

# Jordan Risk Assessment, challenges and opportunities to developing and using seismic risk information

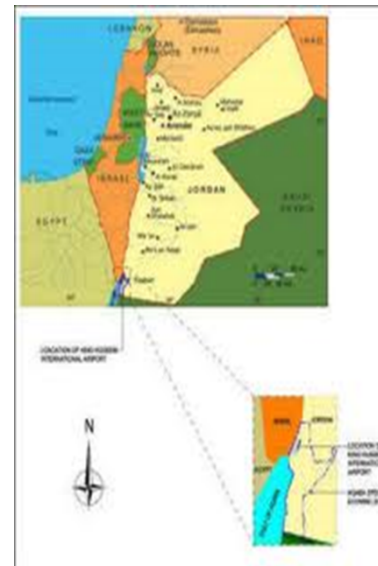
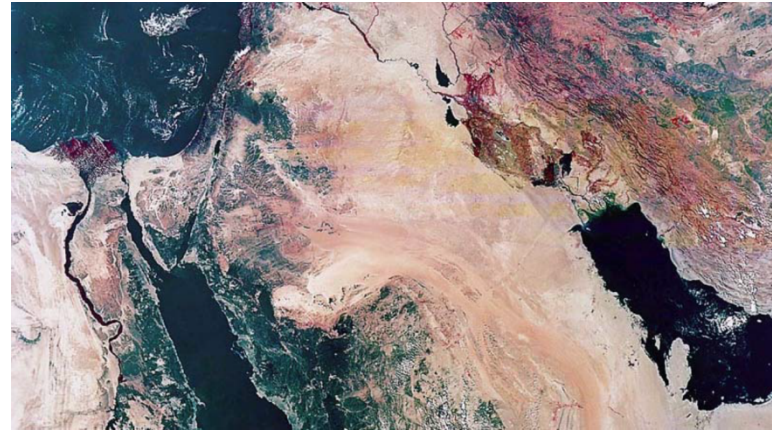
## The city of Aqaba Case

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# ASEZA profile and Main Hazards

- Name : Aqaba Special Economic Zone(ASEZ)
- Authority: Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority(ASEZA)
- Area : 375 km<sup>2</sup>
- Population:110000
- location : South of Jordan 360 km from the Capital Amman
- Main Hazards:
  - Earthquakes
  - Flash Floods
- The last Earthquake hit Aqaba was in 1995 lasted 45 seconds with a magnitude of 6.5 in Richter scale with no Casualties



## Background of Seismic Risk information developing and use at ASEZA

- Earthquake Risk Assessment (ERA) was carried out in Sept 2009 by Royal Scientific Society (RSS) ,Jordan for the City of Aqaba.
- funded by the Swiss Developing Agency(SDC) and UNDP under the Support for the National Capacity to Reduce earthquake Risk project implemented at ASEZA form 2009 till 2010
- Resulted in investigating and mapping various seismic hazard parameters such as peak ground acceleration and spectral acceleration.
- The Higher Council for Civil Defense (HCC) and the Jordanian National Building Council(JNBC) as well as the Jordanian Engineers Association were involved in the study
- The output of this ERA were :
- Seismic Hazards Maps and Elements at risk Maps

## Challenges:

- Gathering raw reliable data from right sources.
- Communicating the seismic risk amongst the public and private sector, during a rapid economic growth and urbanization period due to the transforming of the city of Aqaba into a Special Free Economic Zone (ASEZ) back in 2001
- Coordination , and collaboration of amongst agencies and involved parties.
- Adoption and enforcement of Building Codes
- Institutional capacity Building to use and apply Seismic risk information and update data regularly
- Political support and commitment
- Public awareness
- Sustaining the efforts

## Opportunities:-

- The governance System of ASEZA ( decentralized) local government)
- ASEZA has been mainstreaming the ERA outputs in the land planning process a (*RSLUP*) *GIS –based* process
- Enforcement of Building Seismic Resistance Codes and Zoning
- Construction Monitoring and Control By ASEZA
- Availability and accessibility to Hazards Maps and Seismic Risk information.
- The Support and catalytic role of funding and technical support agencies UNDP, SDC, etc.

## Opportunities:

- strong environmental regulation in place , particularly the EIA process .
- Institutionalization of DRR practice at ASEZA