

Gaza Fact Sheet

July, 2025

Canadian Policy Recommendations

1. END THE SIEGE AND DELIVER AID

Demand the immediate and unconditional lifting of the Israeli blockade on Gaza, in line with international humanitarian law.

- Ensure full, unrestricted humanitarian access: food, water, fuel, and medical supplies must flow freely.
- Canada should coordinate a diplomatic convoy and support international humanitarian missions to safely deliver aid.
- Back UN mechanisms for monitoring aid access and preventing its obstruction, as per UN Security Council [Resolution 2720](#) (2023) and [Resolution 2728](#) (2024).

2. ENFORCE A PERMANENT CEASEFIRE

Publicly endorse and work to implement **UNSC Resolution 2728**, which demands an **immediate, durable, and unconditional ceasefire**.

- Support international civilian protection missions led by the UN or regional organizations to monitor and protect Palestinian civilians.
- End any political support or abstentions that shield Israel from accountability or prolong hostilities.

3. STOP ARMING APARTHEID – FULL TWO-WAY ARMS EMBARGO

Canada must immediately impose a comprehensive, two-way arms embargo on Israel in response to mounting evidence of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and acts of genocide.

- **Cancel all existing export permits** and deny new ones under the [Export and Import Permits Act \(EIPA\)](#), halting the flow of Canadian military goods, services, and technologies to Israel.
- **Prohibit all Israeli arms sales to Canada** and terminate any joint ventures, technology transfers, or procurement contracts involving Israeli weapons firms.
- **End all bilateral security cooperation**, intelligence-sharing, military research, and training programs with Israeli forces or defense-related entities.

This action is legally required under Canada's [Export and Import Permits Act, Section 7.3](#), which prohibits arms exports that could be used to commit serious violations of international humanitarian or human rights law. It also fulfills Canada's obligations under the [Arms Trade Treaty \(ATT\)](#), to which Canada is a State Party.

4. ENFORCE THE GENOCIDE CONVENTION

Canada is a signatory to the [1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide](#). Under international law, Canada is obligated not only to punish, but to **prevent** genocide. The government must take immediate, concrete action:

- **Support South Africa's case against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ)**

Join the growing number of states that have filed formal **Declarations of Intervention** under Article 63 of the ICJ Statute.

- [South Africa v. Israel \(Application of the Genocide Convention\)](#)

- **Publicly acknowledge the risk of genocide in Gaza**

Recognize the findings of the ICJ's January 2024 provisional measures and the June 2024 report by the UN Special Rapporteur, which identify a credible and urgent risk of genocide.

- [ICJ Orders Provisional Measures in South Africa v. Israel](#)

- **Refer perpetrators to the International Criminal Court (ICC)**

Actively support investigations by the Office of the Prosecutor into alleged war crimes, crimes against humanity, and acts of genocide committed in Gaza.

► [ICC – State Party Referrals and Palestine Situation](#)

- **Suspend all state immunities where there is credible evidence of involvement in atrocity crimes**

Canada must reject the misuse of **sovereign immunity** to shield individuals or governments from legal accountability. Under Article IV of the Genocide Convention:

"Persons committing genocide shall be punished whether they are constitutionally responsible rulers, public officials or private individuals."

[Genocide Convention – Article IV](#)

5. HOLD CANADIANS ACCOUNTABLE FOR WAR CRIMES

Investigate and prosecute any **Canadian citizens serving in the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF)** for potential involvement in war crimes or crimes against humanity.

- Enforce the **Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act** ([S.C. 2000, c. 24](#)).
- Apply [Section 7\(4.1\)](#) of the **Criminal Code**, which provides jurisdiction over war crimes committed abroad by Canadian citizens.

6. ENFORCE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Uphold the **Geneva Conventions** and [UNSCR 2286 \(2016\)](#), which protects healthcare infrastructure and personnel during armed conflict.

- Condemn and prosecute attacks on hospitals, ambulances, and medical personnel.
- Call for independent investigations into strikes on civilians, infrastructure, and aid convoys.

7. RECOGNIZE PALESTINE – END CANADIAN COMPLICITY IN ILLEGAL SETTLEMENTS

- Officially recognize the **State of Palestine**, following international recognition by 143+ UN member states.
- Ban all trade, financial, cultural, and academic ties with **illegal Israeli settlements** in the West Bank and occupied East Jerusalem.
- Revoke **charitable status** for Canadian organizations that fund or support settlement expansion, in accordance with CRA guidelines and international law.

8. DEFEND CIVIL LIBERTIES IN CANADA – PROTECT FREE EXPRESSION

- Reject anti-Palestinian racism, surveillance, and the criminalization of protest.
- Defend the right of Canadians to engage in **Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS)** campaigns as a form of legitimate political expression protected under the **Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms**.

Humanitarian Crisis Snapshot: Facts on the Ground

1. Attacks on Healthcare (as of July 2025)

- **1,580+ healthcare workers killed**^[2], with 697+ verified attacks^[1] on facilities.
- **Only 18 of Gaza's 36 hospitals remain partially functional**^[7]: 12 provide limited services; 7 emergency-only. 17 are non-operational.
- Services like **dialysis and neonatal care** have fully collapsed.
- **Ambulances and MSF convoys were targeted**; IDF acknowledged firing on rescue teams^[3]
- **WHO** calls this conflict the **deadliest for healthcare workers in recent history**.

2. Attacks on Women & Reproductive Health (as of March–June 2025)

- By March 2025, **only 5 maternity hospitals were still operating**^[4].
- **1 in 3 pregnancies is classified as high-risk**^[4], with premature deliveries rising
- **Gaza's IVF center was destroyed; 4,000 embryos lost**^[5]—a direct blow to reproductive continuity. The UN finds that the destruction amounts “to two categories of genocidal acts in the Rome Statute and the Genocide Convention, including deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the physical destruction of Palestinians and imposing measures intended to prevent births”^[5].
- Widespread **shortages of contraception, hygiene, and postnatal care**.
- **UN and OHCHR** documented **sexual violence, forced nudity, and abuse** during detentions^[5].



- Women are delivering **without pain relief, electricity, or trained staff**, with many births occurring in tents or rubble.

3. Targeting Children Amid Famine, Injury & Displacement

Child Fatalities & Casualties

- Gaza is the deadliest place on earth to be a child^[18].
- According to **UNICEF**, by March 2025 over **15,000 children** were reported killed, over 34,000 reportedly injured, and nearly one million children repeatedly displaced and deprived of their right to basic services^[6], a figure rising to over **17,000 deaths**^[7] (**≈27 per day or one classroom of children per day**) by July 9, 2025.

Amputations & Disabilities

- Over **3,000–4,500 new amputations**^{[9][10]} recorded since the war began.
- **Gaza has the highest per-capita rate of child amputees in the world**^[8]
- Save the Children reports peak rates of **10+ child amputations per day**^[11], with many children facing permanent disability
- The high incidence of amputations is explained not only by traumatic injuries but also by burns and resulting infections as well^[12]. Many amputations should not have been necessary. Multiple doctors, such as American trauma surgeon Dr Feroze Sidwha have reported seeing many children lose limbs that could have been saved under other circumstances due to a lack of sanitation, medical equipment, and malnutrition^[12].
- Gaza's child amputee cohort risks being left **without specialized prosthetic care**. As children grow, they need new and updated components every six months, according to UNICEF^[9]. Rehabilitation equipment is scarce or damaged, and stocks of assistive products and prosthetic materials have run low due to the Israeli blockade. The attacks on hospitals and healthcare workers mean there are shortages of technicians needed to create prosthetics. As of May 2025 there were only 9 prosthetics and orthodontics care technicians across Gaza, whereas 6,000 prosthetics are needed to address the scale of needs, especially among children who need continuous care^[9]

