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CPI PROFILE

TAIF

The Future Saudi Cities Programme
CPI PROFILE - Taif

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Introduction

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

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

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

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

Historical Background of the City

The history of Taif goes back to very ancient time periods estimated at more than 2,000 years ago. The city’s location and as an early urban center during the pre-Islam Era made it acquires global

reputation it became a commercial hub attracting people from far places such as the Romans, Persians, Abyssinia, Yemen and Syria. Among the most important archaeological treasures of Taif includes a number of Islamic distinctive monuments including dams, inscriptions and architecture. One of the biggest tourist attractions is the (Maglaa Tamiah), which is a natural phenomenon, it is a huge hole deep and wide hole on the ground believed to have been created when meteorite hit the ground.

Geography and Location

The city of Taif is located in the southeastern part of Makkah between latitudes 20-22 degrees and longitudes 40-42 degrees. It is linked to Makkah by two roads: the first one is called (Aqabat Al-Hada) is 68 km long and passes through the Kara Mountains and the other one passes through (Miqat Qarn-Almanazil) and is about 90 km long. Taif is located on the eastern slopes of the Al Sarawat Mountains at an altitude of about 1700 m above sea-level and exhibits the typical hot desert climate. However, its summer climate is much cooler than other parts of the Kingdom and this makes it a pleasant refuge from extreme hot and dry weather in most parts of the Kingdom. Precipitation is low but all months see some rain with more rain in spring and late autumn than in other months. The city covers a land area of about 1036Km², out of which 95.1km² is the urban footprint area and 58% of the urban footprint area is built-up density area while the remaining 42% is the non-built-up area.

Demographic Background

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

In terms of population, in 1974 Taif city was the fourth largest city among the ten main cities of the Kingdom "Riyadh, Jeddah, Makkah, Taif, Madinah, Dammam, Tabuk, Buraydah, Abha, and Hail". During this period the city's population increase from 211,095 in 1974 to 416,121 in 1992. By 1992 the city had dropped in rank to position five among the same cities and the first four included Riyadh, Dammam, Jeddah, and Medinah in order of population size. This was because the economies of cities like Dammam and Medina were increasing faster. The trend continued and by 2004 the population was 519,758 and the city's rank dropped further to become the sixth largest city, it was overtaken by Makkah. According to the 2010 census the population was 580,000 and it had been overtaken in rank by two more cities (Hofuf and Almibraz) and became the eighth largest city in the Kingdom, another city Al Ahsa joined the top 10. By 2015 the city's population

was estimated to be 635,327 and there are about 118,976 households each with an average of 5 persons per household. The general population density within the built-up area of the city is about 5000 people per square kilometer. In a nutshell, the population of the city have tripled in the last three decades but in the same period moved from the fourth largest city to the eighth largest city in the Kingdom.

Socio-Economic Background

The city of Taif is one of the cities having the most diversified economic base in the kingdom. First it is considered the most touristic city in the Kingdom especially during summers thanks to its favorable weather. In summers the temperature in Taif is relatively lower than other parts of the country, this has made it the official summer capital of the state. During summer period the city is a popular tourist destination among Saudis who travel to the city to enjoy the weather (which is much cooler than Jeddah and Makkah). It also has beautiful scenery and a unique relaxed atmosphere. Other than its beautiful scenery, one of its biggest tourist attractions is the (Maglaa Tamiah), which is a natural phenomenon, it is a huge hole on the ground that is deep and wide. It is believed that it was created when meteorite hit the ground millions of years ago. The tourism industry provides thousands of jobs to local residents.

Agriculture is another major component of the local economy, traditionally the tribes in Taif area grew wheat, barley, and fruits including limes, apricots, oranges, olives, figs, peaches, pomegranates, watermelons, quince, grapes, almonds and dates. Taif is famous as an agricultural town and it is nicknamed the city of roses, and God has granted Taif a large stock of water and good fertile soil and beautiful weather which give it a good reputation.

The city is characterized by its location on a major junction made up of roads coming from the north, south, east and west. This has made the city to be considered one of the most important commercial cities in the Kingdom and also one of the most important gates to The Holy Mosque (HARAM) which adds to its greater commercial and service role. The city also has a huge military presence.

Table: The structure of the urban economic activities.

Sectors of economic activities	Percentage)
Military and government sector	35.0%
Education, health, and social services	33.5%
Industry, electricity, mining, and construction	7.0%
Agriculture	2.2%
Trade	21.8%
Tourism and recreation	0.5%
Total	100%

The economy of the city can, therefore, be summarized as follows:

- The city's urban core activities revolve around the military, government services and employment in the public sector, as well as related trade.
- Like other cities, Taif lacks a good public transport sector, most Saudi citizens depend on own private cars.
- The workers in the agricultural sector represent a small percentage due to the fact that productive agricultural areas are outside the urban area especially in areas protected from urban development and in the rest of city.
- The industrial sector and tourism and recreation have very little contribution despite huge potential.

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.

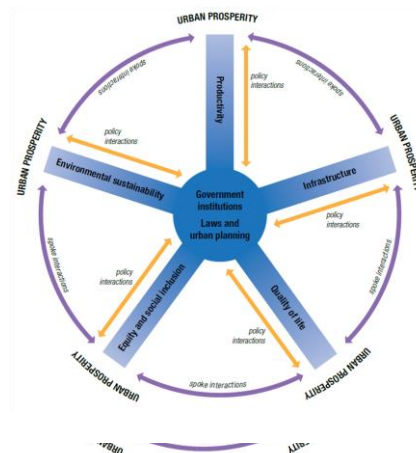
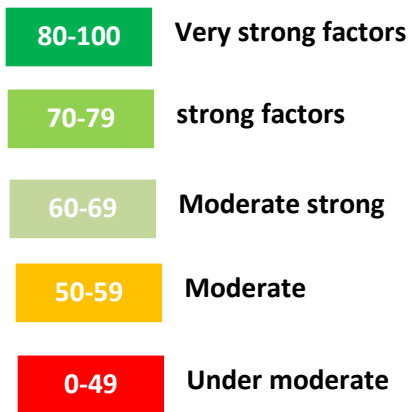


Figure 2: Scale of Urban Prosperity and the Wheel of Urban Prosperity

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 in regard to fostering prosperity in cities. These components are embodied in the following six dimensions: Productivity, Infrastructure Development, Quality of life, Equity and social inclusion, Environmental sustainability, and Governance and legislation. Each of the dimensions is comprised of several indicators measured differently. Since the indicators are measured in different units, the first step in the index computation involves the normalization of the indicators into values ranging between 0 and 11; the normalized values are then aggregated stepwise to create the single value called the City Prosperity Index.

The following sections apply the CPI framework, the concept of the Wheel of Urban Prosperity and the Scale of Urban Prosperity to conduct an assessment of the level of prosperity in the city. The assessment provides an indication of the strengths or weaknesses in the factors of prosperity (in reference to the scale of urban prosperity); it also provides an indication of the level of achievement towards the set prosperity goals (based on the magnitude of the CPI scores); and highlights whether there are disparities between and within the six dimensions of prosperity (based on the concept of the Wheel of Urban Prosperity-stressing balance). An in-depth analysis of the findings will help to identify which particular sub-dimensions and indicators contribute to high or low values in each of the dimensions and the CPI scores.

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

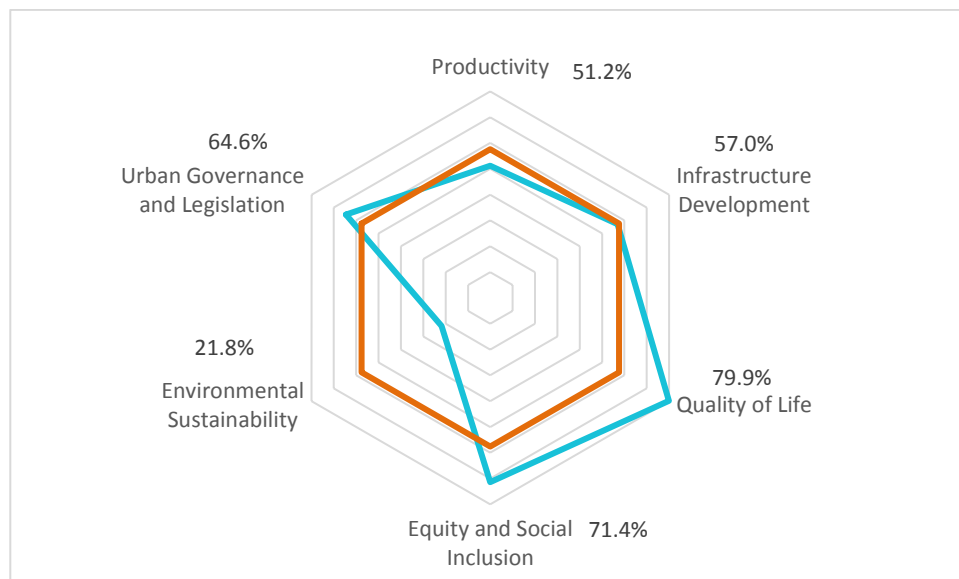
Overall City Prosperity Index for Taif City

The overall CPI index is the aggregate of the six dimensions. The city prosperity index shows that Taif city has moderately weak factors of prosperity. The overall city prosperity index for the city is 57.6%, this implies that the city has moderate prosperity factors. Out of the six dimensions, three are rated either strong or moderately strong while the other three are rated between under moderate and moderate; the strong dimensions include quality of life(79.9%), equity and social inclusion(71.4%), and urban governance(64.6%). Among the three dimensions rated moderate includes infrastructure dimension with 57%, productivity with 51% and the last and the least is environmental sustainability with 22%.

The imbalance within the environmental sustainability dimension can be observed in the blue line in the radar chart below, the shape of the polygon which ideally should take a smooth round shape have an irregular shape. This is an illustration of the lack of balance between factors of prosperity under the dimension. A combination where some indicators are too low while others are very high is undesirable²; a balanced city ensures that the citizens do not suffer extreme deprivations which are associated with very low indicators.

The blue line in the radar chart below shows the score for each of the dimensions used, the orange line represents the index or mean.

Figure 3: City Prosperity Index Dimensions



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

The analysis in the next sections will dissect all the indicators of prosperity for the Taif city and identify areas of strength and weaknesses and suggest areas which need urgent and appropriate interventions to improve the overall prosperity level in the city.

The Productivity Dimension

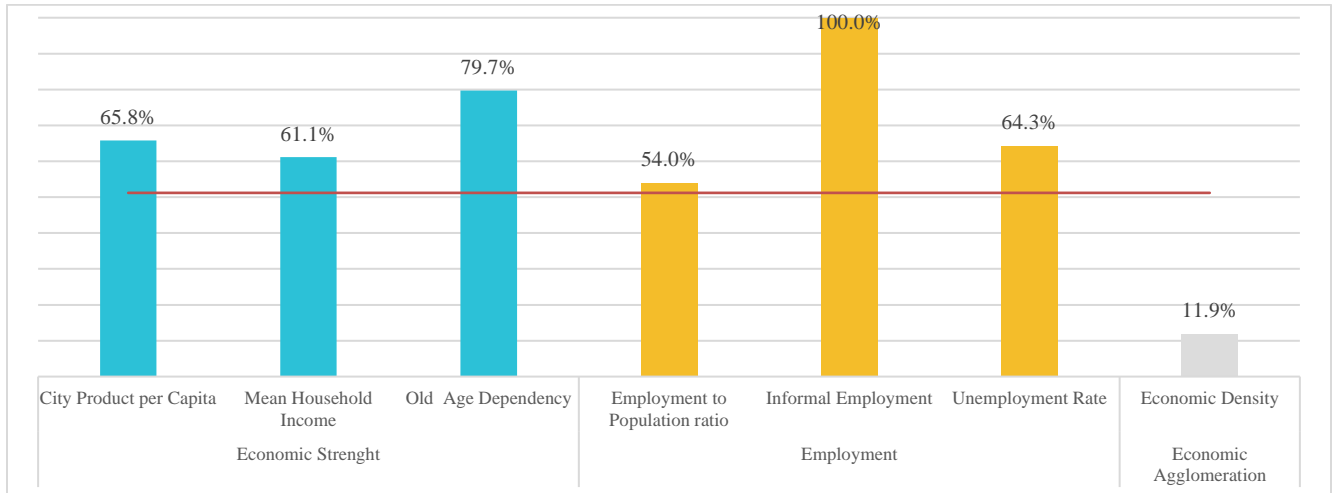
The productivity dimension measures how cities generate wealth and contribute to economic growth and development, how they generate individual income, employment and equal opportunities that advance adequate living standards for the entire population. The city of Taif has productivity index of 51.2% and therefore according to the global scale of prosperity, the city has moderate productivity factors. This rating implies that the city has certain policies and legislation that have a negative impact on the productivity of the city. In as much as it has strong employment indicators (72.8%) and moderately strong economic growth factor (68.9%), the economic agglomeration indicator (economic density) is very weak with a score of 11.9%. This points to the poor spatial distribution of economic activities across the city.

Table 1: Productivity Index (51.2%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Economic Growth (68.9%)	City Product per Capita	19,552.00	USD (PPP) /Inhab	65.8%	M. Strong
	Mean Household Income	29,824.00	USD(PPP)	61.1%	M. Strong
	Old Age Dependency Ratio	4.97	%	79.7%	Strong
Employment (72.8%)	Employment to Population Ratio	54.55	%	54.0%	Moderate
	Informal Employment	2.74	%	100.0%	V. Strong
	Unemployment Rate	4.59	%	64.3%	M. Strong
Economic Agglomeration (11.9%)	Economic Density	102,044,800	USD (PPP) /km2	11.9%	Under moderate

The chart below displays the levels of achievements in each of the indicators of productivity. It shows that economic growth is weak because of low mean household income, the city needs to work on increasing mean household income to improve productivity scores. The city has managed to reduce old age dependency ratio to 4.97% with a score of 79.7%, this is good and should be maintained or improved further. The employment sub-dimension is generally strong but not without a weak link, employment to population ratio is moderate with 54.55%. This is not good for the city since this is the measure of the city's ability to create new jobs. The city has managed to keep the informal employment low at 2.7%, the city should further reduce the unemployment rate and address the employment to population ratio to ensure the best employment environment in the city.

Figure 4: Productivity Indicators



The Infrastructure Development Dimension

The infrastructure dimension measures the level of achievement in infrastructural development in a city; it shows how a city uses its resources to deploy a good functional and efficient infrastructure. Physical assets and amenities such as tapped water, sewerage, power supply, road network, ICT are required to sustain the population, improve the economy and ensure a high quality of life. The infrastructure dimension index for Taif is 57% which is a moderate rating according to the global scale of city prosperity. The weakness can be associated with the presence of some moderate factors within the dimension and including the factors which are not yet completely strong. A moderate rating can be said to mean a moderately inefficient infrastructure system. The strength of the city’s infrastructural development is in the housing sector which has an overall index of 80.5% and the street connectivity infrastructure with 79.7%. All the other sectors under infrastructure (social infrastructure with 26.8%, ICT with 48.2% and urban mobility with 49.7%) are either weak or very weak. Although the housing infrastructure is generally strong it has some under moderate indicators such as the access to improved sanitation (53.7%) and low population density especially in residential areas (34.8%). The low level of improved sanitation indicates that some households in the city could be living under shelter deprivations (slum conditions). The weakness in the ICT sub-dimension is attributed to low internet access (40.5%), it’s further diluted by the low access to home computers (58.3%) and low broadband speed (45.7%). Street connectivity infrastructure is strong, it has an overall score of 79.7% but not without a weak link like the low proportion of land allocated to streets (55.5%).

Like many cities in Saudi Arabia, social infrastructure is very poor for this city particularly due to lack of adequate public libraries and medical personnel in the city. Urban mobility in Taif is under moderate mainly due to low usage of the available public transport system and poor road safety.

Table 2: Infrastructure Development Index (57.0%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Housing Infrastructure (80.5%)	Access to Electricity	99.80	%	99.8%	V. Strong
	Access to Improved Sanitation	53.70	%	53.7%	Moderate
	Access to Improved Water	96.00	%	96.0%	V. Strong
	Access to Improved Shelter	98.50	%	98.5%	V. Strong
	Population Density	5,219.15	Inhab/Km2	34.8%	Under moderate
	Sufficient Living Area	100.00	%	100.0%	V. Strong
Social Infrastructure (26.8%)	Number of Public Libraries	0.09	#/100,000 inhab.	0.0%	Under moderate
	Physician Density	2.36	#/1,000 inhab.	53.6%	Moderate
ICT (48.2%)	Average Broadband Speed	9.99	Mbps	45.7%	Under moderate
	Home Computer Access	58.30	%	58.3%	moderate
	Internet Access	40.50	%	40.5%	Under moderate
Urban Mobility (49.7%)	Average Daily Travel Time	15.00	minutes	100.0%	V. Strong
	Affordability of Transport	4.29	%	98.7%	V. Strong
	Length of Mass Transport Network	-	Km/1M Inhab.	-	-
	Road Safety (traffic fatalities)	39.51	#/100,000 inhab.	0.0%	Under moderate
	Use of Public Transport	0.00	%	0.0%	Under moderate
Street Connectivity (79.7%)	Intersection Density	146.10	#/km2	100.0%	V. Strong
	Land Allocated to Streets	22.65	%	55.5%	moderate
	Street Density	16.70	Km/KM2	83.5%	V. Strong

The city's housing infrastructure is generally strong but can be made stronger by keeping all strong indicators strong and redirect focus to enhancing access to improved sanitation and higher population densities especially in residential areas. Social infrastructure is under moderate but can be made better by making more public libraries available and accessible to the public. Increasing the number of medical personnel in the health sector should also be a priority. The ICT sector is moderate as well but can be improved by addressing all the three indicators. Urban mobility, on the other hand, is also under moderate and can be improved by addressing the issues about road safety and low usage of the available transport system. Street connectivity in the city is very good but can be made better and more efficient by increasing the proportion of land allocated to the streets. The streets also act as public space.

Figure 5: The Infrastructure Development Indicators

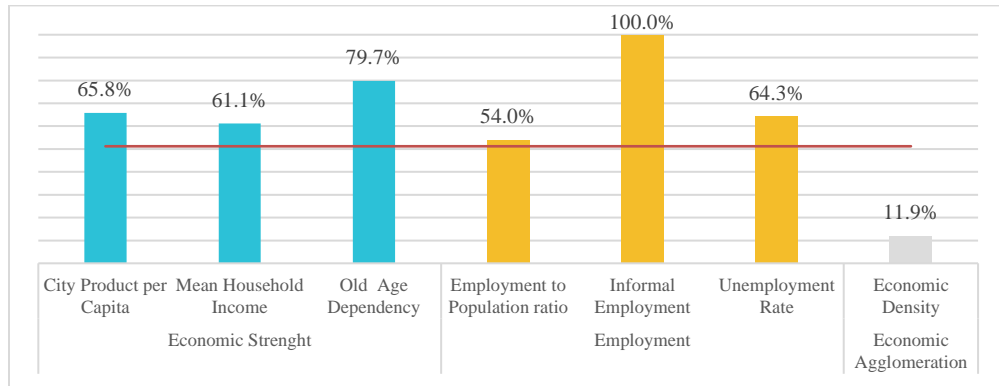
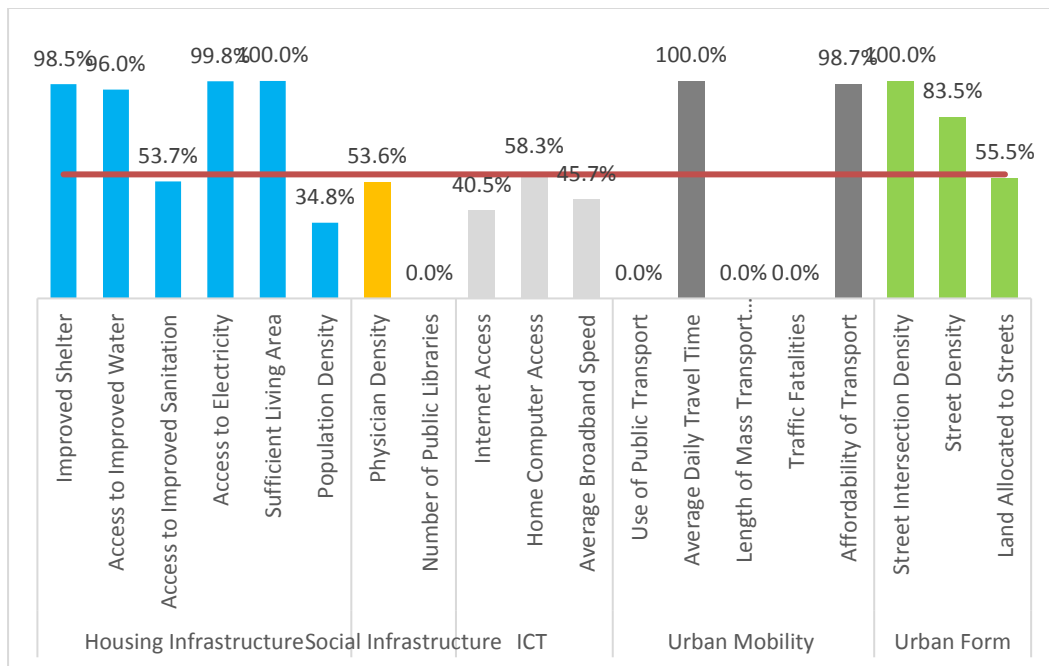


