Quando i corpi dei bambini affamati di Gaza raggiungono un "punto di non ritorno"

M mondoweiss-net.translate.goog/2025/07/when-the-bodies-of-starving-children-in-gaza-reach-a-point-of-no-return Tareq S. Hajjaj July 22, 2025

In 24 ore, 19 persone sono morte per malnutrizione a Gaza, ha dichiarato domenica il Ministero della Salute di Gaza. Dall'inizio del genocidio sono stati registrati 86 decessi per malnutrizione, di cui 76 bambini. Il Ministero descrive queste morti come un "massacro silenzioso".

La Gaza Humanitarian Foundation, sostenuta da Israele e gestita dagli Stati Uniti, afferma di aver distribuito oltre <u>80 milioni di pasti</u> negli ultimi due mesi, ma i segni della carestia a Gaza sono troppo evidenti per negarli. Nel frattempo, decine di palestinesi vengono uccisi ogni giorno nei siti di distribuzione della GHF o nelle vicinanze, un fatto che l'organizzazione continua a negare con fermezza nonostante le <u>prove onnipresenti</u> e le innumerevoli testimonianze.

Sabato, il Complesso Medico Nasser di Khan Younis ha registrato 32 morti e oltre 70 feriti nella zona di Tineh, a ovest della città di Rafah, dove la GHF distribuisce aiuti. Le ferite riportate sono state causate da proiettili di cecchino alla testa e al petto. Domenica, il Programma Alimentare Mondiale delle Nazioni Unite ha dichiarato che le forze israeliane hanno aperto il fuoco sui civili affamati che si erano avventati su un convoglio di aiuti entrato a Gaza da nord.

"Poco dopo aver superato l'ultimo checkpoint oltre il valico di Zikim per entrare a Gaza, il convoglio ha incontrato una grande folla di civili in ansiosa attesa di accedere alle scorte alimentari di cui c'era disperatamente bisogno", <u>ha dichiarato</u> il WFP . "Mentre il convoglio si avvicinava, la folla circostante è stata colpita da carri armati israeliani, cecchini e altri colpi d'arma da fuoco".

Il Ministero della Salute ha riferito che solo in quel massacro sono state uccise 90 persone. Questo numero non include le centinaia di feriti che in seguito moriranno per le ferite riportate a causa della mancanza di cure mediche adeguate.

II WFP ha aggiunto che la carestia a Gaza ha raggiunto nuovi livelli:

La gente muore per mancanza di assistenza umanitaria. La malnutrizione è in forte aumento, con 90.000 donne e bambini che necessitano urgentemente di cure. Quasi una persona su tre non mangia da giorni. Gli aiuti alimentari sono l'unico modo per la maggior parte delle persone di accedere a qualsiasi tipo di cibo, dato che il costo di un sacco di farina da un chilogrammo è salito a oltre 100 dollari nei mercati locali.

"People die daily from malnutrition," says Dr. Atef al-Ghoul, Director of Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Younis. "If we speak in the language of numbers, the numbers speak for themselves — hundreds of people have died in the past two months trying to get food for their families, only to return to their starving families in body bags."

Nearly 1,000 people have been killed at GHF distribution centers, while over 6,011 have been injured, and another 45 are recorded missing, the Gaza Government Media Office said on Sunday.

As for those suffering from malnutrition, al-Ghoul notes that the numbers are increasing daily, and that malnutrition leads to a collapse in immunity and physical deterioration, placing a heavy burden on Nasser Hospital amidst the lack of treatment options.

"Save Gaza before everyone dies," al-Ghoul urges. "Eight billion people in the world cannot deliver a piece of bread to the hungry in Gaza."



UNRWA health staff screen and treat children suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) at an UNRWA Medical Point located in an UNRWA school-turned-shelter in Gaza City, July 17, 2025. (Photo: UNRWA/APA Images).

'Hunger devoured his body'

Among the most affected are newborn children who have no means of feeding. Mothers are unable to breastfeed due to malnutrition, which makes it difficult to produce milk. Infant formula is also unavailable in the markets. At Nasser Hospital, Yahya al-Najjar died at three months old last Saturday, July 19, after a long struggle with malnutrition.

