

## BACKGROUND

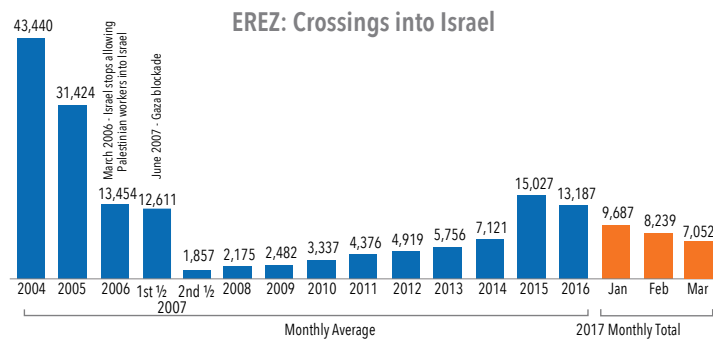
Longstanding restrictions on the movement of people and goods to and from Gaza have undermined the living conditions of 1.9 million Palestinians in that area. Many of the current restrictions, originally imposed by Israel in the early 1990s, were intensified after June 2007, following the Hamas takeover 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 above restrictions on the Israeli-controlled crossings.



## MOVEMENT AND ACCESS OF PEOPLE\*

### EREZ CROSSING

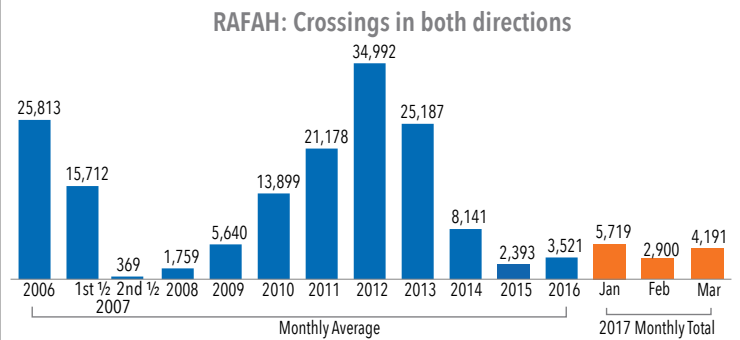
- Opened on all 27 scheduled days.
- On 26 March 2017, citing security concerns, the de facto authorities in Gaza temporarily closed 'Arba-'Arba checkpoint, which controls access to Erez Crossing between Gaza and Israel.
- According to WHO, 86 patients approved by Israel were not allowed to leave through 'Arba-'Arba.
- The overall number of crossings into Israel was 46% below the 2016 monthly average of crossings, and the lowest since January 2015.
- Of the applications for exit permits for UN national staff in March, 19% were denied and 40% were pending as of the end of the month.
- The crossing is accessible only to Israeli-issued permit holders, primarily medical and other humanitarian cases, merchants, internationals and aid workers.
- Erez crossing is open from Sunday - Friday. Since February 2017, exit of Palestinians is not allowed on Fridays, except for humanitarian cases.



\* The figures reflect number of times people crossed, but not the actual number of people crossing.

### RAFAH CROSSING

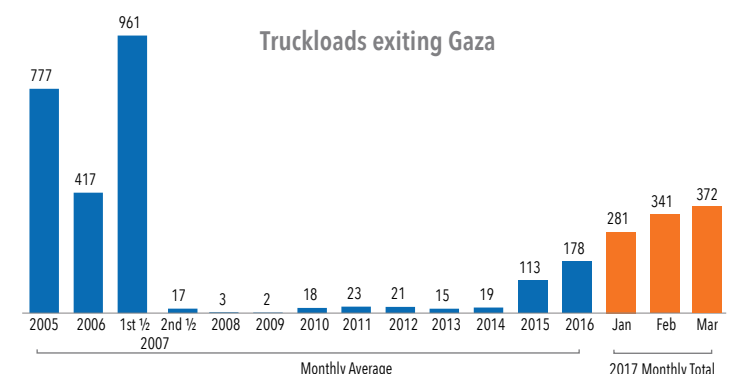
- Exceptionally opened for 3 days in both directions, and one day for exits from Gaza.
- A total of 4,191 people crossed in both directions, compared to a monthly average of 3,521 in 2016.
- Since October 2014, the crossing has been closed on all but 93 days. It was partially open on 32 days in 2015, on 44 days in 2016 and on 10 days in 2017.
- At least 20,000 Palestinians are pre-registered and waiting to cross into Egypt, according to the de facto 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 according to WHO.



