



وزارة الشؤون  
البلدية و القروية  
Ministry of Municipal & Rural Affairs

# CPI PROFILE ARAR

**UNO HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

مستقبل المدن السعودية  
FUTURE SAUDI CITIES



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## **Introduction**

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) and Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs (MOMRA) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia jointly launched the “Future Saudi Cities Programme (FSCP)”. The UN-HABITAT Office has been providing technical support to the MOMRA and targets 17 main cities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The cities include Riyadh, Makkah, Jeddah, Taif, Medina, Tabouk, Dammam, Qatif, Al Ahsa, 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 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 made up of 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, quality of life, environmental sustainability, and urban governance and legislation. The CPI uses the concept of ‘The Wheel of Urban Prosperity’ and the ‘Global Scale of Urban Prosperity’ to enable stakeholders to assess achievements in their respective cities. The City Prosperity Index (CPI) not only provides indices and measurements relevant to cities, but it is also an assessment tool that enables city authorities, local and national stakeholders, and policy-makers to identify opportunities and potential areas of intervention for their cities to become more prosperous.

Under the FSCP, UN-HABITAT, MOMRA, and Arar Municipality together with its Local Urban Observatory has been working on developing urban statistics and spatial information (analyzed through Geographic Information System(GIS)) to provide relevant urban information that strongly supports evidence-based decision-making process on urban development and urban planning in the city.

This CPI Profile Report applies the CPI framework and provides 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, quality of life, equity and social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and urban governance and legislation.

The CPI was developed by UN-Habitat to provide 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 an urban future that is economically, politically, socially and environmentally prosperous. The CPI is a multidimensional framework that integrates six dimensions made up of 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, quality of life, environmental sustainability, and urban governance and legislation. The CPI uses the concept of ‘The Wheel of Urban Prosperity’ and the ‘Global Scale of Urban Prosperity’ to enable cities assess achievements in terms of service delivery to their residents. The CPI not only provides indices and measurements relevant to cities, but it is also an assessment tool that enables city authorities, local and national stakeholders, and policy-makers to

identify opportunities and potential areas of intervention for their cities to become more prosperous.

### **Overview of Arar City**

Arar is in northern Saudi Arabia near the Iraqi border. It is the capital of Northern Borders Region in Saudi Arabia. The region is sub-divided into three governorates, Arar, Rafha, and Turayf. It is known for its fertile pasture lands which support its principal occupation of sheep and camel herding. The city serves as a significant supply stop for travelers on the Saudi Arabian highway 85.

### **History of the City**

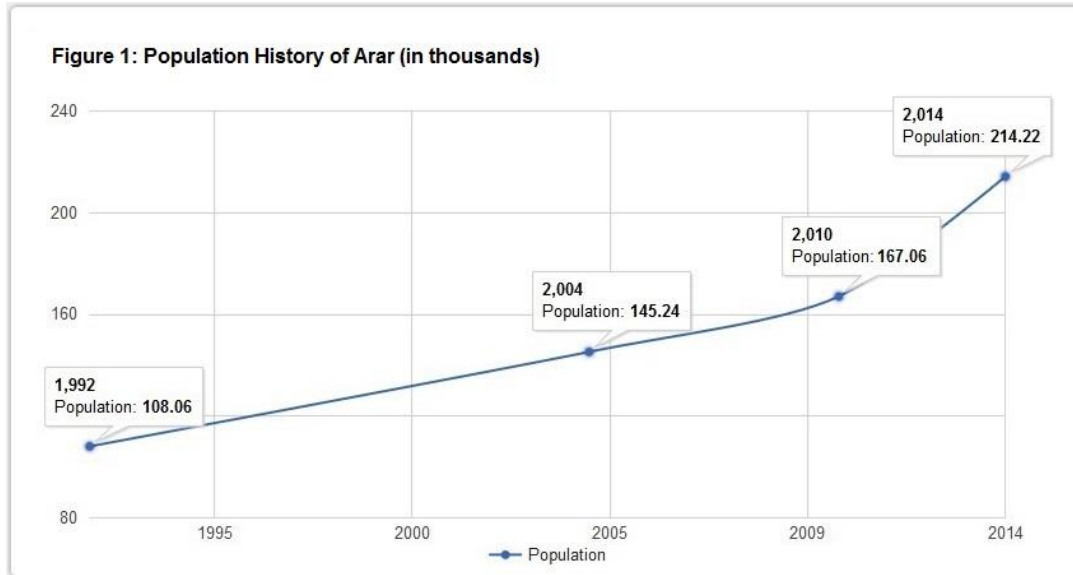
The city of Arar was founded in 1951 after the construction of the Aramco oil pipeline (Tapline). It was initially an oil pumping station with a health center and workers housing. Workers at Arar were primarily from the regional cities of Al-Ahsa, Ha'il, Yanbu and Al Wajh. Arar got its name from the original oil field that existed before the town, "Field RR", one of many in the country, where it was known by the locals as "R.R." which later became Ar ar. The name Arar also means juniper (evergreen shrub or trees) in Arabic. In 1968, the remains of an ancient city were unearthed 30 km from the city of 'Ar'ar. The site yielded numerous sculptures of fish, turtles and other aquatic animals.

