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National Report Kuwait Housing and Sustainable Urban Development

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UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Kuwait National Report

To the United Nations Conference
On Housing and
Sustainable Urban Development
17 - 20 October 2016,
Quito, Republic of Ecuador.

Foreword

In today's roadmaps for development, economic growth, social equity, and environmental sustainability are our most central themes. In Kuwait, as a wealthy oil-exporting country, the questions we need to address are the following: are we able to provide housing for the Kuwaiti population and achieve sustainable urban development in our city-state in the best way we can? And are we supporting the sustainable development of developing and least developed countries in the best way it can?

In his speech delivered at the United Nations Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda held during 25-27 September 2015, His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jaber al-Sabah, said that "the state of Kuwait has spared no effort in its attempts to provide development aid to developing countries and least developed countries through its various institutions, most notably through The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, providing the necessary loans and grants to establish infrastructure projects in these countries. In actual fact, my country has continued in its provision of development assistance in measures amounting to 2.1 % of the GDP, more than double the internationally agreed upon rate."

Kuwait's current revenue depends mainly on its exports of oil. As we look forward to further national development, the question of diversification of the economy becomes even more essential. On several occasions, His Highness the Amir has pointed out his vision for the State of Kuwait for 2035, reaffirming that "we can no longer be solely dependent on the resource of oil for our national income. Instead, we must utilize the creative energy of our young people to create new job opportunities and ensure that our country embarks on a long-term sustainable and prosperous economic path..."

To return to the first part of the question and the problem of adequate housing, the Kuwait National Report for the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development examines these six key areas: (1) urban demography, (2) land and urban planning, (3) the environment and urbanization, (4) urban governance and legislation, (5) urban economy, and (6) housing and basic services.

The report also discusses past issues and lessons learned, and also identifies key anticipated challenges that must be addressed and resolved through the New Urban Agenda. It is worth pointing out that this National Report is the first of its kind to be prepared in Kuwait; it sheds new light on crucial policies and programs as well as key challenges that need to be addressed on all six fronts of urban development in order to best achieve the Amir's Vision of Kuwait for 2035.

The National Report finds that the country's demographic policies are headed in the right direction, but the implementation has been slow with regards to the development of new cities and the relocation of the population to these cities. In addition, immigration policies have been changing with efforts to attract more skilled expatriate workers who are needed for the country's social and economic development.

The National Report highlights that Kuwait is one of the first countries in the GCC to develop a Master Plan for the country's urban development plans. The First Master Plan was prepared in 1952 followed by the Second and Third Master Plans. Currently, work on the Fourth Master Plan for 2040 is in progress, building on the aim of the Third Master Plan to develop Kuwait into becoming a major business and financial hub in the region.

The national report also highlights the importance of finding alternative, renewable sources of energy to protect our environment from carbon emissions that contribute to global warming. Another key mission discussed in the report is the importance of introducing alternative transportation systems to reduce local congestion and air pollution as well as increasing mobility throughout Kuwait and to neighboring countries. These projects include a subway system, the Kuwait Metropolitan Area, which is being strongly considered, as well as the need to commence plans for a railway system that will not only connect the northern and south-eastern parts of the country, but will also become part of the Gulf Railway connecting countries in the region, connecting Kuwait to Iraq in the north and Saudi Arabia to the south, all of which will help expand Kuwait's international trade.

On the subject of Kuwait's trade and economy, the National Report additionally highlights the government's plans to encourage further economic activity by developing and providing funding for small and medium enterprises in order to create jobs and diversify income, allowing citizens to contribute to a more vibrant economy and thereby changing the nation's economic and urban landscape.

The report's chapter on housing and basic services shows that Kuwait has successfully fulfilled its commitment on providing clean drinking water, sanitation and sewage services, and electricity to the entire population; it also points out the shortage in the supply of adequate housing for the Kuwaiti population in relation to growing demand in this area.

I hope that everyone who is concerned with this subject matter will find Kuwait's first national report a milestone in addressing all these aspects of development and in providing instrumental analysis of housing and sustainable urban development in Kuwait, while allowing room for further analysis on policy matters on the above-mentioned six areas.

I would like to express my gratitude to the team of the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (GS-SCPD) of Kuwait as well as the team at the UN-Habitat Office in Kuwait, all of whom were instrumental in both collecting and collating data and providing their valuable insights and comments. I would also thank other ministries and government agencies as well as the private sector for their cooperation in the preparation of the report by contributing time, effort, and information. My special thanks go to Dr. Ameera Al-Hassan of UN-Habitat for her invaluable contributions and for leading the work on data collection and collation for this report, and without whose dedication this report would not have been completed. Special thanks also go to Mr. Dilli Prasad Bhattarai, GSSCPD Consultant, for preparing the draft of this report, and Dr. Tarek El-Sheikh, the Director of UN-Habitat Office in Kuwait and Regional Representative for the GCC, for providing comments to the draft report, and last, but not least, to the Kuwait

Delegation to the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in Quito, the Ecuador, for representing their country at its best.

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Executive Summary

Kuwait is an oil producing country and is a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council, with an area of 17,820 sq. km. In 2014, the Gross National Product (GNP) in PPP (or purchasing power parity) was USD 83,961. Kuwait's Human Development Index (HDI) of the same year was 0.816.

Urban Demography

1. Kuwait's population has grown from 0.99 million in 1975 to 4.18 million in 2015. The country is essentially a city-state where more than 98% of the total population resides in the urban areas. Most of the population is concentrated in the Kuwait Metropolitan Area to the south-western and eastern edges of the country as well as a few other surrounding urban areas, all of which cover about 8% of the country's total land area. The government has therefore designed policies to begin developing new cities and rural town areas in the northern, northeaster, western and south-eastern parts of the country to relocate the rapidly increasing population in the Kuwait Metropolitan Area.
2. The total population of Kuwait includes Kuwaiti citizens and non-Kuwaiti residents. As of 2015, the proportion of the Kuwaiti population to the non-Kuwaiti population was at was 31% to 69%, returning to the same figures of the 1975 census; the government has been working on developing immigration and demographic policies that hope to change the distribution to 40% to 60% by 2030.
3. Kuwait has a hot desert climate, with infertile soil and a lack of rivers or freshwater sources. Because of this lack in sufficient natural freshwater sources or arable lands, as well as a lack in well-trained farming labor, Kuwait's rural and agricultural economy is very small. With the new urban agenda, the government recognizes the need to bring in dry land, urban agriculture, and aquaculture technologies as well as the other necessary resources and skilled labor to enhance its food production.
4. Kuwait's general parameters for the youth population range from 14-34 years of age. In 2011, those aged 15-24 made up 17.5%, while those aged 15-34% comprised 35.1% of the national population. Since the needs of this population vary greatly with different ages, the government is currently developing and designing youth policies, to be prepared within this year, to best address the varying needs of these youth, before a policy-based program is implemented d in the new urban agenda.
5. In 2011, the elderly population, that is - citizens aged 65 or above, comprised 3.3% of the population. The government provides old-age pension and other benefits to the elderly, including health care which is free for all Kuwaiti citizens. Government policies stipulate that the children and immediate family members of the elderly are responsible for the care of their elderly family members, and this will continue in the new urban agenda.

6. Public education is free of charge for all Kuwaitis. At the present time, the proportion of women enrolling in higher education and technical education exceeds that of men enrolling in the same.
7. The government is also working towards better standards of gender equality and protecting the rights of women. In 2005, women were given the rights to vote and stand for membership and elections in the National Assembly and Municipal Council.

Land and Urban Planning

8. Kuwait was one of the first countries in the Arabian Gulf to prepare a Master Plan for the state's urban development. The first Kuwait Master Plan (KMP) was developed in 1952, designing plans for self-sufficient low-density neighborhood units that were separated by radial ring roads, expanding beyond the walls of the old city. Motor vehicles are the chief mode of transportation for mobility on the resulting developments in roads and motorways for the expanded city.
9. The following list notes the Master Plans prepared in Kuwait, to date:
 - First Kuwait Master Plan (1952)
 - Kuwait Municipal Master Plan for Development (1967)
 - Second Kuwait Master Plan (1970)
 - First Review of the Second Kuwait Master Plan (1977)
 - Second Review of the Second Kuwait Master Plan (1983)
 - Third Kuwait Master Plan (1997)
 - First Review of the Third Kuwait Master Plan (2005)
10. The main aim of the Third Kuwait Master Plan (KMP), currently in use, is to transform Kuwait into a financial hub by 2035. This transformation is hoped to attract bigger foreign investments to contribute to diversifying the economy, lessening national dependence on oil exports. The Third KMP also included plans to further distribute the increased population towards the northern and southern parts of the country, by developing new cities, which would in return create new jobs.
11. The fourth Kuwait Master Plan (KMP) is in development, to be completed by 2018 through a tender in collaboration with global consultations to ensure unprecedented urban renewal and development in Kuwait.
12. Kuwait's urban development and national development policies, in line with Kuwait's centralized planning and administration system, are jointly unified for the urban and national development goals of the Vision of 2035.

13. The First Review of the Third KMP of 2005 allocated the total land area of the country for different uses. These include the larger Kuwait Metropolitan Area, a green belt/buffer zone, developable sites, proposed new urban and rural settlements, conservation, recreation and tourism areas, utility and power stations, industrial areas and service centers, communication and sporting sites, roads, proposed national/international roads, railways and dry ports, historical sites, oil fields, water fields, military installations and bases, agricultural and animal husbandry areas, fishing areas, and others. Similarly, new land management planning, allocation and distribution is outlined for the already extended Kuwait Metropolitan Area and Kuwait City.
14. Kuwait Metropolitan Area lies within the proposed green belt/buffer zone. The green belt is outlined to the western part of the metropolis, and beyond this are the oil fields, water fields, and military installations. Unlike many other countries, there is no peri-urban area adjoining the Kuwait Metropolitan Area; this makes it difficult to develop the facilities for dry-land agriculture, urban agriculture, and aquaculture.
15. Though there are plans for rail systems such as train and subway systems, Kuwait's current transportation systems are limited to road transport for the use of automobiles or motor vehicles. At present, there is heavy use of private vehicles or taxis, and equally heavy use on public (and private) bus transportation by the resident and citizen population. The increase in the number of motor vehicles on the road has resulted in increased congestion, pollution, and mobility challenges in the Kuwait Metropolitan Area; improved traffic infrastructure and controls and better parking solutions have been identified as ways to mitigate some of these problems.

Environment and Urbanization

16. There is a heavy, almost exclusive reliance on oil and gas to produce energy and distribute products across the nation; the general technology segment of the energy sector remains inactive, and the use of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, tidal and geo-thermal power for energy production is very low, and so this dependence on oil and gas increases the content of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, contributing to rising sea levels and global warming. This therefore creates a key opportunity to begin serious exploration and use of alternative energy sources for future eco-friendly finance and investments. The Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) has already conducted research to enhance the use of cleaner energy and reduce carbon emissions, completing studies on the production of 75-100 MW (megawatts) electricity from renewable energy sources.
17. Kuwait is vulnerable to sudden heavy rains, which can result in some flooding, sandstorms, and dust storms, as well as tremors from nearby earthquakes in Iran and other locations. Weather monitoring stations and

seismic networks have been set up in Kuwait to understand the meteorological situations and to provide early warning.

18. The Ministry of Public Works has launched an ongoing program to improve road infrastructure in Kuwait, increasing the length and reach of roads and bridges to relieve traffic congestion and raise the efficiency of the transportation system in place.

Urban Governance and Legislation

19. Kuwait is, basically, an urban country administered by the central government. Each government ministry such as the Ministries of Health, Education, Housing Welfare, Social Welfare, etc. has a specific role in the urban area. Thus, in order to improve urban legislation, cooperation and active participation of all these ministries is needed. The Kuwait Municipality is a key agency devoted to the planning and development of the urban areas in the country; it can thus act as a focal point for the improvement of urban legislations.
20. Kuwait consists of six governorates: al-Asimah (the Capital), Hawalli, Farwaniya, Mubarak al-Kabeer, Ahmadi, and al-Jahra. Each governorate is appointed a governor by the government in order to strengthen the provision of services in their respective governorates.
21. In 2016, the Cabinet of Ministers approved a draft decree regulating the system of governorates and the powers of their governors, with the purpose of remodeling public services nationwide and reflecting more positive public participation. As per the new efforts towards decentralization, each governorate will have a council with more executive powers over their respective areas; these councils will gradually have duties currently handled by ministers delegated to them instead.
22. All Kuwaiti citizens enjoy civic, economic, and social rights, and most Kuwaitis enjoy adequate standards of living. Kuwaiti women and men participate in local cultural programs, and special care is given to people with different needs or disabilities.
23. Kuwait is a safe country. Insecurity of tenure and forced evictions do not generally happen in the country. Natural disasters such as dust storms, sandstorms and sudden heavy rains happen in certain seasons. Man-made disasters are also uncommon, with the exception of motor vehicle accidents.
24. The State of Kuwait has made significant progress in providing equal opportunity for all Kuwaiti children, youth, adults, the elderly, women, and persons with disability in their access to health and education as well as civic participation in the country's social and economic progress. The government is also reviewing laws to enhance equity and fairness in society.

Urban Economy

25. There is only one government in Kuwait; that is, the national government. The Kuwait municipality is not a local government, but operates under the leadership of the Minister of State for Municipality Affairs. The municipality has an attached budget for its expenditure, which it requests annually from the Ministry of Finance, and collects revenues from service fees, which are then transferred to the Ministry of Finance.
26. The government's revenue mainly comes from the sale and export of its oil. Thus, any increases made to municipal budgets for local expenditure are possible, if the government is convinced that they are necessary.
27. In order to strengthen the access to housing of Kuwaiti married couples, the Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB), as per the government policy, provides a one-time, interest-free loan of KD 70,000 for each couple to buy a house or an apartment, or otherwise build a house in the housing plot allocated by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW). This loan is only granted on the condition that both spouses (husband and wife) are Kuwaiti citizens. The repayment of the interest-free loan commences two years after signing the loan agreement with the KCB, with a monthly payment of KD 100, or 10% of the house-owner's salary (whichever is higher). If repaid at a rate of KD 100 per month, the full loan can be repaid in 58.3 years.
28. In order to strengthen local economic development, Kuwait established a National Fund in 2013 for the development of Small and Medium Enterprises with a total capital of KD 2 billion. The objectives of the Fund are to create jobs for Kuwaiti citizen in the private sector, increase SME participation in the economy, and help create a business-friendly environment for SMEs.
29. A small enterprise is defined as any business with a maximum capital of KD 250,000 and with 1 to 4 Kuwaiti employees. A medium enterprise, on the other hand, is any business that has a maximum capital of KD 500,000 and 5 to 50 Kuwaiti employees.
30. The rapid growth of the Kuwaiti economy has led to the creation of a vast number of work opportunities. The country's expenditure on social services has generated a demand for manpower, which cannot be met by the Kuwaiti labor force; this gap is thereby met instead by expatriate, or non-Kuwaiti workers. All public sector and private sector jobs in Kuwait are decent jobs.

Housing and Basic Services

31. There are no slums in Kuwait. All citizens and residents (that is, the non-Kuwaiti population) live in housing built to decent livable standards.

32. The demand for housing at present significantly outpaces the supply. As of June 2016, there are 102,960 applications on the housing waiting list. In addition, the PAHW receives an average of 8,000 new applications every year. In order to meet this housing demand, and in alignment with the strategy of resettlement outside the Kuwait Metropolitan Area, the PAHW is undertaking a series of projects in the form of new large urban areas outside the Kuwait Metropolitan Area. The PAHW supplies housing (in the form of houses, apartment buildings, or housing plots) at the rate of 12,000 units per year.
33. All the houses, apartments and public and private buildings in Kuwait – and thereby 100% of the population of Kuwait, Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti – are fitted with piped clean potable, or drinking, water, which is safe to drink. The mean consumption of fresh water in Kuwait is one of the highest in the world. The brackish water and treated water produced in the country are used for agriculture.
34. The PAHW constructs all services required to run the city, including clean water and sanitation, and road and drainage networks. Thus, 100% of population in Kuwait has access to improved sanitation and sewage services.
35. All citizens and residents of Kuwait have access to electricity. The cost of electricity price is highly subsidized by the government.
36. At present, Kuwait does not have railway or subway systems, which are, more than ever, the means of sustainable transport solutions; therefore, the government is currently analyzing the costs and benefits of adopting these systems.

