Pre- and post-war landscapes of the Gaza GHF food aid sites: from agricultural heartland to charity boxes in a desert

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An addition to the geospatial data and documents regarding the GHF compounds deposited on the Harvard Dataverse repository in early June:

> Garb, Yaakov, 2025, "The Israeli/American/GHF "aid distribution" compounds in Gaza: Dataset and initial analysis of location, context, and internal structure", https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/QB75LB.

DESCRIPTION

The GHF food distribution sites have been the subject of considerable attention and scrutiny since they began operating in late May of 2025. The following is an addition to the spatial data and brief analysis of this site I released on June 1. It consists of a series of before/after images comparing the pre-war landscape in the four operating sites.

The most striking aspect of this transformation— a bitterly ironic twist—is that the sites to which Gazans now are forced to travel to access paltry donated supplies were located in key areas of Gazan agricultural production. The overwhelming (above 80%) destruction of Gazan agricultural production has been documented carefully over the course of the war by several analysts, notably the UNOSAT facility in a joint effort with UN FAO, which combined NDVI and multitemporal comparison to estimate the losses.[1]

The GHF landscapes offer some small poignant examples of what this larger phenomenon means. An area dense with greenhouses, crop fields, and fruit trees has been transformed into a desert. Once the basis of local food sufficiency, these are now sites where frenzied mobs struggle to quickly dismantle and escape with the content of cardboard boxes distributed by a quasi-military organisation. People lack even the fuel to cook some of the items they contain (flour, lentils, rice, and pasta), favouring the ready-to-eat foods (canned goods, fortified biscuits, date bars).

All the before images are from Bing satellite imagery (August 7), and the post-war imagery is from PLANET high resolution imagery of July 16, 2025. The outlines of the aid compounds and further information on these are taken from my full report, cited above. The numbering associated with site names is tied to the numbering in that report.

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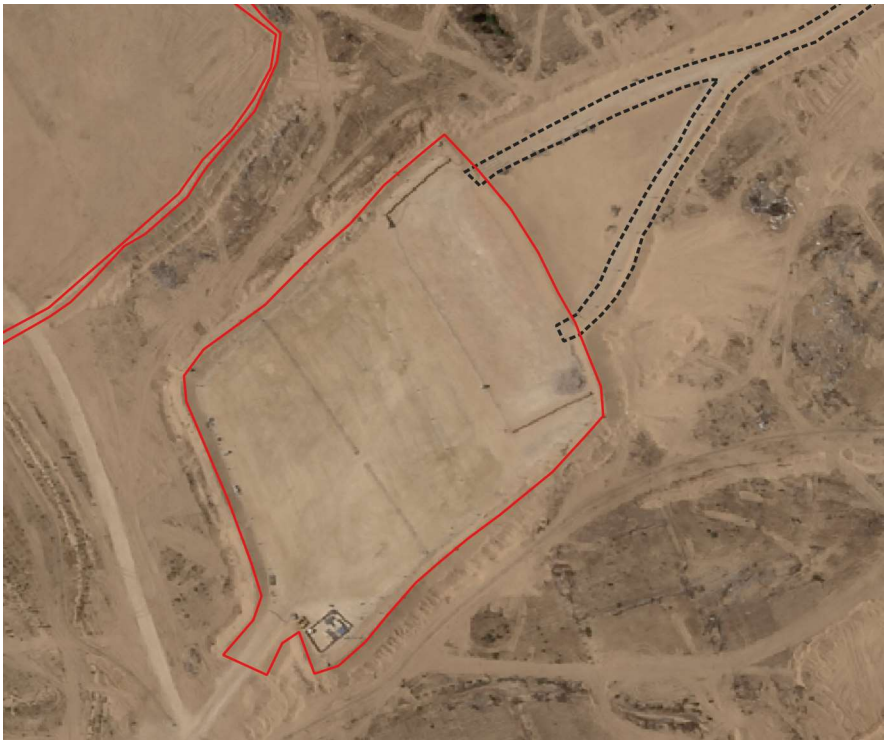
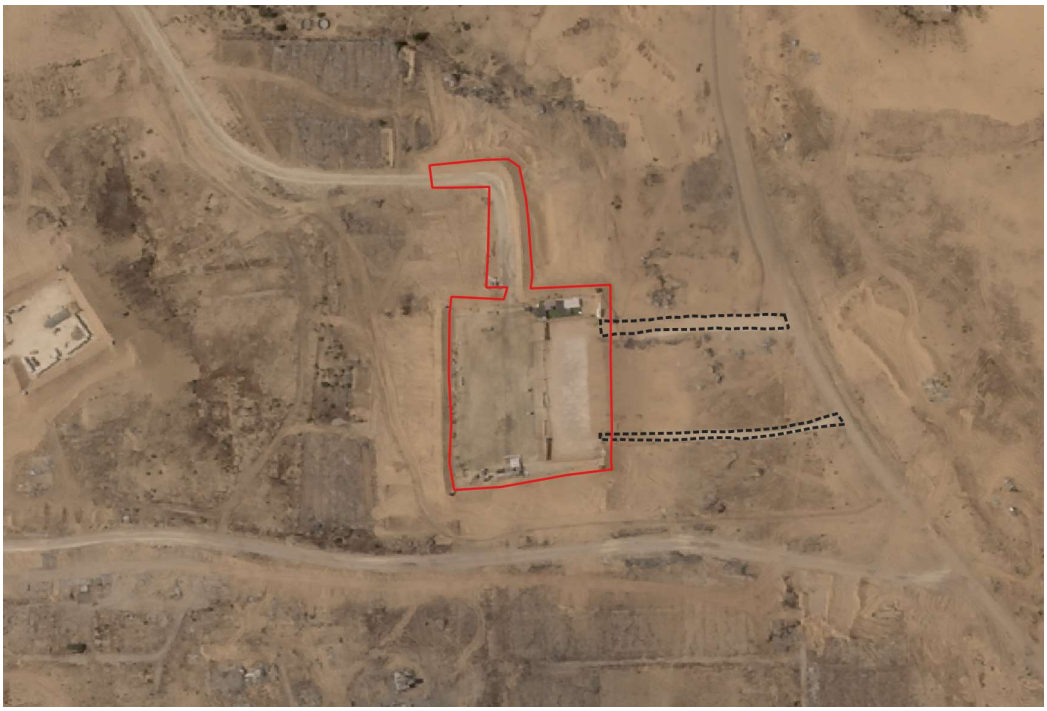
[1] See the sources at: https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/cd6493en

Tel Sultan (site 2)



Saudi neighborhood (Site 3)



Khan Younes (Site 4)

Wadi Gaza/Netzarim (site 1)