

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 29, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

We write to you today with urgency about the grave crisis that infants in Gaza face as a result of severe restrictions on the entry and distribution of humanitarian aid. Specifically, we write to you today asking that the United States use its full power and authority to **immediately** facilitate a massive surge in all humanitarian aid, and in particular infant formula, into Gaza to address this crisis. The United States and Israel, have a moral obligation to address the dire conditions that threaten the lives of Palestinian families.

After months of warnings from humanitarian aid organizations, Palestinians in Gaza are dying of starvation.¹ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification warned at the end of July that the “worst-case scenario of famine is currently playing out in the Gaza Strip.”² At least 85 children³ have died of hunger-related causes and over 20,000 children have been treated for malnutrition in Gaza since April.⁴ Infants in particular are especially vulnerable to death by starvation and are dying of malnutrition.⁵ The lack of food and aid writ large means mothers do not have the basic nutrition required to sustain breastfeeding, rendering formula the only option for infant survival in many cases.⁶

Between March 2 and May 19, 2025, the Netanyahu government did not allow the entry of any humanitarian aid into Gaza.⁷ Since late May, the Netanyahu government has instituted a new system of humanitarian aid delivery, the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), which has resulted in a catastrophic decrease in food supplies and other humanitarian aid. According to the Netanyahu government’s own data⁸, the GHF has delivered only a tiny fraction of the aid that could be delivered by

¹ Raja Abdulrahim, “Gaza’s Youngest Are Dying as Hunger Grips the Strip,” *New York Times*, July 24, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/24/world/middleeast/gaza-starvation.html>

² Samy Magdy, “Gaza faces ‘Worst-Case Scenario of Famine,’ Experts Warn as Israel-Hamas War Grinds On,” *Associated Press*, July 24, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/mideast-wars-gaza-famine-israel-warning-d14ca629a68f7bdefe9c2fcc67d62224>

³ Samy Magdy, “Baby Starves to Death in Gaza, Weighing Less Than When She Was Born” *Associated Press*, July 25, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/gaza-israel-starvation-children-malnutrition-baby-baf865b861c9a2fd9c75068936062146>

⁴ “UN Humanitarian Leaders Warn of Looming Famine and Child Deaths in Gaza,” *UN News*, July 24, 2025, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/07/1165517>

⁵ Eyad Kourdi and Abeer Salman, “Five-Month-Old Baby Dies of Starvation in Gaza,” *CNN*, July 26, 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/07/26/middleeast/five-month-old-dies-gaza-starvation-intl>

⁶ Matt Bradley, “No Formula. No Food. Mothers and Babies Starve Together in Gaza,” *NBC News*, July 25, 2025, <https://www.nbcnews.com/world/middle-east/no-formula-no-food-mothers-babies-starve-together-gaza-rcna220758>

⁷ Barak Ravid, “Israel’s Blockade on Gaza Sparks Global Alarm as Starvation Crisis Deepens,” *Axios*, July 30, 2025, <https://www.axios.com/2025/07/30/israel-blockade-gaza-starvation-crisis>

⁸ Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), “Humanitarian Efforts,” Government of Israel, accessed August 26, 2025 <https://govextra.gov.il/cogat/humanitarian-efforts/main/>

the previous U.N.-coordinated distribution system.⁹ In addition, aid packages from the GHF do not include baby formula.¹⁰ While aid distributed by the United Nations does include baby formula, an average of 69 trucks per day have entered Gaza according to Israeli government data—vastly below the 500 to 600 trucks per day the U.N. says are needed to meet humanitarian needs.¹¹ As a result, Gaza is currently facing a dire shortage¹² of baby formula, depriving infants of what is their only hope against starvation¹³.

We the undersigned stand united in our fundamental American moral values that we must do everything possible to ensure children are not starving and that infants are not denied critical food aid. This crisis is not one of funding or resources, but of access and political will. While we push for a long-lasting resolution and we are devastated that previous ceasefires were not upheld, we believe it is absolutely necessary to prioritize the safe delivery of the pallets of baby formula, specifically ready-to-feed formula, sitting at the border of Gaza to ensure that we do not lose another newborn or infant to starvation.¹⁴

We therefore urge you to demand that the Israeli government immediately facilitate a massive surge of humanitarian aid to enter Gaza, including but not limited to baby formula and medical equipment required to treat infant and child malnourishment. Specifically, all crossing points should immediately be reopened for the entry of humanitarian aid and allowed to operate simultaneously and consistently, and the Israeli government must take additional steps to vastly scale up the amount of aid allowed in through existing crossings and expand movement and access for international aid organizations throughout the Gaza Strip must also be taken, so that they can deliver this aid without diversion.

This moment demands moral clarity and decisive action. Our conscience as a nation and our values compel us to speak out. We appeal to you not only in your capacity as a government official but as a parent. No child should face the desperation and suffering we are witnessing in Gaza in real time and our hearts break for the children killed in Israel and Gaza. We must use our leverage to ensure the most vulnerable are protected and we implore you to take these steps to save innocent lives.

We request that you move with urgency and respond in writing no later than September 8, 2025.

Sincerely,

⁹ Dov Lieber, “Palestinians in Gaza Are Starving. Why Food Aid Can’t Get In,” *Wall Street Journal*, July 2025, <https://www.wsj.com/world/middle-east/gaza-palestine-food-aid-e74c68de>

¹⁰ Bethan McKernan, “They’re Skin and Bones!: Doctors in Gaza Warn Babies at Risk of Death from Lack of Formula,” <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jul/05/theyre-skin-and-bones-doctors-in-gaza-warn-babies-at-risk-of-death-from-lack-of-formula>

¹¹ Samy Magdy, “Baby Starves to Death in Gaza, Weighing Less Than When She Was Born,” *Associated Press*, July 25, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/gaza-israel-starvation-children-malnutrition-baby-baf865b861c9a2fd9c75068936062146>

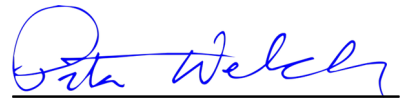
¹² Associated Press, “War-Battered Gaza Is Running Out of Baby Formula Needed for Infants,” *Associated Press*, July 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/gaza-babies-premature-hospitals-formula-israel-war-330ba6611e63940c903cdc19540914c3>

¹³ Raja Abdulrahim, “Doctors in Gaza Warn Hunger Is Overwhelming Hospitals,” *New York Times*, July 27, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/07/27/world/middleeast/gaza-hunger-doctors-nurses.html>

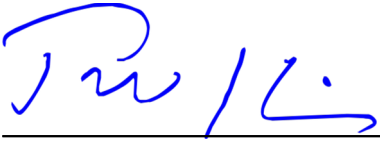
¹⁴ Sarah Ferguson, “Pressing for More Access, UNICEF Delivers Urgently Needed Supplies to Gaza,” *UNICEF USA*, August 6, 2025, <https://www.unicefusa.org/stories/pressing-more-access-unicef-delivers-urgently-needed-supplies-gaza>



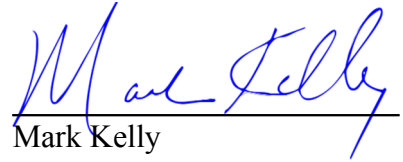
Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



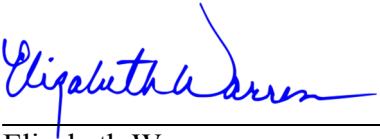
Peter Welch
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator