

# BESIEGED.

## HUMANITARIAN ACCESS SNAPSHOT #11 OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

19 JAN - 15 APR 2025

A fragile ceasefire in Gaza allowed for a relative scale-up of life-saving humanitarian aid between 19 January and 2 March 2025. However, this progress was abruptly halted when the Government of Israel unilaterally resumed hostilities, on 18 March killing more than 400 people in a single day. Meanwhile, Israeli forces intensified military operations in the occupied West Bank, severely disrupting humanitarian aid delivery. This included demolishing Palestinian homes, forcibly displacing approximately 40,000 people, and destroying critical infrastructure.

Since 2 March, Israeli authorities have reinstated a complete siege on Gaza, blocking all aid and commercial goods from entering for more than six weeks to date. This marks the longest period the Government of Israel has blocked all aid and goods from entering Gaza in history. Since 18 March, attacks by Israeli forces in Gaza have killed over 1,630 Palestinians, injured more than 4,200, and forcibly displaced over 419,300. The Palestinian death toll now nears 51,000 in Gaza, according to the Ministry of Health, and is approaching 1,000 in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The UN Secretary-General has called Gaza a “killing field” and warned that civilians in Gaza are in an “endless death loop”. The weaponization of aid, including withholding food, water, health care, and shelter, has led to a surge in preventable deaths and threatens the dignity and survival of Palestinians in Gaza.

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Forty-seven international and Palestinian NGOs participated in a survey sharing their experiences delivering humanitarian aid and services from 19 January to 25 March: 40 operating in the West Bank, 43 in Gaza. Of those, 36 work in both Gaza and the West Bank. The survey included reporting on aid access and impact on communities during the ceasefire period, the renewed complete siege, and following the resumption of hostilities on 18 March. While the survey results do not capture results from every NGO operating in the oPt, it reflects the operating environment and the range of obstacles faced by NGOs seeking to deliver aid and by communities attempting to access aid. Of the NGOs surveyed:

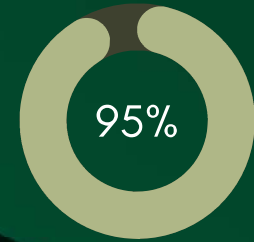


reported **suspending or reducing services** in Gaza since the resumption of Israeli bombardment

19 NGOs reported that

**8,881**  
PALLETS OF AID

supplies (at least) **remain stranded outside of Gaza** since 2 March due to the complete siege



(38 of NGOs surveyed) reported facing an **increase in movement restrictions** across the West Bank (19 Jan–25 Mar)

**17**  
NGOs

(at least) reported **delays and/or denials, during the Gaza ceasefire** (before the 2 March blockade) when trying to bring aid into Gaza.

**15**  
NGOs

(at least) reported facing **harassment or attacks** while attempting to deliver assistance in the West Bank (19 Jan – 25 Mar)

## ACTIONS AGAINST AID AND THEIR IMPACT

For over a year and a half, measures enacted by Israeli authorities have systematically undermined the core conditions needed to provide effective humanitarian support to Palestinians affected by Israeli military attacks in Gaza and the West Bank. Since March, amid severe global cuts to humanitarian funding, these measures have intensified making it **nearly impossible to deliver essential assistance**—such as water, food, and healthcare—in line with humanitarian principles.

What follows is an overview of four of several fundamental conditions required for humanitarian aid delivery in any context, how Israel's actions are obstructing these conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, and the devastating human toll this has taken across Gaza and the West Bank.

## TIMELINE (19 January - 15 April 2025)

### January

19 Jan

Despite a ceasefire agreement that allows a relative assistance scale-up in Gaza, Israel continues to block the entry of essentials such as durable shelter, sanitation items, and machinery needed to remove rubble and repair key infrastructure destroyed by bombardments.

21 Jan

Israeli authorities restrict movement and launch a major military operation of airstrikes and ground incursions focused primarily on the northern West Bank. By end February, more than 42,760 people are forcibly displaced or transferred, and key infrastructure is destroyed or damaged.

