ABHA CPI PROFILE
2016

Future Saudi Cities Programme
UN-HABITAT, Saudi Arabia
Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs
Abha Local Urban Observatory
# CONTENTS

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ABBREVIATIONS

KSA .......................................................... Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
CPI ........................................................... City Prosperity Index
LUO ........................................................ Local Urban Observatories
SWOT Analysis ................................................ Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats Analysis
UN-Habitat ................................................ United Nations Human Settlements Programme
MOMRA .................................................. Ministry of Municipality and Rural Affairs
FSCP ......................................................... Future Saudi Cities Programme
GIS ........................................................ Geographic Information System
GUO ........................................................ Global Urban Observatory
NUO ........................................................ National Urban Observatory
MDGs ...................................................... Millennium Development Goals
PI ............................................................ Productivity Index
IDI ........................................................ Infrastructure Development Index
QoLI ........................................................ Quality of Life Index
ESII ........................................................ Equity and Social Inclusion Index
ESI ........................................................ Environmental Sustainability Index
GLI ........................................................ Governance and Legislation Index
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 provides 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, Ihisa, 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 the umbrella of FSCP, The UN-HABITAT and MOMRA in cooperation with the city administration and the Local Urban Observatory, have been working on developing urban statistics and spatial information (Geographic Information System) to provide relevant urban information that strongly support 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 THE CITY

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 southwest 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 to about 160,000 today the population of the city is about 420,000 people, about 21% of the population of Aseer region. The average household size in the city is 5.2 persons per household. Like many other cities in the Kingdom, Abha has a young population with about 46% falling below 24 years of age and about 54% are below 30 years of age; only 4% of its population is above 65 years.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC BACKGROUND

Abha city is rapidly becoming a major tourist attraction; it’s already a popular tourist destination especially during the summer months. The city is blessed with spectacular mountain scenery, a cool climate, fertile soil and moderate rainfall.

Abha is one of the most populous regions in the Arabian Peninsula, its long history has resulted in a rich cultural heritage and provides a colorful mosaic of changing architecture and traditions. In addition to its scenic beauty, Aseer’s geography of mountainous terrain has made it possible for the development of four dramatic cable car systems linking the various resorts with each other, including the cliff top rides at Al-Sooda and Al-Habala, the Lakeside, and Thera Mountain routes at New Abha. However, the unemployment rate in the city is moderately low at 4.47% and relatively high household income of USD (PPP) 34,835, about SAR 130000.

TREND ON URBAN GROWTH AND EXISTING SPATIAL PLANS:

The growth and development of the city of Abha is linked to its role as administrative headquarter, education institutions and the tourism industry. While urban evolution took place in the 1940s, Abha achieved a rapid urban growth in the last two decades of the twentieth century. According to the historical background of the city, some agricultural lands encroached on the urban areas, and some parcels of land are still in used for agricultural activities.

The main features of the Land-use in the city are defined as follows: Commercial areas represent one of the distinctive uses, especially Abha’s C.B.D.; Educational uses have many types, the most important of which are branches of public universities which attract students from all over Aseer region; cemeteries and residential uses have encroached on other urban land uses, for example, residential uses are considered one of the major problems affecting Abha’s urban environment; Industrial area is a few kilometers outside the city on the road between Abha and Khamis Mushyt.

Tourism has also influenced allot of land-uses in Abha city, the effects can be summarized as follows, there are many types of accommodation for tourists and visitors such as hotels, furnished flats, camps, and homes; Tourism services are also easily available for tourists and visitors; restaurants, take-away outlets, cafeterias, laundries, car offices, travel agencies and real estate offices; Many types of green lands such as public gardens, parks, playgrounds, farms and other types spread all over the city, which in additions to the mountainous landscape creates a charming physical chart of the city.
Figure 1: Land use and Urban Growth Limits

The figure above is showing the trend of urban growth limit control and land uses for the city of Abha.
Prosperity 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. In order to measure the current and future progress of cities on the road to prosperity, UN-Habitat introduced a monitoring framework: The Cities Prosperity Index. This index, along with a conceptual matrix, The Wheel of Urban Prosperity, are intended to help decision-makers and partners to use existing evidence and formulate clear policy interventions for their cities. 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 City Prosperity Index (CPI) is a multidimensional measurement framework that integrates several dimensions and indicators that are not only related but have a direct and indirect influence on each other on the path to prosperity. 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.

