Aqaba City

The Aqaba disclosure session was held on 9 February 2026 at The Westin Saraya Aqaba Resort & Spa, with more than 140 participants, including representatives from governmental entities, local associations, community members, and the private sector, discussing key community and project-related issues and providing their feedback. The following provides a summary of the discussion key points.

Table 1: Record of Aqaba Disclosure Session – February 2026

Aqaba City		
Location The Westin Saraya Aqaba Resort & Spa **No. of Participants:** 143 **Participants:** ▪ Governmental Entities ▪ Associations ▪ Community members ▪ Private Sector		
Topic	**Question**	**Answer**
Environmental, Social, Health, Safety, and Security	The renewable energy share will be 28%. What are the associated environmental and social impacts?	The adoption of 28% renewable energy aims primarily to reduce carbon emissions. The percentage was determined based on emission reduction objectives, contributing positively to minimizing the project's carbon footprint and associated environmental impacts.
	Has an economic impact assessment been conducted regarding road closures during the construction phase, particularly concerning truck operations?	Detailed management plans will be prepared as more construction details become available. Alternative routes have been designed to minimize disruptions. Truck operations will continue without interruption. Ongoing studies are being coordinated with the Directorate of Public Works and the Traffic Department to ensure compliance with required standards.
	Do international standards respect the social restrictions of the local community?	International standards respect the privacy and social norms of the Jordanian community. For example, workers' accommodation sites will be studied in detail, and Jordanian standards will be applied to ensure compliance with local social and regulatory requirements.
	Will there be an emergency plan specifically for the desalination plant?	Yes, the desalination plant is designed to handle emergency situations. The system includes redundancy measures to ensure continuity of operations. Backup pumps will be available to prevent disruption to pumping and water supply needs. Additionally, contingency measures are incorporated to manage short-term operational interruptions, estimated at

		approximately 2% (equivalent to 10–15 days) if required, without affecting overall supply commitments.
	Has a waste management study been conducted to ensure compliance with environmental standards and requirements?	Yes, a comprehensive study has been conducted covering all environmental aspects. The study includes a dedicated chapter on waste management in all its forms, and a section on risk assessment.
	There is a need to ensure meaningful participation of the local community, establish an effective monitoring and measurement mechanism, and provide clear information regarding the assessment of potential negative impacts and compensation mechanisms.	Potential negative impacts were presented prior to highlighting the positive aspects of the project, along with proposed mitigation measures and solutions. The project will ensure active engagement of the local community through: ▪ Appointment of Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) from the local area. ▪ Formation of community committees to enhance participation and transparency. ▪ Ensuring social equity and fairness in project implementation. ▪ Utilization of local service providers and employment of workers from the local community where possible.
Biodiversity and Marine Environment	What is the emergency plan for the project, and what are the measures for the protection of marine and desert ecosystems?	Comprehensive plans covering emergency response and environmental protection will be developed and finalized during the pre-construction phase. These plans will include procedures and mitigation measures to safeguard marine life and desert ecosystems prior to the commencement of project activities.
	What are the impacts of brine discharge on coral life and marine ecosystems?	A desalination plant will be established at the project site. A detailed marine study, including salinity dispersion modeling, has been conducted to assess the potential impacts of brine discharge on marine life, including coral ecosystems.
	Does the desalination plant incorporate modern technology, and how will it ensure marine environmental protection?	A comprehensive study of available desalination technologies was conducted, and the optimal solution was selected. Continuous maintenance will be performed to ensure high-quality desalination. Measures are in place to ensure that the brine discharged back

