Water and Sanitation, Hygeine (WaSH) Sector in Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT): Facts and Challenges

Eng. BASEMA BASHIR
WaSH Monitoring Program
Palestinian Hydrology Group

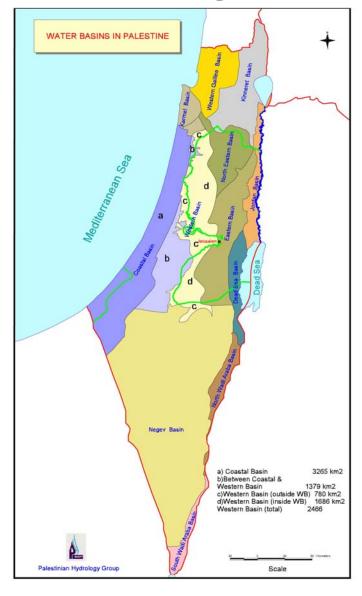
Best Eastern Hotel May 13th 2007

Ramallah - Palestine

I. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Monitoring

Program (WaSH MP)

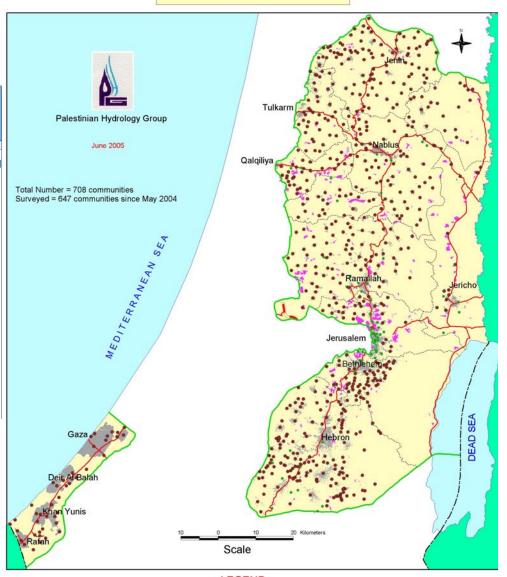
The main objective of the program is to respond to water crises in the West Bank and Gaza Strip by increasing local and international awareness of the WaSH situation and encouraging mobilization around the issues involved so as to help engender political and environmental change since timely information can be used to either remedy a WaSH related crisis or, better yet, prevent its occurrence.



THE WATER AND SANITATION HYGIENE MONITORING PROJECT (WASH MP) Monitoring the Water Emergency in the West Bank and Gaza Strip-A WATER FOR LIFE EFFORT Saturday, May 12, 2007 Tankers Price Communities with per capita consumption <= 30 1/c/d About the WaSH MP Fixed Checkpoints Effects on Palestinian Communities Mobile Checkpoints Effects on Palestinian Communities Earth Mounds Effects on Palestinian Communities Curfew Effects on Palestinian Communities Maps, Tables and Data Queries Related Links Betlehem And by population Greater Deir Al-Balah Rummana Gaza Ti'innik Hebron At Tayba 'Arabbuna Jenin Jericho Al Jalama * O Population 2004 Show the Fields Community Id ☑ District Submit Reset

WaSH MONITORING PROJECT

1- Surveyed Communities



LEGEND

- Surveyed Community
- Not Surveyed Community

II. Current Status of WASH Sector in the OPT

- 1. Ongoing political, economic and social crisis resulted in near catastrophic consequences for the WaSH situation
- 2. It is evident that **violations of all substantive elements of the right to water** is taking place in the OPTs and on daily basis.
- 3. Israeli forces have **employed policies and practices** (deliberate destruction of water infrastructure, restriction of movement, construction of a massive wall of separation.....etc) which have led to deterioration in the **availability**, **quality and accessibility** of water for the Palestinians
- 4. Unilateral diversion of shared resources, depletion of groundwater sources, and pollution from existing settlements in the West Bank also contribute to ongoing violations of Palestinians right to water and health
- 5. Concomitant increase in the number of Palestinians unable to pay their water bills, resulted in the Israeli water provider, Mekerot, cutting off supplies to Palestinian communities connected to, in many cases, very old water networks.
- 6. Other communities forced to <u>rely on local sources</u>, <u>harvesting rainwater</u>, <u>springs and purchasing water from expensive</u>, <u>privately owned water tankers</u> vulnerable to closures, curfews and checkpoints.

II. Current Status of WASH Sector in the OPT

- 7. Palestinians <u>often rely on contaminated alternative water supplies</u>; the limited domestic supplies inevitably adversely affect the collective <u>health and hygiene of communities</u>.
- 8. Wastewater collection and treatment in the rural areas is virtually non-existent; accumulation of solid waste in communities continues unabated as tankers transporting this waste are turned back at checkpoints.
- 9. Water quality continues to deteriorate as Israeli settlers discharge untreated wastewater into valleys and open spaces resulting in environmental pollution and the spread of water borne diseases.
- 10. The Joint Water Committee (JWC) which is, in actual effect, controlled by the Israeli Occupation Forces, continues to veto most Palestinian permit requests for water and sanitation projects.
- 11. Donors are discouraged from funding the water sector in Palestine as new infrastructure is always under threat of destruction by the Occupation Forces and because applying for a permit to undertake a WaSH project is such a long and drawn-out process.

