



Union pour la Méditerranée
Union for the Mediterranean
الإتحاد من أجل المتوسط

DESALINATION FACILITY FOR THE GAZA STRIP

OBJECTIVES

The water supply for the Gaza Strip depends almost exclusively on the deteriorating portion of coastal aquifer that runs underneath it. Over-pumping of groundwater has led to a significant drop in the aquifer's water levels, which has resulted in increased salinity of the water, contributing to the overall damage of the trans-boundary aquifer. **95% of the water in Gaza is unfit for human consumption.**

The Desalination Facility for the Gaza Strip aims to:

- Provide more than 1.7 million Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip with fresh water for domestic consumption.
- Decrease overpumping and contribute to the regeneration of the coastal aquifer, which is the only natural source of water in Gaza.

BENEFICIARIES

The population living in the Gaza Strip, neighbouring countries and, more generally, the Eastern Mediterranean region.

LOCATION

- Gaza Strip

DURATION

2015-2019

TOTAL COST

€310 million

PROJECTS FOR PROGRESS



ACTIONS

The Desalination Facility for the Gaza Strip is a landmark operation consisting of three integrated projects in this territory:

- **Construction of a seawater desalination plant** with an initial capacity of 55 million m³ and a final objective of an overall capacity of 100 million m³.
- **Development of a North-South carrier conveyance system** that allows the distribution of freshwater throughout the Gaza Strip and which will also dramatically reduce water losses.
- **Implementation of a non-revenue water reduction component** to enhance efficiency system-wide and reduce water losses.



RESULTS

- More than 1.7 million men, women and children will have adequate fresh water to drink and use once the project is completed.
- The project will help **regenerate the only fresh water source in Gaza, which is the coastal aquifer** that also runs underneath neighbouring countries.
- The project will be a step forward towards **effective reduction of pollution in the Eastern Mediterranean**, as a component of a broader water and wastewater programme including complimentary development of wastewater treatment facilities.
- The construction and subsequent operation of the desalination facility and the conveyance system will offer a **substantial opportunity for job creation** as the initiative would represent the largest infrastructure project to be built to date in Gaza.

PROMOTER

Palestinian Water Authority (PWA), Palestine.

PARTNERS

- European Commission (EC).
- European Investment Bank (EIB).
- Islamic Development Bank (IDB).
- Office of the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO).
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- World Bank (WB).

CONTRIBUTION

- EC/EIB - €4 million contributed towards the technical preparation of the desalination facility.
- World Bank - \$2.2 million contributed towards the technical preparation of the North-South carrier and non-revenue water programme.
- Arab Gulf States - IDB-led consortium pledged 50% of funds required for project.
- France - Prime Minister of France pledged €10 million.



Contact details

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