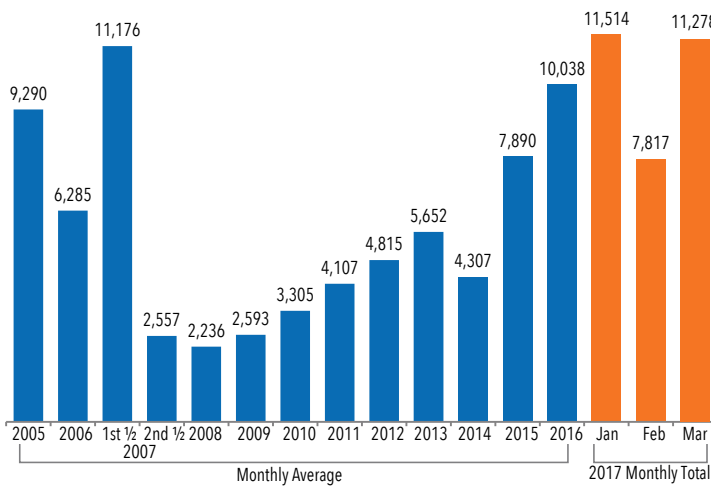
## MOVEMENT OF GOODS FROM AND INTO GAZA

### EXIT OF GOODS

- Kerem Shalom crossing, which is currently the only regular commercial route between Gaza and the external world, operated for exiting goods on 18 out of 27 scheduled days.
- 372 truckloads of goods exited Gaza, a 109% increase compared to the monthly average in 2016, but 61% below the monthly average in the first half of 2007 (before the blockade).
- Goods exited to the following destinations:
  - 313 truckloads of agricultural products, 3 of clothing and 1 of furniture, to the West Bank;
  - 42 truckloads of agricultural products and scrap aluminum to Israel; and
  - 13 truckloads of agricultural products to international markets.



### Truckloads entering Gaza\*\*



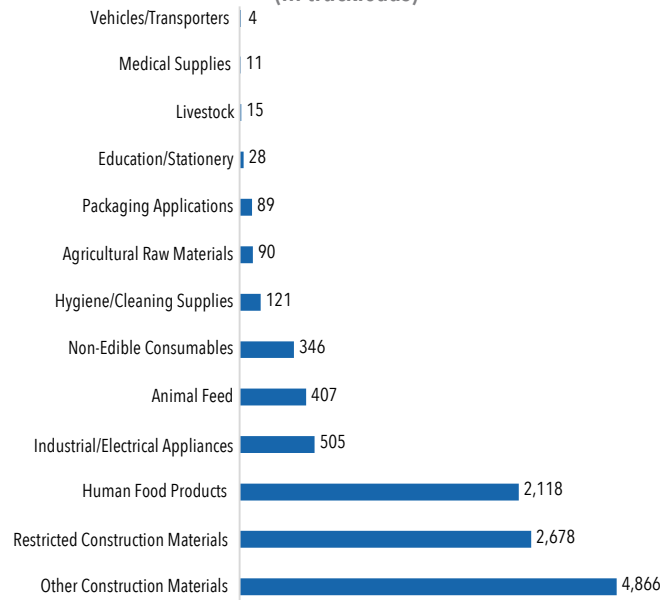
### ENTRY OF GOODS

- Kerem Shalom crossing between Gaza and Israel operated on 21 out of 27\* scheduled days.
- Rafah commercial crossing exceptionally opened on three days, allowing 273 truckloads of various materials to enter Gaza.
- The overall volume of imports this month increased by 12%, compared to the monthly average in 2016 and is nearly the same as in the first half of 2007 (before the blockade).
- 2% of the truckloads of goods that entered in March were designated for humanitarian aid agencies.
- 7,544 truckloads carried construction materials, constituting the largest category of imports (61%).
- 35% of truckloads with construction materials carried items defined by Israel as 'dual use' items, approved via the Gaza Reconstruction Mechanism (GRM).
- Karni, Sufa and Nahal Oz crossings with Israel remained closed.

