

# HUMANITARIAN ACCESS SNAPSHOT

# 7

## SIGNATORIES



"Everyone has received this call before: One of your friends or colleagues or relatives or cousins is under the siege or bombs. And they ask for help. And you can't do anything. You can't do anything for them. And they die. They die while they are asking us to help them. This is the worst thing."

-Displaced resident,  
Gaza City

Israel's assault on the Gaza Strip, as of 12 November 2024, has killed more than 43,665 Palestinians and injured 103,076, with tens of thousands still missing. Around 80% of Gaza is under forced displacement orders and 90% of the population are displaced, most multiple times in the last year.

On 13 October, US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken and US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, sent a letter containing demands to Israeli officials to improve the humanitarian situation, or face restrictions on US military aid. As of yet, Israel has failed to meet those demands, which included meeting a minimum of 350 trucks per day, ending the isolation of northern Gaza and removing an agreed list of essential items from the dual-use items list. A scorecard developed by eight humanitarian organisations assesses Israel's failure to comply with U.S. humanitarian access demands.

# INTRODUCTION

Humanitarian aid entering Gaza has fallen to an all-time low. The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) released an urgent alert on 8 November reporting that there is a strong likelihood that famine is already occurring in northern Gaza, and that immediate action is required within days, not weeks, to address the crisis. An average of only 37 humanitarian trucks per day entered Gaza in October, and an average of 69 per day during the first week of November. This is still well below the average of 500 per day which entered Gaza per working day before 7 October 2023, and was insufficient then to meet the needs of the population. The Israeli authorities have also restricted commercial trucks from entering since 2 October 2024.

Furthermore, merely counting the number of trucks is inadequate to assess whether affected populations received aid, nor the impact of the aid. The situation has dramatically worsened since the closure of the Rafah crossing in May, which was the main entry point for aid. Looting is an ongoing issue, a consequence of Israel's targeting of the remaining police forces in Gaza, scarcity of essential goods, lack of routes and closure of most crossing points, and the subsequent desperation of the population amid these dire conditions. According to media reports, Israeli forces are failing to prevent aid trucks from being looted and armed gangs from extorting aid organisations for protection money. In some cases, the remaining members of local police forces tried to take action against the looters, but were attacked by Israeli troops. Many incidents are taking place close by or in full view of Israeli forces, without them intervening, even when truck drivers asked for assistance.



## TRAPPED IN THE NORTH

Since the beginning of October, Israel has carried out a renewed military assault on northern Gaza. Although the entirety of the north has been placed under forced displacement orders, tens of thousands of civilians remain trapped in the north amid siege conditions.

Israel's recent and intensifying attacks on northern Gaza's last functioning hospitals, with medical workers arbitrarily detained, has prevented Palestinians from accessing medical care. Bombardment compounded by limited available medical care has led to hundreds of civilians being killed, including scores of children and essential service providers such as aid workers and medical personnel.

For almost a month, Israel has blocked attempts by aid organisations to deliver aid in areas of northern Gaza, effectively severing the population from access to vital lifelines, including food, medical supplies and all other humanitarian aid. Nearly all attempts by humanitarian organisations to deliver food to people in the besieged areas of North Gaza governorate have been blocked by the Israeli authorities. **Tens of thousands** are facing starvation as a result.

On 5 November, Israeli Forces announced that as a result of its military operations, there were no longer any civilians present north of Gaza City, that there is no intention to allow displaced residents of the Jabalia area to return to their homes, and that aid would no longer be allowed to enter northern Gaza. Not allowing civilians to return to their homes would amount to forcible transfer, a grave breach of international humanitarian law. Israel's conduct of hostilities in the north appears to closely resemble the so-called "general's plan", which proposed pushing civilians out of the north, and treating those remaining as combatants.

