Early Warning System

WB-P519914

Sanitation Action for Emergency Recovery (SAFER)

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Quick Facts

Countries	Palestine, West Bank, Gaza
Financial Institutions	World Bank (WB)
Status	Proposed
Bank Risk Rating	A
Voting Date	2026-12-10
Borrower	UNICEF
Sectors	Education and Health, Energy, Water and Sanitation
Investment Type(s)	Advisory Services
Project Cost (USD)	$ 50.00 million

Project Description

According to bank provided information, the project objective is to reduce and respond to pollution hazards and public health risks in Gaza.

The proposed project comprises three intertwined and mutually reinforcing components supporting the emergency recovery of essential water, sanitation, and immunization services, together with a fourth component for project management and monitoring. The project will: (i) secure the continued operation of existing emergency sanitation, health, and water services; (ii) selectively augment service capacity for early recovery, including through decentralized solutions for wastewater treatment and desalination and access to adequate and reliable electricity; and (iii) undertake no-regret repairs of critical water and sanitation infrastructure. The project will finance reliable electricity access to enable the WASH and health services it supports, which also ensures that project interventions do not become stranded assets, and will more broadly secure uninterrupted service for about 70 percent of critical WASH and health facilities. These activities will enhance service capacity to support 24/7 operations and will generate efficiency gains by substituting for diesel and water trucking, supporting the transition to early recovery. The project also finances adequate project management, monitoring, and communication for implementation and Bank oversight.

The project has three components:

Component 1: Securing the Operation of Emergency Sanitation, Health, and Water. This component will sustain existing service capacity, bridging the gap between emergency needs and infrastructure restoration for early recovery. It will finance the O&M of water, sanitation, and electricity infrastructure, as well as the health supplies necessary to prevent, detect, and treat communicable diseases.

Component 2: Selective Expansion of Emergency Service Capacity. This component will address selected service capacity shortfalls, mitigate the risk of service interruptions, and enable cost-effective operation. It will support: (i) decentralized water supply and sanitation solutions for rapid impact and efficiency gains through the replacement of water trucking; (ii) WASH services for health facilities; and (iii) grid and off-grid electricity access to enable the delivery of water, sanitation, and health services and to replace unstable, high-cost reliance on diesel and aged, unreliable generators.

Component 3: No-Regret Repairs of Critical Water and Sanitation Infrastructure. This component will finance the repair of critical water supply and sanitation infrastructure whose failure is causing sewage overflows, groundwater contamination, and public health risks, as well as key preparatory work to address water pollution in the medium term.

Component 4: Project Management and Monitoring. This component will finance the implementation, administration, management, monitoring and evaluation, and environmental and social aspects of the project, including: (i) direct and indirect costs of UNICEF; (ii) third-party monitoring; and (iii) technical assistance for system strengthening and improvement of service delivery capacity.

Investment Description

- World Bank (WB)

Contact Information

World Bank

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Borrower/Client/Recipient

UNICEF

Implementing Agencies

UNICEF

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

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Bank Documents

- Initial Project Information Document (PID) - Sanitation Action for Emergency Recovery (SAFER) - P519