### **Geography and Location of the City**

Arar is in the north of Saudi Arabia, in the heart of a vast rocky limestone plain. It lies about 1100 km northwest of Riyadh, and about 60 km from the Iraqi border and 1,451.3 km away from Jeddah. Arar climate is described as moderately hot desert with an annual average temperature of 28.8°C (high), but the temperature can go as high as 40°C in summer; the annual average low is 14.47°C, but it can go as low as 3°C during winter. The average annual precipitation is 96 mm. The city is situated at 537m above sea level.

### **Demographic Background of the City**

The city is the headquarter of a region with the lowest population in the country. The population of the entire Northern Borders Region, including the cities of Rafha, Turayf and Alaoiqilah and suburban villages and their inhabitants, was 320,524 at the 2010 census.



Source: Population.city (march 2018)

The population of Arar city stood at about 219,080 people in 2016. This was as a result of a steady increase from 145,240 in 2004 to 161,057 in 2010; this was followed by a sharp increase to 214,220 people in 2014. This may have occurred due to frequent labour related immigration into the city of Arar. In 2010, the number of household in the city was 24804, with an average household size of 7.7 persons per household.

### Socio-Economic Background of the City

About a half of the region where Arar is located is covered in sand and gravel desert. Winter in Arar is superb as most of the valleys will be lush in vegetation and carpeted with flowers making it a moderate tourist and holiday destination. People in the suburbs find great fun in hunting with hawks and falcons and Arar is the main station of the sporting activity; it also attracts tourists into the area. It will be one of the main events that a tourist will remember after a visit to the region.

Table 1: Number of establishments according to economic activity and sector type 2010		
Economics Activity	Economic Sector	Economic Indicator

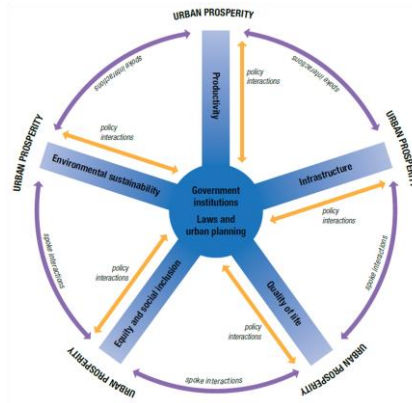
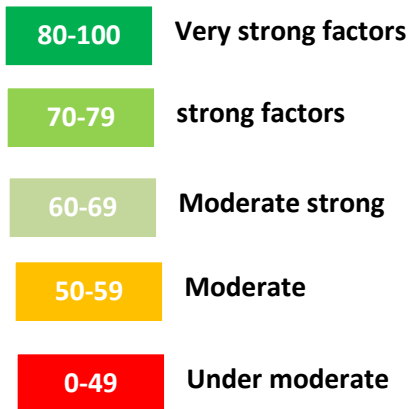
	Private	Public	Non-Profit	Total	Percent	Revenues		Expenditure	Operating surplus
						Total	%		
Agriculture and Fishing	42	0	3	45	0.6%	38150	0.4%	15222	22928
Oil and minerals	12	0	0	12	0.2%	2996804	29.7%	330886	2665918
Transformational industries (TI)	1150	1	0	1151	16.3%	1612597	16.0%	1111004	501593
Electricity, gas and water	39	8	2	49	0.7%	272990	2.7%	178146	94844
Construction	105	0	0	105	1.5%	695447	6.9%	348918	346529
Wholesale and retail trade	4134	1	1	4136	58.4%	3175719	31.4%	2468902	706817
Hotels and restaurants	695	0	2	697	9.8%	281237	2.8%	17924	263313
Transport, storage and telecommunications	127	9	1	137	1.9%	572777	5.7%	328909	243868
Financial intermediation	15	0	0	15	0.2%	201135	2.0%	113481	87654
Real estate, rent, and commercial projects	214	1	0	215	3.0%	119103	1.2%	76084	43019
Education	17	0	1	18	0.3%	17585	0.2%	11128	6457
Health and social services	21	0	11	32	0.5%	52808	0.5%	25194	27614
Collective and personal services	460	2	3	465	6.6%	62899	0.6%	39682	23217
<b>Total</b>	<b>7031</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>7077</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>10,099,251</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>5,065,480</b>	<b>5,033,771</b>

