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Health of Palestinians, water and coastal aquifer in Gaza

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In their abstract for the 2013 *Lancet* Palestinian Health Alliance, Reem Sarsak and Mohammad Almasri¹ identified the salination of the coastal aquifer because of seawater intrusion as an important threat to public health for the population of Gaza. As mentioned in their results and conclusions, the main reason for this intrusion is the rising sea level caused by climate change. Sarsak and Almasri suggest that the application of desalination technology and improvements in waste water management are important solutions to this problem. However, in the background section¹ they seem to implicate Israeli water policy as the primary issue.

Almasri is a well known engineer with expertise in modelling seawater intrusion in Gaza.^{2, 3} As in this abstract,¹ climate change was identified as the primary cause of seawater intrusion in his previous work;^{2, 3} however, Israeli water policy was not mentioned in these articles.^{2, 3} The solutions proposed by Almasri have been embraced by Israeli authorities, and they are currently training Gazans and providing desalination and water management technologies so badly needed in this area.⁴ Sarsak and Almasri's study¹ will make an important scientific contribution and will result in practical steps to help the population of Gaza; however, the gratuitous political innuendo found in the background section will not.



[Full-size image \(21K\)](#) Simon Rawles

We declare that we have no competing interests.

References

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