June 27, 2025 changes and additions to the Dataset

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

That initial (June 3, 2025) release was published before substantial reports of the on-the-ground functioning of these sites were available, and based entirely on a spatial analysis of the location of the sites with respect to Gazan populations and Israeli military force projection, and their internal layout. This update describes subsequent developments and changes/additions to the repository.

Amended maps

A typo for the population of the Mawasi areas in the maps of Figures 1 and 2 has been corrected to reflect the IDF estimate (700,000) cited, and some sources for the estimates are given. My thanks to Nathan Gallo for pointing this out.

Inclusion of a KML file for the IDF “no go” zone used in the map

This vector layer is the “no go” zone on the IDF interactive site.[1] Despite being referred to by a QR code in the static imagery in social media evacuation warnings issued by the IDF, the data underlying this site varies in a continuously confusing manner. The version given is the extent of no-go zone over the relevant period (June 2025) of the functioning of the GHF sites described.

Developments since report was published

The spatial analysis of the GHF sites in the June 3 report suggested that “[t]his setup seems likely to generate a cycle of security incidents that are then claimed to justify soldiers shooting and killing aid-seekers.” Unfortunately, a stream of subsequent events seems to confirm the structural hazards of the GHF model, with close to 4,000 people now reported to be killed and many more injured in incidents around the GHF sites and approaches. Two recent examples NYT (2025) and Hasson et al (2025) are included.

The GHF has experimented with the internal layout of the sites, and may possibly be developing two or more similar sites further to the north, will be reported on in future updates, but the structural model remains. In fact, the model for aid distribution described in the initial June 3 report, which was already quite remote from the principles

[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/

of humanitarian aid, has deteriorated still further. If that model could be described as "military protected distribution," the subsequent internal structure and functioning of the sites seems to be a kind of "managed mobbing," in which food boxes are placed in piles in the compound area, the forces retreat, and a hungry population is allowed in for about an hour, until the supplies have been ransacked and taken.

Media coverage drawing on the data and report

The data posted in the initial version of this dataset, and accompanying report, written on June 1 and posted on June 3, 2025, were used by several organizations and commentators to highlight the emerging problems with the GHF compounds, many of which were anticipated by the analysis based on a sheerly spatial analysis. Some of these publications (Bouvin (2025) and Mannochi (2025)) are now included in this repository.

Stones in the well

> "One idiot throws a stone in the well, and it takes a hundred wise people to (try to) get it out." -- Persian proverb
>
> مجنون رمى حجر بالبير بده ألف عاقل يطلعوه
>
> A stone thrown in a well by one crazy person requires a thousand sensible people to extract it. -- Palestinian dialect version of the proverb

Somehow, the IDF figures used in one of the report maps (Figures 1 and 2), were taken out of context on a social media site, and interpreted as indicating a hidden deficit of hundreds of thousands of Gazan mortalities. When initially alerted to this claim it seemed unnecessary to intervene: it was anonymous, outlandish, and unrelated to the substance of the report itself. However, variants were somehow recirculated in viral amplification, muddying the waters of discussions on Gaza for some days.

Fortunately, these spurious mortality derivations were rapidly fact-checked and corrected by several proper media outlets,[2] and the more solid media figures that had accidently mentioned them before reading the report itself issued exemplary retractions and corrections, and proper coverage on the topics of the report.[3] My thanks to the fact-checking profession and others who labour to remove obstructions from our well of shared reliable knowledge.

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[2] https://www.france24.com/fr/moyen-orient/20250624-377000-personnes-gaza-disparus-selon-etude-harvard-un-chiffre-mal-interprete; https://www.liberation.fr/checknews/non-une-etude-dharvard-ne-montre-pas-que-377-000-gazaouis-ont-disparu-depuis-octobre-2023-20250625_HUXW3VZS6BCUNNHS4RTX5EVVBI/ ; https://apnews.com/article/fact-check-harvard-study-gaza-missing-palestinians-86b40dc1de388e860927495c00880d59

[3] https://x.com/MouinRabbani/status/1938010210414514498; https://www.newarab.com/news/gaza-aid-sites-risk-chaos-used-justify-killings-report-says