

State of Palestine
Palestinian water Authority

سلطة المياه الفلسطينية
PALESTINIAN WATER AUTHORITY



Palestinian Water Authority
Water sector strategy 2025-2027

June.2025

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1.0 Executive Summary

Introduction

Based upon the directions of the Ministry of Planning to prepare the cycle of strategic planning in Palestine for the years 2025–2027, the Palestinian Water Authority initiated the preparation of the strategic plan in line with the guidelines entitled “Strategy Preparation Manual.” This new methodology introduced qualitative additions, resulting in a realistic and participatory strategic plan for the water sector that responds to the analysis of reality, challenges, and top-priority issues. It aligns goals with indicators and targets in a solid manner and connects results with policy interventions and projects.

The strategy is prepared in response to the National Program for Development and Reform “First Phase” 2025–2026, issued by the 19th Government. It aims to implement the process of economic transformation, improve the institutional level, and consolidate the foundations of an independent, sovereign Palestinian state. It is worth mentioning that this plan for 2025–2027 came as an update and review of the strategic plan for 2024–2029, which was not endorsed by the Council of Ministers due to the repercussions of the aggression and the ongoing war against our people in the Gaza Strip.

There is no doubt that the Palestinian water sector faces serious challenges, including the ongoing war against our people in the Gaza Strip, Israeli occupation restrictions, the decline in international support and governmental funding as a result of the financial crisis, and Israel’s continued piracy and withholding of Palestinian funds. Nevertheless, these challenges serve as a driving force to implement the outcomes of this strategic plan, as cooperation with local and international partners will be a key lever in ensuring its successful implementation.

Methodology in Preparing the Plan

The process of preparing the strategic plan was assigned to the General Administration for Strategic Planning at the Palestinian Water Authority to review the previous plan for the years 2024–2029, and to include the years 2025–2027. The planning process was based upon the National Program for Development and Reform “First Phase” 2025–2026 adopted by the Palestinian government. It comprised strategic and developmental initiatives and fundamental pillars: enhancing the level of legislative and institutional system, and the level of institutional performance, improving the level of basic services (water, electricity, communication, health, education, social protection), as well as improvement of investment environment, rule of law and good governance).

Taskforce committees were formulated in various components of the water sector (Sources, wastewater, legal and institutional structure, financial component, cross-sectoral issues, and the organizational structure of the Palestinian Water Authority). Therefore, the strategy preparation manual was reviewed and applied, data collection templates were distributed to various administrations to collect relevant information, and review of previous documents and plans. Palestinian Water Authority relies on the principle of consultation and partnership with partners in developing the water sector, and organizing the sector to achieve the relevant developmental goals. It manages the sector in full coordination with various partners such as ministries, NGOs, CSOs, and donor parties. Accordingly, the strategy was developed according to the following components: analyzing the reality and outcomes achieved during the years 2017–2022, the sector’s vision and strategic work priorities, goals and results, the path of strategic work, policy interventions and main projects, budget, monitoring and evaluation measures.

The strategy also took into consideration cross-sectoral issues which were integrated directly in the strategic plan including gender, youth, environment, and climate change, integrity and anti-corruption, and “the water–energy–food nexus”.

Analysis of Current Status

Repercussions and Impact of Aggression and Israeli War on Gaza Strip from October 7, 2023 until the End of Year 2024 on Water and Sanitation Sector

Since the beginning of the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip in October 2023 and continuing to the present, the water and wastewater crisis has escalated significantly due to the direct damage inflicted on the sector’s infrastructure. The Israeli aggression since October 2023 has destroyed all the efforts exerted by the Palestinian Water Authority and its partners over many years to protect the coastal groundwater aquifer, the only water source in Gaza. Repercussions of water interruption, scarcity of humanitarian assistance since the first week of the aggression, and unavailability of fuel to operate vital facilities, have resulted in the reduction of operation hours for groundwater wells, cessation of seawater desalination plants, destruction of infrastructure which in turn forced the citizens to use unsafe water for human consumption posing serious health risks, interruption of agriculture and production of produce leading to food insecurity, and insufficient water for hygiene as it exacerbated the risks of epidemics and diseases. Water provided barely meets the minimum humanitarian needs in emergency conditions, estimated at 15 liters /person/ day, while more than two-thirds of the residents cannot provide the bare minimum of drinkable water 6 litres/ person/ day, due to deliberate power outages by the Israeli side in the Gaza Strip.

At the level of the wastewater system, the health and environmental challenges have intensified due to severe damage sustained by the various components of wastewater system. This damage has led to the discharge of untreated wastewater into the surrounding environment, including roads within shelter centers and main streets, adjacent areas to the sea and pumping stations. This has caused widespread pollution, severely and alarmingly exacerbating the health and environmental crises in the Gaza Strip, as all five wastewater treatment plants have ceased operation (three central plants, in addition to Rafah and Sheikh ‘Ijleen). This situation requires a prompt intervention from the international community. Urgent action is needed to pressure Israel to cease the aggression immediately, deliver urgent humanitarian assistance, and ensure that support is directed towards securing basic services for citizens in the Gaza Strip.

Repercussions and Impact of Aggression on the West Bank

Since the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip on October 7, 2023, the Israeli military operations intensified in various cities of the West Bank. Jenin, Tubas and Tulkarem Governorates were the most vulnerable and affected areas by these operations. The Israeli forces targeted the camps and cities frequently, and in each incursion they deliberately caused massive destruction in the infrastructure in the northern area, especially the water and wastewater systems. It is considered one of the major military operations in the occupied territories since 2002. The military operations covered many areas inside the city, including the eastern and middle areas, German area, Jabriyat and the camp. The Israeli occupation excavator caused huge damage to the water and wastewater system in these areas. The Israeli forces continue to confiscate and destroy many Palestinian water projects and establishments in Area “C”. Furthermore, Israel controls the prices of purchased water, in addition to calculating administrative costs and delay interests, and charging the water loss on the pipelines located in Area “C” on the Palestinian side. In addition, Israel deducts wastewater treatment fees for the sewage discharge from the West Bank amounting to over 140 million ILS from the clearance money (according to 2024 data), in addition to reusing the treated water.

The Sector's Vision and Strategic Priorities

A well-governed water and wastewater sector, that enhances Palestinian sovereignty, and guarantees the sustainability of water systems, and that is responsive to the developmental and cross-sectoral issues.

Sectoral Priorities and Strategic Goals

By analyzing the water situation, which was divided into five major components according to the table below, the strategic goals were developed based on the strategic issues for the sector.

| Major component | strategic goals |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Sources | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First strategic goal: An integrated management, good governance, and sustainable development for water sources. |
| Supply | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Second strategic goal: Improving the quality and reliability of water supply services, and guaranteeing equity in distribution. |
| Sanitation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Third strategic goal: Improving the infrastructure and services of sanitation, and wastewater treatment, and increasing the reuse in various domains. |
| Legal and institutional structure | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fourth strategic goal: Developing and strengthening water sector institutions by consolidating good governance principles within an integrated institutional legal environment, that is responsive to gender and youth participation |
| Financial component | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fifth strategic goal: Guaranteeing financial sustainability for the facilities and water service providers. |

Path of Strategic Work

In this section, the strategy outlines the approach that will be adopted to achieve the goals and targets to which the Palestinian Water Authority is committed, by defining the results framework associated with each goal.

First: Sources

First strategic goal: An integrated management, good governance and sustainable development for water sources.

First result: Increased amounts of water available from various sources, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

This will be achieved relying on local sources and increasing water production from groundwater basins through drilling new wells, improving the efficiency of water wells and improving the use of springs to ensure the sustainability of groundwater basins; increasing water harvested through rainwater collection ponds and dams; treating wastewater; and establishing water reuse projects for irrigation.

Second result: Protected water sources from depletion, pollution and climate change.

Palestinian Water Authority exerts efforts to address the impacts of climate change on equitable water distribution and the sustainable provision of water by protecting sources from depletion and pollution, and

adapting to climate change. This is achieved through monitoring the quantities of water extracted from wells and flowing from springs; monitoring the quantities of water resulting from floodwaters in the valleys, monitoring water quality; ensuring compliance with issued extraction licenses; and raising awareness about the importance of protecting groundwater from depletion.

Second: Supply

Second strategic goal: Improving the quality and reliability of water supply services, and guaranteeing equity in distribution.

First result: Increased opportunities for citizens to access safe drinking water from reliable water sources, and equity in distribution was guaranteed.

Water networks were established and rehabilitated in areas where none previously existed.

Networks were expanded in areas that experienced high population growth and urban development.

Second result: Improved performance and increased efficiency of regional and local water distribution networks, achieved through:

- Connecting sources, and constructing and rehabilitating pumping stations and main distribution lines.
- Constructing transmission lines between available sources, establishing new pumping stations, rehabilitating existing ones, and completing all distribution lines within the communities.
- Establishing and rehabilitating local water tanks.
- Constructing regional water tanks and transmission lines for regional water sources.

Third: Sanitation

Third strategic goal: Improving the infrastructure and services for sanitation, wastewater treatment, and increasing the reuse in various domains.

First result: Improved and increased efficiency of wastewater services infrastructure, and expanded coverage in terms of conveyance, collection and treatment, achieved through:

Expanding wastewater management and improving sanitation services. Efforts will be focused on establishing new sanitation networks, constructing new wastewater treatment plants, operating and maintaining existing plants, and increasing the quantities of treated water available for reuse in agricultural purposes.

Second result: Increased contribution of alternative energy in operating treatment plants, achieved through:

Developing alternative energy sources for treatment plants by providing solar cells and other necessary solar techniques, improving operational efficiency in treatment plants, reducing wastewater treatment costs, managing sludge effectively and generating alternative energy from it.

Third result: Ensured proper management and monitoring of treated wastewater and sludge reuse, achieved through:

Implementing reuse projects for agricultural irrigations, introducing new interventions for sludge reuse, raising awareness among farmers about reuse, and reviewing standards related for reuse.

Fourth result: Reduced quantities of transboundary wastewater, achieved through:

Reducing the flow of treated and untreated wastewater towards the Israeli side, thereby decreasing Palestinian financial deductions and reducing government financial burdens; reusing treated wastewater in agricultural lands through reuse projects, upgrading existing treatment plants to increase its absorption capacity, constructing new treatment plants, and rehabilitating and cleaning valleys of industrial and household wastewater.

Fifth result: Increased private sector investment in sanitation projects, achieved through:

Encouraging private sector investment in sanitation projects, developing draft regulatory framework, and establishing units to facilitate private sector involvement in sanitation initiatives.

Fourth: Legal and Institutional Structure

Fourth strategic goal: Developing and strengthening water sector institutions by consolidating good governance principles within an integrated institutional legal environment, that is responsive to gender and youth participation.

First result: Enforced laws and regulations.

By developing legal systems and instructions to fulfill the requirements of the Water Law through the completion of the following systems: Financial and administrative system for Water Company, administrative system, system of engaging the private sector, establishing the administrative foundations for the Palestine Water Company, public and private sector partnership, the system for protecting water sources and facilities, agricultural water tariff system, and performance incentive system for water service providers.

Second result: Restructured various water sector institutions in alignment with the new Palestinian Water Law (effectively water sector institutions).

Completing the establishment of water sector institutions based on the Palestinian Water Law. Work will include operating the National Water Company and separating water services and wastewater from a number of local government authorities to operate in an independent manner (such as Hebron, Yatta, Halhoul, Dura, Nablus). The activation of the Palestine Water Company will be pursued, along with achieving financial, administrative, and technical independence for a number of water and wastewater utilities that have been separated from local authorities, to establish independent water utilities. In addition, new utilities will be established, such as the Yatta Water Utility and the East Jenin Water Utility.

Third result: Specialized scientific research and enhanced youth participation in the water sector.

The Palestinian Water Authority will work to enhance the research environment and integrate researchers in various domains in the water sector. This includes supporting researchers in terms of university scholarships for water-related research under (MEDRIC, promoting scientific knowledge exchange by organizing scientific sessions and conferences, strengthening cooperation in the domain of scientific research, and signing memoranda of understanding with scientific centers.

In addition, awareness programs will be implemented targeting the youth sector in the water and wastewater fields to encourage their engagement in relevant activities and events. This will be complemented by the provision of scholarships (Master's and doctoral degrees) in domains with urgent needs for the water sector.

Fourth result: Gender mainstreaming institutionalized in Palestinian Water Authority, achieved through:

Integrating gender into water-related issues by establishing a gender unit within Water Authority, which reviews all the policies, procedures, plans and strategies to ensure gender responsiveness. Capacity-building

programs in this field will be implemented, in coordination with relevant stakeholders. In addition, gender-responsive regulations, guidelines, policies, and strategies will be developed and adopted.

Fifth result: A strong infrastructure and institutional framework established, achieved through:

Strengthening the institutional infrastructure through developing the organizational structure and job descriptions, developing logistic structure, equipment, computerized systems and mechanisms, updating organizational structure to keep pace with the formation of various water sector institutions, and enhance communication among them.

Fifth: Financial component

1.0 Fifth strategic goal: Guaranteeing financial sustainability for the facilities and water service providers.

First result: Improved financial management for the facilities and service providers, achieved through:

Enhancing financial capacities for water sector institutions and water service providers to improve efficiency of revenue collection, establishing sound financial administration for water and wastewater services to reduce public debt, implementing capacity building projects, such as, installing prepaid systems, separating services with individual accounts, training in financial management, and investing in alternative energy projects, reducing expenses and applying unified tariff system.

Policy interventions and main projects:

The following table outlines the main strategic projects and interventions considered a priority for the Palestinian Water Authority for the years (2025-2027)

| |
|--|
| First strategic goal: An integrated management, good governance and sustainable development for water sources. |
| Main projects |
| Equipping the Janzur well and implementing the transmission line to connect it to the water system in Jenin Governorate, which will provide 2 million cubic meters per year. |
| Equipping al-Samu' well and implementing the transmission line to connect it to the water system, which will provide 1 million cubic meters per year. |
| Rehabilitation of the West Bank Water Department wells (Phase I) in Qabatiya, 'Arrabah, al-'Izariya 1, and al-'Izariya 2, increasing their total production to 4.6 million cubic meters per year. |
| Rehabilitation of the West Bank Water Department wells (Phase II) in 'Arab al-Rashaydah, Palestinian Water Authority's al-'Ubayyat well, and Palestinian Water Authority well no. 1, increasing their total production to 4.4 million cubic meters per year. |
| Project for the construction of a new water supply point in Beitlehem. which will provide 2 million cubic meters per year. |
| Second strategic goal: Improving the quality and reliability of water supply services, and guaranteeing equity in distribution |
| Main projects |
| Implementation of al-'Izariya transmission line to find a sustainable water source in Jerusalem Governorate, as well as in Beitlehem and Hebron Governorates, by connecting the new point to the West Bank Water Department's system. This project will provide these communities with an additional 4 million cubic meters of water per year. |
| Project of Beit Ikssa pumping station East-West al-Quds. |
| Completing the rehabilitation of the internal water network in Yatta City (Phase II). |
| Bulk Water Supply and Connection Points Project (Ramallah): This project includes the extension of networks, installation of pumps and construction of necessary tanks from the 'Aboud supply point, with a production capacity of approximately 25,500 m ³ per day, to serve around 65,000 residents in the villages of 'Aboud, Deir Abu Misha'al, Deir Nizam, An- Nabi Saleh, Beit Rima, Deir Ghassanah, Kafr Ad-Deek, Qarawa Bani Zeid, Kafr 'Ein, Mazari' al-Nubani, Deir Sudan, 'Arura, 'Ajjul, Umm Safa, 'Atara, and Birzeit. |

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|--|
| (Bulk Water Supply and Connection Points Project Jenin): This project includes the construction of transmission lines from the Salem and Jalameh connections to the main pumping station in Jalameh (including the construction of the main pumping station itself), followed by transmission lines from the main pumping station to the regional water tank in Qabatiya. The project also includes the construction of water networks to serve five villages in north east of Jenin that were previously unserved: Deir Abu D'eef, Northern and Southern Beit Qad, Jalboun, and 'Arbouneh. |
| Third strategic goal: Improving the structure and services for sanitation, wastewater treatment, and increasing its reuse in various domains |
| Completing Hebron Wastewater Management Program: Aims to stop the annual financial losses estimated at 80 million ILS, deducted under the pretext of treating transboundary wastewater, and to create a non-conventional water source for agricultural use. |
| Northeast Ramallah Wastewater Project: Currently in the design phase for wastewater networks, and a treatment plant to serve 14 communities north of Ramallah City. |
| Dura Wastewater Project: Implementation is underway to serve 30% of Dura's population, with the possibility of expanding the plant's capacity to serve 60% of the population, with a daily treatment capacity of 2,000 cubic meters. |
| Tulkarem Wastewater and Renewable Energy Project: A national-scale project extending from Tulkarem City to the Jordan Valley, including the construction of a wastewater treatment plant for Tulkarem, and neighboring municipalities, transmission pipelines, pumping stations, central wells, and the construction of al-Malaqi Dam. |
| 'Ein Jaryout wastewater project: Aims to construct a wastewater treatment plant in the 'Ein Jaryout area, west of Beitunia City, along with a wastewater network for Beitunia and parts of Ramallah City, and a transmission line from Beitunia to the plant site as part of Phase I. |
| Al-Bireh Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project: Focuses on developing and upgrading al-Bireh wastewater treatment plant and transferring treated water to al-'Oja for reuse in agriculture. |
| Fourth strategic goal: Developing and strengthening water sector institutions by consolidating good governance principles within an integrated institutional legal environment, that is responsive to gender and youth participation. |
| Preparing the financial system for the National Water Company. |
| Preparing the administrative system for the staff of the National Water Company. |
| Establishing the water facility of East Jenin and Yatta facility. |
| Preparation of a draft for Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Regulation, and preparation of a draft Performance Incentive Regulation for water service providers. |
| Fifth strategic goal: Guaranteeing financial sustainability for the facilities and water service providers. |
| Increase in the use of prepaid systems by service providers. |
| Improving the efficiency of debt collection for the benefit of the West Bank Water Department. |
| Decreasing encroachments on the West Bank Water Department lines. |
| Monitoring the implementation of water and sanitation tariff systems, connection fees, and relevant regulations. |
| Decreasing government support for bulk water through correcting water prices for cost recovery. |
| Establishing a mechanism to address camp debt accumulation. |
| Updating and developing software programs applied in the West Bank Water Department. |
| Project for an electronic online system. |

2.0 Introduction

2.1 Preface

Based upon the directions of the Ministry of Planning to prepare the cycle of strategic planning in Palestine for the years 2025–2027, the Palestinian Water Authority initiated the preparation of the strategic plan, in line with the guidelines entitled “Strategy Preparation Manual.” This new methodology witnessed qualitative additions and the outcome was a realistic and participatory strategic plan for the water sector responding to the analysis of reality and challenges, and priority issues. It aligns the goals with indicators and targets in a solid manner, and connects results with policy interventions and projects. Strategic development plans will contribute to identifying, highlighting and assessing the sectoral resources and needs at the national level, in an interactive participatory environment among the stakeholders.

