



وزارة الشؤون
البلدية و القروية
Ministry of Municipal & Rural Affairs

CPI PROFILE NAJRAN

The Future Saudi Cities Programme
CPI PROFILE - Najran

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

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

..p ; ..cm

ISBN: 978-603-8279-48-9

1- City planning - Saudi Arabia - Najran

I-Title

309.2625314 dc 1440/8359

L.D. no. 1440/8359

ISBN: 978-603-8279-48-9

© 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

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:

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. The cities include Riyadh, Makkah, Jeddah, Taif, Medina, Tabouk, Dammam, 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 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 economical, 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 relates 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 FSCP, the UN-HABITAT, MOMRA, and Municipality of Najran together with its Local Urban Observatory has 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 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.

Overview of Najran City

Najran is a city in southwestern Saudi Arabia near the border with Yemen. It is the capital of Najran region, so it is the headquarters of the Governor, local councils, and branches of various governmental departments. Najran is regarded as a modern or new town.

Historical Background

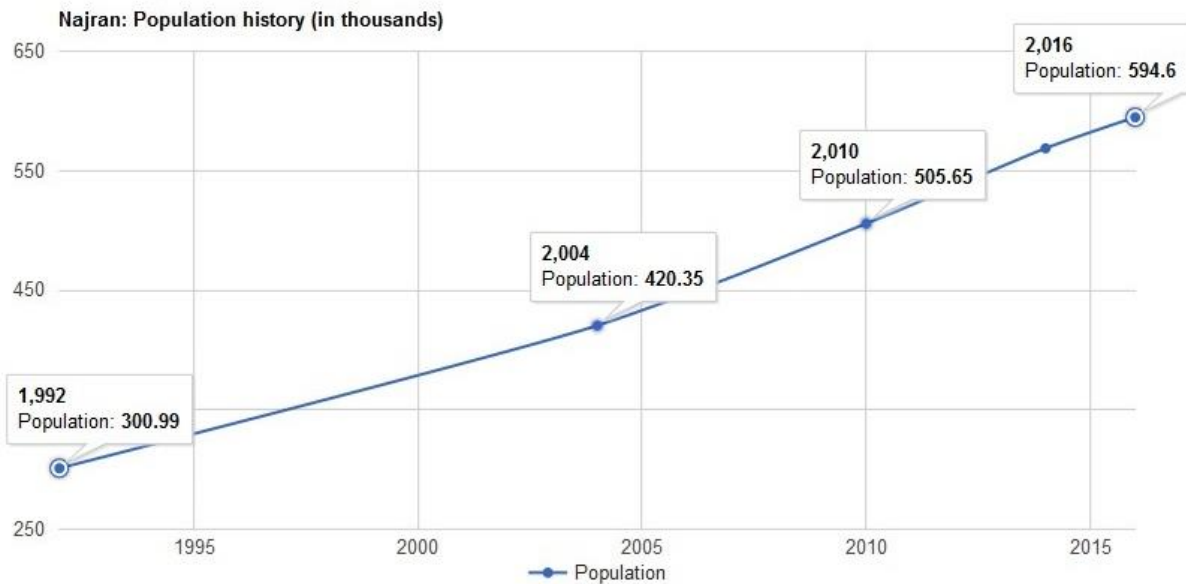
Local tradition has it that the land derived its name from the first man to settle in the area, Najran ibn Zaydan ibn Saba ibn Yahjub ibn Yarub ibn Qahtan. The oasis of Najran has been inhabited for about 4,000 years. Najran most prosperous trading time was during the first and second centuries B.C. when it was known as Al-Ukhdood. The main activity of its habitats was agriculture and cattle rearing and breeding. It was known by this name when the Roman general Aelius Gallus captured it in 24BC. Around the year 250BC, the area came under the control of the Himyarites.