Recent Humanitarian and Environmental Crisis in Beit Lahia (March 28th 2007)

Fig (5) Beit Lahia wastewater treatment plant the hazard of flood by shelling, May 2006.



Increasing water near water barrier (Skip 2006)



Endangered flood area Shelling takes away fences from WW ponds (Skip 2006) Pumping Station Storage Ponds Aeration Ponds Infiltration Basin (no.1) Facultative Ponds Infiltration Basins (no.2 Polishing Pond Pressure Line The Lake 15 Floating Pump 9.10 Emergency Ponds



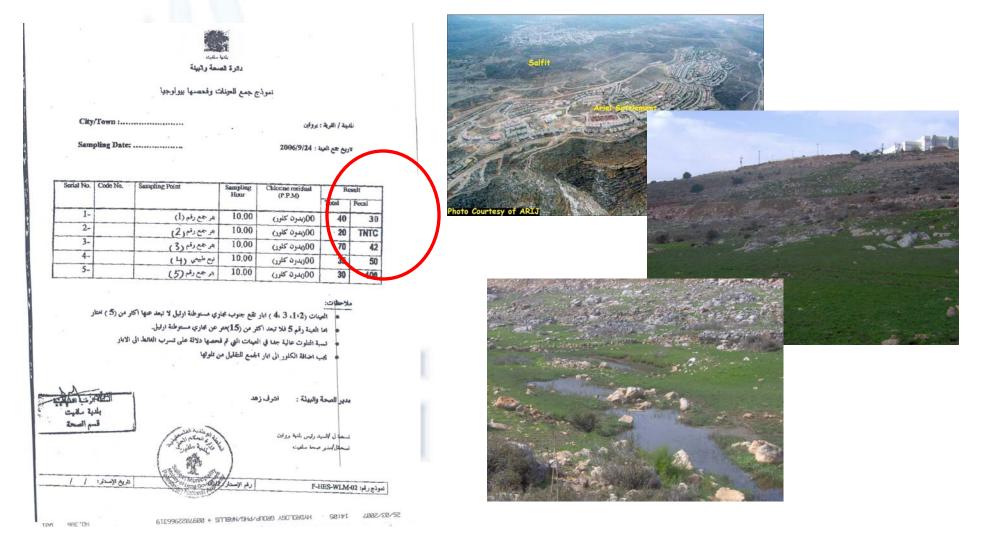
Incursion in Beit Hanoun / Gaza Strip (November 7th 2006)



Israeli settlements in the West Banks affecting WaSH Situation in the Palestinian communities:

Recent Case: Bruqin and Kafr ad Dik communities / Salfeet Governorate

(population of about 4000 and 5600 persons, license for a water network is available):



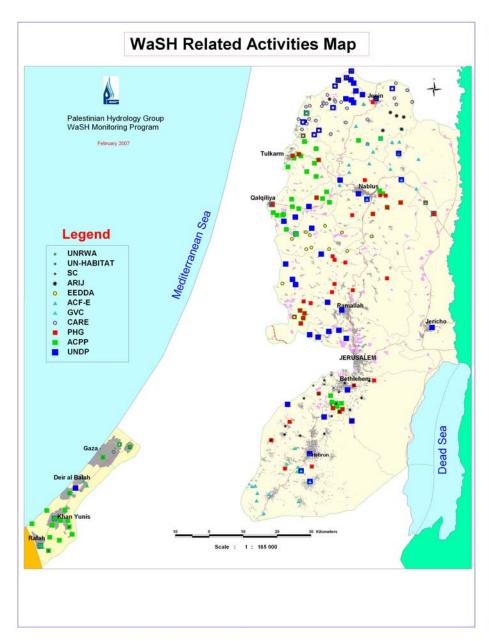
III. WaSH Projects Database:

WHO is doing WHAT and WHERE?



Data collection from related organizations:

Palestinian Hydrology Group WaSH Monitoring Program WaSH Related Projects												
AGENCY												
Abbraviation: Name:												
Contact Persons:					Telephons	:	E-Mails:					
Dat	e:											
PROJECTS												
No.	. Name / Description	Туре	Status	Benific-	Start Date	Finish Date	Funder	Partners	Budget (\$)	Localities		
		n	(")	iaries (#)		i iiii bute	- unuer	- dittiers	Budget (#)	ld	Name	District
(*) 1-Water networks 2-Cisterns 3-Springs 4-Wells 5-Waste water networks 6-Waste water treatment 7-Training 8-Public awarness or 9- Multi Types (**) 1-Proposed 2-Pending for approprial 3-Approprial 4-Opgoing or 5-Einished												









WaSH related projects information is available on:

www.phg.org/campaign



Coordination of activities:

EWaSH Group:

- 1. Monthly meetings
- 2. Exchange of information and experience

Conclusion & Recommendations

- Complete and comprehensive end to the Occupation, including the Palestinian control and rights over their water resources, in addition to the full removal of the WALL, are the basic solutions to all problems related to water access in the OPT.
- What can be done to remedy the current situation with regards to the WaSH deteriorating situation in the absence of a political solution to the conflict?

Cooperation and Coordination are needed between all stakeholders in the sector to remedy any possible WaSH related crisis or, better yet, prevent its occurrence.

THANKYOU

BASEMA BASHIR

WaSH Monitoring Program

(www.phg.org/campaign)

Palestinian Hydrology Group

bashir@phg.org

Or

bbashir@palnet.com