The strategy is prepared in response to the National Program for Development and Reform “First Phase” 2025-2026 issued by the 19th government which aims at implementing the process of economic transformation and improving the institutional level. Furthermore, it addresses the major imbalances in the structure of the national economy which have accumulated over the past decades, as a result of the occupation policies. This national program paves the way to a positive holistic social economic and environmental development process through focusing on domains which could create a genuine change, and consolidate bases of an independent sovereign Palestinian state.

It has to be clarified that this 2025-2027 plan came as an update and review to the strategic plan 2024–2029, which was not endorsed by the Council of Ministers due to the repercussions of the aggression, and the ongoing war against our people in Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Instead, an annual plan was prepared for the year 2024 only, as an emergency plan due to the difficult constant conditions the Palestinian people are going through.

The Palestinian National Authority has recognized the importance and necessity of developing plans and strategies for the water and wastewater sector. It worked through the Palestinian Water Authority and various working institutions in this domain to improve water and wastewater conditions and services, and essential services for the Palestinian people. In this context, a long-term strategic plan was prepared for 2012–2032, and recently it was updated to become 2022–2042, in addition to the mid-term sectoral plans included in the national development agenda since 2009, and what followed as strategies representing the water and wastewater sector. The last strategy was 2017–2022, and its recent update is 2021–2023.

Since the Palestinian Council of Ministers approved the reform plan on Dec.14, 2009 which aimed at implementing comprehensive institutional and legal reforms for the Palestinian water sector, this reform mission has been entrusted to the Palestinian Water Authority, the central body representing the sector. The reform process comprised reevaluating the sector and its institutions, building its institutional capacity, reviewing policies, strategies and laws. Among the results of the reform was the issuance of the Palestinian Water Law of 2014, which clarified the structure of sector institutions and their authorities. The law indicated the main institutions in the sector such as the Palestinian Water Authority, the Water Regulatory Council, the National Water Company, the Regional Water Utilities, and the Water Users Associations. The Palestinian Water Authority worked on implementing the outcomes of the reform program through the development of policies and strategies. There is no doubt that the Palestinian water sector faces serious challenges, among them the ongoing war against our people in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli occupation restrictions, the decline of international support and government funding, as a result of the financial crisis, and Israel’s continued piracy and withholding of Palestinian funds. Nevertheless, these challenges serve as a

driving force for implementing the outcomes of this strategic plan, as cooperation with local and international partners will be a key lever in ensuring its implementation.

2.2 Methodology in Preparing the Plan

Aligning with the requirements of the Strategy Preparation Manual developed within the planning methodology, the following methodology was followed:

- The process of preparing the strategic plan was entrusted to the General Administration for Strategic Planning of the Palestinian Water Authority to review the previous one for the years 2024–2029 and to include the years 2025–2027.

A draft was prepared and reviewed for the original plan through the following methodology:

- Taskforces were formulated in various water sector components: in main and sub-sector domains: (sources, supply, wastewater, institutional and legal structure, financial component, cross-sectoral issues, institutional organization for Water Authority).
- Reviewing the Strategy Preparation Manual, and preparing data collection templates which were distributed on various administrations to collect relevant information.
- Reviewing previous relevant documents and plans.
- Holding internal workshops (including the Gaza strip) for various work phases in developing the water sector strategy.
- Holding meetings with ministries and governmental institutions individually.
- Holding a main workshop for all partners in the water sector.
- Reviewing the sector's vision and water sector priorities with the partners, in individual meetings or through central workshops held earlier.

As a result, the strategy was developed according to the following:

1. Analysis of the current situation and evaluation of the results achieved during the years 2017–2022.
2. Sector's vision and strategic work priorities.
3. Goals and results, and the path of strategic work.
4. Policy interventions and projects
5. Budget.
6. Monitoring and evaluation measures.

2.3 Plan Approval

The water sector strategy underwent a series of steps to be endorsed starting from within the Palestinian Water Authority and the partners, and concluding with the Ministry of Planning and the Council of Ministers.

The steps can be summarized as follows:

First: Within the Palestinian Water Authority.

- Internally, each part of the strategy was reviewed from each specialized administration.

- A comprehensive review was conducted to evaluate the reality in the context of an internal workshop.
- A comprehensive review was conducted to evaluate the strategic results and targets proposed, and their relevance to the interventions and projects; priority goals and results were then identified.
- Budget was approved and reviewed, in addition to monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

Second: Communicating with partners:

- Bilateral meetings were held with partners to approve the outcomes of discussions.
- A workshop was held on a wide scale to review the sector’s vision, strategic priorities and policy interventions.

Third: Sending the document to the Ministry of Planning.

After the draft document was ready, it was sent to the Ministry of Planning for review and feedback.

Comments were received from the Ministry of Planning on the submitted draft plan. Accordingly, the plan was modified in response to the comments and recommendations. The final copy was delivered to the Ministry of Planning and Council of Ministers for final approval.

3.0 Analysis of the Current Situation and Evaluation of Results Achieved during the Years 2017-2022

3.1 Repercussions and Impact of Aggression and Israeli War on the Gaza Strip from October 7, 2023 until the end of Year 2024 on Water Sector and Wastewater System

Since the beginning of Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip on October 7, 2023, and continuing to the present, the water and wastewater crisis has escalated significantly due to the direct damage inflicted on the water sector infrastructure. The Israeli aggression destroyed all the efforts exerted by the Palestinian National Authority and its partners since Oct. 2023 over the previous years to rescue the coastal aquifer, the only water source in Gaza. The deliberate cutting off of water for to citizens and manipulating water constitutes a war crime committed by the Israeli occupation in the Gaza Strip. Palestinians are facing death from thirst, in addition to the occupation causing sanitary hazards and the spread of epidemics and diseases, leading to catastrophic consequences, as a result of the destruction of the infrastructure of the wastewater system: 200 wells and 40 main reservoirs, a desalination plant with a capacity of 10,000 cubic meters/per day, 80 ground water desalination plants, 70% of water networks, in addition to the destruction of more than 70% of the wastewater collection system, all of which were directly targeted. This includes 58 pumping stations that went out of service due to structural damage, and five wastewater treatment plants that ceased operating, as a result of the damage sustained and the inability to access them due to the security situation. In addition, due to the complete electricity outage, the restrictions on fuel supply and necessary spare parts have further hindered the maintenance and operation of water and wastewater utilities.

Repercussions of water interruption, the scarcity of humanitarian assistance since the first week of the aggression, and the unavailability of fuel to operate vital facilities led to a decrease in operation hours for the groundwater wells, cessation of seawater desalination plants, and destruction of the infrastructure, which in turn forced the citizens to use water unfit for human consumption, posing big health risks, caused interruption of agriculture and the production of produce, leading to food insecurity, and the unavailability of water for hygiene, as it exacerbated the risks of epidemics and diseases. Water provided barely meets the

minimum humanitarian needs in emergency conditions, estimated at 15 liters/person/per day, while more than two-thirds of the residents cannot provide the bare minimum drinkable water of 6 liters/ person/per day, due to the deliberate power outage by the Israeli side in the Gaza Strip.

The crisis has also paralyzed agriculture and food production, resulting in severe food insecurity, and limited water for hygiene purposes, which in turn has exacerbated the spread of diseases and epidemics. The available water from all sources barely meets the minimum humanitarian emergency standards, estimated at 15 liters/person/day. In reality, more than half of Gaza's population consumes no more than 9 liters/person/day for domestic use, while over two-thirds cannot access the minimum drinking water requirement of 6 liters/person/day.

This situation has been further worsened by the cut off of electricity by the Israeli side, and the lack of fuel necessary to operate vital facilities. As a result, groundwater wells and desalination plants have either stopped or reduced their operating hours. Additionally, Israel has halted water supply to the Gaza Strip and disabled pumping and wastewater treatment plants due to the damage they sustained, while operational teams have been unable to reach these vital utilities.

At the level of the wastewater system, the health and environmental challenges have increased due to the severe damage sustained by the various components of the wastewater system, leading to the discharge of untreated wastewater into the surrounding environment, including roads within shelter centers and main streets, as well as adjacent territories near the sea and pumping stations. This has caused widespread pollution, severely and alarmingly exacerbating the health and environmental crises in the Gaza Strip as follows:

- Five wastewater treatment plants ceased operating (three central plants in addition to Rafah and Sheikh 'Ijleen). Both Breij and Khan Yunis sustained heavy losses, as it is hard to evaluate the damage to other plants due to difficult access.
- Wastewater plants were severely damaged as 1545 km were completely destroyed and 8.6 km were partially destroyed. This destruction led to overflow of wastewater in the streets and residential neighborhoods, posing a big threat to the environment and public health.
- A total of 47 wastewater pumping stations were destroyed, twenty of which were fully destroyed and 27 partially. This destruction, along with the difficulty of supplying fuel required to operate the pumps that were not destroyed, affected the sector's capacity to treat wastewater and prevent the leakage in residential areas, increasing the risk of spreading epidemics and diseases.

This situation requires a prompt intervention from the international community. Urgent action is needed to pressure Israel to cease the aggression immediately, deliver urgent humanitarian assistance, and ensure that support is directed towards securing basic services for citizens in the Gaza Strip.

3.2 Repercussions and Impact of Aggression on the West Bank

Since the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip on October 7, 2023, the Israeli military operations have intensified in various cities of the West Bank. Jenin, Tubas, and Tulkarem Governorates were the most vulnerable and affected areas by these operations. The Israeli forces targeted the camps and cities frequently, and in each incursion, they deliberately caused massive destruction to the infrastructure. In Tulkarem, the military operation covered areas in Tulkarem and Noor Shams camp, Diwan al-Jallad, Duwar al-Yunis,

Duwar ktaba, Duwar Muqata'a court, and the Muqata'a area, as the Israeli forces' excavators caused huge damage to the water and sewage system in these areas.

As in Jenin, the Israeli forces targeted the city many times, causing massive destruction, as was witnessed in February and March 2024. In September 2024, the Israeli forces withdrew after a 10-day military operation which started on August 28. It is considered one of the major military operations in the occupied territories since 2002. The military operations covered many areas inside the city, including the eastern and middle areas, the German area, Jabriyat, and the camp.

The frequent aggression forced the local authorities and the Palestinian government to rehabilitate the infrastructure multiple times, increasing the cost of repair and efforts, especially in light of the difficulty of movement imposed by the occupation measures.

The Israeli occupation continues to confiscate and destroy many Palestinian projects and establishments in Area "C". Furthermore, Israel controls the prices of purchased water, in addition to calculating administrative costs and late payment interest, and charging the water loss on the pipelines located in Area "C" on the Palestinian side. In addition, Israel deducts sewage treatment fees for the wastewater flowing from the West Bank, amounting to over 128 million Shekels from the clearance revenues (according to 2023 data), in addition to reusing the treated water.

The operations of demolition, confiscation, destruction, and forced displacement created additional challenges for vulnerable Palestinian communities to obtain water. In the years 2022 and 2023, for example, in 'Ein Qaryut the settlers stole 3 springs out of 5 that supply the village pipelines, and deliberately polluted the spring of Ein Qaryut with smelly substances. The spring became unsuitable for drinking or irrigating plants. 'Ein Silon spring also became insufficient for the village, as the settlers dug an artesian well and diverted the water away.

From time to time, the Israeli water company Mekorot decreases the amount of water supply to many villages and Palestinian communities, especially during the summer, under unreasonable pretexts. For example, the main water connection in Hebron, Deir Sha'ar, the quantities agreed upon with the Israeli side are 34,000 m³/per day, but the actual quantity during the summer of 2023 reached less than 24000 m³/per day due to reductions from the Israeli side. If we take into consideration the water status in the southern Governorates, with a rate of 2 days per week, this reduction greatly impacted the people in the area. Moreover, the high water losses on Mekorot pipelines to the Palestinian towns, which reached over 30,000 m³/day during the summer months in Beitlehem and Hebron Governorates, remain a serious issue. The Mekorot Company is responsible for maintaining these pipelines, but fails to fulfill this responsibility and prevents the Palestinian side from carrying out maintenance work to reduce these significant losses. Instead, these losses are charged to the Palestinian government when calculating clearance revenues, leading to reduced water quantities supplied to local authorities and undermining equitable distribution.

3.3 A General Introduction About the Components of Water Sector in Palestine

The Palestinian Water Authority seeks to achieve the concept of water security in both the short and long term. This requires developing and protecting water sources, relying on water sources for drinking and searching for unconventional water sources, desalination, reuse of treated water, and rainwater harvesting, as well as preserving their sustainability and quality in accordance with integrated management principles. This is to ensure the achievement of the main objective, which is securing sustainable water resources capable of meeting developmental and basic services needs of the Palestinian people, and adopting a plan that responds to the deterioration of conditions and the water sector infrastructure in the Gaza Strip, as a result of the ongoing aggression. Achieving water security in this concept in Palestine requires the concerted efforts of

both local and international efforts to overcome them. The most important of these challenges are political challenges, institutional challenges and financial challenges. For a deeper understanding of the sector's reality, an assessment of the water sector was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the methodology of preparing the strategy approved by the Council of Ministers. The water sector is composed of five main components: water sources, water supply, sanitation, the legal and institutional framework, and the financial component, in addition to the analysis of cross-sectoral issues.

Below is a brief analysis of the five components and the results achieved, in order to identify the sector's priorities based on this analysis and on previously achieved results. Annex (1) includes a comprehensive analysis of these components.

3.3.1 Sources

Groundwater is one of the most important water sources supplying Palestinians with water, either through springs or wells. These sources are located in four main renewable aquifer basins (replenished from rainfall). As for surface water, embodied in the Jordan River, which is the main source of surface water in the northern Governorates, Israel controls more than 85% of these sources. The Israeli occupation is in sole control of water; as a result, Palestinians do not use any quantities of it for irrigation and household uses.

As for surface water, it is represented primarily by the Jordan River, which serves as the main permanent source of surface water for the northern Governorates. However, Israel prevents Palestinians from accessing it, and exploits it for irrigation and household water supply. In addition, there is surface runoff in seasonal valleys, which flows in the form of flash floods. Yet, this source remains underutilized due to several reasons—chief among them are Israeli restrictions on building dams in suitable areas.

Palestinians and the various water-using sectors suffer from **insufficient water resources and limited access** due to Israeli control over 85% of the water sources, the prohibition on Palestinians drilling new wells, diversion of water to Israel from these sources, **high water losses**, deterioration of water networks, and increasing pollution levels. These factors have led to a growing threat to water quality and safety, endangering the security and reliability of water sources.

Effectively addressing these threats is, therefore, essential to ensure the sustainability and availability of clean and safe water. Moreover, the continuous **increase in water demand** across all sectors has intensified the pressure on available resources.

As a result, Palestine relies primarily on groundwater obtained from wells and springs, in addition to purchasing large quantities of water from Israeli water companies. Given the water scarcity and rising demand, the development and use of alternative water sources as additional water resources has become a necessity. These alternative sources include the reuse of treated wastewater and seawater desalination.

To that end, 19 wastewater treatment plants have been established in the northern Governorates and 5 plants in the southern Governorates.

3.3.2 Supply

There are differences in the availability, cost, and quality of water for users across different Palestinian areas, leading to a decline in the level of equity in water distribution. The Palestinian Water Authority seeks to address this through implementing developmental programs and projects in different areas. This is attributed to the Israeli occupation imposing obstacles that prohibit Palestinians from building dams and water harvesting ponds, digging wells and rehabilitation, or transferring water from one area to another. Moreover, distribution water networks are worn out, and the weak maintenance of pipelines has led to high

water loss rates, in addition to weak investment and infrastructure development programs in the infrastructure due to the financial weakness of most service providers.

3.3.3 Sanitation

The percentage of households connected to public sanitation networks in northern Governorates is 34% of the total population. The quantity of wastewater collected through these network systems is estimated at 25 million m³ yearly. It is limited to main cities and camps, while rural communities lack wastewater system, and they rely on cesspits for wastewater disposal. This situation creates a source of pollution for water sources and the environment, and threatens public health. There are 19 treatment plants in the northern Governorates, where alternative energy sources are utilized to reduce operational costs.

3.3.4 Institutional and Legal Structure

The Palestinian Water Authority has placed great emphasis on the institutional and legal structure, given its role in empowering the institution, developing the sector and building its capacities in presenting its vital role in improving the water conditions, and sanitation services, and facilitating the life of the Palestinian people. With the support of the Palestinian National Authority, the Palestinian Water Authority adopted a reform program for the water sector by focusing on the principle of separating executive and regulatory functions within the water sector into distinct frameworks — namely, the Water Authority, the Water Regulatory Council, the National Water Company, the Regional Water Utilities to promote the principle of transparency, good governance, improving performance, and efficient service provision in this vital sector. The new Water Law, which was one of the most important pillars of the reform agenda, restructured the legal framework governing the sector and defined the various tasks and roles of the water sector institutions at all levels. The Palestinian Water Authority (PWA) assumed the responsibility for building and developing water sector institutions, in addition to reconstructing and rehabilitating the destroyed infrastructure through donor-funded projects and ensuring the provision of water and sanitation services. This framework encompasses the legal, regulatory, legislative, and administrative systems that ensure the sustainable management and protection of water resources, along with monitoring mechanisms that guarantee the provision of water and sanitation services to beneficiaries according to standards that take into account the sustainability of the service and the social, economic, environmental, and humanitarian dimensions. This is based on the understanding that water is a social value and an essential need for life and for the continuity and development of Palestinian society.

The Water Authority has also developed a set of secondary legislation and regulations derived from the Water Law, all of which were introduced in response to legal requirements, and as a reflection of the establishment of operating institutions within the institutional framework for the water sector, ensuring the improvement and proper delivery of services to their rightful beneficiaries in the most effective manner. Furthermore, the Water Authority has placed special attention to building partnerships with universities to direct and encourage scientific research centers to find practical, science-based solutions to the challenges facing the Palestinian water sector. This is achieved by motivating researchers, students, and specialists to conduct high-quality research, and by providing scholarships required for Master's and doctoral students, as well as for applied research.

