



3 April 2024

Following the deaths of more humanitarians, AIDA members consider the suspension of aid operations.

The Association of International Development Agencies (AIDA) is horrified by the recent killing of members from World Central Kitchen in Gaza in an Israeli airstrike and extends its deepest condolences to the families and loved ones of those who lost their lives. This tragic incident represents yet another failure by Israeli authorities to protect humanitarian workers in Gaza.

As humanitarians, we are appalled by the conditions under which workers risk their lives to deliver much-needed services in Gaza. This situation not only challenges our ability to deliver aid but also compels us to examine our duty of care to our colleagues and the people we serve. The extreme risk to their lives, and those of people gathering for aid distributions, forces us to confront the critical question as to whether humanitarian operations can continue under such untenable conditions. While several organizations have suspended operations for these very reasons, all humanitarian organizations are being pushed closer everyday to taking this dramatic and heartbreaking decision as the humanitarian imperative is threatened.

Over the last 6 months, more than 200 aid workers in the occupied Palestinian territory have been killed. Israeli authorities have also bombed locations they knew were being used by humanitarian organizations, including warehouses and shelters, despite coordination with the military. In several instances, civilians were directly targeted during distributions of aid, leading to dozens of deaths.

The continuous failure to protect aid workers and humanitarian operations has been part of deliberate and systematic efforts to prevent and disrupt the delivery of life-saving aid into and within Gaza. This has also involved the imposition of a wide range of unnecessary restrictions and intentional obstacles to aid delivery, including the refusal to open more checkpoints or restrictions on visas for humanitarians. Israeli Authorities have also prevented the delivery of aid in the North of Gaza, denying authorizations and blocking convoys. Recently, Israel informed UNRWA, the beating heart of the aid operation in Gaza, that they would not be allowed to deliver any aid to this part of the Gaza Strip.

The dramatic degradation of the humanitarian situation has forced several governments and humanitarian organizations to look for other ways to provide support, from air drops to the opening of a maritime corridor. These attempts have so far failed to significantly increase the volume of aid distributed, confirming that there is no alternative to the large-scale delivery of aid by land. The killing of World Central Kitchen personnel took place whilst the staff were moving aid brought by sea and in coordination with the Israeli authorities, tragically demonstrating that nowhere and no one is safe in Gaza. It also comes at a time when the latest IPC analysis for Gaza has forecasted that [famine is imminent](#), leading the EU Foreign Policy Chief to [decry starvation in Gaza](#), outlining that “hunger cannot be used as a weapon of war.”

These systematic and deliberate efforts to prevent the delivery of humanitarian aid have continued despite orders from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and despite several resolutions from the Security Council of the United Nations.

AIDA members, along with humanitarian organizations and the international community, call for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. We urge Israel to open all border crossings and lift all restrictions preventing the delivery of humanitarian aid at scale, to allow the safe delivery of aid throughout Gaza, to allow secure and unfettered aid movements, and lastly, to protect humanitarian workers and refrain from targeting them. We call on the international community to initiate an independent investigation of the circumstances that led to the deaths of humanitarian aid workers, to hold perpetrators to account, and to ensure that safe and unimpeded humanitarian access be granted to provide lifesaving assistance and prevent the deaths of thousands more innocent civilians caught in this crisis.

The Association of International Development Agencies (AIDA)