

## BACKGROUND

Longstanding restrictions on the movement of people and goods to and from Gaza have undermined the living conditions of approximately two million Palestinians in that area. 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 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 restrictions on the Israeli-controlled crossings. On 1 November 2017, pursuant to the Palestinian reconciliation agreement reached on 12 October, the Hamas authorities handed over control of the Gaza side of the Erez, Kerem Shalom and Rafah crossings to the Palestinian Authority; a Hamas-run checkpoint that controlled access to the Erez crossing ("Arba' Arba") was dismantled.



Interactive versions of the following charts are available at [www.ochaopt.org/gaza-crossings/](http://www.ochaopt.org/gaza-crossings/)

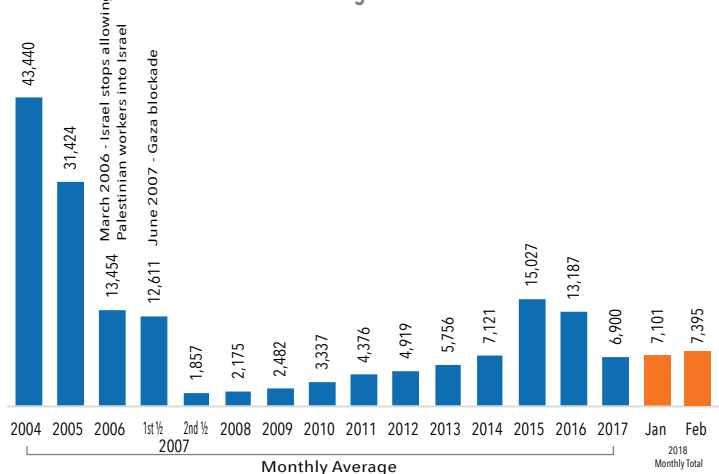


## MOVEMENT AND ACCESS OF PEOPLE\*

### EREZ CROSSING

- Opened on 24 days (closed on four Saturdays) during daytime hours, from Sunday to Thursday for all permit holders (primarily medical cases, merchants, foreign nationals and aid workers), and, on Fridays, for exceptional humanitarian cases and foreign nationals.
- The volume of crossings into Israel during February was 7% above the monthly average in 2017 but 44% below the monthly average in 2016.
- 2,781 of the crossings were for trading and commercial purposes compared to 2,477 as monthly average in 2017, the largest category, followed by 2,076 crossings for medical reasons.

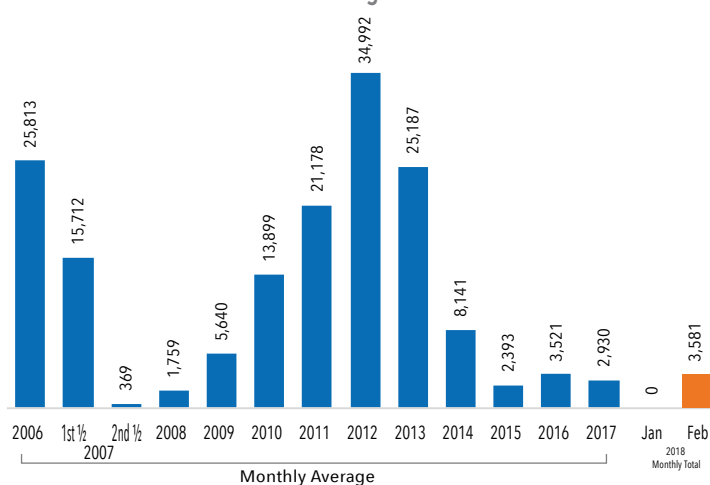
EREZ: Crossings into Israel



### RAFAH CROSSING

- Exceptionally opened for four days in both directions, and three days in one direction.
- A total of 3,581 crossings were recorded (2,207 exits and 1,374 entries).
- Since the beginning of 2018, Rafah crossing was partially opened for only seven days.
- In 2017, Rafah crossing was partially opened for only 36 days.
- At least 23,000 people with urgent needs are pre-registered and waiting to cross into Egypt, according to the local authorities in Gaza.
- Prior to the closure of Rafah in 2014, a monthly average of 4,000 people crossed for health-related reasons (WHO).

