

The Implications of the 2023 Gaza War on the Flow of Humanitarian Aid under the Rules of International Humanitarian Law

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Keywords:

Gaza war,
Humanitarian aid,
International humanitarian
Law,
Crisis management.

Article History:

Received: 26 / 03 / 2025
Revised: 24 / 12 / 2025
Accepted: 10 / 04 / 2026
Published: 01 / 06 / 2026

Abstract. The Gaza Strip has suffered from a severe humanitarian crisis for years due to the ongoing blockade and recurrent conflicts resulting from Israeli aggression. Since October 7, 2023, the Israeli occupation has launched a comprehensive and systematic campaign of genocide against the Gaza Strip. This has dramatically intensified the suffering of its population, resulting in more than 63,000 martyrs and over 160,000 injuries, in addition to thousands of missing persons. Beyond the high casualty figures, a vast number of civilians are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. Leaving these victims without adequate humanitarian aid constitutes not only a direct threat to human life but also a profound affront to human dignity.

1. INTRODUCTION

Humanitarian aid represents one of the most significant international mechanisms endorsed by the global community to protect civilians and alleviate their suffering during armed conflicts and humanitarian crises. It is closely intertwined with the principles of International Humanitarian Law and human rights norms, particularly those concerning the protection of the right to life, health, food, and human dignity. In the modern era, such assistance has become an indispensable humanitarian and legal necessity, especially in regions experiencing protracted crises and prolonged wars.

The Gaza Strip is among the areas most severely affected by dire humanitarian conditions, stemming from the continuous blockade and repeated military operations. These have profoundly impacted all aspects of civilian life, leading to acute shortages of food, medicine, water, electricity, and healthcare services, alongside widespread destruction of infrastructure, rising numbers of casualties, and mass displacement. Such circumstances have prompted numerous states and international organizations to provide various forms of humanitarian assistance—whether food aid, medical support, or other essentials—to meet the basic needs of the population. Nevertheless, the delivery of this aid faces significant obstacles due to the closure of border crossings and the restrictions imposed by the occupation.

Despite these challenges, humanitarian aid remains a primary hope for alleviating suffering and preserving the dignity of Gaza's residents under extremely difficult conditions. However, the role of humanitarian assistance in Gaza extends beyond its purely humanitarian dimension; it raises complex legal and political questions regarding its effectiveness and its actual impact on protecting civilians. Although humanitarian aid continues to flow into the Strip, the humanitarian situation has deteriorated to an unprecedented level. This paradox raises critical questions about whether such aid genuinely serves as an effective means of humanitarian protection or whether it has been transformed into a mechanism for mere crisis management—providing temporary relief while failing to address the root causes of the crisis.

The increasing reliance on humanitarian aid in Gaza raises fundamental questions that go beyond immediate humanitarian concerns to encompass political and strategic dimensions related to the persistent need for such assistance. This leads to the following core research problem: Do the humanitarian aid efforts directed at the Gaza Strip represent an inevitable necessity in response to escalating human suffering, or have they become a tool for managing the crisis in a way that sustains the status quo rather than transforming it?

From this perspective, studying the issue of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip acquires particular importance. This study seeks to examine the legal foundations of humanitarian assistance, analyze its role in the Gaza context, and evaluate its effectiveness in achieving genuine humanitarian protection for the civilian population amid an ongoing conflict and highly complex political and humanitarian realities. Accordingly, the study is structured around the following key elements:

- First Section: The Humanitarian Reality in the Gaza Strip.
- Second Section: Types of Humanitarian Aid Provided to the Gaza Strip.
- Third Section: Challenges and Obstacles Facing the Delivery of Humanitarian Aid.

1.1. The Humanitarian Reality in the Gaza Strip

The Gaza Strip is one of the most densely populated areas in the world, with a population exceeding 1.8 million inhabitants living within a narrow geographical area of no more than 360 square kilometers ¹. For years, its residents have endured exceptionally harsh conditions, characterized primarily by the severe Israeli blockade and recurrent escalations carried out in a systematic and unprecedented manner, often accompanied by intense military strikes that directly target civilian life.

