

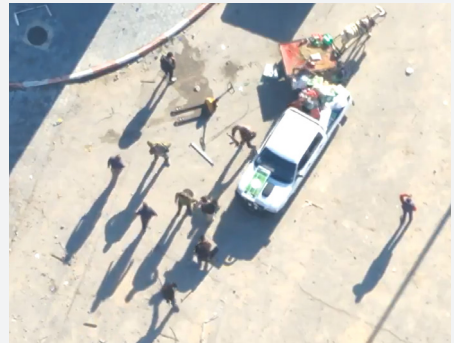
# Israel Facilitates Humanitarian Aid to Gaza as Hamas Continues to Attack

March 5, 2024

Israel is facilitating massive amounts of humanitarian assistance to Gaza — including food, water, medicine, fuel, and shelter supplies — despite Hamas continuing indiscriminate rocket fire on Israeli civilians while holding over 130 Israelis hostage.

Substantial amounts of this aid are not reaching Gazan civilians in a timely manner due to the ineffectiveness of the U.N. and humanitarian organizations at processing and distributing the aid. Hamas contributes to the problem by regularly stealing and diverting aid intended for civilians.

The U.S. and international community must pressure Hamas to surrender and release all the remaining hostages. Only with the defeat of Hamas can life in Gaza significantly improve.



Hamas terrorists beat civilians and steal humanitarian aid delivered by international organizations. (Source: IDF)

## Israel is facilitating massive aid deliveries to Gaza.

- Israel is already facilitating the entry of more than 1,000 trucks of aid to Gaza per week and stands ready to do more. On March 3, Israel inspected and transferred 277 humanitarian aid trucks into Gaza.
- Since Hamas initiated the war on October 7, 280,080 tons of aid have entered on 15,207 trucks.
- Israel has also enabled Jordan and France to airdrop supplies to specific areas when other mechanisms to deliver aid have been unavailable.

## The U.N. needs to improve the distribution of aid.

- The United Nations and other international agencies are largely responsible for the existing delays in aid deliveries into Gaza. The U.N. has not been able to distribute aid at the rate that Israel is processing it, causing back-ups at the border crossings after Israeli inspections are completed.
- On March 3, the U.N. received 234 trucks in Gaza but only distributed 131 trucks of aid to civilians in the enclave.
- Since the start of the war, Israel has denied entry to only 1.6% of trucks seeking to enter Gaza. The main obstacle to humanitarian aid reaching civilians is the distribution mechanism inside of Gaza. Truck drivers are also delaying distribution by arriving late to Rafah and leaving early.

- The principal Israeli official responsible for facilitating this assistance, Col. Elad Goren, stated, “I want to make it clear we are not refusing anything that is underneath four headlines ... Food, water, medical supplies and shelters.”
- “Today it is possible to provide three times the amount of humanitarian aid to Gaza if the U.N. — instead of complaining all day — would do its job,” Israeli President Isaac Herzog added in late December.

## **Food transfers are above pre-war levels.**

- During the war, more food trucks have entered Gaza than prior to the war — on average an increase of more than 50% per day. 184,5000 tons of food have entered Gaza since the start of the war. On March 3, 4,160 tons of food were delivered on 187 trucks.
- Any food shortages are the result of Hamas’ theft and inefficient distribution.
- Four tankers carrying cooking oil are entering Gaza every day — a sufficient quantity to meet the needs of the territory. 310 cooking gas tanks have entered Gaza since the start of the war.
- The World Food Program is currently supplying 15 massive Gazan bakeries — with the capacity to produce more than 2 million pita breads, rolls, and other breads per day.
- Many markets in Gaza continue to operate and sell locally grown fresh produce.

## **Fuel supplies are being replenished as needed.**

- Israel agreed to replenish fuel supplies as needed for the United Nations and essential operations of water and sanitation systems.
- When reserves are depleted, Israel facilitates the delivery of additional fuel. 170 fuel tanks have entered Gaza since the beginning of the war.
- Given Hamas’ history of stealing fuel to power its terrorist infrastructure, Israel has a strong military requirement at this time to prevent the creation of large fuel stockpiles.
- Prior to October 7, Israel provided some power directly to Gaza via a series of 10 power lines. Hamas destroyed nine of these lines in the October 7 attack.