Source: Results of the Annual Economic Establishments Survey - 2010

Table 1 above lists the main economic activities by sectors in Arar showing the revenues obtained from each of the activity. From the table, the largest economic activity with highest revenue is the wholesale and retail trade sector accounting for 58.4% of the economic sector; it contributes 31.4% of the city's total revenue. The second most important economic activity in terms of revenue contribution is the Oil and minerals that contributes 29.7% of the total revenues and represents 0.2% of all the economic activities in the city. The second largest sector in terms of economic activities is the Transformation industries that accounts for 16.3% of the city's economic activity, but contributes 16% of total city revenue. Other important sectors in order of revenues are the Construction sector; Transport, storage and telecommunications; Electricity, gas and water; and the financial intermediation sector.

### The City Prosperity Index (CPI)

Prosperity implies success, wellbeing, thriving conditions, safety and security, long life, etc. Prosperity in cities is about successfully meeting today's needs without compromising the needs of tomorrow and working together for a smart and competitive economy in an inclusive and healthy society, in a vibrant environment for individuals, families, and communities. Prosperity in cities is a process; cities can be at different stages or level of prosperity. To measure the level and track how cities progress on the path to becoming prosperous, UN-Habitat introduced a monitoring framework called The Cities Prosperity Index (CPI). The CPI is a composite index with six carefully selected dimensions that captures all important elements of prosperity in city cities. The 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 formulate evidence-based policies and interventions for their cities.



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

The CPI allows authorities and local groups to identify opportunities and potential areas for action or adjustments to make their cities more prosperous. It is a multidimensional framework that integrates several dimensions and indicators that are not only related but have a direct and indirect influence on prosperity in cities. These components are embodied in the six dimensions of the CPI: Productivity, Infrastructure Development, Quality of life, Equity and Social inclusion, Environmental sustainability, and Urban Governance and legislation. Each of the dimensions is comprised of indicators, which are measured in different units. The indicators are normalized into values ranging between 0 and 1 during the computation of the final score. The normalized values are then aggregated stepwise to create the single value called the City Prosperity Index.

The subsequent sections apply the CPI framework, the concept of the Wheel of Urban Prosperity and the Scale of Urban Prosperity to assess the level of prosperity in the city. The assessment provides an examination of prosperity in the city of Arar, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses in the factors of prosperity (using the scale of urban prosperity); provides an indication of the level of achievement towards the set prosperity goals (according to the magnitude of the CPI scores); and highlights whether there are disparities between and within the six dimensions of prosperity (using the Wheel of Urban Prosperity to depict balance). Findings from the assessment will help to identify sub dimensions and indicators that contributes to high or low values of the dimensions and the CPI.

### **Data Challenges and Solutions**

The biggest challenge facing CPI implementation work is the unavailability of data disaggregated to the city level. The problem is compounded by the fact that most statistics in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are produced at the national and regional level; there is no disaggregation by City, Rural or Urban. In addition, CPI list of indicators contain some unique indicators that are not part of the body of indicators that are officially collected or produced in the standard official government reports. Such indicators include the City GDP, the share of renewable energy consumption and length of mass transport system among others.



In the case of the city of Arar the following four dimensions were used productivity, Infrastructure development, Quality of life and Equity and social Inclusion; the dimensions of environmental sustainability and Governance were not used. . In terms of indicators, the following were not available: Informal employment, Access to improved shelter, access to electricity, access to improved water, Access to improved sanitation, Sufficient living area, broadband speed, Affordability of transport, Length of mass transport, road safety, use of public transport, Life expectancy, Maternal mortality, Under 5 mortality, Vaccination coverage, Green area per capita, Access to open public space, Gini coefficient, and slum households. Other missing indicators include all under Environmental sustainability dimension and Governance and legislation dimension.

