

25th of January 2009

Oxfam GB has handed over water declination unit in Khan younis, south of Gaza Strip, which serves more than 7000 families who are in dire need for clean drinking water. This project is part of the unwrapped project conducted by Oxfam GB, in cooperation with its partners (Ma'an and CMWU). The unit came one week after three weeks of the Israeli war on Gaza. People in the area were so happy to have this unit because it eases their lives.



Yasser Nasar 36 years old, Water and Sanitation Engineer with Oxfam GB.

'This project was planned in 2007, and as a continue for Oxfam's projects in Baten El Sameen area with food security.'

'We have conducted need assessment with the people in the area in cooperation with our partners, Ma'an and CMWU, and we found out the urgent need for clean water based on high quality standard due to the WHO measurements.'

'This project serves about 5000 – 7000 people as it provide them with 30 Cubic Meter every day.'

'Even me, I wanted to bring my jerry can and fill it from her, as I don't have clean water in my home in north of Gaza. So the need for more such projects is urgent as it help people have daily access to drinking water with free charge, and stop any public health problems.'



Hadel El Burdini 22 years old, she works with Ma'an Developmental Centre, Oxfam GB partner, as food security Engineer.

'I work in this project in cooperation with Oxfam GB since three months. The project was studied very well in the first place in Kan Younis, and we learnt that the need for clean water is important, as the water in the area has high percentage of Nitrate because its surrounded with agricultural lands. Generally, all Khan Younis is need for more declination units.'

'This project is covering the area's need for drinking water to avoid any potential diseases.'



Yousif Alhaj 52 years old, CMWU Engineer in Khanyounis.

'This project is important for Baten Elsameen area in Khan younis, because all people here used to have un clean water, so Oxfam GB and in cooperation with CMWU have worked together to provide this declination unit to provide drinking water for the people.'

'People are so happy to have access to clean water in free-charge, and we are happy that people now with clean water because people were waiting and in need for it.'



Ayman Al Ashqar, 30 years old, with three kids. He works with a company for declination units and Oxfam's contractor.

' We have suffered from the Israeli blockade and lack of spare parts. We have looked all over to find the needed spare parts for this unit till finally we found it. I usually set up declination units for hospitals and others, but I really feel happy today because this unit would provide needy people with clean drinking water they needed.'

'Water in the south isn't clean and salty, and today we hand over the project and this water meet the standard of clean water.'



Subhi El Bayouk, 55 years old, we works with the local municipality in the area as supervisor for water wells.

'This drinking water is very good for the people because I know how much people are in need for it. People used to complain from the un-clean water, and now the problem no longer exist and people don't have to buy anymore water to drink.'

' Since the early stage of the project, people were eager to see the moment as they can have constant access to water. The unit will be available for people's use, from 7am till 4pm everyday.'



Juma Zourob, 65 years old, he has six sons and he lives close to the declination unit. He came right a way of the opening of the unit, to fill his jerry can.

'I am way happy for the opening of this unit today. My family and I were drinking un-clean water, and some times we pay money to buy the drinking water.'

'I live next to this unit, which means that my family and I will have access to water every day, next to my home, and even for free. This water helps all my neighbours as well.'

'None of my family is working and we are mainly dependent on the humanitarian aids, and some times, I was not afford to buy water, but now, the problem with water is solved.'

'Right after this unit got open by Oxfam I rushed to bring my empty jerry can to fill it with water.'



Belal Abedrabouh 13 years old. He lives with other 12 family members.

'Everyday my duty is to fill the water jerry can from far a way, and its exhausting, but this water unit, is just right next to my home. I am really happy that we will have more clean water to drink and it's very close, and with no money to pay.'

'my father is a taxi driver, some times he takes the water jerry cans with him to fill, but the problem we have to wait him long till he comes backl.'



Nader Ashour 12 years old.

'Today I am really happy because this water unit is functioning, and I was waiting for this moment. Once my mother knew that the unit started to work, she sent me right a way to fill the cans.'

'Before, we used to have un-clean water, even the drink tea, but now we can have access to water all the time.'



Haya Zourbo, 3 years old, she lives in the area where the water unit is.

'My mother sent me to fill clean water to drink'