

GAZA HUMANITARIAN ACCESS SNAPSHOT

#8

As of 3 December 2024, Israel's offensive in Gaza has killed 44,786 Palestinians and injured more than 106,000, while more than 10,000 are reported missing and likely buried under the rubble. Approximately 80% of Gaza's territory remains under forced displacement orders by Israeli forces, with 1.9 million people, or 90% of the total population, having been internally displaced multiple times during the past year.

Palestinians in Gaza are facing the combined effects of a lack of critical resources, collapse of public order, and worsening weather conditions. Without adequate humanitarian assistance, Gaza has become "unfit for human survival," as Joyce Msuya, the acting UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs told the UN Security Council in November.

An average of only 65 humanitarian trucks per day entered Gaza in November, well below the 500 humanitarian truckloads per working day allowed before 7 October 2023, which were already insufficient to meet the needs of the population. In the same period, commercial supplies have come to a near halt.

Attacks on aid workers have continued: on 30 November alone, three separate Israeli airstrikes killed a Palestinian soup kitchen chef feeding hundreds of families in the besieged Beit Lahia, one Save the Children staff member and three staff from World Central Kitchen, pushing the latter to pause its operations altogether. The total confirmed death toll among humanitarian workers since 7 October 2023 now stands at 343.

As acute food insecurity and desperation spread across Gaza, UN and humanitarian organizations continued to experience looting of aid convoys, including by armed gangs, in central and southern Gaza. In some cases, unarmed individuals seized supplies during unloading or transit to distribution points. These incidents underscore the extreme desperation and suffering inflicted on Palestinians, who have been living in conditions that undermine their survival for over a year. As a result of the breakdown of public order, including in areas where there is a heavy presence of Israeli forces, on 1 December UNRWA announced that it was suspending aid deliveries through Karam Abu Salem / Kerem Shalom, the main crossing point for humanitarian aid into Gaza. According to media reports, on 12 December, Israeli forces reportedly targeted a security team escorting aid trucks, killing at least 12 and injuring dozens.

Meanwhile, heavy rains hit the Gaza Strip on 25 November, marking the start of the winter season. The worsening weather conditions are expected to affect more than 1.6 million people living in makeshift shelters, including half a million in flood-prone areas. In August, OCHA developed a comprehensive winterization plan targeting 2.1 million people and requiring US\$242 million, but its implementation is being slowed down by a lack of sufficient funding, and a lack of facilitation by the Israeli authorities to ensure the entry of supplies and equipment.

SIGNATORIES



NORTH GAZA

On 6 October, the Israeli military launched a renewed offensive on North Gaza, imposing a siege on Beit Lahiya, Beit Hanoun, and Jabalia, leaving 65,000 – 75,000 people trapped without food, water, electricity or reliable healthcare. Humanitarian aid has been almost entirely blocked for 60 days, and only three hospitals remain partially operational with restricted access. Constant shelling creates fear, hampers humanitarian planning, and discourages movement to service points, while mass displacement towards Gaza City has further strained resources and complicated aid delivery. The population faces imminent risks of disease, starvation, and violence without urgent relief.

- All 41 attempts by the UN to deliver life-saving aid to the besieged people in North Gaza in November were either denied (37) or impeded (4). Only one Emergency Medical Team managed to reach Kamal Adwan hospital on 1 December, the first time in 60 days. A few days later, the hospital was heavily bombed with no previous warning, killing four health workers, and the medical team was ordered to leave.
- Several organisations, including War Child, Juzoor (Medicins du Monde and International Rescue Committee – IRC partner), Middle East Children’s Alliance (MECA), Oxfam and its partners, and the IRC reported a complete suspension of aid deliveries to Beit Lahia, Beit Hanoun, and Jabalia due to movement denials, hostilities, and a complete blockade imposed by Israeli forces on North Gaza.
- Only three of the reporting organisations were able to deliver limited assistance to the North through Palestinian partners, who faced continued displacement and insecurity due to Israeli military operations.
- Organizations that were operating in North Gaza until 6 October were forced to relocate due to displacement orders and hostilities. For example, the Palestinian Medical Relief Society was forced to relocate from North Gaza to Gaza City after its medical points were destroyed.
- Organizations that were able to relocate their operations to areas outside of North Gaza, such as Oxfam, Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), Save Youth Future Society (SYFS), Gaza Community Mental Health Programme (GCMHP), Community Training Centre and Crisis Management (CTCCM), Palestinian Hydrology Group and Juzoor reported limitations on their effectiveness even after relocation, due to ongoing hostilities, reduction of distribution points, extensive destruction of roads and facilities, and shortages of essential resources such as water, electricity, fuel, and medical supplies.
- Some organizations reported continued denials of authorization by the Israeli authorities. IRC has been waiting to send 600 boxes (12 pallets) of ready-to-use therapeutic food into North Gaza since October. Terre des Hommes (TdH) Italy requested 'pre-approval' for cargo through the Jordan corridor but was denied by COGAT.