3.3.5 Financial Component

The Palestinian Water Authority endeavored to guarantee financial sustainability for all water sector institutions by enhancing financial independence for all water facilities and water service providers, improving the efficiency of revenue collection, applying water tariff system and wastewater systems

regulations to guarantee financial stability. One of the main challenges, in this regard, is the high indebtedness of water service providers and some failing to pay their debts to the West Bank Water Department. In the context of the reform agenda, the Palestinian Water Authority worked on addressing several solutions contributing to solving the financial sustainability. Among the solutions is decreasing the number of water service providers through establishing water utilities that report to the Water Authority, and compel them to pay their dues. In addition to developing and approving a set of regulations and instructions that contribute to improving the efficiency of revenue collection and reducing the level of public debt.

It should be noted that the purchase tariff for a cubic meter of water from the Israeli side is higher than the selling tariff. The purchase tariff is 2.943 ILS/m³ for the first 46,160,000 m³, after which the purchase price rises to 3.708 ILS/m³, excluding operational costs. This results in the cost of a cubic meter sometimes rising to 4 ILS or more. In contrast, water is sold to local authorities at 2.6 ILS/m³ (excluding VAT), with a government subsidy of 0.8 ILS per cubic meter.

The government support for a cup of water does not appear in the government budget, and in the financial data, which exacerbates the indebtedness and affects the financial sustainability of the National Water Company. In addition, there is no decision determining the responsibility of covering the water consumption costs for refugee camps, religious institutions and other areas, which affects the level and accuracy of indebtedness. Furthermore, the debts of key responsibility centers, such as health, education, and security, were not addressed by the Ministry of Finance.

At the other level, the financial budget in light of the Palestinian Water Authority's vision is prepared to be aligned with the main and sub-strategic goals and plans, taking into consideration the governmental policies and priorities, cross-sectoral issues, and the level of response to the crisis and emergency catastrophe, and the financial crisis. The budget was prepared on the basis of allocated budget for policy interventions which reflect the core tasks of the institution.

The human and financial resources available for the programs and interventions are distributed according to the needs, priorities and volume of work connected to each intervention. However, in light of the current political situation, successive financial crises, the COVID-19 pandemic enduring impact, the continuous state of emergency, all these factors have led to the cancellation of some development projects and delays in paying contractors' dues, which has financially affected them and, in some cases, forced them to suspend the projects' implementation until funds became available.

3.1 Most Important Positive Influences (points of strength and opportunities) and Negative Influences (points of weakness and challenges) in Various Components

The following table summarizes the most important positive influences and negative influences in various components.

Table 2: Important Positive Influences and Negative Influences in Various Components

| component | Analysis | Results |
|-----------|--------------------|---|
| Sources | Points of strength | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water harvesting available as an efficient plan to provide an additional source for water and a pioneering plan for water harvesting in northern Governorates. Adopting a wastewater reuse plan as a source of unconventional water sources, in specifically in the agriculture sector, and to start considering reuse plans. Adopting a water tracking tool in the water sector development plan, especially for climate change considerations. A new plan for developing new water sources /or alternative sources, including wastewater reuse and water harvesting. |

| component | Analysis | Results |
|---------------|---------------------------|--|
| | Opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International community support to obtain looted water rights, providing financial International support to develop water sources, some donors work in Area “C” without Israeli consent. • Water share in relation to the Jordan River basin and the Western Groundwater Basin. • The abundance in water sources in some Governorates, and the possibility of a just redistribution. • The existence of some springs that are not rehabilitated and these could form an important and cost-effective source in the northern Governorates. • The availability of unused groundwater, which could form an important sector in the northern Governorates. |
| | Points of weakness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disparity in the abundance of water quantities geographically, as some sources are exposed to a high risk of pollution and depletion. • A rise in the cost of desalination and treatment, difficulty in implementing water harvesting projects and their high cost. Some areas have low acceptance of wastewater reuse. • Scattered ownership of water sources. • Weak application for integrated water resources management.. • Depletion of the coastal basin (the only natural water source) and pollution in southern Governorates sector. • Illegalwells which deplete the sources. • Lack of building specialized capacities. • Lack of knowledge in dealing with the alleviation of climate change impacts. |
| | Challenges | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous escalation by settlers and the Israeli army, destruction of the infrastructure related to water pipelines, especially in camps after the recent aggression on Gaza, and continuous demolition notifications for main groundwater basin sources. • Many encroachments and over abstraction, weak executive parties in enforcing laws and regulations governing water management. • Inability to exploit approximately 85% of water sources due to the control of the occupation, continuous implementation of item 40 of the Oslo Agreement and annexes, including the joint water committee and impediments of the so-called civil administration. • Climate change and its impact on various water sources, and limited preparedness for disaster management. • Existing pollutants form a major threat to the aquifer and ater sources. • The high cost of energy required to operate alternative water sources- desalination plants, the ongoing energy crisis in southern Governorates. • Allocation of many sources in Area “C”. • The negative impact of the Palestinian internal political division on the management of water sources in Gaza. |
| Supply | Points of strength | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The existence of water supply networks for more than 98% of inhabitants, and available transmission pipelines between connection points and demand in most areas, existence of regional water reservoirs and some Palestinian Governorates. • Quality of potable water in the supply systems in northern Governorates. • Preparing holistic plans for many water service providers, some of which have been completed, and the existence of water loss programs for some water providers. • Available transmission pipelines between connection points and demand in most areas, in the southern Governorates |
| | Opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing water supply systems is among the priorities of donor countries at the country level, as well as the efficiency of the water sector task force in water supply. • Some donors work in Area “C” without Israeli consent. • Allocating a budget from the Palestinian government to support and develop the Jordan Valley area. |

| component | Analysis | Results |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---|
| | Points of weakness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disparity in water supply rates in various areas, rise of water loss and uncalculated water quantities, a rise in encroachment rates, and severe deterioration of water quality insouthern Governorates. Depending on Israeli network to supply some population communities. Inability of water service providers to calculate the program of water equilibrium to determine types of water loss, and unable to retrieve the cost of operation and maintenance from the Israeli national water networks. |
| | Challenges | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued escalation by settlers and the Israeli army, destruction of the infrastructure related to water pipelines in the West Bank. Increase in water demand and the weak mechanism for controlling water loss. Israeli restrictions by the joint water committee, and the Israeli civil administration impeding the implementation of water projects, which form the basis of development for the water sector. Some donors connect funding of projects with the consent of the joint water committee. |
| Sanitation | Points of strength | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Issuance of the Water Users Associations system and tariff system. Implementing several projects for wastewater treatment in irrigation in various areas of the Palestinian territories. Presence of wastewater systems in camps, and main cities and wastewater treatment plants that work efficiently in northern Governorates. |
| | Opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International community understands the needs related to wastewater treatment and the sanitation system and provide financial support, as well as the efficiency of the water sector task force International work platforms to support sanitation systems and reuse projects intersecting with cross-sectoral issues. Efficiency of alternative energy sources, and the decrease in cost as it constitutes an enabling opportunity for investment and a governmental strategy to use renewable energy. |
| | Points of weakness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low level of awareness, as some do not accept the culture of wastewater reuse. Weak wastewater system services (collection and treatment) in most rural and northern Governorates, specifically. Increase of quantities of transboundary wastewater and the resulting cost incurred (deduction) of Palestinian money by the Israeli side. High indebtedness on citizens to pay the water and wastewater bills, in addition to the rise in the cost of rehabilitation for wastewater treatment, and not applying the water tariff system based on cost recovery. Absence of an operational plan and maintenance for wastewater facilities and financial dependence on donors. |
| | Challenges | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wastewater runoff towards areas controlled by the Israeli side without being able to reuse or treat it. Settlement expansion and political restrictions impeding the implementation of large waste water system projects which constitute a basis to develop the sector. High cost of establishing and operating wastewater systems and its connection to specific energy sources in the Gaza Strip. Inability to establish reuse projects of wastewater treatment due to seizure of large agricultural areas, as a result of annexation. Absence of a legislative environment to regulate the relationship with the private sector in the wastewater system. Incomplete institutional structure for water facilities in the Palestinian areas complicates the wastewater system and its sustainability. |

| component | Analysis | Results |
|--|---------------------------|--|
| Institutional and legal structure | points of strength | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issuing the updated Palestinian Water Law which restructured the legal framework regulating the sector, as it defined the various roles and tasks of water sector institutions at all levels, including the Water Regulatory Council, National Water Company, Regional Water Utilities, and Water Users Associations which were established under the Water Law. • Issuing a group of secondary legislation (instructions and regulations) emanating from the water law, as it became valid and enforceable, such as licenses for drilling wells, unified tariff system for water and wastewater systems, licensing water facility establishment, Water Users Associations regulations, in addition to drafts of instructions and regulations. • Memos of understanding for mechanisms of cooperation organizing the relationship between the institutions working in the water sector. • The Palestinian Long-Term Strategic Plan (2022–2042) for the water and wastewater sector, along with a roadmap for establishing regional water utilities, in addition to mid-term sectoral plans incorporated into the National Development Agenda since 2009 and the subsequent strategies derived from them. • Launching the process of rehabilitating the West Bank Water Department in a practical framework to establish the Water National Company. • Engaging universities in the context of partnerships to motivate scientific research in universities to find solutions for water sector challenges, depending on available scientific research centers, through encouraging students, researchers and interested individuals. |
| | opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some donors work in Area "C" without Israeli consent. • There is a significant opportunity to reduce indebtedness, according to the Council of Ministers to connect the support funding with the approval of the water services budget. |
| | points of weakness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow transformation by the local authorities to accept transfer to regional utilities. |
| | Challenges | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some donors connect funding of projects with the consent of the joint water committee. • High indebtedness of service providers to the Water Department for bulk water, which reached 1,800,000,000 ILS by the end of 2024. |
| Financial component | points of strength | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive laws and regulations to regulate the work of the water and sewage system sector. • Financial independence for some water service providers. • Raising the level of financial sustainability and improving the rate of revenue collection by installing prepaid meters in a number of population communities. • The government's approach to achieve financial sustainability for water service providers. |
| | Opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some donors work in Area "C" without Israeli consent. • The international support understands the needs related to wastewater treatment and the sewage system, and providing financial support. • There is a significant opportunity to reduce indebtedness if the Council of Ministers' decision is implemented to link support funding to the approval of water services' budgets. |
| | Points of weakness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of financial support to achieve water studies and projects which require significant budgets. • High indebtedness of water service providers. • Due to the government support not being reflected in the budgets and financial reports of the Ministry of Finance increasing the level of indebtedness. • Water service providers not fulfilling their financial obligations. • Inadequate financial budgets allocated to the sector. • Water prices for water service providers do not cover high prices of maintenance and operation. • Not adhering to expenditure plans according to the approved budgets. • Decline in governmental support led to the non completion of 26 water and wastewater system projects in 2023, with a total amount of 47 million ILS |
| | Challenges | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some donors connect funding of projects with the consent of the joint water committee. • The high debts for the Water Authority to the state's treasury as a result of municipalities not paying their water fees. |

| component | Analysis | Results |
|-----------|----------|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donor's withdrawal from water sector support. |

3.2 Results Achieved and Extent of Goals Attainment

Palestinian Water Authority worked on implementing the outcomes of the strategic plan and its update for 2017-2022. The following table summarizes the most important achievements in various components.

Table 2: Achievements in various components

| Component | Results | Description of achievements which were not achieved |
|-----------|---|---|
| Sources | The amount of water increased from unconventional water sources | The West Bank encounters the challenge embodied in the occupation preventing the authorities from digging wells and rehabilitation, a decline in the spring flow due to climate change and lack of precipitation in 2021. |
| | Amount of water from rainwater harvesting | The target was not achieved due to the difficulty in implementing the projects in terms of available and suitable lands located in Areas "C", in addition to inadequate funding. |
| | Percentage of treated water | It exceeded the target due to the PWA's interest to treat water, and provide additional water sources, developing efficient plans to achieve the target, in addition to available funding. |
| | Amount of water desalinated in Southern Governorates | A total of 7.5 million cubic meters of water was desalinated through the desalination treatment plant SLTV in the Gaza Strip. |
| | A monitoring mechanism for various water sources qualitatively and quantitatively including the (the rate of encroachment on monitored water sources) | It exceeded the target due to the Water Authority's recognition of the importance of achieving integrated water management. |

| Component | Results | Description of achievements which were not achieved |
|-----------|--|---|
| Supply | Increased amount of water supplied for beneficiaries | <p>Tulkarem: The projects include the supply of pumps for Jenin Camp, Kafr Qaddum, ‘Azzun, and Abu ‘Arab well; The rehabilitation of the water network in Qaffin village; The construction of a water reservoir and the rehabilitation of the internal water network in Deir al-Ghsun Municipality; The construction of a transmission line and pumping station for Saffarin village; The rehabilitation of the internal water network in al-Nazla al-Gharbiya, and the construction of an internal water network in al-Rasheed neighborhood in Tulkarem.</p> <p>Qalqilya: The projects include the construction of part of the internal water distribution network in ‘Azzun ‘Atmah village; The construction of a water reservoir in Sir village; The rehabilitation of the water network in Kafr Qaddum (Phase II); and a comprehensive study for supplying the Joret ‘Amra area in Qalqilya .</p> <p>Tubas: The projects include the construction of a main water pipeline for ‘Aqqaba town, excavation, land leveling, and fence construction works for the establishment of West Bank Water Department warehouses in al-Fari’a area / Tubas.</p> <p>Jenin: The projects include the Southwest Jenin project; the construction of an internal water distribution network for ‘Arraba Municipality; The rehabilitation of the water system for the Joint Services Council for Drinking Water – Northwest Jenin; the construction of a water reservoir in Eastern Barta’a village; The supply and installation of a water reservoir and transmission lines for Wadi al-Da’ooq village, the construction of an internal water distribution network for Faqou’a village, the rehabilitation of water network in Kufirt, and the construction of a water reservoir and transmission lines in Sanur village.</p> |
| | A good supply Provided for citizens with reliable water supply sources | <p>Ramallah: Bani Zeid Area Water System Project (construction of a pumping station and a transmission line to the Bani Zeid reservoir – Phase One, construction of a water reservoir and rehabilitation of the internal water network for Deir Abu Mash'al village).</p> |
| | Improved and developed efficiency of water distribution networks | <p>Hebron: Replacement of the Rayhiyya Line Project, Imnizel Village Development Project, Jaba‘ Nuba Project (Phase Two), construction of a reservoir and water network in Dura, construction of a reservoir and water network in Karma, extension of transmission lines in al-Fawwar, completion of the rehabilitation of the transmission line for the western Dura rural area, completion of extension and expansion works for the main water line in Tallet al-Sumoud/Yatta.</p> <p>Beitlehem: Rehabilitation of the water network for Dar Salah Pumping Station, restoration of the transmission line for the Shawawra area, and construction of an internal water network in al-Jib’a.</p> <p>Beitlehem Governorate: Rehabilitation and expansion of Beit Fajjar water network, improvement of water and wastewater networks in Beitlehem – Beit Jala – Beit Sahour area, rehabilitation of the water network in Za’tara village, and rehabilitation of the internal water network for Battir village.</p> <p>Nablus: Emergency Water and wastewater Program for the Palestinian Territories (Phase One), project to supply 4" water pipes for Burin village, construction of a reservoir and expansion and rehabilitation of the water network in Jamma’in town, construction of a water reservoir and transmission line for ‘Iraq Burin village, construction of Rujeib–Beit Furik transmission line, Emergency Water and Wastewater Program, construction of a water reservoir and transmission line for Beit Eeba village, rehabilitation of the internal water network in ‘Einabus village.</p> <p>Salfit: Rehabilitation of the Farkha water network, rehabilitation of the water network in Marda village, rehabilitation of a reservoir and construction of an internal water distribution network in Qira village, rehabilitation of the internal water network in Haris, rehabilitation of the internal water network in Deir Istiya village, construction of a water reservoir and transmission line in Kifl Haris village,</p> <p>Jericho: Supply and installation of prepaid water meters for Jericho Municipality.</p> <p>West Bank: Supply of water pipes of various diameters, fittings and valves; maintenance of</p> |

| Component | Results | Description of achievements which were not achieved |
|-----------|---------|--|
| | | <p>the Nabi Samuel water network; construction of a transmission line for the landfill for the benefit of the Joint Services Council for North and Northwest Jerusalem villages; procurement and supply of water pipes, fittings, and equipment; supply and installation of pumps, motors, electrical panels, and electronic water meters; support projects for the Jordan Valley; construction of a reservoir and transmission line in 'Ein al-Bida / Northern Jordan Valley; rehabilitation of the internal water networks in Duma and al-Majdal villages / Nablus Governorate / Central Jordan Valley; construction of an internal water network in Marj al-Ghazal village / Southern Jordan Valley; construction of an internal water network in Marj Naja' village / Southern Jordan Valley; rehabilitation of the internal water network in al-Zbaidat village / Southern Jordan Valley; rehabilitation of the internal water network in Bardala village / Northern Jordan Valley.</p> |

| Component | Results | Description of achievements which were not achieved |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Wastewater system | Improved and increased efficiency of waste water system, and expanded coverage in terms of conveyance, treatment and collection | <p>Many wastewater projects were implemented during the period 2017–2023, including the construction of wastewater networks, treatment plants, stormwater drainage systems, household sewer connections, and strategic planning initiatives for water and wastewater sector.</p> <p>1. Wastewater projects included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noor Shams Camp Sewer Network • National Security Camp Sewer Network – Salfit • Al-‘Awda Neighborhood Sewer Network – Al-Arroub Camp • ‘Aqbat Jaber Camp sewer network • Sewer lines for rural areas south of Dura • Artas wastewater project • Wadi al-Zomar waste water project • Jericho wastewater project (Phases I & II) • Tayaseer wastewater project. • Baqa al-Sharqiya and al-Nazlat wastewater Project. • Salfit wastewater Project. • ‘Attil–Deir al-Ghsoun wastewater network • Jifna–Doura al-Qare’ waste water network • Expansion of Zeta–Tulkarem wastewater network <p>2. Wastewater treatment plants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of Tayasir treatment plant. • Rehabilitation of Kharas treatment plant. • Rehabilitation of Artas treatment plant. Salfit Treatment Plant • Salfit treatment plant. • Maintenance and cleaning of Jenin treatment plant. • Completion of wastewater network for Western Nablus treatment plant. <p>3. Stormwater and wastewater drainage project – Masliya Village, Jenin</p> <p>4. Household waste water connections projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wastewater connections Project – Joint Services Council, Tubas • Wastewater connections – Jericho • Wastewater connections – Kardala (Northern Jordan Valley) • Wastewater connections – ‘Anin <p>There are also several ongoing projects, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hebron wastewater management project. 2. Wadi al-Samen wastewater line project. 3. Reuse project – al-‘Arroub treatment plant. 4. Reuse Project – Western Nablus treatment plant. 5. Wastewater, treatment, and reuse project – Eastern Nablus villages 6. Treatment plant, wastewater networks, and transmission lines – Ramallah–Beitunia 7. Wastewater connections project – Eastern and Middle Nazla. 8. Wastewater connections project – Western Nazla and Nazlat ` Issa. 9. Jifna wastewater network project. |
| | Good management and monitoring to reuse treated wastewater and sludge is achieved | <p>Palestinian Water Authority implemented several projects in the past contribution to the increase in the use of treated water. The achievement rate reached 45% in the project of treated water reuse in the Western Nablus plant to irrigate 2000 Dunums in east Nablus. The First phase was completed and included tertiary treatment, the Rameen reservoir with a capacity of 3200 cubic meters, and parts of the transmission line. But, this project was incomplete due to seizure of lands related to the project and Israeli attacks.</p> |
| | The | <p>The Palestinian Water Authority implemented several projects during 2017-2022 contributing to finding alternative energy sources for operating treatment plants, as the case in Digester in</p> |

