

## **Water in Palestine and Israel**

### **Development Compass Rose**

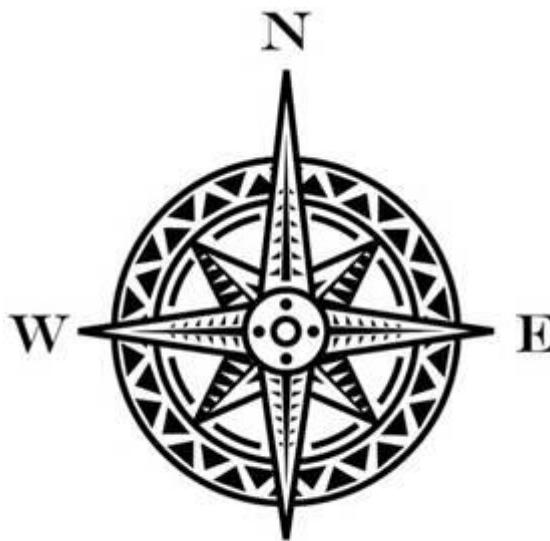
The Development Compass Rose is a useful tool for looking at the many dimensions of sustainable development. In particular, it helps ask questions about change.

#### **Activity 1**

Read the information below. As a class or in groups, brainstorm questions for each point of the Development Compass Rose. Use the information provided to answer the questions.

#### **Natural**

**Questions about changes to the environment**



#### **Who decides?**

**Questions about the people who make decisions about the change**

#### **Economic**

**Questions about changes involving money**

#### **Social**

**Questions about changes to people and the way they live**

#### **Activity 2**

Write a report on the water situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and suggest how there can be cooperation between Palestine, Israel and the international community to resolve the issue.

### Report of a field Assessment of health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt)

There has long been an issue with water shortage in Gaza and the West Bank. The growing population and the occupation and ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine has only made this worse. Access to water is critical to health and to economic development.

In Gaza, extraction from deep wells far exceeds replacement levels and is now 2 times the level that can be replaced. The result is that the water is becoming more and more salty and it is estimated that between 95-97% of the water is now unfit for human use. Around 95% of the population of Gaza now have to buy water which is particularly difficult for the poorest families. Large seawater desalination plants are seen as the solution.

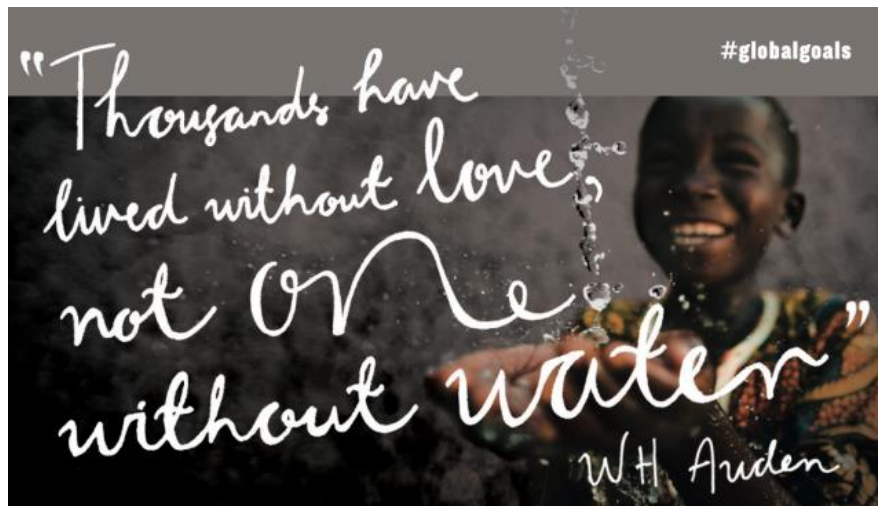
In the West Bank, water use is 71 litres per person per day, below the recommended level of 100 litres. According to UNICEF, 55,000 Palestinians use only 30 litres of water a day. As a result of an agreement signed by both the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority, Israel can refuse permission to construct or repair wells in the West Bank. Wells, tanks, latrines or cisterns are destroyed by Israeli authorities if the correct permit is missing.

In the past the international community has provided funding both for development support and humanitarian aid. However, the level of funding has been declining in recent years.

World Health Organisation 2015



B'Tselem 2014



### Israel Holds the Solution to Water Crisis

Despite its desert terrain, rapid population growth and meager rainfall, Israel currently boasts a water surplus. It shares water with Jordan and the Palestinian-administered territories in the West Bank and Gaza. It exports water technologies worth \$2.2 billion and growing. Among Israel's groundbreaking products and policies are dual-flush toilets, seawater desalination, advanced wastewater treatment and reuse, drought-resistant seeds, cutting-edge metering and leak-detection systems, conservation education and precision agriculture. "With a global water crisis looming, the Israeli inclination toward taking bold steps may be the most important contribution of its water philosophy to an increasingly water-starved world," writes Seth Siegel, author of, *Let There Be Water: Israel's Solution for a Water Starved World*.

Israel 21c 2015

### A fresh solution to Gaza's water crisis

Desalination of seawater is an essential, pragmatic solution to provide a consistent supply of safe, drinking water to the expanding population in Gaza. It will also help alleviate the over-extraction of groundwater and preserve Gaza's sole aquifer from total collapse.

The European Union and UNICEF have launched the construction of a seawater desalination plant that will provide 75,000 Palestinians with safe drinking water in Gaza. The project, to be implemented by UNICEF thanks to a €10 million grant from the European Union, will provide 6,000m<sup>3</sup> of desalinated seawater per day, to serve residents in Khan Yunis and Rafah in southern Gaza.

Construction of the first component desalination plant in Gaza, Palestine, in co-ordination with UNICEF was completed in February 2015. Completion of the first component involved setting up of a 18km long pipeline.

UNICEF 2015