Due to variation in the types and number of indicators available for each city, it is not advisable to compare the level of prosperity between cities. Collection of information and data on all these indicators should continue so that they can be included in future CPI estimations.

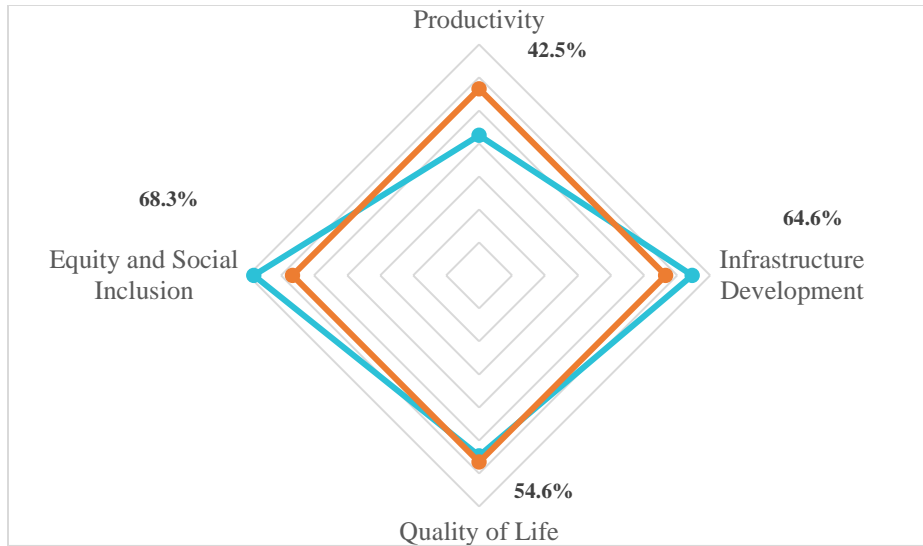
It is better to include few reliable and accurate indicators than using any data available; that way the result of the CPI can reliably be used in decision making, policy formulation and avoid ending up with any form of misguided interventions.

It is, therefore, advisable to make conclusions and recommendations based on the dimensional or sub-dimensional indices; not the overall CPI.

### **The Overall City Prosperity Index for Arar**

The overall CPI index is the aggregate of the six dimensions of prosperity in cities. Due to data unavailability, the overall index for Arar was calculated using four dimensions. As mentioned in earlier sections, this does not invalidate the dimensional and sub dimensional indices, it only makes the overall CPI not comparable with other cities. The chart in Figure 3 shows the scores for each of the four dimensions as represented by the blue line. The city of Arar has an overall index score of 57.5%, according to the global scale of urban prosperity the city is having moderate factors of prosperity (represented by the orange line in the radar chart). The shape of the blue line indicates the presence of disparity between the dimensions. Cities are better off with high scores and fewer disparities between and within the dimensions. The observed weakness or low scores is an indication that the city has some moderate factors within its dimensions; these factors should be identified and improved. The advantage of having a balanced city is that at whatever level of prosperity, no segment of the city population or area suffers extreme deprivations compared to the rest. For this reason, it is sometimes advisable that strong factors can be maintained while improving extremely low factors to acceptable levels

**Figure 3: City Prosperity Index Dimensions**



The analysis in the following sections will dig deeper into all the four dimensions individually to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses to enable the design of appropriate interventions.

