



Activities and Interventions of the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility during the war on Gaza 2023-2024

November, 2024

Abstract

Since the beginning of the war on the Gaza Strip on 7th October, 2023 which resulted in severe damages in all aspects of life, including water and sanitation services, which are among the most important components of life and resilience, the CMWU has been working since the first day in cooperation with PWA, its partners, and international humanitarian institutions to provide the minimum life-saving water and sanitation services, through production, transportation and distribution of drinking water to shelter, the CMWU distributed the potable water during the war period by its owned **18** water trucks, the distributed water up to date is more than **1.57 million cubic meter**. Moreover, the CMWU has rented **23** trucks and installed water tanks on them to be used in transporting and distributing water in order to enhance the system capacity in various areas.

Also, the CMWU, through daily operational activities, has been able to pump domestic water from wells through the distribution networks in an amount of **17.2** million cubic meters during the war period, which is no more than 20% of the operational rate for the same period before the war, in addition to continuing maintenance infrastructure damages in different areas of the Gaza Strip, where more than **680** maintenance and repair jobs were carried out, including desalination plants, wells, sewage pumping stations, water and sewage networks, well generators, and electromechanical maintenance. The maintenance process is carried out after obtaining prior security approvals from the Israeli side through international institutions and PWA, in order to preserve the lives of workers from technical and operational crews affiliated with the CMWU or contractors. However, despite this, 7 of CMWU employees were martyred while performing their field work related to daily operation and maintenance activities.

With all electricity supplies being cut off by the Israeli side, in addition to stoppage of Gaza power plant since the beginning of the war, the CMWU, through cooperation with various partners, was able to distribute **4.32 million liters of fuel** in order to ensure the operation of standby generators, to run water production and pumping facilities, sewage pumping stations, and sewage treatment plant in t, the fuel is received from the United Nations Relief Agency through UNICEF Fund, and the CMWU stores the fuel in 2 central stores, and then distributes it to **190 water and sanitation facilities**, including desalination plants, wells, sewage stations and pumping stations in addition to desalinated water tanks. The fuel distribution process is subject to a monitoring system, where monitoring is

carried out through UNICEF via A local field consultant, and UNOPS. In this context, despite the Israeli prevention of the entry of fuel into the Gaza and North Gaza governorates since the beginning of November 2023, the CMWU has secured available quantities through ICRC fund through a direct purchase from gas stations in the governorates.

The CMWU has also worked to receive and distribute water tanks and gallons of different sizes, which are being installed in places of displacement as emergency response measures. Perhaps one of the most important activities that the CMWU is still carrying out, in addition to providing water and sanitation services, and in light of the severe population overcrowding that various regions are suffering from, The CMWU ensures the process of sterilizing and disinfecting water sources by distributing the chlorine to various wells and desalination plants. more than **120,000 liters** have been distributed since the beginning of the war, in order to avoid more diseases and epidemics the CMWU has stored quantities of sodium hypochlorite solution with a concentration of 10% effective chlorine, which is sufficient for two months to sterilize the water produced in the south and north of the Gaza Strip, in addition to many activities that would strengthen the steadfastness of Citizens

knowing that these activities and works are carried out in advance coordination with the Israeli side through the Water Authority and international institutions in order to ensure the safety of workers, whether CMWU employees or contractors. The CMWU, in accordance with the requirements of the emergency preparedness plan, has provided the Israeli side through ICRC and the Coordinator's Office. The CMWU provided the coordinates of its facilities, in addition to the main stores in Khan Yunis and the main headquarters in Al-Zahraa, to avoid being targeted during the war, since these facilities are essential for the continued work of the CMWU, but the Israeli war directly targeted them and destroyed them completely, which resulted in losing the water sector central warehouse., it was a devastating blow to the ability to deal with various field maintenance requirements. However, the CMWU was able, with the support of international partners, to gradually return and overcome to some extent this major damage, and it continued to provide services according to the available capabilities, as new water sources were provided, such as a desalination plant. Which was established with Emirati funding on the Egyptian side, and which had a significant impact by providing water to hundreds of thousands of displaced people in the areas west of Rafah Governorate, as the CMWU implemented all the necessary constructions to pump and distribute this water from this station to the existing networks in Rafah Governorate, which is home to about 1.4 million citizens.

The continuous follow-up and monitoring the levels of infrastructure destruction in various regions, and according to initial estimates, the process of repairing and rebuilding various facilities, systems and infrastructure and reviving the system again in all governorates of the Gaza Strip is estimated at approximately **680 million dollars till the end of November 2024**, The reconstruction of infrastructure and the operation of facilities are considered among the most important priorities immediately after the end of the war, in order to enhance the resilience of the population, protect public health, and limit the spread of epidemics and diseases, according to a matrix of interventions starting from the current and urgent repairs, and reaching the restoration and reconstruction stage.

The continuing stressful state of war and the weakness of available resources have created a state of catastrophic depletion of the remaining functioning water and sanitation facilities and systems. This is not evidenced by the consumption of electricity generators, which have become the heart of the system in light of the cutting off of all electricity supplies from the sector for more than six months. The continued subjection of supplies through the crossings to the dual-use mechanism and standards has completely prevented the entry of any equipment and spare parts for the water sector, which will lead to the gradual cessation of many facilities that are still operating and have not been destroyed militarily. Moreover, the recent closure of all crossings resulted in a severe deterioration of water sector as most of facilities stopped its operation due to shortage of fuel whereas many appeals were raised to all humanitarian and international organizations to help and facilitate entering the needed fuel for operating WASH facilities.

1.0 Introduction:

As a result of the war on 7th October 2023, more than two million people were displaced from Gaza and north Gaza to the southern governorates upon the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) instructions, in addition to the complete cutoff electricity supply and water supply. Also this war resulted into the destruction of large part of the water sector infrastructure, restrictions on the supply of materials, equipment, fuel and spare parts for water and sanitation facilities, which had a catastrophic impact on the water supply and wastewater services.