Orphans & Children with No Surviving Family

- **15,000-19,000 new orphans** (both parents dead) as a result of the genocide per the International Rescue Committee^[13].
- There have been **so many children left unaccompanied due to the deaths of their parents and other family members that a new acronym was developed by medical professionals in Gaza to identify these children: "WCNSF" meaning "Wounded Child with No Surviving Family."**



Malnutrition & Famine Crisis

- **All of Gaza is classified by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) as being in Emergency/IPC Phase 4, with the entire population facing crisis or worse acute food insecurity** in May-September 2025. 1 million people are facing emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 4), and 470,000 people are facing catastrophic levels of food insecurity (IPC Phase 5). The remaining half million people are in Crisis/IPC phase 3^[14].
- UNICEF reports an **average of 112 children per day are requiring admission for acute malnutrition**^[15]. The number of children with severe acute malnutrition has surged **146%** since February 2025. **71,000** children are at risk of acute malnutrition, with **14,100** expected severe cases^[7]. In June 2025, more than 5,800 children were diagnosed with malnutrition, including more than 1,000 children with severe acute malnutrition, representing an increase for the fourth consecutive month^[17].
- **Malnourished children are more vulnerable to disease; nine out of ten children under 5 in Gaza are suffering from one or more infectious diseases**^[19].

4. Displacement & Infrastructure Collapse

- Nearly **1.9 million people** (≈90% of Gaza) have been **displaced at least once** since the assault on Gaza began^[16]. **Most people have been displaced multiple times. This includes over 1 million children being repeatedly displaced**^[19]. With no safe place to go, many people have sought refuge in overcrowded displacement sites, makeshift shelters, damaged buildings, streets and open areas. People have been confined to **ever-shrinking spaces**. As of July 9, 2025, **86% of the Gaza Strip is within Israeli-militarized zones or placed under displacement orders**^[2].
- **Only 50% (18 out of 36) of the hospitals in Gaza are partially functional**^[7].
- Less than 5% of cropland remains available for cultivation^[7].
- 72% of the fishing fleet has been destroyed^[7].
- **92% (436,000) housing units have been destroyed or damaged**^[7].
- **89% of water and sanitation units have been destroyed or damaged**^[7].
- Families survive in **makeshift tents**, schools, and UNRWA shelters, often with less than **50 sq ft per person**, far below humanitarian minimums.

5. Education System Collapse

- **>2,308 educational facilities, ranging from kindergartens to universities, have been destroyed**^[7]. **>60 university buildings have been destroyed**. Nearly 88.8% of schools will require full reconstruction or major rehabilitation to be functional again^[7].
- **>16,019 school students and 703 educational staff have been killed**^[7]. >23,913 students and 3,015 teachers have been injured^[7].
- UNRWA schools in Gaza have been serving as shelters. Back in September 2024, it was estimated that 70% of **these schools had been hit by the Israeli military, some**

of them several times. **95% of these schools were being used as shelters** for displaced people, among them many children, when they were hit^[21]. **As of May 2025,**

more than 400 schools have received direct hits^[20]. Schools have gone from safe havens of education for children living under blockade to overcrowded shelters, becoming places of death and misery.

- UN experts classify this as “**scholasticide**”—the systemic obliteration of education through the arrest, detention or killing of teachers, students, and staff and the destruction of educational infrastructure^[22]. **A UN Commission documented and investigated several cases of burning and demolition of educational facilities by Israeli forces which it concluded were deliberate and unnecessary**^[23]. Israeli soldiers recorded and distributed videos in which they mock Palestinians and Palestinian education, before destroying schools and universities. The Commission considers such acts as indicative of the Israeli security forces’ intent to destroy these facilities to curtail Palestinians’ access to education in the long-term^[23].

