



Activities and Interventions of the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility during the war on Gaza 2023-2026

May, 2026

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 IDPs shelter and networks as well, the CMWU has been distributing the potable water to IDPs and residents by existing networks and its 53 owned water trucks, the produced and distributed water from desalination plants up to date is more than **11.24** million cubic meters. Moreover, the CMWU has rented 36 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 **51.35** million cubic meters since the onset of the war till May 2026, whereas the wells' production is still no more than 25% of the needed demand and pre-war production, in addition the CMWU continues to maintain and fix the damages of facilities and infrastructure in the accessible areas of Gaza Strip, including desalination plants, wells, sewage pumping stations, water and sewage networks, WASH generators, and electromechanical maintenance.

Since the announcement of the ceasefire on 11 October 2025, the CMWU with the support of its partners, has been conducting damage assessments of water and wastewater infrastructure and facilities in accessible areas across Gaza, North Gaza, the Middle Area, and Khan Younis governorates.

In parallel, the CMWU, in cooperation with PWA and through UNICEF support, has been closely following the implementation of two ongoing consultancy services aimed at assessing damages and preparing the necessary tender documents for the repair and reconstruction of affected facilities. The first consultancy covers the Middle Area and Khan Younis governorates, while the second covers Gaza and North Gaza governorates.

Both consultancies are essential in supporting the CMWU in planning and implementing recovery interventions following the extensive damage and losses incurred across the sector. Meanwhile, CMWU continues to carry out emergency repair works and restore critical water and wastewater services in close coordination with PWA and other sector partners.

On the other hand, the work is still ongoing to secure power sources for critical facilities, mainly water wells which cover most of domestic water production. The CMWU has repaired number of electrical generators, hired others from local market and purchased secondhand generators, also works with its partners to supply new ones with various capacities.

In the same context, and 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 till May 2026 around **12.49 million liters of fuel** in order to ensure the operation of standby generators, to run water production and pumping facilities, sewage pumping stations. However, the quantities that entered remain insufficient to meet actual demand. At the same time, Israel has continued to block the entry of essential materials and spare parts, which hinder the repairs and daily operations of WASH facilities. These constraints have negatively affected the provision of water and wastewater services across the entire Gaza Strip.

Fuel is still provided by UNICEF then the CMWU stores it in central tanks before distributing it to around **190 water and sanitation facilities**, including plants, wells, sewage pumping stations, and water reservoirs. The distribution process is closely monitored through a system managed by UNICEF, with oversight from a local field consultant and UNOPS.

The CMWU has also worked to receive and distribute water tanks of different sizes, which are being installed in places of displacement as emergency response measures which is considered as one of the most important activities that the CMWU is still carrying out. In addition, the CMWU ensures the process of sterilizing and disinfecting water sources by distributing the chlorine to various wells and desalination plants, whereas more than **379,414 liters** have been distributed since the beginning of the war, in order to avoid the spread of more diseases and epidemics.

Throughout May 2026 many repairs have been carried out by CMWU, PWA and WASH cluster and other initiatives are still ongoing. All these efforts aim to improve essential water and wastewater services and protect the public health throughout providing safe and acceptable WASH services for

residential areas and IDPs shelters to alleviate the suffering of Gaza people after months of deterioration.

Lack of materials is still a challenge hindering most of repairs as Gaza local market has depleted and the essential materials for repairs are not available, leaving water and wastewater services in a catastrophic condition. Also losing the CMWU water sector central warehouse during this war hindered many repairs. However, the CMWU was able, with the support of international partners, to gradually return its O&M activities and overcome to some extent these major damages and materials shortage, and it continued to provide services according to the available capabilities and resources.

The continuous follow-up and assessing the levels of infrastructure destruction in various areas, 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 **900 million USD** whereas this amount is subject to increase as there are still inaccessible zones in Gaza not assessed yet. The reconstruction of water and wastewater infrastructure and the operation of WASH facilities are among the highest priorities throughout the reconstruction phase, 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 continuation 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 cut-off all electricity supplies since the onset of the war. 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 by military action. Numerous appeals have been made to humanitarian and international organizations to support and facilitate the entry of the necessary materials to keep WASH facilities operational.

1. Introduction:

As a result of the war that started on October 7th, 2023, more than two million people were forcibly displaced from Gaza City and the North Gaza Governorate to the southern areas of the Gaza Strip, following evacuation instructions issued by the IDF. This unprecedented displacement occurred in parallel with a complete shutdown of electricity and water supplies, creating a catastrophic

humanitarian crisis. The conflict led to the widespread destruction of key water and sanitation infrastructure, including wells, water pipelines, reservoirs, wastewater pumping stations, desalination plants, and treatment facilities. Additionally, the Israeli-imposed restrictions on the entry of essential materials, equipment, fuel, and spare parts severely hampered the ability to operate or repair critical facilities.

Throughout the hostilities and after the ceasefire, the water and wastewater sector in Gaza is still operated under extreme duress. Communities, particularly IDPs sheltering in overcrowded areas and UNRWA shelters, faced dire shortages of potable water and sanitation services, which increased the risks of disease outbreaks and public health emergencies. Despite these challenges, the CMWU, in close coordination with international humanitarian partners, local municipalities, and service providers, exerted extraordinary efforts to maintain minimal functionality of key services under the most constrained conditions.

CMWU adopted a multi-faceted emergency response strategy to mitigate the crisis and keep as many facilities operational as possible. This included rapid damage assessments and emergency repair operations on severely damaged key water facilities, sewage networks, and desalination plant often carried out using available materials and limited stock of spare parts due to blockade conditions. Besides operating the main two seawater desalination plants in the middle area, CMWU also facilitated the installation of small-scale, modular desalination plants to serve communities with no access to safe water, particularly in displacement shelters, also mobile water tankers are being deployed across the Gaza Strip to ensure emergency water distribution to the most vulnerable populations.

Additionally, CMWU supported the continuity of municipal services by coordinating the delivery and distribution of essential resources, such as fuel, chemicals for water treatment, spare parts, and heavy machinery required for excavation and repairs' activities. These interventions were critical in stabilizing the sector amidst the war and laying the groundwork for early recovery.

Following the ceasefire in October 2025. The carried out rapid assessment showed the severe destruction of most WASH facilities in Gaza and North Gaza which requires extra efforts from all concerned parties to restore the essential services in these areas to secure safe water access and sewage disposal for returnees.

In response to these dire circumstances, the CMWU rapidly scaled up its emergency and recovery operations. Efforts were directed toward rehabilitating damaged infrastructure, restoring service pipelines, and increasing water production and distribution capacities in areas hosting large numbers of returnees and IDPs. CMWU response prioritized the reactivation of non-functional wells, the rehabilitation of main water carriers, and the repair of damaged wastewater systems to mitigate environmental hazards and public health risks especially amid the severe deterioration of all aspects of daily life.

The commitment of CMWU and its partners during this critical period has been essential in alleviating human suffering and initiating the restoration of essential services in post-war Gaza, despite ongoing challenges related to access, security, and resource limitations.

2.0 Activities of the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility during May 2026:

2.1 Operation of Water Supply Facilities

2.1.1 Desalination plants

The current operational desalination plants in the accessible areas of Gaza Strip are 42 including 2 seawater and 40 of brackish RO plants, in addition to the Emirati Desalination plant in the Egyptian side. The production and operational conditions of these plants are in the following:

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. The average daily water production during **May 2026** was reported of around **1376 m3**.

The CMWU supplies water through its owned water tankers, besides the rented private tankers, which represented a turning point in covering the needs of the population and citizens with desalinated water,



in addition the desalination plant are provided with 23 filling points and recently the CMWU has installed additional 10 filling points all around the desalination plant to facilitate filling the water.

2-Southern Gaza Seawater desalination plant (SGDP)

Since 17th November 2024, the CMWU started operating SGDP depending completely on the newly connected power line instead of electrical generators which increased the daily production of the plant from 2000 m³/day to approximately 17000 m³/day. Connecting the plant with the dedicated power line 5 MW 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. However, the power line frequently suffers damage, leading to some drop in water production. In May, the average daily water production was **14,952m³/day**.



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 May 2024 till August 2025 the plant was out of operation due to the Israeli invasion to Rafah area and the destruction of the water carrier lines. However, during this period 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 southern governorates.

Recently and to meet the water demand in Al Mawasi area, which is fully occupied by IDPs, the CMWU, through Emirati funding, has completed the construction of a 6.7 km water pipeline from this plant to Al Mawasi. The pipeline serves the western parts of Khan Younis and Rafah around 600,000 residents and IDPs and it has been operational since 28th August 2025, whereas **in May** the average daily water supply from this plant was **4,634 m³**

4- Public Brackish RO Desalination Plants

During the war most of brackish desalination plants have been damaged, whereas the current operational plants are 40, most of which are located in the Middle Area, as illustrated *in the map below*, since this area experienced less destruction compared to other parts of the Gaza Strip. The production capacity of these plants ranges from 7 to 760 m³/day.