STAFF SAFETY AND WELL BEING

- Nine staff from reporting organizations and their partners were killed over this reporting period, including: 6 from Juzoor; an off-duty Save the Children staff member killed as he was returning home to his wife and three-year-old daughter from the mosque; and 2 staff of Palestinian organizations, Culture and Free Thought Association and Fajer Youth were killed within the so-called “humanitarian” zone.
- TdH Italy’s partner’s staff was attacked when they went to check their centre in the Tel al-Hawa area of Gaza City. A doctor and his team were targeted by gunfire from a quadcopter.
- Staff members have also lost close family. For example, one staff of CTCCM have lost family members in the reporting period. On Saturday 1st of December, 13 people, including food suppliers and community members were killed and 30 people were injured while they were receiving food parcels during an Israeli strike at WEFAQ’s (ActionAid partner) distribution gate. Five of the victims were family members of the WEFAQ staff.
- Israeli airstrikes have continued to target areas dangerously close to aid distribution sites. For example, during the distribution of hygiene kits under a DanChurchAid and NorwegianChurch Aid project in Deir al Balah, Israeli airstrikes hit a location just 200 meters away from the distribution point. An organisation who prefers to stay anonymous reported correspondence with the Israeli Coordination and Liaison Administration in Gaza that purported that Israeli forces are not required to observe a buffer zone for strikes, thanks to the precision of their weaponry.

“The rain poured into our tent, soaking everything. My children cried all night from the cold. We need blankets and proper shelter urgently; we cannot survive like this”

Community Member, Male, 40, Khan Younis

ACCESS & CRITICAL RESOURCES

“People have nothing! They arrive from the North into Gaza City with nothing. As such, they are in need of everything – from shelter, to food, to water.” – Staff member of a humanitarian agency, Gaza City

Besides North Gaza, restrictions on movement and resources also affected humanitarian operations in Deir Al Balah, Khan Younis, and Rafah.

Movement Restrictions and Denial



Nearly all reporting organizations experienced delays or were forced to suspend operations due to movement restrictions. Ongoing hostilities further caused almost half of the surveyed organizations to suspend their operations temporarily. DanChurchAid and Norwegian Church Aid reported that their partner’s staff in Nuseirat were affected by heavy air strikes, leading to delays as they were seeking safety for their families. The destruction of roads and infrastructure caused by the conflict continues to impede the movement of humanitarian aid, creating long-term challenges for relief efforts.

Fuel Shortages



Fuel is a critical resource for humanitarian operations in Gaza, as it is used not only for transportation of staff and distribution of aid, but also to power generators for hospitals, clinics, mobile medical units, telecommunications infrastructure, guesthouses, and offices. Dependency on fuel becomes even more pronounced in winter, when solar power availability is limited. **Seven reporting organizations experienced operational delays during the reporting period due to fuel shortages.** WeWorld was forced to suspend activities for 1 week. TdH Italy reported that its partner received insufficient fuel to operate its clinic, laboratory and vehicles. MdM, MECA, CARE, HI, and War Child and their partners CTCCM, SYFS and GCMHP were compelled to implement fuel rationing and prioritization, with negative impact on their work. This significantly curtailed staff mobility, with cascading effects across critical sectors such as health, protection, WASH, and food security. Additionally, rising fuel prices have driven up transportation costs, exacerbating overall inflation.