List of Acronyms

CO2	Carbon Dioxide
EPA	Environment Public Authority
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNP	Gross National Product
GIS	Geographical Information System
GII	Gender Inequality Index
GS-SCPD	General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IT	Information Technology
KCB	Kuwait Credit Bank
KEPA	Kuwait Environment Public Authority
KIA	Kuwait Investment Authority
KFAS	Kuwait Foundation For the Advancement of Sciences
KISR	Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research
KMA	Kuwait Metropolitan Area
KMP	Kuwait Master Plan
KNDP	Kuwait National Development Plan
MIGD	Million Imperial Gallons Per Day
PAAFR	Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources
PAHW	Public Authority for Housing Welfare
PART	Public Authority for Roads & Transportation
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
UN	United Nations
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Program

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Introduction

The First United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat I) was held in Vancouver, Canada, from May 31-June 11 1976, and the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) was held in Istanbul, Turkey from June 3-14, 1996. The State of Kuwait missed the opportunity to present its national report on human settlements in both of these conferences. As a result, this report is Kuwait's official national report on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development to be presented in the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in Quito, Ecuador from 17-20 October 2016. The report consists of the following seven chapters.

Chapter 1 – Urban Demographic Issues: This chapter discusses how Kuwait is managing rapid urbanization and rural-urban linkages; it also documents how the State of Kuwait is addressing the needs of youths and aged persons as well as the concerns of gender responsive development.

Chapter 2 – Land and Urban Planning: This chapter discusses the issues of ensuring sustainable urban planning and design; improving urban land management, including addressing urban sprawl; enhancing urban and peri-urban food production; addressing urban mobility challenges; and improving technical capacity to plan and manage cities.

Chapter 3 – Environment and Urbanization: This chapter discusses how the State of Kuwait is addressing climate change, reducing disaster risk, reducing traffic congestion, and reducing air pollution.

Chapter 4 – Urban Governance and Legislation: This chapter is devoted to discussion on improving urban legislation; the decentralization of government and strengthening of local authorities; improving participation and human rights in urban development; enhancing urban safety and security; and improving social inclusion and equity.

Chapter 5 – Urban Economy: The chapter discusses improving municipal/local finance; strengthening and improving access to housing finance; supporting local economic development; creating decent jobs and livelihoods; and integration of the urban economy into national development policy.

Chapter 6 – Housing and Basic Services: The issues discussed in this chapter are the upgrading of housing developments that have deteriorated to lower standards (and therefore the prevention of slums); improving access to adequate housing; ensuring sustainable access to safe drinking water; ensuring sustainable access to basic sanitation and drainage; improving access to clean domestic energy; and improving access to sustainable means of transport.

Chapter 7 – Progress: While challenges and lessons learned, and issues to be addressed in a New Urban Agenda are discussed through all of the above chapters, this chapter instead is devoted to progress on the 12 indicators for housing and sustainable urban development.

National Report Kuwait

Chapter one

Urban Demographic Issues: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda.



Chapter 1: Urban Demography: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda

1.1 Managing Rapid Urbanization

Kuwait is an oil producing country in the in the Arab Gulf, with a total land area of 17, 820 sq. km. In 2014, the GNP per capita of the country was USD 83,961 in purchasing power parity (PPP), and its Human Development Index (HDI) of the same year was 0.816¹.The country's population has grown from 0.99 million in 1977 to 4.18 million in 2015. Kuwait has a coastline spanning 499 km, including that of its nine islands.

Kuwait is a city-state where more than 98% of the total population resides in the urban area. Most of the population is concentrated in Kuwait Metropolitan Area and few other urban areas, which cover about 8% of the total area of the country. Kuwait's population has increased from 994,837 in 1975 to 4,183,658 in 2015². Figure 1.1 shows the total population of Kuwait by year during 1975-2015³.

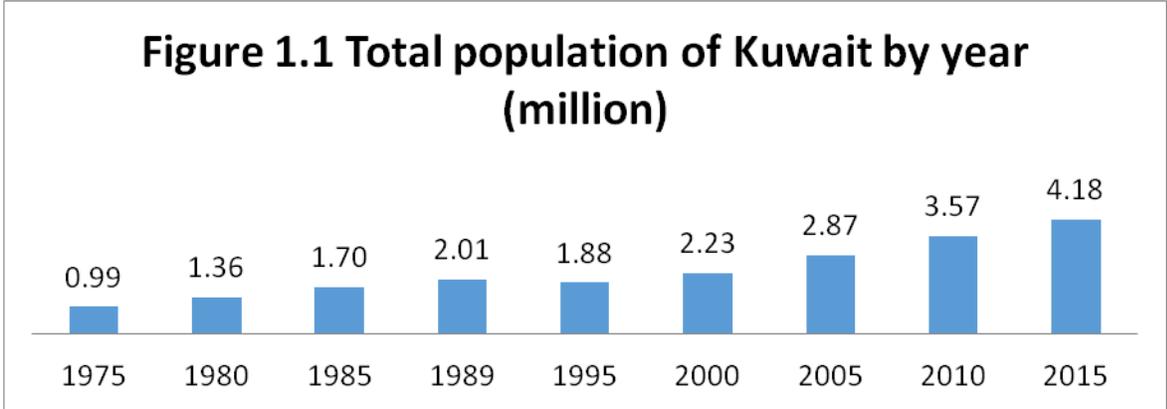


Figure 1.1 Total population of Kuwait by year

The total population of Kuwait includes Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti citizens. In 1975 and in 2015, the proportion of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti population was 31% to 69%, respectively. Figure 1.2 shows the proportion of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti population in the years between 1975 and 2015⁴.

The non-Kuwaiti population comes mainly from Arabic-speaking countries such as Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, as well as the Bidoon⁵ from the deserts of Iraq,

¹ UNDP HDR 2015

²Source: Nasra Shah, Population of Kuwait Structure and Dynamics (upcoming edition), data obtained from (CSO 1990b), CSO 1995 and PACI.

³ Ibid.

⁴Ibid.

⁵ The Bidoon are stateless persons. They came to Kuwait from the neighbouring countries and have been living in the country for several generations. The estimated number of Bidoon residing in Kuwait in 1985 was 210,815, but this number has declined due to the marriage of Bidoon women to Kuwaiti men, the emigration of Bidoon to other

Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries; as well as non-Arabic speaking countries of Asia including India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and the Philippines. Of the total non-Kuwaiti residents in 2014, 34% were from Arabic speaking countries, 62% from non-Arabic speaking Asian countries, 3% from non-Arabic speaking African countries, and 1% from the continents of Europe, North America, and Australia.

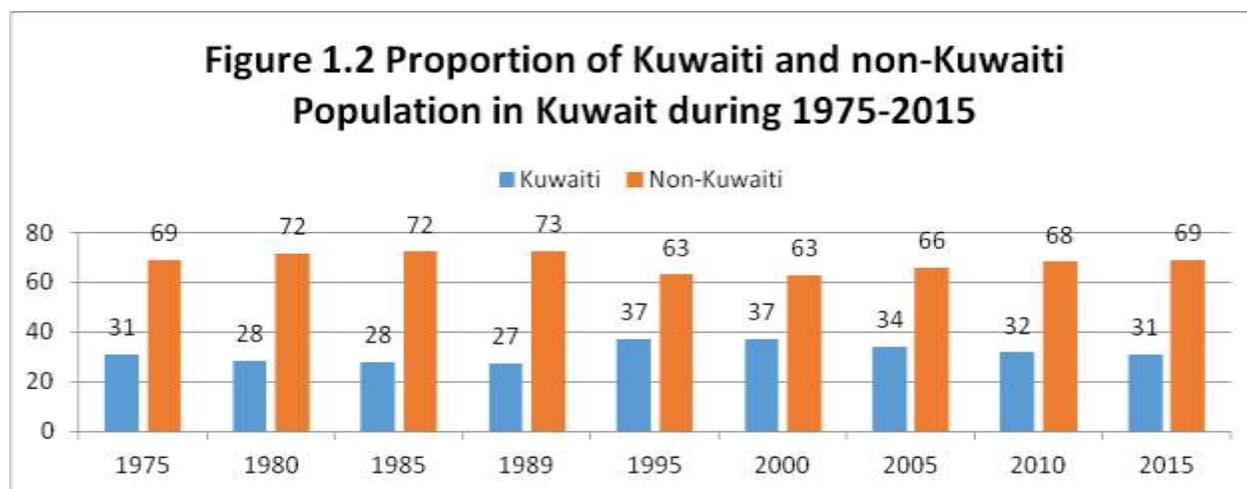


Figure 1.2 Proportion of Kuwaitis to non-Kuwaitis during 1975-2015

The rate of growth in the population of Kuwait citizens has gradually decreased, from 4.57% per annum from 1975 to 1980 to 2.55% per annum from 2013 to 2015. The rate of growth of the non-Kuwaiti population, on the other hand, is generally higher than that of the Kuwaiti population, but it is volatile. For example, the annual rate of growth of non-Kuwaiti population was 6.9% per annum from 1975 to 1980, but was negative (-3.5%) from 1989 to 1995 due to the Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait from 1990 to 1991, as huge numbers of expatriates were evacuated from the country or otherwise escaped to return to their respective home countries.

The period of 2005 to 2007 saw a surge in the expatriate population, with a growth rate of 9.5% per annum. Figure 1.3 shows the annual rate of growth of Kuwaiti, non-Kuwaiti, and total population for the years during 1975-2015⁶.

countries, and Bidoon gaining nationalisation (and therefore identification) from other countries. Every year, the State of Kuwait allows up to 2,000 Bidoon to be nationalised and be granted citizenship of Kuwait if they fulfilled the government's criteria; these include honest reporting of the origin of their forefathers.

⁶ Source: Nasra Shah Population of Kuwait Structure and Dynamics (upcoming edition), data obtained from CSO 1995 and PACI.

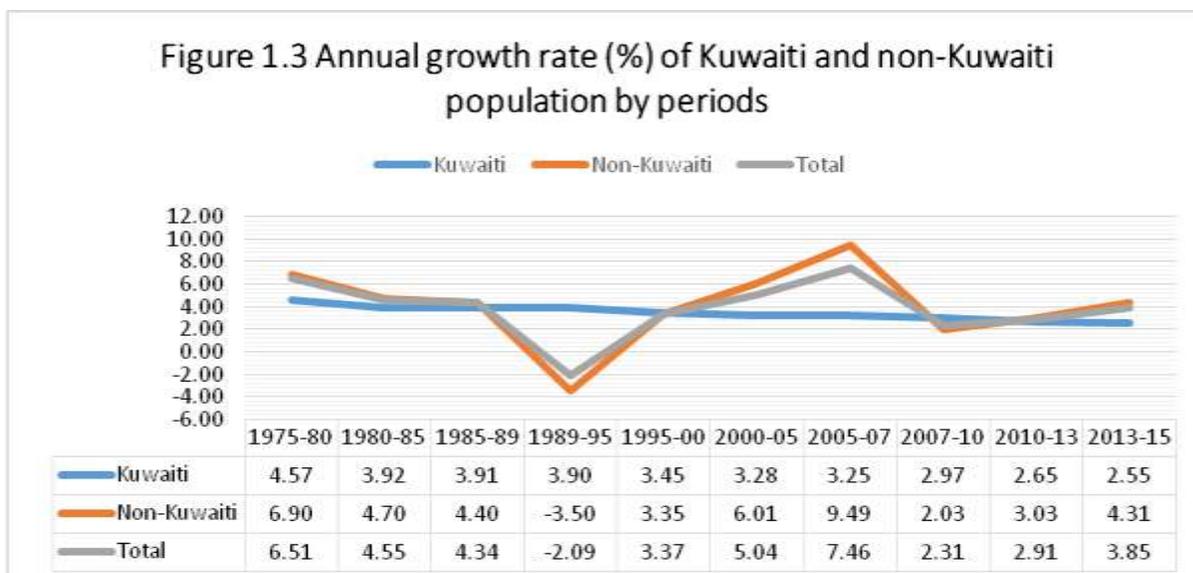


Figure 1.3 Annual growth rate of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti population by periods

Because of the smaller Kuwaiti population, the country requires expatriate labor forces to adequately respond to meet the increasing rates of economic growth. In 2014, the total labor force of Kuwait was 2.42 million, 2.38 million of which was employed. Of the total employed persons, about 17% were Kuwaiti citizens and the remaining 83% were non-Kuwaiti residents.

	Kuwaiti		Non Kuwaiti		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Sex						
Male	216,685	9.10	1,501,860	63.10	1,718,545	72.20
Female	190,706	8.01	470,943	19.79	661,649	27.80
Total	407,391	17.12	1,972,803	82.88	2,380,194	100.00

Source: State of Kuwait, CSB, Annual Statistical Abstract 2014, Edition 51.

Table 1.1 Number & proportion (percentage) of employed persons in Kuwait by nationality & sex, 2014

Future population growth

According to population projection by the Third Kuwait Master Plan Review 2005, the population of Kuwait is estimated to reach 5.37 million by 2030.

The rapidly increasing population in Kuwait has created shortages of housing as well as increases in congestion and environmental pollution in the Kuwait Metropolitan Area (KMA). Therefore, the management of population is essential to address this problem.

The State of Kuwait has employed policies related to the fertility and mortality rates and population distribution of expatriate workers in order to manage the country's rapidly increasing urban population.

Fertility policies:

Since the population of Kuwaiti citizens is small, the government intends to increase their number and additionally reduce the number of expatriate workers and their families residing in Kuwait. For this reason, it provides several benefits and incentives to Kuwaiti citizens such as:

- First time marriage allowance of KD 6,000 on the condition that both partners are Kuwaiti citizens. KD 2,000 of this allowance is a gift from the government while the remainder must be repaid in small installments.
- If a Kuwaiti man marries a non-Kuwaiti woman, he does not get this allowance, but his children will be granted Kuwaiti citizenship. His wife, however, must wait for 10-15 years before earning Kuwaiti citizenship.
- If a Kuwaiti woman marries a non-Kuwaiti man, her husband and children will not be given Kuwaiti citizenship, but her children will be able to avail themselves of some of the benefits granted to their fellow Kuwaiti peers until they reach 21 years of age.
- The government provides a monthly child allowance of KD 50 per child for up to 7 children per family unit. This allowance is provided to Kuwaiti men regardless of the nationality of their wife.
- The government also provides a loan of KD 70,000 for every married Kuwaiti couple to buy a government house or an apartment or to build a house in the government allocated housing plot.
- Public healthcare is available and free of charge to both Kuwaiti citizens and non-Kuwaiti residents. The quality of maternal and child healthcare is very good in Kuwait. Similarly, free education is provided to all Kuwaiti children in public schools and public higher education institutions.

- The Kuwaiti population relies heavily on the government for obtaining jobs; the majority of citizens are currently employed in the public sector.
- There are large subsidies on food, electricity and water that reduces the economic burden on each Kuwaiti family.
- Families of five persons are allowed to hire three housemaids for their household, and families of six or more persons are allowed to hire up to four housemaids.

Despite such incentives and pro-natal policies, the actual birth rates among Kuwaiti women falls short of the desired fertility rates. In 1999, the average number of children desired by Kuwaiti women was recorded as 5.5, while in 2014 the Total Fertility Rate of live births per woman is 3.5, in contrast to 7.5 in 1965, indicating that while the desired rate of births is high, however, the rate of fertility is on the decline.

Health and Mortality policies:

The government of Kuwait aims at providing the best healthcare services possible to its citizens. The current healthcare system in Kuwait is highly developed and free of charge to all Kuwaiti citizens as well as non-Kuwaiti residents. Infant, child and maternal mortality for Kuwaiti nationals have already declined to some of the lowest levels, with infant mortality rates at 7.0 and under-5 mortality-rates at 8.3 per thousand live births in 2014. During the same year, the maternal mortality rate for every 100,000 live births reached almost zero amongst Kuwait women.

The government also has several policies and programs for reducing health risks for all people from the leading causes of deaths such as heart diseases, neoplasm, cerebrovascular (circulation of blood to the brain) diseases, and motor vehicle accidents. Consequently, the life expectancy at birth reached 74.6 years in 2014⁷.

Since both fertility and mortality are falling in Kuwait, the natural increase of Kuwaiti nationals is likely to be smaller in the future. However, because of the pro-national policies of the government as well as the younger populace making up 60% of the population, the government believes that the Kuwaiti national population will continue to expand. The government has additionally begun implementing youth-targeted programs, firstly by establishing Ministry of State for Youth Affairs, which has been granted a huge budget to work on youth capacity building, and secondly by initiating an authority for small projects to provide younger Kuwaitis with loans for their enterprises as part of the state's financial reform to encourage youth to leave the public sector and work in the private sector.