## **Most water in Gaza is locally sourced, and Israel is continuing to provide water despite Hamas destruction of pipes.**

- Two water pipes from Israel provide hundreds of thousands of Gazans with water. Hamas damaged these pipes on October 7 and has subsequently attacked the pipes, requiring Israeli repair efforts.
- 90% of water in Gaza is from local sources. Israel has worked with the U.N. to repair wells, pumping equipment and desalination facilities.
- The UAE, with Israel’s approval, has constructed two mobile desalination facilities in Egypt and connected them to Gaza. These facilities can provide water for more than 150,000 people.
- 25,420 tons of water have entered Gaza on 1,275 trucks since the start of the war.

## **Medical supplies are continuing to flow into Gaza.**

- Israel has facilitated the delivery of more than 18,400 tons of medical supplies to Gaza since Hamas attacked Israel.

- On March 2, Israel also delivered 50 incubators for hospitals across Gaza.
- Israel has facilitated the entrance of 74 ambulances to Gaza and more than a million vaccine doses.
- Israel has worked with Jordan and the UAE to establish two field hospitals in Khan Yunis and Rafah. Additional field hospitals are operated by the Red Crescent and the International Medical Corps.
- France and Italy have deployed hospital ships to the region, which have treated over 2,000 patients. Jordan airdropped nine packages of medical supplies to Gaza in coordination with Israel. Israel works with Egypt to facilitate the exit of patients through Rafah for treatment in these facilities.
- Israel has also worked with Egypt, the UAE and Turkey to facilitate the transfer of over 2,000 patients and their escorts for treatment abroad.
- After completing a targeted operation against Hamas inside the Nasser and Al-Amal hospitals in Khan Younis, the IDF facilitated the entry of dozens of oxygen cylinders donated by international organizations to the hospitals' patients.
- Israel has facilitated humanitarian aid to Nasser Hospital as the IDF carries out its operations, including 24,500 liters of diesel fuel, supplies of food and water, a replacement generator, and medicine donated by the WHO.

## **How does aid enter Gaza?**

- The Egyptian Rafah border crossing is the main entry point for goods entering Gaza. In mid-December, Israel re-opened the Kerem Shalom crossing between Israel and Gaza to facilitate increases aid deliveries. Hamas had severely damaged the crossing point on October 7.
- Israel inspects all trucks either at Kerem Shalom or at Nitzana before permitting them to enter Gaza.
- Israeli truck inspections are essential to prevent military or dual-use items from reaching Hamas.
- In coordination with Jordan, the U.S. airdropped aid into Gaza on March 2.

## **Dual-use goods are currently prohibited.**

- Equipment that can be utilized for military purposes (for example, concrete and pipes, which Hamas uses for tunnels and rockets) is not allowed to enter Gaza so that Hamas cannot divert this equipment for terrorist purposes.
- When Israeli inspectors find any contraband hidden in a shipment, they may reject or delay the entire shipment due to suspicion it contains other military or dual-use items intended for Hamas.
- Israel must prevent some dual-use equipment that would be valuable to civilians from entering Gaza because Hamas remains in control. Hamas diverted enormous amounts of "building supplies" entering Gaza over the past 15 years to build its tunnel network and weapons stockpiles.

## **Hamas is the party responsible for the humanitarian situation in Gaza.**

- The humanitarian situation in Gaza is a direct result of Hamas' unprecedented and unprovoked attack on Israeli and its systematic use of Palestinian civilian as human shields.
- Israel has uncovered tunnel entrances, weapons and other terrorist infrastructure in mosques, schools, apartments, hospitals and U.N. facilities. Some estimates indicate that more than half the houses in Gaza have contained weapons.
- Rather than expect Israel to exceed its international legal obligations, the international community should call on Hamas and Egypt to fulfill their duties to protect civilians in Gaza.
- As Secretary Blinken said, this war "is over tomorrow" if Hamas decided that it would "stop hiding behind civilians, that it lay down its arms, that it surrender."