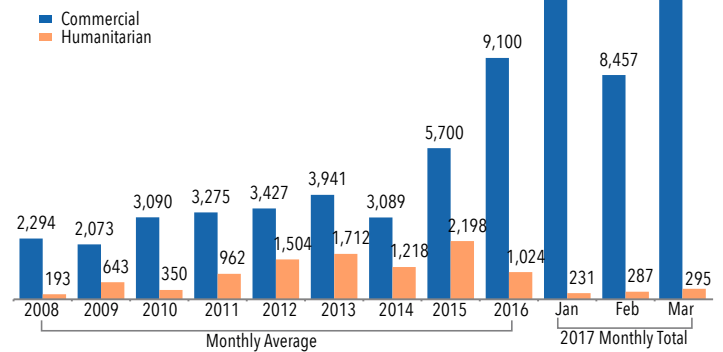
\* Kerem Shalom crossing is open Sunday - Thursday.

\*\* Figures exclude truckloads carrying fuel.

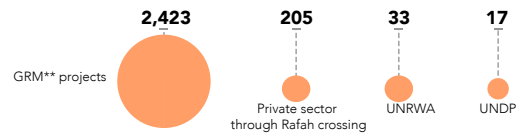
### Goods imported in March 2017 (in truckloads)



### Humanitarian vs. commercial imports (in truckloads)



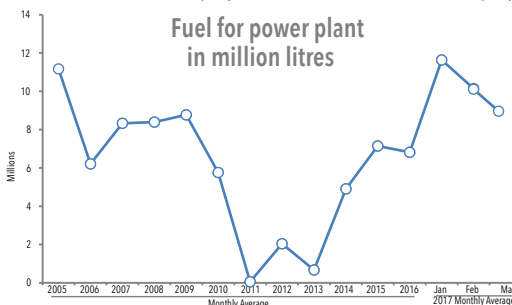
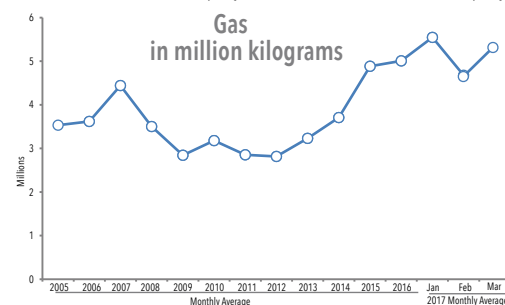
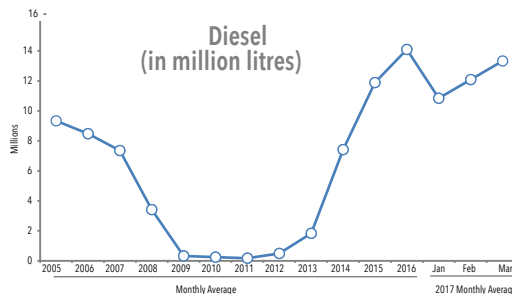
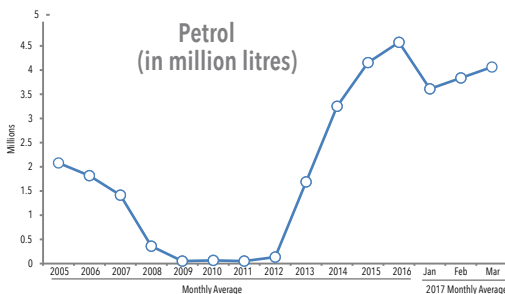
### Entry of restricted basic construction materials in March per sector (in truckloads)\*



\* Primarily includes cement and steel bars; aggregates were removed from the "dual use" list in 2015.

\*\* The GRM is a temporary agreement between the Government of Palestine and the Government of Israel, brokered by the United Nations in September 2014, to allow the entry of items defined by Israel as having a "dual" civilian/military use. These include building materials for repairs and reconstruction of private housing and infrastructure damaged or destroyed during hostilities, as well as new projects not related to hostilities.

### FUEL IMPORTS INTO GAZA



### FUEL IMPORTS

Kerem Shalom remained the only crossing available for the import of fuel, allowing the entry of:

- 17.8 million litres of petrol and diesel;
- 9.6 million litres of industrial fuel for the Gaza Power Plant; and
- 5,585 tons of cooking gas, which represents around 74% of the estimated needs of around 7,500 tons, according to the Gas Station Owners' Association.