PyleaMUN 2026

Committee: **Human Rights Council (HRC)**
Topic: **Protecting the Rights of Children and Adolescents in Gaza**
Student Officers: **Ioanna Zarogianni** (Chair), **Maria Eleonora Mavrommati** (Co-Chair), **Ioli Vathi** (Vice-Chair)

1. Personal Introduction

Dear Delegates,

Our names are Ioanna Zarogianni, Maria Eleonora Mavrommati and Ioli Vathi, and we are enrolled in the 10th grade at the 1st Senior High School of Pylea, the 10th grade at the American Farm School of Thessaloniki, and the 12th grade at the Anaxagoreio High School of Nea Erythraia, in the same order. We are all immensely honoured to be serving as the Chairs of the Human Rights Committee in the 2026 PyleaMUN!

We would like to warmly welcome all delegates to this committee and to inform you that this conference is set to bring out the best of your debating skills whilst also fostering new friendships and experiences.

The topic of our committee, "Protecting the Rights of Children and Adolescents in Gaza" which we will be addressing is a crucial and highly relevant issue in today's world and surely calls for thoughtful analysis and decisive action, with the following study guide aiming to inform you on the topic in such a manner that delegates will be able to craft preliminary solutions and speeches, and gain a comprehensive understanding of the topic. Although this study guide is very thorough, we would recommend that you perform a certain degree of independent research relative to your country's stance and more in depth details on the nation's specific actions. Finally, we all strongly advise you to contact us without hesitation for any help needed through this email: pyleamun.hr@gmail.com. We look forward to meeting you all in person in January!

2. Introduction to the Topic

One of the most complicated humanitarian situations worldwide affects children in the State of Palestine. More than a million children still depend on humanitarian aid, despite notable improvements in areas such as vaccination coverage and school enrolment through the help of international NGOs such as UNICEF and Save the Children. Minors are exposed to daily violence, insecurity, extreme levels of poverty, and psychological distress due to the ongoing

conflict. Additionally, mobility restrictions often prevent them from receiving necessary and adequate healthcare, with it also lacking because of the armed conflict.

One of the areas that is still most impacted is education. Conflict, a lack of funding, and damage to the educational infrastructure in Gaza by Israeli forces, cause many children's schooling to be disrupted. With more than 97% of schools being destroyed, attendance is at an all-time low and the education standards are regularly subpar1. For children's development as well as the long-term stability and prosperity of their communities, they must have access to safe, stable, and inclusive education.

With more than 40% of Gaza's population being minors, it is evident that Palestinians are frequently deprived of the opportunity to reach adulthood due to the struggling healthcare system and the armed conflict2. The children of the country also suffer from high rates of vitamin deficiencies and anaemia. These struggles all highlight how urgent coordinated international action is.

Above all, every child has the inalienable right to live freely, safely, and with dignity, regardless of their nationality, background, or circumstances. However, many Palestinian children are deprived of these basic rights. Palestinian children continue to show remarkable fortitude, but above all assistance from the international community and intervention is necessary, to guarantee that every child can live in accordance with their legislated rights.

3. Definition of key terms

Ceasefire:

"an agreement, usually between two armies, to stop fighting in order to allow discussions about peace"[3]

De Facto:

"Existing as a matter of fact rather than of right"[4]

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[1] UNICEF. "After Two Years of War: Gaza's Education System on the Brink of Collapse." Unicef.org, 2025, www.unicef.org/sop/stories/after-two-years-war-gazas-education-system-brink-collapse.

[2] Mohammad, Linah. "Children Make up Nearly Half of Gaza's Population. Here's What It Means for the War." NPR, 19 Oct. 2023, www.npr.org/2023/10/19/1206479861/israel-gaza-hamas-children-population-war-palestinians.

[3]Cambridge Dictionary. "Ceasefire." @CambridgeWords, 2 Mar. 2022, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/ceasefire.

[4] Oxford Reference. "De Facto." Oxford Reference, 2025, www.oxfordreference.com/display/10.1093/oi/authority.20110803095706639.

