



ISLAMIC
RELIEF
USA

PALESTINE 2 YEAR REPORT

2025



TWO YEARS OF RELENTLESS SUFFERING AND VIOLENCE

In early October 2023, the population of Gaza was around 2.1 million, some 50% of whom were children. Despite the difficulties they endured living in what has been called the 'world's largest open-air prison', the people of Gaza went about their daily lives, dreaming of a better future where their human rights would be recognized and upheld.

Since then, these dreams have been shattered. Palestinian families have been forced to endure violence and siege on a previously unimaginable scale during one year of unprecedented destruction and displacement, with relentless attacks on civilians, health facilities, homes, shelters and markets, and severe restrictions on humanitarian aid.

Tens of thousands of people have been killed, with some reports estimating the count to be in the hundreds of thousands. Others have sustained life-changing injuries or simply disappeared, likely lost under the rubble of destroyed homes and shelters. Children have missed almost two years of schooling and face a future full of uncertainty and fear.

Entire families have been scattered as they flee repeatedly in search of safety, which cannot be found as bombs continue to rain down on Gaza. People have been ordered to leave one area, only to be bombed in the place they were told to shelter. The international community has been unable to provide sufficient aid due to restrictions on supplies into Gaza. Few hospitals remain functional due to shortages of electricity, fuel and medicine.

Trapped in one of the most densely populated areas on Earth, families have minimal access to food, water and healthcare. People are starving to death, and the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) has officially declared famine in northern Gaza.

Islamic Relief USA's long-term development programs in Gaza have been suspended as it quickly became one of the most difficult and dangerous places to deliver aid. Instead, we have scaled up our emergency response, distributing essentials such as food, medical aid, hygiene kits, water, clothes, and more to displaced people. Our work has had to continually adapt to meet changing needs and varying availability of items. Humanitarian staff and partners in Gaza are enduring the same challenges as the communities they support, including displacement, with one colleague saying she feels Palestinians have been 'forgotten by the world'. Despite these enormous challenges, they remain committed to providing aid to vulnerable communities.



LIFE-SAVING FOOD AID

Emergency Levels of Hunger

After two years of continued violence in Gaza, over half a million people now face catastrophic levels of starvation and another 1 million people are facing emergency levels of hunger, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification [IPC]. Repeated displacement and severe restrictions on humanitarian access — compounded by ongoing disruptions to food, water, medical aid, agricultural support, and the collapse of health, sanitation, and market systems — have pushed people to the brink of famine.

One in every three people is going days at a time without eating, with adults regularly skipping meals to feed their children. The number of children expected to be at severe risk of death from malnutrition has tripled since the last IPC report in May, as well as the number of pregnant and breastfeeding mothers suffering from malnutrition. One in every five babies is being born prematurely or underweight.

Since July, humanitarian aid entering Gaza has increased slightly but remained vastly insufficient, inconsistent, and inaccessible compared to the need.

Our partners in Gaza are working to distribute the following:



Over 7 million hot meals



Fresh produce baskets to 108,536 people



Food parcels and vouchers to 352,925 people

How is IRUSA still getting food into Gaza?

The blockade of food and other supplies into Gaza is a major concern that many organizations are experiencing as they work to deliver humanitarian aid inside Palestine.

Local procurement is happening where possible, but largely, things are being brought in from outside based on whatever crossings are open at the time. The crossings and their openings constantly shift. There are major delays in getting items through, but our partners are able to do so.

IRUSA strongly supports the establishment of a permanent humanitarian corridor, which would allow the safe transit of humanitarian aid, to support the people of Palestine at this time.

DISEASE, DEHYDRATION, AND DISPLACEMENT

Breakdown of Health System

Gaza's health system has been steadily unraveling before our eyes, deteriorating with each passing year — 36% of primary healthcare centers and 50% of hospitals have completely shut down, with most of those remaining only partially functional. Doctors are overwhelmed, patients go untreated, and entire communities lack access to even the most basic medical care.

To make matters worse, more than 80% of Gaza's water infrastructure has been damaged and 96% of households don't have clean drinking water, further fueling the spread of disease.

At the same time, a total of 1.9 million people — 90% of the population — have now been forcibly displaced from their homes, most of them multiples times.

In response, thanks to donors like you, IRUSA has helped provide life-saving aid from medical care to clean water to emergency shelter items like tents to help families cope with this nightmarish reality.

Our partners in Gaza are working to distribute the following:



Access to proper healthcare for **2,333,848** people



31,000,000 liters of water



Shelter assistance for **23,348** people



12,100 hygiene kits



10,134 bedding kits



Clothing for **57,200** people

How is IRUSA providing medical aid if all hospitals are destroyed in Gaza?

After two years of violence, Gaza's health system has become severely deteriorated but few facilities remain operational at some capacity. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs [OCHA] 36% of primary healthcare centers and 50% of field hospitals are functioning with minimal resources and staff. Medical staff are extremely overwhelmed, patients have to wait many hours to be seen, if seen at all, and medical care and treatment is provided based on what's available.

While many hospitals have been damaged or forced to close, a number of facilities and field clinics like Al Ahli Hospital remain partially functional. These facilities are still treating patients under extraordinary conditions. IRUSA works through trusted partners who have longstanding relationships with these facilities, enabling us to channel supplies, support, and funding to where it's most needed.

Some medical supplies were prepositioned in Gaza before the most recent escalation. Since then, our partners have been able to bring in additional shipments whenever humanitarian convoys have been allowed to enter. Access is severely restricted and often delayed, but these limited openings make it possible to keep at least some clinics and hospitals operating.



FROM RAMADAN TO QURBANI/UDHIYAH

Ramadan Food Distribution



Provided food vouchers to **11,365** people in the West Bank



Provided produce baskets to **31,000** people in Gaza



Provided hot meals to **1,906,815** people in Gaza

Qurbani Meat Distribution



Due to blockades, food parcels originally intended for Gaza are being rerouted to the West Bank. Since June 2025, we've distributed meat parcels to **35,140** people, and we're working to distribute the remaining meat parcels to another **117,600** people.

Nabila's Story

Nabila and her family were forced to flee their home in Gaza City at the onset of the violence. "We went from Khan Younis to Rafah, and finally to Deir Al Balah. Only God knows how much we've suffered," she recalls.

Nabila received the Qurbani meat and immediately began preparing a special meal for her family.

"I'm going to make molokhia with the meat," she says, referring to the traditional dish made from leafy greens, usually served with rice and meat.

"My children were so happy when they saw the meat," she adds, grateful for the chance to offer them a comforting, hearty meal. Thanks to support from donors like you, IRUSA delivered over 100,000 lbs. of meat to families across Gaza this year.



MAHA'S STORY



An atmosphere of warmth radiates from inside the small tent where Maha and her family live, tucked in the midst of the rubble that once was their home. Inside, Maha's six children greet visitors with bright eyes and wide smiles, their laughter filling the air despite the challenges they face.

The youngest children gather around, eager to see the bag of vegetables the visitors have brought for them. They eagerly take the bundle, small fingers delicately unpacking the fresh produce with excitement.

Thanks to the IRUSA community, we were able to distribute fresh fruit and vegetables to families in Gaza for this past Ramadan.

Maha watches her children with a soft smile, her face marked both by the trials they had faced and the strength of a mother determined to keep her family intact.

"This year's Ramadan is different," she says, her voice steady but carrying the weight of their journey. "We may be living in a tent, on the rubble of our home, but at least we're together. At least we're in Gaza."

Her words hang in the air for a moment, reflecting on the immense resilience of this family. Despite the destruction around them, the family found a way to cherish the little things, like the small gesture of the food parcel carrying so much meaning and happiness for the children.

"This Ramadan, we're all together at the same table," Maha continues, her voice tinged with both sorrow and gratitude.

The support has made an incredible difference for Maha and her family. "The children need food, and we can't let them go hungry. [IRUSA's] support always comes at the right time," Maha says. "[IRUSA] stood by us during the war, when we were displaced, and even increased their efforts to help us when we returned to Gaza City. The work they do is amazing, and their support is unique and so needed."

The family's journey has been one of displacement, loss, and adaptation. But through it all, Maha has remained hopeful. "Insha'Allah, our house will be rebuilt," she says softly, holding onto the hope that someday, her and her family will be able to return to the life they once knew.

Maha expresses her gratitude to [IRUSA's] community of donors. "You have been with us every step of the way, providing not just food, but hope when we needed it most. Thank you for standing by us, for being with us in our most difficult moments. We will never forget your kindness."

RAMZI'S STORY

GAZA

Ramzi, from Gaza City, has been displaced for nearly a year in Deir Al Balah, enduring what he describes as a “catastrophic situation.” His family is struggling to survive without basic necessities like water, food, or a safe place to live. “Even our tent is unlivable,” he says. “When it rains, it floods, and the children suffer.”

Ramzi is caring for three families, including his son’s family.

Tragically, one of his granddaughters was killed, while another is receiving treatment in Turkiye with her mother. His daughter, now a widow after her husband was killed, has a young child to care for.

Ramzi himself suffers from diabetes, and without medication, his eyesight is deteriorating. “If I wanted to go to the nearest hospital for treatment, I would need \$27 for transportation, but I don’t have that kind of money.”

Before the escalation of violence, Ramzi worked and was able to provide for his family.

“We were happy,” he recalls. “But now we are living without dignity, in extreme humiliation. We were never like this. We were generous people who never waited for anyone to help us. Now, we wait for aid, and for the past three months, we’ve barely received anything.”

With support from donors like you, IRUSA was able to provide Qurbani meat to Ramzi’s family. This much-needed relief has offered a small comfort to his family trying to survive amid skyrocketing prices and limited resources in Gaza.

Speaking out of despair, Ramzi describes how the cost of living in Gaza has skyrocketed. “Thirty dollars used to buy a lot in Gaza, but now it barely buys anything.” He had heard that qurbani meat would arrive three months ago, but it only just arrived today due to restrictions and the situation on the ground.

“We shouldn’t be tortured like this. We are humans, just like everyone else. The world should be thinking of us in Gaza. I don’t understand why the world has turned its back on us.”



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