

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

City Prosperity Index

102 municipalities of
Alagoas



This Executive Summary provides a synthesis of the **City Prosperity Index** for the 102 municipalities of Alagoas – a product of the Visão Alagoas 2030, a technical cooperation project between UN-Habitat and the State Government of Alagoas, Brazil.

City Prosperity Index

Conceived from an integrative perspective on well-being and sustainability, the City Prosperity Index (CPI) features a simple and intuitive metric, based on a technical and robust methodology capable of comparing and measuring the current and future progress of cities in terms of prosperity. The CPI comprises six dimensions that embrace the concept of urban prosperity:

- **Productivity**
- **Infrastructure Development**
- **Quality of Life**
- **Equity and Social Inclusion**
- **Environmental Sustainability**
- **Urban Governance and Legislation**

Methodology

The CPI methodology is designed to assess the strength or weakness of each of its dimensions, with its values classified on a qualitative scale where performance ranges from very solid to very weak. This allows us to objectively identify which aspects should be given preference in interventions that consolidate, strengthen, and prioritize public policies (Table 1).

Score	Performance	Intervention Strategies
80-100	Very solid	Consolidate urban policies (C)
70-79	Solid	
60-69	Moderately solid	Strengthen urban policies (S)
50-59	Moderately weak	
40-49	Weak	Prioritize urban policies (P)
0-39	Very weak	

Table 1 - Score and Color Gradient of the City Prosperity Index

Another distinctive feature of the methodology is the use of tabular and spatial indicators. The tabular indicators make up the majority of the indicators required for the CPI and can be obtained from public and open databases, or secondary sources. The spatial indicators are obtained from geographic databases, whether governmental, private, or collaborative, such as the geospatial data repository of the *Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística* (IBGE), *Portal Alagoas em Dados e Informações*, e OpenStreetMap (Figure 1).

Dimensions	Subdimensions	Indicators
Productivity	Economic power	City product per capita
	Economic burden	Old-age dependency ratio
	Economic agglomeration	Economic density
	Employment	Unemployment rate
Infrastructure Development	Housing	Durable housing
		Access to safe water
	Social infrastructure	Physicians density
	Information and Communication Technology (ICT)	Average internet broadband speed
	Urban Mobility	Average daily travel time
		Traffic fatalities
		Road density
	Urban form	Road infrastructure
Intersection Density		
Life expectancy at birth		
Quality of Life	Health	Under-five mortality rate
	Education	Literacy rate
		Average years of schooling
	Public safety	Homicide rate
	Public spaces	Access to public spaces