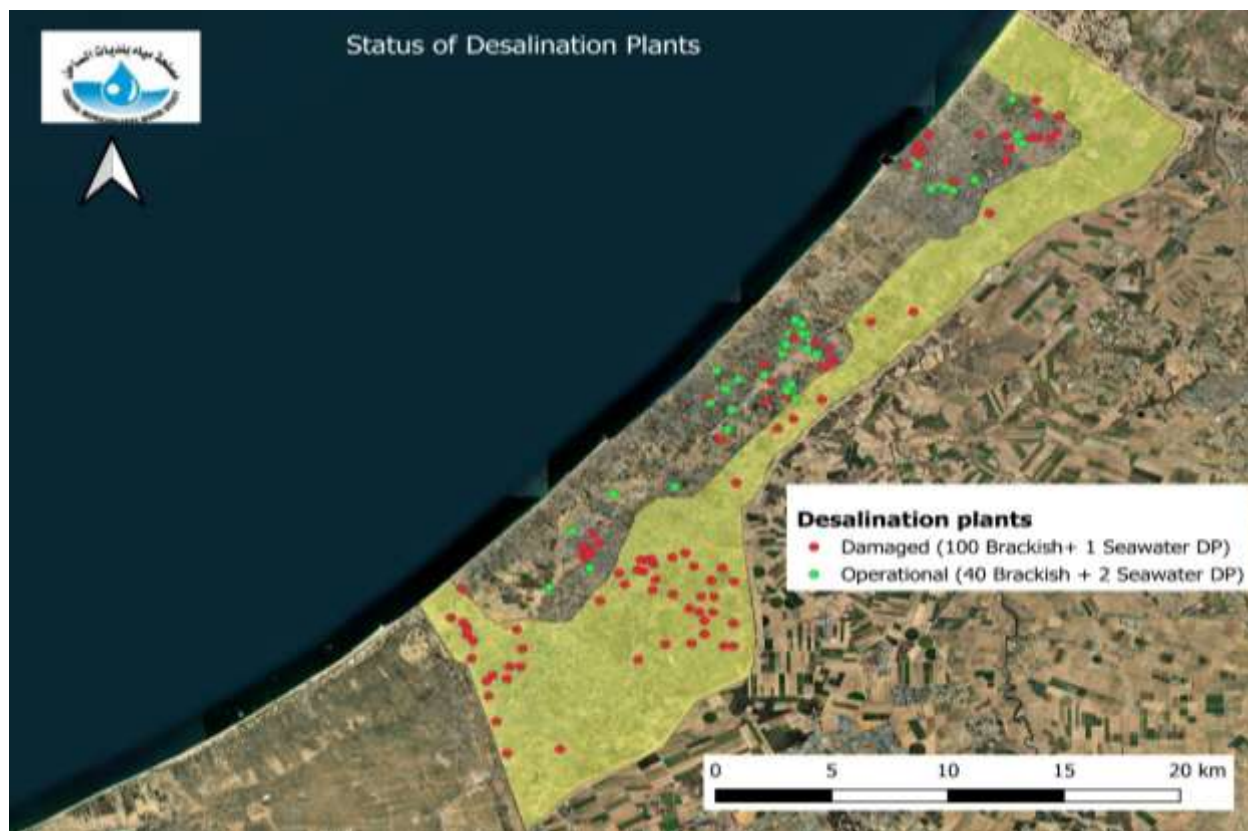
The highest-producing plants include the CMWU warehouse desalination plant in Khan Younis, with an average daily production of approximately 760 m³/day; Al Karaj desalination plant in Gaza City, producing around 400 m³/day; and the newly constructed Al Manshiya desalination plant in Gaza City, with an average production of 400 m³/day. In addition, the CMWU recently rehabilitated Al Shifa Desalination Plant, which currently produces 300 m³/day and additional plants are being constructed in Jabalia and Khan Younis to be operated during the coming few months.

During **May 2026**, the average daily water production of all operational public RO brackish desalination plants across the Gaza Strip reached approximately **2,648 m³/day**

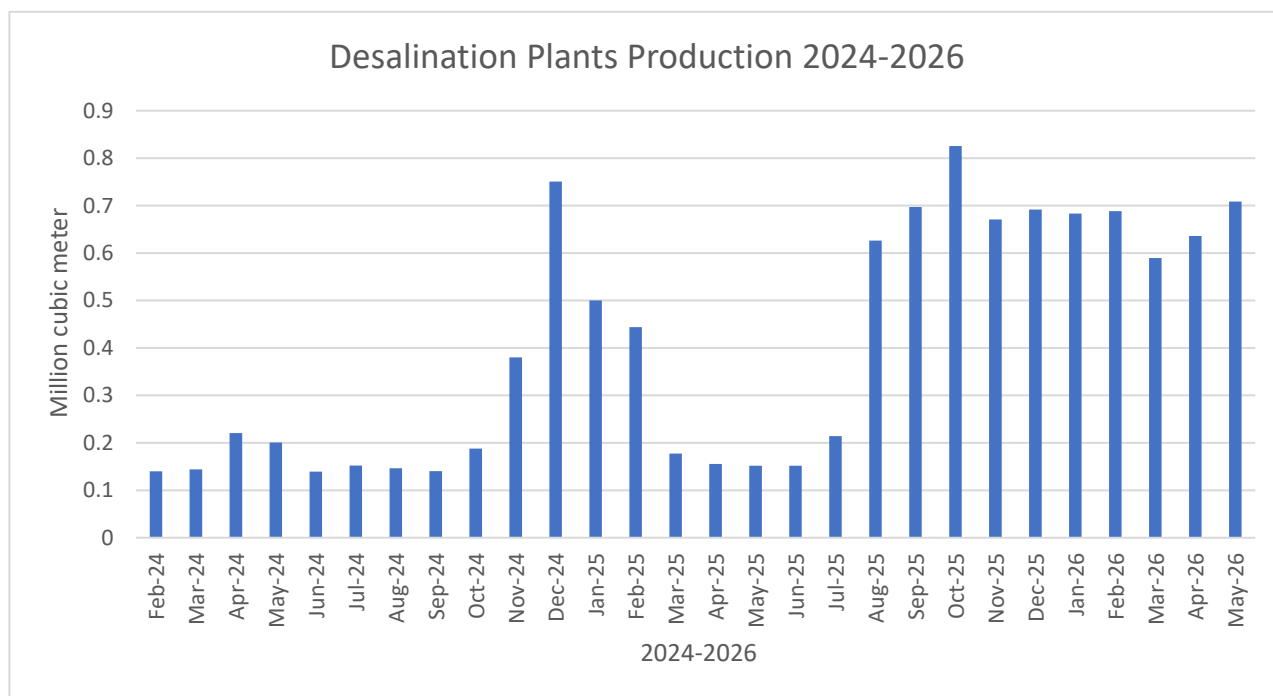
The production of brackish plants slightly raised in April as the CMWU teams increased the operating hours of CMWU warehouse desalination plant to meet the increasing demand for safe drinking water for residents and displaced people in Al-Mawasi area of Khan Younis.

This effort comes amid exceptional conditions and significant pressure on water sources, which requires intensified work to ensure the continuity of services at the minimum possible level.

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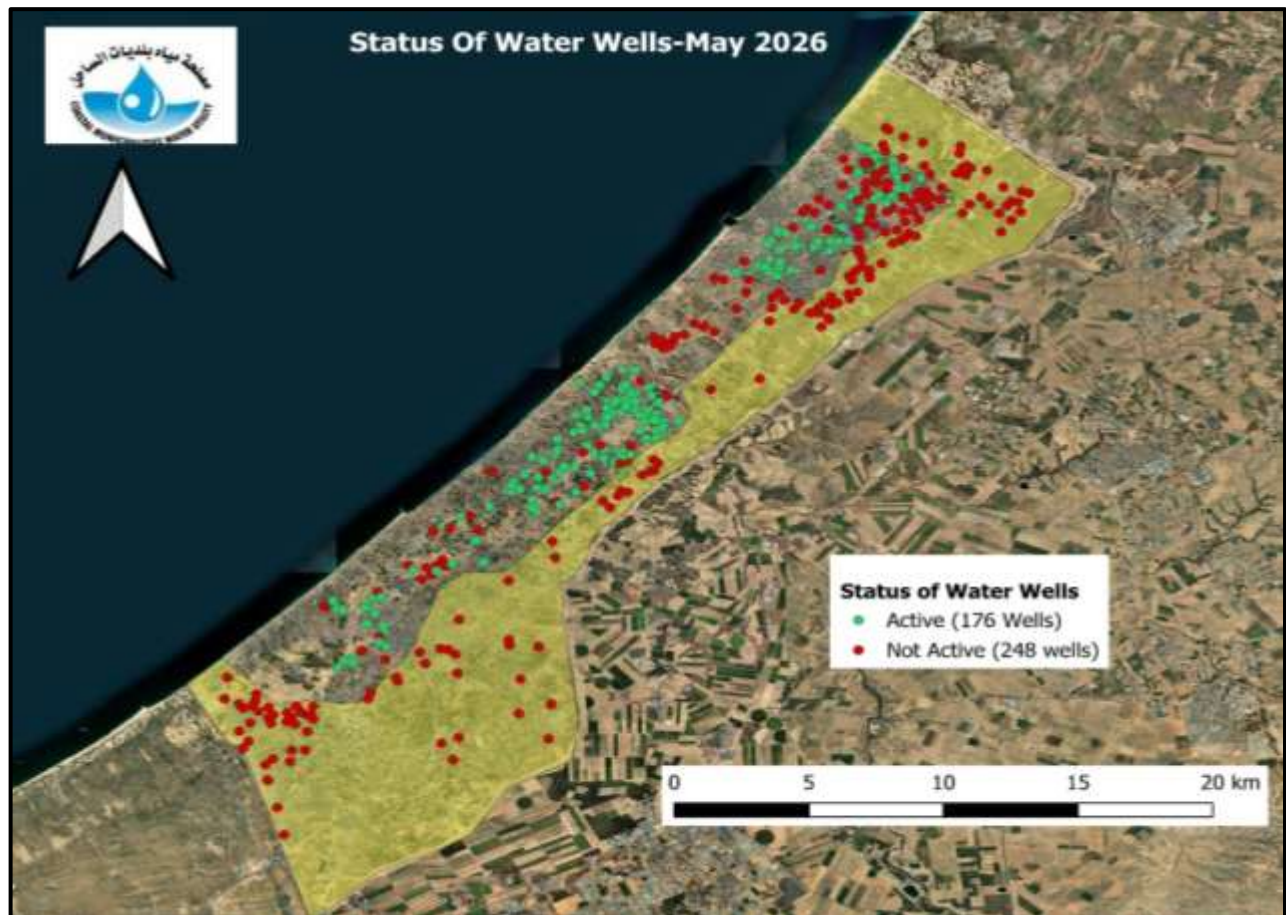
Status of Desalination plants



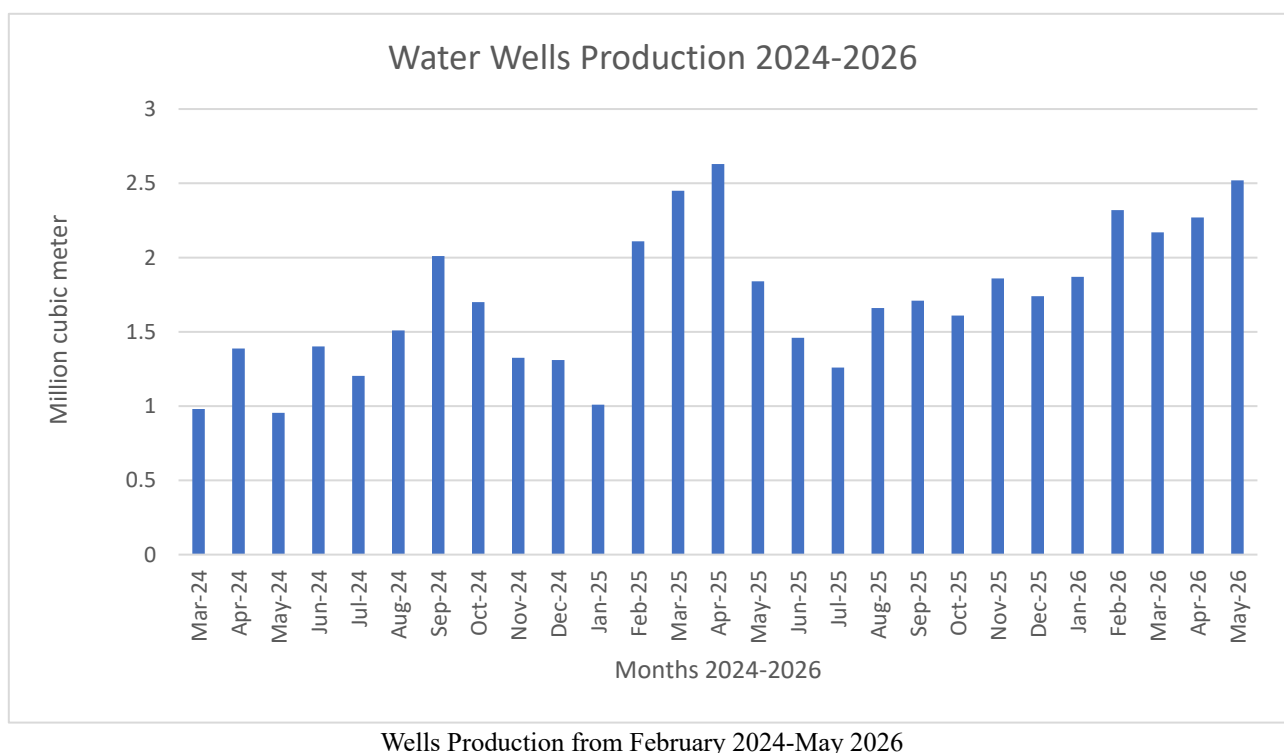
Water Desalination Production from February 2024 to May 2026

