



GIEWS Update

The Gaza Strip

Famine declared in the Gaza Strip

Highlights

- Famine (IPC Phase 5) is confirmed in Gaza Governorate and projected to expand to Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis governorates by the end of September 2025. Nearly 2 million people are projected to face severe acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 or above), with about 641 000 in Famine (IPC Phase 5).
- The conflict in the Gaza Strip has displaced nearly 2 million people, decimated livelihoods, destroyed infrastructure and caused the collapse of the agricultural sector.
- The population is almost entirely dependent on humanitarian aid. However, border blockades and restricted humanitarian access have drastically constrained the availability of food and other essential goods within the Gaza Strip.

After 22 months of relentless conflict, the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis confirmed that famine (IPC Phase 5) is currently occurring in the Gaza Governorate and projected to expand in Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis governorates by the end of September 2025.ⁱ There is reasonable evidence indicating widespread starvation, severe malnutrition and disease that are contributing to a rise in hunger-related deaths. In July, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that an estimated 63 people died from malnutrition, with the bodies of the victims showing clear signs of severe wasting.ⁱⁱ Border closures and a decimated agricultural sector have left the entire population dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic food needs. Yet less than half of the estimated minimum food needs entered the Gaza Strip during the May–June period.ⁱⁱⁱ An immediate ceasefire, the opening of all crossings, and a significant scaling up of both humanitarian assistance and commercial access are urgently required to end famine and alleviate its impacts.^{iv}

Population displacements

According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), since the onset of the conflict in October 2023, at least 1.9 million people, around 90 percent of the population in the Gaza Strip, have been displaced, with a large majority multiple times. Since mid-March, protracted and intensified hostilities have displaced nearly 800 000 people, with 86 percent of the Gaza Strip now under militarized zones or displacement orders. Displacement of people has further disrupted humanitarian operations, severely hindering the delivery of urgently needed assistance.^v

Food availability and utilization

The scale of food shortages is extreme. Border closures^{vi} and the near-total unavailability of arable land, more than 98 percent of cropland in the Gaza Strip are either damaged, inaccessible or both,^{vii} have left the population entirely dependent on humanitarian food aid. Yet, the volume of food aid entering the Gaza Strip is far short of the needs.

Although estimated 62 000 tonnes of food are required each month to meet the basic needs of the population,^{1, viii} food aid deliveries in May and June 2025 covered only 32 percent and 61 percent of this requirement, respectively.^{ix} Moreover, since 19 May 2025, when a limited number of aid convoys was allowed to entry, following an 80-day blockade, only few trucks were able to reach the intended recipients.^x In the first half of August 2025, approximately 55 600 tonnes of food entered the Gaza Strip, but this volume remains largely inaccessible and insufficient to cover the prolonged food deficits and widespread deprivation.^{xi}

In addition, while some food items provided through humanitarian programmes are ready-to-eat, most requires clean water and fuel for cooking, both of which are extremely scarce. As a result, many households have resorted to burning waste for cooking, exposing themselves to serious health hazards. The lack of clean drinking water is also causing severe hardship and significantly increasing health risks and deaths.^{xii}

Food access

Since mid-March 2025, access to both humanitarian and commercial supplies of food and other essential goods has remained critically restricted. With limited food available outside the humanitarian distribution points, prices of essential food items are prohibitively high. As of the fourth week of July 2025, wheat flour prices were more than 26 times their pre-conflict level.^{xiii} Concurrently, the collapse of livelihoods and income sources has resulted in most households unable to access food outside the limited humanitarian assistance. However, Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) food distributions have been marked by insecurity and stark disparities in coverage and access. Last July, about 80 percent of households reported facing safety risks while seeking food.

Amid the severity of the crisis, families are surviving on just one meal per day. Over 90 percent of households have reduced their food consumption, with more than 60 percent of adults regularly forgoing meals to allow their children to eat.^{xiv}

Acute food insecurity

The IPC update released on 22 August 2025 confirmed, with reasonable evidence, famine conditions in the Gaza Governorate and expects them to worsen, with famine projected to expand in Deir el-Balah and Khan Younis governorates by the end of September. According to the IPC analysis, between mid-August and the end of September 2025, about 2 million people, nearly the entire population, are projected to face high levels of acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 3 [Crisis] and above). Of these, nearly 641 000 people (32 percent of the analysed population) are expected to face catastrophic acute food insecurity (IPC Phase 5), marked by an extreme lack of food, leading to starvation, destitution and a high risk of death.^{xv}

Acute malnutrition is also expected to continue worsening rapidly. Through June 2026, it is projected that at least 132 000 children aged 6 to 59 months will suffer from acute malnutrition, which is double the IPC estimates of May 2025 and includes over 41 000 severe cases of children at heightened risk of death. Furthermore, nearly 55 500 malnourished pregnant and breastfeeding women will require urgent nutrition response. Medical supplies are in severe shortage, contributing to growing illness rates that can impair nutrient absorption and thereby exacerbate the impacts of malnutrition.^{xvi}

Recommended actions

An immediate and sustained ceasefire is essential to save lives and prevent famine. Civilians, humanitarian workers and critical infrastructure must be protected to ensure basic survival and functioning of food, health and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) systems. Safe and unconditional humanitarian access through all entry points must be guaranteed, allowing lifesaving assistance and essential services to reach all people in need across the Gaza Strip. Large-scale, multi-sector humanitarian aid must be rapidly delivered to avert starvation. It is urgently needed to restore commercial flows, market systems and local food production to secure access to essential foods and services.^{xvii}

¹ This figure is a United Nations operational estimate for General Food Distribution requirements based on rations covering staple food needs only.

