

The threat of famine in the Gaza Strip is real

The conflict in Gaza is worsening a water problem that was already of serious and ongoing concern.



If nothing changes, famine would likely start in the northern end of the enclave by May. Half of the people still living in the area are already in dire straits, say experts from the multinational expert group that works on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) initiative.

The IPC defines famine, the most serious level of its "food insecurity scale," as a situation where "at least 20% of the population is affected, with about one out of three children being acutely malnourished and two people dying per day for every 10,000 inhabitants due to outright starvation or to the interaction of malnutrition and disease."



"Access to sufficient clean water is a matter of life and death, and children in Gaza have barely a drop to drink," the director of **UNICEF**, Catherine Russell, wrote on X (formerly Twitter) in December. "Without safe water, many more children will die."



Water problems in the Gaza Strip have not been addressed for years. Water is very clearly a political issue in this area, and supplies in the West Bank have been reduced over the past few years.

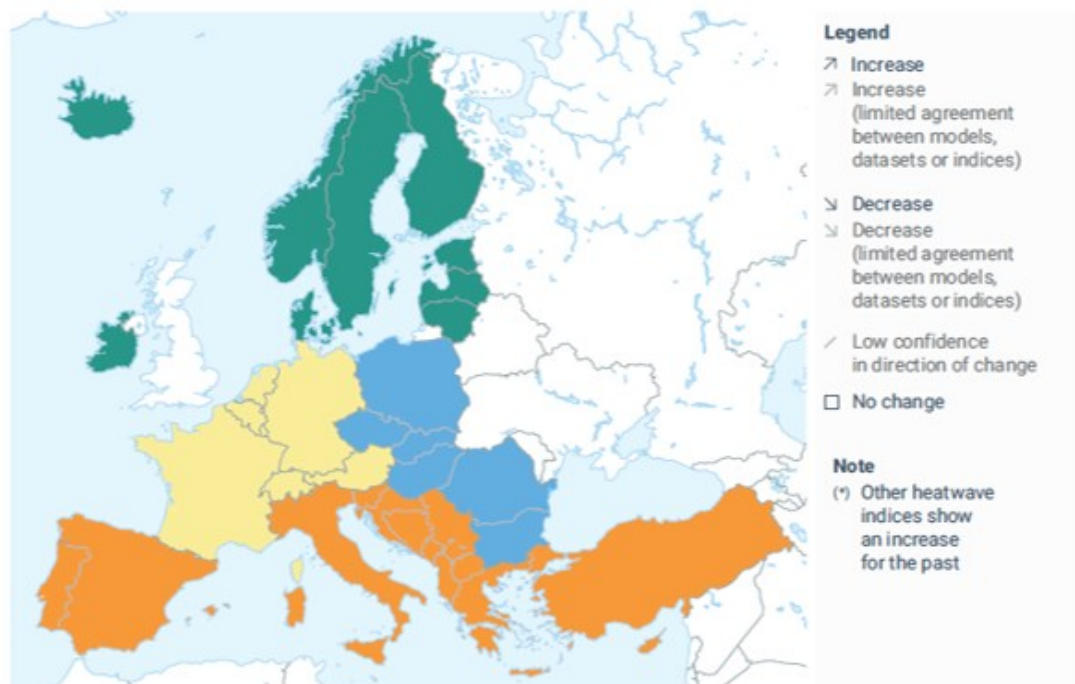
Children face severe water shortages and a dire hygiene situation in the Gaza Strip. Access to clean water is a fundamental human right that is crucial to every aspect of life. This right must be respected and guaranteed, even under the most challenging humanitarian circumstances, by all the parties.

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Europe's climate is changing rapidly

Land regions	Northern Europe			Western Europe			Central-eastern Europe			Southern Europe			European regional seas		
	Past	Future		Past	Future		Past	Future		Past	Future			Past	Future
		Low	High		Low	High		Low	High		Low	High			
Mean temperature	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	Sea surface temperature	↗	↗
Heatwave days	☐(*)	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗			
Total precipitation	↗	↗	↗	↗	↘	↘	↗	↗	↘	↘	↘	↘	Sea level	↗	↗
Heavy precipitation	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗	↗			
Drought	↗	↘	↘	↗	↘	↗	↗	↘	↗	↗	↗	↗			



Notes: Underlying climate variables are: heatwaves (days with maximum temperatures above 35°C), heavy precipitation (maximum 1-day precipitation), and drought (using a standardised precipitation evapotranspiration index over 6 months (SPEI-6, Hargreaves' method)). Time periods and scenarios are past (1952-2021); future until the end of the century (2081-2100 relative to 1995-2014); low scenario (SSP1-2.6); and high scenario (SSP3-7.0).

Source: Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S).

Human activities have led to unprecedented global warming. The average global temperature in the 12-month period between February 2023 and January 2024 exceeded pre-industrial levels by 1.5°C. 2023 was the warmest year on record over more than 100,000 years globally, at 1.48°C above pre-industrial levels, with the world's ocean temperature also reaching new heights. Europe is the fastest-warming continent; since the 1980s, warming on the continent was about twice the global rate.

