



## HUMAN INITIATIVE INDONESIA'S ACTIVISM IN DELIVERING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CONFLICT VICTIMS IN PALESTINE

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### ABSTRACT

*This study examines the activism of Human Initiative Indonesia in providing humanitarian aid to conflict victims in Palestine, particularly after the October 7, 2023 attack. Using a descriptive qualitative method and a phenomenological approach, this research aims to understand the meaning and experiences related to the implementation of Human Initiative's transnational advocacy network. The Global Civil Society theory serves as the main analytical framework to explain the role of global civil society in mobilizing solidarity, advocacy, and cross-border humanitarian aid. This study explores Human Initiative's (HI) role in building transnational networks to strengthen humanitarian response, especially in Palestine. HI collaborates with the government, IHA, and international organizations to ensure effective and well-targeted assistance. Aid is distributed to various affected areas in Gaza through food distribution, medical services, sanitation, and psychosocial support. Sustainable programs such as Palestine 100 Days and Palestine 300 Days reinforce HI's commitment to supporting the Palestinian community. This study demonstrates that the transnational networks established by HI enhance the effectiveness of aid and global solidarity in addressing humanitarian crises.*

### Introduction

Conflict is an inevitable social phenomenon within society, characterized by opposition between individuals, groups, or nations. Various factors can trigger conflict, such as cultural differences, divergent interests, and shifts in social values. One complex and prolonged example of conflict is the situation in Palestine, which involves issues of territorial disputes, identity politics, and human rights. This conflict illustrates how competing interests can ignite prolonged tensions with wide-ranging impacts on both social structures and humanitarian conditions. In general, conflict can be understood as a clash of interests among parties competing for limited resources, whether in the form of values, status, power, or authority. This competition is not only aimed at gaining advantage but may also involve acts of violence or threats intended to weaken the opposing side.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Aris. 2021. "Pengertian Konflik: Jenis-jenis, Faktor Penyebab dan Contohnya". Gramedia Blog. Diakses pada 23 Februari 2024, dari <https://www.gramedia.com/literasi/pengertian-konflik/>.



Conflict can be defined as a confrontation between several parties competing for limited resources, such as values, status, power, and authority. This competition is not only aimed at gaining advantage but also at weakening opponents through violence or threats.<sup>2</sup>

The conflict between Israel and Palestine is one of the most prominent international conflicts of the 20th and 21st centuries. Originating with the Balfour Declaration in 1917, tensions escalated due to various events, including the establishment of the state of Israel and the rejection by the Palestinian community. The failure of peace efforts has led to recurring armed conflicts. The impact of this conflict is not only felt by the local population but has also drawn global attention due to the involvement of various humanitarian issues.<sup>3</sup>

According to a report from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as of November 28, 2023, the number of fatalities among Palestinians and Israelis had reached 16,673. This figure rose sharply following the rocket attacks launched by Hamas on October 7, 2023, which triggered a military response from Israel. Based on data from the Gaza Ministry of Health, between October 7, 2023, and December 24, 2024, more than 45,000 Palestinians were reported killed, while over 107,000 others sustained injuries. On the other hand, more than 1,500 Israelis, including 389 soldiers, lost their lives during the same period, with approximately 100 Israeli and foreign nationals still being held in Gaza.<sup>4</sup>

The humanitarian crisis in Palestine continues to deteriorate, particularly following the escalation of conflict in October 2023. Attacks and military operations in Gaza have resulted in thousands of deaths and injuries, creating extremely harsh living conditions. Data indicate that tens of thousands of Palestinians have been killed, while millions more face threats of starvation and shortages of basic necessities. This situation underscores the urgent need for humanitarian assistance, which is often hindered by blockades and attacks on aid convoys.<sup>5</sup>

In such circumstances, humanitarian organizations like Human Initiative Indonesia play a crucial role. As an active non-governmental actor, Human Initiative demonstrates a strong commitment to providing aid to victims of the conflict in Palestine. The organization not only supplies basic necessities but also forms part of a transnational advocacy network aimed at raising awareness and support for humanitarian issues.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Bill, O. (2013). Studi Faktor-Faktro Penyebab Terjadinya Konflik di Dalam Proyek Konstruksi. Skripsi. Universitas Atma Jaya Yogyakarta.

<sup>3</sup> Badjodah, A. F., Husein, M., Ahmad, S. "Dinamika Konflik dan Upaya Konsesus Palestina-Israel (Studi Kasus Perjanjian Perdamaian Oslo (Oslo Agreement) Tahun 1993". *Jurnal Cakrawala Ilmiah*, 1 (3). 409-420.

<sup>4</sup> Ariesta, M. (2024). *Korban Tewas Serangan Israel ke Gaza Capai 40.000 Jiwa*. Metro TV. Diakses pada 31 Agustus 2024, dari <https://www.metrotvnews.com/read/bzGCzw2x-korban-tewas-serangan-israel-ke-gaza-capai-40-000-jiwa>.

