

HUMANITARIAN COALITION RESPONSE AND WEST BANK

December 1, 2023

For humanitarian workers, it's not uncommon to respond to emergencies in active conflict zones like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Sudan and many other places.

Every response during a time of conflict has its challenges. But even with the pause in fighting, everything about the humanitarian response there has been exceptionally challenging.

While the ability of Humanitarian Coalition members to operate in Gaza shifted dramatically, our partners have been heroically trying still to help those in greatest need.

For them, that meant dodging bombs and bullets to reach people with aid--and doing it on foot or by using trucks to deliver the assistance.

It meant struggling through bombed out buildings and streets to reach shelters where displaced people needed urgent mental health support.

It meant seeing their own family members killed or injured, yet still doing what they could to help.

It meant being excited to find a vendor who could provide needed items, only to learn the next day that an airstrike had destroyed the vendor's shop.

It meant seeking safety themselves in an overcrowded shelter, and often not being able to satisfy their personal needs for weeks.

That was the situation facing these brave aid workers, according to a recent update from **Save the Children** of the Humanitarian Coalition.

"Our colleagues in Gaza have no food and barely enough water to survive the day," Save the Children says. "Their ability to do their jobs is being stretched to its limits."

For that reason, the **Humanitarian Coalition** is calling for the release of hostages, respect for human rights and an immediate long-term ceasefire and cessation of hostilities--the pause is good, but it is not enough.

At the same time, we are grateful for the work of our members, who have been responding to the needs of the latest round of fighting. Working with their local partners, they are doing the best they can under the circumstances.

This includes **Action Against Hunger**, which has distributed 5,200 liters of drinking water and provided cash assistance through existing financial service providers.

Canadian Lutheran World Relief distributed food packs to 16,000 people and water to 18,000 people.

Richard Morgan,

Executive Director of the Humanitarian Coalition