

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

**REQUEST FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION BY THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY IN RESOLUTION 79/232 OF 19 DECEMBER 2024**

**OBLIGATIONS OF ISRAEL IN RELATION TO THE PRESENCE AND
ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, OTHER INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS AND THIRD STATES IN AND IN RELATION TO THE
OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY**

**THE STATE OF PALESTINE'S RESPONSE TO
THE COURT'S REQUEST OF 13 AUGUST 2025**



27 August 2025

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I. Introduction and Overview

1. This submission is made by the State of Palestine in response to the Court's letter of 13 August 2025, concerning the General Assembly's request for an advisory opinion on the *Obligations of Israel in relation to the Presence and Activities of the United Nations, Other International Organizations and Third States in and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory*. In that letter, the Court requested that the United Nations, Israel and the State of Palestine "give explanations on the situation since 7 May 2025 with regard to the provision of urgently needed essential supplies and basic services for the Palestinian population in and in relation to the Gaza Strip".

2. In keeping with the State of Palestine's understanding of the Court's request, and what it believes will be most helpful to the Court, this response presents the most authoritative information on the catastrophic situation in Gaza, as it has developed since 7 May 2025. It will detail Israel's deliberate banning of urgently needed essential supplies – especially food, water, medicines and medical supplies, and fuel – and basic services to the Palestinian civilian population. It consists primarily of resolutions, reports and statements by United Nations organs, agencies and senior officials, including the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), and the World Health Organization (WHO), all of which have been directly engaged in the situation in Gaza during the relevant period.

3. The information submitted in this response also includes: reports and statements by other knowledgeable and authoritative international organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC); joint statements by the leaders of third States; statements and reports by non-governmental organizations engaged in the provision of essential supplies and basic services

to the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza, including *Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF) and OXFAM; reports by prominent international human rights organizations; and statements by senior Israeli government officials, including the Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Finance, who are members of the Israeli Security Cabinet, with responsibility for the conduct of Israel's military operation in Gaza.

4. In an effort to be most helpful to the Court, Section II of this submission presents the evidence chronologically, since 7 May 2025. In the view of the State of Palestine, this organizational structure is objective, and it best allows the Court to appreciate how Israel, the illegal occupant, has pushed the situation of the Palestinian civilian population in the Gaza Strip into a humanitarian abyss, including the deliberate and systematic engineering of famine and mass starvation, which was accelerated by Israel's complete ban on the entry of all humanitarian essentials since 2 March 2025.

5. The current situation is beyond catastrophic. During this period, Israel has escalated its genocidal campaign against the Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip, erasing entire communities, like Jabalia in the north and Abasan, Al Qarara and others in the southeast, bombing shelters and hospitals, targeting tents, and displacing yet again hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in the process. In addition to Israel's banning of humanitarian aid, including, food, water, medicine, and other essential supplies, this campaign has included the Israeli occupation army's deliberate razing of Gaza's agricultural fields and banning of any fishing, thus eliminating any hope of locally sourced sustenance for the population. If they survive death or injury from Israeli bombs, bullets, and artillery shells in their homes, tents, and shelters, Palestinians in Gaza must now battle the risk of death by starvation. Israel has engineered this cataclysmic situation of bombardment, forced displacement and starvation in Gaza to serve its declared goal of expelling the population from Gaza and opening it for permanent Israeli settlement.

6. The United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres described this catastrophe on 22 August, following the release, on the same date, of the latest IPC report on food security in Gaza declaring that a man-made famine had been created there by Israel:

Just when it seems there are no words left to describe the living hell in Gaza, a new one has been added: "famine".

This is not a mystery -- it is a man-made disaster, a moral indictment, and a failure of humanity itself. Famine is not only about food; it is the deliberate collapse of the systems needed for human survival. People are starving. Children are dying. And those with the duty to act are failing. As the occupying power, Israel has unequivocal obligations under international law – including the duty of ensuring food and medical supplies of the population. We cannot allow this situation to continue with impunity.¹

7. The FAO, UNICEF, WHO and WFP provided more details in a joint statement, also on 22 August:

More than half a million people in Gaza are trapped in famine, marked by widespread starvation, destitution and preventable deaths, according to a new Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis released today....

[We] have collectively and consistently highlighted the extreme urgency for an immediate and full-scale humanitarian response given the escalating hunger-related deaths, rapidly worsening levels of acute malnutrition and plummeting levels of food consumption, with hundreds of thousands of people going days without anything to eat....

By the end of September, more than 640,000 people will face Catastrophic levels of food insecurity – classified as IPC Phase 5 – across the Gaza Strip. An additional 1.14 million people in the territory will be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and a further 396,000 people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) conditions. Conditions in North Gaza are estimated to be as severe – or worse – than in Gaza City....

Classifying famine means that the most extreme category is triggered when three critical thresholds – extreme food deprivation, acute malnutrition and starvation-related deaths – have been breached. The latest analysis now affirms on the basis of reasonable evidence that these criteria have been met.

Almost two years of conflict, repeated displacement, and severe [Israeli] restrictions on humanitarian access, compounded by repeated interruptions and impediments to access to food, water, medical aid, support to agriculture, livestock and fisheries and the collapse of health, sanitation, and market systems, have pushed people into starvation....

The new assessment reports the most severe deterioration since the IPC began analyzing acute food insecurity and acute malnutrition in the Gaza Strip, and it marks the first time a famine has been officially confirmed in the Middle East region.²

¹ UN Secretary-General - on famine in Gaza, 22 August 2025, <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2025-08-22/secretary-general-famine-gaza>.

² The FAO, UNICEF, WHO and WFP, Famine confirmed for first time in Gaza, 22 August 2025, <https://www.wfp.org/news/famine-confirmed-first-time-gaza>.

8. The four United Nations agencies called particular attention to the impacts of Israel’s “severe restrictions on humanitarian aid” on children, who comprise one-half of the population of the Gaza Strip:

Malnutrition among children in Gaza is accelerating at a catastrophic pace. In July alone, more than 12,000 children were identified as acutely malnourished – the highest monthly figure ever recorded and a six-fold increase since the start of the year. Nearly one in four of these children were suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), the deadliest form with both short and long-term impacts.

Since the last IPC Analysis in May, the number of children expected to be at severe risk of death from malnutrition by the end of June 2026 has tripled from 14,100 to 43,400.³

9. OCHA’s latest figures (from July 2025) record that “more than 13,000 admissions of acutely malnourished children” were reported in July alone, which is “double the number of admissions recorded in June [2025] and more than a six-fold increase compared with the 2,000 admissions in February” 2025.⁴ The Commissioner-General of UNRWA, Philippe Lazzarini, reported that as of July 2025, “In less than 6 months, child malnutrition [had] tripled across the Gaza Strip”, and that “[i]n Gaza City, nearly 1 in every 3 children is now malnourished, 6 times higher than before the ceasefire collapsed.”⁵ OCHA further reported 204 malnutrition-related deaths since 1 July 2025, of whom 51 were children.⁶ These figures alone demonstrate how this Israeli-engineered situation of malnutrition and starvation has reached unprecedented levels.

10. The IPC is a “multi-stakeholder global initiative aimed at enhancing food security and includes 21 organizations and intergovernmental institutions aimed at enhancing food security and nutrition analysis to inform decisions.”⁷ Among these 21 organizations and intergovernmental institutions are the four United Nations agencies that issued the joint statement quoted above. As the world’s foremost authority on food security, its report of 22 August is considered definitive:

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ UN OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Update #315 | Gaza Strip, 21 August 2025 <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-315-gaza-strip>.

⁵ UNRWA Commissioner Philippe Lazzarini, X, @UNLazzarini, 20 August 2025, <https://x.com/unlazzarini/status/1958187522590183683?s=46>.

⁶ UN OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Update #315 | Gaza Strip, 21 August 2025 <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-315-gaza-strip>.

⁷ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), IPC Overview and Classification System, <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipcinfo-website/ipc-overview-and-classification-system/en/>.

This is the fifth time the Famine Review Committee (FRC) has been called to review an analysis on the acute food security and nutrition situation in the Gaza Strip. Never before has the FRC had to return so many times to the same crisis; a stark reflection of how suffering has not only persisted but intensified and spread until famine has begun to emerge. Constant cycles of increased humanitarian access followed by severe [Israeli] restrictions, together with stark disparities among vulnerable populations, have left many at a heightened risk of a rapid collapse in health and nutrition....

The FRC is deeply alarmed by the worsening situation in Gaza, where prolonged conflict has destroyed health, nutrition, water, and sanitation systems essential to sustaining life, forced repeated displacement, and concentrated the population into ever smaller and overcrowded areas. For almost the entirety of the conflict, the vast majority of the population has faced sustained and extreme acute food insecurity, leaving people with little capacity to withstand further shocks.

Widespread human suffering is present across the Gaza Strip and the killings of civilians seeking food continue. Increasing reports of malnutrition-related deaths suggest that the most vulnerable in society are beginning to succumb. This trend is expected to increase amongst vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and people with chronic diseases, before spreading to the wider population.⁸

11. The IPC also described the famine as “entirely man-made”:

As this Famine is entirely man-made, it can be halted and reversed. The time for debate and hesitation has passed, starvation is present and is rapidly spreading. There should be no doubt in anyone’s mind that an immediate, at-scale response is needed. Any further delay—even by days—will result in a totally unacceptable escalation of Famine-related mortality. It is a moral and humanitarian imperative to summon the political will to provide humanitarian aid in accordance with humanitarian principles, end the conflict, ensure protection, and restore basic living standards for all people, and particularly vulnerable groups.⁹

12. As assessed by the IPC, “[t]he current catastrophic shortage of food availability inside the Gaza Strip comes as a result of three compounding factors” – all of which have been engineered and caused by Israel. They are the “destruction of domestic food production systems, import limitations, and displacement of populations away from available food sources or production systems”.¹⁰ This policy included the banning of UNRWA – which for decades managed the largest, most comprehensive and most effective system for providing

⁸ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), Famine Review Committee: Gaza Strip, 22 August 2025, pp. 2 & 26 https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Famine_Review_Committee_Report_Gaza_Aug2025.pdf.

⁹ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), Famine confirmed in Gaza Governorate, projected to expand | 1 July - 30 September 2025 (snapshot), 22 August 2025, https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Gaza_Strip_Acute_Food_Insecurity_Malnutrition_July_Sept2025_Special_Snapshot.pdf.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian population in Gaza – and the exclusion of most international non-governmental organizations that were active in supplying and distributing such assistance, coupled with severe Israeli restrictions on the few entities that Israel allowed to remain in Gaza. As OCHA, which publishes a regular “Humanitarian Situation Update” on Gaza recently reported regarding those organizations:

Major international NGOs face imminent de-registration by the Israeli authorities, and most have been unable to deliver any supplies to Gaza since 2 March.¹¹

13. Malnutrition prevention stocks, in particular, are “almost depleted after months of total [Israeli] blockade and only limited aid entry since 19 May.”¹²

14. According to the Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, in a statement following the IPC’s declaration of 22 August that a famine exists in the Gaza Strip:

It is a famine in 2025. A 21st century famine watched over by drones and the most advanced military technology in history.

It is a famine openly promoted by some Israeli leaders as a weapon of war.

It is a famine on all our watch. Everyone owns this. The Gaza Famine is the world’s famine. It is a famine that asks ‘but what did you do?’ A famine that will and must haunt us all.

It is a predictable and preventable famine. A famine caused by cruelty, justified by revenge, enabled by indifference and sustained by complicity.¹³

15. Even before the IPC’s declaration of “Famine,” the Commissioner-General of UNWRA reported on the staggering consequences of Israel’s deliberate denial of food to the Palestinian civilian population:

Since March, nearly 100,000 children under the age of 5 [were] screened by UNRWA.

In less than 6 months, child malnutrition tripled across the Gaza Strip.

¹¹ UN OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Update #315 | Gaza Strip, 21 August 2025, <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/humanitarian-situation-update-315-gaza-strip>.

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ Remarks on Gaza by Tom Fletcher, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, at the UN press briefing and Q&A, 22 August 2025, <https://www.unocha.org/news/un-relief-chief-says-gaza-famine-must-spur-world-urgent-action>.

In Gaza City, nearly 1 in every 3 children is now malnourished, 6 times higher than before the ceasefire collapsed.¹⁴

16. Israel's total blockade of food and other humanitarian assistance to the civilian population of Gaza lasted for 78 days, from 2 March 2025 to 19 May 2025. When Israel then began to allow negligible amount of supplies into Gaza following international outcry, Secretary-General Guterres - among other authoritative and impartial sources – decried it as no more than:

a teaspoon of aid when a flood of assistance is required. The needs are massive –and the obstacles are staggering. Strict quotas are being imposed on the goods we distribute – along with unnecessary delay procedures. Other essentials – including fuel, shelter, cooking gas, and water purification supplies – are prohibited....

Families are being starved and denied the very basics.¹⁵

17. Less than a month ago, at the end of July 2025, the Secretary General described the food and other assistance authorized by Israel for entry into Gaza as a mere “trickle”:

Palestinians in Gaza are enduring a humanitarian catastrophe of epic proportions. This is not a warning. It is a reality unfolding before our eyes. The trickle of aid must become an ocean. Food, water, medicine, and fuel must flow in waves and without obstruction. This nightmare must end. Ending this worst-case scenario will take the best efforts of all parties – now.¹⁶

18. In place of experienced United Nations agencies and international NGOs, Israel supplied its “teaspoon” or “trickle” of food to the civilian population of Gaza through its own militarized so-called “Gaza Humanitarian Foundation,” or “GHF”, which was devoid of experience in delivering or distributing humanitarian assistance anywhere in the world, let alone in Gaza during an armed conflict. According to the Secretary-General, this was a “scheme that fails to respect international law and the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality”.¹⁷

¹⁴ Philippe Lazzarini, X, @UNLazzarini, 20 August 2025, <https://x.com/unlazzarini/status/1958187522590183683?s=46>.

¹⁵ Press encounter of the [UN] Secretary-General on the humanitarian situation in Gaza, 23 May 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/press-encounter-secretary-general-humanitarian-situation-gaza>.

¹⁶ Antonio Guterres, X, @antonioguterres, 29 July 2025, <https://x.com/antonioguterres/status/1950201969290694991>.

¹⁷ Press encounter of the [UN] Secretary-General on the humanitarian situation in Gaza, 23 May 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/press-encounter-secretary-general-humanitarian-situation-gaza>.

19. Through the GHF, which began to operate at the end of May, Israel established two, and later four, militarized distribution sites in southern Gaza (compared to the more than 400 sites that had been maintained by United Nations agencies and partner organizations throughout the territory). By placing these sites in southern Gaza, Israel has further forcibly transferred thousands of beleaguered Palestinians with the promise of aid, while Israeli leaders indicate that once relocated to the south Palestinians will not be allowed to return to their homes in northern or central Gaza and may eventually be expelled to other countries. Operationally, these militarized sites have completely failed to address the needs of the population, and have been, since their inception, what the Commissioner-General of UNRWA described as a “death trap” for starving people desperately seeking food to keep themselves and their families alive.¹⁸ He rightly said, the GHF was “not designed to address the humanitarian crisis. It is serving military and political objectives. It is cruel and it takes more lives than it saves lives.”¹⁹ The evidence confirms this. As reported in OCHA’s latest Humanitarian Situation Update:

According to records of the UN Human Rights Office (OHCHR), since the establishment of a militarized distribution system in the Gaza Strip on 27 May and as of 18 August, at least 1,889 people – mostly young men and boys – were killed while seeking food in Gaza – 1,025 near militarized distribution sites and 864 along convoy supply routes – most of whom appear to have been killed by the Israeli military, and with no information to suggest that these people “were directly participating in hostilities or posed any threat” to Israeli forces or other people.²⁰

20. The OHCHR itself reported, on 27 July 2025, that Israel’s:

Chaotic, militarized distribution centres ... are failing utterly to deliver humanitarian aid at the scope and scale needed. More than one thousand people have been killed since the end of May as they tried to get food.²¹

¹⁸ UNRWA Commissioner-General, Another day of aid distribution another day of death traps, 10 June 2025, <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/unrwa-commissioner-general-gaza-another-day-aid-distribution-another-day-death-traps>.

¹⁹ UNRWA Commissioner-General, The new aid distribution system has become a killing field, 27 June 2025, <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/unrwa-commissioner-general-gaza-new-aid-distribution-system-has-become>.

²⁰ UN OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Update #315 | Gaza Strip, 21 August 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-315-gaza-strip>.

²¹ UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk calls for pressure on Israeli Government to end carnage in Gaza, 27 July 2025, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/07/turk-calls-pressure-israeli-government-end-carnage-gaza>.

21. Over 200 international non-governmental organizations issued a joint statement condemning the Israeli-installed distribution system and insisting on a return to pre-blockade arrangements for the delivery of humanitarian assistance led by the United Nations:

Today, Palestinians in Gaza face an impossible choice: starve or risk being shot while trying desperately to reach food to feed their families. The weeks following the launch of the Israeli distribution scheme have been some of the deadliest and most violent since October 2023. In less than four weeks, more than 500 Palestinians have been killed and almost 4,000 injured just trying to access or distribute food. Israeli forces and armed groups – some reportedly operating with backing from Israeli authorities – now routinely open fire on desperate civilians risking everything just to survive.²²

22. The IPC, in its report dated 29 July 2025, found that Israel’s food distribution system was:

highly inadequate, and our analysis of the food packages supplied by the GHF shows that their distribution plan would lead to mass starvation, even if it was able to function without the appalling levels of violence that have been reported. The fact that people continue to risk being shot or caught in stampedes at distribution sites indicates the extremely desperate level of hunger that the population is experiencing.²³

23. Israeli occupation soldiers themselves have confirmed that they have been ordered to open fire on desperate civilians seeking food, and have described the GHF sites as a “killing field”,²⁴ with Palestinian civilians “treated like a hostile force, no crowd-control measures, no tear gas. Just live fire with everything imaginable: heavy machine guns, grenade launchers, mortars”.²⁵

24. In regard to the sufficiency of the food actually distributed at the militarized sites of the GHF, the IPC found:

Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) claims to have distributed over 89 million meals from four distribution sites, primarily in militarised zones along the Khan Younis–Rafah border—where less than a quarter of the population is located. However, most

²² Joint statement by Non-Governmental Organizations, “GAZA: Starvation or gunfire — not a humanitarian response”, 30 June 2025, <https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/gaza-starvation-or-gunfire-not-humanitarian-response>.

²³ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), IPC ALERT: Worst-case scenario of Famine unfolding in the Gaza Strip, 29 July 2025, https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_GazaStrip_Alert_July2025.pdf.

²⁴ “It’s a Killing Field’: IDF Soldiers Ordered to Shoot Deliberately at Unarmed Gazans Waiting for Humanitarian Aid,” Haaretz, 27 June 2025, <https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/2025-06-27/ty-article-magazine/.premium/idf-soldiers-ordered-to-shoot-deliberately-at-unarmed-gazans-waiting-for-humanitarian-aid/00000197-ad8e-de01-a39f-ffbe33780000>.

²⁵ *Ibid.*

of the food items are not ready-to-eat and require water and fuel to cook, which are largely unavailable.²⁶

25. According to the IPC, the situation in Gaza has become so extreme that “current efforts, including airdrops, and the non-humanitarian deliveries by GHF are wholly inadequate and will not alleviate the short-term, long-term, and intergenerational impacts of starvation on the entire population of Gaza”.²⁷ In particular the IPC notes that:

The danger is compounded by the risk that small or short-lived gains that may lift conditions just above Famine thresholds in the short-term will delay urgent action while leaving the population even more vulnerable to a repeated collapse in the medium term. Only a full-scale and sustained humanitarian aid programme can prevent further mass suffering and loss of life.²⁸

26. The IPC warned that: “the outlook is for the situation to worsen rapidly, with exponential increases in catastrophic loss of life and mass suffering.”²⁹

27. Earlier this month, on 11 August, the Foreign Ministers of 28 States (listed below in footnote) issued a joint statement affirming their view that:

The humanitarian suffering in Gaza has reached unimaginable levels. Famine is unfolding before our eyes. Urgent action is needed now to halt and reverse starvation.³⁰

28. In its latest report, dated 13 August, OCHA concluded that “starvation in Gaza is at the worst level since October 2023 and the amount of aid entering the Strip is insufficient to meet the scale of needs.”³¹

²⁶ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), IPC ALERT: Worst-case scenario of Famine unfolding in the Gaza Strip, 29 July 2025, https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_GazaStrip_Alert_July2025.pdf.

²⁷ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), Famine Review Committee: Gaza Strip, 22 August 2025, p. 10, https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Famine_Review_Committee_Report_Gaza_Aug2025.pdf.

²⁸ *Ibid.* p. 8.

²⁹ *Ibid.* p. 9.

³⁰ Statement by the Foreign Ministers of Andorra, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK, 12 August 2025, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/da/statement_25_1959.

³¹ UN OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Update #313 | Gaza Strip, 13 August 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-313-gaza-strip>

29. The evidence leaves no doubt that starvation of the Palestinian civilian population of Gaza has been, and continues to be, the policy of the Israeli government, within the context of its genocidal war against the Palestinian people and in service of its aim to ethnically cleanse the Palestinian territory of its indigenous Palestinian population. In May 2025, Israel's Finance Minister declared:

Gaza will be entirely destroyed, civilians will be sent to ... the south to a humanitarian zone without Hamas or terrorism, and from there they will start to leave in great numbers to third countries.³²

30. And that, to achieve these objectives:

Only the bare minimum of food and medicine will enter Gaza...³³

31. As early as 17 May 2025, the Secretary-General recognized that Israel's policy in Gaza was one of "siege and starvation":

The situation for Palestinians in Gaza is beyond description, beyond inhumane. A policy of siege and starvation makes a mockery of international law. The [Israeli] blockade against humanitarian aid must end immediately. This is a moment for moral clarity and action.³⁴

32. On 12 June 2025, the General Assembly adopted resolution ES-10/27, which:

"Strongly condemns any use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare and the unlawful denial of humanitarian access, and stresses the obligation not to deprive civilians in the Gaza Strip of objects indispensable to their survival, including by wilfully impeding relief supplies and access..."; [and] "Demands that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately end the blockade, open all border crossings and ensure that aid reaches the Palestinian civilian population throughout the Gaza Strip immediately and at scale, in line with its obligations under international law and humanitarian principles..."³⁵

33. Various United Nations senior officials and agencies have expressed the view, consistent with that of the Secretary-General and as reflected in the General Assembly's resolution, that Israel has been carrying out a deliberate policy of starvation of the Palestinian

³² "Gaza will be entirely destroyed, Israeli minister says", *The Guardian*, 6 May 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/may/06/hamas-israel-hunger-war-in-gaza>.

