

## WASH Cluster oPt Monthly Situation Report

Number 18

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### Headlines

- WASH materials continue, largely, to be denied entry into Gaza. Only 1,5 trucks of WASH materials were allowed into Gaza for ICRC and 3 trucks of hygiene kits as well as 9 trucks of chlorine.
- This year's water Scarcity response is being evaluated and next year's response is being prepared for.
- The Advocacy Taskforce organized a successful right to water and sanitation campaign between 9-13 December 2009.
- OCHA launched a special focus document on Area C, specifically focusing on WASH issues.

### Overall Situation

#### Gaza

Humanitarian aid transfer volumes allowed into Gaza continue a lower pace (less than 40%) than previous months since the Israeli Cast Lead military operation. The situation for the WASH sector remains problematic: since mid-November no trucks of materials were allowed in for PWA or CMWU, the water service provider in Gaza.

UNRWA managed to get 3 truckloads through with hygiene kits and over a month's time and in total 9 truckloads of chlorine were accepted through.

The Cluster continues to work together with OCHA and the HCT advocate to get the necessary materials into Gaza for the urgent humanitarian water and sanitation projects. A list of materials required urgently for the winter period was delivered to CoGAT by the Access Support Team and OCHA in early December.

As a result, progress is slow for ongoing humanitarian projects in Gaza due to the lack of materials, and some projects are on hold due to winter season such as digging wells.

### WASH Cluster humanitarian response

The following list is not exhaustive. Activities reported in last month's report have not been taken up. This month the focus of the overview of the WASH Cluster humanitarian response is on the oPt in general.

**UNICEF** reports working on sewage infrastructure in schools, rehabilitating latrines and building new sanitation blocks in cooperation with the MoE. In the West Bank 23 schools will be covered by the end of 2009, and 17 additional schools will be addressed by March 2010. In Gaza the project will be implemented in 12 schools through a UNICEF-IRD partnership, starting early January 2010.

UNICEF is installing a new pumping system at Farah well. Elsewhere in the West Bank UNICEF is undertaking sewage work in Tubas. The water scarcity project focusing on Yatta area is currently being re-evaluated. Through a partnership with PHG, UNICEF is working on the 2009 WASH monitoring project, which is in a final stage.

In Gaza, UNICEF is implementing two large scale (brackish water) desalination plants in cooperation with CMWU. Most large scale materials got in during November. In addition, UNICEF has installed 6 small desalination units at community level, each serving 5000 people with clear drinking water.

**CISP** is currently implementing a project funded by Italian Cooperation for Bedouins in the Jericho area which includes the construction of latrines considering gender needs (20 have been built, at least 24 will be built in total); water quality control (in cooperation with the PWA and the Jericho municipality lab) at the water sources and in household storage tanks; cleaning water tanks; training in health education for Bedouin women related to WATSAN and water-borne diseases (carried out by a medical team and a water quality expert); training on the importance of water quality and the need for periodically cleaning household water tanks (carried out by the water quality expert); water treatment and training for water providers and at a household level (in cooperation with the PWA).

CISP also reports having completed two other projects in 2009. The first was an ECHO-funded project implemented in Bedouin camps in the C-Area of the Jerusalem, Jericho, and Ramallah governorates and included water distribution, increasing water storage capacity by up to 3 cubic meters per household, and the rehabilitation of 20 cisterns. The second was a HRF-funded project which involved water distribution to Bedouins and herding communities in the Jericho governorate.

**GVC** reports implementing one project in Gaza: rehabilitation/extension of water network in Rafah and Khan Younis governorates, construction of household connections to the sewage network in Rafah city and rehabilitation/construction of household sanitation facilities in the border areas of Rafah and Khan Younis governorates.

GVC is finalizing the FAO feasibility study 'increase of water availability in areas vulnerable to drought in the West Bank'. On 24 November the first results were shared in a largely attended workshop. Also in the West Bank GVC is distributing mobile latrines.

**Oxfam GB** is finalizing two projects in the West Bank under its public health programme: installing 17 septic tanks at household level in Zbeidad, an elevated water reservoir of 500 m<sup>3</sup> in Masha and Jiflik. The latter project is still pending since permits issues are unclear and the project is put on hold by the Israeli Civil Administration. Oxfam GB is also providing drinking water and plastic tanks in the Jiflik–Nassariya area as part of the ECHO funded drought response.