On 14th October 2023, Israeli forces geographically divided the Gaza Strip into two parts. The first part is the northern areas of Wadi Gaza, which includes the Northern and Gaza Governorates. The second part is the southern areas of the Wadi Gaza, which includes the central area, Khan Yunis, and Rafah Governorate. As a result of the intense hostilities and the violent air, land and sea strikes and

the subsequent ground military invasion of the Gaza Strip, which led to the systematic destruction of all aspects of life, including severe damage on water supplies and sewage collection and treatment systems in the northern regions, including water wells, tanks and stations. Pumping sewage, treatment plants, and networks attached to it, and with the Israeli side cutting off all electricity lines and Mekorot water lines supplied to the Gaza Strip and completely from the Gaza Strip, in addition to stopping all supplies of fuel, and with the displacement of more than 90% of the population from north to south, The capacity of water and sanitation systems has been catastrophically affected and is unable to meet the minimum requirements required of them. The existing networks in the northern region have also become unsuitable and ineffective for distributing water to the population, and despite the reliance of the residents of the northern regions on supplying water through gallons from water wells, and despite the severe shortage in quantities below the emergency 15 liters per person per day, this has become a high risk of pollution, which affects public health.

As a result of the continuous Israeli military operations, this also led to the displacement of part of inhabitants of the middle and southern governorates cities , such as Al-Maghazi, Al-Bureij, Khan Younis governorate, and the eastern villages of Khan Younis, where the displaced are currently concentrated in Al Mawasi in Khan Younis and Dair Al Balah city in the middle area, as this displacement led to great pressure on the water supply and distribution and wastewater collection systems, with electricity supplies cut off in all Gaza Strip since the first day of the war. Moreover, after more than 12 months of this war, about 0.4 million people in the northern areas of wadi Gaza are cut off from all and any humanitarian aid. They are starving, in a state of extreme thirst, and in great difficulty to obtain a drop of water. The Mekorot water line was also cut off since the first day of the of war. The middle and Khan Younis Mekorot connections have been re-functioned in November 2023 with 70% of the original capacity, where Al Montar connection in Gaza have been re-functioned in May 2024 with its full capacity (20,000 m³/day), in addition with the destruction of the northern seawater desalination plant and sever damages on the water and wastewater networks and systems. There is no fuel to operate the remaining water and sanitation facilities, and the population is concentrated in the southern areas of the Wadi Gaza in unofficial displacement camps, in addition to a large number of displaced populations in open areas along the coastal side.

The capabilities and resources available in Al Mawasi and/or Dair Al Balah areas whereas most of displaced people are concentrated are not adequate to cover the water needs. Therefore, CMWU was

obliged to supply water to citizens through water tankers owned by CMWU, in addition to seeking for the tankers from the private sector. Even though, but still there is water supply gap and an urgent need for additional tankers to distribute water in western Khan Yunis, and the middle Governorate. As for Gaza and the North Governorate, the situation is more difficult as a result of their exposure to major destruction of various water facilities and because they are considered under military operation areas and are subject to severe siege and fuel is not allowed to enter to operate water and sanitation facilities, which has led to stopping most of water and wastewater facilities of operation and services being halted.

2.0 Activities of the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility during November 2024:

2.1 Operation of Water Supply Facilities

2.1.1 Seawater Desalination plants-STLVs

1- Al Bassa seawater desalination plant – Middle Area

The CMWU is still operating the seawater desalination plant in the Middle area (Al-Bassa) depending completely on the existing generators (2*1600 KVA and 1*900 KVA), now adays, one Generator 1600 KVA is working and the other one is standby, where the 900 KVA generator is dedicated for the old Desalination plant which is still under repair. The desalination Plant provides average daily **2,100 m³** drinking water to the people in the displacement areas. CMWU supplies water through water tankers, owned by CMWU, or the private sector tanks, which represented a turning point in covering the needs of the population and citizens with desalinated water in addition to 23 filling point, originally 22 water filling points are exist, recently CMWU has installed additional 10 filling points all around the desalination plant.



Providing displaced people with desalinated water

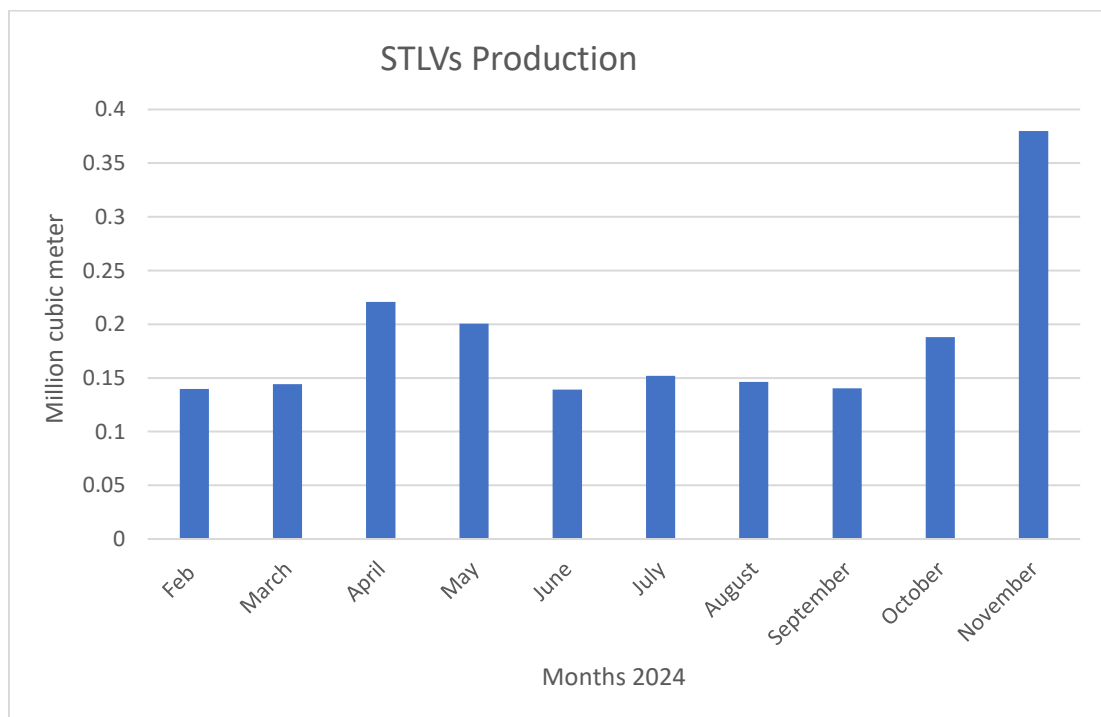
2- Southern Gaza seawater desalination plant (SGDP)

Since 14th November 2024, the CMWU started operating SGDP depending completely on the newly connected power line (F11 Feeder) instead of electrical generators which increased the daily production of the plant from 3000 m³/day to approximately 17000 m³/day. Connecting the plant with the dedicated power line 5 Mega watt was a result of great efforts exerted by the CMWU and PWA in order to operate the plant with its full capacity to cover part of the high water demand during the current situation.

