

Humanitarian Aid Relief in Gaza

Updated July 24, 2025

Amid reports of starvation and difficulty accessing food aid in the Gaza Strip in recent days, Israel says that the IDF has not identified famine, but stressed that actions need to be taken to “stabilize the humanitarian situation.”

Israel’s President Herzog said today, July 24, 2025:

“Let’s be clear: It is the terrorists of Hamas – hijacking aid, and refusing to agree to a hostage release and ceasefire – who are kidnapping the civilian Gaza population and subjecting them to their tragic suffering.

“Israel is adamantly committed to the rules of international humanitarian law. Even in the midst of war, we are doing everything possible to help civilians in need – in keeping with international law, and our Israeli and Jewish values.

“I urge leaders from around the world to look at the facts, to see the reality. The international community must stop playing along with Hamas propaganda, lies, and modern-day blood libels, state firmly the demand for the immediate release of our hostages, and hold Hamas accountable for its crimes against both Israelis and Palestinians.”

Origins of the Humanitarian Crisis

- The current emergency followed – and is a **direct result** of – Hamas’s Oct. 7, 2023 assault and invasion of Israel, which led to the ensuing war.
- Hamas has long pursued the strategy of operating from civilian facilities including hospitals, schools, mosques, etc., embedded within residential buildings and neighborhoods.
- The Israeli military campaign to locate terrorists and disable and destroy terrorist infrastructure has, unfortunately, resulted in the displacement of large portions of the Gazan population, effectively creating a humanitarian crisis in Gaza.
- Israeli officials stress, and much of the international community agrees, that Hamas’s decisions – from initiating the conflict to diverting Gaza’s resources into tunnels and rockets instead of civilian needs – are the **root cause of Gazans’ suffering**, but more recent criticism against Israel regarding aid has been harsh.

- Israeli leaders repeatedly emphasize that **Hamas is responsible for the dire situation in Gaza**. Israel's United Nations Ambassador Danny Danon told the UN that "the blame lies with Hamas, not Israel". Similarly, the head of the U.S.-Israel aid program (Gaza Humanitarian Foundation - GHF) noted that Gazans are starving but that "the blame lies with Hamas, the United Nations and other aid organizations," stressing that Hamas has misused aid for its own purposes.
- According to the Gazan Health Ministry (run by Hamas, and deemed untrustworthy by many Western governments), **15 Palestinians have died of starvation** in the last 24 hours and 600,000 people in Gaza – nearly one third of the population – are suffering from malnutrition.
- The issue has raised alarm in many circles, as disturbing [images](#) have flooded media and social media. Twenty-eight countries including the UK and Canada called on Israel to [end the war](#), citing the humanitarian situation. The Israel Medical Association for the first time called for [increased aid](#) to the Strip, and the French news agency AFP called for its freelance journalists to be [evacuated](#) because of lack of access to food.
- The IDF resolutely refutes these claims and says that while they are concerned that not enough food is entering the Strip, they strongly disagree that famine or widespread malnutrition is being experienced. See more [here](#).
- See this op-ed in the *New York Times*: [No, Israel Is Not Committing Genocide in Gaza](#)

Israel's Effort to Transfer Aid

- At present, aid enters Gaza through **two primary channels**: Distribution sites operated by a private US contractor, where weekly food packages are provided to families; and the entry of complementary aid coordinated with the UN, international organizations and other countries, which includes raw materials for local bakeries and communal kitchens.
- Israeli authorities report allowing **thousands of aid trucks into Gaza**. For example, Israel's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT) this week said that around 4,500 trucks entered Gaza in the past two months (about 71 per day), roughly half delivered to the new Israeli-backed distribution hubs and half to UN or NGO warehouses.
- The aid this week has included **vast amounts of flour for bakeries** and 2,500 tons of baby food and high calorie special food for children.
- On July 22, 2025 the Coordinator's Office noted that **950 loaded aid trucks were waiting on the Gaza side of crossings** (Kerem Shalom, Zikim) for collection – [enough food to feed Gaza's population](#) for over two weeks. Watch footage [here](#).
- In response, the UN says that "dangerous and complex conditions" inside Gaza make **aid distribution very difficult**. Convoys that don't coordinate their travel with Israeli authorities and secure sometimes difficult-to-obtain approvals could come under IDF fire.
- The Israeli military emphasizes that **aid is a top priority**: a spokesman said transferring humanitarian supplies "into the Gaza Strip [is] a matter of utmost importance," and that troops "work to enable and facilitate its entry in coordination with the international community." Israel has reopened and expanded crossings (for example re-opening Kerem Shalom in late 2024) and coordinates with countries (Jordan, Egypt, the U.S. and others) to bring in food, water, medicine and fuel.
- In May-2025, Prime Minister **Netanyahu held emergency meetings on increasing aid** and instructed security officials to find ways to boost supplies entering Gaza.
- Israeli officials say the **main bottleneck** is not the result of a lack of supplies entering Gaza, but is a result of problems with internal distribution. They note that once aid is inspected and

