



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

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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 12 water tanker trucks, the distributed water up to date is more than 360 million liters. Moreover, the CMWU has rented 8 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 9 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 200 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 2 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. 70,000 liters has 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 210 million dollars, 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.

1. 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 central and southern governorates cities , such as Al-Maghazi, Al-Bureij, Khanyounis governorate, and the eastern villages of Khanyounis, where the displaced are currently concentrated in the city of Rafah with about 1.5 million people (0.35 million people originally from Rafah and 1.15 million displaced from other areas in the Gaza Strip), 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 130 days 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, in addition with the destruction of the northern seawater desalination plant and severe 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 population in open areas along the coastal side and the Egyptian border, “Salah al-Din Corridor or the so-called “Philadelphia Corridor.”

The capabilities and resources available in Rafah area, is represented by 33 water wells with a production capacity of 26 thousand cubic meters / day of domestic water, have been negatively affected due to the conservative operation of electrical generators that operate on diesel fuel, so that the amount of water produced is insufficient to meet 1.5 million people water demand in

Rafah. However, a new water resource was also added during the war in western Rafah, by the construction of a seawater desalination plant with a capacity of 2,400 m³/day. It was established inside the Egyptian territory with funding from the United Arab Emirates through the Gallant Knight "3" Relief Operation Humanitarian aid, in order to enhance the ability to distribute fresh drinking water within the city of Rafah and various places of displacement. Given that the places of displacement are located in western open areas and there are no water networks, CMWU was obliged to supply water to citizens through a tankering system of water trucks 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 tanks to distribute water in Rafah, western Khan Yunis, and the municipalities of the Central 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 operational areas and are subject to severe siege and not fuel is't 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 the war:

2.1 Operating the seawater desalination plant – Middle Area

The CMWU is working to continue operating the seawater desalination plant in the Middle area (Al-Bassa) in order to provide drinking water to the people in the displacement areas in the camps of the Central Governorate. The plant's production rate at the start of the war was 1,200 cubic meters / day and it was in abad need to be maintained. CMWU maintenace team managed to repair the plant was which enabled the CMWU to supplying about 80 thousand people / day, whether through the water network supply system, water transportation tanks 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.



Repairing Al Bassa Seawater Desalination plant-Middle Governorate



Providing displaced people with deslianted water-Middle Area

2.2 Providing UNRWA schools with drinking water:

The CMWU has been supplying 97 UNRWA schools' shelters with drinking water since the beginning of the war through a contract signed with the UNRWA. The following is a list of the schools' shelters that are supplied with water. The average water supplied to sIDPs is 150 cubic meters per day. The CMWU has signed an addendum to the contract with UNRWA in January 2024.

No.	Name of school	No.	Name of school
1	Rafah Preparatory Girls A	68	Preparatory age
2	Al-Khwarizmi School	69	Rafah Primary Boys “A”
3	Rafah Preparatory Boys A	70	Rafah Girls Preparatory School “B”
4	Rafah Preparatory Girls Dr	71	Rafah Girls Preparatory School “A”

