

**Rabbit habit**

Mohammed Al Jatba, 17, from Al Zarga, proudly shows one of the rabbits he has been raising and breeding since last February. The oldest among his 11 brothers and sisters, Mohammed has been in charge of the rabbits distributed by Oxfam to impoverished families in the Gaza Strip as a means of promoting a varied diet and as potential income.

Mohammed and his father attended training before the rabbit distribution, and they are now planning to extend the shed where they keep their livestock as results have been better than expected.

More importantly, Mohammed found a new source of pride in the family backyard, mixing his love for rabbits with opportunities to feed his family and trade some of the offspring for other kinds of food or money.

The programme falls under one of Oxfam's food security projects implemented with local partner Maan Centre for Development and funded by ECHO.

Photo and text: Karl Schembri/Oxfam

1. Headlines (18-24 July)

- **Mortars/rockets/casualties/incursions:** According to reports, 6 rockets, 3 mortar shells and 1 improvised explosive device (IED) were directed by Palestinian armed groups from Gaza at Israeli forces this week, while 3 rockets and 5 mortar shells were reportedly fired last week. There were reports this week of 3 incursions and 8 air strikes from the IDF as compared to 3 incursions and 2 mortar rounds the week prior. 1 fire fight was reported this week and 1 fire fight was reported the week prior.

1 Palestinian militant was reported killed, while 5 Palestinian policemen and 8 civilians were reported injured this week as a result of IDF fire. In a first incident, Israeli aircrafts reportedly fired two missiles towards a former helicopter pad in a compound used by Hamas in Gaza City, which resulted in the injury of 5 policemen and 8 civilians. In a second incident, Israeli aircrafts reportedly fired two missiles targeting a Hamas base and a house under construction near Nuseirat camp in central Gaza, killing the owner of the house, who was a leader in a militant group. Last week, 2 Palestinian militants and 1 Palestinian civilian were reported killed and 6 Palestinians were reported injured this week. No Israeli casualties were reported this week or last week.

According to reports, 2 Palestinian militants were injured after a mortar shell they attempted to fire towards the perimeter fence exploded prematurely.

Shrapnel bits reportedly landed in one of the UN's Summer Games beach camps during a training session conducted by militants of the military wing of Hamas south of the camp; no injuries were reported.

- **Fishermen:** There was 1 reported incident of Israeli naval vessels firing at Palestinian fishermen this week. The previous week, 1 incident was reported. Since January 2009, Israeli naval forces have restricted the access of Palestinian fishing boats to three nautical miles from the coast; in practice, access is sometimes restricted to as little as one nautical mile.
- **Tunnel related fatalities:** No tunnel related fatalities or injuries were reported this week. Israeli forces reportedly fired three missiles targeting the tunnels beneath the Egyptian-Gaza border near Rafah; no injuries were reported. 1 tunnel related fatality and 4 injuries were reported the week before, and Egyptian forces reportedly discovered and closed down three tunnels.
- **Palestinians in the “buffer zone”:** There were 3 reports of Israeli military fire in the “buffer zone”, along the perimeter of Gaza this week, resulting in four injuries. In all three incidents Israeli forces opened fire towards people collecting scrap metal near the former Erez industrial zone and near the former settlement of Ele Sinai in northern Gaza. In the week before, no such incidents were reported.
- **Rafah border crossing:** The Rafah border crossing with Egypt was officially open this week for medical cases, students and those with visas for third countries. On 28 July it was open only half a day due to power failure. During the 7 days Rafah remained open, 2,701 people left Gaza, 3,930 entered, and 275 were refused entry to Egypt.

Last week Rafah was also open for 7 days: 2,964 people left Gaza, 3,688 entered, and 128 were refused entry to Egypt. In recent weeks, there has been significant rise in the number of people crossing through Rafah: the week before the attack on the Gaza flotilla and the opening of the Rafah border, 45 people left Gaza, 748 entered and 2 were refused entry to Egypt through Rafah.