Figure 1 - Structure of CPI's Dimensions, Subdimensions, and Indicators

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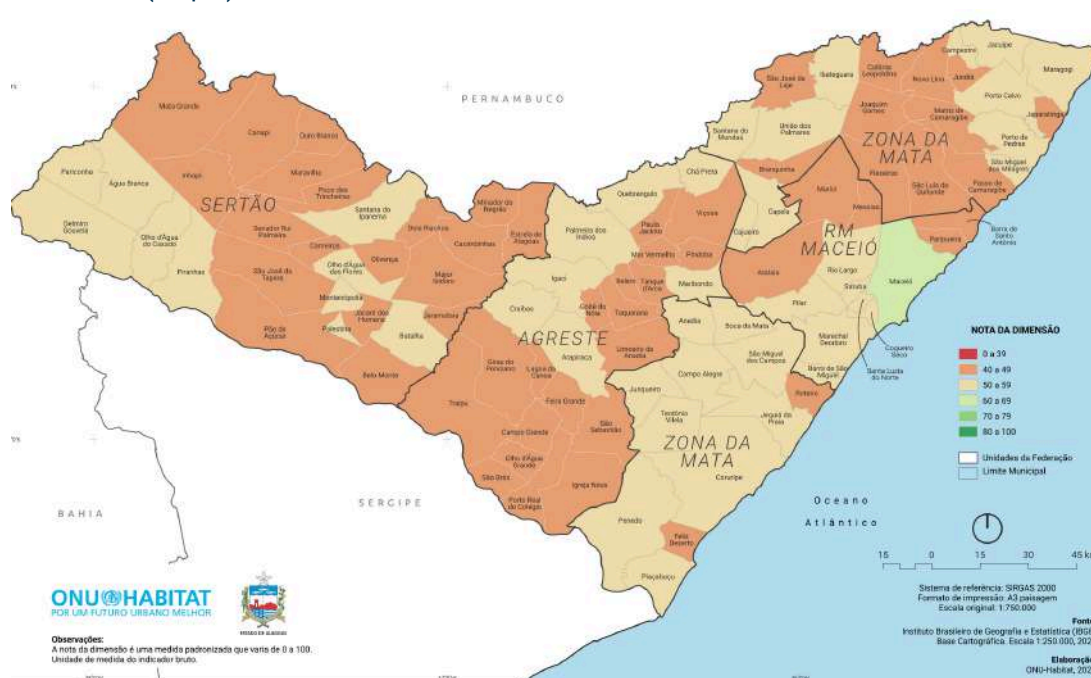
Dimensions	Subdimensions	Indicators
Equity and Social Inclusion	Economic equity	Gini index
		Extreme poverty rate
	Social inclusion	Population in substandard housing
		Youth unemployment rate
Gender inclusion	Gender equality in secondary education	
Environmental Sustainability	Air quality	CO ² emissions per capita
	Waste management	Waste management
		Sewage treatment
	Sustainable energy	Share of renewable energy
Urban Governance and Legislation	Participation	Voter turnout
		Access to public information
	Municipal financing and institutional capacity	Revenue generation
		Efficiency of local expenditures
	Governance of urbanization	Urban expansion

Figure 1 - Structure of CPI's Dimensions, Subdimensions, and Indicators

Results

As an overall performance classification, the CPI indicated that among the 102 municipalities of Alagoas, 56 showed weak performance, 45 were rated as moderately weak, and only the capital Maceió achieved a moderately solid rating. Generally, municipalities with lower performance are small cities and towns located in the interior of the state's territory. The average performance score for municipalities was 49.4, indicating an overall weak performance (Map 2)

Relative to the performance across the six dimensions of the CPI, municipalities showed on average a moderately solid performance in the "Urban Governance and Legislation" and "Quality of Life" dimensions, intermediate performance in "Productivity" and "Infrastructure Development," and weak to very weak performance in the dimensions of "Environmental Sustainability" and "Equity and Social Inclusion" (Graph 1).



Map 2 - City Prosperity Index of Alagoas Municipalities

Urban Governance and Legislation and Quality of Life

Strengthened governance provides political and operational support for cities to identify necessary reforms and legal frameworks to regulate their urban and social components directly impacting the quality of life of the population. This facilitates the strengthening of essential public policies such as health, education, public safety, and urban development.

Environmental Sustainability and Equity and Social Inclusion

These dimensions present challenges that must be addressed from a holistic perspective. They require a vision that integrates innovative sustainability policies alongside efforts to combat poverty and multiple inequalities, particularly those related to informal settlements and other social conditions associated with poverty and marginalization.

Productivity and Infrastructure Development

Sustainable economic development is a complex process, and achieving it requires investments in various sectors such as education, innovation, technology, and economic diversification. In addition to this, adequate infrastructure is essential for the well-being of the population and its economic growth.