### **The Productivity Dimension**

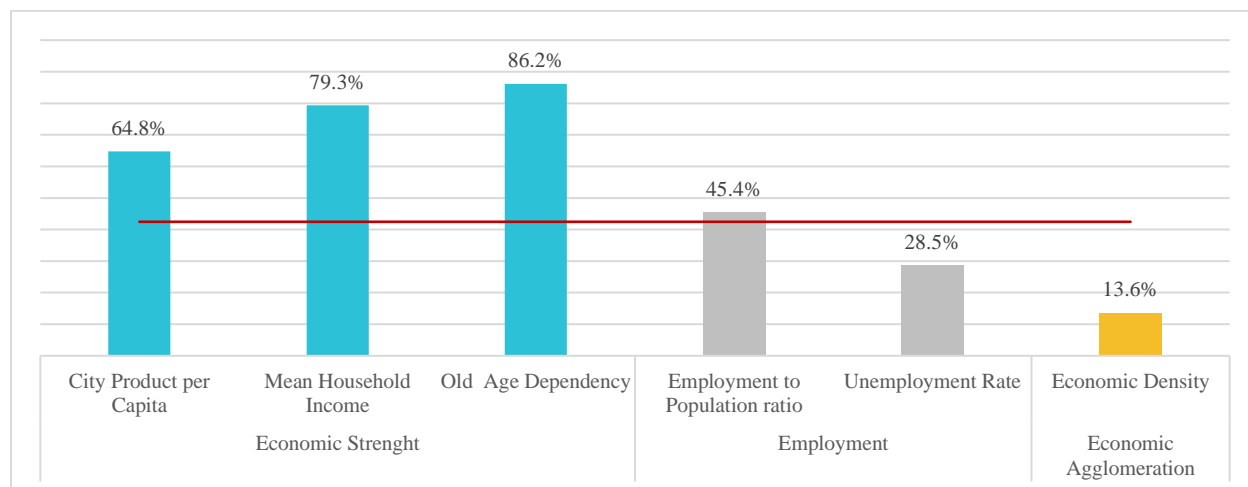
The productivity dimension measures the effectiveness and level of achievements of the initiatives and investments that are aimed at improving economic growth and employment in the city. In general, it captures the city’s contribution to economic growth and development, employment creation and availability of equal opportunities to the city dwellers. The findings in table 2 show that the productivity index for the City of Arar is 42.5%, which ranks as under moderate according to the global scale of prosperity. The under moderate rating implies that the city’s productivity factors are showing signs of existing under moderate prosperity factors. From the three sub dimensions only economic growth sub-dimension (76.8%) is strong, while the employment (37%) and economic agglomeration (13.6%) are showing under moderate prosperity factors. Economic agglomeration measures the spatial distribution of the outcomes of productivity or the economic benefits of prosperity.

**Table 2: Productivity Index(42.5%)**

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Economic Growth (76.8%)	City Product per Capita	18,549.33	USD (PPP)/ Inhabitants	64.8%	M. Strong
	Mean Household Income	36,822.40	USD(PPP)	79.3%	Strong
	Old Age Dependency Ratio	4.20	%	86.2%	V. Strong
Employment (37.0%)	Employment to Population Ratio	50.72	%	45.4%	Under moderate
	Informal Employment	-	%	-	-
	Unemployment Rate <sup>1</sup>	13.85	%	28.5%	Under moderate
Economic Agglomeration (13.6%)	Economic Density	116,774,983	USD (PPP)/ km <sup>2</sup>	13.6%	Under moderate

The following indicators are too low and need to be prioritized for in-depth analysis and subsequent improvements; the employment to population ratio, unemployment rate, and economic density. By addressing problem with these indicators, the productivity of the city should move from under moderate to strong. Figure 4 shows the levels for each indicator, it shows the level of balance between indicators and the red line represents the productivity dimensional index.

**Figure 4: Productivity Indicators**



### The Infrastructure Dimension

Urban infrastructure plays a central role in the proper functioning of a city and contributes to the general urban growth and development. Sufficient Infrastructure fosters the delivery of public health services, safety and security, supports the local economic development and contributes toward the delivery of other basic public services to the community. The benefits of a functional urban infrastructure are overwhelmingly important to the community as a whole. Basic services such as piped water, sanitation, power supply, road network, and information and communications technology are required to sustain the population, for economic development, and a better quality

<sup>1</sup> This indicator is approximated based on regional data

of life. From table 3, the city of Arar has a moderately strong infrastructure development index score of 64.6%. The city enjoys a strong ICT infrastructure with 72.9% and a very strong street connectivity infrastructure with 85.9%. Nevertheless, there are moderate and under moderate sub-dimensions, among them are social infrastructure with 57.5%, and the housing infrastructure with 42%, though many of the indicators under housing were not included<sup>2</sup>. Due to data availability, the urban mobility infrastructure sub-dimension was not included. Other sub-dimensions which were seriously affected by the data problem include the housing infrastructure and the social infrastructure sub-dimension.