However, the 2023–2024 war, which erupted in October 2023 and was followed by a total siege, differs fundamentally from

¹ Report on the Area and Population of the Gaza Strip, accessed: 18 September 2025, at 00:39.

previous conflicts. It has plunged the Gaza Strip into one of the most catastrophic humanitarian crises of the modern era ². The occupying forces launched a large-scale offensive that resulted in thousands of martyrs, widespread displacement, numerous missing persons, and near-total destruction of infrastructure. Medical facilities, electricity generators, and water sources were systematically targeted. Moreover, these military operations against the Palestinian people were accompanied by hate speech, incitement to violence, and explicit calls for their killing and the desecration of their bodies wherever they were found ³. The United Nations has stated in its reports that the Gaza Strip has become uninhabitable.

In this section, the humanitarian situation in Gaza will be examined through an analysis of the health, social, economic, and educational conditions, in addition to the various human rights violations suffered by the population. This analysis draws upon the most recent international reports and is organized into the following subsections:

1.1.1. The Health Situation in the Gaza Strip

The healthcare system in the Gaza Strip has experienced total collapse due to intense bombardment, the ongoing blockade, and severe fuel shortages. Nibal Farsakh, spokesperson for the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, described the health situation as “catastrophic by all standards,” noting that hospitals face massive shortages of medicines, blood units, and medical supplies, while receiving dozens of injured and sick patients daily against severely limited capacity ⁴.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has confirmed that 94% of healthcare facilities in Gaza have sustained significant damage, with 60% of hospitals rendered completely non-functional. WHO has documented more than 686 direct attacks on health facilities. The remaining operational hospitals suffer from acute shortages of essential medicines, particularly antibiotics and treatments for chronic diseases. Furthermore, the Israeli occupation's prevention of polio vaccines from entering the Strip represents a “ticking time bomb” that further exacerbates the public health crisis ⁵.

More than 70% of ambulances have been destroyed, while the remainder are immobilized due to fuel depletion. Israeli attacks have not been limited to infrastructure; they have also targeted medical personnel, resulting in the loss of thousands of doctors and nurses. The WHO coordinator for the occupied Palestinian territories stated: “What is happening in Gaza is a complete collapse of the health system. There are no safe places, neither for doctors nor for patients” ⁶.

1.1.2. Food Security and Poverty

The lack of food security constitutes the most pressing challenge in the Gaza Strip. More than half a million people are trapped in conditions of famine characterized by severe hunger, extreme poverty, and widespread preventable deaths. Famine conditions are expected to spread from Gaza Governorate to Deir al-Balah and Khan Younis ⁷.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UNICEF, the World Food Programme (WFP), and the World Health Organization have jointly and repeatedly emphasized the urgent need for an immediate and comprehensive humanitarian response due to rising hunger-related deaths, the rapid deterioration of acute malnutrition rates, and declining food consumption levels. Hundreds of thousands of people are spending days without any food intake.

These agencies have stressed that famine must be stopped at all costs. According to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), famine is declared when three critical thresholds are exceeded: extreme food deprivation, acute malnutrition, and hunger-related mortality.

The crisis of malnutrition has worsened significantly. UNICEF data indicate high rates of wasting and stunting among children under five, with numerous deaths linked to malnutrition and infectious diseases. Additionally, the continued restrictions on patients seeking treatment outside Gaza constitute a direct violation of the right to health, as guaranteed by the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ⁸.

1.1.3. The Educational Reality in the Gaza Strip

The war and blockade have severely impacted the education sector. Hundreds of schools have been completely destroyed or severely damaged, while dozens of others have been repurposed as shelters for displaced persons. Estimates indicate that more than 658,000 children have been deprived of regular education since the beginning of the conflict.

All components of the educational process in Gaza have been affected, resulting in more than 800,000 students being denied their right to education. A total of 121 universities and schools have been completely destroyed, and 333 others partially damaged. More than 9,000 students have been killed and 20,000 injured. Additionally, 497 teachers and administrative staff, along with more than 110 university professors and researchers, have been martyred ⁹.

