

Ceasefire Forecasted Plan and Strategic Vision

Coastal Municipalities Water Utility

CMWU

To be the leading national

2025 - 2029

institution in the provision of water and sanitation services

2025



Coastal Municipalities Water Utility

Tel : + 970 263 2060

Fax : + 970 263 2020

WWW.CMWU.PS

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Coastal Municipalities Water Utility CMWU

Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) is a Semi – Public entity financially independent, responsible for the water supply services, wastewater treatment and disposal in addition to storm water collection. CMWU is a consolidation of the Water Services of 25 Municipalities of Gaza Governorates. CMWU was established according to Ministerial Decree No (1) for the year 1997 issued by the Ministry of Local Government. CMWU has 120000 customers for water and wastewater services. CMWU aims at supporting and developing the water and wastewater sector through drilling water wells, constructing desalination plants, developing water and wastewater networks, maintaining the water and wastewater facilities in addition to constructing and developing wastewater treatment plants.



Also, in accordance with the water sector reform; the main target is to transfer the CMWU to a regional water utility to abide with the Water Law 14/2014

Ceasefire Forecasted Plan & Strategic Vision

✓ Introduction

The Ceasefire forecasted plan and strategic vision is accomplished based on the feeling of responsibility towards the Palestinian community and according to a serious and ambitious vision of the CMWU. It reflects the general framework of priorities, work plans, performance indicators and means of verifications to achieve development goals and objectives towards restoration of the water and wastewater sector especially after the destructive war on Gaza.

Since October 7th, 2023, the start of the war on Gaza over 14 months, more than 46,000 people have been killed, and 1.5 million have been displaced, forced to live under catastrophic and increasingly deteriorating conditions. IDF airstrikes have targeted various infrastructures, including water and wastewater facilities, the CMWU main offices and warehouses, despite providing the Israeli side with the precise coordinates of these facilities through ICRC. Shelling of water supply facilities and water pipelines have caused severe water shortages, while the destruction of wastewater collection networks and pumping systems resulted in hazardous floods. This devastation has triggered a humanitarian and environmental crisis across Gaza, particularly in the southern governorates, where most of IDPs are concentrated.

The recent damage assessment and records show that more than 80% of the water and wastewater infrastructure in the Gaza Strip have been either destroyed or partially damaged, with estimated losses exceeding 680 MUSD. Assessment has been carried out for accessible sites where the satellite imagery reveals extensive damage to critical facilities including water wells, reservoirs, sewage pumping stations, the Northern desalination plant and treatment plants. Additionally, major water supply and sanitation infrastructure have been severely affected.

The Ceasefire forecasted plan and strategic vision of CMWU "2025-2029" comes in line with its role and mission as a pioneer national organization in the provision of water and sanitation services. This plan sets the strategic framework for the operation of CMWU which has been reflected in the plan's objectives and future projects which will mainly concentrate in the reconstruction of the completely damaged facilities (to be built better)



and rehabilitation of the partially damaged ones. Also, in accordance with the water sector reform; transfer the CMWU to a regional water utility to abide with the PWA National strategy. In this regard, CMWU management would like also to thank PWA and MOLG for their support, appreciates all the distinct efforts of the staff and employees in the HQ and all regional offices. CMWU would like also to thank all of its donors and partners who incubated and funded the operation of CMWU assets, its programs and projects. In particular, the UNICEF, ICRC, KFW, WB, OCHA, Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the European Union (EU), AFD, USAID and all other NGOs and international organizations.



Ceasefire forecasted plan and strategic vision Features

CMWU Ceasefire forecasted plan and strategic vision contains three basic strategic priorities for the reconstruction, rehabilitation and development of the water and wastewater sector in the Gaza Strip. These priorities are: Return back the provided water services and sanitation after the devastating war, achieving the sustainability of CMWU operations all over the Gaza Strip, the development of the institutional capacity of CMWU to be the Regional Water Utility in accordance with the water sector reform

A set of objectives and indicators are considered in accordance with the execution of projects over the coming five years; mainly reconstruction and rehabilitation of the existing projects in the water and wastewater sector,

The Ceasefire forecasted plan and strategic vision is based on the following general principles:	
✓ Achieve CMWU objectives and priorities and promote its values.	✓ The sense of justice and non-discrimination on the basis of sex, religion, social class or geographic area.
✓ Support the Palestinian people through the provision of their rights to have safe water and sanitation services.	✓ Adopting new and well-developed working mechanisms and developing creative solutions for the purposes of service providing, management and resources development.
✓ Considering the experience of the CMWU as a service provider and developing new mechanisms taking into consideration the expertise staff in CMWU in the planning, implementation and evaluation fields.	✓ Diversification of resources and building strategic alliances with local, Arab and international NGOs. Establishing partnerships with donors, strengthening the relationship with all stakeholders and considering the local community participation at all times.



CMWU hopes that the Ceasefire forecasted plan and strategic vision is in accordance with the aspirations and hopes of the Palestinian people by meeting their rights to clean water and appropriate sanitation systems. CMWU is working closely with its network of partners, local institutions and international donors to achieve the goals.

