legislation, the city is rated under moderate a score of 37.5%. The data available for legislation and governance further shows that the municipal finance sub-dimension has a score of 46.7%, an indication of under moderate legislation and governance in matters relating to municipal finance. Participation and accountability is even weaker at 28.3%.

Table 8: Legislation and Governance Index (37.5%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Participation and Accountability (28.3%)	Municipal Voter turnout	28.30	%	28.3%	Under moderate
Municipal Finance (46.7%)	Own revenue collection	6.10	%	6.1%	Under moderate
	Days to start a business	6.00	Days	76.3%	Strong
	Local expenditure efficiency	57.80	%	57.8%	Moderate

Figure 11: Legislation and Governance Indicators



To achieve higher levels of urban governance and legislation, the city should focus on increasing public participation and accountability through voter registration, increase revenue collection and ensure high efficiency in local expenditures.

### SWOT Analysis based on City Prosperity Index

This section attempts to analyze the findings of the CPI and use it to identify areas of Strength, Weaknesses or challenges, Opportunities for growth and possible Threats that the city may have so that appropriate recommendations and actions can be designed.

Table 9: SWOT Analysis base on City Prosperity Index

STRENGTH	WEAKNESSES
----------	------------

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Good economic growth fundamentals such as high economic productivity, high household income, low old-age dependency ratio.</li> <li>2. High literacy rate: the youth and women have untapped potential to contribute allot to economic growth. There is allot of unutilized skilled manpower (human capital), especially among women.</li> <li>3. There is good safety and security and political stability which provide a conducive environment for growth and development.</li> <li>4. There is good healthcare provision in the city: a healthy population is productive, happy and peaceful.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Low economic density- possibly due to many undeveloped lands: re-examine and establish the need for increased densification of economic or commercial activities within the commercial, industrial and even residential areas in the city.</li> <li>2. 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.</li> <li>3. Low internet access, average bandwidth speed where there is large ownership of home computers.</li> <li>4. Generally, housing infrastructure is good but there is a problem with access to sanitation facilities such as access to the sewerage system.</li> <li>5. Public participation and accountability, particularly voter turnout in local elections.</li> <li>6. Own revenue collection should be addressed to make cities self-reliant.</li> </ol>
<b>OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<b>THREATS</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. High green area per capita and low accessibility mean there are a lot of green area that can be made accessible to the public.</li> <li>2. High street intersection density and street density which should encourage alternative means of transport such as walking and cycling especially early morning and evening.</li> <li>3. Wide access /ownership of home computers is a good opportunity to increase internet access/bandwidth and encourage more usage.</li> <li>4. High productivity, good economic fundamentals, good safety &amp; security and political stability in the city provide a conducive environment for attracting foreign investments. Utilised to increase employment for the youth.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. High investment is required to meet the needs of the rapidly growing population.</li> </ol>

## Local Urban Observatory

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 a 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.

### **Buraydah – Local Urban Observatory.**

The Local Urban Observatory of Buraidah was established in 2010 as a municipal department located in the municipality to be responsible for developing tools, collecting and analyzing urban indicators at the city level. In addition, the LUO should promote the use of urban data in planning and policy-making at the local and national level and participate in addressing urban challenges resulting from urban development and population growth. The LUO should, after analysis, publish or determinate information to strengthen transparency.

Buraydah LUO has produced 4 rounds of urban indicators and is now working on producing the 5<sup>th</sup> round of indicators, so far they have produced a total of 99 urban indicators.

## References

- Qassim Municipality, **Buraidah Urban Observatory Report**, Qassim Local Urban Observatory, Qassim, 2016
- Ministry of civil services, **survey for the local government employees for 17 cities**, Riyadh, 2016
- General Authority of Statistic, **Labor Force Survey**, Riyadh, 2016
- Ministry of Health, **Survey for Physicians Density for 17 Cities**, Riyadh, 2016.
- Ministry of Culture and Information, **Survey for Numbers of Public Libraries in 17 Cities**, Riyadh,2016.
- Ministry of Justice, **Crime Rate Survey for 17 Cities**, Riyadh, 2016.
- Authority of Communication and Information Technologies, **Broad Band Speed Survey in 17 cities**, Riyadh, 2016.
- Saudi Electricity Company, **Survey for Access to Electricity in 17 Cities**, Riyadh, 2016.