This reality does not merely threaten the current generation of students; it leaves profound long-term consequences for an entire generation of children growing up amid ignorance and deprivation of one of the most fundamental human rights — the right to education.

In conclusion, the current situation in the Gaza Strip cannot be described merely as a transient humanitarian crisis. It represents a complex, multifaceted tragedy in which health, economic, social, and educational dimensions intersect, creating a catastrophic

² Joint Statement on the Humanitarian Situation in the Gaza Strip, 12 August 2025, available at: <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/ar/>, accessed: 19 September 2025, at 13:58.

³ Azouzi Abdelmalek, “The Crisis of Humanitarian Assistance in Gaza: Between International Law and the Inaction of the Security Council,” *Journal of Legal and Political Thought*, Vol. 9, No. 1, 2025, p. 1026.

⁴ Palestinian Red Crescent Report: The Health Situation in Gaza is Catastrophic and Hospitals are Unable to Absorb Cases, dated: 18 September 2025, available at: <https://www.elbalad.news/6701960>, accessed: 18 September 2025, at 00:05.

⁵ Catastrophic Health and Humanitarian Situation in Gaza and Rafah Wiped Off the Map, article available at: <https://www.aljazeera.net/news/2025/4/6>, accessed: 18 September 2025, at 00:26.

⁶ The Health Sector in Gaza is Dying Under the Fire of War and Siege, article available at: <https://www.aljazeera.net/politics/2025/5/28>, accessed: 18 September 2025, at 00:51.

⁷ Famine Has Become a Confirmed Reality for the First Time in Gaza, article available at: <https://www.who.int/ar/news/item>, accessed: 19 September 2025, at 01:28.

⁸ UNICEF Report on Children's Lives Threatened by Rising Rates of Malnutrition in the Gaza Strip, article available at the official UNICEF website: <https://www.unicef.org/mena/ar>, accessed: 19 September 2025, at 01:46.

⁹ Education in the Shadow of the War on the Gaza Strip, according to a statement by the Palestinian Minister of Education dated: 10 July 2024, article available at: <https://scene48.org/articles/belkhat-alareed>, accessed: 20 September 2025, at 12:04.

scene that threatens the very foundations of human survival.

1.2. Types of Humanitarian Aid Provided to the Gaza Strip

Humanitarian aid constitutes one of the foremost instruments of international intervention in addressing crises and disasters. It aims to alleviate civilian suffering and ensure the fulfillment of basic needs by providing direct assistance to those affected by armed conflicts. Over time, such aid has evolved to encompass multiple forms, ranging from emergency relief to long-term support.

In the case of the Gaza Strip, humanitarian aid has acquired a distinct character due to the unique and protracted humanitarian situation that has prevailed for many years. This situation has sharply deteriorated following the outbreak of the war in October 2023 and the subsequent total siege and extensive destruction of infrastructure.

This section first addresses the concept of humanitarian aid. The second subsection examines in detail the types of humanitarian assistance delivered to civilians in Gaza, while the third subsection explores the objectives of such aid.

1.2.1. The Concept of Humanitarian Aid

Humanitarian aid represents a fundamental response by the international community to various natural disasters, armed conflicts, and zones of tension—whether international or internal. Its primary purpose is to save lives, alleviate suffering, and protect human dignity wherever it is threatened. International legal instruments have addressed the concept of humanitarian aid through their respective rules and have distinguished it from similar terms. This will be examined in the following points:

1.2.1.1. Definition of Humanitarian Aid

Humanitarian aid is defined as “the provision of relief materials, medicines, and clothing to victims of natural disasters and armed conflicts, subject to the consent of the concerned state’s government. It is typically delivered by independent and neutral bodies such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, Red Crescent organizations, or humanitarian relief agencies like Médecins Sans Frontières. United Nations agencies, individual states, or groups of states acting under a UN mandate may also provide such relief”¹⁰.

The Institute of International Law (2003) defines humanitarian aid as “the actions, activities, and human and material resources allocated to deliver goods and services of a purely humanitarian character that are indispensable for the survival of victims of crises and disasters and for meeting their basic needs”¹¹.