³³ "Humanitarian aid a necessity, will not reach Hamas", *Israel national news*, 19 May 2025, <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/408601>.

³⁴ Antonio Guterres, X, @antonioguterres, 17 May 2025, <https://x.com/antonioguterres/status/1923689189217837531>.

³⁵ General Assembly, Resolution ES-10/27, 13 June 2025.

population as a means of warfare in Gaza. The Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, for example, stated that: “Every single person in Gaza is at risk of famine. 1 in 5 are facing starvation. This is hunger by design.”³⁶ OCHA’s Director for the Occupied Palestinian Territory explained: “People are being starved. We are deliberately prevented by Israeli authorities from saving lives. The barriers to our work are political choices.”³⁷ OHCHR itself reported that: “This humanitarian catastrophe is human-made. It is a direct result of policies imposed by Israel that have severely reduced the amount of life-saving assistance in the Gaza Strip.”³⁸ UNICEF issued a statement that: “Gaza is facing what would amount to a man-made drought. Water systems are collapsing. However, because this is man-made, it can be stopped. None of these problems are logistical or technical. They are political. Denial has become policy.”³⁹ According to the Commissioner-General of UNWRA: “What is taking place in Gaza now is a constructed and deliberate mass starvation. Today, more children died, their bodies emaciated by hunger.”⁴⁰

34. Engaged and highly respected human rights organizations have agreed. Human Rights Watch has concluded: “The dire humanitarian situation is a direct result of Israel’s use of starvation of civilians as a weapon of war – a war crime - as well as Israel’s continued intentional deprivation of aid and basic services.”⁴¹ For *Médecins Sans Frontières*: “Israeli authorities’ deliberate use of starvation as a weapon in Gaza has reached unprecedented levels, with patients and healthcare workers themselves now fighting to survive.”⁴² In like manner, Amnesty International reported: “Israel has continued to use starvation of civilians as a weapon

³⁶ Tom Fletcher, X, @UNReliefChief, 13 May 2025, <https://x.com/UNReliefChief/status/1922099411250786592>.

³⁷ Jonathan Whittall, X, @jwhittall, 18 May 2025, https://x.com/_jwhittall/status/1924107925242499282.

³⁸ OHCHR: Killings of Palestinians seeking food in Gaza continue as starvation deepens – Press Release, 31 July 2025, <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/ohchr-killings-of-palestinians-seeking-food-in-gaza-continue-as-starvation-deepens-press-release/>.

³⁹ UNICEF, Gaza’s taps running dry: Fuel crisis deepens daily struggle for families, 20 June 2025 <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/gazas-taps-running-dry-fuel-crisis-deepens-daily-struggle-families>

⁴⁰ UNRWA Commissioner-General, A constructed and deliberate mass starvation, 25 July 2025, <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/unrwa-commissioner-general-gaza-constructed-and-deliberate-mass-starvation>.

⁴¹ Human Rights Watch, Gaza: Israeli Killings of Palestinians Seeking Food Are War Crimes, 1 August 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/08/01/gaza-israeli-killings-of-palestinians-seeking-food-are-war-crimes>.

⁴² Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), Palestine: MSF finds one in four young children and pregnant women malnourished as Israel’s policy of starvation continues, 29 July 2025, <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.ca/palestine-msf-finds-one-in-four-young-children-and-pregnant-women-malnourished-as-israels-policy-of-starvation-continues/>.

of war against Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip and to deliberately impose conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction as part of its ongoing genocide.”⁴³

35. The catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip has been compounded by Israel’s frequent displacement orders, requiring the civilian population to evacuate their homes and communities on short notice and relocate themselves in ever-shrinking areas designated by the Israeli military that lack adequate shelter, water or sanitation facilities. As reported by OCHA on 23 July, more than 760,000 Palestinians were forcibly displaced between March and July 2025, and nearly 88% of the Gaza Strip was declared off-limits to them:

Since 18 March, the Israeli military has issued displacement orders for 303.2 square kilometres (83 per cent of the Gaza Strip). According to the Site Management Cluster (SMC), more than 762,500 Palestinians in Gaza were newly displaced between 18 March and 22 July.... With no safe place to go, many people have sought refuge in overcrowded displacement sites, makeshift shelters, damaged buildings, streets and open areas. People have been confined to ever-shrinking spaces; as of 20 July, around 88 per cent of the Gaza Strip is within Israeli-militarized zones or placed under displacement orders (they largely overlap) since 18 March 2025.⁴⁴

36. According to the High Commissioner for Human Rights:

The latest Israeli displacement orders [as of 23 July 2025], followed by intensive attacks, on southwestern Deir El Balah, in the Gaza Strip, have added more misery to the suffering of hungry Palestinians.... It seemed the nightmare couldn’t possibly get worse. And yet it does. “Israeli airstrikes and ground operations will invariably lead to further civilian deaths and destruction of civilian infrastructure. Given the concentration of civilians in the area, and the means and methods of warfare employed by Israel until now, the risks of unlawful killings and other serious violations of international humanitarian law are extremely high... homes have already been destroyed, and thousands have been forced to flee the area again. Their only choice is to go to the ever-shrinking areas of Gaza where hundreds of thousands are being forced to gather, rendering difficult any attempt to deliver humanitarian assistance. Even these areas are not safe.”⁴⁵

⁴³ Amnesty International, Gaza: Evidence points to Israel’s continued use of starvation to inflict genocide against Palestinians, 3 July 2025, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2025/07/gaza-evidence-points-to-israels-continued-use-of-starvation-to-inflict-genocide-against-palestinians/>.

⁴⁴ UN OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Update #307 | Gaza Strip, 23 July 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-307-gaza-strip>.

⁴⁵ UN OHCHR, Türk: Israeli attacks on Deir El Balah add more misery to the suffering of Palestinians, 22 July 2025, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/07/turk-israeli-attacks-deir-el-balah-add-more-misery-suffering-palestinians>.

37. The High Commissioner continued:

Israeli airstrikes and ground operations will invariably lead to further civilian deaths and destruction of civilian infrastructure. Given the concentration of civilians in the area, and the means and methods of warfare employed by Israel until now, the risks of unlawful killings and other serious violations of international humanitarian law are extremely high....[H]omes have already been destroyed, and thousands have been forced to flee the area again. Their only choice is to go to the ever-shrinking areas of Gaza where hundreds of thousands are being forced to gather, rendering difficult any attempt to deliver humanitarian assistance. Even these areas are not safe.⁴⁶

38. Compounding the agony of the civilian population, health care in Gaza has been devastated by the systematic Israeli targeting of health facilities, staff and humanitarian workers as well as the ongoing Israeli blockade of medicines and life-saving medical equipment, which remain banned by Israel, and the continued, targeted attacks on hospitals and clinics since 7 May 2025. According to the United Nations Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, Tom Fletcher, “The health system is shattered. Only 17 of 36 hospitals and 63 of 170 primary healthcare centres are functioning, all only partially, even as mass casualties arrive daily.”⁴⁷ As stated by over 200 non-governmental organizations, “With Gaza’s healthcare system in ruins, many of those shot are left to bleed out alone, beyond the reach of ambulances and denied lifesaving medical care.”⁴⁸

39. These are the current conditions, as things stand at the date of this submission. They are not static. As grave as they are, they continue to grow worse. Unless Israel’s illegal and inhumane policies are reversed and third State actors uphold their responsibilities to respect their obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention, the United Nations Charter, the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations, and the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, among other international legal instruments, and the binding provisional measures orders of the Court, all possibility of life in Gaza will cease. Israel must immediately take all necessary and effective measures to ensure without delay, in full cooperation with the United Nations, the unhindered provision at scale

⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

⁴⁷ Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Tom Fletcher, Briefing to the Security Council on the humanitarian situation and the protection of aid workers in Gaza, 16 July 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/security-council-briefing-tom-fletcher-under-secretary-general-humanitarian-affairs-middle-east>.

⁴⁸ Joint statement by Non-Governmental Organizations, “GAZA: Starvation or gunfire — not a humanitarian response”, 30 June 2025, <https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/gaza-starvation-or-gunfire-not-humanitarian-response>.

by all concerned of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance, including food, water, electricity, fuel, shelter, clothing, hygiene, and sanitation requirements, as well as medical supplies and medical care to the population throughout Gaza, including by increasing the capacity and number of land crossing points and maintaining them open for as long as necessary and removing obstacles to the delivery of aid by sea. In order to ensure such provision, Israel must immediately cease its genocidal assault on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip. Otherwise, thousands more will die, including from starvation and thirst, lack of medicines and preventable or treatable illnesses.

40. The State of Palestine agrees with the Secretary-General's conclusion on 22 August: "We cannot allow this situation to continue with impunity. No more excuses. The time for action is not tomorrow — it is now."⁴⁹ In light of the extreme urgency of the situation and the risk of yet further deterioration, the State of Palestine respectfully calls on this Court to issue its opinion, clarifying the obligations of Israel, in relation to the presence and activities of the UN, other international organizations, and third States.

41. In regard to the conclusions of fact to be drawn by the Court, the State of Palestine considers that the information cited herein, and compiled more comprehensively in Section II, speaks best for itself, and it trusts in the Court to form the appropriate conclusions.

⁴⁹ UN Secretary-General - on famine in Gaza, 22 August 2025, <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2025-08-22/secretary-general-famine-gaza>.

II. Chronological Presentation of the Evidence

May 2025

42. On 7 May, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) published its periodic Humanitarian Situation Update for the Occupied Palestinian Territory. It called attention to Israel's total blockade, imposed by Israel on 2 March 2025, preventing the delivery of food, water, medicines, fuel, electricity, shelter and emergency supplies to the civilian population in the Gaza Strip.

For over two months, Israeli authorities have made a deliberate decision to block all supplies to Gaza, bringing to a near-standstill humanitarian efforts to protect and assist civilians through the provision of commodities.⁵⁰

43. OCHA described the Israeli blockade's impact on the scarcity of food in Gaza since its prior report, issued 10 days earlier. This ten-day period saw the closure of one-third of the community kitchens operated by the United Nations and international partners, a principal source of food for the civilian population, and a 25% reduction in the number of meals:

Over the past 10 days, between 27 April and 6 May, one in every three community kitchens had to close, leading to a 25-per-cent reduction in daily meal production...Since late April, 100 kitchens have been forced to shut down due to the lack of supplies, and this number is rising by the day.⁵¹

44. The two-month Israeli blockade on humanitarian assistance also prevented Palestinians from receiving urgently needed medical supplies and equipment, including ambulances:

Prior to the collapse of the ceasefire on 18 March, 149 ambulances were operational, of which only 48 are now functional, severely limiting emergency medical transport and outreach capacity. Humanitarian partners report that many injured civilians now rely on makeshift means of transportation, with donkey carts being the most commonly used mode. This situation is especially dire for vulnerable groups, including the elderly, persons with disabilities and pregnant women, who increasingly depend on fractured social networks for access to health services.⁵²

⁵⁰ UN OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Update #286 | Gaza Strip, 7 May 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-286-gaza-strip>.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*

⁵² *Ibid.*

45. OCHA also reported on the impact on public health, including access to hospitals and other treatment centers, of Israel's displacement orders, which have forced the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of civilians to designated areas without adequate medical facilities:

[S]ix hospitals and two field hospitals are in areas that were placed under displacement orders by Israeli authorities, further hampering the access of new patients to life-saving care. This critically increases the risk of mortality and long-term complications, particularly for trauma patients who require urgent care.⁵³

46. Also on 7 May, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk, issued a statement on the impacts of Israel's two-month denial of humanitarian assistance to Gaza and its forcible displacement of the civilian population:

Israel's reported plans to forcibly transfer Gaza's population to a small area in the south of the strip and threats by Israeli officials to deport Palestinians outside of Gaza further aggravate concerns that Israel's actions are aimed at inflicting on Palestinians conditions of life increasingly incompatible with their continued existence in Gaza as a group...

This would only compound the misery and suffering inflicted by the complete [Israeli] blockade on the entry of basic goods for almost nine weeks now. Gaza's residents have already been deprived of all lifesaving necessities, particularly food, with relentless Israeli attacks on community kitchens and those trying to maintain a minimum of law and order.⁵⁴

47. The High Commissioner warned Israel that:

Any use of starvation of the civilian population as a method of war constitutes a war crime.⁵⁵

48. On 12 May, the World Food Programme's Executive Director, Cindy McCain, emphasized that the civilian population of Gaza is "starving" as result of Israel's ban on humanitarian aid:

Families in Gaza are starving while the food they need is sitting at the border. We can't get it to them because of the renewed conflict and the total ban on humanitarian aid imposed in early March... It's imperative that the international community acts

⁵³ *Ibid.*

⁵⁴ UN OHCHR, Volker Türk: Israeli plans to expand Gaza offensive aggravate concerns regarding Palestinians' existence in the strip, 7 May 2025, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/05/turk-israeli-plans-expand-gaza-offensive-aggravate-concerns-regarding>.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

urgently to get aid flowing into Gaza again. If we wait until after a famine is confirmed, it will already be too late for many people.⁵⁶

49. On the same day, the United Nations Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs, Tom Fletcher, declared:

Every single person in Gaza is at risk of famine. 1 in 5 are facing starvation.

This is hunger by design.⁵⁷

50. Also on 12 May, the Food and Agricultural Organization reported that:

With the imminent risk of famine, agriculture on the brink of total collapse, and the possible outbreak of deadly epidemics in Gaza, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) calls for immediate restoration of humanitarian access and the lifting of [Israeli] blockades.

The urgent call comes in response to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis issued today warning that the entire population of the Gaza Strip – approximately 2.1 million people – is facing a critical risk of famine following 19 months of conflict, mass displacement, and severe [Israeli] restrictions on humanitarian aid.

According to the report, between 1 April - 10 May 2025, 93 per cent of the population, which translates to 1.95 million people, were classified in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above), including 244,000 people, or 12 percent of the population, in IPC Phase 5 (Catastrophe), and 925,000 (44 percent) in IPC Phase 4 (Emergency).⁵⁸

51. On the same day, the World Health Organisation reported that: “The risk of famine in Gaza is increasing with the deliberate withholding of humanitarian aid, including food, in the ongoing [Israeli] blockade.”⁵⁹ WHO continued:

The entire 2.1 million population of Gaza is facing prolonged food shortages, with nearly half a million people in a catastrophic situation of hunger, acute malnutrition, starvation, illness and death. This is one of the world’s worst hunger crises, unfolding in real time...

⁵⁶ WFP, Risk of famine across all of Gaza, new report says, 12 May 2025, <https://www.wfp.org/news/risk-famine-across-all-gaza-new-report-says>.

⁵⁷ Tom Fletcher, X, @UNReliefChief, 13 May 2025, <https://x.com/UNReliefChief/status/1922099411250786592>.

⁵⁸ AO, Gaza: With famine looming, FAO urges immediate access to save livelihoods and food production, 12 May 2025, <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/gaza--with-famine-looming--fao-urges-immediate-access-to-save-livelihoods-and-food-production/en>.

⁵⁹ WHO, People in Gaza starving, sick and dying as aid blockade continues, 12 May 2025, <https://www.who.int/news/item/12-05-2025-people-in-gaza-starving--sick-and-dying-as-aid-blockade-continues>.

Three quarters of Gaza's population are at 'Emergency' or 'Catastrophic' food deprivation, the worst two levels of IPC's five level scale of food insecurity and nutritional deprivation.⁶⁰

52. WHO's Director General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus explained:

Today's report shows that without immediate access to food and essential supplies, the situation will continue to deteriorate, causing more deaths and descent into famine.⁶¹

The WHO report criticized as "grossly inadequate" Israel's announced plan to allow limited food deliveries through a small number of designated delivery sites in southern Gaza:

The plan recently announced by Israeli authorities to deliver food and other essential items across Gaza via proposed distribution sites is grossly inadequate to meet the immediate needs of over two million people. WHO echoes the UN's call for the global humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality to be upheld and respected and for unimpeded humanitarian access to be granted to provide aid based on people's needs, wherever they may be.⁶²

53. WHO emphasized that an effective food delivery and distribution system managed by the United Nations and its partners was already in place, and only needed to be permitted by Israel to resume operations:

A well-established and proven humanitarian coordination system, led by the UN and its partners, is already in place and must be allowed to function fully to ensure that aid is delivered in a principled, timely, and equitable manner.⁶³

54. On 13 May, OCHA reported that "[T]he food security and nutrition situation in Gaza continues to deteriorate rapidly, as the full [Israeli] blockade since 2 March 2025 has prevented the entry of food assistance, nutrient supplements, and therapeutic food vital for the treatment of malnutrition."⁶⁴ This was evidenced by another severe decline in the number of community kitchens and meals served:

As of 10 May, around 412,000 daily meals were prepared and delivered through about 87 kitchens across the Gaza Strip. This is a 60 per cent drop in meal production compared with 25 April, when 1,080,000 meals were produced daily by 180 kitchens.

⁶⁰ WHO, People in Gaza starving, sick and dying as aid blockade continues, 12 May 2025, <https://www.who.int/news/item/12-05-2025-people-in-gaza-starving--sick-and-dying-as-aid-blockade-continues>.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*

⁶² *Ibid.*

⁶³ *Ibid.*

⁶⁴ UN OCHA, Gaza Humanitarian Response Update | 27 April- 10 May 2025, 13 May 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/gaza-humanitarian-response-update-27-april-10-may-2025>.

By 12 May, the closure of additional kitchens resulted in a drop of around 150,000 in the number of produced meals. Overall, in the first two weeks of May, at least 112 community kitchens (more than 60 per cent) had to close, leading to a 75-per-cent reduction in daily meal production, from 1.08 million meals, produced through 180 kitchens, to 259,000 meals, prepared and delivered through around 68 kitchens....

With no entry of specialized nutrition supplies and limited or no possibility for humanitarians to deliver nutrition and other services, people in Gaza are at risk of rapidly descending into the worst-case scenario described by the IPC, with a high risk of famine.⁶⁵

55. On the same date, Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs Tom Fletcher reported to the Security Council:

Israel is deliberately and unashamedly imposing inhumane conditions on civilians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

For more than 10 weeks, nothing has entered Gaza – no food, medicine, water or tents. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have, again, been forcibly displaced and confined into ever-shrinking spaces, as 70 per cent of Gaza’s territory is either within Israeli-militarized zones or under displacement orders.⁶⁶

56. The Undersecretary General continued:

Our response as humanitarians is to make a single ask of the Council: let us work. The UN and our partners are desperate to resume humanitarian aid at scale across Gaza in line with the fundamental principles of humanity, impartiality, independence and neutrality. We have a plan. We have shown we can deliver, with tens of thousands of trucks reaching civilians during the ceasefire. We have life-saving supplies ready, now, at the borders. We can save hundreds of thousands of survivors. We have rigorous mechanisms to ensure our aid gets to civilians, and not to Hamas.

But Israel denies us access, placing the objective of depopulating Gaza before the lives of civilians. It is bad enough that the blockade continues. How do you react when Israeli Ministers boast of it?⁶⁷

57. Addressing Israel’s plan to distribute food through a few distribution centers in southern Gaza, rather than the more than 400 locations throughout the territory utilized by the

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶⁶ Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Tom Fletcher, Briefing to the Security Council on the humanitarian situation and the protection of aid workers in Gaza, 13 May 2025, , <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/briefing-security-council-humanitarian-situation-and-protection-aid-workers-gaza>.

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

United Nations and its partners prior to the Israeli blockade, the Undersecretary General explained:

So, for anyone still pretending to be in any doubt, the Israeli-designed distribution modality is not the answer. It practically excludes many, including people with disabilities, women, children, the elderly, the wounded.

It forces further displacement. It exposes thousands of people to harm. It sets an unacceptable precedent for aid delivery not just in the OPT, but around the world. It restricts aid to only one part of Gaza, while leaving other dire needs unmet. It makes aid conditional on political and military aims. It makes starvation a bargaining chip....”

But Israel denies us access, placing the objective of depopulating Gaza before the lives of civilians. It is bad enough that the blockade continues. How do you react when Israeli Ministers boast of it?⁶⁸

58. In response, Israel’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Danny Danon, criticized the UN’s distribution system for facilitating the delivery of food to Hamas:

I will emphasize that the UN, led by the Secretary-General, insists on preserving old distribution mechanisms that help channel aid to Hamas. Israel will not allow this. Hamas will not benefit from humanitarian aid.⁶⁹

59. This was an accusation that senior Israeli officials continued to make, as recorded below. However, neither Israel’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations nor any other Israeli official has ever offered proof that material amounts of food or other humanitarian assistance distributed by the United Nations or its partners in Gaza was diverted by or to Hamas. As further recorded below, responsible United Nations agencies have emphatically disputed and disproven these allegations.

60. On 14 May, OCHA published its next Humanitarian Situation Update. It reported:

According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) snapshot on the Gaza Strip, which was published on 12 May, the entire population of 2.1 million people is projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity between 11 May and the end of September 2025, with half a million people (one in five) facing starvation, noting that the results mark a significant deterioration compared with the previous IPC analysis of October 2024. ‘With the announced expansion of military operations throughout the Gaza Strip, the persistent inability of humanitarian agencies to access populations in dire need, an anticipated escalation in hostilities, and the continued mass displacement

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

⁶⁹ Danny Danon, X, @dannydanon, 13 May 2025, <https://x.com/dannydanon/status/1922364497945395266>.

of people, the risk of Famine in the Gaza Strip is not just possible- It is increasingly likely.⁷

The analysis projects that 71,000 children aged 6 to 59 months and nearly 17,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women are expected to require urgent treatment for acute malnutrition between April 2025 and March 2026.⁷⁰

61. According to OCHA, in just three days – between 11 and 14 May – another 19 community kitchens were forced to close due to the absence of food, resulting in a reduction of 160,000 meals:

Overall, since 25 April, when 1,080,000 meals were produced and delivered daily by 180 kitchens, there has been a 75-per-cent reduction in meal production across the Gaza Strip, with around 115 kitchens having been forced to shut down due to the lack of supplies. This number is rising by the day.⁷¹

62. The Israeli blockade on humanitarian aid also continued to impact public health:

Emergency, surgical, and intensive care departments are operating with severely depleted supplies, amid rising numbers of critically injured patients.⁷²

63. On 17 May, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called attention to Israel’s “policy of siege & starvation”:

The situation for Palestinians in Gaza is beyond description, beyond atrocious and beyond inhumane. A policy of siege and starvation makes a mockery of international law. The blockade against humanitarian aid must end immediately. This is a moment for moral clarity & action.⁷³

64. The following day, on 18 May, OCHA’s Director for the Occupied Palestinian Territory confirmed that, with the Israeli blockade then in effect for eleven weeks: “People are being starved. We are deliberately prevented by Israeli authorities from saving lives. The barriers to our work are political choices.”⁷⁴

⁷⁰ UN OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Update #288 | Gaza Strip, 14 May 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-288-gaza-strip>.