Unstable Local Market



The local market in Gaza has become unbearably volatile, driven by scarce supply and overwhelming demand. Prices of essential goods have soared, often by tens or even hundreds of times the original price, and are subject to sudden fluctuation. This also creates challenges and disruption in financial and logistical planning. This affects both basic food items, including fresh vegetables and children’s food, and urgent non-food commodities, like winterization items and hygiene kits. War Child and their partners CTCCM and SYFS also reported challenges in procuring PSS kits, hospitality, and materials for non-formal education projects, including stationery and paper. **With reduced purchasing power, humanitarian organizations are forced to limit the amount of locally-sourced aid they can provide with available funding.** Moreover, some items, such as rehabilitation equipment and assistive devices, are simply unavailable in local markets. As a result, organizations are relying on imports, which are in turn subject to significant delays and restrictions, with additional costs.

Scarcity of Cash



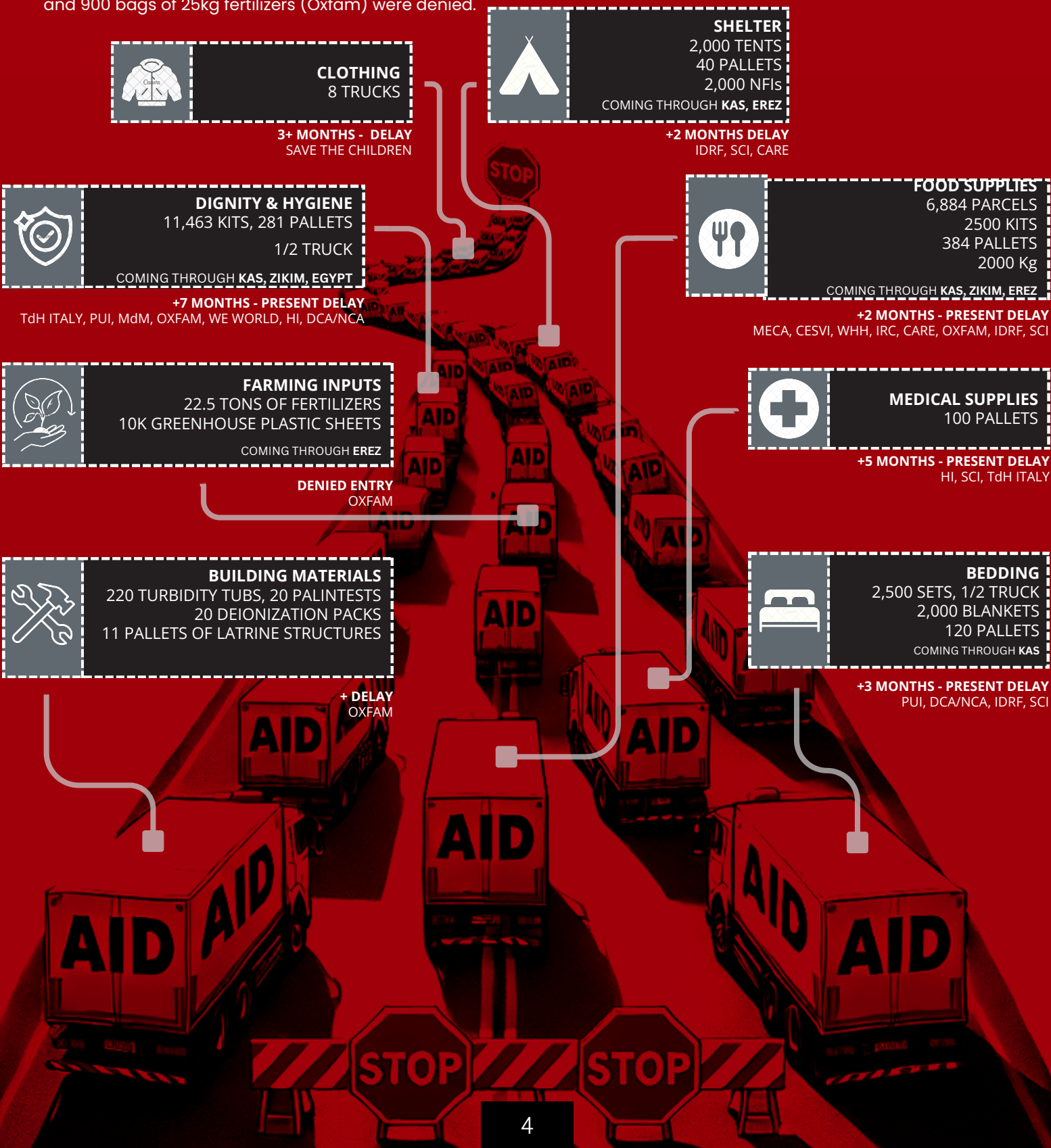
Organizations operating in Gaza continue to face severe challenges in disbursing funds, including cash assistance, which is essential for meeting the basic needs of the population. As reported by TdH Italy and Lausanne, War Child, and HI, cash withdrawals and transfers are heavily burdened by high fees, with financial agents charging up to 40%, making it difficult to efficiently support operations. **WeWorld and MECA reported difficulties in paying staff and buying items on the local market, given the high prices and difficulties in obtaining cash.** Cash notes also become old and wasted, and fake currency is found in the market.