| Component | Results | Description of achievements which were not achieved |
|---|--|--|
| | <p>contribution of the alternative energy in operating treatment plants is increased</p> | <p>west Nablus plant. These projects helped in reducing the cost of treatment, and cost of cubic meter for farmers.</p> <p>Among the important projects are the case in Digester in Western Nablus plant, solar energy project through AFD in Tubas, the solar energy project in Salfit, and operating some treatment plants in Gaza Strip.</p> |
| <p>Institutional and legal structure</p> | <p>Restructured water sector institutions consistent with the new Palestinian Water Law (effectively water sector institutions)</p> | <p>First: At the legal level, the following has been achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Users Association No. (4) for 2018. • Well drilling, rehabilitation, groundwater extraction, and well drilling contracting licensing system No. (8) of 2020 • Instructions No.(1) of 2020 regarding the Well Drilling, rehabilitation, groundwater extraction, and well drilling, contracting licensing system No. 8 of 2020 • Unified water and wastewater tariff system No. (4) of 2021 • Instructions No. (2) of 2021 on the Unified Water and Wastewater Tariff. • Instructions No. (1) of 2021 on the planning and design of water and wastewater infrastructure, approved by the Head of the Water Authority, published in the Official Gazette, and now in effect. • System for establishing and licensing Regional Water Utilities No. (17) of 2021. • Instructions for Establishing and Licensing Regional Water Utilities No. (1) of 2023. • West Bank Water Department Rehabilitation and Development System No. (1) for 2024. <p>Second, at the institutional level, the following has been achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Water Company was established in accordance with the law and registered with the Companies Controller. Subsequently, a founding Board of Directors for the National Water Company was formed by a Council of Ministers decision, and the West Bank Water Department Rehabilitation and Development System was approved by another Council of Ministers decision. • Only two water utilities were established out of the 15 planned utilities. • A roadmap was prepared to convert the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility in Gaza into a regional water utility. <p>A bulk water supply unit was established in Gaza as the core of the National Water Company in Gaza.</p> |
| <p>Financial component</p> | <p>Enhanced financial independence of water service providers.</p> | <p>The Water Authority has taken several steps to enhance the financial independence of water utilities and service providers, such as building the capacities of personnel by organizing a series of training courses in the water sector for both Water Authority employees and water service providers in the northern and southern Governorates, covering various areas related to water and wastewater.</p> <p>Within a support program provided by the Dutch government, three modular wastewater treatment units were supplied and operated in Salfit and northern Hebron. Work is also underway to develop an e-learning platform to serve as a tool for transferring expertise and knowledge. Through the Waterworx and Blue Deal programs, institutional capacity building has been pursued in Salfit Governorate and the North Hebron Joint Services Council in areas such as training on Geographic Information Systems (GIS), addressing water loss, and developing laboratory testing for water and wastewater.</p> |
| | <p>efficiency of revenue collection is improved, and public debt is reduced</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Authority implemented several measures to increase collection efficiency, including the formation of a technical committee based on Council of Ministers Resolution No. 17/2015/17/M.W/R.H in 2018. Since its formation, the committee conducted numerous field visits to local councils, municipalities, and service providers. • The technical committee on water loss focused on water networks in communities where losses exceed 30%, in accordance with the Council of Ministers decision. Councils with losses exceeding 1% were audited in coordination with the Water Department, and necessary rehabilitation measures were implemented to reduce water loss, with costs |

| Component | Results | Description of achievements which were not achieved |
|-----------|---------|---|
| | | <p>deducted from the local authorities' debts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the Waterworx and Blue Deal programs, work is underway to integrate the GIS system with the financial system to facilitate collection processes and track water losses. The Water Authority has encouraged water service providers to install prepaid water meters, with the government covering 100% of project costs, which are deducted from local authorities' debts, based on the Council of Ministers Resolution no. 17/215/17/M.W/R.J in 2018. A high supervisory committee was formed to oversee and support local authorities installing prepaid systems: Work has been carried out with approximately 65 local authorities across various Governorates. Around 40,000 meters have been installed in 35 authorities. <p>Installation of approximately 18,000 meters is underway in 5 local authorities. Tenders have been issued for about 10 local authorities. Work is underway to prepare the tender documents for the remaining local authorities.</p> |

The following table summarizes the achievements at the level of targets and indicators, as it clarifies reasons for deviation from the target in various components:

Table 4: Results achieved at the level of targets, indicators and reasons for deviation.

| Component | Indicator | Target till 2022 | What was actually achieved | Clarification of the reasons for deviation from the targeted value | |
|-----------|--|------------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| Sources | Annual amount of water produced from conventional sources (m ³) | WB/GS | 155 | 150 | Limited capacity of developing conventional water sources due to the impediments of occupation, scarcity of funding sources, the recession of the underground level caused by climate change. |
| | Annual amount of water produced from rain water harvesting (m ³) | WB/GS | 10 | 2.3 | Difficulty in building big dams related to high cost and Israeli restrictions. |
| | Annual amount of desalinated water produced (m ³) | WB/GS | 70 | 5.7 | Israeli restrictions, decline of support, war in Gaza, and insufficient energy sources in the Gaza Strip. |
| | Amount of water purchased from the Israeli side. | WB/GS | 98 | 96.1 | Water provision is dependent on Mekorot company, and under Israeli control |
| | Presence of a water tracking tool for all water sources quantitatively and qualitatively, including the rate of encroachments. | WB/GS | %90 | %90 | The target was achieved. |
| | Number of encroachment cases on water sources | WB/GS | 5 | 43 | Water scarcity, weak control over Area "C", and the weakness of executive authorities to deal with the encroachments on water sources. |
| Supply | The amount of household water available from taps (drinking water share per capita in liters per person per day) | WB/GS | 84 | 86.3 | All targets were achieved, and in fact, exceeded due to the implementation of various projects and obtaining the appropriate investments from donor countries, despite limited government funding. |
| | | West Bank | 86 | 89 | |
| | Rate of communities with no access of water | %2 | | less than 2% | |
| | The percentage of water samples that meet the Palestinian standards at the West Bank level | | %99.5 | 99.5% | |

| Component | Indicator | Target till 2022 | What was actually achieved | Clarification of the reasons for deviation from the targeted value | |
|-----------------------------------|---|------------------|----------------------------|--|--|
| | Rate of households connected to the public water systems | %94.5 | 94.5% | Due to the high cost of network systems and the limited capacity of local authorities to continuously operate, maintain, and manage the water network and transmission lines . | |
| | Rate of loss at the level of distribution networks | WB/GS | %36 | | %37.3 |
| | | West Bank | %31 | | %32.6 |
| Sanitation | Rate of households connected to sewage system | WB | 35% | %34 | Delay in the implementation of some projects due to difficult financial conditions, and Covid-19 pandemic, and population growth. |
| | Percentage of treated wastewater within the Palestinian territories. | | %20 | %18 | Not connecting sewage networks in the country with treatment plants, due to transboundary wastewater, in addition to the delays in the rehabilitation of treatment plants and connecting them with the networks due to the difficult financial situation and the Covid-19 pandemic in previous years. |
| | Percentage of treated wastewater within the Palestinian territories which meets the Palestinian standards. | | %85 | %87 | All targets were achieved, and even exceeded, due to the number of projects that were implemented in various domains. |
| | Number of wastewater treatment plants whose outputs comply with the Palestinian standards. | | 12 | 12 | |
| | Rate of treated wastewater reused in irrigation | | %10 | %5 | Plans and reuse projects face challenges in transferring the treated water to agricultural lands, in addition to the high cost of treated water, which is not acceptable to farmers. |
| | Area of agricultural lands irrigated with treated wastewater. | | 1800 | 325 | |
| | Number of projects in which the private sector is involved.. | | 4 | 2 | This is due to the lack of progress in preparing a draft regulation, the absence of established private sector participation units, and the insufficient legislative environment to regulate the work of the private sector. |
| Legal and institutional structure | Integrated water laws and regulations | | 8 | 8 | Several regulations and instructions have been completed. |
| | Percentage of work achieved to improve the financial, administrative and operational performance for West Bank water Department towards establishing the National Water Company | | %30 | %30 | The National Water Company is established and a four- year project is being implemented now to operate the company. |
| | Number of regional water utilities established | | 15 (1)Hebron | 2 (1) Hebron | - Things did not proceed as planned within the roadmap for several reasons, including issues related to the legal framework for establishing facilities ("Regulations and Instructions for Facility Establishment"), which was not ready for a long period. In addition, some external circumstances concerning service providers came from their resistance to change, requiring additional efforts and greater cooperation among the relevant authorities. Moreover, financial factors played a |

| Component | Indicator | Target till 2022 | What was actually achieved | Clarification of the reasons for deviation from the targeted value |
|---------------------|--|------------------|----------------------------|--|
| | | | | role, as establishing facilities requires significant funding to improve services in the areas where the facilities will be set up (low readiness). |
| | Rate of work achieved to establish a bulk water supply unit in Gaza towards the establishment of the National Water Company. | %60 | %60 | Target is achieved |
| Financial component | Percentage of water providers and facilities that work independently. | %60 | %57 | Steps implemented by the Water Authority through the issuance of Council of Ministers' resolutions to encourage local authorities to install prepaid systems, as well as to require water service providers whose water losses exceed 30% to undertake the necessary network rehabilitation, with the related costs to be deducted from public indebtedness. |
| | Efficiency of collection: percentage of financial collection of water bills | %77 | %75 | The Water Authority and the technical committee, formulated upon the resolution of the Council of Ministers, have exerted efforts to increase the rate of revenue collection (through installing prepaid system) and rehabilitation of networks to reduce rate of water loss. |
| | Percentage of points connected to prepaid systems | %25 | %26 | The steps taken by the Water Authority and the higher committee for supervising the installation of prepaid water systems, along with its supporting technical committee, contributed to achieving the target. |

3.3 Analysis of Demographical Reality and its Impact on Services Offered in the Water Sector

The following table illustrates the number of population expected in the Palestinian territories in the coming six years based upon deliverables from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS).

Table 4: Number of Population in Palestine 2024-2027

| | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Palestine | 5,354,656 | 5,481,137 | 5,610,695 | 5,743,408 | 5,879,354 | 6,018,615 |
| Southern Governorates | 2,166,269 | 2,225,687 | 2,286,753 | 2,349,512 | 2,414,013 | 2,480,304 |
| Northern Governorates | 3,188,387 | 3,255,450 | 3,323,942 | 3,393,896 | 3,465,341 | 3,538,312 |

The table above indicates that Palestine's population is expected to increase by nearly one million by 2029, placing considerable pressure on the development and provision of services to citizens, as detailed in the following clarifications.

Impact of Population Growth on Sources

Population growth and the consequent increase in water demand require the development of both conventional and non-conventional water sources, including springs and wells, in a sustainable manner. As for non-conventional current water sources, it is important to invest in desalination plants, expand water harvesting (ponds, dams and agricultural projects), reuse of treated wastewater, in addition to purchasing from external sources, as well as developing monitoring systems for water quality from various sources and equitable distribution for various geographical areas and sectors of use.

Impact of Population Growth on Water Supply/Demand

The population growth and the consequent increase in demand for water across various sectors, including households, agriculture, industry, and tourism, require more investments in the infrastructure of networks, transmission lines, regional reservoirs, and various supporting facilities. In addition to the challenge of increasing the individual share of daily water consumption, In addition, addressing the challenge of increasing per capita daily water consumption is essential, aiming to achieve 106.5 liters in northern Governorates and 98.4 liters in southern Governorates, which is still below the levels recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). The high level of water loss should be taken into consideration and tackled by rehabilitating existing networks and strengthening the capacities of water service providers.

The Impact of Population Growth on Sanitation System Services

Population growth and the resulting increase in water demand across various uses lead to higher volumes of wastewater, which necessitates the development and expansion of wastewater collection and treatment systems, as well as the provision of appropriate disposal methods, either through safe discharge into the environment or reuse across different sectors. Addressing these challenges also requires improving the efficiency of institutions operating in the sanitation sector and creating an enabling legal and investment environment to encourage private sector participation.

Institutional and Legal Structure

Based upon the aforementioned, there is a need to accelerate the institutionalization of the sector in terms of operationalizing the National Water Company and the Regional Water Utilities, and by completing the development of the regulatory and legal framework. Also, it is necessary to develop diversified energy sources to operate water and sanitation facilities, strengthen the capacities of sector employees, in addition to introducing modern technologies in the operation and management of sector facilities.

3.4 Organizational Structure of the Water Authority

The organizational structure plays a central role in the effective implementation of strategic plans and monitoring various projects. In this context, the Palestinian Water Authority has worked to develop its organizational structure and has prepared operational manuals for various aspects of its work; however the Palestinian Water Authority faces a shortage of employees across its administrations. This challenge has become more pronounced in implementing the reform program and restructuring water facilities which require continuous technical, administrative, and financial follow-up. In addition, there is a need for qualified personnel in the areas of legal monitoring and judicial control, in order to effectively address and monitor encroachments on water sources and other related components.

In another area, the Palestinian Water Authority needs to further develop its infrastructure and information systems, including the upgrading of computerized and electronic systems. Furthermore, there is a need to develop a specialized information system management for the wastewater sector integrated with the

national water information system, as well as to establish a central administration responsible for overseeing wastewater treatment plants.

The institutional issues at the Palestinian Water Authority, at the organizational level, can be summarized as follows:

- Inadequate human resources and the need for capacity building.
- Weak institutional arrangements necessary for managing and monitoring the establishment and operation of legal entities as referred to in accordance with Water Law 2014.
- The need to develop its infrastructure and information system.

3.5 Cross -Sectoral Issues

3.5.1 Gender

Access to water and wastewater services for all without discrimination is a human right internationally guaranteed, and is a major pillar for achieving sustainable development and securing the requirements of public health. The Palestinian National Authority adopted this vision through its international commitments as a non-member observer in the United Nations. Since its beginnings, the Palestinian National Authority started exercising its tasks in the Palestinian territories, issuing a number of laws and decisions regulating the water sector in order to achieve the national strategies, endeavoring to provide water in quantity and quality consistent with the Palestinian and international standards, and in line with the sustainable development goals, especially Goals 5,6,10, to guarantee equality between gender through empowerment, and access to various water sources on one hand, and guaranteeing the design and construction of projects related to water from a gender perspective on the other hand, so as to maintain public health and adapt to climate change in the context of Goals 3, and 13 sustainable development goals (SDGs). In addition, to the concept of interconnection between the sectors, such as energy, agriculture, and health, in the frame of development and human work to achieve reform plans in the water sector.

The Palestinian National Authority endeavors to transform the national vision into programs and projects on the ground with increasing interest in vulnerable groups in the society. This requires taking into consideration the gender perspective to guarantee the provision of services, taking into account the various needs and priorities for women, men, and youth.

The first strategy (2013-2017) consolidated gender mainstreaming across the sectors, particularly in water and solidwaste management, through efficient participation of the PWA in three major interventions, they are:1) Developing gender-sensitive policies and strategies, 2) Supporting women professionally in the sector, 3) Focusing on participation and social inclusion responsive to gender.

Integrating gender issues increases with the presence of the humanitarian crisis resulting from the occupation, blockades, and continuous escalation in the Gaza Strip, in addition to the state of emergency the Palestinian government declared earlier during the COVID-19 Pandemic which led citizens to spend more time at home, thus leading to an increase in water and energy consumption of nearly 30%.

The main issue in the domain of gender is embodied in the weak institutionalization of gender in the water sector. The water Authority will seek to address this to mainstream gender in the various institutions of water sector.

3.5.2. Youth

The Water sector is in continuous development and needs new solutions based upon emerging techniques and exceptional initiatives. Youth capacities can be harnessed to address the major challenges facing the sector, thereby providing it with potential for change and development. This creates a meaningful space for young people, who are a vital resource and a driving force for sustainable development in this critical sector.

In addition, integrating youth in the Palestinian water sector will contribute to enhancing their capacities and reducing difficulties they encounter in accessing efficient participation in the Palestinian community. As a result, this will create a promising youth aware of their important issues, and capable of creating change and steering the developmental process.

Empowering and integrating youth requires an enabling environment that encourages them to innovate and participate, enhancing and developing their potential. In addition to providing training opportunities and vocational education in the water sector, including the technical and administrative aspects. These opportunities should focus on developing the know-how and skills required to understand and solve the various water challenges, in addition to enhancing the role of youth in making decisions and in laying down water policies and strategies, encouraging youth to express their opinions and steer policies and strategies to meet their needs and fulfill their ambitions. This will make them contribute to improving the management of the Palestinian water sources and the sustainability of these sources, achieving sustainable development goals, and improving the water sector in general.

The Palestinian Water Authority's directions were always steered towards the management of available water sources and developing unconventional water resources, increasing the efficiency of water use, and enhancing the governance of the water sector. These domains require lots of research and studies, and the application of new techniques and innovations. In this regard, the Palestinian Water Authority in the context of its strategy included the integration of youth in the water sector through finding targeted programs, as the support for scientific research by providing scholarships for hundreds of Master's and doctoral degree students in local universities in water sciences and hydraulic engineering, and the "Youth Forum for Water" to serve as the central platform to integrate interested youth who are aware of the meaning of patriotism, and the importance of volunteerism to integrate them in water sector through activities and initiatives developed by their own hands and minds.

The Water Authority will enhance Palestinian youth integration in the water sector through:

- Reactivating the Youth Forum for Water.
- Implementing youth-led initiatives aimed at engaging youth.

3.5.3 Environment and Climate Change

The Palestinian territories face growing challenges due to water scarcity and the depletion of natural resources, exacerbated by climate pressures accompanied with the environmental threats. Environmental risks in the water sector can be summarized as follows:

The depletion of water resources resulting from the lack of water balance and the over-abstraction of groundwater (due to Israeli restrictions, excessive consumption, increasing water demand, and encroachments); in addition to the problem of groundwater pollution in the West Bank and Gaza Strip (caused by high salinity from seawater intrusion and over-abstraction).

Moreover, there is the unsafe use of agricultural pesticides and improper disposal practices of wastewater into cesspits and valleys.

The depletion of water resources has numerous consequences — social, economic, and environmental — that affect the availability of safe drinking water for the population and have negatively impact the agricultural sector and green cover.

The Water Authority addresses these challenges through developing conventional and unconventional water resources, monitoring the quality of water extracted from aquifers and combating encroachments on the sources, in addition to desalination of seawater in the Gaza Strip. All these efforts serve one goal which is protecting sources from depletion and pollution, and increasing the amount of water available from various sources, both qualitatively and quantitatively, such as rainwater harvesting and desalinated water.

Another aspect, the Palestinian territories suffer from the spread of underground septic pits, or the disposal of wastewater into the valleys affecting aquifers water quality. The Palestinian Water Authority implemented several sewage system projects in order to increase the rate of households connected to the sewage system, as well as wastewater treatment plants. The high capital and operational costs of wastewater treatment plants are one of the major impediments in this domain. In addition to the absence of optimal use of treated water suitable for agriculture and community resistance to the implementation of wastewater treatment plant projects.

During the past period, the Water Authority worked on developing an executive action plan (Water NDCs Action Plan) for the next ten years, under the framework of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) within the Climate Change Adaptation Plan, in partnership with the Environment Quality Authority.

The plan revolves around three main interventions that fully (100%) align with what the Water Authority will implement over the next six years. First pillar: Developing the infrastructure of water distribution networks. Second pillar: Developing the infrastructure of water sources. Third pillar: Addressing water treatment and conservation plan.

3.5.4 Integrity and Anti-Corruption

The Palestinian Water Authority realized early that the water sector has social, economic, political, and environmental dimensions, and the presence of corruption causes delays in the process of economic growth, and has impacts on society. For this reason, the Palestinian Water Authority worked on promoting integrity and anti-corruption through developing the foundations of good governance in this vital sector. The reform program of the Palestinian water law tackled many problems it faces, including the issuance of the Law No.14 for 2014 and its amendments, regulations and laws all fall within the frame of enhancing integrity and combating corruption.

On the other hand, the water sector suffers from many negative practices as random underground digging, unauthorized drilling, illegal water connections, water theft, and encroachments on Water Authority sources and pipelines. The law grants employees appointed by the Head of Palestinian Water Authority the judicial control authority. The water sector employees, in addition to judicial control staff, monitor encroachments on water sources, display violations, document them and prepare reports for the competent authorities. There are a number of impediments: Many encroachments take place in Area “C”, in addition to the absence of judicial control units and executive force, mechanism for dealing with complaints, lack of follow-up, lengthy time frame for processing complaints and related procedures, the Water Authority not being formally notified of issued rulings and decisions, judicial discretion in transforming prison sentences into fines, in addition to the high cost of governmental cases/Supreme Court cases further complicate the matter.

Here, it must be emphasized that there is an urgent need to attach water-related cases to a specialized prosecution, similar to the environmental or economic crimes prosecution, to qualify and train judges specialized in water cases, to establish a water police unit, to give water-related lawsuits special priority, and to notify the Water Authority of all judgments issued by the courts.

It is worth noting that the Palestinian Water Authority agreed, and in line with the resolution of the Council of Ministers, to establish a water complaints unit to follow-up on incoming complaints through the government's computerized system according to approved procedures. Nevertheless, more human resources are needed.

In order to enhance transparency, this is done through holding workshops, awareness meetings about integrity and anti-corruption, governance, activating internal monitoring units in the ministries and authorities, follow-up on their reports, development projects, and review of its operational manual for all operations for the Water Authority.

3.5.5 Connection among Water – Energy – Food Nexus

Connection among the water-energy-food Nexus emanates from a developmental methodology based on human rights aiming to guarantee access to basic services, as stipulated in the Sustainable Development Goals, and to address challenges resulting from climate change. In the Palestinian territories, this connection is considered strategically important and due to water scarcity and declining energy supplies, which result in high costs affecting the operation of underground aquifers, pumping and desalination plants, and negatively affects water provision for agricultural irrigation. The Palestinian Water Authority develops unconventional water sources and invests in alternative energy in the operation of treatment and desalination plants to reduce costs. A strategy was prepared for the water-energy-food nexus in the Gaza Strip, and a similar one will be prepared for projects in the West Bank. Alternative energy projects started in the West Bank, whether through conducting studies or implementation, or wind energy and solar energy in many locations, including Tubas, Yamoun, Nablus Western plant, al-‘Arroub, Jericho, Masliya. As for the Gaza Strip, many investments have been made in alternative energy projects to operate treatment plants and desalination plants. There is a need for increased investment in alternative energy within the water sector. Investment in wind generating and solar energy projects requires international support to secure Israeli consent on various requirements.

3.5.6. The Situation of Water Use and Its Distribution across Various Sectors

The water sector faces major challenges in providing sufficient quantities of water for various uses, due to the scarce water resources, the growing population, the occupying powers' control over the majority of water sources, and the significant expansion in industrial and agricultural activities.

Accordingly, ensuring adequate water supply for all sectors is considered one of the greatest challenges facing the Palestinian Water Authority. The agricultural sector is the largest consumer of water, using about 51% of the available water annually. The industrial sector consumes about 7–9% of household water, while the tourism sector consumes about 2–4%, and the commercial sector consumes approximately 3–5% of household water.

These needs and their implications were taken into account in the Long-Term Strategy Document (2022–2042). Furthermore, Tariff System No.4 (2021) stipulates that service providers must provide tariff classifications for different sectors, including tourism, industry, and commerce.

The following table illustrates the rate of agricultural water from groundwater extracted from wells in each Governorate:

| Rate of Agricultural Water from Groundwater Extracted from Wells in each Governorate: | |
|--|------------|
| Palestine(1) | 51% |
| West Bank | 52% |
| Jenin | 23% |

Rate of Agricultural Water from Groundwater Extracted from Wells in each Governorate:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Tubas and Northern Valleys | 83% |
| Tulkarem | 50% |
| Nablus | 36% |
| Qalquilya | 63% |
| Salfit | 0% |
| Ramallah, al-Bireh, and al-Quds ⁽¹⁾ | 0% |
| Jericho and Northern Valleys | 100% |
| Beitlehem and Hebron | 0% |

(1) These data do not include water from springs used for agricultural purposes

3.6 Lessons learnt from Implementing the Previous Strategy

- The urgent need to develop financial and technical, and negotiation capacity to develop conventional water sources.
 - Adopting the option of water harvesting gradually.
 - The need to invest in alternative energy sources to increase the amount of desalinated water in southern Governorates, and to operate water wells and treatment plants.
 - The urgent need for a strategic and pioneering plan for the reuse of treated water that is acceptable to farmers and the Ministry of Agriculture, along with fundraising efforts for its implementation, and utilizing all possible awareness tools to promote acceptance of treated water use among farmers.
 - Adopting the principle of water accountability and governance to manage water sources in a sustainable and integrated manner, and to start institutionalizing water accounting through a digital platform consisting of all water partners.
 - The importance of enhancing community awareness.
 - Reviewing and assessing the essential needs of the community in the sanitation sector and water treatment to maximize the benefit of strategic planning.
 - Monitoring the progress of projects constantly and comparing them to what was planned on a regular basis, and preparing progress reports and linking them to the strategy plan on a regular basis.
 - Encouraging relevant parties and private sector institutions to participate in projects with their various phases.
 - Involving the relevant stakeholders in the domain of systems and directions according to their own specialty, and accelerating the completion of regulations.
-
- Ensuring that the rationale of the executive plan aligns with our funding capacities.
 - Connecting the new infrastructure projects for water with the process of establishing Regional Water Utilities in the context of the Palestinian Water Authority policy.
 - Developing the institutional status of the Palestinian Water Authority to meet the requirements of establishing, operating, and managing water facilities.
 - The need to communicate with the MoLG about the mechanism and reference framework of Regional Water Utilities for the purpose of providing the required funding, to achieve the vision of Water Authority, and to work on issuing formal decisions when needed.
 - Communicating with donors about the importance of establishing the Regional Water Utilities' purpose, and providing the required funding to achieve the vision of the Palestinian Water Authority.
 - Deepening the level of communication and coordination among formal authorities and ministries working in the domain.
 - Promoting applied scientific research in line with water sector priorities, developing infrastructure for central labs, and encouraging technological innovations.

4.0 Sector's Vision and Strategic Work Priorities

4.1 Introduction

As part of the Palestinian Water Authority's efforts to reach a unified vision, priorities, and strategic objectives for the water sector, consultations were conducted with various partners through bilateral meetings. These consultations culminated in a broad workshop that brought together different stakeholders in the sector.

During the workshop, the draft diagnostic report and its key findings (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges), along with sectoral priorities and strategic objectives were presented. Participants were divided into groups based on the main components of the plan (resources, water supply, sanitation, institutional development, and financial component). Each group reviewed the diagnostic results, priorities, and sectoral objectives. A representative from each group, then presented the outcomes agreed upon within their small group to the larger group, and consensus was reached on the outputs.

Regarding the sector's vision, an initial draft was presented and discussed within the groups, each of which proposed modifications. Subsequently, a single group representing all participants was formed to develop a unified vision agreed upon by everyone. This unified vision was presented to all attendees, and full consensus was achieved.

The following sections present the consensus-based vision of the sector's partners, as well as the agreed-upon priority issues and strategic objectives.

4.2 Sector's Vision and Strategic Priorities

Based on the sector's vision from previous years and consultations with sector partners during an extensive workshop, the following vision was agreed upon:

"A well-governed water and wastewater sector which enhances the Palestinian sovereignty, ensures the sustainability of water systems and responds to the developmental and cross-sectoral issues,"

4.3 Sectoral Priorities and Strategic Goals

The following table illustrates priority issues in the water sector and the strategic goals.

Table6: The issues of priority in the water sector and strategic goals.

| Main component | Priority issues | Strategic goals |
|----------------|--|--|
| Sources | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited access to available water resources and lack of water rights• Insufficient water sources and their geographical disparity• Limited achievement of sustainable and integrated management of water sources due to the absence of sovereignty on land and sources.• Water sources are exposed to pollution, salinity, and depletion.• The impact of climate change on various water sources.• Weak legal structure related to the protection, operation and management of various water sources. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First strategic goal: An integrated management, good governance, and sustainable development for water sources. |

| Main component | Priority issues | Strategic goals |
|--|---|--|
| Supply | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor efficiency of water networks and high levels of unbilled water. • Low quality and reliability of water supply services. • inequitable distribution of water and unavailability of water networks in some communities. • Weak regional connectivity among rural centers and weak regional storage capacity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second strategic goal: Improving the quality and reliability of water supply services, and guaranteeing equity in distribution. |
| Sanitation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the quantity of transboundary water and its reflections in terms of financial deductions. • Limited reuse of treated water for various purposes and sludge treatment. • Impediments and restrictions of the Israeli occupation on sanitation projects. • Weak institutionalization of sustainable management of wastewater facilities. • Limited funding for the sewage sector. • Limited data and scientific research in this domain. • Low percentage of beneficiaries from the integrated sanitation system. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third strategic goal: Improving the infrastructure and services for sanitation and wastewater treatment, and increasing the reuse in various domains. |
| Institutional and legal structure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak enforcement of laws and regulations. • Incomplete establishment of water sector institutions based upon Water Law 2014. • Weak integration of gender and youth in the water sector • Weak preparedness of water providers to transfer to water utilities. • Weak institutional and integrated legal structure required to motivate and organize partnerships with the private sector. • Absence of a fully established legal integrated framework for governing and managing the water sector. • Poor awareness of the importance of integrating gender in the water sector. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fourth strategic goal: Developing and building water sector institutions by consolidating good governance principles within an integrated institutional legal environment, that is responsive to gender and youth participation |
| Financial component | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weak sources of international support and governmental funding for water sector projects (international and local): Financial liquidity and its impact on project implementation. • Rising indebtedness affecting financial sustainability. • weak implementation of the water tariff system application by water providers. • Weak revenue collection. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fifth strategic goal: Guaranteeing financial sustainability for the facilities and water service providers |

4.4 Mechanisms of Coordinating Efforts among the Partners in the Sector

The Palestinian Water Authority operates on the principle of consultation and partnership with stakeholders in developing the water sector. It organizes and manages the sector to achieve the relevant developmental goals, working closely with various partners such as ministries, NGOs, CSOs and donor agencies to ensure coordinated and effective implementation.

In relation to the consultation with ministries and governmental institutions, taskforce committees were established in various components of the water sector. Within the framework of coordination and consultation with ministries and government institutions, working committees—either steering or technical—are formed to implement joint projects (at the design or implementation stages). Examples of such cooperation, coordination, and consultation include the signing of two memoranda of understanding with the Water Sector Regulatory Council and the formation of steering and technical committees to follow up on projects. Additionally, Palestinian Water Authority serves on the Board of the Water Sector Regulatory Council. It also participates in regular meetings to address shared issues. Technical committees

have also been established with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Environment Quality Authority, the Energy Authority, and the Ministry of Local Government to coordinate work across different fields.

The Water Authority coordinates with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation regarding project proposals and priorities. This ensures financial support from donor agencies and alignment with the National Development Plan and the Water Authority’s strategic plan prior to implementation. The Water Authority participates in annual consultations organized by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation with donor countries. After securing funding, financial agreements are signed by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in coordination with the donor country.

Regarding the development of this strategy, individual meetings were conducted with key partners such as the Ministry of Local Government, the Water Sector Regulatory Council, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Environment Quality Authority, and the Energy Authority. A comprehensive workshop was also held with various sector partners to discuss the strategy, gather feedback, and finalize it in its final form.

The following is a table illustrating the joint working groups with their partners, and sectoral working groups detailing their roles:

| Party | Main goal of the committee | Regularity of meetings |
|--|--|---------------------------------|
| Palestinian National Committee for the International Hydrological Program | Promoting water science programs with interested institutions in water issues. | Annually, and according to need |
| National Committee for Climate Change | Discussing climate change issues related to water | According to need |
| National Budget and Planning team at PWA | Preparing project fact sheets, in addition to working on “Bisan” Software Program | According to need |
| Water sectoral group | Alignment of Palestinian government priorities with donor funding, in addition to developing and implementing sectoral plans and strategies. It works on providing a platform for information exchange and policy dialogue, presenting interim reports before meeting with heads of sectoral groups at the Ministry of Agriculture. | 3 times, and according to need |
| Agriculture sectoral group | PWA participation with the Ministry of Agriculture about the alignment of Palestinian government priorities with donor funding, in addition to developing and implementing sectoral plans and strategies. It works on providing a platform for information exchange and policies dialogue, presenting interim reports before meeting with heads of sectoral groups by the Ministry of Agriculture. | Mid annual |
| Environment sectoral group | EQA participation in water projects, and donor feedback and responses regarding the priorities of EQA | Annually |
| Energy Sectoral group- | Donor feedback and responses regarding the priorities of Energy Authority | Every 5 months |
| Local government Sectoral group- | MoLG participation in water projects, and donors’ feedback and responses regarding the priorities of MoLG. | Mid annual |
| United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia- (Water resources committee) | Integrated and sustainable water sources in the Arab region to achieve water security. | According to need |
| SDG 6 monitoring- UN water United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia- (Water resources committee) | Preparing progress indicators for Goal Six. | Annually, and According to need |
| Political dialogue on partnership with the EU-ROF | Monitoring and updating a set of water and sanitation sector indicators linked to funding | Annually and semi-Annual |
| Water Sector Regulatory Council | Monitoring everything related to the operational activities of water service providers | Monthly |
| Government strategic planning- Sectoral and cross-sectoral in coordination with the Prime Minister’s Office | Coordinating and preparing water strategy in coordination with partners | According to need |
| UFM – water expert group | PWA representative in the four working groups under the Water | According to need |

| Party | Main goal of the committee | Regularity of meetings |
|---|--|--|
| | Knowledge Hub for the Mediterranean, covering the nexus between food, energy, environment and water; the nexus between water, employment and migration; water and sanitation in the climate change program; the final strategy for the Union of the Mediterranean. | |
| The National team for the development of the strategic results framework | Preparing quarterly, semi-annual, and annual reports on the progress of implementing the indicators of the water strategic plan. | Quarterly |
| UNESCO/Chair in an-Najah University | Coordinating water projects with the national committee for culture, Art and science under the UNESCO Chair. | Semi-Annual |
| PEGASE | Developing and measuring indicators for the coordination mechanism for the EU. | Annually |
| National committee for combating multi dimensional poverty | Combating multidimensional poverty (a strategy is developed and a committee will be formed to follow-up on the implementation) | According to need |
| National awareness team for solid waste management-MoLG | Awareness raising for the management of solid waste. | According to need |
| Gender unit-Ministry of women affairs | empowering women's role in the water sector and in institutions in general | According to need |
| Complaints Unit at the Prime Minister's Office | Follow-up on complaints received in the water sector and ensure their resolution | Annually |
| Monitoring Israeli violations in the water sector | Preparing reports to monitor Israeli violations | Annually |
| Arab Ministerial water council-Arab League | Focal point to provide about the reality of water sector, challenges, access and abundance. | Annually |
| Medric-Middle East Center for Water Research | Providing Master's degree for postgraduate students and providing funds for research projects | Technical meetings are held once a year |
| Woman and water network | Empowerment of women's role in water governance and management to enhance their role in obtaining service and pure drinkable water | As needed, and based on the achievement of required objectives |
| Committee for the standardization of plastic pipes and accessories | Developing and preparing specific descriptions of plastic tubes and accessories. | Bi-weekly |
| Committee for the standardization of metal pipes and accessories | Developing and preparing specific descriptions of metallic tubes and accessories. | Every two weeks during setting the standardization |
| Committee for the standardization of water quality | Developing and preparing specific descriptions of the quality of water. | Upon request |
| Central procurement committee for water, irrigation, sanitation and dams. | Opening and awarding tenders related to water projects in the domain of water, irrigation,dams and wastewater. | According to tenders |
| High supervisory committee for the installation of prepaid system | Encouraging local authorities to install prepaid systems and Provide high level oversight on the implementation of the Minister of Council decision in this regard, in accordance with the approved procedures. | The committee works continuously due to the increasing demand for prepaid system |
| The Advisory Council of the National Agriculture Research Center | Developing plans and programs for agricultural scientific research using modern farming techniques, organizing capacity building programs and training courses. | Upon request |
| National team for setting research priorities | Preparing research projects for all sectors in Palestine including water. | Upon request(till now they convened 4 times) |
| JTC | Coordinating with the Israeli side to deal with water(purchased quantities, transboundary water,projects...) | Upon request |
| National School for Administration | Communication and coordination regarding the training of water Authority staff. | Upon request |
| Water Sanitation For All (SWA) | Coordination among relevant countries to advance the water sector and initiatives related to water issues. | Annually |

| Party | Main goal of the committee | Regularity of meetings |
|---|---|--|
| SDG6 | A focal point with the UN on SDGs to monitor and follow up on SDGs, measure indicators, and report them to the relevant stakeholders | Annually |
| SWIM/ WES –Integrated water system and environment | Coordinating activities and initiatives to develop the water sector and capacity-building programs | According to the project , and need |
| UNICEF | Coordinating all activities related to the water sector. | Monthly |
| OCHA, ICRC, GVC, AAH, Human Appeal, Qatar Charity, WASH cluster, international humanitarian institutions | Coordinating and communicating to include and implement emergency humanitarian projects in areas of priority. | Mid -annual and according to need |
| Environmental impact assessment committee | Reviewing and studying projects of water and sanitation that require EQA approval. | According to projects presented |
| Joint Water Committee | Coordination with the Israeli side through the Civil Affairs Office to obtain necessary permits for water and sanitation projects | According to need and demand |
| Various SDGs committees | Liaising with relevant ministries to manage overlapping responsibilities, and carry out joint monitoring by all entities in support of SDGs | Mid-annual and according to need |
| Performance indicators committee | Reviewing performance indicators for water service providers before publishing the annual report. | Annually |
| Water tariff committee | Reviewing the tariff with the Water Sector Regulatory Council before approval. | According to requests presented by service providers |
| Preparing tables for water sector data and indicators | Preparing annual water data and presenting them after approval by Head of PWA to be published by PCBS. | Annually |

4.5 The Role of Palestinian Water Authority in Achieving the Sector's Vision

As the main institutional body responsible for the water sector in Palestine, the Palestinian Water Authority seeks to manage and regulate the work of the water sector through a group of duties and responsibilities entrusted by the Water Law of 2014. Palestinian Water Authority formulates the policies regulating the sector, develops short and long term strategy plans and suggests laws, directions and regulations to contribute to the development of the water sector, and implements programs and plans that achieve its goals and policies.

