

The humanitarian crisis in Gaza

There has been a vast amount of conflicting information on the extent of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Palestinians in Gaza are facing starvation, disease and do not have adequate basic goods, medical supplies or aid – including food. Some 75% of Palestinians in Gaza have been internally displaced since October 7, as of February 5th¹. Internally displaced people are living in tents or makeshift structures in crowded encampments lacking sufficient access to clean water, food, electricity and other basic necessities.

How does aid enter Gaza?

Routes for Aid Entry:

- **Kerem Shalom Crossing with Israel:** Majority of the aid trucks enter through this route.
- **Rafah Crossing with Egypt:** Some aid trucks enter here but have to divert into Israel for inspection before returning to Egypt and then to the border.
- **Sea Route Initiatives:**
 - A sea route from Cyprus is being established, with initial aid being UAE-funded and involving US participation.
 - A temporary port is planned by US forces on the Gaza shoreline for large-scale humanitarian aid delivery.

Inspection and Restrictions:

- Israel conducts inspections to prevent the entry of materials potentially used by Hamas, which has resulted in the bottleneck of aid due to a cumbersome inspection process and a long list of banned items.
- Items rejected for being “dual use” include generators, crutches, hospital kits, inflatable water tanks, wooden boxes of children’s toys, and oxygen tanks².

How much aid is currently entering Gaza, and how does this compare to previous figures?

Though Israel claims³ that it does not limit the amount of aid entering Gaza or hinder its transit, the facts on the ground indicate that it is denying residents in the area adequate access to essential humanitarian aid. Before October 7, more than 500 truckloads entered Gaza from Israel and Egypt per day on average⁴.

Quantity of Aid:

- Prior to October 7, approximately 80% of Gaza residents relied on humanitarian aid.
- Between January and August 2023, the monthly average of aid trucks entering Gaza was 10,860 trucks per month

¹ [The humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza: Facts and figures - Gisha](#)

² [Why desperately needed aid is failing to reach the people of Gaza \(ft.com\)](#)

³ [X \(twitter.com\)](#)

⁴ [The humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza: Facts and figures - Gisha](#)

- The figures for the months following the war are as follows⁵:
October 2023 – 218 trucks
November 2023 – 2,545 trucks
December 2023 – 3,247 trucks
January 2024 – 4,371 trucks

What is the extent of the humanitarian crisis?

Critical Humanitarian Situation:

- **Malnutrition and Hunger:** Sharp escalation in malnutrition rates, especially in northern Gaza. Approximately 90% of young children and pregnant/breastfeeding women face severe food poverty⁶.
- **Health and Sanitation:** Spread of disease exacerbated by overcrowded conditions and a lack of access to clean water, with nearly 82% of Palestinians lacking safe and clean water⁷.
- **Mortality Projections:** Public health experts estimate 74,000 to 85,000 additional civilian deaths if the situation escalates without improvements in the humanitarian response⁸.
- Aid organizations have repeatedly clarified that the main obstacle they face to providing necessary humanitarian aid is that **no place in Gaza is safe**.

UK Government Position and US Port Plans

UK Government Stance:

- British Foreign Secretary David Cameron expressed to Israeli government minister Benny Gantz that patience with the humanitarian crisis in Gaza is wearing "very thin". He highlighted the reduction in the amount of aid reaching Gaza from January to February.

US Port Plans:

- The US, under Joe Biden's announcement, plans to build a temporary port on the Gaza shoreline for large-scale aid delivery.
- This plan is seen as a leadership move by Washington, not waiting for Israeli approval but still requiring Israeli cooperation, especially in Northern Gaza.
- The setup involves a floating pier off the Gaza shore for shipborne food aid unloading and a causeway for onshore delivery.

Further information is available from:

- Gisha: <https://gisha.org/en/>
- The Norwegian Refugee Council: <https://www.nrc.no/>
- UNOCHA: <https://www.unocha.org/>

⁵ [The humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza: Facts and figures - Gisha](#)

⁶ [Nutrition Vulnerability and Situation Analysis / Gaza | Global Nutrition Cluster](#)

⁷ [Nutrition Vulnerability and Situation Analysis / Gaza | Global Nutrition Cluster](#)

⁸ [Nutrition Vulnerability and Situation Analysis / Gaza | Global Nutrition Cluster](#)

- Global Nutrition Centre: <https://www.nutritioncluster.net/resources/nutrition-vulnerability-and-situation-analysis-gaza>