



19 November 2024

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For approval by

29 November 2024

Israel-Hamas Conflict: Tranche Six Humanitarian Support

BRIEFING Decision Submission**PURPOSE** To seek approval for a sixth tranche of support to the humanitarian response in Gaza and the West Bank.

Recommended referrals

Prime Minister

For information by

6 December 2024

Contact details

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

Minister's Office to complete

☐ Approved☐ Noted☐ Referred☐ Needs amendment☐ Declined☐ Withdrawn☐ Overtaken by events☐ See Minister's notes**Comments**

Israel-Hamas Conflict: Tranche Six Humanitarian Support

Key points

- The humanitarian crisis in Gaza remains catastrophic with its entire population of 2.1 million people in need. Ongoing hostilities, operational constraints, and access restrictions imposed by Israel continue to inhibit the response. Aid is still reaching people in need, albeit far below the levels required.
- Humanitarian assistance has been a key pillar of New Zealand's response to the Israel-Hamas conflict. New Zealand's last contribution to the response was in June 2024. A further contribution in 2024 would help address extreme needs, align with the trajectory of partner contributions and ensure New Zealand maintains a credible level of commitment to one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. Additional funding would support ongoing operations as well as enabling agencies to prepare for a scale-up when conditions allow. We note ongoing high levels of interest from the New Zealand public in the crisis.
- We recommend New Zealand continue to target its humanitarian assistance to address food insecurity and the disproportionate impact of the conflict on children as follows:
 - **NZ\$4 million to the World Food Programme (WFP)** for emergency food assistance, including food parcels, flour, hot meals, and nutritional supplements. In October 2024, WFP reached 680,930 people in Gaza and the West Bank (though this was 58% less than planned due to access constraints). This contribution would bring New Zealand's total support to WFP's response to NZ\$14.5 million.
 - **NZ\$3.5 million to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)** for sanitation, hygiene, nutrition, medical and psychosocial assistance for children and their families. UNICEF has reached one in three people in Gaza since October 2023 and continues to play a leading role in the polio vaccination campaign. This contribution would bring New Zealand's total support to UNICEF's response to NZ\$8 million.
- Both agencies have delivered effectively to date. These contributions would bring New Zealand's total support to the response to NZ\$30.5 million since October 2023 (including \$1 million in funding for Lebanon).
- If approved, officials recommend these contributions are announced alongside New Zealand's attendance at Egypt's 2 December 2024 ministerial conference on the Gaza humanitarian response. You are unable to attend due to a scheduling clash. New Zealand will be represented at Deputy Secretary-level. Officials propose to work with your Office on an announcement.
- 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 significant. Both WFP and UNICEF have systems in place to mitigate risk to the extent possible.
- The Ministry continues to monitor the response and how New Zealand can best contribute.

s9(2)(g)(ii)

for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Israel-Hamas Conflict: Tranche Six Humanitarian Support Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- 1 **Approve** a NZ\$4 million contribution to the World Food Programme's appeal for Gaza and the West Bank; **Yes / No**
- 2 **Approve** a NZ\$3.5 million contribution to the United Nations Children's Fund appeal for Gaza and the West Bank; **Yes / No**
- 3 **Agree** that this funding should be announced around the time of the humanitarian conference in Egypt on 2 December 2024; **Yes / No**
- 4 **Note** resourcing implications as set out in the key points; and **Yes / No**
- 5 **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: / /