<sup>5</sup> Gema Keadilan. 2023. "*Gaza Under Siege: Memahami Krisis Kemanusiaan di Palestina*". Diakses pada 21 Maret 2024, dari <https://www.gemakeadilan.com/post/gaza-under-siege-memahami-krisis-kemanusiaan-di-palestina>.

<sup>6</sup> Human Initiative. 2024. *Humanitarian Aid Continues, Wujud Human Initiative dan Seluruh Mitra Kolaborasi Bangun Komitmen Berkelanjutan Terhadap Dukungan Kemanusiaan di Palestina*. Diakses pada 30 Desember 2024, dari <https://human-initiative.org/humanitarian-aid-continues-wujud-human-initiative-dan-seluruh-mitra-kolaborasi-bangun-komitmen-berkelanjutan-terhadap-dukungan-kemanusiaan-di-palestina/>.



Human Initiative is a humanitarian organization actively engaged in responding to humanitarian crises in conflict areas. Human Initiative (HI) has collaborated with the Indonesia Humanitarian Alliance (IHA) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia in coordinating the delivery of humanitarian aid to support communities affected by crises in various regions.<sup>7</sup> This collaboration aims to ensure that the assistance provided is well-targeted, effective, and reaches those most in need.

Human Initiative has been actively involved in providing transnational humanitarian assistance, as demonstrated in the delivery of aid to conflict victims in various countries, including Palestine. The emphasis on conflict victims highlights the purpose and focus of the assistance provided by Human Initiative. This underscores the importance of cross-border cooperation in responding to humanitarian crises.<sup>8</sup>

The delivery of humanitarian aid to Palestine is often obstructed due to Israel military attacks, further exacerbating the crisis in the region. On February 29, an Israeli attack targeted an aid convoy in Palestine, resulting in the deaths of 118 Palestinians. In addition to direct attacks, Israel has also restricted aid distribution by closing border crossings and prohibiting UNRWA from delivering aid to northern Gaza. As a result, the supply of essential resources such as electricity, food, and clean water has been cut off, further worsening the humanitarian conditions in the area.<sup>9</sup> Israel attacks have also targeted humanitarian volunteers. In October 2023, an Israel airstrike killed seven staff members of World Central Kitchen (WCK) while they were unloading food aid. Although a tactical pause was announced to facilitate the distribution of aid, the situation in Palestine remains critical, with many residents facing threats of starvation and shortages of basic necessities. According to data from Human Initiative, the humanitarian crisis in Palestine has persisted for 100 days.<sup>10</sup>

This study aims to gain a deeper understanding of the role of Human Initiative in providing assistance to victims of the conflict in Palestine. Using a qualitative approach, the research will explore the organization's strategies, challenges, and contributions in responding to the complex humanitarian crisis. It is hoped that the findings of this study will offer new insights to support efforts in enhancing cross-border cooperation in addressing global humanitarian issues.

<sup>7</sup> Human Initiative. (2023). *Mewujudkan Solidaritas Kemanusiaan, Human Initiative melalui Indonesian Humanitarian Alliance (IHA) Berkolaborasi dengan Pemerintah RI Kirim Bantuan ke Palestina*. Diakses pada 30 Desember 2024, dari <https://human-initiative.org/mewujudkan-solidaritas-kemanusiaan-human-initiative-melalui-indonesian-humanitarian-alliance-iha-berkolaborasi-dengan-pemerintah-ri-kirim-bantuan-ke-palestina/>

<sup>8</sup> Human Initiative. (2023). *Human Initiative, in Collaboration with IHA, Sends Humanitarian Aid to Gaza to Fulfill Basic Needs of Palestinian Residents*. Diakses pada 28 Maret 2024, dari <https://human-initiative.org/human-initiative-in-collaboration-with-iha-sends-humanitarian-aid-to-gaza-to-fulfill-basic-needs-of-palestinian-residents/?lang=en>

<sup>9</sup> ANTARA. (2024). *Israel disebut rencanakan terkait serangan ke penerima bantuan di Gaza*. Diakses pada 31 Agustus 2024, dari <https://www.antaranews.com/berita/3994242/israel-disebut-rencanakan-terkait-serangan-ke-penerima-bantuan-di-gaza>

<sup>10</sup> Human Initiative. (2023). *Palestine-Israel Conflict Escalation Strengthens Again, More Than a Thousand Civilians Have Died*. Diakses pada 21 Maret 2024, dari <https://human-initiative.org/palestine-israel-conflict-escalation-strengthens-again-more-than-a-thousand-civilians-have-died/?lang=en>



## Literature Review

This study employs the theory of Global Civil Society. Global Civil Society is a concept that emerged in the 1980s as a response to large-scale movements occurring in various countries. This theory describes a space beyond government, family, and the market, where individuals and collective organizations strive to advance the common good. Global Civil Society includes various groups such as non-governmental organizations, social movements, labor unions, charitable organizations, religious-based organizations, media, academics, diaspora groups, and others.<sup>11</sup>