2.1.2 Water Wells

Limited water wells are still operational during war as most water wells are partially or completely damaged, hence the daily domestic water production from wells over war months did not exceed 25% of the original production. The below figures show the records of monthly water production from February 2024 till May 2026, whereas the fluctuation in water production depends on fuel availability, security issues and status of facility (operational or damaged) during each month. In May 2026, water production increased as additional wells are brought back into operation particularly in Gaza and North Gaza. The CMWU is continuing its efforts to repair more facilities and provide electrical generators to re-operate accessible vital wells. The average daily water production from municipal and secondary **operational wells** during May reached **83,951 m³** during the month, reflecting the impact of recent rehabilitation and repair works. The map below illustrates the operational status of municipal wells across the Gaza Strip.



Operational Water Wells- May 2026

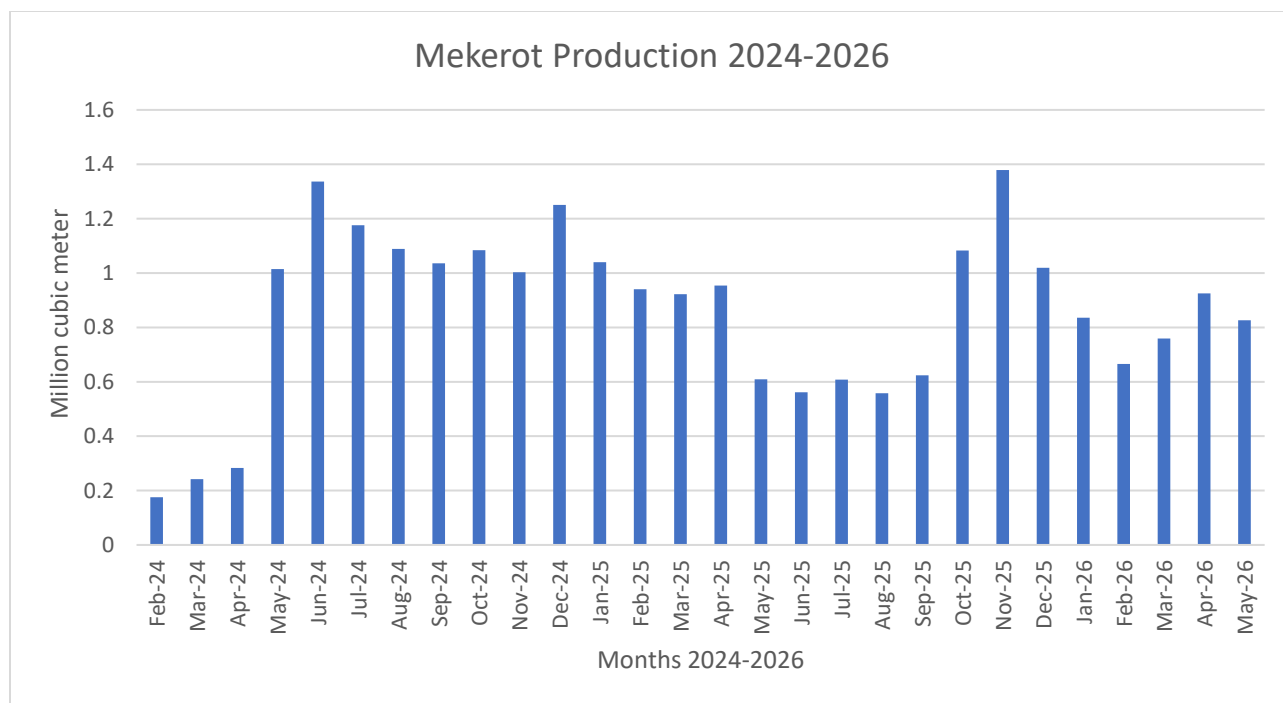


2.1.3 Mekorot Supply

There are three Mekorot water supply connections from Israeli side as follow:

- The first in the middle governorate called Ben Saed with a capacity 14,000 m³ /day, this source has been non-operational for nearly ten months due to severe damage to the feeding pipeline. The pipeline has been in operation since October 2025. However, in May 2026, it experienced a severe reduction in water supply, with more than 85% of its normal capacity lost. As a result, the average daily water production from this connection dropped to approximately **2,328 m³/day** during May 2026.
- The second is east Khan Younis connection with a capacity of 16,000 m³/day, where it is working during the month with average daily of **12,455 m³**.
- The third for Gaza governorate with 20,000 m³/day capacity, where it is working during the month with average daily of **12,257 m³**.

Mekorot connections have been partially damaged and interrupted during the war and after negotiation with the Israeli side through PWA, the connections were reactivated again to serve the people and to ensure 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 the status of carrier lines and pumping facilities (operational or damaged) over 2024-2026 months

