



إتحاد الغرف التجارية الصناعية الزراعية الفلسطينية

Federation of Palestinian Chambers of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture

# Gaza Movement of Goods Weekly Report

**Week 13: October 22-28, 2024**

## In this Report:

- Israel started to implement a policy of banning entry of private sector goods.
- This week, for the first time since 01/08/2024, the number of trucks passed through Erez exceeded the number of trucks passed through (KAS).
- Success story " Al-Buhaisi Shopping Center " ..... page 19
- The case of the week: "The aggravated food crisis since the beginning of October, and has reached unprecedented levels" ..... page 20

**November 14, 2024.**

# Gaza Movement of Goods Weekly Report

## 1 Executive Summary:

- This report, of weekly market analysis in Gaza Strip, covers the period from 22/10/2024 to 28/10/2024.
- The crossings were completely closed on three days, 24/10/2024, 26/10/2024 and 27/10/2024. Rafah crossing remained completely closed.
- The Israeli coordination platform, for private sector, has been closed since 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2024, no coordination requests have been placed nor approved since then.
- This week and for the second successive time, 45 trucks entered Gaza Strip through Gate 96, located on the dividing line between the north and south sides of Gaza Strip.
- During the reporting period, **322** trucks with a total of **7,331**<sup>1</sup> tons of commodities entered Gaza Strip. These trucks entered from three main<sup>2</sup> crossings, Karm Abu Salem (KAS) 133 trucks, Erez 144 trucks and Route 96 gate 45 trucks. No trucks entered through the Palestinian/Egyptian Rafah crossing, or any other crossing.
- Karm Abu Salem (KAS) and Rafah crossings operate mainly for the southern part, Erez crossing operates for the Northern part, and Gate 96 serves both sides.
- All trucks that entered Gaza Strip during the reporting period are humanitarian aid, and no commodities entered for the private sector except for 17 trucks of cooking gas.
- The Humanitarian Assistance entering Gaza Strip does not meet the minimum needs of the population with limited quantities of some food items, hygiene materials, shelter equipment, fuel, medicines and medical supplies only.
- There ban of private sector goods lead to extremely high local market prices, as the price increase for some food items reached more than 1700% compared to what it was before the war.
- The delivery of aid lies into Gaza remains instable and unreliable due to crossings and routs access restrictions and ongoing security issues.
- Lack of storage and cold storage prevent wholesalers and retailers from storing reasonable quantities of goods to help stabilize the markets.
- The private sector should be allowed to import food items again, and expand the types and quantities of goods, cover all areas in distribution, to stabilize prices and make essential goods available to people. The number of importers should be Increased.
- The private sector Importers should be allowed to import and enter goods for Northern part of Gaza Strip using all available crossings.

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<sup>1</sup> This number does not include the load of one truck, as there is no information about its contents in tons, this truck was loaded by UN & NGO equipment and passed on 22/10/2024.

<sup>2</sup> West Eriz (Zikim) and Gate 96 are also being used to enter humanitarian aid to the north.

## 2 Distribution of the Population in Gaza Strip:

The continuation of the extensive military operations of the Israeli occupation army in the north of Gaza Strip, the lack of food and the sharp rise in food items prices, have forced additional numbers of Palestinian families to be forcibly displaced towards the south of Gaza Strip. Reports issued by organizations working in the field of distributing humanitarian aid in the northern Gaza Strip indicate that the population there ranges between 400-450 thousand people, which constitutes 19% of the total population of Gaza Strip before the war, and there are approximately 1,625,000 people in the southern part of Gaza Strip, which constitutes 72% of the total population, and the remaining 200,000 people 9% are currently outside Gaza strip.

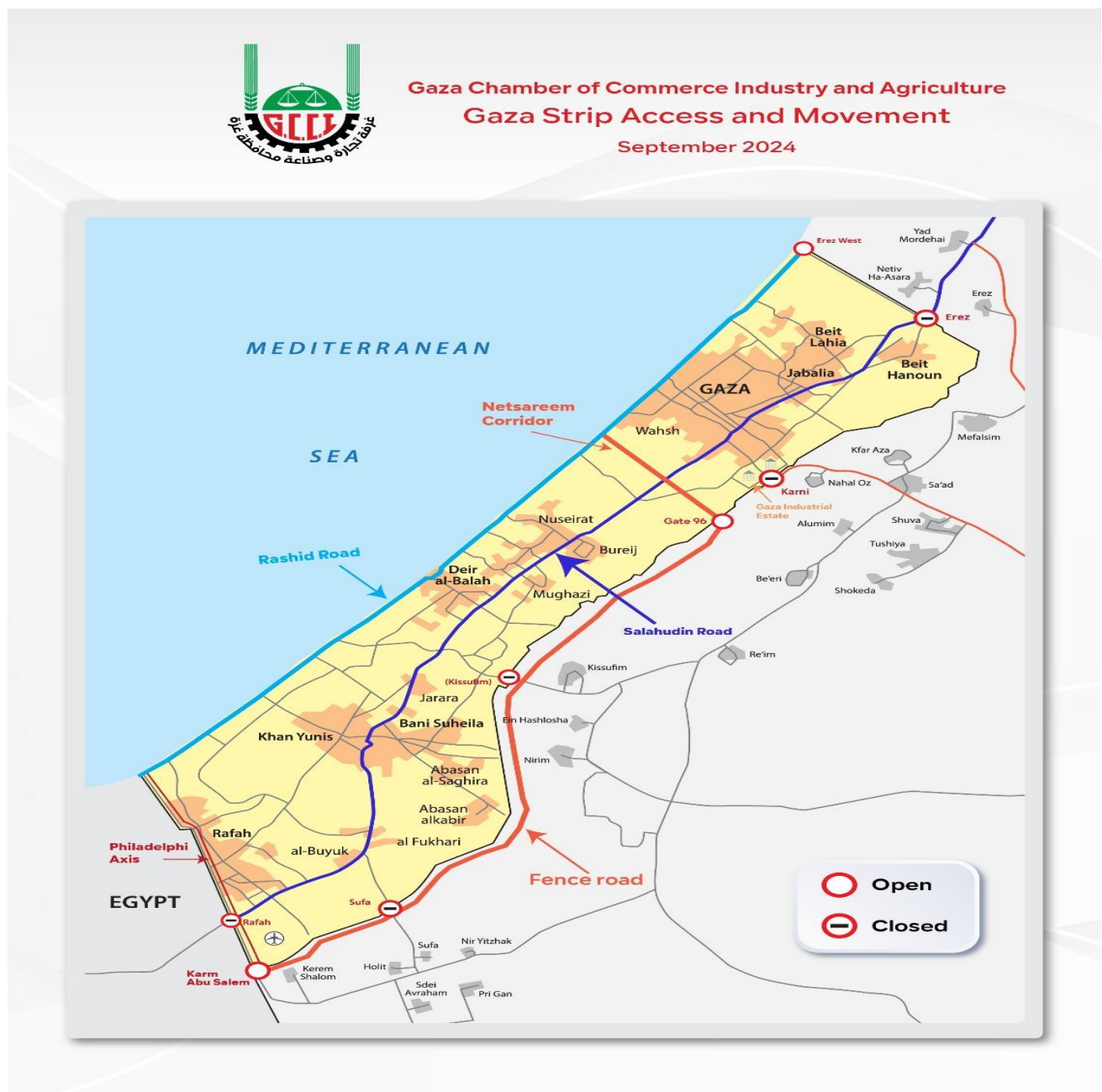


Figure (1): Map of dividing Gaza Strip into North and South of Gaza Valley

The vast majority of commodities entered through KAS remain in the southern side of Gaza Strip, which constitutes about 41% of the total amount of commodities passed through the reporting period. Israeli occupation still restricts these commodities from passing into the Northern part of Gaza Strip. The commodities entered through Erez crossing, which constitutes about 45% remain in the Northern side. While there is no accurate information about the destination of the commodities that entered through gate 96, whether to the north or to the south side of Gaza Strip, which represents the remaining 14% with a total of 45 trucks.