⁷ UNDP HDR 2015

Policies with respect to population distribution and expatriate workers:

Since Kuwait's present population is concentrated in only the Kuwaiti Metropolitan Area, the city suffers from over- population, congestion, and pollution. Therefore, the government aims at redistributing the population to the northern, north-eastern, south-eastern and south-western parts of the country. The Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW) is building and transferring homes and apartment buildings and developing new housing plots for Kuwaiti citizens in these new planned areas in different parts of the country.

According to the population projection of the review, the population of Kuwait is estimated to reach 5.3 million in 2030. The review recommends that 2.8 million should be accommodated in the Kuwaiti Metropolitan Area, while 2.57 million should be relocated in new urban settlements outside of the KMA for a proper distribution of population and resources.

The government considers that the rapidly increasing number of expatriate workers is not sustainable. Therefore, the immigration and visa policies of the government are strict and highly restrictive. Foreigners are not eligible for Kuwaiti citizenship, even if they stay in Kuwait for long periods, are born in Kuwait, or have been living in the country for generations.

The Third Kuwait Master Plan Review 2005 aimed at achieving a new population ratio by 2030, of about 40% Kuwaiti and 60% non-Kuwaiti.

1.2 Managing rural-urban linkages

Kuwait's rural economy is very small, due to its hot desert climate and infertile soil, as well as its lack of rivers or freshwater and arable lands. As part of the government's desire to achieve food security in Kuwait, the Public Authority of Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources (PAAAFR) was initiated through Law No. 94 of 1983

In 2013/14, the total cultivated area in the country was 11,528 hectares⁸ in 8,077 holdings. The average number of paid workers in the agricultural sector during that same period was 27,782. All the paid workers in the agricultural sector were non-Kuwaitis. The Kuwaitis, who own the agricultural area, provide guidance and operate from the Kuwaiti Metropolitan Area.

⁸ Ibid.



Figure 1.3a Agriculture in Kuwait

For more pictures, source: <http://website.paaf.gov.kw/paaf/ershad/pictures.jsp>

Rural-urban linkages consist of flows of goods, people, information, finance, social relations, etc. across rural and urban areas. Generally, people and agro-based products move from rural to urban areas, while industrial products move from urban to rural areas.

The rural sector in Kuwait produces fruits and vegetables, livestock products, fish, bee products, and intermediate goods products (natural fertilizers, green fodder, milk for suckling calves, and baby chicks), but the food and non-food items produced in the rural sector of Kuwait do not meet the demand in the country.

However, in December 22, 2015, experts declared that Kuwait is one of the top countries in the field of Food Security, where it was ranked number 28th place among 109 countries in 2014 according to International Food Statistics and was ranked number one in the Arab World in Food Security, which is defined as all people having access at all times to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life. The government constantly cooperates with the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the UN to implement sustainable food projects, following strategic plans that enabled it to achieve high food security in accordance with 1996 Food Summit.

1.2 Addressing urban youth needs

The Ministry of State for Youth Affairs was established on 26 January 2013 as per the recommendations of “Kuwait Tesmaa” (Arabic for “Kuwait is Listening”) project to address the needs of the youths. While the United Nations defines the youth population as those between the ages of 15 to 24, the Ministry expands this range to those between the ages of 14 to 34.

The percent of youth populations by five-year age groups in 2011 is shown in Figure 1.4. The Figure shows that the proportion of population was 35.1% for the age group 15-34 and 17.5% for the age group 15-24 years.

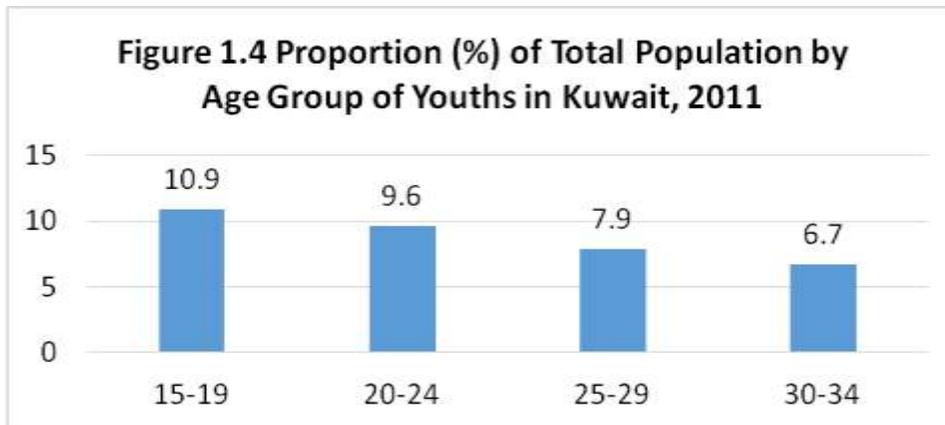


Figure 1.4 Proportion (percentage) of total population by age group of youths in Kuwait, 2011

The needs and expectations of the population in the different age groups such as 14-18, 19-24, 25-29 and 30-34 are different. For example, school education and sports are the chief concerns of youth aged 14-18, while those aged 19 to 24 are primarily concerned with college/technical education, sports, and/or employment. Similarly, employment, self-employment, and social work is the chief concern of those in the groups aged 25-29 and 30-34. In addition, a large number of women aged 19-24 and men aged 24-29 are married or considering marriage, which adds a different set of needs to those of unmarried youth.

All youth in Kuwait are literate, as education is mandatory for all male and female Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti children up to the age of 14. For identifying and addressing their needs in different age groups, the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs is currently working towards the development of the National Youth Policy in order to best identify and address the needs of the various youth age groups. The development of the policy is expected to be completed in a year, at which time it will be easier for the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs to consequently design appropriate youth programs/projects.

Despite their relative newness, the Ministry of State for Youth Affairs has already implemented a number of programs that responds to the needs of the youth population, such as:

- Programs to strengthen the abilities of young leaders with different skills
- Programs to encourage young peoples' NGOs to become initiator in solving social issues
- The "Ayadena" Project (Arabic for "Our Hands") to encourage youth to participate in volunteer work
- Youth entrepreneurship development programs to increase the contribution of small and medium enterprises
- Creative production programs to strengthen the needs of young people to express themselves through creative written and audio activity production and expression
- Programs to motivate youth to appreciate the achievement of young people and their organizations

During the last five years, the Ministry reported that their program has led to several achievements, including the following:

- The ability of young people to educate their peers and participate in community service has increased
- The competitive ability of youth in the market has increased
- The number of young people and groups in volunteer work has increased
- The participation of youths in international forums has increased
- The number of young entrepreneurs who own their own projects has increased

1.3 Responding to the needs of the aged

Aged persons, or the Elderly, are those who are in the age group of 65 years and above. The proportion of aged persons among the Kuwaiti nationals increased from 2.3% in 1995 to 3.3% in 2011.

Because of the relatively small population of aged persons and high gross domestic product in the country, Kuwait has the ability to fund the welfare of the aged persons. Aged or elderly Kuwaiti nationals are already provided with extensive benefits from the government, including pension, medical care, disability benefits, etc.

Pension rules allow Kuwaiti males to retire from government jobs, and thereby receive pension after 20 to 25 years of service, while Kuwaiti females are eligible for retirement and pension after 15 to 20 years of service. Kuwaiti nationals are entitled to a pension through contributions to a Social Security Fund, managed by the Public Institution for Social Security (PIFSS). The insurance fund is generated by contribution from employees, their employers, and the State Public Treasury. For example, after 15 years of service for example, a Kuwaiti individual can receive pensions in amounts up to 65% of their last salary. After 30 years of service, retired Kuwaiti nationals can receive a pension of up to 95% of their last salary.

Health is the major concern of the elderly persons. The major causes of death of elderly in Kuwait are cardiovascular diseases, neoplasm, and diseases of respiratory systems. Health is free in Kuwait in all government health institutions.

In order to address the major risk factors of cardiovascular mortality, the government has established special clinics for diabetic patients at the primary health level. Similarly, special obesity clinics, smoking cessation clinics, and health clinics have been opened at the primary health care level. Anti-hypertensive medication is also available at the government health clinics, hospitals, and private pharmacies.

The majority of older persons in Kuwait live with their family members (spouse, children and/or other relatives). However, this pattern is changing, and the number of older people living alone or with a spouse is increasing. Therefore, the government's new policy charges children and immediate relatives with care

of the elderly, including meeting the nutrition, medicine, shelter, psychological, and other needs of the elderly.

Kuwait has the following important instruments for the benefit of the elderly:

1. Law No.18/2016 for social care of the elderly. It is focused on the rights of the elderly and the provision of integrated multi-sectored services for the elderly
2. Law No.114/2014 concerns health insurance for retired elderly citizens
3. Law No.8/2010, and its amendments concerned the care of disabled elderly
4. The national report on the health profile of the elderly, Kuwait 2016 Establishment of the Geriatric Health Services Administration in Ministry of Health according to Ministerial Order No.54/2014
5. Implementation of social benefits (Pension Law) for retired elderly citizens. Law no. 61/1976

These laws were implemented over the last five years, and some major resulting achievements include:

- Raising of public awareness of the National Health Strategy for the care of the older adults in the State of Kuwait and its executive plan for 2016-2020.
- The publication of the national operational policy for the geriatric health care clinics.
- The establishment of geriatric health care clinics in the primary health care centers in the different governorates of the State of Kuwait.
- The preparation of key indicators for the 2016 national health profile of elderly in Kuwait

1.4 Integrating gender⁹ in urban development

Gender equality is needed to achieve the goals of human rights and sustainable development. The Constitution of the State of Kuwait acknowledges and guarantees gender equality through a number of laws, regulations, and in the Amiri Decrees that promote the enjoyment and exercising of women's rights.

Legislations have been passed and resolutions issued to guarantee equality between women and men in a number of fields including access to health, education, employment, and political participation.

In 2015, the Parliament of Kuwait endorsed a Child Rights Law to ensure equal rights of girls and boys. Similarly, in 2012, the Administrative Court canceled a ministerial decree that prohibited women from applying for entry-level positions at the Ministry of Justice, while in 2013, the Supreme Judiciary Council issued a ruling that would allow women to serve as prosecutors and judges.

⁹ Gender is the state of being male or female (typically used with reference to social and cultural differences rather than biological ones).

Gender Equity in Health:

A healthy population is one of the goals of the State of Kuwait. Therefore, the country pays close attention to the medical care of all Kuwaitis. Kuwait has a highly developed and comprehensive healthcare service, which are provided to both Kuwaiti women and men without discrimination, in addition to non-Kuwaiti residents. Health services are provided through public and private health units. Health care is almost free in all public health institutions. Women freely receive all the medical care, including maternal and child health care from public health institutions. Because of this, maternal mortality rate has dropped to around zero "0" in 2014 for Kuwaiti women.

Gender Equality in Education:

Urban development requires an educated and skilled workforce. There are public and private education institutions that provide education to the students in Kuwait. Public educational institutions provide free education to both Kuwaiti women and men from the kindergarten level. In 2014, the mean years of schooling in Kuwait amounted to 7.3 years for females and 7.1 years for males; similarly, the expected years of schooling amounted to 15.2 years for females and 14.2 years for males.

Higher education at the public college and public university level is also free for Kuwaiti citizens, and the gender gaps in education have been already bridged. In fact, the number of female students exceeds that of male students in secondary and tertiary education as well as in applied education and training. Therefore, the government is actively encouraging the enrolment of males in tertiary education by setting lower grade requirements for them than that for females.

In regards to teachers in government schools, all the teachers in kindergartens are women. In 2014/2015, 93% of teachers in primary schools and over 56% of teachers in the intermediate and secondary level were women.

Income and Employment of Women:

In 2014, a total of 407,391 Kuwaiti citizens were employed in the local job market. Of them, 53% were males and 47% females¹⁰. Kuwaiti women are increasingly competing with their male counterparts in most of the fields.

Women in Leadership Positions:

On May 16, 2005, Kuwait's Parliament granted women full rights to vote in elections, enabling them also to vote and run for office to the 50-seat National Assembly and 16-seat Kuwait Municipality Council. This is a milestone for women's political rights in the country. In 2009, four women won elections in the unicameral National Assembly, and greater focus on women's issues was seen following their election, but there are no women represented in the current term of the National Assembly. Kuwait has seen several women take office of

¹⁰ State of Kuwait, CSB, Annual Statistical Abstract 2014

Minister over the years, and in 2016, there is one woman in the government cabinet of Ministers; the Minister of Social Affairs and Labor State Minister for Planning and Development Affairs.

Gender Inequality Index:

Kuwait ranked 79th in the Gender Inequality Index (GII), with a GII value of 0.387 among 155 countries (compared to Slovenia with rank of 1st and a GII value of 0.016 and Yemen with rank of 155th and a GII value of 0.744 in 2014¹¹). This means that, although Kuwait is doing well on health and education, the economic and political empowerment of women still remains a challenge to be addressed and improved upon.

Kuwait and CEDAW:

Kuwait is party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), but with reservations, to allow for the continuation of some of the nation's patriarchal Laws.

1.6 Challenges experienced and lessons learnt regarding the demographic issues

- Because of oil and water fields, and military facilities in the western part of the KMA, land is not available for the expansion of the KMA towards the west. The sea is the barrier for expansion into the east.
- The Third Kuwait Master Plan Review 2005 has proposed the development of 10 new urban settlements and 4 new rural settlements in the northern, north-eastern, south-eastern and south-western parts of the country to accommodate 2.57 million population by 2030.
- The government aims to balance the proportion of the Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti populations due to growing numbers of low skilled workers; therefore, the government is working to manage and reduce this population.
- Government policies on health and education are very effective. In combination with the high level of per capita income, the human development index stands at a high level, similar to the one observed in developed countries.
- The Constitution of Kuwait provides right of every married couple to get housing from the government. As of September 2016, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare constructed and transferred 26,308 houses, 834 apartments and 26,874 housing plots in the country. However, more than 102,000 families are currently on the waiting list for the allocation of a house, apartment or a housing plot. Each year, there are over 8,000 new

¹¹ UNDP HDR 2015

applicants for housing. Thus, it has become very difficult for the government to provide housing at this pace of demand.

- The rural sector in Kuwait is too small. The challenges are shortage of cultivable land, water and educated labor force for introducing improved agricultural technology for dry- land agriculture, urban agriculture, and aquaculture.
- The range of youth population defined in Kuwait is 14-34 years, expanding on the United Nations' definition of youth as those aged 15-24 years of age. Additionally, the youths of different ages have different needs and expectations.
- The National Youth Policy is presently under preparation. The policy is expected to be developed within one year.
- Hiring all youths of employable age in the government sector is a challenge. Therefore, the government has set-up a National Fund with KD 2 billion to encourage self-employment projects and a departure from reliance on the public sector for jobs.
- A number of experienced health care personnel are getting old.
- The elderly are generally knowledgeable and experienced persons, but the challenge is a lack of policy on how to best utilize their skills and experience.
- A lack of knowledge on gender issues and cultural resistance to change are experienced in Kuwait in efforts for greater gender equality.

1.7 Future challenges and issues that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda

- The future agenda of Kuwait could be the development of self-sustaining urban settlements, especially in the north-eastern, western and south-eastern parts of the country, in order to reduce over-crowding, congestion and pollution in the KMA, and to redistribute population and resources to different parts of the country.
- Development of middle and high-level skills Kuwaiti nationals is necessary. However, at the same time, their motivation to take jobs to replace expatriate workers needs to be improved.
- Kuwaiti nationals prefer to be housed in villas, but such housing is becoming expensive for middle and lower income families. Therefore, new technology could be brought to build houses at a cheaper and faster rate.
- Providing job opportunities as well as appropriate employable skills to youths of eligible ages; keeping youths away from drug use and abuse,

violence, terror and extremism; and encouraging more active participation of youths in community leadership could be part of the new urban agenda.

- There is a need to establish a good nursing care system for the elderly; the health information system need to strengthen and an annual status report on health indicators needs to be published.

More awareness is needed to achieve the basic and strategic needs of women to achieve gender equality.

National Report Kuwait

Chapter Two

Land and Urban Planning: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda.



Chapter 2: Land and Urban Planning: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda

2.1 Ensuring sustainable urban planning and design

Urban planning is important for Kuwait. More than 98% of the population, at present, live in Kuwait Metropolitan Area (KMA) and few other urban areas. The country's total land area is 17,810 sq. km, of which KMA takes up about 810 sq. km. or less than 5% of the total land area. The rest of the country has very small population.