5	Rafah Preparatory Boys and Girls	72	Rafah Girls Preparatory School "D"
6	Khawla School	73	Rafah Common Primary "C"
7	Rafah Primary Boys B	74	Mecca Preparatory Boys
8	B Preparatory Boys School	75	Dammam Joint Preparatory School
9	Rafah Common Primary School	76	Tal Al-Sultan Preparatory Girls
10	Rafah Primary Boys A	78	Rafah Preparatory Girls "C"
11	Rafah Preparatory Boys C	79	Rafah Preparatory Boys
12	Rafah Girls Preparatory School B	80	Rafah stores
13	Ibn Al-Haytham School	81	Riyadh Primary Boys
14	Al-Zahraa Girls School	82	El Geneina Preparatory Girls
15	Flower of cities	83	Rafah Common Primary School
16	Fairy Girls Preparatory School	84	Nuseirat Preparatory Boys A
17	Age males	85	Nuseirat Girls Primary School A
18	Rafah Preparatory Girls C	86	Nuseirat Preparatory Boys C
19	Taif	87	Al-Nuseirat Joint Preparatory School A
20	Tal Al-Sultan Preparatory Girls	88	Nuseirat Preparatory Girls E
21	Males of Mecca	89	Hope Girls Primary School
22	Riyadh males	90	Khan Yunis Primary Boys B
23	City school	91	Khan Yunis Girls Preparatory School A
24	Dammam Joint Preparatory School	92	Mustafa Hafez Common Primary School
25	Tal Al-Sultan Preparatory Boys' School	93	Khan Yunis Joint Primary School E New Preparatory Girls
26	Tal Al-Sultan Girls Primary School	94	Khan Yunis Training College
53	Mustafa Hafez Primary A and B Boys	95	Bani Suhaila Preparatory Girls
54	Khan Yunis Joint Primary A	96	Bani Suhaila Preparatory Boys A
55	Hope Girls Preparatory School	97	Maan Preparatory Girls
56	Khan Yunis Joint Primary School Dr	98	Al-Farabi Common Primary School
57	Khan Yunis Primary School Boys E	99	Shared preparatory decision
58	Jeddah School	100	Al-Qarara Preparatory Boys A
59	Tel Sultan Clinic	101	Ma'an Preparatory Boys A
60	Rafah East Distribution Center	102	Al-Fokhari Girls Primary School
61	Western Distribution Center	103	Al-Fakhari Preparatory Boys
62	Rafah Common Primary "A"	104	Mustafa Hafez Primary A and B Boys
63	Al-Khansaa Joint Preparatory School	105	Nuseirat Preparatory Girls Ahan Yunis
64	Ibn Sina Joint Primary School "A"/Al-Preparatory age	106	Nuseirat Preparatory Boys E
65	Razi Joint Primary School	107	Al-Nuseirat Joint Primary School B
66	Khawla Common Primary School	108	Nuseirat Preparatory Girls C
67	Taif Boys Preparatory School	109	Nuseirat Preparatory Girls B
110	Medina Girls Preparatory School	118	Deir Al-Balah Joint A B
111	Tal Al-Sultan Primary School	119	Deir Al-Balah Preparatory Boys A B
112	Nuseirat Preparatory Girls A	120	Deir Al-Balah Primary Boys A B
113	Al-Breij Shared Building in Abu Hamisa	121	Deir Al-Balah Preparatory School for Boys, Al-Hakar
114	Al-Bureij Preparatory Boys B	122	Deir Al-Balah Joint C-D

115	Al-Bureij Girls Preparatory School A	123	Deir al-Balah Joint Preparatory Sc
116	Common puzzles a b	124	Deir Al-Balah Girls Preparatory School A - B
117	Al-Maghazi Girls Preparatory School A	125	

2.3 CMWU-UNICEF agreement of management and operation of the South Desalination Plant -Defects Liability Period -DLP:

In continuation of the role played by the the CMWU with the Palestinian Water Authority and UNICEF, the CMWU has renewed the agreement with UNICEF under the auspices of PWA in order to continue the maintenance period of the South Desalination Plant for a period of 13 months for the period from 01/12/2023 until 31/12/2024 in order to ensure the safe operation of the plant and production continues without any interruption or shortage in the quantities supplied to the southern governorates, as the desalination plants produces water during the war at a rate of 1,600 cubic meters / day, through conservative operation with diesel generators only in order to cover the requirements of the desalinated water tankers and part of the needs of the population in the areas of southwest of Deir al-Balah through Al-Berka water tank and water distribution networks.

2.4 Supply of desalinated drinking water:

Throughout a desalinated water trucking program financed by UNICEF and in partnership with the GVC, 150 cubic meters per day are distributed through tanks owned by CMWU to government schools and shelter centers spread across the southern Gaza Strip. A number of 28 water bladders with a size ranging from 5 to 10 cubic meters supplied by UNICEF were installed and are periodically filled with desalinated water by CMWU water tankers as part of the project activities.



Supply and distribution drinking water for displaced people

2.5 Providing supplies to enhance water access to IDPs:

Cleaning supplies, 10-liter water gallons, and water bladders with capacities ranging from 1.5 to 30 m³, in addition to turbolins were supplied by UNICEF in order to be used for installing portable bathrooms in displacement sites.