Based on research conducted by Kurnia Novianti on the role of NGOs in flood mitigation in Prague, the role of NGOs in flood mitigation in Prague can be analyzed through the perspective of civil society theory. Civil society refers to social entities that exist between the state and individuals, including non-governmental organizations, communities, and social movements that contribute to public life and advocate for the interests of society (Cohen & Arato, 1992). In the context of flood mitigation in Prague, NGOs function as part of civil society, playing a role in raising public awareness, advocating for environmental policies, and building social capacity in disaster response.<sup>12</sup>

Furthermore, the theory of civil society also highlights the relationship between civil society and the state. According to Gramsci (1971), civil society can become a hegemonic force that balances state power with the interests of society. In this study, various dynamics of the relationship between NGOs and the government are observed, with some NGOs cooperating with the government in disaster mitigation, while others criticize government policies perceived as not supportive of environmental protection. This indicates that civil society does not always maintain a harmonious relationship with the state; rather, it is often dynamic and characterized by negotiation.<sup>13</sup>

## Methodology

This study uses a descriptive qualitative method, which is explained narratively with sentences and includes several images, rather than being presented in numerical form.<sup>14</sup> This study uses a phenomenological approach. According to Creswell, the phenomenological approach is commonly used to explain the meaning and understanding of an event.<sup>15</sup> The phenomenological approach is useful for understanding the meaning and experiences related to the activism of Human Initiative in providing aid to victims of the conflict in Palestine.

This study employs the theory of Global Civil Society. Global Civil Society is a concept that emerged in the 1980s as a response to large-scale movements occurring in various countries.

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<sup>11</sup> Marchetti. R. (2022). Global Civil Society. E-International Relations.

<sup>12</sup> Novianti, Kurnia. (2013). Peran NGO sebagai Bagian dari Civil Society dalam Mitigasi Banjir di Praha. *Global & Strategis, Th. 7, No. 2*, 260-278.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>14</sup> Lestari, D. T., Suaib, E., & Lisna. (2023). Kepentingan Geopolitik Vietnam Bergabung dalam Keanggotaan Lancang-Mekong Cooperation Tahun 2018. *Jurnal Ilmiah Hubungan Internasional*. Vol 19, No 2. 175-188.

<sup>15</sup> Creswell, W. J. (2016). Research Design Pendekatan Metode Kualitatif Kuantitatif dan Campuran. Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar.



This theory describes a space beyond government, family, and the market, where individuals and collective organizations strive to advance the common good. Global Civil Society encompasses various groups such as non-governmental organizations, social movements, labor unions, charitable organizations, religious-based organizations, media, academics, diaspora groups, and others.<sup>16</sup>

This theory emphasizes the role of civil society in the global context as an agent of change and a catalyst for democracy. Global Civil Society is seen as a platform inhabited by activists, NGOs, neoliberals, as well as national and religious groups, where they debate, campaign, negotiate, or lobby for arrangements that shape global developments. This concept is closely linked to globalization, which has fostered the emergence of transnational activist networks that collaborate on issues such as human rights, climate change, and corporate responsibility.<sup>17</sup>

Furthermore, to achieve the goals they advocate for, one strategy of GCS is visibility and audibility. Visibility and audibility refer to strategies aimed at ensuring that the causes promoted by GCS are visible and audible. Visibility is the quality or degree of being seen, while audibility is the quality or degree of being heard.<sup>18</sup>

This strategy refers to various efforts made by GCS to gain the attention of the general public. Visibility can be achieved through demonstrations, campaigns, print media publications (posters, newspapers, brochures, and others), social media, as well as various instruments aimed at making the interests of GCS visible (perceptible). Meanwhile, audibility can be achieved through the use of various audio-visual instruments such as radio, video, television, and others, with the goal of ensuring that what is advocated by GCS can be heard by the public.<sup>19</sup>

This study will examine the involvement of relevant stakeholders, including local institutions, other non-governmental organizations, and civil society, in supporting or hindering the activism of Human Initiative Indonesia in providing humanitarian aid.

## Analysis

In the context of the research titled "Human Initiative Indonesia's Activism in Providing Humanitarian Aid to Victims of the Conflict in Palestine," the scope of this study focuses on the activism of Human Initiative in providing assistance to victims of the conflict in Palestine. This includes an understanding of the types of aid provided. The research involves understanding the dynamics of the conflict, collaboration with international organizations in providing humanitarian aid, and efforts to build transnational networks. The time frame of the study is focused on the year 2023, following the attack on October 7, 2023. This will limit the data and events to be analyzed within that period. The period following the October 7, 2023 attack is chosen because it represents a historic timeframe with a higher number of recorded victims resulting from the conflict compared to previous years. Additionally, the year 2023,

<sup>16</sup> Marchetti. R. (2022). Global Civil Society. E-International Relations.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> Oberoi. R., Halsall. J., & Snowden. M. (2022). Introduction: Global Civil Society. Leeds: Emerald Group Publishing Ltd.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid*





following the October 7 attack, is also the year when Human Initiative was actively providing aid to victims of the conflict in Palestine.

