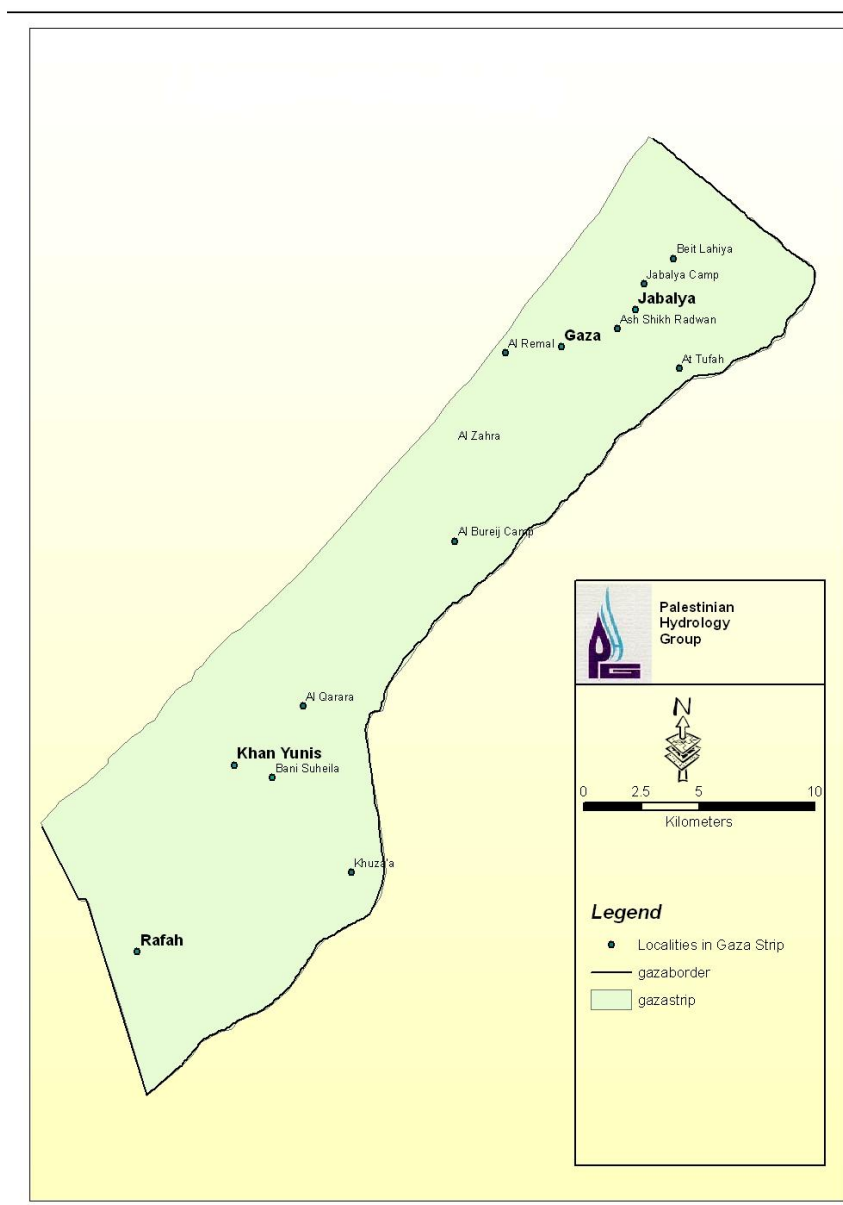


Rapid Assessment Summary

On Monday January 19, 2009 PHG began a rapid assessment over the phone by contacting people from different parts of Gaza Strip in order to evaluate the general WASH conditions in these areas. The map shows the areas that were covered followed by a brief summary of the findings for some of the areas.



Jabalya Camp/Jabalya

According to the contact there were no major problems with water supply during the attack and after. The only reason that may have resulted in the shortage of water was the electricity cutoff because the household water system depends on motors to pump the water to storage tanks on the roof tops but during this period they would fill jerry cans from their own private faucets outside their homes with no noted risk. Today water supply is sufficient enough to fulfill 80% of the needs especially after the electricity has been restored. No wastewater problems are noted. In general, there is a lack of shampoo and soap in the market.