DENIALS, DELAYS AND DAMAGES ON AID ENTRY INTO GAZA

Most of the organisations participating in the survey experienced either total obstruction or long delays in getting their aid into Gaza.

DENIED ITEMS:

5 pallets of medication, 21 pallets of hygiene kits (Tdh Italy), and 10,000 plastic sheeting for greenhouses and 900 bags of 25kg fertilizers (Oxfam) were denied.



ZOOM IN

During the reporting period, some organizations faced incidents of looting or attempted looting of their shipments, in different parts of the Gaza Strip. In some cases, looting occurred shortly after trucks entered from Karam Abu Salem / Kerem Shalom, a few hundred meters from checkpoints and in areas under the control of Israeli forces. Other organisations reported incidents along the route from warehouses in the so-called “humanitarian zone” of Al Mawasi to the distribution points. As a result of these incidents, shipments were either lost or damaged.

Most of the looting was carried out by armed gangs that operate in certain areas of the Gaza Strip, as aid obstruction has created a lucrative environment for organized armed groups, including in areas where there is a heavy presence of Israeli forces, in spite of their obligation as an occupying power to facilitate lifesaving support and decrease the risk of looting. For instance, a medical shipment from MDM was subject to looting by armed men, resulting in the loss of part of the supplies. After negotiations and pressure from community leaders, MDM was able to retrieve most of the medical supplies. CESVI, Mercy Corps and an organization that prefers to remain anonymous also reported the looting of first aid kits and hygiene kits sent to the north of Gaza.

However, some instances involved unarmed individuals seizing supplies during unloading or transit to distribution points. These incidents underscore the extreme desperation and suffering inflicted on Palestinians, who have been living in conditions that undermine their survival for over a year.

With the exception of supported bakeries, there is no other meaningful local food production taking place in Gaza. Bakeries have been subject to frequent closure due to the lack of fuel or flour. The price of a sack of flour in central Gaza is volatile, peaking at over USD 245 this month before dropping back to USD 162.

On 29 November, two young girls and one woman suffocated to death while queuing among large crowds to get bread at a bakery supported by the World Food Programme in Deir al Balah. As of 3 December, only 5 out of 19 WFP-supported bakeries were operational across the Gaza Strip. On 1 December, the food distribution gate of Action Aid’s partner Wefaq was bombed in Khan Younis. The food supplier, and 12 community members were killed and 30 were injured while they were receiving their food parcels.

According to the latest [projection](#) of the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC), 91% of Gaza’s population (1.95 million) faces high levels of acute food insecurity classified as IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) or above, of which 876,000 people (41%) are in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) and 345,000 (16%) are in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5). In an [urgent alert](#) issued on 8 November, the IPC warned that there is a strong likelihood that famine is already occurring in North Gaza.

“I walked for hours looking for food for my children. The lack of food and clean water is unbearable. We need help immediately before it’s too late.”

–Testimony from Umm Khaled, Community Member, Female, 28, Deir al Balah.

FORCED DISPLACEMENT OF STAFF AND AID OPERATIONS

Renewed military operations in North Gaza have caused further displacement of staff, volunteers, and their families, many of whom have already endured countless relocations since the war began. Compounding this hardship, several organisations have reported incidents of mistreatment, humiliation or detention by Israeli forces during the enforcement of the displacement orders.