- **Power plant and electricity supply:** 983,257 litres of industrial fuel were delivered this week for Gaza’s power plant, which is only 28% of the 3.5 million litres of fuel needed weekly at the current maximum capacity of 80Mw. Only 826,852 litres of industrial fuel were transferred the week prior. Since December 2009, operations at the plant have steadily declined due to an ongoing crisis in funding that has cut fuel supply. The chronic daily power shortage resulting in intermittent power supply continues to affect all spheres of daily life.
- **Cooking gas:** 754 tons of cooking gas reportedly entered Gaza this week, 43% of the normal weekly level of need of 1,750 tons. 779 tons of cooking gas were reported to have entered Gaza last week. The overall cooking gas shortage has been a main concern for humanitarian agencies since November 2009.
- **Diesel/petrol:** No diesel or petrol was delivered this week to Gaza. Last week, 9,500 litres of diesel were delivered for use by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD); no diesel and no petrol were delivered to the private sector. A near total ban on fuel imports for public sale was put in place by the Government of Israel in October 2008. Around 100,000 litres of diesel and 100,000 litres of petrol are reported to enter Gaza every day through tunnels under the Gaza-Egypt border (OCHA, 4 May 2010).
- **Truckloads of supplies:** 871 truckloads of supplies were permitted entry this week (681 through Kerem Shalom crossing and the equivalent of 190 through the Karni conveyor). This is the equivalent of 31% of the pre-blockade weekly average of all trucks entering Gaza*. 969 trucks were allowed into Gaza during the previous week.
Since the Israeli announcement to ease the blockade on Gaza on 20 June, the number of imported truckloads has steadily increased. The week before the attack in the Gaza flotilla (23 to 29 May 2010), only 631 truckloads were allowed into Gaza - 22% of the pre-blockade weekly average.

While **imports remain limited, and raw materials severely restricted** (with the exception of materials for the local biscuit production industry), **exports remain banned entirely**. As a result, the scale of economic activity remains heavily dependent on demand in Gaza, which in turn is constrained by the low purchasing power of the population and the relatively small size of the local market. Until crossings are opened for export, the impact of the easing of the blockade on unemployment, poverty and food insecurity rates will remain extremely limited.

Despite the increase, the flow of imported goods remains affected by long delays due to the limited capacity and cumbersome procedures at the Kerem Shalom Crossing. Currently the crossing can handle around 150 trucks a day though plans exist to expand the crossing in order to handle 250 trucks a day, as compared to the 750 truck capacity that existed at the Karni crossing before the blockade. As a result, the commercial sector was allocated 100 truckloads per day by the Israeli authorities, estimated to be less than half of current demand.

On 5 July the Israeli authorities released the official list of military and ‘dual-use’ items, the import of which will remain prohibited or restricted. ‘Dual-use’ items are specified in two separate lists. One list contains 15 categories of general items, including fertilizers, glass fiber-based raw materials, drilling equipment, vessels and water disinfectants, among others. The other list contains 19 types of construction materials (to be limited to projects under international supervision), including cement, aggregates (gravel), prepared concrete, concrete blocks, steel elements, asphalt, sealing materials, and construction vehicles, among others.

Pre-blockade weekly average (2,807 truckloads) is calculated based on the monthly average of all truckloads that entered during the first five months of 2007, before Israel’s imposition of the blockade

- **Exports:** No exports have left Gaza since 18 April 2010. No change in the policy prohibiting exports implemented since June 2007 has been announced by the Israeli authorities so far.
- **Internal violence:** One incident was reported this week after unidentified militants reportedly detonated an improvised explosive device under a vehicle belonging to a Palestinian militant; no injuries were reported. Last week, two incidents of internal violence were reported.

