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Trump Announces U.S.-Israel Partnership to Expand Food Distribution in Gaza Amid Growing Humanitarian Crisis

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President Donald Trump announced Tuesday that the United States will collaborate with Israel to open additional food distribution centers in Gaza in response to the worsening humanitarian crisis. While the initiative aims to address urgent hunger concerns, the

administration has not yet released specific details on how the new effort will be structured or how it will differ from existing aid programs.

Speaking to reporters aboard Air Force One, Trump said the new centers would be overseen by Israel to ensure aid is distributed effectively. “We’re going to be dealing with Israel, and we think they can do a good job of it,” he stated. The move comes amid increased pressure on the administration from both domestic lawmakers and international voices demanding action to relieve the humanitarian toll in Gaza.

The announcement follows the United States’ recent withdrawal from ceasefire negotiations in the ongoing Israel-Hamas war, now in its 21st month. The U.S. attributed the breakdown in talks to Hamas, accusing the group of negotiating in bad faith. However, Trump’s remarks this week appeared to diverge from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s position, as the former president openly acknowledged the severity of starvation in Gaza, citing disturbing images of malnourished children.

While the White House has described the effort as a new aid initiative, few logistical details were shared. U.S. State Department spokesperson Tammy Bruce noted Tuesday that she was awaiting further clarification from the president, saying, “I don’t want to get ahead of him.”

In Congress, Democratic lawmakers have urged the administration to expand its role in responding to the humanitarian situation. A letter signed by over 40 senators called for a resumption of ceasefire negotiations and criticized the current food distribution approach, which is largely operated through the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), an American-Israeli contractor. Senator Tim Kaine (D-VA), a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, questioned why established international aid organizations were being sidelined. “I’m glad that the president is saying that this is a problem. But if we want to solve the problem, turn to the folks who have been doing this for decades,” Kaine said.

The new plan resembles a prior program introduced in May, after Israel restricted all imports of food, medicine, and other essentials for more than two months. At that time, GHF opened four food centers in coordination with the Israeli military. Supporters of the program argue that it prevents militant group Hamas from diverting aid, a concern repeatedly cited by both Israeli and U.S. officials. The United Nations (UN), however, disputes claims of significant diversion and has continued its distribution efforts when permitted.

Critics argue that GHF's model forces desperate Palestinians to risk their lives by traveling into Israeli-controlled military zones for food. According to the UN human rights office and eyewitness accounts, hundreds have died trying to reach these sites. Israel maintains that its military has only used warning shots, while GHF says its contractors rely on pepper spray and non-lethal crowd control measures to maintain safety.

Trump said he last spoke with Netanyahu two days earlier and emphasized the importance of ensuring food reaches those in need. "I think Israel wants to do it. And they'll be good at doing it," he said. The president again referred to images of starving children as a motivator for the administration's latest decision, saying, "They've got to get them food. And we're going to get them food."

The announcement marks a notable shift in Trump's rhetoric and potentially his policy stance. It aligns with a growing faction within the conservative base that questions longstanding U.S. foreign aid commitments, including to Israel. Representative Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-GA), a close Trump ally, has recently echoed calls to address the suffering in Gaza. "What has been happening to innocent people and children in Gaza is horrific. This war and humanitarian crisis must end!" she posted on social media.

Still, not all within Trump's Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement share this perspective. Conservative commentator and Turning Point USA founder Charlie Kirk criticized what he described as a misleading narrative portraying Israel as intentionally starving Gazans. His comments reflect broader divisions among conservatives on U.S. involvement in foreign conflicts.

As the humanitarian crisis in Gaza deepens, Trump's new proposal positions the U.S. in a more hands-on role, though it remains to be seen how this partnership with Israel will be implemented and whether it will be enough to meet the urgent needs on the ground.