

GAZA RESPONSE PLAN



OPENING STATEMENT

One month into hostilities in and around Gaza, and despite severely restricted access or a ceasefire, ChildFund Alliance member WeWorld is responding to the needs of the affected population in Gaza and is planning additional emergency activities. Our Gaza Response Plan aims to share and coordinate our response within ChildFund Alliance and with other partners to mitigate the suffering of children and families in Gaza. Our Plan is aligned with the UN response to the current emergency.

The following members of ChildFund Alliance support the *Gaza Response Plan*: ChildFund Australia; ChildFund Deutschland; ChildFund Japan; ChildFund Korea; ChildFund New Zealand; Barnfonden (Sweden); Children Believe (Canada); Educo (Spain); and Un Enfant par la Main (France).

SITUATION OVERVIEW IN FIGURES

- **1.55 million people are internally displaced**, 725,000 of which are hosted in 149 overstretched UN-designated emergency shelters; 122,000 are seeking shelter in hospitals, churches, and other public spaces; 110,000 in 89 public schools and others are hosted by families.
- **Over 4,000 children have been killed, while more than 1,000 are missing and more than 7,500 have been injured.**
- **2.3 million people are in need of water**, with an average of less than 6 liter per person per day available for all use, domestic and drinking, vs. 100 liters per person per day recommended by the WHO.
- **500 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene service (WASH) facilities are facing operational challenges** due to damages or lack of electricity and 55% of the water supply infrastructures require reparations or rehabilitation; 2 desalination plants are operating at 40% of their capacity but their shutdown is imminent if fuel is not delivered to the Strip, while the northern desalination plants and all 6 wastewater treatment plants are not operating due to the lack of fuel and electricity.
- **Water supply from Israel** (which amounted to 13% of Gaza water supply needs before the current hostilities) has decreased or has even completely stopped on some days.
- More than 625,000 students and 22,564 teachers have been affected by the attacks, with no access to education nor a safe place.
- **258 school buildings have been damaged** (51% of the total) and another **229 are being used as shelters** (both UNRWA and public schools).
- **Access to basic needs and services is severely halted** by the lack of resources and the security situation. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) outside formal shelters have extremely limited access to assistance.
- **Banks are temporarily closed**, limiting access to cash.
- **The depletion of stocked items to be purchased is worsening.**

Given the current collapse of nearly all water and sanitation services and infrastructures in Gaza, according to the UN-led WASH Cluster of occupied Palestinian territory, the population “is at imminent risk of death or infectious disease outbreak if water and fuel are not immediately allowed to enter the Strip”: the population of Gaza needs the immediate supply of clean water and electricity.



Gaza Strip

1,000,000



the target of people in need to reach
Palestinian children and their families,
IDPs, and other people in need



Multi-sectorial

WASH | Integrated Protection
| Education | Food Security |
Shelter-NFI



5,000,000

USD

the Funding Appeal launched by WeWorld

WeWorld is the Italian member of ChildFund Alliance, a global network of 11 child-focused development and humanitarian organizations. Alliance members include: ChildFund Australia, ChildFund Deutschland, ChildFund International, ChildFund Japan, ChildFund Korea, ChildFund New Zealand, Barnfonden, Children Believe, Educo, Un Enfant par la Main, and WeWorld.

WeWorld has maintained a presence in the occupied Palestinian territory (West Bank and Gaza) since 1992. Its 5 operational offices are situated in Jerusalem, Ramallah, Hebron, Tubas and Gaza City and the current teams comprise more than 60 people. In recent years, **the main sectors of interventions have been WASH and WASH in Health, Livelihoods, Integrated Protection and Education, and Economic Development.** In 2022 alone, 2,982,966 people benefited from WeWorld's program in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) and 287,353 people were served with emergency aid.

The Organization's presence in the oPt has evolved and been tailored to address the ever-changing needs, transitioning from humanitarian emergency response and innovative solutions to a longstanding crisis, to facilitating development processes by implementing the Humanitarian-Development approach "Nexus" (HDN).