It is worth noting that the food shortage is no longer limited to the northern side of Gaza Strip, as was the case in previous weeks, but has also extended to the southern side, which is also suffering from a severe shortage of basic commodities, including vegetables, meat and flour.

While the northern part of Gaza Strip suffers greatly from food shortages, (vegetables, meat and eggs), there are other items somewhat available there, such as clothes, shoes and hygiene material, while in the south these items are not available.

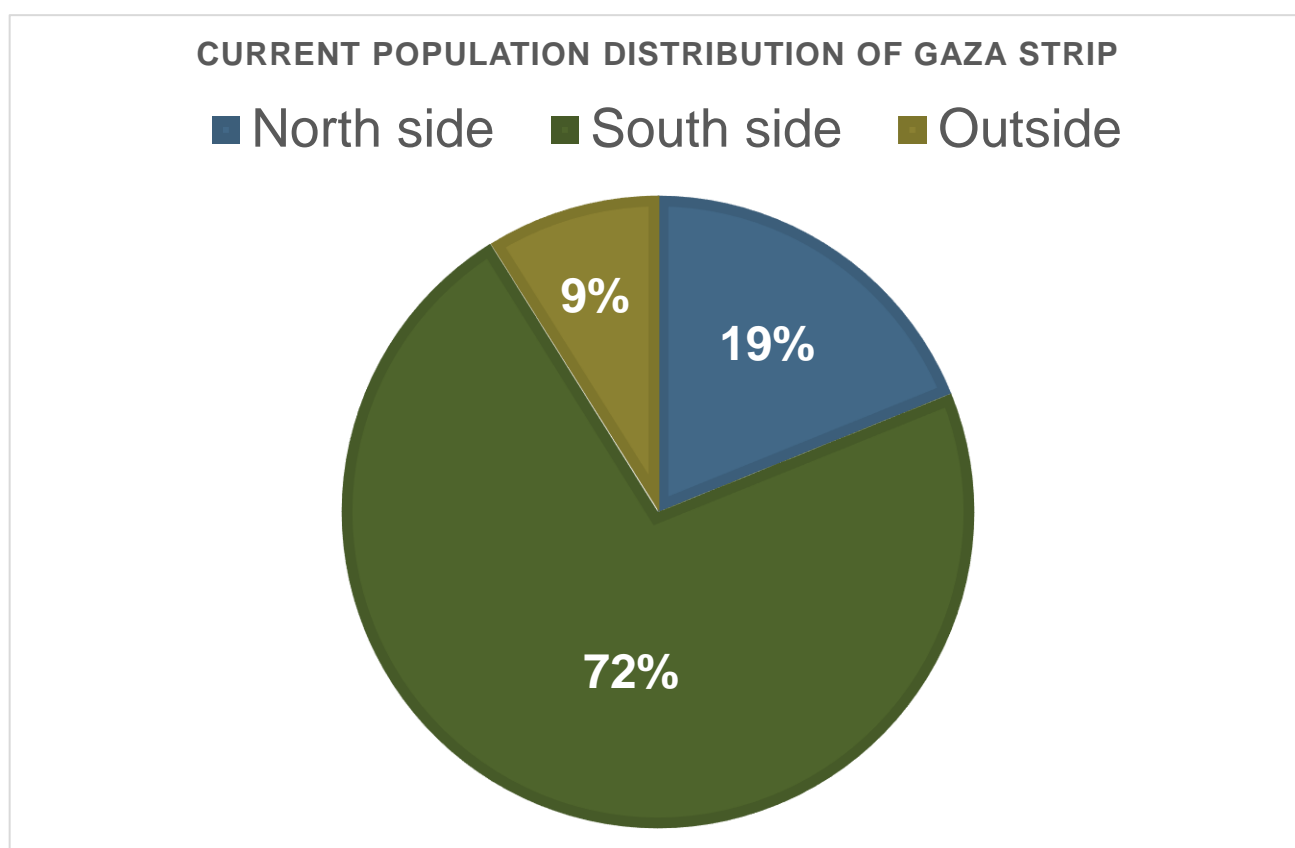


Figure (2): Current population distribution of Gaza Strip.

The following figure shows the distribution of commodities between the North and the South based on the number of trucks. The numbers in this figure are based on the quantity of commodities entering through KAS and Erez crossings, and do not include trucks passing from gate 96 nor from the south of Gaza Strip to the north as they are in very small portion and there are no accurate statistics regarding them.

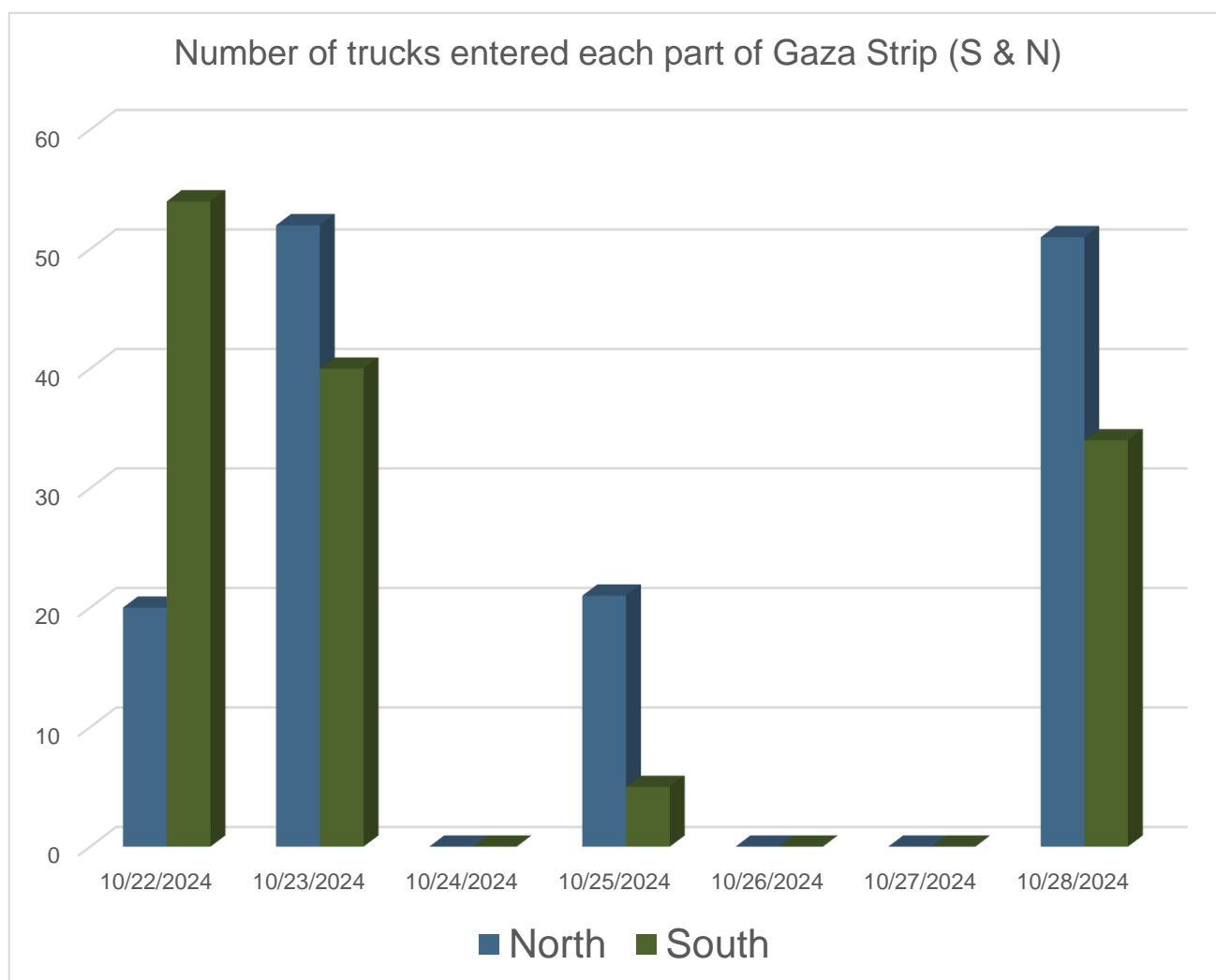


Figure (3): Number of trucks entered each part of Gaza Strip (South, North)

### 3 Daily Crossing Points Status:

Rafah crossing remains closed. This week, for the first time since 01/08/2024, the number of trucks passed through Erez exceeded the number of trucks passed through (KAS). There were three days of complete closure this week, where no trucks passed into Gaza Strip, these days were 24/10/2024, 26/10/2024 and 27/10/2024. Tuesday 22/10/2024 has the largest number of trucks on one day during the reporting period, 104 trucks passed into Gaza Strip, 54 trucks through (KAS), 20 trucks through Erez, and 30 trucks through gate 96. On Wednesday 23/10/2024, the number of trucks decreased to 92 trucks, 40 trucks of them entered from (KAS) and the remain 52 trucks entered from Erez, and no trucks entered from gate 96. On Thursday 24/10/2024 no trucks entered from any crossing at all. On Friday 25/10/2024, only 26 trucks entered into Gaza Strip, 5 from (KAS) and 21 from Erez, and no trucks entered from gate 96. On Saturday 26/10/2024 and Sunday 27/10/2024, no trucks entered from any crossing at all. On the last day, Monday 28/10/2024, the number of trucks increased to 100, 34 trucks passed through (KAS), 51 through Erez, and 15 trucks through gate 96.

Table (1): Number of trucks entered through each corossing in the reporting period.

Day	Date	Number of Trucks				Total
		Rafah	Erez	Route 96	Karm Abu Salem (KAS)	
Tuesday	22/10/2024	0	20	30	54	104
Wednesday	23/10/2024	0	52	0	40	92
Thursday	24/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0
Friday	25/10/2024	0	21	0	5	26
Saturday	26/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0
Sunday	27/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0
Monday	28/10/2024	0	51	15	34	100
Total		0	144	45	133	322

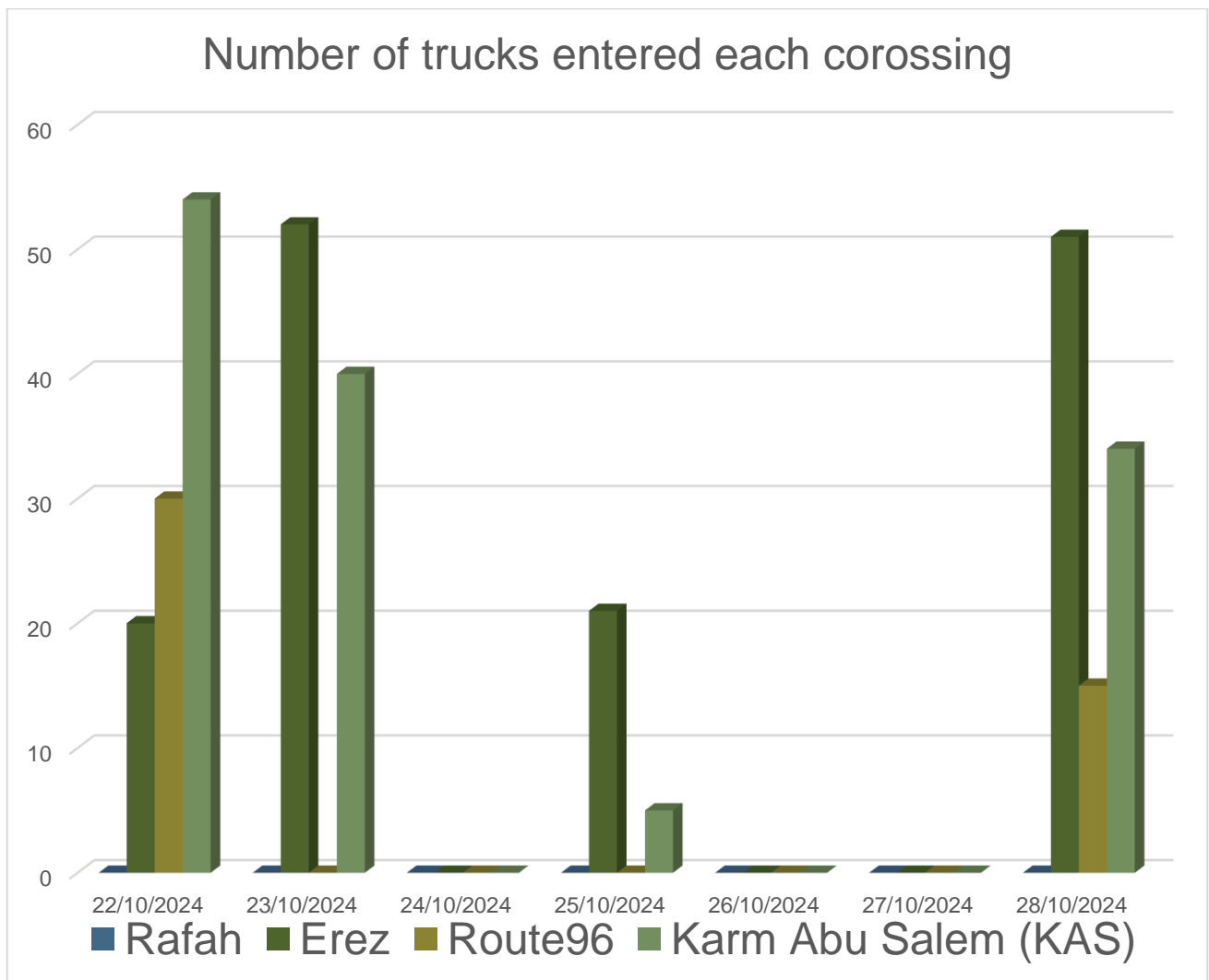


Figure (4): Number of trucks entered each corossing

The average daily number of entering trucks during the reporting period is about 46 trucks, while the average in the previous week was about 66 trucks. Entering Commodities:

### 3.1 Commodities Classification:

This week, the types of commodities entering Gaza Strip, in the north and south, are divided into 7 main categories: food items – shelter equipment – medical supplies – combined aid – fuel – cooking gas – UN & NGOs equipment. There is no prioritization or stability in the importation of these goods. This lack of prioritization and stability has affected local market prices, as will be explained later, in the market analysis section. There is no proper geographic distribution to the entering commodities, neither in quantities nor in varieties. The following tables show the categories of entering commodities and their amount in tons and trucks, on daily basis:

Table (2): Types and ammount of commodities in Tons.

Date	Types and Amounts of Commodities (Tons)							Total
	Medical Supplies	Shelter Equipment	Mixed Aid	UN & NGOS equipment	Fuel	Cooking Gas	Food items	
22/10/2024	75	210	0	N/A	0	132	2,230	<b>2,647</b>
23/10/2024	20	775	0	0	357	0	545	<b>1,697</b>
24/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
25/10/2024	0	0	45	0	0	0	660	<b>705</b>
26/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
27/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
28/10/2024	50	285	135	0	5	132	1,675	<b>2,282</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>1,270</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>5,110</b>	<b>7,331</b>

#### Note:

- The quantity of UN & NGO equipment is not available in tons on 22/10/2024, the available data indicates that one truck of UN & NGO equipment entered on that day.