Geography and Location

Najran is the capital of Najran region located along the Southern broader with Yemen. It is bounded by Yemen to the south; Al-Silayel and Wadi Al-Dawasir to the north; Dhahran Al-Janoub and the Asir region to the west; and Oman in the east. Najran contains three geographical areas. First, the flat area which lies in the middle of Najran. It has several valleys, the most famous of them being Najran's valley. Second, the mountainous area which is in the west and the north. The region has moderate weather in summer with an average temperature of 32 degrees Celsius and mild during the winter months. The city is at 1,293 m (4,242 ft) above sea level. The city covers an area of about 149,511 km² and the urban extent area is 101 km².

Demographic Background

Najran is one of the fastest-growing cities in the kingdom; its population has risen from 47,500 in 1974 and 300,000 in 1992 to 420,350 in 2004 and to 594,600 in 2016. The average household size in the city is 6.4 persons. The city's population density within the urban extent area is 3,761.



Socio-Economic Background

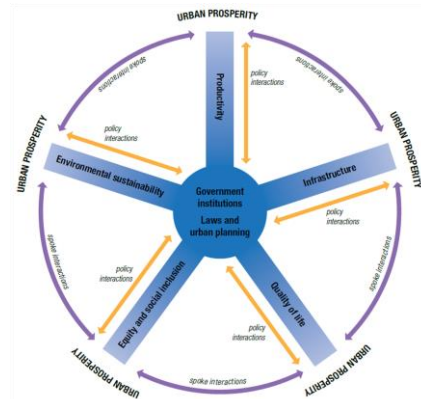
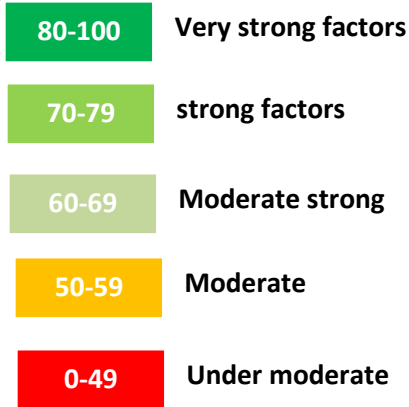
The economy of Najran traditionally depended on and still depends significantly on Agriculture, Livestock farming, and traditional manufacturing industry. The traditional industry of handicraft is still thriving where making pottery in its various forms, as well as daggers and leather, are still very popular. According to Najran chamber of commerce and industry, 2014, the city has four main industrial groups namely Non-metallic industries (construction materials), Plastic industries, Metallic industries and Food industries. Najran factories produce consumer products, such as food industries, e.g. dairy products, healthy water, and juice. Chemical and plastic products, such as plastic bags, shampoo, liquid detergents, and houseware. Non-metallic products (construction materials), such as block, fabricated concrete, cement and various forms of ceramic. Metal industries, such as iron, aluminum, wood, steel doors, prefabricated houses, and warehouses. (The Saudi industrial development fund, 2014)

The City Prosperity Index (CPI) Assessment

Prosperity implies success, wellbeing, thriving conditions, safety and security, long life etc. Prosperity in cities, therefore, is about successfully meeting today’s needs without compromising tomorrow and working together for a smart, competitive economy, in a socially inclusive society and a healthy, vibrant environment for individuals, families, and communities. Prosperity in cities is a process and cities can be at different levels of prosperity. In order to measure the level and also track how cities progress on the path to becoming prosperous, UN-Habitat introduced a monitoring framework: The Cities Prosperity Index (CPI). The CPI is a composite index with six carefully selected dimensions that captures all important elements of a prosperous city. This index along with a conceptual matrix, The Wheel of Urban Prosperity and a Global Scale of City Prosperity, are intended to help city authorities, decision-makers, partners and other stakeholders to use existing evidence and formulate clear policies and interventions for their cities.

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

The UN-Habitat’s Cities Prosperity Index (CPI) allows authorities and local groups to identify



opportunities and potential areas for action or adjustments in order to make their cities more prosperous. The CPI is a multidimensional framework that integrates several dimensions and indicators that are not only related but have a direct and indirect influence 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 1¹; the normalized values are then aggregated stepwise to create the single value called the City Prosperity Index.