Since the indicators of prosperity are measured in different units, the CPI computation starts with the standardization/normalization of the indicators into values ranging between 0 and 1; the standardized values are aggregated stepwise to create the single value called the City Prosperity Index. The chart shows the six-point scale of urban prosperity. This section 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 (using the scale of urban prosperity); it also provides an indication of the level of achievement towards the set prosperity goals called benchmarks (through the CPI scores); and highlights whether there are disparities between and within the six dimensions of prosperity (Wheel of Urban Prosperity-stressing balance). An in-depth analysis of the findings will help to identify which particular indicators and sub-dimensions contribute to high or low values in each of the dimensions and the CPI scores.

OVERALL CITY PROSPERITY INDEX FOR ABHA CITY

The city of Abha has an overall CPI index score of 51.8%, this according to the global scale of urban prosperity implies that the city’s productivity comprise of moderately weak elements. Prosperous cities tend to have a good balance of strong indicators within all the dimension of prosperity. An arrangement where some indicators are too low while others are very high is undesirable. The weak rating, therefore, suggests that the city has weak dimensions and some internal disparities between sub-dimension and associated indicators. There are some dimensions of prosperity in which the city performs dismally, such weak dimensions includes infrastructure development (46.3%), environmental sustainability (31.9%), and productivity (46.8%). The other three dimensions are rated as moderately strong and include the quality of life dimension with 64.5%, equity and social inclusion with 64.3%, and urban governance and legislation with 67.3%. The chart below illustrates how the blend between the weak and strong indicators culminates into a polygon with a twisted shape.

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 or production. Cities are key drivers of economic growth in every country; the productivity dimension captures the efficiency with which cities create and contributes wealth within the population. Knowledge of how cities generate income, how they create and distribute employment opportunities to the entire population. The following table breaks down the productivity dimension into its sub-dimensions and highlights areas of strength and weaknesses the city has. The findings show that the city of Abha has a productivity index score of 46.8% which denotes that it has weak factors of productivity. However, the city still has strong elements of productivity from which it can build a stable foundation. More specifically, the city draws its strength from a set of strong economic growth indicators (68%) and good employment situation (70.2%). The weakest point in the productivity of Abha is its poor economic agglomeration which due to a very weak 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 maximisation of the utilisation of the available resources.

Table 1: Productivity Index (46.8%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Dimension</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Standardized</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic Growth (68.0%)</td>
<td>City Product per Capita</td>
<td>14,037.33</td>
<td>USD (PPP)/Inhab</td>
<td>59.2%</td>
<td>M. Weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mean Household Income</td>
<td>34,835.20</td>
<td>USD(PPP)</td>
<td>74.2%</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Old Age Dependency Ratio</td>
<td>6.32</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>70.6%</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment (70.2%)</td>
<td>Employment to Population Ratio</td>
<td>50.73</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>45.5%</td>
<td>Weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Informal Employment</td>
<td>5.63</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>V. Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unemployment Rate</td>
<td>4.47</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>65.1%</td>
<td>M. Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Agglomeration (2.3%)</td>
<td>Economic Density</td>
<td>20,083,573</td>
<td>USD (PPP)/km2</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td>V. Weak</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All indicators of economic growth are strong except city product per capita which is moderately weak. The city also draws its strength from its good employment indicators such as very low informal employment rates (5.63%, 100%) and fairly low unemployment rates (4.47%, 65.1%). However, the city still suffers from very low employment to population ratio (45.5%), meaning the employed population still carry the heavy economic burden of the rest of the population. Looking at the demographic structure of the city the level of employment to population ratio should be changed.
ANALYSIS OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE DIMENSION

The improvement in performance and resiliency of infrastructure is needed to adapt to the 21st century's extreme urban context. 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 serve their citizens better.

Table 2: Infrastructure Development Index (46.3%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Dimension</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Standardized</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing Infrastructure</td>
<td>Access to Electricity</td>
<td>86.77</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>85.8%</td>
<td>V. Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Access to Improved Sanitation</td>
<td>53.34</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>45.1%</td>
<td>Weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Access to Improved Water</td>
<td>49.78</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>V. Weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Access to Improved Shelter</td>
<td>48.46</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>V. Weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Population Density</td>
<td>1,430.73</td>
<td>Inhab/Km2</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
<td>V. Weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sufficient Living Area</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>V. Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Infrastructure</td>
<td>Number of Public Libraries</td>
<td>0.24</td>
<td>#/100,000 inhab.</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>V. Weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Physician Density</td>
<td>1.51</td>
<td>#/1,000 inhab.</td>
<td>42.1%</td>
<td>Weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICT (49.1%)</td>
<td>Average Broadband Speed</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Mbps</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
<td>V. Weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Home Computer Access</td>
<td>77.20</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>77.2%</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Internet Access</td>
<td>41.10</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>41.1%</td>
<td>Weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Mobility (48.8%)</td>
<td>Average Daily Travel Time</td>
<td>21.90</td>
<td>minutes</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>V. Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Affordability of Transport</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Length of Mass Transport Network</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Km/1M Inhab.</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>V. Weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Road Safety (traffic fatalities)</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>#/100,000 inhab.</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
<td>V. Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Use of Public Transport</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>V. Weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Street Connectivity (72.4%)</td>
<td>Intersection Density</td>
<td>123.04</td>
<td>#/km2</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>V. Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Land Allocated to Streets</td>
<td>11.20</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td>V. Weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Street Density</td>
<td>63.30</td>
<td>Km/KM2</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>V. Strong</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Advanced infrastructure ensures access to physical assets, and amenities required to sustain the city population and ensure economic growth. The study findings show that Abha city has an infrastructure development index score of 46.3%, meaning it's weak. Infrastructure being one of the most important factors of growth, the city should prioritize strengthening it. Although all the infrastructure sub-dimensions are weak, the city's street connectivity is very good. It can act as a foundation for growth towards an efficient system.

