BACKGROUND

Longstanding restrictions on the movement of people and goods to and from Gaza have undermined the living conditions of about two million Palestinians in that area. Many of the 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. Between June 2013 and May 2018, restrictions imposed at Rafah Crossing with Egypt further compounded the situation.

MOVEMENT AND ACCESS OF PEOPLE*

EREZ CROSSING
- Opened on 24 days (closed on five Saturdays and one Friday) during daytime hours, from Sunday to Thursday for all permit holders (primarily medical cases, merchants, foreign nationals and aid workers), and, on four Fridays, for exceptional humanitarian cases and foreign nationals.
- The volume of crossings into Israel during June was 27% above the monthly average in the first five months of 2018, and the largest figure recorded since September 2016.
- Exits for trading and commercial purposes (5,499), which accounted for the largest number of crossings, increased by 57% compared with the monthly average of such exits in the first five months of 2018 (3,496).
- The exit of patients and their companions (2,324) increased by 7% compared with the monthly average of such exits in the first five months of 2018 (2,181).

RAFAH CROSSING
- The Rafah crossing has been continuously open in both directions since 12 May. In June it was open in both direction during the entire month, except for two days. This is the longest continuous opening of Rafah crossing since September 2014.
- A total of 12,137 crossings were recorded (3,349 entries and 8,788 exits), this is the largest figure recorded since 2014.
- Since the beginning of 2018, Rafah crossing has been open for 65 days during daytime hours.
- The exit of pre-registered people, including humanitarian cases, continued to be prioritized.
- According to the Egyptian authorities, as of the beginning of July, Rafah crossing will remain open, except for Fridays and Saturdays, until further notice.

MOVEMENT OF GOODS FROM AND INTO GAZA

EXIT OF GOODS
- The exit of authorized goods via the Kerem Shalom Crossing took place on 18 days.
- The volume of truckloads that exited Gaza during the month, represented an increase of 33% compared with June 2017, and was 84% below the monthly average in the first half of 2007, before the imposition of the blockade.
- Goods exited to the following destinations:
  - West Bank: 71 truckloads of agricultural produce, 13 of fish, 8 of non-edible consumables and 4 of clothing;
  - Israel: 53 truckloads of agricultural produce, scrap metal and garments; and
  - International markets: 1 truckload of agricultural produce.
- Kerem Shalom Crossing is currently the only regular commercial route for the exit of goods from Gaza.

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).
GAZA CROSSINGS’ OPERATIONS STATUS: MONTHLY UPDATE - JUNE 2018

FUEL IMPORTS INTO GAZA

ENTRY OF GOODS
- Kerem Shalom crossing operated for the entry of goods on 19 days.
- 6,332 truckloads of goods were allowed to enter from Kerem Shalom, the lowest figure recorded since July 2015.
- 346 truckloads of goods and fuel were allowed from Egypt into Gaza via the Salah ad Din gate. In addition, 16 truckloads of goods entered through the Rafah crossing.
- The volume of goods imported in June were 23% below the monthly average since the beginning of 2018, and 33% lower than the monthly average recorded in 2017.
- 7% of the imported truckloads were destined for humanitarian aid agencies.
- 2,592 truckloads carried construction materials, constituting the largest category of imports (36%); however, the volume of construction materials imported in June was 44% below the monthly average in the first five months of 2018.
- 20% of the imported construction materials contained items (cement, steel bars) defined by Israel as having a ‘dual use’ were allowed to enter via the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM).
- Karni, Sufa and Nahal Oz crossings with Israel remain closed.

FUEL IMPORTS
Kerem Shalom opened on 19 days for the import of fuel, allowing the entry of:
- 8.1 million litres of petrol and diesel; and
- 5,630 tons of cooking gas, which represents about 75% of the estimated needs, according to the Gas Station Owners’ Association.

Salah ad Din Gate opened on 9 days during June for the entry of fuel, allowing the entry of:
- 4.3 million litres of diesel.
- 1.2 million litres of petrol.

Imported petrol and diesel quantities in June were 21% below the monthly average in 2017.

Goods imported in June 2018 (in truckloads)

- Education/Stationery: 25
- Packaging Applications: 64
- Medical Supplies: 70
- Agricultural Raw Materials: 89
- Livestock: 103
- Hygiene/Cleaning Supplies: 139
- Non Edible Consumables: 480
- Restricted Construction Materials: 531
- Industrial/Electrical Appliances: 569
- Animal Feed: 703
- Human Food Products: 1,778
- Other Construction Materials: 2,061

Humanitarian vs. commercial imports (in truckloads)*

* Figures include truckloads carrying fuel.

* Closed on five Saturdays, five Fridays and one Sunday.

** Figures exclude truckloads carrying fuel.

Monthly Average
in 2017