Non-State armed actor:

"This term refers to a non-state party to an international or non-international armed conflict. Humanitarian law uses the term of armed forces to designate and define the combatants fighting within a State party to the conflict."[5]

Blockade:

"The situation in which a country or place is surrounded by soldiers or ships to stop people or goods from going in or out"[6]

Psychosocial Support

"In medicine, support given to help meet the mental, emotional, social, and spiritual needs of patients and their families"[7]

International Humanitarian Law

"A set of rules that seek to limit the effect of armed conflict which lays out the responsibilities of states and non-state actors during an armed conflict"[8]

Displacement

"Displacement refers to the situation in which people "have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of, or in order to avoid, the effects of armed conflict"[9]

4. Historical Background

The 2023 Onward Crisis: War, Humanitarian Collapse, and Children's Rights

Trigger and scope of the 2023 war

On 7 October 2023, Hamas-led attacks on Israel triggered a large-scale military response by Israel, marking the beginning of a new war in Gaza. The ensuing conflict has resulted in

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[5] "Doctors without Borders | The Practical Guide to Humanitarian Law."Guide-Humanitarian-Law.org, 2010, guide-humanitarian-law.org/content/article/3/non-state-armed-groups/.

[6] Cambridge Dictionary. "Blockade." @CambridgeWords, 5 July 2023, dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/blockade.

[7]National Cancer Institute. "Https://Www.cancer.gov/Publications/Dictionaries/Cancer-Terms/Def/Psychosocial-Support." Www.cancer.gov, 2 Feb. 2011, www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/psychosocial-support.

[8] European Commission. "International Humanitarian Law." *Civil-Protection-Humanitarian-Aid.ec.europa.eu*, 2024, civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/humanitarian-aid/international-humanitarian-law_en.

[9] GNDR. "Displacement Terminology." GNDR, www.gndr.org/displacement-terminology/.

massive destruction across the Gaza Strip, one of the most intense bombing campaigns in recent history. According to recent monitoring, by the middle of 2025 a vast majority of buildings in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed.

The 2023 war thus stands out not only because of its intensity but also because of the scale of destruction, the severity of humanitarian collapse, and its devastating impact on the civilian population, especially children.

Deaths, injuries, and orphan hood

Since October 2023, the death toll among children in Gaza has skyrocketed. Reports indicate that tens of thousands of children have been killed. For instance, as of a recent humanitarian assessment, more than 12,550 children had been killed among the overall civilian fatalities in Gaza since the war began.

Many more children have been injured, some suffering life-altering injuries such as amputations, burns, or disabilities. According to humanitarian reports, explosive weapons used in populated areas during 2024 left an average of 475 children each month with potentially lifelong disabilities — including lost limbs, impaired hearing or sight, or other severe trauma.

The war also triggered what has been described as “the largest orphan crisis in modern history.” According to official Gaza statistics, by early 2025 around 39,384 children had lost one or both parents since the start of the war; among them, approximately 17,000 have lost both parents.

Children displaced from their homes now often live in overcrowded shelters, tents or damaged buildings; many are separated from caregivers, unaccompanied, or at risk of exploitation and neglect.

Collapse of essential services: health, nutrition, shelter, education

The war, combined with pre-existing blockade and prolonged siege, has decimated Gaza’s infrastructure. Hospitals, clinics, schools, water and sanitation systems, and homes have been destroyed or rendered inoperable. This has severely disrupted children’s access to essential services: medical care, nutrition, safe water, and sanitation, and stable shelter— even basic hygiene.

According to humanitarian assessments, by early 2025 nearly one million children in Gaza are in need of psychosocial support; many suffer from severe psychological distress, manifesting in widespread trauma, anxiety, disturbed sleep, aggressive behaviour, withdrawal, disrupted development, and a growing sense of insecurity and hopelessness.

Furthermore, the destruction of schools and disruption to education threatens to create a “lost generation.” The combination of displacement, lack of safe learning spaces, infrastructure damage, and psychological trauma severely undermines children’s right to education and long-term development.