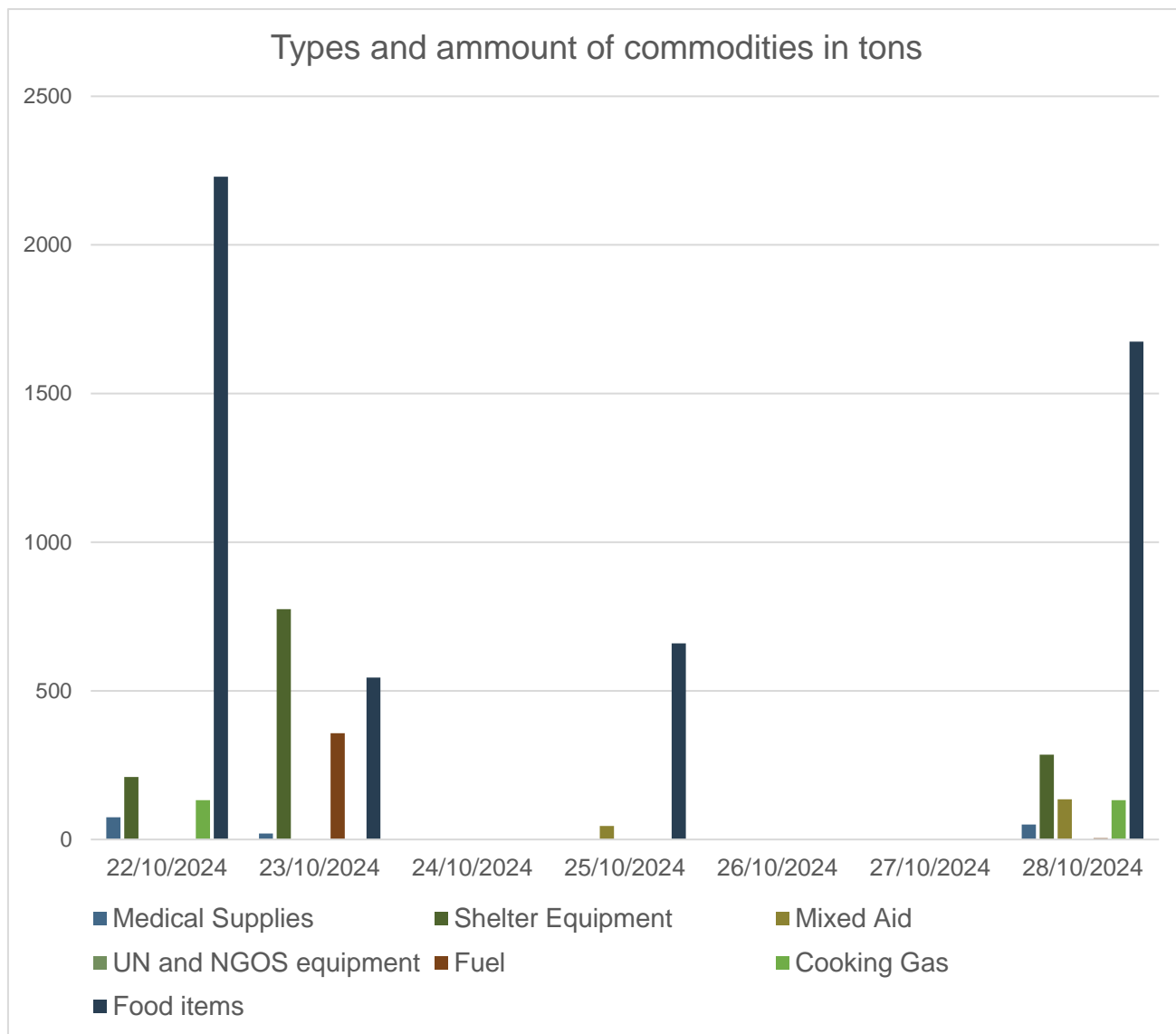


Figure (5): Types and ammount of commodities in tons.

Table (3): Types and ammount of commodities by Trucks.

Date	Types and Amounts of Commodities (Trucks)							Total
	Medical Supplies	Shelter Equipment	Mixed Aid	UN & NGOs Equip.	Cooking Gas	Fuel	Food items	
22/10/2024	5	14	0	1	6	0	78	104
23/10/2024	1	55	0	0	0	5	31	92
24/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25/10/2024	0	0	3	0	0	0	23	26
26/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28/10/2024	4	19	9	0	6	1	61	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>322</b>



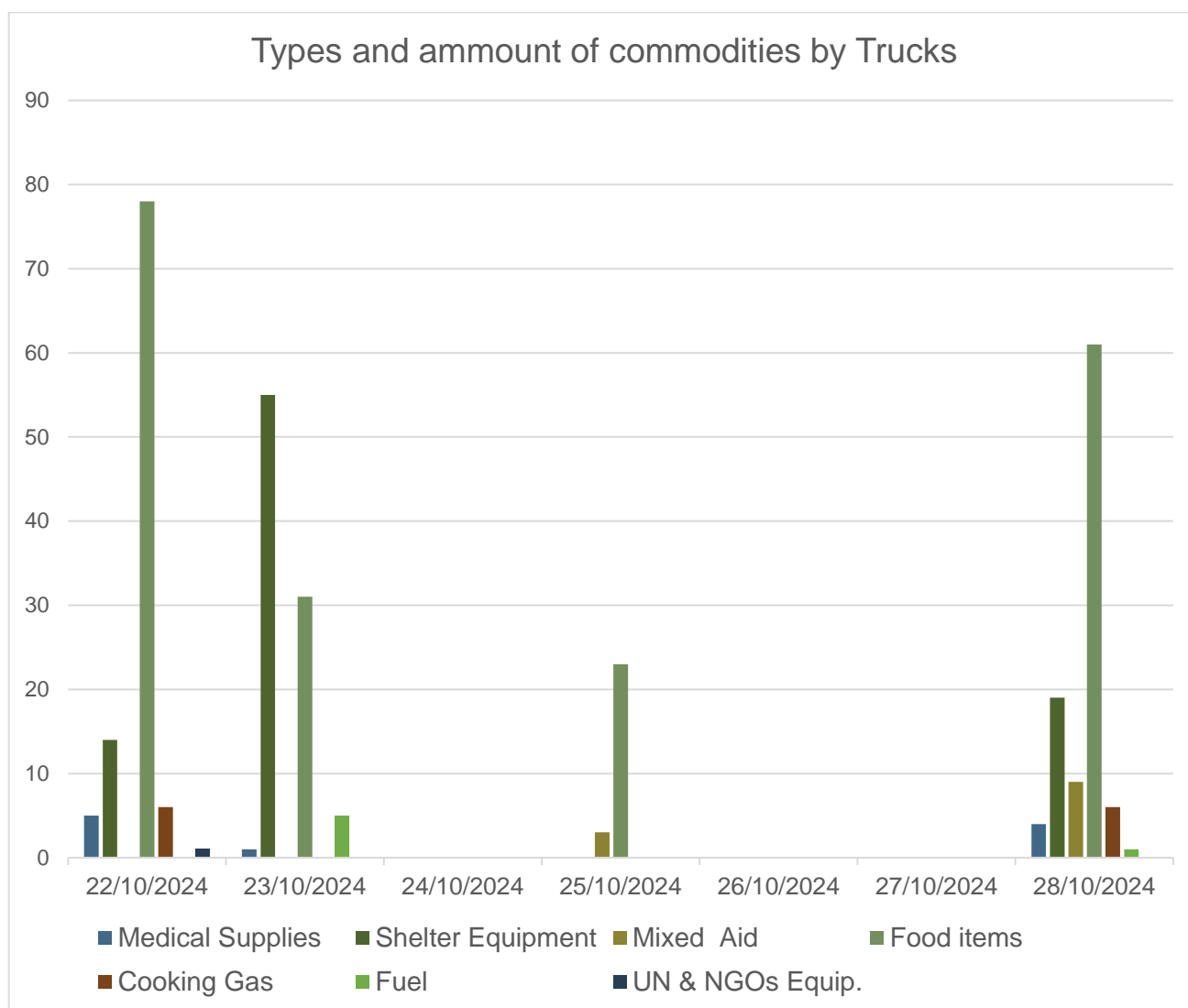


Figure (6): Types and ammount of commodities by Trucks.

### 3.2 Food items details:

This week the quantity of food items decreased by 15% compared to the previous week, it reached 5,110, while it was 6,020 tons in the previous week. However, there was an increase in the percentage of food items from the total commodities that passed into Gaza Strip compared to the previous week. The percentage of trucks loaded with food items reached about 60% instead of 50% in the previous week, while the percentage of food items in tons reached about 70% instead of 65% in the previous week.

