The IDF's tripartite division of Gaza following its Sept. 16, 2025 (re)invasion of Gaza

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ABSTRACT

In parallel with its calls for evacuation of Gaza City, leading up to the ground (re)invasion of September 16, 2025, the Israeli army website altered its interactive "evacuation block" map used throughout the war. This now showed a tri-partite division of Gaza. into "no go," "humanitarian", and "non-humanitarian areas available for relocation but not recommended" areas. Precise vector layers for these three areas are provided, with some explanation of their evolution.

DESCRIPTION

In parallel with its calls for evacuation of Gaza City, leading up to the ground (re)invasion of September 16, 2025, the Israeli army website altered its interactive "evacuation block" map used throughout the war to show a new tri-partite division of Gaza (see Figure 1).[1] This consists of the "humanitarian area", discussed in my "no-go" area whose evolution has been described in my previous postings, **with the key addition of all of the area north of the Netzarim corridor (Wadi Gaza), including Gaza City**.[2] These embody 12% and 78% of Gaza's land area

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[1] https://www.idf.il/ar/%D8%AC%D9%8A%D8%B4-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B3%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A/%D8%AC%D9%8A%D8%B4-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B3%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%8A%D9%84%D9%8A/swordsofiron-181123-118/

[2] Garb, Yaakov. 2025. "Humanitarian" Area in Southern Gaza Announced Today (Sept. 6, 2025) by Israeli Army: Spatial Dataset and Analysis." Harvard Dataverse. https://doi.org/doi:10.7910/DVN/ZDWR9A. Garb, Yaakov, 2025, "Geospatial dataset : "orange line" no-go/coordination delineation (a modification of the extensive Gaza buffer zone declared by the

respectively.[3] By inference, the remaining 10% area of Gaza's "middle camps," is left as a grey area. All three data layers are posted here, as a single Geopackage.

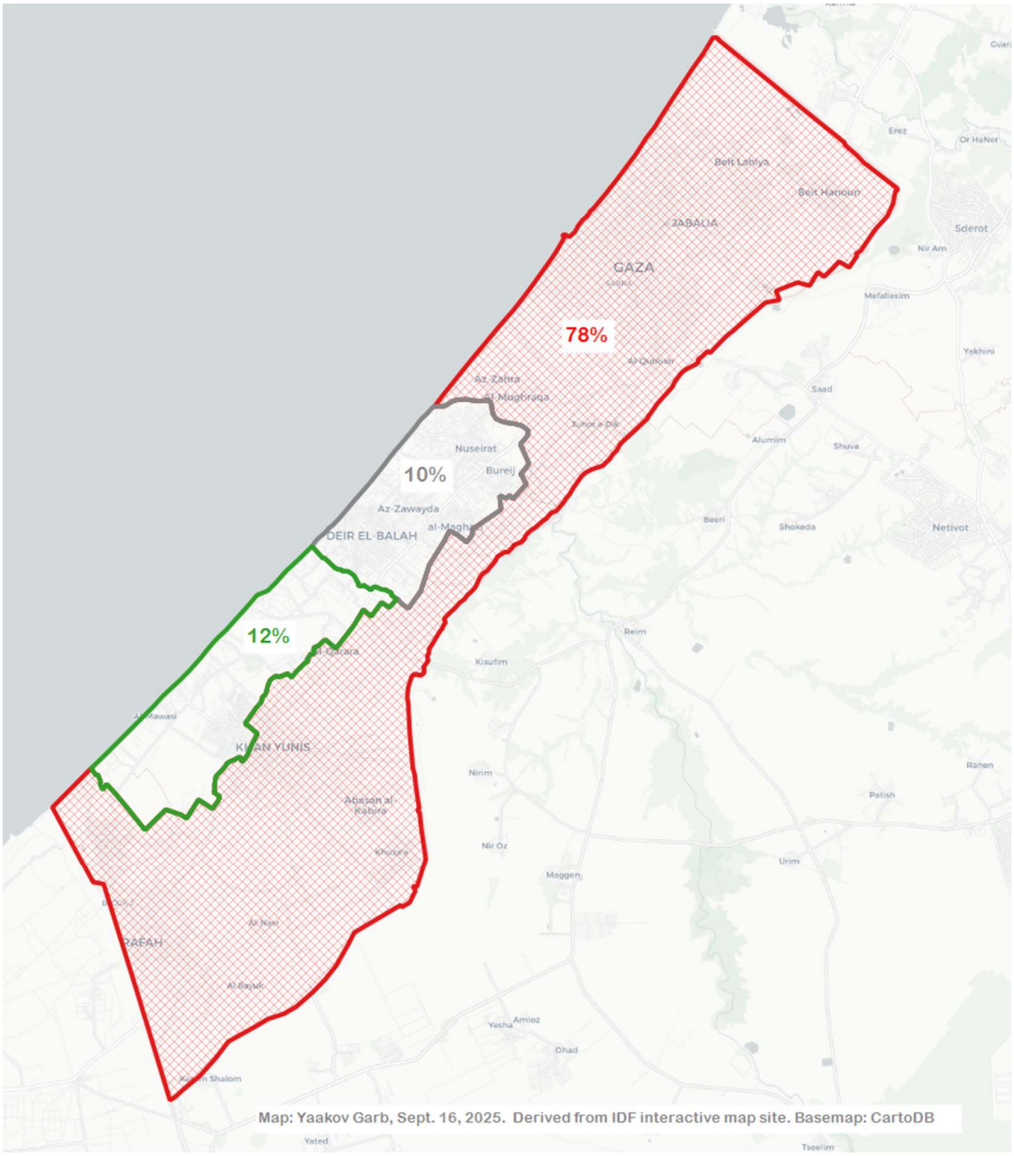

Figure 1: IDF's tripartite division of Gaza following the evacuation and land invasion

