

# **OXFAM CONDEMNNS KILLING OF ENGINEERS WORKING WITH PARTNER IN GAZA**

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[Home](#)

[Oxfam GB Media Centre](#)

[Press Releases](#)

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Oxfam condemns in the strongest terms the killing in Gaza of four water engineers and workers from the Khuzaa municipality who

were working with our strategic partner the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU).

The four men were killed on their way to conduct repairs to water infrastructure in Khuzaa, east of Khan Younis. Despite prior coordination with Israeli authorities their clearly-marked vehicle was bombed. Oxfam stands in solidarity with the CMWU, their partners and the families of the victims.

Their deaths deepen the catastrophic humanitarian crisis in Gaza where access to clean water is already severely compromised.

Dozens of engineers, civil servants and humanitarian workers have been killed in Israeli airstrikes throughout this war. They were all working on essential services to keep Gaza's fragile infrastructure running. Despite their movements being coordinated with the Israeli authorities by the CMWU and the Palestinian Water Authority, to ensure their safety, they were still targeted.

Attacks on civilian infrastructure and those who maintain it are clear violations of international humanitarian law. Those responsible must be held to account. Such attacks are part of the crime of using starvation as a weapon of war.

Oxfam demands an independent investigation into this and other attacks on essential workers. We reiterate our calls for a ceasefire, an immediate halt to arms transfers to Israel, and the international community to ensure Israel is held accountable for its continued assault on civilians and those working to deliver life-saving services.