**Care International** reports working in Nablus and Jenin area within an ECHO funded programme, reaching out 4,460 households in 24 water un-served communities providing domestic and drinking water (49,815 m<sup>3</sup>) in 18 communities in the period between August and October 2009 (addressing the communities of Zabda, Um Dar, Al Khuljan, Khirbet Mas'ud, Imreiha, Al Attara, Aqraba, Majdal Bani Fadel, Osarin Yanun, Faqoa, Jalboun, Al Mutilla, Jalud, Talfit, Jurish, Duma, and Khirbet Sara).

In November 2009, CARE distributed water storage tanks with a capacity between 1.5-4.5 m<sup>3</sup> to 177 households in 13 water un-served communities in Nablus and Jenin (Khirbet Mas'ud, Imreiha, Daher al Abed, Umm Dar, Al Khuljan, Zabda, Aqraba, Talfit, Majdal Bani Fadel, Khirbet Sara, Yanun, and Qusra).

Also in the North, CARE construct around 165 household water cisterns in 13 water unserved communities in Nablus and Jenin (Al Attara, Arrbouna, Khirbet Mas'ud, Aqraba, Qaryut, Majdal Bani Fadel, Qusra, Yanun, Duma, Osarin, Jalud, Talfit, and Jurish,). Completion date is expected by end of January 2010.

**Save the Children** has been active in installing households water tanks and water pumps for 1064 households in areas severely affected by the Gaza war, specifically in Rafah, Beit Lahia and Bait Hanoun. Save the Children has recently completed work on replacing 6300 m of damaged water pipelines and 212 household connections in Rafah and northern Gaza. Just after the war, Save the Children worked to replace 850 meters of damaged sewage pipeline and repair 100 sewage house connections in the Rafah area. In addition, in coordination with its child protection and education programs, Save the Children has repaired water and sanitation systems in 38 preschools and has installed 35 desalination units therein, all around the Gaza Strip. In 2010, Save the Children is currently planning to expand the sewage and wastewater network in the Western Beit Lahia area through ECHO funds, as well to conduct a large scale awareness campaign and trainings.

**ACPP/PHG** reports working on the rehabilitation of cisterns in Jenin (Al Judeida), the construction of 3 rainfall water cisterns for domestic use in Farataa and the construction of 3 rainfall water cisterns for domestic use in Imateen.

In project in the Jordan Valley (Al Jiftlik and Furush Beit Dajan), ACPP and PHG are working on the rehabilitation of 4 ground water wells, construction and rehabilitation of 36 rainfall water pools (18 concrete and 18 earth pools), 20 latrines, and 20 septic tanks.

Another project in Bethlehem (Shama, Merah Muala, Khalet, Al Masara and Wadi An Nis) is focusing on the rehabilitation of domestic water networks. ACPP and PHG are working on several projects for the rehabilitation of water wells for domestic and agriculture use in An Nazlah ash Sharqiya, Attil, Falamyia and Azzun.

In Hebron (Beit Ula, Idhna, Al Kum, Tarqumiya) 55 home gardens and 387 cisterns are constructed, and training courses on food security are carried out, while in Nablus (Majdal Bani Fadel) of 7 homegardens are constructed.

**Polish Humanitarian Organisation (PHO)**, in cooperation with CMWU, is constructing emergency wastewater infrastructure in El Sater, in Khanyounis City. The project will involve the construction of app. 2000 meters of UPCV sewer, connection of 250 households to the new sewerage system, liquidation of app. 50 septic tanks Sewage. 30% of the project is completed and when finished the project will reach 12000 direct beneficiaries.

**PWA** reports that the emergency filling points foreseen for this summer are still pending for approval by ICA and Mekorot. PWA is also working on operating water wells in the south of Hebron.

PWA reports that the Interim Phase of the North Gaza Emergency Sewage Treatment Project in cooperation with World Bank is done and that phase B still is in a final tendering stage.

PWA, CMWU, UNDP and the Municipality of Khanyounis are working on the Khanyounis wastewater treatment plant project (WWTP). The first phase (design of activities) is currently ongoing. The project is supposed to be finished by the end of 2010.

**CMWU and KFW** report the Sheik Ejleen wastewater treatment plant project is in a tendering phase. The implementation of the project will start in January of 2010.

Regarding to Wadi Gaza proposed WWTP project, CMWU is further developing a concept paper with ICRC. CMWU and ICRC are also working on phase 2 (part B) of the Rafah WWTP, namely the construction for the pump station and administrative building.

**HWE** reports working on the protection and rehabilitation of springs in the western villages of Ramallah governorate, specifically in Beitillo village, next to the major springs in Nablus city. HWE is also working on a GIS database for springs in the North.

In addition, HWE is implementing awareness rising campaigns in the central area and is undertaking a feasibility study for Arab Jahalin Community. In Gaza, HWE is conducting a protection work plan for Gaza Coastal Aquifer.

**ANERA** is implementing a large scale five year humanitarian water and sanitation project of 60 million USD. In total it has 25 ongoing projects in the West Bank. In Gaza, ANERA is working on smaller water supply projects.

**ACF** reports working on the distribution of water in the South of the West Bank, around road 317, as part of the ECHO funded project, including the construction of 20 cisterns of rehabilitation of 20 cisterns in Dura. In the same project, a pipeline was rehabilitated in Ad Dahriya, installation of a filling point the Bani Naim population with a 3km pipeline.

ACF is also providing drinking water and plastic tanks in the South of the Hebron Governorate as part of the ECHO funded drought response.

In Gaza, ACF is working on the reparation of damaged networks in Gaza, Khan Yunis and Rafah in a DFID funded project. Also in Gaza, ACF is working on cleaning of Beit Lahiya lagoon. ACF is also conducting a household need assessment survey on water and sanitation in the Gaza strip. The survey is in data entry phase.

## **WASH Cluster activities**

### ***Water Scarcity***

Mid November a meeting was held with the agencies involved in this year's water scarcity response at OCHA, in Hebron. This meeting brought together the relevant key-players to collectively evaluate, extract lessons learned and recommend the best ways on how to increase our future efficiency and effectiveness in response to future anticipated drought years.

As a follow up, lessons learnt workshop was conducted on 10th December in Ramallah. Agencies involved in the response presented their analyses of what went well, what needs to be improved and provided recommendations for improvement. Need for collective mapping of targeted vulnerable areas and groups was mentioned, particularly considering the movement of the populations in certain regions of West Bank. Further it was suggested that:

1. Assessments should be conducted at least 2 months in advance;
2. Understanding of the hierarchy within the socio-political structure of the communities (Mukhtar system; division by tribe, not geography) need to be enhanced;
3. Triangulation of data should be undertaken, and
4. Common criteria for beneficiary selection need to be developed.

A shift in leadership for coordination, from OCHA to WASH and Agricultural clusters and possible mechanisms for integrating the thematic efforts was also discussed.

Immediately after this workshop, the first meeting of an Inter-clustoral Water Scarcity Task Force was convened under the leadership of Ministry of Planning, with active steering and

collectively supported by PWA, MoA and relevant UN Agencies (OCHA, FAO, UNICEF). Purpose of this meeting was to review and agree the terms of reference, objectives and roles for respective agencies along with the tasks of such a WSTF. Further the structure of the Task Force was also discussed. A detailed ToR is being worked out, which would help in defining the roles and responsibilities of the Task Force and further plan of action.

### **Area C**

In December 2009, OCHA published its new report '*Restricting Space: The Planning Regime Applied by Israel in Area C of the West Bank*'. The report provides an overview of the planning and zoning regime applied by the Israeli authorities in Area C of the West Bank. Under this regime Palestinian construction for water and sanitation infrastructure is virtually impossible in over 60% of the West Bank. To access the report please visit the OCHA website at

[http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/special\\_focus\\_area\\_c\\_demolitions\\_december\\_2009.pdf](http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/special_focus_area_c_demolitions_december_2009.pdf)

The WASH Cluster prioritized 15 projects that are meant to address a clear humanitarian need (communities with water availability <60lpcd and/or paying water costs >20NIS per cu.m), but haven't been implemented because of pending permit approvals from either the Israeli Civil Administration or the Joint Water Committee.

This list of 15 projects is just the tip-of-the-iceberg; in total over a hundred infrastructure projects are pending. This caseload nonetheless focuses on the strictly humanitarian needs of about 52000 people in 17 different locations, affected adversely due to the delays in approvals and calls for urgent resolve.

All 7 filling points that were assessed in Spring as urgently needed interventions to alleviate this Summer's water scarcity are included in the list, since none of them have been granted a permit.



### **WASH response tracking**

At various WASH meetings, the urge for the WASH Cluster to start tracking its interventions in sufficient details (especially for the West Bank) has been discussed. APIS, the online database the agriculture sector has been working on for years, would be most suited for this.

A Mekorot water pipeline running all along Road 317 serving settlements and outposts in the area with abundance of water; while an emergency intervention alleviating the suffering of over 5000 people (now surviving on less than 30 liter per capita per day) by implementing a filling point down the road has been refused with the argument that there is 'not enough water in pipes'.