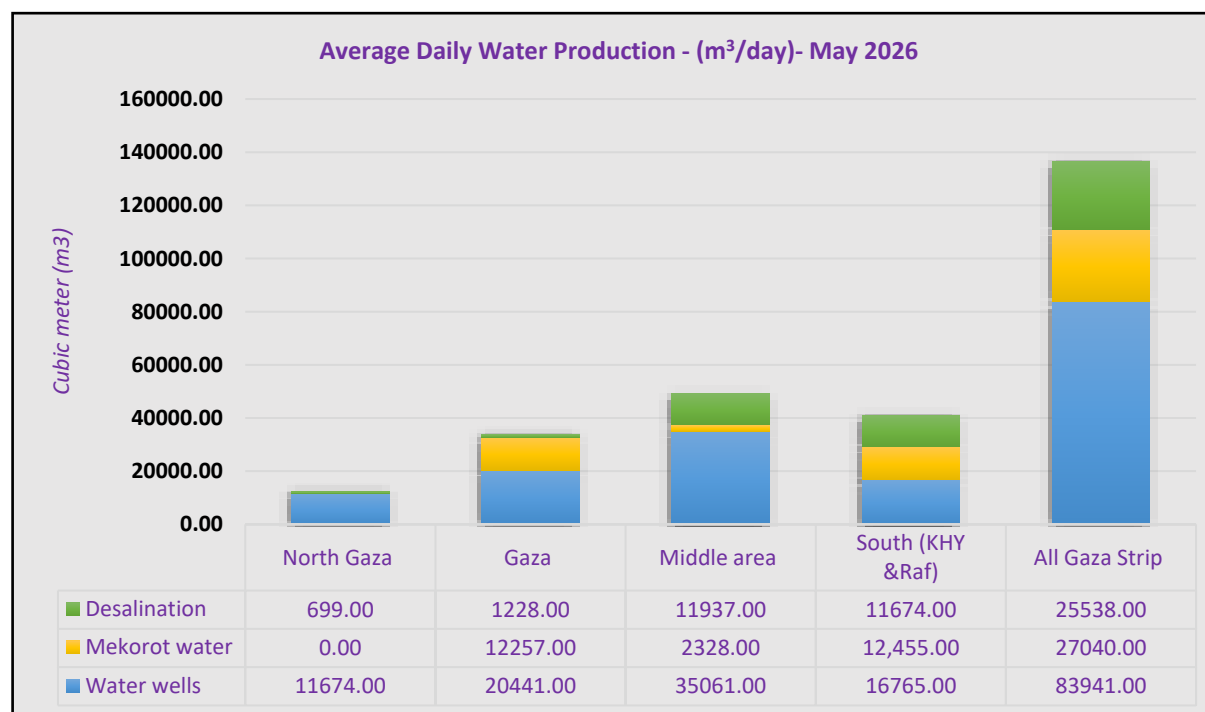


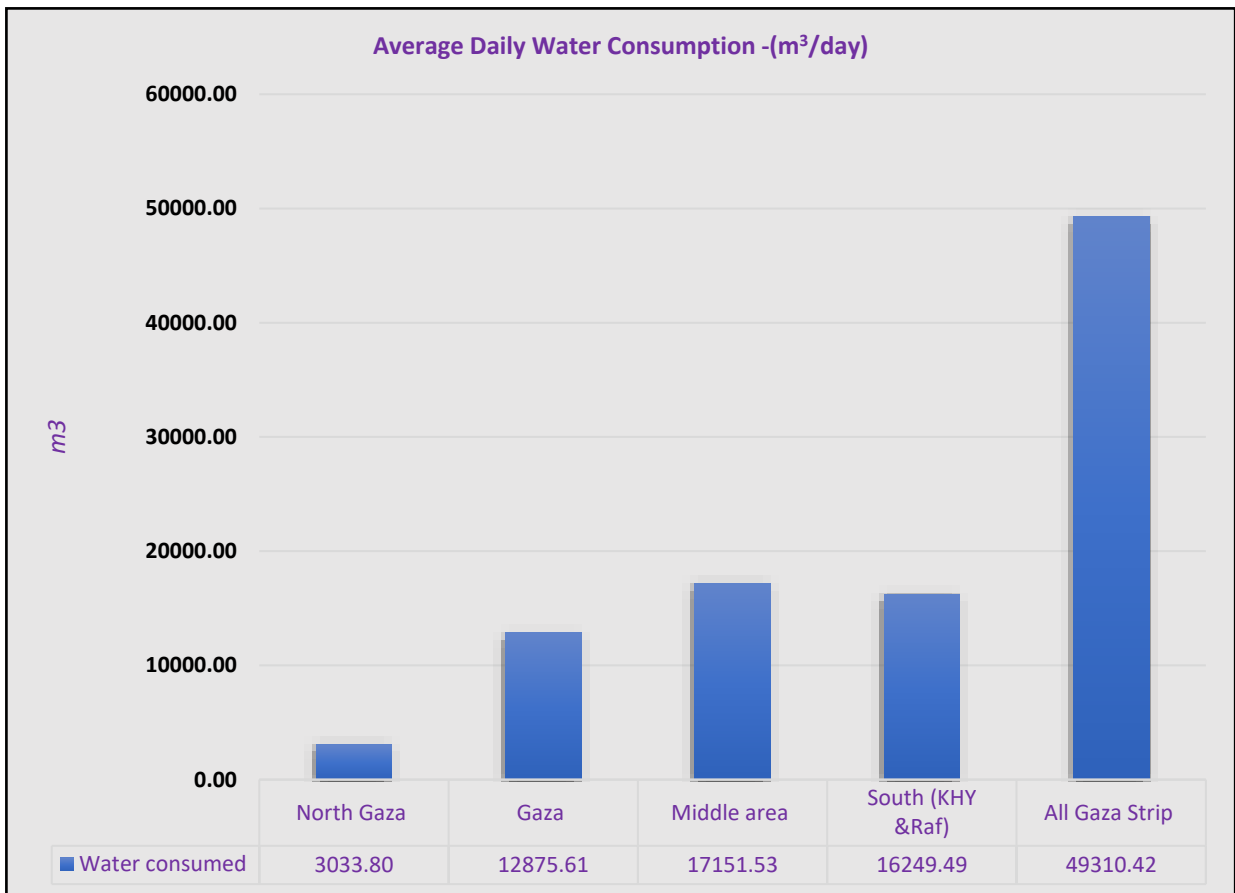
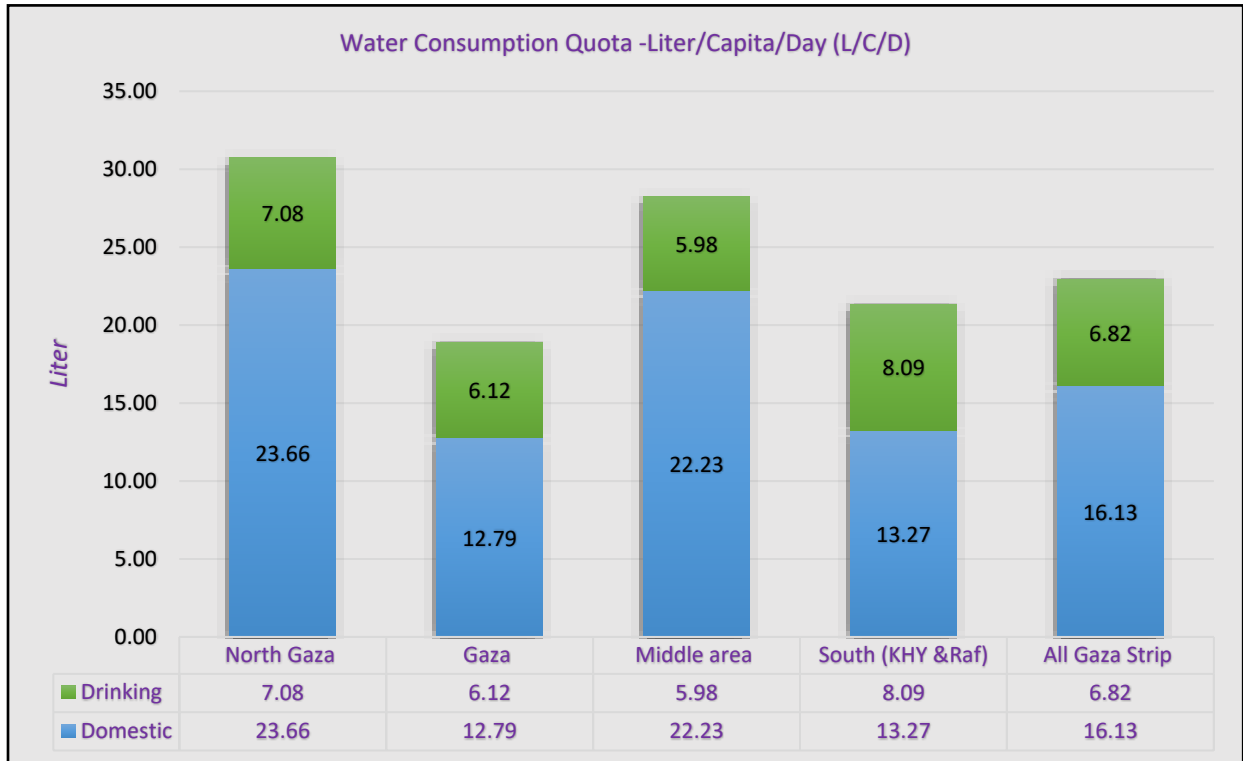
Mekorot monthly production from February till May 2026

2.2 Water Supply and Consumption:

The table below presents the average daily water production from all sources' municipal wells, Mekorot supply, and public desalination plants along with the actual household water consumption for domestic and drinking purposes across the Gaza Strip governorates during May 2026. The total average daily water production reached approximately 136,519 m³/day (83,941 m³ from municipal wells, 27,040 m³ from Mekorot, and 25,538 m³ from desalination plants. Despite this combined production, the water availability per capita remains far below the minimum humanitarian standards. Consumption levels varied across governorates, ranging from 30.74 liters per capita per day (L/C/D) in North Gaza to 21.36 L/C/D in the southern governorates (Khan Younis and Rafah), with Gaza governorate recording 18.91 L/C/D and the Middle Area reaching 28.22 L/C/D. These figures remain significantly below the minimum humanitarian standards and are subject to frequent fluctuations due to multiple challenges, mainly the security situation, fuel and power sources availability, frequent infrastructure damages, and evacuation orders that render key sites inaccessible or unsafe to operate.

Water availability in May 2026								Actual Consumption Household side m³/day
Governorate	Average Daily Water Production from All Resources			Water Consumption Quota -Household level			Population	
	Water wells	Mekorot	Desalination	Domestic	Drinking	Total		
	m³/day	m³/day	m³/day	Liter/C/D	Liter/C/D	Liter/C/D		
North Gaza	11674.00	0.00	699.00	23.66	7.08	30.74	98700	3033.80
Gaza	20441.00	12257.00	1228.00	12.79	6.12	18.91	680800	12875.61
Middle area	35061.00	2328.00	11937.00	22.23	5.98	28.22	607800	17151.53
South (KHY &Raf)	16765.00	12,455.00	11674.00	13.27	8.09	21.36	760900	16249.49
All Gaza Strip	83941.00	27040.00	25538.00	16.13	6.82	22.95	2148200	49310.42



