



# Aqaba, Jordan

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## Local progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (First Cycle)

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# Priority for Action 1

*Ensure that disaster reduction is a national and local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation*

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## Core Indicator 1.1

*National policy and legal framework for disaster risk reduction exists with decentralized responsibilities and capacities at all levels.*

**How well are local organizations (including local government) equipped with capacities (knowledge, experience, official mandate) for disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation?**

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

ASEZA has done some progress with substantial achievement by establishing a DRR unit within its governmental structure. The unit has been staffed and training is in progress since the 2010. Yet still there is some deficiency with regard to the legal framework and mandates of this unit, in order to work collectively and coordinate properly with other organizations and stakeholders.

**To what extent do partnerships exist between communities, private sector and local authorities to reduce risk?**

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Description of Progress & Achievements:

since its establishment in 2001, ASEZA has been working closely, and coordinating with its partners in the zone to make sure of safe and resilient development in the zone. the cross-agencies coordination and consultation in the urban infrastructural development and utilities services has been institutionalized into the system and processes of ASEZA. Right now there is an inter-agency committee exist with members from all the utilities company and civil defence, this committee is responsible for reviewing all

infrastructures plans and project in an integrate manner. With its newly established DRR unit, ASEZA is planning to further enhance its capacities and tools in cross-agencies coordination to ensure coherent work among all stakeholders.

## **Core Indicator 1.2**

*Dedicated and adequate resources are available to implement disaster risk reduction plans and activities at all administrative levels.*

### **How far does the local government have access to adequate financial resources to carry out risk reduction activities?**

Level of Progress achieved: 4

#### **Description of Progress & Achievements:**

As semi central government, ASEZA has its own budget and doesn't rely on the national government to support its activities. With its high credibility, ASEZA is getting the financial support from foreign aids and donors such as SCD, JTI, UNDP and others in a form of technical assistance and capacity building aids. In the last four years, ASEZA has got the financial support to implement two National execution (NEX) projects in supporting the national capacity building to reduce Disaster risk. Currently ASEZA is an implementing partner of a NEX project to enhance institutional Capacity to reduce Disaster risk. This project aims to improve governance and strengthen the institutional coping mechanisms to address DRR for natural hazards, and climate change adaptation. Progress up to date in this undergoing project resulted in the establishment of the DRR unit competency training, in addition to piloting some projects such as the Aqaba Community Neighborhoods disasters volunteers and the establishment of the EOC.

### **To what degree does the local government allocate sufficient financial resources to carry out DRR activities, including effective disaster response and recovery?**

Level of Progress achieved: 1

#### **Description of Progress & Achievements:**

At this time very minimal, ASEZA still relies on grants and foreign aids. No allocation on the budget yet for such activities. Once the DRR unit is fully operational with its

core functions and sitting it is expected that it will be able to generate some fund from donors to support carrying out DRR activities, including effective disaster response and recovery.

## **Core Indicator 1.3**

*Community participation and decentralization are ensured through the delegation of authority and resources to local levels.*

**How much does the local government support vulnerable local communities (particularly women, elderly, infirmed, children) to actively participate in risk reduction decision-making, policy making, planning and implementation processes?**

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Description of Progress & Achievements:

as DRR is realtively new concept and the awarens of it amoung local community is yet to be futher enhaced at ASEZA ,the support to vulnerble groups to actively partciapte in risk reductiuon decision -making as well as as policy making is at its low profile. Nevertheless ,ASEZA has been quite active on reachingout and working closllt with the local community in other realted issures such as eduaction, povertiy prevention throught the Mico project which im most cases target women and those who can not suppoit themseve ion their own. the situation at ASEZA is expecting to be much better than before with regard to active particiaption in risk reduction in the comming years due to the relization of the decision makers of ASEZA of the imortance of DRR and its postive imapct on the coummiuniy as well as the econmoy of the zone. the establsihent of the DRR uint and the luanching of the Nighbohoods Community volneetres intiative is an achievment to be counted for ASEZA so Far.

**To what extent does the local government provide training in risk reduction for local officials and community leaders?**

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Within the last two years since ASEA has conducted and provided several training in risk reduction for related governmental officials as well as CBO'S NGO'S ,community

leaders schools children's as well as its own employees. The training was gender sensitive and it was throughout the risk reduction national executed projects supported By UNDP, training range from awareness, and preparedness to mitigations and risk sensitive land-use planning

## How regularly does the local government conduct awareness-building or education programs on DRR and disaster preparedness for local communities?

