

Urgent Appeal: Gaza is Starving

**The children of Gaza are not dying —
they are being killed in the silence of the world**

August 2025

In the Gaza Strip, starvation continues to be used as a deliberate and systematic weapon of war against civilians, in flagrant violation of all humanitarian norms and international legal frameworks — foremost among them the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, International Humanitarian Law, and the Geneva Conventions, particularly the Fourth Convention on the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. Since the imposition of a full blockade in March 2025, the food and health systems have entered a state of collapse, with infants and young children bearing the heaviest toll.

What is unfolding in Gaza is not merely a humanitarian crisis — it is a systematic crime against an entire generation, enabled by a disturbing global silence and the international community's failure to take meaningful action to protect children and guarantee access to life-saving aid.

In light of our moral, humanitarian, and professional responsibility, we — **the Palestinian Network for Early Childhood** and the **Arab Network for Early Childhood**, on behalf of our members working in the field of early childhood development across Palestine and the Arab region — issue this urgent appeal and call for the following immediate actions:

- 1. Stop the war and Immediate and unconditional lifting of the blockade on the Gaza Strip, and the opening of all crossings to allow the entry of food, medicine, fuel, and basic necessities without obstruction or delay.**
- 2. Urgent and safe delivery of therapeutic milk and essential medicines for children, especially those suffering from chronic illnesses or acute malnutrition.**
- 3. Establishment of safe and sustained humanitarian corridors to enable rapid and effective intervention by local and international organizations specialized in child protection and public health.**
- 4. Formation of an independent international fact-finding commission to investigate the use of starvation as a weapon of war, and to ensure accountability for those responsible for such grave violations.**
- 5. Decisive international action by UN bodies and global actors to protect civilians, and to halt the targeting of health, service, and food infrastructure in Gaza.**

What is happening today in Gaza represents a defining test of the international system's credibility and of the shared values of justice and human dignity. The children of Gaza are not dying from hunger alone — they are dying from a global silence, from political inaction, and from the absence of a serious will to halt these crimes.

According to data from the Ministry of Health in Gaza, dozens of children have died as a result of acute malnutrition and complete lack of access to food. There is a catastrophic shortage of therapeutic milk and nutritional supplements, compounded by an almost total breakdown of the healthcare system. Recent reports by United Nations agencies, including UNICEF and the World Food Programme, warn that more than 70,000 children are facing imminent famine, with projections indicating further deterioration in the coming days and weeks.

We, the undersigned networks, reaffirm that the protection of childhood is not a slogan nor a theoretical commitment, but a moral and human obligation that must be translated into urgent action and into guarantees for life, dignity, and well-being for children everywhere, at all times.

The continuation of this siege and the starvation and deprivation it entails is a stain on the conscience of humanity and a legal precedent that must be stopped immediately

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