

Turkish Red Crescent provides aid, coordinates evacuation from vessel in distress



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The Turkish Red Crescent on Monday delivered food and medical supplies to the Global Sumud Flotilla, which is sailing to provide humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip.

Supplies were transferred to vessels in the 50-ship flotilla as they continued their journey through the Mediterranean, navigating between Crete, Cyprus, and Egypt.

Earlier in the day, Türkiye coordinated the safe evacuation of passengers from the flotilla vessel Johnny M, which had called for assistance after taking on water. The Turkish Red Crescent, in cooperation with other authorities, facilitated the evacuation of passengers from countries including Luxembourg, France, Finland, Mexico, and Malaysia.

On Instagram, flotilla organizers praised the swift coordination of the Turkish government and the vital support provided by the Turkish Red Crescent during the operation, describing it as smooth and effective.

The Global Sumud Flotilla, made up of dozens of ships, has been sailing toward Gaza for several days, carrying a substantial amount of humanitarian aid, with a strong focus on medical supplies. It represents the largest fleet yet organized to deliver assistance to Gaza.

The name Sumud, meaning “steadfastness” or “unwavering determination” in Arabic, gained prominence among Palestinians after the 1967 Arab-Israeli War to express resistance and perseverance in the face of occupation. The concept embodies the determination of Palestinians to remain on their land, safeguard their identity and culture, and pursue non-violent civil

disobedience while building alternative institutions. In Palestinian symbolism, the olive tree and the pregnant peasant woman represent this spirit of Sumud.