Strategic Framework

CMWU is dedicated to review the general framework of its operations periodically in order to ensure responsiveness to the development and emergency needs of the Palestinian society and for better service delivery. The elements of the general framework, which have been approved by the Administration, are:

✓ Our Vision

To be the leading national institution in the provision of water and sanitation services

✓ Our Mission

Providing the Gaza Strip' residents with integrated, distinct, and environmentally safe water and sanitation services through the optimal utilization of available resources and creative solutions.

✓ Our Values

✓ Leadership: CMWU works to raise the level of excellence in the management of water resources and sanitation	✓ Innovation: CMWU staff work on creative ideas to overcome the water crisis and the system damages and provide better services.
✓ Commitment to success: We at CMWU are keen to provide the most appropriate services to the Palestinian community.	✓ Response: We are working in a proactive manner and have a high responsibility to provide on time solutions for water and sanitation problems.
✓ Integrity: According to Law, CMWU practices its managing relation with the relevant stakeholders. CMWU is also seeking to recruit and	✓ Team spirit: The Success of CMWU is based on the work of a diverse and well-coordinated team which is committed to the highest levels of hard

retain skilled and diversified workforces to ensure quality and excellence.	work, cooperation and communication. This team is working effectively with stakeholders, investors, governments and other institutions inside and outside Palestine.
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CMWU Social Responsibility

Water is a vital source for life needed for drinking, agriculture, irrigation, gardening and daily domestic usage. Due to the current war on Gaza strip, the water shortage is very severe. Both the quality and quantity are declining. According to the studies that have been held by CMWU, these problems are due to the destruction of water wells, reservoirs and carrier lines, the continuous shortage of rainfall supply to the aquifer as well as the sea water intrusion to the aquifer. CMWU in cooperation with PWA is working and implementing creative programs to solve the water crises problem in the Gaza Strip. CMWU strategies consider preserving the available resources and working on developing new resources such as seawater desalination. CMWU strategic vision considers responsible organizational and managerial decisions, action plans and all other procedures for the preservation of environmental, social and economic aspects. CMWU considers these aspects for the preservation of water for the present and future generations.

We seek to Secure Water from different resources, Improve the water quality, and minimize the effect of the devastating war



Priorities and Strategic Goals

This section presents the strategic goals and priorities based on a deep diagnosis. The priorities of CMWU are determined to cover the technical field covering the water and wastewater services, the financial field, the institutional reform and the capacity building. These fields of work are interconnected to each other and CMWU can't work on developing any of them separately.

The analysis of the current situation (post war) showed different issues in terms of nature and importance to CMWU. Therefore, these issues were prioritized according to their importance in the next five years.

Prioritized Issues for water and sanitation services

- ✓ Damages of water resources and deterioration of groundwater quality
- ✓ Damages and Low efficiency of water distribution system
- ✓ Damages of Sewage systems and wastewater treatment plants
- ✓ Weakness of the capabilities and loss of facilities required for operations and maintenance
- ✓ Damages of modern systems required to control and test water quality
- ✓ Mixing of Stormwater with sewage collection system.

Strategic goal (1)

Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Improving and developing the water and sanitation services to the citizens

The first strategic goal addresses the core work of CMWU. This goal is the main tool for CMWU vision to be pioneer in the provision of water and sanitation services

Strategic objectives	
Objective (1.1)	Increasing the amount of supplied water and improving its quality
	There are many issues related to this goal such as lack of water resources because of water wells destruction, damage, deterioration of groundwater quality, low efficiency of water systems due to continuous bombing for 14 months and the lack of modern systems for the control and testing of water quality. This priority is reflected by addressing many projects and activities such as reconstruction and rehabilitation of water wells and desalination plants, water reservoirs, new electricity power grids, installation of household meters, new water network systems and carrier lines, equip the water and wastewater facilities with PV system, and increase the Mekorot quantities from Israel to reach 18 Mm3/ year concurrence with reconstruction of carrier lines.
Objective (1.2)	Improving the efficiency of wastewater treatment plants
	The second objective deals with the sanitation service, partial destruction of wastewater treatment plants and the weakness of the capabilities and facilities necessary for the operation and maintenance. The desired improvements are the reconstruction and improving the existing treatment plants, equipping them with PV system, reconstruction pumping stations, and carrier lines.

Objective (1.3)	Improving the efficiency of the operational and maintenance systems
	As a result of destruction of CMWU warehouse, many regional workshops and offices, this priority addresses the issues related to the weak capabilities and facilities needed for the operations and maintenance of water and sanitation networks, improving the offered services and supporting the sustainability of CMWU by selecting the appropriate operating and maintenance systems and reducing the operating expenses. Many projects and activities arise from this priority including preparing the general Plans for the water and wastewater networks, sewerage collection networks, reconstructing the CMWU warehouses and maintenance workshops, linking the services and maintenance system with Geographic Information Systems and training programs for operators and designers.

Strategic goal (2)

Achieving the sustainability in the CMWU plans, programs and services

The second strategic goal concerns improving the financial position of CMWU and achieving the sustainability in CMWU's operations through the implementation of plans, programs and services. The utility wishes to achieve this goal through a series of projects and activities related to this goal in accompany with the other goals' projects and activities.

