# Aid trucks reach Gaza but supplies remain stalled amid growing humanitarian crisis



International concern is mounting over the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, where the United Nations announced that no aid has been distributed despite initial trucks crossing the border following an 11-week blockade. UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric reported that a team of officials waited for hours for access but ultimately could not bring supplies into the region. Although Israel recently agreed to allow some humanitarian assistance into Gaza, international observers have characterised the volume as woefully inadequate.

According to reports, only about 100 humanitarian aid trucks have been permitted into the territory, a stark contrast to the pre-war average of 500 trucks per day. As the crisis deepens, experts warn that time is running out for the most vulnerable populations. UN humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher highlighted the dire situation, expressing that an estimated 14,000 babies could face death within 48 hours unless urgent medical supplies are delivered. This alarming statistic, however, has met with scrutiny regarding its presentation and verification, underlining the complex nature of humanitarian claims in live conflict scenarios.

The situation has prompted significant international backlash. The UK government announced plans to suspend trade talks with Israel, labelling its military actions "morally unjustifiable." Prime Minister Keir Starmer described the circumstances as "intolerable," while the EU's foreign policy chief, Kaja Kallas, indicated that a review of trade agreements with Israel was underway. The mounting pressure reflects a growing consensus among Western nations, including France and Canada, that urgent humanitarian needs must be met.

Further complicating aid efforts, logistical challenges remain in transporting supplies into Gaza. The UN reports that Israeli protocol requires aid to be offloaded on the Palestinian side of the Kerem Shalom crossing before being reloaded, a process that many argue hampers timely delivery. Dujarric described the arrival of supplies as a "drop in the ocean" given the region's extensive needs, with UN bodies estimating that around 600 trucks per day are needed to address the chronic humanitarian crisis.

Reports from Gaza indicate that the health infrastructure is in a state of collapse, with hospitals and clinics under bombardment and a dire shortage of medical supplies. In total, over 53,000 people have reportedly died since the onset of Israel’s military campaign in October 2023 in response to the Hamas attacks that killed approximately 1,200 Israelis and resulted in many hostages. Humanitarian groups are alarmed by this escalating violence, which has displaced over half a million people and threatened the lives of countless children.

Despite the increasing international demands for ceasefire and enhanced aid access, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has defended military operations, advocating for continued action until what he describes as "total victory" is achieved. He contrasts this stance with the sentiments of Western leaders who argue that Israel's military offensive risks breaching international humanitarian law.

Moreover, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio acknowledged Israel's recent decision to allow limited aid into the region but indicated a need for a larger volume of supplies. His remarks reflected a broader concern that, while some progress has been made, immediate and substantial action is required to avert escalating humanitarian consequences.

