

The background image shows a weathered, light-colored sign with a blue arrow pointing left. The sign has Arabic text 'إلى غزة' and the English text 'TO GAZA' in blue. It is mounted on a metal pole. In the background, there are utility poles, wires, and a white building with a blue awning.

Gaza: Humanitarian Response

Safety & Security Considerations for Agencies Planning Humanitarian Intervention

Overview

The “Gaza Peace Plan” between Israel and Hamas was announced on 9-10 October 2025.

It is based on a 20-point plan proposed by the U.S., with mediation and support from other countries including Qatar, Egypt, Turkey.

The plan implies a large humanitarian response and defines the following:

*“Minimum of **400 aid trucks per day** will enter Gaza in the first five days, with increases thereafter.*

*Displaced persons allowed to **return from southern Gaza to north** immediately”.*

Key Context

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 The ceasefire has already **enabled** an **increased flow of aid** into Gaza: more trucks are now crossing, and more supplies are reaching hospitals and other distribution sites.
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 Serious **access constraints remain**: many crossing points remain closed or restricted; checkpoints are continuing to limit movement; damaged or destroyed infrastructure means many areas are hard to reach.
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 Significant amounts of **unexploded ordnance** (UXO) remain scattered across Gaza.
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 Issues of looting, localised conflict, breakdown of law & order, and crowd control at aid distribution sites are all contributing to **safety concerns**.

Safety and Security Advice for Gaza Humanitarian Response

1. Conduct Planning & Risk Management Exercises

- Establish ongoing forms of communication with staff and/or local partners on-the-ground for the most-up-to-date insight.
- Conduct a full risk assessment of all relevant threats and hazards (such as residual hostilities, infrastructural damage, UXO and behaviour of security forces).
- Identify which roads are passable, safe, or likely to be mined or obstructed.
- Consider which areas have greatest humanitarian need *against* those which can be safely accessed.

2. Coordination & Liaison

- Liaise with as many stakeholders as possible including local authorities, UN agencies, other NGOs, local civil defence, community leaders and security forces to avoid duplication of effort and misunderstanding needs.
- Establish reliable “*notification / deconfliction*” mechanisms with parties to the conflict to inform them of humanitarian movements, convoys, storage and distribution sites.
- Conduct frequent rapid needs assessments. The needs of one community can change overnight; continue to ensure the support and services being provided are reaching their target and are relevant.

3. Internal Movement & Distribution

- Many roads are damaged, blocked, or insecure. Monitor real-time developments and be prepared to be flexible in route planning.
- Develop and implement context-specific SOPs relating to journey management and distribution; coordinate with HQ (regional or global) to monitor internal movements.
- Consider using logistics support to manage distributions safely: avoid crowding, use safe queuing and entry/exit control, clear signage, shelter for waiting civilians.

4. Preparation and Protection of Staff

- All staff must be briefed and aware of the risks associated with entering Gaza; informed consent is vital, particularly as a person's ability to urgently withdraw may be challenging.
- All staff must receive security awareness training – ideally contextualised HEAT, emergency first aid and trauma training, and evacuation planning.
- Provide PPE where appropriate, this may include helmets and vests for field staff in higher risk zones.
- Ensure medical and psychosocial support is provided to staff who may be exposed to trauma.
- Build in “rest and rotation” periods for staff to limit fatigue.
- Ensure adequate insurance provision is in place.

5. Information & Communications

- Cellular and internet communications remain unreliable. Establish reliable second and, where possible, third line communications.
- Maintain up-to-date information about security incidents, access restrictions and road closures.
- Keep local communities informed of times and locations of planned distributions. Make clear any safety concerns (e.g. queuing) and restrictions to reduce risk of crowd management issues or violence.

6. Security for Aid & Assets

- Arrange protection for warehouses, supply depots, and storage areas to prevent looting.
- Mark humanitarian assets clearly to reduce risk of being mistaken for military targets.

7. Contingency Planning

- Plan for ceasefire violations: what happens if hostilities, even if localised, resume?
- Develop robust evacuation plans for staff. This should include strategically situated fallback locations and plans to secure stored supplies.
- Ensure communications and supply chains have redundancy.
- Regularly review your security posture; adjust this as the security situation evolves.

At ILS, we are supporting humanitarian and development actors to respond to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

We are helping develop tailored and effective risk management structures, security plans and contingency plans, including delivering bespoke training solutions.

We can do this in various languages and in accessible formats, including online and face to face.

👉 Let's talk. If your organisation is planning to respond in Gaza, we'd love to work with you.