

TRAINING

Orientation Workshop

THE CITY PROSPERITY INDEX:

urban indicators for strategic city planning and decision making.

Venue and Place:	
Dates:	
Coordination:	UN-HABITAT
Sponsorship:	Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs

PREAMBLE

The process of urbanisation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the last decade has been transformational in various aspects. Cities have experienced significant public investment in infrastructure and many of them have modernized and grew substantively in population and in urbanized area. Saudi cities have nearly double in population during the last 20 years. Major cities grew at annual rates above 4% which characterizes rapid urbanisation that has triggered a significant boost to the urban economy, producing jobs, wealth, opportunities and diversification of economic activities particularly in the service sector.

But cities have also consumed a significant amount of land on which to expand, a phenomenon that is consistent with global trends showing that urban land cover have grown double the rate of population growth which by default increases substantively the cost of infrastructure. Saudi cities have adopted a sprawl type of urban expansion generating increasingly use of private motorized modes of transportation and creating costly urban structures that are not always well articulated with the city core. This process has posed fundamental questions about sustainability, productivity and liveability of Saudi cities. Problems related to energy consumption, mobility and overall quality of life also became apparent. Furthermore, land has become expensive and the shortage of serviced land has triggered significant increase in housing prices posing another question for the urban population about affordability and accessibility to affordable housing.

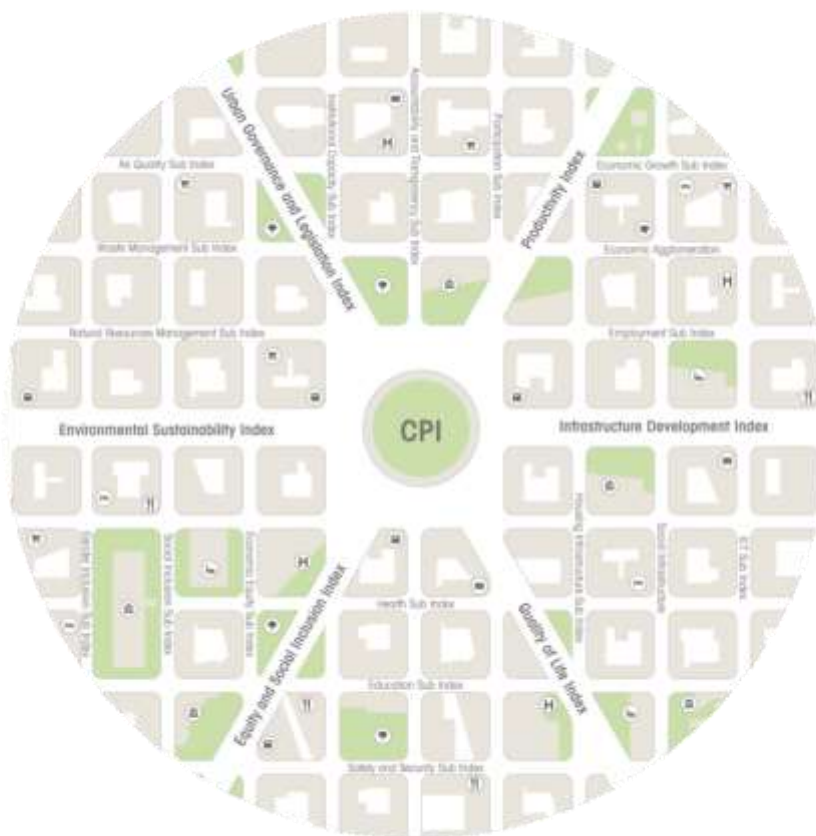
By large, this urban growth was not adequately monitored in spite of the existence of national urban observatories and the establishment of local urban observatories in some cities. There has been an increasing use of GIS-Geographical Information Systems and other mapping capabilities to support the production of numerous urban plans.

However, a lot more could have been done to monitor closely and visualize the process of urban growth and city expansion so that policies and measures could have been designed in time to mitigate and even prevent the adverse impacts of this form of urban expansion. Conventional plans have not been able to incorporate monitoring and performance assessment mechanisms to closely follow up on the implementation and results of these initiatives. In major cities, there has been systematic collection of urban data but established practices to retrieve and analyse data vary amongst these cities.

The Saudi government has realized that information and data analysis could do more to support evidence-based and well informed policy making and implementation. In order to address some of these problems, the Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs in cooperation with UN-HABITAT, the city entity of the United Nations, developed the Saudi Future Cities Programme that aims to

promote amongst other things the systematic collection, retrieval and analysis of urban data in support to urban indicators and the City Prosperity Index-CPI.