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

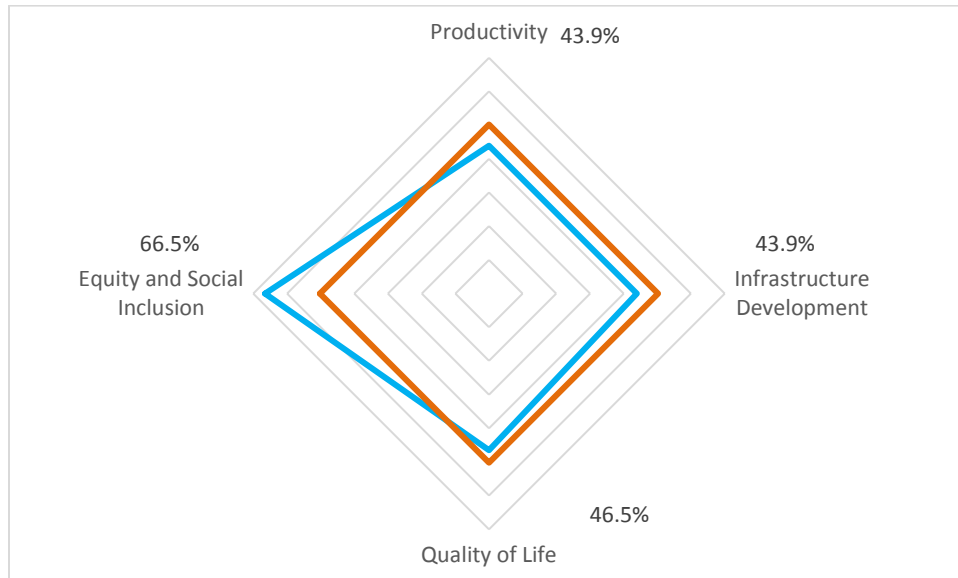
The following sections apply the CPI framework, the concept of the Wheel of Urban Prosperity and the Scale of Urban Prosperity to conduct an assessment of the level of prosperity in the city. The assessment provides an indication of the strengths or weaknesses in the factors of prosperity (in reference to the scale of urban prosperity); it also provides an indication of the level of achievement towards the set of 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.

Overall City Prosperity Index for Najran

The CPI is made-up of six dimensions that relate to prosperity in cities, the overall CPI is the aggregate of the six dimensions. However, due to challenges with data availability, the CPI may be computed using less than six dimensions or fewer sub-dimensions within a dimension. Whichever the case care is always taken to make the dimensional indices as representative as possible; and in such cases, it may not be advisable to compare prosperity between cities. The overall CPI for Najran was calculated using four dimensions, the overall index score is 50.2%. According to the global scale of city prosperity, the score categorized as moderate, suggesting the need to strengthen existing urban policies to foster further prosperity. The shape of the polygon in the chart below indicates the level of imbalance between the dimensions of the prosperity of the city. Prosperous cities have more or less of a balance between all the dimension of prosperity. Unbalanced cities with extremely high and extremely low scores are undesirable². From the chart, it is observable that three out of the four dimensions (productivity, infrastructure, and quality of life) are under-moderate and that only equity and social inclusion is moderately strong. The observed general weakness can, therefore, be linked to the three under moderate dimensions (productivity with 43.9%, quality of life with 46.5%, and infrastructure with 43.9%). In the radar chart in Figure 3, the orange line represents the CPI index line or the meanwhile the blue line represents the calculated index of the city.

² *The idea of balance is based on the concept of the wheel of urban prosperity where crooked wheel is considered to be unable to propel a city to prosperity*

Figure 3: The City Prosperity Index Dimensions



The analysis in the subsequent sections will dissect all the four dimensions of prosperity and identify areas of strengths and weaknesses to inform appropriate interventions.

