

Chapter 4: Settling the Humanitarian Issue in the Gaza Strip

A humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip must be avoided, and the regulation of humanitarian aid should be integrated into the process of establishing an alternative civilian entity to Hamas while preventing the aid from falling into the hands of the organization.

The Gaza Strip must be flooded with aid brought in directly from Israel. This move will lower the skyrocketing food and medicine prices in the Gaza Strip and reduce the risk of anarchy, looting, and epidemics. However, flooding alone will not help create an alternative governing entity and may even create a civil dependency on Israel. Therefore, control over the distribution of humanitarian aid must be transferred to the local Fatah entities connected to the Palestinian Authority. To ensure the success of this process, assistance should be sought from international/Arab forces to maintain public order and security. Distributing humanitarian aid through local alternative entities will give the alternative governing entity authority vis-à-vis the population as well as public legitimacy. The ongoing absence of a decision regarding the alternative civilian entity will result in Hamas distributing the aid and rebuilding its strength. Alternatively, chaos will ensue, which will be attributed to Israel and have negative repercussions on it.

Airdropping aid by foreign countries and the construction of an American pier, partly financed by Qatar, are signs of a loss of control and initiative. A simpler solution is to transfer the aid through the port of Ashdod and bring it into the Gaza Strip via land crossings. This solution will spare Israel from having to build a port in Gaza, which could become a fact without Israel being able to use it later as a bargaining chip for coordinating the future of the Gaza Strip with Israel. Even worse, the dock could eventually become a symbol of Hamas's sovereignty.