**KEY UPDATES:** Through the reporting period (10 October to 13 November 2024), humanitarian organisations reported the following impediments, restrictions and security challenges while responding to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza Strip:

- Tragically, Israeli airstrikes killed at least 20 aid workers from both Palestinian and international organisations, the majority from Palestinian organisations. Staff were killed in their homes, in displacement camps and while delivering life-saving aid. Many aid workers lost close family members and relatives.
- On 24 October, the Gaza Civil Defense was forced to cease operations, due to attacks by Israeli Forces on its members, and damaging its equipment. The lack of responders means that many are trapped under the rubble without rescue, and the number of people killed as a result of airstrikes is likely to increase, given that there is no capacity to rescue those trapped under rubble and still alive.
- In central and southern Gaza, more than 100 kitchens producing 400,000 meals a day are at risk of shutting down due to supply shortages.
- The majority of INGOs are only able to deliver services in the north through Palestinian partners, at least eight of whom have been forced to suspend or severely limit interventions in the north, due to displacement, access restrictions and insecurity. Many organisations including MedGlobal and MECA have been unable to deliver aid to parts of the north for at least one month or more.
- Palestinian organisations including Juzoor, partnering with Islamic Relief, Oxfam, CARE, Médecins du Monde (Mdm), Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA) and International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Community Training Centre for Crisis Management (CTCCM) partnering with War Child had to suspend or partially suspend operations in areas such as Beit Lahia and Jabalia due to hostilities. Juzoor and Save Youth Future Society also reported that aid operations in northern Gaza were hampered by humanitarian access restrictions and hostilities.
- A warehouse in Jabalia belonging to an organisation wishing to stay anonymous was looted, due to security guards being forcibly displaced.
- In the north, at least 70% of movement requests were denied, impeded or cancelled. At least seven organisations reported that movements were denied for humanitarian operations, impacting water trucking and delivery of life-saving aid.
- Orders from Israeli forces forcibly displaced aid workers working with several organizations in the north. All of MedGlobal's staff were forcibly displaced, and several were detained by Israeli forces during the attack on Kamal Adwan Hospital.
- ActionAid partner Al-Awda, has two health centers in Jabalia and Beit Lahia that were temporarily forced to close, while health services continued to be provided at Al Awda Hospital. There is ongoing shelling surrounding the hospital, it has been directly hit more than once, including the third and fourth floors. Some medical staff in the hospital were injured, one of whom was injured seriously, requiring the amputation of their left hand. The hospital continues to provide services despite the severe shortage of medicines, medical supplies, fuel, food and health specialties.

■ An organization who prefers to stay anonymous was able to deliver two trucks of food to Gaza City, but due to the desperate situation and severe food shortages, the majority of goods were looted by unarmed civilians before it could reach its intended destination. CESVI, Première Urgence Internationale (PUI) and other organisations delivered essential supplies to northern Gaza, which were stolen during looting incidents.

■ Mercy Corps and Oxfam were able to deliver supplies to warehouses, however, Palestinian partner organisations were unable or delayed in distributing the supplies to affected populations in the North Gaza governorate due to the lack of security at distribution sites. Oxfam and partners managed to distribute the supplies to displaced people from North Gaza Governorate who were forced to evacuate to Gaza city, and Mercy Corps eventually distributed aid in Deir al-Balah and Gaza City.

## STAFF SAFETY & WELLBEING

■ On 10 October, two aid workers from Palestinian organisation Ard el-Insan and at least two healthcare workers were killed while delivering humanitarian assistance when an Israeli airstrike hit the Rufaydah school that was housing displaced people in Deir al-Balah. DCA/NCA had to suspend operations nearby.

■ On 19 October at 3:40 AM, Israeli forces bombed two floors of Al Awda Hospital's eastern building, which led to the destruction of water tanks, damage to the third and fourth floors, and the complete disruption of the internet network.