Until the early 1950s, Kuwait was a small walled town and its citizens relied on fishing, pearl diving and trade as a means of livelihood. Efforts to provide adequate housing, together with other aspects of social welfare was started after the discovery of oil in 1938 and its export beginning 1946, in order to redistribute its new wealth to its citizens, who were otherwise living in a traditional Arab town lacking modern infrastructure and technology. Eventually, taxes were lifted, health and education were freely provided, and employment was guaranteed. This rapid shift in economic prosperity called for the emergence of official planning of the country.

Kuwait began the development of its master plans in the early 1950s. Kuwait Municipality is the responsible agency for preparing such plans¹². The first master plan was developed in 1952.

First Kuwait Master Plan, 1952

Kuwait was one of the first countries in the Middle East to prepare the country's master plan. In April 1951, the State of Kuwait commissioned an international consultant to develop its first Kuwait Master Plan, which was completed in 1952. The first master plan was a design based on the principle of self-sufficient, low-density neighborhood units, separated by radial ring roads expanding beyond the old city.

The First Master Plan's main aims were to:

1. Provide a modern roads network consistent with traffic requirements and volumes in the city of Kuwait and neighboring areas,
2. Dedicate zones for establishing government buildings, industry, commercial districts, schools and other different uses,
3. Identify areas for new housing in and outside the barrier,
4. Identify areas suited for gardens, squares, parks and playgrounds,
5. Develop the central commercial district and improve Safat Square while giving attention to the distribution of government buildings to add a distinguished character to the city, and
6. Provide main roads to connect the city of Kuwait with neighboring cities and villages in Jahraa and Ahmadi governorates.

¹² The master plans are physical development plans.

The first master plan covered 755 hectares of the city of Kuwait inside the barrier and 1,450 hectares beyond the barrier to cover the neighboring areas until the third Ring Road to include all uses: residential, commercial, administrative, services, public utilities and recreation. The master plan implemented scientific planning standards consisting of demographic, traffic and planning studies. It established the foundations of the ring and radial roads. It also introduced the residential suburbs and hubs system, and created a kind of balance in traffic circulation by situating new labor agglomerations outside the city, specifically the Shuwaikh Industrial Zone, the health zone and the new airport.

The foundations for the city's master plan were also set. A commercial district was identified with Safat Square at its hearts, and public buildings and ministries laid out on both sides of Abdullah Al-Salem Street and the light industries zone, in addition to the residential zones, which constituted about 54% of the city area.

Because of the first master plan's recommendations, a technical body was created for planning, roads, and topographical survey. The Construction Council was likewise created, headed by the Prince of Kuwait, constituting the higher authority for planning and construction.

The master plan was the main driver of change, as it constituted a historical turning point in planning and construction in the State of Kuwait. Its success is evident in the fact that subsequent master plans adopted the same methodology, although they had access to more information and statistics, which had been quasi nil in the case of the first master plan.

Kuwait Municipal Master Plan for Development, 1967

The economic boom was attended by an increase in the population because of natural growth and immigration to Kuwait. Construction grew at a fast pace and the need emerged for more planned land for development. In 1967, a municipal master plan for development was prepared. The Municipal Achievements in this period included the planning of 40 residential, commercial and industrial zones. Two ring roads were constructed: the fifth and sixth Ring Roads. Radial roads were extended. The coastline saw the most development with the planning of coastal zones. The Shuaiba zone was dedicated to heavy industries. The master plan largely contributed to guiding and shaping development in the country.

Second Kuwait Master Plan, 1970

Following recommendation by the UN, the Municipality contracted British consultants Colin Buchanan & Partners in late 1968 to undertake the second master plan. The study consisted of:

- Long-term plan
- National nature plan
- Short-term urban areas master plan
- Kuwait City master plan

The Second Master Plan was prepared in 1970. The plan established the target year as 1995 and anticipated a population of 2 million. The urban area was assumed capable of assimilating some 1.25 million people, with a proposed assimilation of the surplus population outside urban areas. A northern city was proposed. Concerning the recommendations of the master plan about regular updates every five years, three reviews were conducted:



Figure 2.1 First Kuwait Master Plan, 1952

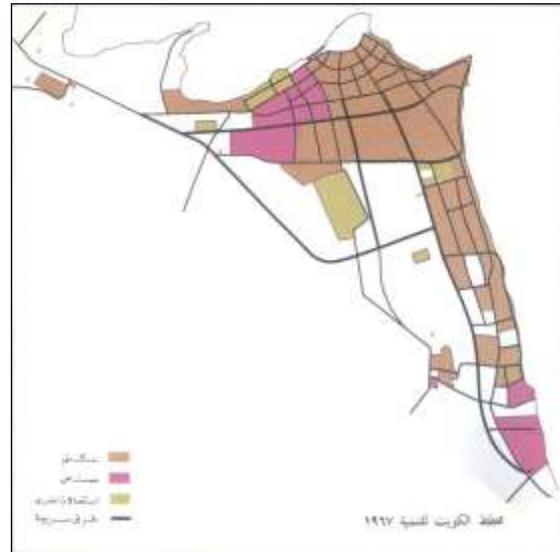


Figure 2.2 Municipal Master Plan, 1967

First Kuwait Master Plan Review, 1977

The review established major recommendations to assimilate the increase in the population and instituted, in this regard, restrictions on the creation of industrial zones. It also prepared specific plans to develop commercial districts to serve urban areas.

The review moreover proposed the establishment of two new cities, one in Subiya in the north and another in Khiran in the south to assimilate the expected growth in the population in 2.76 million in the target year 2000.

The capacity of the urban area at the time was estimated at some 1.76 million people. It was proposed to assimilate the 1 million strong increases in the population outside the urban areas and dedicate two cities, Subiya and Khiran, for this purpose.

Second Kuwait Master Plan Review, 1983

Adjustments were introduced in the policies and recommendations based on the topographical changes in the composition of the population, the size of the population, as well as the socio-political changes that occurred. The target year

was 2005 and the expected population 2.5 million. It is worth noting that demographic estimates were lowered in the 1983 plan.

The second review established the acceptable limits for the assimilation capacity of urban areas at approximately 2.085 million people by 2005. The proposed assimilation capacity for new cities was adjusted to align with the possible changes in the size of the population in addition to the development in different land uses and the roads network to keep pace of these changes.

Third Kuwait Master Plan, 1997

The Kuwait Municipality started the preparation of a third master plan for the State of Kuwait in 1992. It proceeded by conducting a series of specialized studies for each sector: population, labor, environment, natural resources, land uses and excepted activities, housing and the assimilation capacity of urban areas, transportation, public services and utilities. It created a comprehensive database for the various sectors in the state and identified the problems of each sector in accordance with modern scientific methods.

Building on the results of those studies, the third State of Kuwait Master Plan was developed and finalized in 1997. It aimed to create a strategic plan for the natural development of the state and an executive plan for the urban area in addition to an executive plan for Kuwait City.

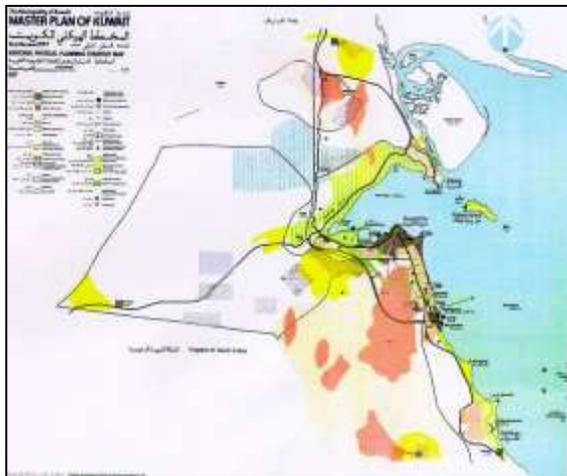


Figure 2.3 Master Plan of Kuwait in the First Review, 1977



Figure 2.4 KMP-Municipality Area-1st Review, 1977

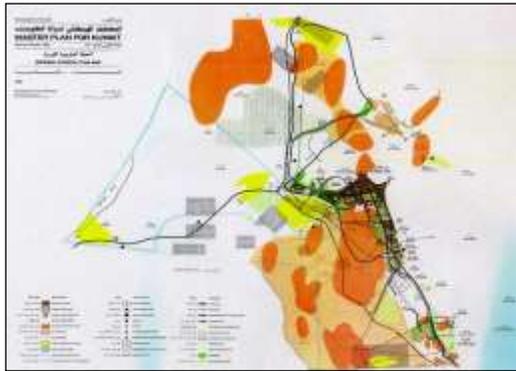


Figure 2.5 KMP-2nd Review, 1983



Figure 2.6 KMP-Kuwait City-2nd Review, 1983

The expected population for 2015 was estimated at approximately 3.8 million people by the third master plan, of which 2.3 million will be assimilated in the urban zone. This revealed a need for housing some 1.5 million people outside the limits of the current urban area (the urban area being the zone between Doha in the north and Salmiya in the south, along the coastline until Ahmadi Port, through to Shuaiba, in addition to the area confined by the 7th Ring Road), specifically in the new cities that were previously proposed in Subiya and Az-Zour (Khiran), not to mention the western annexed cities which were proposed west of the urban zone.



Figure 2.7 3rd KMP, 1997



Figure 2.8 3rd KMP-Kuwait Metropolitan Area, 1997

Third Kuwait Master Plan Review, 2005

The Third Kuwait Master Plan was reviewed in 2005. This review puts forward development strategy for the period from 2005-2030. The master plan not only deals with the development of the KMA, but also the development of new cities in the northern, north-eastern, southern and south-western parts of the country and construction of national/international highways and railways connecting the central part of Kuwait with northern and north-eastern part (North Al Mutla, Al Abdali, Subiya, North Subiya and Umm Qasr) up to the Iraqi border and south-eastern part (Arifjan, Az-Zour, and Wafra) up to the Saudi Arabia border connecting them with the proposed Gulf railway.

The western corridor is to extend the highway from the central Kuwait to an-Naayim and as-Salmi up to the Saudi Arabia border.

The aim of this strategy is to make Kuwait the financial and business hub in the Gulf region serving the countries in the north (Iraq, Iran and other countries of western Asia) and in the south (Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, and other countries in the south) connecting them by railways and highways (see Maps 9 and 10).

The updated Third Master Plan was adopted by the Amiri Decree **Nº55** of 2008.

In order to ensure sustainable urban planning and design, Kuwait is currently in the process of preparing the Fourth Kuwait Master Plan 2040, and it is expected to be completed by the end of 2018.

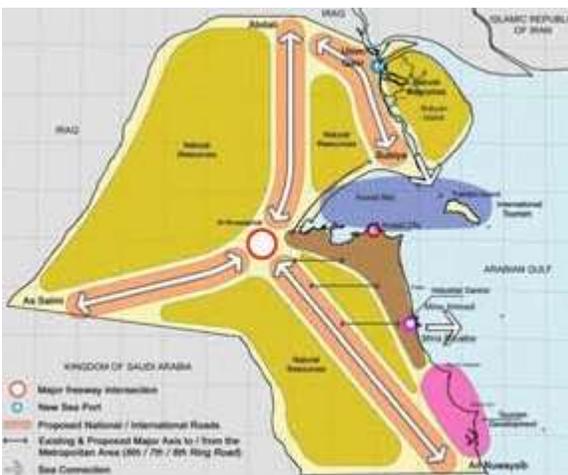


Figure 2.9 New Urban Development Axis of Kuwait, 2005

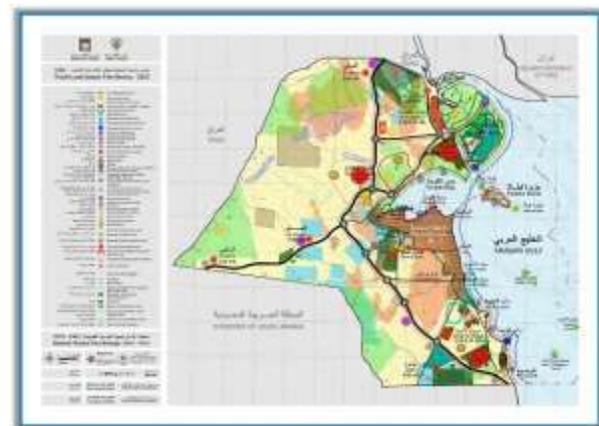


Figure 2.10 3rd KMP, 2005

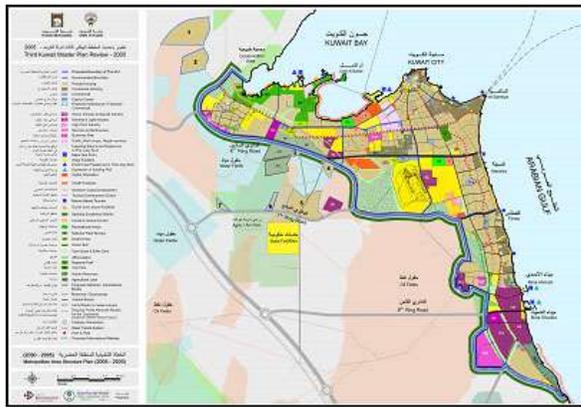


Figure 2.11 Third KMP-Kuwait Metropolitan Area, 2005



Figure 2.12 Third KMP-Kuwait City, 2005.

Kuwait Master Plan 2040

Kuwait Master Plan (KMP) 2040 will provide integrated policies and land use-planning directions for all elements of the State's physical development and land uses for the upcoming planning period ending in 2040. The planning process will seek to align the Master Plan with compatible researches or interests, strategies, and land use requirements and projects of the State of Kuwait's Development Plan - Kuwait Vision 2035. This alignment will result in a complete and holistic structuring of land uses required for Kuwait's demographic, social, economic, and environmental prosperity.

As a baseline, KMP 2040 will identify and review current and committed plans, project policies, decisions and practices related to transportation networks (roads, rail, air, and maritime), civil infrastructure networks (sewer, drainage, telecommunications, water and electricity), environmentally sensitive features areas, coastal marine areas, natural resources, biodiversity and natural heritage and cultural features and policies, economic and social development plans and strategies and spatial plans pertaining, but not limited to committed, planned and proposed residential, commercial, industrial, government, and leisure uses. A key deliverable of this review will be a complete, accurate, and up-to-date national database of current, committed and proposed urban and regional systems, infrastructure, and land supplies.

The above will draw extensively on recently completed regional structure plans and updated local plans covering regions and urban areas of strategic importance to Kuwait and seek to harmonize, balance and prioritize the land use goals of these plans into one integrated plan for the future.

Anticipated demographic changes and achievement of economic growth and diversification scenarios will be considered in the master planning process for their implications on national planning policies and land use requirements. Extensive analysis of national housing, social welfare policies and programs, the spatial implications of the committed public transportation schemes for the

metropolitan area on population growth and economic development shall be undertaken in this master planning process to reconfirm a spatial strategy that satisfies future demand in a balanced manner.

Taking into consideration local history, trends, customs, views, sensitivities and the political environment, KMP 2040 will propose solutions that deliver sustainable and highly livable urban environments capable of accommodating population and employment growth over the planning period and beyond.

KMP 2040 will also incorporate new land use planning administration tools and systems that will assist relevant authorities to manage and monitor land use changes, transportation and infrastructure network capacity, economic activity and population growth throughout the State. Kuwait Municipality is about to develop an Enterprise GIS and in the process of developing a consolidated zoning plans and planning regulations through a new project “Zoning Regulations and Planning Standards Manuals”; these databases serve as a current baseline for the KMP 2040 project and will be updated accordingly based on the outcomes of this planning exercise.

KMP 2040 shall also include the development of additional planning tools and systems, including a micro-land use planning, the Geographic Information System “GIS” framework to enrich the Municipality’s GIS with demographic, economic and traffic data (and other data and all projection data). This will involve creating new data matching existing data layers to the sector-level geometry for analysis in all required studies associated with KMP 2040.

2.2 Improving urban land management, including addressing urban sprawl

The purpose of urban land management is to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources. For managing the land, the Third Master Plan Review allocates the total area of the country for the different uses, including Kuwait Metropolitan Area, green belt/buffer zone, developable sites, proposed new urban and rural settlements, conservation, recreation and tourism areas, utility and power stations, industrial areas and service centers, communication and sporting sites, roads, proposed national/international roads, railways and dry ports, historical sites, oil fields, water fields, military areas, agricultural and animal husbandry areas, fishing areas, etc. as shown in Map 1.10. Similarly, land management planning for Kuwait Metropolitan Area and Kuwait City has allocated land of these areas for different uses as shown in Maps 1.11 and 1.12.