As shown in table (2), food items constitute 70% of the total commodities entered to Gaza Strip within the report period, with a total of 5,110 tons. The details of these food items and its components include (7) sub-categories, as follows:

1. Basic items such as (oil - sugar - flour - rice - legumes - ...).
2. Vegetables and fruits.
3. Frozen meat including (red meat - chicken - fish).

4. Food parcels.
5. Eggs and dairy products.
6. Other items such as (spices and seasonings - biscuits - noodles).
7. Water.

This week, only 2 sub-categories of food items were entered among the seven recognized sub-categories, these are basic items and others. The following table shows the quantities of each of the sub-categories in tons:

Table (4): Amount of each food item sub-categories by tons.

Date	Food items categories amount (Tons)							Total
	Water	dairy and eggs	Food parcels	Frozen meat	Fruit and vegetables	basic items	Other	
22/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	2070	160	<b>2,230</b>
23/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	80	465	<b>545</b>
24/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
25/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	660	0	<b>660</b>
26/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
27/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
28/10/2024	0	0	0	40	0	1380	255	<b>1,675</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,190</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>5,110</b>

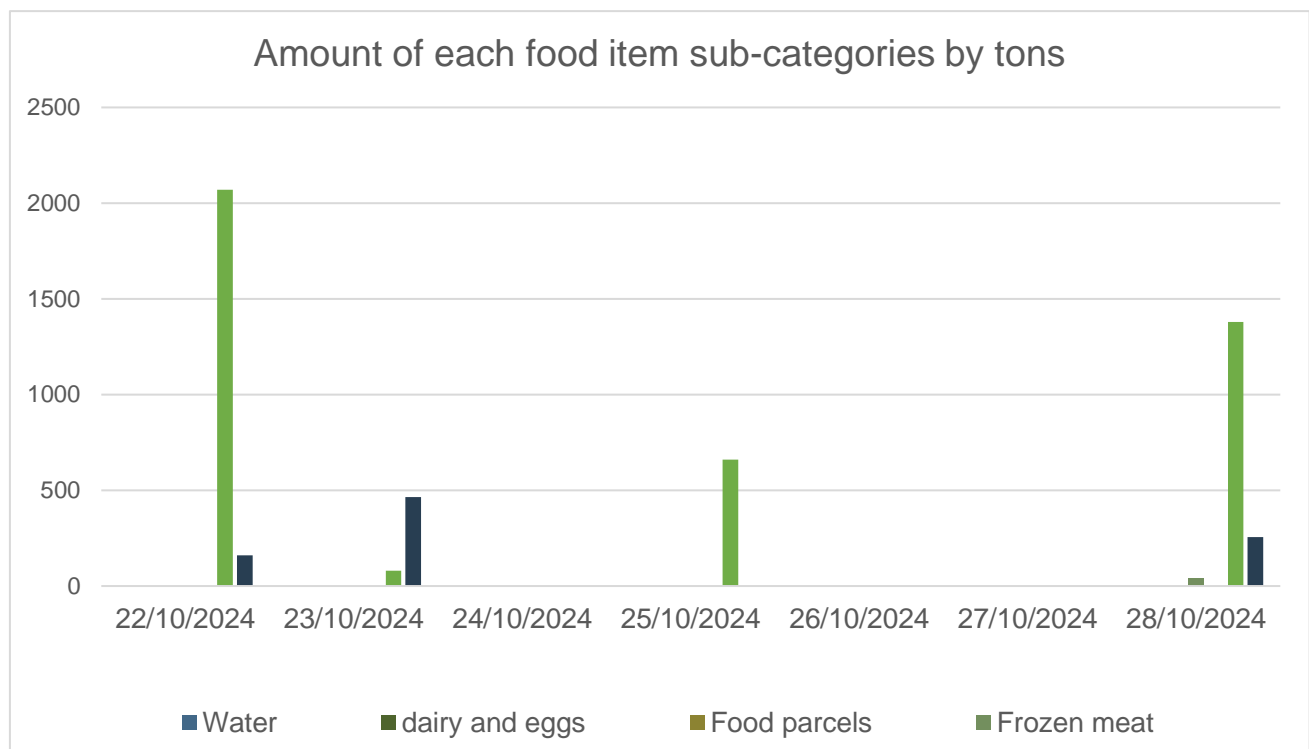


Figure (7): Amount of each food item sub-categories by tons.

Table (5): Amount of each food item sub-categories by trucks.

Date	Food items categories amount (Truck)							Total
	Water	dairy and eggs	Food parcels	Frozen meat	Fruit and vegetables	basic items	Other	
22/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	73	5	78
23/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	4	27	31
24/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	23	0	23
26/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27/10/2024	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28/10/2024	0	0	0	2	0	48	11	61
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>193</b>

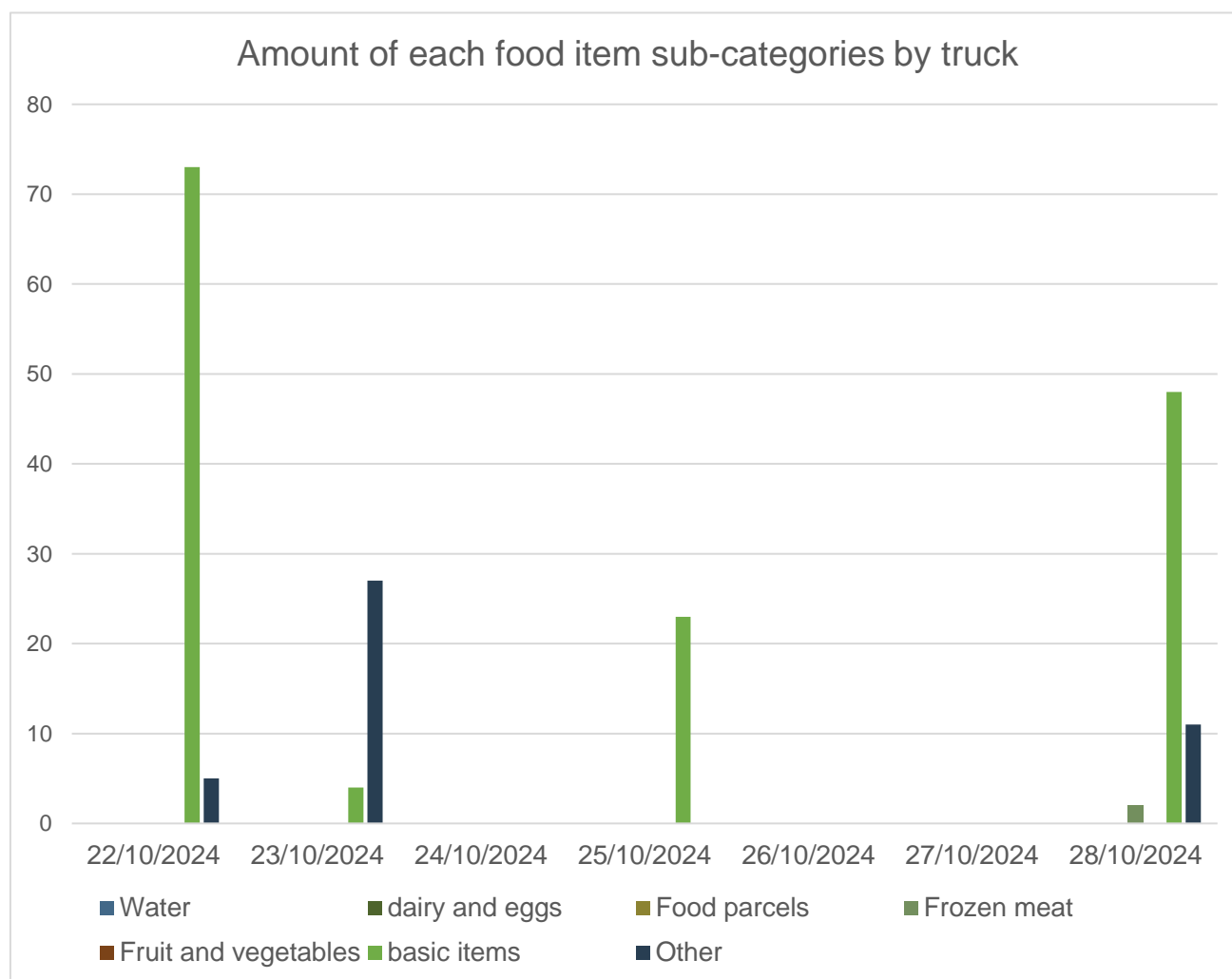


Figure (8): Amount of food item sub-categories by trucks.