⁷¹ *Ibid.*

⁷² *Ibid.*

⁷³ Antonio Guterres, X, @antonioguterres, 17 May 2025, <https://x.com/antonioguterres/status/1923689189217837531>.

⁷⁴ Jonathan Whittall, X, @_jwhittall, 18 May 2025, https://x.com/_jwhittall/status/1924107925242499282.

65. Also on 18 May, Israel publicly announced that it would allow limited supplies of food to enter Gaza, to be distributed by an entity hand-picked by Israel itself. The decision was explained the following day, 19 May, by Israeli Finance Minister (and head of the so-called civil administration for the Occupied Palestinian Territory), Bezalel Smotrich:

I was the one who demanded an end to the reckless policy of sending in thousands of trucks that were seized by Hamas, monetized, and used to prop up its regime. I initiated an alternative plan involving civilian companies, and I can say with full responsibility that the past will not repeat itself. Only the bare minimum of food and medicine will enter Gaza, and not a single grain will benefit Hamas.⁷⁵

66. According to the Israeli Finance Minister:

Gaza will be entirely destroyed, civilians will be sent to ... the south to a humanitarian zone without Hamas or terrorism, and from there they will start to leave in great numbers to third countries.⁷⁶

67. The new Israeli policy was promptly denounced by the President of France and the Prime Ministers of Canada and the United Kingdom:

The level of human suffering in Gaza is intolerable. Yesterday's announcement that Israel will allow a basic quantity of food into Gaza is wholly inadequate. We call on the Israeli Government to stop its military operations in Gaza and immediately allow humanitarian aid to enter Gaza. This must include engaging with the UN to ensure a return to delivery of aid in line with humanitarian principles....

We condemn the abhorrent language used recently by members of the Israeli Government, threatening that, in their despair at the destruction of Gaza, civilians will start to relocate. Permanent forced displacement is a breach of international humanitarian law.⁷⁷

68. On 19 May, some food deliveries were authorized by Israel to begin arriving in Gaza for the first time since the Israeli blockade was implemented on 2 March.

69. On 22 May, WFP Country Director Antoine Renard characterized Israel's plan for distribution of food in southern Gaza as "just a drop in the bucket of what is needed to reverse

⁷⁵ "Humanitarian aid a necessity, will not reach Hamas", *Israel national news*, 19 May 2025, <https://www.israelnationalnews.com/news/408601>.

⁷⁶ Gaza will be entirely destroyed, Israeli minister says", *The Guardian*, 6 May 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/may/06/hamas-israel-hunger-war-in-gaza>.

⁷⁷ Joint statement from the leaders of the United Kingdom, France and Canada on the situation in Gaza and the West Bank, 19 May 2025, <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-statement-from-the-leaders-of-the-united-kingdom-france-and-canada-on-the-situation-in-gaza-and-the-west-bank>.

the catastrophic levels of hunger. Humanitarian agencies require immediate, unrestricted, and safe access to flood Gaza with lifesaving aid. This is the only way to avert an entirely preventable disaster.”⁷⁸

70. On 23 May, Secretary-General Guterres characterized the food aid authorized by Israel as no more than “a teaspoon”:

In any case, all the aid authorized until now amounts to a teaspoon of aid when a flood of assistance is required. The needs are massive –and the obstacles are staggering. Strict quotas are being imposed on the goods we distribute – along with unnecessary delay procedures. Other essentials – including fuel, shelter, cooking gas, and water purification supplies – are prohibited....

And so, beyond questions about the particular number of trucks at any particular moment, it is important to stay fixed on the big picture. And the big picture is that without rapid, reliable, safe and sustained aid access, more people will die – and the long-term consequences on the entire population will be profound.⁷⁹

71. The Secretary-General explained:

Palestinians in Gaza are enduring what may be the cruelest phase of this cruel conflict. For nearly 80 days, Israel blocked the entry of life-saving international aid. As the world’s leading hunger assessment found, the entire population of Gaza is facing the risk of famine. Families are being starved and denied the very basics. All with the world watching in real time. Israel has clear obligations under international humanitarian law. It must treat civilians humanely, with respect for their inherent dignity. It must not forcibly transport, deport or displace the civilian population of an occupied territory. And as the occupying power, it must agree to allow and facilitate the aid that is needed.⁸⁰

72. On 25 May, the World Food Programme’s Executive Director, Cindy McCain, dismissed Israel’s claim of aid diversion to Hamas. When asked whether WFP had seen evidence of such aid diversion, she said: “No. Not at all.” She further indicated that the few trucks that had been let inside Gaza are “a drop in the bucket as to what’s needed”, and that

⁷⁸ WFP, Fresh bread returns for the first time in over two months as limited supplies reach bakeries overnight, 22 May 2025, <https://www.wfp.org/news/fresh-bread-returns-first-time-over-two-months-limited-supplies-reach-bakeries-overnight>.

⁷⁹ Press encounter of the UN Secretary-General on the humanitarian situation in Gaza, 23 May 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/press-encounter-secretary-general-humanitarian-situation-gaza>.

⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

“right now we have 500,000 people inside of Gaza that are extremely food insecure, and could be on the verge of famine if we don’t help bring them back from that.”⁸¹

73. On 27 May, OCHA’s Director for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Jonathan Whittall, agreed that, in Gaza “[t]he situation has never been as bad as it is today.” He explained:

People being starved, hospitals being hit, aid workers are being killed, communities displaced, families trapped under the rubble and thrown to death in their homes.

Now 80% of Gaza is in a military zone or displacement order. People have nowhere to go. Nowhere is safe. The trickle of aid has been allowed to enter this last week, but it’s far, far from being enough....⁸²

74. On the same day, Israel’s chosen distributor of food in Gaza, the “Gaza Humanitarian Foundation” (GHF), began operations at two sites in the south, Rafah and Deir al Ballah.⁸³ while another company, Safe Reach Solutions, was given the responsibility to recruit “armed security personnel” to guard the distribution sites.⁸⁴ As a newly-created entity, GHF had no prior experience delivering or distributing humanitarian assistance anywhere in the world, let alone in Gaza during an armed conflict.

75. In response OCHA’s Director for the Occupied Palestinian Territory said:

The newly developed distribution scheme is more than just the control of aid. It is engineered scarcity: four distribution hubs located in central and southern Gaza, secured by private US security contractors, where those Palestinians who can reach them will receive rations.⁸⁵

76. The following day, Israel’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Danny Danon, extolled Israel’s new policy:

⁸¹ “Cindy McCain refutes Israel’s claim that Hamas is stealing aid: ‘These people are desperate’”, The Independent, 26 May 2025, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/cindy-mccain-hamas-israel-aid-b2757707.html>.

⁸² UN OCHA, X, @UNOCHA, 28 May 2025, <https://x.com/UNOCHA/status/1927638580819607817>.

⁸³ UN OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Update #294-Gaza Strip, 5 June 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-294-gaza-strip>.

⁸⁴ “New Gaza Aid Plan, Bypassing U.N. and Billed as Neutral, Originated in Israel”, The New York Times, 26 May 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/24/world/middleeast/israel-gaza-aid-plan.html>.

⁸⁵ UN OCHA, Briefing to journalists by Jonathan Whittall, Head of OCHA OPT, 28 May 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/briefing-journalists-jonathan-whittall-head-ocha-opt>.

In the past two weeks, four new aid distribution centers were established in Gaza, two of them were already open. Those centers distribute food packages to thousands of families, despite Hamas establishing roadblocks and checkpoints to prevent civilians from reaching the aid.⁸⁶

77. Ambassador Danon did not fully describe what transpired at these distribution centers on the first day of operation. An account was provided, however, by OCHA's Director for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Jonathan Whittall:

Yesterday, we saw tens of thousands of desperate people – under fire – storming a militarized distribution point established on the rubble of their homes. Nearly 50 people were reportedly shot and injured. ...

The newly developed distribution scheme is more than just the control of aid. It is engineered scarcity: four distribution hubs located in central and southern Gaza, secured by private US security contractors, where those Palestinians who can reach them will receive rations....

The new distribution model cannot possibly meet Gaza's needs. Knowingly designing a plan that falls short of minimum obligations under international law, is essentially an admission of guilt....

This is not humanitarianism. Humanitarian action would seek to reach all civilians wherever they are, and would push back on measures to limit aid, instead of accepting these conditions upfront. This new scheme is surveillance-based rationing that legitimizes a policy of deprivation by design. And it comes at a time when people in Gaza, half of whom are children, are facing a crisis of survival.⁸⁷

78. On behalf of OCHA, Director Whittall responded directly to Israel's allegations that the humanitarian assistance previously provided by the UN and its partners was diverted by Hamas:

Israel has publicly claimed that the UN and NGO aid is being diverted by Hamas. But this doesn't hold up to scrutiny. We do not have evidence that aid coordinated through credible humanitarian channels has been diverted. Aid coordinated through the UN system made up for 35 per cent of what entered during the ceasefire. We have no oversight on those supplies which were facilitated to enter by Israel through other channels.

The real theft of aid since the beginning of the war has been carried out by criminal gangs, under the watch of Israeli forces, and they were allowed to operate in proximity to the Kerem Shalom crossing point into Gaza.

⁸⁶ Sky News, X, @SkyNews, 28 May 2025, <https://x.com/SkyNews/status/1927726909472870907>.

⁸⁷ UN OCHA, Briefing to journalists by Jonathan Whittall, Head of OCHA OPT, 28 May 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/briefing-journalists-jonathan-whittall-head-ocha-opt>.

The challenge facing humanitarian operations in Gaza isn't the unfounded claim of UN aid diversion, neither is it the so-called inability of the UN to deliver. During the last ceasefire, when [Israeli] restrictions on aid delivery were eased, coordinated humanitarian agencies demonstrated they could deliver aid effectively. Of course we can make improvements to our systems. But ultimately, when we are enabled, we can work.⁸⁸

79. An OCHA report issued on 28 May explained that Israel had “undermined the capacity of our teams to deliver genuine, principled humanitarian assistance that would reach the most vulnerable groups” and launched a “new militarized distribution system. As we have stated, it does not align with humanitarian principles, it puts people at risk, and it will not meet people’s needs, or dignity, across Gaza”.⁸⁹ OCHA continued:

While letting us bring in some nutrition and medical supplies, as well as flour, Israeli authorities have banned most other items, including fuel, cooking gas, shelter and hygiene products. They also imposed the condition that we could only deliver flour to bakeries and not directly to families. This required people to face large crowds to collect bread from a limited number of bakeries daily. Over the weekend, bakeries that were once supported with humanitarian supplies have shut down due to growing insecurity from large desperate crowds. Food needs to be distributed in multiple forms, and at multiple sites across all Gaza governorates. This is the only way to restore order and prevent mass starvation.⁹⁰

80. OCHA’s report also addressed the dire consequences of the Israeli military’s displacement orders requiring Palestinian civilians to evacuate their homes and communities and relocate to “unsafe or otherwise unsuitable locations” without adequate shelter:

Over 632,000 people have been displaced again since 18 March, as more than 30 displacement orders have pushed people into an ever-shrinking space, with immense physical and psychological toll.

Between 21 and 26 May, the Israeli military issued three displacement orders for parts of North Gaza, Gaza, Deir al Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah governorates. Combined, the orders cover 168 square kilometres, including one order that covers 43 per cent of the Gaza Strip. As of 28 May, 81 per cent of the Gaza Strip’s territory is within Israeli-militarized-zones or have been placed under displacement orders. Since 18 March, the Israeli military issued 31 displacement orders, placing about 229.4 square kilometres under displacement orders. As of 27 May, about 632,700 (30 per cent of the population) are estimated to have been displaced again since the re-escalation of hostilities on 18

⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

⁸⁹ UN OCHA, Statement by the Humanitarian Country Team of the Occupied Palestinian Territory – on Gaza, 28 May 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/statement-humanitarian-country-team-occupied-palestinian-territory-gaza>.

⁹⁰ *Ibid.*

March, according to the Site Management Cluster (SMC); this includes over 195,100 people displaced between 15 and 27 May, with many fleeing without any belongings.

As hundreds of thousands of people in Gaza continue to be displaced and pushed into ever-shrinking spaces amid hostilities, the mental trauma of recurrent displacement is immense. On 27 May, Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) highlighted the psychological toll that unpredictable displacement orders, which are issued within very short deadlines, have on people, including aid workers, forcing them to be in a “constant state of alert.” MSF stated: “People receive leaflets, social media posts or a phone call about an imminent attack, leaving them limited time to collect their belongings and seek shelter. The very act of forcing people to repeatedly flee, often in the middle of the night, without having anywhere to go and at risk of their lives, is not only having a physical impact, but causes an immense psychological toll.” Describing the gravity of the situation, an MSF logistic manager, added: “There are no tents left and no space for people to set up, I don’t know what to answer when colleagues ask me where they can go with their children in the middle of the night. We are running out of options to stay alive.”⁹¹

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81. On 2 June, the Israeli Foreign Ministry issued a statement criticizing the United Nations for its unwillingness to work with GHF, and asking: “Does the UN really care about providing aid to the people of Gaza, or is it more focused on feeding Hamas and its war machine?”⁹² Again, no evidence was provided that humanitarian assistance previously provided by the United Nations or its partners had been diverted to Hamas. Moreover, delivery of aid directly to the people of Gaza – where they live, in all parts of Gaza – was exactly what the United Nations had been doing, and was insisting on being allowed to do again.

82. On 3 June, the High Commissioner for Human Rights called attention to the reasons the UN was unwilling to collaborate with the GHF at its “militarized” distribution centers:

Deadly attacks on distraught civilians trying to access the paltry amounts of food aid in Gaza, are unconscionable. For a third day running, people were killed around an aid distribution site run by the “Gaza Humanitarian Foundation”. This morning, we have received information that dozens more people were killed and injured.

Palestinians have been presented the grimmest of choices: die from starvation or risk being killed while trying to access the meagre food that is being made available through Israel’s militarized humanitarian assistance mechanism. This militarized system

⁹¹ UN OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Update #292 | Gaza Strip, 28 May 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-292-gaza-strip>.

⁹² Israel Foreign Ministry, @IsraelMFA, 2 June 2025, <http://x.com/IsraelMFA/status/1929595506134532203>.

endangers lives and violates international standards on aid distribution, as the United Nations has repeatedly warned.

The wilful impediment of access to food and other life-sustaining relief supplies for civilians may constitute a war crime.⁹³

83. On 4 June, the Undersecretary General for Humanitarian Affairs commented on the violence carried out against Palestinian civilians by Israeli forces at GHF's distribution sites:

The world is watching, day after day, horrifying scenes of Palestinians being shot, wounded or killed in Gaza while simply trying to eat. Emergency medical teams have confirmed treating hundreds of trauma cases. Yesterday alone, dozens were declared dead at hospitals after Israeli forces said they had opened fire.

This is the outcome of a series of deliberate choices that have systematically deprived 2 million people of the essentials they need to survive. I echo the Secretary-General's call for immediate, independent investigations. These are not isolated incidents, and the perpetrators must be held accountable.⁹⁴

84. OCHA's Director for the Occupied Palestinian Territory also decried the shooting of unarmed Palestinian civilians, desperate for food, by Israeli forces at, or along the route to, the GHF distribution sites, and called again for a return to the distribution system managed by the United Nations and its partners:

In Gaza, food lines have become firing lines. This is the outcome of a series of deliberate choices that have deprived people of the essentials for survival. No one should have to risk their life to feed their children. Let us bring aid to where people are. Let us do our job.⁹⁵

85. On the same date, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Mirjana Spoljaric, gave an interview to the BBC in which she called the conditions in Gaza "worse than hell on Earth".⁹⁶ She emphasized that:

⁹³ UN OHCHR, OPT: Attacks around aid distribution site in Gaza, 3 June 2025, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/06/opt-attacks-around-aid-distribution-site-gaza>

⁹⁴ Statement on aid distribution in Gaza by Tom Fletcher, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, 4 June 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/statement-aid-distribution-gaza-tom-fletcher-under-secretary-general-humanitarian-affairs-and-emergency-relief>.

⁹⁵ Jonathan Whittall, X, @_jwhittall, 4 June 2025, https://x.com/_jwhittall/status/1930320386245439894f.

⁹⁶ International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), ICRC President: "Humanity is failing in Gaza", 9 June 2025, <https://www.icrc.org/en/article/humanity-failing-gaza>.

access to food, water, and essential services is critically limited [an] the increasing risk of famine and the collapse of civilian infrastructure, including health care and sanitation systems.⁹⁷

86. On 6 June, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) reported that the entire population of Gaza is facing “high levels of acute food insecurity, with half a million people (one in five) facing starvation”:

Goods indispensable for people’s survival are either depleted or expected to run out in the coming weeks. The entire population is facing high levels of acute food insecurity, with half a million people (one in five) facing starvation. From 11 May to the end of September 2025, the whole territory is classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4), with the entire population expected to face Crisis or worse acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above). This includes 470,000 people (22 percent of the population) in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5)....

Immediate action is essential to prevent further deaths, starvation and acute malnutrition, and a descent into Famine.⁹⁸

87. On 9 June, the Israeli Foreign Ministry boasted that “[o]ver the past two weeks, more than 200 aid trucks have entered Gaza from Israel. The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation has distributed close to 11 million meals directly to civilians in Gaza.”⁹⁹ Assuming the accuracy of this assertion, this averages 85.7 trucks per day, and 0.37 meals per day for each of Gaza’s 2.1 million residents. Prior to Israel’s blockade of humanitarian assistance, the United Nations and its partners were dispatching more than 630 trucks a day to the Palestinian population.¹⁰⁰

88. On 10 June, the WFP reported, in contrast to the Israeli Foreign Ministry’s self-congratulation: “After nearly 80 days of total [Israeli] blockade of aid, and a trickle of assistance since the reopening, the fear of starvation inside Gaza remains high.”¹⁰¹

To stave off starvation, stabilize markets and calm desperation, we need to consistently support the entire population with basic food requirements every month.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

⁹⁸ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), IPC Global Initiative - Special Brief - Gaza Strip, 6 June 2025, https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Gaza_Strip_Acute_Food_Insecurity_Apr_Sep2025_Special_Report.pdf.

⁹⁹ Israel Foreign Ministry, X, @IsraelMFA, 9 June 2025, <https://x.com/IsraelMFA/status/1931851553800949987>.

¹⁰⁰ UNICEF, As ceasefire take effect UNICEF aid flows into Gaza, 21 January 2025, <https://www.unicefusa.org/stories/ceasefire-takes-effect-unicef-aid-flows-gaza>.

¹⁰¹ WFP, Statement on WFP aid operations in Gaza, 10 June 2025, <https://www.wfp.org/news/statement-wfp-aid-operations-gaza>.

WFP continues to call for better operating conditions so that food can reach families consistently, fairly, and safely – wherever they are across the Gaza Strip. This means more safe and reliable convoy routes, faster permission approvals and additional border crossings open for use.¹⁰²

89. On the same date, the ICRC reported on the deaths and injuries inflicted by Israeli forces on Palestinian civilians attempting to obtain food at the GHF's distribution sites:

The number of patients received over this period [27 May – 10 June 2025] (933 cases, including 41 that were declared dead upon arrival) is higher than all mass casualty incidents over the twelve months prior combined. A majority of patients from the recent incidents said they had been trying to reach assistance distribution sites.¹⁰³

90. OCHA's Humanitarian Situation Update of 11 June also described the deadly shootings of Palestinian civilians trying to reach GHF sites and the "overwhelming number" of victims requiring treatment at ICRC medical facilities:

Shooting at people trying to reach food supplies, including at the militarized distribution points, continue to be reported. Multiple such incidents reportedly occurred as people were walking towards or waiting at the militarized distribution points in Rafah and Deir al Balah....

'Medical personnel are struggling to cope with the overwhelming number of patients arriving at the field hospital. They are working under constant exposure to stray bullets, endangering the safety of those providing and receiving medical care,' ICRC stated.¹⁰⁴

91. OCHA reported on the significant Israeli barriers and restrictions placed on UN agencies and international partners by Israel, greatly diminishing their ability to distribute essential humanitarian assistance in Gaza:

the Israeli authorities have allowed only a select number of UN agencies and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to resume the delivery of aid into Gaza and have authorized the entry of only very limited amounts of certain food items, nutrition supplies, some health supplies, and water purification items.

The entry of other aid supplies, such as shelter materials, hygiene products, and medical equipment remains blocked, and so is the entry of cargo through the Egypt and West Bank routes. Both sides of Kerem Shalom crossing are tightly controlled by the Israeli authorities, and the UN has not been permitted to deploy monitors at the site, significantly limiting visibility over the aid pipeline....

¹⁰² *Ibid.*

¹⁰³ UNN OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Update #296 / Gaza Strip, 11 June 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-296-gaza-strip>.

