# Challenges and Controversies Surrounding U.S. Humanitarian Aid Efforts in Gaza



A U.S. Army landing craft was seen beached in Ashdod, Israel, on May 26, after being swept from the temporary humanitarian pier in the Gaza Strip by wind and current. This floating pier, built by the United States at a cost of $230 million, has been operational intermittently, delivering 656 metric tons of aid to Gaza, despite challenges posed by weather and operational constraints.

The pier, announced by President Biden in his March State of the Union address and completed in May, aims to address the worsening humanitarian situation in Gaza. Despite this, aid groups argue the multimillion-dollar project falls short, with other solutions potentially delivering aid more efficiently. The project has faced setbacks including bad weather causing $22 million in damage and interruptions in operations.

Further complicating Gaza aid efforts, the United Nations’ World Food Program suspended operations after an Israeli hostage rescue on June 8 resulted in more than 250 Palestinian deaths. Although a daily pause in combat operations was announced by Israel to facilitate aid delivery, U.N. officials report significant difficulties in transporting supplies due to ongoing fighting and looting.

Additionally, political tensions have arisen between the United States and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu regarding the delivery of U.S. weapons. Meanwhile, aid groups like Doctors Without Borders have reported severe limitations on medical supply deliveries, impacting essential services in Gaza.

This information outlines the ongoing challenges and controversies surrounding the U.S. humanitarian aid efforts and the broader context of the conflict in Gaza and the surrounding political landscape.