29 Jan

Two Israeli laws banning the main aid service provider for Palestinians, UNRWA, come into effect.

### March

2 Mar

For the second time since 7 October 2023, Israeli authorities reinstate a complete siege on Gaza, preventing all humanitarian and commercial goods from entering Gaza. Prices quickly skyrocket sometimes reaching +1,400 for food and +600% for cooking gas.

9 Mar

Israel cuts the last electricity supply to Gaza, severely hampering drinking water production.

9 Mar

Israel implements new registration rules for international NGOs operating in the occupied Palestinian territory, incoherent with humanitarian principles and exposing staff to significant risks.

18 Mar

The Israeli Government resumes heavy bombardments across Gaza: at least 400 Palestinians killed and 500 wounded in the first 24 hours.

Israeli forces stop acknowledging movement notifications by aid organizations for military deconfliction, all but paralyzing aid delivery across Gaza. This had not resumed as of 14 April.

19 Mar

An Israeli tank shell strikes a UN compound in Gaza, though the building had been acknowledged by the military as deconflicted, killing one and injuring another five UN workers. The UN decides to reduce its international presence in Gaza for security reasons.

23 Mar

Israel strikes Nasser hospital's surgical ward in Gaza, killing several.

Israeli forces kill 15 Palestinian medics and rescue workers, while on a rescue mission in Rafah. Following obstruction by Israeli forces, the UN leads a mission one week later and finds their uniformed bodies in a mass grave, with reports that some were shot at close range and had their hands tied. Crushed ambulances, a fire truck and a UN car were found buried in the sand.

24 Mar

An Israeli tank hits a deconflicted NGO building in Gaza.

27 Mar

Israeli forces hit a community kitchen in Gaza, killing an NGO worker and several aid recipients.

30 Mar

Israeli forces hit a UN clinic in Jabalia, killing at least 19 Palestinians.

**According to colour, the following developments hinder the:**

**ABILITY TO RELIABLY AND PREDICTABLY SECURE ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES**  
**SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR AID WORKERS AND FACILITIES**  
**UNIMPEDED PHYSICAL ACCESS FOR AID TO REACH PEOPLE**  
**OPERATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND NEEDS-BASED AID DELIVERY**

### February

1 Feb

The Rafah border crossing partially reopens only for medical evacuations under EU monitoring; by 27 March, only 15% of people in critical need of health care abroad had actually made it out.

1 Feb

Systematic attacks on aid continue across the West Bank with forcible entries and use by Israeli forces of an UNRWA health facility as a detention centre.

27 Feb

Israel's Government announces a new plan to tighten control of aid distribution in Gaza.

### April

1 Apr

Israeli forces kill an NGO worker and his family in an airstrike in Gaza.

1 Apr

Israeli ministers acknowledge record demolitions and work to develop new settlements in the West Bank, and openly declare that the Israeli Government is "here to stay".

2 Apr

Israel's Prime Minister announces a plan to split southern Gaza by creating another military corridor between Rafah and Khan Younis, further impeding movement and seizing fertile land. Media reports preparations to incorporate the Rafah governorate into the "no-go" zone.

2 Apr

One month into the complete siege, the UN closes the 25 bakeries it supports due to lack of flour and cooking gas.

3 Apr

The Mekorot water pipeline supplying nearly 50% of water in Gaza and North Gaza stops functioning, leaving only the pipeline supplying Khan Younis functional.

9 Apr

UNRWA announces having to suspend the maternity services it supports through local partners in Gaza, including natural and cesarean births, as well as gynecological surgeries (Health cluster).

12 Apr

Israeli forces strike Gaza's last fully functional hospital in Gaza city, Al Ahli Arab.

15 Apr

70% of Gaza is now under Israeli-issued displacement orders or within a "no-go" zone.