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.
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 amenities that directly affect and improve the wellbeing of citizens such as good social services, education, healthcare, recreation, safety and security. Abha city has managed to do the same by 64.1%, 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 education with 60%. However, the provision of public spaces in the city is very poor. Public spaces (including high streets, street markets, shopping precincts, community centres, parks, playgrounds, and neighbourhood spaces in residential areas) play a vital role in the social and economic life of communities. They act as a ‘self-organising public service’, a shared resource in which experiences and values are created and shared (Mean and Tims, 2005).
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Dimension</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Standardized</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health (73.1%)</td>
<td>Life Expectancy at Birth</td>
<td>74.00</td>
<td>years</td>
<td>72.5%</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eradicate Maternal Mortality</td>
<td>18.60</td>
<td>#/100,000 live births</td>
<td>58.2%</td>
<td>M. Weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eradicate Under-5 Mortality</td>
<td>8.90</td>
<td>#/1000 live births</td>
<td>68.3%</td>
<td>M. Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vaccination Coverage</td>
<td>93.20</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>93.2%</td>
<td>Very Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education (59.7%)</td>
<td>Early Childhood Education</td>
<td>6.45</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
<td>V. Weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Net Enrolment in Higher Education</td>
<td>41.96</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>42.0%</td>
<td>Weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Literacy Rate</td>
<td>99.50</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>99.5%</td>
<td>V. Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mean Years of Schooling</td>
<td>12.70</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>90.7%</td>
<td>M. Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety and Security (88.9%)</td>
<td>Homicide Rate</td>
<td>5.21</td>
<td>#/100,000 inhab.</td>
<td>77.7%</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Theft Rate</td>
<td>24.41</td>
<td>#/100,000 inhab.</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>V. Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Space (36.2%)</td>
<td>Green Area per Capita</td>
<td>9.70</td>
<td>m² / inhabitant</td>
<td>64.7%</td>
<td>M. Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Accessibility to Open Public Space</td>
<td>7.80</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>V. Weak</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 6: Quality of Life Indicators**
ANALYSIS OF EQUITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION DIMENSION

An inclusive city promotes equitable privileges 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. 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. And should include a significant reduction in all forms of poverty and marginalization. The findings show that the city has an ESII of 64.3% which implies a highly equitable and inclusive city. The table also shows a breakdown of the equity and social inclusion dimension into its sub-dimensions and highlights areas of strength and weaknesses. It shows that economic inclusion and gender inclusion are very strong pillars of inclusion in the city.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Dimension</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Standardized</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic Inclusion (73.7%)</td>
<td>Poverty Rate</td>
<td>0.86</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>77.7%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Inclusion (41.4%)</td>
<td>Slum Households</td>
<td>13.80</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>82.8%</td>
<td>V. Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Youth Unemployment</td>
<td>63.60</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Inclusion (82.8%)</td>
<td>Equitable Secondary School Enrollment</td>
<td>0.94</td>
<td>0 - ∞</td>
<td>94.0%</td>
<td>V. Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women in local government</td>
<td>49.31</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>98.6%</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women in the workforce</td>
<td>14.20</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>28.4%</td>
<td>V. Weak</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

However, the city has a considerable weakness in social inclusion, especially youth unemployment which is very high and the number of women in the workforce which is also too low.
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 and the natural assets and resources are well-preserved for the future generation. The findings show that the city of Abha has very weak environmental sustainability with an ESI score of 31.9%. Waste management in the city is moderately good, but energy consumption purely comprises of nonrenewable sources.