**Table 3: Infrastructure Development Index**

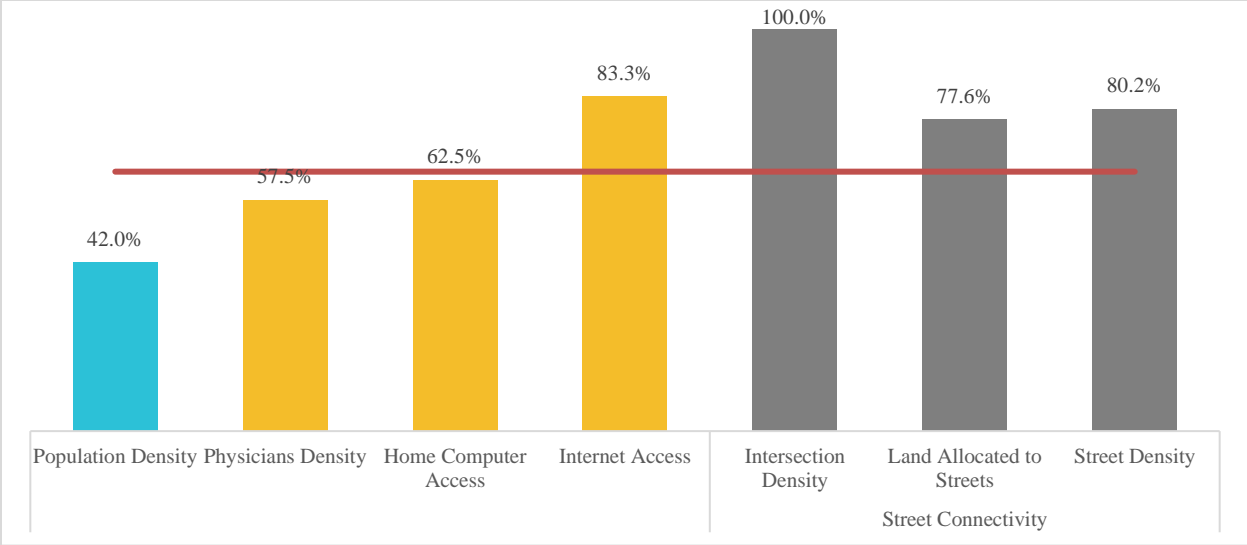
Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
<b>Housing Infrastructure (42%)</b>	Access to Electricity	-	%	-	-
	Access to Improved Sanitation	-	%	-	-
	Access to Improved Water	-	%	-	-
	Access to Improved Shelter	-	%	-	-
	Population Density	6,295.37	Inhabitants /Km2	42.0%	Under moderate
	Sufficient Living Area	-	%	-	-
<b>Social Infrastructure (57.5%)</b>	Number of Public Libraries	-	#/100,000 inhabitants.	-	-
	Physician Density	2.69	#/1,000 inhabitants.	57.5%	moderate
<b>ICT (72.9%)</b>	Average Broadband Speed	-	Mbps	-	-
	Home Computer Access	62.50	%	62.5%	M. Strong
	Internet Access	83.33	%	83.3%	V. Strong
<b>Street Connectivity (85.9%)</b>	Intersection Density	115.40	#/km2	100.0%	V. Strong
	Land Allocated to Streets	29.27	%	77.6%	Strong
	Street Density	16.03	Km/KM2	80.2%	V. Strong

The ICT infrastructure needs improvements especially by increasing the number of households with access to home computers. Street connectivity is very strong but there is still room for improvements especially in terms of land allocated to streets and street density. Regarding the housing infrastructure, more efforts and resources should be invested in ensuring data availability so that reliable estimation can be made possible.

Figure 5 shows the scores for each of the available indicators depicting the level of imbalance between the indicators of infrastructure development. The red line represents the dimensional index.

**Figure 5: Infrastructure Development Indicators**

<sup>2</sup> Missing indicators includes access to electricity, Access to Improved Sanitation, Access to Improved Water Access to Improved Shelter



**The Quality of Life Dimension**

Factors that contribute to the high quality of life in urban areas include availability and easy access to quality healthcare, quality education, and good safety and security. The quality of life index is a measure of the level of achievement a city has made in the provision of these services and facilities that directly affect the well-being of individuals and the society at large. Such services and facilities may include social services, education, health, recreation, safety, and security, etc. According to the findings in table 4, the quality of life index for the city of Arar is moderate (54.6%) indicative of moderate prosperity factors. However, the quality of life dimension is one of the indicators that were seriously affected by the data unavailability problem. For that reason, the healthcare and public space sub-dimensions were not included. The other sub-dimension that was also affected by the same problem was the education sub-dimension where only two indicators were available.