3- Emirati Desalination plant to the Saudi water tank

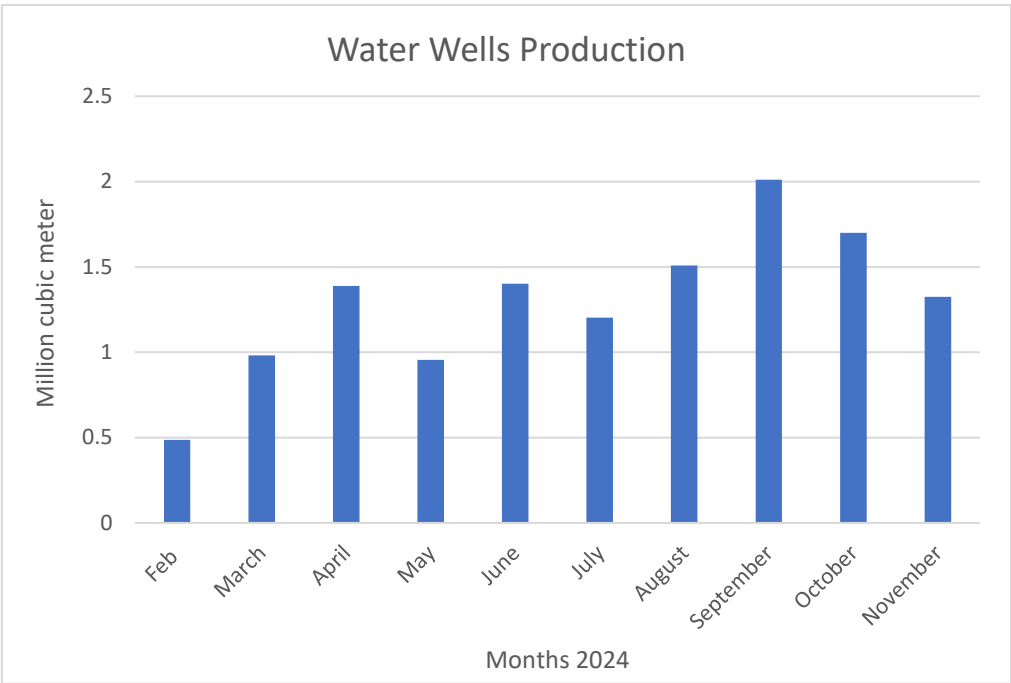
A desalination plant with a capacity of 2,400 cubic meters per day was established at the Egyptian side financed by the United Arab Emirates through the Emirates Red Crescent, and was operated in December 2023. The pipeline was connected to the closest water network and also a filling point has been installed. Since mid of May 2024 till the period of this report, this plant is not operational due to the Israeli invasion at Rafah area and the destruction of the water carrier lines. However, the Emirati Red Crescent has expanded and increased the production capacity of the plant in the Egyptian side to reach 10,000 m³/day, this expansion aims to secure a safe source of drinking water for Rafah governorate after completion the military operation as most of Rafah WASH facilities are completely destroyed during the war.

The blow figure shows the STLVs production from February till November 2024, the records show a remarkable increase during November in water production and referred to operating SGDP with its full capacity as it recently connected with the dedicated power line.



2.1.2 Operation of Water Wells

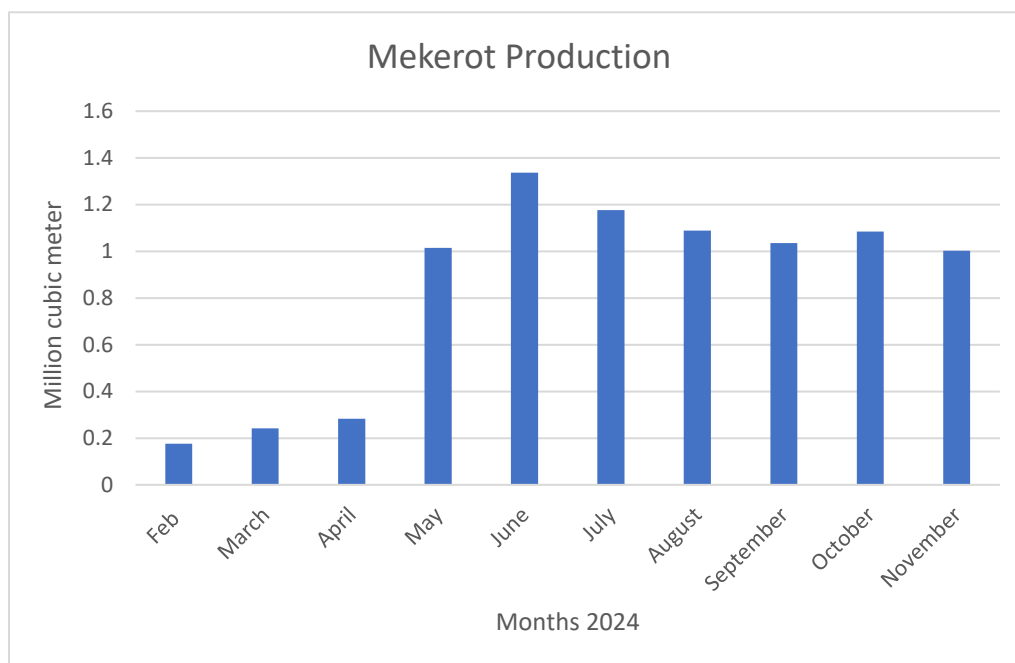
Limited water wells are still operational during war as most of water wells are partially or completely damaged, hence the daily domestic water production from wells does not exceeds 60,000 m3 (20% of the original production). The below figures show the records of monthly water production from February till November 2024, whereas this fluctuation in water production depends on fuel availability, security issues and status of facility (operational or damaged) during this period. The remarkable increase of water production during September and October months referred to the recent repairs carried out by CMWU which brought many wells into operation especially in Khan Younis and middle governorates, where the drop in water production during November referred to fuel shortage which impacted the operation of wells and water production



Wells Production from February to November 2024

2.1.3 Mekorot Supply

There are Three Mekorot water supply Connections from Israel: The first in the middle governorate called Ben Saed with capacity 14,000 m³ /day, the second is Khan Younis connection with capacity 16,000 m³/day, the third for Gaza governorate with 20,000m³/day capacity. Mekorot connections have been partially damaged and closed during the war and after negotiation with the Israeli side through PWA. The connections were reactivated again to serve the people and to assure providing the minimum level of water supply along with water wells and desalination plants. The below figure shows a fluctuation in water production which depends on security issues and status of carrier lines and pumping facilities (operational or damaged) during this period.



