

GAZA RESPONSE PLAN – Update #2



Rafah, May 27th ©Naaman Omar/APA images

OPENING STATEMENT

In almost 8 months of war, WeWorld was able to respond with immediate life-saving interventions. No ceasefire has been reached, and Gaza is still under attack, with continuous bombing and deadly strikes on civilian infrastructures, hospitals, schools, IDP shelters, private homes, assets, and vehicles. This report aims to share the results of the immediate response and coordinate the future response to mitigate the suffering of children, families, and other citizens in the Gaza Strip.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

After nearly 8 months of Israel's war on Gaza, at least **36,050 Palestinians have been killed, 72% of them being women or children**. At least **81,026 people have been injured**, according to the Palestine Health Ministry. 1.7 million people have been forcibly displaced, multiple times. On May 7th, Israel launched a significant ground offensive in Rafah, closing the main crossing points, which were the primary entry points for humanitarian aid. Military attacks are still ongoing in the northern and central areas of the Strip as well. According to OCHA, **approximately 800,000 people have recently been forcibly displaced from Rafah**, the majority being already IDPs.

They resettled in places like Khan Younis and Deir al Balah, often seeking refuge in agricultural lands and damaged buildings where safety and access to all basic services is not guaranteed. Among them, there are many children who are bearing the brunt of the conflict, in direct violation of their human rights and international humanitarian law. On May 26th, Israeli forces bombed the IDP tent sites in the Tel al-Sultan neighbourhood in western Rafah - where thousands of people were taking shelter in a last "designated safe zone" in Rafah -, reportedly killing over 45 Palestinians. Many of the victims were women and children. The recent airstrikes occurred just two days after the International Court of Justice ordered Israel to "immediately halt its military offensive in Rafah". Since the beginning of the conflict, according to the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, over **15,000 children have been killed**. Based on the Protection Analysis Update (May 2024) of the protection Cluster, **at least 10,000 children are orphaned**, and **an estimated 17,000 children are unaccompanied or separated**. According to UNICEF, Gazan children suffer from a lack of opportunities crucial for their social, emotional, and cognitive development. **625,000 cannot attend school** due to the conflict, with 483 out of all 563 school facilities which sustained damage, accounting for 86% of all schools. More than 72% of these schools will either require full reconstruction or major rehabilitation work to be functional again.

Despite the urgent need for humanitarian assistance, **humanitarian aid delivery has been significantly impeded over the last three weeks, due to the closure of the Rafah border. The humanitarian community's ability to deliver aid has been seriously hampered**. An extremely limited number of truckloads (around 56 per day) have been entering since May 7th, sharply contrasting with the necessary average of 500 daily trucks before the war. Consequently, the humanitarian situation has rapidly deteriorated.

Limited access to water and essential hygiene items is affecting healthcare centres and the population as a whole. Reports show that some Gazans are surviving on just 3% of the minimum standard of water intake. IDPs are forced to share toilets, and, in some cases, a single latrine is used by 600 people, exceeding minimum international standards by 30 times. Water sources are often contaminated due to inadequate waste management, and access to landfill is sometimes prevented for the humanitarian community. **The lack of clean water and sanitation facilities has led to a significant increase in infectious diseases**. In this context, the overall mental health situation is deteriorating, and the collapse of gender-based violence prevention services hinders efforts to combat violence, especially against women and children.

The food security situation was already critical prior to the recent closure of the Rafah crossing for humanitarian aid. According to the latest IPC projection, spanning from March to July 2024, **1.1 million Gazans are expected to face catastrophic levels of food insecurity (IPC level 5)**. Currently, UNICEF data shows that 50,400 children under five years old are already suffering from acute malnutrition.

The sanitary conditions in the Gaza Strip are critical, exacerbated by the continued forced displacement of IDPs. **Hospital bed occupancy in the Strip has reached 43%**. Overall, none of the hospital in the region are fully functional; only 15 are partially functional, while 21 are out of service. The severe fuel shortage further reduces their operations.

RESPONSE

Multi-sectorial: WASH, Integrated Protection, Education, Food Security, Shelter-NFI

BENEFICIARIES REACHED FROM OCTOBER 2023

500,000 Gazans IDPs and other people in need

LOCATION

The whole Gaza Strip

WEWORLD IN GAZA

WeWorld has been present in the West Bank since 1992 and in Gaza since 1997 with a dual development and humanitarian mandate, seeking new solutions to a long-standing crisis. Over the past two decades, WeWorld has provided humanitarian assistance to Gaza, especially to the most vulnerable communities, in the fields of WASH, Protection, Economic Development, Health, and Education. WeWorld is primarily funded by the European Commission, UN agencies, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and other cooperation agencies. An important component of WeWorld's operational portfolio in the Gaza Strip remains focused on WASH: ensuring access to water, promoting hygiene and improving sanitation, with an emphasis on innovation, WASH-in-health and WASH governance.