allowed in, problems often arise on the Palestinian side. A senior Israeli official explained that while trucks are freely entering, UN agencies have not picked up many of them; agreements were made to distribute dozens of trucks per day, but in practice only a fraction reach Palestinians.

- The Israeli military is **working with international agencies to streamline delivery**, but COGAT sources say any remaining obstacles are due to bureaucratic and security issues inside Gaza, not from a shortage of Israeli-supplied aid.
- Hamas has **warned local journalists** in Gaza not to publish photos of aid trucks delivering supplies. (See [here](#)).
- See [this video](#) of IDF **troops facing large crowds** of Gazans (the voice heard is the IDF commander).

GHF: U.S.-backed Humanitarian Distribution Centers

- In late May 2025, Israel and its U.S. partners launched the **Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) Distribution Plan**. GHF runs three “Humanitarian Transit Areas” in Gaza (in the southern and central districts) to distribute food and supplies. These centers are secured by US private security contractors alongside IDF forces. Israel promotes GHF as a vetted alternative to the UN system, which it blames for cooperation with Hamas and prior aid leaks.
- GHF is led by a **team of experts on aid in conflict zones**, disaster relief, and scalable food distribution. They explain that they are operating in some of the most difficult conditions in the world, with Hamas actively seeking to steal aid, kill those who receive it, and undermine its distribution.
- GHF is **supported by grants from the Israeli and American governments**, and its work is audited extensively by third-party organizations. From the get-go, it has been plagued by criticism from the UN and humanitarian groups; its first director [resigned](#) in protest. It says that its efforts are “imperfect responses to highly adverse circumstances.”
- At the GHF hubs, **aid distribution is tightly controlled**. Goods come through approved crossings where COGAT inspects every truck; then registered international agencies (e.g. UNRWA, Red Cross) manage handouts at the secured sites. GHF limits distribution to daylight hours via guarded convoys. The system is designed so that aid can enter but only be disbursed in monitored hubs, a process Israel says **prevents Hamas from intercepting shipments**, and minimizes looting, exploitation and hoarding.
- GHF began operations on May 26, 2025, at a distribution center in Rafah. On its **first day, GHF delivered about 8,000 food boxes**, sufficient to feed approximately 44,000 people for half a week, covering roughly 2% of Gaza’s population. By June 10, GHF distributed 2,051,280 meals in a single day across three sites, bringing its total to about 13.5 million meals by that date.
- Each food box **typically contains three meals per person per day** for about five people over three and a half to four days.
- On June 16, GHF delivered 3,104,640 meals in one day over four sites, with a cumulative total near 26 million meals. By mid-July, **more than 75 million meals had been distributed**. The centers are now delivering around two million meals per day, all of which are certified Halal.
- **Hamas and other groups are strongly opposed** to the GHF system, which suggests and promotes the notion that Gaza can be effectively governed without Hamas. GHF has also been criticized for concentrating distribution for 2 million people to just four sites across Gaza