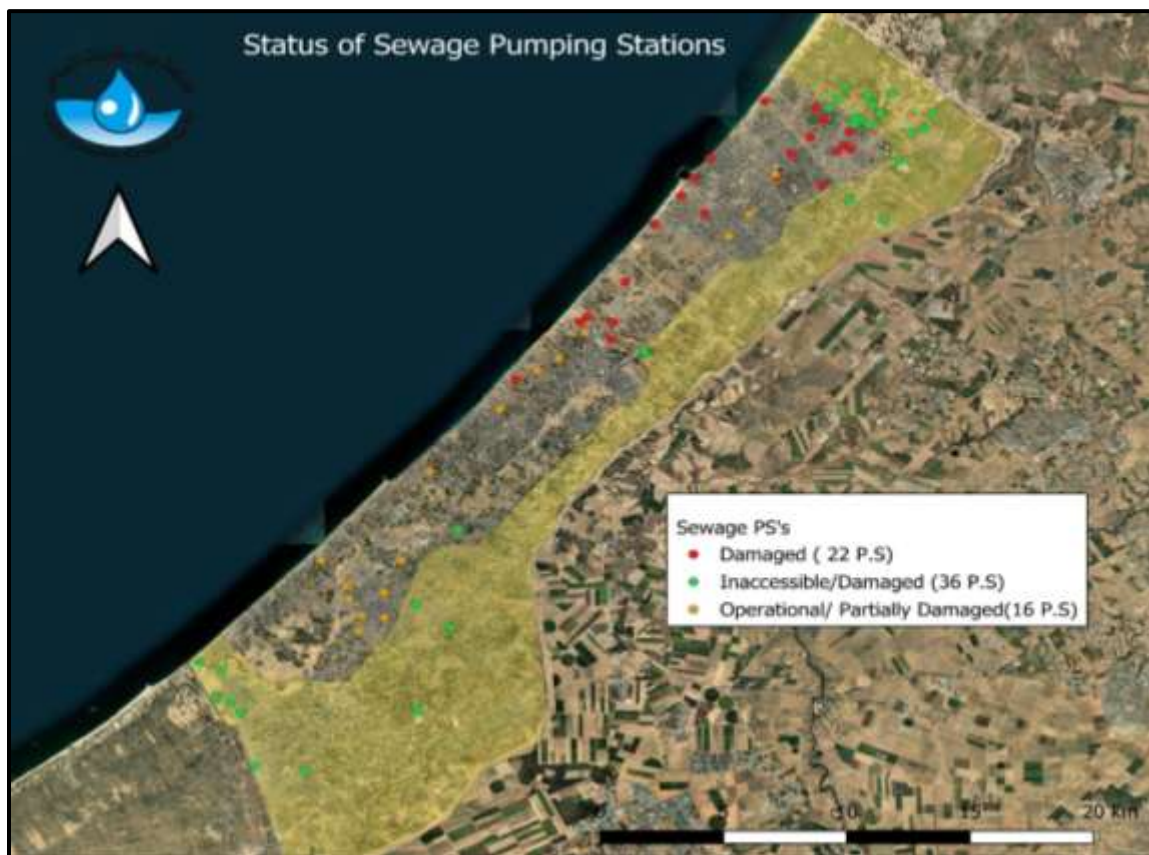


2.3 Operation of Sewage Facilities

2.3.1 Sewage Pumping Stations

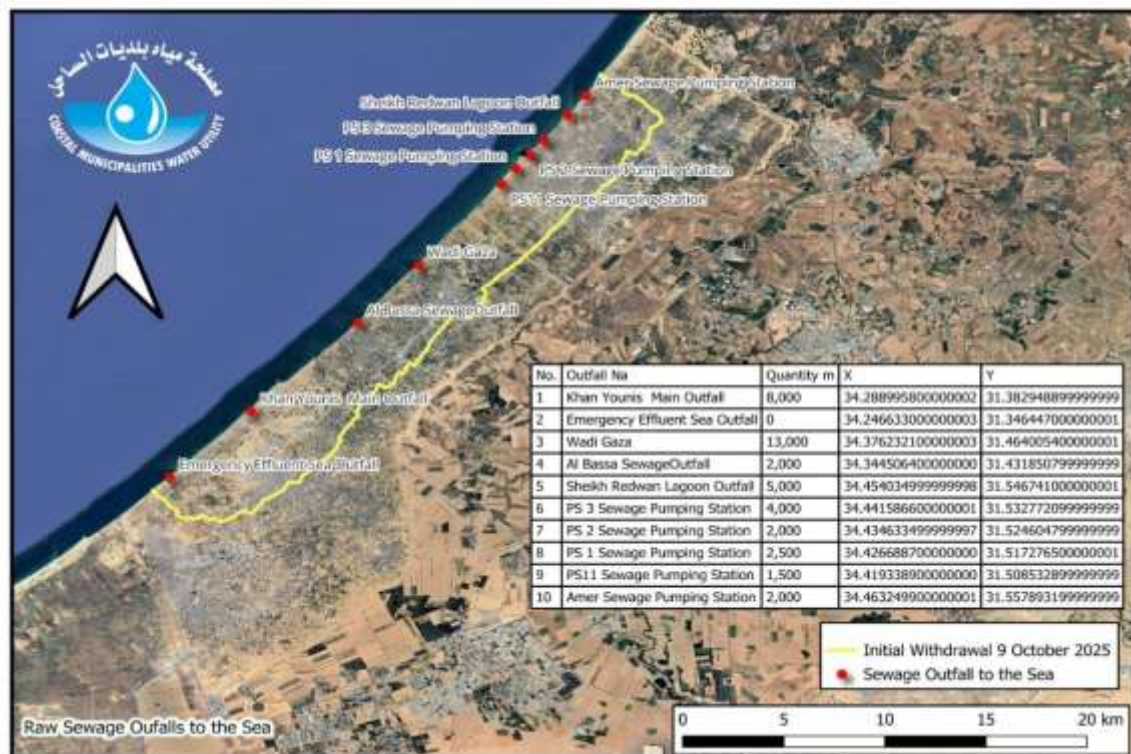
Limited sewage pumping stations remain operational despite sustaining partial damage, while most stations are either completely destroyed or inaccessible. This situation has resulted in diverting generated sewage directly to Wadi Gaza in the Middle area, where in other areas wastewater flows are diverted either to the sea or to stormwater lagoons, including Al Sheikh Redwan Lagoon in Gaza, Al Amal Lagoon in Khan Younis, Al Saftawi Lagoon in Jabalia, and Aslan Lagoon in Beit Lahia. In some areas, particularly IDPs sites where no discharge points are available, sewage is collected in cesspits and periodically evacuated and managed by CMWU and municipal vacuum and suction trucks.

The operational and accessible sewage pumping stations till May 2026 remains 16 whereas *The map indicates* that most pumping stations are located in inaccessible areas and are likely damaged.



Status of Sewage PS till May 2026

The daily discharge of raw sewage to the sea through the ten indicated outfalls is approximately **40,000 m³** which resulted in environmental and health hazards along the coastal side.



Sewage Outfalls to the sea

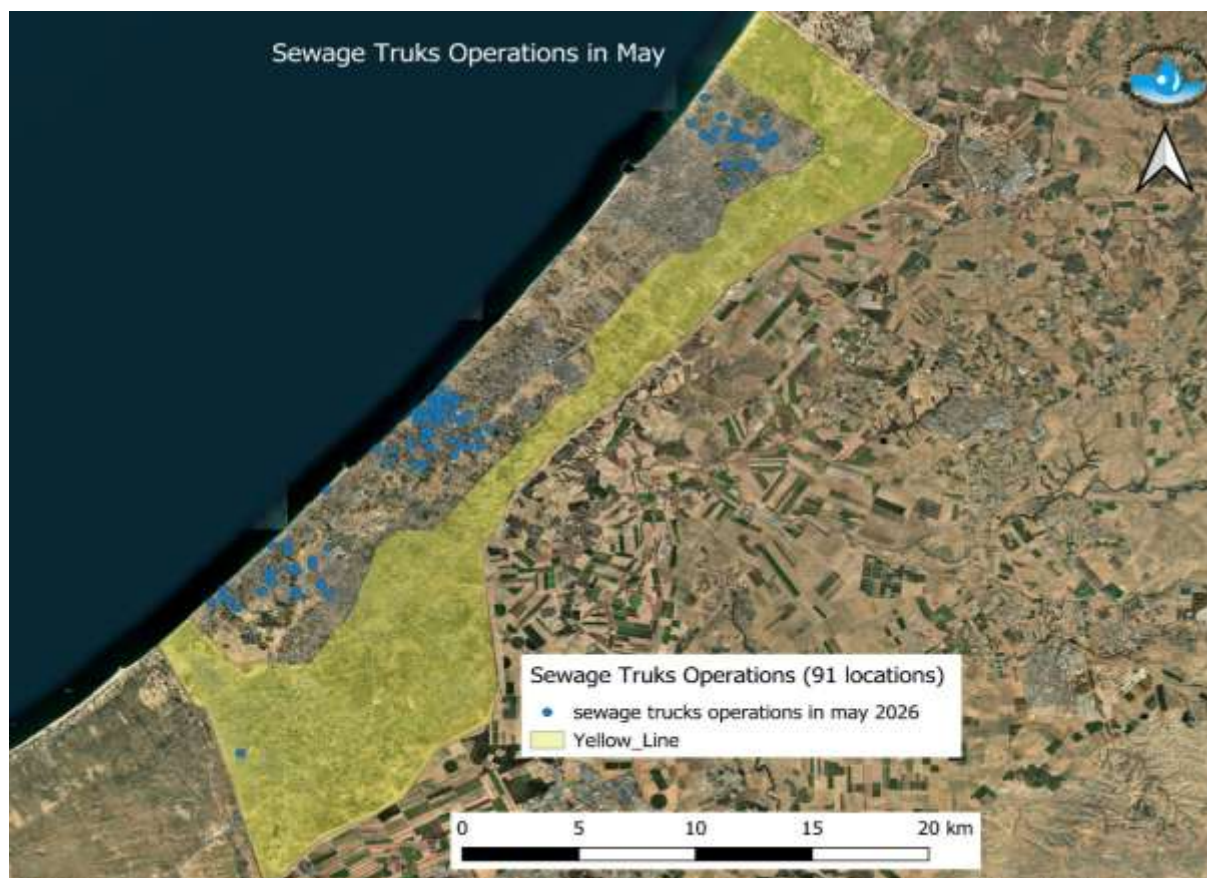
To reduce the risks of sewage system destructions, the CMWU is still working on fixing and repairing the damages within the available resources, the interventions include but not limited to:

- The CMWU teams have been working to clean sewage lines and networks from blockages and rubbles. The focus is also on treating overflow points within residential neighborhoods and removing health hazards that pose a direct threat to the environment and public safety.
- The CMWU continues to utilize its available and recently received suction trucks and mobile pumps to evacuate sewage from flooded areas, particularly where IDPs are concentrated. These trucks are clearly marked and visible.
- CMWU is actively seeking to enhance its operational capacity by providing additional suction trucks and mobile pumps, which are critical for managing floods during this challenging time. These resources and heavy machineries are essential to controlling and eliminating floods especially in shelters where IDPs are vulnerable to disease and other public health risks.

In May 2026, the CMWU teams carried out emergency interventions to address the impacts of sewage floods particularly in IDPs sites through utilization its sewage suction truck to evacuate the sewage from many random ponds in different IDPs sites in Dair AL Balah, Al Nussirat, Al Burej, AL zawayida, Mawasi Khan Younis, which hosting thousands of IDPs



In addition to the above operations, the CMWU also deployed the sewage jetting and suction trucks available in its warehouse in Khan Younis to respond to emergency requests and appeals in north Gaza and Southern governorates. In May 2026 the two trucks conducted approximately 91 intervention operations. The spatial distribution of these interventions is illustrated in the map below.

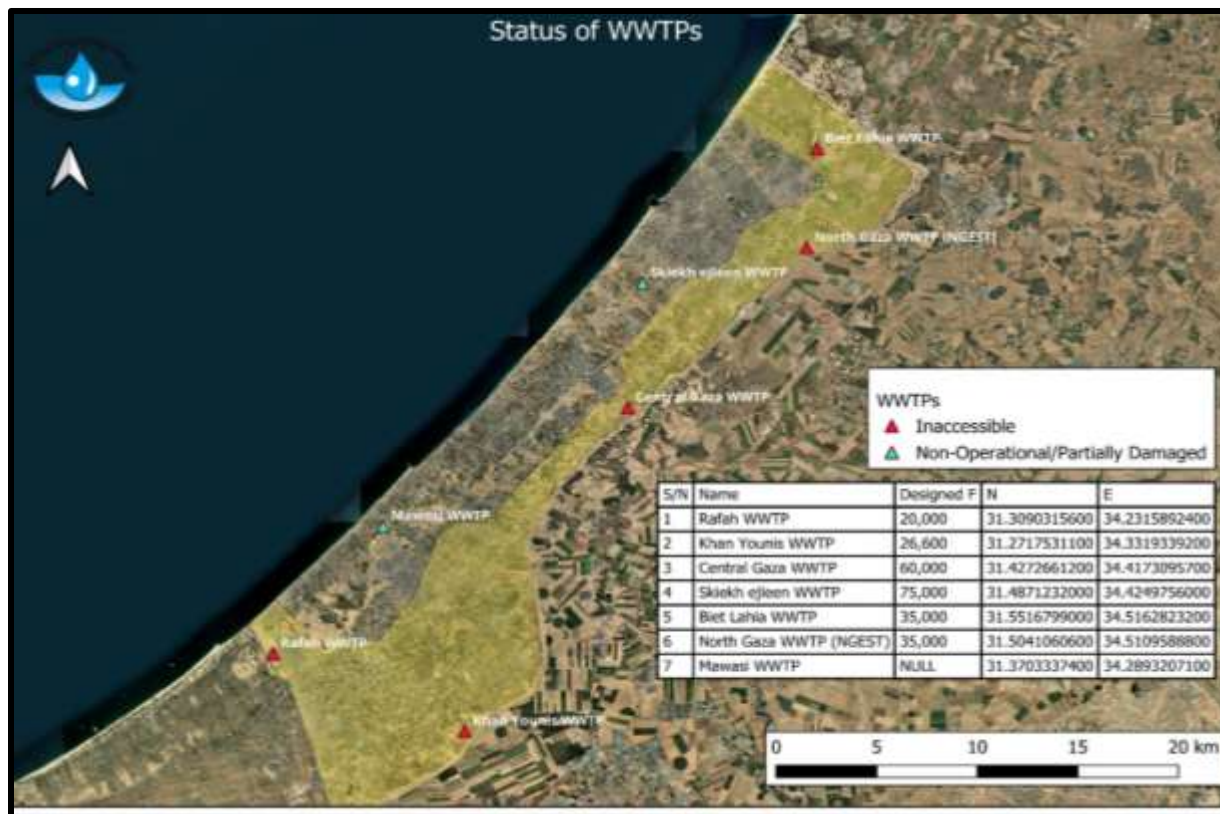


2.3.2 Operation of Wastewater Treatment Plants

There were five operational wastewater treatment plants in the Gaza strip, three of them were 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.

