

STATISTICAL INDICATORS ON THE EVE OF OPERATION CAST LEAD

By the time Israel launched Operation Cast Lead (OCL) on 27 December 2008, the Gaza Strip had been under varying degrees of closure since February 2006, shortly after Hamas won a startling victory in Palestinian legislative elections. At that time, Israel first banned exports from Gaza and restricted imports to minimum humanitarian aid and basic goods in a bid to pressure Hamas. Israel sealed Gaza's borders almost completely (including restricting fuel and electricity) after Hamas's takeover of Gaza in June 2007 and eased restrictions only slightly thereafter, despite the 6-month cease-fire that began in June 2008. The statistics below reflect Gaza conditions in the weeks preceding OCL.

Percentage of Gazans classified as impoverished: 79¹

Percentage of Gazans living in "deep poverty": 35²

Percentage of Gazans receiving UN assistance (food and/or money): 76³

Unemployment rate of Gazans still seeking work: 49⁴

Percentage of Gaza's private sector workers who had been laid off: 68⁵

Number of Gaza's 3,900 industrial enterprises closed due to Israeli import and export restrictions: 3,877⁶

Value of all UN and private sector construction projects suspended as a result of Israel's blockade: \$370 million⁷

Truckloads of food imports per day required to sustain UNRWA's distribution of food aid: 70–80⁸

Average number of UNRWA truckloads per day of food in November 2008: 4.6⁹

Truckloads per day of UNRWA food imports in December 2008: 5–15¹⁰

Minimum weekly truck traffic required to meet Gaza's basic humanitarian needs: 3,500¹¹

Average number of humanitarian aid trucks entering Gaza weekly in December 2008: around 300¹²

*Number of the 473 drugs classified as essential for hospitals and clinics to have on hand that were at zero levels across Gaza: 95*¹³

*Percentage of Gazans subsisting primarily on agriculture: 27*¹⁴

*Percentage of Gaza's arable land located within Israeli-enforced "no go" zones where Palestinians were routinely shot on sight: 43*¹⁵

*Percentage of agricultural land left unirrigated for lack of water supplies: 70*¹⁶

*Maximum height of crops farmers were allowed to plant as imposed by Israeli military order to preserve the IDF's clear "lines of sight": 40 cm*¹⁷

*Direct losses to Gaza's agricultural sector because of terminals closures in 2008: \$15 million*¹⁸

*Amount of industrial fuel for Gaza's power plant allowed into Gaza: 20% of basic needs*¹⁹

*Amount of diesel fuel allowed into Gaza: 3% of basic needs (intended for UNRWA trucks to deliver food aid)*²⁰

*Amount of cooking fuel allowed into Gaza: 5% of basic needs*²¹

*Number of days that Gaza's two main hospitals had been out of cooking gas before the launch of Operation Cast Lead: 34*²²

*Gaza bakeries forced to close because of lack of cooking gas and flour: 30 out of 47*²³

*Feed imports received by Gaza's animal producers: 22% of basic needs*²⁴

*Number of chicks euthanized in Gaza's poultry batcheries because of a grave lack of feed and cooking gas to incubate them: 400,000*²⁵

*Poultry as percentage of Gazans' total protein intake: 70*²⁶

*Percentage of Gazans receiving water only once every 5-7 days: 60*²⁷

*Percentage of Gaza's water wells that were only partly functional: 80*²⁸

*Percentage of drinking water that met World Health Organization potability standards as a result of Israeli restrictions for lack of chlorine and fuel to run treatment plants: 20*²⁹

*Liters per day of untreated sewage dumped into the Mediterranean for lack of chlorine and electricity to run treatment plants: 40 million*³⁰

*Gaza's ranking among emergency situations necessitating a UN humanitarian appeal: 3d (after the Congo and Sudan)*³¹

¹"Poverty" is defined as living on less than \$2.30 per day and/or having enough funds for only minimum necessary food, housing, clothing, health care, education, etc. Palestine Monitor, "Factsheet: Poverty," 18 December 2008; World Bank Group, "Country Brief: Middle East and North Africa Region—West Bank and Gaza," September 2008.