Strategic objectives	
Objective (2.1)	Enhancing the efficiency of the CMWU financial resources
	Due to the devastating war on Gaza and the damage of houses and the wash systems to around 80% , these will limit the ability of CMWU to issue bills for the first two to three years post war. Afterwards, the CMWU needs to enhance the efficiency of the financial resources and collection rate. Adopt a unified tariff system.
Objective (2.2)	Expanding CMWU service area to include all municipalities and transfer the CMWU to a regional service provider
	Everyone agreed on the development of a strategic goal that embodies the intension of the establishment of CMWU so as to include all the water and wastewater departments of the municipalities under the CMWU administratively and financially. CMWU believes that it is possible to achieve the goal of combining all the municipal water and wastewater departments under one umbrella by promoting the concept of unified service provider for water and sanitation
Objective (2.3)	Improve promoting for the external support of CMWU
	Through the current situation diagnosis, it is clear that there is a weakness in the governmental and external support to the water and sanitation sector. The importance of the water sector increases the importance of improving the promotion for the external support. This goal can be achieved by getting the Governmental endorsement of the decision to consider CMWU as the Regional Water Utility that must be supported according to its responsibility for the most important services that affect the quality of life for the citizens in the Gaza Strip. Besides the signing agreements with major donors to support the operation and maintenance expenses in consensus with PWA.

Strategic goal (3)

The development of the institutional structure of the utility and its local partnerships

This goal comes in parallel with the first and second strategic goals to achieve the vision of the utility to be the pioneer in the provision of water and sanitation services.

Strategic objectives	
Objective (3.1)	Enhancing sustainability of CMWU Role.
	Three years post war; this objective works on many of the important issues for CMWU as it aims to adopt a unified tariff system, raise the collection rate, in addition to reducing the expenditure and seek governmental financial support.
Objective (3.2)	Unifying and integrating the financial, administrative and technical systems.
	After the recovery from the war, this goal addresses many important issues for CMWU by developing internal procedures of the institution which will help in achieving integrity and create an interactive administrative work environment. Also, achieve higher levels of job satisfaction by employees in the institution, and allow the employees to know more about their institution and thus achieve job satisfaction.
Objective (3.3)	Enhancing the image of the CMWU and its communication with the local community
	The Communication with the local community and stakeholders aims at enhancing the image of the public interest and creating a healthy environment for work within the organization and aiming to gain the customers satisfaction.

Action Plan

Performance Measurement Indicators

This part of the Ceasefire forecasted plan and strategic vision reviews the performance measurements indicators of the goals and objectives of the CMWU in the fields of water and sanitation, financial sustainability and Institutional reform. Considering the current values because of the devastating war on Gaza which damages around 80% of the WASH systems either partial or complete

Water and sanitation field				
Strategic goal	Strategic objectives	Indicators	Current value	targeted value
Improving and developing the water and sanitation services to the citizens	Increasing the amount of supplied water and improving its quality	Consumption per capita Liter/capita/day	5-20	70
		TDS	-500 8000ppm	1000ppm
		CL	250-2500 ppm	250-400 ppm
		System efficiency	25%	65%
		disinfection	70%	99%
	Improving the efficiency of wastewater treatment plants	BOD TSS COD	0%	80%
	Improving the efficiency of the operational and maintenance systems	% availability	30%	80%

Financial field and sustainability				
Strategic goal	Strategic objectives	Indicators	Current value	Targeted value
Achieving the sustainability in the CMWU plans, programs and services	Adopting a unified tariff system	Unified Tariff structure	0	1
	Raising the collection percentage	Monthly collection percentage	0%	35%
	Expanding CMWU work to include more municipal water departments	Number of municipalities joined administratively and technically	14	25
	Obtaining governmental legal and legislative support Obtaining of governmental administrative support	Laws support the existence of CMWU by transferring to RWU	1	2
		Administrative governmental support	NA	1
	Obtaining of governmental financial support	The ratio of government support of the total financial support	0	1
	Increase the number of financiers that	Number of financiers who support operational expenses	3	8

	support operational expenses			
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Institutional reform				
Desired value	Current value	Indicators	Strategic objectives	Strategic goal
The development of the institutional structure of the utility and its local partnerships	Activating the regulations and administrative procedures	The existence of an approved unified management system	Not approved	Approved
		The existence of a unified administrative and financial system	0%	100%
	Enhancing job satisfaction and belonging among the CMWU employees	The percentage of employees who are paid salaries outside the compensation system	20%	0%
		Percentage of the employees benefit from the covered training programs	1%	10%
		Percentage of the employees benefit financially from the incentives associated with	0%	10%

		annual performance level		
	Improving the performance and capabilities of CMWU staff	Percentage of strategic objectives achievements	70%	80%
		The ratio of the number of training programs related to the goals - annually	50%	100%
		Proportion of funds allocated annually for training	0%	1.5%
	Enhancing the image of the CMWU and its communication with the local community	Develop awareness programs and social activities for employees	0	1
		Developing the website	0	1
		Increase the public awareness programs	4	20
		The existence of a system to document the levels of complaints from citizens	-	1
		Link complaints to the planning process	Yes	Yes