■ On 19 October, four water engineers and workers for the Khuza'a Municipality working with the Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU), Oxfam's strategic partner, were killed while on their way to conduct repairs to water infrastructure in Khuza'a, east of Khan Younis. Despite prior coordination with Israeli authorities, their clearly-marked vehicle was attacked.





■ On 20 October, two aid workers were killed by Israeli airstrikes in Jabalia in the northern Gaza Strip. They worked at Juzoor, a partner of Oxfam, CARE, IRC and MdM.

■ On 22 October, a bullet of an unknown origin hit one of two Action Against Hunger (ACF) cars. No one was in the car when the incident occurred.

■ On 3 November one aid worker from Humanity&Inclusion (HI) was killed during an airstrike in Jabalia with her three children.

■ On 7 November, a Solidarités International WASH team was fired upon by what they perceived to be a quadcopter, while moving to a site in Nuseirat to provide water. One Palestinian colleague was lightly wounded while seeking refuge to protect himself from the shooting. The humanitarian intervention had to be cancelled.

# ACCESS & CRITICAL RESOURCES

				
<b>Sep 2023 price</b>	0.75	0.75	1	0.75
<b>Oct 2024 price</b>	5	7.5	2.5	1.8
<b>Nov 2024 price</b>	13.8	16.3	6.3	3.3

prices of basic foods in Gaza (EUR/kg)  
(subject to change)

Humanitarian organizations in Gaza Strip, particularly in the north, face difficulties in reaching communities due to recurrent Israeli Forces operations. The destruction of key transport routes into northern Gaza has restricted movement and complicated aid delivery.

## Movement Restrictions and Denial



7 INGOs reported that their movement requests have been either denied by Israeli authorities or cancelled due to unsafe operational areas, lack of fuel or unusable infrastructure. Mercy Corps reports that the Israeli forces denied its movements within the Israeli-designated 'humanitarian zone' in the southern areas of Gaza Strip for a period of nine days (15–24 Oct). Multiple movements were denied by the Israeli Coordination and Liaison Administration (CLA) in the so-called "humanitarian zone", meaning that humanitarian operations there could not proceed.

## Fuel Shortages



Most surveyed INGOs reported fuel shortages that are severely impacting operations. This is increasing costs for services like water trucking, waste collection, and cleaning, while reducing available resources for aid, and affecting hospitals abilities to provide critical lifesaving services. The vast majority of humanitarian organizations operating in the Gaza Strip rely entirely on UNRWA for fuel. The lack of fuel affects their ability to deliver aid and run water purification services. Lack of fuel also hampers the ability to power offices, communication systems, forcing organizations to rely on unreliable generators. The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) had to suspend water trucking for 10,000 displaced Palestinians in Gaza City in the period 23–25 October due to fuel shortages.

## Unstable Local Market



The local market is volatile, with scarce supply and incredibly high demand, prices of basic goods have skyrocketed, often tens or hundreds times more than the original price. Just like the population of Gaza, humanitarian actors struggle to meet demands with their depleted purchasing power, limiting the amount of locally-supplied aid that can be delivered with the available funds. INGOs struggle to secure supplies to meet programmatic needs from the local market, leading to reliance on import, which leads to delays and additional costs.

## Scarcity of Cash



Organizations operating in Gaza continue to face severe challenges in disbursing funds, including cash assistance, essential for meeting the basic needs of the population. Cash withdrawals are heavily burdened by high fees, with financial agents charging up to 30%, making it difficult to efficiently support operations. Moreover, cash unavailability delays transactions with vendors, slows procurement processes, and impedes timely payment of staff salaries. Bank transfers also incur significant losses, reportedly as high as 20%. Oxfam highlights that international staff members entering Gaza remain restricted by the Israeli authorities' USD 2,800 limit on the amount of money they can carry with them into the Strip, an amount insufficient for covering salary advances and basic operational expenses. This limited cash flow severely impacts the ability of organizations to provide immediate aid. Save the Children stresses the critical need for cash to address urgent cases of child protection.