Kuwait does not have slums and informal settlements. All the people, Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti live in residential areas allocated by Kuwait Municipality. The Public Authority either constructs the buildings and apartments in the residential areas for Housing Welfare (PAHW) or self-constructed houses in the plots provided by PAHO. The houses for self-construction also need to follow the building codes. The commercial, industrial and other areas are also defined areas in Kuwait. The policies and practices on urban land management prevent formation of slums, but urban sprawl continues towards the northern and southern sides of the KMA.

The Third Master Plan Review strategy estimated that the population of Kuwait would reach 5.37 million by 2030. The KMA would not be able to accommodate of the expected growth, therefore, the Third Master Plan Review proposed to accommodate 2.8 million people in the expanded KMA, and the rest 2.57 million in ten new urban and four rural locations in different parts of the country (see Table 2.1).

Table 2.1 Population size after the proposed development of new urban and rural and urban settlements by location and phase in Kuwait

Location	First phase 2005- 2010	Second phase 2010- 2015	Third phase 2015- 2020	Fourth phase 2020- 2025	Fifth phase 2025- 2030	Total
Urban Settlements						
Az-Zour	175,000	175,000	200,000	50,000	-	600,000
Subiya	100,000	150,000	250,000	100,000	-	600,000
North al-Mutla	-	100,000	-	200,000	200,000	500,000
North Subiya	-	-	-	200,000	150,000	350,000
Arifjan	93,000	69,000	58,000	-	-	220,000
Wafra	-	18,000	32,000	-	-	50,000
As-Salmi	-	-	-	-	50,000	50,000
Al Abdali	-	32,000	18,000	-	-	50,000
Umm Qasr	-	-	-	15,000	35,000	50,000
An-Naayim	-	-	-	10,000	40,000	50,000
Rural Settlements						
Bubiyah	-	-	-	25,000	-	25,000
Abdali Farms	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
Nuwaysib	-	-	-	-	10,000	10,000
Failaka	-	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
Total	368,000	549,000	558,000	600,000	495,000	2,570,000

Source: Third Kuwait Master Plan Review, National Physical Strategy 2005, page 192.

In the case of housing, the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW), established in 1974, has the mandate to build houses and apartments, develop land plots for housing, and transfer them to the Kuwaiti applicants. PAHW's housing developments are generally in projects located outside of the KMA in the north-eastern, south-eastern and western parts of the county. Townships developed by PAHW can range from a collection of under a hundred residential units to towns with space and infrastructure for thousands of residents and workers.

In addition to residential areas for Kuwaiti citizens, the PAHW is also in the process of building South Al Jahra Labour City, which will eventually include 20,000 affordable housing units for low-income expatriate laborers.

At present, more than 95% of Kuwait's land belongs to the government; however, as seen above, the land will be used for various purposes, including housing.

2.3 Enhancing urban and peri-urban food production

Peri-urban areas are the rural-urban transition zones where urban and rural activities are mixed. Kuwait metropolitan area lies within the proposed green belt/buffer zone. The green belt is in the western part of the metropolis. Beyond the green belt, there are oil fields, water fields and military sites. Thus, unlike in many other countries, there is no peri-urban area adjoining the KMA.

The cultivated area and food production in Kuwait is very limited. The main agricultural areas in the country are Al Sulaibiya, near the KMA in the middle part of the country, Al Wafra, near the south-eastern border with Saudi Arabia, and Al Abdali, near the northern border with Iraq. Since Kuwait has a long coastline of 499 km, including the coastline of its islands, there is a possibility of developing aquaculture in these areas.

Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources (PAAFR) is lead agency for the development of agriculture and fishery in Kuwait. The PAAFR aims at strengthening the regulatory and business environment to support aquaculture and contribute to the growth of fish and shrimp.

Urban agricultural technologies are currently being developed in several developed and developing countries. Improved technologies for dry-land agriculture already exist in several countries. Thus, the government through PAAFR needs to encourage private entrepreneur to bring-in such technologies in Kuwait to develop urban and rural agriculture.

2.4 Addressing urban mobility challenges

Kuwait government recognizes the need for public transport. Kuwait Public Transport Corporation (KPTC) was established in 1963, and since then, their service has expanded and developed to cover public transportation from the mainland to other Kuwaiti islands, renting buses, running public buses at very cheap rates within the reach of all sectors of the society, and yet, it is noticed that the majority of Kuwaiti citizens prefer driving their own cars rather than taking a public bus.

KPTC has been established for the following clear purposes:

- Executing all land public transportation services within and outside the state of Kuwait as well as the maritime transportation service to transport the peoples and goods between Kuwaiti Islands.
- Purchasing, utilizing and selling all types of omnibuses as well as any means related to the land or maritime public transportation.
- Creating any industry related to the land and maritime public transportation.

- Renting, to and from others, any transportation mean that is necessary for land and maritime public transportation

People mainly depend on private motor vehicles or taxis for commuting. Because of high per capita income, Kuwaiti nationals can afford to buy car(s) easily. Increased number of motor vehicles, however, has created congestion, pollution and mobility challenges in the KMA. To address this problem, the Third KMP has recommended improvement of the fourth ring road, extension of the 6th ring road, completion of the 7th ring road, and starting the development of the 8th ring road, in addition to improving the existing road network. It is important to improve traffic signals, parking controls and develop sub-ways and railways to address the congestion problem.



Figure 2.13 Marin & Mass Transportation buses provided by KPTC

2.5 Improving technical capacity to plan and manage cities

Planning and management of city is sophisticated work. Highly qualified persons in different fields, including urban and regional planning, geography, economics, finance, accounting, sociology, management and information technology (IT) are needed to plan and manage the city.

Education is free in Kuwait for Kuwaiti nationals. The Ministry of Education has invested heavily on school education, including teachers training for the development of all Kuwaiti children.

There are also a number of private schools in Kuwait such as Indian, Pakistani, Philippine, French and British schools which provide school education mainly to the expatriate children or anyone interested to enroll their children in such schools.

The Ministry of Higher Education provides higher and vocational education to Kuwaiti nationals through two state-supported institutions: (1) Kuwait University, and (2) Public Authority for Applied Education and Training. Kuwait University offers undergraduate and graduate programs in science, medicine, humanities & social sciences, and business administration, while the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training offers technical and vocational programs that includes cars engineering, IT, nursing and medical sciences, and other programs that lead to obtaining short courses diplomas up to Bachelor degrees.

The following private universities also provide higher education and/or technical /vocational education to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti nationals:

- American University of Kuwait
- American University of Middle East
- The Open Arab University, Kuwait
- Gulf University for Science and Technology
- Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialization
- Australian College of Kuwait
- Kuwait Maastricht Business School

The Government also offers excellent scholarships for Kuwaiti nationals to study in universities in the United States, United Kingdom and other Arab and foreign countries.

However, the existing expertise in Kuwait is not adequate for urban and regional planning. In order to improve the readiness of the workforce, the Kuwait Mid-Range Development Plan (KDP) 2015/16-2019/20 aims at:

- Improving workforce training availability
- Aligning workforce skill-sets to job requirements, and
- Increasing number of people with tertiary education

2.6 Challenges experienced and lessons learnt in these areas

- The pressure of increased economic activity and population in the KMA has led to the demand for more land for development of housing and other purposes. In response to this, the KMA has expanded towards the northern and southern coastal areas of the KMA. Land is not available for expansion in the west beyond the green belt because of the existence of oil fields, water fields and military areas. This is one of the main challenges for the expansion of the KMA.
- The unavailability of land for the expansion of KMA, while the existence of land for the development of city and rural towns in other parts of the country led to the urban planners to recommend planned development of 10 cities and 4 rural towns in the northern, southern and western part of the country. The progress so far, however, is minimal in this regard.
- There is no peri-urban area in the KMA because of the unavailability of land beyond the green belt/buffer zone in the western part of the city; however, there exists a long coastline in the KMA and the country to develop aquaculture and tourism. Similarly, there exists possibility for the development of urban agriculture as well as dry-land agriculture using the developed in several countries.
- The KMA is facing urban mobility challenges because of too many motor vehicles per person in the country and lack of sub-ways and railways in the KMA. The government has planned to build sub-ways and railways. It may take several years to complete the construction of such systems.

- Medium and high-level skills is required for urban development. Free education for Kuwaiti nationals at the primary, secondary and tertiary level has improved the knowledge and skills of Kuwaiti people. The technical and vocational training provided by the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training has also improved the technical skills; however, Kuwaiti youths are not motivated to take up lower skilled jobs available in the market.

2.7 Future challenges and issues in these areas that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda

- The Third Master Plan Review 2005 was too optimistic about developing 10 cities and 4 rural towns in Kuwait. It requires a huge amount of money and labor to develop so many cities and towns. The future urban agenda of Kuwait could be to develop a new master plan, which will prioritize the development on only two new cities, one in the south-eastern part of the country near the Saudi Arabia border and the other in the north-eastern part near the Iraqi border. These two cities should be connected with the KMA by national/international highway and railway.
- Currently there is a high demand for land, both in the public and private sector, for the development of housing, commercial centers, roads and other infrastructure. Since more than 95% of Kuwait's land currently belongs to the government, the releasing of land for urban and rural development should be a priority in the new urban agenda.
- The unavailability of land for the expansion of KMA, while the existence of land for the development of city and rural towns in other parts of the country led to the urban planners to recommend planned development of 10 cities and 4 rural towns in the northern, southern and western part of the country. The progress so far, however, is minimal in this regard.
- Since peri-urban area does not exist around the KMA, 4 rural towns as visualized by the 3KMAR could be developed for the development of agriculture. In addition, the government could provide incentive to the private sector to bring-in new technology for the development of urban and dry land agriculture.
- There is no alternative except to explore the option to the development of sub-ways and railways to reduce traffic congestion in the KMA. Therefore, the new urban agenda should be to speed-up the development of these systems.
- Further efforts are needed to develop medium and high-level skills of Kuwaiti nationals and enhance their motivation to take up the jobs currently occupied by expatriate workers, including in the area of urban planning and management. The housewives could be given training to use high tech equipment to replace low-skill foreign workers.

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Chapter Three

Environment and Urbanization: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda.



Chapter 3: The Environment and Urbanization: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda

3.1 Addressing climate change

Climate change refers to a change in global or regional climate patterns due mainly to the increased levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere produced by the use of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and natural gas.

Kuwait uses oil and natural gas to produce energy. Currently, the use of renewable sources of energy such as solar, wind, tidal, geothermal, biomass and biogas for the production of energy is very low in the country.

CO₂ is produced while using oil and gas for the production of electricity and heat. The following sectors are the major ones in emitting CO₂ in Kuwait:

- Public electricity, heat production, auto-producers and other energy industries
- Manufacturing industries and construction
- Transportation
- Commercial and public service sector
- Residential sector

The increased content of CO₂ in the atmosphere increases global warming. Thus, Kuwait is one of the contributors of global warming or climate change.

Kuwait is highly vulnerable to the impacts of sea level rise. The sea level rise may lead to flooding of low-lying urban infrastructure, inundation of coastal ecosystems and deterioration of groundwater quality. Thus, Kuwait needs to develop and use clean renewable energy in order to help prevent global warming and climate change.

In order to enhance the use of clean energy and reduce CO₂ emissions, Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research will design and construct a power plant of 75-100 MW capacities from renewable energy sources and produce electricity from it.

Similarly, the Kuwait Authority for Partnership Projects will establish a new integrated solar combined cycle in order to help Kuwait manage the increasing demand for electricity consumption, improve the efficiency of existing power stations using modern technology, and shift to using renewable solar energy.

Kuwait is one of the countries that signed the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, a landmark agreement that primarily aims to keep a global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius and to drive efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

3.2 Disaster risk reduction

The main natural disasters that could happen in Kuwait are sudden heavy rains, sandstorms and dust storms. Sudden heavy rains may occur during October through April, which can damage roads and houses. Sand and dust storms are common during March through August. Sometimes red tides occur in the Kuwait shores and kill fish.

Kuwait Meteorological Department of the Directorate of the General Civil Aviation operates high tech meteorological equipment and systems for 27 land and marine automatic weather observation stations. It has set up the largest generation Doppler Weather Rader, 20 wind-shear early warning systems, and specialized systems to measure the elements of the upper atmosphere ozone layer.

The Department provides weather information 24-hours a day, 7-days a week. These automated weather information goes to the airport for ensuring the safety of all inbound and outbound aircrafts. The Department is connected to a dedicated Meteorological network enabling meteorological data exchange at the regional level and worldwide.

Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research (KISR) houses Kuwait's national network for monitoring earthquakes. The Environment Public Authority (EPA) responds to red tides while the Public Authority of Agriculture and Fisheries Resources (PAAFR) and EPA respond to fish deaths.

3.3 Reducing traffic congestion

Traffic congestion is a condition on transport networks that occurs as the use of vehicles increases, and is characterized by slower speeds, longer trip times, and increased vehicular queuing. In the 1930s, the first department regulating traffic in Kuwait was established as part of Kuwait Municipality and the first traffic penalty is documented on 22nd September 1938. Since then, the number of roads and cars doubled and tripled until they reached to more than two million in 2016 leading to heavy traffic jams.

At present, more than 3000 traffic police officers work on organizing traffic on all roads of Kuwait aided by more than 500 traffic engineers.

According to a study that was conducted by Kuwait Ministry of Interiors in collaboration with the UNDP, the traffic congestion is attributed to 21 causes.

The following are the main causes:

1. Increasing demand for transport of people and goods associated with limited infrastructure capacity,
2. Annual increase in the number of motor vehicles at 6-9% as a result of growing population,
3. Congestion, vehicle emissions and accidents,

4. Inefficient public transport services,
5. Unavailability of railway, metro networks or rapid bus transit systems,
6. Need for better transport-land use planning,
7. Need for reliable information system, and
8. The concentration of the urban areas on only 8% of the total area of the state.

The State of Kuwait, with the support of the UNDP, has developed a comprehensive National Traffic and Transport Strategy for the period from 2010-2020 that is designed to help reduce traffic congestion.

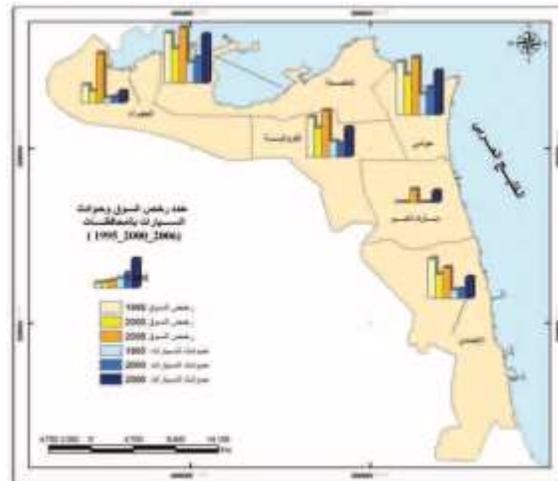


Figure 3.1 the absorptive capacity of the streets is 900 thousand cars and the existing is more than 1.5m.
Figure 3.2 Concentration of urban areas on only 8% of the area of the state

The Law No. 115 of 2014 set the Public Authority for Road & Transportation (PART), and it continues to initiate fieldwork. Kuwait has established a comprehensive national strategy for traffic and transport sector that has been adopted by the Ministerial Cabinet in Law No. 1426 of 2010 for implementation by all concerned sectors. The Law 115 bases the strategy on restructuring of the transport sector through the establishment of the PART for Year 2014.

In 2016, PART is still Ministry of Interiors based. It needs to transfer all specialized personnel from their relevant departments of Ministry of Interiors to PART to begin their actual work in developing transportation system in Kuwait to resolve the problem of traffic congestion on all roads of the 6 governorates.

The transportation strategy includes steps to be taken at an educational level. For example, Kuwait University should establish a new department offering a Bachelor Degree on Traffic engineering and road safety that can contribute both in supplying graduates familiar with Kuwait roads requirements as well as establishing new traffic codes that respond to expanding urban structure of Kuwait. Furthermore, the strategy emphasizes the need to raise awareness of non-residents of Kuwait as they come from different cultural backgrounds that make them apply what they practice back in their countries. Now, the expats living in Kuwait belong to more than 60 nationalities, which render it hard to

reach them individually, therefore using billboards in their native languages can be an option. In addition, the strategy includes developing the metropolitan system to make it include new train and subway lines and further expansions of the public and private bus services.