✓ **Stakeholders Role**

CMWU considers the principle of participation as a main component in the strategic planning process and as a mean of transparency towards achieving its strategies and goals. CMWU relies on the local communities, private sector and all other stakeholders in defining the strategic priorities of the water and wastewater sectors as well as in the decision-making process. In the previous strategic planning, all stakeholders participated in following up CMWU activities, strategic planning and providing support to the working teams. In addition to reviewing the strategic framework of CMWU and prioritizing the strategic projects, stakeholders were following up the achievements of the board of directors of CMWU to ensure the fluency of the implementation of the strategic plan. **This Ceasefire forecasted plan and strategic vision 2025-2029 is urgently prepared to cope with post war reconstruction and rehabilitation activities and transferring the CMWU to a RWU in accordance with the water law and water sector reform.**

Forecasted list of Interventions for WASH Damage Rehabilitation in the Gaza Strip and Institutional arrangement



Gaza – Palestine

January, 2025

Introduction

Since 7th of October 2023; the Israeli war on Gaza has resulted to massive displacement of Gaza Strip population, destroying significant part of the water and sanitation infrastructures besides additional constraints on supply of critical materials and equipment. On 14th October 2023; the Israeli forces geographically divided the Gaza strip into two parts; the first part is the northern areas of Wadi Gaza including the north and Gaza governorates, the second part is the southern areas of Wadi Gaza including the middle area, Khan Younis and Rafah Governorates. Also; the Israeli side asked the residents of the northern areas (around one million people) to evacuate their homes to the southern and middle governorates, and under this threat more than 0.7 million people have evacuated their areas and only 0.3 million stay in the North after 14 months of military operations

As a result of Israeli air strikes and destructive military operations all aspects of life and essential services have severely affected including water supply and sewage services. With displacement of more than 70% of population from the north to the south, the capacity of water and wastewater systems in the southern areas became overloaded and unable to meet the needed demand, whereas the situation is worse in the northern area of Wadi Gaza, as these systems are mostly destroyed and the residents are deprived of humanitarian aids and receive minimal water and wastewater services as only limited fuel is available to operate the remaining functional facilities.

Moreover, electricity has been entirely cut off due to the destruction of networks and the power plant. Only a limited number of WASH facilities remain operational, powered by generators or solar energy, to provide minimal water and wastewater services to residents and internally displaced persons (IDPs). However, relying on generators as the primary power source has placed them at significant risk of failure, as they were not designed for continuous use. Frequent breakdowns occur, and the shortage of repair materials makes it extremely challenging to carry out the necessary maintenance

These challenges, combined with the tight blockade and extensive destruction of key water and wastewater facilities, significantly impede repair efforts and place additional constrain on CMWU's ability to deliver essential services during this crisis.

Background

Since the start of the war on Gaza over 14 months, more than 46,000 people have been killed, and 1.5 million have been displaced, forced to live under catastrophic and increasingly deteriorating conditions. IDF airstrikes have targeted various infrastructures, including water and wastewater facilities and the CMWU main offices and warehouses, despite providing the Israeli side with the precise coordinates of these facilities through ICRC. Shelling of water supply facilities and water pipelines have caused severe water shortages, while the destruction of wastewater collection networks and pumping systems resulted in hazardous floods. This devastation has triggered a humanitarian and environmental crisis across Gaza, particularly in the southern governorates, where most of IDPs are concentrated.

Throughout the conflict, the CMWU has coordinated with PWA, ICRC, UNRWA, OCHA, and UNICEF to enable its teams to repair critical network damages and maintain minimal service levels. However, field operations remain extremely dangerous, and some employees have tragically been killed by the IDF while performing their duties.

Despite of this risky environment, the CMWU in cooperation with WASH partners still provides the essential water and wastewater services , distributing drinking water to IDPs via its owned and rented water tankers, distributing fuel to operate WASH facilities, provides the water supply facilities with chlorine solution for disinfection, in addition to fixing the critical damages to provide the minimal services during this challenging time, where significant destruction to water and wastewater infrastructure and facilities requires urgent intervention post-war.

The recent damage assessment and records show that more than 70% of the water infrastructure in the Gaza Strip has been either destroyed or partially damaged, with estimated losses exceeding 680 MUSD. Assessment has been carried out for accessible sites where the satellite imagery, reveals extensive damage to critical facilities including water wells, reservoirs, sewage pumping stations, Northern desalination plant and treatment plants, Additionally, major water supply and sanitation infrastructure have been severely affected.

Data Accuracy

The recent damages record mainly depends on ground survey, inspection and published assessment reports. Additional Efforts shall be exerted to assure the accuracy of collected information and data. However, considering the nature of airstrikes, and the fact that water and wastewater infrastructure are mostly underground, there is a probability of underground unseen damages which cannot be assessed now. Therefore, only visible damage was recorded with its initial impact on services.

Assessment Methodology

CMWU currently has a daily connection with all water and wastewater staffs at 25 municipal areas to preliminary record the visible and urgent damages, where there are huge damages are unreachable and still not assessed due to security and unsafe conditions. The damages in the part of the southern governorates where 70% of Gaza population displaced can be assessed as the field survey teams can visit the targeted areas after getting the approval from Israeli side and that happens in full cooperation with different municipalities' staff all over the Gaza Strip. The preliminary records about damages shall be checked after the war through establishing a survey system and field visits for inspection and recording. Currently the survey staffs assess the damage and take photos, then GIS team will convert the collected data and information into visual maps showing the destructed infrastructure and facilities location to be shared with the partners before any fixing and repairing interventions.