		into the sea will not negatively affect marine life.
	What is the temperature of the discharged water compared to the sea temperature? How will the optimal discharge conditions be ensured? Has this been studied? Was the intake temperature assessed and taken into consideration? Are there similar studies, or has there been cooperation with other countries?	Extensive studies have been conducted, including marine baseline assessments covering salinity and temperature. Detailed modeling has been carried out to assess temperature dispersion, salinity levels, and potential impacts. These aspects were studied comprehensively to ensure that discharge conditions comply with environmental standards.
	Will the salinity levels from the desalination process have any impact on the marine environment?	The marine environment has been studied, and detailed, intensive studies will be conducted, including modeling to minimize potential impacts on marine ecosystems. In addition, dedicated sessions will be held with local fishermen to address their questions and concerns.
	There are no strong currents in Aqaba to carry salinity to deeper layers. How can the project control temperature and ensure it does not impact seawater quality?	Regarding temperature impact, there is effectively no change. The use of reverse osmosis ensures that the desalination process will not affect sea temperature. Existing currents in Aqaba help prevent salt accumulation, and the water column further supports the dispersion of salinity. The sea is not closed, with a depth of approximately 200 meters, and there are both surface and subsurface currents. Water exchange currents allow renewal between the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea. Additionally, coral reefs in the area can tolerate salinity changes up to 0.005, so marine organisms will not be adversely affected by the project.
Technical Matters	What is the volume of sludge expected to be generated?	The estimated production capacity is approximately 100 m^3, of which 45 m^3 will be potable water. The exact volume of sludge to be generated will be confirmed after completion of the detailed design phase.
	What is the distance between the intake and brine discharge points, and what is their depth?	The intake and pumping points are located far apart, ensuring no mixing occurs between the two points.
	Have the marine currents been studied at a depth of 100 meters for a year to assess how the diffuser will perform?	Marine currents have been studied at depths ranging from 300 to 400 meters. The diffuser is a type of flow conditioning device, and additional studies will be conducted to examine whether any sedimentation or accumulation occurs over time after considering the relevant factors.

	Is it possible to use gravel instead of concrete? Why not use an environmentally friendly alternative?	The weight applied to the pipeline is mandatory to ensure that it remains securely on the seabed. Fabricating the supports on-site is more practical than extracting rocks from the sea, which would require more space around the pipeline. In addition, low-carbon materials will be used for the pipe supports. The pipeline itself has a diameter of three meters.
	It is required to obtain a license from the Energy Authority for the solar power plant.	The project will obtain the necessary license from the relevant Energy Authority prior to the establishment and operation of the solar power plant, in accordance with national regulatory requirements.
	What strategies have been considered to ensure sufficient water supply, and why is relying solely on dam water not enough?	A strategic plan has been prepared regarding water sources. It was determined that relying solely on dam water is insufficient to meet the projected water needs. Therefore, the optimal solution identified is the utilization of rainwater as an additional source.
	What is the future of the Disi project after the development of the National Conveyor? Is it possible to utilize its infrastructure to support the National Conveyor?	Currently, the Disi line is operating at its full design capacity and is expected to function effectively for the next twenty years. Its existing foundations and infrastructure represent only one-third of the National Conveyor, and therefore cannot be repurposed to support it.
	Will there be any conflict or interference between the National Conveyor and the new railway?	Coordination between the two projects will determine any potential conflicts. Currently, there are no issues identified
Water Share	The quantity of water allocated to the southern governorates is very limited despite the challenges and water shortages they are facing. There is a need to ensure social equity in water distribution.	The water quantities have been determined based on extensive technical and planning studies. The project's water supply will not be allocated exclusively to Amman. Through the main transmission lines, water will be distributed to the central and northern governorates as part of a broader national water distribution strategy aimed at ensuring equitable allocation.
	There is a gap between water production and actual demand. Has a feasibility study been conducted to assess the needs versus the available resources?	This project is not considered the final strategic project in the water sector. The current project aims to cover the anticipated needs up to the year 2040. In addition, water sources will be further studied, taking into account climate change data, and alternative sources will also be considered to ensure sustainable water supply in the long term.