Although the ministerial cabinet passes the law, yet it needs to be fully implemented to reach the desired outcome. Now, the traffic wardens monitor both driving license validity and the cars conditions and they penalize people with invalid driving license, and as the expats make up more than two thirds of the population, they are obliged to respect traffic law as tough measures are taken against them that can reach deportation for those who pass traffic lights. This procedure is taken as the state recognized that death rates caused by passing red traffic lights has risen during the last few years. In addition, Kuwaiti drivers face high fines in case they break the law that include confiscating their driving license and in some cases taking their cars under the police station custody until they pay very high fines.

Future challenges for the newly built cities include introducing more pedestrian friendly areas, especially because the urban structure has become increasingly dependent on the use of private cars for transportation. Perhaps best options can be through designing mosques with a pedestrian area surrounding them to reduce traffic congestion as people go to pray five times a day. In addition, as the population grows leading to more drivers on the roads, there is a need for more traffic engineers, especially because scientific studies proved that traffic congestion leads to depleting 3-4 % of the state resources in health care, loss of employees work, etc.

The Ministry of Public Works has ongoing program to improve roads infrastructure in Kuwait, which should be reducing traffic congestion by increasing the length of roads and bridges. At present, a program consists of 16 distinct projects, which will add 1,440 km of main roads and 340 km of internal roads in different parts of the country. This program is expected to be completed in May 2021. Mega projects taking place now include:

- (1) Doha Link has been constructed in 2014 to make it very easy for trucks and heavy vehicles to move from south to north of Kuwait along the highway without causing traffic congestion.
- (2) Sheikh Jaber AL Ahmad bridge project is still ongoing and will finish in 2018 that will make vehicles move faster from North to south and vice versa.
- (3) The construction of Jamal Abdul Nasser highway with multiple bridges linking Jahra Governorate and Kuwait City will make it easier and faster for travelling vehicles as it crosses Ministry of Health services and Kuwait University, with additional facilities leading to faster commuting and mobility.

3.4 Air Pollution

Air pollution in Kuwait originates from different sources, including: oil refineries, electrical power stations, water desalination, cement factory, petrochemical industry, iron & steel factory, small & medium enterprises located in industrial zones, vehicles, bakery & food industries, residential areas, and trans-boundary pollutions. In 2014, Kuwait has set Law No. 42 for Environment Protection. Reviewed and amended by Law No 99 for Year 2015. Clauses nos. 113, 114 and 115 of the Law establishes a military unit part of Ministry of Interiors called “The Environmental Police”. The new force will monitor the implementation of environmental laws, following up all violations and complaints about breaking the environmental law in Kuwait by both the public and private sectors. Furthermore, they will build the environmental awareness of people at all levels of the society by answering their enquiries and organizing meetings between them and the people.

The Environment Public Authority of the State of Kuwait (KEPA) monitors the air pollution through 15 monitoring sites and 3 mobile laboratories since 1984. KEPA has issued the Law of Environmental Protection (Law # 42 for year 2014), which contains legislations to help minimize air pollution.

Earlier, KEPA issued the executive regulations # 210/2001, updated in 2016, and will be issued after the approval of the responsible authorities. The new executive regulations will minimize greatly the air pollution in Kuwait because of severe penalties in cases of violations. KEPA expects to improve the level of air quality through reduction of pollutants in the air from burning fossil fuels by promoting standards that limit household use of fuel and implementing air conditioning performance standards. It will also develop and implement an environmental strategy to address all current and future environmental imbalances.

3.5 Challenges experienced and lessons learnt in these areas

- Kuwait has abundant oil and gas resources for the production of electricity and energy needed in the country. If it does not use these resources in the production process, there will be severe revenue and cost implications for the country.
- It takes time to gather new technology, qualified manpower and finances to switch over from oil and gas to clean energy sources (solar, wind, tidal, etc.) for the production of electricity and energy.
- Coordination between various agencies is needed to deal with the disasters. An effective coordination between these agencies is currently lacking to deal with the problem.
- Development of metro system, railways, additional roads and vehicle parking areas, and a good traffic information system is necessary for reducing congestion in Kuwait metropolitan area. However, it takes several years to develop metro systems and railways.

- In order to minimize air pollution, the industrial, motor vehicle and household sectors need to minimize their emissions. This will not be possible without the production of electricity and energy from renewable sources. It will take several years to accomplish this task.
- Sewage treatment is very important urban environmental protection. The country is already producing sewage treated water, which is used in agriculture.

3.6 Future challenges and issues in these areas that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda

- Renewable technology is needed to produce electricity and energy. Kuwait does not have sufficient technical labor to implement this technology. Thus, labor development on renewable technology as well as energy saving technology should be one of the new urban agenda of Kuwait.
- In order to deal with the disasters, a lead agency and cooperating agencies are needed. Thus, the development of such a mechanism should be part of the new urban agenda.
- Development of metro and railway system that links all parts of the country as well as the existing public and private bus services will reduce traffic congestion in the KMA. Therefore, development of such systems should be part of the new urban agenda.

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Chapter Four

Urban Governance and Legislation: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda.



Chapter 4: Urban Governance and Legislation: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda

4.1 Improving urban legislation

Kuwait is, basically, an urban country administered by a central government. Each ministry, such as the Ministries of Health, Education, Housing Welfare, Social Welfare, etc., has its own specific roles in the urban area. Thus, in order to improve urban legislation, cooperation and active participation of all these ministries is needed. Kuwait Municipality is a key agency devoted to the planning and development of the urban areas in the country. Hence, it can act as a focal point for the improvement of urban legislations.

The Municipality was established in April 13, 1930. Since its inception, it has its own laws and municipal council elected by the people. The primary task of the first municipal office focused on waste collection and disposal, besides providing guard service to improve municipal hygiene, surveillance and collection of fees.

Since the introduction of the Municipal Law in 1954, the executive power is exercised by the governor and supported by the municipal manager. The executive branch consists of the departments of administrative, financial, technical and health affairs.

As per the Municipal Act of 1960, the municipality works for the improvement of urban health, ensure the safety of food and enhancing public convenience in housing and roads.

Currently, the municipality operates under the direction of the Minister of State for Municipal Affairs. The role of the municipality includes:

- Formulation of municipality's policies and plans
- Preparation of master plans, including land use
- Expansion of sewers and parks
- Garbage collection and disposal
- Implementation of projects to keep the city clean
- Naming of neighborhoods and streets
- Landscaping
- Approval for the construction of houses

The sources of municipality revenues are from service fees that are transferred to Ministry of Finance. Its expenditures are employees' salaries; goods and services; transportation, equipment, fixtures; project construction, equipment and maintenance; land purchases; and miscellaneous expenditures and transfer payments.

4.2 Decentralization and strengthening of local authorities

Kuwait consists of six governorates: Asimah (Capital), Hawalli, Farwaniya, Mubarak Al Kabeer, Ahmadi, and Jahra. Although, area-wise, Jahra and Ahmadi governorates are bigger in size, but the proportion of the population is larger in Farwaniya, Hawalli and Ahmadi governorates.



Table 4.1 Governorates of Kuwait

Governorate	Population	
	Number	%
Capital	552,237	12.75
Hawalli	928,783	21.45
Ahmadi	909,812	21.01
Jahra	531,498	12.27
Farwaniya	1,155,856	26.69
Mubarak Al Kabeer	246,877	5.70
Not Stated	5,245	0.12
Total	4,330,308	100.00

Source: <http://stat.paci.gov.kw/englishreports/#DataTabPlace:view1ArcGISRegionMap>

There is one governor in each governorate. The governors operate under the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs, who selects and nominates a number of people to take the position and upon agreeing on them an Amiri Decree, is officially released. The governorates source of budget comes from three main sources: the yearly set budget, the donors and the co-operatives. Furthermore, the State sets extra annual funds that reaches up to 250 thousand KD to spend during national celebrations of Kuwait. Currently, the governors have nominal authorities because the said Amiri Decree with its 26 clauses is not fully implemented. For example, Clause No. 24 of the Amiri decree states that they can exercise full powers while carrying their duty in their governorates, but until present, this is not activated. They assist the Ministry of Interior in enhancing homeland security and rule of law as well as public services. The governorates are the agencies of the central government.

The Amiri Decree No. 81 of 2014 concerning the Governorates System, Article II states:

Every governorate will be headed by a governor who will represent the executive powers in there, oversee the work of government activities and the public utilities within the jurisdiction of the competent governorate, and coordinate among them, except for the judiciary, the army and the national guard and to report his/her observations to the respective ministries and stake holders.

And Article No. IV:

The Governor, in his/her capacity as representative of the Executive Power, shall be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the State's public policy and monitoring development plan projects within their area. In doing so, he/she may request from competent authorities including the Secretariat General of the Cabinet of Ministers and other government agencies, information on state public policy upon approval in addition to the respective governorate's affairs and to be provided with relevant plans and programs.

In 2016, the cabinet approved a draft decree regulating the system of governorates and governors' powers with the purpose of revamping public services nationwide and reflecting positive public participation. As per the new decentralization efforts, each governorate will have a council with more executive powers over their respective areas, and will gradually be handed over duties currently handled by ministers.

Expanding the powers of Kuwait's six governors provides a viable solution for the government, which has been looking for ways to alleviate the mounting pressure on ministers and senior officials at state departments, and effectively improve the quality of the executive authority's performance.

4.3 Improving participation and human rights in urban development

Human rights consist of two types of rights: (1) economic, social and cultural rights, and (2) civil and political rights.

Economic, social and cultural rights are socio-economic human rights, such as the right to health, education, housing, adequate standard of living, etc.

All Kuwaiti citizens (women, men, boys, girls, and persons with disability) enjoy economic, social and cultural rights. Health and education are free for Kuwaiti citizen. There is higher enrolment rate of Kuwaiti women in higher education and technical/vocational education compared to that of Kuwaiti men. Male students are admitted in the university and technical education courses with lower grades than that for females.

Most of the Kuwaiti men and women enjoy adequate standard of living. The salary is equal for both women and men for the same type of job. Both women and men participate in Kuwaiti cultural programs. Science education is also free for both sexes. Special care is given to the disabled.

All Kuwaiti married couples are eligible to get interest free loan for housing, if their application meets certain conditions, such as buying a house or an apartment or a housing plot allocated by the Public Authority for Housing Welfare (PAHW). One of the conditions is that both women and men must be Kuwaiti citizen.

Civil and political rights are a class of rights that protect individuals' freedom from infringement by governments, social organizations, and private individuals.

They ensure one's ability to participate in the civil and political life of the society and state without discrimination or repression.

Kuwait has adult voting rights for Kuwaiti men who are 21 or older. In 2005, Kuwaiti women were granted the right to vote and stand in the parliamentary and municipal elections.

4.4 Enhancing urban safety and security

Enhancing urban safety and security relates to addressing the following three types of safety and security in cities:

- Insecurity of tenure and forced evictions
- Natural and human-made disasters, and
- Crime and violence

Kuwait is a safe country. Insecurity of tenure and forced evictions do not generally happen in the country. Natural disasters such as dust storms, sandstorms and sudden heavy rains happen in certain seasons. Man-made disasters are also uncommon except for motor vehicle accidents. However, there were some criminal offences of felony (harmful) and misdemeanors (not harmful) types are found in the country¹³.

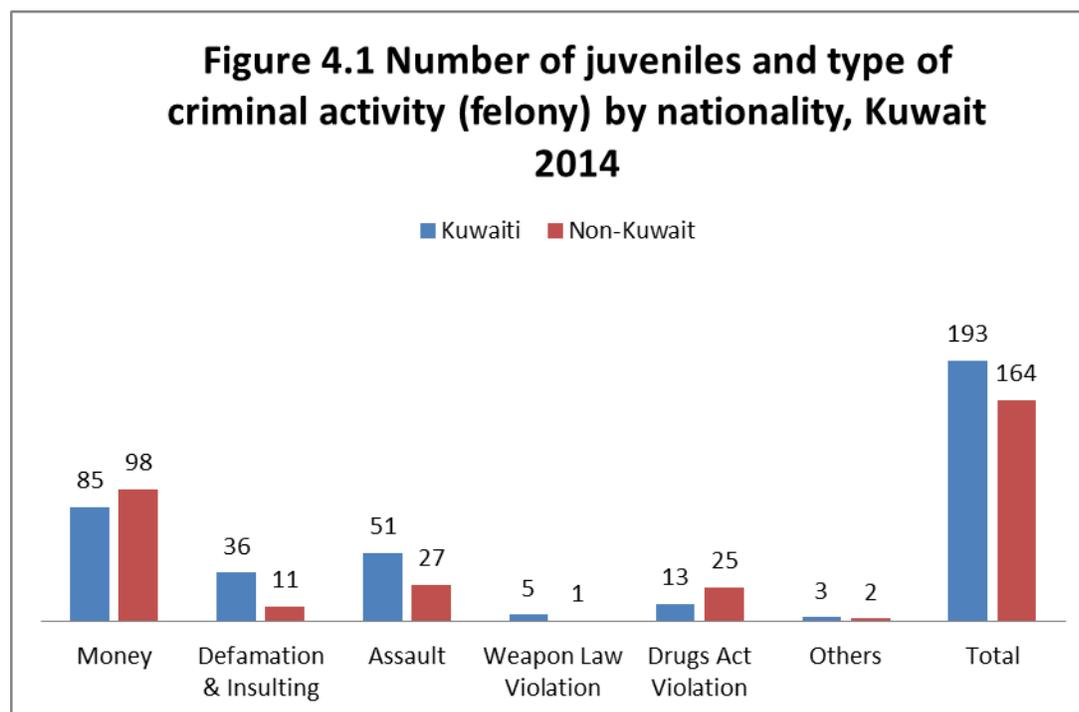


Figure 4.1 Number of Juveniles & type of Criminal Offences (felony type) by Nationality

¹³Source: State of Kuwait, CSB, Annual Statistical Abstract 2014 Edition 51.

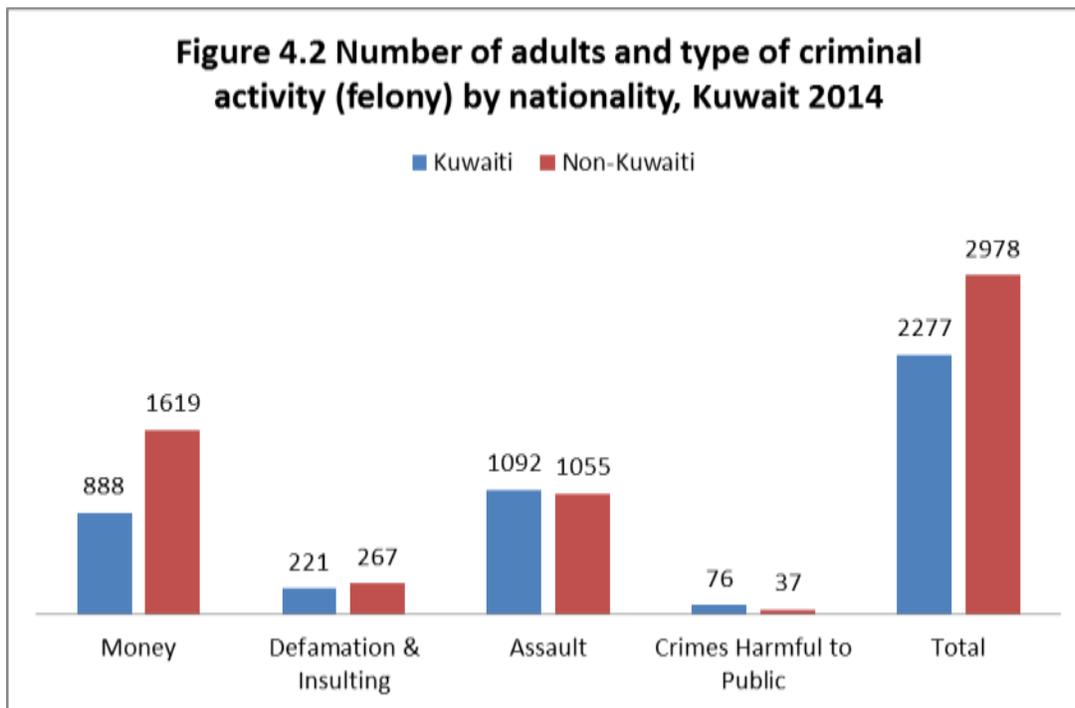


Figure 4.2 Number of Adults & Type of Criminal Offences (felony type) by Nationality

The figure shows that the larger number of crimes of juveniles is related to money, assault, defamation & insulting, and drugs act violation. Similarly, the larger number of crimes of adults is related to money, assault, defamation & insulting, and crimes harmful to the public.