Table 5: Environmental Sustainability Index (31.9%)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-Dimension</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Actual</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Standardized</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Energy (0.0%)</td>
<td>Share of renewable energy consumption</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>ug/m3</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>V. Weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Solid Waste Collection</td>
<td>99.00</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>99.0%</td>
<td>V. Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste Management (63.8%)</td>
<td>Solid waste recycling share</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>V. Weak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waste water treatment</td>
<td>92.40</td>
<td>%</td>
<td>92.4%</td>
<td>V. Strong</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The city’s strong waste management system, especially in solid waste collection and waste water 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 are imperative for the realization of prosperity in cities.

Through effective urban governance and accountable leadership, cities can achieve sustainability and shared prosperity; deploy appropriate and effective policies, laws and regulations, and create adequate institutional frameworks. To this end the city of Abha has performed 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 management of municipal finances (88.1%). Nonetheless, citizen participation is still very low.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 6: Governance and Legislation Index (67.3%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Dimension</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation &amp; Accountability (46.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Finance (88.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although data on governance and legislation was largely unavailable, the available data indicates more voter registration and education is needed.

| Figure 9: Governance and Legislation Indicators |
### SWOT ANALYSIS BASED ON CITY PROSPERITY INDEX ASSESSMENT

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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 7: CPI Based SWOT Analysis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### STRENGTH

1. Good economic growth fundamentals such as moderately, low old age dependency ratio and good employment factors are good for the city economic stability.

2. High literacy rate: the youth and women have untapped potential to contribute allot to economic growth. There is allot of unutilised skilled manpower (human capital), especially among women.

3. Good safety and security, as well as political stability, provide a conducive environment for growth and development.

4. There is good healthcare provision in the city: a healthy population is productive, happy and peaceful.

5. Equitable secondary school enrolment is a very strong point towards achieving gender balance and inclusion.

6. Low level of poverty in the city is good more people are economically empowered to participate in economic development.

#### WEAKNESSES

1. Low economic density – possibly due to many undeveloped lands 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. Poor access to water and sanitation facilities – reduces the quality of life in the city and heighten deprivation level.

3. Few public libraries – libraries promote learning and access to information and provide empowering knowledge.

4. Low physician density – compromises the quality of healthcare.

5. Low internet access and low broadband speeds – obstructs growth in the ICT sector. Low internet access stifled development and innovation in the ICT sector.

6. 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.

7. 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.

#### OPPORTUNITIES

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 early morning and evening.

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 workforce.

4. For the environment – the high of solid waste collection is a good starting point for recycling and ensuring a clean environment.

#### THREATS

1. Youth unemployment is too high in the city; this is not good as hard economic times made the youth vulnerable and exposed to bad influence like extremism. Youth unemployment needs to be addressed.

2. High investment is required to meet the needs of the rapidly growing population.

3. There are other factors affecting the already low usage of public transport such as cultural and extreme temperature unless they are appropriately addressed they may affect the usage of the Metro Train system as a public transport system when it is completed.

4. 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.
ABOUT URBAN OBSERVATORIES

Urban Observatories is a global network with the following tiers: Global Urban Observatory (GUO) – Regional Urban Observatories (RUO) National Urban Observatories (NUO) Local Urban Observatories (LUO) (city level). NUOs are national platforms for policy information the country level, coordinated by GUO. LUOs are local platforms for policy information at the city level, coordinated by National Urban Observatories.

The following are the main roles of Local Urban Observatories: Develop tools, collect and analyze urban indicators to monitor a range of local priority issues – e.g. social development, economic performance, service delivery. LUO should establish permanent mechanisms for monitoring MDGs and Urban Development Indicators; 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.

They should help to disseminate information to strengthen transparency and create a network of data management and flow from the sources and to the consumers; Help create or catalyse new partnerships between (National Statistical Office and local authority, Different municipal departments, Citizens and local authority); Establish strong links with local policy making processes.

According to a rapid survey conducted by UN-Habitat-KSA in June 2015 targeting 17 LUO/cities, it was found that only 15 LUOs exist. The findings showed that 88% of Local Urban Observatories are under Municipal Departments while 12% are under Authority Development. It also revealed that 71% of the Local Urban Observatories are Active while the operations of 23% are suspended due to staff/contractual arrangements. In terms of connections with the GIS departments, 59% of the LUOs have connections with the GIS department while 18% do not. The findings showed 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 analysing 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. This placed the LUO in Abha as the 3rd best performing LUO after Makkah with 300 urban indicators and Taif (221).

In addition to producing urban indicators, the LUO in Abha had also collected 60 out of 72 CPI indicators, at least according to a rapid survey conducted by UN-Habitat-KSA in June 2015. By June 2016 they are still the highest with the same number of indicators. One survey has been conducted for producing the spatial indicators of the city of Abha.
REFERENCES

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- UN-Habitat NATIONAL SPATIAL FRAMEWORKS: Lessons Learnt from International Experiences