Supply water gallons



Supply and distribute water gallons 10 liters capacity

2.6 Agreement for the repair of water and sewage networks in various areas in the southern Gaza Strip:

An agreement was signed with Oxfam to repair water and sewage networks in the southern governorates of Gaza Strip. The project includes only the installation of materials and supply of materials will be throughout another contract between Oxfam and external supplier. The maintenance and repair of water and sewage networks project will be prepared and repair of edamaged water and sewage systems will be proceeded immediately after importing materials from abroad. Meanwhile, CMWU is maintaing the damaged networks by using the materials available in the sub-warehouses.



Reparing Water and WW networks at different Areas in Gaza Strip

2.7 Installing temporary bathrooms and water distribution for IDPs:

An agreement was signed between the CMWU and the Palestinian Environment Friends Association (PEF financed by Oxfam, to implement the following activities within a period of 5 months:

1. CMWU will supply and transport water for domestic use to the shelter centers, provided that CMWU will supply water to the shelter centers, which will be agreed upon with the PEF for a period of 150 days, renewable by an agreement between the two parties.

2. PEF supplies 67 latrines, and work is underway to manufacture them locally, with the factory's commitment to transporting them to the places to be installed. The CMWU is making an agreement with a contractor to install and connect these latrines to the nearest sewage network.

2.8 Activating the Emergency Agreement with ICRC:

An agreement was signed between the CMWU and ICRC to implement a group of emergency-related activities. Some of these activities were implemented, which included:

- 1- A service contract with a local workshop, "Abu Jihad Yassin," to maintain generators for water and sanitation facilities
- 2- Supply 30 batteries to be installed in water and sanitation facility generators
- 3- Supply 2400 liters of Oils for use in generators
- 4- A contract was signed with a local company to supply and install 28 solar-powered pumping systems.
- 5- A supplier was contracted to supply 15 mobile pumps
- 6- A supplier was contracted to supply 9 electrical generators
- 7- A contractor was contracted to supply and install 6 water desalination plants
- 8- Work is underway to supply 100 plastic water tanks with different capacities (1 to 5 cubic meters).
- 9- Work is underway to sign a contract with a local contractor to install 200 latrines in the displacement areas. Work is underway by the Red Cross to coordinate for the entry of materials into the Gaza Strip.

2.9 The installation of conveyor line project to connect the 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, where a 6-inch diameter water pipeline with a length of 1 km was constructed across the border into the Gaza Strip, and was operated in December 2023. The pipeline was connected to the closest water network and also a filling point has been installed. The produced water quality is in conformity with the international and Palestinian standards of drinking water. To expand the area of water supply coverage from this source, a 10-inch diameter HDPE water pipeline was installed to connect the the filling point with the Saudi tank in Rafah, with a length of 3.2 kilometer. All work

has been completed and enabled CMWU to connect the UAE desalination plant to the Saudi tank through which water is pumped to the Tal Al-Sultan area and neighboring areas.

2.10 Supplies from the United Arab Emirates. It was agreed with the Emirates Red Crescent to:

- 1- Supplying 8 water tanks with a capacity of 10 cubic metres.
- 2- Supplying 4 sanitation jettors
- 3- Supplying and installing 11 plastic water tanks with a capacity of 10 cubic meters, which were installed in places of displacement and are filled periodically through water tankures owned by the CMWU



Connecting EUA desalination plant with Water tanks in Rafah area

2.11 Save the Children contract:

A meeting was held with Save the Children Association and work is underway to sign an agreement to carry out the following activities during the coming period:

- 1- Installing 30 water bladders with a capacity of 20 cubic metres
- 2- Installing 20 water bladders with a capacity of 10 cubic metres
- 3- Installing 20 water bladders with a capacity of 6 cubic metres
- 4- Installing 50 water stand taps
- 5- Transporting and supplying drinking water to all displacement areas wherever water tanks or water bladders were installed

2.12 Saudi Center for Culture and Heritage:

A meeting was held with a representative of the Saudi Center for Culture and Heritage in order to discuss and agree on the need to implement various activities during the war and after the war ends. As for the activities currently required, the following was submitted to the Saudi Center for Culture and Heritage:

- 1- Supplying water tanks with a capacity of 5 m³ and a capacity of 10 m³
- 2- Supplying spare parts for generators
- 3- Supplying water pipes and sewage pipes
- 4- Supplying sewage jetters

