

# Official Distress Statement

by Rahma Worldwide

## **Famine Warning** **The Humanitarian Situation in Gaza is Catastrophic**

May 11, 2025

Based on field reports and ongoing assessments by our teams operating in the Gaza Strip, Rahma Worldwide announces that the region has entered an advanced stage of severe food insecurity, reaching levels that indicate famine according to established UN classifications.

The extreme shortage of essential food supplies, most critically flour, has led to a tragic humanitarian situation where families are unable to obtain even the bare minimum of food or medicine.

This crisis has been exacerbated by the complete depletion of food reserves, the forced shutdown of kitchens and bakeries, and the absolute closure of border crossings to all aid, as the siege on Gaza continues for more than seventy consecutive days.

At Rahma Worldwide, we stress the need for this warning to be taken seriously and critically by all concerned parties. We call on decision-makers to act immediately and decisively to save the lives of civilians in Gaza.

## Urgent Statement

**Today, we share with you the latest field data collected by our teams revealing the following alarming facts:**

- Over %90 of Gaza's population now depends primarily on humanitarian aid to meet basic needs.
- An estimated 3,500 children face the risk of sudden death in the coming days due to acute malnutrition and deteriorating health conditions.
- Most families rely on just one meal every 24 hours, while many are unable to access food at all.
- Alarming levels of malnutrition: over 70,000 children suffer from undernutrition, placing them at long-term health risks.
- The shutdown of all community kitchens and charity food centers has doubled the scale of the humanitarian crisis and deepened the famine.
- Around %20 of pregnant women (out of 55,000) are suffering from malnutrition, putting both mothers and unborn children at life-threatening risk.
- Cases of maternal and infant deaths have been reported due to the absence of essential medical care and the collapse of healthcare infrastructure.
- Hospitals are recording around 40 miscarriages per week, reflecting the dire conditions for pregnant women.
- 11 out of 14 hospitals in Gaza are now fully or partially out of service, as reported by official Palestinian authorities, making access to emergency and basic care nearly impossible.
- Over 100,000 injured individuals lack critical healthcare and face a heightened risk of death due to malnutrition, lack of medication, and medical supplies.
- With the approaching summer season and the scarcity of clean water, the health risks for children, in particular, are escalating. Drought and pollution threaten the spread of dangerous diseases such as acute diarrhea, gastrointestinal infections, and waterborne epidemics, further deepening the humanitarian catastrophe and endangering the lives of thousands.

## Urgent Statement

**Our field teams have documented horrifying scenes that capture the magnitude of human suffering:**

- Entire families starving due to extreme food shortages.
- Mothers distracting their hungry children by boiling bitter tea over firewood.
- Families forced to eat bread infested with pests out of sheer desperation.
- Pregnant women giving birth in inhumane conditions on roadsides while fleeing.
- Thousands of women and children sleeping on streets and sidewalks for days, without shelter or tents, amid ongoing waves of forced displacement.

In light of these shocking realities, Rahma Worldwide urgently calls on the international community, UN bodies, humanitarian organizations, and all concerned parties to take immediate action to ensure unrestricted access for food and humanitarian aid into Gaza, in accordance with international humanitarian law and human rights treaties, to prevent further loss of innocent lives.

We also emphasize that food and medicine must never be used as weapons or tools of political pressure, as this poses a direct threat to the lives of over two million besieged civilians.

Allowing this humanitarian catastrophe to continue represents a blatant violation of international commitments, undermines justice and humanity, and imposes an urgent legal and moral responsibility on the international community to protect civilians and ensure access to basic life necessities.

**Dr. Shadi Zaza**  
**Rahma Worldwide President**

*Dr. Shadi Zaza*