

## 1. Headlines

- **Mortars/rockets/casualties/incursions:** Palestinian armed groups reportedly fired 2 home made rockets (HMR) and 2 grad-type missiles towards Israeli forces this week, as compared to 2 HMR and 1 anti-tank missile the week before. There were no incursions or firefights reported this week. Last week, there were reports of 4 incursions by Israeli forces and 2 firefights. No airstrikes were reported this week or last week.

There were no casualties reported this week. Last week, a 13 year-old boy was reported killed as a result of handling a UXO. Two young boys, aged 10 and 15, were also reported injured last week as a result of coming into contact with UXOs.

- **Fishermen:** There was 1 reported incident of Israeli naval vessels firing at Palestinian fishermen this week, and 1 incident reported last 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, banning access to around 85% of Gaza's fishing water.
- **Tunnel related fatalities:** No tunnel related fatalities were reported this week or last week. There have been reports that many of the tunnels under the border between Gaza and Egypt have been operating at a lowered capacity due to the situation in Egypt. There have also been reports that the tunnels have been used to supply Egyptians in Rafah and bordering towns with basic supplies such as eggs, bread, and canned goods from Gaza as store owners on the Rafah side report running out of general supplies amid unrest in Egypt.
- **Palestinians in the "buffer zone":** There were 5 incidents of Israeli fire reported in the so-called "buffer zone" along the perimeter with Gaza this week, resulting in injuries to three Palestinian civilians. All three were collecting scrap metal in or around the former Erez Industrial Zone. Last week, 2 incidents of Israeli fire in the so-called "buffer zone" along the perimeter with Gaza were reported. 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 and significant number of water wells. Most of the Gaza Strip's animal production is also concentrated in this area.
- **Rafah border crossing:** The Rafah border crossing remained closed this week, following the official border closing by the Egyptian authorities on January 29<sup>th</sup> due to the events taking place in Egypt, with reports of riots and looting on the Egypt side. The Rafah border crossing is now closed until further notice. The closing of the Rafah border has a severe impact on humanitarian movement and access, Egypt serving as the main transit point for medical emergencies or people approved for medical treatment outside of Gaza.  
  
Last week, the Rafah border crossing was open 4 out of 7 days, during which 1,839 people entered Gaza from Egypt, 2,178 people left Gaza to Egypt, and 229 people were denied crossing.
- **Power plant and electricity supply:** No fuel was delivered for Gaza's power plant this week, and no fuel has been delivered since 5 January 2011. The lack of regular fuel supplies has led to ongoing power cuts and blackouts across the Gaza Strip. To make up for severe shortages, fuel for Gaza's power plant is now being supplied through the tunnels underneath the Gaza-Rafah border, but with fuel supplies reported to be in short supply in Egypt due to the situation there it is uncertain whether these reported fuel routes will continue to operate.

*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.*

The ongoing shortage of industrial fuel remains an area of humanitarian concern 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 in Gaza. The power plant in Gaza reportedly has a two-week back up supply of industrial fuel, capable of running the plant at an output of 60 Mw for 14 days.

- **Cooking gas:** 621 tons of cooking gas entered Gaza this week. This figure represents 35 percent of the 1,750 tons of cooking gas needed weekly. Last week, 850 tons of cooking gas entered Gaza. The overall cooking gas shortage has been a main concern for humanitarian agencies since November 2009.
- **Diesel/petrol:** No diesel or benzine was 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 600,000 litres of diesel – the bulk of which is now going to the power plant – and between 100,000 to 200,000 litres of petrol are reported to enter Gaza every day through tunnels under the Gaza-Egypt border (OCHA, February 2011).
- **Truckloads of supplies:** A total of 1,075 truckloads of supplies entered Gaza this week. This number is 38 percent of the pre-blockade weekly average of all trucks entering Gaza.\* Last week, 1,054 truckloads of supplies were allowed entry into Gaza.

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:** This week, there were 24 truckloads of exports reported to have left Gaza, including 5 truckloads of cut flowers, 18 truckloads of strawberries, and 1 truckload of sweet peppers. This small amount of exports represents .04 percent of the pre-blockade weekly average of all exports leaving Gaza.\* Last week, 23 truckloads of exports were reported. The limited exports are allowed as a result of an agreement between Israel and the Netherlands allowing limited exports of flowers and strawberries. The agreement resumed on 28 November 2010.