From outside the hospital, after the funeral prayer, his aunt carried his lifeless body and described how he died.

"Since he was born, his parents could not provide him with food. His mother couldn't breastfeed him, and his father couldn't bring formula because of the dire situation," Mirvat Najjar said in video testimony for *Mondoweiss*. "When his condition worsened due to lack of food, they admitted him to the hospital for treatment. But after a few days, doctors discharged him due to the unavailability of treatment options."



Palestinians mourn their loved ones who lost their lives at Nasser Medical Hospital in Khan Younis, including a child suffering from severe malnutrition, on July 20, 2025. Photo by Moaz Abu Taha apaimages

"Hunger then began devouring his body, and instead of growing, he began to shrink in size and weight, until he reached a point of no return and surrendered to death," his aunt explained. "He isn't the only one who's hungry." She points to his surviving siblings. "If they don't die today, they'll die tomorrow or the day after."

Dr. Ahed Khalaf, a pediatric specialist at Nasser Hospital who treated Najjar upon his arrival, said that the newborn had arrived at the hospital "as a lifeless body."

"Nutrition agencies had previously followed him and were facing extreme difficulty in obtaining milk," Dr. Khalaf explained. "Especially since his mother is not breastfeeding, and he could not receive food from her."

The child suffered from severe weakness, emaciation, acute anemia, and a lack of awareness and interaction with his mother, Khalaf said. "Cases of malnutrition arriving at the emergency department are increasing continuously and alarmingly. Children reach the hospital in critical condition — they cannot walk or stand. They come to us as skeletons, just skin covering bones."

Khalaf adds that the status of the healthcare sector in Gaza is in a state of total collapse. "We have appealed to all international organizations to supply us with the necessary formula for children," he said. "But as of this moment, we have not received anything from anyone."

Khalaf explained that the Ministry of Health had appealed to the WHO, UNICEF, and Save the Children, but did not receive any assistance.

In Deir al-Balah, four-year-old Razan Abu Zaher succumbed to malnutrition after her body gave out after months of deprivation. In a video obtained by *Mondoweiss*, the child's lifeless body is seen sprawled across the morgue bed at al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, surrounded by her family. Her eyes are open, her belly is swollen, and her bones protrude from under her skin. Her mother says in the video that she had suffered from multiple health issues for four months, mainly chest infections from inhaling gunpowder.

She stayed in the hospital for over twenty days, her mother said, and every time she went home for two days, her condition worsened, so they kept bringing her back.

"We couldn't find anything to feed either her or ourselves," her mother said.



Palestinians mourn 14-year-old Abdul Jawad Al-Ghalban, who died from severe malnutrition at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, on July 22, 2025. (Photo: Moaz Abu Taha/APA Images)

According to <u>UNRWA</u>, one in every ten children under five <u>suffers</u> from acute malnutrition. Over 240,000 children suffer from severe food insecurity. In the month of June alone, UNICEF recorded over 5,800 cases of malnutrition among children, including over 1,000 acute cases for the fourth consecutive month.

According to local reports, people have started fainting in the streets. Ahmad Jalal, a journalist in Gaza, told *Mondoweiss* he witnessed numerous such cases near hospitals.

<u>Doctors Without Borders (MSF)</u> has reported a sharp and unprecedented rise in cases of malnutrition among children and women in its clinics in South and North Gaza. These are the highest figures ever recorded by the organization in Gaza. Published on July 11, the organization's report notes that over 700 pregnant and lactating women, as well as about 500 children, suffer from acute or moderate malnutrition.

"This is the first time we witness this severe scale of malnutrition in Gaza," The deputy medical coordinator of MSF said. "The deliberate starvation of the people of Gaza could end tomorrow — if Israeli authorities allow widespread entry of food."

Tareq S. Hajjaj

Tareq S. Hajjaj is the Gaza Correspondent for Mondoweiss and a member of the Palestinian Writers Union. Follow him on Twitter/X at <u>@Tareqshajjaj</u>.