¹⁰⁴ *Ibid.*

Overall, limited access, long delays in movement approvals (sometimes up to 36 hours and beyond), constantly shifting, insecure convoy routes, intensified military operations, and a breakdown of public order and safety with a very high risk of looting continue to severely constrain operations to collect aid from Kerem Shalom crossing and are placing humanitarian staff, drivers and trucks at significant risk. Collections are frequently cancelled, re-routed, or significantly delayed, aid deliveries have become largely unsafe, unpredictable and inefficient, and the limited assistance that comes through is increasingly being offloaded directly from trucks by hungry civilians and, in some cases, intercepted by armed gangs.¹⁰⁵

92. On 12 June, the General Assembly adopted resolution ES-10/27, “*Strongly deploring...* the decision of the Israeli Government...to block access to humanitarian aid, including life-saving supplies, notably food, medicine, fuel and cooking gas, for over 2 million people, and expressing its deep alarm over the ongoing catastrophic humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, including the severe lack of adequate healthcare services and the extreme state of food insecurity, creating a critical risk of famine, and its grave impact on children, women, elderly persons and other civilians...”.¹⁰⁶ The resolution also “*Strongly condemn[ed]* any use of starvation of civilians as a method of warfare and the unlawful denial of humanitarian access, and stresses the obligation not to deprive civilians in the Gaza Strip of objects indispensable to their survival, including by wilfully impeding relief supplies and access...”; and it “*Demand[ed]* that Israel, the occupying Power, immediately end the blockade, open all border crossings and ensure that aid reaches the Palestinian civilian population throughout the Gaza Strip immediately and at scale, in line with its obligations under international law and humanitarian principles...”.¹⁰⁷

93. The resolution “*Underscore[d]*”, in particular, the indispensability of UNRWA in ensuring humanitarian assistance to the civilian population of Gaza, and “*reject[ed]*” the actions by Israel that “undermine the implementation of the mandate of the Agency...”.¹⁰⁸

94. Israel violated the UNGA’s resolution. After the vote, its Permanent Representative to the UN described the resolution as:

A resolution that rewards the terrorists responsible for their suffering. This resolution does not advance peace. It does not reflect the truths on the ground. It does not reflect the values this institution claims to uphold. Israel continues to deliver humanitarian aid,

¹⁰⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁶ General Assembly, Resolution ES-10/27, 13 June 2025.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*

despite the slander contained in this resolution. Over the past weeks, over 16 million meals have been delivered through the new international mechanism in Gaza, the humanitarian foundation. It was developed in coordination with the US. On Tuesday, June 10 alone, over 2 million meals were distributed across three distribution sites. Only today, 36,000 meals were distributed. This mechanism does what the previous one could not. It stops Hamas from stealing the aid. At the same time, hundreds of aid trucks have entered Gaza in recent weeks. But over 500 trucks are still sitting undelivered inside Gaza because of the UN's failure to distribute on the other side. And yet, this resolution claims Israel, and I quote, is using starvation of civilians as a weapon of war. That is a blood libel.¹⁰⁹

95. On 16 June, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, Philippe Lazzarini, complained that:

[Israeli] Restrictions on bringing in aid from the UN including UNRWA continue despite an abundance of assistance ready to be moved into Gaza. In addition, severe shortages of fuel are now hampering the delivery of critical services especially health and water.¹¹⁰

96. The shortages of fuel were especially dire for public health, as explained by the Director General of WHO:

For over 100 days, no fuel has entered Gaza, and attempts to retrieve fuel stocks from evacuation zones have been denied. This is pushing the health system closer to the brink of collapse. 17 hospitals, 7 field hospitals and 43 primary health centers — barely running on minimum daily fuel — will soon have none left. No fuel means no power for ventilators, dialysis machines, anesthesia equipment and incubators. No fuel means no medical evacuations or patient transfers can take place. No fuel means vaccine cold chain systems could fail. No fuel means no functioning field hospitals. No fuel means no delivery of medicines and supplies. No fuel means no water and sanitation services. No fuel means no health care.¹¹¹

97. Also on 16 June, the ICRC reported that it treated victims from the largest single mass casualty event in more than a year, with 240 cases presenting at its field hospital as a result of Israeli fire on Palestinian civilians seeking food from GHF distribution sites. It noted that

¹⁰⁹ Danny Danon, General Assembly: 60th Plenary Meeting, Tenth Emergency Special Session, 12 June 2025, (26:00-27:50 & 30:50- 32:00), <https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1i/k1ixj6x9iz>.

¹¹⁰ UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini, X, @UNLazzarini, 16 June 2025, https://x.com/UNLazzarini/status/1934515379918753855?t=ILHGm-g2dk_GjNtVhAV6vg&s=08.

¹¹¹ WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, X, @DrTedros, 16 June 2025, <https://x.com/DrTedros/status/1934704430362054850>.

during the preceding three weeks [since distribution began on 27 May], it had “treated more mass casualty cases than in the previous twelve months combined”.¹¹²

98. On 18 June, OCHA’s Humanitarian Situation Update also reported on the indiscriminate shooting of Palestinian civilians by Israeli forces at, or along the route to, the GHF sites:

Mass casualties among people attempting to access food supplies continue to be reported, including as they approached or gathered at militarized distribution points in Rafah and Deir al Balah or waited for trucks carrying UN aid supplies. According to the head of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) emergency programmes, on 11 and 12 June, most of the 285 casualties received at the MSF-supported primary health clinic (PHC) in Al Mawasi, in Khan Younis, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) field hospital, in Rafah, were seeking urgent assistance at non-UN distribution sites.... [MSF] also warned that the “delivery of supplies by private logistics and security firms, as well as local armed actors under the guise of aid,” combined with access restrictions, constant displacement and ongoing bombardment, “is pushing Gaza’s fragile social order to the brink of collapse.”

On 17 June, MSF reported that a mass casualty influx into Nasser Medical Complex, in Khan Younis, forced medical teams to turn delivery rooms into emergency operating theatres, with many of the injured requiring amputations to save their lives. The casualties were attempting to collect flour rations in Khan Younis, MSF added.¹¹³

99. In the words of UNRWA’s Commissioner-General:

Palestinian lives have been so devalued. It is now the routine to shoot and kill desperate and starving people while they try to collect little food from a company made of mercenaries. ... Inviting starving people to their death is a war crime. Those responsible of this system must be held accountable. This is a disgrace and a stain on our collective consciousness. Humanitarian principles must be reinstated also to let the experts do their jobs and provide assistance with respect and dignity.¹¹⁴

100. On 19 June, UNICEF reported that: “The number of malnourished children in the Gaza Strip is rising at an alarming rate, with 5,119 children between 6 months and 5 years of age admitted for treatment for acute malnutrition in May alone.”¹¹⁵ This represents “a nearly 50 per cent increase from the 3,444 children admitted in April 2025 and a 150 per cent increase

¹¹² ICRC, “Gaza: No One Should Be Killed or Wounded Seeking Aid”, 16 June 2025, <https://www.redcross.ie/newsroom-post/gaza-no-one-should-be-killed-or-wounded/>.

¹¹³ UN OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Update #297 | Gaza Strip, 18 June 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-297-gaza-strip>.

¹¹⁴ UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini, X, @UNLazzarini, 18 June 2025, <https://x.com/UNLazzarini/status/1935290418536534334>.

¹¹⁵ UNICEF, More than 5,000 children diagnosed with malnutrition in the Gaza Strip in May, 19 June 2025, <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/more-5000-children-diagnosed-malnutrition-gaza-strip-may>.

from February when a ceasefire was in effect and aid was entering the Gaza Strip in significant quantities.”¹¹⁶ According to UNICEF’s Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa, Edouard Biegbeder:

In just 150 days, from the start of the year until the end of May, 16,736 children – an average of 112 children a day – have been admitted for treatment for malnutrition in the Gaza Strip... Every one of these cases is preventable. The food, water, and nutrition treatments they desperately need are being blocked from reaching them. Man-made decisions that are costing lives. Israel must urgently allow the large-scale delivery of life-saving aid through all border crossings.¹¹⁷

101. The following day, UNICEF Spokesperson James Elder addressed the dangerous shortage of drinking water in Gaza, and the likelihood that it would become catastrophic, and that children would die of thirst, in the absence of urgent fuel deliveries, which Israel was preventing.

In a war already defined by its brutality, Gaza now teeters at its deadliest edge. Currently just 40 per cent of drinking water production facilities remain functional in Gaza (87 out of 217). Without fuel, every one of these will stop operating within weeks.

Since all the electricity to Gaza was cut after the horrific attacks of 7 Oct 2023, fuel became essential to produce, treat and distribute water to more than two million Palestinians. If the current more than 100-day blockade on fuel coming into Gaza does not end, children will begin to die of thirst. Diseases are already advancing, and chaos is tightening its grip.

Whilst alarm bells rightly ring on the nutrition situation in Gaza – just yesterday UNICEF reported a 50 per cent increase in children (6months to 5yrs) admitted for treatment of acute malnutrition from April to May – water cannot be sidelined. And so in the most relatable terms: Gaza is facing what would amount to a man-made drought. Water systems are collapsing.

However, because this is man-made, it can be stopped. None of these problems are logistical or technical. They are political. Denial has become policy. If there is political will, the water crisis will be eased overnight – fuel would mean that water flows from hundreds of groundwater wells and restores supply within a day. But time is running out.

This is Gaza’s most critical moment since this war on children began – a woeful bar to sink below. A virtual blockade is in place; humanitarian aid is being sidelined; the daily

¹¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹¹⁷ *Ibid.*

killing of girls and boys in Gaza does not register; and now a deliberate fuel crisis is severing Palestinians most essential element for survival: water.¹¹⁸

102. On 22 June, the water crisis – caused by Israel’s continuing blockade on water and fuel deliveries to Gaza - was also underscored by OCHA’s Director for the Occupied Palestinian Territory:

There is not enough water to drink in Gaza.

Water wells have run out of fuel or are in areas that are dangerous to reach. Broken pipes waste what little water remains. Children are queuing for water trucks that often don’t arrive. Sanitation is worsening and diseases are spreading. Sewerage is overflowing in the streets. Our warehouses stand empty while Israel restricts shipments to minimal quantities of mainly medical supplies and food that isn’t allowed to reach warehouses and then households....

Israeli authorities are preventing us from distributing through the systems that we have established and that we know work. We have a plan. We could reach every family in Gaza – as we have in the past – but we are prevented from doing so at every turn.¹¹⁹

103. On 24 June, OCHA reported that “Israeli authorities continue to prohibit humanitarian organizations from carrying out food parcel distributions within the Gaza Strip, further hampering efforts to meet needs and ensure the safe and equitable delivery of food assistance.”¹²⁰ The report described the ongoing decline in the number of community kitchens and meals served by the United Nations and its partners, as a result of the increasingly severe lack of food:

Between 21 April and 21 June 2025, within two months, the scale of operations gradually decreased due to a combination of [Israeli] access restrictions, insecurity, and resource constraints. By mid-May, the number of kitchens had decreased by around 60 per cent, to about 70 kitchens, with daily meal distributions falling by over 70 per cent to approximately 300,000 meals per day. This level of activity was maintained for about two weeks before it further declined. By mid to late June, the number of operational kitchens had decreased by roughly 76 per cent, with only 42–45 kitchens operating, and daily meal distributions were reduced by nearly 83 per cent, to approximately 185,000 meals per day.

¹¹⁸ Remarks by James Elder, UNICEF Spokesperson at a press briefing at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Gaza’s taps running dry: Fuel crisis deepens daily struggle for families, 20 June 2025, <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/gazas-taps-running-dry-fuel-crisis-deepens-daily-struggle-families>.

¹¹⁹ Briefing by Jonathan Whittall, Head of OCHA OPT, to journalists in Deir al Balah, Gaza Strip, 22 June 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/briefing-jonathan-whittall-head-ocha-opt-journalists-deir-al-balah-gaza-strip>.

¹²⁰ OCHA, Gaza Humanitarian Response Update | 8-21 June 2025, 24 June 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/gaza-humanitarian-response-update-8-21-june-2025>.

As of 15 June, a total of 18,741 children have been admitted for treatment of acute malnutrition since the beginning of the year.¹²¹

104. OCHA also reported on the “extremely limited availability of medicines and medical supplies across health partners’ warehouses, with most essential items at zero stock. Rotavirus vaccine and diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough) vaccine are currently out of stock at central cold chain facilities, while stocks of the bivalent oral polio vaccine (bOPV) for children are running out”,¹²² due to Israel’s ongoing blockade on delivery of medicines and medical supplies to Gaza.

105. Also on 24 June, the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights issued an update on the Israeli military’s killing of Palestinian civilians attempting to obtain food at GHF distribution sites:

Desperate, hungry people in Gaza continue to face the inhumane choice of either starving to death or risk being killed while trying to get food.

Since the “Gaza Humanitarian Foundation” started operating on 27 May, the Israeli military has shelled and shot Palestinians trying to reach the distribution points, leading to many fatalities. Reportedly, over 410 Palestinians have been killed as a result. At least 93 others have also been reportedly killed by the Israeli army while attempting to approach the very few aid convoys of the UN and other humanitarian organisations. At least 3,000 Palestinians have been injured in these incidents....

The Israeli military must stop shooting at people trying to get food. Israel must also allow the entry of food and other humanitarian assistance needed to sustain the lives of Palestinians in Gaza in accordance with international law and humanitarian principles. It must immediately lift its unlawful restrictions on the work of UN and other humanitarian actors.¹²³

106. On 25 June, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA expressed frustration that, as a result of Israel’s ongoing restrictions on the delivery of food and other humanitarian assistance, and the ineffectiveness of the scheme centered on the GHF: “In Gaza, two million people are being starved, while food and medical supplies sit across the border”:

It is obscene. A so-called “aid mechanism” has been created to replace the principled international aid operation led by the United Nations, of which UNRWA is a critical part. The new mechanism is an abomination that costs lives. It humiliates and degrades

¹²¹ *Ibid.*

¹²² *Ibid.*

¹²³ OHCHR, “Gaza: Palestinians seeking food continue to be killed by Israeli military”, 24 June 2025, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-briefing-notes/2025/06/gaza-palestinians-seeking-food-continue-be-killed-israeli-military>.

desperate people concentrating them in ghetto-like hubs, from which they can be more easily displaced.¹²⁴

107. On 26 June, OCHA's Humanitarian Situation Update described the Israeli military's killing of Palestinian civilians at food distribution sites:

Mass casualties have continued to be reported daily over the past 30 days, after non-UN militarized distribution sites started to operate in Gaza, as people approached or gathered near these sites or waited on routes designated by the Israeli authorities for the UN to collect trucks carrying aid. Between 13 and 16 June, the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED) recorded over 20 incidents "where Israeli forces targeted civilians around aid distribution." According to ACLED, most incidents occurred near militarized distribution sites. Briefing journalists in Deir al Balah on 22 June 2025, the OCHA OPT Head of Office, Jonathan Whittall, said: "The majority of the casualties have been shot or shelled trying to reach US-Israeli distribution sites purposefully set up in militarized zones.(...) Others have been killed when Israeli forces have fired on Palestinian crowds waiting for food along routes into Gaza. Just a few days ago more than 60 people were killed and hundreds injured when a tank opened fire on a crowd of people waiting for food trucks to arrive. Some people have also been killed or injured by armed gangs, including those operating in areas close to Israeli forces. Those trying to protect aid convoys are often themselves targeted by Israeli forces."¹²⁵

108. OCHA further reported that "The humanitarian situation in Gaza remains critical, with conditions falling far below the minimum required to deliver sustained and orderly assistance to a population on the brink of famine," citing the World Food Programme's report of 20 June. According to OCHA, "The Food Security Sector (FSS) warns that the current volume and pace of delivery remain critically insufficient to meet the needs of Gaza's entire population, which is facing high levels of food insecurity. It stressed that only a massive scale-up of food delivery can stabilise the situation and allow humanitarian partners to carry out safe and dignified food distributions."¹²⁶

109. On 27 June, Secretary-General Guterres called on Israel to stop its soldiers from killing civilians seeking food for their own survival, and to end its restrictions on the delivery of humanitarian assistance to Gaza:

¹²⁴ Statement by Philippe Lazzarini, UNRWA Commissioner-General at the Meeting of the Advisory Commission (AdCom), 25 June 2025, <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/statement-philippe-lazzarini-unrwa-commissioner-general-meeting-0>.

¹²⁵ OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Update #300 | Gaza Strip, 26 June 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-300-gaza-strip>.

¹²⁶ *Ibid.*

People are being killed simply trying to feed themselves and their families. The search for food must never be a death sentence.

Let me be clear: Israel, as the occupying Power, is required by international law, to agree to and to facilitate humanitarian relief. Meanwhile, humanitarian operations continue to be strangled.

For over three months, shelter materials and fuel for critical services have been blocked. Doctors are forced to choose who gets the last vial of medicine, or the last ventilator. Aid workers themselves are starving. This cannot be normalized....

We need concrete actions so aid can reach all people – swiftly, at scale, wherever they are....

Any operation that channels desperate civilians into militarized zones is inherently unsafe. It is killing people.¹²⁷

110. The Israeli Foreign Ministry responded to the Secretary-General on the same day, by accusing the UN of “aligning itself with Hamas” and defending “GHF’s humanitarian operations”:

Blaming Israel for the UN’s failures and for Hamas’s deeds is a deliberate tactic. The GHF has so far provided more than 46 million meals directly to Palestinian civilians, not to Hamas. Yet the UN is doing everything it can to oppose this effort. In doing so, the UN is aligning itself with Hamas, which is also trying to sabotage the GHF’s humanitarian operations.¹²⁸

111. On 30 June, over 200 non-governmental organizations issued a statement calling for the shutdown of the GHF, and a return to the delivery and distribution system for humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian civilian population of Gaza that existed prior to the imposition of Israel’s blockade on 2 March 2025. The statement called attention to the fact that: “Today, Palestinians in Gaza face an impossible choice: starve or risk being shot while trying desperately to reach food to feed their families. The weeks following the launch of the Israeli distribution scheme have been some of the deadliest and most violent since October 2023. In less than four weeks, more than 500 Palestinians have been killed and almost 4,000 injured just trying to access or distribute food. Israeli forces and armed groups – some reportedly operating with backing from Israeli authorities – now routinely open fire on desperate civilians risking

¹²⁷ Secretary-General’s press encounter on the situation in Gaza, 27 June 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/secretary-generals-press-encounter-situation-gaza>.

¹²⁸ Israel Foreign Ministry, X, @IsraelMFA, 27 June 2025, <https://x.com/IsraelMFA/status/1938677273395355810>.

everything just to survive.”¹²⁹ The statement, signed, *inter alia*, by Médecins Sans Frontières, OXFAM, Save the Children and others, described the consequences of Israel’s replacement of the pre-existing food delivery and distribution system with GHF, the inadequacies of the new system, and the dangerous and deadly circumstances in which Palestinian civilians desperate for food have been shot and killed by Israeli forces at or enroute to the GHF distribution sites:

The humanitarian system is being deliberately and systematically dismantled by the Government of Israel’s blockade and restrictions, a blockade now being used to justify shutting down nearly all other aid operations in favour of a deadly, military-controlled alternative that neither protects civilians nor meets basic needs. These measures are designed to sustain a cycle of desperation, danger, and death. Experienced humanitarian actors remain ready to deliver life-saving assistance at scale. Yet more than 100 days since Israeli authorities reimposed a near-total blockade on aid and commercial goods, Gaza’s humanitarian conditions are collapsing faster than at any point in the past 20 months.

Under the Israeli government’s new scheme, starved and weakened civilians are being forced to trek for hours through dangerous terrain and active conflict zones, only to face a violent, chaotic race to reach fenced, militarized distribution sites with a single entry point. There, thousands are released into chaotic enclosures to fight for limited food supplies. These areas have become sites of repeated massacres in blatant disregard for international humanitarian law. Orphaned children and caregivers are among the dead, with children harmed in over half of the attacks on civilians at these sites. With Gaza’s healthcare system in ruins, many of those shot are left to bleed out alone, beyond the reach of ambulances and denied lifesaving medical care.¹³⁰

112. The food offered at the GHF sites, even for those who managed to obtain it, has been insufficient to sustain them or their families, especially without the fuel or clean water necessary to prepare it:

Amidst severe hunger and famine-like conditions, many families tell us they are now too weak to compete for food rations. Those who do manage to obtain food often return with only a few basic items - nearly impossible to prepare without clean water or fuel to cook with. Fuel is nearly depleted, bringing critical lifesaving services – including bakeries, water systems, ambulances, and hospitals – to a standstill. Families are sheltering under plastic sheets, operating makeshift kitchens amid the rubble, without fuel, clean water, sanitation, or electricity. This is not a humanitarian response.¹³¹

¹²⁹ Joint statement by Non-Governmental Organizations, “GAZA: Starvation or gunfire — not a humanitarian response”, 30 June 2025, <https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/gaza-starvation-or-gunfire-not-humanitarian-response>.

¹³⁰ *Ibid.*

¹³¹ *Ibid.*

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113. On 2 July, OCHA issued another Humanitarian Situation Update, which also addressed the “mass casualties” inflicted by Israeli troops at the GHF and other distribution sites: “Mass casualties have continued to be reported daily over the past five weeks, as people approached or gathered near militarized, non-UN distribution sites [*i.e.*, GHF sites] or waited on routes designated by the Israeli authorities for the UN to collect trucks carrying aid.”¹³² OCHA continued:

Describing the violence that Palestinians are subjected to at these distribution sites, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) noted that its medical teams have noticed a stark increase in the number of patients with gunshot wounds following frequent violence and attacks at and around the aid distribution sites. MSF emergency coordinator in Gaza added: “If people arrive early and approach the checkpoints, they get shot. If they arrive on time, but there is an overflow and they jump over the mounds and the wires, they get shot. If they arrive late, they shouldn’t be there because it is an ‘evacuated zone,’ so they get shot.”¹³³

114. Adding to the severe food shortage and resulting desperation of the population, “the food production and food systems in Gaza have been decimated,” by displacement of the population to overcrowded areas where farming is impossible and abandoned agricultural lands left behind in expanding Israeli military zones, and by destruction from Israeli bombardments.¹³⁴ Citing a report by the World Food Programme, OCHA described the “overwhelming desperation for food amid deteriorating food security facing Gaza’s 2.1 million people, and limited aid entry, with many surviving on one meal or less per day. Widespread hunger and scarcity have led people to offload food supplies from convoys before they reached their intended destinations, while attacks on large crowds of people trying to access food continue... Amid ongoing shortages, the food production and food systems in Gaza have been decimated.”¹³⁵ OCHA noted the rapidly increasingly malnutrition among children:

The latest analysis of the mid-upper arm circumference screenings among children aged six to 59 months indicate an increase in acute malnutrition rates across all governorates between May and mid-June. Since March, proxy rates of acute malnutrition have been multiplied by two to four times, depending on the governorate, with the most severe increases observed in Deir al Balah and Khan Younis. In the absence of large-scale

¹³² OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Update #302 | Gaza Strip, 2 July 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-302-gaza-strip>.

¹³³ *Ibid.*

¹³⁴ *Ibid.*

¹³⁵ *Ibid.*

entry of food, the depletion since the end of June of nutrition supplies, including supplements and ready-to-use complementary food, is expected to aggravate these conditions. Moreover, health surveillance system reports show a sharp increase in acute watery diarrhea and other diseases, which could further contribute to secondary malnutrition.

115. On 3 July, the office of Secretary-General Guterres issued a statement on his behalf concerning the violence perpetrated against Palestinian civilians at Israel's distribution sites, and the inadequate supplies of food, water, medicine and shelter:

The Secretary-General is appalled by the deepening humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Multiple attacks in recent days hitting sites hosting displaced people and people trying to access food have killed and injured scores of Palestinians. The Secretary-General strongly condemns the loss of civilian life. In just one day this week, orders to relocate forced nearly 30,000 people to flee, yet again, with no safe place to go and clearly inadequate supplies of shelter, food, medicine or water.¹³⁶

116. A report issued by Amnesty International on the same day also criticized Israel's food distribution "scheme" in which "hundreds of Palestinians have been killed and thousands injured either near militarized distribution sites or enroute to humanitarian aid convoys."¹³⁷ The report stated:

By continuing to prevent UN and other key humanitarian organizations from distributing certain essential items, like food parcels, fuel and shelter, within Gaza and by maintaining a deadly, dehumanizing and ineffective militarized 'aid' scheme, Israeli authorities have turned aid-seeking into a booby trap for desperate starved Palestinians.¹³⁸

117. Based on evidence gathered over a month since the introduction of Israel's "militarized aid distribution system," Amnesty International concluded that "Israel has continued to use starvation of civilians as a weapon of war against Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip and to deliberately impose conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction as part of its ongoing genocide."¹³⁹

¹³⁶ Statement by Stéphane Dujarric, the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General on the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, 3 July 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/statement-attributable-spokesperson-secretary-general-humanitarian-crisis-gaza>.