The Productivity Dimension

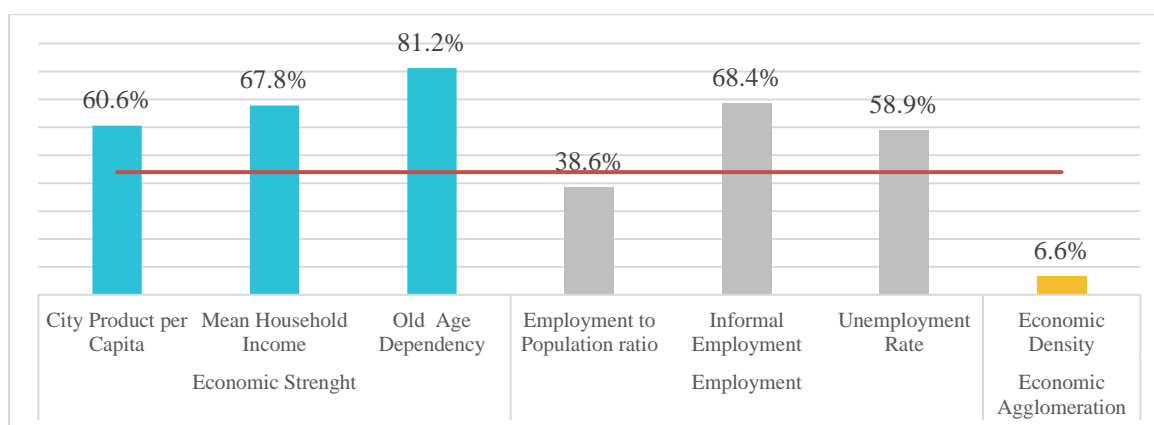
The dimension measures how cities create wealth, generate income and contribute to its economic growth and development of the country. The findings in the table1 show that productivity of the city of Najran is under moderate with an index score of 43.9%. The economic growth factors of the city are moderately strong with an average of 69.9%. The indicators under the sub-dimension include City product per capita with 60.6%, Mean household income with 67.8% and old age dependency ratio with 81.2%. The employment sub-dimension has an index of 55.3% which implies that the employment factors are moderately weak, generally. However, informal employment is the only moderately strong one with 68.4%, among indicators such as Employment to population ratio with 38.6% and unemployment rate with 58.9%. The weakest of all is the economic agglomeration sub-dimension where the key indicator is economic density with a score of 6.6%. Very low economic density such as this could be an indication of allot of empty land parcels, poor land use mix within commercial and industrial areas and presents a need to reexamine and establish if there are possibilities for increased densification of economic or commercial activities within the commercial, industrial and residential areas.

Table 1: Productivity Index (43.9%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Economic Growth (69.9%)	City Product per Capita	15,040.00	USD (PPP) /Inhabitants	60.6%	M. Strong
	Mean Household Income	32,387.20	USD (PPP)	67.8%	M. Strong
	Old Age Dependency Ratio	4.78	%	81.2%	V. Strong
Employment (55.3%)	Employment to Population Ratio	47.68	%	38.6%	Under moderate
	Informal Employment	31.20	%	68.4%	M. Strong
	Unemployment Rate	5.54	%	58.9%	Under moderate
Economic Agglomeration (6.6%)	Economic Density	56,561,717	USD (PPP) /km ²	6.6%	Under moderate

Looking at the bar chart in Figure 4, we can see the disparity between the indicators. The productivity index can be improved by addressing all the indicators, and by prioritizing the need to increase the spatial distribution of economic and commercial activities to improve economic density; the city also needs to create more employment opportunities especially targeting the youth and women to improve the unemployment situation and also increase employment to population ratio.

Figure 4: Productivity Indicators



The Infrastructure Development Dimension

Physical assets and amenities such as adequate piped water, sanitation, electricity, road network, and information and communications technology form part of the necessary infrastructure of a city. Adequate and efficient infrastructure supports and promotes high productivity and economic development. Therefore, the infrastructure development index measures a city's level of achievement in making such physical assets available to city dwellers. The infrastructure development index for the city of Najran is 43.9%; this is under moderate according to the global scale of prosperity. The weak rating can be attributed to virtually all the sub-dimensions and indicators of infrastructure development (only 3 out of 14 available indicators are at least moderately strong). The Housing infrastructure sub-dimensional index is 45.6% and the street connectivity sub-dimensional index is 44.5%, this means that the housing street connectivity infrastructure have weak factors. The findings contained in Table 2 indicates that Access to Improved Sanitation, Access to Improved Water, Population Density are weak while Access to Electricity and Access to Improved Shelter are generally strong.

