

12th of October, 2025

WATER FOR GAZA

By Loïc Fauchon, President of the World Water Council

For two years, the Middle East has broken out in conflict.

The aim here is not to pass judgment on the causes and effects of this tragedy. The time will come for calm to be restored, when reason prevails over all forms of violence. Now is the time to restore essential services such as energy, healthcare, food, and education.

Today, Gaza is facing a severe water shortage. Water is essential to life, dignity, and equality, and must be restored under the control and with the technical and financial commitment of the international community.

Transfers have been cut off; water treatment plants and networks have been destroyed. The task is immense, as it will be for energy supply and the restoration of the electricity network.

The water situation can only be restored in several stages.

The first stage is one of absolute urgency. Securing an initial level of resources from several neighbouring countries, bringing at least one desalination plant back into service, deploying temporary above-ground pipes, creating several hundred fountain-hydrants, and prioritising supply to hospitals and healthcare centres for hygiene and health. This is the time for short-term action and massive humanitarian mobilisation.

The second phase involves in-depth repairs. Rebuilding reservoirs, burying networks, purifying water, rehabilitating sanitation systems, treating water efficiently to serve public facilities and educational institutions, as well as installing local wastewater reuse solutions to revive pastoral agriculture and rebuild population centers. This requires modern, robust, yet innovative techniques that are adapted to fight against aridity. This is the medium term, involving engineering and essential works.

The third phase will be one of true water security. Not just locally for Gaza and the West Bank, but on a regional scale. This is the time for major projects to be implemented with neighbouring countries: large-scale transfers, desalination, wastewater reuse, bringing water to agriculture, trade, and industry — and above all to towns and villages.

It is a grand design to eliminate thirst and waterborne diseases — an immense task to provide water to territories and populations deprived of the fundamental right to water, dignity and life.

Through my voice, the World Water Council is launching much more than an appeal. It is calling for mobilisation. Without restriction, without ready-made

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solutions, looking to the future, and concerned only with access to water as a synonym for peace, development, and prosperity.

NB: The World Water Council is an international organisation comprising 60 governments and 260 members, including development banks, NGOs, businesses and universities from over 70 countries.