Damages Assessment

According to recent published damage assessment reports and field survey the losses of water and wastewater sector estimated at over US\$ 682 million, as illustrated in the following table, knowing that the preliminary cost estimate may increase due to un-seen damage under the mass debris;

Damaged Facilities	Estimated Cost (MUS\$)
Groundwater wells	15
Seawater Desalination plants	25
Brackish Desaliantion plant	30
Water reservoir	65
Water networks	135
Wastewater treatment plants	120
Wastewater and stormwater collection networks	170
Sewage and stormwater Pumping Stations	60
CMWU Administrative and operation buildings, lab, and regional offices	3
CMWU warehouses	9
Vehicle and heavy machineries	20
PV solar power generation modules to replace damaged modules at various water and wastewater sites	20
Unseen damages	10
Total USD	682

It is worth mentioning that IDF has used vibration bombs and rockets in the war on Gaza Strip which will lead to more un-seen damage, especially in the water and wastewater networks; there will be un-seen breaks. In this case an additional budget should be allocated for field investigation into faults and breakdowns.

Implementation Plan

To address the urgent needs for water and wastewater services, emergency repair activities have been prioritized to quickly reconnect water and wastewater services in affected areas, ensuring at least minimal service levels. These repairs have focused on key main pipelines, while other networks still require extensive repairs or replacements to restore full functionality. In areas where immediate repairs are not feasible, or where infrastructure is nonexistent such as Al Mawasi in the southern governorates, where large numbers of displaced people have gathered, water is being delivered via mobile tankers.

Following the preliminary damage assessment and ongoing emergency activities in the field, a comprehensive plan has been outlined to fully reactivate water and wastewater services across the Gaza Strip. This plan consists of three phases:

- A. Fast track plan
- B. Intermediate track plan
- C. Long term track plan

A breakdown for each plan is shown in the tables below.

A. Fast Track plan

S/N	Interventions	Budget (MUS\$)	Timeframe
1	Repair and re-operate 40 damaged water wells	1.0	3 months
2	Fast track repairs for the water and wastewater networks.	2.0	6 months
3	Fast track repairs and rehabilitation of sewage pumping stations.	1.0	6 months
4	Supply generators to operate and electrify facilities	2.0	3 months
5	Supply and install 35 mobile seawater and brackish water desalination units' capacity ranges from 50m ³ /day to 100m ³ /day each- autonomous drinking water and domestic water services for community and shelters applications.	3.0	6 months

S/N	Interventions	Budget (MUS\$)	Timeframe
6	Mobilize and deployment of 15 sewers cleaning trucks and sewage vacuum trucks.	2.0	6 months
7	Mobilize at least 20 water trucks CMWU owned or hired tankers	1.0	3 months
8	Supply materials for repairing networks and WASH facilities	3.0	6 months
9	Reconfiguration works in sewage network to dispose the sewage to the sea away from residential areas.	1.50	6 months
10	Carrying out urgent repairs to re operate Al Sheikh Ejleen WWTP, Rafah WWTP and Beit Lahia Wastewater Lagoons at the old WWTP	3.0	6 months
11	Sign frame agreements with CMWU partners to support hiring heavy machinery, labors for repairs and winterization needs.	1.0	6 months
12	Fast track repairs of main sewage Pumping Stations	2.0	6 months
13	Winterization Preparedness and response	2.0	3 months
14	Supply water treatment chemicals and dosing pumps for water desalination and disinfection including water quality monitoring	1.5	6 months
15	Supply diesel fuel and consumable for power generators.	5.0	6 months
16	Contingency	2.0	
Total MUSD		35.0	

S/N	Repair Activity or description	Intermediate Track Plan MUS\$ 0-5 years	Long Track Plan MUS\$ 1-10 years
1	Groundwater wells	10	5
2	Seawater Desalination plants	20	5
3	Brackish Desalination plants	20	10
4	Water reservoir	35	30
5	Water network	65	70
6	Wastewater treatment plants	40	80
7	Wastewater and stormwater collection networks	70	100
8	Pumping Stations	40	20
9	CMWU Administrative and operation buildings, lab, and regional offices	3	-
10	Reconstruction of CMWU warehouses, and supplying all the spare parts needed for maintenance purposes	9	10
11	Vehicle and heavy machineries	15	10
12	PV solar power generation modules to replace damaged modules at various water and wastewater sites	10	10
Sub Total per planning activity (MUS\$)		328	320
In parallel with Repair Interventions the following Needs shall be covered			
1	Supply fuel for operating WASH facilities	40	40
2	Supply chlorine and dosing pumps	5	5
3	Supporting the salaries of CMWU and service providers during recovery period	50	10
4	Unseen damages and contingencies	30	30
Sub Total per planning activity (MUS\$)		125	85

Status of WASH Services in all Gaza Governorates

The current status of WASH services in Gaza Strip is as the follows:

- Water supply accessibility has decreased by 80% since the main water wells have been destroyed and the electricity is cutoff; the water production depends on the generators.
- Cutting off Mekorot water supply since the beginning of the war except the middle area.
- More than 500 KM of the water network is damaged.
- Gaza seawater desalination plant STLVs is damaged and it is not operational
- North Gaza WWTP (or NGEST); the main force which delivers the raw sewage from the Terminal pumping station to the treatment plant was damaged and the WWTP itself damaged.
- The four Sewage pumping stations at Beit Hanoun deliver part of sewage to Wadi Beit Hanoun due to insufficient electricity supply and damage, in addition the gravity line to Terminal PS has been damaged.
- Central WWTPs at Al Bureij and Khan Younis have been severely damaged
- Water reservoirs are partially or completely damaged in different areas
- The sewage pumping stations in Gaza and north are completely or partially damaged.
- More than 100 water wells are damaged.
- A massive Part of the infrastructure in Gaza and north are dismantled by tanks and D9.

