

GAZA RESPONSE PLAN – Update #1



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OPENING STATEMENT

In 119 days 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, private homes, assets, and vehicles. This operational 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

Almost 4 months of war since October 7th **have cost the lives of at least 26,900 Palestinians in Gaza whereas more than 65,949 have been injured, half of which are children**, according to the Ministry of Health (MoH). Some 8,000 people are missing, probably trapped under the rubble. As of January 31st, according to UNRWA, over an approximate population of 2.2 million inhabitants, **1.7 million people are estimated to be internally displaced, representing the 85% of the entire population of the strip**. Many of them have been displaced multiple times, as families have been forced to move repeatedly in search of safety from the Israeli Forces ground operations and the bombardments. Rafah Governorate, which before the war hosted about 260,000 inhabitants, is the main refuge for those displaced, with over one million people squeezed into an extremely overcrowded space, following the intensification of hostilities in Khan Younis and Deir al Balah and the Israeli military's evacuation orders. According to the Ministry of Public Work and Housing, **more than 70,000 housing units have been destroyed up to date**. More than 60% of all housing units have been damaged or destroyed.

The humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip remains critical with all population in dire need of humanitarian assistance, as stated by the UN Secretary General brief on January 24th. The humanitarian aid that can be provided to the population is **"a drop in the ocean"**, as the work of humanitarian agencies is severely hindered by the movement restrictions due to the ongoing fighting, the commercial traffic restrictions, the non-approval of vital humanitarian supplies to be imported into Gaza, the telecommunications cut offs, the lack of fuel and the absence of security. **The population in Gaza suffers a lack of access to all basic services**. According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report released on December 21st, the entire population of Gaza is highly food insecure and at risk of famine.

The challenge of accessing water results in compelling reliance on unsafe water sources. **Unsanitary conditions, particularly in overcrowded internally displaced people (IDP) locations, present significant public health risks**. The scarcity of basic personal and domestic hygiene elevates the risk of public health hazards. A notable concern is the outbreak of infectious diseases with WHO reports' indicating an increase in cases of diarrhea, upper respiratory infections, and skin diseases. On January 8th, the MoH in Gaza stated that over 8,000 cases of viral Hepatitis A have been recorded, resulting from poor sanitation. The number of hepatitis cases is expected to double in overcrowded shelters. The combined impact of the destruction of parts of the water network and the lack of electricity and fuel to operate desalination plants and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities, resulted in the collapse of WASH services. **Women and young children are particularly exposed to high risks of waterborne diseases** due to inadequate access to WASH services. Persons with disabilities and female-headed households are facing even more difficulties in accessing water. **Essential lifesaving WASH services and WASH winterization actions are therefore imperative and urgent**. According to OCHA, only 14 out of Gaza's 36 hospitals are partially functional, while the remaining 22 hospitals are not operative.

RESPONSE

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

BENEFICIARIES REACHED FROM NOVEMBER 2023

201,497 Gazans IDPs and other people in need

LOCATION

The whole Gaza Strip

BUDGET

8 million USD

FUNDS RAISED UP TO TODAY

4,11 million USD

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. In 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 and is funded mainly by the European Commission, UN agencies, the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation and other cooperation agencies.

An important part of WeWorld's operational portfolio in the Gaza Strip remains in the field of WASH; access to water, hygiene promotion and sanitation with a focus on innovation, WASH-in-health and WASH governance.

WeWorld is a member of the WASH cluster Strategic Advisory Board, and before the war it was **leading the WASH in Health Working Group**.

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 responded in the last three months to the urgent needs of the war-affected population in **the Governorate of Rafah, Khan Younis, Middle Area (Deir al-Balah), and Gaza through WASH interventions**.

The humanitarian situation in Gaza remains catastrophic and it is necessary to maintain high financial support for the Gaza crisis and its affected population. **WeWorld is effectively coordinating its humanitarian initiatives in collaboration with the WASH 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 rooted in the identified urgent needs and priorities outlined in the Flash Appeals of OCHA for the occupied Palestinian territories. The response aims at addressing 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 fostering personal and domestic hygiene and sanitation solutions, as well as protecting people's dignity.

WeWorld's response has already reached 201,497 people during the last 3 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 Coordinator

7 Senior Emergency Managers (including Finance Manager, Procurement and logistics, WASH experts)

2 Senior Thematic Experts (WASH and CASH)

16 Area Field Officers in 4 different Governorates (Rafah, Khan Younis, Middle area, Gaza city)

50+ Daily Workers engaged in the support of the emergency operations



2 Logistic Hubs/Warehouses in Rafah

Governorate (total available storage capacity: 300 m²)

1 Guesthouse for Displaced Local Staff



+4 million Euros Emergency Operation Portfolio

3 active WASH Emergency Projects (main donors:

UNICEF, OCHA, CFA)



RESULT OF THE IMMEDIATE LIFE-SAVING WASH RESPONSE

During the past months WeWorld was able to respond to Gaza crisis through immediate live-saving interventions, mainly in the sector of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH).