Blockade, governance change and structural hardship

After the internal conflict between Hamas and Fatah in 2007 (the Battle of Gaza (2007), Hamas assumed full control over Gaza.

Soon after, a blockade was imposed on Gaza (land, air and sea), severely restricting movement, goods, and aid.

This blockade and repeated closures resulted in structural deprivation: disruption of supply of essential goods, deterioration of livelihoods, health, services, water and sanitation.

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For children growing up in Gaza, this meant chronic vulnerability: malnutrition, limited access to health care, restricted opportunities, instability. Thus, even before major wars, the blockade and isolation of Gaza laid a foundation of long-term hardship affecting children's wellbeing, survival and development.

Repeated Wars & Military Operations (2008–2021) and Their Impact on Children

Gaza and with it, its child population has experienced several rounds of conflict before 2023. These repeated hostilities embed a historical pattern.

Operation Cast Lead (2008–2009)

This was a major Israeli military offensive that began in December 2008. During the 22 days of hostilities, at least 1,383 Palestinians were killed, among them 333 children.

Civilian infrastructure such as homes, water and electricity systems, health facilities, schools were heavily damaged or destroyed.

After the war, many displaced families remained unable to rebuild, largely because the blockade prevented reconstruction materials from entering Gaza.

A 2017 humanitarian bulletin noted that years later, many victims still bore the consequences and accountability for violations remained largely absent.

This demonstrates that children in Gaza have faced acute war-related violence death, injury, displacement repeatedly over time.

Operation Protective Edge (2014) and other hostilities

The 2014 war resulted in between 2,125 and 2,310 Palestinians killed overall; among them, at least 551 children.

Over 18,000 homes were partially or completely destroyed; hundreds of schools, public buildings and businesses damaged or destroyed.

Large-scale displacement: hundreds of thousands of people, including many families with children, were forced out of their homes in some cases, taking shelter in UN-run schools or overcrowded shelters.

Humanitarian organizations reported grave violations: attacks on civilian infrastructure, hospitals, schools; indiscriminate or disproportionate use of force; many injured, many left permanently disabled.

Save the Children and other agencies pointed out that even after the cessation of fighting, many children continued to live amid rubble, unexploded ordnance, with limited access to services, proper shelter, education, or psychological support.

A displaced child from 2008-2009 who survived to 2014 might therefore have experienced two major wars in childhood, highlighting how recurring cycles of violence have lasting, cumulative impact across childhood and adolescence. Indeed, some commentators note that many children born in Gaza have lived their entire lives under recurring conflict cycles.

Periodic hostilities and recurring instability (2012, 2018–2019, 2021)

Beyond major wars, Gaza also saw repeated eruptions of violence rocket exchanges, Israeli operations, and periodic escalations. According to a recent review of conflicts from 2008 to 2023, Gaza experienced multiple such episodes, each yielding casualties and hardship for children.

For many children in Gaza, this means the absence of a stable childhood: frequent fear, disruption, displacement, and trauma.

5. Timeline Of Key Events

Date	Event
1989	**Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**, United Nations treaty that defines the civil, political, economic, social, health, and cultural rights of individuals under the age of 18.
1991	**Israel ratifies the CRC** thereby binding itself under international law to protect children.
1993-1999	**The Oslo agreements** were signed between Palestine and Israel to establish a two state solution, providing humanitarian aid for a Palestine State.
2003	**UNSC Resolution 1460** calls for immediate protection of children in armed conflict.
2011	**UNSC Resolution 1998** declares schools and hospitals off-limits and demands that perpetrators of grave violations against children be listed
2012	**Operation Pillar of Defence** approximately 47 children killed in the Gaza strip with most of them being under the age of ten.
2014	**Operation Protective Edge** was a large military operation which was launched by the Israeli army, resulting in the death of 540 children in total.
2023	**October attacks** from Hamas intensify the conflict and result in the death of over 15 thousand children overall.
March 2025	**Violation of IHL through the blockade of aid,** more specifically no food, fuel, or medicine has been able to reach the Gaza region for many months now.
May 2025	**Humanitarian Assistance & Child Protection Interventions** by UNICEF attempting to deliver malnutrition treatment and aid to children in dire need of it.