### 3.3 Commodities Providers:

The commodities entered Gaza Strip during the report period vary between the private sector and humanitarian sector. While the private sector is limited to cooking gas, the humanitarian sector aid extends to food items, medical supplies, shelter equipment, UN & NGOs equipment and combined aid. The private sector entered only 4% of the total number of trucks for this period. The following table shows the commodities entering according to the source (private sector – humanitarian aid):

Table (6): commodities entering according to the provider (private sector - humanitarian aid)

Date	Items	Private Sector		Humanitarian Aids		Total Number of trucks	Total amount by tons
		Trucks	Tons	Trucks	Tons		
22/10/2024	Food items	0	0	78	2,230	78	2,230
	Cooking Gas	6	132	0	0	6	132
	Fuel	0	0	0	0	0	0
	UN and NGOS equipment	0	0	1	0	1	0
	Mixed Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Shelter Equipment	0	0	14	210	14	210
	Medical Supplies	0	0	5	75	5	75
<b>Subtotal 1</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>2,515</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>2,647</b>
23/10/2024	Food items	0	0	31	545	31	545
	Cooking Gas	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fuel	0	0	5	357	5	357
	UN and NGOS equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mixed Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Shelter Equipment	0	0	55	775	55	775
	Medical Supplies	0	0	1	20	1	20
<b>Subtotal 2</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>1,697</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>1,697</b>
24/10/2024	Food items	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Cooking Gas	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fuel	0	0	0	0	0	0
	UN and NGOS equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mixed Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Shelter Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Medical Supplies	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal 3</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
25/10/2024	Food items	0	0	23	660	23	660
	Cooking Gas	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fuel	0	0	0	0	0	0
	UN and NGOS equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0

Date	Items	Private Sector		Humanitarian Aids		Total Number of trucks	Total amount by tons
		Trucks	Tons	Trucks	Tons		
	Mixed Aid	0	0	3	45	3	45
	Shelter Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Medical Supplies	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal 4</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>705</b>
26/10/2024	Food items	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Cooking Gas	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fuel	0	0	0	0	0	0
	UN and NGOS equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mixed Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Shelter Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Medical Supplies	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal 5</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
27/10/2024	Food items	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Cooking Gas	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Fuel	0	0	0	0	0	0
	UN and NGOS equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mixed Aid	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Shelter Equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Medical Supplies	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Subtotal 6</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
28/10/2024	Food items	0	0	61	1675	61	1675
	Cooking Gas	6	132	0	0	6	132
	Fuel	0	0	1	5	1	5
	UN and NGOS equipment	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Mixed Aid	0	0	9	135	9	135
	Shelter Equipment	0	0	19	285	19	285
	Medical Supplies	0	0	4	50	4	50
<b>Subtotal 7</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,282</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>7,067</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>7,331</b>

#### 4 Daily market prices for essential items:

Data about market prices are collected from the markets in the southern part of Gaza Strip. Prices were collected in the “humanitarian area” (South of Wadi Gaza), specifically in Nuseirat, Deir al-Balah, and Khan Younis markets. It was noted that there is an increase in some items prices by more than 1700% compared to what it was before the war. This increase is attributed to several factors, the most important of them are the availability of the

item and the volume of demand on it (supply and demand, and lack of prioritization). Prices of many goods have a sharp fluctuation from day to day, in direct correlation with changes in the status of the crossings and the types and quantities of imported goods (instability of flow). The prices for the reporting period, from 22/10/2024 to 28/10/2024 were as follows:

Table (7): Daily market prices ILS/Kg for essential items (South of Gaza Strip)

#	Item	22/10	23/10	24/10	25/10	26/10	27/10	28/10	Average	St. Dev
1	Flour	55	80	80	108	108	100	100	90.143	19.46
2	Potato	35	50	40	60	60	25	25	42.143	14.96
3	Onion	40	40	60	60	60	35	35	47.143	12.20
4	Tomato	55	60	50	50	50	45	45	50.714	5.35
5	Cucumber	10	10	22	13	13	12	12	13.143	4.10
6	Oil	27	30	30	36	36	32	32	31.857	3.29
7	Eggplant	12	16	17	17	17	15	15	15.571	1.81
8	Rice	14	14	15	15	15	18	18	15.571	1.72
9	Bottled water box	25	25	25	25	25	28	28	25.857	1.46
10	Sugar	15	14	14	17	17	17	17	15.857	1.46
11	Lemon	20	20	18	20	20	20	20	19.714	0.76
12	Garlic	N/A	120	120	120	120	N/A	N/A	120.000	0.00
13	Pepper	40	40	40	40	40	40	40	40.000	0.00
14	Orange	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15.000	0.00
15	Kidney beans	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10.000	0.00
16	Macaroni	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6.000	0.00

From the previous table, goods can be grouped according to the severity of price fluctuations based on the standard deviation value into three categories:

#### 4.1 Fixed-price goods:

These are goods whose standard deviation is (0), meaning that their prices were stable and did not change throughout the reporting period, these goods are (garlic – pepper – orange – kidney beans – Macaroni). It should be noted that although the standard deviation value of garlic is zero, this does not reflect the stability and consistency of its price in the market, but rather is due to its unavailability in the market for many days during the reporting period.

#### 4.2 Stable-price goods:

These are goods whose standard deviation ranges between (0-1), meaning that their prices changed at slight rates during the reporting period, only one item is stable (lemon).

### 4.3 Volatile-price goods:

These are goods whose standard deviation is greater than (1), meaning that they witnessed sharp fluctuations in prices during the reporting period, these goods are (flour – potato – onion – tomato – cucumber – oil – eggplant – rice – bottled water box sugar).

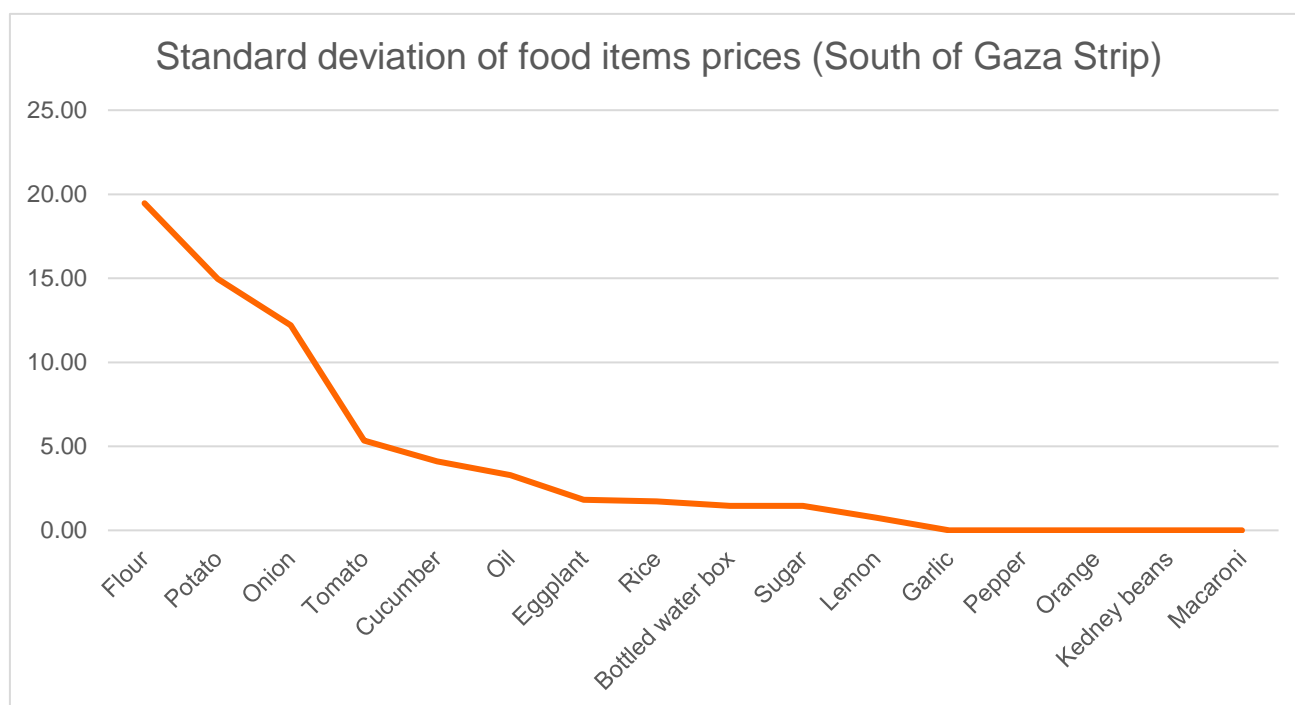


Figure (9): Standard deviation of food items prices (South of Gaza Strip)

We note here that some items that were previously classified as a fixed price item, such as (flour, oil and rice), became highly volatile items, while some other items that were classified as a volatile price item, such as (pepper and garlic), became stable.

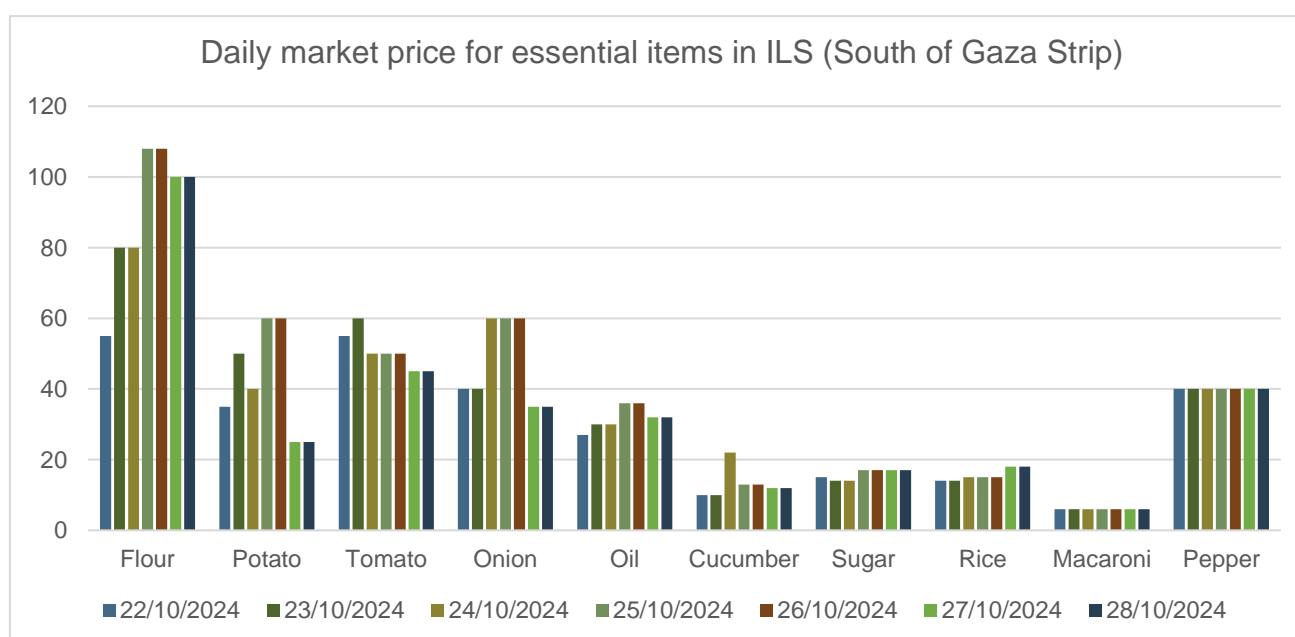


Figure (10): Daily market price for essential items in ILS (South of Gaza Strip)

#### 4.4 Retailers Price Analysis from 22/10/2024 – 28/10/2024:

##### As an example:

- Product 1: **Flour**.
  - Opening Price: 55.
  - Closing Price: 100.
  - Percentage Change: 82%.
- Product 2: **Rice**.
  - Opening Price: 14.
  - Closing Price: 18.
  - Percentage Change: 29%
- Product 3: **Oil**.
  - Opening Price: 27.
  - Closing Price: 32.
  - Percentage Change: 19%
- Product e: **Potato**.
  - Opening Price: 35.
  - Closing Price: 25.
  - Percentage Change: -29%

##### 4.4.1 Importers prices:

By comparing commodity prices between importers and retailers, we find that retailer prices to consumers are approximately 30% higher than importers (wholesalers) for basic materials, vegetables and fruits, and 40% for frozen meat. This is considered, to some extent high percentage, and is attributed to the high costs of sales services such as: transportation, security escort, storage, refrigeration and energy.

##### 4.4.2 Market Conditions in Gaza:

- Truck Movement Variations:
  - During this report, there was decrease in the commodities flow rate comparing to the previous week, the total is 322 trucks, distributed between Karm Abu Salem, Erez and gate 96. Erez crossing constituted the big share of commodities flow rate during the reporting period.
  - Completely shut of all crossings were observed on 24/10/2024, 26/10/2024 and 27/10/2024, impacting the availability of goods on the following days.
- Variety and Quantity of Goods:
  - In this week, the supply was at its minimum, which affected market prices to escalate, especially, since the quantities entered Gaza Strip are very small compared to the required level, and are not sufficient for the population daily needs.

#### 4.5 Market price in the Northern part of Gaza Strip:

During the reporting period, no data was collected on commodity prices in the northern side of Gaza Strip, due to the unavailability of many goods and the closure of markets, as well as the difficult field conditions that the region is experiencing.



## 5 Coordination Mechanism:

- The Israeli coordination platform has been closed since 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2024, no coordination requests has been placed or approved since then.

### 5.1 Difficulties:

- Israeli Authorities have implemented their trade policy and completely stopped the entry of private sector goods into Gaza.
- The allowed basic commodities to enter Gaza Strip, through humanitarian sector, is much limited and does not respond to residents' basic needs.
- The delivery of aid into Gaza remains unreliable due to crossings and routes access restrictions and ongoing security issues.
- High transportation costs within Gaza due to high fuel and spare parts prices.
- Lack of cash liquidity and closure of all Bank branches except one or two ATM is magnifying the malnutrition and hunger crisis.
- Lack of storage and cold storage which prevents wholesalers and retailers from storing reasonable quantities of goods to help stabilize the markets.
- Lack of power to maintain goods cold chain and enable e-payments over the internet.
- Lack of clothing and sheltering material such as tarpaulin and nylon sheets has caused a sharp increase in its prices in the market.