WATER

WATER TRUCKING

Since the beginning of the war, up to January 30th, WeWorld team has delivered **2,911 cubic meters of domestic and drinking water** through water trucking to 86 IDP sites/shelters (27 managed by UNRWA, 37 governmental IDP institutions including schools and health centres, 22 scattered IDPs areas) in 4 different Governorates, ensuring water access and personal hygiene of the displaced population. WeWorld supported a total of **69,310 beneficiaries, 44% of which are below 18 years old**, by reaching 14 times (on average) each IDP sites providing an average of 3 liters per person per day for 14 days. Due the challenges posed by limited fuel and transportation options, many of the deliveries have been efficiently carried out by using carts pulled by donkeys or horses, showcasing the agility of the organisation, the resilience and resourcefulness of our national colleagues.

TABLE 1: WATER TRUCKING UP TO JANUARY 30TH

Governorate	IDPs reached (3 lpd/14 days)	Men	Women	< 18 yrs	18 - 65 yrs	> 65 yrs	Drinking water (m ³)	Domestic water (m ³)	Total quantity of water delivered (m ³)
Rafah	46,048	23,429	22,619	20,353	24,221	1,474	911	1,023	1,934
Khan Younis	12,762	6,493	6,269	5,641	6,713	408	352	184	536
Middle Area	9,310	4,737	4,573	4,115	4,897	298	184	207	391
Gaza	1,190	606	585	526	626	38	39	11	50
Total	69,310	35,265	34,045	30,635	36,457	2,218	1,486	1,425	2,911



WATER DISTRIBUTION

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



BOTTLED WATER DISTRIBUTION

WeWorld made as well possible the **distribution of 119,104 bottles of water to 59,552 people**, providing them with 3 litres per person (two 1,5 L bottles). Supported people were underserved IDP sites such as hospitals, school shelters and hosting communities in the Governorates of Rafah and Khan Younis reaching.

TABLE 2: BOTTLED WATER DISTRIBUTION UP TO JANUARY 30TH

Governorates	IDPs reached (3 l per person)	Men	Women	<18 yrs	18 - 65 yrs	>65 yrs	Total quantity of bottles distributed
Rafah and Khan Younis	59,552	30,300	29,252	26,322	31,324	1,906	119,104



BOTTLED WATER AND JERRYCANS DISTRIBUTION

SANITATION

CONSTRUCTION OF LATRINES



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.

43 blocks of dry latrines have been constructed in Rafah and Khan Younis Governorates, benefiting 4,300 people addressing sanitation needs in an efficient and water-conserving manner, besides contributing to the enhancement of sanitation facilities in the western areas. Each block is composed by 3 units.

Considering the emergency situation and the extreme public health risk connected to 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, encompassing privacy and safety through the delimitation, and fencing of the areas, while installing locks on each unit.

SMALL REHABILITATION OF SANITATION FACILITIES

WeWorld is performing small rehabilitation to keep sanitation facilities operational in **6 schools IDP shelters** in the area of Khan Yunis and Rafah, currently hosting **62,835 IDPs.** As these target sites are overcrowded, it is important to keep existing sanitation facilities functional to maintain proper sanitation and hygienic conditions and avoid risk of infections and spreading of waterborne diseases.

HYGIENE

HYGIENE KITS

WeWorld distributed **700 gender-sensitive family Hygiene kits**, to IDPs in Rafah and Khan Yunis Governorates, to enhance personal and community hygiene conditions, reaching an estimated number of 9,800 beneficiaries. The kits, which were donated by UNICEF, included also items for menstrual hygiene management.

TABLE 3: HYGIENE KITS DISTRIBUTION UP TO JANUARY 30TH

Governorates	IDPs reached	Men	Women	<18 yrs	18 - 65 yrs	>65 yrs	Total Hygiene Kits distributed
Rafah and Khan Yunis	9,800	4,986	4,814	4,332	31,324	5,155	700

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING

Aiming to reduce the health and risks hazards and enhance dignity, protection, and disinfection of sanitation services and shared space at IDP sites, WeWorld is conducting **emergency cleaning services, including waste collection and disposal, in 4 schools and 3 main hospitals in Khan Yunis and Middle Area Governorates, including the European Hospital, Nasser Hospital and Al Aqsa Hospital.**

TABLE 4: ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANING SERVICES LOCATIONS