6. Current Situation

The situation in Palestine remains highly unstable, characterized by ongoing violence, humanitarian distress, and political fragmentation. Recent months have seen renewed hostilities across the region. Israeli airstrikes in Gaza have resulted in countless civilian casualties, including medical and civil defence personnel. Parallel incidents in the West

Bank, such as a significant rise in settler attacks, have increased tensions between Palestinian communities and Israeli authorities.

Currently, human rights organizations report severe concerns regarding the treatment of Palestinians. According to recent findings, 94 Palestinians have died in Israeli prisons over the last two years, with accusations of "systematic killings and cover-ups."[10] Additionally, Israeli right-wing politicians have been supporting "right to rape" protests against Palestinians and children in prisons, something clearly exacerbating the grave violations and violation of IHL.

Nearly a month after the announcement of a ceasefire, Israeli authorities continue to commit genocide with hundreds of children being killed ever since that date. Widespread destruction from repeated military operations has left thousands of families displaced. Aid agencies warn of worsening conditions and seem to be highlighting the risks of disease outbreaks, inadequate shelter, and limited access to food, clean water, and medical care, which is already evident. Children have been proved to be the most vulnerable to these, as conditions in camps only seem to worsen.

Minors in hospitals still wait for Israel to enable evacuation pathways so they can reach adequate healthcare. For example, children who have been shot by Israeli bullets do not receive the surgeries and medicine they need, as hospitals still remain in critical condition, and consist of high-risk locations that are being targeted by Israeli forces. The World Health Organization, co-ordinated the first medical envoy to exit Gaza since the start of the ceasefire via Israel's Kerem Shalom crossing, but after that Israeli officials have stated the crossing shall remain blocked, until Hamas "fulfils" its commitments under the Gaza ceasefire, by returning all bodies of deceased individuals.

7. Major Parties Involved

The State of Israel

The State of Israel controls most of the land crossings, airspace and maritime access around Gaza and as such it greatly impacts the welfare of children and adolescents within the territory. Additionally, UN reports continue bringing up Israel when documenting grave violations against children in Gaza. In the Secretary General's "Children and Armed Conflict" report for 2024, the UN verified thousands of grave violations in Gaza, with the blame for the vast majority being attributed to Israeli armed forces[11]. Such violations include killings, maiming, and denial of humanitarian access all of which disproportionately affect children. Furthermore, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), has documented an increasing trend of Israeli strikes on schools in Gaza, raising serious concerns about their compliance with IHL. Overall, the state's stance and blockage of aid seems to be attributed to the argument that all humanitarian aid being delivered to Gaza is diverted to non-state armed actors.

Hamas (de facto authority in Gaza)

Hamas has played a central role in shaping the conditions faced by minors in Gaza currently. Since they took control of the territory in 2007, Hamas has exercised de facto authority over various civilian institutions including those of education and healthcare. At the

[10] Donnison, Jon. At Least 94 Palestinians Died in Israeli Prisons in Two Years, Human Rights Group Says. 18 Nov. 2025, www.bbc.com/news/articles/crreg2l7kezo.
[11] "Document Viewer." Un.org, 2025, docs.un.org/en/S/2025/247.

same time Hamas is designated a terrorist organization by several states, with the EU also acknowledging the leader of the group as a terrorist12. Its armed actions such as the October 2023 attacks, have contributed to recurring cycles of conflict that have severe humanitarian consequences on children and adolescents. The militarization of civilian areas, recruitment and reintroduction of youth by armed factions, and the presence of military infrastructure embedded within densely populated communities further endanger children.