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Programs include cultural diversity issues	Yes
Programs are sensitive to gender perspectives	Yes

### Description of Progress & Achievements:

in the last two three years ASEZA with the support of UNDP has managed to conduct many awareness programs targeting young people, schools, CBO as well as housewives to raise the awareness levels about disaster preparedness. Currently ASEZA is implementing a pilot project to demonstrate the capacity of the Community neighborhoods volunteers in dealing with disasters, this project aims at creating a community volunteers groups who will be capable to work and support the civil defense at the time of Disasters in first aid and search and rescue operations .

## Core Indicator 1.4

*A national multi-sectoral platform for disaster risk reduction is functioning.*

## To what extent does the local government participate in the national DRR planning?

Level of Progress achieved: 1

### Description of Progress & Achievements:

the institutional setting of ASEZA makes it to some extent separate from the national planning process this is also makes it applicabe on the DDR process. However the

governor of the Governorate of AQABA which ASEZ is part of it set on the top of the local defence council which is linked to the interior minister at the central government. thus the governor of the city of AQABA (ASEZ) named after the transformation into a special economic zone, could be considered as part of the participation process at the national level and the achievement so far.

## Priority for Action 2

*Identify, assess and monitor disaster risks and enhance early warning*

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### Core Indicator 2.1

*National and local risk assessments based on hazard data and vulnerability information are available and include risk.*

**To what degree does the local government conducted thorough disaster risk assessments for key vulnerable development sectors in your local authority?**

Level of Progress achieved: 5

Description of Progress & Achievements:

a comprehensive analysis of hazards, exposure and vulnerability have been made through the implementation of two national excuation projects to suport the national capacity and enhance institutioal capacity in DRR reduction and cliamte change . a Risk Assessment Profile,as well as a Disaster Risk managmet Master Plan (DRMMP),has been prepared at ASEZA. the profile and the DRMMP are under regualer updating.

**To what extent are these risk assessments regularly updated, e.g. annually or on a bi-annual basis?**

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Description of Progress & Achievements:

the currently undergoing with the support of UNDP " enhancing institutional capacity to reduce disaster risk reduction is planning within its activities to carryout an apdating to the Aqaba Risk Assessment profile,as well as the Dissaster risk Redution Master plan

## How well are disaster risk assessments incorporated into all relevant local development planning on a consistent basis?

Level of Progress achieved: 1

### Description of Progress & Achievements:

the local Risk Assessment Profile of the City of Aqaba has been a binding document and a part from the EIA study which ASEZA requires from investors and developers . ASEZA provide developers with the Assessment profile so as to make sure that developers take into account the necessary mitigation measures with respect to hazards such as earthquakes and flash floods in their development plans prior to approval of the plans

## To what extent have local schools, hospitals and health facilities received special attention for "all hazard" risk assessments in your local authority?

Level of Progress achieved: 2

Schools	Yes
Hospitals/ health facilities	Yes

### Description of Progress & Achievements:

The process of risk assessment for some schools and critical facilities is undergoing though the currently under implementation DRR project with the assistance and support of SDC and UNDP.

## How safe are all main schools, hospitals and health facilities from disasters so that they have the ability to remain operational during emergencies?

Level of Progress achieved: 3



Schools	No
Hospitals/ health facilities	No

### Description of Progress & Achievements:

The building and licensing regulations of ASEZA as well as the procedure for grating building permit requires that all buidlings with the city of aqaba to be designed in acorandance with seismic codes. Furthermore, the Jordan Engineers Assossastion who appove the plan check on that and doesn't approval plans if it is not design to resist earthquakes. One can say the all public facilities such as schools, hospitals, and health facilities are safe in the the city of aqaba ,and such building are relatively new in most places. But the challenge remains on the follow up and during construction phase but some private sector facilities to check on compliancy with designs and codes

## Core Indicator 2.2

*Systems are in place to monitor, archive and disseminate data on key hazards and vulnerabilities.*

-- No questions related to local context --

## Core Indicator 2.3

*Early warning systems are in place for all major hazards, with outreach to communities.*

**To what extent are early warning centres established, adequately staffed (or on-call personnel) and well resourced (power back ups, equipment redundancy etc) at all times?**

Level of Progress achieved: 1

### Description of Progress & Achievements:

the capacity is still very limited on that regard.