### DURING THE CEASEFIRE, ESSENTIAL AID INTO GAZA STILL RESTRICTED

At least 14 surveyed NGOs reported facing arbitrary delays of several weeks or months and 10 surveyed NGOs reported denials for importing food, tents, hygiene products such as baby diapers and soap, clothes, blankets, pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, assistive devices for people with disabilities, psychosocial support kits, storybooks and school items. Eight NGOs faced both delays and denials. One NGO reported receiving pre-approval for a shipment of psychosocial support kits, only to see it rejected at the border.

While Israeli authorities do not always provide explanations for the denials, among the reasons reported by NGOs are: unfounded allegations that the “donation would not reach humanitarian purposes”, that education and psychosocial support items are not humanitarian priorities, and new aid entry requirements imposed halfway through the process forcing NGOs to restart the lengthy approval procedures.

So-called “dual use” restrictions continued to impede the entry of items fundamental for daily survival and dignity, such as, among other things, solar lanterns and panels, crutches, oxygen cylinders, generators, water filtration systems, ventilators and anesthetics.

### HUNGER, DEHYDRATION, MALNUTRITION: AID WEAPONIZED

With stocks quickly depleting and bakeries closing, Palestinians in Gaza once again face the risk of starvation. Several NGOs reported that they have also been forced to shut down community kitchens after weeks of reducing rations. In March alone, over one million people were left without food parcels, compared with almost no one during the first 42 days of ceasefire, according to UN sources. Meanwhile, trucks carrying food are stalled at crossings, and supplies are spoiling just miles from communities where child malnutrition is rapidly rising.

With the loss of the Mekorot water line in northern Gaza, the electricity cut to the main desalination plant and the limited fuel resources, humanitarian organizations reported being unable to provide the minimum water requirement of 15 liters per day per person, threatening the survival and dignity of the Palestinians of Gaza.

Hospitals are exhausting the few supplies they have left: dialysis sessions are drastically reduced, surgeries, including emergency caesarean sections, are taking place without anesthesia and the essential medical equipment required, according to surveyed organizations.

### 2 MARCH: ENTRY OF AID SUDDENLY 100% DENIED

Aid organizations received no advanced notice when crossings for humanitarian aid and commercial goods were closed, yet another example of the unpredictability of supply chains across the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt).

Nineteen NGOs reported having cargo waiting outside of Gaza for entry. At least 8,881 pallets of aid are stuck in Jordan, Egypt, the West Bank and Israel, including: supplies for psychosocial support, bedding, hygiene items, hot meal ingredients, school supplies, tents, fire extinguishers, and medicines.

**Demurrage fees** in Al Arish, Egypt, stand at USD 3,200 per day per truck or close to USD 100,000 per month per truck, according to organizations waiting for trucks to enter.

Organizations reported struggling to find new ways to deliver safe drinking water to Palestinians following the electricity cut to Gaza’s main drinking water production plant (the Gaza Strip’s only facility that was supplied with Israeli power).

## WHEN HUMANITARIANS HAVE THE NECESSARY MEANS TO DELIVER, AID REACHES THOSE WHO NEED IT

From the start of the ceasefire on 19 January to 2 March (when the total siege was reinstated), **more cargo entered Gaza than at any time since October 2023**. Incidents of cargo loss or looting decreased during that period: of the 43 NGOs with operations in Gaza that were surveyed, only three incidents of “lost cargo” were reported during this period: one with “self-distribution” by communities\*, one in unclear circumstances, and one where 27 of the 28 pallets were found days later in a warehouse.

In contrast, **after the siege was reimposed, aid groups began reporting increases in looting incidents**, underscoring the extreme desperation and suffering inflicted on Palestinians, who have been living in conditions that undermine their survival for more than a year and a half.

*\*involving unarmed people seizing supplies from trucks during unloading or transit to distribution points which underscores the extreme desperation and suffering inflicted on Palestinians for 18 months.*

Due to overcrowding and lack of medicine and sanitation products required, makeshift displacement sites in the southern coastal areas are now reporting infestations of fleas and mites, causing rashes and other health issues. As preventable diseases and casualty numbers go up, vital medicine and surgical supplies sit unused across the Egyptian border.