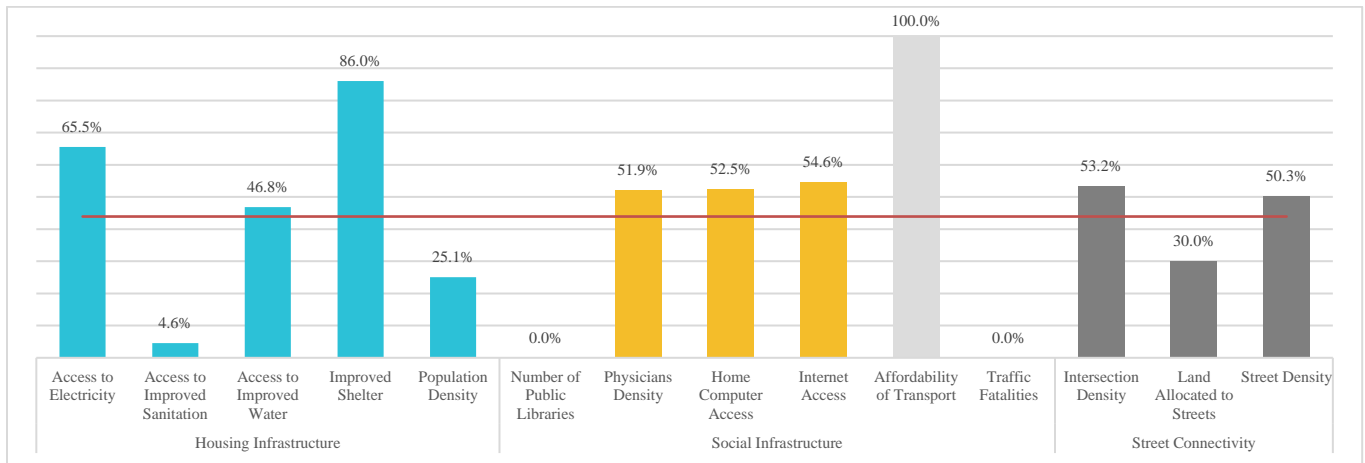
More moderate are observed in the infrastructure sub-dimensions of ICT (53.5%), and urban mobility (50%); the weakest sub-dimension is the social infrastructure with 26%. Street connectivity is about how often the streets or roadways intersect and how closely or not the intersections are spaced, this makes access to destinations easier by providing shorter alternative routes and saves time. Street connectivity in the city of Najran is under moderate and this could be attributed to moderate street density (50.3%) and street intersections density (53.2%), and under moderate land allocated to streets (30%). Urban mobility refers to a set of interrelated measures designed to satisfy the need of people, goods and services to move from one place to another safely, efficiently, cost-effectively and in a timely fashion. According to the findings in table 2, the city has a moderately weak urban mobility system; this weakness can be attributed to the poor road safety or high traffic fatalities in the city. The ICT Infrastructure is moderately weak mainly due to moderate access to home computers (52.5%) and internet access (54.6%). The findings further show that the indicators of social infrastructure are under moderate and more so the number of public libraries in the city with a score of 0%.

Table 2: Infrastructure Development Index (43.9%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Housing Infrastructure (45.6%)	Access to Electricity	65.50	%	65.5%	M. Strong
	Access to Improved Sanitation	4.60	%	4.6%	Under moderate
	Access to Improved Water	46.80	%	46.8%	Under moderate
	Access to Improved Shelter	86.00	%	86.0%	V. Strong
	Population Density	3,760.75	Inhabitants /Km2	25.1%	Under moderate
	Sufficient Living Area	-	%	-	-
Social Infrastructure (26.0%)	Number of Public Libraries	0.26	#/100,000 inhabitants.	0.0%	Under moderate
	Physician Density	2.23	#/1,000 inhabitants.	51.9%	moderate
ICT (53.5%)	Average Broadband Speed	-	Mbps	-	-
	Home Computer Access	52.50	%	52.5%	moderate
	Internet Access	54.58	%	54.6%	moderate
Urban Mobility (50%)	Average Daily Travel Time	-	minutes	-	-
	Affordability of Transport	0.00	%	100.0%	V. Strong
	Length of Mass Transport Network	-	Km/1M Inhabitants.	-	-
	Road Safety (traffic fatalities)	35.41	#/100,000 inhabitants.	0.0%	Under moderate
	Use of Public Transport	-	%	-	-
Street Connectivity (44.5%)	Intersection Density	53.21	#/km2	53.2%	moderate
	Land Allocated to Streets	15.00	%	30.0%	Under moderate
	Street Density	10.06	Km/KM2	50.3%	moderate