*\*Pre-blockade weekly average (490 truckloads) is calculated on the daily average of all truckloads that exited Gaza between January 2005 and mid June 2007, before Israel's imposition of the blockade.*

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.

## 2. Humanitarian trucks (week):

Truck originator	Total for week 30 January-5 February
UNRWA	75
WFP	8
UNDP	3
Gaza Institution	5
Commercial	620
Karni conveyor (gravel, wheat, grain, animal feed)	364
<b>Total trucks for the week</b>	<b>1075</b>
<b>Percentage of pre-blockade average (first five months of 2007)</b>	<b>38%</b>

## 3. Fuel deliveries (week)

		Diesel	Petrol	Cooking Gas
30 January-5 February		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>621 tons</b>
	Percentage of need *	<b>0</b>		<b>35%</b>
Previous week		0		850 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	30 January- 5 February
	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Percentage of amount required to operate at maximum supply capacity of 80 MW</b>		<b>0%</b>

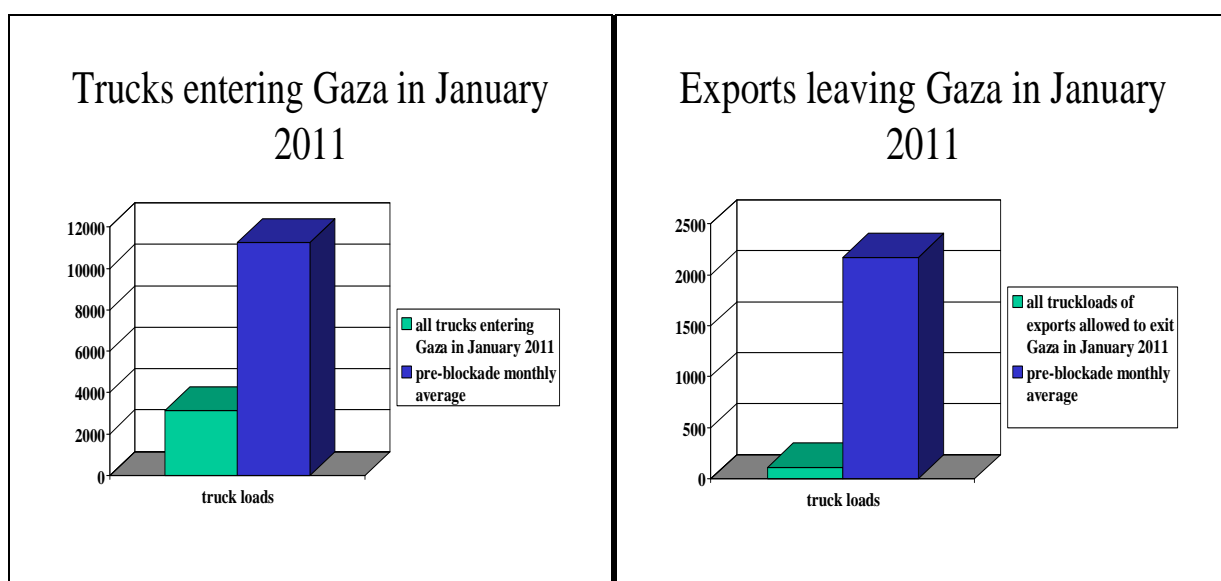
This update is compiled by **Oxfam International** from the best available information drawn from reliable international sources. Some of the information is preliminary and may be updated in subsequent reports.

#### 4. Charts

Despite Israel's announcement earlier last year that it would begin to "ease" the blockade on Gaza, the overall level of imports and exports remains low, as compared to pre-blockade figures. Last month, a total of 3,123.5 truckloads of goods were allowed entry into Gaza, as compared to the 11,228 truckloads of goods that would have normally entered during a 31 day month before the blockade (see chart left.)

During the same time, just 114 truckloads of agricultural exports left Gaza last month, as compared to a pre-blockade average of 2,170 truckloads of all exports that would have left during a 31 day month (see chart right).

Although exports of strawberries, flowers, and peppers from Gaza have been pointed to by several media outlets as a reported example of the "easing" of the Israeli blockade on Gaza, total exports for January were just .0004 of pre-blockade levels.



#### 5. Contact information

**Willow Heske, Communication Officer in Jerusalem:** +972 (0) 57 723 4126 – willow.heske@oxfamnovib.nl  
**Karl Schembri, Communication Officer in Gaza:** +972 (0) 59 89 10 981 – kschembri@oxfam.org.uk