Besides these main WWTPs, there were two wastewater treatment plants in Khan Younis (Al Mawasi) and Beit Lahia that were decommissioned following the construction and operation of the central WWTPs. These plants also sustained damage during the war and they are the only accessible plants out of these seven facilities.

During the war the operation of the three central plants (KHHWTP, BWWTP and NWWTP) stopped due to the severe destruction in their main structures. Also, the operation staff could not reach these plants as they are located in the yellow area *as shown in the below map*. As a result of this stoppage, currently most of the generated sewage is diverted to the sea without treatment causing pollution along the coastal side.



1- KHWWTTP

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. In year 2024 the CMWU and PWA coordinated for inspection and assessment of the damages of East Khan Younis WWTP (26,600m³/day). The visual inspection showed that the damage can be handled, and based on that, the CMWU has prepared a proposal for recommissioning of KHWWTTP and shared it with the interested donors to be included in their plans for the coming years. 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.

After repeated rejection to visit WWTP. On 17 February 2026, approval was finally granted, and technical staff from UNDP, PWA, and CMWU, accompanied by the assigned consultant, carried out a visual inspection for all plant components.

Based on the site inspection and the available satellite imagery, the consultant has commenced the preparation of the tender documents required for the repair and rehabilitation works. The documents are expected to be submitted for review in June 2026.



2- CGWWTP

In June 2024, CMWU and PWA coordinated for an inspection visit to Gaza Central Wastewater Treatment Plant (GCWWTP). The visual inspection revealed that several plant's components and structures had sustained severe damage.

Approximately two years later, UNICEF, supported by a KFW has requested a coordinated site visit. On 11 February 2026, approval was issued by CLA for UNICEF staff to access the site. The team conducted a visual inspection, which confirmed that multiple structures and components were damaged. However, due to limited time and the extent of destruction, the team was unable to inspect some underground infrastructure, as well as certain rooms on upper floors and rooftops.

The findings from both inspections should be further analyzed by a team of wastewater treatment experts to support the preparation of a comprehensive technical assessment. A detailed assessment mission, involving a multidisciplinary team, is recommended and would require approximately 2 to 4 weeks on site. This mission should be supported by manual laborers and excavation equipment to enable access to facilities and underground networks currently obstructed by rubbles.



3. Sheikh Ejleen WWTP

In order to mitigate the floods and sewage crisis in Gaza city, the CMWU has launched a consultancy service for assessment and developing the needed tender documents for recommissioning of Sheikh Ejleen WWTP which is the only accessible WWTP. The recommissioning includes two phases, the first for maintenance works to ensure sewage stabilization and anaerobic treatment where the second phase for reconstruction and upgrading works to treat the received sewage from Gaza city within the acceptable standards before discharging to the sea.

The consultant has been working to finalize the detailed design documents for the two phases to be submitted in June for CMWU and concerned parties review and approval.

On the other hand, the CMWU through UNICEF support has nearly completed the cleaning and rehabilitation works at the WWTP. The cleaning activities were carried out using appropriate machinery and equipment, with the removed sludge transported to the designated sludge drying beds within the treatment plant.

The works also included pumping out accumulated water that was hindering the cleaning operations, removing weeds and uncontrolled vegetation spread throughout the plant and around the treatment ponds, as well as clearing the debris of the destroyed administration and laboratory building and transporting the waste to environmentally approved disposal sites.

In addition, localized maintenance works were completed on the concrete basins, including the repair of cracks and various damages resulting from previous operation and cleaning activities. The control gates were also serviced, loosened, and lubricated to ensure their operational readiness and ease of use when the plant resumes operation.



4. NGWWTP

After several attempts, approval was granted to visit and assess the damage at the North WWTP. The approval was limited to a small number of technical staff, and the CMWU was the only local entity present during the visit. The inspection revealed that the damages are primarily concentrated in the following facilities:

- The administration buildings
- The power system and air blowers building, including generators, transformers, blowers, and electrical panels
- The gas balloon system and its associated components

- The solar PV power system and its accessories
- The odor treatment system
- Various electrical panels across all buildings have been subjected to theft and vandalism

As for the remaining facilities, they have not suffered structural damage; however, most of the electro-mechanical equipment requires maintenance and rehabilitation due to corrosion and prolonged shutdown under harsh environmental and technical conditions.

2.4 Providing Fuel to Operate WASH Facilities

Through UNICEF fund, the CMWU in cooperation with UNRWA still provides WASH facilities in the Middle and Khan Younis 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.

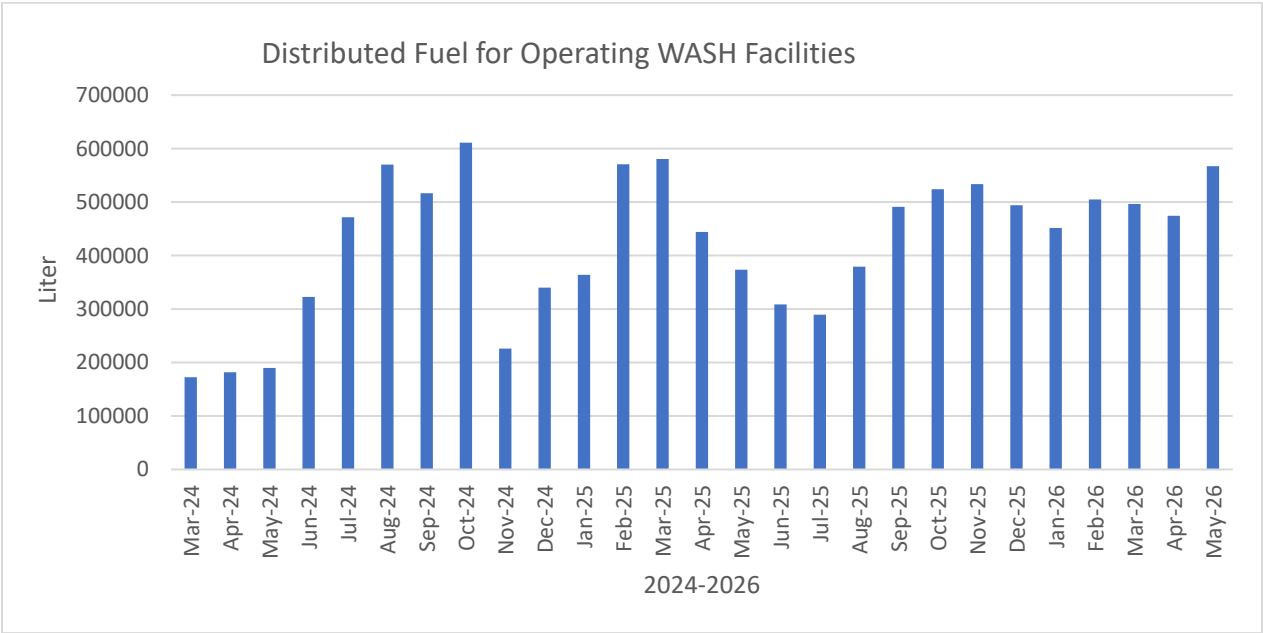


The CMWU constantly strives to secure a regular supply of fuel without interruptions, as diesel generators are currently the backbone of all WASH facilities following the complete cutoff of power supplies since the onset of the war. In collaboration with PWA, the CMWU is making every effort to obtain limited quantities of fuel to maintain minimal operation of the facilities. This situation has significantly impacted wastewater services and water supply, which have been already deteriorating over the past months.

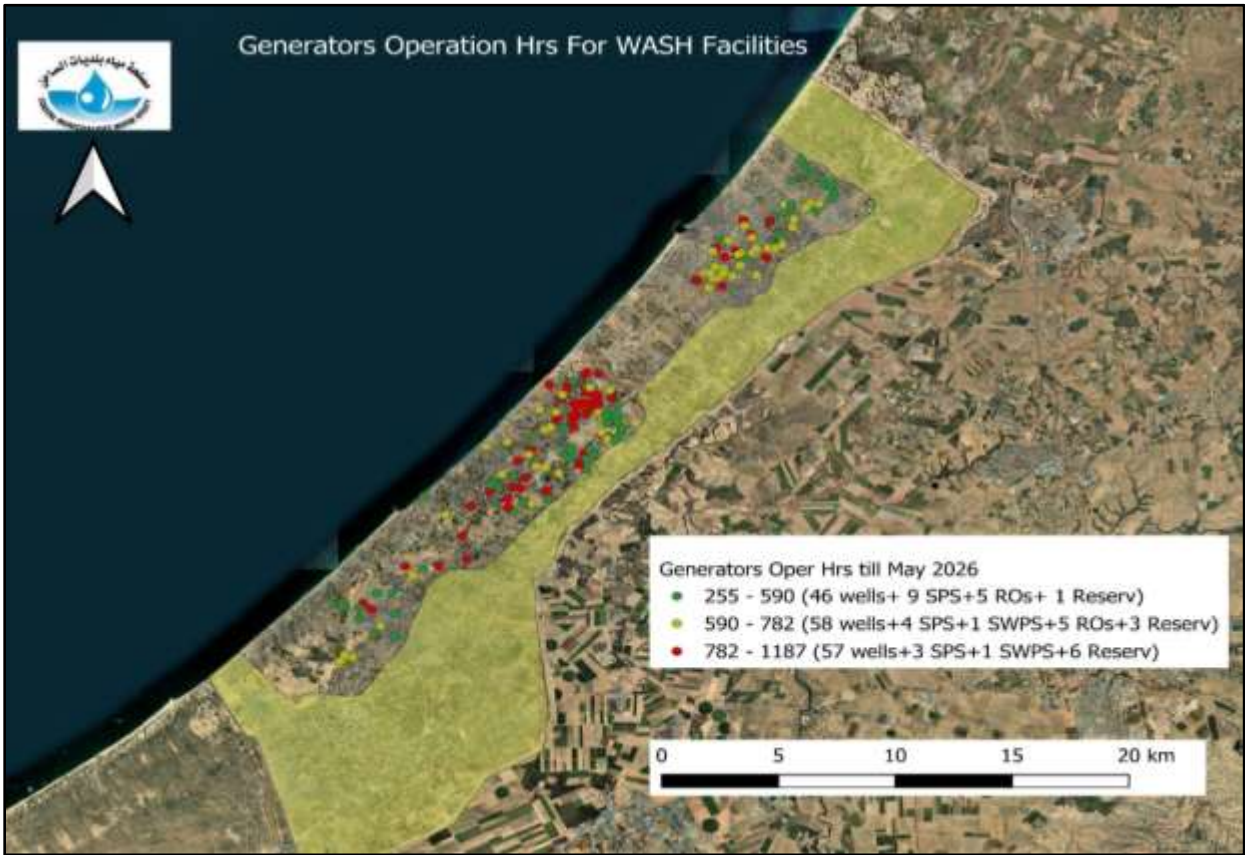
The figure below illustrates fuel distribution to WASH facilities in the middle and southern governorates from March 2024 to May 2026. Fuel distribution remained relatively stable during the past months. However, the main challenge affecting the operation of WASH facilities is the shortage of lubricant oils, as the Israeli authorities continue to restrict their entry. This threatens the operation of generators, most of which have exceeded the allowable operating hours and require oil replacement *as indicated in the below map*.

