



Updated Briefing Report: UAWC's "Stop Gaza Starvation" Campaign

19/12/2023

Introduction:

The ongoing genocide war in Gaza for 74 days, commencing on October 7th, has escalated into a war of eradication, marked by an unprecedented scale of destruction and a deliberate targeting strategy. This war has tragically resulted in the loss of over 18,500 Palestinian lives, with over 51,000 injured, 70% of whom are children. The devastation extends beyond human casualties, with more than 60% of buildings in Gaza destroyed, over 10,000 people missing, and complete demolition of infrastructure across various areas.



CNN Courtesy – Destruction in Gaza.

This war is distinguished not just by its brutality, but by the systematic targeting of civilian infrastructure, particularly those essential for food production, such as the agricultural and fishing sectors. The Israeli military's tactics in this horrific war have shown a focused effort to disrupt and destroy the civilian way of life, thereby crippling the very survival of the Gaza population.

The most concerning aspect of the current situation is the immense destruction faced by the agricultural sector in Gaza, which serves as the backbone of food production. This devastation encompasses the targeted destruction of greenhouses, farmlands, water networks, irrigation wells, open farms, agricultural roads, as well as livestock farms including sheep, poultry, and cattle, of which more than 70% have been destroyed. Most critically, the fishing sector, a major source of livelihood and sustenance for thousands, has been severely impacted. The imposition of a comprehensive blockade by the Israeli war Minister has exacerbated this situation, severely restricting the entry of essential supplies like food, water, electricity, and fuel into Gaza. This blockade is a critical component of the war strategy, effectively using hunger as a weapon—a tactic that starkly violates international law, which explicitly prohibits the use of starvation in warfare.

Overview of the Campaign:

The Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC) launched the "Stop Gaza Starvation" campaign on October 24th to counter the severe crisis caused by the war against Gaza and the ethnic cleansing efforts in the West Bank. This initiative is a vital response to the pressing needs of the Palestinian people, who are facing extreme difficulties in these regions.



Objective and Significance:

- **Primary Goal:** To provide relief from the war-induced dire conditions, particularly addressing the acute food scarcity and essential needs shortages.
- **Humanitarian Focus:** Delivering vital supplies such as food, water, and clothing to families deeply affected by the conflict.
- **Mitigating Starvation and Suffering:** Offering not just immediate aid but also working to lessen the long-term effects of the war on food security and living conditions.

Scope and Reach:

- **Geographical Focus:** Concentrating on the Gaza Strip, with significant outreach to the West Bank, especially in areas under heavy military activity and blockades.
- **Targeted Assistance:** Aiding displaced or directly impacted families, prioritizing the most vulnerable groups: children, the elderly, and those requiring medical care.

Strategic Approach:

- **Collaboration and Coordination:** Working in tandem with local partners, community leaders, and international organizations to optimize impact and outreach.
- **Logistical Challenges:** Overcoming significant hurdles to deliver aid due safely and swiftly to the area's volatility.
- **Adaptive Strategies:** Continually revising tactics to address changing ground realities, especially regarding access and immediate need assessment.

Campaign Outreach Summary:

Gaza Strip:

- **Total Beneficiaries:** The campaign has reached a total of 19,500 families since its start.
- **Drinking Water:** Approximately 16,500 families have received essential drinking water.
- **Food Parcels:** Around 2,500 families have been provided with food parcels.



UAWC's distribution of food parcels in Rafah, Khan Yunis and Jabalia – Gaza.



- **Primary Distribution Areas:** The assistance has been concentrated in the regions of Rafah, Khan Yunis, and Jabalia.
- **Clothing Distribution:** Specialized aid has been directed to 500 women who lost their homes and possessions, with clothing provided to meet their immediate needs.

West Bank:

- **Livestock Feed:** In areas under siege, approximately 120 families have been supplied with essential livestock feed, aiding in the sustenance of their sheep and the continuation of their agricultural livelihoods.

Sourcing of Supplies: The supplies are sourced from local vendors and pre-war reserves, bolstering the economy, and enabling quicker aid deployment. Additionally, collaboration with local farms has illustrated the farming community's resilience under risk.

Challenges and Setbacks:

- **Resource Management:** The dwindling stock of essential supplies and soaring prices due to the war amplify the challenges in resource acquisition and management.
- **Logistics Amid Conflict:** Despite complex distribution conditions amid bombings, our teams remain steadfast in their commitment to reach the most vulnerable.
- **Infrastructure Damage:** UAWC offices and nurseries in Gaza have suffered extensive damage, hindering operations.

Call for Support: The need for increased assistance is critical given the intensifying hostilities. Both immediate relief and long-term recovery efforts are essential, and we are dedicated to transparency in our continued updates. Your support is paramount in these trying times.

We thank all our supporters and urge continued assistance to maintain and expand our aid programs.



UAWC's distribution of drinking water in Rafah, Khan Yunis and Jabalia – Gaza.



UAWC's distribution of animal fodder in Jenin – West Bank