Mekerot monthly production from February till November 2024

2.2 Operation of Sewage Facilities

2.2.1 Sewage Pumping Station

Limited sewage pumping station are still operational as most of them are partially or completely damaged especially in Khan Younis, Rafah and Northern governorate, which enforces the CMWU to divert the flow directly to Wadi Gaza at the middle area, where in other governorates the untreated flow is diverted to the sea and in some areas, where are no discharge destinations the sewage accumulates in streets and usually evacuated and fixed by CMWU vacuum and suction trucks.

The CMWU still utilizes its available and recent received suction trucks to evacuate the sewage from flooded areas in Kha Younis and Dair Al Balah where IDPs are concentrated. whereas enhancing the CMWU capacities through providing more suction trucks is crucial to handle such floods during this challenging time. The CMWU has already received one truck through ICRC and still waiting to receive two other trucks from UAE support, these resources and heavy machinery are necessary to control and eliminate floods especially in shelters where IDPs are exposed to diseases and public health hazards.



2.2.2 Operation of Wastewater Treatment Plants

There were five operational waste water treatment plants in the Gaza strip, three of them are newly constructed (Khan Younis WWTP, Al Bureij WWTP and North Gaza WWTP), whereas the other two plants are considered intermediate plants located in Rafah and Gaza city.

During the war the operation of the three central plants stopped due to the severe destructions in their main structures, also the operation staffs could not reach safely to these plants as they are very close to the eastern border. As a result of this stoppage currently most of generated sewage is diverted to the sea without treatment causing pollution along the coastal side.

In order to mitigate the hazards resulted from discharging untreated sewage to the sea and the frequent floods in Khan Younis governorate where most of IDPs concentrated, the CMWU and PWA has formed a technical committee to inspect and assess the damages of East Khan Younis WWTP (26,600m³/day) . The visual inspection shows that the damages can be handled, and based on that, the CMWU has prepared a proposal for recommissioning of KHWTP and shared it with the interested donors to be included in their plans for the coming year. In this regards UNDP has responded and assigned a consultant to assess the needs and develop all needed designs and tender documents to re-operate the plant. Currently UNDP is trying to obtain the Israeli approval for a joint visit to WWTP and still waiting the response.

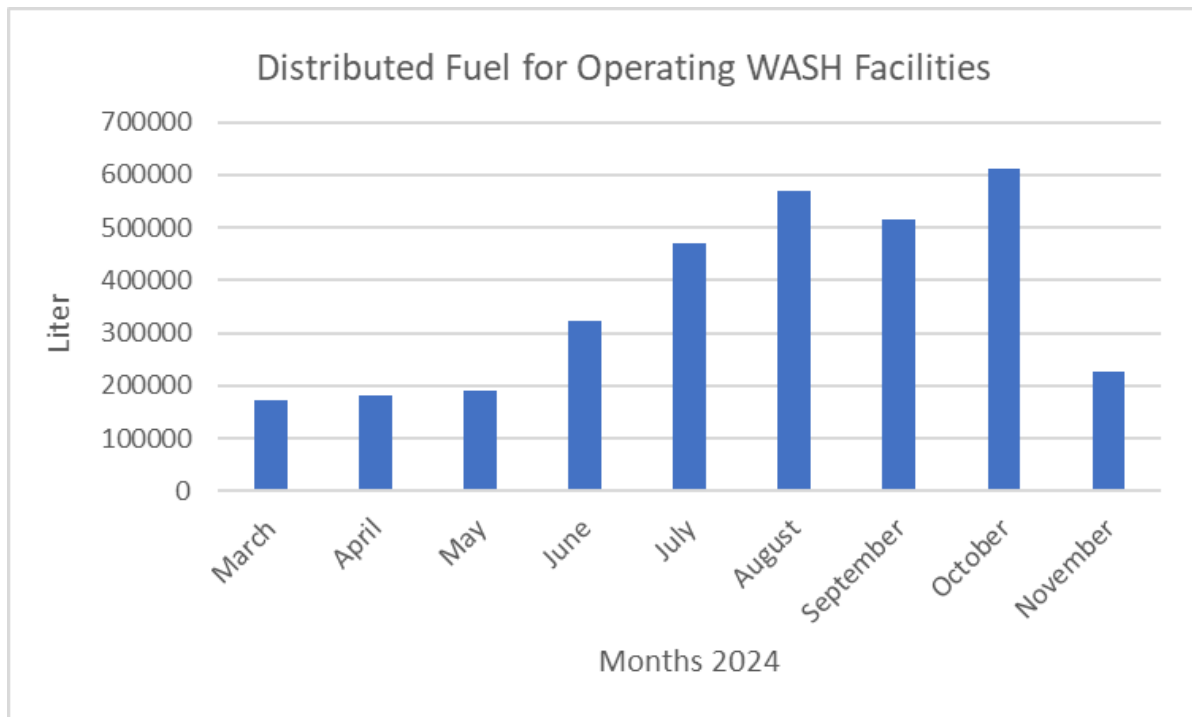
2.3 Providing Fuel to Operate WASH Facilities

Through UNICEF fund, the CMWU in cooperation with UNRWA still provides WASH facilities in the Middle and Khan Yunis Governorate with diesel, in order to ensure the operation of these facilities and provide the population with water and sanitation services, especially in light of the continuation of the Israeli war on the Gaza Strip.



During the past few weeks, the CMWU has raised many appeals to international and humanitarian organizations to help in securing the needed fuel for operating WASH facilities after stopping the entry of fuel from all Gaza crossing especially Rafah crossing which has been closed due to Israeli military operation there. The CMWU in cooperation with PWA exerts all its efforts to secure some quantities of fuel to operate the facilities in the minimum level and that definitely affected on the wastewater services and water supply which are already deteriorated over the past months.