In this context, responsibilities of the Palestinian Water Authority in various components can be summarized as follows:

Sources

1. Taking full responsibility for managing water sources to implement integrated sustainable management.
2. Preparing policies and strategies and water plans, approving and implementing them in coordination with the relevant parties, and submitting regular reports about the status of water to the Council of Ministers.
3. Surveying available water sources and proposing the allocation of water among various sectors, setting priorities of use based on integrated sustainable bases, and achieving efficient management of water demand.
4. Protecting water environment and the surrounding water sources through establishing a protection zone from pollution, in coordination with the relevant parties.
5. Licensing and developing water sources in coordination with the relevant parties.
6. Issuing instructions and procedures related to water sources, providing technical opinions from a technical point of view and conflicts related to water sources.

7. Establishing advanced monitoring systems to monitor rainfall and surface runoff, levels of groundwater, amount of use, and water quality, and analyzing information to determine safe and sustainable production from water sources, and using it in water planning.

Supply

1. Developing concepts and principles of water demand management to improve the efficiency of water supply and use, conserve it, and promote its recycling and reuse.
2. Achieving equity in water distribution and maximizing its use to ensure the sustainability of surface and groundwater resources, in coordination with relevant stakeholders, while developing solutions and alternatives for emergencies and crises to guarantee the continuity of water supply to citizens.
3. Participating in setting approved water quality standards for different uses with competent authorities, and promoting their application.

Sanitation

1. Developing the general policy for planning and evaluating water and sanitation projects, in terms of economic and social feasibility, setting design standards, ensuring quality control and technical specifications, and monitoring their implementation.

Institutional and Legal Structure Component

1. Develop procedures and plans to establish, and enhance the National Water Company and Regional Water Utilities, in coordination with the relevant authorities.
2. Supervise and organize awareness campaigns in the field of water and sanitation, and promote the use of water-saving devices, in cooperation and coordination with the relevant stakeholders.
3. Develop plans and programs for capacity building, training, and qualification of technical staff working in the water sector to improve water resources management, and oversee their implementation and development, in collaboration with the relevant authorities.
4. Coordinate and supervise scientific research and studies related to water and sanitation issues, steer the research towards innovative and creative solutions to existing problems, and follow up with the specialized and relevant entities in this field.
5. Propose draft water-related laws and regulations, and submit them to the competent authorities for approval according to established procedures.
6. Build institutional capacities for managing shared water resources, and work to strengthen regional and international cooperation.
7. Work on developing, coordinating, and ensuring effective participation in international, regional, bilateral, and local technical cooperation programs in the field of integrated and sustainable water resource management, organize conferences and seminars, and represent Palestine in regional and international meetings in this field.

Financial component:

1. Working with relevant stakeholders to create a stable and suitable enabling investment environment to motivate the private sector, and make the required institutional and economic modifications needed to encourage partnership with the private sector, according to a system issued for this purpose.

5.0 Strategic Goals and Results

TABLE (A-1): Strategic goals and results and their relevance to development.

FIRST: SOURCES

| Strategic goals and results | | | | | | | National program for development | |
|--|-------------------------|--|--------------------|------|-------|-------|--|--|
| First Strategic goal: An integrated management, good governance and sustainable development for water sources | | | | | | | Strategic developmental initiative | Improving and developing institutional performance |
| Results | Indicator | Value of indicator at baseline (2023) | Goal by the end of | | | | | |
| | | | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | | | |
| First result: Increased amounts of water available from various sources, both qualitatively and quantitatively. | Conventional | Annual Amount of water produced from Conventional sources | 158 | 159 | 160 | 163 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Energy security to transform to renewable energy sources - Enhancing the sustainability of local authorities - Enhancing sustainable agriculture and food security | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improving the level of institutional performance, improving the level of basic services (water, electricity, communication, health, education, and social protection) |
| | | A monitoring mechanism for various water sources qualitatively and quantitatively, including the rate of encroachments for monitored water sources | %85 | %90 | %92 | %93 | | |
| | | Amount of water purchased from the Israeli side | 88 | 95 | 101 | 107 | | |
| | non-Conventional | Amount of water produced (million cubic meters m ³) | 2.3 | 2.5 | 5 | 7 | | |
| | | Amount of water suitable for reuse (million cubic meters m ³) | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | | |
| Second result: Protected water sources from depletion and pollution, and climate change. | | Rate of water sources monitored qualitatively, and quantitatively | %90 | %90 | %92 | %93 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhancing the sustainability of local authorities - Enhancing sustainable agriculture and food security | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the level of institutional performance, improving the level of basic services (water, electricity, communication , health, education, social protection) |
| | | Percentage of samples that meet the required specifications | %96 | %99 | %99.5 | %99.8 | | |

SECOND: SUPPLY

| Strategic goals and results | | | | | | National Program for Development | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-------|-------|---|---|
| Second strategic goal : Improving the quality and reliability of water supply services, and guaranteeing equity in distribution | | | | | | | |
| Results | Indicator | Value of indicator at baseline (2023) | Goal by the end of | | | Strategic Developmental initiative | Pillar for improving and developing institutional performance |
| | | | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | | |
| First result: Increased opportunities for citizens to access safe drinking water from reliable water supply sources, and equity in distribution was guaranteed. | The amount of household water available at taps (drinking water share per capita, in liters per person/ per day) | 87 | 89 | 91 | 92 | - Enhancing the sustainability of local authorities | -Improving the level of institutional performance, improving the level of basic services (water, electricity, communication , health, education, and social protection. |
| | Percentage of drinking water samples that meet the Palestinian specifications | %98 | %98 | %98 | %98 | | |
| | Rate of households connected to the sanitation system | %95 | %95.2 | %95.4 | %95.6 | | |
| Second result: Improved performance and increased efficiency of local and regional water distribution networks. | Percentage of unbilled water | %40 | %39 | %37 | %36 | - Enhancing the sustainability of local authorities | -Improving the level of institutional performance -Improving the level of basic services (water, electricity, communication, health, education, and social protection |
| | Percentage of water loss at the level of distribution networks | %35 | %34 | %33 | %32 | | |
| | | | | | | | |

THIRD: SANITATION

| Strategic goals and results | | | | | | National Program for Development | |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------|------|------|---|--|
| Third strategic goal: Improving the infrastructure and services of sanitation and wastewater treatment, and increasing the reuse in various domains | | | | | | Strategic developmental initiative | Pillar for improving and developing institutional performance |
| Results | Indicator | Value of indicator at baseline(2023) | Goal by the end of | | | | |
| | | | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | | |
| First result: Improved and increased efficiency of wastewater services infrastructure, and expanded coverage in terms of conveyance, collection and treatment. | percentage of households connected to the sanitation system | %35 | %36 | %37 | *39% | - Enhancing the sustainability of local authorities | -Improving the level of institutional performance --Improving the level of basic services (water and and electricity) |
| | Percentage of treated water from total produced wastewater | %13 | %16 | %25 | %30 | | |
| | Percentage of treated waste water that meets the required Palestinian specifications | %82 | %83 | %84 | %86 | | |
| Second result: Increased contribution of alternative energy in operating treatment plants. | Amount of generated alternative energy to operate KWH/ day treatment plant | 7900 | 8575 | 8800 | 9200 | - Energy security and transition to renewable energy sources - Enhancing the sustainability of local authorities | |
| Fourth result: Reduced quantities of transboundary wastewater. | Quantity of transboundary wastewater (million cubic meters m ³) | 17.3 | 17.3 | 15 | 10 | - Enhancing the sustainability of local authorities | -Improving the level of institutional performance - -Improving the level of basic services water, electricity. |
| Fifth result: Increased private sector investments in sanitation projects. | Number of projects in which the private sector is involved. | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | - Enhancing the sustainability of local authorities | - Improving investment and business environment - Governance and rule of law |

*ALTHOUGH THE RATE LOOKS SMALL, ITS FINANCIAL COST LOOKS BIG. A RATE OF 1% REQUIRES 50 MILLION \$

FOURTH: LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE

| Strategic goals and results | | | | | | National Program for Development | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| Fourth strategic goal: Developing and strengthening water sector institutions by consolidating good governance principles within an integrated institutional legal environment, that is responsive to gender and youth participation | | | | | | | |
| Results | Indicator | Value of indicator at baseline (2023) | Goal by the end of | | | Strategic developmental initiative | Pillar for improving and developing institutional performance |
| | | | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | | |
| First result: Enforced laws and regulations. | Number of new enforceable regulations. | 6 | 7 | 8 | 10 | - Enhancing the sustainability of local authorities | -Governance and rule of law. -Improving the level of institutional performance. -Improving the level of basic services. |
| | Number of technical specifications being developed and prepared | 3 | 3 | 3 | 4 | | |
| Second result: Restructured various water sector institutions in alignment with the new Palestinian Water Law (effectively water sector institutions) | Rate of progress in establishing an efficient National Water Company | %20 | %40 | %80 | %90 | - Enhancing agricultural sustainability and food security | - Governance and rule of law. - Improving the level of institutional performance - Improving the level of basic services. |
| | Completing the update and preparation of PWA long-term water strategy | %100 | %100 | %100 | %100 | | |
| | Building the organizational structure for PWA | %80 | %100 | %100 | %100 | | |
| | Number of Regional Water Utilities established according to Water Law 2014 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | | |
| | Number of Water Users Associations established | 4 | 7 | 8 | 10 | | |
| | Number of training sessions held with local authorities and number of trainees to build staff capacities in the water sector | 7 sessions, 40 trainees | 8 sessions 40 trainees | 10 sessions 40 trainees | 12 session 40 trainees | | |
| Third result: Specialized scientific research and enhanced youth participation in the water sector | Number of young people participating in the Youth Water Forum | 29 | 50 | 100 | | - Enhancing the sustainability of local authorities and - Governance and rule of law. | - -Improving the level of institutional performance - -Improving the level of basic services |
| | Number of master and doctoral degree scholarships granted to youth through PWA | 25 | 27 | 30 | 30 | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fourth result: Gender mainstreaming institutionalized in Water Authority. | Gender unit established and operational | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | - Enhancing the sustainability of local authorities | - Improving the level of institutional performance - Improving the level of basic services - Governance and rule of law |
| | Number of partnerships with (local and international organizations) in relation to institutionalizing gender. | 0 | 3 | 4 | 5 | | |
| | Number of studies related to gender-related issues in the water sector. | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | | |
| | Number of specialized training sessions | 0 | 1 | 3 | 5 | | |
| Fifth result: A strong infrastructure and institutional framework established. | Number of digitized procedures | 3 | 5 | 6 | 8 | - Enhancing the sustainability of local authorities | -Improving the investment and business environment. -Financial policy and public financial management |
| | Number of computerized systems | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | | |
| Note: it is difficult to predict the financial value of the investments due to their dependence on private sector factors in terms of willingness and incentives | Value of investments from the private sector | | | | | | |

FIFTH: FINANCIAL COMPONENT

| Strategic goals and results | | | | | | National Program for Development | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------|------|------|---|--|
| Fifth strategic goal: Guaranteeing financial sustainability for the facilities and water service providers | | | | | | Strategic Developmental Initiative | Pillar for improving and developing institutional performance |
| Results | Indicator | Value of Indicator at Baseline (2023) | Goal by the end of | | | | |
| | | | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | | |
| Fifth result: Improved financial management for the facilities and service providers. | Percentage of financial collection for water bills at the bulk water supply level | %73 | %74 | %76 | %78 | - Enhancing the sustainability of local authorities | - Governance and rule of law - Improving the level of institutional performance, improving the level of basic services. - Improving the investment and business environment. - |
| | Number of water service providers that have installed prepaid systems | 178 | 200 | 230 | 260 | | |
| | Percentage of service providers free of debt and committed to bill payments | %11 | %12 | %15 | %20 | | |
| | Rate of service providers with scheduled water debts(payment plan and billing) | %15 | %16 | %18 | %22 | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | Financial policy and public financial management |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| Strategic goals and results | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| First Strategic Goal: An integrated management, good governance and sustainable development of water sources | | | |
| Results | Relevant Sustainable Development Goal | Target of the Relevant Sustainable Development Goal | Indicator of the target of the Relevant Sustainable Development Goal |
| <p>First result: Increased amounts of water available from various sources, both qualitatively and quantitatively.</p> | <p>Goal 6: Ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation services for all.</p> <p>Goal 2: End hunger, provide food security and nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture</p> | <p>Purpose 6.1: Achieving the goal of equitable access for all to safe and affordable drinking water by 2030</p> <p>Purpose 6.5: Implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate. Year 2030</p> | <p>1-6-1- Percentage of the population who benefit from safely managed drinking water services</p> <p>Indicator 6 -5-1 Degree of implementation of integrated water resources management (zero - 100)</p> |
| <p>Second result: Protected water sources from depletion and pollution.</p> | <p>Goal 13: Take urgent action to address climate change and its impacts</p> <p>Goal 6: Ensure the availability of water and sanitation services for all, and manage them in a sustainable manner</p> | <p>Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries, and enhance resilience to those hazards.</p> <p>6.3 Improve water quality by reducing pollution, stopping the dumping of waste and hazardous chemicals, minimizing their leakage, halving the proportion of untreated sewage, and significantly increasing safe recycling and reuse globally by 2030</p> | <p>indicator 2.1.13 number of countries adopting and implementing national disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for the period (2015-2030 NDRMC 2019 yes=1, no=0</p> <p>Indicator 1.3.13 Extent of mainstreaming '1' global citizenship education and '2' education for sustainable development (including climate change education) into (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c) teacher training; and (d) student assessment</p> |
| Second strategic goal: Improving the quality and reliability of water supply services, and guaranteeing equity in distribution. | | | |

| Results | Relevant Sustainable Development Goal Target | Target of the Relevant Sustainable Development Goal | Indicator of the Target of the Relevant Sustainable Development Goal |
|---|---|---|--|
| First result: Increased opportunities for citizens to access safe drinking water from reliable water sources, and equity in distribution was guaranteed. | Goal 6: Ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation services for all | 1-6: Achieve the goal of equitable access for all to safe and affordable drinking water by 2030 6 Implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate, by 2030: 5 - | Target 1.1.6:Percentage of the population who benefit from safely managed drinking water services Indicator 2.1.2:Percentage of population using hand washing facilities with soap and water (Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, 2019, percentage) Indicator1.4.6: Change in water use efficiency over a period of time |
| Second result: Improved performance and Increased efficiency of regional and local water distribution networks. | Goal 6: Ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation services for all. | 1-6: Achieve the goal of equitable access for all to safe and affordable drinking water by 2030 4-6 Significantly increase water use efficiency in all sectors and ensure sustainable freshwater withdrawal and supply in order to address water scarcity and significantly reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity by 2030. | Indicator 1.1.6:Percentage of the population who benefit from safely managed drinking water services |
| Third strategic goal: Improving the infrastructure and services of sanitation and wastewater treatment, and increasing the reuse in various domains | | | |
| Results | Relevant Sustainable Development Goal | Target of the Relevant Sustainable Development Goal | Indicator of the Target of the Relevant Sustainable Development Goal |
| First result: Improved and increased efficiency of wastewater services infrastructure, and expanded coverage in terms of conveyance, collection, and treatment | Goal 6: Ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation services for all | Target 6.2: Achieve the goal of universal access to sanitation and hygiene services, end open defecation, and pay special attention to the needs of women, girls, and those living in vulnerable situations, by one year. | Indicator 1.2.6: Percentage of population benefiting from proper management of sanitation services (b) Hand washing facilities with soap and water, which amounted to 97.6% |
| Second result: Increased contribution of alternative energy in operating treatment plants. | Goal 7: Ensuring universal and affordable access to reliable and sustainable modern energy services | Goal 7.2: Achieve a significant increase in the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2017 | Indicator 2.1:Share of renewable energy in total final energy consumption. |
| Third result: Ensured proper management and monitoring of treated wastewater and sludgereuse. | Goal 2: Eradicate hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture | Target 2.3: By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and | |