WeWorld is a member of the **national WASH Cluster Strategic Advisory Board**, and is the **leader of the WASH in Health Working Group in Gaza** and the **co-leader of the Hygiene and Sanitation Working Group in Gaza and the West Bank**.

WEWORLD'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE IN NUMBERS

WeWorld, with the support of UNICEF, OCHA and ChildFund Alliance Members (Barnfonden, ChildFund Deutschland, ChildFund Japan, ChildFund Korea), has been responding to the urgent needs of the war-affected population in the Governorate of Rafah, Khan Younis, Middle Area (Deir al-Balah), and Gaza City since the beginning of the war **through WASH interventions**, while a **Food Security response** is planned to start in the coming days.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza remains catastrophic and it is crucial to maintain substantial financial support for the Gaza crisis and its affected population. **WeWorld is effectively coordinating its humanitarian initiatives in collaboration with the WASH Cluster, the Food Security Cluster, and partners.**

WeWorld in Gaza is engaged in a humanitarian intervention to support access to safe WASH services, addressing lifesaving needs. This response is based on the urgent needs and priorities outlined in the Flash Appeals of OCHA for the occupied Palestinian territories. The response aims at addressing the needs of IDPs in different sites and hosting communities by promoting access to water, sufficient for domestic and drinking purposes. Moreover, the response is also promoting a safer environment, by fostering personal and domestic hygiene and sanitation solutions, as well as protecting people's dignity.

WeWorld's response has already reached nearly 500,000 people over the past 8 months, by providing prompt relief support to displaced and affected population in the temporary designated shelters.

WEWORLD OPERATIONAL CAPACITY FOR THE GAZA RESPONSE

1 Humanitarian Aid Unit

1 Emergency Response Team Coordinator
composed by 9 Senior Emergency Managers



2 Logistic Hubs in Rafah and Deir Al Balah
Warehouses/ Offices/ guest houses for displaced staff

3 Senior Thematic Experts
including WASH and CASH



14 Area Field Officers
in 4 different Governorates



6+ million usd current funding

50+ Daily Workers
supporting emergency activities

RESULT OF THE IMMEDIATE LIFE-SAVING RESPONSE



WEWORLD IS THE
ALLIANCE MEMBER
IMPLEMENTING

Locations
Rafah, Khan Younis,
Middle Area (Deir al-
Balah), Gaza

Sectors of intervention
WASH and Food Security



500,000

People in need served, the large majority
being children and women



12,000,000

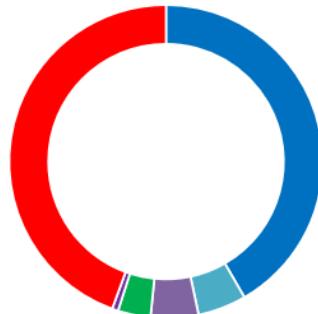
USD
is the Funding Appeal
launched by WeWorld



6,670,000

USD Raised
56% of the Appeal
5,330,000 USD still to be raised

CONTRIBUTIONS



- UNICEF
- OCHA
- European Union
- ChildFund Alliance
- Others
- Still to be raised

Over the past months WeWorld has been able to respond to Gaza crisis through immediate life-saving interventions, mainly in the sector of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector.

WATER

WATER TRUCKING

Since the beginning of the war, up to May 27th, the WeWorld team has delivered 53,343 m³ of domestic and drinking water through water trucking to 333 IDP sites/shelters in 4 different Governorates, ensuring access to water and personal hygiene for the displaced population. WeWorld has supported a total of 500,000 beneficiaries, 44% of whom are below 18 years old. Due to the challenges posed by limited fuel and transportation options, many of the deliveries have been efficiently carried out using carts pulled by donkeys or horses, showcasing the agility of the organisation, the resilience and resourcefulness of our national colleagues.



To complement the water trucking distribution, the team delivered various types of water storage tools, including jerrycans, water tanks of different capacities, and bladders.

BOTTLED WATER DISTRIBUTION

WeWorld carried out to the fullest extent possible the **distribution of 119,104 bottles of water to 59,552 people**, providing each person with 3 litres (two 1,5 litres bottles). The recipients were individuals residing in underserved IDP sites, including hospitals, school shelters and hosting communities in the Governorates of Rafah and Khan Younis.