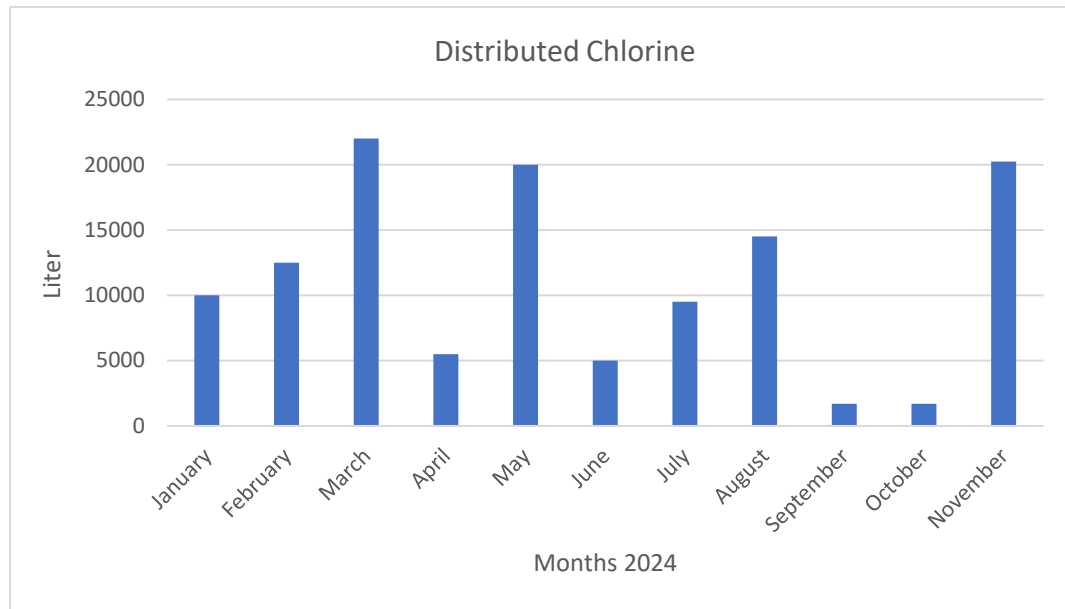
The below figure shows the distributed fuel for WASH facilities from March to November 2024, it shows that there was a drastical decrease in fuel supply during November due to Israeli restrictions, that impacted the operation of all facilities in particular water wells production, whereas the regularity of fuel supply during this crisis is highly important to meet the minimum level of water and wastewater services and to operate the recent maintained WASH facilities.



Distributed fuel to operate WASH facilities

2.4 Supply Chlorine for Water Disinfection

Through UNICEF and ICRC fund, the CMWU has been providing water supply facilities with the needed chlorine solution for water disinfection. over the last months of 2024 there was a remarkable fluctuation in the distributed chlorine and that depends on materials availability, security issues and continuation of military operations in Gaza Strip which resulted in destruction of water facilities. However, the CMWU has been working on repairing the affected facilities to bring them back into operation. Therefore, in some months the distributed chlorine increased and in others decreased, Moreover, during September and October almost there was no chlorine supply which led the CMWU to raise many appeals to UNICEF and international agencies to secure the needed quantities. UNICEF has positively responded to these requests and succeeded to supply in November approximately 20 cubic meters of chlorine for water supply facilities.



Chlorine Supply During 2024

2.5 Water Supply and Water Trucking

2.5.1 Providing UNRWA Schools with drinking water:

The CMWU is still supplying UNRWA schools' shelters with drinking water since the beginning of the war through a contract signed with UNRWA for more than 120 schools and shelters. The average water supplied to IDPs even in UNRWA or the shelters is 150 cubic meters per day.

Also, the CMWU has provided domestic water for 60 UNRWA schools with estimated daily quantity of 50 m³



2.5.2 Water Distribution to Various Shelters

The CMWU continues to supply shelters and residents with potable water, especially in light of the increasing need for drinking water in summer and the continuation of the Israeli war on the Gaza Strip, in cooperation with international and local institutions. The CMWU distributes about **1.5 million liters of desalinated water daily to various shelters.**



2.5.3 Providing Additional Water Tankers

The CMWU has recently received two Volvo water tankers through ICRC support, and still waiting other tankers from UAE, these tankers are utilized for distribution drinking water to shelters and IDPs to alleviate their suffering.



2.5.4 Water Distribution through private tankers at the Southern Governorates

Through ICRC fund the CMWU has hired private tankers to deliver the drinking water to displaced people. CMWU is still providing the shelter with the needed water through the hired trucks. Those trucks provide desalinated water to the IDP's in Khan Younis and Rafah Mawasi with average of 180 cubic meters daily.

Moreover, and to find urgent emergency and effective alternatives to the crisis of providing healthy and safe water in displacement areas, especially the crowded areas west of Khan Yunis and reaching west of Rafah, the CMWU in cooperation with ICRC, has hired four private water wells with their distribution network with a daily production capacity 2,500 cubic meters per day.



2.5.5 Installation of Desalination plant and drilling a new water well at the CMWU Warehouse in Khan Younis

Through UNICEF fund, the CMWU is still working in the installation of brackish water desalination plant (50m³/hr) at the CMWU warehouse in Khan Younis besides drilling a new water well 70m³/hr. The CMWU through PWA coordination succeeded to transport the submersible pump of the water well from Gaza city. This plant was dismantled from Ben Taimiya desalination plant at Rafah before few days of military operation to be installed in another location where IDPs are concentrated to assure providing them with their needs of drinking water.



2.5.6 Activation of CMWU Mobile Lab:

The CMWU still monitors through its portable lab the quality of distributed water to ensure providing safe water access to IDPs. This Lab was previously provided by WHO after destruction the CMWU central lab in Al Zahra city in March 2024. This mobile/field lab contributes to monitor the quality of



drinking water to assure that the distributed water to residents and IDPs is safe and free from pollutants.