Figure 5: The Infrastructure Development Indicators



The Quality of Life Dimension

Quality of life refers to happiness, good health and general well-being of individuals and the society. The quality of life dimension measures the city’s achievements in the provision of essential amenities that promote happiness and general well-being, they include basic services and amenities such as education, health, recreation, safety and security etc. They are required to enables the population to maximize their individual potentials and to lead long fulfilling lives. The city of Taif has an overall quality of life index of 80% and according to the global scale of city prosperity, this attracts a very strong rating. It also means that the city’s policies and interventions as well as

factors relating to the quality of life in the city are very good. However, there is always room for more improvements. The high quality of life in the city can be linked to the good healthcare system which has an index of 86%, very good safety and security with 79% and availability of adequate public spaces (99.5%) for recreation and socialisation. Nevertheless it is not perfect yet because the good quality of life is still being watered down by the weaknesses within the education system which is particularly associated with low performance of the Early Childhood Education Programme (18.3%), low Net Enrolment in Higher Education (55.5%) and low Mean Years of Schooling (59.1%). The health sector is strong, and this is demonstrated by the high life expectancy (70%) in the city, reduced U-5 mortality rate (90%) and vaccination coverage (98%). Safety and security is rated strong where the homicide rate has a score of (87%) and theft rate has a score (71%), however, this is not yet good enough, allot still need to be done to reduce the level of crime in the city (homicide and theft rates).

Table 3: Quality of Life Index (79.9%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Health (85.7%)	Life Expectancy at Birth	73.00	years	69.6%	M. Strong
	Eradicate Maternal Mortality	-	#/100,000 live births	-	-
	Eradicate Under-5 Mortality	3.49	#/1000 live births	89.6%	V. Strong
	Vaccination Coverage	98.00	%	98.0%	V. Strong
Education (55.2%)	Early Childhood Education	18.26	%	18.3%	Under moderate
	Net Enrolment in Higher Education	55.54	%	55.5%	Under moderate
	Literacy Rate	89.50	%	87.8%	V. Strong
	Mean Years of Schooling	8.27	%	59.1%	M. Weak
Safety and Security (79.0%)	Homicide Rate	2.68	#/100,000 inhab.	86.7%	V. Strong
	Theft Rate	293.08	#/100,000 inhab.	71.3%	M. Strong
Public Space (99.5%)	Green Area per Capita	14.93	m ² / inhabitant	99.5%	V. Strong
	Accessibility to Open Public Space	-	%	-	-

The health sector has strong indicators, but there is still need for improvements especially in addressing factors that contribute to high life expectancy. The education sector mainly suffers from low enrollment rate in pre-school and higher education, but the mean years of schooling also need to be addressed. Safety and security in the city is very good, but there is still big room for improvements especially by further reducing the theft rates to scores above the 80% mark. Public spaces are adequately available going by the amount of green area per capita in the city, but the big issue to be addressed is in the accessibility to the available public spaces. By addressing these areas of weaknesses, the quality of life of people in Taif can increase significantly.

