gather for gaza
What is Gather for Gaza + what does it support?

One of the most creative ways that supporters of UNRWA USA raise money to support UNRWA food assistance for refugees in the Gaza Strip is by hosting a Gather for Gaza fundraising event.

These events can come in many forms, and since you know your guests best, it’s up to you to pick a gathering they will enjoy the most. Some past hosts have held traditional iftar dinners during Ramadan, vegan potlucks, birthday parties, and wine and cheese gatherings.

Regardless of what you choose to do, the purpose of your gathering for Gaza is to connect with your community to educate them on the humanitarian situation facing Palestine refugees in Gaza and generate funds during Ramadan for UNRWA’s at-risk food assistance program.

Here is a bit of background on UNRWA’s food assistance program and the conditions Palestine refugees are living under in the Gaza Strip.

Gaza has been under an illegal blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt for more than eleven years, causing staggering levels of unemployment and poverty. Consequently, one million of the over 1.3 million Palestine refugees in Gaza rely on UNRWA food assistance to meet their basic daily needs.

UNRWA food assistance packages come four times a year to families living under the poverty line. With the US’ abrupt defunding of the Agency in August 2018, UNRWA had to reduce services for refugees in Gaza, including the mental health and cash-for-work programs. Food assistance is the next program at risk.

For $150, you can provide one quarterly food basket containing enough flour, rice, whole milk, oil, chickpeas, lentils and protein-rich sardines to feed a family of six for three months.
**step 1**

**Sign up online to host a Gather for Gaza event.**

When you sign up a fundraising page will automatically be created. Next, set your goal. $150 can provide food assistance for a Palestine refugee family for three months, so set a goal that is divisible by 150. Now, when you talk to your guests, you can be clear about the impact. The more you raise, the more families you provide food assistance to!

Provide UNRWA food assistance to 4 refugee families this summer $600

$600 can provide 4 refugee families with a food parcel containing enough flour, rice, sugar, sunflower oil, whole milk, chickpeas, lentils, and protein-rich sardines to last the next quarter.

Provide UNRWA food assistance to 20 refugee families this summer $3,000

$3,000 can provide 20 refugee families with a food parcel containing enough flour, rice, sugar, sunflower oil, whole milk, chickpeas, lentils, and protein-rich sardines to last the next quarter.

Provide UNRWA food assistance to 8 refugee families this summer $1,200

$1,200 can provide 8 refugee families with a food parcel containing enough flour, rice, sugar, sunflower oil, whole milk, chickpeas, lentils, and protein-rich sardines to last the next quarter.

Provide UNRWA food assistance to 40 refugee families this summer $6,000

$6,000 can provide a food parcel to 40 refugee families containing enough flour, rice, sugar, sunflower oil, whole milk, chickpeas, lentils, and protein-rich sardines to last the next quarter.

Personalize your fundraising page with a photo and a description to let people know why the cause is important to you.

Once you set up your page, you will be emailed your personalized link. Include it in all communications with your friends and guests.

And remember, we are here to help!

Once you are signed up to host, a member of the UNRWA USA team, will be in touch to answer any questions and set you up for success!

**step 2**

**Receive a Gather for Gaza hosting kit by making a donation of $30 or more to your fundraising page.**

Before asking others to support your event, show your commitment by making a donation of your own. If you make a minimum $30 donation to your own fundraising page, we will mail you the official Gather for Gaza hosting kit (pictured below) that includes:

- Ten (10) place cards for your guests’ names
- Ten (10) menu cards to preview the meal
- Three (3) informational table tents to inform your guests about conditions in the Gaza Strip and UNRWA food assistance
- Three (3) educational one-pagers outlining UNRWA’s work, UNRWA USA’s work, and UNRWA food assistance in the Gaza Strip.
- One (1) decorative banner spelling out “Gather for Gaza” for festive photo ops
- Eight (8) conversation cards to spark dialogue on thought-provoking topics
- One (1) sign to fill out at the end of the night for a photo op to showcase your impact
- UNRWA USA donation envelopes to make collecting offline donations easier

And remember, we are here to help!
Plan the details of your gathering

Start by picking the date and time. If you’re participating as part of UNRWA USA’s Ramadan campaign, Ramadan falls between May and June in 2019.

Be creative with your gathering! You can host Taco Tuesday at the park, have a virtual iftar where everyone orders take out and you meet over Skype, meet at your favorite local restaurant, host a BBQ potluck, or a pizza dinner with friends and family at your home.

Have fun with your theme! As a reminder, make sure to take into consideration dietary restrictions and allergies.

Get inspired by your neighbors -- [here are some photos from past participants who all interpreted their event in creative and different ways!](#)

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Invite your guests and start fundraising

Download this [Gather for Gaza invitation graphic](#) and upload it to Paperless Post using any of these customizable templates.

Remove the optional liner and envelope to keep the invite free to send. Use the tools to add in a line about your event, the date, time, location, and any other relevant info.

On the “enter details” page in Paperless Post, there is a section called “event page settings.” Click the blue button at the bottom that says “additional options” and select “include additional information for your guest.” This is where you can put your fundraising link!

Social media is a great tool for inviting people to attend your gathering and donate to your page. Even if they cannot attend in person, they can still donate to provide food assistance to Palestine refugee families in Gaza. So share your fundraising link with friends and family across the country and ask them to help you reach your goal.

Get creative with your fundraising! You could match donations to a set amount or give $3 for each donation made. Offer the favorite dessert of the individual who makes the largest donation as a prize, and check with your employer about a matching gift to double your impact.
Host your Gather for Gaza event

It's the big day! Decorate with the Gather for Gaza materials you will receive by mail!

During your event, take a moment to share with your guests why you support UNRWA USA and why food assistance is so urgently needed in the Gaza Strip (look at the table tents and one-pagers for talking points). Encourage your friends and family to use the conversation cards to create dialogue around access to sufficient food and challenges facing refugees in the US, the Gaza Strip, and beyond.

Before your event is over, make a pitch for donations in order to meet your fundraising goal. Remember, people will not donate if you don’t ask! Have a computer, phone, or tablet loaded with your fundraising page so people can make donations on the spot. Another idea is to text the fundraising link to your guests during your iftar or in a follow up thank you message after the event.

You can collect checks, cash, or credit card donations and send them in using the envelopes provided in the hosting kit. Please make sure that every donor fills out their own envelope so that UNRWA USA can provide a proper tax receipt.
step 6 Spread the love with #gatherforgaza

Be part of a global conversation by using #gatherforgaza on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram and share photos of the gathering you hosted, your Spotify playlist, and the most interesting answers to the questions on the conversation cards. When your guests use the hashtag too, you’ll have a creatively curated collection of memories from the event while also spreading further awareness about the cause!

Do not forget the photo op! Fill in the blank on the sign included in your hosting kit with the number of families you made food available for and take a photo with guests holding it.

For the correct number of families, divide the total amount raised by 150. Pro tip: write your number with a Sharpie (legible and large!) and have the people holding the sign front and center to best show off and share your collective impact!

In addition to UNRWA USA liking and reposting any public photos, we will follow up with you after the event to discuss your success and collect photos from the event.

and thank YOU for showing palestine refugeees that americans care