¹³⁷ Amnesty International, Gaza: Evidence points to Israel's continued use of starvation to inflict genocide against Palestinians, 3 July 2025, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2025/07/gaza-evidence-points-to-israels-continued-use-of-starvation-to-inflict-genocide-against-palestinians/>.

¹³⁸ *Ibid.*

¹³⁹ *Ibid.*

118. On 4 July, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA described Israel's ongoing prevention of fuel deliveries to Gaza: "Gaza: no fuel allowed into the enclave for more than four months now. Without fuel, waste is piling up, clean water running out, clinics shutting down, electricity and telecoms patchy. All is deepening the immense suffering of 2 million people who continue to endure de-humanization and humiliation: a collective punishment. There must be a deal that will allow in a flow of basic supplies including fuel."¹⁴⁰

119. On the same day, Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich threatened to cut off all food deliveries to Gaza to prevent diversion to Hamas: "Not a single grain of wheat will go in if it ends up in Hamas' hands."¹⁴¹ He offered no proof of any such diversion.

120. On 5 July, the WFP, in a statement by its Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Carl Skau, reported that a recent assessment of food and nutrition availability in Gaza "shows nearly one person in three is not eating for days, placing more people at risk of starvation."¹⁴²

121. On 8 July, OCHA further reported on the deteriorating food situation in Gaza, emphasizing that: "The current volume and pace of deliveries remain critically insufficient to meet the needs of Gaza's entire population, who are facing deteriorating high levels of acute food insecurity."¹⁴³ Due to the lack of wheat and flour: "All UN-supported bakeries remain closed." OCHA found that "Consistent, frequent, large-scale deliveries through multiple crossings are urgently required to meet needs and stabilize availability, pricing, and affordability of wheat flour and other basic staples as well as reduce tensions and rebuild trust within communities."¹⁴⁴

122. On the same day, UNICEF reported that: "With aid being prevented from entering Gaza at scale, even accessing the meagerest supplies is fraught with danger."¹⁴⁵ The report

¹⁴⁰ UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini, X, @UNLazzarini, 4 July 2025, <https://x.com/unlazzarini/status/1941069230469763479?s=46&t=ccWRJzS530FizJwwxUAeMg>.

¹⁴¹ "Ministers slam IDF over planned resumption of humanitarian aid deliveries to Gaza", Ynet, 4 July 2025, <https://www.ynetnews.com/article/b1pdwkbckl>.

¹⁴² WFP, WFP delivers food inside Gaza amid restrictions and growing insecurity, 5 July 2025, <https://www.wfp.org/news/wfp-delivers-food-inside-gaza-amid-restrictions-and-growing-insecurity>.

¹⁴³ OCHA, Gaza Humanitarian Response Update | 22 June - 5 July 2025, 8 July 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/gaza-humanitarian-response-update-22-june-5-july-2025>.

¹⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁵ UNICEF, "Risking everything for survival in the Gaza Strip", 8 July 2025, <https://www.unicef.org/stories/risking-everything-survival-gaza-strip>.

further highlighted that, “Across the Gaza Strip, every day, families are facing unimaginable challenges and choices. With almost no aid allowed in, and food prices soaring, parents and children are risking their lives to get even small amounts of food or safe water. Many are walking for hours, waiting in crowds, or dodging dangerous strikes and fire – only to return empty-handed. Some don’t return at all.”¹⁴⁶ The situation has become so dire that: “Concerted action is immediately needed to stop starvation from escalating, malnutrition from rising, disease from spreading, water from running dry, and ultimately, to prevent mounting, wholly preventable child deaths.”¹⁴⁷ There is a solution: “The United Nations must be allowed to deliver aid of all types at scale to families, wherever they are. We have the supplies and the experience to do the job in line with humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence.”¹⁴⁸

123. On 10 July, UNICEF’s Executive Director, Catherine Russell, explained: “The lack of aid means children are facing starvation while the risk of famine grows. The number of malnourished children will continue to rise until life-saving aid and services are resumed at full scale.”¹⁴⁹

124. On 11 July, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA pointed out that that “life-saving aid” was readily available but not allowed into Gaza by Israel: “Lifesaving supplies are expiring on at least 6,000 UNRWA trucks packed with food, medicines and other basics waiting for the green light to enter Gaza for the past four months.”¹⁵⁰

125. The Commissioner-General also responded to Israeli charges that food delivered by the United Nations and its partners had been diverted to Hamas. He explained that these were: “[a]llegations not raised in official meetings, never proven and never substantiated.”¹⁵¹

¹⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁹ Statement by Catherine Russell, UNICEF Executive Director on children killed during a nutrition aid distribution in the Gaza Strip, 10 July 2025, <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/statement-unicef-executive-director-catherine-russell-children-killed-during>.

¹⁵⁰ UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini, X, @UNLazzarini, 11 July 2025, <https://x.com/UNLazzarini/status/1943702622059249777?t=CHKIHWMA3sK1SCYKz7zGRw&s=08>.

¹⁵¹ *Ibid.*

126. Also on 11 July, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights reported the killing of 798 Palestinians since the start of GHF's operations, including 615 in the vicinity of GHF sites and 183 "presumably on the routes of aid convoys".¹⁵²

127. On 12 July, the WFP's Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer expressed alarm that in Gaza: "The situation is worse than I've ever seen it before. Starvation is spreading. 500,000 people in starvation, 90,000 children now in urgent need of treatment for malnutrition. And I met many of those families who told me that there are days that their children are not eating at all.... The fact that people are now dying every day trying to get food, I think it's the starkest illustration of how desperate this situation is, the amount that we are able to bring in, it's just a fraction of what's needed."¹⁵³

128. Also on 12 July, nine United Nations bodies, pointing to Israel's ongoing restrictions on the delivery of fuel to Gaza, warned that "the fuel shortage in Gaza has reached critical levels."¹⁵⁴ A statement issued by OCHA, OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNRWA, WFP, WHO, declared that: "The United Nations agencies and humanitarian partners cannot overstate the urgency of this moment: fuel must be allowed into Gaza in sufficient quantities and consistently to sustain life-saving operations."¹⁵⁵ The statement explained:

Fuel is the backbone of survival in Gaza. It powers hospitals, water systems, sanitation networks, ambulances, and every aspect of humanitarian operations. Fuel supplies are needed to move the fleet used for transporting essential goods across the Strip and to operate a network of bakeries producing fresh bread for the affected population. Without fuel, these lifelines will vanish for 2.1 million people. After almost two years of war, people in Gaza are facing extreme hardships, including widespread food insecurity. When fuel runs out, it places an unbearable new burden on a population teetering on the edge of starvation. Without adequate fuel, UN agencies responding to this crisis will likely be forced to stop their operations entirely, directly impacting all essential services in Gaza. This means no health services, no clean water, and no capacity to deliver aid. Without adequate fuel, Gaza faces a collapse of humanitarian efforts. Hospitals are already going dark, maternity, neonatal and intensive care units

¹⁵² Gaza: 'Unacceptable' choice between getting shot or getting fed, UN News, 11 July 2025, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/07/1165368>.

¹⁵³ Briefing by Carl Skau, WFP's Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, to journalists about his latest visit to Gaza, X, @WFP_Media, 12 July 2025, https://x.com/WFP_Media/status/1944057008866349392.

¹⁵⁴ Joint statement by OCHA, OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS, UNRWA, WFP and WHO on fuel shortage in Gaza, 12 July 2025, <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/joint-statement-ocha-ohchr-undp-unfpa-unicef-unops-unrwa-wfp-and-who>.

¹⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

are failing, and ambulances can no longer move. Roads and transport will remain blocked, trapping those in need.

Without fuel, bakeries and community kitchens cannot operate. Water production and sanitation systems will shut down, leaving families without safe drinking water, while solid waste and sewage pile up in the streets. These conditions expose families to deadly disease outbreaks and push Gaza's most vulnerable even closer to death. For the first time in 130 days, a small amount of fuel entered Gaza this week. This is a welcome development, but it is a small fraction of what is needed each day to keep daily life and critical aid operations running.¹⁵⁶

129. On 15 July, Israel's Minister of Energy, Eli Cohen, announced that Israel had terminated access to electricity and water for all UNRWA offices in an effort to shut down the agency, which he referred to as "an operational arm of Hamas":

Turning off the light at UNRWA! The law to disconnect electricity and water from UNRWA offices, which will lead to the cessation of the organization's activities in Israel, has been published. UNRWA served as an operational arm of Hamas, employed terrorists who participated in the October 7th massacre, and educates young Palestinians in terrorism and hatred of Israel. An organization that serves as a breeding ground for incitement and murder has no right to exist!¹⁵⁷

130. On 16 July, OCHA reported on the gross inadequacy of Israel's recent authorization of the delivery of small amounts of fuel to Gaza:

Since 9 July 2025, following 130 days of a full [Israeli] blockade on the entry of fuel, Israeli authorities have allowed the entry of two trucks of fuel per day, five days a week, through Kerem Shalom crossing. This amount is a fraction of what is required to run essential life-saving services in Gaza, where every aspect of life depends on fuel, from hospitals to water and sanitation systems, ambulances, humanitarian operations, telecommunications, bakeries and kitchens, and road transport.¹⁵⁸

131. Also on 16 July, the Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs addressed the dangerous shortage of food, medical care, water and fuel in Gaza, emphasizing that: "We are beyond vocabulary to describe the conditions in Gaza."¹⁵⁹ On the shortage of food:

¹⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁵⁷ Eli Cohen, X, @elicoh1, 15 July 2025, <https://x.com/elicoh1/status/1945100511331377316?s=46>.

¹⁵⁸ OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Update #306 | Gaza Strip, 16 July 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-306-gaza-strip>.

¹⁵⁹ Security Council briefing by Tom Fletcher, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, on the Middle East, 16 July 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/security-council-briefing-tom-fletcher-under-secretary-general-humanitarian-affairs-middle-east>.

Food is running out. Those seeking it risk being shot. People are dying trying to feed their families. Field hospitals receive dead bodies, and medical workers hear stories firsthand from the injured. Day, after day, after day.

Starvation rates among children hit their highest levels in June, with over 5,800 girls and boys diagnosed as acutely malnourished. Last week, amid this hunger crisis, children and women were killed in a strike while waiting for the food supplements to keep them alive.¹⁶⁰

132. On the lack of medical care:

The health system is shattered. Only 17 of 36 hospitals and 63 of 170 primary healthcare centres are functioning, all only partially, even as mass casualties arrive daily.

In some hospitals, five babies share one incubator. Seventy per cent of essential medicines are out of stock. Half of all medical equipment has been damaged. Pregnant women give birth without medical care. Women and girls manage menstruation without basic sanitary supplies.¹⁶¹

133. On the shortage of water:

Water [and] sanitation systems are broken. Roughly four of every five of these facilities, including water points, are now located within militarized zones or areas under displacement orders – so, even if they are functional, they are out of reach for those who depend on them.¹⁶²

134. On the shortage of fuel:

The fuel crisis in Gaza remains at a critical threshold.¹⁶³

135. On Israel's refusal to cooperate with the United Nations and other humanitarian organizations:

Each time that we report on what we see, we face threats of further reduced access to the civilians we are trying to serve.

We face that tension everywhere, but nowhere is that tension between our advocacy mandate and delivering aid greater than in Gaza. Visas are not renewed or reduced in duration, explicitly in response to our work on protection of civilians. Security clearances are not granted for staff to enter Gaza to continue their work. And

¹⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁶¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁶² *Ibid.*

¹⁶³ *Ibid.*

humanitarian partners are increasingly denied entry to Gaza. In 2025, 56 per cent of the entries denied were for Emergency Medical Teams.¹⁶⁴

136. Also on 16 July, UNICEF reported on the effects on Palestinian children of Israel's ongoing prevention of humanitarian aid to Gaza: "Children in Gaza are enduring catastrophic living conditions, including severe food insecurity and malnutrition."¹⁶⁵ And the situation has been growing worse: "Of the more than 113,000 children screened for malnutrition in June, nearly 6,000 were found to be acutely malnourished. This represents a staggering 180 per cent increase in acute malnutrition cases compared to February."¹⁶⁶ In addition to inadequate food supply, there has also been a lack of clean water:

With clean water increasingly difficult to access, children have little choice but to drink contaminated water. This is increasing the risk of disease outbreaks, with water borne diseases now making up 44 per cent of all healthcare consultations.¹⁶⁷

137. Hospitals that still function have been "overwhelmed" and "are facing severe shortages of essential medicine and fuel, disrupting critical care and leaving some operating rooms in the dark."¹⁶⁸ The cause is Israel's refusal to permit the entry of more medicines and supplies: "after almost 11 weeks of a complete [Israeli] aid blockade, authorities have permitted a trickle of UN supplies to enter the Gaza Strip beginning in mid-May. It is nowhere near enough. Between May 19th and July 2nd, authorities allowed an average of 30 UN trucks per day to offload aid at designated crossings. This included UNICEF nutrition products, water treatment supplies, and vaccines. But 30 trucks a day are a fraction of what is needed for two million people to survive."¹⁶⁹

138. On the same date, the Under Secretary General of Humanitarian Affairs called attention to the Israeli government's reprisals against United Nations officials and representatives of partner organizations who speak out about the inadequate humanitarian assistance reaching the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza, and the restrictions Israel imposes on the delivery of such assistance:

¹⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁵ Remarks by Catherine Russell, UNICEF Executive Director, on the humanitarian situation for children in Gaza at the UN Security Council meeting, 16 July 2025, <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/unicef-executive-director-catherine-russells-remarks-humanitarian-situation-children>.

¹⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁹ *Ibid.*

Each time that we report on what we see, we face threats of further reduced access to the civilians we are trying to serve. We face that tension everywhere, but nowhere is that tension between our advocacy mandate and delivering aid greater than in Gaza. Visas are not renewed or reduced in duration, explicitly in response to our work on protection of civilians. Security clearances are not granted for staff to enter Gaza to continue their work. And humanitarian partners are increasingly denied entry to Gaza.¹⁷⁰

139. On 20 July, instead of attending to the concerns expressed by OCHA's Director for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, echoed by other United Nations agencies, international partners and non-government organizations, Israel expelled him. Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar gave this explanation:

There is a limit to every trick. Following biased and hostile conduct against Israel, which distorted reality, presented false reports, slandered Israel and even violated the UN's own rules regarding neutrality, and in accordance with the recommendation of professional bodies, I have instructed not to extend the residence visa of the head of the OCHA office in Israel, Jonathan Witol [*sic*].

Whoever spreads lies about Israel - Israel will not work with him.¹⁷¹

140. On the same day, WFP reported that, once again: "Israeli forces opened fire on people trying to access aid from the WFP. In a statement about the incident, the WFP explained:

On the morning of 20 July, a 25 truck WFP convoy carrying vital food assistance crossed the Zikim border point destined for starving communities in northern Gaza.

Shortly after passing the final checkpoint beyond the Zikim crossing point into Gaza, the convoy encountered large crowds of civilians anxiously waiting to access desperately needed food supplies.

As the convoy approached, the surrounding crowd came under fire from Israeli tanks, snipers and other gunfire.

We are deeply concerned and saddened by this tragic incident resulting in the loss of countless lives. Many more suffered life-threatening injuries. These people were simply trying to access food to feed themselves and their families on the brink of starvation. This terrible incident underscores the increasingly dangerous conditions under which humanitarian operations are forced to be conducted in Gaza.¹⁷²

¹⁷⁰ Security Council briefing by Tom Fletcher, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, on the Middle East, 16 July 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/security-council-briefing-tom-fletcher-under-secretary-general-humanitarian-affairs-middle-east>.

¹⁷¹ Gideon Sa'ar, X, @gidonsaar, 20 July 2025, <https://x.com/gidonsaar/status/1947001655225876954>.

¹⁷² World Food Programme, Gaza Convoy Incident Statement, 20 July 2025, <https://www.wfp.org/news/gaza-convoy-incident-statement>.

141. According to the WFP: “Gaza’s hunger crisis has reached new levels of desperation.”¹⁷³ Specifically:

People are dying from lack of humanitarian assistance. Malnutrition is surging with 90,000 women and children in urgent need of treatment. Nearly one person in three is not eating for days. Food aid is the only way for most people to access any food – as the cost of a one-kilogram bag of flour has surged to over USD100 in local markets.

Only a massive scale-up in food aid distributions can stabilize this spiralling situation, calm anxieties and rebuild the trust within communities that more food is coming.¹⁷⁴

142. On 21 July, OCHA’s Director for the Occupied Palestinian Territory warned: “What enters Gaza isn’t even nearly sufficient to sustain life.”¹⁷⁵ As a result: “Gaza is being starved. Malnutrition is soaring. Hospitals lack essential supplies & are collapsing under relentless waves of casualties. There isn’t enough fuel for critical services. As heat surges, the few available water trucks are surrounded by desperation. This death and suffering is preventable. And if it’s preventable, but still happening, then that suggests to me that it’s intentional. The means of survival for an entire population has been dismantled and our ability to throw a life line has been obstructed.”¹⁷⁶

143. On the same date, the Office of the Secretary-General released this statement:

The Secretary-General is appalled by the accelerating breakdown of humanitarian conditions in Gaza, where the last lifelines keeping people alive are collapsing.

He deplores the growing reports of children and adults suffering from malnutrition.

The Secretary-General strongly condemns the ongoing violence, including the shooting, killing, and injuring of people attempting to get food for their families.

Civilians must be protected and respected, and they must never be targeted. The population in Gaza remains gravely undersupplied with the basic necessities of life.

Israel has the obligation to allow and facilitate by all the means at its disposal the humanitarian relief provided by the United Nations and by other humanitarian organizations...¹⁷⁷

¹⁷³ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁵ Jonathan Whittall, X, @_jwhittall, 21 July 2025, https://x.com/_jwhittall/status/1947405012541575478.

¹⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷⁷ Statement by Stéphane Dujarric, Spokesman for the Secretary-General, 21 July 2025 <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/statement-gaza-un-secretary-general->

144. Also on 21 July, OCHA’s Director for the Occupied Palestinian Territory expressed concern that:

2.1 million people in Gaza are crammed into just 12% of the territory; wasting away without enough food or clean water to survive. What enters Gaza isn’t even nearly sufficient to sustain life. Aid has to navigate a mostly impassable obstacle course to households.¹⁷⁸

145. On 22 July, the Commissioner General of UNRWA addressed Israel’s refusal to extend the visas of UNRWA and other United Nations staff, including heads of agencies, and in particular for OCHA’s Director for the Occupied Palestinian Territory:

As if banning international media is not enough. Humanitarian workers are also banned when they report on atrocities committed in Gaza and elsewhere in the occupied Palestinian territory.

The denial of a visa to our colleague from OCHA oPt is the latest in a pattern of restrictions.

Since the beginning of the war, the Israeli authorities have increasingly denied or failed to renew visas for UN staff, including Humanitarian Coordinators, heads of UN agencies, and staff of International NGOs....

All UNRWA international staff have not been granted visas for nearly six months now.¹⁷⁹

146. Also on 22 July, WFP Executive Director Ross Smith warned that: “The hunger crisis in Gaza has certainly reached new and astonishing levels of desperation. We have a third of the population are not eating for multiple days in a row. This includes women and children. We see severe acute malnutrition surging. Almost 100,000 women and children are suffering from severe acute nutrition and need treatment as soon as possible. People are dying from lack of humanitarian assistance every day, and we are seeing this escalate day by day. Clearly, humanitarian assistance, more broadly, is the only solution.”¹⁸⁰

21july2025/#:~:text=The%20Secretary%2DGeneral%20is%20appalled,and%20adults%20suffering%20from%20malnutrition.

¹⁷⁸ Jonathan Whittall, X, @_jwhittall, 21 July 2025, https://x.com/_jwhittall/status/1947405012541575478.

¹⁷⁹ Philippe Lazzarini, X, @UNLazzarini, 22 July 2025, <https://x.com/unlazzarini/status/1947717973948424626?s=48&t=ccWRJzS530FIzJwwxUAeMg>.

¹⁸⁰ Noon briefing by Ross Smith, WFP Emergency Director, X, @UN_Spokesperson, 22 July 2025, https://x.com/WFP_Media/status/1947701110904430827.

147. On the same day, OCHA reported that “Available data from FSS [Food Security System] partners shows a continued deterioration in food insecurity, with a persistent risk of famine. Families generally survive on a single nutritiously poor meal per day, and in some cases, people go entire days without eating. The current volume and pace of deliveries remain critically insufficient to meet the needs of Gaza’s entire population, who are facing deteriorating, prolonged and high levels of acute food insecurity.”¹⁸¹ OCHA also reported on the acute shortage of shelter items due to Israel’s ongoing prevention of their delivery to Gaza: “There are no shelter items available in stock across the Gaza Strip, preventing partners from addressing needs and growing requests for assistance. Since 2 March, no shelter or non-food items have been allowed to enter Gaza through crossing points, leaving partners with no means to replenish depleted stocks.”¹⁸²

148. On 23 July, the Director General of WHO warned of the high risk of widespread starvation in Gaza, since the amount of food that Israel allows to be delivered is “far below what is needed for the survival of the population”:

The 2.1 million people trapped in the war zone that is Gaza are facing yet another killer on top of bombs and bullets: starvation.

We are now witnessing a deadly surge in malnutrition-related deaths.

Since July 17th, severe acute malnutrition centres are full, without sufficient supplies for emergency feeding.¹⁸³

149. On the same date, the former Undersecretary for Humanitarian Affairs, Martin Griffiths, stated that: “There can frankly be very little doubt that we are seeing starvation and hunger as an instrument of the war. There is no prior experience in my five decades of humanitarian experience that can come close to comparison to the horror we are all seeing in Gaza.”

150. OCHA’s Humanitarian Situation Update of 23 July presented details on the “dangerously imbalanced, nutrient-deficient diets”, which are insufficient to “address acute

¹⁸¹ OCHA, Gaza Humanitarian Response Update | 6 – 19 July 2025, 22 July 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/gaza-humanitarian-response-update-6-19-july-2025>.