5. Cultural & Religious Erasure (as of June 2025)

- UN Human Rights Council reports a **systematic pattern of erasure** of Palestinian history and identity. **Destruction violates the Hague Convention**, triggering global calls for cultural genocide accountability.
- As of 27 May 2025, UNESCO has verified damage to 110 sites since 7 October 2023 – 13 religious sites, 77 buildings of historical and/or artistic interest, 3 depositories of movable cultural property, 9 monuments, 1 museum and 7 archeological sites^[24].
- **Attacks by Israeli security forces have damaged more than half of all religious and cultural sites in the Gaza Strip**, part of a wider campaign to destroy civilian targets and infrastructure through airstrikes and shelling^[23]. Israeli attacks also targeted religious sites that served as places of refuge, killing hundreds of people, including women and children^[23]. **A UN Commission concluded that Israeli security forces knew or should have known the locations and significance of Gaza’s prominent cultural sites and should have planned all military operations to ensure no harm**^[23]. All ten religious and cultural sites in Gaza investigated by the UN Commission constituted civilian objects at the time of attack and suffered devastating destruction for which the Commission could not identify a legitimate military need^[23]. Artifacts were destroyed, removed or looted.

6. Weaponization of Aid & The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF)

- Israel has imposed a **near complete blockade on Gaza since March 2, 2025**. This includes blocking entry of humanitarian aid.
- A proxy entity—the **Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF)**—operates under close coordination with the Israeli military and U.S. private military contractors, and claims to be delivering aid. In reality, **this system is a death trap**; it is a model of **militarized aid**

that has led to mass civilian displacement and death. Since its implementation on May 28, 2025, over **500 Palestinians have been killed** and nearly **4,000 wounded** while trying to access food from GHF distribution sites. The decimated and besieged hospitals in Gaza are overwhelmed with the daily mass casualty events from these GHF sites.

- The GHF's system **replaced 400 aid distribution points with just 4 distribution sites** located in Israeli militarised zones (three in Rafah and one in the Netzarim Corridor)^[25]. These four GHF “aid zones” are fenced, militarized enclosures where desperate, starving civilians—including women, children, elderly, and disabled—must walk for miles through red zones, then scramble for food under watchtowers and gunfire. People are forced to choose between starvation or risking their lives for minuscule amounts of food.
- **Haaretz reports testimony from IDF soldiers that they are ordered to shoot at crowds to drive them away or disperse them, even though it was clear they posed no threat**^[26]. **Machine guns, grenades, and mortars are used as crowd control**, an activity the IDF soldiers refer to as Operation Salted Fish- the name of the Israeli version of the children’s game “Red light, green light.”
- Two anonymous contractors for UG Solutions, an American company subcontracted to hire security personnel at these zones, told the Associated Press^[31]: “bullets, stun grenades and pepper spray were used at nearly every distribution, **even if there was no threat.**” Verified footage from the sites shows contractors shooting in the direction of departing Palestinians who had just collected food while the **shooters are “effectively egging each other on.”**
- The GHF **claims it exists to prevent humanitarian aid from falling into the hands of Hamas.** They have **not provided any proof** of diversion of aid. In fact, **Cindy McCain, the executive Director of the World Food Program, has repeatedly said there is no looting or organized crime resulting in diversion** of supplies^[29].
- Independent human rights and legal organizations have **issued formal warnings** to **GHF** and its partners, including **Boston Consulting Group (BCG)**, for their complicity in potential violations of international law. As summarized by multiple legal groups: “This new model is dehumanizing, repeatedly deadly, and contributes to the forced displacement of the very population it purports to help. It risks rendering its participants complicit in **collective punishment, the starvation** of civilians, and other acts prohibited under the Geneva Conventions, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and the Genocide Convention^[30].”
- Despite warnings from organizations such as the **Center for Constitutional Rights** and the backpedaling from financial giants like **BCG**, the **U.S. State Department** approved **\$30 million** in funding for the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation on June 26, 2025. The use of American taxpayer money for the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation makes the United States and its citizens **directly complicit in genocide.**
- More than **170 charities and other NGOs** are calling for the controversial aid distribution scheme in Gaza run by the Israel- and US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) to be shut down^[25].

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