RAFAH: Crossings in both directions



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

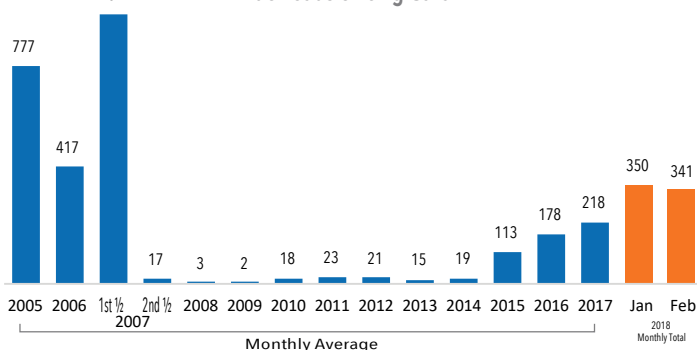


## MOVEMENT OF GOODS FROM AND INTO GAZA

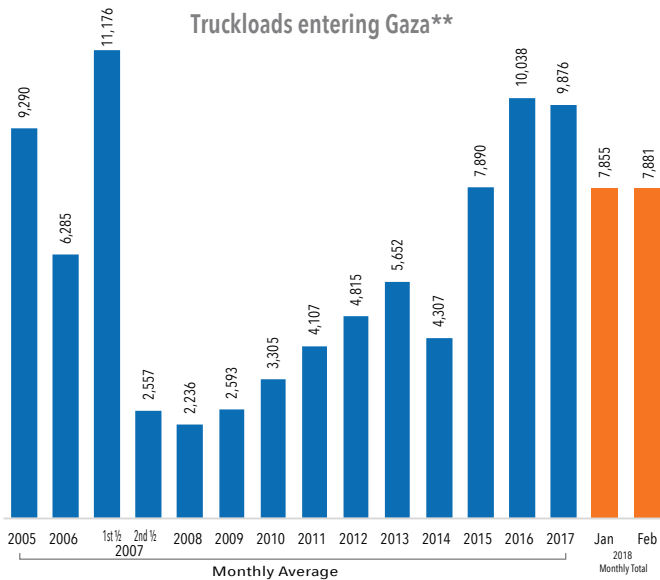
### EXIT OF GOODS

- The exit of authorized goods via the Kerem Shalom Crossing took place on 20 days.
- The volume of truckloads that exited Gaza represented a 56% increase compared with the monthly average in 2017, but was 65% below the monthly average in the first half of 2007, before the imposition of the blockade.
- Goods exited to the following destinations:
  - West Bank: 243 truckloads of agricultural produce, 7 of fish, 6 of non-edible consumables and 2 of clothing;
  - Israel: 71 truckloads of agricultural produce, scrap metal and garments; and
  - International markets: 12 truckloads of agricultural produce.
- Kerem Shalom Crossing is currently the only regular commercial route for the exit of goods from Gaza.

Truckloads exiting Gaza



### Truckloads entering Gaza\*\*



### ENTRY OF GOODS

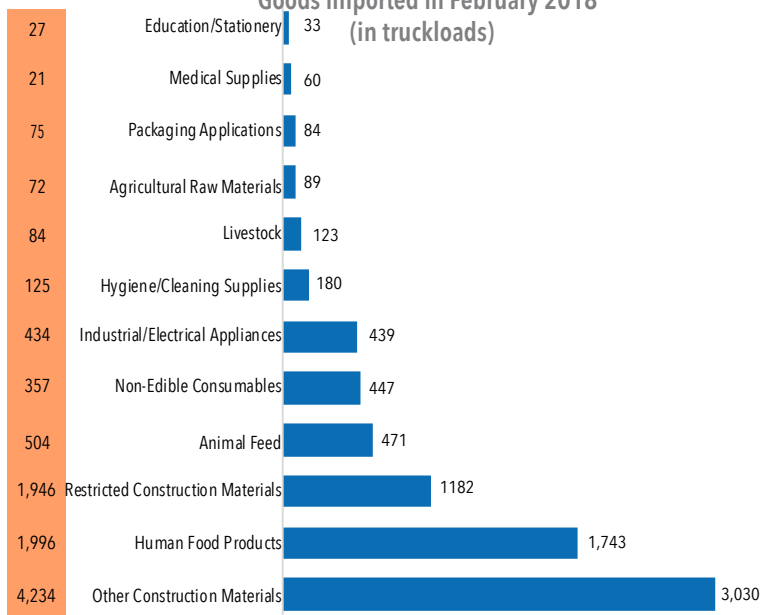
- Kerem Shalom crossing operated for the entry of goods on 20 days.
- While the Rafah crossing was closed during the month for the entry of goods (except fuel), the Salah Ad-Din Gate next to it, was opened on four days allowing the entry of 120 truckloads of goods.
- The volume of goods that entered in February was 20% below the monthly average recorded in 2017, and 29% below the first half of 2007, prior to the imposition of the blockade.
- 3% of the imported truckloads were designated for humanitarian aid agencies.
- 4,212 truckloads carried construction materials, constituting the largest category of imports (50%).
- 26% of construction materials' truckloads contained items (cement, steel bars) defined by Israel as having a 'dual use', approved via the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM).
- The volume of construction material truckloads that entered in February was 32% below the monthly average in 2017.
- Karni, Sufa and Nahal Oz crossings with Israel remain closed.

