

Gaza Emergency WASH Cluster weekly situation report

Number 2

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Summary overview

There are still severe gaps in the water production. Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU)/Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) are currently producing 70% of their regular water production level, which means that approximately 450,000 persons in the Gaza strip still lack water. Parts of Beit Hanoun, Biet Lahia, and Az Zaitoun still have no official water distribution, due to irregular supply of electricity and fuel in combination with the destruction of wells and water networks in both areas during the war.



Damages to Gaza Waste Water Treatment Plant, picture provided by CMWU

One of the main sewage carriers for Gaza Wastewater Treatment Plant was repaired on 23 January, and wastewater is no longer leaking into surrounding agricultural fields. However, due to lack of cement, the anaerobic lagoon (No3) is still under repair. Following additional repairs, sewage is no longer leaking in the streets of Beit Hanoun and Beit Lahia. CMWU/PWA currently has 30 tons of chlorine to disinfect water supplies which is sufficient for the coming 15 days, subject to the water production ratio.

Getting in extra supplies of chlorine will be a priority in the coming weeks.

The issues with getting material into Gaza continue. This week ICRC requested to get 36 trucks containing repair material to enter Gaza, but only 13 were allowed to cross. PVC pipes that had been previously cleared for entry were refused entry by the Israeli authorities. Currently there are 43 WASH projects in Gaza awaiting materials (e.g. pumps, pipes, fittings, motors, etc.). Some of these projects date back to the 2006. Of these only 15 have had their materials completely cleared, 5 have had their materials partially cleared, and 22 have not had clearance. 1 project remains under discussion, but this highlights the difficulties of getting relevant equipment/materials into Gaza. Priority lists are currently with the Humanitarian Coordinator and the Logistics Cluster.

Conducted assessments

Palestinian Hydrology Group (PHG) has conducted a household needs assessment in:

- **North Gaza:** Al Attara, Al Salateen (Beit Lahiya), Beit Lahiya, Al Twam (Jabalia) and Ezbet Abed Rabouh (Jabalia)
- **Gaza:** Ash Sheikh Ejleen, Az Zaitoun, South Remal, North Remal, As Sabra, Tal El Hawa, Ash Shati' Camp
- **Middle Area:** Al Zahra, Juhor ad Dik, Al Mughraqa, Wadi as Salqa and Deir al Balah
- **South Gaza:** Khuza'a, Al Qarara, Abasan al Jadida, Bani Suheila, Al Fukhari, Rafah and Shokat as Sufi

The preliminary findings of the assessment show that Al Attara and Ezbet Abed Rabouh are the areas worst hit concerning damaged water networks with 50% of the networks being damaged. Al Salateen Al Twam, Juhor ad Dik Al Mughraqa, Khuza'a and Al Fukhari all had 30 - 35% of their water networks damaged. In total 5 708 roof top tanks were completely destroyed and 2 985 were damaged. 2 204 solar heaters were destroyed and 1 762 were damaged. The assessment is continuing and further details about the assessment can be obtained from PHG (subha@phg.org).

The final report of the preliminary damage assessment carried out by the CMWU/PWA shows higher costs of repairing damages to the infrastructure than the preliminary report. The final report shows that costs for repairing the CMWU/PWA water and waste water network and facilities will be approximately 6 million dollars, with 1.8 millions to repair the water network being the largest single component. The recovery plans for repairs and reconstruction have been divided in three phases; fast track, intermediate and long term.



Damages to Khadiga Well , picture provided by CMWU

The fast track top priority is to repair the damages that occurred during the war, particularly to stop leakage of wastewater and re-establish minimum services for water distribution and sewage service in all Gaza Governorates ANERA have also conducted needs assessments in Al-Mughraga, Gaza City, Gaza Middle Area and Wadi Al-Salqa. For more information contact ANERA (sakka@anera-gaza.org).

According to a community level key informant survey undertaken by the shelter sector, out of 149,235 housing units; 3,914 were reported to be completely destroyed, 4,831 were severely damaged, 6,104 were partially damaged, and 18,918 have broken windows. There will be needs in terms of water storage tanks and pumps, repairs to plumbing, solar water heaters and sanitary installations.

An initial Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) field trip to Gaza shows that there is a shortage of water tankers (trucks) for distributing water to communities. Oxfam, GVC and ACF are looking into increasing tankering capacity by towing agricultural water tanks behind tractors. Other damages include 180 destroyed agricultural wells and USD 200,000 worth of materials destroyed in CMWU warehouse. The price for a bag of cement is reported to cost 10 times of the regular price, now costing NIS 300 per bag, and is in very short supply.

WASH cluster activities

The WASH Cluster is meeting regularly every Thursday at 11h00 in PWA Building in Ramallah under the e-WASH platform. A first draft of a 3W (Who does What, Where) has been prepared and will be updated every week or bi-weekly according to need.

The WASH cluster submitted 22 new projects for the Special Appeal for Gaza together with 6 CAP appeal projects. The total sum of the WASH projects is around 27.3 millions dollars. The appeal has now been sent to OCHA head quarters in Geneva in order to be revised for its formal launch next week.

WASH Cluster Partners

There is ongoing water distribution carried out by ACF (1 523 m³ distributed in total until January 25th), Oxfam (4 374 m³ distributed in total until January 29th), and PHG (64 m³ distributed between January 22nd to January 31st). Hygiene kits are being distributed by CARE (1000 kits were distributed during the week until January 24th) and UNICEF (400 hygiene kits this week) in cooperation with ACF. ACF has also supplied 50 000 litres of diesel fuel to CMWU/PWA wells and pumping stations in Gaza City since the 17th of January. PHG is also distributing water storage tanks COOPI is doing emergency solid waste collection in Gaza City. On the 26th ACF started working on repairs for the Gaza City Water Treatment Plant, expected to be finished in two weeks time. CMWU/PWA continues with emergency repairs.

Highlights for next week

- Meeting at PWA Sunday to discuss WASH inputs into Early Recovery process
- 2nd visit to Gaza planned by WASH Cluster Coordinator (Mon – Weds)
- Recruitment of a Sub-Cluster Lead for Gaza City (with agency partners)
- Discussions around equipment/materials priority lists with Logistics Cluster
- Investigating the reactivation of the water storage tank factory in Gaza together with WASH partners
- The Thursday WASH Cluster/e-WASH meeting in Ramallah will discuss contingency measures for a possible drought in Hebron in 2009

For more information, please do not hesitate to contact:

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