

Community of national artistic unity

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Project report

What is the situation on the ground in Gaza?

The people of Gaza are facing never-before-seen levels of hunger, massacre, and devastation. Even with a ceasefire in effect, the need is enormous.

The months-long complete blockade of humanitarian aid, food, and supplies has pushed 1 million people into an emergency level of hunger and 477,000 at risk of starvation, of which 320,000 are children.

- 64% of primary healthcare centers and 53% of hospitals are completely shut down
- Up to 12,500 medical patients require evacuation abroad
- 92% of homes are destroyed or damaged
- More than 2,300 educational facilities – from kindergartens to university buildings – have been destroyed
- 93% of households suffer shortages of water

World leaders must ensure immediate and sustained humanitarian access comes into effect. The people of Gaza are in urgent need of aid, and we must all do our part to prevent further loss of life.

Is Islamic Relief currently distributing any aid in Gaza?

Islamic Relief staff and partners, including the World Food Programme, have worked tirelessly since the blockade went into effect on March 2, 2025. Since then, we have delivered daily hot meals, clean water, hygiene items, and clothes wherever possible and using existing supplies that were previously brought into Gaza during the previous ceasefire.

In the past month alone, our team was able to provide life-saving essentials to camps in Gaza City and maternal care for pregnant women:

- Freshly cooked lentil soup, pasta, rice, and potatoes over 5,000 people
- 6,000 litres of clean, drinking water to 450 people
- Psychosocial support to 150 children
- Medical checkups to 1,300 pregnant women

While our team and partners search for new opportunities to increase our daily hot meals and food supply distributions, **we continue to offer other lifesaving activities every day.** This includes:

- Cleaning communal shelters for displaced families to prevent the spread of disease
- Working with health facilities to provide maternal care to hundreds of pregnant women
- Supporting over 20,000 orphaned children and their guardians with cash payments to help them purchase essentials

With partners Union of Medical Care & Relief Organizations and Campaign for Children of Palestine Japan, we have also launched new projects supporting Gazan refugees and evacuees while simultaneously addressing the needs of Palestinians in Gaza.

- Cash transfers via e-wallets to individuals in Gaza
- Cataract removal surgery for individuals in Gaza, where local surgeons, nurses, and medical staff will be engaged and trained throughout the process

Despite the ongoing challenges on the ground, your consistent support and advocacy continues to save lives.

What are the urgent needs in Gaza at the moment? How is Islamic Relief addressing them?

Based on our assessments, the most urgent needs in Gaza are:

- Access to clean drinking water
- Food assistance for displaced families
- Psychosocial support, especially for children who have endured significant trauma
- Temporary shelter for those whose homes has been destroyed
- Medical care for the injured and vulnerable populations

Here's how we are responding:

- Maintaining a presence through our Gaza-based staff, who continue to work at great personal risk.
- Working closely with international and local partners, including the World Food Program and UN humanitarian organizations, to navigate border and logistics challenges and bring in critical supplies.

- Advocating for sustained humanitarian access and protection for civilians and aid workers at national and international levels, starting with consulting Canadian politicians and spearheading conferences.
- Providing emergency health services, and cash assistance wherever access is possible. Our cash transfer program continues to reach orphan families in Gaza on a quarterly basis.

How much money has Islamic Relief spent in Gaza?



As a global family, Islamic Relief has been able to send **\$86M CAD** into Gaza since the escalations began in October 2023. The money is transferred to our implementing partner Islamic Relief Worldwide in the United Kingdom, which is then transferred to Islamic Relief staff in Gaza through local partners.

Our staff in Gaza are using your donations to locally procure food, hygiene supplies, bedding, and any other essential item we can source. They screen and contract local suppliers and partners, who procure either locally or through private trading routes between Gaza and Egypt.

With the level of our procurement, donations are routed through wire transfers to their Palestinian bank accounts.

What areas is Islamic Relief working in?

Islamic Relief is presently active in Rafah, Khan Younis, Deir Al Balah, Zawayda, Gaza City and North Gaza. We have recently extended our work in North Gaza to reach Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahya, and Jabaliya.

Our emergency response efforts are being conducted in collaboration with the World Food Program and 6 local partners: some who are distributing humanitarian aid in North Gaza. Each partner is assigned Islamic Relief staff to oversee project implementation.



What are Islamic Relief's long-term plans for Gaza?

Humanitarian needs remain urgent, with hundreds of thousands displaced in tents and in critical condition. For this reason, our ongoing work on the ground is focused on emergency relief, including the distribution of hot meals and hygiene items, as well as providing access to clean water and medical aid.

We are committed to supporting our Palestinian brothers and sisters to rebuild in a sustainable manner. Our long-term development plan includes:

- **Repair:** We are looking to repair and rehabilitate vital infrastructure including community centres, homes, schools, and hospitals.
- **Shelter:** Providing families with transitional shelters while their homes are rebuilt, as well as kitchen sets and solar powered energy systems.
- **Livelihood:** Creating paid employment opportunities for skilled and non-skilled workers who have lost their livelihoods – including hiring labourers to help remove rubble and employing Gazans in the health and agriculture sectors.
- **Education:** Supporting children to kickstart their education by providing educational kits and school bags, as well as providing schools with furniture and equipment.

- **Medical:** Strengthening healthcare systems by providing medical supplies and other support to improve the quality and accessibility of medical services, especially for women, children, elderly people, and people with disabilities.

I have family in Gaza, why can't you help them?

We understand the desire to direct aid to specific individuals, however, to maintain equal access, we are unable to fulfill such requests. We consistently work to diversify our distribution points, ensuring that aid reaches as many people as possible.

It is important to note that no person will be denied aid at our distributions; however, our commitment to equity drives us to prioritize equal access for all. Our focus remains on supporting shelters to the best of our ability and providing assistance through our local partners.

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