CMWU will provide the representatives of the Saudi Center for Culture and Heritage with its needs of equipment, materials and spare parts after the end of the war on the Goza Strip

2.13 Supplying fuel to water and sanitation facilities:

Since the beginning of the war, UNRWA is supplying fuel for water and sanitation facilities and water tankers, in the Middle, Khan Yunis, and Rafah Governorates with funding from UNICEF. The fuel is supplied to two bulk storage located at the CMWU central warehouse in Khan Yunis and the Bassa seawater desalination plant in the Middle Area from which, the CMWU distributes fuel to the municipalities who operate wells and sewage stations in the three aforementioned governorates, while the Israeli side has refused to allow for the entry of fuel to the northern Gaza Strip since the beginning of the war, despite multiple attempts to enter it.

It is important to highlight that the fuel distribution program is subject to a monitoring by the financing agency, throughout a consulting office that has been appointed by UNICEF to monitor

the fuel distribution program so that fuel is only used in operating the facilities according to a distribution plan that was approved by UNRWA, UNICEF, and the PWA; whereas the water production meters and the generators meters are registered. Water for all water facilities and generator meters. This plan would be a subject of changing based on developments of displacement areas in the southern areas of the Gaza Strip.

2.14 In partnership with Bayader Association, implementing a project to manufacture portable bathrooms (latrines) in places of displacement:

In cooperation with the Bayader Association, the CMWU is supervising the manufacture of portable bathrooms that will to be installed in areas of displacement



2.15 Installation of desalination units with a capacity of 1.25 cubic meters / day

A contract was concluded between the CMWU and Oxfam in partnership with the Palestinian Friends of the Environment Association, in order to implement the following activities through the project:

1. Installation of 6 desalination units with a capacity of 1.25 cubic meters per day. They will be installed in places where a water source is available (water tanks or water wells). The desalinated water will be filled in plastic tanks and distributed to citizens through taps.

2. Distributing water to IDPs for 150 days
3. Also, 20-liter gallons of water will be distributed to IDPs.

2.16 provide Shelters with distinguished desalination units of 16 cubic meters / day

Recently the CMWU has received 4 small portable desalination units from UNICEF, the first of their kind in the Gaza Strip. These units are operated by solar energy and are distinguished by their ability to desalinate various types of water in addition to seawater.

The capacity of each unit is 16 cubic meters per day, and it is pre-equipped and portable in bags in order to facilitate the transportation process from one place to another.

In order to secure the needs of potable water in various places of displacement areas and shelter, the CMWU, in partnership with UNICEF, has installed one of these units in Taha Hussein School shelter in Rafah, where this unit serves 400 families in that shelter.

It is noteworthy mentioning that this advanced and unique unit, which enters service for the first time in Palestine, is capable of desalinating any type of salt water, even sea water, without the use of chemicals and is completely operated by solar energy.





2.17. Repairing Desalination plants in Khan Yunis

To enhance the resilience of citizens in Khan Yunis Governorate and encourage them to return to their homes, the CMWU is distributing desalinated water through water tankers that were recently received from the Emirates Red Crescent. Also The CMWU is repairing water desalination plants eastern of Khan Yunis. A tender was issued to repair the desalination plant of the Cultural Center in Bani Suhaila and Al-Maasara desalination plant, in addition to some wells.



2.18 Repairing the damages of water and WW infrastructures in North of Gaza

Through ICRC fund, The CMWU has contracted a local contractor, Bellavisia Company, to repair the damages of water and sewage systems in Jabalia, north of Gaza Strip. In order to provide the population with water and sanitation services, especially in light of the continuing Israeli war on the Gaza Strip

2.19 Repairing the damages of water and WW infrastructure in Dair Al Balah, Maghazi and Burej

The CMWU through Oxfam fund and in partnership with PEF, contracted a local contractor- Lowder Co. to repair the damages in Dair Al Balah, Maghazi and Al Burej. The work started in Dair Al Balah whereas the main sewage pipeline at Al-Aklouk Street in Deir Al-Balah has been recently repaired. This pipeline was severely damaged as a result of the ongoing Israeli bombing, it caused sewage floods in this vital street



2.20 Damage Assessment and developing A Recovery plan for water supply in Khan Younis

The CMWU has started the damage assessment for water and wastewater infrastructure and facilities in Khan Yunis Governorate, and a recovery plan for water supplies has been developed.