The CMWU has appealed to international organizations to facilitate the entry of these oils; however, no response has been received so far. The shortage is expected to worsen during the upcoming

summer months, as facilities will need to operate for longer hours to meet minimum demand, particularly due to increased water needs for hygiene during the summer season.



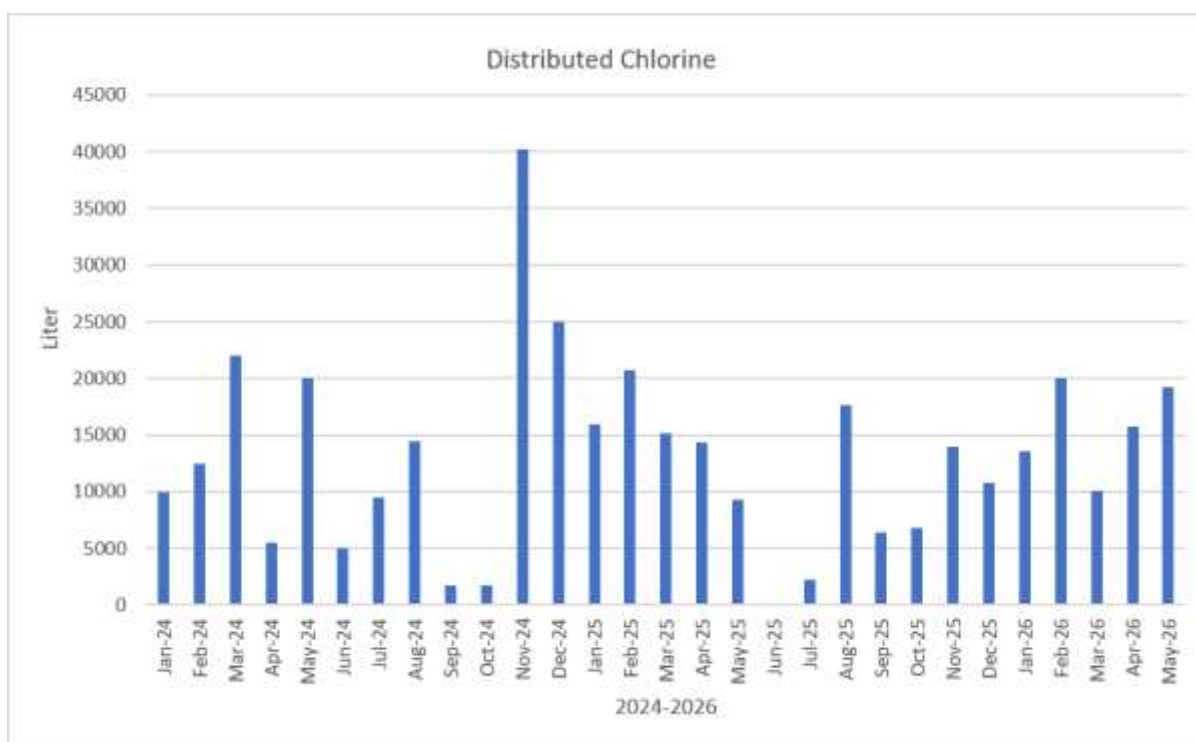
Distributed fuel for operation WASH facilities



Generators Operation Hrs. - WASH Facilities till May 2026

2.5 Supply Chlorine for Water Disinfection

Through UNICEF and ICRC funds, 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 responded to these requests and has been successfully supplying adequate quantities of chlorine for water supply facilities as shown in the figure below.



Chlorine Supply during 2024-2026

Under CMWU water quality monitoring Program:

The CMWU laboratory team continues to carry out intensive field inspections to test, calibrate, and adjust chlorination and disinfection systems at various water production wells on a regular basis. This effort aims to ensure the quality and safety of the water supplied to residents and displaced people across different areas of the Gaza Strip. These efforts include close monitoring of all

production facilities, contributing to the maintenance of high standards of water quality and public health safety. These efforts reflect CMWU's ongoing commitment to protecting public health and delivering safe and sustainable water services.

2.6 Water Supply and Water Trucking Services

2.6.1 Water Distribution to Various Shelters and UNRWA Schools

The CMWU continues to provide shelters, UNRWA Schools and residential areas with potable water, particularly in response to the growing demand for drinking water amid the ongoing Israeli war on the Gaza Strip. In May 2026 the CMWU in cooperation with international and local partners has distributed approximately **93,750 cubic meters** of water through its owned and hired water trucks.



2.6.2 Installation of Water Bladders and tanks at IDPs site

The CMWU is still working on distribution water tanks and bladders to shelters besides assessing the proposed locations for the new installation. In May 2026 only one water bladder of 5m3 capacity has been installed in one of IDPs sites in Khan Younis.

2.6.3 Water Trucking Services

CMWU tankers continue to distribute drinking water to residents and IDP shelters across all Gaza Strip governorates to alleviate the suffering caused by the ongoing crisis. Water trucking services remain essential, particularly as Mekorot supply is limited and frequently disrupted due to repeated damages. The CMWU fleet of 53 owned trucks including the newly supplied trucks through UAE are all efficiently operational to serve in all Gaza strip areas to ensure water distribution coverage and improve water services to an acceptable level particularly during this critical time.



2.6.4 CMWU Mobile Lab:

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

The current tests that are conducted by the CMWU lab including the following partmeters

No.	Test Parameter
1	Turbidity
2	PH
3	Electrical Conductivity
4	Total dissolved Solids (TDS)
5	E.coli
6	Fecal Coliform



2.7 Repairing and Fixing the Damages of Infrastructure and WASH Facilities

2.7.1 ICRC Financed Emergency Interventions:

Agreements have been signed among 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- Service Works for Repairs of Water Wells, Production and Pumping Facilities

Repair works in May 2026 took place at the following water facilities:

Item	Facility	Municipality	Description	Lat.	Long.
1	USAID Res. Well	Nusairat	Operation the well after completion maintenance works of submersible pump.	34.386642	31.447314
2	Al-Somod camp Well	Rafah	Rewinding of submersible pump 20 HP.	34.273552	31.345388
3	Najjar - Kartia well	Nusairat	Maintenance work of submersible pump 20 HP.	34.389800	31.447620
4	Basmet Amal Camp's well	Rafah	Rewinding of submersible pump 5.5 HP, and the work includes: - installation the pump after performing the necessary maintenance.	34.288724	31.375085



2- Hiring Heavy Machineries for water and wastewater Repairs

The contract has been extended to cover the urgent repairs of water and wastewater damages in all governorates. The following includes the repairs that have been implemented under this contract in May 2026

Municipality	Description
Khan Younis	The works included: - Install water and wastewater pipe different diameters. - Maintenance works of water and wastewater pipe different diameters. - Clean works for sewage lines and Manholes. - Searching and detection work of sewage manholes. - Remove all waste concrete elements on wastewater line & Open Roads.
Dair Al-Balah	The works included: - Install water and wastewater pipe different diameters. - cleaning and maintenance of sewage pipelines - Maintenance works of water pipe different diameters & gate valve. - Remove all waste concrete elements on water line & Open Roads.
Gaza and Jabalia	The works included: - Install water and wastewater pipe with different diameters. - Maintenance of water and wastewater pipes with different diameters. - Cleaning works for sewage lines and Manholes & pumping stations. - assessment and inspection the damages of sewage manholes. - Remove all waste concrete elements of wastewater lines





3- Hiring Water Wells in Khan Younis

Through ICRC support, CMWU has renewed the agreement to hire four private water wells in Khan Younis, increasing their production from 1,200 m³/day to 3,000 m³/day to serve the IDPs at Al Mawasi area, which is now hosting thousands of IDPs.

In parallel, CMWU continues its efforts to repair damaged water wells and to connect IDP camps in Al Mawasi area to the public water network, aiming to replace the reliance on hired wells with public services. Recently, CMWU, in cooperation with Oxfam, completed Phase I and II of connecting a number of IDPs camps previously served by hired wells to the UAE pipeline, which supplies desalinated water from the Egyptian desalination plant. In the same time the contract of the hired wells is still ongoing until connecting more areas with public networks to ensure stability of water supply.

2.7.2 Maintenance of Sewage Networks at Naser Hospital-Khan Younis

The CMWU with support from Oxfam carried out maintenance works for Naser hospital sewage network in Khan Younis. These works were implemented in response to blockages that had recently affected the network and disrupted hospital operations.

The interventions also included the installation of stormwater drainage gullies in front of CMWU's main warehouses to reduce water accumulation resulting from filling points associated with the desalination plant, which had been causing public health and environmental nuisances.

These efforts are part of ongoing initiatives to improve the efficiency of infrastructure systems and enhance sanitary conditions at critical facilities.



2.7.3 Maintenance of Al Mahata water well in Al Qarara

The CMWU through Eco peace fund has commenced emergency maintenance works at Al Mahata water well in Al Qarara to ensure the continuous provision of safe drinking water to the beneficiaries. The interventions included the following:

- Dismantle of existing destroyed steel container and transferred it to Al Qarara municipality store.
- electromechanical works for well's component through replacement all damaged and non-functional equipment



2.7.4 Rehabilitation of Al Hawaber Sewage Pumping Station in Jabalia

The CMWU through UNICEF support has started the rehabilitation works at AL Hawaber sewage pumping station in Jabalia, the works include maintenance of pumps, manifold, electrical panels and cleaning the wet pit

This project forms part of CMWU's ongoing efforts to address urgent humanitarian needs and reduce the environmental and public health risks associated with sewage flooding, through the rehabilitation of key pumping stations and transmission pipelines to enable the safe transfer of wastewater and prevent flooding in residential areas.



