



29 March 2007

Report No. 35
Implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access
(7-20 March 2007)

The United Nations¹ is submitting the 35th bi-weekly report on the implementation of the 15 November 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access (AMA), covering the period 7-20 March 2007 inclusive.²

1. Overall Progress:

Rafah crossing was open for 7 days over the two-week period, the highest number of days open during any reporting period since the start of 2007. The operation of Karni continues to fall below agreements reached under the AMA and operated at similar levels (reaching 11% of the 400 truckloads of exported goods per day AMA target) compared to the previous period.

2. Changes of note since Report No. 34 (6 March):

- **Rafah crossing** was open for 7 days (50% of scheduled days and 27% of scheduled hours) allowing a total of 3,145 people to cross into the Gaza Strip and 7,082 people out. On 8 March an elderly Palestinian man died and nine others were injured when more than 5,000 people converged at Rafah crossing when it reopened.
- **Karni crossing** was open on 10 scheduled operating days³ (47% of scheduled operating hours) enabling a total of 2,546 truckloads of goods into and 532 truckloads of goods out of the Gaza Strip. In addition 1,666 truckloads of aggregates were imported representing approximately 40% of the total imports.⁴
- **Sufa crossing** was only open for one day out of 10 scheduled working days for the import of aggregates.
- **Kerem Shalom crossing** was open on 2 days (compared to three days during the previous reporting period).
- **Erez crossing** remains closed for more than one year to Palestinians workers entering Israel. In terms of the Palestinian movement, the crossing remains open for only traders holding special permits (an average of 329 traders crossed daily) and emergency humanitarian cases.

3. No Change since Report No. 34 (6 March):

- The number of **obstacles to movement in the West Bank** remained at 549. Overall this represents an increase of 164 or 40% over the baseline figure of August 2005.
- There were **no reported security incidents** in the areas of the crossings during the period.

Convoys between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank:

Truck convoys no discussion; implementation now more than 14 months overdue.

Bus convoys no discussion; implementation now more than 15 months overdue.

Ports:

Seaport awaiting, since November 2005, GoI assurance to donors that it will not interfere with its operation.

Airport awaiting, since November 2005, commencement of discussions.

¹ The Office of the Quartet's Special Envoy closed on 28 April. Since then the United Nations through the oPt OCHA office has assumed reporting responsibilities on the implementation of the AMA.

² The report draws on all available data sources for reporting including the EU-BAM, UN agencies, PA ministries, PalTrade, COGAT and the World Bank.

³ The crossing was closed on 12 March due to a strike on the Palestinian side by drivers and crossing workers.

⁴ Aggregates are construction materials that are primarily moved through Sufa crossing.

1. Rafah

1.a. Operation		
Days open in period		
	<i>Actual : Scheduled</i>	7 : 14 ^b 50%
Number of days experiencing a closure (total in 2-week period)	7	
Working hours (daily ave.) ^a		
	<i>Actual : Scheduled</i>	6 : 12 54%
Total working hours in period		
	<i>Actual : Scheduled</i>	45 : 168 27%
Security incidents on Palestinian side of border	0 ^c	

a: The actual working hours per day (ave.) is calculated on the basis of **actual** days open.

b: Rafah opened on 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 19 March. Actual operating hours varied from between 2 and 9.5 hours allowing a total of 3,145 people into the Gaza Strip and 7,028 out (source: UNRWA).

c: There were no reported security incidents.

1.b. Movement: Travellers and Cargo		In	Out
Travellers through Rafah (daily ave.) ^d		225	506
Number of trucks (daily ave.)		n.a.	n.a.
Number of cars (daily ave.) ^e		0	0

d: The travellers through Rafah (daily ave.) is calculated on the basis of scheduled days open i.e. 14 days.

e: Pending capacity-building of the Palestinian personnel at Rafah.

