



## AKELIUS FOUNDATION GIVES 55 MILLION TO UNICEF'S WORK IN GAZA AND THE WEST BANK

Tens of thousands of children receive education, recreational activities and psychosocial support through the donation.

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About the collaboration between Akelius Foundation and UNICEF

## 50,000 children in Gaza receive education during the summer

The Akelius Foundation is donating \$5.8 million, equivalent to approximately SEK 55 million, to UNICEF's work in Gaza and the West Bank. The support will provide tens of thousands of children with education and recreational activities during the coming summer months.

In Gaza, 50,000 children will be able to access education, recreational activities and psychosocial support at UNICEF's temporary learning centres this summer. In addition, preparations are underway for 14,000 children, many with special needs, to return to regular school this autumn.

In the West Bank, an additional 30,000 children will have the opportunity for summer activities. In addition, 2,500 teachers will be supported to better help and educate children who have experienced trauma or other difficulties.

The hope is that after the summer, with continued funding from the Akelius Foundation, we will establish a long-term program that will support children in Gaza and the West Bank for several years so that they can gain hope and faith in the future through education.



*Just like all other children in the world, the children in Gaza have the right to education. Bombs, hunger and displacement have denied them that right for a very long time. It is incredibly frustrating to have to spend so much resources on rebuilding what others are destroying – but here we are now. Neither I nor UNICEF can stop the war in Gaza. But we can support the children who are affected by it, and then we must do so.*

– Roger Akelius, founder of the Akelius Foundation

## **Almost all schools in Gaza have been destroyed or damaged**

Since October 2023, all schools in Gaza have been closed for education, meaning that around 658,000 students have not had access to formal schooling for more than 20 months.

By early 2025, over 95 percent of school buildings in Gaza had been damaged or completely destroyed by bombings and attacks. 88 percent of school buildings are so damaged that they require extensive renovations before they can be used again.



*Children's rights apply to all children, everywhere and all the time. All children have the right to life. But also to learning and to an education. We must do everything we can to save lives here and now but also invest in children's development and hope for the future.*

– Pernilla Baralt, UNICEF Sweden Secretary General

Tens of thousands of children have been injured during the war, many of them so seriously that they will have a disability for the rest of their lives. This means that thousands of students need adapted premises and extra support to be able to return to school. One million children in Gaza are estimated to be severely traumatized by their experiences during the war.



*We must ensure that all children have the opportunity to dream and see a glimpse of their future. That glimpse is school and education. That is precisely why this donation is so crucial.*

– Pernilla Baralt

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[UNICEF Sweden has had a partnership with the Akelius Foundation](#) since 2017. The partnership runs a joint language training project that, among other things, contributes to the integration of refugee children.

In February 2025, the Akelius Foundation doubled all donations that UNICEF Sweden collected for Gaza. The campaign raised 34 million SEK. The Akelius Foundation has previously doubled UNICEF's donations to Ukraine and to the work for the right of all children to education.

Overall, the collaboration has contributed hundreds of millions of kronor to UNICEF's efforts for child survival, health and development.

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