2.6 Repairing and Fixing The damages of infrastructure and WASH Facilities

2.6.1 ICRC Financed Emergency Interventions:

An agreement was signed between the CMWU and ICRC to implement a group of emergency interventions and activities. Some of these activities were implemented, and others are still ongoing which include:

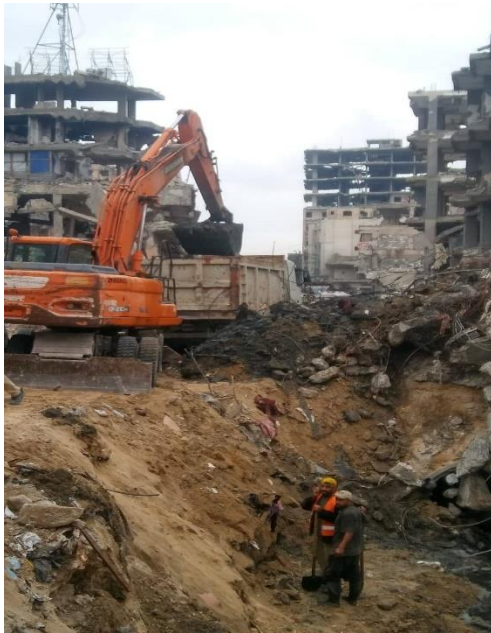
- 1- Electrical Repairs for damaged electrical panels of water and wastewater facilities: electrical panels of water wells, reservoirs and sewage pump stations under this contract have been repaired and all works are completed, whereas the last repair was the Middle Area Seawater Desalination plant.
- 2- Repair and Maintenance of Vehicles and Heavy Machinery: A program of maintenance of water trucks, excavators and operation vehicles started since March 2024 and is still ongoing for maintaining vehicles. During the report period 12 vehicles have been repaired.



- 3- Hiring of Heavy Machinery for Water Facilities and Networks Repairs, to cover the repair works carried out by municipalities teams, the CMWU through ICRC support provides the heavy machinery, during the report period the following machinery were hired to cover the repair works in different municipalities:



Maintenance of stormwater networks in Al Maghazi municipality.



Maintenance of stormwater pipelines at Jamal Abed Al Naser in Khan Younis

4. Service contracts for Repairs of Water Facilities: this contract includes repairing the damages of water facilities in Khan Younis and middle area, during the report period the following facilities have been repaired

- Coordination requests have been submitted for Maintenance of Al Nwery well in Bani Suhaila and N-22 well in Abasan Al Kabera. The approval is not obtained yet.
- No work in rewinding the electrical motors, waiting to get approval to transfer the motors to the workshop in the north of Gaza
- The contract completion date will be extended till end of December 2024

5. Maintenance of Al Bassa Seawater Desalination plant

Maintenance works for the Middle Area Seawater Desalination plant 2000 m3 a day have been completed and this desalination unit is operational now.

6. Emergency Repair and Maintenance of Generators of Water and Wastewater Facilities

The maintenance and repair works took place in the following WASH facilities:

Oil and filter changes and carrying out all necessary maintenance for the following facilities:

- Al-Lahham Well, Deir al-Balah: Perkins Generator 65 KVA
- Al-Fayrouz Well, Deir al-Balah Municipality: Perkins Generator 18 KVA
- Al-Mazraa Well, Deir al-Balah: Perkins Generator 88 KVA
- Abu Taha Al-Sawarha Well, Al-Zawaida Municipality: Perkins Generator 65 KVA
- Al-Ansar Well, Al-Zawaida Municipality, Perkins Generator 50 KVA
- Al-Rahma Well, Al-Zawaida Municipality: Perkins Generator 220 KVA
- Abu Taima Desalination Plant, Abasan Al-Kabira Municipality: Perkins Generator 33 KVA
- Al Sahel 7 water Well, Deir al-Balah: Perkins Generator 110 KVA
- Desalination plant, Deir al-Balah Municipality: Perkins Generator 88 KVA
- Al Aqsa Water Tank, Deir al-Balah: Perkins Generator 250 KVA
- Al Sahel 7 water Well, Deir al-Balah: Perkins Generator 110 KVA
- Desalination plant, Deir al-Balah Municipality: Perkins Generator 88 KVA
- Al Aqsa Water Tank, Deir al-Balah: Perkins Generator 250 KVA + Add 10 liters oil
- Ma'an Well: Perkins generator with a capacity of 88 KVA
- Ayya Well: Perkins generator with a capacity of 110 KVA
- Salam Well: Perkins generator with a capacity of 110 KVA
- Mawasi Well: Perkins generator with a capacity of 88 KVA
- Al-Qastal Well: Perkins generator with a capacity of 65 KVA
- Al Ansar Well generator

- Al Sahel 6 Well generator
- Perkins generator for Al-Fukhari Municipality with a capacity of 110 KVA
- Taj Al-Waqar Station: Perkins generator with a capacity of 77 KVA
- Al-Farouq Well: Perkins generator with a capacity of 150 KVA
- Al-Aqsa Well: Perkins generator with a capacity of 50 KVA
- Tarazi Well: Perkins generator with a capacity of 50 KVA
- Shouqi Well: Perkins generator with a capacity of 65 KVA
- Al-Aqsa Reservoir: Perkins generator with a capacity of 250 KVA
- Thaqafa Plant: Perkins generator with a capacity of 220 KVA



7. Hiring of water wells in Khan Younis

The CMWU through ICRC support has hired 4 private water wells in Khan Younis to pump 2,000 m³/day to serve Al Mawasi area in Khan Younis, in parallel the CMWU is still working on repairing the damages of water wells to bring them into operation. However, the shortage of materials complicates the repair works and only limited wells in Khan Younis are operational now, which leads the CMWU to continue hiring these wells to meet the high water demand for residents and IDPs.



8. Emergency repairs of sewer lines jetting & back hoe vehicle

The maintenance of Khan Younis two jetting trucks and the back hoe has been completed, also during November the contractor secured all the needed materials to maintain the jetting truck for Dair AL Balah. By maintaining this truck all the maintenance and repairs under this contractor are completed and these trucks and back hoe are operational now to response to IDPs emergency needs .

9. Service Works for Repairs of Water Facilities- Phase II

Waiting of materials availability to continue the repairs works, awaiting coordination to bring materials from Gaza City.

- Three months ago, a coordination request was sent for transferring 11 electrical motors to a maintenance workshop in Gaza city as there are no specialized workshop nor available materials in the southern governorates. Unfortunately, the coordination approval is not obtained yet.
- The remaining maintenance works under this contract depend on maintaining these motors to bring back 11 water facilities into operation.