## **How much do warning systems allow for adequate community participation?**

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Description of Progress & Achievements:

very low since no warning systems is yet installed at ASEZA

## **Core Indicator 2.4**

*National and local risk assessments take account of regional/trans-boundary risks, with a view to regional cooperation on risk reduction.*

## **How well are local government risk assessments linked to, and supportive of, risk assessments from neighbouring local authorities and state or provincial government risk management plans?**

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Description of Progress & Achievements:

the city of aqaba is a neighbour to the city of Ilat, Isreal, and the city of Haqel , Saudia Arabia. So far no linkage is there among these three neighbours on the issues related to risks or hazards expect for the ones the related to marine pollution issues.

## Priority for Action 3

*Use knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels*

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### Core Indicator 3.1

*Relevant information on disasters is available and accessible at all levels, to all stakeholders (through networks, development of information sharing systems, etc).*

**How regularly does the local government communicate to the community, information on local hazard trends and risk reduction measures (e.g. using a Risk Communications Plan) including early warnings of likely hazard impact?**

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Description of Progress & Achievements:

As a local government, ASEZA is yet to take the leading role within the governorate of Aqaba in general and in the city of Aqaba in particular with respect to DRM. Having such role ASEZA through its local community development directorate will increase its efforts and widen its channels of communication to improve the current situation to guarantee that information is communicated to the community in a systematic way and much better than before, where it was done in an ad-hoc basis and not comprehensive. Right now the civil defence with some assistance from the Red Crescent Society in Aqaba are the ones who are responsible for information and awareness on this regard, their efforts are good but not enough, moreover it is done on a seasonal basis and not systematic.

### Core Indicator 3.2

*School curricula, education material and relevant trainings include disaster risk reduction and recovery concepts and practices.*

**To what degree do local schools and colleges include courses, education or training in disaster risk reduction (including climate related risks) as part of the education curriculum?**

Level of Progress achieved: 1

## Description of Progress & Achievements:

Very limited at the present time., However, the currently undergoing " enhancing the Institutional Capacity to Reduce Disaster Risk and Integrate Climate change in Jordan" is Planning to undertake such task working closely with university and schools to integrate some Disaster risk education material into the sulluybus .this undertaking is supposed to start soon lead by the Jordan National Building Council (JNBC).

### **Core Indicator 3.3**

*Research methods and tools for multi-risk assessments and cost benefit analysis are developed and strengthened.*

-- No questions related to local context --

### **Core Indicator 3.4**

*Countrywide public awareness strategy exists to stimulate a culture of disaster resilience, with outreach to urban and rural communities.*

-- No questions related to local context --

## Priority for Action 4

*Reduce the underlying risk factors*

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### Core Indicator 4.1

*Disaster risk reduction is an integral objective of environment related policies and plans, including for land use, natural resource management and adaptation to climate change.*

**How well integrated are local government DRR policies, strategies and implementation plans with existing environmental development and natural resource management plans?**

Level of Progress achieved: 3

Description of Progress & Achievements:

ASEZA DRR policies, strategies and implementation plans are integrated at the implementation level in the EIA Regulations which is by law all projects falls in the black category must submit the EIA . The DRR is embedded on the study and proponent must submit plans, programs, and design to demonstrate mitigation measures as well as preparedness to deal to disasters at all stages of the project. Furthermore, ASEZA has an ICZM program which calls for integration of DRR policies and management of the marine natural resources. However, the DRR is not fully achieved in all types of development, and still more is needed to progress forward in this process specially at small scale project and some urban planning projects

**How far do land use policies and planning regulations for housing and development infrastructure take current and projected disaster risk (including climate related risks) into account?**

Level of Progress achieved: 3

Housing

No

Communication	No
Transportation	No
Energy	No

#### Description of Progress & Achievements:

The Aqaba Special Economic Zone Land use master Plan as well as the mobility and transportation strategy in addition to the EIA Regulation does take into account DRR measure and provide clear frame work for actions to be taken at most of development, investment in the zone, yet more is needed to mainstream DRR in the land use process and other business processes within ASEZA. As far as maintenance and upgrading of the urban infrastructure, ASEZA along with its partners from the private sector such as the Aqaba Development Company(ADC) and other utilities companies are taking care of the improvement, ,and maintenance of the infrastructure such as flooding channels, roads ,bridges and so on.

#### **How well are risk-sensitive land use regulations and building codes, health and safety codes enforced across all development zones and building types?**

Level of Progress achieved: 1

#### Description of Progress & Achievements:

in the process of developing the Diaster risk Reduction Master plan risk -sensitive land use planning and regualtions are considered major statagic goals which ASEZA is targeting in the comming five year plan.