Ash Sheikh Radwan/Gaza

In general, people in the neighborhood rely on two main sources for their drinking water including household filters and tankers that distribute (sell) desalinated water. Water can be accessed 3 times a week by tankers. Every 500 liters cost 40 NIS (80 NIS/m³, expected to be too expensive for many). In terms of domestic water, it is also supplied 3 times a week through the network. There was a problem with the low pressure during the attack since pumps did not work to lift the water to the roof tops. The water is sufficient to satisfy the domestic needs. There is a noted taste and odor for the water anticipated to be from the seepage of wastewater to the water network. Supplies such as baby diapers, disinfectants and cleaning detergents are not available in the market.

Tel Al Sultan/Rafah

People in the neighborhood use household filters for drinking water or purchase it from water distribution tanks, problems occurred during the attack only during the cutoff of electric supply. It takes 20 minutes to secure drinking water, every 40 liters cost 2 NIS (50 NIS/m³, expected to be too expensive for many). Residents have access to domestic water from the network which is supplied twice per week. No visible wastewater problems. There is a shortage of dishwashing soap, detergents and baby diapers in the market.

Khuza'a/Khan Younis

Residents of the neighborhood usually rely on the network for both drinking and domestic water. Water is supplied three times a week. During the attack the cutoff in electric supply was the main problem. An estimated 40% of the water tanks on the roof tops were destroyed. There are no visible wastewater problems. There is a lack of detergent, shampoo and soap in the market.

Barazil Neighborhood/Rafah

There is no problem with access to drinking water which is purchased from tanks but it takes about an hour to secure the needs, every 20 liters cost 1 NIS (50 NIS/m³, expected to be too expensive for many). Domestic water is supplied through the network three times a week which is sufficient enough to cover the needs. No noticed damage to the wastewater network. Hygiene items are available. The main damage was in the roof tanks due to the shelling.

Al Remal/Gaza

Drinking water is available but it takes one day to secure the water tanks, every 20 liters cost 2 NIS (100 NIS/m³, expected to be too expensive for many). Domestic water is supplied twice a week, and is sufficient enough to meet the needs. No noticed wastewater problems. There is a lack of toilet paper and baby diapers. A problem with mosquitoes and accumulation of solid wastes is common.

Al Zouhour Neighborhood/Rafah

Drinking water is available through water networks, it takes about 30 minutes to secure the water supply and every 30 liters costs 3 NIS (100 NIS/m³, expected to be too expensive for many). Domestic water is supplied three times a week through the water network, and is sufficient enough to cover 80% of the needs. No damage done to the wastewater network is noted. There is a lack of detergents and dishwashing soap. Solid wastes have accumulated in the neighborhood.

Al Tuffah/Gaza

There is no access to drinking water due to the destruction of the water network. It takes around 90 minutes to purchase water from the tankers, every 40 liters cost 7 NIS (175 NIS/m³, expected to be too expensive for many). The same goes for domestic water supply. The wastewater network was also destroyed and ponds of wastewater can be found everywhere.

Al Qarara/Khan Younis

Residents have no problem with water supply for both drinking and domestic purposes which is sufficient enough to cover most of the needs. The contact mentioned that the area adjacent to Al Qarara was intensively targeted where many wells were damaged. Overflow of wastewater since vacuum trucks could not empty from the cesspits.

Al Amal Neighborhood/Khan Younis City/ Khan Younis

Drinking water is purchased from a water tanker, supplied twice a week every 15 liters costs 2 NIS (almost 133 NIS/m³, expected to be too expensive for many). There is no access to domestic water through the network. And there are no noted problems related to wastewater.

Al Zeitoun/Gaza

Desalinated water for drinking purposes is not available instead a saline groundwater well is currently being used. Domestic water is supplied through the network 3 times a week a problem is born when electric supply is cutoff. There is a need for baby diapers. Solid wastes accumulated in the streets. Note that the contact stated that this is not the general case in the neighborhood which was hardly hit.