Decades of protracted Israeli military occupation, 16 years of the Gaza blockade, internal Palestinian political divisions, and recurrent hostilities between Israeli security forces and Palestinian armed groups have resulted in Gaza's dire economic situation. Repeated armed conflict between the Israeli military and Palestinian armed groups in Gaza have destroyed and inflicted extensive damage to thousands of homes and public and private infrastructure, severely impacting the provision of basic services like water and electricity supply. WeWorld's consistent presence in the Gaza Strip has focused on both humanitarian and development programs, with a community-based approach and an emphasis on WASH, Integrated Protection and Economic Development.

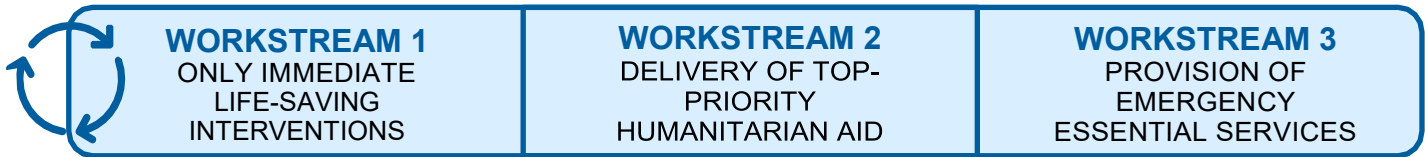
Moreover, WeWorld is a recognized active agency of the WASH Cluster, contributing to the WASH Cluster Vulnerability Assessment and Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) with a comprehensive assessment of facilities and services at the healthcare facility and at the household levels. The Organization also collaborates with diverse international and local partners to enhance each other's capabilities and create synergies to improve local expertise and the sustainability of our interventions.

OVERVIEW OF WEWORLD'S PROPOSED RESPONSE

The current 6-month-long proposed strategy of intervention is conditional upon the establishment of **a corridor for humanitarian aid to enter the Gaza Strip**. Ceasefire and availability of fuel are a precondition of any humanitarian assistance. The coordination around humanitarian assistance remains extremely fluid and volatile, subject to rapid and substantial changes. The operability of the humanitarian corridor is minimal, and the majority of goods are still prevented from entering Gaza. Therefore, the anticipated emergency response takes into account the current situation and potential future developments.

Despite the extremely difficult situation, the WeWorld multidisciplinary team in Gaza is operational in providing initial aid and continuous assessment of emerging needs. WeWorld is one of the first international NGOs that deployed a Humanitarian Aid Unit in Egypt and reinforcing its response capacity inside the strip.

WeWorld's emergency relief response envisages the provision of humanitarian aid from Egypt into the Gaza Strip through an intervention comprising different operational scenarios and phases.



WORKSTREAM 1: ONLY IMMEDIATE LIFE-SAVING INTERVENTIONS

Scenario:

No ceasefire is reached, and Gaza is still under attack, with continuous bombing and deadly strikes on civilian infrastructures, private homes, and vehicles. Ensuring the safety of people in all locations, including humanitarian aid workers, is a top priority. The movement, storage, and distribution of goods, continue to be extremely complex and challenging. Fuel and other items to allow the delivery of humanitarian aid is still prevented. The capacity and the coordination of storage and distribution of humanitarian aid is hindered and/or frozen for all humanitarian actors. International actors are still advocating for humanitarian corridors. Only immediate life-saving assistance is allowed, in an unstructured, insufficient quantity, weakly coordinated, and push-system modality.

Response:

On November 4th and 8th, WeWorld's team in Rafah was able to collect and distribute fresh water and Non Food Items (NFIs) to 6,000 internally displaced people, the majority of them women and children. Due to the absence of fuel and proper means of transportation, the delivery was done with carts pulled by donkeys and horses.



The distribution of water on November 4th - ©WeWorld



The distribution of NFISs on November 8th - ©WeWorld

The following response will start with procurement and shipment of top-priority humanitarian aid (e.g., drinkable bottled water of various sizes). The distribution plans will be set up and put in place to ensure coordination with first responders and current organisational capacities, toward rapid distribution and

immediate consumption. Relevant actors will be included, among others the Egyptian Red Crescent (ERC), the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS), and UNRWA. The WeWorld team inside Gaza will be able to supervise the distribution of items.

