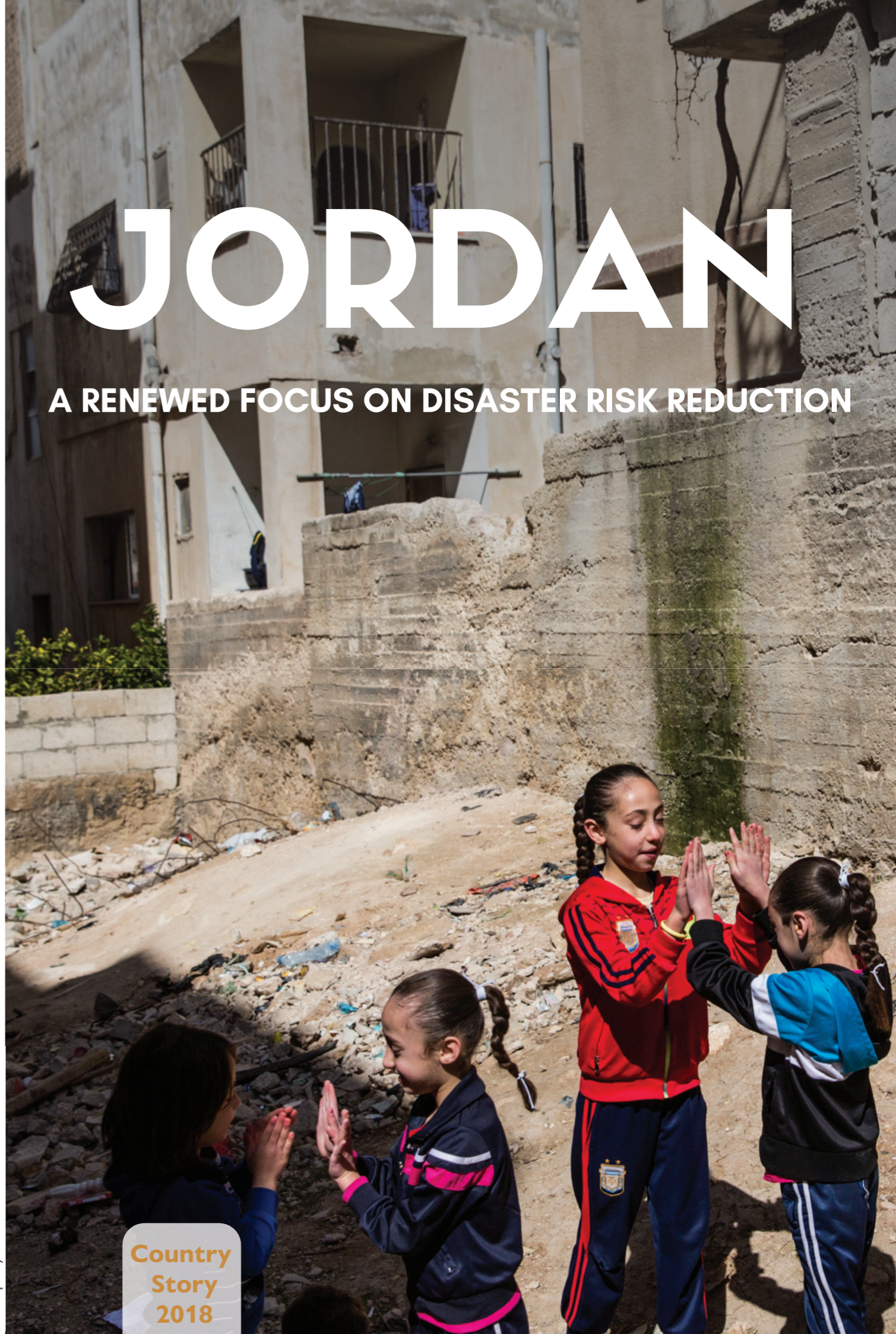


The **CaDRi** Partnership

Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative

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JORDAN

A RENEWED FOCUS ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

A CADRI PARTNERSHIP PUBLICATION

The **CaDRi** Partnership
Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative

Country
Story
2018

MULTIPLE HAZARDS, COMPLEX VULNERABILITY

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan faces a wide range of hazards, from earthquakes, landslides, flash floods, drought and snowstorms to industrial accidents. Rapid unplanned urbanization – with 80 percent of the population now living in cities – together with unsustainable water management practices, are the main drivers of disaster risk. The majority of large cities are located less than 30 kilometres from the Dead Sea Rift, making them highly exposed to earthquake risk. The unprecedented influx of refugees, who make up one third of the population, further compounds the country's vulnerability to disasters by placing additional strain on its natural resources and social and physical infrastructure.