Arab Republic of Egypt

Egypt plays a critical role in child protection in Gaza, as it controls the Rafah border crossing, the primary non-Israeli access point. The state's decisions to open or close the crossing directly affect aid delivery, medical evacuations, and the movement of displaced families. Egypt also has an almost mediating role in ceasefire negotiations between Hamas and Israel influencing both the crisis regarding human rights but the security of the Gaza region as well. Egypt has also remained at the forefront of the international response since the escalation of the Gaza conflict in October 2023, delivering over 570,000 tons of aid, roughly more than 70% of all aid to reach the territory13, because of its beneficial position.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)

The UNRWA is one of the most important humanitarian actors for underage individuals in Gaza, through operating at multiple levels in order to support education, health, protection, and basic needs of children. As of its latest reports it remains the largest provider of psychosocial support (PSS) in the Gaza Strip. Since the breakout of full-scale hostilities the UNRWA has maintained Temporary Learning Spaces (LTS) as an attempt to educate children in basic literacy and numeracy.

United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)

Through delivering emergency aid, repairing water systems, treating acute malnutrition, and supporting children's health, education and protection, UNICEF has a vital role in the Gaza conflict, specifically regarding minors' rights. The organization reports that more than 350 of their aid trucks entered the region in only a week of the ceasefire, and has documented 5,000 children treated for acute malnutrition in only May of 2025. Because of the fact that infrastructure has collapsed, and displacement is quite a widespread phenomenon, UNICEF's presence is often the only access children have to healthcare. It also assists in raising awareness on the humanitarian crisis because of its transparency and the provision of clear data regarding the conflict.

The United States of America

The US is also the most influential external actor regarding the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip, because of its political, military and financial support for Israel and its central role in ceasefire negotiations. The nation provides substantial military assistance to Israel and frequently uses its position as a P5 member of the UN Security Council to shape resolutions which affect children's access to aid. This is mostly because of the general pro-

[12]"EU Terrorist List: Council Lists One Individual in Response to the 7 October Attacks in Israel." Consilium, 2024,

[13]TurnDigital. "Egypt Sends Largest-Ever Aid Convoy to Gaza since New Ceasefire." Sis.gov.eg, 2024, sis.gov.eg/en/media-center/news/egypt-sends-largest-ever-aid-convoy-to-gaza-since-new-ceasefire/. Accessed 24 Nov. 2025.

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Israeli stance on the issue at hand, with the U.S. asserting that all aid reaching Gaza is diverted to non-state armed actors and not those in need.

Palestinian Authority

The PA, remains internationally recognised as the legitimate governing institution representing the Palestinian people, and has repeatedly called for assuming full governance over the Gaza Strip. It also declared its readiness to fully take over administration in Gaza after hostilities cease and has proposed various solutions to provide humanitarian aid for the people of Palestine. However, these ambitions face a few challenges regarding the collapse of infrastructure, the large-scaled displacement and the years of conflict, all of which are in dire need of help from the international community to meet the urgent needs of Gaza's minors.

Save the Children

Save the Children is a highly active NGO working to document violations against children and deliver emergency aid. The organization provides essential support to the region such as child protection services, psychosocial support, education materials, health and nutrition assistance. It also advocates for ceasefires, unhindered humanitarian access and accountability for the perpetrators of attacks. In the past years the NGO has published multiple assessments evaluating the collapse of basic services harming children across Gaza.

8. Previous Attempts To Solve The Issue

1. Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

In November 1989, world leaders made a historic commitment to the world's children by adopting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – an international agreement on childhood. Highlighted in this treaty, is a profound idea: that children are not just objects who belong to their parents and for whom decisions are made, or adults in training. Rather, they are human beings and individuals with their own rights. The Convention says childhood is separate from adulthood, and lasts until 18; it is a special, protected time, in which children must be allowed to grow, learn, play, develop and flourish with dignity. The Convention went on to become the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history and has helped transform children's lives.

The CRC sets the overarching legal basis for children's rights globally and in Gaza. While important, it by itself has not prevented massive violations in Gaza — highlighting the gap between treaty obligations and on-the-ground protection in armed conflict.

2. UN Security Council Resolution 2712 (2023)

November 2023, was the date when the UN Security Council addressed the humanitarian situation in Gaza. Encourage "that all parties to conflicts must adhere to their obligations under international humanitarian law and international human rights law" and "that international humanitarian law provides general protection for children as persons taking no part in hostilities, and special protection as persons who are particularly vulnerable".