1.c. Management and Operations		YES/NO
PA established clear operating procedures		YES
Israel provided PA with population registry data		incomplete
Liaison office established		YES
PA established baggage limits		YES
PA provided the 3rd party the list of names of workers at Rafah		YES
Security working group established		YES
PA customs officials clearing incoming cargo at Kerem Shalom		NO
Kerem Shalom operating procedures being discussed		YES ⁱ

f: Working level discussions took place prior to 29 March.

n.a.= not applicable to this report

2. Crossing Points

2.a. Goods - Gaza Strip	Erez		Karni		Kerem Shalom^h		Sufa^h		Total
Days open in period			<i>Primary</i>						
<i>Actual : Scheduled^a</i>	n.a.	-	10 : 12	83%	2 : n.a.	-	1 : 10	-	13
Number of days experiencing a closure	n.a.		2	^e	n.a.		9		11
Working hours (daily ave.)									
<i>Actual : Scheduled^b</i>	n.a.	-	7.6 : 13.5	^e 56%	n.a.	-	n.a.	-	8
<i>Utilization ratio^c</i>	n.a.		no data		n.a.		n.a.		
Total working hours in period									
<i>Actual : Scheduled</i>	n.a.	-	76 : 162	47%	n.a.	-	n.a.	-	76.
Number of trucks out (daily ave.)									
<i>Actual : Scheduled</i>	n.a.	-	44.3 : 400	^f 11%	n.a.	-	n.a.	-	44.3
<i>Agricultural</i>	n.a.		28.7		n.a.		n.a.		28.7
<i>Non-Agricultural</i>	n.a.		15.7		n.a.		n.a.		15.7
Number of trucks in (daily ave.)	n.a.		212	^g	n.a.		n.a.		212
Security incidents on Palestinian side of the crossing ^d	0		0		0		0		0

2.b. People - Gaza Strip	Erez		Karni		Kerem Shalom		Sufa		Total
Days open in period	<i>Primary</i>								
<i>Actual : Scheduled</i>	14 : 14	ⁱ 100%	n.a.	-	n.a.	-	n.a.	-	14
Number of days experiencing a closure	0		n.a.		n.a.		n.a.		0
Working hours (daily ave.)									
<i>Actual : Scheduled^b</i>	n.a. : 16.5	n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	-	n.a.	-	n.a.
Total working hours in period									
<i>Actual : Scheduled</i>	n.a. : 231	n.a.	n.a.	-	n.a.	-	n.a.	-	n.a.
Travellers through crossing (daily ave.) ⁱ	<i>Traders</i>	<i>Workers</i>	<i>In</i>	<i>Out</i>	<i>In</i>	<i>Out</i>	<i>In</i>	<i>Out</i>	<i>Traders</i> <i>Workers</i>
	329	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	329 0

- a: Karni crossing is scheduled to operate six days a week and Sufa crossing is scheduled to operate five days a week. There are no scheduled operating days for Kerem Shalom crossing.
- b: The actual working hours per day (ave.) is calculated on the basis of actual days open i.e. 10 days for Karni and 14 days for Erez. All other averages are calculated on the basis of scheduled days open.
- c: Ratio of actual vs. planned working hours of scanners and cells.
- d: There were no reported security incidents during the reporting period.
- e: Karni was open on 10 days. Actual operating hours varied between 4 hours and 8.75 hours.
- f: Total truckloads of exported goods was 532 during the reporting period. The daily average number of trucks is calculated on the basis of scheduled days open i.e. 12 (source: PalTrade).
- g: Total truckloads of imports during reporting period was 2,546. (In addition 1,666 truckloads of aggregates were imported through Karni). The daily average number of trucks is calculated on the basis of scheduled days open i.e. 12 (source: PalTrade).
- h: Kerem Shalom and Sufa may operate as alternative commercial crossing points when Karni is closed. Kerem Shalom is used for humanitarian goods and Sufa for aggregates (construction materials).
- i: Erez is open for limited number of senior traders with permits: according to the MoNE, permits are only being granted to senior traders who are at least 35 years old and married with children. Some critical Palestinian humanitarian cases have been permitted to cross subject to prior coordination with the IDF.

n.a.= not applicable to this report

2.c Management and Operations - Gaza Strip	YES/NO
New and additional scanner installed at Karni by 31 December 2005	delivered but not installed
Common management system adopted by both parties	NO
New generation of x-ray equipment installed and used	NO
Passages protected on the Palestinian side of the border	NO
<i>Training program in place</i>	NO
<i>Security equipment installed</i>	NO
PA established a unified system of border management	NO
Management system developed for Karni applied to Erez and Kerem Shalom	NO