Table 2: Public Feedback and Suggestions Reception Form - Aqaba Disclosure Session

No.	Area / District / Village	Type of Comment	Details and Description
1	Aqaba	☐ Inquiry ☒ General Comment ☐ Suggestion ☐ Complaint ☒ Environmental or Social Comment (e.g., land, compensation, employment opportunities, health and safety, etc.)	1. Partnering with national institutions, such as the Vocational Training Corporation, to provide training and employment under the project, particularly in competencies related to solar energy, metal fabrication, and occupational health and safety. 2. Will training in large-scale project management be included, linked to an integrated quality training framework?
2	Aqaba	☒ Inquiry ☐ General Comment ☐ Suggestion ☐ Complaint ☐ Environmental or Social Comment (e.g., land, compensation, employment opportunities, health and safety, etc.)	1. The alignment of the NCP pipeline along the back road and the closure of the road during implementation of the NCP works will affect the customs inspection yard. 2. Is there a comprehensive plan for the road closures and traffic diversions that will be implemented? 3. Has the economic, environmental, and social impact of closing the back road where the customs inspection yard (Yard No. 4) is located been assessed?
3	Aqaba	☒ Inquiry ☒ General Comment ☐ Suggestion ☐ Complaint ☐ Environmental or Social Comment (e.g., land, compensation, employment opportunities, health and safety, etc.)	1. Has the high population growth rate in Aqaba, being the highest among the Kingdom's governorate, been taken into account? Given that Jordan's current water demand is approximately 1.5 billion cubic meters per year, does the project have the capacity for future expansion? 2. Is there a study assessing future non-revenue water (water losses), considering that current water losses exceed 40%?
4	Aqaba	☒ Inquiry ☐ General Comment ☐ Suggestion ☐ Complaint ☐ Environmental or Social Comment (e.g., land, compensation, employment opportunities, health and safety, etc.)	In the event that the project does not achieve the desired outcomes in terms of environmental protection, economic feasibility, and energy conservation and efficiency, what alternative plan, if any, is in place, and how will it be implemented?
5	Aqaba	☐ Inquiry ☐ General Comment ☐ Suggestion ☐ Complaint ☒ Environmental or Social Comment (e.g., land, compensation, employment	I am currently preparing several research papers on the green and blue economy. I have a strong research interest in this area and would like to connect to explore opportunities for conducting studies in collaboration with you.

No.	Area / District / Village	Type of Comment	Details and Description
		opportunities, health and safety, etc.)	
6	Aqaba	☐ Inquiry ☒ General Comment ☐ Suggestion ☐ Complaint ☐ Environmental or Social Comment (e.g., land, compensation, employment opportunities, health and safety, etc.)	1. With regard to the concrete mattresses that will be used to stabilize the water intake pipelines and the return line to the sea, it is preferable not to use plastic ropes to connect them, as the use of such ropes would result in the installing of large quantities of plastic onto the seabed. In addition, these ropes could act as a substrate for dense algal growth, which may hinder coral growth on these structures, reduce coral development, or cause coral diseases. 2. It is also proposed that the surface of the concrete blocks be relatively rough, as this would facilitate coral settlement on them.
7	Aqaba	☐ Inquiry ☐ General Comment ☒ Suggestion ☐ Complaint ☐ Environmental or Social Comment (e.g., land, compensation, employment opportunities, health and safety, etc.)	The role of the Ayla Social Protection Association in the NCP could include raising awareness of social impacts, establishing a mechanism for conducting capacity-building workshops to enhance employment opportunities, preparing beneficiaries through a qualified team, and delivering lectures within the environmental field.
8	Aqaba	☐ Inquiry ☐ General Comment ☒ Suggestion ☐ Complaint ☐ Environmental or Social Comment (e.g., land, compensation, employment opportunities, health and safety, etc.)	1. Involve and engage a large number of students from disciplines relevant to this major project, by providing them with rigorous training across all project phases, particularly in technical and specialized aspects, so that, in the future, there will be no need to rely on foreign expertise for maintenance, development, modifications, or any emerging requirements related to the project. 2. It would also be beneficial to train private entities, such as contractors or engineers, and familiarize them with work processes and full project delivery methods, so that if changes occur or similar projects are implemented in the future, there will be competent human resources capable of delivering and advancing national projects.
9	Aqaba	☒ Inquiry ☐ General Comment ☐ Suggestion ☐ Complaint ☐ Environmental or Social Comment (e.g., land, compensation, employment opportunities, health and safety, etc.)	Define the alignment of the NCP pipeline within the Southern Industrial Area.

Figure 1: Selected Pictures from the Aqaba Disclosure Session