Dimension	Alagoas' Average	Subdimensions	Alagoas		Metropolit an Area of Maceió		Zona da Mata		Agreste		Sertão	
Productivity	52,65 Moderately weak Strengthen	Economic power	32,8	P	39,8	P	34,0	P	31,4	P	29,5	P
		Economic burden	47,9	P	54,2	S	52,3	S	42,5	P	44,7	P
		Economic agglomeration	83,5	C	83,4	C	85,0	C	83,8	C	81,5	C
		Employment	46,4	P	29,7	P	36,0	P	56,5	S	57,1	S
Infrastructure Development	51,29 Moderately weak Strengthen	Housing	46,5	P	80,6	C	53,3	S	43,0	P	26,5	P
		Social infrastructure	25,6	P	33,6	P	26,0	P	23,7	P	23,3	P
		Information and Communication Technology	35,4	P	44,7	P	39,0	P	26,3	P	35,3	P
		Urban Mobility	79,5	C	77,1	C	83,0	C	75,0	C	80,7	C
		Urban form	69,3	S	76,4	C	75,6	C	65,1	S	62,7	S
Quality of Life	61,38 Moderately solid Strengthen	Health	57,8	S	60,2	S	57,0	S	60,4	S	55,4	S
		Education	79,1	C	84,0	C	78,9	C	78,4	C	77,7	C
		Public safety	56,6	S	52,0	S	54,3	S	54,3	S	63,7	S
		Public spaces	52,0	S	56,5	S	50,3	S	43,7	P	59,3	S
Equity and Social Inclusion	42,53 Weak Prioritize	Economic equity	27,1	P	34,0	P	32,9	P	22,8	P	21,3	P
		Social inclusion	27,7	P	20,1	P	23,1	P	31,6	P	32,8	P
		Gender inclusion	72,8	C	78,1	C	75,6	C	68,8	S	70,8	C
Environmental Sustainability	33,06 Very Weak Prioritize	Air quality	51,2	S	57,0	S	51,9	S	47,8	P	50,9	S
		Waste management	41,0	P	35,6	P	45,0	P	36,9	P	42,3	P
		Sustainable energy	7,0	P	7,0	P	7,0	P	7,0	P	7,0	P
Urban Governance and Legislation	66,53 Moderately solid Strengthen	Participation	71,4	C	74,7	C	67,3	S	74,5	C	72,1	C
		Municipal financing and institutional capacity	28,2	P	38,3	P	23,5	P	23,5	P	33,2	P
		Governance of urbanization	100,0	C	100,0	C	100,0	C	100,0	C	100,0	C

Table 2 - Results of the CPI dimensions and subdimensions by region

Main Findings

In general, an effort to provide urban development for small cities and towns by the state government is necessary, given that there is a notable territorial disparity in the results of the dimensions when different regions and population segments are compared.

Strengthening and Diversification of Municipal Economies

In the four regions analyzed by the CPI, there is a predominant reliance on the public sector economy, coupled with weak performances in the services and industry sectors.

To promote greater diversity and economic prosperity in Alagoas, it is recommended to: (i) promote zones of economic incentive oriented towards regional potentials; (ii) prioritize investments in transportation and logistics infrastructure to stimulate the connection of people and goods between cities; and (iii) provide technical training and workforce qualification to improve employment rates and meet job market demands.

Socio-environmental Sustainability as a Pillar of Development

Environmental sustainability is an essential pillar for a variety of public policies, particularly to universal access to sanitation services, air quality, and the generation of clean energy. Despite the state government having achieved significant policy milestones, such as the elimination of open dumps in 2018, the overall very weak performance in this dimension indicates the need for prioritization across the four regions analyzed by the CPI, focusing on household waste collection, sewage treatment, and continuous air quality monitoring.

Social and Economic Inclusion of Youth

Most populous urban centres, such as Maceió, Arapiraca, and Rio Largo, have lower indicators of extreme poverty, however, they exhibit significant social inequalities, with high income concentration in a small segment of the population, and predominantly very weak Youth Unemployment rates.

These results demand the prioritization of equity and social inclusion initiatives for youth through public policies aimed at income generation opportunities, professional qualification, and the empowerment of their socio-cultural identities. Thus, education and technical formation for youth aged 15 to 29 is one of the main directives for prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable urban development.

Inclusive Territorial Planning

Comprising components from the dimensions of Productivity, Infrastructure Development, and Quality of Life, inclusive territorial planning for the state of Alagoas involves prioritizing elderly people, women and infants in public policies.

In this regard, the CPI results indicate that strengthening policies for early childhood, social assistance, nutrition, and income generation should include cross-cutting guidelines that address the needs of both children and caregivers. Similarly, policies for the elderly population should also be prioritized to ensure active aging and integration with other public services.

Improving social infrastructure conditions

With a moderately weak performance in the Infrastructure Development dimension, the CPI identifies the need to address the prevalence of non-durable housing, primarily in the Agreste and Sertão regions, and the poor performance in Information and Communication Technology services, which hampers access to basic education, health, and labor policies. The Traffic fatalities indicator highlights the need to combat this issue through traffic calming policies, improvements in public transportation, and the use of alternative transport modes.

In this regard, it is necessary to integrate policies among municipal, state, and federal authorities to ensure that the infrastructure of the municipalities can provide adequate living conditions for the population of Alagoas.

Strengthening public safety as a transversal policy

Despite the moderately weak average performance, municipalities in Alagoas, particularly in the Metropolitan Area of Maceió, have achieved significant public safety results over the past decade. For instance, Maceió was among the most violent cities in the country in 2015. However, according to data from the *Anuário Brasileiro de Segurança Pública* (2023), no municipality in Alagoas is among the 50 most violent anymore.

Thus, to ensure more prosperous and safer cities, it is necessary to strengthen security policies that range from ostensible and predictive policing to the revitalization of inviting urban spaces that foster a greater sense of belonging among the population.

General recommendations by CPI dimensions

Productivity	Strengthen regional hubs, economical diversification, and industrial modernization based on the potential of each region.
	Develop policies that stimulate the expansion of income-generating opportunities and the integration of youth into the labor market
	Diversify income sources and the local economy, reducing dependence on public resources, to address unemployment, lack of opportunities, and migration to major urban centers.
	Expand the cultivation area and invest in technology for family farming, strengthening technical assistance and professional training in the <i>Sertão</i> region.
	Increase investment to transform Alagoas' cities into smart cities, especially in the Metropolitan Area of Maceió
	Encourage and increase productivity in the informal sector.
Infrastructure Development	Expand access to health services in the <i>Zona da Mata</i> , <i>Agreste</i> , and <i>Sertão</i> regions, primarily through investment in family health programs.
	Invest in housing programs to ensure access to adequate housing, especially in slums and urban communities across all regions.
	Implement ICT infrastructure, as well as access democratization programs, technical courses, and free public internet access points.
	Encourage urban planning policies that promote more orderly and sustainable development of cities, particularly in the <i>Zona da Mata</i> and <i>Agreste</i> regions.
Quality of Life	Improve the quality of basic health services by investing in family health programs and elderly care programs focused on prevention across all regions.
	Create public spaces focused on children and caregivers, as well as public spaces for the elderly.
	Prioritize violence prevention policies, particularly those aimed at mitigating high youth homicide rates.
	Turn schools into attractive public spaces adapted to the current realities of youth to combat dropout rates.
	Create active search mechanisms to identify illiterate individuals.
Equity and Social Inclusion	Strengthen income transfer programs to reduce poverty and inequality rates.
	Invest in adequate housing programs in vulnerable urban areas and rural regions, especially in the <i>Agreste</i> and <i>Sertão</i> regions.
	Invest in youth capacitation programs in new innovative areas, encouraging the development of future workforce.
	Increase and diversify professional training opportunities, including Alagoas youth as key decision-makers.
	Expand analyses and studies on gender equity in the state, particularly in higher education, the labor market, and public safety.
	Invest in the training and formalization of individuals working in the informal economy.
Environmental Sustainability	Strengthen control mechanisms, such as regulatory agencies for water and sewage concessions in the state, to ensure the universalization of services and prioritize serving vulnerable populations.
	Ensure household waste collection throughout every city in Alagoas and secure populations exposed to extreme weather effects, such as floods.
	Implement waste sorting and strengthen the recycling chain by recognizing sanitation workers as essential parts.
	Promote the diversification of urban transportation modes to improve air quality and public safety for pedestrians, passengers, and drivers.
	Promote the generation and supply of renewable energies, such as solar and wind, mitigating socio-environmental impacts.
Urban Governance and Legislation	Strengthen the regulation of the fiscal sector in cities.
	Improve the availability and transparency of public data, especially in smaller municipalities.
	Invest in evidence-based government plans that prioritize resource mobilization and attract investments aimed at strengthening municipalities budgets.
	Promote partnerships with municipalities and other organizations to improve public management and develop local plans aimed at enhancing the quality of life in both urban and rural areas.
	Invest in revenue diversification while recognizing the potential, challenges and diversity of each region.

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