Article 18 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions defines it as “relief actions of a strictly humanitarian and impartial nature, conducted without any adverse distinction, for the benefit of the civilian population, with the consent of the High Contracting Party concerned, when the civilian population is suffering undue hardship owing to a lack of the supplies essential for its survival, such as foodstuffs and medical supplies”¹².

Based on the above, humanitarian aid can be defined as: “urgent and essential relief operations aimed at ensuring the survival of civilian victims. These include the provision of food resources, water, medicines, medical tools and equipment, temporary shelters, clothing, and services—particularly medical services and research—as well as religious and spiritual assistance and civil defense, in accordance with the tasks specified under International Humanitarian Law”¹³.

1.2.1.2. Distinguishing Humanitarian Aid from Similar Terms

The term “humanitarian aid” is frequently confused with other closely related concepts, such as development assistance and humanitarian intervention. Clarifying these distinctions is essential to avoid conceptual ambiguity, which could affect the determination of the obligations of states and international organizations in the field of humanitarian assistance.

The overlap between these terms stems largely from the historical evolution of humanitarian action. The world has witnessed a gradual shift from traditional concepts of temporary relief—focused on rapid response to crises—toward enhancing resilience against crises and risks¹⁴. Accordingly, the following points distinguish humanitarian aid from development assistance on the one hand, and from humanitarian intervention on the other:

- **Distinguishing Humanitarian Aid from Development Assistance**

Development assistance refers to official financing flows managed primarily to promote economic development and welfare in developing countries. It is concessional in nature, with a grant element of at least 25%. By established custom, it consists of contributions from governmental donor agencies at all levels to developing countries and multilateral institutions¹⁵. Such assistance includes programs for building infrastructure, education, and public health, and is often delivered through bilateral agreements. It is closely linked to political, security, and military considerations between the concerned states¹⁶.

Humanitarian aid differs from development assistance in several key respects. Humanitarian aid is provided in emergency situations and seeks to deliver an immediate response to meet basic survival needs and preserve lives, typically through “emergency funds” and “humanitarian donations.” In contrast, development assistance is provided under normal conditions to address the root causes of poverty and vulnerability over the long term. Its interventions are planned within national and international programs and policies and often take the form of “concessional loans, grants within development cooperation programs, or multi-year agreed budgets”¹⁷.

¹⁰ Roshu Khaled and Bayah Abdelkader, “The Rules Governing Humanitarian Aid during Armed Conflicts,” *Algerian Journal of Law and Political Sciences*, Vol. 8, No. 1, 2023, p. 4.

¹¹ Ibrahim Al-Taher Al-Farjani, “The Governing Principles for the Provision of International Humanitarian Aid in Contemporary International Practice,” *Sabratta University Scientific Journal*, Baghdad, Iraq, No. 4, December 2018, p. 47.

¹² Article 18, paragraph 2 of Additional Protocol II to the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949.

¹³ See Principle Nine of the Guiding Principles on the Right to Humanitarian Assistance, adopted by the Board of Directors of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law (San Remo) in its session held in April 1993, available at: <https://hrlibrary.umn.edu/arab/icrc6.htm>, accessed: 20 September 2025, at 14:14.

¹⁴ Slim, Hugo, *Humanitarian Ethics: A Guide to the Morality of Aid in War and Disaster*, Oxford University Press, 2015, p. 22.

¹⁵ United Nations Development Office, “Development Humanitarian Aid,” available at: <https://www.unescwa.org/ar/sd-glossary>, accessed: 20 September 2025, at 15:41.

¹⁶ Ibrahim Al-Taher Al-Farjani, op. cit., p. 48.

¹⁷ Ibid., same page.

Furthermore, the sole objective of humanitarian aid is the fulfillment of an ethical and humanitarian duty, whereas development assistance is frequently driven by political and diplomatic considerations between states ¹⁸.

- **Distinguishing Humanitarian Aid from Humanitarian Intervention**

There are numerous definitions of international humanitarian intervention. What they share is the idea of intervention aimed at protecting citizens, groups, or minorities in a particular country facing serious human rights violations. Such intervention may involve the use of armed force, even if the target state resists, including to facilitate the distribution of food and medical supplies. It is thus an intervention intended to halt human rights violations ¹⁹.

Humanitarian aid differs fundamentally from humanitarian intervention. Humanitarian aid is consensual in nature, civilian, relief-oriented, and neutral, with the goal of saving and protecting affected civilians without resorting to armed force. Humanitarian intervention, by contrast, is primarily military and political in character and may involve the use of armed force to stop human rights violations ²⁰.

1.2.2. Types of Humanitarian Aid Provided to the Gaza Strip

Humanitarian aid serves as a vital tool for alleviating the suffering of populations during crises, particularly in the context of protracted armed conflicts that characterize the current international landscape. The Gaza Strip stands as one of the most prominent examples attracting intensive humanitarian efforts, given the complex and intertwined crises faced by its inhabitants.

The forms and types of aid delivered to the population of Gaza have varied in response to the differing urgent and emergency needs. These have included food assistance and therapeutic nutrition programs, medicines and medical supplies, interventions in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), the provision of temporary shelter, and psychosocial support. The following points examine these types of humanitarian aid in detail:

1.2.2.1. Food Assistance

The sharp escalation of violence in early October 2023 led to critical humanitarian conditions in the Strip, with more than 90% of the population facing acute food insecurity. The World Food Programme (WFP) has expanded its operations to reach one million people in Gaza with life-saving food assistance ²¹. In-kind food assistance includes emergency shipments of food parcels, ready-to-cook items, and ready-to-eat meals used during disruptions in supply chains or large-scale displacement waves. Other items include bottled water, infant formula, lentils, chickpeas, protein-fortified date biscuits, and flour ²².

According to United Nations and World Health Organization estimates, the Gaza Strip requires a minimum of 500 aid trucks per day. Approximately 80% of the population suffers from food insecurity, while 25% have reached famine levels that can lead to death — meaning half a million Gazans are at risk of dying from hunger ²³. Field reports from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) indicate that some emergency kitchens have been forced to close due to severe shortages or complete lack of supplies, directly affecting vulnerable civilians.

1.2.2.2. Medical Aid (Healthcare and Emergency Medical Care)

Medical assistance to Gaza encompasses a wide range of supplies, including treatments for burns, anesthetics for surgical operations, mobile medical units, fuel to operate hospital generators, wheelchairs, oxygen devices, emergency medicines, antibiotics, plaster casts, intravenous injections and sets, surgical sutures, and surgical masks ²⁴.

In addition, mental health programs and psychosocial support have been provided. Humanitarian agencies have reported in various assessments a massive strain on the health system and critical shortages of supplies resulting from damage to infrastructure and disruptions in delivery chains.

1.2.2.3. Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI) Assistance

This category includes the provision of temporary shelters, blankets, mattresses, kitchen utensils, heating equipment, and tents. Such assistance is particularly crucial following waves of mass displacement (forced displacement) or the destruction of homes by the Israeli entity.

According to the latest reports from the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, approximately 1.4 million people were in need of emergency shelter materials as of August 2025. Although some shelter materials have recently entered the Strip, they remain grossly insufficient given that needs far exceed available resources ²⁵.

1.2.2.4. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Assistance

The ongoing blockade of the Gaza Strip severely restricts water supply, sanitation, and hygiene services, with devastating

¹⁸ Boujelal Salah Eddine, *The Right to Humanitarian Assistance: A Comparative Study in Light of the Provisions of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law*, Dar Al-Fikr Al-Jami'i, Alexandria, Cairo, 2008, p. 9.

¹⁹ Zoubiri Ramadan, "International Intervention between Humanitarian Considerations and Political Dimensions," *Journal of Political and Legal Research*, No. 2, 2014, pp. 248–249.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 249.

²¹ How the World Food Programme Supports the Gaza Strip, article available at: <https://ar.wfp.org/countries/palestine>, accessed: 22 September 2025, at 11:51.