The concept of the wheel of urban prosperity put emphasis on balanced indicators: prosperity in cities is more about the balance between the indicators than high scores only. To attain some acceptable level of balance, the city of Najran need to focus on raising up the indicators identified as weak including population density, the number of public libraries, physician density in the health sector, average broadband speed, promote usage of public transport, and mass public transport network.

Figure 5: Infrastructure Development Indicators



The Quality of Life Dimension

Access to adequate basic services and amenities improves the well-being and happiness of people. Services such as education, health, recreation, safety and security enable citizens to lead a fulfilling life and, in such atmosphere, they can maximize their individual potentials for the betterment of the society, economy, and environment. This dimension measures the level of achievement attained by a city in making such services and amenities available and accessible to the city dwellers. Due to data unavailability, the health sub dimension was not included in the calculation of the overall dimensions. The findings in table 3 show that Najran has a quality of life index of 46.5%; therefore, it has an under moderate rating as per the global scale of city prosperity. The observed weakness can be attributed mainly to the education and public space sub-dimensions. Where indicators such as Early Childhood Education, Net Enrolment in Higher Education, and Accessibility to Open Public Space are found to be very weak.

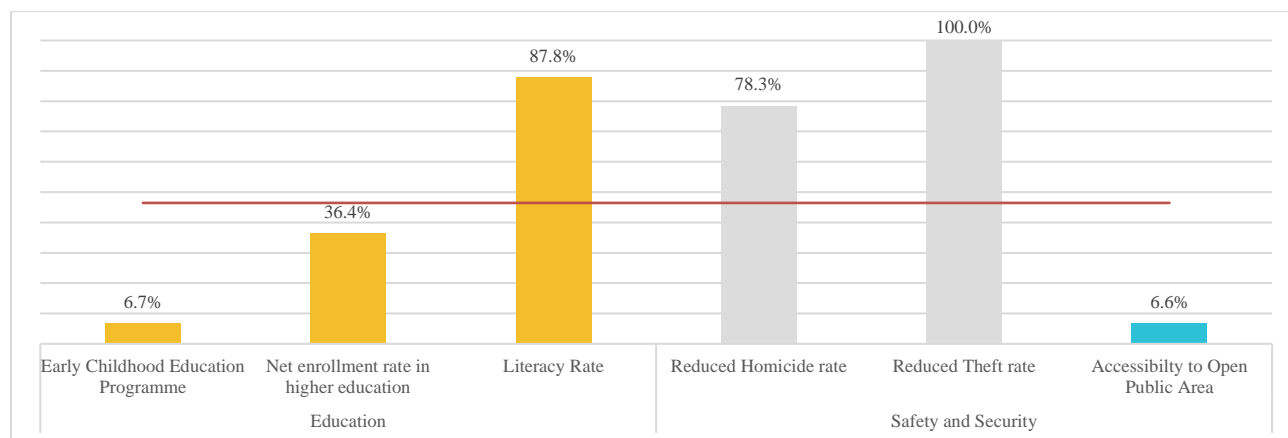
The strongest pillar of quality of life in the city of Najran is very good safety and security in the city (89.1%). The indicators that contribute to good safety and security in the city include very low theft rate hence the high score of 100% and very low homicide rate hence the high score of 98.3%. In spite of the fact that education provision in the city is rated under moderate which have been attributed to low factors such as a low rate of early childhood education and the low net enrolment rate in higher education, the literacy level in the city is very high 87.8% and it is actually one of the main sources strength for the city in terms of availability of skilled. Public spaces sub-dimension is rated the weakest, and this is clearly due to the low accessibility to the available public spaces. Open public spaces refer to natural green areas with plants, trees, and grass for recreation; these areas should be available and accessible to the public. People living in urban areas should have public open spaces within 400 meters from their residence; distance defines accessibility.