- Several staff, and their families, from Juzoor, CTCCM, Gaza Community Mental Health Program, HI, and CESVI were forcibly displaced from North Gaza to Gaza City or southern Gaza. **Staff reported enduring severe humiliation and indignity, with men and women subjected to degrading treatment during the displacement process.**
- Eleven of TdH's partner's staff members, who live in the Jabalia camps, were forcibly displaced in response to Israeli military orders. **A paramedic was arrested, while one of the gynecologists remains besieged at Kamal Adwan Hospital.**
- As a result of Israeli military assaults, **TdH Italy's partner lost three clinics in North Gaza**, including one that had recently been reestablished in the Jabalia camp. Additionally, their storage for mobile teams, which contained medications, disposables, and vehicles, was also destroyed. Save the Children was forced to redirect 5,000 food parcels previously destined for North Gaza to Deir al-Balah.

In all these instances, organisations and partners had to pause operations and try to resume them in other areas of the Gaza Strip. For example, CEVSI and Juzoor had to suspend their WASH, Health, and Nutrition operations; War Child's partners were unable to continue to provide MHPSS services for children and caregivers in the North and had to interrupt the distribution of hygiene supplies; IDRF stopped both the delivery of food items and the provision of medical and education services.

In the midst of the tragedy and suffering they are undergoing, many staff and partners are still trying to provide whatever assistance they can with the resources available. For example, five TdH partner staff and volunteers are still providing emergency response and first aid at mobile medical points in the North. One paramedic continues to provide first aid to the injured, even though he was forcibly displaced when Israeli forces attacked his home in the camp, resulting in the tragic loss of his brother.



NOTES FROM GAZA

"My son went through a very difficult health condition and was undergoing treatment. He needs a can of formula milk every three days. One can cost 20 USD, **can you imagine what this is like when we have no liquidity and it is not available in the market?**

My husband spends his entire days looking for milk. **I don't know what to do.** I'm sure every mother in Gaza is going through the same thing and I know many women in Gaza who are in the same situation as me. Not to mention our mental state and the exhaustion that we are experiencing as mothers. Most children are refusing natural breastfeeding because we are not getting proper nutrition. **We are experiencing starvation again since October until now,** we are only eating canned food, even flour is not available...You can imagine how it is like to raise two children under such conditions."

-Dina, displaced mother of two, Deir Al Balah

"Yesterday,

I was visiting some camps and the situation was truly disastrous.

The feeling of hopelessness is truly fatal.

We have reached the point that even those working in the field of humanitarian aid are unable to recharge their energy in the absence of the basics of life for themselves and their families.

I believe that there is no more resilience to confront this."

Sincerely,

A humanitarian worker in Deir al Balah, Female.

A fellow human.

CALLS TO ACTION

The Government of Israel must immediately cease the **forced displacement** of civilians in Gaza, which exacerbates suffering, disrupts access to essential aid, and hinders the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

As the occupying power, Israel must uphold its obligations under IHL, protect Palestinian rights, refrain from excessive and lethal use of force, and ensure **unimpeded access** to healthcare and essential services across the occupied Palestinian territory, including the West Bank and East Jerusalem.

States should reject Israel's decision to ban **UNRWA**, demand the immediate reversal of both pieces of legislation, insist on respecting UNRWA's mandate, and immediately cease all attacks on the agency and its operations or risk further deterioration of the humanitarian crisis.

Donors should collaborate to improve **coordination** mechanisms for Palestinian CSOs, NGOs, and women-led organizations, ensuring the safe movement of aid workers and their active participation in Cluster meetings.

States must take concrete actions to ensure an immediate and permanent **ceasefire**, including immediately halting the transfer of weapons, parts, and ammunition to parties at risk of violating international humanitarian law (IHL).

Donors should **fully fund** the humanitarian response, provide direct and quality funding to Palestinian NGOs and CSOs, and support liquidity to mitigate the collapse of the banking system, which adversely affects Palestinian partners.

All parties to the conflict must guarantee and facilitate **safe**, unhindered access for humanitarian aid, including winterization materials (tents, plastic sheets, and shelter repair items), prioritizing vulnerable groups such as children, people with disabilities, and older individuals in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).