Human Initiative, as a global humanitarian organization from Indonesia, has played a significant role in the context of Global Civil Society (GCS). This organization integrates a collaborative-based approach, community empowerment, and capacity building to address humanitarian challenges at both the local and global levels. Below are some key efforts that demonstrate Human Initiative's contribution to GCS:

### **The Ability of Human Initiative to Build Transnational Networks.**

Human Initiative is a humanitarian organization active in responding to humanitarian crises in conflict areas. Human Initiative (HI) collaborates with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and the Indonesian Humanitarian Alliance (IHA) in coordinating the delivery of humanitarian aid to support communities affected by crises in various regions. This collaboration aims to ensure that the aid provided is targeted, effective, and reaches those who are most in need.<sup>20</sup>

As an experienced humanitarian institution, HI plays an important role in the process of collecting, distributing, and reporting aid. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs supports this effort by coordinating diplomatic and intergovernmental communication aspects, making it easier to send aid to affected areas abroad. IHA, as an alliance of Indonesian humanitarian organizations, strengthens the network between local and international institutions to achieve its mission and vision.<sup>21</sup>

In an effort to strengthen collaboration among humanitarian institutions, Human Initiative (HI) organizes the Initiative Forum as a strategic platform that involves various stakeholders. The forum is attended by representatives from the government sector, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academics, and humanitarian experts. The Initiative Forum aims to discuss the various challenges faced in handling humanitarian crises while encouraging the creation of closer and more effective cross-border collaboration.<sup>22</sup>

This activity is designed to provide a platform for in-depth discussions on issues such as disaster response, sustainable development, the protection of vulnerable groups, and resource management in emergency situations. Furthermore, this forum serves as a venue for sharing experiences, best practices, and innovations in humanitarian efforts.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Human Initiative. (2023). Mewujudkan Solidaritas Kemanusiaan, Human Initiative melalui Indonesian Humanitarian Alliance (IHA) Berkolaborasi dengan Pemerintah RI Kirim Bantuan ke Palestina. Diakses pada 30 Desember 2024, dari <https://human-initiative.org/mewujudkan-solidaritas-kemanusiaan-human-initiative-melalui-indonesian-humanitarian-alliance-ih-berkolaborasi-dengan-pemerintah-ri-kirim-bantuan-ke-palestina/>

<sup>21</sup> Human Initiative. (2023). Bantu Warga Palestina Penuhi Kebutuhan Dasar, Human Initiative Bersama IHA Kirim Bantuan Kemanusiaan ke Gaza. Diakses pada 30 Desember 2024, dari <https://human-initiative.org/bantu-warga-palestina-penuhi-kebutuhan-dasar-human-initiative-bersama-ih-irim-bantuan-kemanusiaan-ke-gaza/>

<sup>22</sup> Human Initiative. (2024). Initiative Forum 2024: Humanitarian Challenges and Collective Kindness for Sustainable Resilience. Diakses pada 30 Desember 2024, dari <https://human-initiative.org/initiative-forum-2024-humanitarian-challenges-and-collective-kindness-for-sustainable-resilience/>

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid*



Human Initiative has taken strategic steps to strengthen humanitarian capacity and response at the global level through active involvement in various international networks. HI has become a member of the Network for Empowered Aid Response (NEAR), a platform that brings together local and national organizations to enhance humanitarian response capacity, peacebuilding, and development.<sup>24</sup>

At the regional level, Human Initiative is actively involved in the SouthEast Asia Humanitarian Committee (SEAHUM), an alliance aimed at strengthening collaboration among organizations in Southeast Asia. Human Initiative's activism encompasses capacity building through knowledge and experience sharing with other organizations, including accountability and operational sustainability, to enhance the effectiveness of humanitarian response. Additionally, Human Initiative contributes to international forums such as the World Humanitarian Summit, which supports the development of humanitarian policies based on the needs of Southern countries.<sup>25</sup>

The establishment of transnational networks is a critical component for humanitarian organizations. Human Initiative has undertaken significant measures in developing transnational networks to enhance humanitarian capacity and response at the global level.

#### **a. Stages in providing aid to Palestine**

The initial step in the delivery of aid was marked by the release of the first phase of assistance, witnessed by the President of the Republic of Indonesia on November 4, 2023. This release of aid signifies the Indonesian government's commitment to supporting the Palestinian people and demonstrates international solidarity in response to the ongoing humanitarian crisis.<sup>26</sup>

Following the release of the first phase of aid, Human Initiative collaborated with the Indonesian Humanitarian Alliance (IHA) and various other humanitarian organizations to ensure the smooth and targeted delivery of assistance. A total of 11 aid trucks were sent via the Egypt route to Gaza. This delivery was a significant step, as Egypt serves as the primary distribution route for aid to Gaza due to the limited direct access caused by blockades and infrastructure damage in the region. Through inter-agency collaboration, the aid delivery became more coordinated and effective in addressing the urgent needs in Gaza.<sup>27</sup>

Further collaboration also took place with local partners within Gaza, who possess a deeper understanding of the community's needs. These partners play a crucial role in organizing the distribution of aid, ensuring that it reaches those most in need, and addressing potential logistical challenges that may arise in a conflict situation.

