

# Humanitarian Aid in Gaza Is Being Militarized. Congress Must Act Now.

## WHAT IS THE GAZA HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION (GHF)?

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) is a new U.S.- and Israeli-backed mechanism created to take over humanitarian aid delivery in Gaza. The U.S. has provided it with \$30 million in funding.

GHF is led by military contractors—not humanitarian professionals—and operates under Israeli government oversight without transparency, independence, or accountability. Rather than restoring support to trusted agencies like the World Food Programme (WFP), GHF creates a parallel system that undermines humanitarian standards and ignores the urgent recommendations of global relief organizations.

## WHY GHF IS DANGEROUS

- **It militarizes aid.** GHF is run by armed contractors, violating the core humanitarian principles of neutrality, independence, and impartiality. On May 25, GHF's own executive director, Jake Wood, resigned in protest, stating the organization could not operate in line with humanitarian principles.
- **It fails to meet basic needs.** Before October 7, roughly 400 aid distribution sites operated across Gaza. At least 500 aid trucks per day are needed to meet basic needs. GHF operates just four distribution hubs—mostly located in southern Gaza—far below what is required and ignoring medical, water, and shelter emergencies.
- **It puts lives at risk.** As of July 15, Israeli forces have killed nearly 800 Palestinians and injured thousands more at or near GHF distribution sites. Civilians waiting for food have reportedly been attacked by GHF security contractors and Israeli drones, snipers, tanks, and helicopters.
- **It sidelines trusted aid agencies.** U.N.-led operations are ready to resume food, medical, and shelter aid but remain blocked. GHF creates a politicized alternative that marginalizes experienced humanitarian operators.
- **It may support forced displacement.** GHF's hubs are located near the Egyptian border. Many fear this is part of a broader strategy to concentrate Palestinians in the south as a prelude to permanent expulsion from Gaza.

## WHY IS THIS URGENT

As of July 22, a staggering 75,000 children in Gaza are suffering from malnutrition while life-saving aid sits at the border. GHF provides only limited food assistance and does not deliver medical treatment for malnutrition, clean water, shelter, or medicine. Meanwhile, experienced NGOs like MedGlobal and U.N. agencies remain largely blocked from operating.

GHF is not equipped to treat acute malnutrition, which requires specialized medical care. U.S.-based and international NGOs stand ready to scale up life-saving interventions but are being denied access. Since the blockade began in March, acute child malnutrition has surged, rising 180% in June compared to February.

After two months, GHF has failed to provide even the most basic nutritional support. Untreated malnutrition can cause permanent brain and physical damage—or death—especially in children.

For more information, contact Hassan El-Tayyab, FCNL's legislative director for Middle East policy at [hassan@fcnl.org](mailto:hassan@fcnl.org).

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# What Congress Can Do

## ISSUE A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON GHF'S FAILURE

GHF is not meeting urgent humanitarian needs. Democrats should:

- Call for urgent civilian protection at aid distribution sites and demand robust oversight, accountability, and full transparency of GHF's operations in Gaza, including the role of U.S. funding and coordination with the U.S. government since its launch
- Call for immediate humanitarian access across Gaza and a surge in support for malnutrition treatment and baby formula
- Reinstate support for independent, professional humanitarian agencies like the World Food Programme
- Reaffirm U.S. commitment to humanitarian principles of neutrality, impartiality, and independence