Picture: WASH Cluster

From January 2010 onwards, the WASH cluster activities will be uploaded in the online system APIS. (<http://www.apis.ps>)

### **Consolidated Appeal Process**

On 9 December 2009, OCHA officially presented the Consolidated Appeal for the oPt 2010 (CAP 2010). The document includes a needs assessment for the most vulnerable communities. The budget for the 2010 CAP stands at US\$664,473,688. The common

humanitarian strategy is supported by 236 projects, comprising 147 from the NGO community and 89 from UN agencies. The entire population of the Gaza Strip, residents of East Jerusalem, and Area C of the West Bank – including areas near Israeli settlements and in Barrier-adjacent areas – have been identified as primary target beneficiaries for humanitarian assistance and protection.

The WASH Cluster collectively requests \$38,125,338 for the implementation of 43 projects by 18 different organizations.

CAP document can be downloaded from UN-OCHA's website: <http://ochaonline.un.org/HUMANITARIANAPPEAL/webpage.asp?Page=1823>.

### ***EWASH Advocacy Task Force***

The EWASH Advocacy Task Force (ATF) has been very active in the last month. Next to a series of debates, film screenings, field trips for journalists, etc. it has published 3 fact sheets: fact sheet 2 (on water resources in the West Bank), Fact sheet 3 (on water quality in Gaza) and Fact sheet 4 (on the right to water and sanitation in the oPt) were signed off by a majority of the EWASH partner organisations and widely disseminated.

Also in the past month, Lifesource has organized 4 community workshops, 2 in Gaza and 2 in the West Bank, working with the community to strengthen their advocacy capacities.

Between 9 and 13 December the EWASH Advocacy Task Force organized a campaign on the right to water and sanitation in commemoration of Human Rights day. The campaign was launched at an event (panel discussion and film showing) held in Jerusalem on 9 December, attended by around 25 people including diplomats, donor agency representatives and civil society. The campaign was closed with an event (panel discussion, photo exhibition and film showing) held in Gaza City on 13 December at the Orient House, which was attended by around 80 people including diplomats, donor agency representatives and civil society.



Hand out of bottles of water samples from Gaza, South Herbon, Salfit and Ariel Settlement, symbolizing the low quality and quantity of water in the oPt versus good quality and quantity of in Israel, including the settlements, at the British Consulate in Jerusalem.

Picture: EWASH Advocacy Task Force.

The weeklong campaign included different various activities in Gaza, the West Bank, Israel and around the world. Panel discussions, film showings and distribution of fact sheets occurred in cities across the US and also in Korea. In the oPt, actions included collective mural paintings in Gaza and the Jordan Valley (in cooperation with Lifesource), youth training and photo exhibition (in cooperation with Mercy Corps), and handing out of bottles of water samples from Gaza, South Herbon, Salfit and Ariel Settlement and fact sheets to various diplomatic missions in Jerusalem.



Painting of a mural in Jabalia Refugee camp in the Gaza strip as a community action in the right to water and sanitation campaign. Picture: LifeSource.

### **Global Cluster evaluation**

A general evaluation of the Cluster Approach was conducted during 3rd week of November 2009. Meetings were held with the various clusters (both lead agencies and the different stakeholder partners in Gaza and West Bank. Objective of the evaluation was to assess process/inputs (support & resources), process outputs (predictable leadership, accountability, partnership) and outcomes (coverage, ownership & connectedness) of the Cluster approach.

WASH Cluster efforts in terms of initiating joint initiatives (inter-clustoral), conducting learning exercises, avoiding duplication and building on existing coordination structures were acknowledged. Following suggestions were made by the evaluators: need to 1. enhance the involvement of local civil society & authorities; 2. Streamline aid coordination; 3. Strengthen inter-cluster coordination; 4. Information Management (better, simple tools) and 5. Ease West Bank / Gaza split.

In addition, mid-December the regional WASH Cluster team has undertaken a more WASH focused Global Cluster Learning Review, facilitated by ACF. The first results of this review were presented in cluster meetings in Gaza and the West Bank. The report will be available shortly.

For more information on the Cluster approach, please visit: [www.humanitarianreform.org](http://www.humanitarianreform.org)

#### **Dates for your diary**

- WASH cluster meeting in Gaza on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at UNICEF
- WASH cluster meeting in Ramallah on Tuesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at PWA

**For more information, please do not hesitate to contact:**

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