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. These restrictions have reduced access to livelihoods, essential services and housing, disrupted family life, and undermined 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 February, Erez crossing between Gaza and Israel was open for 25 out of 25 scheduled days.
• The number of crossings during February decreased by 7% compared to the previous month.
• Accessible only to Israeli issued permit holders, primarily medical and other humanitarian cases, merchants, and aid workers.

RAFAH CROSSING

• Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt opened on three out of 29 scheduled days during February 2016.
• 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.

EXIT OF GOODS

• Kerem Shalom operated on 18 out of 25 scheduled days during daytime (08:00 - 19:00).
• 176 truckloads of goods exited Gaza, and this represents 39% decrease compared to January 2016 to the following destinations:
  - 134 truckloads of agricultural products and clothing to West Bank;
  - 25 truckloads of agricultural products and scrap metal to Israel;
  - 17 truckloads of agricultural products to international markets.

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

Kerem Shalom remained the only crossing available for the import of fuel, allowing the entry of:

- 19.9 million liters of petrol & diesel.
- 7.1 million liters of industrial fuel for the Gaza Power Plant.
- 4,806 tons of cooking gas. This is about a third of the monthly estimated demand.

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

- Commercial: 2,073
- Humanitarian: 563

**Entry of restricted basic construction materials in February per sector (in truckloads)**

- Private Sector through the GRM: 3,989
- UNRWA: 350
- UNDP: 14
- Palestinian Water Authority: 11

* Primarily includes cement and steel bars, aggregates removed from dual use materials list.

** The GRM is a temporary agreement between the Government of Palestine and the Government of Israel, brokered by the United Nations in September 2014, to allow the entry of dual use items, including building materials for repairs and reconstruction of private housing and infrastructure damaged or destroyed during the hostilities, as well as new projects not related to damages during hostilities. Prior to the GRM the import of construction material was limited to international organizations following a lengthy approval procedure, but not for the private sector or shelter self-help programs.

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