

**Question for written answer E-000580/2024
to the Commission**
Rule 138
Janina Ochojska (PPE)

Subject: Maintaining UNRWA support to prevent famine in the Gaza Strip

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is the largest provider of humanitarian aid to Palestinian refugees living in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. Over 5.9 million Palestinians are registered with the agency and over 50 % of its regular budget is dedicated to education.

Since the resumption of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict last October, the humanitarian situation of Palestinian citizens has dramatically deteriorated and became critical in terms of food insecurity and malnutrition, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. However, after the recent accusations against 12 UNRWA employees for taking part in the Hamas-led October 7 attack, several European countries decided to withdraw their financial assistance to the UNRWA.

While the UN took the allegations very seriously and reacted immediately, organizations such as HRW and DWB warn that a suspension of funding to UNRWA will have devastating consequences and that a further cut in food, water and medicine supplies might lead to famine.

1. What measures does the Commission plan to take in response to Palestinians' critical food situation, limited access to water and shelter troubles?
2. How does the Commission plan to ensure EU's support for UNRWA?

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