## 6 Recommendations:

1. Immediate increase (in quantity and variety) of humanitarian aid entering Gaza Strip to include variant nutritious needs, with focus on areas suffering from malnutrition and famine in the Northern part of Gaza Strip, through coordination with International Organizations.
2. Allow the private sector to import food items, and other basic and essential commodities in sufficient quantities, cover all areas in distribution, and stocking in the Southern and Northern parts of Gaza to stabilize prices and make essential goods available to people.
3. Increase the number of importers who are allowed to bring basic commodities into Gaza Strip.
4. Allow access to power through solar energy to enable maintain the cold chain for dairy products and frozen meats and vegetables.
5. Allow cooking Gas to enter Northern part of Gaza Strip.
6. Increase cooking gas entering Gaza to enable people cook their food properly.
7. Increase the amount of commodities entering the Northern part of Gaza Strip to ensure that aid reaches those in need without delay.
8. Allow private sector Importers to import and enter goods for Northern part of Gaza Strip using all available crossings.
9. Allow access to hygiene products since it is causing a major concern of disease spreading among population such as hepatitis A, scabies, etc.
10. Allow humanitarian and commercial trucks access the different crossings and all routes to shorten travel distances and avoid routes controlled by looters, in order to avoid paying high sums of money for security escorts.
11. Allow Gaza traders to import directly through international ports to avoid paying high prices and commissions

12. Partner between Chambers of Commerce, as the umbrella for the private sector, with donor projects such as Tasdeer's, Anera and WFP to support the back to business for trade, industry and agriculture.
13. Promote electronic Wallets and other means of e-payments among consumers and retailers' network. Enable retailers receive e-payments and electronic cash vouchers of the humanitarian organizations, by restoring power and internet to their shops.
14. Allow private sector to import other basic commodities such as hygiene material, medicines, sheltering material, clothes and footwear, etc.
15. Urgently allow to bring agricultural and livestock production supplies into Gaza Strip, and support small farmers with seeds, tools and fertilizers to reduce dependence on external supplies and provide local food sources.
16. Provide sufficient quantities of fuel and truck spare parts to transportation companies at normal prices to reduce commercial transportation costs and limit the unjustified rise in commodity prices in the markets.
17. Provide the necessary funding to rehabilitate commercial facilities including storage and cold storage facilities that can easily return to work to contribute to early recovery and market stability.
18. Find effective, accountable and transparent mechanisms to coordinate the entry of commodities from the crossings and strengthening the role of chambers of commerce in managing this situation, to ensure proper prioritization and distribution.
19. Lift all imposed restrictions on the Private Sector to import all humanitarian needs and commodities such as school stationary, sheltering material, etc.
20. Find and promote mechanisms to control markets, prevent monopoly and control prices as much as possible.

## The Success Story of Al-Buhaisi Shopping Center

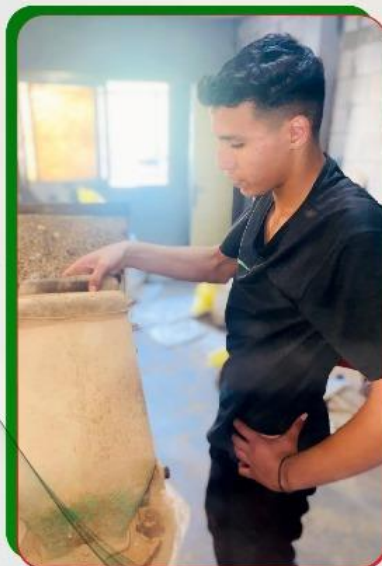


In light of the difficult conditions in Gaza Strip as a result of the ongoing war and the scarcity of food items and other basic commodities, Mr. Tamer Al-Buhaisi, owner of Al-Buhaisi Shopping Center, was able to prove his resilience and entrepreneurship by launching an innovative project that contributes to providing basic food products that the market currently lacks.

**Al-Buhaisi**, who is also a Mechanical Engineer, was able to assemble and operated three grain grinding and food processing machines, in Deir Al Balah in the middle area of Gaza Strip. These machines operate entirely on solar energy, allowing him to overcome the fuel and electricity scarcity. Al Buheisi Center currently produces 4 basic food products that are essential for every household in Gaza, such as (Tahini, Turkish coffee, Thyme and Dukkah). Despite that this project is a small project, yet it contributes directly to providing badly needed job opportunities. The center Currently employs 15 employees, and contributes to enhancing local food security. To ensure sustainability and expansion of his project, **Al-Buhaisi needs to:**

- i) expand his solar energy system.
- ii) availability of raw material and.
- iii) subsidy of workers' salaries.

Tamer Al-Buhaisi's project is a pioneering model that highlights how challenges can be turned into opportunities. Thanks to his innovative vision and exploitation of available resources, Al-Buhaisi Shopping Center has become one of the main pillars in confronting food crises in Gaza.





## 7 The case of the week: "The aggravated food crisis since the beginning of October, and has reached unprecedented levels"

### 7.1 Situation before the war:

At the beginning of 2023, Gaza Strip was witnessing relative stability in terms of food supplies and humanitarian aid. The average daily entry of trucks through (KAS) crossing was approximately 550 trucks, about 90 of them were allocated to the private sector carrying food items, in addition to humanitarian aid from agencies such as UNRWA and the World Food Programme. This aid benefited registered Palestinian families suffering from food insecurity, as the number of beneficiaries of UNRWA aid reached approximately 1.2 million people before the war.

### 7.2 The impact of the war:

The ongoing war on Gaza Strip has led to a catastrophic shortage of food and other essential items, which has been exacerbated since the beginning of the war, due to the sharp decline in the flow rate of commodities, whether through the private sector or humanitarian organizations. This has led to food insecurity reaching unprecedented levels, putting more than 2 million people on the brink of starvation and putting their lives at risk, in addition to the following effects:



**Lack of fresh products:** Since October 2, 2024, markets in the north and south Gaza have been devoid of meat, fruits and vegetables. Bread has become the only available food for many people, despite its price increase by about 40% due to the shortage of flour.

**Sharp price increases:** The shortage of basic commodities such as sugar, cooking gas and canned foods has led to a 300% to 500% increase in prices. Other basic commodities such as rice, oil and flour have seen price fluctuations, while some other items such as tomatoes has price increase by more than 1,700%.



**Declining availability of basic commodities:** The availability of essential food items has decreased dramatically. For example, flour, sugar and oil have been almost completely out of stock since mid-October, while the prices of the remaining commodities have become too high and out of reach for many families.

### 7.3 The current gap:

**7.4** There is a huge gap in the provision of basic food items, the daily food flow rate barely covers about 15% of the daily needs of the population. The crisis has been exacerbated by the prevention of the private sector from importing food since October 2, 2024, and the reliance has become entirely on food supplies brought in by humanitarian organizations, which is far from the minimum required of 5,000 tons a day. As a result, about 90% of the population of Gaza Strip suffers from malnutrition, especially children and pregnant women. This crisis is particularly exacerbated in the northern part of Gaza Strip, due to the small number of trucks entering there and the Israeli occupation's pretext that it is a dangerous combat zone to prevent the movement of trucks and goods into the northern part of Gaza Strip.

### 7.5 Recommendations:

- Use pressure and advocacy tools to increase the flow of goods and commodities, especially food items, into Gaza Strip, and work to restore the crossings to their pre-war operation.
- Implement measures aimed at stabilizing the prices of basic food commodities to ensure that they remain affordable for the population. This can be achieved by activating a clear and effective coordination mechanism, allowing all merchants to import goods, and having a sovereign Palestinian authority at the crossings to monitor and protect against looting.
- Support local production of basic food items to reduce dependence on external supply chains, which have been severely disrupted by the war. Supporting local agriculture and small-scale food production can help alleviate the shortage.
- Strengthen humanitarian assistance, expand the scope of food aid delivery to bridge the 85% gap, and ensure that basic food supplies reach the most vulnerable communities without delay.

## 8 Conclusion

This week witnessed a significant decrease in the number of trucks passed into Gaza Strip by 30% compared to the previous week, with three days of complete closure of all crossings. Trucks were also observed entering for the second successive week through gate 96 for two days. There is still a complete ban on the private sector from importing basic commodities since 02/10/2024, which is clear from the decrease in the flow rate of commodities. Prices on both parts of Gaza Strip are still very high, and many items are not available in the markets, especially in the northern part. There is a large crisis in flour that has begun to appear in the southern part, which has led to significant fluctuations in its price, and this portends an exacerbation of the crisis in the coming days if was not properly addressed.

The data during the current reporting period indicates that the Israeli occupation continues to practice a policy of collective punishment against the residents of Gaza Strip, as the private sector is denied from entering any goods into Gaza. The residents of the northern part of Gaza Strip also continue to suffer from famine, due to the severe restrictions on the entry of goods in general and the total blocking of private sector goods to enter the Northern part, in particular. The Israeli Authorities have totally banned the private sector from entering goods into Gaza Strip, except for limited quantities of cooking gas.

*\*All photos in this report are used with consent.*