Objectives of Water & WW Plan

The purpose of this preliminary plan is to prepare the road map to provide the minimum level of WASH services during the war and also after ceasefire. This plan will be reliable, and affordable

Proposed Measures and interventions

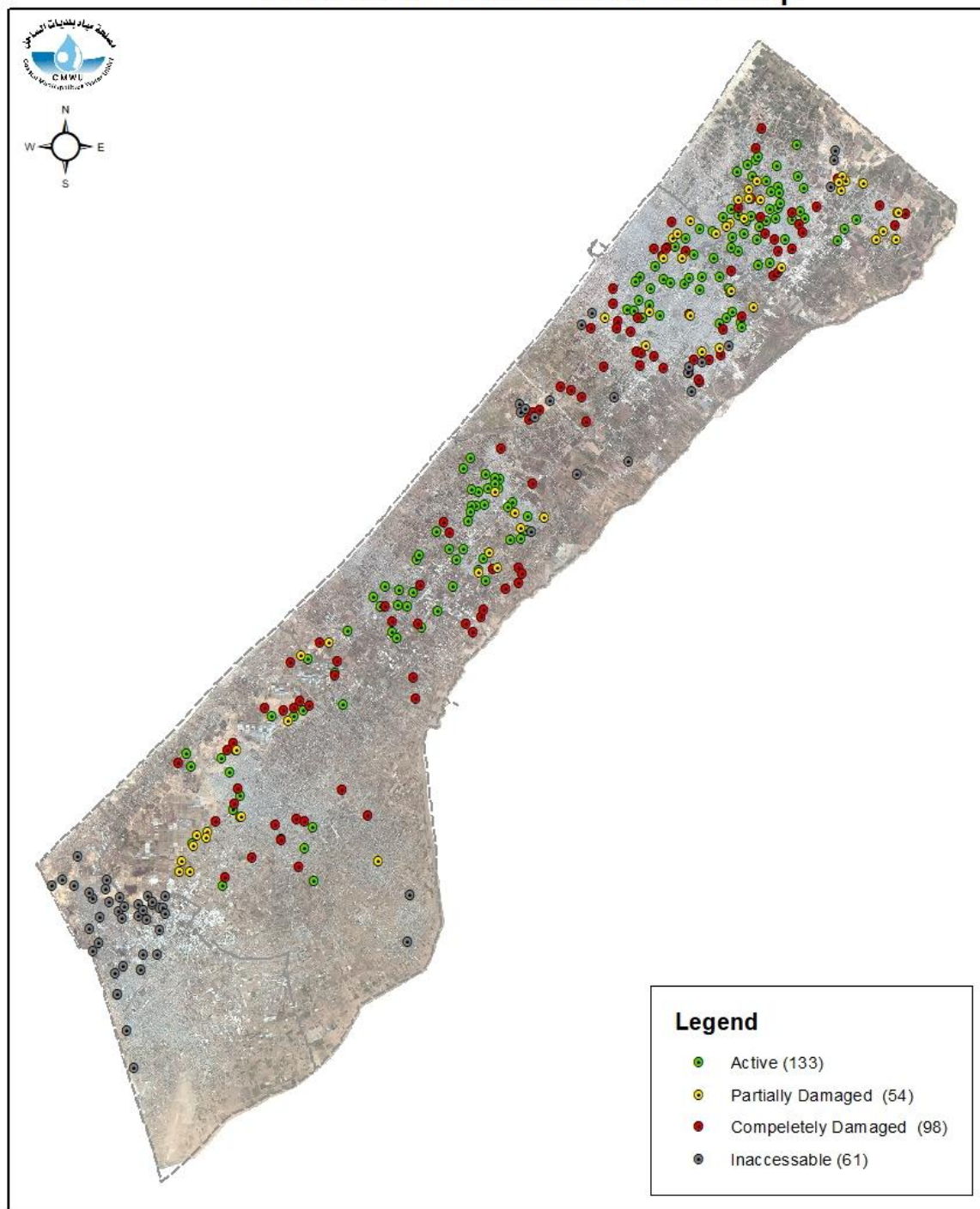
The proposed measures listed below aim to provide the minimum water supply to more than 2 million people, in addition to providing disposal sewage system to the sea after destruction most of pumping station and treatment plants.