This resolution is quite relevant for the Gaza context because it is one of the few child-centric Security Council texts in this situation. It shows that the international community has formally acknowledged children's special vulnerability in Gaza. But the gap between language and action remains large — making it a key reference for what has been attempted and what still needs doing.

3. Call to Action for Palestinian Children in the West Bank & Gaza (2024, European External Action Service)

In 2024, the European External Action Service launched the Call to Action, a pledge-type document endorsed by multiple countries including Australia, the UK, Italy, and Japan. It stresses that "any grave violations against all children, including killing and maiming of children should end" and that "safe and unrestricted humanitarian access … must be guaranteed." The Call to Action also focuses on scaling up the UN-coordinated humanitarian response with a focus on life-saving assistance, child health, WASH (water, sanitation hygiene), mental health, education, and other child-specific needs.

This initiative is quite relevant for the Gaza and West Bank context because it brings a child-protection lens to humanitarian assistance, emphasizing the specific needs of children in crisis. It shows that multiple states and international actors have formally acknowledged the urgent situation of children in these territories. But the gap between pledge and implementation remains large — the Call to Action is not legally binding, and humanitarian access remains severely restricted. Moreover, it focuses on relief rather than structural causes of children's rights violations, making it a key reference for what has been attempted and what still needs.

4. Monitoring & Reporting Mechanism: UN Report "A/79/878-S/2025/247" (Children and Armed Conflict)

On June 17, 2025, was the date when Virginia Gamba, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, submitted the UN report covering grave violations against children in armed conflict globally, including the Gaza Strip. Documenting killing and maiming of children, attacks on schools and hospitals, denial of humanitarian access, and enabling the naming of parties that commit violations, including Israeli armed forces and settlers, the report provides concrete data such as the verification of 8,554 grave violations against children in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (including Gaza and the West Bank).

This report is quite relevant for the Gaza context because it signals that children in Gaza are part of the global children and armed conflict agenda, helps humanitarian and protection actors to tailor interventions, and highlights priority issues, including denial of aid and attacks on schools and hospitals. But verification is challenging in conflict zones, many killings in Gaza are pending verification, naming parties does not automatically compel behaviour change, and data alone does not ensure improved protection or access; many structural causes, including blockade, hostilities, and occupation, remain unaddressed — making it a key reference for what has been attempted and what still remains to be done.

5. Humanitarian Assistance & Child Protection Interventions by UNICEF (and partners) in Gaza

May 2025, was the period when UNICEF and its partners provided lifesaving assistance to children in Gaza, including nutrition treatment, safe water, psychosocial support, education in emergencies, and child protection case-management. The interventions aimed to highlight the urgent needs of children in Gaza, especially during the blockade and hostilities.

This response is quite relevant for the Gaza context because UNICEF reported that more than 5,000 children (6–59 months old) were admitted for acute malnutrition treatment — a 50% increase from April — and indicated that over one million children had been deprived of lifesaving aid for over one month due to the blockade. It shows that humanitarian actors have formally addressed the urgent needs of children and likely prevented some deaths. But the

gap between assistance and need remains large — the scale of need is enormous, access remains severely restricted, and humanitarian assistance addresses immediate symptoms rather than structural causes, including hostilities, blockade, and destruction of civilian infrastructure — making it a key reference for what has been attempted and what still remains to be done.

9. Possible Solutions

1. Advocate for an Immediate and Sustained Ceasefire

An HRC resolution should demand a humanitarian ceasefire to protect children from ongoing hostilities, facilitate safe aid delivery, and reduce civilian casualties. The ICRC has called maintaining the ceasefire "an imperative for preserving human life and dignity," noting that calm periods saved lives and allowed for humanitarian operations.

