BACKGROUND

Longstanding restrictions on the movement of people and goods to and from Gaza have undermined the living conditions of 1.8 million Palestinians in Gaza. Many of the current restrictions, originally imposed by Israel in the early 1990s, were intensified after June 2007, following the Hamas takeover of Gaza and the imposition of a blockade. Though there has been a welcome increase in the movement of people and goods from Gaza, these restrictions continue to reduce access to livelihoods, essential services and housing, disrupt family life, and undermine people’s hopes for a secure and prosperous future. The situation has been compounded by the restrictions imposed since June 2013 by the Egyptian authorities at Rafah Crossing, which had become the main crossing point used by Palestinian passengers in the Gaza Strip, given the above restrictions on the Israeli-controlled crossings.

MOVEMENT AND ACCESS OF PEOPLE*

EREZ CROSSING

• In March, Erez crossing between Gaza and Israel was open for 27 out of 27 scheduled days.
• The number of crossings during March was around the monthly average recorded since the beginning of 2016.
• The crossing is accessible only to Israeli issued permit holders, primarily medical and other humanitarian cases, merchants, and aid workers.
• UN Gaza staff permit approval rates have continuously decreased since the beginning of this year.

RAFAH CROSSING

• Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt was closed during the whole month of March.
• The crossing has been closed since 24 October 2014, except for 42 days.
• There are at least 30,000 Palestinians registered as humanitarian cases waiting to leave Gaza via Rafah.
• Prior to the closure, a monthly average of 4,000 people crossed Rafah for health-related reasons.

RAFAH : Number of crossings in both directions

March 2006 - Israel stops allowing Palestinian workers into Israel
June 2007 - Gaza blockade

MOVEMENT OF GOODS FROM AND INTO GAZA

EXIT OF GOODS

• Kerem Shalom operated on 19 out of 27 scheduled days during daytime (08:00 - 19:00).
• 131 truckloads of goods exited Gaza, and this represents a 54% decrease compared to January 2016. Trucks exited to the following destinations:
  - 85 truckloads of agricultural products and clothing to the West Bank;
  - 21 truckloads of agricultural products and scrap metal to Israel;
  - 25 truckloads of agricultural products to international markets.

* The figures reflect number of times people crossed, but not the actual number of people crossing.

Information on the status of border crossings and numbers of truckloads is based on data provided by the Gaza Ministry of National Economy, UNRWA, UNESCO and Paltrade (Palestine Trade Center).
Number of truckloads entering Gaza

Breakdown of goods imported in March 2016 (in truckloads)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number of Truckloads</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Supplies</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education/Stationary</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packaging Applications</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vehicles/Transporters</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock</td>
<td>108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Raw Materials</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hygiene/Cleaning Supplies</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Edible Consumables</td>
<td>342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industrial/Electrical Appliances</td>
<td>537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Feed</td>
<td>348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Food Products</td>
<td>1,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restricted Construction Materials</td>
<td>2,186</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Construction Materials</td>
<td>3,971</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Humanitarian vs commercial imports (in truckloads)**

- Monthly Average 2016
- Monthly Total
- Feb    2,294  2,073  3,090  3,275  3,427  3,941  3,089  2,198  2,127
- Mar    3,305  4,107  4,815  5,652  6,341  7,890  10,664  10,831  11,630

- Humanitarian
- Commercial

**Fuel imports into Gaza**

Kerem Shalom remained the only crossing available for the import of fuel, allowing the entry of:
- 21.9 million litres of petrol & diesel.
- 7.3 million litres of industrial fuel for the Gaza Power Plant.
- 5,448 tons of cooking gas, which represents around 72% of the estimated needs of around 7,500 tons, according to the Gas Station Owners’ Association (Dec 2014 estimate).