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<sup>24</sup> Human Initiative. (2023). Advocating Aspirations from the Southern Part of the World, Human Initiative Joins NEAR. Diakses pada 30 Desember 2024, dari <https://human-initiative.org/advocating-aspirations-from-the-global-south-human-initiative-joins-near/>

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>26</sup> Human Initiative. (2023). Bantu Warga Palestina Penuhi Kebutuhan Dasar, Human Initiative Bersama IHA Kirim Bantuan Kemanusiaan ke Gaza. Diakses pada 30 Desember 2024, dari <https://human-initiative.org/bantu-warga-palestina-penuhi-kebutuhan-dasar-human-initiative-bersama-iha-kirim-bantuan-kemanusiaan-ke-gaza/>

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid*



In addition, collaboration with the Egyptian government through the Egyptian Red Crescent became crucial. The Egyptian Red Crescent has the experience and network to distribute aid effectively across borders, ensuring that the aid reaches its destination on time and in safe conditions.

In addition to collaboration with humanitarian organizations and governments, it is also important to note the contribution of both the community and the international society. The community in Indonesia, alongside the global population, played a significant role in fundraising and supporting these humanitarian efforts. This act of solidarity proved to be instrumental in accelerating the aid collection process and ensuring that a greater number of individuals affected by the crisis in Gaza were able to receive the assistance they needed.

### **Areas in Palestine Affected by Human Initiative's Aid**

Amid the challenges faced in delivering aid, such as access restrictions and unstable security conditions, Human Initiative has remained committed to ensuring that assistance reaches those in need. This effort extends beyond Gaza, also encompassing refugee camps in Egypt, where cash assistance and psychosocial support are provided to displaced individuals. Specifically, humanitarian aid is often directed toward vulnerable groups such as children, women, individuals with disabilities, and those caught in conflict or occupation. The aid includes food distribution, medicines, medical assistance, access to clean water and sanitation facilities, as well as psychosocial support for those affected by trauma.

Based on the distribution map of Human Initiative's programs in Palestine, the aid is focused on key areas in the Gaza Strip to ensure even coverage. In the northern region, Gaza North is one of the priority areas, located near the Erez border. Aid also extends to Wadi Gaza, situated in the central part of the Gaza Strip, a strategic area to support the surrounding communities in need. Not far from there, Deir al-Balah also became a location impacted by the aid, expanding the program's coverage in the central area.

In the southern part of the Gaza Strip, Khan Younis has become one of the key areas for aid distribution, given the high demand in the region. The Rafah area, located at the southernmost tip of the Gaza Strip and close to the Kerem Shalom border, also received attention as one of the locations most in need of support. The distribution of aid reflects Human Initiative's commitment to reaching the most vulnerable communities across the entire Gaza Strip, from north to south, with the aim of making a significant impact on Palestinian society.

In the Gaza region, Palestine, Human Initiative provides support through the distribution of essential food supplies, such as relief packages and ready-to-eat meals (hot meals). Additionally, clean water is supplied to refugee areas to ensure the availability of this vital resource. The aid also includes strengthening medical services for communities in need, which is prioritized in the context of the ongoing emergency situation.

Meanwhile, for Gaza residents seeking refuge in Egypt, the aid program includes financial support for refugees, medical personnel, and patients in hospitals. The organization also provides ambulances along with the necessary equipment to ensure the smooth delivery of emergency healthcare services. In addition, attention is given to affected children through





psychosocial support and the provision of educational materials to help them continue their education despite being in challenging circumstances.

### Humanitarian Aid Continuous

Human Initiative terus berkontribusi dalam menjalin solidaritas kemanusiaan dengan masyarakat Palestine receives various forms of aid tailored to their emergency needs. To facilitate the delivery of this aid, Human Initiative conducted a fundraising campaign titled "*Bantu Palestina*." The aid program is divided into two phases: Palestine 100 Days and Palestine 300 Days.

The "Palestine 300 Days: Humanitarian Aid Continues" program, implemented by Human Initiative, represents a tangible manifestation of ongoing commitment to supporting humanitarian efforts amidst the Gaza-Palestine crisis. Since the major escalation on October 7, 2023, the situation in Palestine has become increasingly unstable, with the Israeli military occupation forcing 90% of Gaza's population to seek refuge in designated zones.<sup>28</sup>

The President of Human Initiative, Tomy Hendrajati, emphasized that this program not only demonstrates the generosity of the Indonesian people but also serves as a humanitarian call to respond to the suffering in Gaza. Despite facing logistical and security challenges in the aid distribution process, Human Initiative remains committed to ensuring that assistance reaches those in need. The organization collaborates with local partners in Palestine through the Indonesian Humanitarian Alliance and forms strategic partnerships with institutions that have access to Gaza. To date, this program has impacted over 219,815 individuals through various forms of assistance.<sup>29</sup>

