



"An environmental catastrophe threatens livelihoods in Gaza Strip"

Ramallah: 16/11/2023 – 12:00 Palestine Time.

Each person in Gaza Strip has access to 1-3 liters of water per day

Gaza Strip is suffering from a severe crisis and needs to obtain water. Prior to October 7, the average per capita of water consumption of approximately 82.7 liters per person/day. However, and since the beginning of the Israeli Occupation Aggression, this figure has dropped to only 1-3 liters per person/day. This Israeli aggression has led to a decrease of 90% in the availability of water sources, resulting in drop of 92% in water consumption compared to pre-aggression levels. This dire situation underscores the devastating impact of the aggression on the water infrastructure, with around 55% of the water supply systems in urgent need of repair or rehabilitation in Gaza Strip.

Status Water Sources in Gaza Strip, 12/11/2023

Water Sources	Pre Aggression Capacity (M3/Day)	% Of Water Resource	During Aggression Capacity (M3/Day)	% Of Available water	% Of Reduction
Mekorot (Israel)	51,000	14.0	26,880	53.0	47.0
Desalination Plants	18,000	5.0	300	2.0	98.0
Water Wells	300,000	81.0	10,000	3.0	97.0
Total	369,000	100.0	37,180	10.0	90.0

Source: WASH Cluster, State of Palestine

Absence and limited access to safe and sustainable water in Gaza

Population in Gaza Strip is suffering from a severe crisis regarding the access to safe water many years ago due to the Israeli siege on Gaza . Whereas, before the Israeli aggression, during period before October 7, only 4% of Gaza population had access to safe and clean water.

Currently, and with the continuous aggression on Gaza as of the 7th of October, and the lack of fuel needed to operate water desalination plants and water well pumps, people are suffering to get water, any water at all not only safe water.

Only one water desalination plant located in south of Gaza is working with an operating capability reached 5%, while the other two plants are not working due to power outages and lack of fuel.



Status of the Operational Capacity for all Water Desalination Plant in Gaza Strip, 12/11/2023

Governorate	City	Desalination Plant	Capacity m3/d	Functioning Now	% Of Operational Capacity	% Of Operational Reduction
Gaza	Gaza	Gaza Desalination Plant	10,000	0.0	0.0	100
Deir AL-Balah	Deir AL-Balah	Deir AL-Balah Desalination Plant	6,000	0.0	0.0	100
Khan Yunis	Khan Yunis	South Gaza Desalination Plant	6,000	300.0	5.0	95.0

Source: WASH Cluster, State of Palestine

All wastewater treatment plants are fully suspended in Gaza Strip

Due to the complete destruction of infrastructure by the Israeli aggression in Gaza Strip since October 7, there are about 65 sewage pumps stopped working, and all six wastewater treatment plants have been completely shut down due to power outages and fuel shortages. Thus, influx of about 130,000 Cubic meters per day of untreated wastewater into the Mediterranean Sea in Gaza Strip.

Status of the Operational Capacity for Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) in Gaza Strip, 12/11/2023

Governorate	City	Wastewater Treatment Plant	Capacity m3/d	Functioning Now	% Of Operational Capacity	% Of Operational Reduction
North Gaza	Jabalia	North Gaza WWTP	35,000	0.0	0.0	100
	Beit Lahia	Beit Lahia WWTP	40,000	0.0	0.0	100
Gaza	Gaza	Shiekh Ejleen WWTP	65,000	0.0	0.0	100
Deir AL-Balah	Buriej	Central Gaza (Buriej) WWTP	60,000	0.0	0.0	100
Khan Yunis	Fukhari	Khan Yunis WWTP	26,500	0.0	0.0	100
Rafah	Rafah	Rafah WWTP	23,000	0.0	0.0	100

Source: WASH Cluster, State of Palestine.



Waste Piling/stacking in Gaza Strip

the ongoing Israeli occupation aggression on Gaza Strip and the lack of fuel, forced the solid waste collection vehicles to be out of service, and so the sanitary landfills. The service of waste collection rate before the war was estimated to be 98%, collected in sanitary landfills.

But, during the war, solid waste collection service has decreased to less than 20%, and so a large quantity of wastes has piled in the streets and around shelter centers, schools, and in some temporary landfills.

It is worth mentioning that the medical wastes have been mixed with other wastes, which will cause a health and environmental disaster.

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