Table 3: Quality of Life Index (46.5%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Education (43.6%)	Early Childhood Education	6.69	%	6.7%	Under moderate
	Net Enrolment in Higher Education	36.35	%	36.4%	Under moderate
	Literacy Rate	89.50	%	87.8%	V. Strong
	Mean Years of Schooling	-	%	-	-
Safety and Security (89.1%)	Homicide Rate	5.00	#/100,000 inhabitants.	78.3%	Strong
	Theft Rate	11.85	#/100,000 inhabitants.	100.0%	V. Strong
Public Space (6.6%)	Green Area per Capita	-	m2 / inhabitant.	-	-
	Accessibility to Open Public Space	6.62	%	6.6%	Under moderate

The bar chart in Figure 6 below is used to illustrate the level of imbalance between the indicators as depicted by the concept of the wheel of urban prosperity; it highlights the disparity among the indicators of quality of life in Najran. Achieving higher quality of life in the city would mean working to raise weak indicators such as early childhood education, net enrolment in higher education, mean years of school, the green area per capita and accessibility to open public spaces.

Figure 6: Quality of Life Indicators



The Equity and Social Inclusion Dimension

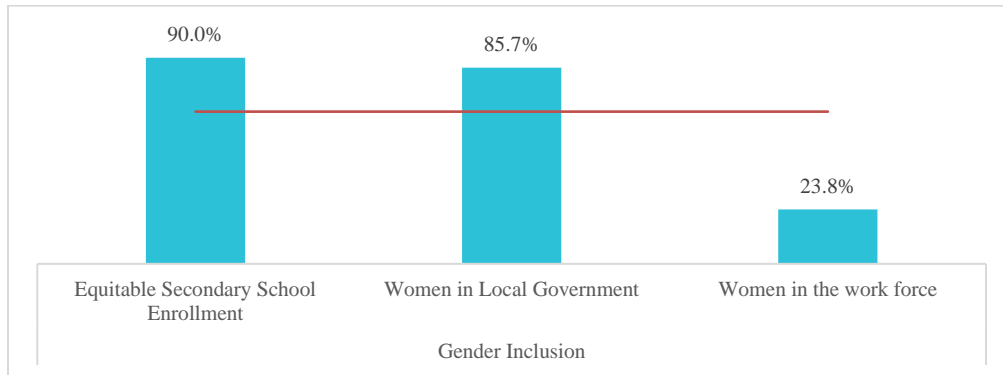
Cities should ensure equitable distribution of the benefits of prosperity among all people and areas; this allows cities to grow without leaving segments of the population and place behind either in poverty or deprivation. This dimension measures the achievements of the city in ensuring an equitable distribution of the benefits of prosperity across the city. Due to data unavailability issues, the index was calculated for the gender inclusion sub-dimension only. The results in the table 4 indicate that the city of Najran is fairly an inclusive and equitable city in terms of gender inclusion which has a score 66.5%. This strength is attributed to the high level Equitable secondary school

enrollment (90%) and Women in local government (85.7%) in the city. Though, the level of Women in the workforce in the workforce is under moderate (23.8%). Therefore, there is a need to prioritize the need to increase the number of women in the workforce to further strengthen the element of gender inclusion in the city.