SANITATION

CONSTRUCTION OF LATRINES

Considering the acute water scarcity and the number of IDPs, the installation of dry latrines becomes imperative as a sustainable and resource-efficient sanitation solution, ensuring hygienic waste disposal without exacerbating the already critical water shortage.

93 blocks of dry latrines have been constructed in Rafah and Khan Younis Governorates, benefiting 9,300 people, and addressing sanitation needs in an efficient and water-conserving manner. Additionally, this initiative contributes to enhancing sanitation facilities in the western areas. Each block consists of 3 units.

Considering the emergency situation and the extreme public health risks associated with the lack of sanitation facilities, WeWorld promotes the usage of each latrine for a maximum of 100 persons. Moreover, to enhance dignity and protection, each block is dedicated to a specific gender, ensuring privacy and safety through the delimitation, and fencing of the areas, while installing locks on each unit.

CONSTRUCTION OF FAMILY LATRINES

WeWorld has already constructed 1000 pour flush family latrines in Rafah, Khan Younis and the Middle area. Currently, the construction of an additional 1,870 family latrines is underway. In total these latrines will serve approximately 2870 families reaching around 20,090 beneficiaries.



SMALL REHABILITATION OF SANITATION FACILITIES

WeWorld is conducting minor rehabilitation to maintain the operational status of sanitation facilities in 11 schools IDP shelters in the Khan Yunis and Rafah areas, which are currently hosting 23,600 IDPs. As these target sites are overcrowded, it is crucial to ensure that existing sanitation facilities remain functional to uphold proper sanitation and hygienic conditions and prevent the risk of infections and the spread of waterborne diseases.

HYGIENE

HYGIENE KITS AND CRITICALLY NEEDED WASH ITEMS

WeWorld has distributed over 485,000 units of critically needed items, including Gender Sensitive Hygiene Kits, Dignity Kits, Cleaning Kits, Baby Diapers, Sanitary Pads for menstrual hygiene management, Soap, Blankets, Buckets, Incontinence products for the elderly/ people with disabilities, Jerry Cans and Tarpaulins to IDPs in Rafah and Khan Younis Governorates. This initiative aimed to enhance personal and community hygiene conditions, reaching an estimated 30,000 families and 210,000 beneficiaries.

In addition to these items, WeWorld is currently importing an additional 1,534 Hygiene kits from Egypt, reaching an estimated 21,476 beneficiaries.



ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING

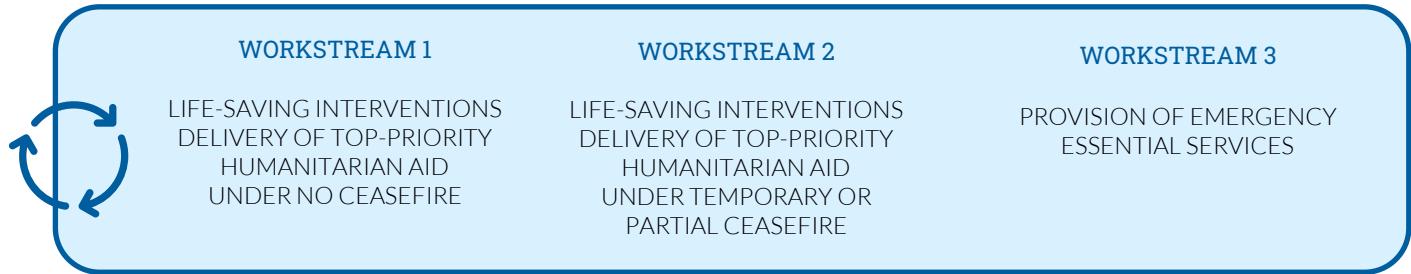
To mitigate health and safety hazards and enhance dignity, protection, and disinfection of sanitation services and shared spaces at IDP sites, WeWorld is providing emergency cleaning services, including waste collection and disposal, in 12 schools and 3 main hospitals in Khan Younis and Middle Area Governorates. The distribution includes the European Hospital, Nasser Hospital and Al Aqsa Hospital which hosted a total of 69,240 IDPs.



HYGIENE PROMOTION CAMPAIGN

Effective hygiene promotion is widely recognised as one of the most valuable tools for reducing the burden of **diarrheal diseases in emergencies**. However, hygiene promotion is an activity that needs to be scaled up, as our team had to prioritise water supply and sanitation initiatives. A team of **Hygiene Promotion Officers** is starting the implementation of a context-sensitive hygiene promotion campaign, targeting all major areas where water and sanitation activities are undergoing. In this regard, WeWorld promotes Cash-For-Work modality to engage skilled daily Hygiene Promotion mobilizers.

FUTURE RESPONSE



WORKSTREAM 1: LIFE-SAVING INTERVENTIONS AND DELIVERY OF TOP PRIORITY HUMANITARIAN AID WITH NO CEASEFIRE AGREEMENTS

Scenario

Gaza is still under attack, with continuous bombing and deadly strikes on civilian infrastructures, private homes, and vehicles. No ceasefire has been reached (talks for partial and/or temporary ceasefire are ongoing). Ensuring the safety of people in all locations, including humanitarian aid workers, remains top priority. The movement, storage, and distribution of goods continue to be extremely complex and challenging.

Fuel for aid distribution purposes is allowed to enter the Strip in limited and insufficient quantities. As a result, trucks, vans, cars, and medical equipment are operating at minimum capacity, while negatively impacting on market prices. The humanitarian assistance is coordinated by UN-OCHA and other relevant humanitarian actors with a no-regrets approach. The top priority humanitarian items are clearly identified by the relevant UN Clusters, and follow up coordination mechanisms with relevant actors are currently being developed.

Activities

- Distribution of trucked water and bottled water
- Construction of latrines and minor rehabilitation of sanitation facilities
- Provision and distribution of individual/gender and child-sensitive family hygiene and cleaning kits
- Environmental cleaning of IDP sites and shelters and Solid Waste Collection
- Urgent on-the-spot repairs of critical WASH facilities
- Light flooding mitigation interventions
- Support for the construction and rehabilitation of temporary shelters (camp tents)
- WASH in Health assessment and WASH focus on health facilities
- Small-scale Food Security intervention

WORKSTREAM 2: LIFE-SAVING INTERVENTIONS AND DELIVERY OF TOP PRIORITY HUMANITARIAN AID UNDER A TEMPORARY OR PARTIAL CEASEFIRE

Scenario

The ceasefire is only partially or temporarily reached. Concerns for the safety of people persist. The coordination system of humanitarian responders is established and partially/fully applied. Movements of staff and people are not impeded, and/or are possible without major risks. Fuel for aid distribution purposes is allowed to enter the Strip in larger quantities, therefore trucks, vans, cars, and medical equipment are operating on a larger scale. The distribution of aid is performed in a coordinated manner by several humanitarian actors. The humanitarian corridor is fully/partially opened, and humanitarian assistance is efficiently coordinated by UN-OCHA and other relevant humanitarian actors.

Activities

- Distribution of trucked water and bottled water
- Construction of latrines and minor rehabilitation of sanitation facilities

- Provision and distribution of individual/gender and child-sensitive family hygiene and cleaning kits
- Environmental cleaning of IDP sites and shelters and Solid Waste Collection
- Urgent on-the-spot repairs of critical WASH facilities (including water and wastewater networks)
- Light flooding mitigation interventions
- Support for the construction and rehabilitation of temporary shelters (camp tents)
- WASH-in-Health: critical interventions in WASH facilities in hospitals
- Distribution of food parcels

WORKSTREAM 3: PROVISION OF EMERGENCY ESSENTIAL SERVICES UNDER A LASTING CEASEFIRE

Scenario

A political agreement has been reached, leading a medium-term partial/temporary stability, including a lasting ceasefire. Access to fuel for humanitarian purposes is not limited. The conflict has resulted in tens of thousands of casualties and injuries, millions of IDPs, and the protection of civilians remains an absolute priority. Most of Gaza population is in dire need of humanitarian assistance, and they do not have full access to all basic needs. Psychosocial support is a widespread need for families and individuals. PSS intervention enables all requirements for children to feel safe, welcome and to rely on recreational routines. Supply and markets are partially restored, with a higher availability of goods and services in the Strip, and market price are under control.

Activities:

- Distribution of produced potable drinking and household water
- Provision of fuel to desalination plants and other WASH facilities
- Improvement of desalination plants through minor rehabilitation, distribution of generators, etc.
- Establishment of community water filling points, and distribution of HH water filters
- WASH-in-Health: rehabilitation of WASH facilities in hospitals, Infection Prevention and Control and capacity reinforcements.
- Provision of basic shelter services, emergency Food and Non-Food Items and Cash Assistance to IDPs
- Creation of Child-friendly Safe Spaces, and implementation of PSS activities
- Provision of Education and psycho-social support to children
- Distribution of educational emergency supplies and learning kits

APPEAL

Total Beneficiaries: 500,000 (children and women, IDPs, people in need)

Total resources needed: 12,000,000 USD (of which 6,67 M USD already fundraised by WeWorld through UNICEF, OCHA, EU, ChildFund Alliance Members - Barnfonden, ChildFund Deutschland, ChildFund Japan, ChildFund Korea -, and others).

Emergency Response in Gaza – Update #2 as of 30th of May 2024

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