

WFP News Video

Gaza, Jerusalem

TRT 01:06

00:00-00:33

Shot: 27 August 2014

WFP trucks crossing from Egypt into Gaza

00:33-00:50

shot :28 August 2014

Jerusalem

SOT: Sune Kent, WFP Palestine

“The truck were carrying food parcels to feed 150 thousand people for more than 5 days. This is the first time that WFP, since the blockade of Gaza in 2007 was put in place, has been able to move food assistance in, through the Rafah corridor.”

00:50-01:06 Shot: 27 August 2014

WFP trucks crossing into and in Gaza

ENDS

WFP News Release

27 August 2014

**WFP HUMANITARIAN CONVOY DELIVERS FOOD TO GAZA THROUGH
EGYPT’S RAFAH CROSSING**

GAZA – For the first time since 2007, a humanitarian convoy of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) successfully crossed from Egypt into the Gaza Strip today, carrying enough food to feed around 150,000 people for five days.

After a seven-hour drive from Alexandria – where the food was procured – across the Sinai Peninsula, WFP’s trucks arrived at the Rafah crossing. The convoy of 18 trucks carried 15,600 food parcels – part of a total batch of 25,000 food parcels. The parcels include ready-to-eat food such as canned meat, canned beans, tea and dates. A second convoy with the remaining parcels is expected to cross into Gaza in the next few days. This is the first time that WFP has used the Rafah crossing point since the start of the Gaza blockade in 2007.

“It is extremely important that we have access to the Gaza Strip from different routes including the Rafah crossing to ensure a constant flow of humanitarian supplies to meet the growing needs of the people affected by the recent violence. We are grateful to the Government of Egypt for opening the Rafah crossing and allowing WFP to procure food in Egypt,” said Mohamed Diab, WFP Regional Director for the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia and East Europe.

To respond to the urgent need for humanitarian aid in Gaza, the UN in Palestine has activated the logistics cluster. Under the leadership of WFP, the cluster is in charge of coordinating the movement of humanitarian assistance into Gaza. The Egyptian Red Crescent is coordinating all the crossing of humanitarian goods through Rafah.

“The opening of the Rafah crossing for humanitarian aid provides a major opportunity to scale up aid delivery to Gaza and needs to be sustained,” says WFP Country Director Pablo Recalde. “WFP has provided emergency relief from the onset of the conflict and will continue its food deliveries to Gaza to reach people affected by the conflict”.

Since the start of the conflict at the beginning of July, WFP has provided daily emergency food rations to up to 350,000 displaced people in Gaza, while reaching more than 120,000 people with emergency vouchers. WFP and its partners are constantly reviewing the needs on the ground to provide the necessary assistance.

To continue its food assistance programmes in Palestine, WFP requires approximately US\$70 million for its humanitarian response in Gaza for a period of three months.

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For broadcast-quality video from Gaza, please contact jonathan.dumont@wfp.org

High-resolution photos from Gaza are available. Please contact rein.skullerud@wfp.org

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WFP is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food in emergencies and working with communities to build resilience. In 2013, WFP assisted more than 80 million people in 75 countries.

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