# DELAYS ON AID ENTRY INTO GAZA

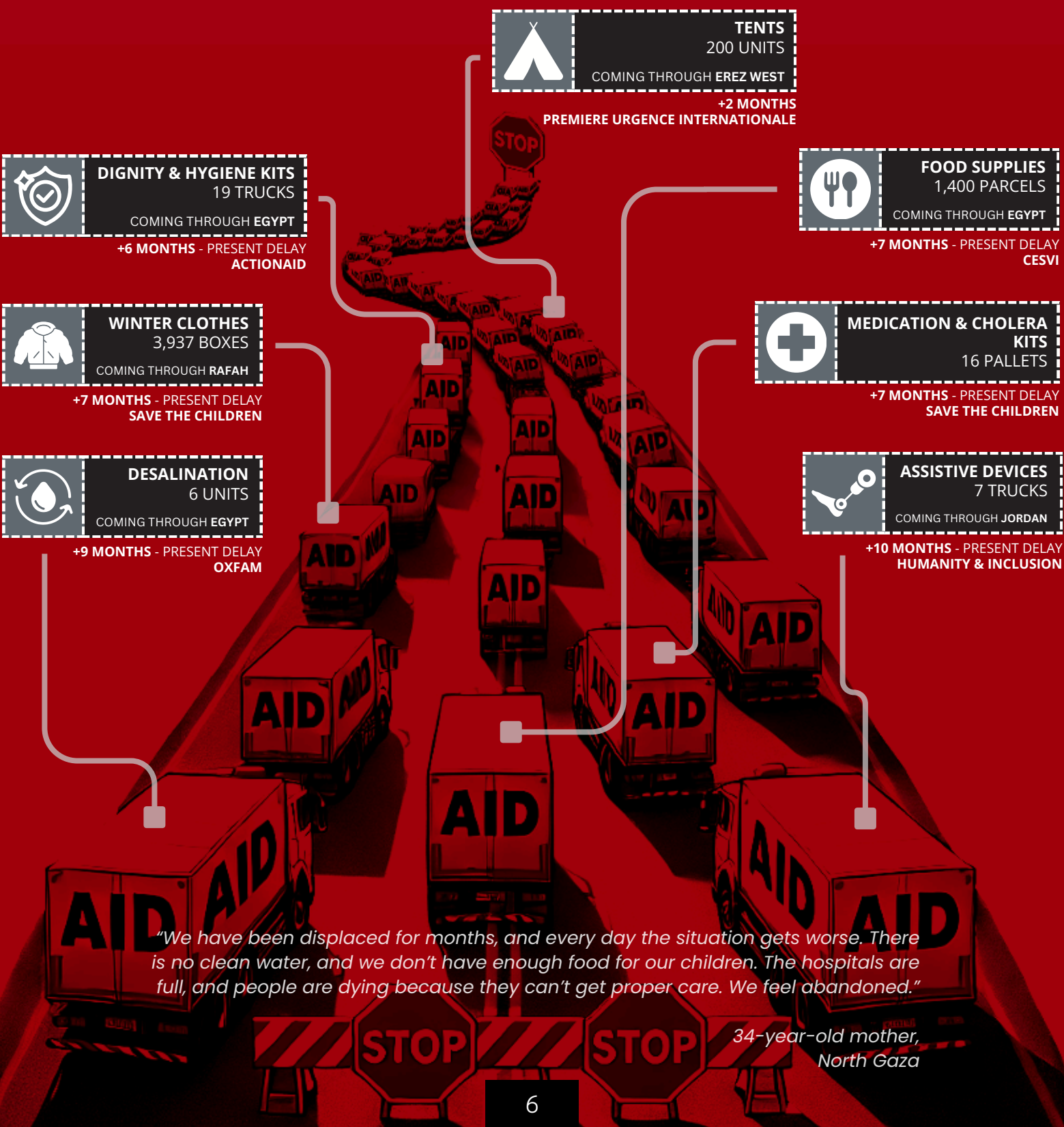
Most participating organizations in this survey report extensive delays in getting their aid into Gaza Strip. Some organizations have not been able to get their aid in despite more than 10 months of waiting at the border.

