GAZA CROSSINGS’ OPERATIONS STATUS: MONTHLY UPDATE - NOVEMBER 2017

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.

MOUVEMENT AND ACCESS OF PEOPLE*

EREZ CROSSING
- Opened on 26 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 during November was the same as the monthly average since the beginning of 2017 and 47% below the monthly average in 2016.

RAFAH CROSSING
- Exceptionally opened for three days in both directions and one day for people only entering Gaza.
- A total of 4,011 crossings were registered (1,787 exits and 2,224 entries).
- Since the beginning of 2017, the crossing opened on 32 out of 334 days.
- At least 20,000 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 the crossing in 2014, a monthly average of 4,000 people crossed Rafah for health-related reasons (WHO).

MOUVEMENT 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 represented a 26% increase, compared with November 2016, but a 78% decline compared with the monthly average in November 2016 and 2015, respectively (FAO).
- Revenue from the sale of agricultural produce outside of Gaza, so far in 2017, has reached US$ 18.2 million, up from US$ 10.8 and 5.6 million in the same periods of 2016 and 2015, respectively (FAO).
- Goods exited to the following destinations:
  - To the West Bank: 125 truckloads of agricultural produce, 9 of fish, 4 of clothing and 1 of non-edible consumables;
  - To Israel: 25 truckloads of agricultural produce, scrap aluminum and garments; and
  - To international markets: 52 truckloads of agricultural produce.
- Kerem Shalom Crossing is currently the only regular commercial route for exiting goods between Gaza and abroad.

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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 - November 2017

Entry of Goods

- Kerem Shalom crossing operated for the entry of goods on 21 days.*
- The volume of goods that entered this month was 16% above the monthly average recorded since the beginning of 2017, and nearly the same as in the first half of 2007, prior to the imposition of the blockade.
- 2% of the imported truckloads were designated for humanitarian aid agencies.
- 6,565 truckloads carried construction materials, constituting the largest category of imports (55%).
- 21% of construction material truckloads contained items defined by Israel as having a 'dual use', approved via the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM).
- Karni, Sufa and Nahal Oz crossings with Israel that were closed between 2007 and 2010 remained closed.

* Figures exclude truckloads carrying fuel.
** Figures include truckloads carrying fuel.

Fuel Imports into Gaza

Kerem Shalom opened on 22 days for the import of fuel, allowing the entry of:
- 15.1 million litres of petrol and diesel; and
- 5,489 tons of cooking gas, which represents about 73% of the estimated needs, according to the Gas Station Owners' Association.

Rafah Crossing opened on 21 days during October for the entry of fuel, allowing the entry of:
- 9.7 million litres of fuel for the Gaza Power Plant; and
- 1.8 million litres of petrol.

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