Human Initiative has carried out various key activities within the Palestine 100 Days program as a response to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. One of the main activities involved the delivery of humanitarian aid, including food packages, medicines, and medical supplies. In the initial phase, the organization successfully distributed 270 food and medicine packages to communities affected by the attacks in the Gaza Strip. Additionally, support was provided to healthcare workers at As-Syifa Hospital, with incentives given to 50 healthcare professionals who played a crucial role in caring for the victims.<sup>30</sup>

The program "Palestine 300 Days: Humanitarian Aid Continues" was subsequently launched. This program was initiated by Human Initiative as a strategic effort to provide humanitarian assistance amidst the ongoing crisis in Gaza, Palestine. Since the escalation of conflict on October 7, 2023, the situation in the region has deteriorated, forcing many residents to seek

<sup>28</sup> Human Initiative. (2024). *Humanitarian Aid Continues, Wujud Human Initiative dan Seluruh Mitra Kolaborasi Bangun Komitmen Berkelanjutan Terhadap Dukungan Kemanusiaan di Palestina*. Diakses pada 13 Januari 2025, dari <https://human-initiative.org/humanitarian-aid-continues-wujud-human-initiative-dan-seluruh-mitra-kolaborasi-bangun-komitmen-berkelanjutan-terhadap-dukungan-kemanusiaan-di-palestina/>.

<sup>29</sup> The Jakarta Post. (2024). *Humanitarian Aid: Human Initiative and partners provide support for Palestine*. Diakses pada 13 Januari 2025, dari <https://www.thejakartapost.com/front-row/2024/08/05/humanitarian-aid-human-initiative-and-partners-provide-support-for-palestine.html>.

<sup>30</sup> Human Initiative. (2023). *Bantu Warga Palestina Penuhi Kebutuhan Dasar, Human Initiative Bersama IHA Kirim Bantuan Kemanusiaan ke Gaza*. Diakses pada 13 Januari 2025, dari <https://human-initiative.org/bantu-warga-palestina-penuhi-kebutuhan-dasar-human-initiative-bersama-ih-kirim-bantuan-kemanusiaan-ke-gaza/>



refuge while facing severe food shortages and limited access to healthcare services. In response to this crisis, Human Initiative has collaborated with various communities in Indonesia to gather substantial aid, including food distribution, clean water, and medical services. The program was officially launched on August 2, 2024, in Jakarta, where Human Initiative presented the current conditions in Gaza and outlined the various forms of aid that have been provided by the Indonesian public.<sup>31</sup>

Through collaboration with local organizations such as One Day One Juz (ODOJ) and BTS ARMY Indonesia, this program successfully reached over 219,000 beneficiaries. The assistance provided includes hygiene and sanitation (WASH) programs, cash support for medical personnel, and psychosocial support for refugees. The President of Human Initiative, Tomy Hendrajati, emphasized that this initiative is not merely an act of generosity, but also a humanitarian call to respond to the suffering of the Palestinian people. He expressed profound gratitude to the Indonesian public for their participation in alleviating the burden of this crisis.<sup>32</sup>

The "*Bantu Palestina*" fundraising campaign initiated by Human Initiative aims to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people due to the prolonged conflict. This campaign raises funds to meet the needs of Palestine. To date, the funds collected have reached IDR 457,791,728, with IDR 431,000,000 already disbursed to those in need. The campaign has involved 2,762 donors, reflecting the high level of public concern for the situation in Palestine. However, despite the substantial amount raised, the total need to alleviate suffering in Palestine still amounts to IDR 500,000,000. These needs include food distribution, medical care, sanitation, and protection for children and women who are victims of the conflict. The campaign encourages the public to participate in providing assistance, whether through donations or other forms of support. Human Initiative emphasizes that global solidarity is crucial in achieving peace and reducing the suffering experienced by the Palestinian people. Every contribution, large or small, can offer hope to those living in hardship and strengthen global solidarity.

#### **b. Human Initiative's Aid to Conflict Victims in Palestine**

In the "Palestine 100 Days and Palestine 300 Days" programs, Human Initiative continues its humanitarian support after more than 300 days of crisis in Gaza. This assistance includes water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs, psychosocial support, and strengthening of medical services.

Human Initiative has provided WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) assistance to the Palestinian people to meet basic needs for clean water, sanitation, and hygiene. One of the primary forms of assistance is the distribution of clean water. A total of 100,000 liters of water has been distributed to reach 6,667 individuals at the Khan Yunes refugee site in Gaza. This

<sup>31</sup> Human Initiative. (2024). *Humanitarian Aid Continues, Wujud Human Initiative dan Seluruh Mitra Kolaborasi Bangun Komitmen Berkelanjutan Terhadap Dukungan Kemanusiaan di Palestina*. Diakses pada 13 Januari 2025, dari <https://human-initiative.org/humanitarian-aid-continues-wujud-human-initiative-dan-seluruh-mitra-kolaborasi-bangun-komitmen-berkelanjutan-terhadap-dukungan-kemanusiaan-di-palestina/>.

