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TERRITORY**

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Statement on the Occasion of World Food Day 2025

Open the crossings, lift restrictions, allow in aid — now.

16 October 2025

World Food Day is a moment to raise global awareness and galvanize action against hunger and malnutrition. Nowhere is this more urgent than in Gaza, where the scale of human suffering defies comprehension.

For far too long, hunger, acute malnutrition, starvation and famine have stalked the population of over 2 million people, as a direct result of the actions of the Government of Israel—the destruction of croplands, agricultural wells, and greenhouses, among other infrastructure critical to food production, coupled with inhumane restrictions on the delivery of humanitarian aid essential to survival. At least 463 people, including 157 children, have died of starvation and malnutrition in Gaza, per the Ministry of Health. And half a million people are in desperate need of nutrition, according to the UN's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

The recently established ceasefire—part of the first phase of President Trump's peace initiative—offers a vital opportunity to ramp up lifesaving operations. Israel has agreed to enable a massive surge of aid. **It is essential that this promise be made good on, without delay and without excuses.** Facilitating aid is a legal and moral obligation, not a bargaining chip. “There must be no backsliding on the agreements that have been made,” said the UN's Emergency Relief Coordinator, Tom Fletcher.

The United Nations system and non-governmental organizations have the capacities, the know-how and the relationships to deliver lifesaving aid immediately and at scale to avert the deepening of famine and catastrophic levels of deprivation across the Gaza Strip. They are mobilized and ready to do their work.

United Staff for Gaza calls on Israeli authorities immediately to lift all restrictions and allow in the safe, sufficient, and unimpeded flow of humanitarian assistance via UN-led coordination mechanisms. This includes opening border crossings, issuing visas, ensuring security for humanitarian workers, and halting arbitrary denials and interceptions. Aid must reach all who need it, wherever they are, with neutrality and without delay. ///