2.4 Management and Operations - West Bank	Tarkumiya	Jalame	Sha'ar Ephraim
Israel put in place similar arrangements to make West Bank passages fully operational	NO	NO	NO
Operational procedures developed for those passages	NO	NO	NO

Gaza Strip Seaport

	YES/NO
Gol assured donors that it will not interfere with operation of seaport / letter sent	NO
Tripartite committee to develop security and other arrangements for the port established	NO

Gaza Strip Airport

	YES/NO
Discussions continuing on security, construction and operations issues	NO

Link Between Gaza and the West Bank

Convoys	YES/NO
Bus convoys established by December 15 2005	NO
Truck convoys established by January 15 2005	NO
Detailed implementation arrangements worked out	NO
<i>Buses (both directions - ave. in period)</i>	
Number of convoys per day	0
Number of people per day	0
<i>Trucks (both directions - ave. in period)</i>	
Number of convoys per day	0
Number of trucks per day	0

Movement Within the West Bank

Obstacle reduction				YES/NO
	Work ongoing to establish a plan to reduce obstacles			NO
	Plan to reduce obstacles completed by 31 December 2005			NO
		Current count	Baseline (1 Aug 05) ^b	% increase over baseline
	Number of identified obstacles ^a	549	376	46.0%
	<i>of which manned</i>	84	59	42.4%
	<i>of which unmanned</i>	465	317	46.7%

a: OCHA compiles several times a year a comprehensive count of physical obstacles to Palestinian movement in the the West Bank. The figures reported here are based on field observations only.

b: This first figure was agreed upon by OCHA and the IDF in August 2005 and is used as the baseline for the AMA.

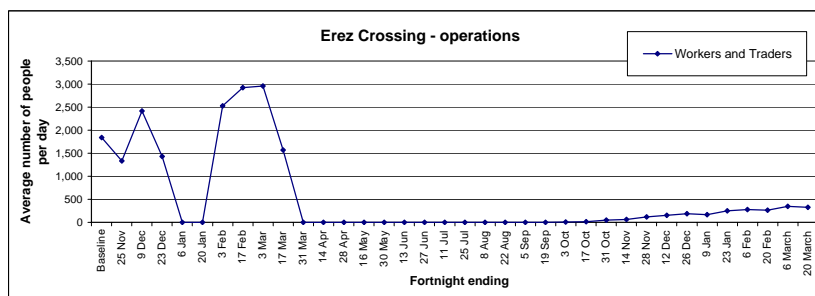
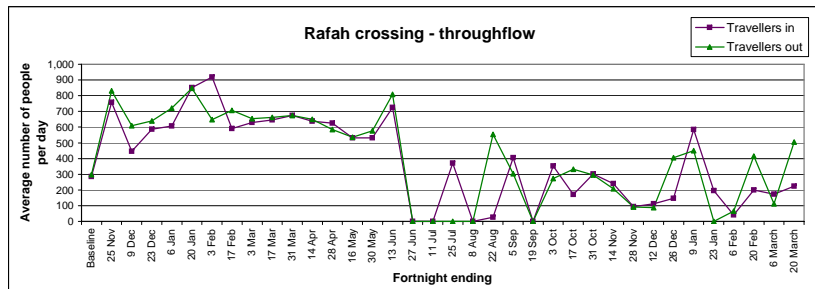
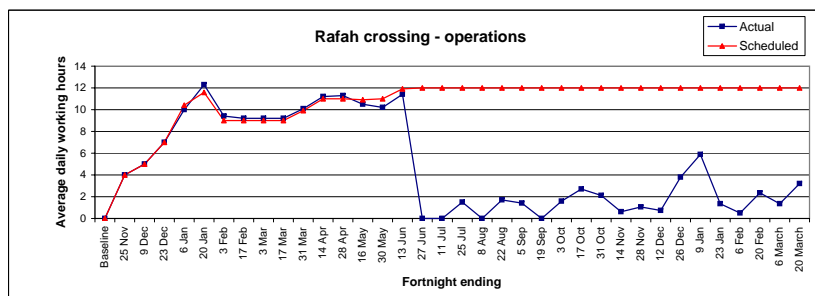
Trend Analysis - Traveller crossing points

Rafah	Baseline Jan 04 - Jun 05	Period 33 7 - 20 Feb	Period 34 21 Feb - 6 Mar	Period 35 07-20 March
Working hours per day (ave.)				
Actual	no data	2.4	1.4	3.2
Scheduled	no data	12	12	12
Days open in period				
Actual	n.a.	5	3	7
Scheduled	n.a.	14	14	14
Number of days experiencing a closure (total in period)	2.8 (ave.)	9	11	7
Travellers through Rafah in (daily ave.)	286	199	173	225
Travellers through Rafah out (daily ave.)	297	415	111	506
No. of trucks out (daily ave.)	0	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
No. of cars in (daily ave.) ^a	0	0	0	0
No. of cars out (daily ave.) ^a	0	0	0	0
Security incidents on Palestinian side of border	no data	0	0	0

a: Pending capacity-building of the Palestinian personnel at Rafah.

Erez	Baseline Jan 04 - Jun 05	Period 33 7 - 20 Feb	Period 34 21 Feb - 06 March	Period 35 07-20 March
Working hours per day (ave.)				
Actual	no data	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Scheduled	no data	16.5	16.5	16.5
Days open in period				
Actual	n.a.	14	10	14
Scheduled	n.a.	14	10	14
Number of days experiencing a closure (total in period)	7.6 (ave.)	0	0	0
Workers & traders in (daily ave.)	no data	no data	no data	no data
Workers & traders out (daily ave.)	1,841	264	345	329
Security incidents on the Palestinian side of the crossing	no data	0	0	0

n.a.= not applicable to this report



Trend Analysis - Goods traffic crossing points

Karni	Baseline Jan 04 - Jun 05	Period 33 7 - 20 Feb	Period 34 21 Feb - 06 March	Period 35 07-20 March
Working hours per day (ave.)				
Actual	no data	7.1	6.9	7.6
Scheduled	no data	13.5	13.5	13.5
Utilization ratio ^b	no data	no data	no data	no data
Days open in period				
Actual	n.a.	12	11	10
Scheduled ^c	n.a.	12	12	12
Number of days experiencing a closure (total in period)	2.2 (ave.)	0	1	2
Number of trucks out (daily ave.)	23	63.5	44.8	44.3
Agricultural	no data	46.8	27.2	28.7
Non-Agricultural	no data	16.8	17.6	15.7
Number of trucks scheduled out (daily ave.)	no data	400	400	400
Number of trucks in (daily ave.) ^d	205	255	234	212
Security incidents on Palestinian side of the crossing	no data	0	0	0

b: Ratio of actual vs. planned working hours of scanners and cells.

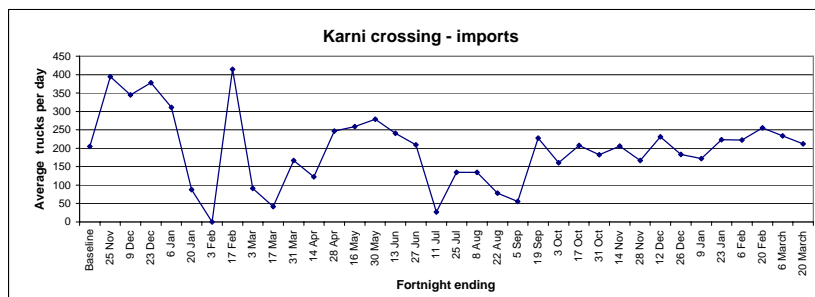
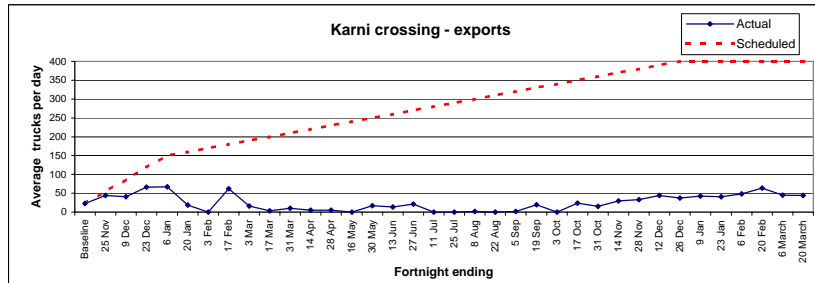
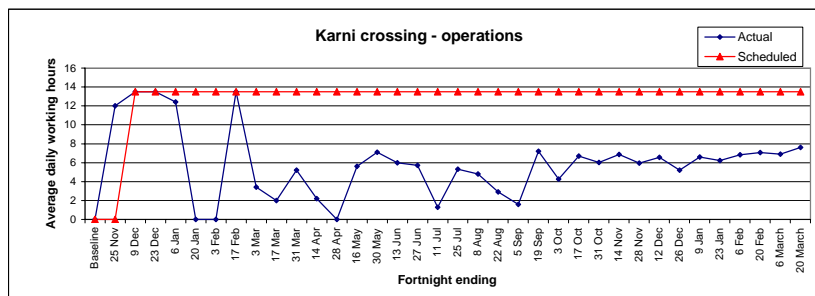
c: Karni is closed on Saturdays.

d: This figure does not include aggregates.

Source: PalTrade.

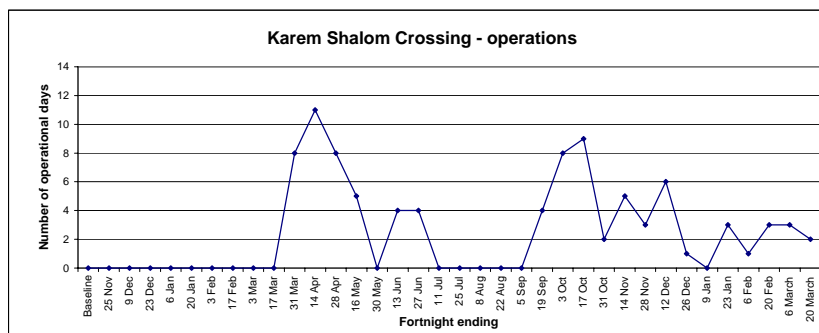
Erez	Baseline Jan 04 - Jun 05	Period 33 7 - 20 Feb	Period 34 21 Feb - 06 March	Period 35 07-20 March
Working hours per day (ave.)				
Actual	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Scheduled	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Days open in period				
Actual	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Scheduled	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Number of trucks out (daily ave.)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Agricultural	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Non-Agricultural	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Number of trucks scheduled out (daily ave.)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Number of trucks in (daily ave.)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

n.a.= not applicable to this report



Trend Analysis - Goods traffic crossing points (continued)

Kerem Shalom	Baseline	Period 33	Period 34	Period 35
	Jan 04 - Jun 05	7 - 20 Feb	21 Feb - 06 March	07-20 March
Working hours per day (ave.)				
Actual	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Scheduled	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Days open in period				
Actual	n.a.	3	3	2
Scheduled	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Number of days experiencing a closure (total in 2 week period)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Number of trucks out (daily ave.)				
Agricultural	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Non-Agricultural	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Number of trucks scheduled out (daily ave.)	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Number of trucks in (daily ave.)	n.a.	no data	no data	no data
Security incidents on Palestinian side of the crossing	n.a.	0	0	0



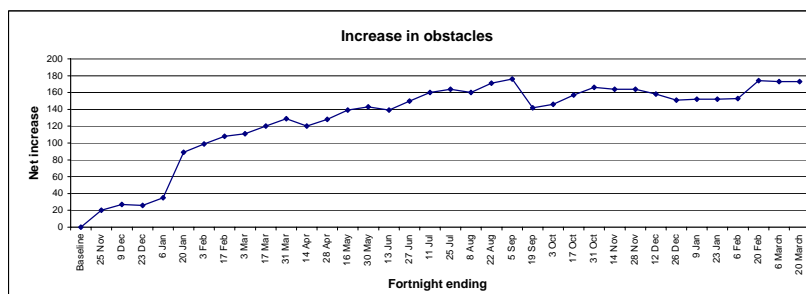
Trend Analysis - other

Convoys	Baseline	Period 33	Period 34	Period 35
	Jan 04 - Jun 05	7 - 20 Feb	21 Feb - 06 March	07-20 March
Buses (both directions)				
No. of convoys per day	0	0	0	0
No. of people per day	0	0	0	0
Trucks (both directions)				
No. of convoys per day	0	0	0	0
No. of trucks per day	0	0	0	0

Movement within the West Bank	First figure*	Period 33	Period 34	Period 35
	1 Aug 05	7 - 20 Feb	21 Feb - 06 March	07-20 March
No. of identified obstacles	376	550	549	549
of which manned	59	84	84	84
of which unmanned	317	466	465	465

e: This first figure was agreed upon by OCHA and the IDF and is used as the baseline.

n.a.= not applicable to this report



Technical notes to the Report on the Implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access

The AMA is primarily concerned with the movement of Palestinians and commercial goods traffic into and out of the Gaza Strip. However there is also movement of humanitarian workers and goods across some of the checkpoints which is included in some of the figures. To clarify the reporting figures an explanation of the AMA report for each crossing follows:

1. **Rafah.** There are two parts to the AMA:
 - a. *personnel movement* into and out of Egypt. The AMA reports the crossing open only when it is open for Palestinian ID card holders. Others may cross with prior agreement. The AMA report reports only Palestinian ID card holder movement. The crossing was opened by 25 November, as scheduled in the AMA. It is monitored by the EU Border Assistance Mission (EU BAM).
 - b. *commercial goods traffic* export to Egypt. To date there has been no movement of commercial goods through Rafah.The EU-BAM monitors are based in Israeli and travel to Rafah via Kerem Shalom when Israeli security concerns allow for both Rafah and Kerem Shalom to be open.
2. **Karni.**
 - a. *commercial goods traffic.* Karni is the primary crossing point for commercial goods into and out of the Gaza Strip. The crossing point is reported open if it is open for imports *and/or* exports. The AMA states that the number of trucks passing through Karni out of the Gaza Strip should be 150 by the end of 2005 rising to 400 by the end of 2006. Thus the scheduled figure in the table on p3 is set at 150 (the agreed minimum now) but the graphical representation of the target in the trend analysis (p6) shows a dotted line rising to 400 by December.
 - b. *personnel movement* to and from Israel/the West Bank. Karni is a back up for personnel movement (for use when Erez is closed). Thus there are no scheduled working days.
 - c. *humanitarian goods.* Karni is also a crossing point for humanitarian goods into the Gaza Strip. The truckloads of 'goods in' reported on p2 include both commercial and humanitarian goods. In future reports an attempt will be made to distinguish humanitarian from commercial goods.
3. **Erez.**
 - a. *personnel movement* (workers and traders) to and from Israel/the West Bank. Erez is the primary crossing point for goods into and out of the Gaza Strip. Medical cases may cross with prior agreement but are not reported in the AMA report.
 - b. *commercial goods traffic* to and from Israel/the West Bank. Erez is a back up for commercial goods movement (for use when Karni is closed). Thus there are no scheduled working days.
 - c. *humanitarian movement.* International humanitarian staff may cross with prior agreement but are not included in the AMA reports.
4. **Sufa.**
 - a. *commercial goods specifically aggregates* for construction, although other commercial goods may be imported to the Gaza Strip through Sufa periodically. Sufa is reported as 'open' only when open for aggregates. Sufa is reported as 'open' whenever it is open for aggregates, other commercial goods or humanitarian goods. There are no scheduled opening days or hours in the AMA.
5. **Kerem Shalom.**
 - a. *humanitarian goods.* Kerem Shalom is an alternative entry point for humanitarian goods.
 - b. *commercial goods traffic* to and from Israel/the West Bank. The Palestinian Authority have refused to accept Kerem Shalom as an alternative commercial crossing point as it is located in Israel. Kerem Shalom is reported as 'open' whenever it is open for humanitarian goods. There are no scheduled opening days or hours in the AMA.

6. General

The '**number of days experiencing a closure**' is actually the number of days that a checkpoint is completely closed for reasons other than a mutually agreed holiday. The agreement does not define a 'closure'. Where a checkpoint is closed for only a few hours during the day (or opens late/closes early) it is recorded as 'open'.