Currently, Kuwait Police is active and effective in arresting the persons who break the law (both juveniles and adults); the government, however, is also creating awareness through the governors and NGOs to reduce the crimes.

4.5 Improving social inclusion and equity

The goal of social inclusion is to ensure that all individuals, groups, and communities participate fully in the development process. Groups are shaped by identity such as children, youth, adult, old; women, persons with disability, migrants, etc. and such groups experience social inclusion or exclusion. Equity represents a belief that basic needs of all should be fulfilled; gaps should not be too big between rich and poor; and policy should be directed with impartiality, fairness and justice towards these ends."

The State of Kuwait has made significant progress in providing equal opportunity for all Kuwaiti children, youth, adult, old, women and persons with disability in accessing health and education and participating in the social and economic progress. The government ensures that basic needs of all Kuwaitis are being fulfilled through reviewing the services provided to them and adding new

laws if needed to enhance these services, such as the last law No. 18 Year 2016 which includes 25 Clause with explanatory memorandum aiming to develop all types of services provided to them.

4.6 Challenges experienced and lessons learnt in these areas

- Kuwait is a small city-state with centralized administration. There is Kuwait Municipality Council and six governorates, but all of them operate under the centralized system. Until now, this system is working effectively.
- Kuwait is a safe country, but there are small number of deviant behaviors and crimes, which the police effectively handle.

4.7 Future challenges and issues in these areas that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda

- The government is planning to build new cities in the northern, north-eastern, western and south-eastern parts of the country. When these cities are built, decentralization of administration will be needed to provide services to the people in their respective cities.
- In the future, a very high degree of coordination is required between the central ministries, municipality (and its municipalities) and the governorates to provide services to the people and improve economic, social and environmental sustainability of the cities.

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Chapter Five

Urban Economy: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda.



Chapter 5: Urban Economy: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda

5.1 Improving municipal/local finance¹⁴

There is only one governmental body in Kuwait and that is the National Government.

The Kuwait Municipality operates under the leadership of the Minister of State for Municipality Affairs and is allocated with a yearly budget that illustrates the yearly collected revenues from service fees that are then transferred to the Ministry of Finance for its annual expenditures.

The expenditures of Kuwait municipality are much larger than its revenues, with a recorded revenue of KD 25,308,000 in 2013/14 with expenditure of KD 218,046,000. The above expenditures of Kuwait Municipality are only the small part of the total government expenditure spent for providing services in the KMP. Major areas of municipality expenditures lie around the development of the Kuwait Master Plans (KMP), approving the construction of houses & infrastructure, garbage collection & disposal, salary & allowances of its staff members and contractual agreements with Municipality related projects.

Table 5.1 Revenues & Expenditures of Kuwait Municipality (KWD) 2013/2014

	Independent Revenue and Expenditure of Kuwait Municipality	Revenue and Expenditure of Total Government Ministries and Departments
Revenue	25,308	31,811,422
Expenditure	218,046	18,903,306
Source: CSB, Annual Statistical Abstract 2014 Edition 51.		

A yearly budget is allocated to all ministries spent on expenditure costs for the KMA's, e.g., the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Works, Ministry of Housing, etc. have their separate budgets.

Table 5.1 shows that the total expenditure of the government ministries and departments is much smaller than the total revenue of the government, which comes mainly from oil exports. It will not be difficult for the government to increase municipal finance, if this is needed.

5.2 Strengthening and Improving Access to Housing Finance¹⁵

¹⁴Municipal/local finance is about the revenue and expenditure decisions of municipalities/local bodies. It covers the sources of revenue that are used by municipalities/local bodies – taxes (property, income, sales, and excise taxes), user fees, and intergovernmental transfers.

¹⁵Housing finance is what allows for the production and consumption of housing. It refers to the money we use to build and maintain the nations' housing stock. It also refers to the money we need to pay for it, in the form of rents, mortgage loans and repayments.

Kuwait government established Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB) in 1960 to provide different types of housing loans according to different categories:

- All Kuwaiti families are eligible to apply for a loan from the Kuwait Credit Bank (KCB) in order to strengthen and provide access to housing and help cover the costs to build their homes.
- KCB provides a loan of KD 70,000 one time for each married couple, to buy a house or an apartment or build a house in the housing plot allotted to couple by PAHO.
- The above-mentioned loan is interest free, the repayment of which starts after two years of signing the loan agreement with the KCB.
- The repayment amount is 10% of the salary of the owner of the house or KD 100 per month whichever is higher, which means that the whole amount will be repaid over 58.3 years.
- The condition to get this loan is that both husband and wife must be Kuwaiti citizen.
- If the husband is Kuwaiti and the wife is non-Kuwaiti, they must have at least one child to get the interest free loan of KD 70,000.
- Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaiti men, may obtain rental subsidy.
- In 2011/2012, women were eligible to apply for housing loans.
- A divorced woman is eligible to receive the KD 70,000 loan, if she has at least one child.
- Additional loans will be provided worth KD 35,000 for man and KD 25,000 for woman if the house was purchased from PAHO to cover refurbishment costs. If the house was purchased from private companies, men are eligible for a loan worth KD 35,000 and KD 30,000 woman for house refurbishment costs.
- In 2015, a new Law was stipulated allowing women to apply for a loan worth KD 70,000 to purchase an apartment even though apartment size was 100 square meters.
- A Kuwaiti man with an illness is eligible for housing loan of KD 70,000 even if he is married to a non-Kuwaiti woman and with no children.
- In a case of a deceased father, the housing loan is transferred to his children under the age of 21 years.
- House renovation grants worth KD 5,000 are given to persons with minor disability. The amount of the grant-loan can increase up to KD 10,000 towards persons with medium to severe type of disability.

- If the repayment to the KCB is not fully completed, the owner will not be able to sell the house without KCB's approval.
- Houses provided by government could not be rented out under the housing policy.
- The interest rate for the housing loan is 0% for the citizens and the Ministry of Finance pays a 2% interest to the KCB on behalf of the borrower. KCB is currently studying whether this 2% is enough or not for the KCB to become sustainable.
- In 2016, the PAHW set a yearly target to distribute 12,000 units per year, as apartment or house plots. KCB is currently reviewing whether it can provide loans to 12,000 persons per year.

5.3 Supporting local economic development¹⁶

The State of Kuwait is strengthening the role of the private sector and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to create more jobs and outputs to diversify the economy towards a more sustainable path of development.

In 2013, Kuwait established the National Fund for the Development of Small and Medium Enterprises, an independent public corporation with a total capital of KD2 billion to support and encourage the development of SMEs under Law (98/2013), and the Executive Regulations issuance in December 2014.

The objectives of the Fund are to: -

1. Create job opportunities for Kuwaiti citizen in the private sector
2. Increase SME participation in the economy
3. Help create a business-friendly environment for SMEs

A small enterprise is any business with a capital of KD250, 000, an average number of 1 to 4 Kuwaiti employees. A medium enterprise, on the other hand, is any business that has a maximum capital of KD500, 000, with an average of 5 to 50 Kuwaiti employees working.

The National Fund supports four types of SMEs:

- Light Manufacturing
- Creative industries, with focus on media and design
- Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
- Generic SMEs, which will support a diverse portfolio of potential businesses to achieve the National Fund's strategic and economic objectives

¹⁶Local Economic Development is a strategy for employment promotion through micro, small and medium enterprise development, support of social dialogue and development planning.

The National Fund does not support businesses that are relevant to real estate, capital markets and any locally forbidden or illegal products.

Only Kuwaiti citizen can apply for funding from the National Fund.

The National Fund provides the following types of services:

- Consultations and training programs for entrepreneurs
- Financial and business-support services
- SMEs financing for existing businesses
- Professional management and technical training to SME owners and employees
- Business development services to existing SMEs
- Allocation of lands and office space for start-ups
- Facilitation of market linkages between SMEs and anchor industries in Kuwait

The National Fund offers financing (low-interest loans) to existing SMEs, following eligibility requirements, as follows:

- Loans will be structured and co-financed with commercial banks. The National Fund will provide 80% of financing at a fee of 2%, and commercial banks will provide 20% of financing following the market rate.
- Eligible SMEs may self-finance 20% of the project size, and only receive up to 80% of the project size from the National Fund.
- The program may offer financing of up to KD 500,000 per company.
- Commercial banks will be responsible for disbursement and collection of loans, and will receive service fees from the National Fund in return.
- The first (pilot) SME Financing program was launched in cooperation with Gulf Bank in February 2015 in providing loans to support SMEs' expansion plans.

On the first year of the Fund's launch on 2014, the Fund established a future plan consisting of the framework, strategy, and measures to achieve its vision: "to build an inclusive, collaborative and innovative ecosystem for entrepreneurs to lay the foundation for economic opportunities in Kuwait."

a. Creating decent jobs¹⁷ and livelihoods¹⁸

The rapid growth of the Kuwaiti economy has led to the creation of a vast number of work opportunities that has raised the demand on the country's expenditure on social services leading towards a demand for manpower that could only be met by expatriate workers.

Figure 5.1 shows the number of Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti employees in government ministries and departments, governmental authorities, independent budgets and state-owned companies as on 30 June, 2014¹⁹.

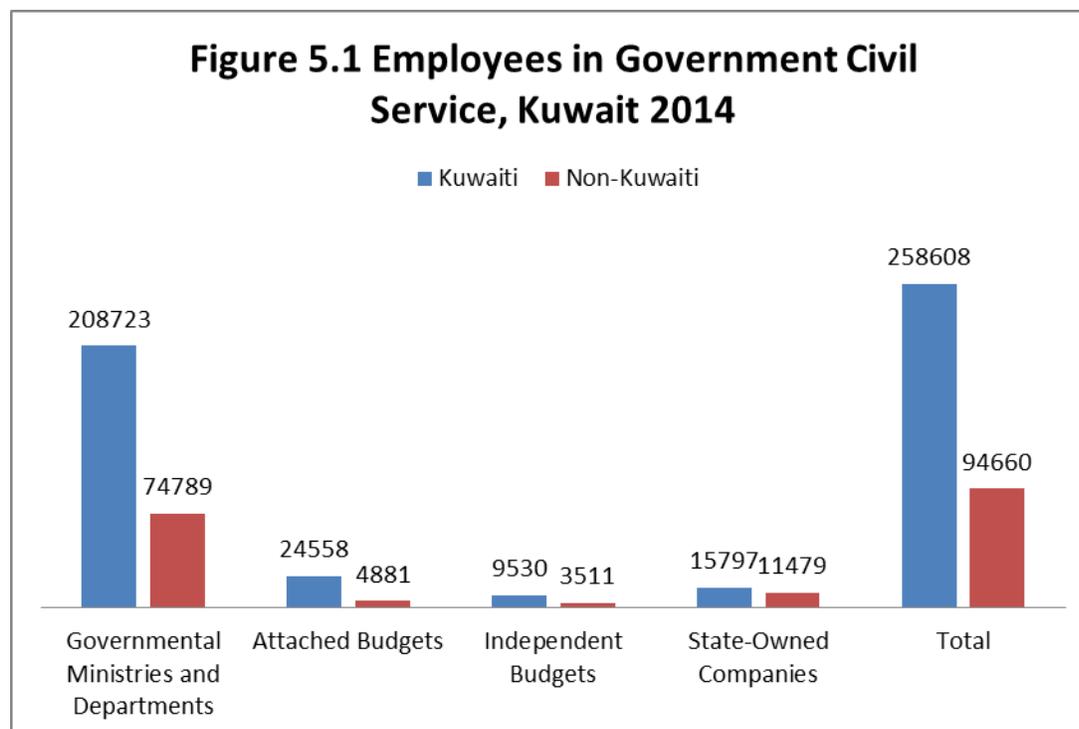


Figure 5.1 Employees in government and Civil Service as on 30 June 2014

The graph portrays that majority of Kuwaiti citizen's work in the government and government owned organizations. In comparison, expatriate workers with a recorded total of 1,397,427 expatriates dominate the private sector in 2014.

¹⁷Decent work (job) involves opportunities for work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration, freedom for people to express their concerns, organize and participate in the decisions that affect their lives and equality of opportunity and treatment for all women and men.

¹⁸A livelihood is a means of making a living. It encompasses people's capabilities, assets, income and activities required to secure the necessities of life.

¹⁹Source: State of Kuwait, CSB, Annual Statistical Abstract 2014 Edition 51.

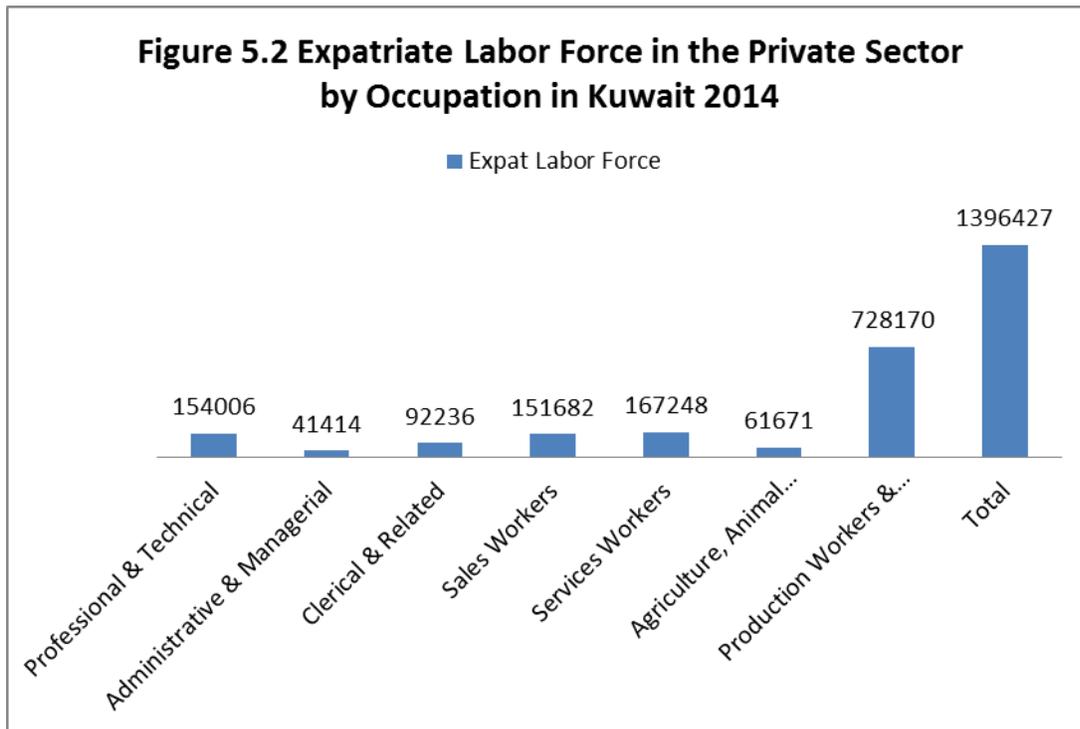


Figure 5.2 Expatriate Labor Force in the Private Sector in Kuwait (2014) by Occupation

b. Integration of the Urban Economy into National Development Policy

Kuwait has a centralized planning and administration system that is aligned with both the urban development policy and national development policy. Kuwait Municipality (KM) prepares the Kuwait Master Plans (KMPs) and the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (GS-SCPD) prepares the Kuwait National Development Plans (KNDPs). The goals of both of these plans are directed towards the achievement of the Amir's Vision of 2035. The two organizations consult each other during the preparation of the KMPs.

c. Challenges experienced and lessons learnt in these areas

- The land and housing prices have increased in Kuwait making it difficult for Kuwaiti citizens to build a house with loan of KD 70,000 provided by the KCB.
- Lands are not easily accessible for companies and industries to run their businesses making it challenging for owners to grow their businesses.

d. Future Challenges and Issues in these areas that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda

- The new urban agenda should help develop entrepreneurship in the private sector to create income and decent jobs. For Kuwait, it is necessary to diversify the economy since the country could not depend on the revenue from its oil exports.

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Chapter Six

Housing and Basic Services: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda.



Chapter 6: Housing and Basic Services: Issues and Challenges for a New Urban Agenda

6.1 Slum²⁰ Upgrading and Prevention

There are no slums in Kuwait. All the people in the country, including the non-Kuwaiti live in good standard housing with electricity, running water and sanitation.