²² What Aid Reaches Gaza, and Do Gazans Benefit from It?, article available at: <https://www.bbc.com/arabic/articles>, accessed: 22 September 2025, at 12:43.

²³ Five Basic Needs for the Population in Times of War: Have They Been Met for the People of Gaza?, article available at: <https://www.aljazeera.net/news/2025>, accessed: 22 September 2025, at 13:57.

²⁴ Medical Aid to Gaza... What Does It Include and How Is It Selected?, article available at: <https://www.skynewsarabia.com/middle-east>, accessed: 22 September 2025, at 14:26.

²⁵ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), *Humanitarian Situation Update No. 321 – Gaza Strip*, 10 September 2025, available at: <https://www.ochaopt.org/ar/content/humanitarian-situation-update-321-gaza-strip>, accessed: 22 September 2025, at 14:02.

consequences for public health. Therefore, emphasis has been placed on providing safe drinking water, sterilization materials, energy generators for water facilities, and chlorine for wastewater treatment. The destruction of networks and chlorine shortages have increased the risk of waterborne disease outbreaks such as cholera and hepatitis.

According to an OCHA report, since July 2025, partner organizations in the WASH cluster have received only 25% of the fuel required to sustain emergency operations effectively ²⁶.

1.2.2.5. Cash-Based and Developmental Assistance (Direct Cash Transfers)

Cash-based assistance in Gaza takes the form of direct cash payments and vouchers provided to affected individuals and families. This enables them to meet their basic needs for food and shelter in a dignified and flexible manner. Programs managed by international organizations such as the World Food Programme and UNICEF aim to improve living conditions, provide goods at lower cost, and stimulate the local economy. Cash assistance is also linked to social protection and inclusion efforts, supporting children and women in facing difficult circumstances and enhancing families' ability to live with dignity, as noted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees ²⁷.

1.3. Challenges and Obstacles Facing the Delivery of Humanitarian Aid to the Gaza Strip in Light of International Law

The provision of humanitarian relief and the delivery of assistance to civilians during armed conflicts constitute a legal obligation incumbent upon the conflicting parties and the occupying power under International Humanitarian Law. However, the Gaza war of 2023 and subsequent years has revealed a profound gap between the provisions of international conventions and the reality on the ground. Humanitarian access operations have encountered a comprehensive system of obstacles and challenges imposed by the occupying power ²⁸. These obstacles range from logistical and procedural barriers related to inspection mechanisms to military and field-related ones, including direct targeting of supply lines and a total blockade affecting the most basic necessities of life. The main challenges can be outlined — by way of example and not limitation — as follows:

- **Total Siege and Cutting of Vital Supplies:** The imposition of a complete closure and prevention of fuel, water, and electricity entry has paralyzed the operation of relief trucks, hospital generators, and medicine storage refrigerators within the Strip ²⁹.
- **Complication and Obstruction of Inspection Routes:** Aid convoys are forced to travel long distances to distant inspection points such as the "Auja/Nitzana" crossing before being allowed entry. This causes trucks to accumulate for days, leading to the spoilage of sensitive food and medical supplies ³⁰.
- **Banning of Items under the Pretext of "Dual Use":** The arbitrary rejection of thousands of vital medical and relief items, such as oxygen cylinders, water purification devices, surgical scissors, and metal-framed tents, on the grounds that they could be used for military purposes ³¹.
- **Direct Military Targeting of Convoys and Facilities:** Relief trucks, storage warehouses, and distribution centers are subjected to continuous rocket and artillery strikes despite prior coordination through deconfliction channels ³².
- **Targeting and Killing of Humanitarian Workers:** The highest rate of human losses in the history of international relief work has been recorded among United Nations staff (particularly UNRWA) and non-governmental organizations. This has led many organizations to suspend operations due to concerns for their teams' safety ³³.
- **Internal Security Collapse and Politicization of Aid:** The targeting of local civilian police elements responsible for securing and distributing trucks has created security chaos in reception areas and hindered the regular delivery of supplies to those in need.

2. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this study demonstrates that humanitarian aid directed to the Gaza Strip has become a fundamental element in confronting the catastrophic humanitarian situation endured by the civilian population as a result of the ongoing blockade, recurrent military operations, and the resulting widespread destruction of infrastructure, collapse of the health sector, and disruption of essential services. These aid efforts have significantly contributed to alleviating the suffering of the population by providing food, medicine, shelter, and essential humanitarian services, thereby rendering them an indispensable humanitarian and legal necessity under the prevailing circumstances.

However, the study also reveals that the effectiveness of this aid remains limited due to persistent political and security obstacles imposed on its entry and distribution, coupled with the absence of genuine international will to address the root causes of the crisis. Consequently, humanitarian aid has frequently shifted from a tool for sustainable protection to a mechanism for crisis management, offering only temporary relief without achieving genuine solutions that safeguard the fundamental rights and alleviate the suffering of the civilian population.

²⁶ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Humanitarian Situation Update No. 304 – Gaza Strip, 9 July 2025, available at: <https://www.ochaopt.org/ar/content/humanitarian-situation-update-304-gaza-strip>, accessed: 22 September 2025, at 16:30.

²⁷ Cash-Based Assistance Directed to the Gaza Strip, article available at: <https://www.google.com/search?q>, accessed: 22 September 2025, at 16:47.

²⁸ Human Rights Watch, "Israel is Using Starvation of Civilians as a Method of Warfare in Gaza," Expanded Human Rights Report, published 18 December 2023, pp. 12, 14.

²⁹ Ibid., p. 12.

³⁰ United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Periodic Report on the Humanitarian Situation in the Gaza Strip.

³¹ UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), "The Humanitarian Impact of Restrictions on Humanitarian Access to Gaza," Field Monitoring Report, New York, January 2024, p. 8.

³² International Court of Justice, Order on Provisional Measures Regarding the Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel), The Hague, 26 January 2024, para. 45.

³³ Barakat Riyadh and Ahmed Raji, "International Responsibility for Violations of the Rules of International Humanitarian Law in the Gaza Strip," Journal of Legal and Political Research, Algeria, Vol. 13, No. 1, 2026, p. 311.

The study further highlights that International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law impose clear obligations on the parties to the conflict and the international community. These obligations include protecting civilians, ensuring unhindered access to humanitarian assistance, and prohibiting the use of siege and starvation as methods of warfare. Nevertheless, the practical reality reveals a significant gap between legal norms and their actual implementation. This gap stems from the weakness of enforcement mechanisms and international accountability, which has contributed to the continuation of serious humanitarian violations within the Strip.

3. RESULTS

The study has reached several key findings, the most prominent of which are as follows:

- Humanitarian aid in the Gaza Strip has become an urgent humanitarian necessity in light of the unprecedented deterioration of living and humanitarian conditions.
- The continued imposition of the blockade and restrictions on the entry of humanitarian assistance significantly undermines its effectiveness and impedes its delivery to the most vulnerable groups.
- Despite the humanitarian efforts exerted, the international community has failed to provide effective and sustainable protection for the civilian population in Gaza.
- Humanitarian aid alone is insufficient to resolve the crisis unless accompanied by political and legal solutions that address the root causes of the conflict.
- International organizations face substantial challenges related to security, funding, and political pressures, which negatively affect their ability to perform their humanitarian mandates effectively.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are proposed:

- The need to ensure safe, immediate, and unrestricted access of humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip in accordance with the rules of International Humanitarian Law.
- Strengthening the role of the United Nations and international humanitarian organizations in monitoring the implementation of humanitarian obligations and protecting civilians.
- Activating international accountability mechanisms to hold accountable those responsible for serious violations committed against civilians and for obstructing humanitarian assistance.
- Providing sustainable financial and humanitarian support to the agencies and organizations operating in the Gaza Strip to ensure the continuity of essential services.
- Working toward just and comprehensive political solutions that end the blockade and the conflict, thereby guaranteeing the Palestinian people's right to security and a dignified life.
- Enhancing international and regional cooperation to protect civilians and prevent the exploitation of humanitarian aid for political or military purposes.

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