2.7.5 Maintenance and commissioning of Qarmout desalination plant in Jabalia

The technical teams of the CMWU carried out maintenance, installation, and commissioning works for "Qarmout" Water Desalination Plant in Jabalia, which has a production capacity of 8 cubic meters per hour. The intervention aims to serve residents and displaced people in Jabalia, particularly with the onset of the summer season and the increasing demand for safe drinking water amid the scarcity of water resources and the challenging conditions currently facing the Gaza Strip.



2.7.6 Hiring Heavy Machineries and labors for Emergency Repairs

The CMWU through UNICEF support and under hiring machineries and labors contract has carried out many of emergency maintenance works for water and wastewater networks and facilities in the areas of Jabalia, Beit Lahia, Gaza City, the Middle Governorate, and Khan Younis. The works including cleaning and maintenance of sewage manholes, dismantling pipes, replacement the damages parts of pipelines and many repairs that ensure continuity of water and wastewater essential services.





2.7.7 Maintenance of Al Rawda Desalination Plant in Al Zawaiyda

The technical teams of the CMWU as part of their ongoing efforts to ensure the continuity of water services across the Gaza Strip, carried out emergency maintenance works at Al Rawda Well Desalination Plant in the Al-Zawaida area. The plant has an operational capacity of 12 cubic meters per hour. These interventions were undertaken to prevent service interruptions and ensure the continued provision of water to residents, particularly under the current circumstances, with the onset of the summer season and the increasing demand for safe drinking water.

These activities are part of CMWU's regular monitoring and maintenance program for desalination plants, contributing to improved operational efficiency and the sustainable supply of desalinated water to the population.



2.7.8 Construction of Five Water Wells in Gaza and Khan Younis

The CMWU through UNICEF support has completed the construction of four out of five water wells. Two of these are municipal wells with a production capacity of 60 m³/hr, located in Al-Zaytoon area in Gaza City and in the Western Camp area of Khan Younis which is still ongoing.

The works of the remaining three secondary wells 8m³/hr also completed. These wells are located in Al-Sabra and Al-Sheikh Radwan in Gaza City, while the third is located in Al-Shorouq Camp in Khan Younis

S/N	Well capacity	Location	GPS	
1	60 m3/hr	Gaza, Zytoon	31.50064	34.45238
2	60 m3/hr	Khan Younis, Camp	31.35218	34.28893
3	8m3/hr	Gaza, Sabra (Al Moghrabi)	31.50697	34.44823
4	8m3/hr	Gaza, Sheikh Redwan	31.53357	34.46666
5	8m3/hr	Mawai , Shorok Camp	31.33431	34.25753



2.7.9 Rehabilitation of Northern UN Well-Khan Younis

The CMWU through Oxfam fund and in cooperation with PEF has completed the rehabilitation works of “Northern UN well” water well in Khan Younis City, as part of ongoing efforts to improve water services and meet the needs of residents and displaced people in the western areas.

The well serves the western neighborhoods of the city, supplying water to “Al-Buraq” reservoir, which in turn distributes water to several neighborhoods, including the Japanese Neighborhood, Emirati Neighborhood, Dutch Neighborhood, Western Camp, and Al-Amal neighborhood.



2.7.10 Rehabilitation of Civil Defense and Qozaat water wells in Gaza

With support from Oxfam and ESDC, CMWU is undertaking the rehabilitation of two water wells in Gaza City. The works include the maintenance and replacement of well pumps, manifolds, main transmission pipelines, and electrical control panels, as well as the construction of steel structures for the well facilities.

These wells serve more than 30,000 residents in the southwestern part of Gaza City and will contribute to improving the reliability and continuity of water supply services in the area.



.2.7.11 Maintenance of Sewage Pumping Stations

The CMWU through Oxfam support has completed the maintenance and cleaning of 13 sewage pumping stations including 7 sewage PS in Khan Younis, 2 in Dair Al Balah, 1 in Zawiya, 1 in Al Nussirat and 2 stations in Gaza city.



2.7.12 Maintenance of Water Networks in Tal Al Hawa Neighborhood in Gaza

The CMWU through Oxfam and ESDC support is currently working on maintenance part of damaged water and wastewater networks in Tal Al Hawa area west of Gaza city. This project aims to improve the water services in this vital area and provide safe and reliable water access for more than 20,000 residents



2.7.13 Maintenance of Shabab and Al Reyada water well in Gaza

With support from PARC and CARE, CMWU is currently carrying out rehabilitation and maintenance works at Shabab and Reyada water well in Gaza City. The works include the maintenance of well pump, manifold, and electrical control panels, in addition to the construction of well rooms using steel-sheet structures.

This well serves thousands of residents in western Gaza City, providing a reliable source of safe water and contributing to the continuity of essential water supply services for the surrounding communities.



2.7.14 Maintenance of sewage networks in Khan Younis

With support from NRC, CMWU is carrying out maintenance works on damaged sewage networks in three locations in Khan Younis, in order to reduce the risk of sewage flooding and mitigate associated environmental and public health hazards.



2.7.15 Maintenance of Water Wells in Beit lahia and Gaza city

With support from NRC, The CMWU is carrying out maintenance works for two water wells in Beit lahia and one in Gaza city. the works includes maintenance the wells pumps, manifolds, pipelines, electrical equipments, in addition to construction wells room from steel structurers. The project aims to improve and provide reliable water access for more than 30,000 inhabitants living under severe conditions



2.7.16 Installation of Water Filling Point at Al Manshiya Desalination Plant

With support from NRC, The CMWU is working on installation of water filling point at Al Manshiya desalination plant which recently constructed and operated by CMWU. This plant produces daily around 450 m3 of desalinated water which is distributed to people through water trucking and to enhance the filling station additional filling point is currently installed for Al Manshiya DP.

3 Needs Assessment of Water and Wastewater Infrastructure throughout the Gaza Strip

Through UNICEF support, two consulting firms signed contracts with UNICEF to conduct the needs assessment and prepare the tender documents for the WASH damages. A team from PWA, CMWU, and municipal staff have been dedicated to closely following up on the progress of both assignments. The progress of the two assignments is as follows:

- ✓ **Provision of Consulting Engineering Services for Detailed Needs Assessment and Tender Documents for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure in Southern Area; Khan Younis and Deir El Balah**

The Consultant submitted the Damage Assessment Report for 85 assessed water wells for review and approval, with the aim of confirming the specific wells to be taken forward for the preparation of the Bill of Quantities (BOQ), Also, 16 sewage pumping station have been assessed, and the assessment for the water tanks and stormwater pumping station is ongoing as the below table:

Type	Assessed
Water Wells	69
Wastewater Pumping Station	16
Water Tanks and Pumping stations	21
Stormwater pumping stations	7

The field visits to Water and Wastewater networks that were completed by the Consultant's Team are shown in the dashboard as per the link below. The Consultant's Team was accompanied by Khan Younis municipality's engineers, See link below for further dashboard presentation <https://dash.rai-consult.com/Unicef-enhanced-dashboard>



✓ **Provision of Consulting Engineering Services for Detailed Needs Assessment and Tender Documents for Water and Wastewater Infrastructure in Southern Area; Gaza and North**

Significant progress has been achieved in the assessment of groundwater wells, water reservoirs and booster stations, wastewater pumping stations, and stormwater pumping stations.

- **Water Wells:** A total of 102 wells has been assessed, primarily located in the municipalities of Gaza, Jabalia, and Beit Lahia.
- **Water Reservoirs and Booster Stations:** Water reservoirs and associated booster stations were identified in Gaza, Jabalia, Beit Lahia, Beit Hanoun, Al Mughraqa, and Wadi Gaza municipalities. Assessment completion in Gaza, Jabalia, and Beit Lahia municipalities ranges between 50–75%. Facilities located in Beit Hanoun and Wadi Gaza remain pending assessment due to inaccessibility (east of the Yellow Line).

- **Wastewater Pumping Stations (WWPSs):** A total of 32 wastewater pumping stations were identified across municipalities within the scope. Assessment completion rates range between approximately 50% and 89% in Gaza, Jabalia, and Beit Lahia municipalities. Facilities located in Beit Hanoun and Umm Al Nasser remain pending assessment due to accessibility constraints.
- **Stormwater Pumping Stations (SWPSs):** A total of 5 stormwater pumping stations were identified in Gaza and Jabalia municipalities. Assessment completion for these facilities has reached 100%.
- **For Pipelines:**

The assignment has now advanced into network-level assessment. During the previous reporting period, the assessment scope was expanded to include pipelines in Gaza Municipality, covering approximately:

- 91.59 km of water pipelines;
- 54.61 km of wastewater pipelines; and
- 6.89 km of stormwater pipelines.

In Jabalia Municipality, the assessment covers approximately:

- 82.02 km of water pipelines;
- 63.38 km of wastewater pipelines; and
- 5.90 km of stormwater pipelines.

In Beit Lahia Municipality, pipeline assessments during the current reporting period covered approximately 10.31 km of water pipelines and 35.43 km of wastewater pipelines, achieving near-complete coverage of both networks in accessible areas

- The assessment process has produced a standardized, georeferenced dataset and interactive dashboards, enabling rapid visualization of damage patterns, operational status, and emerging priorities across the assessed municipalities.

- ✓ An interactive GIS dashboard has been developed as part of the assessment to provide UNICEF and partners with direct access to detailed, georeferenced assessment results for WASH facilities. The dashboard supports rapid visualization of damage, operational status, and priority needs and is available at :
- ✓ **Wells** : <https://giscep.site/gisportal/apps/dashboards/f1dfb0d08ded429c8b039499a1759e4b>
- ✓ **Water Reservoirs and Booster Stations :** <https://giscep.site/gisportal/apps/dashboards/45e5ee2552cf473bb309cb069110e027>
- ✓ **Pumping Stations :** <https://giscep.site/gisportal/apps/dashboards/e3d8acc41d6a46779e39cc8c93d1b129>
- ✓ **Username:** guest01 **Password:** guest@20298%\$#

4 Challenges:

- 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.
- Prevention the Entry of Lubricant Oils for Generators and Water trucks: The Israeli side continues to prevent the entry of lubricant oils, threatening the operation of WASH generators as well as water and sewage trucks.
- Cutting off Mekorot water: frequent cutting 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.
- 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 25 liters per person per day.
- 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.
- 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 these attempts did not succeed in convincing the Israeli side to approve the coordination requests.

- 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.
- 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 as 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.
- Fuel Shortage: As a result of the continued Israeli ban on the entry of materials into Gaza since the collapse of the ceasefire in March 2025, a severe fuel shortage has occurred. This has directly impacted on the operation of water and sanitation facilities, which rely on fuel to power their generators.
- Accessibility and Security Challenges: Military operations and the location of several facilities near the yellow line have also severely affected access to water and wastewater facilities, hindering their operation. This has significantly disrupted service provision, particularly in light of the already limited water resources.