Physicians for
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Dear Colonel Abdullah Halabi,

I am writing on behalf of **Physicians for Human Rights (PHR) and the Global Human Rights Clinic (GHRC) at the University of Chicago Law School**. PHR is an independent non-governmental organization that works at the intersection of medicine, science, and law to document abuses, advocate for health and human rights, and ensure justice for violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. GHRC works for the promotion of human rights using international human rights laws and norms as well as other substantive law and strategies to draw attention to human rights violations, develop practical solutions, and promote accountability on the part of state and non-state actors.

We are currently examining the impact of acute malnutrition, disruptions to health services, and constraints on the availability of food and medical supplies on maternal and neonatal health outcomes in Gaza from January 2025 through October 2025.

As part of this effort, we respectfully request clarification from the Government of Israel on policies and practices that may have influenced the availability of and accessibility to reproductive, maternal, and neonatal health services in Gaza, including issues related to the protection of reproductive health care services, the entry of essential medical supplies, therapeutic food used to manage acute malnutrition, and other medical supplies required for the survival and well-being of pregnant and lactating women and infants. Specifically, we would appreciate clarification on the following points:

- How considerations related to access to reproductive health and pregnancy-related care were incorporated into decision-making processes concerning military operations affecting hospitals and health facilities that provide reproductive and neonatal care in Gaza, as well as policies governing the entry of medical and humanitarian supplies?
- In light of damage to or loss of facilities and equipment providing reproductive, neonatal, and fertility care, what measures have been taken by the Government of Israel to support continued access to health care, essential medicines, and nutritional products for women seeking to conceive, pregnant and lactating women, and newborns in Gaza, including access to micronutrient supplementation and infant nutrition products needed for infants with differing medical or dietary requirements?
- Following the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 2803, what steps are currently being taken by the Government of Israel to facilitate access to humanitarian aid and assistance necessary to address both the immediate and longer-term impacts of acute malnutrition and disruptions to reproductive health care, including efforts related to the restoration or rebuilding of health services?

- What measures are the Government of Israel implementing to facilitate access for emergency medical teams, UN agencies, humanitarian personnel, and relief organizations, including those providing maternal, neonatal, and reproductive health services?
- Are you able to share the current versions of any lists that govern the entry of goods into Gaza, including the dual-use list and any other lists used to identify the medical and health-related supplies that require special authorization to enter Gaza?
- Are there plans to review the application of "dual-use" restrictions to supplies intended for medical purposes and to clarify or make more transparent the processes for reviewing items requiring special authorization?
- Are there policies governing the entry of specialized neonatal nutrition products, including hydrolyzed formulas and ready-to-feed liquid formulas, and how access to such products is facilitated?

We would be grateful for any documentation, links, or clarifying information you may be able to provide in response to these questions. Our aim is to better understand and accurately reflect the policies and procedures that are in place in our forthcoming publication.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. Please do not hesitate to contact us at [redacted] if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

Saman Zia-Zarifi,
Executive Director
Physicians for Human Rights

[redacted]

From: COGAT PR [redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, December 23, 2025 9:23 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: [EXT]Response to your inquiry regarding policies affecting Reproductive, Maternal, and Neonatal Health Services in Gaza

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COGAT's response:

Despite attempts by several international organizations and various actors in the international arena to falsely portray the State of Israel as preventing or delaying the entry of humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip, we clarify that the reality is entirely the opposite of the published claims.

First, between 600-800 aid trucks enter the Gaza Strip every day, approximately 70% of which carry food, while the remainder carry medical equipment, shelter supplies, tents, clothing, and other essential humanitarian assistance. This is in line with Israel's commitment to uphold its obligations under the ceasefire agreement to facilitate the entry of 4,200 aid trucks per week. In this context, nearly 30,000 food trucks, carrying more than 500,000 tons of food, have entered the Gaza Strip throughout the ceasefire agreement.

It should be recalled that even during the war, prior to the ceasefire, approximately 100,000 food trucks entered the Gaza Strip. These quantities significantly exceed the nutritional requirements of the population in the Gaza Strip according to accepted international methodologies, including those of the UN World Food Programme (WFP). At this stage, and in line with the agreement, no reconstruction materials are being transferred into Gaza.

Regarding claims about the entry of baby food - the State of Israel does not prevent or restrict the entry of baby food, including infant formula and milk substitutes, as part of the humanitarian aid entering the Gaza Strip. It is emphasized that the entry of baby food is carried out in coordination with, and in accordance with, the requirements of international organizations, subject to procedures and prior coordination.

Regarding claims about the entry of medical equipment - Israel acts to allow and facilitate the entry of all required medical equipment and continues to facilitate the entry into the Gaza Strip of trucks carrying medical supplies, without quantitative limitation. This includes, among other items, medications for cancer patients, insulin pens, anesthetic materials, X-ray and CT devices, oxygen generators, sanitary equipment, wheelchairs, medical mattresses, hospital beds, syringes, medicines, medical instruments, cleaning products, dialysis machines, incubators, plaster casts, and vaccination kits.

In addition, hospitals receive a regular supply of fuel and medications based on needs identified on the ground. Furthermore, throughout the war, the entry of equipment for the establishment of 15 field hospitals was facilitated in cooperation with the international community, alongside the entry of equipment for the operation of existing local hospitals in the Gaza Strip. For example, in recent weeks, the establishment of a field hospital by the IMC was facilitated, intended to expand essential medical services in the areas of maternal care, mental health, physiotherapy, and inpatient treatment for Gaza residents. Accordingly, the hospital includes more than 150 beds and hundreds of medical staff.

In addition, Israel continuously facilitates the entry and rotation of international teams into the Gaza Strip in accordance with requests from international organizations and subject to security screening. In this context, dozens of organizations and hundreds of international personnel are operating in the Gaza Strip.

We clarify that with regard to equipment defined as dual-use items, Israel exercises caution and offers international organizations alternatives that enable a humanitarian response without the terrorist organization Hamas exploiting the aid for its own military buildup. We invite international agencies to continue cooperating transparently in order to remove any obstacles and expedite the delivery of aid to the civilian population.