

World

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Swedish foundation plans to build 400 schools while more than 650,000 children in Gaza remain without education for two years



The Swedish Akelius Foundation plans to build 400 schools in Gaza, where more than 650,000 children have been left without access to education for two years after 97 percent of school buildings in the territory were destroyed.

The initiative aims to restore educational opportunities following massive damage to educational infrastructure across Gaza.

The Akelius Foundation, founded in 2007, has previously provided \$60 million in aid to Palestine. Its latest contribution to Gaza is worth \$75 million.

Specializing in modern pedagogy, the foundation runs free online language and mathematics courses with a team of around 150 employees.

With an annual budget of around \$300 million, the foundation strives to focus its resources on educational projects and has supported education initiatives in 40 countries.

It operates primarily through humanitarian organizations, including UNICEF, UNHCR, SOS Children's Villages and Doctors Without Borders (MSF).

In an interview with Anadolu Agency, the foundation's founder Roger Akelius said that the foundation plans to provide access to schooling, playgrounds and food for children in Gaza.

He noted that the latest donation will finance the construction of 400 schools, each intended for 250 children.

- This is a challenging project. Our goal is to build school tents and permanent facilities, hire teachers and provide 100,000 meals a day for five years. As usual, Israel will restrict or deny access. They will shoot at school staff and children - said Akelius.

He added that the Swedish government has informed the Israeli authorities about this humanitarian effort. Through UNICEF, Sweden contributed about 35 million dollars, which brings the total aid package to more than 100 million dollars.

Her existing school in Gaza ceased operations after Israel destroyed or damaged most of the educational institutions in the territory.

According to Akelius, children in Gaza need not only to learn to read and write, but also to experience a sense of normal life again.

According to UNICEF, more than 97 percent of schools in Gaza have been damaged, and around 658,000 children have not attended classes for two years.

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