

## PRESS RELEASE

### **As mass starvation spreads across Gaza, more than 100 NGOs make an urgent plea to allow in life-saving aid**

GAZA, 23 JULY 2025 – As the Israeli government's siege starves the people of Gaza, aid workers are now joining the same food lines, risking being shot just to feed their families. With supplies now totally depleted, humanitarian organisations are witnessing their own colleagues and partners waste away before their eyes.

Exactly two months since the Israeli government-controlled scheme, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, began operating, 109 organisations are sounding the alarm, urging governments to act: open all land crossings; restore the full flow of food, clean water, medical supplies, shelter items, and fuel through a principled, UN-led mechanism; end the siege, and agree to a ceasefire now. *"Each morning, the same question echoes across Gaza: will I eat today?"* said one agency representative.

Massacres at food distribution sites in Gaza are occurring near-daily. As of July 13, the UN confirmed 875 Palestinians were killed while seeking food, 201 on aid routes and the rest at distribution points. Thousands more have been injured. Meanwhile, Israeli forces have forcibly displaced nearly two million exhausted Palestinians with the most recent mass displacement order issued on July 20, confining Palestinians to less than 12 per cent of Gaza. WFP warns that current conditions make operations untenable. The starvation of civilians as a method of warfare is a war crime.

Just outside Gaza, in warehouses - and even within Gaza itself - tons of food, clean water, medical supplies, shelter items and fuel sit untouched with humanitarian organisations blocked from accessing or delivering them. The Government of Israel's restrictions, delays, and fragmentation under its total siege have created chaos, starvation, and death. An aid worker providing psychosocial support spoke of the devastating impact on children: *"Children tell their parents they want to go to heaven, because at least heaven has food."*

Doctors report record rates of acute malnutrition, especially among children and older people. Illnesses like acute watery diarrhoea are spreading, markets are empty, waste is piling up, and adults are collapsing on the streets from hunger and dehydration. Distributions in Gaza average just 28 trucks a day, far from enough for over two million people, many of whom have gone weeks without assistance.

The UN-led humanitarian system has not failed, it has been prevented from functioning. Humanitarian agencies have the capacity and supplies to respond at scale. But, with access denied, we are blocked from reaching those in need, including our own exhausted and starved teams. On July 10, the EU and Israel announced steps to scale up aid. But these promises of 'progress' ring hollow when there is no

real change on the ground. Every day without a sustained flow means more people dying of preventable illnesses. Children starve while waiting for promises that never arrive.

Palestinians are trapped in a cycle of hope and heartbreak, waiting for assistance and ceasefires, only to wake up to worsening conditions. It is not just physical torment, but psychological. Survival is dangled like a mirage. The humanitarian system cannot run on false promises. Humanitarians cannot operate on shifting timelines or wait for political commitments that fail to deliver access.

Governments must stop waiting for permission to act. We cannot continue to hope that current arrangements will work. It is time to take decisive action: demand an immediate and permanent ceasefire; lift all bureaucratic and administrative restrictions; open all land crossings; ensure access to everyone in all of Gaza; reject military-controlled distribution models; restore a principled, UN-led humanitarian response and continue to fund principled and impartial humanitarian organisations. States must pursue concrete measures to end the siege, such as halting the transfer of weapons and ammunition.

Piecemeal arrangements and symbolic gestures, like airdrops or flawed aid deals, serve as a smokescreen for inaction. They cannot replace states' legal and moral obligations to protect Palestinian civilians and ensure meaningful access at scale. States can and must save lives before there are none left to save.