#### **How strong are existing regulations (e.g. land use plans, building codes etc) to support disaster risk reduction in your local authority?**

Level of Progress achieved: 2

#### Description of Progress & Achievements:

the ASEZA building and planning regulations and the land use master plan are

considered one of the best and more advanced in Jordan. yet the currently faced challenge is in the monitoring and post audit of the construction and building operations.

### **To what degree does the local government support the restoration, protection and sustainable management of ecosystems services?**

Level of Progress achieved: 4

Forests	No
Coastal zones	Yes
Wetlands	No
Water resources	No
River basins	No
Fisheries	No

#### **Description of Progress & Achievements:**

ASEZA has an advanced well matured ICZM program which started back in the 1998 during the Gulf of Aqaba Environmental Action Plan funded by GEF . This program has supported to a great extent the protection the restoration and protection and sustainability of the ecosystems services within the coastal zone of the Jordanian part of the Gulf of Aqaba

### **How much do civil society organizations and citizens participate in the restoration, protection and sustainable management of ecosystems services?**

Level of Progress achieved: 4

#### **Description of Progress & Achievements:**

Though ASEZA ICZM Program is a governmental top to down management program yet it has a wide room for community participation and civil society .The Aqaba Marine park which is part of the coastal zone a its system is within the overall ICZM program mandate is applying community -based management approach.

### **How much does the private sector participate in the implementation of environmental and ecosystems management plans in your local authority?**

Level of Progress achieved: 2

#### **Description of Progress & Achievements:**

the private sector contribute to some extent in the monitoring of the quality of the environment in some part of the coastal zone with in ASEZ .it also has a stake in planning and managing of the entire coastal zone.

### **Core Indicator 4.2**

*Social development policies and plans are being implemented to reduce the vulnerability of populations most at risk.*

### **What is the scope of financial services (e.g. saving and credit schemes, macro and micro-insurance) available to vulnerable and marginalised households for pre- disaster times?**

Level of Progress achieved: 1

#### **Description of Progress & Achievements:**

Subsidy and some incentive to some low -income households are available at ASEZA but very limited, with the exception of the national implemented initiative "Decent living decent house " which was lanced by royal decree nationwide, there is no other available financial service at pre- disaster time. This is also applicable at the city of Aqaba.

### **To what extent are micro finance, cash aid, soft loans, lone guarantees etc available to affected households after disasters to**



## **restart livelihoods?**

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Nothing on this regards with the exception of some insurance companies that offer some insurance policies against earthquakes, and fire.

## **Core Indicator 4.3**

*Economic and productive sectorial policies and plans have been implemented to reduce the vulnerability of economic activities.*

**How well established are economic incentives for investing in disaster risk reduction for households and businesses (e.g. reduced insurance premiums for households, tax holidays for businesses)?**

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Description of Progress & Achievements:

Nothing is established on this regard still carried out on samal scale vlonterlly bases private real estate developement in the ne .

**To what extent do local business associations, such as chambers of commerce and similar, support efforts of small enterprises for business continuity during and after disasters?**

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Description of Progress & Achievements:

to a very limited and small scale

## **Core Indicator 4.4**

*Planning and management of human settlements incorporate disaster risk reduction elements, including enforcement of building codes.*

## **How adequately are critical public facilities and infrastructure located in high risk areas assessed for all hazard risks and safety?**

Level of Progress achieved: 1

### **Description of Progress & Achievements:**

The Aqaba Micro-zonation map for seismic hazards which was produced in the year 2010 defined area at high risk in the zone. So far no assessment for any critical facilities has been done yet. It is expected to tackle such an activity within the currently undergoing Risk reduction project with the assistance from UNDP and close work for the JNBC Jordan national Building council as well as the Jordan Civil Defense

## **How adequate are the measures that are being undertaken to protect critical public facilities and infrastructure from damage during disasters?**

Level of Progress achieved: 1

### **Description of Progress & Achievements:**

With the exception of the mitigation measures which are applied on the design of such facilities where it can withstand seismic risk to some extent, the measures still inadequate.

## **Core Indicator 4.5**

*Disaster risk reduction measures are integrated into post disaster recovery and rehabilitation processes.*

## **How well are disaster risk reduction measures integrated into post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation activities (i.e. build back better, livelihoods rehabilitation)?**

Level of Progress achieved: 1

## Description of Progress & Achievements:

the integration is very limited up till this moment .since DRR is newly introduce to ASEZA .yet the future is promising as ASEZA is Developing its DRRMMP which will encompass all measures related to post -disaster recovery and rehabilitation activates.

