



United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

A City Assessment tool for the Arab Region

City Assessments and Beyond

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A City Primer for the Arab Region

A regional city primer will provide a framework for local governments to guide them in their efforts to make cities more resilient. It will provide:

1. **Information** on climate change and disaster risk impacts on cities in the region, as well as introduction to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation activities.
2. An **Assessment tool**, with general, but relevant and comprehensive indicators for the region.
3. **Guidelines** for establishing city information bases that will feed in to city planning with updated information.
4. Examples of **good practices** in the region and from rest of the world

A Regional Assessment Tool

The Assessment tool of the City Primer is intended to give the following results:

1. Identify major problem areas for climate change impact and disaster risk management as a step toward identifying priorities for action
2. Generate awareness among local government officials and other stakeholders on the important contributors to climate change and disaster risk management
3. Assist the local government and other stakeholders to intuitively identify the interrelationship between governance structure, urban characteristics, disaster risk, and climate change impact.
4. Benchmark progress

Why Develop and Apply a Regional Assessment Tool?

1. Many cities in the Arab region have already conducted assessment reports and related research on urban risks and vulnerabilities. However, the assessment exercises need to have added value for making the cities more resilient to disasters. The challenges are:

- To use relevant assessments
- To use comprehensive assessments, to focus on both the whole risk complex and the cross-sectoral approach necessary to address the risks.
- To use assessments that are useful and have value for local governments in their efforts to make cities more resilient.

Why Develop and Apply a Regional Assessment Tool?

2. There are several specific regional characteristics that is necessary to consider:

- The Arab region is highly centralized. Important to use indicators that identify responsibilities and opportunities for cooperation between local and central authorities.
- Knowledge on risks at the local level is limited and arbitrary. The indicators should identify knowledge gaps in order to provide necessary training.

3. In order to make the tool broadly applied :

- The assessment tool have to be translated to Arabic in a language that can be comprehended by all.

How to Apply the Assessment tool?

1. The local government selects a **team** to undertake the assessment.
 - Can be connected to existing Disaster Management teams and the like.
 - This team should be cross-sectoral with members from those departments that deal with environment, planning, construction, transportation, and infrastructure; and other departments that impact climate change.
 - Should also include representatives from technical and scientific institutions. NGOs and other stakeholders.
2. The team will reach **consensus on specific indicators** for the city assessment, through several workshops. And agree on sources used for conducting the assessment

How to Apply the Assessment tool?

3. The assessment is conducted focusing on four main areas:

- City discription
- Political and economic impacts
- Natural hazards
- Climate change impacts

Guiding Principles for a Regional Assessment tool

- The main idea with the Regional assessment tool, is that it conducted by the local governments for the local governments.
- It is not a single exercise, but should be incorporated in the continuous work of local governments to improve the city resilience.
- In addition it will also promote cross-sectoral approach, in order to reach a comprehensive and useful tool, for sustainable city planning.

Guiding Principles for a Regional Assessment tool

- The assessment exercise is **not a goal in itself, it is a means** to reach better understanding in order to make more resilient cities.
- The assessment exercise is **not a quantitative tool for ranking** cities. It is in the best interest of cities to undertake as true assessments as possible to find the most sustainable solutions.
- The assessment exercise should **incorporate former assessment** results and research. It will look at past events to foresee possible future events. Local knowledge in dealing with disasters will also be an element.

Prospects for Regional Assessment Tool?

- What are your experiences with undertaking assessments?
- What indicators are important for the region?

Thank you

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