Timeframe

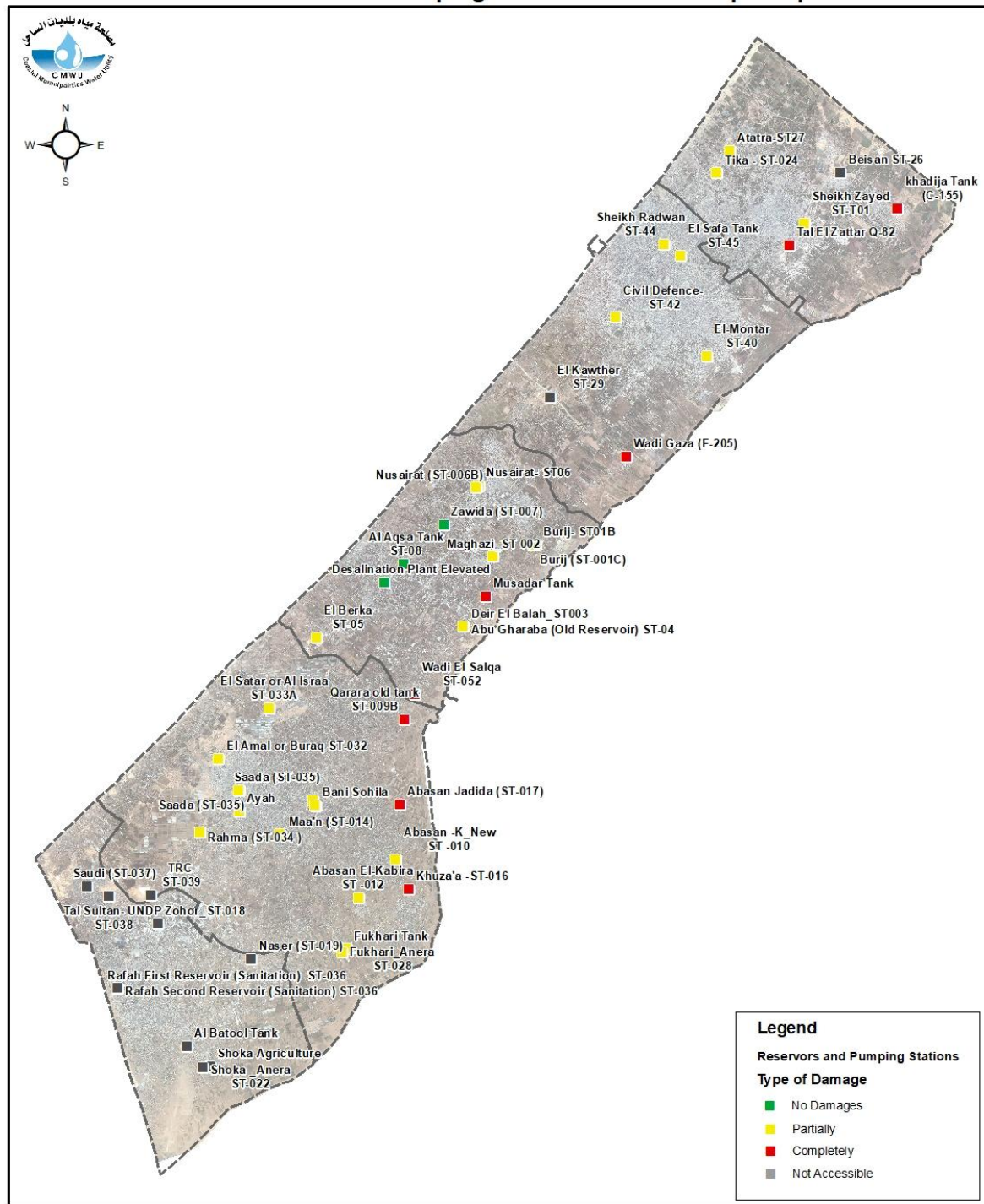
The proposed fast track interventions of this plan shall be completed within **6 months** to ensure providing the main WASH services to people where intermediate interventions will be implemented over **5 years**

Recent Status of Water and Wastewater Facilities Maps

Status of the Water Wells in Gaza Strip



Status of the Reservoirs and Pumping Stations in Gaza Strip - September 2024



Status of the Wastewater treatment plant in Gaza Strip - September 2024



Institutional arrangement

Background of the Transition Process

Water Sector Reform

On 14 December 2009, the Cabinet of Ministers of the Palestinian National Authority endorsed an “Action Plan for Reform” towards the definition and implementation of a comprehensive program of institutional and legislative reform in the Palestinian Water Sector. As the central body in the Sector, the Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) has the mandate to lead the reform process. The overall reform includes the reorganization of the water sector and the institutions within capacity building and the development of strategies and policies.

The reform objectives have been defined, and slightly adjusted in the Sector Reform Plan as follows:

- **Institutions:** The Sector Reform will establish strong (capable) and sustainable institutions within a legal framework that clearly defines their roles, responsibilities and the interface (relationship) between them.
- **Infrastructure needs:** The Sector Reform will improve water supply and sanitation strategies, policies, investment programs, project designs, and the implementation of projects, in an effort to substantially accelerate infrastructure development.
- **Service provision:** The Sector Reform aims to accelerate equitable access to a quality service, while providing improved efficiency and cost-recovery of effectively regulated water operators.
- **Water resources management:** The Sector Reform will help to build the institutional knowledge, policies, and monitoring and enforcement capacities, as part of an effort to achieve a more sustainable water resources management strategy.
- **Water consumers:** The Sector Reform will aim at improving water demand management and public health awareness in line with the development of water conservation, environmental and public health policies.