²"Deep poverty" is defined as living on less than 50 cents per day and/or having a budget for minimum necessary food, clothing, and housing only, not including other necessities such as health care, education, transportation, personal care, or housekeeping supplies. Palestine Monitor, "Factsheet: Poverty," 18 December 2008; World Bank Group, "Country Brief: Middle East and North Africa Region—West Bank and Gaza," September 2008.

³On the eve of OCL, 750,000 refugees and 265,000 nonrefugees received aid through the UN's World Food Program. ANERA Fact Sheet, Gaza Statistics before and after the Bombardment," 3 February 2009. UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), "Protection of Civilians Weekly Report," 3–16 December 2008.

⁴Sara Roy, "If Gaza Falls," *London Review of Books*, 1 January 2009.

⁵International Crisis Group, "Ruling Palestine I: Gaza under Hamas," 19 March 2008.

⁶ANERA Fact Sheet, "Gaza Statistics before and after the Bombardment," 3 February 2009.

⁷OCHA, "Special Focus: The Closure of the Gaza Strip: The Economic and Humanitarian Consequences," December 2007. No projects had been revived as of December 2008.

⁸Amnesty, CARE International-UK, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Medecins du Monde-UK, Oxfam, Save the Children-UK and Trocaire, "The Gaza Strip: A Humanitarian Implosion," 8 February 2008.

⁹Sara Roy, "If Gaza Falls."

¹⁰OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Weekly Reports," 25 November–2 December 2008 and 3–16 December 2008.

¹¹Based on daily figure of 500 cited in ANERA Fact Sheet, "Gaza Statistics before and after the Bombardment," 3 February 2009.

¹²Save the Children Fact Sheet, "Children of the Gaza Crisis," 9 February 2009.

¹³OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Weekly Reports," 17–23 December 2008.

¹⁴CIA World Factbook, 2008; UNRWA and Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, July 2008.

¹⁵CIA World Factbook, 2008; UNRWA and Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics, July 2008.

¹⁶ANERA Fact Sheet, "Gaza Statistics before and after the Bombardment," 3 February 2009.

¹⁷Hence, strawberries and potatoes were the most common cash crops. Heather Sharp, "Guide: Gaza under Blockade," BBC News, Jerusalem, 11 November 2008. Amnesty, CARE International-UK, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Medecins du Monde-UK, Oxfam, Save the Children-UK and Trocaire, "The Gaza Strip: A Humanitarian Implosion," 8 February 2008.

¹⁸PALTRADE (Palestinian Trade Center), "Gaza Terminals Movement Monitoring Monthly Report," December 2008.

¹⁹Palestinian Center for Human Rights (PCHR), "Weekly Report on Israeli Human Rights Violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory," 20–26 November 2008.

²⁰PCHR, "Weekly Report," 20–26 November 2008

²¹PCHR "Weekly Report," 20–26 November 2008.

²²Roy, "If Gaza Falls."

²³Roy, "If Gaza Falls."

²⁴OCHA, "Humanitarian Monitor—November 2008," 16 December 2008.

²⁵OCHA, "Humanitarian Monitor—November 2008," 16 December 2008.

²⁶Roy, "If Gaza Falls."

²⁷OCHA, "Protection of Civilians Weekly Report," 17–23 December 2008.

²⁸OCHA, "Humanitarian Monitor—November 2008," 16 December 2008.

²⁹ANERA Fact Sheet, "Gaza Statistics before and after the Bombardment," 3 February 2009.

³⁰OCHA, "Humanitarian Monitor—November 2008," 16 December 2008.

³¹Amnesty, CARE International-UK, CAFOD, Christian Aid, Medecins du Monde-UK, Oxfam, Save the Children-UK and Trocaire, "The Gaza Strip: A Humanitarian Implosion," 8 February 2008. The 2008 appeal, which was twice the amount of the 2006 appeal, called for \$462 million in donor contributions.