



United Nations Development Programme  
Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People

# UNDP/PAPP's EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

## RAPID ASSESSMENT

War-induced Impacts on the Waste Management Sector

This assessment indicates that the solid waste management system in Gaza has collapsed. There is no access to the major landfills, and waste accumulates at more than 140 temporary dumping sites which causes serious health and environmental risks, including a spike in diarrheal illness and in acute respiratory infections. Nearly **1 million cases of acute respiratory infections, 575,000 cases of acute watery diarrhea, and more than 100,000 cases of jaundice** have been recorded since 7 October.<sup>1</sup> The real number is likely far higher. The collapse of solid waste management requires an urgent response. UNDP conducted this assessment (June 2024) in order to design an effective strategy as part of the UN response.

The key findings include:



MEDICAL WASTE MANAGEMENT:	BEFORE THE WAR	CURRENT ASSESSMENT <small>(available equipment, not destroyed)</small>
 MEDICAL WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES	5	1 <small>(damaged, but can function)</small>
 MEDICAL WASTE DISINFECTION AUTOCLAVES IN HOSPITALS	12 <small>(accounts for UNDP-supplied autoclaves only)</small>	1
 MEDICAL WASTE DISINFECTION MICROWAVES	2	ZERO

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT:	BEFORE THE WAR	CURRENT ASSESSMENT <small>(available equipment, not destroyed)</small>
 MAJOR LANDFILLS	2	ZERO <small>Both landfills are inaccessible. 72 temporary large and 69 small dumping sites have been created.</small>
 WASTE COLLECTION VEHICLES (SMALL TRUCKS)	251	51
 LARGE WASTE TRANSFER VEHICLES	10	ZERO
 WASTE CONTAINERS	7,300	1,300
 LANDFILL MACHINERY UNITS	18	2

1 WHO EMRO | Gaza Hostilities 2023 / 2024 - Emergency Situation Reports | Information resources | Palestine site

**The resulting increase in public health risks requires an urgent response on an appropriate scale. The immediate needs include access to the major landfills, fuel supply, and funding for new equipment in order to restore solid waste management activities. As part of UN's response, including through the Solid Waste Management Taskforce, UNDP is currently able to provide the following localized activities which need to be urgently expanded to achieve the necessary impact in Gaza:**

- UNDP is supporting two projects which currently collect an estimated 680 tons of waste a day from Rafah, Khan Younis, and Middle Area. Between 1 January and 15 July 2024, these projects collected 90,000 tons of waste. They collect around 60% of the daily 1,100 ton/day waste generation in the south of Gaza. The collected waste is disposed of in 9 approved and deconflicted temporary dumping sites (and UNDP is working on opening another site which is going to bring it to 10).
- UNDP contractor from Gaza provides maintenance that keeps a fleet of 20 waste collection vehicles operational.
- As part of the immediate response, UNDP could supply 100 waste containers if approval is granted, and UNDP is ready to rapidly scale up this intervention and deliver up to 6,000 containers if funding is made available.
- UNDP is also ready to lease landfill machinery and hire a local contractor that would manage the Al-Fukhary (Sofa) landfill. Implementation is subject to access to the landfill which has been inaccessible since 7 October.

**The needs are far greater. UNDP and its partners need access to the major landfills, fuel supply, and funding. UNDP is calling for US\$62 million to scale up solid waste management operations to help prevent catastrophic public health risks over the next 18 months.**

The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator designated UNDP as the UN lead on solid waste management in June 2024. The solid waste agenda is managed within the WASH cluster led by UNICEF, in close collaboration with the cluster partners.

The Solid Waste Management proposal builds on UNDP's capability to scale and operationalize the waste management system in Gaza and address basic human needs through four pillars:

- **Proper Waste Collection:** Rebuild the fleet of required waste collection vehicles, including spare parts, fuel supply, and the delivery of waste containers, cleaning tools and PPE for waste collection workers.
- **Medical Waste Treatment:** Rehabilitate the medical waste treatment facility in South of Gaza and construct an additional medical waste treatment facility in North Gaza, supply 4 medical waste collection vehicles, deliver 2 medical waste disinfection microwaves, build 2 medical waste treatment incinerators for pharmacological wastes, provide hospital autoclaves, laundries and dryer machines, cleaning materials, PPE and training for medical waste treatment workers.
- **Safe Disposal Sites:** Rent equipment for the operation of dumping sites, supply landfill machinery, rehabilitate temporary dumping sites, deliver compacting machines for baling tin cans, ensure the supply of fuel and pesticides.
- **Institutional Set Up:** Strengthen the capacity of institutions managing waste facilities, build the IT, HR and other critical systems, as well as increase public awareness on hazards and prevention.



**US\$62 million for 18 months**