## Core Indicator 4.6

*Procedures are in place to assess the disaster risk impacts of major development projects, especially infrastructure.*

**To what degree do local government or other levels of government have special programs in place to regularly assess schools, hospitals and health facilities for maintenance, compliance with building codes, general safety, weather-related risks etc.?**

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Schools	No
Hospitals/ health facilities	No

## Description of Progress & Achievements:

So far, to a very limited degree in some individual cases .but in the coming month with the support of UNDP and the Jordan Building council JNBC an assesment will take place for tow shoools and one hospital in the city of Aqaba.

# Priority for Action 5

*Strengthen disaster preparedness for effective response at all levels*

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## Core Indicator 5.1

*Strong policy, technical and institutional capacities and mechanisms for disaster risk management, with a disaster risk reduction perspective are in place.*

-- No questions related to local context --

## Core Indicator 5.2

*Disaster preparedness plans and contingency plans are in place at all administrative levels, and regular training drills and rehearsals are held to test and develop disaster response programmes.*

**How regularly are training drills and rehearsal carried out with the participation of relevant government, non-governmental, local leaders and volunteers?**

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Description of Progress & Achievements:

at a very low base .it is limited to what the civil defence is conducting on some occasions and events ,and the participation of the NGO's is limited

**How available are key resources for effective response, such as emergency supplies, emergency shelters, identified evacuation routes and contingency plans at all times?**

Level of Progress achieved: 3

Stockpiles of relief supplies	Yes
Emergency shelters	Yes
Safe evacuation routes identified	Yes
Contingency plan or community disaster preparedness plan for all major hazards	Yes

#### Description of Progress & Achievements:

All the efforts on this regard is limited to what the civil defence is covering on this manner with the coopration and coordination with the governer of Aqaba.ASEZA is yet to take a leading role on this issue when its DRR uniite is fully relized and institutiolized .

#### **To what extent does the local government have an emergency operations centre (EOC) and/or an emergency communication system?**

Level of Progress achieved: 1

#### Description of Progress & Achievements:

ASEZA is planning to establish an Emergency Operation Center in the comming future with the support of UNDP.

#### **How aware are citizens of evacuation plans or drills for evacuations when necessary?**

Level of Progress achieved: 2

#### Description of Progress & Achievements:

Very limited at the present time., However, the currently undergoing " enhancing the Institutional Capacity to Reduce Disaster Risk and Integrate Climate change in Jordan" is Planning to undertake such task working closely with university and schools

to integrate some Disaster risk education material into the syllabus. This undertaking is supposed to start soon led by the Jordan National Building Council (JNBC).

**To what degree does the Contingency Plan (or similar plan) include an outline strategy for post disaster recovery and reconstruction, including needs assessments and livelihoods rehabilitation?**

Level of Progress achieved: 1

**Description of Progress & Achievements:**

There is what is called the winter season contingency plan which outlines to some extent the short term actions to be taken at and post disaster yet this plan is limited to flash floods hazards it doesn't include any assessment and livelihoods rehabilitation.

**How far are regular disaster preparedness drills undertaken in schools, hospitals and health facilities?**

Level of Progress achieved: 1

Schools	No
Hospitals/ health facilities	No

**Description of Progress & Achievements:**

The civil defence undertake some regular on annual bases some drills at schools, hotels, and hospitals.

**Core Indicator 5.3**

*Financial reserves and contingency mechanisms are in place to support effective response and recovery when required.*

**To what degree do local institutions have access to financial reserves to support effective disaster response and early recovery?**

Level of Progress achieved: 1

#### Description of Progress & Achievements:

ASEZA is A semi central government , and fully aoutonmius and has it own budget and finacial system that is detached form the central governement with no support form the cebtrl government. However there is no systyem in place yet to allocate or resreve mony for time of crisess or disaster .this menas that it is an adhoc situatiuon,and when mony is needed to support effective disater response and earlly recovery it will be from the Annual budgt under the prvisional sum item.

#### **How much access does the local government have to resources and expertise to assist victims of psycho-social (psychological, emotional) impacts of disasters?**

Level of Progress achieved: 4

#### Description of Progress & Achievements:

ASEZA has good access to resources (both capital and human) and enjoys high creditability to work with expertise both the national and international level to assist victims of psycho-social impacts of disasters

### **Core Indicator 5.4**

*Procedures are in place to exchange relevant information during hazard events and disasters, and to undertake post-event reviews.*

-- No questions related to local context --