

## WHO raises alarm over growing malnutrition crisis in Gaza



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The World Health Organization (WHO) has issued a serious warning about the worsening malnutrition crisis in the Gaza Strip, where a sharp rise in child deaths was reported in July.

In a statement released on Sunday, WHO called for immediate and large-scale efforts to deliver food, essential medicines, and treatment supplies to Gaza, especially for young children, pregnant women, and other vulnerable groups.

The situation has become especially alarming since May. In just the first half of July, over 5,000 children under five were treated for malnutrition. Of these, 18 percent were diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition – a life-threatening condition.

WHO reported that at least 74 people have died due to malnutrition so far this year, with 63 deaths recorded in July alone. Among them were 24 children under five, one older child, and 38 adults.

Gaza City has been hit the hardest. Nearly one in five children there is facing acute malnutrition.

WHO believes the real number may be even higher, as many families cannot reach health clinics.

Pregnant women are also among those suffering the most.

Health services are stretched beyond capacity. Only four treatment centers in Gaza are able to care for malnourished patients, and they are quickly running out of supplies and fuel. Exhausted health workers are struggling to cope, while the collapse of water and sanitation services is making the situation worse by spreading disease.

Adding to the crisis, families are forced to risk their lives searching for food. Since late May, over 1,000 people have been killed and more than 7,000 injured while trying to access food.

WHO is urging the international community to act quickly to prevent further loss of life.