<sup>32</sup> Saptiyulda, E. (2024). *HI lanjutkan dukungan kemanusiaan di Palestina setelah 300 hari*. ANTARA. Diakses pada 13 Januari 2025, dari <https://www.antaraneews.com/berita/4238335/hi-lanjutkan-dukungan-kemanusiaan-di-palestina-setelah-300-hari>.



aid aims to address the limited access to potable water due to the blockade and severe infrastructure damage.<sup>33</sup>

Human Initiative has also enhanced sanitation infrastructure, including the repair of facilities such as public toilets, septic tanks, and drainage systems, to prevent the spread of diseases in refugee areas and densely populated settlements. As part of the WASH program, Human Initiative distributes hygiene kits containing soap, hand sanitizer, wet wipes, and other cleaning supplies to families living in areas with limited access to sanitation facilities.

Subsequently, Human Initiative provided cash assistance to the Palestinian population to support emergency needs as well as their economic recovery. This assistance is designed to offer affected communities the flexibility to meet their specific needs amidst the complex crisis. Human Initiative distributed direct cash aid to refugee families in Gaza and refugee camps in Egypt to address daily needs such as food, clothing, and household items. Additionally, cash support was provided to patients in need of emergency medical treatment and to healthcare workers who are struggling amidst the limitations of medical facilities. A total of 375 individuals have received Cash Assistance from Human Initiative.<sup>34</sup>

Human Initiative has provided Food Security assistance to support food security in Palestine, particularly amidst the deepening crisis caused by the prolonged conflict. Human Initiative distributed food packages to 333 survivor families in Gaza as a response to the escalating conflict, particularly since October 2023.<sup>35</sup> Furthermore, through collaboration with communities such as BTS ARMY Indonesia, Human Initiative successfully raised additional donations to provide 200 more food packages, helping to meet the basic needs of the population amidst logistical constraints caused by the fuel crisis and infrastructure damage. To date, Human Initiative's humanitarian efforts have reached 79,318 individuals with Food Assistance in Palestine.<sup>36</sup>

Human Initiative has provided much-needed medical assistance in Palestine, particularly in Gaza, to support healthcare efforts amidst the ongoing crisis. One of the key actions taken by Human Initiative was the distribution of 432 medical supply packages to Al-Shifa Hospital, which is one of the main medical facilities in Gaza. These aid packages included emergency medications, first aid kits, and other essential supplies critical for treating civilians injured in

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<sup>33</sup> Indrastuti. (2024). Human Initiative Berkolaborasi Beri Dukungan Kemanusiaan di Palestina. Media Indonesia. Diakses pada 13 Januari 2025, dari [https://mediaindonesia.com/humaniora/690549/human-initiative-berkolaborasi-beri-dukungan-kemanusiaan-di-palestina#google\\_vignette](https://mediaindonesia.com/humaniora/690549/human-initiative-berkolaborasi-beri-dukungan-kemanusiaan-di-palestina#google_vignette)

<sup>34</sup> Saptiyulda. E. (2024). HI lanjutkan dukungan kemanusiaan di Palestina setelah 300 hari. Diakses pada 13 Januari 2025, dari <https://www.antaraneews.com/berita/4238335/hi-lanjutkan-dukungan-kemanusiaan-di-palestina-setelah-300-hari>.

<sup>35</sup> Human Initiative. (2023). Memperkuat Dukungan Masyarakat Indonesia, Human Initiative Kirim Bantuan Kemanusiaan untuk Gaza. Diakses pada 30 Desember 2024, dari <https://human-initiative.org/menguatkan-dukungan-masyarakat-indonesia-human-initiative-kirim-bantuan-kemanusiaan-untuk-gaza/>

<sup>36</sup> Human Initiative. (2023). Mendukung Pemenuhan Pangan Palestina, Human Initiative Bersama BTS ARMY Indonesia Kirim Sembako untuk Keluarga di Gaza. Diakses pada 30 Desember 2024, dari <https://human-initiative.org/mendukung-pemenuhan-pangan-palestina-human-initiative-bersama-bts-army-indonesia-kirim-sembako-untuk-keluarga-di-gaza/>



the conflict. This assistance provides vital support to healthcare workers who are operating under highly constrained and hazardous conditions.<sup>37</sup>

In addition to providing physical assistance, Human Initiative also offers psychosocial support to survivors who have experienced trauma due to the prolonged conflict in Palestine. Human Initiative recognizes that the humanitarian crisis impacts not only basic needs such as food, water, and shelter, but also the mental health of the affected individuals. Human Initiative provides holistic aid, addressing both emotional and psychological aspects, to help survivors cope with the trauma and stress they have endured.