6.2 Improving Access to Adequate Housing

A Kuwaiti family seeking housing welfare for the first time today has the following options²¹:

1. A government house built on a minimum 400m² plot or a minimum 400-m² apartment provided by the PAHW at nominal value, plus a monthly rent allowance of KWD 150 during the waiting period.
2. A minimum 400m² plot of land provided by the PAHW at a nominal value of KWD 70,000 long-term and an interest-free loan for construction costs from the Kuwait Credit Bank.
3. A choice of house with a minimum area of 360m² or a purchased apartment with a minimum area of 360m² are also provided with the option of KWD 70,000 long-term, interest-free loan from the Kuwait Credit Bank. Law must provide interest-free housing loans provided to all Kuwaiti married citizens to access housing.

The demand for housing at present is much higher than its supply. In June 2016, there were 102,960 applications placed on the waiting list for housing.

The PAHW is currently undertaking a series of projects in new large urban areas in different parts of the country. On average, PAHW receives around 8,000 new applications per year. In order to meet the high demands for housing and to resettle the population in different parts of the country, PAHW is developing housing projects outside the Kuwait Metropolitan Area.

PAHW is an independently budgeted government agency established under Law No. (47) of 1993, to provide housing welfare to eligible Kuwaiti families in the form of houses, apartments or housing plots.

PAHW contributes to the economic and social development of the State of Kuwait through implementing large housing projects in accordance with the approved plans of the State. In coordination with other agencies in the State,

²⁰A slum is an untidy area of a city where poor people live. It cannot provide one of the following: (1) durable housing of a permanent nature that protects against extreme climate conditions, (2) sufficient living space, which means not more than three people sharing the same room, (3) easy access to safe water in sufficient amounts at an affordable price, (4) access to adequate sanitation in the form of a private or public toilet shared by a reasonable number of people, and (5) Security of tenure that prevents forced evictions.

²¹ Sherifa Alshalfan, May 1913, "The right to housing in Kuwait: An urban injustice in a socially just system", page 10.

PAHW plans to build vibrant cities and communities, outside the KMA, that serve its future objectives.

The PAHW has a plan to involve the private sector in the development of the non-residential areas (i.e., investment, commercial, recreational, educational areas, etc.), as it will ease the burden of the cost borne by the government. In addition, PAHW aspires to design and plan top class international cities with unique character that makes them distinctive in the region.

PAHW has set an ambitious target of allocating 12,000 units every year, and it exceeded this target in 2014-15. In order to continue to meet the demand for housing, PAHW has recently expanded from building houses to developing new cities.

Through the development of the new cities, PAHW hopes to achieve the following:

- Provide an integrated urban and independent environment in south-eastern and north-eastern parts of Kuwait
- Provide a socially and environmentally suitable housing for all individuals of Kuwaiti society for practicing several social, cultural, entertainment and commercial activities
- Support the private sector in invest in the local market
- Alleviate the burden of financing projects away from the State's budget, through allowing the private sector to enter as a financier of these projects
- Adopt the best methodology in urban planning to link various elements of the project and also link the project with the surrounding areas
- Develop managerial and technical skills of members of the Kuwaiti society through their contribution to the management, execution and operation of urban projects, providing jobs and training opportunities, and development of various skills.



Figure 6.1 Proposed Mutla and Mutla New Urban Area

Within the development areas, PAHW's tasks include the provision of:

- Residential housing plots and/or fully constructed housing units or apartments
- Fully constructed public buildings for handover to the relevant government bodies
- Commercial and industrial plots for development by developers
- Complete infrastructure – roads, utilities and public realm for handover to the relevant government bodies



Figure 6.2 Proposed South Mutla City (North Kuwait)

PAHW's tasks also include but are not limited to the following:

- Preparation of all required studies (environmental, geotechnical, traffic, etc.), urban/master plans, feasibility studies, surveys, designs and technical specifications for the public projects
- Contracting for implementation of public projects and overseeing their work
- Engaging with developers and investors for the commercial and industrial units
- Allocation and handing over of the residential units and/or plots to citizens, and
- Handing over of the public buildings and infrastructure to the relevant government bodies

PAHW of Kuwait has already completed construction and handover of 26,308 houses 834 apartments and 26,874 plots. This has increased housing access to 459,136 persons. PAHW is currently constructing 3,676 houses and 1,635 apartments and developing 17,234 plots. In total, it is planning to provide access to 3.36 million populations to housing, apartments or housing plots.

Table 6.1 Status of Housing programs of Kuwait government's PAHW as of September 2016

Status	Houses	Apartment s	Plots	Total Units	Populatio n to have access
Houses Completed	26,308	834	26,874	54,016	459,136
Houses Under Construction	3,676	1,635	17,234	52,545	591,633
Housing Plan for the short run	TBD	TBD	TBD	78,196	812,166
Housing Plan for the long run	TBD	TBD	TBD	139,000	1,500,000
Total	29,984	2,469	44,108	323,757	3,362,935
Source: PAHW, September 2016 TBD = To be determined					

6.3 Ensuring sustainable access to safe drinking water

In Kuwait, 100% of the population has access to safe drinking water in Kuwait. The water is highly subsidized. All the houses, apartments and public and private buildings in Kuwait are fitted with drinking water pipes. The mean consumption of fresh water in Kuwait is one of the highest in the world. The brackish water and treated water are used in agriculture.

Kuwait is a hyper-arid state without rivers. Nonconventional water resources, including desalination of seawater, brackish groundwater, and reclamation of treated wastewater are the main current sources of water supply. While the desalinated seawater (potable water) is used for cooking and drinking, the brackish water²² and treated water²³ are used in agriculture.

Kuwait had shortage of water prior to 1960. The influx of oil wealth in Kuwait since 1946 increased the financing ability of the country in modern water production facilities that could cater for fresh water demand. From an engineering and economic point of view the size of 6.5 million imperial gallons per day (MIGD) units proved ideal in terms of steam consumption and chemicals. This type of unit gave optimal production, and became the backbone of fresh water industry in Kuwait.

Table 6.2 Production and consumption of Water in Kuwait (million gallons)

Item	2011	2014
Potable water		
Produced	128,236	130,463
Consumed	128,026	136,451
Brackish water		
Produced	21,622	17,996
Consumed	19,265	15,797
Source: State of Kuwait, CSB, Statistical Review 2016, edition 39.		

²²Brackish water is water that has more salinity than fresh water, but not as much as seawater. It may result from mixing of seawater with fresh water, as in estuaries, or it may occur in brackish fossil aquifers.

²³Nowadays treated sewage effluent is considered an alternative water source. There are 5 plants in Kuwait that produce treated water from sewage. In Kuwait, treated water is mainly used for irrigation.

The most important water distillation plants in Kuwait are in Shuwaikh, Doha West, Az-Zour, and Subiya.

6.4 Ensuring sustainable access to basic sanitation and drainage

In Kuwait, 100% of population in Kuwait has access to improved sanitation. PAHW and the Ministry of Public Works construct all services required to run the city, including drinking water and sanitation, and road and drainage network. All houses, apartments, and public, private, industrial and commercial buildings have water and sanitation facilities.

6.5 Improving access to clean domestic energy

Electricity entered into Kuwait the first time in 1913 to operate 400 lamps in Al-Saif Palace through the machine run by kerosene. The year 1934 is considered the real beginning for the introduction of electricity services in Kuwait when the National Electricity Company installed two generators with the capacity each of 30 Kilowatts. In 1952, the Department of Electricity installed the first steam plant for generating power in Al-Shuwaikh, near the coast to get benefit of seawater in the cooling process. In the beginning, this plant included three small steam units with capacity of 750 kilowatts, each in 1977; five gas-generating units were installed with capacity each of 40.8 megawatts.

At present, the State of Kuwait provides unlimited support to the electricity sector through establishment and development of new stations and upgrading existing stations.

The primary sources of energy from which electrical energy is produced in Kuwait are liquid oil and gas. Electricity is generated using Thermal Steam Turbines and some Thermal Gas Turbines.

Power Generating Plants use different types of fossil fuels available in Kuwait such as natural gas, heavy fuel oil, crude oil and gas oil, depending on boiler design such as that priority is given to natural gas within the limits of the available quantities. The older plants can burn natural gas and gas oil in case of emergency while the newer ones are capable of burning the four types of fuel.

Table 6.3 Production and consumption of electricity in Kuwait (million-kilo watt per hour)

Item	2011	2014
Production	57,457	65,137
Consumed	50,374	57,551
Source: State of Kuwait, CSB, Statistical Review 2016, edition 39.		

In Kuwait, 100% of the population has access to electricity and the electricity price is highly subsidized.

Kuwait is aware that burning of oil and gas for electricity production results in the carbon emissions (CO₂) that increases global warming. e Kuwait Vision of 2035 has given strategic direction to enhance the use of clean energy.

This strategic direction will be implemented through policies to increase electricity production by increasing and maintaining the capacity of electric power stations, and developing transmission lines and distribution networks, and support the cooperation of scientific research institutions locally, regionally and globally. Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research will be the owner of a project for the design and construction of a power plant with a capacity of 75-100 MW from renewable sources and clean electric power generation from this power plant.

Similarly, the Kuwait Petroleum Cooperation will implement an environmental fuel project to expand the local refining capacity of crude oil and operate local refineries at maximum capacity.

Kuwait aims to reach a target of 15% of its electricity generated via renewable energy sources by 2030. In 2015, the solar energy project at Al Zahra co-operative society was officially inaugurated while solar panel installations are underway in Al Adailiya co-operative and in 150 private homes. The projects are fully funded by Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Science (KFAS).

6.6 Improving access to sustainable means of transport²⁴

The transportation system consists of land, sea and air transports. The land transport system consists of total length and width of the roads, number and types of motor vehicles, public and private vehicles, parking places, and railway, subway and rapid bus transit. So far, Kuwait does not have railway and subway systems, but it has public and private bus companies, which provide services in all parts of Kuwait.

In 2014, the total length of the road in Kuwait was 7,416 km and there were 1,837,372 motor vehicles in use, 81% of which were private cars and 14% private and public trucks. The proportion of public and private buses in total number of motor vehicles is 0.18% and 1.46%, respectively (see Figure 30²⁵).

²⁴Sustainable transport refers to the broad subject of [transport](#) that is [sustainable](#) in the senses of social, environmental and climate impacts. Sometimes it refers to any form of green transport that does not use or rely on dwindling natural resources. Instead, it relies on renewable or regenerated energy rather than fossil fuels that have a finite life expectancy.

²⁵Source: State of Kuwait, CSB, Annual Statistical Abstract 2014, Edition 51.

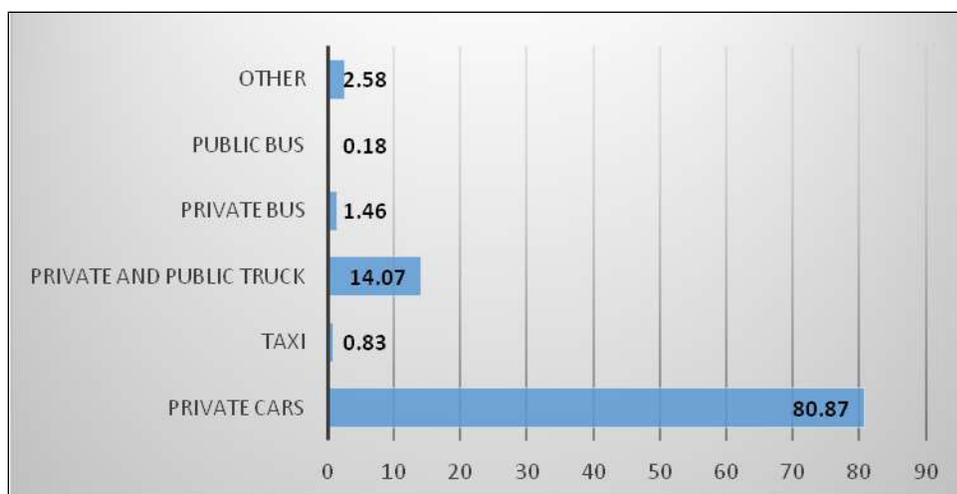


Figure 6.3 Proportion of Motor Vehicles in-use in Kuwait (December 2014 percentage)

There is heavy reliance on the use of cars for transport in Kuwait, as all people prefer it as a mode of land transport rather than the buses. All motor vehicles use petroleum products as a source of energy. Thus, they increase carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Electric vehicles, which use clean energy sources, are not yet used in Kuwait.

Presently, the major ports in Kuwait are: Al-Shuaiba, Al-Ahmadi, Abdullah, Al-Shuwaikh, and Al-Doha. While oil tankers are cleared from Al-Shuaiba, Al-Ahmadi, Abdullah ports, Al-Shuwaikh, Al-Shuaiba, and Al-Doha ports handle other commercial vessels. There is a ferry service between the mainland at the Salmiya ferry port and Failaka Island.

The Kuwait International Airport handles international flights. There are other airports in the country for military use.

The Ministry of Public Works is responsible for improving road infrastructure. It is scheduled to expand road network to enhance connectivity with hinterland and with key gateways (port, airport and rail). The Ministry has ongoing program of roads and ports development.

The port development project aims at developing Shuwaikh, Shuaiba and Doha ports for maritime transport and port services, and completing the construction of Mubarak Al-Kabir port in Boubyan Island. The estimated completion date of this project is August 2019.

The railway project, if implemented, will establish an integrated railway network that serves both passenger and cargo operations. The railway network will link Kuwait City with Kuwait International Airport, Kuwait seaports, and all the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries in the South and Iraq in the North. The project is to construct a 511 km long railway link to link the 2000 km Gulf railway.

Similarly, if the metro project is implemented, it will provide all-day service between all areas of the KMA. The preliminary plan is to build three railroads:

- First railroad covering 23.7 km will start from Salwa area and end at Kuwait University, passing through 19 stations;
- Second railroad covering 21 km will start from the Hawally area and ending in Kuwait City passing through 27 stations; and
- Third railroad covering 24 km will start from Kuwait International Airport and end at Abdullah Al-Mubarak area, passing through 15 stations.

The railway and metro projects will be very important for Kuwait for urban and national development. These projects will not produce carbon dioxide if they use the energy/electricity supplied by renewable energy sources, such as solar, air, tidal, etc.

6.7 Challenges experienced and lessons learnt in these areas

- There is a growing demand for housing in Kuwait. As per the present housing building technology, it takes a long time to build a house.
- 100% of the population in Kuwait has access to piped drinking water, sanitation and electricity.
- Increased population and increased number of motor vehicles, especially the cars have led to congestion in the KMA.

6.8 Future challenges and issues in these areas that could be addressed by a New Urban Agenda

- Population of Kuwait is likely to grow at a rapid rate in the future. Congestion and air pollution will increase in the city. In order to address this problem, the challenge is constructing subways and railways.
- Currently, electricity is produced using oil and gas, which create CO₂. In order to address this problem, electricity should be produced using renewable sources of energy. This is a challenge for the country.

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Chapter Seven | Indicators



Chapter 7: Indicators

i.	Percentage of people living in slums	0%
ii.	Percentage of urban population with access to adequate housing	100% population has access to housing, but housing demand is unfulfilled
iii.	Percentage of people residing in urban areas with access to safe drinking water	100%
iv.	Percentage of people residing in urban areas with access to adequate sanitation	100%
v.	Percentage of people residing in urban areas with access to regular waste collection	100%
vi.	Percentage of people residing in urban areas with access to clean domestic energy	100%
vii.	Percentage of people residing in urban areas with access to public transport	Public and private companies operate their services; but they are inadequate
viii.	Level of effective decentralization for sustainable urban development measured by:	
	(a) Percentage of policies and legislation on urban issues in whose formulation local and regional governments participated from 1996 to the present	Although there are 6 governorates in Kuwait, they are no local/regional governments; the national government formulates policies and legislations on urban issues
	(b) Percentage share of both income and expenditure allocated to local and regional governments from the national budget	There is no local government in Kuwait; the national government prepares the budget and expenditure plans
	(c) Percentage share of local authorities' expenditure financed from local revenue	All the expenditure is done through national revenue
ix.	Percentage of city, regional and national authorities that have implemented urban policies supportive of local economic development and creation of decent jobs and livelihood	All urban policies supporting local development are implemented by national authorities
x.	Percentage of city and regional authorities that have adopted or implemented urban safety and security policies or strategies	All urban safety and security measures are implemented by national authorities

xi. Percentage of city and regional authorities that have implemented plans and designs for sustainable and resilient cities that are inclusive and respond to urban population growth adequately	All urban plans and designs are implemented by national authorities
xii. Share of national gross domestic product (GDP) that is produced in urban area	Nearly 100% of the GDP is produced in the urban area