

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2024

The Honorable Samantha Power
Administrator
United States Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Administrator Power:

We write to urge you to allocate additional resources to address the detrimental impacts of severe malnutrition in Gaza.

Hamas' heinous attack on October 7, 2023, has led to immense suffering for the people of Gaza. As the conflict has drawn on, we have grown increasingly concerned by the scale of the humanitarian crisis and its impact on Palestinian civilians.

Since the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) first warned of the risk of famine in Gaza in December 2023, the situation has deteriorated, as you confirmed in your April 10th testimony before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. In March, UNICEF reported that one out of every three children under the age of two in northern Gaza is suffering from acute malnutrition. The most vulnerable populations, including mothers, babies, and children under the age of five, face the greatest risk of permanent health impacts or death from severe acute malnutrition. Without a significant increase in the overall amount of aid for Gazans, the number of people suffering and dying from malnutrition will grow.

Two quick and effective sources of life-saving nutrition are Ready-to-use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) and Ready-to-use Supplemental Food (RUSF). These and similar shelf-stable products have been used with great effect to treat severe and moderate acute malnutrition in conflict areas around the world. Because they can be easily shipped and stored, these products can provide immediate help in Gaza.

The U.S. producers of these life-saving products, including those in our states, have made it clear that they are capable of supplying enough U.S. made product to meet the needs of Gazans who need them. They are prepared to begin sending shipments containing their full suite of products for immediate distribution and use.

We urge you, in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations, to allocate funding to provide RUTF, RUSF, and other nutrition products that will save lives in Gaza. We also ask you to work with other U.S. agencies and international partners to expedite the delivery of these products to those who desperately need them.

Thank you for your work to support humanitarian relief and your attention to this urgent request. If we can be of any assistance to you in this matter, please contact us or our staffs.

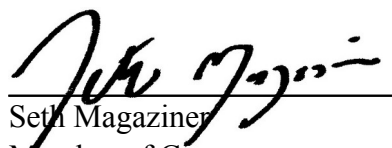
Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator