

GAZA STRIP

THE HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF THE INTERNAL PALESTINIAN DIVIDE

KEY FACTS

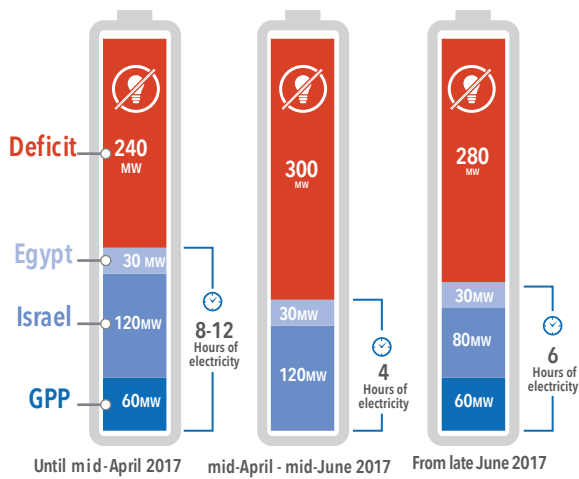
- In June 2007, following open hostilities between Fatah and Hamas, the latter took control of the Gaza Strip, initiating a divide between the West Bank-based Palestinian Authority (PA) and the de-facto Hamas authorities in Gaza.
- In October 2017, the two parties reached a reconciliation agreement and subsequently, Hamas handed over control of the Palestinian side of the three Gaza crossings to the Government of National Consensus. Most measures adopted by the PA since March 2017, which led to a deterioration of the humanitarian situation, are yet to be reverted.
- Since 2014, all 22,000 civil servants recruited by the Hamas authorities have received less than half of the equivalent PA salaries, and on an irregular basis. The other 62,000 staff in Gaza, who are on the PA's payroll but mostly remain at home, had their allowances cut since March 2017, resulting in 30-50% reduction in take-home pay.
- Measures adopted by the PA regarding the funding and taxation of fuel for the Gaza Power Plant (GPP) led to the shutdown of the plant in April 2017. The GPP resumed partial operations in late June, with fuel purchased in Egypt.
- In May 2017, the PA decided to cut its payments for the electricity that Israel, the largest supplier to Gaza, provides; in June, Israel reduced its supply accordingly by 33%.
- Since June 2017, households and service providers in Gaza are receiving between four and six hours of electricity a day.
- Some 250 critical facilities providing health, water and sanitation, and solid waste collection services are being supported by emergency fuel delivered by the UN, as of November 2017.
- Due to delays in shipments from the West Bank and longstanding funding gaps, 45% of essential drugs at the Central Drug Store in Gaza were out of stock as of October 2017.
- The referral of patients to medical treatment outside Gaza has also been disrupted since March 2017, amid disputes and accusations between the two authorities.
- Over 108 million litres of untreated sewage are being discharged into the Mediterranean every day due to electricity and fuel shortages.
- The Palestinian Civil Defense in Gaza, in charge of rescue operations during emergencies, can operate at less than 45% of its normal capacity, due to critical shortages in staff and equipment, partially due to PA budget cuts.

- 1. The division in the Palestinian civil service has reduced the capacity of local institutions in Gaza to deliver basic services, to respond to emergencies and to enforce the rule of law, increasing the hardships on the general population.** In the aftermath of the 2007 takeover, thousands of public employees in Gaza were forced by the PA to stop working, but continued receiving their salaries. Those subsequently recruited by the Hamas authorities have not received regular salaries since 2014, while those paid by the PA have recently had their allowances cut. Absenteeism as a result of the salary crisis has been compounded by the underfunding of the Gaza-based ministries, the duplication of functions and the lack of clear reporting lines.
- 2. Disputes over the funding and taxation of fuel, as well as over the collection of payments from electricity consumers, have undermined the functioning of Gaza's sole power plant (GPP) and led to its recurrent shutdown.** To cope with the long blackouts, service providers are resorting to back-up generators, which depend on the availability of fuel and are not designed for continuous use. The import of new generators and spare parts is restricted by Israel. The recent decision by the PA to reduce payments for Israeli-supplied electricity from the Israeli grid has aggravated the crisis significantly.
- 3. Medical services in Gaza have been severely affected by the electricity cuts and the reduction in the budget allocated by the PA Ministry of Health (MoH).** To cope with the lack of power, hospitals are postponing elective surgeries, discharging patients prematurely, and reducing cleaning and sterilizing of

medical facilities. Patients' long-term health is also threatened by delays in the shipment of essential drugs and disposables by the PA's MoH, and the disruption in the referral of patients to medical treatment outside Gaza. The financial crisis and the lack of training opportunities due to the access restrictions have also led to shortages in skilled personnel, especially anesthesiologists, surgical nurses and technicians.

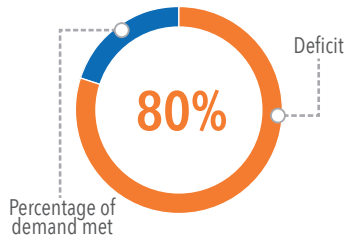
- 4. The shortage of power and of fuel to operate water and wastewater treatment facilities has reduced access to water and increased the risk of waterborne diseases.** The limited operation of water pumps and water desalination plants has led to a decline in water consumption and hygiene standards. The shortening or suspension of sewage treatment cycles has led to the increased pollution of the sea along the Gaza and southern Israel coast. There is a constant risk of back-flow of sewage onto streets, which may lead to flooding, displacement, and waterborne diseases.
- 5. Following the Hamas takeover, key donors reduced and/or conditioned their funding for humanitarian and development projects in Gaza.** This contributed to the channeling of assistance towards sectors and institutions free of Hamas control, not necessarily to areas where assistance is most needed. Restrictions stemming from counter-terrorism legislation in their countries of origin, along with the "no contact" policy with Hamas imposed by some donors, have further restricted the operational space of international NGOs in Gaza.

ELECTRICITY DEMAND/SUPPLY IN MEGAWATTS (MW)

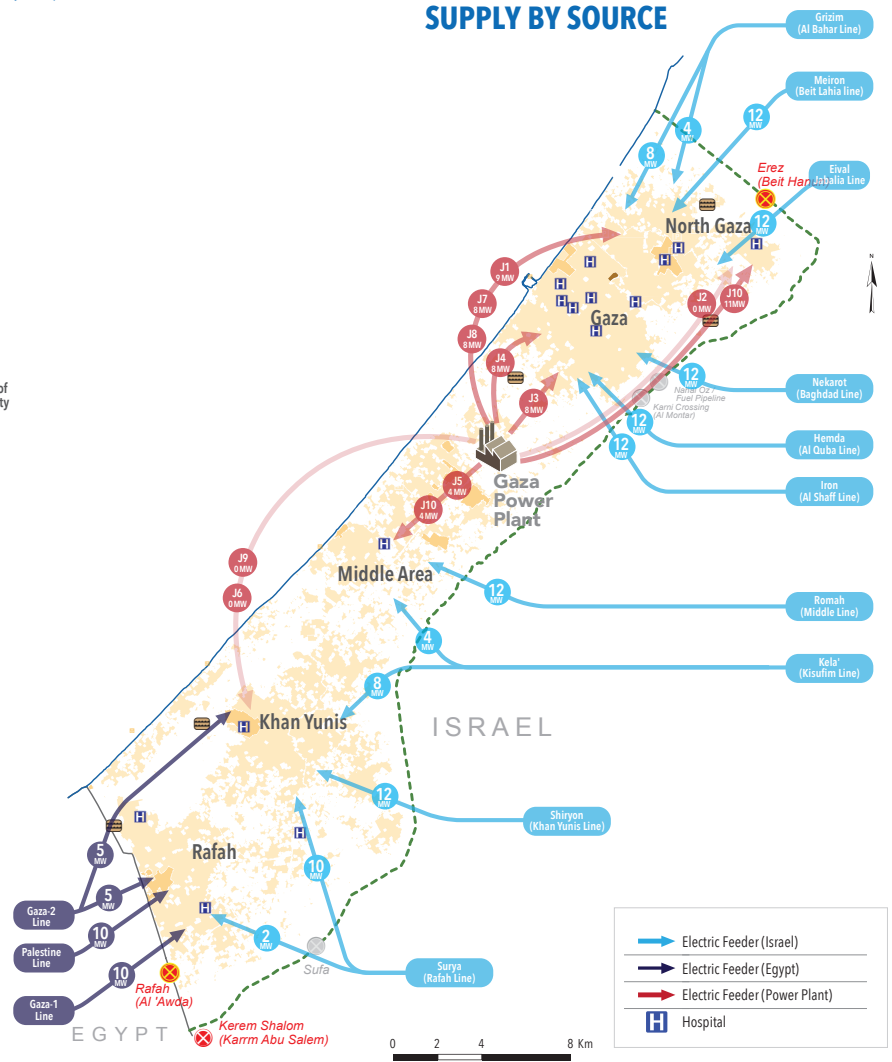


GAZA STRIP TOTAL

450 MW Demand

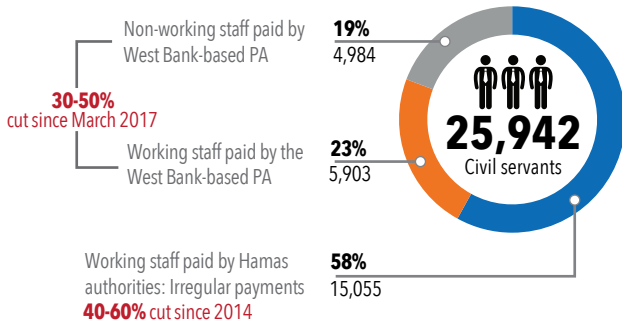


PRE-APRIL 2017 ELECTRICITY SUPPLY BY SOURCE



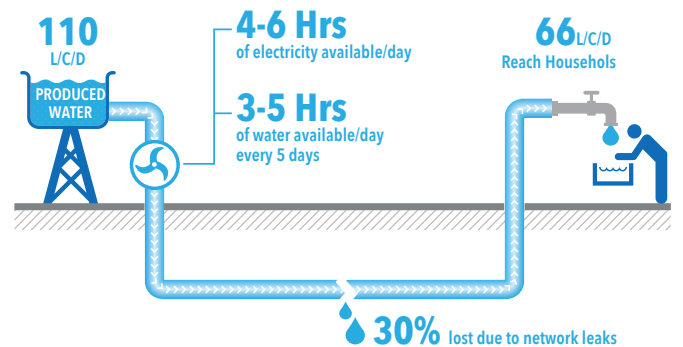
SALARY CUTS

STAFF IN THE HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WATER AND SANITATION SECTORS



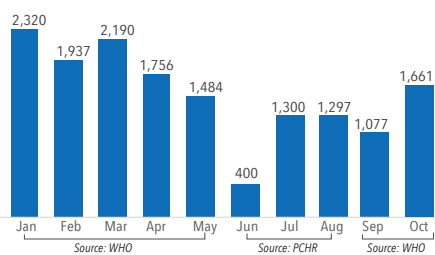
Source: Palestinian Ministry of Finance in Gaza

WATER SUPPLY IN GAZA FROM PRODUCTION TO CONSUMER



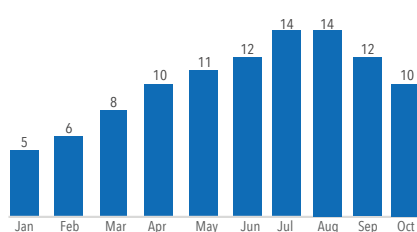
HEALTH

FINANCIAL APPROVALS OF MEDICAL REFERRALS (# OF PATIENTS)* - 2017



* Financial approvals are granted by the West Bank-based Ministry of Health

AVERAGE WAITING TIME FOR E.N.T.* ELECTIVE SURGERY AT SHIFA HOSPITAL (IN MONTHS) - 2017



* ENT: Ear, nose and throat

* Postponement of elective surgeries is a measure adopted by hospitals to cope with the energy shortages.

DIARRHEA CASES AMONG CHILDREN UNDER 3 - 2017



* The incidence of diarrhea is an indicator of the quality of water, sanitation and hygiene services and habits.