2. Ensure Unhindered Humanitarian Access for Child-Cantered Aid

The Human Rights Council urges the Security Council and all relevant parties to take all appropriate measures to ensure the immediate and unhindered entry of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip — including therapeutic food, infant formula, medical supplies, safe water, and hygiene kits — in order to prevent further life-threatening shortages for children, as UNICEF has reported that no aid has entered Gaza since 2 March 2025.[14]

3. Scale Up Nutrition Services for Malnourished Children

Rapid expansion of nutrition programs is essential, including more malnutrition treatment centres and increased distribution of Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF). In May 2025, 5,119 children (aged 6 months to 5 years) were admitted for acute malnutrition, with 636 in the most severe category (SAM).[15]

4. Strengthen Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Infrastructure

Prioritize restoring water systems, repairing wells, and ensuring fuel for water production. According to UNICEF, damage to Gaza's water infrastructure and a fuel shortage have reduced water access to just 6 litres per person per day in many areas far below humanitarian standards.

5. Implement Child Protection & Family Tracing Programs

Create child-friendly safe spaces in displacement sites, provide mental health and psychosocial support, and run tracing and reunification services for unaccompanied or

[14] "More than a Million Children in the Gaza Strip Deprived of Lifesaving Aid for over One Month - UNICEF." *Unicef.org*, 2025, www.unicef.org/sop/press-releases/more-million-children-gaza-strip-deprived-lifesaving-aid-over-one-month-unicef?utm_. Accessed 26 Nov. 2025.

[15] "More than 5,000 Children Diagnosed with Malnutrition in the Gaza Strip in May." *UNICEF UK*, 23 June 2025, www.unicef.org.uk/press-releases/more-than-5000-children-diagnosed-with-malnutrition-in-the-gaza-strip-in-may/?utm. Accessed 26 Nov. 2025.

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separated children. During earlier ceasefire periods UNICEF made efforts to reunite separated children and deliver protection services.

6. Set Up Independent Monitoring and Reporting of Violations Against Children

Establish a commission (e.g., via OHCHR) to monitor and publicly report on child rights violations including deaths, injuries, malnutrition, and access to services to ensure transparency and accountability. UNICEF has documented alarming child casualty rates after the breakdown of ceasefire, with over 100 children being killed or maimed daily.[16]

7. Address Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) Risk Through Mine-Action

Scale up risk education and clearance operations for unexploded ordnance. UN mine-action experts warn that massive contaminations remain in Gaza, posing lethal risks for returning civilians, especially children.

10. Blocs Expected

Bloc A - Countries that prioritize immediate humanitarian protection and unrestricted flow of humanitarian aid

This bloc mainly consists of nations which argue that the immediate priority is the protection of children and adolescents through humanitarian aid being delivered to Gaza. It holds that IHL and the Convention on the Rights of the Child require all parties to halt hostilities in order to achieve the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza. Countries in this bloc frequently call for expanded UN and NGO relief operations, reconstruction of medical and educational infrastructure and accountability for rights violations, among others. States that strongly support this position include China and Russia, as well as most African Union member states who have both voted in favour of ceasefire attempts and the full protection of children and adolescents. Additionally, countries that have recognized Palestine as a nation also fall under this category, although there are some exceptions, mostly nations maintaining friendly relations with Israel.

Bloc B - Countries that recognize the need to protect children and adolescents but hold security concerns regarding the diversion of aid to military groups

This bloc consists of countries which argue that aid is being diverted to military groups. More specifically, this bloc condemns the provision of consistent aid being delivered to Gaza, because of the argument that non-state armed actors such as Hamas, misuse supplies and aid distribution systems for their benefit. Countries of this bloc insist that unrestricted aid could inadvertently strengthen the military capacity of militant groups, which in their view perpetuate the cycle of violence. Nations in this bloc include ones with strong political ties to Israel, or ones with concerns about the influence of Hamas, regardless of whether they formally recognise Palestine, like the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan,

[16] "At Least 322 Children Reportedly Killed in the Gaza Strip Following Breakdown of Ceasefire." *Unicef.org*, 2025, www.unicef.org/press-releases/least-322-children-reportedly-killed-gaza-strip-following-breakdown-ceasefire?utm_.

the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Australia. Finally, this bloc would push for monitoring mechanisms and long-term protection which would require addressing security threats.

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