¹⁸² *Ibid.*

¹⁸³ Opening Remarks by Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, at the media briefing, 23 July 2025, <https://www.who.int/news-room/speeches/item/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-23-july-2025>.

levels of food insecurity and basic needs essential for the survival of the civilian population” of Gaza. In particular, according to “the most recent market monitoring and food security analysis”:

Dairy products no longer form part of people’s diets, dropping from an average consumption of four days per week prior in October 2023. Vegetable consumption also dropped dramatically to just half-a-day a week, compared with six days pre-October 2023, and fruit intake is almost absent. Protein sources, such as meat, poultry and eggs – which were previously consumed three days per week – have completely disappeared from household diets.¹⁸⁴

151. As a result, malnutrition increased significantly. Among children under five years old, for example, it increased to 9%, from 6% in June and 2.4% in February (during the ceasefire). In Gaza City, the malnutrition rate for children reached 16%, compared with 4% in February.¹⁸⁵

152. OCHA also reported on the effects of the Israeli military’s most recent displacement orders requiring the evacuation of over 25,000 more Palestinian civilians “with no safe place to go”:

Between 16 and 23 July, the Israeli military issued three displacement orders for parts of North Gaza, Gaza and Deir al Balah governorates, covering 10.5 square kilometres. Since 18 March, the Israeli military has issued displacement orders for 303.2 square kilometres (83 per cent of the Gaza Strip). According to the Site Management Cluster (SMC), more than 762,500 Palestinians in Gaza were newly displaced between 18 March and 22 July. This includes over 25,000 people displaced between 15 and 22 July. With no safe place to go, many people have sought refuge in overcrowded displacement sites, makeshift shelters, damaged buildings, streets and open areas. People have been confined to ever-shrinking spaces; as of 20 July, around 88 per cent of the Gaza Strip is within Israeli-militarized zones or placed under displacement orders (they largely overlap) since 18 March 2025....

“The latest Israeli displacement orders, followed by intensive attacks, on southwestern Deir El Balah, in the Gaza Strip, have added more misery to the suffering of hungry Palestinians,” stated the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk. “It seemed the nightmare couldn’t possibly get worse. And yet it does,” he said, warning that “Israeli airstrikes and ground operations will invariably lead to further civilian deaths and destruction of civilian infrastructure. Given the concentration of civilians in the area, and the means and methods of warfare employed by Israel until now, the risks of unlawful killings and other serious violations of international humanitarian law are extremely high.” He added that “homes have already been

¹⁸⁴ OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Update #307 | Gaza Strip, 23 July 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-307-gaza-strip>.

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

destroyed, and thousands have been forced to flee the area again. Their only choice is to go to the ever-shrinking areas of Gaza where hundreds of thousands are being forced to gather, rendering difficult any attempt to deliver humanitarian assistance. Even these areas are not safe”.¹⁸⁶

153. The same day, in response to these reports, Israel’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations blamed the United Nations:

When it comes to Israel, the UN standards disappear. At the same time, OCHA ignores that there are 13,000 aid trucks Israel and other partners facilitated into Gaza, counting only UN coordinated aid. Israel will not allow this to continue. I will therefore inform today the [Security] Council of steps that Israel is taking to ensure that what is happening with OCHA will no longer continue....¹⁸⁷

154. The Israeli Foreign Ministry issued a similar statement:

Israel is not preventing the entry of aid trucks or humanitarian shipment into the Gaza. The aid is already across the fence inside the Gaza Strip, ready for distribution, but the UN chooses to slander Israel instead of delivering the food, which now sits idle and rotting. These are the facts.¹⁸⁸

155. The following day, Israel’s Heritage Minister, Amichai Elyahu, published a different message, more candid than that from Israel’s diplomats:

The government is racing ahead for Gaza to be wiped out... Thank God, we are wiping out this evil. We are pushing this population that has been educated on ‘Mein Kampf... There’s no hunger in Gaza... But we don’t need to be concerned with hunger in the Strip. Let the world worry about it.¹⁸⁹

156. On the same day, and in stark contrast, UNICEF’s Regional Director, Edouard Biegbeder, warned that: “Children in the Gaza Strip are starving to death. Severe malnutrition is spreading among children faster than aid can reach them, and the world is watching it happen.... These deaths are unconscionable – and could have been prevented. The UN-led humanitarian response must be allowed to function fully through unfettered aid access to children in need. Without that, we will see a further rise in acute malnutrition. In June, the

¹⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁷ Israel’s Permanent Representative to the UN Danny Danon, Israel on Gaza - Security Council Media Stakeout | United Nations, 23 July 2025,(2:00-2:40), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9USCEJfPLh0>.

¹⁸⁸ Israel Foreign Ministry, X, @IsraelMFA, 23 July 2025, <https://x.com/IsraelMFA/status/1948073004631474448>.

¹⁸⁹ “Far-right minister says Israel pushing to ‘wipe out’ Gaza, will make it Jewish”, *The Times of Israel*, 24 July 2025, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/far-right-minister-says-israel-pushing-to-wipe-out-gaza-will-make-it-jewish/>.

number of children admitted for treatment for malnutrition reached the highest levels since the conflict began, with 6,500 children admitted. July is already tracking higher, with 5,000 children admitted in only two weeks. In Gaza City alone, out of the children screened, the percentage of those detected with acute malnutrition has risen four times from what it was in February.”¹⁹⁰

157. Also on 24 July, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, explained that:

When child malnutrition surges, coping mechanisms fail, access to food and care disappears, famine silently begins to unfold.

Most children our teams are seeing are emaciated, weak and at high risk of dying if they don't get the treatment they urgently need.

More than 100 people, the vast majority of them children, have reportedly died of hunger.

This deepening crisis is affecting everyone, including those trying to save lives in the war-torn enclave.

UNRWA frontline health workers, are surviving on one small meal a day, often just lentils, if at all. They are increasingly fainting from hunger while at work. When caretakers cannot find enough to eat, the entire humanitarian system is collapsing.

Parents are too hungry to care for their children. Those who reach UNRWA clinics don't have the energy, food, or means to follow medical advice.

Families are no longer coping, they are breaking down, unable to survive. Their existence is threatened.¹⁹¹

158. The Executive Director of UNOPS, Jorge Moreira da Silva, reported on 24 July that:

We are not just seeing massive starvation, we are also seeing other consequences due to the lack of fuel. Fuel is now the backbone of survival. And the amounts of fuel that we are being allowed to bring are quite small compared with the needs. Let's put the figures on the table:

Before the war, we were used to bringing one million litres of fuel to Gaza.

¹⁹⁰ Statement by UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa Edouard Beigbeder on the unconscionable deaths of children by starvation in the Gaza Strip, UNICEF, 24 July 2025, <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/statement-unicef-regional-director-middle-east-and-north-africa-edouard-beigbeder-3>.

¹⁹¹ UNRWA, Commissioner-General, Philippe Lazzarini, “One in every five children is malnourished in Gaza City as cases increase every day”, 24 July 2025, <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/unrwa-commissioner-general-gaza-one-every-five-children-malnourished>.

During the ceasefire, we brought even more than one million. Now, we are being allowed only to provide 70,000 litres a day when the needs are on the order of 300,000 just for humanitarian needs.

So you can see that we are bringing just one quarter or one fifth of what is needed. And there are difficult choices that are being made. Shall we provide fuel to the bakeries or to the hospitals? To the water desalination or to the sanitation and sewage? This is the dramatic events that are happening. And there is no reason for that. UNOPS is the agency that used to bring the fuel, to distribute the fuel in partnership with many other UN agencies on the ground. It has worked. We had a plan. It was worked. So there is no reason for what we are seeing now.... We just need to bring the UN back to the field and allow us to do our job.¹⁹²

159. On 25 July, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA addressed the GHF: “The flawed distribution system (GHF) is not designed to address the humanitarian crisis. It’s serving military and political objectives. It’s cruel as it takes more lives than it saves lives.”¹⁹³

160. The Commissioner-General continued:

Israel controls all aspects of humanitarian access, whether outside or within Gaza. Airdrops are the most expensive and inefficient way to deliver aid. It is a distraction to the inaction.

When bureaucratic and political hurdles are lifted, the humanitarian community has demonstrated it can deliver assistance at scale, in a dignified way, without diversion. During the ceasefire fire in earlier this year, we succeeded to reverse the deepening hunger.

Today, UNRWA alone has the equivalent of 6,000 trucks of food and medical assistance stuck in Egypt and Jordan. The unfolding famine can only be reversed by a political will.¹⁹⁴

161. On the same day, the President of the ICRC expressed alarm that: “Children are dying because they do not have enough to eat. Families are being forced to flee again and again in search of safety that does not exist. The ICRC has more than 350 staff on the ground in Gaza, many of whom are also struggling to find enough food and clean water. This tragedy must end now – immediately and decisively. Every political hesitation, every attempt at justification of

¹⁹² Lives are on the line, says UNOPS Chief, BBC, 24 July 2025, (0:04-2:12), <https://x.com/UNOPS/status/1948402470079922249>.

¹⁹³ UNRWA, Commissioner-General, Philippe Lazzarini, “A constructed and deliberate mass starvation”, 25 July 2025, <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/unrwa-commissioner-general-gaza-constructed-and-deliberate-mass-starvation>.

¹⁹⁴ *Ibid.*

the horrors being committed under international watch will forever be judged as a collective failure to preserve humanity in war.”¹⁹⁵

162. On 26 July, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA explained why airdrops of food, recently authorized by Israel and carried out by several concerned States, were insufficient to meaningfully address the “deepening starvation” in Gaza: “[A]irdrops will not reverse the deepening starvation. They are expensive, inefficient and can even kill starving civilians.... Driving aid through is much easier, more effective, faster, cheaper and safer. It’s more dignified for the people of Gaza. Finally, airdrops will not prevent aid diversion, principled humanitarian assistance will. It reaches those in need. The latest USAID report confirms that there is no ‘so called’ systemic diversion of aid provided by the humanitarian community in Gaza.”¹⁹⁶ The way to prevent starvation is to:

Lift the siege, open the gates and guarantee safe movements and dignified access to people in need. Allow the U.N. including UNRWA and our partners to operate at scale and without bureaucratic or political hurdles. At UNRWA, we have the equivalent of 6,000 trucks in Jordan and Egypt waiting for the green light to get into Gaza.¹⁹⁷

163. The USAID report cited by the Commissioner-General concluded that no significant quantities of humanitarian assistance for Gaza funded by the United States government and delivered by partner organizations had been diverted to Hamas. As reported by Reuters: “It examined 156 incidents of theft or loss of U.S.-funded supplies reported by U.S. aid partner organizations between October 2023 and this May [2025]. It found ‘no reports alleging Hamas’ benefited from U.S.-funded supplies.”¹⁹⁸

164. On 27 July, the High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed exasperation that: “When we think it can’t get worse, it gets worse. Children are starving and dying in front of our eyes. Gaza is a dystopian landscape of deadly attacks and total destruction. Chaotic, militarized distribution centres ... are failing utterly to deliver humanitarian aid at the scope

¹⁹⁵ ICRC, President, Mirjana Spoljaric, “ICRC president calls for urgent collective action by states to end abhorrent suffering in Gaza”, 25 July 2025, <https://www.icrc.org/en/statement/israel-and-occupied-territories-icrc-president-calls-urgent-collective-action-states-end-suffering>.

¹⁹⁶ UNRWA, Commissioner-General, Philippe Lazzarini, “Airdrops will not reverse the deepening starvation”, 26 July 2025, <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/unrwa-commissioner-general-gaza-airdrops-will-not-reverse-deepening>.

¹⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁸ “Exclusive: USAID analysis found no evidence of massive Hamas theft of Gaza aid”, *Reuters*, 25 July 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/usaaid-analysis-found-no-evidence-massive-hamas-theft-gaza-aid-2025-07-25/>.

and scale needed. More than one thousand people have been killed since the end of May as they tried to get food.”¹⁹⁹

165. On 28 July, the Israeli Prime Minister denied that there was any starvation, or policy of starvation, in Gaza: “Israel is presented as though we are applying a campaign of starvation in Gaza. What a bold-faced lie. There is no policy of starvation in Gaza and there is no starvation in Gaza. We allowed humanitarian aid throughout the duration of the war to enter into Gaza, otherwise there would be no Gazans.”²⁰⁰

166. The Israeli Prime Minister’s remarks were echoed the following day by Israel’s Permanent Representative to the UN, who accused Hamas and the United Nations of perpetrating a false campaign of lies against Israel: “The only starvation in Gaza is the starvation campaign and Hamas is behind it and the UN is behind it. I have to admit it was a very successful campaign So, we are dealing with professional liars.”²⁰¹

167. On 29 July, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) Global Initiative issued an alert, advising that the worst-case scenario of famine is currently playing out in the Gaza Strip, amid widespread starvation, malnutrition and disease, mass displacement, severely restricted humanitarian access, and the collapse of essential services, including health care. The IPC reported that, according to the most recent data, famine thresholds have been reached for food consumption in most of the Gaza Strip and for acute malnutrition in Gaza city. According to the IPC: “Mounting evidence shows that widespread starvation, malnutrition, and disease are driving a rise in hunger-related deaths. Latest data indicated that Famine thresholds have been reached for food consumption in most of the Gaza Strip and for acute malnutrition in Gaza City.”²⁰²

¹⁹⁹ OHCHR, High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk, “Türk calls for pressure on Israeli Government to end carnage in Gaza”, 27 July 2025, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/07/turk-calls-pressure-israeli-government-end-carnage-gaza>.

²⁰⁰ “‘I don’t know’: Trump appears to contradict Netanyahu about Gaza starvation crisis”, *ABC News*, 28 July 2025, <https://abcnews.go.com/US/malnutrition-deaths-gaza-hamas-health-ministry/story?id=124128635>.

²⁰¹ Israeli ambassador denies there is starvation in Gaza, *Sky News*, 29 July 2025, (8:10-9:46), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VKYJI83FPbo>.

²⁰² Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), *IPC ALERT: Worst-case scenario of Famine unfolding in the Gaza Strip*, 29 July 2025, https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_GazaStrip_Alert_July2025.pdf.

168. The IPC explained:

Malnutrition has been rising rapidly in the first half of July and has reached the Famine threshold in Gaza City. Over 20,000 children have been admitted for treatment for acute malnutrition between April and mid-July, with more than 3,000 severely malnourished. Hospitals have reported a rapid increase in hunger-related deaths of children under five years of age, with at least 16 reported deaths since 17 July.

Immediate action must be taken to alleviate the catastrophic suffering of people in Gaza. This includes scaling up the flow of goods, restoring basic services, and ensuring safe, unimpeded access to sufficient life-saving assistance.”²⁰³

169. The IPC found that:

Humanitarian aid remains extremely restricted due to requests for humanitarian access being repeatedly denied and frequent security incidents. Despite the easing of the blockade on 19 May, only a trickle of humanitarian assistance, mainly food, has entered the Gaza Strip. Bakeries remain closed, and community kitchens—though operational—are vastly inadequate to meet the scale of needs... food consumption has sharply deteriorated, with one in three individuals going without food for days at a time. Between May and July 2025, the proportion of households experiencing extreme hunger has doubled. The food consumption threshold for Famine (IPC AFI Phase 5) has already been passed for most areas of the Gaza Strip.²⁰⁴

170. The IPC also found that Israel’s own food delivery system through the GHF, which began operating on 27 May, was “highly inadequate, and our analysis of the food packages supplied by the GHF shows that their distribution plan would lead to mass starvation, even if it was able to function without the appalling levels of violence that have been reported. The fact that people continue to risk being shot or caught in stampedes at distribution sites indicates the extremely desperate level of hunger that the population is experiencing.”²⁰⁵The IPC elaborated:

Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) claims to have distributed over 89 million meals from four distribution sites, primarily in militarised zones along the Khan Younis–Rafah border—where less than a quarter of the population is located. However, most of the food items are not ready-to-eat and require water and fuel to cook, which are largely unavailable. Reaching these distribution points requires long, high-risk journeys, with unequal access across governorates. Operating on a first-come, first-served basis, the most vulnerable groups are largely unable to access this food....

Reports of civilians being killed while queuing at clinics or food distribution points are increasingly concerning. Between 27 May and 21 July, over 1,000 people were killed

²⁰³ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁵ *Ibid.*

while trying to access food, the majority of whom were near militarised food Secure Distribution Sites (SDS)....²⁰⁶

171. Secretary-General Guterres reacted to the IPC report the same day it was issued: “The latest @theIPCinfo alert confirms what we have feared: Gaza is on the brink of famine. The facts are in — and they are undeniable. Palestinians in Gaza are enduring a humanitarian catastrophe of epic proportions. This is not a warning. It is a reality unfolding before our eyes. The trickle of aid must become an ocean. Food, water, medicine, and fuel must flow in waves and without obstruction. This nightmare must end. Ending this worst-case scenario will take the best efforts of all parties – now.”²⁰⁷

172. UNICEF highlighted that: “As of July 2025, more than 320,000 children — Gaza’s entire under-5 population — are at risk of acute malnutrition, with thousands suffering from severe acute malnutrition, the deadliest form of undernutrition. Essential nutrition services have collapsed, with infants lacking access to safe water, breastmilk substitutes and therapeutic feeding.”²⁰⁸

173. The Commissioner-General of UNRWA, citing the IPC alert, called this: “An entirely man-made famine.”²⁰⁹ The Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs held “the Israeli government” responsible, for “closing the border...demanding that we fill out enormous amounts of paperwork, who deny us permits and visas when we need to deliver the aid.” He continued: “they are deliberately stopping doctors bringing baby formula in which can only have one purpose.”²¹⁰

²⁰⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁷ UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, @antonioguterres, 29 July 2025, <https://x.com/antonioguterres/status/1950201969290694991>.

²⁰⁸ UNICEF, Children are dying as famine conditions deepen in Gaza, 29 July 2025, <https://www.unicefusa.org/stories/children-are-dying-famine-conditions-deepen-gaza>.

²⁰⁹ UNRWA, Commissioner-General, Philippe Lazzarini, “The worst case scenario in famine is now happening in Gaza”, 29 July 2025, <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/unrwa-commissioner-general-gaza-worst-case-scenario-famine-now-happening-Gaza>.

²¹⁰ UN’s Tom Fletcher discuss aid being blocked to Gaza, Piers Morgan Uncensored, 29 July 2025, (5:28-13:00), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WvM7Pj4LCx8&t=218s>.

174. Médecins Sans Frontières stated: “Israeli authorities’ deliberate use of starvation as a weapon in Gaza has reached unprecedented levels, with patients and healthcare workers themselves now fighting to survive.”²¹¹

175. On 30 July, OCHA’s Humanitarian Situation Update reported: “Based on the findings of the IPC Alert, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), WFP and the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) warned that time is running out to mount a full-scale humanitarian response in Gaza, with more than 500,000 people enduring famine-like conditions, the remaining population facing emergency levels of hunger, and fewer than 15 per cent of essential nutrition treatment services currently functional. As of July 2025, over 320,000 children, the entire population under five years of age in the Gaza Strip, are at risk of acute malnutrition, with thousands suffering from severe acute malnutrition, the deadliest form of undernutrition. The agencies added that acute malnutrition and reports of starvation-related deaths – the third core famine indicator – are increasingly common but collecting robust data under current circumstances in Gaza remains very difficult.”²¹²

176. The OCHA report provided these solemn statistics: “[A]cute malnutrition rates doubled in Khan Younis and increased by 70 per cent in Deir al Balah between May and July and, in Gaza city, the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate soared from 4.4 per cent in May to an alarming 16.5 per cent in the first half of July, thereby reaching the Famine threshold for acute malnutrition.” OCHA further reported: “UN Women stated that one million ‘women and girls in Gaza are facing mass starvation, violence and abuse. Malnutrition is soaring and essential services have long collapsed, forcing women and girls to adopt increasingly dangerous survival strategies’.”²¹³

177. Also on 30 July, the Executive Director of UNOPS, commented on the insufficiency of the “improvements from the last three days,” since 27 July, when Israeli Prime Minister

²¹¹ Médecins Sans Frontières, MSF finds one in four young children and pregnant women malnourished as Israel’s policy of starvation continues, 29 July 2025, <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.ca/palestine-msf-finds-one-in-four-young-children-and-pregnant-women-malnourished-as-israels-policy-of-starvation-continues/>.

²¹² UN OCHA, *Humanitarian Situation Update #306 | Gaza Strip*, OCHA, 30 July 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-309-gaza-strip>.

²¹³ *Ibid.*

Netanyahu announced that there would be brief “humanitarian pauses” of Israeli military operations in certain locations to enable deliveries to the civilian population:²¹⁴

The improvements from the last three days are improvements, but are a small, small fraction of what the people need. In the last three days, only 400 trucks managed to be offloaded in Gaza. This is, on average, maybe 130 trucks a day. This is a small fraction on fuel, for instance, on fuel, which is procured and distributed by UNOPS. We were able in the last three days to provide, on average, 140,000 liters, in some days 100,000, when the basic needs is 300,000. And what we’re used to bring during the ceasefire and before the war was 1 million. So you can compare 1 million liters per day with 100,000 liters. So obviously, we need to scale up our efforts, because what we are being put is into the worst scenario, which is choosing between bringing the fuel to hospitals or to the bakeries, bringing the fuel to the desalinization to produce water or to the sewage systems, bringing the fuel to the waste collection systems, or bringing the fuel to the ambulances.²¹⁵

178. The only viable solution to the problem, according to UNOPS, is to return to the delivery and distribution system, managed by the United Nations and its partner organizations, before and during the ceasefire of January-February 2025:

We just need to bring the UN back. With the UN, nothing that we are witnessing was happening...we managed in a very short notice to approve all aid, to distribute the aid, to bring the aid to the people. You haven’t seen when the UN was in charge, people being forced or displaced to get food. You have not seen when the UN was in charge, people getting killed queuing for food. You have not seen chaos....

What is happening is unacceptable, is unprecedented, is tragic, it’s catastrophic, but it’s a matter of political will. Nothing of this was inevitable. It was avoidable. And this chaos, this tragic situation is reversible.²¹⁶

179. UNOPS emphatically rejected the unsupported Israeli allegation that under the prior delivery and distribution system significant quantities of food and other supplies were diverted to Hamas:

The UN has managed to bring the aid directly to the people. That’s the advantage of using UN and its capillary and granular capacity to provide aid. And we also put in place a system, a monitoring, tracking system to ensure transparency and accountability. If you go to the website, you will see the number of trucks, the number of consignments, the number of consignments that were approved and rejected. And this was recognized both by Palestinians and by Israelis. So there was no reason to

²¹⁴ “Israel announces daily pauses in Gaza fighting as aid airdrops begin”, *Reuters*, 27 July 2025, <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israel-announces-daily-pauses-gaza-fighting-aid-airdrops-begin-2025-07-27/>.

²¹⁵ This is avoidable catastrophe, UNOPS Chief, DW News, (0:53-2:20), <https://x.com/UNOPS/status/1950632112165400801>.