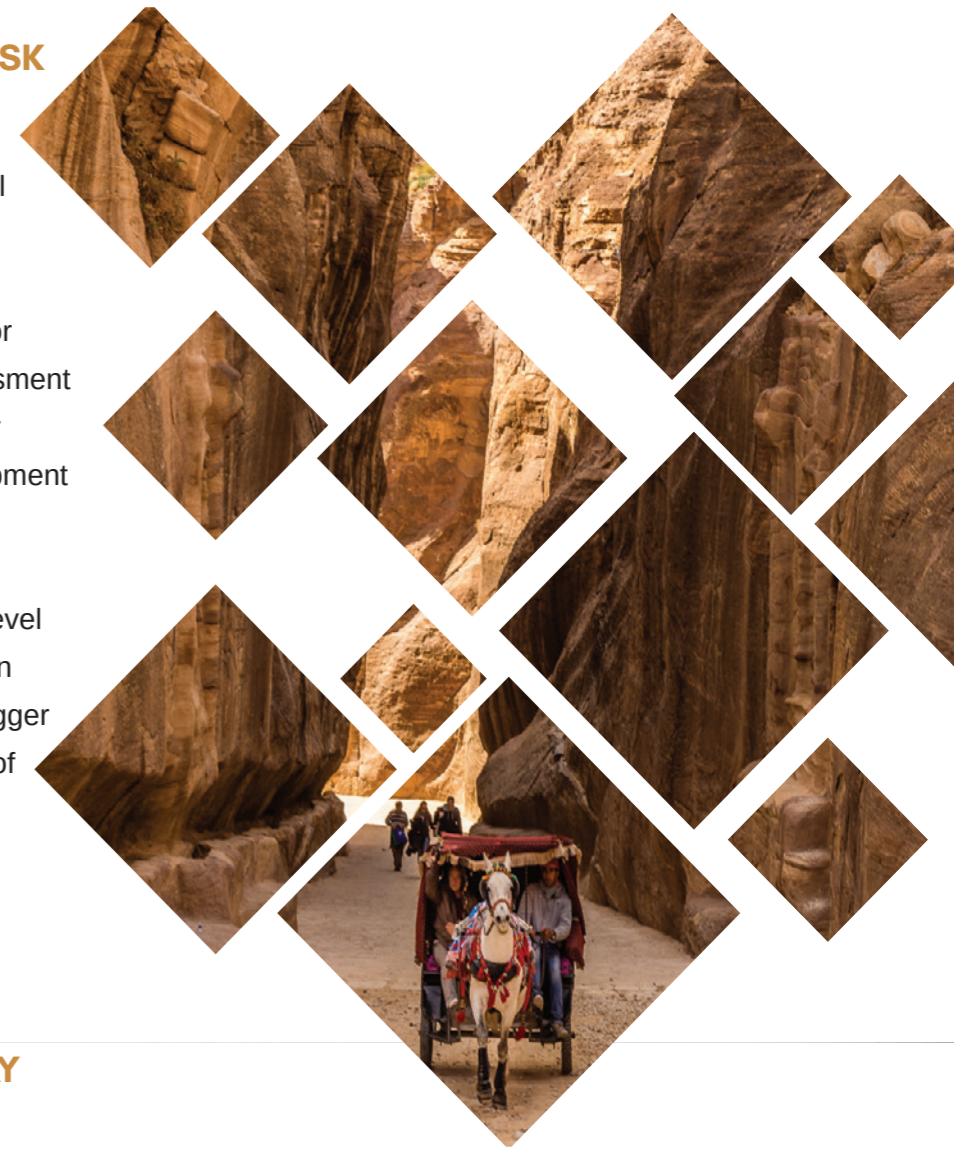


“ **The first National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (2019–2022) is the culmination of His Majesty King Abdullah’s directives to enhance coordination, consultation and cooperation between official and civil bodies in mitigating disasters.** ”

Mr. Omar Al Razzaz
Prime Minister and Chairperson of the National Centre for Security and Crisis Management Board of Directors

CULTURAL WORLD HERITAGE AT RISK

Petra World Heritage Site, the number one source of tourism revenue and therefore vital for the economy, is highly vulnerable to flash floods, rock falls and earthquakes. A key recommendation identified in the Capacity for Disaster Reduction Initiative (CADRI) assessment was the reactivation of the Flash Flood Early Warning System. In 2018, the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority upgraded the system, which consists of a set of gauges upstream of the Wadi Musa sending water-level information to the Petra control station. When these readings reach a certain level, they trigger contingency measures to ensure the safety of the local population and tourists and the conservation of the archaeological site's physical integrity.



A NEW STRATEGY PAVING THE WAY FOR INVESTMENT IN RESILIENCE

At the Government's request, CADRI facilitated an assessment of the Disaster Risk Management System, with a view to informing the development of the National Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy (2019–2022). Signed by the Prime Minister in December 2018, this strategy aims to clarify roles and mandates at the central and municipal levels, strengthen the integration between disaster risk reduction and water and agriculture strategies, enforce the development of municipal and sectoral disaster risk reduction plans, as well as integrate disaster risk reduction into the school curriculum.

Significant progress has been made in implementation, with a Drought Monitoring System established to promote integrated drought mitigation measures across the Ministry of Water and Irrigation, Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture, and a multi-threat assessment carried out for the industrial area of Aqaba to protect people, infrastructure and the marine ecosystem from technological and industrial hazards relating to activities in the port.