The plan includes distributing rubber water tanks (bladders) with a capacity of 5 cubic meters to be installed in high populated centers. The tanks will be filled with water via water tankers which were received from the United Arab Emirates, in addition to rented water tanks. In parallel, some

wells will also be repaired besides hiring 4 water private wells to cover the increasing demand on drinking water



Damage Assesement campaign in Khanyounis Governorate



2.21 Supply Water Trucking By United Arab Emirates

In continuation with the efforts of the CMWU in Khan Yunis Governorate, and through a support from United Arab Emirates, the CMWU has received two water tankers for distributing water in Khan Yunis Governorate.



Water Tankers donated by the United Arab Emirates

2.22 Construction A temporary Warehouse and operation office for CMWU

Through ICRC fund, a temporary warehouse will be constructed in the southern seawater desalination plant to store the supplied water and wastewater materials for fast and emergency repairs, in addition ICRC supports and provide the mobilization of CMWU emergency operation office from Rafah to the Southern STLV site

2.23 Repairing Damages of water and Wastewater in Jabalia and North Gaza

Through ICRC fund, CMWU signed a contract with BELLA VISTA Co. on 23.04.2024 to repair the urgent damages of water and wastewater in Jabalia and north Gaza to provide the minimum level of services in the Northern Gaza Governorate.

2.24 Providing Fuel to operate WASH Facilities

Through UNICEF fund, the CMWU in cooperation with UNRWA still provides WASH facilities in the Middle Governorate, Rafah and Khan Yunis with fuel, 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 succeeded to supply quantities of fuel from its fuel storage at Al Basa Desalination Plant (middle area) for the benefit of the municipalities of Gaza, Jabalia, and Beit Lahia.



3. Challenges:

3.1. Targeting and destroying the CMWU stores: The CMWU communicated with governmental, international and authorities to consider 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 City, but the Israeli side refused to bring it in, and the CMWU stored the diesel for Gaza City and northern cities in its warehouses in the southern governorates and is still trying to bring it in. .

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: Since the beginning of the war, the Israeli side has deliberately cut off the water supply of the three connections of Mekorot Company's water, which is still not operational at the east of Gaza City, while it has been partially operated in east of Khanyounis and the at the middle area. In addition, the line connecting Mekorot to the east of Khanyounis Governorate has been destroyed, and PWA has tried for more than once to repair the pipeline, but the it was not repaired due to the Israeli side denial for coordinating its repair.

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 te WASH facilities in a reduced capacity by using the already overloaded diesel generators.

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 and the north, 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 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. Cutting off the Electricity Supply: Since the first day of the war, the Israeli side deliberately stopped supplying the Gaza Strip with electricity, which had a significant impact on the population's water supply, as this led to a reduction in the amount of water from 100 liters to 15 liters per person per day.

3.10. 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.