IDF on March 18)", [https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/QTNCPD](https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/QTNCPD "https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/QTNCPD")

[3] Because the IDF polygons do not adhere precisely to the Gaza border, the sum falls somewhat a few km2 short of the full official area.

The extent of the grey area in this map corresponds to the area declared some days earlier in the IDF Spokesman's September 12 tweet (Figure 3) and Facebook post.[4]

Figure 3: IDF Sept. 12 tweet listing the neighborhoods comprising what emerged to be the "grey" (blue/white) area

Figure 2: IDF Sept. 13 tweet decrying as furthering Hamas propaganda the map accurately mapping the neighborhoods it announced on Sept. 12

[4] https://x.com/AvichayAdraee/status/1966369283354558465 .

The Sept. 12 tweet announced a list of areas Gaza City residents could go to, with the following explanation

> As part of the Defense Forces' efforts to provide necessary information for those present in Gaza City in order to ensure their transfer for the purpose of protecting themselves, we publish a list for everyone of the areas they can go to.... For your safety, please immediately head to the areas mentioned in the list. Staying in Gaza City is considered extremely dangerous.[5]

I generated a map with my best inference of the area referred to by the neighborhoods listed by the IDF's Sept. 12 tweet, which was then published the night of September 12 in *Haaretz*, entitled "IDF Nearly Doubles Permitted Civilian Area in Gaza Strip".[6] This apparently prompted a somewhat confusing tweet by the IDF spokesman (Figure 2), which reproduced this map together with an inset of its own map calling for residents of city of Beit Lahiya and its surroundings in the northern Gaza Strip to evacuate immediately and head south for their safety." This Tweet made an accusation that this mapping of its orders from the prior day was being exploited by Hamas-affiliated parties, and issued a clarification of the Haaretz map zones, as follow.[7]

> Regarding the map that was published in the Israeli press and was exploited by parties with certain interests in Hamas and its tools to spread lies and false facts, I clarify: All of Gaza City is considered a red zone, meaning a dangerous combat area that must be evacuated immediately. The blue color represents areas that can be moved to, where they are not considered part of the humanitarian zone but are areas containing empty spaces that can be moved to. The green area is the humanitarian zone that we urge residents to move to because it contains a wide humanitarian response and the best [services]. Hamas's attempts to spread lies and prevent you from leaving the city prove its readiness to risk your lives in service of its survival.

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[5] Translation from Arabic original. The areas listed are as follows: Al-Nuseirat; Al-Bureij; Al-Zawayda; Al-Maghazi; west portion of Al-Masdar, Deir al-Balah, Al-Qarara 6 and 7, Al-Mawasi neighborhood in Khan Younis, Al-Jala'a neighborhood in Khan Younis, west portion of Al-Amal neighborhood in Khan Younis; Al-Nasr neighborhood in Khan Younis; Al-Tahrir neighborhood in Khan Younis; west portion of Baten al-Sameen neighborhood in Khan Younis; western portion of Qeizan Abu Rashwan neighborhood in Khan Younis."

[6] https://www.haaretz.co.il/news/politics/2025-09-12/ty-article/.premium/00000199-3e4c-dee7-a99d-bf5f1f7f0000

[7] https://x.com/AvichayAdraee/status/1966838553167433911

In other words, the danger of the red zone was reiterated, as was the fact that the humanitarian (green) zone offered the better (any?) humanitarian services. The blue area (which is coloured as a grey area in this data release, to reflect its ambiguous status) is explained to represent areas that can be moved to, as they have empty spaces, and had been declared as safe in the previous day's tweet, but, explicitly a non-humanitarian area, presumably because of the lack of services.

The nature of the misuses and lies being spread regarding this map were unclear from the IDF tweet, and remain so. In fact, the map that then appeared on the IDF's own interactive web site (Figure 4) mirrored the *Haaretz* map the IDF spokesman had declared to be "exploited by parties with certain interests in Hamas and its tools to spread lies and false facts."

Figure 4: IDF interactive web site showing tripartite division of Gaza, identical to the Haaretz map of Sept. 12

In any event, the geopackage posted here contains the humanitarian layer and “no go” layers, extracted directly from the IDF site, and the third “grey” layer of the middle camps, inferred to be the remaining area that is neither. This was done through adhering to the topology of the given “humanitarian” and “no go” polygons on three sides, and to an approximate hand-traced coastline to the west.