Therefore, it is safe to say that although other factors of quality of life in the city are moderate, the city’s safety and security is very good (87%) and this is very important for the stability and growth of the city.

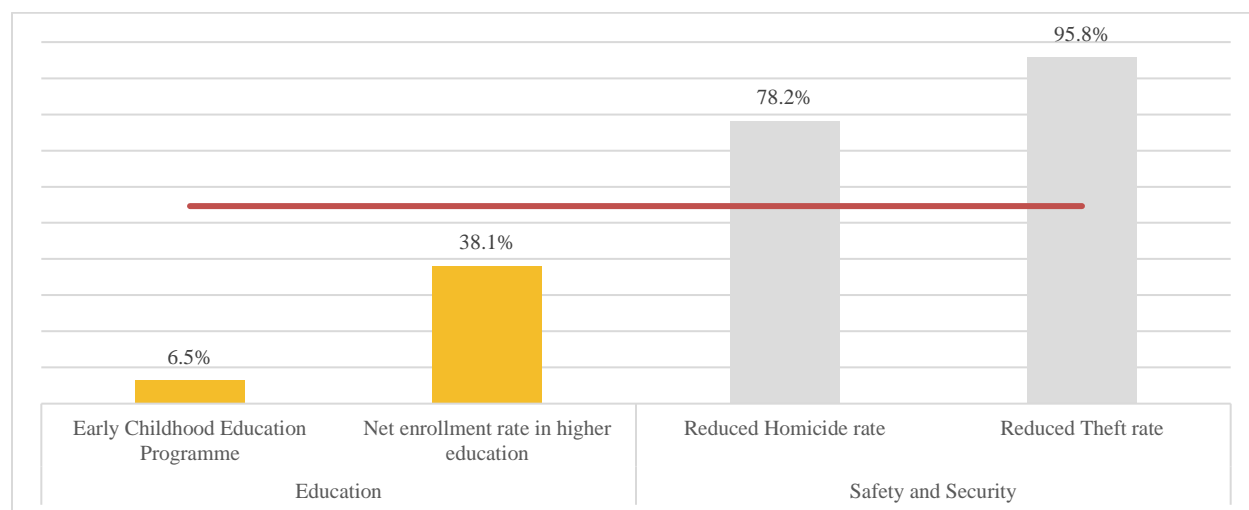
**Table 4: Quality of Life Index(54.6%)**

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
<b>Education (22.3%)</b>	Early Childhood Education	6.45	%	6.5%	Under moderate
	Net Enrolment in Higher Education	38.07	%	38.1%	Under moderate
	Literacy Rate	-	%	-	-
	Mean Years of Schooling	-	%	-	-
<b>Safety and Security (87%)</b>	Homicide Rate	5.02	#/100,000 inhabitants.	78.2%	V. Strong
	Theft Rate	40.17	#/100,000 inhabitants.	95.8%	V. Strong

Increasing the level of quality of life would require that more investment be directed towards the undermoderate indicators such as the early childhood education programmes, and the net

enrolment in higher education and work towards reducing the rate of homicide cases in the city. Figure 6 shows the levels and the disparities between the indicators as well as the dimensional index, represented by the red line.

**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 problem, the index was calculated for the gender inclusion sub-dimension only. The results in table 5 indicate that the city of Arar has a moderately strong gender inclusion factors (68.3%). Arar is fairly an inclusive and equitable city in terms of gender inclusion. This strength is attributed to the high level Equitable secondary school enrollment (85.3%) and the number of women in local government (84.9%). However, the level of Women in the workforce is very low (34.7%). 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.