2. Humanitarian trucks (week):

Truck originator	Total for week 25-31 July
UNRWA	19
WFP	14
ICRC	1
Other	10
Electricity Company	4
NGO (including 5 for Islamic Relief)	19
Commercial	614
Karni Crossing (wheat, chickpeas and animal feed)	190
Total trucks for the week	871
Percentage of weekly average before the blockade (first five months of 2007)	31%
Percentage the previous week (11-17 July)	35%

This update is compiled by **Oxfam International** from the best available information drawn from reliable international sources. Some of the information is preliminary and may be updated in subsequent reports.

3. Fuel deliveries (week)

		Diesel	Petrol	Cooking Gas
25-31 July		0		754 tons
	Percentage of need *	0		43%
Previous week		0		779 tons

* Fuel association 2006 estimates - ** Imports of diesel and petrol for the general public and public sector in Gaza were exceptionally authorized on 6 occasions since October 2008

Delivery of Industrial Fuel to the Power Plant (week):

Industrial diesel	Previous week	25-31 July
	826,852 litres	983,257 litres
Percentage of amount required to operate at maximum supply capacity of 80 MW		28%

4. External links to further reports

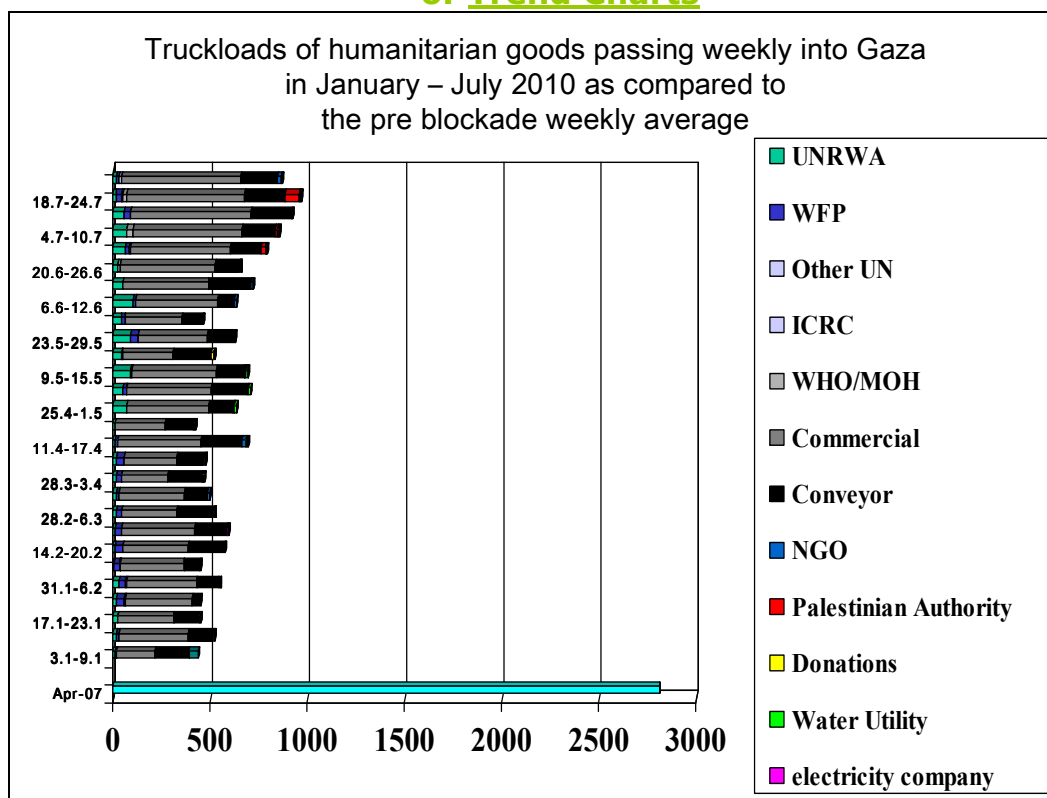
UN OCHA Protection of Civilians Weekly Report: 21 to 27 July 2010

http://www.ochaopt.org/documents/ocha_opt_protection_of_civilians_2010_07_27_english.pdf

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6. Trend Charts



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