\* Closed on four Saturdays, four Fridays and two days due to Israeli closure.

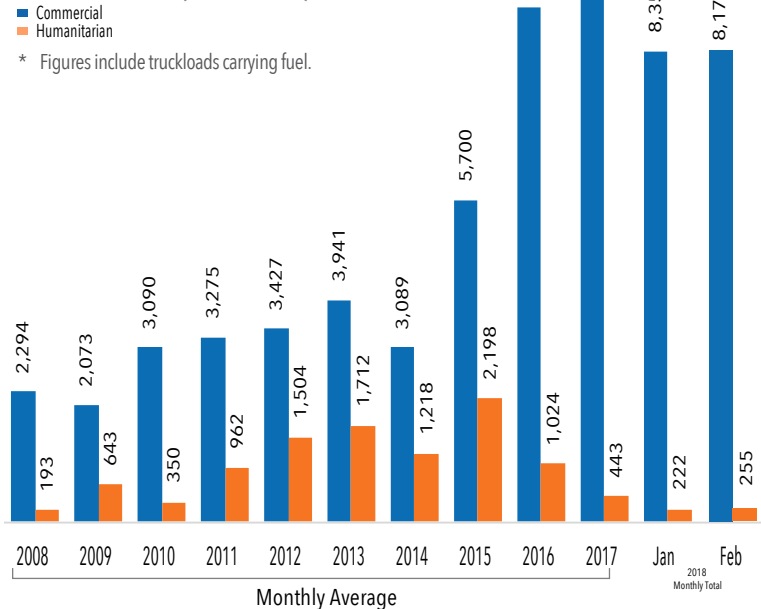
\*\* Figures exclude truckloads carrying fuel.

Monthly Average in 2017

### Goods imported in February 2018 (in truckloads)



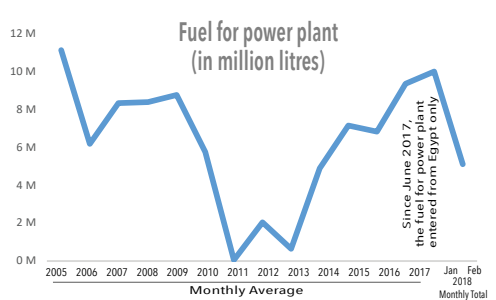
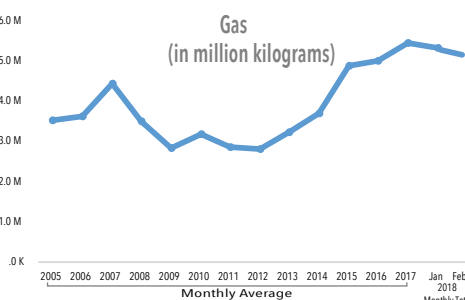
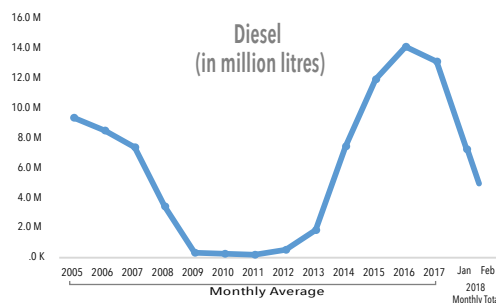
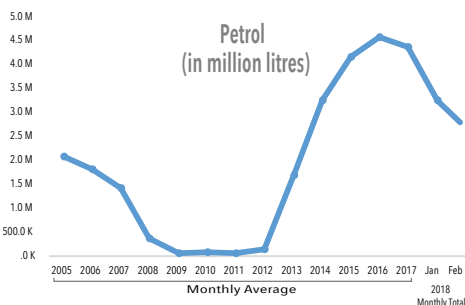
### Humanitarian vs. commercial imports (in truckloads)\*



\* Figures include truckloads carrying fuel.



## FUEL IMPORTS INTO GAZA



### FUEL IMPORTS

Kerem Shalom opened on 20 days for the import of fuel, allowing the entry of:

- 7.65 million litres of petrol and diesel; and
- 5,065 tons of cooking gas, which represents about 68% of the estimated needs, according to the Gas Station Owners' Association.

Rafah Crossing opened on 7 days during February for the entry of fuel, allowing the entry of:

- 5 million litres of fuel for the Gaza Power Plant; and
- 0.7 million litres of petrol.

Imported petrol and diesel quantities in February were 52% below the monthly average in 2017.