



Statement from the American Muslim Health Professionals (AMHP) on Famine in Gaza

August 29, 2025

American Muslim Health Professionals (AMHP) is gravely alarmed by the official confirmation that famine now exists in Gaza, and by the scenes documented by journalists and human rights organizations, this is a medical and humanitarian catastrophe. More than half a million people are trapped in conditions of widespread starvation, acute malnutrition, and preventable death. The World Health Organization, together with UNICEF and the World Food Programme, warns that famine conditions are already present in Gaza Governorate and are projected to spread if large-scale lifesaving action is not taken immediately.

As an organization representing clinicians and public-health professionals — and as Americans who care deeply about human life and dignity — we register three urgent truths:

- 1. This is a public-health emergency, not a political abstraction.**
Famine is defined by converging indicators of extreme food deprivation, acute malnutrition and starvation-related deaths. The scale of child malnutrition, skyrocketing rates of severe acute malnutrition, and collapsing food, water, fuel and health systems documented by UN agencies make clear that Gaza's health system cannot cope: hospitals lack supplies and fuel, therapeutic feeding is insufficient, and children and pregnant or breastfeeding women are at imminent risk of long-term developmental harm and death.
- 2. Immediate humanitarian access and protection for health workers and facilities are prerequisites to saving lives.**
Delivering large-scale, sustained food, medical supplies, therapeutic nutrition, water and fuel across the territory must happen now and without obstruction. Health facilities and humanitarian convoys must be protected; medical personnel must be kept safe to operate on patients. The restoration of commercial flows and local food production is also essential to prevent further deterioration. We call for an immediate ceasefire to enable life-saving assistance to reach those who need it.
- 3. The United States and all governments with leverage must act urgently to prevent further loss of life.**
AMHP calls on U.S. policymakers to use every diplomatic and economic instrument available to secure unfettered humanitarian corridors, demand immediate and unconditional access for UN and humanitarian partners, and press for a ceasefire that allows large-scale relief. We further urge restraint in any actions that would escalate conflict or exacerbate civilian suffering, and we call for independent, transparent investigations into attacks on health infrastructure and humanitarian operations.

On Mental Health and the U.S. Muslim Community

Beyond immediate physical harm, this famine and the conditions that caused it will inflict long-term psychological trauma — on children facing starvation, on families who have lost loved ones, and on the global Palestinian diaspora and American Muslim communities who are watching relatives and neighbors die. The mental-health impacts — including acute stress reactions, prolonged grief, post-traumatic stress disorder, and intergenerational trauma — will require long-term, culturally competent psychosocial and clinical interventions. AMHP stands ready to advise on scalable mental-health responses and to help mobilize culturally sensitive programs for affected communities in the U.S. and abroad.

A Moral and Professional Imperative

The confirmation of famine in Gaza is a damning indicator of how far humanitarian protections can fail when conflict, sieges, and blockades prevent aid from reaching civilians. As health professionals sworn to preserve life, we urge immediate action: cease hostilities, open and protect humanitarian access, scale up food and medical deliveries now, and prioritize the rehabilitation of health and water systems so that hospitals can function and children can survive.

AMHP calls on anyone who can influence policy, funding, or operational access to act with urgency. Lives are being lost by the hour.

For inquiries or more information, please contact our Health Policy and Advocacy Program at Advocacy@amhp.us

Sincerely,
American Muslim Health Professionals

