

Israel has imposed a policy of closure towards the Gaza Strip since the early 1990s. This closure was supplemented in the mid-1990s by the construction of a fence around the perimeter of the territory. These measures have been accompanied by a range of restrictions on the movement of people and goods into, out of and within the Gaza Strip, many of which were intensified into a land, air and sea blockade, following the Hamas take-over of the Gaza Strip in June 2007. Related to this, Israel has maintained a policy of separating the Palestinian population of the Gaza Strip

from that of the rest of the oPt. Access restrictions remain one of the main drivers for the humanitarian crisis and are a persistent obstacle to sustainable recovery in the Gaza Strip. While the number of crossings of people through Erez and the import and exit of goods to and from Gaza via Kerem Shalom more than doubled in 2015, it has not offset the need arising from the general closure of the international crossing with Egypt, Rafah, and Israel's enforcement of the dual use items list which includes wide variety of goods such as (cement, wood, steel

bars,...). Exports/transfers of goods from Gaza via Kerem Shalom in 2015 constituted only 10% of the pre-blockade period. The other three commercial crossings: Nahal Oz, Sufa, Karni continued to be closed, and no expansion in the categories of people who are able to leave through Erez was introduced. In all, by the close of 2015, all 1.8 million Gaza residents continued to be denied free access to the remainder of the occupied Palestinian territory, including religious sites, and to the outside world.

Key facts

365 km<sup>2</sup>

total area of Gaza Strip

1.8 Million

including 1.2 M refugees

Source: UNRWA

Only two of the five

crossings with Israel functioned, one for people (with permits issued by Israel), and the other one for commodities.

The only

crossing between Gaza and Egypt closed on (333) days in 2015.

Access to 17% of the Gaza Strip land land is restricted.

70% of the Gaza sea water are not accessible.

over 90%

of the water extracted from the Gaza aquifer is unsafe for human consumption and due to over-extraction the aquifer may become unusable by 2016.

Source: PCBS 2014

35.9%

Unemployment rate in the Gaza Strip

Source: PCBS

46.7%

Of the population of Gaza Strip is food insecure.

Source: 2015 Socio-Economic and Food Security Survey FAO, UNRWA, WFP, PCBS

Breakdown of construction materials imports per agency

Restricted basic construction materials from Kerem Shalom only

Private Sector through the GRM

Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism

20,081

UNRWA

5,226

UNDP

578

Qatari Projects

559

Palestinian Water Authority

484

USAID

209

Turkish Projects

110

UNICEF

71

CMWU

20

ICRC

7

ANERA

5

Electricity Company

1

Movement of crossings through Rafah in both directions

2006

155 K

155 K

207

2007

44 K

52 K

56

2008

10 K

11 K

96

2009

34 K

34 K

341

2010

82 K

85 K

317

2011

123 K

132 K

273

2012

208 K

211 K

312

2013

151 K

151 K

263

2014

48 K

50 K

158

2015

14 K

14 K

32

Arrivals

Departure

Fuel imports

Petrol

25.0

21.8

17.0

4.3

0.6

0.8

0.6

1.6

20.3

39.0

49.9

Gasoline

112.0

101.7

88.3

41.0

3.9

2.9

2.0

5.9

22.0

89.0

142.7

Gas/Kg

42.4

43.4

53.3

42.0

34.1

38.1

34.2

33.8

38.8

44.5

58.6

Industrial Gasoline

134.0

74.6

100.0

100.7

105.3

69.1

0.7

24.5

8.1

58.9

85.7

Number of crossings through Erez into Israel

In 2015, this constitutes 34% of the number of crossings in 2004.

2004

521.3 K

2005

377.1 K

2006

161.4 K

2007

86.8 K

2008

26.3 K

2009

30.2 K

2010

40.8 K

2011

53.5 K

2012

59.8 K

2013

70.0 K

2014

85.5 K

2015

181.2 K

Humanitarian imports compared to total imports

2015

94.8K

26.4K

2014

51.7K

14.6K

2013

65.1K

20.6K

2012

57.5K

18.1K

2011

49.3K

11.6K

2010

39.6K

4.2K

2009

31.1K

7.7K

2008

26.8K

2.3K

Total imports

Humanitarian Imports

Percentage of construction materials out of total imports

2006

75.4 K

47%

2007

82.4 K

48%

2008

26.8 K

21%

2009

31.1 K

0%

2010

39.6 K

3%

2011

49.3 K

17%

2012

57.5 K

27%

2013

65.1 K

33%

2014

51.7 K

23%

2015

94.8 K

59%

Exit of goods (# of truckloads)

2015

1,350

2014

228

2013

182

2012

254

2011

270

2010

215

2009

21

2008

33

2007

5,774

2006

5,005

2005

9,319

To international markets

304

To Israeli markets

315

Transfer to West Bank

731

Major 3 exports from Gaza strip during 2015

Tomatoes

375

Eggplants

164

Cucumbers

147

Creation date: 17/03/2016

Information on the status of border crossings and numbers of truckloads is based on data provided by the Gaza Ministry of National Economy, UNRWA, UNSCO and Paltrade (Palestine Trade Center).

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