With fuel, solar panels and generators blocked from entry, and with the 9 March cut of the Israeli electricity supply to the main Gaza desalination plant, power is near-impossible to come by: hospitals cannot provide proper care, water production is severely reduced, and raw sewage cannot be treated.

The prolonged closure has led to severe shortages of supplies that have significantly undermined dietary diversity and prices are skyrocketing compared to the ceasefire period, sometimes reaching +1,400% for some food items, +600% for cooking gas and +300% for diapers in some places. For a population that cannot access their savings and sources of income, everything is unaffordable.



+1,400%



+600%



+300%

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*Our fears have grown stronger, not only for ourselves but for our families as well. It breaks our hearts to witness children and our community struggling with severe hunger. The situation is becoming more difficult each day. We are doing our best to deliver essential supplies to those most in need, but the community is facing an overwhelming shortage of food and medical supplies. We feel helpless not being able to assist everyone in need.*

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- Humanitarian worker, Gaza

**GAZA: AID WORKERS FACE HIGH RISK OF BEING KILLED**

At least 412 aid workers have been killed in Gaza since October 2023, as of 9 April. The overwhelming majority of them were confirmed to have been killed by Israeli fire. That amounts to 56% of the 729 aid workers killed globally in the past year and a half, a testament to the indiscriminate nature of attacks carried out in the oPt by the Israeli military, with rules of engagement that violate the principles of distinction, precaution and proportionality required by international humanitarian law (IHL).

Since Israeli forces resumed bombardments on 18 March, at least 14 humanitarian organizations, including 7 surveyed, reported Israeli fire directly or indirectly hitting their staff or aid facilities.

Since the resumption of hostilities on 18 March, Israeli authorities stopped acknowledging movements notified through the UN-managed Humanitarian Notification System. The platform is a voluntary information-sharing mechanism that strengthens the opportunity for parties to uphold their obligations under IHL, including facilitating the safe, unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid and avoiding harm to humanitarian workers, sites, and assets. Despite continuous humanitarian diplomacy efforts to restore the full system, Israeli acknowledgments for humanitarian notifications (in place pre-ceasefire) had not resumed as of 13 April.

*More than 1 in 2 aid workers killed globally in the past 18 months were killed by Israeli fire in Gaza. (AWSD)*

**ALARMING ATTACKS AGAINST  
AID WORKERS AND FACILITIES**

- A UN guesthouse in Deir al Balah, officially deconflicted by the military, was hit once on 18 March, and twice on 19 March; one UN worker was killed and five were severely injured, including several with life-changing injuries. Israel blamed the casualties on unexploded ordnance but the UN confirmed the strike was caused by an Israeli tank.
- An NGO community kitchen in Deir al Balah was hit on 27 March during an active hot meal distribution with a few minutes of notice given by Israeli forces. Without enough time to evacuate the area, one aid worker and several aid recipients were killed or injured.
- On 23 March, on a mission to save wounded people in Rafah, 16 first responders wearing reflective uniforms, in vehicles with ambulance and firetruck insignia and a clear UN logo, went missing. After eight days of Israeli obstructions in accessing the area, 15 of them were found buried under their crushed vehicles, in a mass grave, hands tied behind their backs, still wearing their uniforms. Footage found on the phone of one of the killed paramedics shows how the scene unfolded. Another paramedic remains missing as of 14 April.
- Three organizations reported at least seven aid workers and/or family members were injured or killed by Israeli airstrikes hitting their homes or tents: one was killed at home with all of his family, including his pregnant wife, except for his three- and six-year-old children; in another instance, an NGO volunteer was killed in his home.

# 61 AID WORKERS

(at least) **have been killed or injured** in the oPt since 1 January 2025 in 22 separate incidents (AWSD)

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*Every day, we try to deliver aid to families who have lost everything, but the challenges never end. Destroyed roads, fuel shortages, and the constant fear of airstrikes make our mission incredibly difficult. Still, we cannot stop —people rely on us. I've seen mothers cry because they have no food for their children, and that alone makes me realize how important our work is, no matter the risk.*

*- Humanitarian worker, Gaza*