Table 4: Equity and Social Inclusion Index (66.5%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Gender Inclusion (66.5%)	Equitable Secondary School Enrollment	0.90	0 - ∞	90.0%	V. Strong
	Women in local government	42.87	%	85.7%	V. Strong
	Women in the workforce	11.90	%	23.8%	Under moderate

Figure 7: Equity and Social Inclusion Indicators



The Environmental Sustainability Index (ESI)

Environmental sustainability is about exploiting the natural resources in our environment and ensuring that the environment remains unpolluted and depletion of non-renewable resources is done in a manner that can be continued indefinitely. Prosperous cities ensure that as they grow and develop economically the city’s environment is not destroyed or degraded but remains healthy, liveable and preserved for the sake of the future generation. This dimension, therefore, measures the level of achievements made to ensure environmental sustainability. Due to data unavailability issues, it was not possible to calculate an index for this dimension. The following is the list of the indicators under this dimension: The PM₁₀ & PM_{2.5} concentration, CO₂ emission, share of renewable energy consumption, Solid Waste Collection, Share of solid waste recycling, and Wastewater treatment. Data collection should, therefore, continue so that future CPI estimation can include all the six dimensions.

The Governance and Legislation Dimension

Good governance and appropriate legislation are prerequisites for sustainability and growth; it's only through good urban governance and accountable leadership that a city can be able to deploy appropriate and effective policies, laws and regulations, and create adequate institutional frameworks required for growth and prosperity. The Governance and legislation dimension measure the level of achievement cities have attained regarding these goals. This dimension has the following sub-dimensions and indicators, under the Participation and accountability sub-dimension there are Voter turnout rate, Civic Participation, and Corruption index; under the Municipal finance sub-dimension the indicators are Own revenue collection, Days to Start a business and Local expenditure efficiency; and lastly under the Urban form sub-dimension there are Land use mix and Urban sprawl.

The governance dimension is a very important dimension of prosperity in cities, therefore, more efforts should be put in data collection to ensure its inclusion in the next CPI estimation.

SWOT Analysis based on City Prosperity Index

This section attempts to use the analysis and the findings of the CPI to identify 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 considered.

Table 7: CPI-based SWOT Analysis

STRENGTH: List of Strong Indicators	WEAKNESSES: List of Weak Indicators
<p>Productivity Dimension:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Product per Capita • Old Age Dependency Ratio • Mean Household Income • Informal employment <p>Infrastructure Development Dimension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to Electricity • Access to Improved Shelter • Average Daily Travel Time • Affordability of transport <p>Quality of Life Dimension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life Expectancy at birth • Vaccination coverage • Literacy Rate • Homicide Rate • Theft Rate <p>Equity and Social Inclusion Dimension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equitable Secondary School Enrolment • Women in local government <p>Environmental Sustainability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solid waste management 	<p>Productivity Dimension:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment to Population Ratio • Economic Density • Unemployment Rate <p>Infrastructure Development Dimension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential Density • Physician Density • Access to sanitation • Access to Improved Water • Home Computer Access • Internet Access • Number of Public Libraries • Road safety • Land Allocated to Streets • Intersection Density • Street Density <p>Quality of Life Dimension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Childhood Education • Net Enrolment in Higher Education • Accessibility to open public spaces <p>Equity and Social Inclusion Dimension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women in the workforce
<p>OPPORTUNITIES: Indicators that creates an opportunity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old Age Dependency Ratio – low burden on the productive population promotes growth. • Literacy Rate – high literacy rate is consistent with high skilled manpower to be tapped particularly women and youth. • Good safety and Security –in the city provides a favorable environment for both domestic and direct foreign investment. • Women in the workforce – although this is a weakness it provides an opportunity to tap into the huge resource of educated and skill Saudi Women. 	<p>THREATS: Indicator that can pose threat to prosperity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Employment to Population Ratio – the city can't create enough job opportunities. • Small Number of Public Libraries – city risk having a population without reading culture. • Physician Density – if not checked there is a risk of a reducing health care quality as population increases. • All indicators of Street connectivity – the city risks getting into a complicated situation of wanting to widen streets without reserves – future threat. • Early Childhood Education – the city risk having a large population of youth/people without education.

LOCAL URBAN OBSERVATORY

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 a 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.

References

- Najran Municipality, **Najran Urban Observatory Report**, Madinah, Najran, 2018
- 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.

ISBN: 978-603-8279-48-9