The CPI is an analytical tool to monitor the performance of urban policies and support a well-informed assessment of these policies and their impact on the overall quality of life in cities. Ultimately the CPI becomes a dynamic tool to support decision making that has a direct impact on the form, functionality and structure of cities. The CPI looks at various dimensions such as environmental sustainability, urban governance and legislation, productivity, infrastructure development, quality of life, and equity and social inclusion. For each one of these dimensions or indexes, a series of indicators are developed based on a set of information collected from the urban data. Issues such as economic density, employment, residential density, transportation, street connectivity, education, accessibility to public space, energy consumption, greenhouse gas emission are some of the themes analysed and developed into measurable indicators.



THE WORKSHOP

The workshop is organized in a format of a 2-day executive, practical, informative and problem-solving oriented training programme that aims at providing participants with the opportunity to get acquainted with experiences with urban indicators and their utilization in urban policy analysis, monitoring and support to decision making in urban planning and management in different cities. In particular, participants will learn about the City Prosperity Index-CPI and its application in cities where UN-Habitat is employing its methodology.

The workshop will also serve as an opportunity to get acquainted with the Saudi Future Cities Programme, its various activities and the work being developed for the CPI of Saudi Cities.

The workshop will help to broaden the participants' understanding about the application of CPI for monitoring, assessing policies, and supporting urban planning and urban policy making and implementation. The workshop provides an interactive environment for participants through which they can further explore the linkages between the CPI and urban planning and urban management and discuss the implications for the spatial structure and form of Saudi cities.

At first, the workshop will define and provide examples of different types of city growth and the various implications of particular growth patterns. Urban growth patterns experienced by cities in Europe, Asia and Latin America will be brought for discussion. Different experiences with urban indicators to better understand urban development and its outcome will be introduced to the participants such as the EU City Audit, the Urban and Housing Indicators Programme of UN-Habitat, the UN Global Compact on Sustainable Cities Indicators, and the Siemens Green City Index amongst others. This will follow by an introduction about the notion of urban prosperity, wealth and resources that are produced in cities and the way policies strengthen and capture the ability of cities to broaden prosperity for the entire urban population.

During the workshop, international case studies demonstrating strategies and concrete measures to build sustainable cities such as Curitiba, Rotterdam, Rio de Janeiro, Portland and others will be presented as illustrations of different aspects of urban development that capture fundamental dimensions of the CPI. This will enable participants to get familiar with different contexts and help them to cross-fertilize their own experience in Saudi Arabia.

The second part of the workshop will focus exclusively on the CPI, how it is constructed, the data requirements, the challenges and opportunities it offers to policy makers and decision makers. Examples of CPI in different cities of the world and their implications will be presented and discussed with the participants. The course will enable participants to develop a better understanding about the policy implications of each of the metrics unpacked by the CPI. The course will offer an in-depth presentation focusing on each one of the 6 dimensions of the CPI, e.g. (1) environmental sustainability, (2) urban governance and legislation, (3) productivity, (4) infrastructure development, (5) quality of life, and (6) equity and social inclusion and a guided discussion will be able to deconstruct the CPI and get acquainted with its data requirements.

OBJECTIVE

The overall goal of the workshop is to develop a common understanding of urban indicators and its application for policy making and implementation that have direct impact on the spatial structure of cities, and introduce the various dimensions of the City Prosperity Index and their policy implications.

Participants will also develop a common understanding of the different processes of city growth and urban expansion and get acquainted with city planning and management experiences from other development contexts that are relevant for Saudi practitioners.

The workshop aims at developing better understanding about the role of urban indicators and in particular of the CPI, its components, data requirements, and its policy implications for city planning and management. At the end of the workshop participants will have understood the CPI and its potentials to monitor and assess the outcomes of public policies and will have developed a sound understanding of its role in Saudi cities.

TARGET GROUPS

The workshop is structured and designed for urban practitioners, experts, officials and policy makers and decision makers of municipalities, local and national government agencies who are involved in urban planning and management of Saudi cities.

Those who work in academic institutions as well as public, private and non-state organisations that are working in different projects and assignments for the Ministry of Municipalities and Rural Affairs and in cooperation with or commissioned by the ministry, municipalities and local authorities will greatly benefit from this workshop.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

The workshop will have morning and afternoon sessions, with breaks for tea/coffee and pray times, and will offer lectures, case study presentations, guided discussions, simulations and interactive sessions during a period of 2 days.

Day 1

- Urban indicators and decision supporting systems
- EU City Audit, Green Cities Index, UKid Index, UN-Habitat Housing and Urban Indicators
- Urban growth and sustainability
- Concept and applicability of city prosperity
- Case studies presentation and illustrations of sustainable cities from Europe, Asia and Latin America.

DAY 2

- City Prosperity Index-CPI: concept, practice and policy implications
- Examples of CPI from Europe, Asia, Africa, Latin America: lessons learned
- Building the City Prosperity Index: Index and Sub-index of CPI
- Applicability in Saudi Arabia