- As of this week, GHF plans to **begin the community distribution of food** through local individuals and organizations in the coming days. Some 370 local individuals and organizations have already signed up; that number is expected to expand significantly. This should reduce the distance that individuals need to travel to receive food and alleviate dangerous overcrowding at aid distribution centers.
- The **United Nations has refused to collaborate** with GHF, which has [reduced the overall flow of aid into Gaza](#). According to firsthand accounts, the result has been a failure to distribute food already in Gaza – with tens of thousands of pallets of food unable to be safely distributed. GHF has offered to provide security to drivers willing to distribute the food, an offer which the United Nations has nixed.
- A spokesperson for Israel’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, commenting on GHF, said, “They are the only aid organization in the world that was established to break the paradigm—not only is it unnecessary to work with the terrorist organizations on the ground, but working without them is actually **more effective and improved**. They’ve succeeded in delivering aid on a massive scale compared to what was achieved in the year and a half before they were established. That is what is making the other organizations furious and causing them to lash out so harshly against GHF.”

Hamis Exploitation of Humanitarian Aid

- Israel contends that **Hamis has a history of looting** or diverting assistance meant for civilians. Israeli military sources have claimed that under the UN-led distribution system, armed militants systematically commandeered fuel and supplies for their own use.
- Hamis denies these accusations, but Israel says **this prompted the creation of a new aid channel** under its supervision, through the private US group, GHF. The coordinator’s office reported that most trucks meant for UN warehouses were repeatedly looted by mobs in Gaza, indicating widespread lawlessness in areas Hamis was supposed to control.
- U.S. and Israeli aid officials say Hamis has used starvation claims as a political tool. GHF director Johnnie Moore stated that Hamis and some UN groups are running a disinformation campaign to undermine the new aid program. He noted Hamis is “using ‘starvation’ language for political purposes” and said reports of intentional killings at aid sites are “overstated” by Hamis for propaganda. Israeli authorities similarly assert that Hamis encouraged Gazans to spread alarming rumors and even delay receiving aid, to pressure Israel and shape international opinion.
- Israel has accused Hamis of **actively trying to sabotage the alternative aid delivery** system through GHF, which it sees as a major threat to its claim and ability to be the sole authority in the Strip.
- Officials report that some **Hamis supporters and other armed elements incited crowds** at aid centers, contributing to deadly chaos. Hamis and its backers have refused to recognize the Israeli-approved distribution routes; for instance, the UN asked to have Hamis police escort convoys – a request that Israel rejected for security reasons. A senior Israeli official said that Hamis was cynically “taking advantage” of the hunger narrative amid hostage negotiations.

Shootings and Other Events at Aid Sites

- The UN says over 1,000 people have [died](#) trying to access humanitarian aid, a figure Israel disputes. Israel also points to Hamas and other militant groups as culprits.
- In June 2025, a convoy transporting local GHF staff (employed by a partner Palestinian company) was **ambushed by Hamas militants** in eastern Rafah. At least eight employees were killed, and others were injured or kidnapped. The attackers explicitly targeted workers cooperating with GHF, following Hamas threats issued in the previous days.
- Hamas had **issued warnings to anyone working with GHF**, stating such individuals would face “decisive and uncompromising action.” Staff and partner groups reported threats, intimidation, and physical violence, including beatings directed at employees.
- Also in June 2025, **two American aid workers employed by GHF were injured** while distributing food. GHF attributed the incident to “hostile action by Hamas,” reporting that hand grenades were thrown at them.
- In the first week of June 2025, **multiple deadly incidents** occurred around the new GHF aid hubs. Gazan hospitals reported that scores of people were killed as Palestinians rushed to the distribution points. Eyewitnesses said Israeli troops fired on the crowds; one UN-recognized hospital said about 80 people were shot or crushed while approaching a GHF site.
- The IDF and GHF maintain that **Israeli soldiers did not deliberately fire on civilians**. According to the military, troops first fired warning shots in the air and aimed only at a few individuals deemed armed or dangerous. The army denied the crowds it shot at were unarmed and said it had not fired on retreating civilians. GHF similarly said no live rounds were fired into crowds; only targeted nonlethal measures (pepper spray) were used to restore order.
- One aid site in late July saw a **fatal crush as anxious Gazans rushed forward**. GHF reported that at least 20 people died in the chaos; it blamed “elements within the crowd – armed and affiliated with Hamas” for purposely inciting panic. Hamas authorities denied this account, accusing GHF guards and Israeli troops of firing at people and using tear gas (claims they denied). Both the IDF and GHF have said they are investigating. The Israeli military again insisted troops only aimed at suspicious figures and that the tragedy was not due to intentional firing on unarmed civilians.
- Israeli officials underscore that **Hamas benefits from any aid crisis**. They note that any killings or chaos at the Israeli-run sites are quickly publicized by Hamas as “proof” Israel that is starving Gazans, thus sowing international condemnation. One senior official called Gaza’s portrayal of widespread “famine” as a cynical propaganda ploy timed to increase pressure on Israel during hostage negotiations. In this view, Hamas “wants these aid zones to fail” and will exploit every incident to undermine them. Numerous commentators point out that Hamas has a long history of sacrificing its own population for international public relations gains.

