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Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready!

World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2010-2011

Ismailia is getting ready!

Ismailia, Egypt



Population: 1015132 (IDSC mid 2009)

Type of Hazard: *Earthquakes and droughts*

Ismailia City is considered the East gate for Egypt to Asia continental and Arab countries, it is specified by its special geographical position, and a very civilized and political history which had a very big impact on the political reality of Egypt, in addition to its high economical importance with its fish wealth and tourism, as well as its agriculture products all these sources makes Ismailia one of the governorates that attracts investments in different fields either tourism, industrial and agricultural fields. It is in the middle of Suez Canal territory which includes Canal governorates (Port Saied, Suez) and North and South Sinai.

Many earthquakes were reported for example Abu Hammad April 29, 1974; Wadi Hagul, March, 29, 1984; Ismailia earthquake January 2, 1987; and recently one of a moderate shock that occurred in May, 22, 1991 in the west Bitter lakes. The earthquake activity is conformable and related to wide active major faults and structural lineaments which have NW-SE and also NE-SW trends.

Rain falls in winter; it does not exceed 50mm in the year, so the limited rain fall in addition to the increase of evaporation leads to appearance of some drought cases unless the presence of Ismailia water canal which is used in irrigation of lands Ismailia could have been a deserted area totally. As for wind it is strong in winter and spring.

Disaster Risk Reduction Activities

Suez Canal Seismographic sub network had been deployed in September 1997 to monitor and record earthquakes in and around Canal region. In case of felt earthquake, an alert message has been disseminated to media (newspaper, radio and television) for public awareness.

Ismailia depends on Ismailia fresh water canal as a main source of irrigation water, also it is used in drinking water, in addition to water of agricultural drainage which are 4 main drainages, part of their water is used in irrigation of agriculture lands and the rest is dumped in Tamsah lake and Bitter Lakes . There are no sewage waste water dumps their water in Ismailia water canal.