Activities:

- Provision and distribution of bottled drinking water
- Emergency distribution of trucked water

WORKSTREAM 2: DELIVERY OF TOP-PRIORITY HUMANITARIAN AID

Scenario:

The ceasefire is only partially or temporarily reached. The safety of people remains a concern. The coordination system of the humanitarian responders is established and partially/fully applied. Movements of staff and people are not impeded, and/or possible without major risks. Fuel for aid distribution purposes is allowed to enter the Strip, therefore trucks, vans, cars, and medical equipment are able to operate. The distribution of aid is performed in a coordinated manner by several humanitarian actors. The humanitarian corridor is fully/partially opened, and the humanitarian assistance is efficiently coordinated by UN-OCHA and other relevant humanitarian actors (ERC, PRCS, UNRWA, etc.). The top priority humanitarian items are clearly identified by the relevant UN Clusters. The response is efficiently coordinated and executed, in a pull-modality manner, where the request directly comes from inside Gaza.

Response:

Additional humanitarian aid will be delivered inside the Gaza Strip following the prioritization of items developed by UN-OCHA and relevant Clusters. This activity might include, for example, the distribution of gender and child-sensitive family hygiene kits and might also be coupled/integrated with the distribution of water to families. Family kits would cover needs for 1 month.

The WeWorld team will develop a detailed distribution plan, and will be involved in the distribution and monitoring systems, as per the indications of the Logistic Cluster and in accordance with relevant actors (e.g., PRCS, UNRWA, WASH Cluster), and will be involved in the distribution and monitoring of goods.

Activities:

- Provision and distribution of individual/gender and child-sensitive family hygiene kits and cleaning kits
- Emergency distribution of trucked water
- Emergency food distribution

WORKSTREAM 3: PROVISION OF EMERGENCY ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Scenario:

Further political agreement is reached. A partial/temporary stability has been achieved, potentially including a lasting ceasefire. Fuel will not be fully available in the local market, only allowed importing (cross-borders) for humanitarian purposes. Relevant actors take necessary political decisions to remove the ban on the entry of fuel. The conflict has placed millions of lives at risk, and protection of civilians remains an absolute priority. Many individuals and families are in need of Psycho-Social Support (PSS). PSS intervention enables the creation and all requirements for children to feel safe, welcome and to have fun. Through socialization and professional guidance, the children and their

parents are able to better deal with the impact of the trauma and reconnect with the good things in life. The distribution of food and basic goods is essential due to the depletion of local markets and the long-lasting continuous bombardments.

Response:

WeWorld will repair and upgrade small private desalination plants and other WASH facilities (such as water reservoirs and pumping stations, wastewater treatment plant etc.). WeWorld has previously collaborated with secondary 19 desalination plants and is developing a fuel distribution plan that considers various parameters, including the current state of the plants, the plants' production and location, and the vicinity of key facilities (e.g., hospitals). The production of water will be coupled with a distribution plan for drinking and domestic water, in collaboration with other actors.

In an emergency context, children need to resume their daily routines in protected environments through the participation in regular and structured activities in order to regain a "sense of security". Child-friendly Safe Spaces aims to respond to children's rights to protection and psychosocial well-being. Educational and recreational activities provided by trained educators provide opportunities for children and adolescents to play, rest, interact, acquire contextually relevant skills, receive psychosocial support and strengthen their resilience, all intended to aid their ability to recover and overcome adversities.

Thousands of families are hosted in emergency/temporary shelter, in need of assistance and support for the rehabilitation of their houses. Basic non-food items will be distributed alongside food, including diapers for babies, hygiene products and medicine for children receiving healthcare. Individuals and children who are from particularly vulnerable parts of society will be given clothes and blankets to protect them from the cold.

Activities:

- Distribution of fuel to desalination plants and other WASH facilities
- Distribution of produced drinking and domestic water in coordination with actors involved in water trucking.
- Small rehabilitation within the desalination plants
- Establishment of community water filling points
- Distribution of HH water filters
- Provision of generators to support the operation of desalination plants
- Creation of Child-friendly Safe Spaces
- Education and psycho-social support to children
- Provision of educational emergency supplies and learning kits
- Provision of services and basic shelter and NFI to IDPs
- Emergency food and cash assistance

Total Beneficiaries: 1,000,000 (children and women, IDPs, people in need)

Total resources needed: 5,000,000 USD (of which 450,000 USD already fundraised by WeWorld)

Gaza Response Plan as of 08 November 2023

WeWorld response will continue to adapt to the evolving situation and people's needs accordingly.