**Signatories:**

1. American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)
2. A.M. Qattan Foundation
3. A New Policy
4. ACT Alliance
5. Action Against Hunger (ACF)
6. Action for Humanity
7. ActionAid International
8. American Baptist Churches Palestine Justice Network
9. Amnesty International
10. Asamblea de Cooperación por la Paz
11. Associazione Cooperazione e Solidarietà (ACS)
12. Bystanders No More
13. Campaign
14. CARE
15. Caritas Germany
16. Caritas Internationalis
17. Caritas Jerusalem
18. Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)
19. Center for Mind-Body Medicine (CMBM)
20. CESVI Fondazione

21. Children Not Numbers
22. Christian Aid
23. Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)
24. CIDSE- International Family of Catholic Social Justice Organisations
25. Cooperazione Internazionale Sud Sud (CISS)
26. Council for Arab-British Understanding (CAABU)
27. DanChurchAid (DCA)
28. Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
29. Doctors against Genocide
30. Episcopal Peace Fellowship
31. EuroMed Rights
32. Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)
33. Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst e.V.
34. Gender Action for Peace and Security
35. Global Legal Action Network (GLAN)
36. Global Witness
37. Health Workers 4 Palestine
38. HelpAge International
39. Humanity & Inclusion (HI)
40. Humanity First UK
41. Indiana Center for Middle East Peace
42. Insight Insecurity
43. International Media Support
44. International NGO Safety Organisation
45. Islamic Relief
46. Jahalin Solidarity
47. Japan International Volunteer Center (JVC)
48. Kenya Association of Muslim Medical Professionals (KAMMP)
49. Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation
50. MedGlobal
51. Medico International
52. Medico International Switzerland (medico international schweiz)
53. Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP)
54. Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)
55. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)
56. Médecins du Monde France
57. Médecins du Monde Spain
58. Médecins du Monde Switzerland
59. Mercy Corps
60. Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA)
61. Movement for Peace (MPDL)
62. Muslim Aid

63. National Justice and Peace Network in England and Wales
64. Nonviolence International
65. Norwegian Aid Committee (NORWAC)
66. Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
67. Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)
68. Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
69. Oxfam International
70. Pax Christi England and Wales
71. Pax Christi International
72. Pax Christi Merseyside
73. Pax Christi USA
74. Pal Law Commission
75. Palestinian American Medical Association
76. Palestinian Children's Relief Fund (PCRF)
77. Palestinian Medical Relief Society (PMRS)
78. Peace Direct
79. Peace Winds
80. Pediatricians for Palestine
81. People in Need
82. Plan International
83. Première Urgence Internationale (PUI)
84. Progettomondo
85. Project HOPE
86. Quaker Palestine Israel Network
87. Rebuilding Alliance
88. Saferworld
89. Sabeel-Kairos UK
90. Save the Children (SCI)
91. Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund
92. Solidarités International
93. Støtteforeningen Det Danske Hus i Palæstina
94. Swiss Church Aid (HEKS/EPER)
95. Terre des Hommes Italia
96. Terre des Hommes Lausanne
97. Terre des Hommes Nederland
98. The Borgen Project
99. The Center for Mind-Body Medicine (CMBM)
100. The Glia Project
101. The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (GCR2P)
102. The Institute for the Understanding of Anti-Palestinian Racism
103. Un Ponte Per (UPP)
104. United Against Inhumanity (UAI)

- 105. War Child Alliance
- 106. War Child UK
- 107. War on Want
- 108. Weltfriedensdienst e.V.
- 109. Welthungerhilfe (WHH)

**Bei Interviewanfragen wenden Sie sich bitte an den untenstehenden Kontakt.**

**Kontakt**

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**Save the Children Schweiz**

Jedes Kind verdient eine Zukunft – ob in der Schweiz oder auf der ganzen Welt. Mit dieser Überzeugung unterstützt der Verein Save the Children Schweiz seit 2006 kompromisslos und unermüdlich die am stärksten benachteiligten Kinder. In der Schweiz verwurzelt, ist Save the Children seit 1919 die weltweit führende Kinderrechtsorganisation. Dank unserer lokalen Verankerung in 120 Ländern kennen wir die Situation vor Ort, passen unsere Projekte entsprechend an und können im Notfall unverzüglich helfen. Wir verändern nachhaltig und positiv das Leben von Kindern, besonders in Krisen, auf der Flucht oder in Slums. In der Schweiz setzen wir uns seit 2015 für geflüchtete Kinder ein und verfügen über grosse Expertise im Bereich Asyl und Migration.