



13 June 2024

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For approval by

20 June 2024

Israel-Hamas Conflict: Tranche Five Humanitarian Support

BRIEFING	Decision Submission
PURPOSE	To seek approval for a fifth tranche of support to the humanitarian response in Gaza and the West Bank for the 2023/24 financial year.

Recommended referrals

Prime Minister	For information by	27 June 2024
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Contact details

NAME	ROLE	DIVISION	WORK PHONE
s9(2)(g)(ii)		Partnerships, Humanitarian, and Multilateral	s9(2)(a)
s9(2)(g)(ii)		Middle East and Africa	s9(2)(a)

Minister's Office to complete

<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Noted	<input type="checkbox"/> Referred
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Declined	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
<input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events	<input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's notes	

Comments

Israel-Hamas Conflict: Tranche Five Humanitarian Support

Key points

- The humanitarian crisis in Gaza is extreme and continues to deteriorate with 1.7 million people sheltering in unsanitary and unsafe conditions. It is now projected that 1.1 million people will face 'catastrophic' levels of food insecurity (the highest level of the standard food insecurity index) in the next five weeks. Children are particularly vulnerable, with 1 million needing psychosocial support and ~17,000 unaccompanied without caregivers. The West Bank is also affected by the conflict and needs there continue to rise.
- Hostilities, operational constraints, and Israeli restrictions continue to inhibit the response. Total aid entering Gaza in May was the lowest since October 2023. Aid agencies continue to deliver to the extent possible and will surge as conditions allow.
- Given severity of needs, the Ministry recommends a further NZ\$5 million for the response this financial year, s6(a)
This would bring NZ's total humanitarian support to the crisis to NZ\$22 million since the conflict commenced in October 2023. We recommend:
 - **NZ\$3 million to the World Food Programme (WFP)** for emergency food assistance, including food parcels, flour, hot meals, and nutritional supplements. WFP assisted over 1.2 million people in Gaza in May alone. This would bring NZ's total contribution to WFP's response to NZ\$10.5 million. WFP is appealing for US\$341 million (NZ\$557 million) for the remainder of 2024 and has received US\$191 million in commitments (56% funded).
 - **NZ\$2 million to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** for sanitation, hygiene, nutrition, medical and psychosocial assistance targeting children and families. UNICEF continues to do critically important work. For example, across two weeks in May UNICEF provided sufficient fuel to produce water for over 1.1 million people and 600,000 children. This would bring NZ's total contribution to UNICEF's response to NZ\$4.5 million. UNICEF is seeking US\$263 million (NZ\$429 million) for its 2024 response and has received US\$193.3 in commitments (73% funded).
- Further funding would align with partners, including Australia, the UK and US who have announced additional support for Gaza and the West Bank this week.
- Funding would come from within existing baselines, drawn from the non-departmental International Development Cooperation Appropriation within Vote Foreign Affairs. These proposed contributions do not have people resource implications.
- Risks associated with the response, including aid diversion, and extreme health and safety risks, remain unchanged. Both WFP and UNICEF have mitigation and response systems in place. Looting is increasing alongside growing desperation and need.
- Should you agree to a further contribution, officials propose to work with your Office on an announcement.
- The Ministry continues to monitor the crisis and consider how NZ can best contribute. You will be provided with advice in the coming months on 2024/25 support, and on the shape of NZ's future partnership with UNRWA.

s9(2)(g)(ii)

for Acting Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Israel-Hamas Conflict: Tranche Five Humanitarian Support Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

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| 1 | Approve a NZ\$3 million contribution to the World Food Programme's appeal for Gaza and the West Bank; | Yes / No |
| 2 | Approve a NZ\$2 million contribution to the United Nations Children's Fund appeal for Gaza and the West Bank; | Yes / No |
| 3 | Note resourcing implications as set out in the key points; and | Yes / No |
| 4 | Refer a copy of this submission to the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Christopher Luxon for his information. | Yes / No |

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Minister of Foreign Affairs

Date: / /