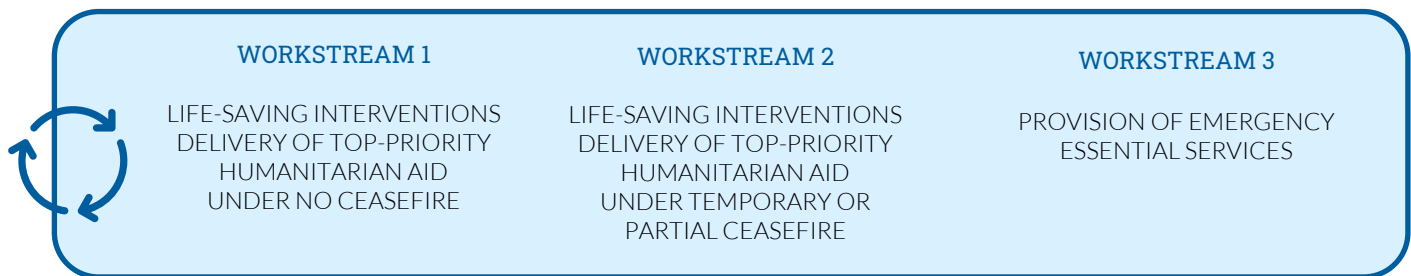
Governorate	Hospitals and schools	Total Beneficiaries
Khan Yunis	European Hospital	12,000
	Nasser Mubarak Hospital	18,000
	Abdul Qader School	1,890
	Bait El-Maqdes Girls School	1,970
	Haroun Al-Rashid School	2,471
	Al-Jinan School	2,105
	ajj Muhammad Al-Najjar School	3,667
	Tariq bin Ziyad School	2,730
Middle area	Al Aqsa Hospital	18,000
Total		62,835



HYGIENE PROMOTION CAMPAIGN

Effective **hygiene promotion is widely accepted to be one of the most valuable tool to reduce the burden of diarrheal diseases in emergencies.** Hygiene promotion is, nevertheless, an activity to scale 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 the major area where water and sanitation activities are undergoing. In this regard, **WeWorld Cash-For-Work modality is promoted** 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 is 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, therefore trucks, vans, cars, and medical equipment are operating at minimum level, while negatively impacting on the goods' market prices. The humanitarian assistance is coordinated by UN-OCHA and other relevant humanitarian actors with a no-regret approach. The top priority humanitarian items are clearly identified by the relevant UN Clusters and follow up coordination mechanisms with relevant actors are under elaboration.

Activities

- Distribution of bottled water

- Emergency distribution of trucked water
- Provision and distribution of individual/gender and child-sensitive family hygiene and cleaning kits
- Construction of latrines and small rehabilitation of sanitation facilities
- Light flooding mitigation interventions
- Support on construction and rehabilitation of temporary shelters (camp tents)

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

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 majeure risks. Fuel for aid distribution purposes is allowed to enter the Strip in larger quantities, therefore trucks, vans, cars, and medical equipment operating in 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 the humanitarian assistance is efficiently coordinated by UN-OCHA and other relevant humanitarian actors.

Activities

- Distribution of bottled water
- Emergency distribution of trucked water
- Provision and distribution of individual/gender and child-sensitive family hygiene and cleaning kits
- Construction of latrines and small rehabilitation of sanitation facilities
- Light flooding mitigation interventions
- Support on construction and rehabilitation of temporary shelters (camp tents)
- WASH-in-Health: critical interventions in WASH facilities in hospitals
- Environmental cleaning of IDP sites and shelters and Solid Waste Collection

WORKSTREAM 3: PROVISION OF EMERGENCY ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Scenario

A political agreement is reached. A medium-term partial/temporary stability has been achieved, including a lasting ceasefire. Access to fuel for humanitarian purposes is not limited. The conflict has caused dozens of thousands of casualties and injuries, millions of IDPs, and protection of civilians remains an absolute priority. The vast majority of Gaza population is in dire support 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 higher availability of goods and services in the Strip, with controlled market price.

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
- Improvement of desalination plants (small rehabilitation, distribution of generators, etc.)
- Establishment of community water filling points, and distribution of HH water filters
- Creation of Child-friendly Safe Spaces
- Provision of Education and psycho-social support to children
- Delivery of educational emergency supplies and learning kits
- Provision of services, basic shelter, emergency food-NFI and cash assistance to IDPs
- WASH-in-Health: light rehabilitation of WASH facilities in hospitals, Infection Prevention and Control and reinforcement of capacities

Gaza Response Plan
Update #1 - February 2024



Total Beneficiaries: 800,000 (children and women, IDPs, people in need)

Total resources needed: 8,000,000 USD (of which 4,11M USD already fundraised by WeWorld through UNICEF, OCHA and ChildFund Alliance Members - Barnfonden, ChildFund Deutschland, ChildFund Japan, ChildFund Korea)

Emergency Response in Gaza – Operational Report as of 2nd of February 2024

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