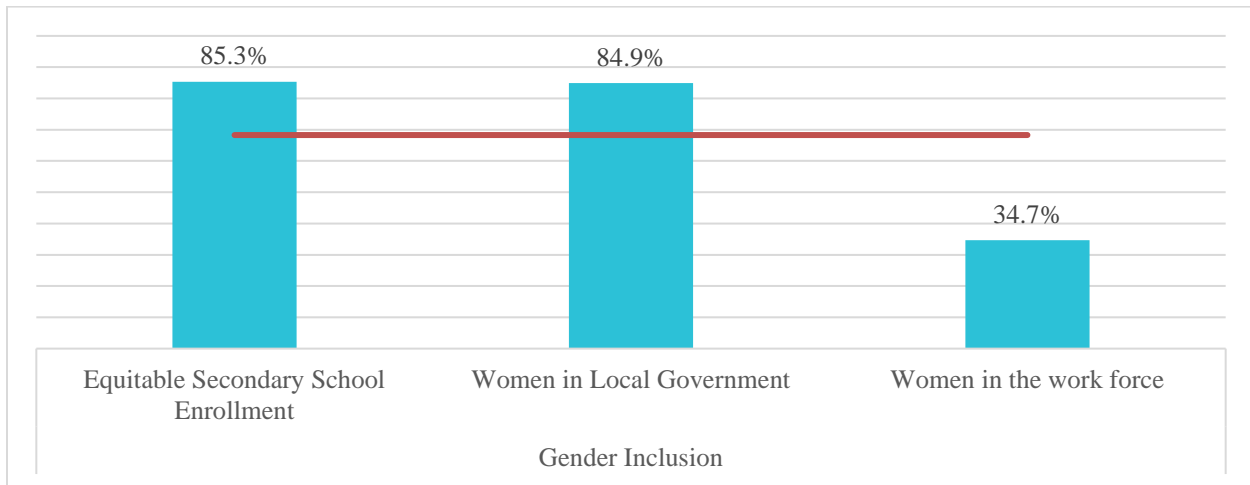
**Table 5: Equity and Social Inclusion Index (68.3%)**

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Gender Inclusion (68.3%)	Equitable Secondary School Enrollment	0.85	0 - ∞	85.3%	V. Strong
	Women in local government	42.44	%	84.9%	V. Strong
	Women in the workforce	17.35	%	34.7%	Under moderate

In general, the city of Arar has more strong factors of gender equity and inclusion than the under moderate factors. Nonetheless, the city should increase the number of women in the workforce and improve the economic integration aspect to put the city on its path to an equitable, inclusive and prosperous city.

The bar chart in Figure 7 shows the levels for each of the indicators used and line for the dimensional index, represented by the red line.

**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 PM<sub>10</sub> & PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentration, CO<sub>2</sub> 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 Assessment

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

**Table 8: CPI Based SWOT Analysis**

<b>STRENGTH: List of Strong Indicators</b>	<b>WEAKNESSES: List of Weak Indicators</b>
<p><b>Productivity Dimension:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Product per Capita</li> <li>• Old Age Dependency Ratio</li> <li>• Mean Household Income</li> </ul> <p><b>Infrastructure Development Dimension</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home Computer Access</li> <li>• Internet Access</li> <li>• Land Allocated to Streets</li> <li>• Intersection Density</li> <li>• Street Density</li> </ul> <p><b>Quality of Life Dimension</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homicide Rate</li> <li>• Theft Rate</li> </ul>	<p><b>Productivity Dimension:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment to Population Ratio</li> <li>• Economic Density</li> <li>• Unemployment Rate</li> </ul> <p><b>Infrastructure Development Dimension</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residential Density</li> <li>• Physician Density</li> </ul> <p><b>Quality of Life Dimension</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Childhood Education</li> <li>• Net Enrolment in Higher Education</li> </ul> <p><b>Equity and Social Inclusion Dimension</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Women in the workforce</li> </ul>
<p><b>OPPORTUNITIES: Indicators that creates an opportunity.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Old Age Dependency Ratio</b> – low burden on the productive population promotes growth.</li> <li>• <b>Good safety and Security</b> –in the city provides a favorable environment for both domestic and direct foreign investment.</li> <li>• <b>Women in the workforce</b> – although this is a weakness it provides an opportunity to tap into the huge resource of educated and skill Saudi Women.</li> </ul>	<p><b>THREATS: Indicator that can pose threat to prosperity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Low Employment to Population Ratio</b> – the city can't create enough job opportunities.</li> <li>• <b>Physician Density</b> – if not checked there is a risk of a reducing health care quality as population increases.</li> <li>• <b>Early Childhood Education</b> – the city risk having a large population of youth/people without education.</li> </ul>

## 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 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.

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