Notes

- i. **IPC.** 2025. *IPC Global Initiative – Special Snapshot: Gaza Strip: Famine confirmed in Gaza Governorate, projected to expand, 1 July–30 September 2025*. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). Rome. 22 August 2025. https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Gaza_Strip_Acute_Food_Insecurity_Malnutrition_July_Sept2025_Special_Snapshot.pdf.
- ii. **WHO.** 2025. *Malnutrition rates reach alarming levels in Gaza, WHO warns*. World Health Organization (WHO). Jerusalem, Cairo, Geneva. 27 July 2025. <https://www.who.int/news/item/27-07-2025-malnutrition-rates-reach-alarming-levels-in-gaza--who-warns>.
- iii. **IPC.** 2025. *IPC Alert: Worst-case scenario of Famine unfolding in the Gaza Strip*. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). Rome. 29 July 2025. https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_GazaStrip_Alert_July2025.pdf.
- iv. **UN.** 2025. *The Question of Palestine. OCHA update: UN Relief Chief welcomes humanitarian pauses in Gaza, stresses vast amounts of aid needed to stave off famine*. Press Release. United Nations (UN). New York. 28 July 2025. <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/ocha-update-un-relief-chief-welcomes-humanitarian-pauses-in-gaza-stresses-vast-amounts-of-aid-needed-to-stave-off-famine/>.
- v. **UNWRA.** 2025. *UNRWA Situation Report #181 on the Humanitarian Crisis in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem*. Amman, Jordan. 25 July 2025. <https://www.unrwa.org/resources/reports/unrwa-situation-report-181-situation-gaza-strip-and-west-bank-including-east-jerusalem>.
- vi. **WFP.** 2025. *WFP runs out of food stocks in Gaza as border crossings remain closed*. World Food Programme (WFP). Rome. 25 April 2025. <https://www.wfp.org/news/wfp-runs-out-food-stocks-gaza-border-crossings-remain-closed>.
- vii. **FAO.** 2025. *Land Availability for Cultivation in the Gaza Strip as of April 2025*. FAO, UNITAR-UNOSAT. Rome. April 2025. <https://openknowledge.fao.org/items/713e4d65-b8b0-4b10-bee3-57b95c5e479f>.
- viii. **IPC.** 2025. *IPC Alert: Worst-case scenario of Famine unfolding in the Gaza Strip*. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). Rome. 29 July 2025. https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_GazaStrip_Alert_July2025.pdf.
- ix. **COGAT.** 2025. *Gaza: Humanitarian Aid Data*. Humanitarian Efforts Israel. Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories. [Cited 29 July 2025]. <https://gaza-aid-data.gov.il/main/#AidData>.
- x. **Food Security Cluster.** 2025. *Palestine Market Monitor – June 2025*, WFP. World Food Programme (WFP). Rome. 14 July 2025. <https://fscluster.org/state-of-palestine/document/palestine-market-monitor-june-2025-wfp>.
- xi. **IPC.** 2025. *IPC Global Initiative – Special Snapshot: Gaza Strip: Famine confirmed in Gaza Governorate, projected to expand, 1 July–30 September 2025*. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). Rome. 22 August 2025. https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Gaza_Strip_Acute_Food_Insecurity_Malnutrition_July_Sept2025_Special_Snapshot.pdf.
- xii. **IPC.** 2025. *IPC Alert: Worst-case scenario of Famine unfolding in the Gaza Strip*. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). Rome. 29 July 2025. https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_GazaStrip_Alert_July2025.pdf.
- xiii. **WFP.** 2025. *Market Monitor – Gaza: WFP Palestine Food Security Analysis*. World Food Programme (WFP). Rome. July 2025. <https://docs.wfp.org/api/documents/WFP-0000168133/download/>.
- xiv. **Food Security Cluster.** 2025. *Palestine Market Monitor – June 2025*, WFP. World Food Programme (WFP). Rome. 14 July 2025. <https://fscluster.org/state-of-palestine/document/palestine-market-monitor-june-2025-wfp>.
- xv. **IPC.** 2025. *IPC Global Initiative – Special Snapshot: Gaza Strip: Famine confirmed in Gaza Governorate, projected to expand, 1 July–30 September 2025*. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). Rome. 22 August 2025. https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Gaza_Strip_Acute_Food_Insecurity_Malnutrition_July_Sept2025_Special_Snapshot.pdf.
- xvi. **WHO.** 2025. *oPt Emergency Situation Update, Issue 61*. Occupied Palestinian Territory. World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean. CAiro. 7 October 2023–30 June 2025. https://www.emro.who.int/images/stories/palestine/Sitrep_61.pdf.
- xvii. **IPC.** 2025. *IPC Global Initiative – Special Snapshot: Gaza Strip: Famine confirmed in Gaza Governorate, projected to expand, 1 July–30 September 2025*. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). Rome. 22 August 2025. https://www.ipcinfo.org/fileadmin/user_upload/ipcinfo/docs/IPC_Gaza_Strip_Acute_Food_Insecurity_Malnutrition_July_Sept2025_Special_Snapshot.pdf.

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Enquiries may be directed to:

Global Information and Early Warning System on Food and Agriculture (GIEWS)
Markets and Trade - Economic and Social Development
GIEWS1@fao.org

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Rome, Italy

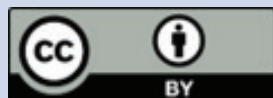
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