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| | | inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment. | |
| Fourth result: Reduced quantities of transboundary wastewater. | Goal 6: Ensuring the availability and sustainable management for water and sanitation services for all | Target 6.3: By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally | Target 1.3.6: Percentage of household, industrial waste water flow treated in a secure way. |
| Fifth result: Increased private sector investments in sanitation projects. | Goal 6 : Ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation services for all. | Target 6: Supporting and enhancing the participation of local communities in improving the management of water and wastewater. | Target 6b1: Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management. |
| Fourth strategic goal: Developing and strengthening water sector institutions by consolidating good governance principles within an integrated institutional legal environment, that is responsive to gender and youth participation | | | |
| Results | Relevant Sustainable Development Goal | Target of the Relevant Sustainable Development Goal | Indicator of the Target of the Relevant Sustainable Development Goal |
| First result: Enforced laws and regulations. | Goal 6 : Ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation services for all | 6.A: expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programs, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies. 6.B: Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management. | 6.1.1:Percentage of the population who benefit from safely managed drinking water services. 6.2.1 (a) Indicator Percentage of: population benefiting from proper management of sanitation services (b) Hand washing facilities with soap |
| Second result: Restructured various water sector institutions in alignment with the new Palestinian Water Law (effectively water sector institutions). | | | |
| Third result: Specialized scientific research and enhanced youth participation in the water sector | Goal 6 : Ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation services for all | 6.B: Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management | Indicator 5.5.1: Measures women's proportional representation in two distinct areas of government, national parliaments and local government, rate of women in senior positions, follow up on public allocations for gender equality, linking to women's empowerment. |

| | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>Fourth result: Gender mainstreaming institutionalized in Palestinian Water Authority.</p> | <p>Goal 5:Gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls by 2030.</p> <p>Goal 6 :Ensuring the availability and sustainable management for water and sanitation services for all</p> <p>Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries</p> | <p>Target 5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.</p> <p>Target 5.5.:Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.</p> <p>Conduct reforms to grant the woman equal rights to economic resources, property ownership and financial services for women according to national laws.</p> <p>Target 5 C:Adopt sound policies and enforceable legislation and strengthen these policies and legislation to advance gender equality and empower all women and girls at all levels.</p> <p>Target 6.1: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all.</p> <p>Target 6.2: By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations.</p> <p>Target 10.3: Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.</p> | <p>Indicator 6.1.1: Percentage of the population who benefit from safely managed drinking water services.</p> <p>Indicator 6.b.1: Proportion of local administrative units with established and operational policies and procedures for participation of local communities in water and sanitation management</p> <p>Indicator 6.2.1: Proportion of population using (a) safely managed sanitation services and (b) a hand-washing facility with soap and water</p> |
| <p>Fifth result: Strong infrastructure and institutional framework established.</p> | <p>Goal 6 :Ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation services for all</p> | <p>All targets of Goal 6 apply to this goal</p> | <p>All indicators of Goal 6 apply to this goal</p> |
| <p>Fifth strategic goal: Guaranteeing financial sustainability for the facilities and water service providers</p> | | | |
| <p>Results</p> | <p>Relevant Sustainable Development Goal</p> | <p>Target of the Relevant Sustainable Development Goal</p> | <p>Indicator of the target of the Relevant Sustainable Development Goal</p> |

| | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p>First result: Improved financial management for the facilities and service providers.</p> | <p>Goal 6: Ensuring the availability and sustainable management for water and sanitation services for all</p> | <p>6.A:By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programs, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies</p> | <p>Indicator 6.a.1: Amount of water- and sanitation-related official development assistance that is part of a government-coordinated spending plan.</p> <p>(United Nations database, 2019, 1 million \$)</p> |
|---|--|--|---|

6.0 Budget

This part of the strategy explains how the Palestinian Water Authority aligned the planned actions with the expected financial resources. It justifies the adoption of the results, targets and options of policy interventions. In addition, it outlines the cooperation expected with the partners and a brief summary of the budget table.

6.1 Justification for Adopting the Results, Targets and Options of Policy Interventions

Despite the decline of governmental funding for water sector projects, the developmental importance of this sector requires exerting more effort to secure additional funding. Based upon the previous strategic plan and what was achieved earlier, in terms of results and implementing a number of projects funded by donor parties, the Palestinian Water Authority is optimistic about achieving the planned results, as well as the strategic plan 2012–2032 to be updated as 2022–2042.

On the other hand, the Palestinian Water Authority sees that some projects require Israeli approval, in addition to their high cost such as: drilling water wells, building dams, energy- generating projects, as the ambition in this area is lower in terms of implementing these projects, and securing external or internal funding, in addition to the impediment of obtaining Israeli approval for such projects.

6.2 Cooperation with Partners Regarding Funding Policy

Striving to achieve its goals and vision, and in line with its long- term strategic plans, the Palestinian Water Authority works constantly to develop its partnerships with the regional and international countries and institutions. According to the organizational structure of local aid coordination in 2017

for all sectors in Palestine, managed by the PM's Office, the water sectoral working group consists of the following donor countries: EU, World Bank, France, Germany, Austria, Netherlands, Japan, Sweden, Norway, and Britain, in addition to UN institutions and partner ministries in the sector.

The Water Sector Working Group meets semi-annually, and the meetings of the sectoral working group serve as a platform for policy dialogue between the sector and donors. They also contribute to sectoral planning driven by the National Action Program, evaluating the implementation of sector programs, coordinating at the project level and information sharing. One of the main objectives of the group is to align the priorities of the Palestinian government with donor commitments and contributions, in accordance with the principles of aid effectiveness, and in line with national and regional/local development plans and processes.

This meeting is considered one of the platforms at which the Palestinian Water Authority demonstrates the projects in need of funding, in addition to ad hoc meeting related to AHLC held in New York, twice a year in Brussels and New York, as well as consultations held in some donor countries and institutions of which protocols are issued, clarifying the mechanism of projects funding or completion of some projects which require additional funding.

LACS coordinates the water sectoral working groups' meetings and emanates three technical groups (thematic groups): wastewater, Gaza Strip, and sector reform. The technical working groups convene several times a year to discuss technical matters related to the sector's needs and the technical support required. Based upon the Council of Ministers' decision, NGOs working with the sector were steered to coordinate with the Palestinian Water Authority, who has authority over the sector. Within this frame, projects of a humanitarian nature that are linked to the water sector are funded and implemented.

On the other hand, international memoranda in the water sector are established with a group of countries such as: Morocco, Jordan, Hungary, Turkey, Egypt, and others, in the domain of information exchange, and capacity building about certain topics in the interest of the water sector. From these memoranda, expert teams are formed and convene regularly, and develop joint annual work plans.

On another aspect, National and sectoral development goals align with the European joint strategy from which the Result-Oriented Framework emanates. Indicators are reviewed quarterly, and the achievement of all these indicators is linked to the funding required for the implementation of such projects.

This section demonstrates the implementation budget (2025–2027) based upon budget support for Palestinian Water Authority programs, and according to operational and developmental budgets. The following is a detailed table for each program and the financial resources required:

| OVERVIEW OF THE BUDGET-2025-2027 | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------------|
| FIRST STRATEGIC GOAL: AN INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF WATER SOURCES | | | | | | | | | |
| Related strategic results | Related Budget Program | 2025- 2027Total cost estimated (1000 ILS) | | 2025 (1000 ILS) | | 2026 (1000 ILS) | | 2027 (1000 ILS) | |
| | | operational | Developmental | operational | Developmental | operational | Developmental | operational | Developmental |
| FIRST RESULT: Increased amounts of water available from various sources, both qualitatively and quantitatively (conventional and non-conventional) | Developing conventional and non-conventional water sources | 806 | 12,597 | 281 | 3,097 | 250 | 4,000 | 275 | 5,500 |
| SECOND RESULT: Water sources protected from depletion and pollution. | | 806 | 12,597 | 281 | 3,097 | 250 | 4,000 | 275 | 5,500 |
| FINANCIAL RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR GOAL 1: | | 1,612 | 25,194 | 562 | 6,195 | 500 | 8,000 | 550 | 11,000 |
| SECOND STRATEGIC GOAL: IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND RELIABILITY OF WATER SUPPLY SERVICES, AND GUARANTEEING EQUITY IN DISTRIBUTION. | | | | | | | | | |
| Related strategic result | Related budget program | Total cost estimated (1000 ILS) 2025-2027 | | 2025 (1000 ILS) | | 2026 (1000 ILS) | | 2027 (1000 ILS) | |
| | | operational | Developmental | operational | Developmental | operational | Developmental | operational | Developmental |
| FIRST RESULT: Increased opportunities for citizens to access safe drinking water from reliable water sources, and equity in distribution was guaranteed. | Management and distribution of water | 43,849 | 15,170 | 14,266 | 5,232 | 14,582 | 5,025 | 15,001 | 4,913 |
| SECOND RESULT: Improved performance and increased efficiency of regional and local water distribution networks. | | 43,849 | 15,170 | 14,266 | 5,232 | 14,582 | 5,025 | 15,001 | 4,913 |
| FINANCIAL RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR GOAL 2: | | 87,698 | | 30,340 | 28,532 | 10,464 | 29,165 | 10,050 | 30,002 |

| General View of the Budget 2025-2027 | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Third strategic goal 3: Improving the infrastructure and services of sanitation and wastewater treatment, and increasing its reuse in various domains | | | | | | | | | |
| Related Strategic Results | Relevant Budget Program | Total cost estimated (1000 ILS) 2025-2027 | | 2025 (1000 ILS) | | 2026 (1000 ILS) | | 2027 (1000 ILS) | |
| | | operational | Developmental | operational | Developmental | operational | Developmental | operational | Developmental |
| First result: Improved and increased efficiency of wastewater services infrastructure, and expanded coverage in terms of conveyance, collection and treatment. | Managing and improving wastewater services infrastructure, covering them in terms of conveyance, collection, and treatment | 177.2 | 6,469 | 47.2 | 2,299 | 70 | 2170 | 60 | 2,000 |
| Second result: Increased contribution of alternative energy in operating treatment plants. | | 177.2 | 6,469 | 47.2 | 2,299 | 70 | 2170 | 60 | 2,000 |
| Third result: Ensured proper management and monitoring of treated wastewater and sludge reuse. | | 177.2 | 6,469 | 47.2 | 2,299 | 70 | 2170 | 60 | 2,000 |
| Fourth result: Reduced quantities of transboundary wastewater. | | 177.2 | 6,469 | 47.2 | 2,299 | 70 | 2170 | 60 | 2,000 |
| Fifth result: Increased private sector investment in sanitation projects | | 177.2 | 6,469 | 47.2 | 2,299 | 70 | 2170 | 60 | 2,000 |
| Financial resources required for goal 3: | | 886 | 32,345 | 236 | 11,496 | 350 | 10,849 | 300 | 10,000 |

| General overview of the budget 2025-2027 | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Fourth strategic goal: Developing and strengthening water sector institutions by consolidating good governance principles within an integrated institutional legal environment, that is responsive to gender and youth participation | | | | | | | | | |
| Related Strategic Results | Related Budget Program | Total cost estimated (1000 ILS) 2025-2027 | | 2025 (1000)ILS | | 2026 (1000 ILS) | | 2027 (1000 ILS) | |
| | | operational | Developmental | operational | Developmental | operational | Developmental | operational | Developmental |
| First result: Enforced laws and regulations. | Planning and General policies and strategies for the water sector | 97.2 | 968 | 27.2 | 368 | 30 | 400 | 40 | 200 |
| Second result: Restructured various water sector institutions in alignment with the new Palestinian Water Law (effectively water sector institutions) | | 97.2 | 968 | 27.2 | 368 | 30 | 400 | 40 | 200 |
| Third result: Specialized scientific research and enhanced youth participation in the water sector. | | 97.2 | 968 | 27.2 | 368 | 30 | 400 | 40 | 200 |
| Fourth result: Gender mainstreaming institutionalized in the Palestinian Water Authority. | | 97.2 | 968 | 27.2 | 368 | 30 | 400 | 40 | 200 |
| Fifth result: Strong infrastructure and institutional framework established | | 97.2 | 968 | 27.2 | 368 | 30 | 400 | 40 | 200 |
| Financial resources required for goal 4 | | 486 | 4,840 | 136 | 1,842 | 150 | 2,000 | 200 | 1,000 |

General View for the Budget of 2025-2027

Fifth strategic goal 5: Guaranteeing financial sustainability for the facilities and water service providers

| Related strategic result | Related budget program | total cost estimated 2025-2027 (1000ILS) | | 2025 (1000ILS) | | 2026 (1000 ILS) | | 2027 (1000ILS) | |
|--|---|--|---------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|
| | | operational | developmental | operational | developmental | operational | developmental | operational | developmental |
| Fifth result: Improved financial management for the facilities and service providers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving and increasing the efficiency of wastewater services, covering them in terms of conveyance, collection and treatment Planning and General policies and strategies for water sector Developing conventional and non-conventional water sources. Administrative program Management and water distribution | 3,479 | 0 | 1,029 | 0 | 1,200 | 0 | 1,250 | 0 |
| | | Financial resources required for goal 5 | 3,479 | 0 | 1,029 | 0 | 1,200 | 0 | 1,250 |

Allocation of the Total Budget across Budget Programs

| Budget Program | 2025 (ILS) | | 2026(ILS) | | 2027(ILS) | |
|--|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| | Operational | Developmental | Operational | Developmental | Operational | Developmental |
| • Developing Conventional and Non-Conventional Water Sources No.6206 | 562,185 | 6,195,928 | 500,000 | 8,000,000 | 550,000 | 11,000,000 |
| • Improving the Structure and Services of Sanitation and Wastewater Treatment No. 6209 | 236,259 | 11,496,811 | 350,000 | 10,849,595 | 300,000 | 10,000,000 |
| • Management and Water Distribution No.6203 | 28,532,814 | 10,464,481 | 29,165,000 | 10,050,405 | 30,002,450 | 9,827,000 |
| • Planning and Preparing Strategies No. 6204 | 136,261 | 1,842,780 | 150,000 | 2,000,000 | 200,000 | 1,000,000 |
| • Administrative Program No. 6207 | 1,029,819 | 0 | 1,200,000 | 0 | 1,250,000 | 0 |

The amounts do not include salaries, wages and community contributions.

7.0 Monitoring and Evaluation

Strategic plans are among the most important mechanisms used in development for all institutions and sectors. Likewise, monitoring and evaluation is the best ways to know the scope of progress, and to be committed to a certain methodology and scope of achieving expected results. For workers in the sector and funders, it is necessary to be updated on the efficiency of the planned strategic plans. It is an innovation, an exciting approach and a necessity to develop the work, control its direction, and define limitations of responsibility.

The process of monitoring and evaluation for planners, and policy makers, programs, and projects allows them to assess the efficiency of methods used in determining and introducing their achievements. It also helps them learn better ways to apply policy interventions and to develop and sustain the impacts of these programs on beneficiaries.

According to the strategic planning methodology approved by the Prime Minister’s Office, the strategic plan consists of several levels, as follows:



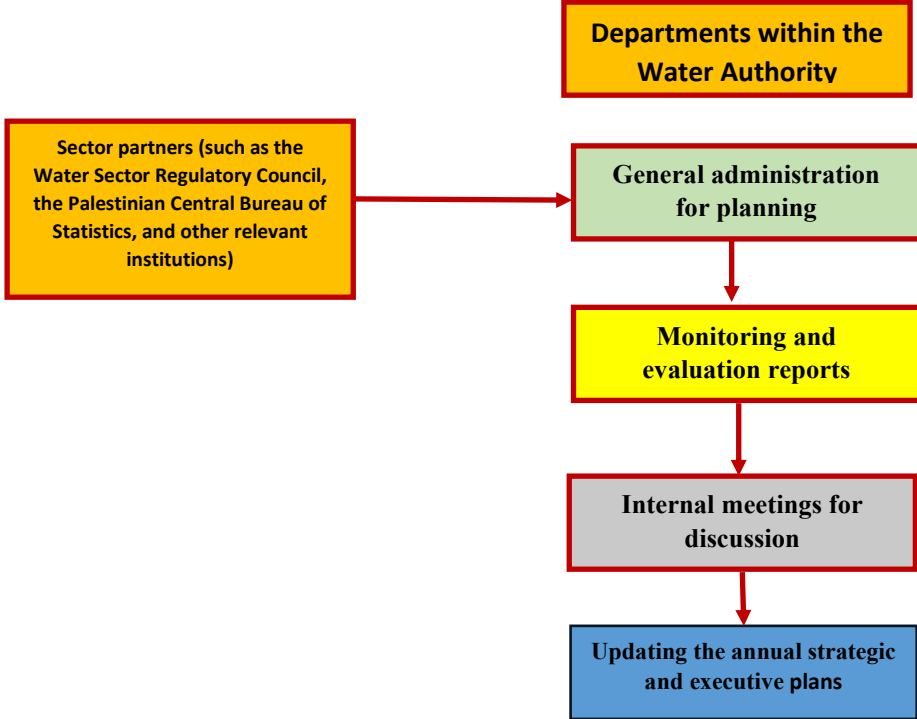
The planning process starts with setting strategic goals (based on priorities), then determining results, putting down indicators and time-bound targets and indicators. Subsequently, policy interventions and derived projects are identified that work to achieve the results and, consequently, the strategic objectives.”

However, the evaluation process begins in reverse order — by first monitoring the projects that have been implemented and assessing the overall policy interventions they support. Then, indicator values are collected (from within the Water Authority or from partners such as the Water Sector Regulatory Council, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, and others). These indicator values are then linked to the results, and those results and achievements are connected to the strategic objectives.

Through the General Directorate of Planning, the Water Authority monitors and tracks the progress of project implementation and policy interventions in coordination with all departments, collects indicator values from various sources — both internal and external (sector partners) — and prepares monitoring and evaluation reports that specify what has been achieved, and what has not, along with identifying the reasons for deviations from the planned targets and outcomes. The monitoring and evaluation reports serve as a key point for updating the annual operational plans derived from the

strategic plan. The following diagram summarizes the processes of monitoring and evaluation:
Monitoring and evaluation reports for the strategic plans are submitted quarterly, semi-annually, and annually to the Council of Ministers / the General Directorate of Monitoring and Evaluation.

Annex 4 includes monitoring and evaluation which will be used to implement monitoring and evaluation processes.



7.1 Mechanisms for Follow-Up and Communication with Partners.

For the purpose of enhancing the efficiency of monitoring and evaluation, and providing the Palestinian Water Authority with comprehensive, precise, high-quality information and in a timely manner, a few institutional and methodological mechanisms for communication and coordination with sector partners at various levels and types were adopted. These mechanisms are:

1. Formation of joint working groups

- Joint working groups are formed between the Water Authority (and partner institutions, such as the Water Sector Regulatory Council, the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, municipalities, water companies, service providers. These indicator values are then linked to the results, and those results and achievements are connected to the strategic objectives. Currently, there are joint working groups specialized in following the relevant indicators, data exchange, and updating data regularly.