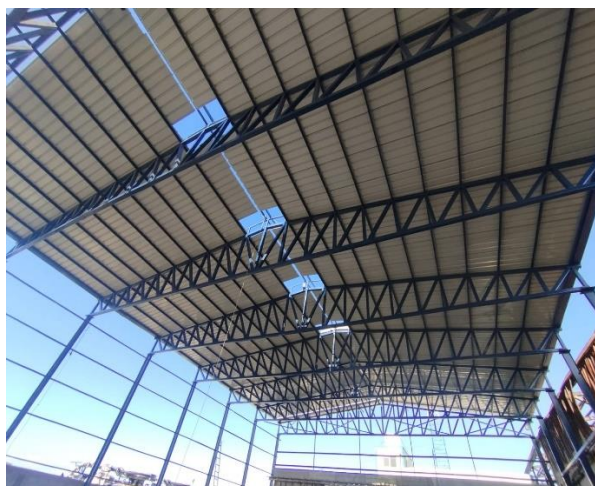
10. Hiring of Heavy Machinery to Support CMWU in Repairing Activities at Gaza City

Through this contract the following repairs have been carried out in November in Gaza city:

- Maintenance of ¾" pipeline in Al-Thalathini Street - Al-Moghrabi
- Installation of a valve in Yaffa Street - Hamza Mosque
- Maintenance of 4" pipeline in Al-A
- Maintenance of 12" pipeline - Sheikh Radwan
- Flushing of ¾" pipeline - Northern Rimal
- Maintenance of a 4" pipeline - Northern Rimal
- Maintenance of butterfly valves
- Maintenance of ¾" pipeline - Sabra
- Maintenance of 2" pipeline - Sheikh Radwan
- Maintenance of 4" pipeline - Al-Shati
- Installation of an electric motor for maintenance - Zaytoun
- Maintenance of water pipelines - Shuja'iyya
- Maintenance of 63 pipeline - Old City
- Installation of a branch pipeline (¾") and maintenance of 1" pipeline in Al Tuffah Area
- Flushing of 4" pipeline and branch pipeline (¾") - Rimal
- Maintenance of water pipelines in Al Naser street

11. Maintenance and Rehabilitation of CMWU Central Warehouse in Khan Younis

Through ICRC support, the work is still ongoing to rehabilitate and maintain the central warehouse in Khan Younis which was targeted during the war in January 2024. The work includes maintaining the admin building, one of the two damaged steel structures in addition to fuel tanks. This intervention aims to reactivate the warehouse to receive the required materials and spare parts for maintenance of water and wastewater infrastructure and facilities in all Gaza Strip.



2.6.2 Maintenance of Al Sawarha Sewage Pressure line

Through ICRC support, the CMWU has maintained Al Sawarha sewage pumping station in Al Zawaida where large number of IDPs are staying. This intervention aims to efficiently operate the pumping system and improve its efficiency to handle the increasable flow in particular during winter months to avoid floods and their hazards on public health.



2.6.3 Chlorine Distribution to Water Supply Facilities

After months of halted chlorine solution entry due to war-related restrictions, the CMWU through UNICEF support, successfully secured 20 cubic meters of chlorine in November. The supplied quantities have been distributed to water wells, desalination plants, and pumping stations for water disinfection to ensure supply safe water to residents and IDPs during this crisis.



2.6.4 Maintenance of Stormwater Pipeline in Al Maghazi Camp

Through ICRC support, the CMWU has fixed the damages of the main stormwater pipelines in Al Maghazi camp which were affected by the Israeli airstrikes and military operations. This intervention aims to bring back the infrastructure into operation to avoid floods during rainy days and alleviate the suffering of residents and IDPs during this challenging time.



2.6.5 Installation of Desalination plant at the CMWU warehouse in Khan Younis

Through UNICEF support, the CMWU is still working on completing the construction and equipping the water desalination plant in its warehouse in Khan Younis with a capacity of 50 cubic meters per hour. This initiative aims to strengthen the provision of safe and healthy drinking water for residents and IDPs in various areas of Al-Mawasi, west of Khan Younis.

As part of the project, a water filling point will be installed to allow water tankers fill the needed drinking water and distribute it to serve the local population and IDPs in the surrounding areas.



2.6.6 Maintenance of Al Hasayna Sewage pressure line

Through UNICEF support, the CMWU is still maintaining the damages of the pressure transmission line of Al-Hasayna wastewater pumping station, with a diameter of 14 inches and a depth of 6.5 m, to mitigate the hazards of sewage floods in this vital area in Al Nuseirat. Al Hasayna PS currently serves more than 100,000 residents and IDPs.



2.6.7 Winterization Interventions

Continuing its efforts to enhance the rainwater drainage system in various areas, especially under the exceptional circumstances imposed by the Israeli war on the Gaza Strip, the CMWU through the World Food Program (WFP), has started cleaning the Wadi Al-Salqa stream in Deir Al-Balah along a 4-kilometer stretch. The work includes reshaping the wadi and removing solid waste to the landfill in Deir Al-Balah. In this regard, the CMWU requested from IDPs living at the route of the Wadi to relocate their tents to safer locations to protect their lives from potential floods.

This project also includes the rehabilitation of Wadi Al-Qashash in Nuseirat, and repair works at Al-Bassa and Salah Al-Din areas.



2.6.8 Maintenance and Repairing of Sewage networks in Khan Younis

Through Oxfam fund and in partnership with PEF, the CMWU has been repairing the damages of wastewater networks in Al-Amal neighborhood in Khan Younis. The work includes repairing 1.3 kilometers of main sewage networks and maintaining manholes. The intervention aims to eliminate floods and their health hazards in the streets of Al-Amal neighborhood and the entrance to UNRWA industrial area in Khan Younis.



2.6.9 Maintenance of Al Rahma Water Reservoir in Khanyounis

Through ECHO fund and in cooperation with CARE, and PARC, the CMWU is still maintaining Al-Rahma water reservoir in Khan Younis. The mechanical maintenance for reservoir's pumps has been completed, along with repairs to the 14-inch transmission line that supplies water to Khan Younis, whereas the repairs of the electrical control panel and 400 kVA generator are still ongoing. Additionally, damaged areas of the reservoir's structure are being treated and sealed to prevent any water leakage. Maintenance is also being conducted on the Kuwaiti and Al-Tahadi wells that supply water to the reservoir.

Repairing the damages and re-operating Al-Rahma reservoir is highly important as this reservoir is one of the main reservoirs in Khan Younis which serves more than 100,000 people in center of Khan Younis city, the camp, and the neighborhoods of Qizan Abu Rishwan and Batn Al-Samin.



