



Dashed Hopes

Six months ago after the Israeli government announced it would ease the blockade of Gaza in the wake of intense international pressure, Oxfam and 25 other international organisations report that it has not live up to its promise. 1.5 million Palestinians are still trapped in the Gaza Strip. The report published last week and called **Dashed Hopes** highlight that exports remain banned except for a limited number of truckloads of carnations and strawberries exported to the Netherlands. Movement of people is more restricted than before the decision. The economy is still devastated with up to 80% of Palestinians in Gaza dependent on humanitarian aid and unemployment at a staggering 39%. Two thirds of Gaza's industrial businesses remain closed, the rest operating at partial capacity, while inflows of finished consumer goods from Israel undercut local producers who cannot export or restart their businesses.

“Israel’s failure to live up to its commitments and the lack of international action to lift the blockade are depriving Palestinians in Gaza of access to clean water, electricity, jobs and a peaceful future,” said Jeremy Hobbs, Director of Oxfam International.

[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/VVOS-8BNM9Q/\\$File/full_report.pdf](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900sid/VVOS-8BNM9Q/$File/full_report.pdf)

1. Headlines

- **Mortars/rockets/casualties/incursions:** Palestinian armed groups reportedly fired 2 rockets and 6 mortar shells towards Israel or Israeli forces this week. The previous week, Palestinian armed groups reportedly fired 1 rocket and 2 mortar shells.

Israeli forces reportedly fired 22 shells, conducted 4 incursions and 3 firefights this week, as compared to 3 shells, 4 incursions and 3 firefights last week.

2 Palestinians were reported killed this week as a result of Israeli fire; according to the Israeli army, they were militants who attempted to enter Israel. 14 Palestinians were reported injured as a result of Israeli fire, including 13 Palestinian workers who were reportedly collecting scrap metal in the so called “buffer zone” along the Gaza perimeter and 1 Palestinian militant. Last week, 1 Palestinian was reported killed and 4 were reported injured.

- **Fishermen:** No incidents of Israeli naval vessels firing at Palestinian fishermen were reported this week. 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:** 1 Palestinian was reportedly killed due to electric shock in a tunnel located beneath the Gaza-Egypt border this week. No Palestinian workers were reported killed or injured in tunnels last week.

- **Palestinians in the “buffer zone”:** 12 incidents of Israeli fire in the so-called “buffer zone” along the perimeter with Gaza were reported this week, resulting in 14 reported injuries including two boys aged 15 and 17. 13 of the 14 Palestinians reported injured were Palestinian workers collecting scrap metal in the buffer zone; the 14th was reported to be a militant of the Popular Resistance Committees (PRC). In total, 4 incidents were reported last week, resulting in 2 reported injuries. Israel restricts access to agricultural land up to 1,000-1,500 metres from the fence, which accounts for more than 30 % of Gaza’s agricultural land.
- **Rafah border crossing:** The Rafah border crossing with Egypt was officially open 5 days this week for medical cases, students and those with visas to third countries. This week, 3,020 people were reported to have entered Gaza, 1,575 people left and 532 were denied entry to Egypt through Rafah.

Last week, 4,254 people reportedly entered Gaza, 2,202 left and 145 were denied entry to Egypt via Rafah. Since June 2010, there has been a significant rise in the number of people crossing weekly 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:** A total of 1.2 million litres of industrial fuel was delivered this week for Gaza’s power plant, which is only 34% of the 3.5 million litres of fuel needed weekly at the current maximum capacity of 80Mw. A total of 1.3 million litres of industrial fuel was transferred last week.
Daily life, as well as the provision of essential services including regular water supply, sewage treatment and removal, and the functioning of health services, continues to be negatively affected by the chronic lack of electricity.
- **Cooking gas:** Only 335 tons of cooking gas entered Gaza this week, 19% of the normal weekly level of need of 1,750 tons. Last week, 587 tons of cooking gas were reported to have entered Gaza. The overall cooking gas shortage has been a main concern for humanitarian agencies since November 2009.
- **Diesel/petrol:** No diesel or benzine were delivered to the private sector this week or last week. 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:** A total of 868 truckloads of supplies was allowed entry into Gaza this week – the equivalent of 31% of the pre-blockade weekly average of all truckloads entering Gaza*. Last week, 1,025 truckloads were permitted entry.

While imports remain limited, and raw materials severely restricted, exports remain banned almost entirely except for limited truckloads of strawberries and carnations exported to the Netherlands. As a result, the scale of economic activity remains heavily dependent on local 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 fully opened for export, the impact of the easing of the blockade on unemployment, poverty and food insecurity rates remains limited.

**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:** 7 trucks of strawberries and carnations were allowed to be exported from Gaza this week as the result of an agreement between Israel and the Netherlands. No other exports have been allowed since 18 April 2010. No broader change in the policy prohibiting exports implemented

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.

since June 2007 has been announced by the Israeli authorities so far, except for the limited exports of carnations and strawberries to the Netherlands.

Internal violence: There were no cases of internal violence reported this week. Last week there were 3 reported cases of internal violence resulting in 1 reported injury.

2. Humanitarian trucks (week):

Truck originator	Total for week 28Nov-4Dec
Karni Crossing (wheat grain, animal feed)	106
Total trucks for the week	868
Percentage of pre-blockade average first five months of 2007)	31%

3. Fuel deliveries (week)

		Diesel	Petrol	Cooking Gas
28 Nov-4 Dec		0	0	335 tons
	Percentage of need *	0		19%
Previous week		0		587 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	28 Nov-4 Dec
	1.3 million litres	1.2 million litres
Percentage of amount required to operate at maximum supply capacity of 80 MW		34%

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