²¹⁶ *Ibid.* (2:58-4:00).

replace a system that was functioning. system that was functioning, that was transparent, with all accountability, by an opaque, militarized, privatized system that just generated chaos. So, the idea of diversion of aid, it doesn't match the facts that UN was providing. Before we were replaced, there were hundreds of points of distribution. We were bringing the distribution directly to the people. Now the distribution is done in two, three, four places, with looting, with massive displacement. So, it's chaotic, and this chaos was totally avoidable.²¹⁷

180. On the same date, UNICEF addressed the catastrophic shortage of water in the Gaza Strip resulting from Israel's ongoing restrictions on the supply of water, calling it a "man-made drought" that has contributed to a "complete perfect storm of suffering for children":

We're at the brink of a man-made drought...Children are dehydrated. They are reverting to contaminated water, which will make them sick, with deadly diseases or diarrhea outbreaks and in some cases, even meningitis ... It is a complete perfect storm of suffering for children.²¹⁸

181. On 31 July, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights reported on ongoing killings of Palestinian civilians by the Israeli military at GHF food distribution sites, including 105 deaths and at least 680 injuries during the two-day period from 30 to 31 July, which brought the total number of civilians killed at these sites since they began operations on 27 May to 1,373:

Shooting and shelling of Palestinians by the Israeli military have continued along the routes of food convoys and in the vicinity of the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) sites, despite the Israeli army's announcement on 27 July that it would pause military actions in western areas from Gaza City to Al Mawasi during certain hours "to improve humanitarian responses".

Between 30 and 31 July, 105 Palestinians were reportedly killed. At least 680 were injured along the convoy routes in the Zikim area, in North Gaza, and the Morage area in southern Khan Younis, as well as in the vicinity of the GHF sites in Middle Gaza and Rafah.

In total, since 27 May, at least 1,373 Palestinians have been killed while seeking food; 859 in the vicinity of the GHF sites and 514 along the routes of food convoys. Most of these killings were committed by the Israeli military. While we are aware of the presence of other armed elements in the same areas, we do not have information indicating their involvement in these killings.²¹⁹

²¹⁷ *Ibid.* (4:40-6:00).

²¹⁸ "Gaza Children starving despite Israeli 'tactical pauses'", UN News, 30 July 2025, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/07/1165532>.

²¹⁹ OHCHR, Killings of Palestinians seeking food in Gaza continue as starvation deepens, 31 July 2025, <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/ohchr-killings-of-palestinians-seeking-food-in-gaza-continue-as-starvation-deepens-press-release/>.

182. The OHCHR concluded that: “This humanitarian catastrophe is human-made. It is a direct result of policies imposed by Israel that have severely reduced the amount of life-saving assistance in the Gaza Strip.”²²⁰

183. The situation at the end of July was summarized thusly by the Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Assistance: “Gaza is starving.” He continued:

We want to believe sustained international pressure will allow us to save as many lives as possible in Gaza. But so far we’re not seeing the scale of change we need.

We are facing massive bureaucratic impediments on both sides of the border. Impossible conditions to get aid through.²²¹

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184. On 1 August, Human Rights Watch, reporting on the situation in Gaza, concluded that: “The dire humanitarian situation is a direct result of Israel’s use of starvation of civilians as a weapon of war—a war crime—as well as Israel’s continued intentional deprivation of aid and basic services, ongoing actions that amount to the crime against humanity of extermination, and acts of genocide.”²²²

185. Also on 1 August, UNICEF’s Deputy Director reported that: “Gaza now faces a grave risk of famine. This is something that has been building up, but we now have two indicators that have exceeded the famine threshold. One in three people in Gaza are going days without food, and the malnutrition indicator has exceeded the famine threshold, with global acute malnutrition now at over 16.5 per cent [in Gaza City]. Today, more than 320,000 young children are at risk of acute malnutrition.” He warned: “We are at a crossroads. The choices made now will determine whether tens of thousands of children live or die. We know what must be done and what can be done.”²²³

²²⁰ *Ibid.*

²²¹ As starvation grips Gaza, the aid getting in is not yet enough, UN Relief Chief, CNN, (1:00-2:00), As starvation grips Gaza, the aid getting in is not yet enough.

²²² Human Rights Watch, Gaza: Israeli killings of Palestinians seeking food are war crimes, 1 August 2025, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/08/01/gaza-israeli-killings-of-palestinians-seeking-food-are-war-crimes>.

²²³ UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Ted Chaiban’s remarks following his recent travel to Israel, Gaza and the West Bank, 1 August 2025, <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/unicef-deputy-executive-director-ted-chaibans-remarks-following-his-recent-travel>.

186. On the same day, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA explained what must and can be done:

UNRWA the largest UN agency on the ground, has 6,000 trucks loaded with aid stuck outside Gaza waiting for the green light to enter. The UN including UNRWA and partners were able to bring in 500 to 600 trucks a day during the ceasefire earlier this year.

Aid reached the entire population of Gaza in safety and dignity. It succeeded to reverse the deepening starvation without any aid diversion. No alternative to the UN coordinated response with UNRWA as the backbone had provided similar results. Let's go back to what works and let us do our job. This is what people in Gaza need today more than ever together with a lasting ceasefire.²²⁴

187. The Commissioner-General explained why the airdrops of supplies authorized by the Israeli government were no more than a drop in the bucket, and entirely insufficient as a means of preventing starvation in Gaza, emphasizing the absolute necessity for Israel to open the road crossings:

Airdrops are at least 100 times more costly than trucks. Trucks carry twice as much aid as planes.

If there is a political will to allow airdrops...there should be similar will to open road crossings. As the people of Gaza are starving to death, the only way to respond to the famine is to flood Gaza with assistance.²²⁵

188. On 2 August, the Commissioner-General explained how and why the catastrophic situation in Gaza developed:

The manmade famine in Gaza has been largely shaped by the deliberate attempts to replace the UN coordinated humanitarian system through the politically motivated "GHF". It is a so called "aid system" responsible for the killing of nearly 1,400 starving people.

All has been further deepened by preventing UNRWA, the backbone of humanitarian response, to bring in any assistance to Gaza for five months now (since 2 March).

Sidelining and weakening UNRWA has nothing to do with claims of aid diversion to armed groups.

It is a deliberate measure to collectively pressure and punish Palestinians for living in Gaza. No time to waste anymore, a political decision must be made to unconditionally

²²⁴ UNRWA, Commissioner-General, Philippe Lazzarini, "Airdrops are at least 100 times more costly than trucks", 1 August 2025, <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/unrwa-commissioner-general-gaza-airdrops-are-least-100-times-more-costly-than-trucks>.

²²⁵ *Ibid.*

open the crossings. UNRWA has the experience, staff and resources to contribute full scale and reverse the famine.²²⁶

189. On 3 August, OCHA's Director for the Occupied Palestinian Territory addressed his departure following the Israeli's government's refusal to extend his visa:

After I held a press briefing in Gaza on 22 June in which I described how starving civilians were being shot while trying to reach food – what I called “conditions created to kill” – the Israeli minister of foreign affairs announced in a post on X that my visa would not be renewed. The Israeli permanent representative to the UN followed up at the security council announcing that I would be expected to leave by 29 July....²²⁷

190. He then provided his assessment of the ongoing situation in Gaza:

[D]espite all our warnings – we are still witnessing starvation, insufficient access to water, a sanitation crisis and a crumbling health system against a backdrop of ongoing violence that is resulting in scores of Palestinians being killed daily, including children....

I have seen first-hand what appears to be the systematic dismantling of the means to sustain Palestinian life. What is unfolding is not complicated. It is not inevitable. It is the result of deliberate political choices by those who create these conditions and those who enable them

Israeli authorities accuse us of being the problem. They say we are failing to collect goods from the crossings. We aren't failing, we are being obstructed.

191. On 4 August, the High Commissioner for Human Rights confirmed that:

“Israel continues to restrict severely humanitarian assistance from entering Gaza, and the aid that is permitted to enter is nowhere near what is needed. Israel must immediately allow and facilitate rapid and unimpeded passage of sufficient amounts of humanitarian relief for civilians in need to avert further unnecessary suffering and loss of life. Denying civilians access to food may amount to a war crime, as well as potentially a crime against humanity.”²²⁸

192. On the same day, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu repeated the charge that Hamas has been stealing the food intended for Palestinian civilians in Gaza, and he explained the

²²⁶ UNRWA, Commissioner-General, Philippe Lazzarini, “A so-called ‘aid system’ responsible for the killing of nearly 1,400 starving people”, 2 August 2025, <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/unrwa-commissioner-general-gaza-so-called-aid-system>.

²²⁷ “I saw many atrocities as a senior aid official in Gaza. Now Israeli authorities are trying to silence us”, Jonathan Whittall, *The Guardian*, 3 August 2025, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/aug/03/gaza-aid-israel-authorities-hospitals>.

²²⁸ OHCHR, Türk calls for end to starvation of civilians and humiliation of hostages in Gaza, 4 August 2025, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2025/08/turk-calls-end-starvation-civilians-and-humiliation-hostages-gaza>.

airdropping supplies as a means “to go around it”: “[I]n the last few months, this humanitarian aid has been interdicted by Hamas looting. They steal the food from their own people. But in the last few months, that food has not been reaching Palestinian civilians because Hamas is stealing it, so we’ve decided to go around it. I have authorized the Israeli Air Force to airdrop humanitarian food and medical supplies to Palestinian civilians. We invited many countries to join these airdrops and many have. We also designated safe corridors through which trucks can travel without being looted by Hamas, or endangered by combat activity.”²²⁹ No evidence was supplied to demonstrate that material quantities of food delivered to Gaza were looted or stolen by Hamas, or to demonstrate that the airdrops delivered sufficient quantities of food to prevent starvation.

193. On 5 August, OCHA reported that “starvation” is “on the rise” and that “the volumes of supplies that are entering Gaza remain insufficient to meet people’s needs. The UN and its humanitarian partners also continue to face many impediments preventing them from bringing in aid at scale and distributing it to communities.”²³⁰

194. On the same day, the Assistant Secretary General Miroslav Jenca confirmed that: “Israel continues to severely restrict humanitarian assistance entering Gaza, and the aid that is permitted to enter is grossly inadequate. Hunger is everywhere in Gaza, visible in the faces of children and in the desperation of parents risking their lives to access the most basic supplies.”²³¹

195. Also on 5 August, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA underscored that: “Five months on the ongoing attempts to replace the UN coordinated response by four Israeli militarized distribution points, hunger has become the latest killer in Gaza. It’s time for unhindered, safe and dignified assistance. Let the UN and our partners do their job.”²³²

²²⁹ Benjamin Netanyahu, x, 4 August 2025, <https://x.com/netanyahu/status/1952419555852116093>.

²³⁰ OCHA, Supplies entering Gaza not enough to meet people’s needs, 5 August 2025, <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/ocha-supplies-entering-gaza-not-enough-to-meet-peoples-needs/>.

²³¹ Statement by ASG Miroslav Jenča on the Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question, 5 August 2025, <https://dppa.un.org/en/mtg-sc-9972-asg-jenca-5-aug-2025>.

²³² UNRWA, Commissioner-General, Philippe Lazzarini, “Hunger has become the latest killer in Gaza”, 5 August 2025, <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/official-statements/unrwa-commissioner-general-gaza-hunger-has-become-latest-killer-gaza>.

196. On 6 August, the WFP's Executive Director responded to Prime Minister Netanyahu's emphasis on airdrops as the solution to the food shortage in Gaza, emphasizing that "500,000 people are starving TODAY... "We can't airdrop our way out of an unfolding famine. Not in Gaza. 500,000 people are starving TODAY. The only way to get food to them, at scale, is by land. We're grateful for the support, but we can't afford to wait—Gaza is out of food and out of time."²³³

197. Also on 6 August, OCHA reported that: "Food consumption across the Gaza Strip has reached its lowest level since the onset of the conflict. The situation has worsened dramatically, with 81 per cent of households reporting poor food consumption (up from 33 per cent in April) and 24 per cent of households are experiencing very severe hunger in July compared with four per cent in April, crossing the Famine threshold for food consumption." Malnutrition among children was also "severe":

Severe food poverty among children (consumption of two or fewer food groups by infants and young children) deteriorated from 58.3 per cent in February to 94 per cent in June. Moreover, acute malnutrition rates doubled in Khan Younis and increased by 70 per cent in Deir al Balah between May and July and, in Gaza city, the Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate soared from 4.4 per cent in May to an alarming 16.5 per cent in the first half of July, thereby reaching the Famine threshold for acute malnutrition.²³⁴

198. In further regard to children, OCHA continued:

July figures reflect a collapse in the malnutrition prevention programme. The distribution of other prevention supplies to children and pregnant and breastfeeding women and the number of children reached with complementary food have also declined. Overall, the volume of nutrition supplies entering Gaza remains insufficient to prevent further deterioration in the nutritional situation.²³⁵

199. OCHA also reported on extreme shortages of essential fuel and shelter items in Gaza due to Israel's ongoing restrictions on delivery of the former and prohibition of the latter:

While limited quantities of fuel have been entering Gaza over the past week, fuel supplies remain critically limited and unpredictable, significantly undermining the ability of humanitarian partners to deliver and sustain lifesaving services, particularly those related to water production and distribution.

²³³ Cindy McCain, *X*, 6 August 2025, <https://x.com/WFPChief/status/1953200085036405009>.

²³⁴ UN OCHA, Gaza Humanitarian Response 20 July-2 August, 6 August 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/gaza-humanitarian-response-update-20-july-2-august-2025>.

²³⁵ *Ibid.*

This severe shortfall has had a direct and widespread impact on water availability across Gaza, restricting both production and delivery capacity. For example, production from groundwater wells has dropped by 70 per cent compared with the ceasefire period when fuel was more readily available. Moreover, the situation has been especially acute in northern Gaz , where additional fuel has been urgently required to operate water wells and compensate for the disruption caused by damage to the Al Muntar water pipeline from Israel, which remained out of service from 20 July to 4 August, causing a loss of 20,000 cubic metres per day.

While more than one million shelter items, including tents, tarps and sealing-off materials, and 2.3 million non-food items (NFIs) have been procured and are now stranded in Jordan and Egypt, Israeli authorities have not allowed the entry of any shelter materials since 2 March 2025 and previous shelter stocks have been fully depleted. As a result, the shelter crisis in Gaza continues to deteriorate, with most families living in severely overcrowded, unsafe, and undignified conditions and some living without any form of shelter.²³⁶

200. OCHA reported that the “humanitarian pauses” promised by Prime Minister Netanyahu on 27 July did not improve the delivery of food and other essentials to civilians in Gaza: “Despite the announced tactical pause in military activity by Israeli authorities in three areas of Gaza (Al-Mawasi, Deir al Balah and Gaza City) since 27 July, there has been no effective improvement in security conditions.” These deliveries continued to be obstructed by Israel:

Since the very limited resumption of aid movement from Egypt on 13 July, Israeli authorities have introduced customs clearance for humanitarian cargo transported from Egypt. This has presented additional bureaucratic hurdles, delays, and costs for humanitarian organizations. The requirement was only lifted for one week.

Israeli authorities continue to impose severe limitations on the type of cargo permitted for entry and the number of organizations authorized to move cargo to Gaza. Only eight organizations have been able to manifest cargo. Thus, humanitarian partners have paused the internal cargo prioritization process, so that all cargo currently permitted for entry by Israeli authorities (health, nutrition, food, water treatment and hygiene supplies) can be manifested for Israeli authorities’ approval.²³⁷

201. Nevertheless, on 7 August, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa’ar claimed that: “Israel is facilitating huge amounts of aid into Gaza. No other country acts this way in war under such difficult circumstances.”²³⁸

²³⁶ *Ibid.*

²³⁷ *Ibid.*

²³⁸ Danny Danon and Gideon Saar (Israel) on the situation in Palestine , Security Council Media Stakeout, (2:00-2:15), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpTjkyeq0GY>.

202. The following day, the WFP described the reality in Gaza, and cited the need to “push back escalating starvation”:

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) continues to bring convoys of food aid into Gaza virtually every day but dire operating conditions prevent the delivery of life-saving supplies at the scale needed to push back escalating starvation.²³⁹

203. The “dire operating conditions” imposed by Israel included the following:

Despite written assurances from Israeli authorities, WFP is forced to travel along the same routes inside Gaza that present high risk for staff and drivers.

Convoy movements are frequently hampered by last-minute changes by Israeli authorities, and heavy insecurity due to military activities along convoy routes.

Convoys are consistently delayed many hours before receiving final permissions to move into Gaza – with large crowds of hungry people gathering along known routes to intercept aid trucks.

WFP continues to face problems replenishing the stocks at border crossing points. Since July 27, 266 WFP trucks arriving at crossing points were turned back, 31 percent of which had initially been approved.

Only two border crossing points have been cleared for WFP use.

So far, only 60 truck drivers have been vetted and approved by authorities to transport food assistance inside Gaza. More are urgently needed.²⁴⁰

204. On 9 August, a Joint Statement on Gaza was issued by Australia, Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, the United Kingdom and the High Representative of the European Union, in recognition, especially, that “the worst-case scenario of a famine is unfolding in Gaza.” The signatories “affirm[ed] that the “declared course of action by Israel constitutes a continuation of its grave violations, including killing and starvation, attempts at forced displacement and annexation of Palestinian land, settler terrorism, which are crimes that may amount to crimes against humanity.”²⁴¹

²³⁹ WFP, WFP food convoys keep moving into Gaza as starvation drives lawlessness, leaving the most vulnerable without food, 8 August 2025, <https://www.wfp.org/news/wfp-food-convoys-keep-moving-gaza-starvation-drives-lawlessness-leaving-most-vulnerable>.

²⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁴¹ Joint Statement on Gaza, Foreign Ministers of Australia, Austria, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Norway, the United Kingdom, and the High Representative of the European Union, 9 August 2025, <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/newsroom/news/2729822-2729822>.

205. The signatories called for: “The immediate and comprehensive cessation of the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip, and an end to the ongoing violations committed by the occupying forces against civilians and civilian infrastructure in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem.” And they “demand[ed] that Israel, as the occupying power, immediately and unconditionally allow the entry of humanitarian assistance at scale into the Gaza Strip — including food, medicine, and fuel — and ensure the freedom of operation of relief agencies and international humanitarian organizations, in accordance with international humanitarian law and its applicable principles.”²⁴²

206. Also on 9 August, another Joint Statement to the same effect was signed by representatives of the following States at the Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit on Gaza. The signatories were Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt, Indonesia, Jordan, Nigeria, Palestine, Qatar, Türkiye, Bangladesh, Chad, Djibouti, The Gambia, Kuwait, Libya, Malaysia, Mauritania, Oman, Pakistan, Somalia, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, the League of Arab States and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. The statement included the same demands as the Joint Statement issued by 23 western States, for: “The immediate and comprehensive cessation of the Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip, and an end to the ongoing violations committed by the occupying forces against civilians and civilian infrastructure in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem”; and “that Israel, as the occupying power, immediately and unconditionally allow the entry of humanitarian assistance at scale into the Gaza Strip — including food, medicine, and fuel — and ensure the freedom of operation of relief agencies and international humanitarian organizations, in accordance with international humanitarian law and its applicable principles.”²⁴³

207. On the same date, the Food and Agricultural Organization reported that, after the Israeli bombing of farms and pastures, and the displacement of the population away from cultivated areas, there is almost no land in the Gaza Strip available to produce food of any kind, contributing to the “catastrophic food security conditions across Gaza”:

98.5 percent of cropland in the Gaza Strip is either damaged, inaccessible, or both. This means that only 1.5 percent of cropland in Gaza – 232 hectares – is currently available for cultivation, down from 4.6 percent (688 hectares) as of April 2025, in a territory with over 2 million people. Satellite imagery also indicates that 12.4 percent of

²⁴² *Ibid.*

²⁴³ Joint Statement by the Ministerial Committee Assigned by the Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit on Gaza, 9 August 2025, <https://x.com/KSAMofaEN/status/1954132157548339402>.

cropland, although undamaged, is not accessible due to designated "no go" zones. The combination of this extremely limited cropland availability, the impact of a relentless conflict, severe restrictions on the delivery and distribution of humanitarian assistance, and widespread destruction of critical infrastructure – including irrigation systems, roads, equipment, storage facilities, and markets – has led to catastrophic food security conditions across Gaza. Addressing this crisis requires urgent safe and sustained humanitarian access, as well as immediate investments and support to restore local food production and basic livelihoods.²⁴⁴

208. On 10 August, Denmark, France, Greece, Slovenia and the United Kingdom called for an urgent meeting of the Security Council on Gaza. They issued a joint statement “condemn[ing] the Government of Israel’s decision to further expand its military operations in Gaza,” which they said “risks violating international humanitarian law. We call on Israel urgently to reverse this decision and not to implement it.” In respect of the situation faced by the civilian population of Gaza, the five States emphasized the “famine that is unfolding” and the fact that “Children are dying of starvation.” Their statement continued:

Hunger is so severe that desperate civilians are taking the risk of getting killed at aid distribution sites in order to feed their families.

This is a manmade crisis, and therefore urgent action is needed to halt starvation and to surge aid into Gaza.²⁴⁵

209. Such urgent action, they agreed, must be taken by Israel:

We have a clear message for Israel: lift restrictions on aid delivery to allow the UN and established humanitarian partners to operate safely and at scale, in line with the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence.

It is also vital that international NGOs can operate in Gaza. Israel’s unreasonable visa and registration requirements must be removed and all land routes opened for essential supplies, including food, baby formula, medicine, fuel and clean water.²⁴⁶

210. On 11 August, a Joint Statement was issued by 28 aid partners on Gaza, and signed by the Foreign Ministers of Andorra, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania,

²⁴⁴ FAO, Gaza Strip: 98.5 percent of cropland unavailable for cultivation as famine looms, 9 August 2025, <https://www.fao.org/newsroom/detail/gaza-strip--98.5-percent-of-cropland-unavailable-for-cultivation-as-famine-looms/en>.

²⁴⁵ Denmark, France, Greece, Slovenia and the United Kingdom, Joint statement on the Government of Israel’s decision to further expand its military operations in Gaza, 10 August 2025, <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/israel-palestinian-territories/news/2025/article/we-condemn-the-government-of-israel-s-decision-to-further-expand-its-military>.

²⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. It called urgent attention to the fact that: “The humanitarian suffering in Gaza has reached unimaginable levels. Famine is unfolding before our eyes. Urgent action is needed now to halt and reverse starvation.” However, the Joint Statement continued: “due to restrictive new registration requirements, essential international NGOs may be forced to leave the OPTs imminently which would worsen the humanitarian situation still further.” Accordingly:

We call on the government of Israel to provide authorization for all international NGO aid shipments and to unblock essential humanitarian actors from operating. Immediate, permanent and concrete steps must be taken to facilitate safe, large-scale access for the UN, international NGOs and humanitarian partners. All crossings and routes must be used to allow a flood of aid into Gaza, including food, nutrition supplies, shelter, fuel, clean water, medicine and medical equipment. Lethal force must not be used at distribution sites, and civilians, humanitarians and medical workers must be protected.²⁴⁷

211. In statements issued on 10 August, OCHA emphasized that: “The suffering endured in Gaza over the past 22 months has been nothing short of soul-searing,” and that “humanitarian conditions are beyond horrific. We have frankly run out of words to describe it.” OCHA continued:

Whatever lifelines remain are collapsing under the weight of sustained hostilities, forced displacement and insufficient levels of life-saving aid.