As international leaders continue to call for an end to military operations and the facilitation of critical aid, there is growing apprehension about the potential for protracted suffering in Gaza. The humanitarian community remains vigilant, urging for the prompt delivery of vital supplies to mitigate the impending disaster facing the region's youngest and most vulnerable inhabitants.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/crk2264nrn2o> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://time.com/7286958/israel-gaza-aid-babies-netanyahu-airstrikes/> - The United Nations has issued a dire warning about the humanitarian catastrophe unfolding in Gaza amid a renewed Israeli military offensive. Due to an 11-week blockade, critical shortages of food and medical supplies threaten the lives of 14,000 babies, who could die within 48 hours without urgent aid. Although Israel has allowed approximately 100 humanitarian aid trucks into Gaza—the first in weeks—UN officials noted this is grossly insufficient compared to the pre-war average of 500 trucks per day. The blockade began after Hamas launched a deadly attack on Israel in October 2023, prompting a severe response from Israel, including a complete siege of the region. The situation has worsened with increasing civilian casualties; over 53,000 Palestinians have reportedly died, and critical health infrastructure, including hospitals and clinics, has been repeatedly targeted. Evacuation orders and ongoing bombardments have displaced over half a million people. Western nations, including the UK, France, and Canada, have condemned Israel’s restrictions on aid, calling for an immediate end to the military operations. In contrast, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu has defended the actions, vowing continued military operations until achieving "total victory."
3. <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/uk-canada-france-threaten-israel-with-concrete-actions-over-gaza-2025-05-20/> - On May 20, 2025, the leaders of the UK, Canada, and France issued a joint statement threatening "concrete actions" against Israel unless it halts its renewed military offensive in Gaza and lifts restrictions on humanitarian aid. This follows Israel’s announcement of a new operation and Prime Minister Netanyahu’s declaration to take full control of Gaza. The leaders condemned the Israeli government for denying essential aid, warning the move risks breaching international humanitarian law. They also opposed Israeli settlement expansion in the West Bank and warned of potential targeted sanctions. Israel began blocking medical, food, and fuel aid into Gaza in March 2025 to pressure Hamas to release hostages taken during the group's October 7, 2023 attack, which killed 1,200 Israelis and resulted in 251 hostages. Netanyahu defended Israel’s actions, accusing the Western leaders of enabling terror through their opposition. More than 53,000 people have been killed in Gaza since the war began, according to Gaza health authorities. The joint statement by the Western leaders supports ceasefire negotiations led by the U.S., Qatar, and Egypt, and reaffirmed their commitment to a two-state solution. Hamas welcomed the international stance as a step toward upholding international law.
4. <https://apnews.com/article/acabcdb4da0f1368f7e8a471cf494c0e> - On May 20, 2025, the UK suspended free trade talks with Israel and imposed sanctions on West Bank settlers in response to Israel’s continued military offensive in Gaza and its blockade on humanitarian aid. UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy criticized Israel’s actions as "indefensible," echoing sentiments from other international leaders, including UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, French President Emmanuel Macron, and Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney, who all demanded a ceasefire and increased aid access. The European Union also announced it was reviewing its trade agreement with Israel. Sanctions target individuals, illegal settler outposts, and organizations supporting violence against Palestinians. These measures follow increased settler violence and a worsening humanitarian crisis in Gaza, where over 53,000 Palestinians have been killed since Israel's campaign began in response to the October 2023 Hamas attack. Despite growing international pressure, Israel has dismissed many criticisms, calling international demands a reward for Hamas. Israel has allowed limited aid into Gaza, which humanitarian organizations deem insufficient. Tensions between Israel and its allies continue to rise amidst calls for recognition of a Palestinian state and a possible two-state solution.
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/0dc7feeb-0136-4229-8154-442daeb973fe> - The UK and the EU have intensified pressure on Israel over its renewed military offensive in Gaza. UK Foreign Minister David Lammy announced a freeze on trade talks with Israel, condemning the situation as "abominable," while EU top diplomat Kaja Kallas said the bloc would review its trade agreement following backing from 17 of its 27 member states. Israeli opposition leader Yair Golan criticized the government's actions, warning that Israel risks becoming a "pariah state". International criticism has mounted over Israel's blockade and airstrikes, which Palestinian officials say have killed over 53,500 people, with a UN panel noting severe starvation conditions affecting hundreds of thousands. Tom Fletcher from the UN warned of potential genocide with 14,000 babies at risk. The UK, France, and Canada threatened further actions, and UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer demanded significantly increased aid to Gaza. Netanyahu acknowledged allowing minimal aid in response to international pressure. Additional sanctions were imposed by the UK on Israeli settlers and organizations linked to West Bank violence, while EU plans for further sanctions were blocked by Hungary. The situation has drawn condemnation from global leaders, including Qatar and France, with Paris expressing intent to recognize a Palestinian state.
6. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/new-us-backed-gaza-aid-plan-why-un-doesnt-like-it-2025-05-20/> - A new U.S.-backed initiative, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), plans to begin aid distribution in the Gaza Strip by the end of May 2025. Established in Switzerland, the GHF has over $100 million in commitments and intends to collaborate with U.S. firms for logistics and security. The initiative, supported by Israel, proposes to use secure distribution sites to reach civilians with essential supplies. However, the United Nations refuses to collaborate, arguing the plan lacks neutrality, promotes displacement, limits geographic reach, and politicizes aid. The project emerged after Israel halted all aid to Gaza in March, accusing Hamas of theft and demanding hostage releases following a deadly October 2023 attack. Amid growing international concern over starvation risks in Gaza, Washington endorsed the GHF model. While GHF prepares to operate, limited aid has resumed through existing U.N.-led channels, which the organization maintains have proven effective and should be restored fully. The U.N. emphasizes the need for uninterrupted access and comprehensive aid delivery without political constraints.
7. <https://qa.time.com/7283582/regression-no-ones-coming-inside-gaza-as-israel-expands-its-military-control/> - As of May 2025, Gaza faces an escalating humanitarian catastrophe amid Israel’s expanded military operations. In response to a devastating Hamas attack in October 2023 that killed over 1,200 people, Israel has intensified its offensive, deploying tens of thousands of reservists and announcing indefinite military control over the territory. The new strategy involves deep territorial occupation, demilitarization, eradicating Hamas governance, and implementing a controversial emigration plan endorsed by President Trump. Humanitarian aid has been severely restricted with a near-total blockade, and access to food and basic necessities is dwindling. Organizations like the UN and NGOs have condemned the Israeli approach, warning of weaponized aid distribution and humanitarian law violations. The devastation is immense: 92% of residential infrastructure has been damaged, nearly 50 million tonnes of debris cover Gaza, and the education system has collapsed. With over 52,000 Palestinians and at least 408 aid workers killed, local residents, such as Oday Basheer, describe life under constant bombardment and despair at the global community’s inaction. Resistance is emerging within Israel as reserve troops refuse mobilization and hostages' families criticize the strategy for valuing territory over lives.