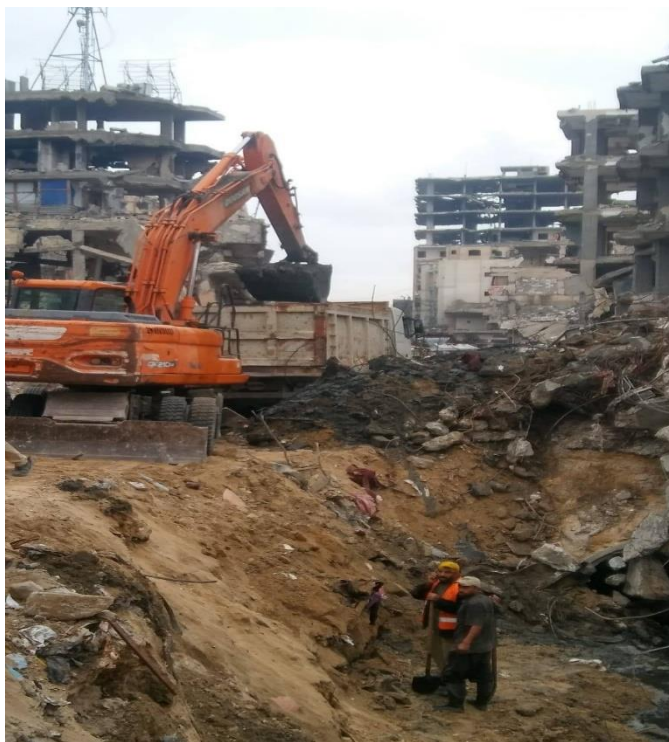
2.6.10 Maintenance of Water Wells in Gaza City

The CMWU through Oxfam fund and in partnership with PEF has been maintaining four water wells in Gaza city Saraya, Ammar Ben Yaser, Sheikh Radwan No.15 and Mushtaha. These wells sustained severe damage due to Israeli bombardment.

The works included repairing the electrical panel, maintaining the pumping manifold, fully refurbishing for well building, and improving water supply access for the areas benefiting from the wells under difficult conditions more than 50,000 residents

2.6.11 Maintaining Stormwater Network in Khan Younis under Winterization Interventions

Through ICRC, the CMWU has repaired the stormwater network in Jamal Abdel Nasser area in Khan Younis. The work included repairing the pipeline with a diameter of 600 mm which was targeted during the Israeli military operation in Khan Younis at the beginning of the war. This activity is part of a series of initiatives undertaken by the CMWU to restore the stormwater system in various areas in Deir Al-Balah and Khan Younis governorates to eliminate floods and protect the public health of IDPs during this crisis and deterioration of health situation.



3 Challenges:

3.1. Targeting and destroying the CMWU Central Warehouses: The CMWU communicated with governmental, international and authorities such as the Palestinian Water Authority, OCHA and UNICEF in order to coordinate with the Israeli side in order to consider the CMWU central warehouses as a deconflicted location. All aforementioned institutions confirmed that the warehouses are deconflicted location upon the approval of the Israeli side, whereas accordingly, materials, equipment, and trucks continued to be stored in the warehouses accordingly. However, on January 21, 2024 at 11:12 p.m., the central warehouses were bombed with a guided missile likely by a reconnaissance plane, and the next morning direct bombardment of the warehouses continued and the warehouses caught fire with all what they containing of materials, equipment, tools, electrical and electromechanical spare parts, and heavy machinery

The damages resulted from targeting the CMWU warehouses are estimated to be at around 9 million USD, in addition to the construction value of the warehouses.

3.2. Coordination to supply fuel for Gaza and the North: Despite numerous attempts by the PWA, the CMWU, and UNICEF to bring diesel into Gaza, but the Israeli side refused to bring in the needed fuel and only allows few quantities to enter Gaza which are not enough to operate the facilities and to provide the minimum level of services.

3.3. Attempt to purchase materials from local contractors in Gaza City: The CMWU contacted donors to provide and purchase materials available with local contractors in Gaza City and transport them to the southern areas of the Strip. Despite the urgent need of materials, but the Israeli side refused all attempts to coordinate for transporting these materials into southern areas, These materials, which generally are of maintenance materials for water and sewage networks

3.4. Lack of materials: As a result of the indiscriminate bombing of a large part of the infrastructure of the water and sanitation sector and the lack of materials, this led to an exacerbation of the problem and the inability to repair what was destroyed except for a small part of it. On the other hand, the Israeli side is still preventing the entry of materials necessary to operate the water and sanitation system, especially generators, generators spare parts, and spare parts for networks and desalination plants.

3.5. Cutting off Mekorot water: frequent cut off the water supply of the three connections of Mekorot Company's water, affects severely on water supply in the three governorates especially Khan Younis which has destroyed infrastructure and water sources.

3.6. Cutting off the electricity supply: Since the beginning of the war, cutting off electricity from all lines supplying the Gaza Strip, in addition to stopping operation of the only power plant in Gaza from working, has led to damage on the water supply system, which has resulted into reducing the operation of WASH facilities in a reduced capacity by using the already overloaded diesel generators as this led to a reduction in the amount of water from 100 liters to an average of less than 18 liters per person per day.

3.7. The systematic Israeli destruction of infrastructure: Since the first day of the war, the IDF deliberately to destroy the water sector infrastructure , whereas sewage treatment plants, pumping stations, the desalination plant in northern Gaza, the main lines, machinery and equipment were destroyed, especially in Gaza, Khan Younis and the north Gaza, which led to the difficulty of supply water through networks which led to a state of thirst among many people of Gaza and the north, in addition to the sewage flooding in many areas and neighborhoods, especially areas surrounding the Sheikh Radwan rainwater basin in Gaza City and Abu Rashid pond in Jabalia.

3.8. Difficulty of coordination during the war: Despite numerous attempts by the CMWU, PWA and international institutions such as OCHA, UNICEF, and the Red Cross to coordinate with the Israeli side to enter the necessary materials, equipment, and machinery to operate and maintain water and sewage systems. All of these attempts did not succeed in convincing the Israeli side to approve the coordination requests.

3.9. Targeting crews working in the water sector: The Israeli side deliberately targeted crews working in the water sector, as 7 workers in the CMWU, including engineers and field workers, were martyred, the last of which was targeting two water distribution workers in water tankers serving the displaced population.

3.10. The deterioration of the financial situation of the CMWU: As a result of the war on Gaza, all resources of funding for the CMWU activities stopped, especially after it stopped issuing water bills due to the inability of the population to commit to paying their water bills. This is in addition to stopping the implementation of all projects, which negatively affected the CMWU ability to finance

its various expenses, such Operating, maintaining, and paying the salaries of its employees and workers who are still performing their duties in operating and maintaining water and sanitation facilities to serve the residents of the Gaza Strip, especially in places of displacement. This is in addition to the inability of the CMWU to pay the dues of the CMWU sub-contractors from the private sector.