Hunger-related deaths are rising, especially among children with severe malnutrition. Since the escalation of hostilities in October 2023, the health authorities in Gaza have documented the deaths of 98 children from severe acute malnutrition – 37 alone since 1 July – just over a month ago. So, this is no longer a looming hunger crisis – this is starvation, pure and simple.²⁴⁸

212. OCHA concluded that “this is no longer a hunger crisis – this is starvation, pure and simple. Each day brings harrowing images of men, women and children killed and injured while desperately seeking assistance. The situation is untenable, especially for older people,

²⁴⁷ Joint statement on behalf of 27 partners on aid to Gaza and restrictions facing NGOs, 11 August 2025, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_25_1959.

²⁴⁸ Briefing to the Security Council on Gaza by Ramesh Rajasingham, OCHA Director of Coordination, 10 August 2025, <https://www.unocha.org/news/ocha-urges-security-council-summon-courage-end-inhumanity-gaza>.

people with disabilities, children without prenatal assistance, and widowed women. Gaza lies in ruins.”²⁴⁹

213. In addition to the lack of food, OCHA highlighted the lack of shelter, water, sanitation and medical supplies:

No organization – UN or otherwise – has been able to bring shelter supplies into Gaza since 2 March. The lack of adequate shelter is particularly worrisome, as we know that winter will soon be upon us.

Given the scale of repeated displacement and current living conditions, preventing the entry of emergency shelter supplies defies the obligation to allow humanitarian relief for the population in need. The humanitarian system has effectively collapsed. Hospitals are not protected, doctors have been killed or detained, and facilities are working without sufficient medical supplies.

Water and sanitation infrastructure are failing, and social cohesion is unraveling. How are the people in Gaza expected to survive in these conditions?²⁵⁰

214. OCHA posed this fundamental question: “How are the people in Gaza expected to survive in these conditions?”²⁵¹

215. On 12 August, WFP reported that: “Starvation is looming in Gaza;” and that “Starvation and Malnutrition are at the highest levels since the conflict began.”²⁵²

216. On 13 August, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, responding to the statements signed by 58 States and three international organizations between 9 and 11 August, again blamed Hamas for “the hunger problem,” and claimed that, despite this and due to Israel’s efforts, the “deprivation problem has basically been solved”: spin:

Hamas caused the hunger problem. Hamas caused the shortage problem. And Israel is blamed, again falsely. We are now engaged in a humanitarian surge of offering safe, secure routes for distribution of food.

We’re doubling, perhaps quadrupling the number of distribution points that will be safeguarded, and doing airdrops and invite other countries to join us. As a result, now hundreds of trucks go in daily, and that hunger problem, that deprivation problem has basically been solved.

²⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁵¹ *Ibid.*

²⁵² WFP, X, 12 August 2025, https://x.com/WFP_MENA/status/1955223055048806760.

What has not been solved, what has not stopped, is the campaign of lies.²⁵³

217. On the same date, OCHA’s Humanitarian Situation Update reported that: “Hunger-related deaths are rising, and the Gaza Strip continues to face starvation.” OCHA provided the following details concerning malnutrition among children:

The nutritional status of children in Gaza continues to deteriorate. According to the Nutrition Cluster, almost 13,000 new admissions of children for acute malnutrition treatment were recorded in July. Moreover, the severity of cases continues to grow; in July, over 2,800 cases were found to be suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM) out of approximately 13,000 acute malnutrition cases (22 per cent). The most severe cases of children suffering from SAM with complications, who need to be hospitalized and treated in stabilization centres, have also increased, with 129 cases in July alone compared with 215 cases between January and June.²⁵⁴

218. OCHA also described the consequences of the “inability to bring in lifesaving medicines and medical supplies” due to Israel’s ongoing blockade of these essential items:

This has left health facilities currently managed by UNRWA across the Gaza Strip – including four primary health-care centres, two temporary clinics and many medical points (21 as of 10 August) – with dwindling stocks to provide the needed care and treatment for tens of thousands of patients. At present, 59 per cent of essential medicines (56 out of 95 items) are out of stock at these health facilities, including antihypertensive drugs, oral antibiotics for adults, antiparasitic products, and iron supplements for children, while 12 per cent (11 items) are only available to cover one month of needs.²⁵⁵

219. On 13 August, 108 NGOs reported that:

Instead of clearing the growing backlog of goods, Israeli authorities have rejected requests from dozens of NGOs to bring in lifesaving goods, citing that these organizations are “not authorized to deliver aid.” In July alone, over 60 requests were denied under this justification.

These restrictions are part of a broader strategy that includes the so-called “GHF” scheme – a militarized distribution mechanism promoted as a humanitarian solution. In reality, it is a deadly tool of control, with at least 859 Palestinians killed around “GHF” sites since it began operating

²⁵³ Prime Minister of Israel, X, 13 August 2025, <https://x.com/IsraeliPM/status/1955741172191895949>.

²⁵⁴ OCHA, Humanitarian Situation Update #313 | Gaza Strip, 13 August 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-313-gaza-strip>.

²⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

Both the “GHF” scheme and the INGO registration process aim to block impartial aid, exclude Palestinian actors, and replace trusted humanitarian organizations with mechanisms that serve political and military objectives.²⁵⁶

220. On 14 August, Médecins Sans Frontières confirmed that, contrary to the assurances given by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu the previous day, “most major international non-government organizations (INGOs) have been unable to deliver a single truck of lifesaving supplies since March 2.”²⁵⁷

221. On 15 August, UNRWA reported that it “ran out of food at the end of April” and that “[t]he Agency has not been allowed to bring in any humanitarian assistance including food for 5 months now (since 2 March 2025).” In the circumstances: “With minimal food assistance, people in Gaza, particularly the most vulnerable, keep facing hunger and malnutrition, while having exhausted all coping mechanisms.” Among children, UNRWA reported that “malnutrition has reached 21.5 per cent in Gaza City, meaning nearly one in five young children is now malnourished.” UNRWA also reported on the “devastating consequences” of shortages of medicines and fuel:

Shortages of medicines, fuel and basic infection control materials are having devastating consequences for patient care. Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) patients, including those with diabetes, hypertension and heart disease, are increasingly unable to access their prescribed treatment due to depleted stocks, which will have serious repercussions on their health....

UNRWA warns that without adequate medical supplies, primary healthcare response is undermined, leaving thousands of chronic disease patients and those suffering from communicable illnesses without life-saving support and heightening the risk of a large-scale public health crisis.²⁵⁸

222. Israel’s ban on shelter supplies has also been producing severe health and safety consequences:

With shelter supplies banned from entering Gaza for over five months now, tents are deteriorating and unsuitable for summer and the scorching heat as most of the shelters

²⁵⁶ Joint statement by Non- Governmental Organizations, Gaza joint statement: Israel threatens to ban major aid organisations as starvation deepens, 13 August 2025, <https://www.nrc.no/news/2025/august/gaza-israel-threatens-to-ban-major-aid-organizations-as-starvation-deepens>.

²⁵⁷ Médecins Sans Frontières, “Gaza: Israel threatens to ban major aid organizations as starvation deepens”, 14 August 2025, <https://www.doctorswithoutborders.ca/gaza-israel-threatens-to-ban-major-aid-organizations-as-starvation-deepens/>.

²⁵⁸ UNRWA, UNRWA Situation Report #184 on the Humanitarian Crisis in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, 15 August 2025, <https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/unrwa-situation-report-184-situation-gaza-strip-and-west-bank-including-east-jerusalem>.

have been used for six months to a year and are worn out due to prolonged sun exposure and frequent displacement, as *reported* by the Site management cluster. Some shelters are erected on rubble or partially burned structures, posing safety risks.²⁵⁹

223. The Agency further reported that: “All UNRWA international staff are banned from entering the occupied Palestinian territory. This follows the passage of two laws by Israel’s parliament, (the Knesset), on 28 October 2024, that prohibit UNRWA’s operations in ‘Israeli territory’ and bar any contact between Israeli officials with UNRWA. The Israeli authorities have not granted the Agency’s international staff visas for more than six months now (end of January 2025)”.²⁶⁰ Israel also banned the activities of all but a few NGOs, whose requests to “bring in lifesaving goods” are routinely rejected, following “new INGO registration rules introduced by Israeli authorities in March 2025. This exclusion has left hospitals without basic supplies, children, people with disabilities, and older people dying from hunger and preventable illnesses, and aid workers themselves going to work hungry”.²⁶¹

224. On 18 August, Amnesty International published a report entitled “New testimonies provide compelling evidence that Israel’s starvation of Palestinians in Gaza is a deliberate policy”. In particular, these testimonies, Amnesty International concluded:

the organization’s repeated findings that the deadly combination of hunger and disease is not an unfortunate byproduct of Israel’s military operations. It is the intended outcome of plans and policies that Israel has designed and implemented, over the past 22 months, to deliberately inflict on Palestinians in Gaza conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction – which is part and parcel of Israel’s ongoing genocide against Palestinians in Gaza... Israel’s deliberate and systematic campaign of starvation continues to inflict unbearable suffering on an entire population. Palestinian children are being left to waste away, forcing families into an impossible choice: helplessly hearing the cries of their emaciated children pleading for food, or risking death or injury in a desperate search for aid.²⁶²

225. Also on 18 August, the Humanitarian Country Team of the Occupied Palestinian Territory expressed concern over: “The Israeli plan to intensify military operations in Gaza city will have a horrific humanitarian impact on people already exhausted, malnourished, bereaved, displaced, and deprived of basics needed for survival. Forcing hundreds of thousands to move

²⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁶¹ *Ibid.*

²⁶² Amnesty International, “*Israel/OPT: New testimonies provide compelling evidence that Israel’s starvation of Palestinians in Gaza is a deliberate policy*”, 18 August 2025, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2025/08/israel-opt-new-testimonies-provide-compelling-evidence-that-israels-starvation-of-palestinians-in-gaza-is-a-deliberate-policy/>.

south is a recipe for further disaster and could amount to forcible transfer....Some 86 per cent of the Gaza Strip is already under displacement orders or in Israeli-militarized zones. The remaining areas – including some of Gaza city and parts of the southern coast – are overcrowded and ill-equipped to sustain human survival at scale. Southern hospitals are operating at several times their capacity, and taking on patients from the north would have life-threatening consequences.”²⁶³

226. The Humanitarian Country Team acknowledged, as a “welcome development,” Israel’s announcement that tents and other shelter equipment would now be allowed into Gaza, the Humanitarian Country Team found it “deeply troubling, however”:

that it comes in connection with a looming offensive. Since early March, no shelter materials – including tents, tarpaulins and mattresses – have been permitted entry, and more than 780,000 new displacements have taken place. Existing shelters have deteriorated or been left behind amid repeated displacement orders, making the need for new shelter beyond urgent.²⁶⁴

227. The Humanitarian Country Team renewed its call for Israel to remove its restrictions and allow “unimpeded humanitarian access across all of Gaza, with full facilitation of principled aid operations, including community-based distributions and supplies entering at scale through all possible crossings and land routes. Humanitarian partners – UN agencies and NGOs alike – must be allowed to operate without obstruction.”²⁶⁵

228. On 20 August, the Commissioner-General of UNRWA disclosed what he characterized as “Alarming new data from UNRWA clinics in Gaza....In less than six months, child malnutrition tripled across the Gaza Strip....In Gaza City, nearly 1 in every 3 children is now malnourished – 6 times higher than before the ceasefire collapsed.”²⁶⁶

²⁶³ Statement by the Humanitarian Country Team of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, 18 August 2025, <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/un-and-ngos-warn-humanitarian-impact-intensified-gaza-city-offensive-and-further-mass-displacement>.

²⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁶ Philippe Lazzarini, X, @UNLazzarini, 20 August 2025, <https://x.com/unlazzarini/status/1958187522590183683?s=46&t=ccWRJzS530FIzJwwxUAeMg>.

229. On 22 August, the IPC published its latest report on Gaza. It declared a condition of “Famine” in Gaza, which is based on findings of extreme food deprivation, acute malnutrition and starvation-related deaths. The Famine Review Committee said:

This is the fifth time the Famine Review Committee (FRC) has been called to review an analysis on the acute food security and nutrition situation in the Gaza Strip. Never before has the FRC had to return so many times to the same crisis; a stark reflection of how suffering has not only persisted but intensified and spread until famine has begun to emerge. Constant cycles of increased humanitarian access followed by severe restrictions, together with stark disparities among vulnerable populations, have left many at a heightened risk of a rapid collapse in health and nutrition....

Widespread human suffering is present across the Gaza Strip and the killings of civilians seeking food continue. Increasing reports of malnutrition-related deaths suggest that the most vulnerable in society are beginning to succumb. This trend is expected to increase amongst vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, and people with chronic diseases, before spreading to the wider population.

The FRC is deeply alarmed by the worsening situation in Gaza, where prolonged conflict has destroyed health, nutrition, water, and sanitation systems essential to sustaining life, forced repeated displacement, and concentrated the population into ever smaller and overcrowded areas. For almost the entirety of the conflict, the vast majority of the population has faced sustained and extreme acute food insecurity, leaving people with little capacity to withstand further shocks.²⁶⁷

230. The IPC further declared that:

The trickle of assistance that entered into the Gaza Strip from May to July, after a complete halt of humanitarian and commercial supplies in March and April, has led to extreme food shortages. This is compounded by the collapse of food production systems—with 86 percent of farmland damaged as of August 2025.

The bare minimum food requirements for the population of Gaza of 62,000 metric tonnes (MT) per month have not been reached for several months. While COGAT reports that the food volumes entering the Gaza Strip have increased in the first half of August, reaching 55,600 MT, this remains largely inaccessible and insufficient to offset the prolonged deficits and widespread deprivation accumulated between March and July.

In July, only 13 percent of humanitarian assistance in the territory reached the intended destination. Less than a fifth of households reported receiving humanitarian food assistance in the past 30 days.

²⁶⁷ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), Famine Review Committee: Gaza Strip, 22 August 2025, pp. 2 & 26 https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Famine_Review_Committee_Report_Gaza_Aug2025.pdf.

In July, morbidity levels among children in the Gaza Strip were alarmingly high. Diarrhea affected 43 percent of children, 58 percent experienced fever, 25 percent had acute respiratory infections, and nearly half suffered from skin infections.²⁶⁸

231. The IPC described these conditions as “entirely man made”:

As this Famine is entirely man-made, it can be halted and reversed. The time for debate and hesitation has passed, starvation is present and is rapidly spreading. There should be no doubt in anyone’s mind that an immediate, at-scale response is needed. Any further delay—even by days—will result in a totally unacceptable escalation of Famine-related mortality. It is a moral and humanitarian imperative to summon the political will to provide humanitarian aid in accordance with humanitarian principles, end the conflict, ensure protection, and restore basic living standards for all people, and particularly vulnerable groups.²⁶⁹

232. In response to the IPC’s report, Secretary-General Guterres made the following statement:

Just when it seems there are no words left to describe the living hell in Gaza, a new one has been added: “famine”.

This is not a mystery -- it is a man-made disaster, a moral indictment, and a failure of humanity itself. Famine is not only about food; it is the deliberate collapse of the systems needed for human survival. People are starving. Children are dying. And those with the duty to act are failing. As the occupying power, Israel has unequivocal obligations under international law – including the duty of ensuring food and medical supplies of the population. We cannot allow this situation to continue with impunity.²⁷⁰

233. The FAO, UNICEF, WHO and WFP provided more details in a joint statement, also on 22 August:

More than half a million people in Gaza are trapped in famine, marked by widespread starvation, destitution and preventable deaths, according to a new Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis released today....

[We] have collectively and consistently highlighted the extreme urgency for an immediate and full-scale humanitarian response given the escalating hunger-related deaths, rapidly worsening levels of acute malnutrition and plummeting levels of food

²⁶⁸ Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), Famine confirmed in Gaza Governorate, projected to expand | 1 July - 30 September 2025 (snapshot), 22 August 2025, https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Gaza_Strip_Acute_Food_Insecurity_Malnutrition_July_Sept2025_Special_Snapshot.pdf.

²⁶⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁷⁰ UN Secretary-General António Guterres, X, @antonioguterres, 22 August 2025, <https://x.com/antonioguterres/status/1958816495636545875>.

consumption, with hundreds of thousands of people going days without anything to eat....

By the end of September, more than 640,000 people will face Catastrophic levels of food insecurity – classified as IPC Phase 5 – across the Gaza Strip. An additional 1.14 million people in the territory will be in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and a further 396,000 people in Crisis (IPC Phase 3) conditions. Conditions in North Gaza are estimated to be as severe – or worse – than in Gaza City....

Classifying famine means that the most extreme category is triggered when three critical thresholds – extreme food deprivation, acute malnutrition and starvation-related deaths – have been breached. The latest analysis now affirms on the basis of reasonable evidence that these criteria have been met.

Almost two years of conflict, repeated displacement, and severe [Israeli] restrictions on humanitarian access, compounded by repeated interruptions and impediments to access to food, water, medical aid, support to agriculture, livestock and fisheries and the collapse of health, sanitation, and market systems, have pushed people into starvation....

The new assessment reports the most severe deterioration since the IPC began analyzing acute food insecurity and acute malnutrition in the Gaza Strip, and it marks the first time a famine has been officially confirmed in the Middle East region.²⁷¹

234. The four United Nations agencies called particular attention to the impacts of Israel’s “severe restrictions on humanitarian aid” on children, who comprise one-half of the population of Gaza:

Malnutrition among children in Gaza is accelerating at a catastrophic pace. In July alone, more than 12,000 children were identified as acutely malnourished – the highest monthly figure ever recorded and a six-fold increase since the start of the year. Nearly one in four of these children were suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM), the deadliest form with both short and long-term impacts.

Since the last IPC Analysis in May, the number of children expected to be at severe risk of death from malnutrition by the end of June 2026 has tripled from 14,100 to 43,400.²⁷²

235. The Commissioner-General of UNRWA commented:

Months of warnings have fallen on deaf ears. famine is now confirmed in Gaza city.

This is starvation by design & manmade by the Government of Israel.

²⁷¹ Joint statement by FAO, UNICEF, WHO and WFP, “Famine confirmed for first time in Gaza”, 22 August 2025, <https://www.wfp.org/news/famine-confirmed-first-time-gaza>.

²⁷² *Ibid.*

It is the direct result of banning food & other basic supplies for months including from UNRWA.²⁷³

236. The Under Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs issued the following statement:

Please read the IPC report, cover to cover. Read it in sorrow and in anger. Not as words and numbers but as names and lives. Be in no doubt that this is irrefutable testimony.

It is a famine. The Gaza Famine.

It is a famine that we could have prevented, if we had been allowed. Yet food stacks up at borders because of systematic obstruction by Israel.

It is a famine within a few hundred metres of food, in a fertile land.

It is a famine that hits the most vulnerable first. Each with a name, each with a story. That strips people of dignity before it strips them of life. That forces a parent to choose which child to feed. That forces people to risk their lives to seek food.

It is a famine that we repeatedly warned of. But that the international media has not been allowed in to cover. To bear witness.

It is a famine in 2025. A 21st century famine watched over by drones and the most advanced military technology in history.

It is a famine openly promoted by some Israeli leaders as a weapon of war.

It is a famine on all of our watch. Everyone owns this. The Gaza Famine is the world's famine. It is a famine that asks 'but what did you do?' A famine that will and must haunt us all.

It is a predictable and a preventable famine. A famine caused by cruelty, justified by revenge, enabled by indifference and sustained by complicity.

It is a famine that must spur the world to more urgent action. That must shame the world to do better. It is a famine that therefore also asks '... and what now will you do?'²⁷⁴

237. On 27 August 2025, and in a briefing before the Security Council, Save the Children said:

²⁷³ UNRWA Commissioner-General Philippe Lazzarini, X, @UNLazzarini, 22 August 2025, <https://x.com/UNLazzarini/status/1958818668688597488>.

²⁷⁴ Remarks on Gaza by Tom Fletcher, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, at the UN press briefing and Q&A, 22 August 2025, <https://www.unocha.org/news/un-relief-chief-says-gaza-famine-must-spur-world-urgent-action>.

The Gaza Famine is here. An engineered famine. A predicted famine. A manmade famine. As we speak children in Gaza are systematically being starved to death. This is a deliberate policy. This is starvation as a method of war in its starkest terms...

A few kilometres away stand ready a sea of supplies. Thousands upon thousands of truckloads of lifesaving items. All blocked. The Government of Israel could end this famine tonight if it chose to end its deliberate obstruction and let humanitarians do our job. Instead, there are reports of escalations in Israeli military activity in Gaza City, more attacks on hospitals, more killing...

Every decision maker in every capital in the world – everyone in this room – has a legal and moral responsibility to act to stop these atrocities. Famine means there are no more breaking points and no more alarm bells. It is the worst-case scenario.

We told you this was coming, loudly and clearly- it has been constructed by design for two years...

The lives of at least 132,000 children under the age of five in Gaza are now at risk from acute malnutrition. This number has doubled since May 2025. Every other indicator confirms the IPC's assessment....

Israeli authorities have rejected requests from dozens of NGOs to bring in lifesaving goods to Gaza, and have tied continued operations to new registration rules. These registration rules require impartial humanitarian actors to take actions that are unlawful, unsafe, and incompatible with humanitarian principles. The result is a further obstruction to unhindered, principled humanitarian access. Children in Gaza do not need so-called creative solutions. Not air drops that deliver almost no aid while occasionally killing civilians.

Nor creating inhumane, militarized distribution systems where hundreds of civilians have been killed seeking food, forcing those who survive to choose between being maimed and humiliated collecting scraps of food, or watching their loved ones waste away before their eyes...

For almost two years, the international community has failed to protect Palestinian children. Until you choose to act, this is the fate you are guaranteeing a generation of children in Gaza. Inaction is a choice. Indecision is complicity.

Children have reached their breaking point. Where is yours?²⁷⁵

²⁷⁵ Statement from Save the Children International CEO Inger Ashing to the UN Security Council, Indecision on Gaza is complicity as children are being starved to death, 27 August 2025, <https://www.savethechildren.net/news/save-children-ceo-warns-un-indecision-gaza-complicity-children-are-being-starved-death>.

238. The State of Palestine is grateful for the opportunity to make this submission.

The Hague, 27 August 2025

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ammar Hijazi', with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the signature.

Ammar Hijazi

**Ambassador-Permanent Representative of the State of Palestine to
International Organizations in The Kingdom of the Netherlands**