# Gaza Struggling with Impending Famine Amid Escalating Conflict



**Gaza Faces High Risk of Famine Amid Escalating Conflict**

**KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip**— A recent draft report from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) has highlighted the severe food insecurity in Gaza, estimating that more than 495,000 people—a fifth of the population—are at "catastrophic levels of acute food insecurity." Despite an increase in aid deliveries to northern Gaza earlier this year, recent hostilities and Israel's military operations have disrupted aid routes and exacerbated the crisis.

**Humanitarian Challenges**:
- Renewed violence in Rafah has closed the crossing with Egypt and disrupted the Kerem Shalom crossing with Israel.
- The situation is particularly dire in makeshift camps where displaced persons face heightened risks of disease outbreaks.
- Aid efforts through a $230 million U.S.-built pier have been criticized as inadequate. The World Health Organization (WHO) emphasized that land routes are essential for efficient aid delivery.
- The IPC's previous warnings of imminent famine were partially alleviated by increased aid in April, but the conflict's escalation has reversed these gains.

**Conflict and Siege Impact**:
- Israel's complete siege on Gaza has severely hampered food production and humanitarian aid.
- Since the conflict began in October, following an attack by Hamas that killed 1,200 people, more than 37,000 Palestinians have died.
- Aid organizations report significant obstacles in delivering aid, citing fighting, Israeli restrictions, and coordination difficulties.
- Famine conditions could be officially declared if 20% of households face extreme food scarcity, 30% of children are acutely malnourished, and two adults or four children per 10,000 die daily.

**Statements and Observations**:
- Jeremy Konyndyk of Refugees International emphasized the continued high risk of famine despite increased aid.
- The UN and other aid groups stress the necessity of a complete ceasefire to address the humanitarian crisis effectively.
- High Commissioner Volker Türk has suggested Israel's restrictions on aid could amount to war crimes.

This ongoing conflict and the resulting humanitarian crisis demand urgent and sustained international attention to prevent further deterioration and potential famine in Gaza.