



– The Illegal Closure of the Gaza Strip –

Israel has subjected the Gaza Strip to a policy of closure since 1991. However, the current, most extreme form, of closure has been applied continuously since the 14 June 2007, following the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip. Apart from depriving the 1.5 million inhabitants of Gaza of basic goods and crippling the economy by preventing trade with the outside world, the closure regime has prolonged the suffering caused by the Israeli attacks on Gaza in December 2008 and January 2009. It has been prohibited to bring reconstruction materials, including urgently needed materials for the water and sanitation sector, into Gaza, leading to ongoing homelessness and an impending crisis with regard to sewage and clean drinking water.



Gaza's Border Crossings: Overview

- Erez Crossing: Pedestrian traffic
- Nahal Oz: Industrial fuel/gas
- Karni Crossing: Conveyor belt for grains
- Sufa: Humanitarian goods/construction materials
- Karm abu Salem: All authorized goods
- Rafah: Pedestrian traffic

Crossing Closures in December 2009

- Nahal Oz and Karni Crossings are being phased out, making Karm Abu Salem the primary crossing point for goods entering the Gaza Strip. However, Karm Abu Salem's capacity is limited at 100 tons of fuel/gas per day, compared to 400 tons at Nahal Oz.
- Karm Abu Salem: **6** days of closure
- Rafah: Open on an ad hoc basis for the movement of a number of authorized passengers, Palestinian medical and humanitarian cases. In December, **248** Palestinians were allowed to travel to Egypt, none of them were patients. **6,477** Palestinians, including a high number of pilgrims, were allowed into the Gaza Strip.

Import of goods into Gaza

	Imported	Required	% of total needs
Number of Truckloads of Goods	2,353	10,400	23%
Litres of Industrial Fuel	8,763,170	15,500,000	57%
Tons of Cooking Gas	2612	10,850	24%

Economic Indicators (Source: PCBS)

Poverty and Food Insecurity

- Poverty levels: ~ **80%**
- Unemployment levels: ~ **42%**
- Average monthly household income: **1,567 NIS**
- Average monthly household expenditure: **1,734 NIS**

Food Insecurity

- Food insecure: **60, 5 %**
- Vulnerable: **16, 2%**
- **33, 7%** households consume lower quality food
- **16, 2%** households consume less food