

*UN Food and Agriculture
Organization affirms people in
Gaza suffer unprecedented levels
of famine-like conditions*



Rome, February 12 (RHC)-- Israel's deadly campaign in Gaza has brought "unprecedented" levels of "near famine-like conditions" in the besieged Palestinian territory. Virtually 550,000 people are currently facing catastrophic food insecurity levels, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has said.

FAO Deputy Director General Beth Bechdol said on Monday all the 2.2 million people in Gaza are in the top three hunger categories, from level three, which is considered an emergency, to level five, or catastrophe.

“We are seeing more and more people essentially on the brink of and moving into famine-like conditions every day.”

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) rates hunger levels from one to five. “At this stage, probably about 25 percent of that 2.2 million are in that top-level IPC five category,” Bechdol said.

International agencies have repeatedly sounded the alarm that Gaza is starving. UN special rapporteurs say one in four people are starving and nine out of ten families in some areas spend a day and night without food. They say every single person in Gaza is hungry as Israel is destroying Gaza’s food system and using food as a weapon against the Palestinian people.

There is no estimate of how many Palestinians have died directly or indirectly of hunger since Israel launched the war on October 7, 2023. The few remaining hospitals in Gaza typically only record deaths from Israeli attacks.

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