Figure 6: The Quality of Life Indicators

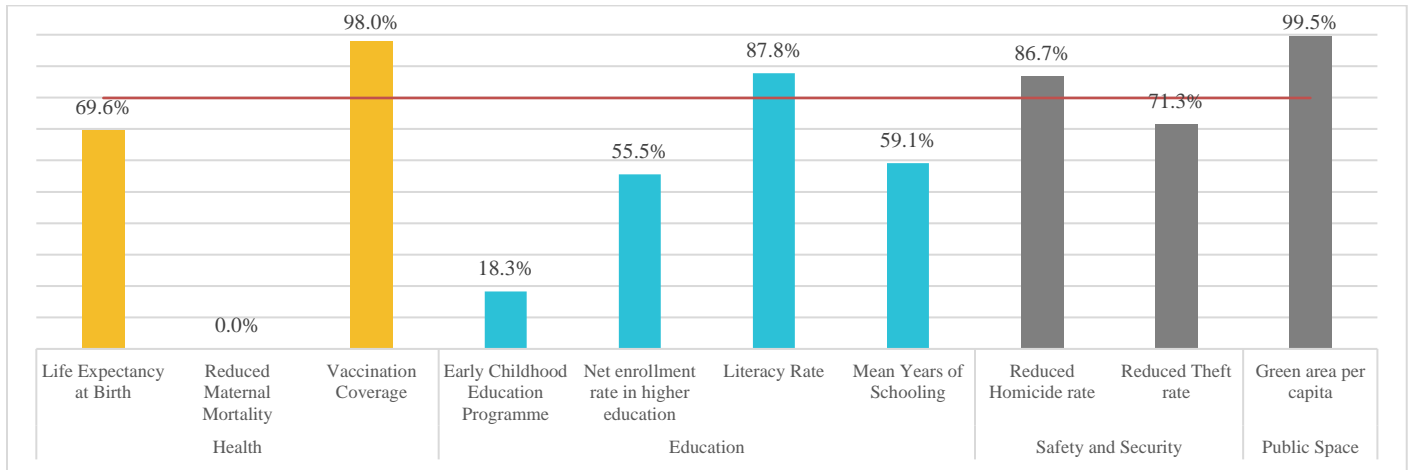
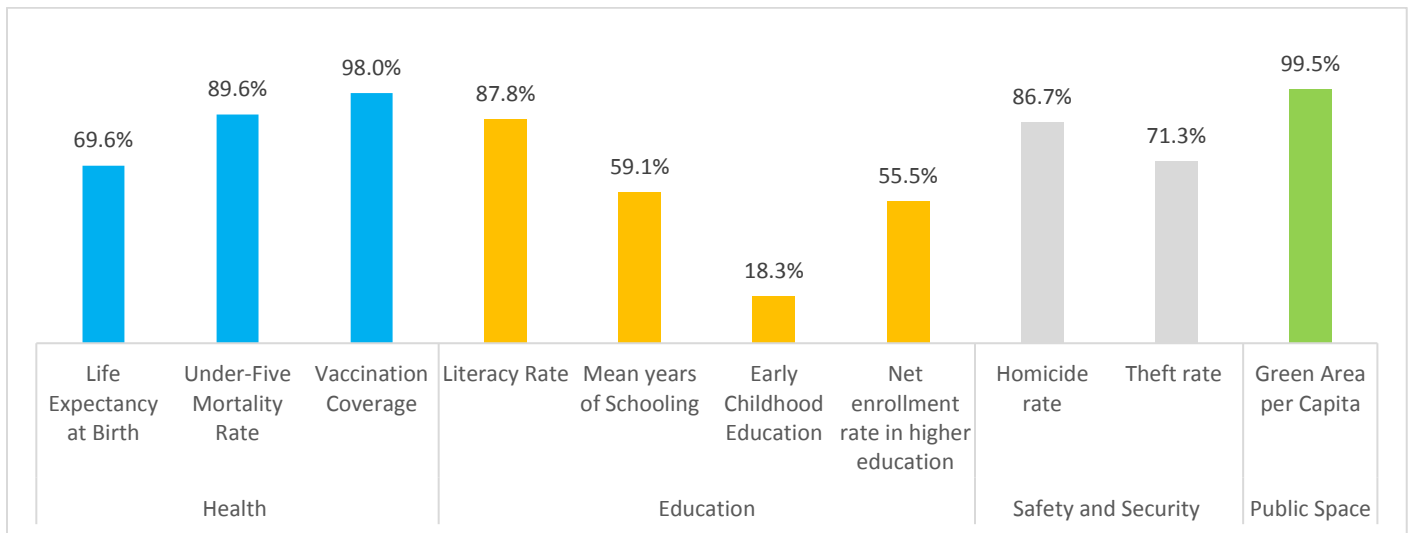


Figure 6: The Quality of Life Indicators



The Equity and Social Inclusion Dimension

Cities which are socially inclusive and economically equitable are more likely to be more productive and have higher living standard and quality of life. Inclusive cities ensure that as they grow, there are no segments of the population left behind in poverty or deprivations. The equity and social inclusion dimension measure how cities distribute the benefits of prosperity among its

inhabitants. Despite of a high level of infrastructural or economic development in a city, no city can claim to be prosperous if a significant segment of its inhabitants are marginalised or living in deprivation. Due to data unavailability problems only one of the three sub dimensions of equity and inclusion was used, the gender inclusion sub dimension. Based on the available data, the city of Taif has a gender inclusion sub dimensional index of 71.4%. This is indicative of a generally gender inclusive city.

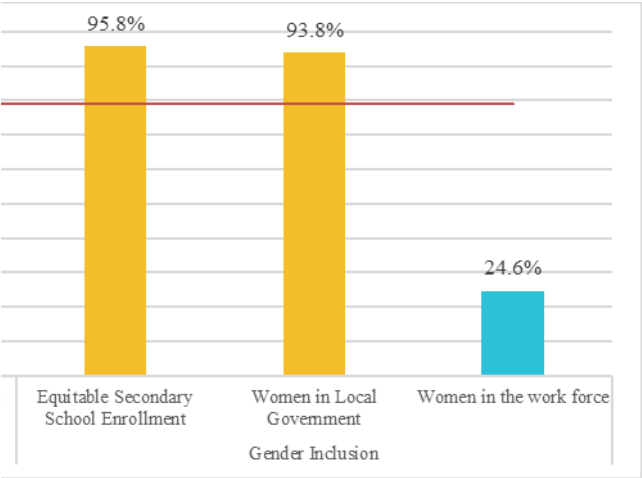
The city has raised the level of gender inclusion and has a score of 71.4% and this is demonstrated by the high level of secondary school enrollment rate (95.8%) and the high number of women employed by the local government (93.8%). However, the number of women in the general workforce (24.6%) is extremely low, calling for prioritization of policies that promotes more participation of women in the workforce

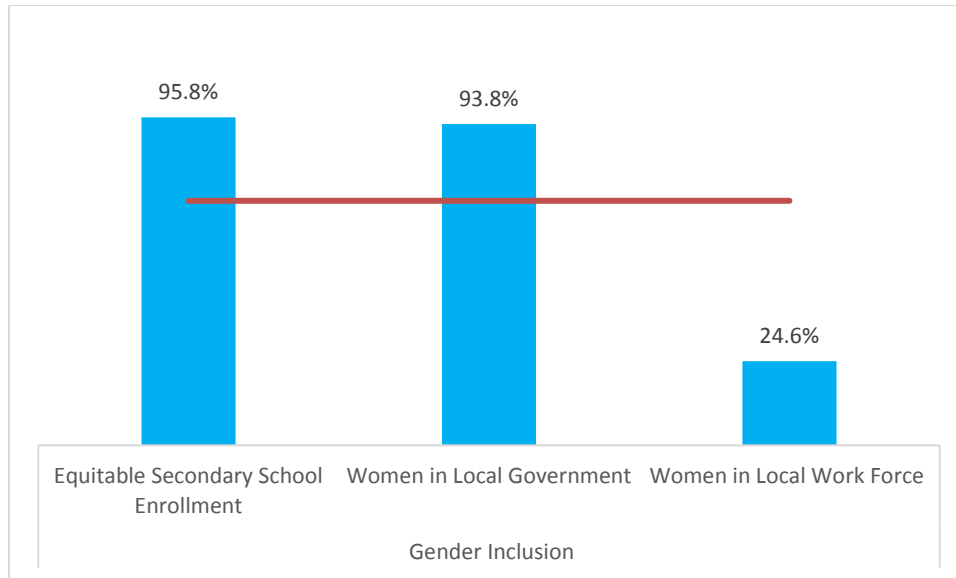
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Table 4: Equity and Social Inclusion Index (71.4%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Gender Inclusion (71.4%)	Equitable Secondary School Enrollment	0.96	0 - ∞	95.8%	V. Strong
	Women in local government	46.92	%	93.8%	V. Strong
	Women in the workforce	12.30	%	24.6%	Under moderate

Figure 7: Equity and Social Inclusion Indicators





The Environmental Sustainability Dimension

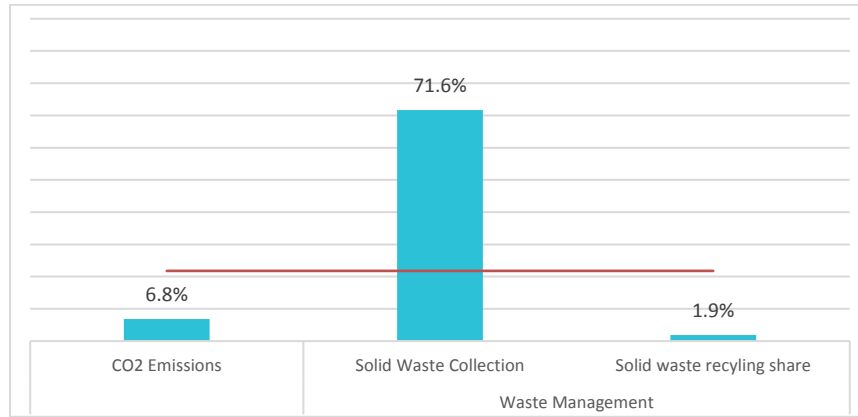
Prosperous cities ensure that as they grow and develop both economically and socially, the city’s environment is not degraded and remains healthy and liveable, and the city’s natural resources are preserved for posterity. The city of Taif has an environmental sustainability index of 21.8%; this is under moderate and therefore not sustainable. The extremely low scores are associated with the city’s high level of CO2 emission that reduces air quality in the city and its inability to recycle solid waste (2%) despite the high solid waste collection rate. Although the city has an efficient solid waste collection system (71.6%), only 2% of its solid waste is recycled. Therefore, the city risks having landfills which will as well be a source of environmental population.

Table 5: Environmental Sustainability Index (21.8%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Air Quality (6.8%)	CO2 Emissions	30.0	ug/m3	6.8%	Under moderate
Waste Management (36.7%)	Solid Waste Collection	71.64	%	71.6%	Strong
	Solid waste recycling share	1.86	%	1.9%	Under moderate
	Waste water treatment	-	%	-	-

To make the city environment sustainable for the future, there is a need to begin embracing other sources of renewable energy such as the wind and solar energy. The city also needs to invest in solid waste recycling to help reduce environmental pollution through solid waste landfills.

Figure 8: Environmental Sustainability Indicators



The Governance and Legislation Dimension

Good governance and appropriate legislation are required to create a good environment for the city to properly manage other factors of prosperity and achieve sustainability. A city can only achieve the full potential in the five dimensions of prosperity in an environment where the instruments of power, urban planning, laws, regulations, and institutional frameworks, all work together to achieve the common goal of higher prosperity. Based on the available information the overall governance and legislation index for the city of Taif is 64.6%, according to the global scale of city prosperity the city has moderately strong governance and legislative factors. This places Taif as the second best in governance and legislation after Abha with 67.3%. It is an indication that governance and legislation in Taif particularly relating to municipal finance is very good. However, citizen participation and accountability indicators are still very low.

