



مستقبل المدن السعودية  
FUTURE SAUDI CITIES

# STATE OF WOMEN AND YOUTH IN SAUDI CITIES



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# ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

**FSCP:** Future Saudi Cities Program

**MOMRA:** Ministry of Municipality and Rural Affair

**UN-HABITAT:** The United Nation Human Settlements Programme

**CPI:** City Prosperity Index

**MENA:** Middle East and North Africa

**SDG:** Sustainable Development Goals

**GCC:** Gulf Cooperation Council

**KSCLG:** King Salman Center for Local Governance

**ILO:** International Labor Organization

**WARIF :** Princess Al Anood Center for Youth Development.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Saudi Arabia is recognizing the potential that women and youth can bring to social, economic, and urban development and sustainability. Women and youth, however, face challenges that hinder the quality of their lives and potentially the realization of the country's Vision 2030.

A joint study was conducted between the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs in Saudi Arabia and UN-HABITAT to evaluate the state and status of women and youth in Saudi cities and provide guidance for additional research to develop concrete and actionable policy solutions. Data from four different studies were consolidated to provide a more comprehensive understanding of situation of women and youth in Saudi cities, according to the dimensions of UN-Habitat's City Prosperity Initiative. The study covered 17 major cities and collected data for women and youth from diverse backgrounds. The report yielded six main city-related thematic areas for the consideration of policymakers: Transport and Mobility  
Housing and access to services, Public Spaces, Youth Employment, Youth and Governance and Youth and Gender Responsive Urban Planning and Design

The study found that basic services are available in Saudi cities to all groups, however access to public services such as transportation and public spaces remains a challenge for women and youth. Gender-responsive measures are lacking in the provision of services such as transportation. Also equal opportunities for youth to access meaningful employment appear to be a challenge. The study found that women and youth are willing to contribute to their city's development, however they are unaware or unable to participate in the process.

The preliminary findings of the study found that there are opportunities for policymakers in Saudi Arabia to improve the quality of lives in cities by considering the following:

- Accessibility and affordability of services provided by the city.
- Develop an inclusive decision-making process to ensure sustainable urban development.
- Provide equal opportunities for all city dwellers to reduce economic and social inequalities.

Consider linkages of the services offered by the city for a sustainable urban design and planning.



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