One of the efforts undertaken is the provision of counseling services and psychological support to individuals directly exposed to violence and suffering as a result of the conflict. This service involves trained professionals, such as psychologists and counselors, who work with local communities to provide assistance tailored to the specific needs of each individual. The psychosocial support program also includes support groups for victims, where they can share experiences, as well as healing activities designed to help restore a sense of safety and emotional stability.

Human Initiative collaborates with local partners to ensure that these services are accessible to those most in need, particularly children, women, and vulnerable individuals. The psychosocial support also includes training for healthcare workers and volunteers, equipping them with the skills necessary to address the psychological conditions of survivors. A total of 1,000 individuals have received Psychosocial Support from Human Initiative.

Human Initiative also provides winter relief assistance, including the procurement of thick blankets, heating fuel, and warm clothing, to help Palestinian communities survive in extreme temperatures. Human Initiative distributed 1,000 packages of warm clothing designed to assist families in need to cope with the cold. These packages include jackets, blankets, and other apparel suitable for winter. Additionally, heating equipment was distributed to help families manage low temperatures during the night, thereby enhancing their comfort and health. This winter aid aims to alleviate the burden on Palestinian communities affected by extreme weather conditions and improve their quality of life amidst the existing challenges. This assistance has reached 3,220 individuals.

## Conclusion

The Palestine-Israel conflict has deep historical roots, beginning in the late 19th century with the rise of the Zionist movement and British support through the 1917 Balfour Declaration. The conflict and large-scale displacement of Palestinians marked the onset of a prolonged struggle. Tensions have continued, with significant incidents such as Hamas rocket attacks and Israel's military responses, often resulting in significant casualties on both sides. The situation is further exacerbated by the Gaza blockade, the expulsion of Palestinians, and escalating violence, including the major escalation in 2023 with Hamas attacks and intensive Israeli

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<sup>37</sup> Human Initiative. (2023). Gaza Krisis Pasokan Medis, Human Initiative Bersama Kebaikan BTS ARMY Indonesia Hadirkan Paket Medis di RS Al-Shifa. Diakses pada 30 Desember 2024, dari <https://human-initiative.org/gaza-krisis-pasokan-medis-human-initiative-bersama-kebaikan-bts-army-indonesia-hadirkan-paket-medis-di-rs-al-shifa/>



retaliation. This conflict continues to cause severe humanitarian consequences, while a peaceful resolution remains elusive due to differing viewpoints and violations of previous agreements.

The humanitarian crisis in Palestine, particularly in the Gaza Strip, encompasses various issues such as the shortage of clean water, an energy crisis, damage to sanitation systems, food scarcity, and limited healthcare services. These conditions are exacerbated by the blockade, military attacks, and the collapse of infrastructure, resulting in significant physical and psychological health impacts on the population, including children. Additionally, economic challenges, such as a shortage of cash and soaring prices of essential goods, further compound the situation. Housing crises are also a major concern, with many homes destroyed or damaged, and shelter conditions being inadequate. Overall, there is an urgent need for international support and long-term solutions to prevent a greater humanitarian catastrophe.

In providing aid to Palestine, Human Initiative commenced with the first phase of distribution, which was witnessed directly by the President of the Republic of Indonesia on November 4, 2023. The aid was sent through Egypt as the main distribution route to Gaza, in collaboration with local partners and humanitarian organizations such as the Egyptian Red Crescent. In addition to material assistance, the Indonesian community also played a crucial role in fundraising to support the urgent needs of the Palestinian population. The aid provided by Human Initiative reached various affected regions, including Gaza North, Wadi Gaza, Deir al Balah, Khan Younis, and Rafah. The assistance included the distribution of food, clean water, medicines, and psychosocial support for vulnerable groups, including children and women. In addition to Gaza, aid was also provided to refugees in Egypt in the form of cash assistance and medical support.

Human Initiative has implemented a sustainable aid program through the "Bantu Palestina" campaign, which is divided into two phases: "Palestine 100 Days" and "Palestine 300 Days." This program serves as a response to the escalation of the conflict since October 7, 2023, which led to the displacement of 90% of Gaza's population. Through collaboration with various communities in Indonesia, such as One Day One Juz (ODOJ) and BTS ARMY Indonesia, Human Initiative has successfully reached over 219,000 beneficiaries with various forms of assistance, including sanitation, medical services, and psychosocial support. The fundraising campaign conducted by Human Initiative raised more than IDR 457 million to meet the urgent needs of the Palestinian population.

In its efforts to support the victims of the conflict in Palestine, Human Initiative provides assistance across various sectors, including water sanitation (WASH), cash assistance, food security, and healthcare services. Human Initiative has distributed over 100,000 liters of clean water, repaired sanitation infrastructure, and provided hygiene kits to thousands of Gaza residents. Additionally, cash assistance has been provided to refugee families and healthcare workers to support their basic needs. In the area of food security, Human Initiative has distributed food packages to thousands of affected families, while in the healthcare sector, medical aid has included the delivery of supplies to hospitals and incentives for healthcare workers. Through these initiatives, Human Initiative remains committed to making a positive impact and alleviating the suffering of the Palestinian people.



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