3.11. The damage of 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.

Photos for CMWU Activities



Replacing Water pump-Nusirat



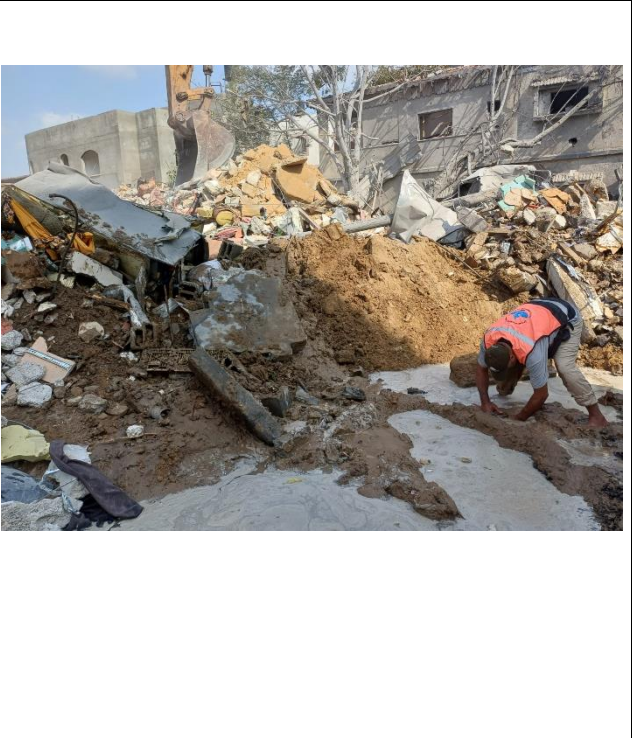
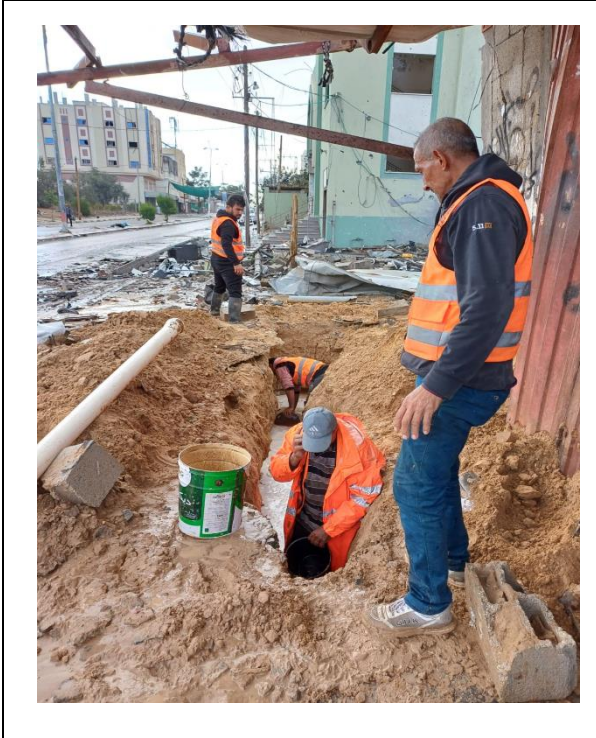
Repairing 12" water pipe at Al naser area



Operating Al Aqsa water well to serve more than 30,000 displaced people at Al Aqsa university

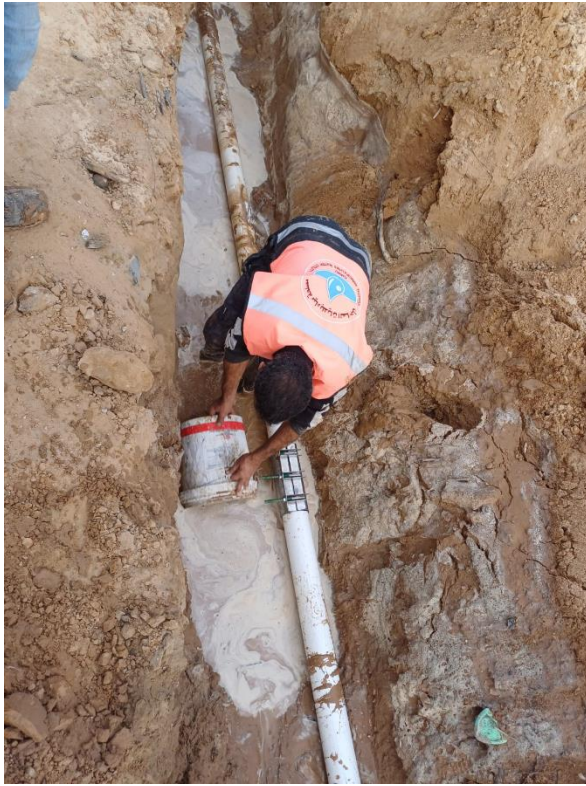


Installation of generator for Al Aqsa university



Repairing water pipes at Khuzaa





Repairing water pipes at Fokhari





Repairing water networks at Abasan Al Kabera



Repairing Mekerot water pipes at Al Nussirat



Connecting Mekerot Water pipes to Dair Al Balah



Repairing water network at Al Nussirat



Repairing WW network at Rafah





Instalaltion of tepmprary Bathrooms at Rafah





Installation of Desalination units of 16 Cubic Meters /Day