Geospatial dataset : “orange line” no-go/coordination delineation (a modification of the extensive Gaza buffer zone declared by the IDF on March 18)

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Summary

This data deposit contains the “orange line” released to humanitarian organisations at the end of April by the IDF Gaza Coordination and Liaison Administration (CLA). This defined the areas beyond central Gaza beyond which they must coordinate with the IDF prior to entry.

This “orange line” is the latest in a sequence of delineations that have been in place for years, with accelerated encroachment into Gaza during the October 7, 2023 war. Prior delineations have been placed in the Dataverse repository over this period.

Thie “orange” line extends and modifies the March 18 buffer zone, previously described. It’s main added incursions are a thickening of the southern border with Egypt, and an inclusion of more of the Netzarim Corridor surrounding the new Israeli road that bisects the Gaza strip. This addition brings the area of declared hazard and severe depopulation pressure to almost half (48%) of the total area of the Gaza Strip.

Data description and context.

This is further update to an initial dataverse deposit of the extent of the extensive evacuation area around the Gaza Strip periphery delineated in the IDF order of March 18, 2025 (see below). The initial release was made rapidly, on the same day as the IDF order, and a second update presented more detail of the newly designated area and its context, and drawing on additional inputs from colleagues in Israel, Gaza, and international organisations. This April 7 update adds detail on a subsequent demarcation an "orange line"(see below) released to humanitarian organisations at the end of April by the IDF Gaza Coordination and Liaison Administration (CLA). This defined the areas beyond central Gaza beyond which they must coordinate with the IDF prior to entry.

This "orange line" is the latest in a sequence of delineations that have been in place for years, with accelerated encroachment during the October 7, 2023 war, shown in the map below. Thus, a set of vaguely defined "Access Restricted Area" at 100, 300, and 1000 meters from the border fence had been in effect before October 7, constituting an area of hazard and depopulation pressure for many years. In the first year and a half of the year, the 1000 meter zone seemed to have been subject to devastating levels of destruction, in which almost all buildings were destroyed or leveled. An official "buffer area" was formally declared in this 1000 meter zone as part of the ceasefire agreement that came into effect on January 19, 2025 (the grey area in the map). Shortly thereafter, a "coordination required" line (red in the map below) was announced by the CLA, set further into Gaza.

On March 18, after the collapse of the ceasefire, a new buffer/evacuation order (dotted black line) , which somewhat extended the prior coordination (red) line, and constituted about 1/3 of the area of the Gaza Strip. And at the end of March, a new "coordination required" line, termed the "orange line," was announced . This extends and modifies the March 18 buffer zone, declaring almost half (48%) of the Gaza Strip to be a risky/"no-go" area. It's main added incursions are a thickening of rhe southern border with Egypt, and an inclusion of more of the Netzarim Corridor surrounding the new Israeli road that bisects the Gaza strip.

As with previous spatial data releases in this series (of the evacuation block system, the humanitarian area, the ceasefire buffer zone and its coordination red line, and the March 18 extended buffer)), this current data release of the "orange line is being done to allow international humanitarian organisations, the media, and individuals to access, utilize and analyse the maps released by the IDF in a user-unfriendly format. Further information, citation, and technical information on the derivation of these features is available from the author. Use of this spatial information and the analysis given here is welcome, as long as the data repository source from which it is taken are cited, as follows: Garb, Yaakov, 2025, "Geospatial dataset : "orange line" no-go/coordination delineation (a modification of the extensive Gaza buffer zone declared by the IDF on March 18)", https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/QTNCPD, Harvard Dataverse