Recent years have seen many long-time climate records broken in Europe. Europe is also facing more and stronger climate hazards, including heatwaves and prolonged droughts, heavy precipitation leading to pluvial and fluvial floods, and sea level rise leading to coastal floods (see Figure 1).

Most climate hazards in Europe will further increase during the 21st century, even under optimistic scenarios compatible with the Paris Agreement, but the magnitude and pace of change depend on global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emission. A pessimistic scenario without additional policy action suggests that economic damages related to coastal floods alone might exceed EUR 1 trillion per year by the end of the century in the EU.

The climate risks Europe is facing are driven not only by increases in climate hazards, but also by how prepared societies are for them. Figure 1 only shows the general direction of travel. Climate adaptation policies need to consider a wider range of plausible scenarios for those risk drivers

Source :European climate risk assessment Executive summary .European Environment Agency 2024

Taliban changes Amu Derya's water-sharing equation through the Qosh Tepa Canal



In the Amu Darya basin, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan were seen as the main actors and Iran and Afghanistan were second-degree actors in transboundary water interrelation.

Due to long-term occupation and civil wars, Afghanistan was not invited or involved in water cooperation relations in the region. But the decision to implement the Qosh Tepa Canal project taken by the Second Taliban administration seems to have changed this status quo

Afghanistan wants to benefit from the water of the Amu Darya River to increase agricultural production. Afghanistan government thinks that he has the right to benefit from this water by taking into account his contribution to Amu Darya water.

The construction of Afghanistan's Qosh Tepa Canal has created anxiety in the lower



basin countries and has been considered a threat to national security by some Uzbek experts

Additionally, Turkmenistan reportedly made official complaints through their embassy in Kabul about the project's potential impacts on downstream areas. Some Turkmen technicians also explained that the construction of this canal would be a disaster for the region.

As the Qosh Tepa Canal construction continues, Central Asian nations must recalibrate their water-sharing agreements and build flexible, adaptive frameworks that account for all riparian nations. Maintaining the river's health and ensuring equitable and effective water distribution is fundamental for the region's stability, prosperity, and peace

Rogun Dam and Qosh Tepa Canal projects should not lead to tension between the Amu Darya basin and Central Asian countries, but to initiate an innovative water diplomacy process.

Dursun Yıldız

Technical Issues Regarding Iran's Water Rights Solved by Taliban, Says Iranian Diplomat



Thursday, 04/04/2024

Hassan Kazemi Qomi, Iran's Special Representative for Afghanistan, has announced that the technical obstacles hindering the allocation of Iran's water rights by the Taliban have been removed.

Qomi expressed hope that in the future, no other technical problems would arise regarding the water rights.

Furthermore, he highlighted the potential for collaboration between Afghanistan and Iran on water supply issues. He emphasised that Afghanistan could emerge as a new option for attracting foreign investment for significant projects in Iran.

Despite not formally recognising the Taliban, Iran maintains close economic and diplomatic ties with the group and Afghanistan's embassy in Tehran has been transferred to Taliban control.

In an interview with Tasnim News Agency, Qomi said, "During the Taliban's rule, the issue of the water rights has been a mandatory treaty and they have declared commitment in this regard from the early days when the new rulers settled in Kabul."

The special representative of Iran has questioned the construction of the Kamal Khan Dam by the previous Afghan government, stating that the insufficient reservoir capacity of the dam has led to the inability to store water, especially during flood conditions, causing the diversion of water to a region known as Goud-e Zareh.

However, Qomi said that the Taliban has resolved this issue.

According to him, one of the measures undertaken by the Taliban in the past year has been to address the ongoing issues with the Kamal Khan Dam.

Iran's Special Representative clarified, "Based on a report provided by the Taliban, repairs have been made to the dam wall, diverting water towards Goud-e Zareh, adjustments have been made to the ground level in front of the dam, and ultimately, the issues with the dam gates have been resolved."

Qomi emphasised that these repairs resulted in a significant development towards the end of the last year [Persian calendar] and at the beginning of this year, following the accumulation of water behind the Kamal Khan Dam, the dam gates were promptly opened, allowing 32 million cubic meters of water to swiftly enter Iranian territory.

Source :<https://www.afintl.com/en/202404040848>

South Africa and Zimbabwe sign water sharing agreement

14 March 2024



On the 14th of March, South Africa's Minister for Water and Sanitation Minister Senzo Mchunu and Zimbabwe's Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, Dr Anxious Masuka signed an agreement for the transfer of treated water from Zimbabwe to South Africa.

In terms of the agreement, the Beitbridge Water Treatment Works in Zimbabwe will supply Musina Local Municipality in South Africa with 15 million m³ of treated water per year. The water will be transferred through a 20 km pipeline Beitbridge Water Treatment Works to Musina, which is located at some 15 km from the border.

The agreement is the product of the bilateral agreement of cooperation on water resources management, and the establishment and functioning of the Joint Water Commission established by the two countries in 2015.

The transfer of treated water from Beitbridge Water Treatment Works in Zimbabwe to Musina, Limpopo, is a medium-term solution to address water supply challenges in the area. The population of Musina – approximately 132,000 people had been suffering from water supply challenges for a long time due to ageing and problematic infrastructure.



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