2. Regular meetings:

- Coordination meetings are held annually, or quarterly, or according to need between the Palestinian Water Authority and the relevant partners to review the progress achieved in the projects and interventions implementation, discuss the scope of results and indicators, and their reflections on increasing the efficiency of the sector and satisfaction of beneficiaries. Timetables are prepared for the meetings in advance, as the minutes are documented along with follow-up on recommendations.

3. Data sharing in the platform:

- Developing and using a central electronic system allowing partners to enter data and update according to approved templates. For example, a comprehensive water data system is currently under development through an Austrian project. In the first phase, the Palestinian Water Authority's data and National Water Company data will be connected, and later on, it will be expanded to include water facilities and water service providers.

4. Memoranda of understanding.

- Signing memoranda of understanding with partner institutions in relation to specifying roles and responsibilities regarding data collection.
- The memoranda include determining focal points and mechanisms for submitting reports and deadlines.

Currently, there is a memo between the Palestinian Water Authority and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics since 2010 to publish comprehensive water data.

5. Continuous technical communication.

- Specifying contact persons at each partner entity to guarantee direct communication between Palestinian Water Authority and relevant parties.

6. Feedback reports

- The Palestinian Water Authority issues quarterly and semi-annual feedback reports to partners through reports for the General Administration of Monitoring and Evaluation at the Council of Ministers, clarifying the quality and accuracy of received data and remarks for opportunities for improvement.

8.0 Strategic Work Track Annex no. 1

The strategy in this section presents the approach that will be adopted to achieve the results and targets defined and committed to the Water Authority. It outlines the policy interventions planned to deliver each result of the strategic objectives. A brief description is provided for each policy intervention. Annex No. (2) contains a detailed review of all the policy interventions, and a short description of what each will accomplish, and the expected outputs.

First: Sources

2.0 Strategic goal: First strategic goal: An integrated management, good governance and sustainable development of water sources

2.1 First result: Increased amounts of water available from various sources, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

Water plays an important role in developing communities in terms of economic, social, and environmental aspects. Water sources are scarce in Palestine due to the occupation's practices and their location in semi-dry area, in addition to the potential impact of climate change and population growth. Therefore, it is important to manage and maximize water use. This requires an enabling environment to guarantee its sustainability across generations. Furthermore, the growing demand for water as a result of population growth, and decreasing quantities of water purchased from the Israeli side, contribute to lowering the bill.

- **Policy intervention: Integrated management and sustainable development of water sources**
- **Brief description of the policy intervention:** Comprehensive management and participatory planning for the management and development of water resources, in a manner that balances social and economic needs, and ensures the sustainability of the resource for future generations.
- **Description of what will be achieved from the policy intervention**
 - Increasing the quantities of water produced from groundwater basins through drilling new wells, improving the efficiency of existing wells, and enhancing the utilization of springs in a way that ensures the sustainability of the aquifers.
 - Increasing the quantities of water produced from water harvesting by constructing dams and collection ponds.
 - Desalinating seawater for drinking and domestic purposes.
 - Treating wastewater and establishing reuse projects for agricultural irrigation.

- **Output of the policy intervention:**

- Drilled new wells.
- Rehabilitated existing wells.
- Enhanced the efficiency of springs.
- Developed operational systems for wells and spring pumping stations using clean energy.
- Constructed dams and water harvesting ponds, and implemented power interconnection projects.
- Improved the efficiency of existing desalination plants.

2.2 Second result: Water sources protected from depletion, pollution, and climate change.

The water sector is the most affected by the phenomenon of climate change in terms of water abundance and quality. Palestine faces a particular context with the occupation's control over all surface and groundwater, which hinders access to the resources, and taking measures that support adaptation to climate change. As a result, Palestinians, in light of the occupation, suffer more due to the reflections of climate change on the water sector. PWA exerts tremendous efforts to address the impacts of climate change on equity in distribution and to provide sustainable water.

- **Policy intervention: Protected water sources from depletion, pollution and climate change**

- **Brief description of the Policy intervention:** Monitoring of water sources to ensure their optimal and sustainable use, and to prevent contamination.

- **Description of what will be achieved from the policy intervention**

- Monitoring quantities of extracted water from wells and the levels of both static and dynamic groundwater.
- Monitoring the quantities of water flowing from springs.
- Monitoring the quantities of water resulting from floods and valleys
- Monitoring water quality
- Monitoring the extent of compliance with licenses granted to extracted water.
- Monitoring the importance of protecting groundwater from depletion.

- **Output of the policy intervention**

- Developed a comprehensive database for water sources.
- Conducted regular field visits to water sources.
- Established remote monitoring stations for springs, wells, and flood events.

Second: Supply

3.0 Second strategic goal: Improving the quality and reliability of water supply services, and guaranteeing equity in distribution.

Water is provided at the level of household, men, women, young and old, healthy individuals, and persons with special needs. The performance indicators for water supply are measured by liters per person per day, as water service providers endeavor for justice in distribution at the population community level.

3.1 First result: Increased opportunities for citizens to access safe drinking water from reliable water sources, and equity in distribution was guaranteed.

3.1.1 Policy intervention 1: Establishing and rehabilitating water networks in areas without existing networks.

- **Brief description of the policy intervention:** Establishing new networks and rehabilitating existing ones.
- **Description of what will be achieved from the policy intervention**
 - Reviewing special designs related to water infrastructure and licenses.
 - Monitoring and supervising the implementation of infrastructure (networks).
- **Output of the policy intervention**
 - Implemented projects for establishing new water networks and licensing.
 - Implemented water network rehabilitation and expansion projects.

3.1.2 Policy intervention 2: Expanding networks in areas with high demographic growth and urban planning.

- **Brief description of policy intervention:** Expanding existing networks and connecting all households to networks.
- **Description of what will be achieved from the policy intervention:**
 - Reviewing special designs related to water infrastructure and licenses.
 - Monitoring and supervising the implementation of infrastructure (networks).
- **Output of the policy intervention**
 - Implemented water network rehabilitation and expansion projects.

3.2 Second result: Improved performance and increased efficiency of the regional and local water distribution networks.

3.2.1 Policy intervention 3: Connecting the sources, establishing and rehabilitating pumping stations and main distribution lines.

- **Brief description of the policy intervention:** Construction of transmission lines between the available sources, construction of pumping stations, rehabilitation of the existing ones, and completion of all distribution lines in the communities.
- **Description of what will be achieved from the policy intervention:**
 - Reviewing special designs related to water infrastructure and licenses.
 - Monitoring and supervising the implementation of infrastructure (Plants)
- **Output of the policy intervention**

- Implemented projects to establish and rehabilitate pumping stations and distribution lines.
- Executed transmission line projects connecting water sources and pumping stations.

3.2.2 Policy intervention 4

Construction and rehabilitation of local reservoirs.

- **Brief description of the policy intervention:** Building reservoirs with various capacities according to the need of local authorities and facilities.
- **Description of what will be achieved from policy intervention:**
 - Reviewing special designs related to water infrastructure and licenses.
 - Monitoring and supervising the implementation of infrastructure (reservoirs and transmission lines)

3.2.3 Policy intervention 5

Establishing regional reservoirs and connection lines.

- **Brief description of policy intervention:** Establishing regional reservoirs and strategic transmission lines among the Governorates.

Description of what will be achieved from the policy intervention

- Reviewing special designs related to water infrastructure and licenses.
- Monitoring and supervising the implementation of infrastructure (reservoirs and transmission lines)
- **Output of the policy intervention**
 - Implemented projects to establish regional water reservoirs.
 - Executed projects to establish transmission lines and connect them to regional water sources.

Third: Sanitation

4.0 Third strategic goal: Improving the structure and services of sanitation and wastewater treatment, and increasing its reuse in various domains.

4.1 First result: Improved and increased efficiency of wastewater services, and expanded coverage in terms of conveyance, collection and treatment.

4.1.1 Policy intervention 1: Expansion of wastewater treatment management and improvement of sanitation service.

- **Brief description of the policy intervention:** Work will include establishing sanitation services, new treatment plants, and follow-up on their operation.
- **Description of what will be achieved from the policy intervention:**
 - Reviewing special designs related to water networks, plants, and licenses.

- Implementing connection and establishment works.
- Reviewing special designs related to water infrastructure and licenses.
- Carrying out construction and connection works, as well as monitoring and supervising their implementation.

- **Output of the policy intervention**

- Expanded community connections to sanitation networks.
- Increased the volume of treated wastewater for reuse, including agricultural and other purposes.

4.2 Second result: Increased contribution of alternative energy in operating treatment plants

4.2.1 Policy intervention2: Developing alternative energy sources in operating treatment plants

- **Brief description of the policy intervention:** Work will be done to search for alternative energy sources in operating treatment plants, as the case in the Digester in West Nablus plant, in addition to delivering and installing solar cells and wind energy.
- **Description of what will be achieved from the policy intervention:**
 - Preparing studies related to alternative energy sources
 - Finding other solutions to provide alternative energy sources, as the case in the Digester in West Nablus plant.

4.3 Third result: Ensured proper management and monitoring of treated wastewater and sludge reuse.

4.3.1 Policy intervention3: Providing various non-conventional sources from treated wastewater for different purposes and updating special specifications by reuse.

- **Brief description of the policy intervention:** Projects of reusing treated wastewater for agricultural purposes will be implemented - a new intervention to reuse the sludge, in addition to raising awareness of farmers to reuse and reviewing specifications for reuse.
- **Description of what will be achieved from the policy intervention**
 - Providing treated water for farmers.
 - Increasing the area of agricultural land irrigated with treated wastewater.
 - Awareness campaigns.
- **Outcome of the policy intervention:**
 - Provided treated wastewater by farmers for reuse.
 - Increased the area of agricultural lands irrigated with treated water.

4.4 Fourth result: Reduced quantities of transboundary wastewater.

4.4.1 Transboundary wastewater projects.

- **Brief description of the policy intervention:** Work will be undertaken to decrease the flow of treated and untreated wastewater towards the Israeli side, which will lead to a reduction in Palestinian money.
- **Description of what will be achieved from the policy intervention**
 - Reuse of wastewater projects and transferring them to the agricultural lands.
 - Expanding the capacity of the current wastewater treatment plant to increase its capacity.
 - Establishing a new wastewater treatment plant.
 - Rehabilitation and cleaning of valleys from industrial and domestic wastewater.
- **Output of the policy interventions**
 - Reduced quantities of transboundary wastewater, thus, Palestinian deducted money is reduced.

4.5 Fifth result: Increased private sector investment in sanitation projects

4.5.1 Policy intervention 5: Encouraging the private sector to invest in sanitation projects.

- **Brief description of the policy intervention:** Work will be implemented to encourage the private sector to invest in sanitation and reuse projects.
- **Description of what will be achieved from the policy intervention**
 - Increasing the number of projects implemented by the private sector.
 - Preparing a draft regulation and establishing units to engage the private sector in sanitation projects.
- **Output of the policy intervention:** Increased private sector investments in the wastewater project and reuse projects.

Fourth: Institutional and legal structure

5.0 Fourth strategic goal: **Developing and strengthening water sector institutions by consolidating good governance principles within an integrated institutional legal environment that is responsive to gender and youth participation.**

5.1 First result: Enforced laws and legislation.

5.1.1 Policy intervention 1: Developing legal systems and instructions to complete the requirements of Water Law.

- **Brief description of the policy intervention:** Through this policy intervention, a set of legal systems and regulations will be developed in response to the legal requirements stipulated by Decree by Law No. 14 of 2014.
- **Description of what will be achieved from the policy intervention**

Through this policy intervention, a set of legal systems and regulations will be developed in response to the legal requirements stipulated by Decree by Law No. 14 of 2014

- Defining the water protection zone (water sanctuaries) to create a stable and suitable investment environment, and to encourage partnership with the private sector.
- Regulating the use and protection of surface water in Palestine to achieve sustainable development.
- Establishing the principles and regulations for the use of springs.
- Rehabilitating and developing the West Bank Water Department to operate accordingly, during the transitional phase required for establishing the National Water Company, and transferring the functions, responsibilities, assets, and properties of the West Bank Water Department to the National Water Company.
- Protecting surface and groundwater from various types of pollution to preserve water quality, and developing and optimally utilizing natural water resources.
- Standardizing the principles and criteria for calculating agricultural water tariff for all agricultural water service providers.
- Improving the productivity and performance of service providers.
- Establishing the financial framework for the operation of the Palestine Water Company.
- Developing a system and policy to encourage private sector participation.

▪ **Output of the policy interventions:**

▪ **The main output of this intervention is a set of regulations in effect as follows:**

- The water protection zone, water and sanitation facilities.
- Public-private partnership regulations.
- Surface water use regulation.
- Historical right of springs water use regulation.
- Transitional period regulation for the National Water Company.
- Regulations on the protection of water sources and utilities.
- Agricultural water tariff regulation.
- Performance incentive regulations for water service providers.
- Financial regulations for the Water Company.
- Administrative regulations for the Water Company.
- Private sector engagement regulation.

5.2 Second result: Restructured various water sector institutions in alignment with the new Palestinian Water Law (effectively water sector institutions).

5.2.1 Brief description of the policy intervention: Completing the establishment of water sector institutions based upon the Palestinian Water Law.

- **Brief description of the policy intervention :** Completing the operation of the National Water Company, and separating water services and sanitation from several local government authorities in an independent manner (such as Hebron, Yatta, Halhoul, Dura, and Nablus).

- **Description of what will be achieved from the policy intervention**

- A decree was issued to establish the company, and work is underway to rehabilitate the department. The assets will be transferred to the company upon completion of the rehabilitation process.
- In response to the Water Law, which stipulates establishing water utilities, as well as separating water services and sanitation from a number of local government authorities in an independent manner, in cooperation with the MoLG.

- **Output of the policy intervention:**

- The work of the Palestine Water Company is activated.
- Granted technical, administrative, and financial independence for a number of sanitation and water facilities, separating them from local authorities towards building independent water utilities.

5.3.1 Third result: Specialized scientific research and enhanced youth participation in the water sector.

- **Policy intervention3:** Enhancing the scientific water sector.

Palestinian Water Authority will work on enhancing the scientific research environment and integrating researchers in various domains in the water sector, according to their specialties, and steering the research to find innovative and creative solutions for existing problems, and following up with specialized parties relevant to this domain.

- **Description of what will be achieved from the policy intervention**

- Supporting the researchers in terms of university scholarships for water research (MEDRIC).
- Scientific knowledge exchange through organizing scientific sessions and conferences.
- Enhancing cooperation in the domain of scientific research.
- Signing memoranda of understanding with scientific centers.

- **Output of the policy interventions:**

- Awarded university scholarships (Master's and doctoral degrees, applied research).
- Organized scientific sessions and conferences.
- Signed memoranda of understanding with scientific centers.

5.3.2 Policy intervention4:Engaging youth in the water sector issues.

- **Brief description of the policy intervention:** Enhancing the role of youth in the water sector through awareness programs, and engaging them in various events relevant events, in addition to providing scholarships (Master's and doctoral degrees).

- **Description of what will be achieved from the policy intervention**

- Awareness programs will be implemented and provide education for the youth sector in the sanitation and water sector issues, engage them in various relevant events, in addition to providing scholarships (Master's and doctoral degrees) in domains with urgent needs for the water sector.

- **Output of the policy interventions**
 - Conducted awareness programs.
 - Engaged youth in awareness programs.
 - Carried out scientific research.
 - Launched initiatives and innovations.

5.4 Fourth result: Gender mainstreaming institutionalized in Palestinian Water Authority

5.4.1 Policy intervention4: Integrating gender in water issues

- **Brief description of the policy intervention:**
- **Description of what will be achieved from the policy intervention**
 - Work will be done to integrate gender in water issues in the context of establishing a gender unit in the Palestinian Water Authority, which will review all the policies, procedures, plans and strategies to be gender responsive. Capacity building programs will be implemented in the domain and coordinated with relevant parties.
- **Output of the policy intervention**
 - Established gender unit.
 - Developed gender-responsive programs, directions, policies, and strategies.
 - Developed gender-responsive plans and operational manuals.
 - Developed and submitted local and international memoranda in relation to institutionalizing gender.
 - Organized training sessions to raise awareness of gender concepts and issues in the water sector.
 - Increased presence of women in the positions of decision-making.
 - Empowered professional women.
 - Developed an information system responsive to gender (categorized data).

5.5 Fifth result: Strong infrastructure and solid institutional framework established.

5.5.1 Policy intervention 5: Strengthening the institutional infrastructure of the Palestinian Water Authority.

Brief description of the policy intervention: Palestinian Water Authority will work on strengthening the institutional infrastructure through developing the organizational structure and job descriptions, as well as developing logistic structure in terms of equipment and systems, computerized systems and mechanisms.

- **Description of what will be achieved from the policy intervention**

The organizational structure of the Palestinian Water Authority will be developed to be aligned with the formation of various water sector institutions to enhance communication with them. The logistical structure of Palestinian Water Authority in terms of equipment, furniture,

systems, and computerized systems, and mechanisms will be updated. In order to enhance transparency, training sessions and workshops will be held about integrity, governance, and anti-corruption, and activating the internal monitoring unit at the authorities and ministries, in addition to monitoring and reviewing operational manuals for all processes at the Palestinian Water Authority.

- **Output of the policy intervention**

- Updated organizational structure and job descriptions.
- Updated logistic structure to increase the efficiency of the Palestinian Water Authority.
- Activated internal audit units and monitored reports at the authorities and ministries.

Fifth: Financial component

6.0 Fifth strategic goal: Guaranteeing financial sustainability for the facilities and water service providers.

6.1 Fifth result: Improved financial management for service providers.

6.1.1 Policy intervention 1: Enhancing financial management for the facilities and service providers.

- **Brief description of the policy intervention1:** This intervention aims at improving the efficiency of revenue collection and sound financial administration for the sanitation and water services, as it reduces the public debt and indebtedness through a number of capacity building projects.
- **Description of what will be achieved from the policy intervention:**
 - Through this intervention, support for water service providers through installing prepaid systems, separating services with special accounts, capacity building in the domain of financial management, and investment in alternative energy projects to reduce expenses.
- **Output of the policy intervention**

Developed capacity of service providers, as it improved the efficiency of revenue collection, reduced the public debt and indebtedness through a number of capacity-building projects, such as prepaid systems that were installed, utility services were separated with individual accounts, capacity building in the domain of financial management and investment in alternative energy projects were implemented, thus expenses were reduced and a unified tariff system was applied.