In addition to the ones below, there are:

■ **37 trucks**, and

■ **13,581 parcels**

of food & medical supplies, hygiene, dignity, and bedding kits, including amputees' assistive devices, have been delayed from entering for periods up to 6 months as reported by Humanity & Inclusion, DanChurchAid, Norwegian Church Aid, Oxfam, Middle East Children's Alliance, Save the Children, Première Urgence Internationale, and WeWorld.



*"We have been displaced for months, and every day the situation gets worse. There is no clean water, and we don't have enough food for our children. The hospitals are full, and people are dying because they can't get proper care. We feel abandoned."*

34-year-old mother, North Gaza

# FORCED DISPLACEMENT OF STAFF AND AID

**Displacement of Staff:** The staff of 12 surveyed INGOs or their Palestinian partners were forcibly displaced in the north of Gaza following displacement orders from Israeli Forces, suspending their operations in the area. Some CARE staff-members also had to flee to the Israeli-designated 'humanitarian zone' due to displacement orders, impacting the continuity of operations and requiring reallocation of resources.

**Obstruction of Aid:** Displacement and movement restrictions have halted key activities for many organizations, forcing some, like Mercy Corps, to switch to warehouse-based distributions. In the wake of the early and mid-October displacement orders, Oxfam, Islamic Relief, and ACF were forced to suspend water distribution, sanitation, and health services, limiting their ability to assist vulnerable populations. DCA/NCA reported that the heightened security risks and movement restrictions following these orders significantly hindered their ability to reach target communities and carry out planned activities in the area.

**Suspension of Aid:** 10 surveyed INGOs suspended part or all of their operations in the north of Gaza Strip due to displacement orders issued by Israeli Forces. Three other INGOs reported the same in the south of the Gaza Strip: an MdM-supported primary healthcare center, DCA/NCA awareness-raising activities, and CARE programs were suspended due to displacement orders issued by Israeli forces.

**Increased Vulnerability of Affected Communities:** The suspension of services, particularly child protection, has heightened the vulnerability of affected communities. Save the Children and Islamic Relief reported delays in providing critical support for children, including access to clinical care and family reunification for unaccompanied minors.

## CALL TO ACTION

States must take concrete actions to ensure an immediate and permanent **ceasefire**, including immediately halting the transfer of weapons, parts, and ammunition to parties at risk of violating international humanitarian law (IHL).

As the occupying power, Israel must uphold its obligations under IHL, protect Palestinian rights, refrain from excessive and lethal use of force, and ensure **unimpeded access** to healthcare and essential services across the occupied Palestinian territory, including the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

States should reject Israel's decision to ban UNRWA, demand the immediate reversal of both pieces of legislation, insist on respecting UNRWA's mandate, and immediately cease all attacks on the agency and its operations or risk further deterioration of the humanitarian crisis.

Donors should collaborate to improve **coordination** mechanisms for Palestinian CSOs, NGOs, and women-led organizations, ensuring the safe movement of aid workers and their active participation in Cluster meetings.

The Government of Israel must immediately cease the **forced displacement** of civilians in Gaza, which exacerbates suffering, disrupts access to essential aid, and hinders the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Donors should **fully fund** the humanitarian response, provide direct and quality funding to Palestinian NGOs and CSOs, and support liquidity to mitigate the collapse of the banking system, which adversely affects Palestinian partners.

All parties to the conflict must guarantee and facilitate **safe**, unhindered access for humanitarian aid, including winterization materials (tents, plastic sheets, and shelter repair items), prioritizing vulnerable groups such as children, people with disabilities, and older individuals in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).