Statements by Israeli Leaders on Aid

- **President Isaac Herzog** has lamented UN distribution delays, saying “it is possible to provide three times the amount of humanitarian aid to Gaza if the UN – instead of complaining all day – would do its job.” He used these remarks to urge more effective international coordination so that Israel’s inspected aid could reach Gazans more rapidly.

- **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** has publicly framed aid as a priority. In May 2025 he said he eased the blockade, despite the ongoing war. He convened emergency meetings to raise aid volumes and credited Israel with widening crossings and deliveries. His office stresses that truckloads of food, water, medical kits and tents are being brought into Gaza daily under strict inspection, and that Israel will continue facilitating any genuine humanitarian aid.
- **Danny Danon (Israel's UN Ambassador):** "We're not ignoring the suffering in Gaza — but the blame lies with Hamas, not Israel," Danon stated, accusing Hamas of using Gazans as "human shields" and obstructing aid. He emphasized that Israel is allowing aid, and that the humanitarian crisis is a result of Hamas's actions.
- **COGAT / IDF Officials:** Colonel Elad Goren, who heads Gaza aid coordination, stated "we are not refusing anything... [including] food, water, medical supplies and shelters," underlining that Israel allows entry into Gaza of all legitimate humanitarian goods. More broadly, military spokespeople have reiterated that opening aid routes is of the "utmost importance" and that Israel does everything to balance security concerns with the needs of Gazan civilians. They emphasize that the IDF's rules of engagement require guarding aid flows and preventing arms smuggling, not harming aid recipients.

Aid Statistics

- Since October 7, 2023, Israel has facilitated **tens of thousands of aid operations**—totaling over 24,700 aid trucks and approximately 469,000 tons of humanitarian goods (food, water, medical supplies, shelter) delivered by land.
- **Land crossings** continue to be the primary aid entry route—almost 95 percent of aid enters via land crossings, with overwhelming approval rates (98.7 percent of inspected trucks allowed in).
- Of the **total aid delivered** since the war began:
 - 63 percent of the weight was food,
 - 15 percent was shelter equipment,
 - 8 percent was medical supplies,
 - 6.7 percent was water and mixed goods
- Food deliveries alone reached **337,900 tons**, representing approximately 80 percent more food than what entered Gaza before October 7.
- **Shelter equipment** (tents, sanitation, basic infrastructure) totaled 53,400 tons across 3,738 trucks, with plans for shelters to house up to 270,000 people.
- **Medical aid** delivery included 21,730 tons via 1,893 trucks, encompassing medications, critical medical equipment, vaccines, and supplies for dialysis and neonatal care.
- Seven **field hospitals** and three floating hospitals have been established, adding approximately 850 beds and treating over 50,000 patients.
- Israel has coordinated 3,287 cases of **wounded Palestinians evacuated for treatment** abroad (Egypt, UAE, Turkey, Europe, US), with 725 escorts provided.
- **Water delivery** exceeds 13 million gallons, of which 3.6 million gallons were supplied directly from Israel; desalination and well-restoration projects aim to ensure an average of 5.3 gallons per person per day.

For further information see:

- [Humanitarian Aid to Gaza Data](#)
- John Spencer: [I'm a War Scholar. There Is No Genocide in Gaza](#)
- [IDF's Points to Note](#)
- Jerusalem Post – [Why attack on Gaza aid workers is a turning point for humanitarian relief](#)
- Times of Israel – [Aid is entering Gaza](#)
- Watch: [Interview with Eylon Levy](#)

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