New Water Law 14/2014

On 14 June 2014, the President of the State of Palestine issued a decree endorsing the new Water Law. As the Law states that the PWA will be under the responsibility of the Cabinet - in line with the basic law for having the authorities under the Cabinet umbrella - The issuance of the new law launches a new phase for the water and wastewater sector, its governance and management. In addition, the Law splits policy from regulatory functions – previously carried out by PWA - and provides for a Water Sector Regulatory Council (WSRC) on service providers. One of its tasks will be to monitor the performance of water sector service providers.

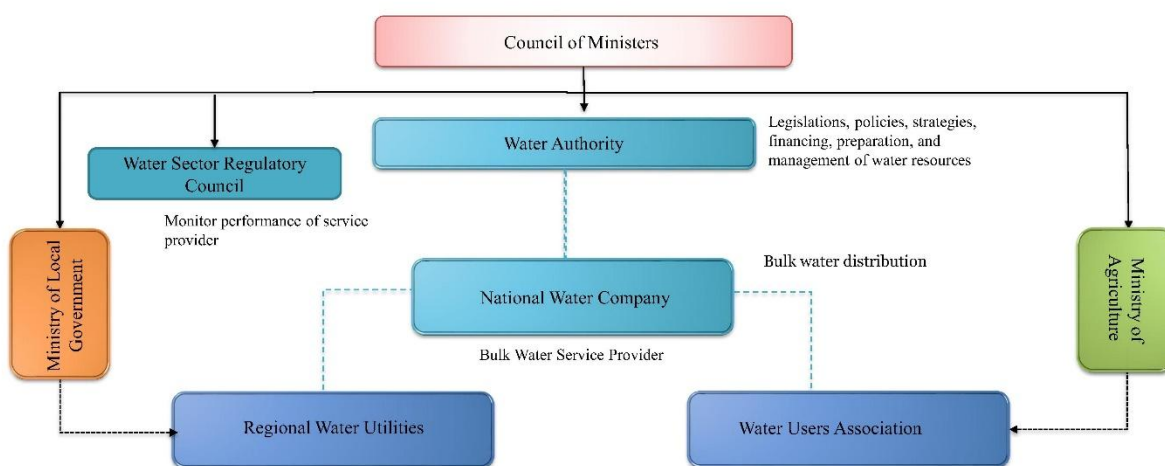
The Water Law includes directives to transform the West Bank Water Department (WBWD) into a National Water Company (NWC), which will be owned by the State of Palestine. For this reason,

the Law states that PWA need to develop a temporary bylaw to facilitate this transitional period (transfer the WBWD into a company) and provide a mechanism to transfer the assets to the NWC. The NWC will be responsible for supplying bulk water and any other tasks as assigned by PWA. The NWC will have Board of Directors, established by the Cabinet, based on recommendations from the Head of the PWA.

The Water Law also gives PWA the mandate, supported by a bylaw endorsed by the Cabinet, to establish Regional Water Utilities (RWU) and Water User Associations (WUA). The WUA bylaw was created in December 2018.

The current organization and relationships between the main administrative bodies involved in the sector are briefly presented in Figure 1 on the next page. The National Water Company has not been fully established yet. It is supposed to integrate the current West Bank Water Department (WBWD) in charge of managing and operating the bulk water supply system in the West Bank.

Figure 1: Water sector framework (source: PWA, 2022)



The reorganization of the water service providers is also part of the Water Sector Reform. It was especially addressed in a study aiming at proposing a roadmap for the creation of RWUs. The latest report of this study [FCG, 2018] recommended a stepwise approach to reduce the number of service providers from almost 300 in 2018 down to 3 RWUs in the West Bank and 1 in Gaza in 2032 (FCG, 2018, Road Map).

Establishment of a Regional Water Utility for the Gaza Strip

The Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) is a semi-public utility established on 30 October 2000 pursuant to the Palestinian Authorities' Local Government Law No (1) for the Year 1997 to consolidate the existing 25 municipal water departments into a service delivery unit. Its vision is to be the leading institution in the provision of water and sanitation services for the Gaza Strip.

CMWU's mission is to provide the Gaza Strip residents with integrated, distinct, and environmentally safe water and sanitation services through the optimal utilization of available resources and creative solutions.

A Road Map to transform the CMWU into the Gaza RWU is under development. The start-up of the new utility has not yet taken place. The Road Map shall describe how the existing water and wastewater services as well as the present services of the CMWU will be joined into the RWU to be established. The proposed RWU will:

- Provide water, wastewater services, and operate and maintain the existing facilities;
- Connect households to water networks;
- Collects periodic water metering reading and distributes water and wastewater bills and collects due fees;
- Participate in water and wastewater infrastructure development projects including the maintenance of the existing facilities;
- Issue necessary guidance for subscription to safeguard water according to PWA policy and water law.
- Separate the storm water connections from the sewerage system
- Reduce the risk to public health of the inhabitants and prevent further aquifer contamination.
- Improve the overall hydraulic efficiency of the existing water distribution networking systems and reduce the Nonrevenue water (NRW) from 75% at 2025 as a result of war on Gaza to 40% by 2029