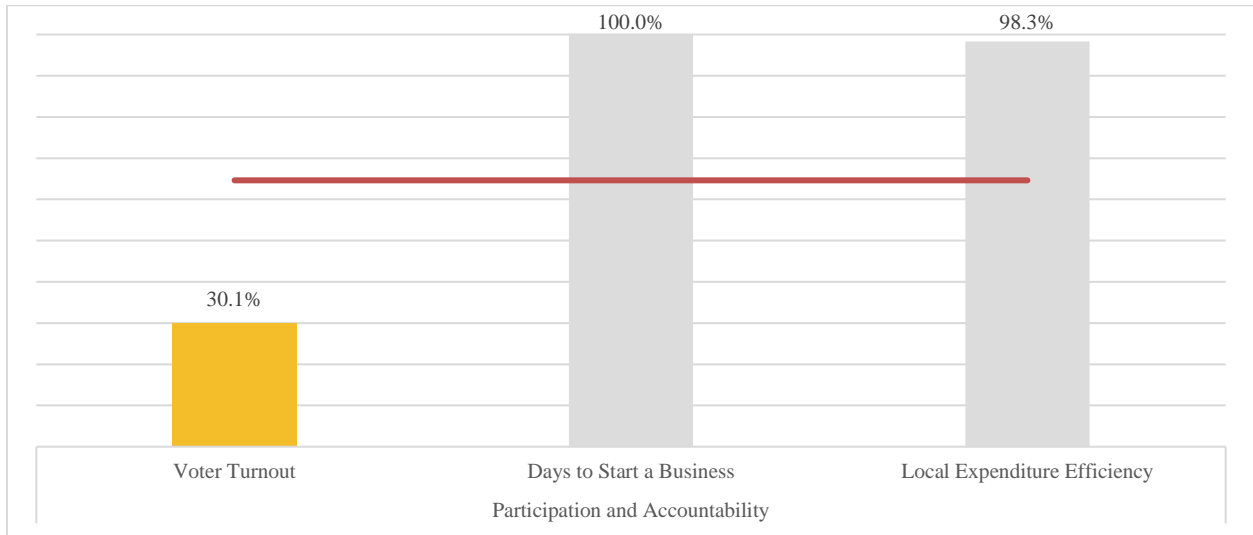
Table 6: Governance and Legislation Index (64.6%)

Sub-Dimension	Indicator	Actual	Units	Standardized	Comments
Participation & Accountability (30.1%)	Municipal Voter turnout	30.08	%	30.1%	Under moderate
Municipal Finance (99.2%)	Own revenue collection	-	%	-	-
	Days to start a business	1.00	Days	100.0%	V. Strong
	Local expenditure efficiency	98.32	%	98.3%	V. Strong

Increasing space for more citizen participation in electoral processes, access to information and strengthening public institutions to have proper accountability, checks, and balances will go a long way in making the city more and more prosperous. All processes of governance and legislation

need financing. Therefore, the city needs to put measures in place to improve the management of municipal finance, especially own revenue collection and ensuring higher expenditure efficiency and financial accountability.

Figure 9: Governance and Legislation Indicators



SWOT Analysis based on City Prosperity Index Assessment

This section uses the results of the CPI analysis to highlight areas of Strength or Weaknesses, identify challenges and Opportunities for growth so that appropriate recommendations and action plans can be formulated.

Table 7: CPI Based SWOT Analysis

STRENGTH	WEAKNESSES
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. In terms of infrastructure, the city has fairly good housing and Street connectivity infrastructure. 3. High literacy rate: the youth and women have untapped potential to contribute allot to economic growth. There is a lot of unutilized skilled manpower (human capital), especially among women. 4. In terms of quality of life factor, the health sector, and safety and security in the city is fairly good. The high literacy rate is another advantage: the youth and women have untapped potential to contribute allot to economic growth. Good safety and security and political stability which provide a conducive environment for growth and development. 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. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Urban mobility – high rate of traffic fatality. 2. 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. 3. Low access to sanitation facilities – reduces the quality of housing and quality of life in the city. 4. Few public libraries – libraries promote learning and access to information and provide empowering knowledge. 5. Low physician density – compromises the quality of healthcare. 6. Moderate ICT infrastructure - Low broadband speeds, internet access – hinders the efficient and cost-effective use of the internet. Coupled with low access to home computers stifled development and innovation in the ICT sector. 7. 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. 8. 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	THREATS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Good economic growth fundamentals, good safety & security and political stability in the city provide a conducive environment for attracting foreign investments. 4. Low women in the workforce – literacy and education level among Saudi women is considerably high now; 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. 5. For the environment – the high rate of the solid waste collection is a good starting point for recycling and ensuring a clean environment. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No renewable energy – complete dependence on fossil fuel which is not renewable source may not be the best for the city. Investment in other renewable energy sources such as the solar and the wind is advisable.

LOCAL URBAN 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.

TAIF – Local Urban Observatory.

The Local Urban Observatory of Taif was established in 2009 (10 years in operation) as a department located within the municipality to be responsible for developing tools, collecting and analyzing urban indicators at the city level.

Data Collection Activities

Taif LUO has produced three rounds of indicators and now working on the fourth round of urban indicators, so far they have produced more than 221 urban indicators.

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