



ZA'ATARI CAMP POPULATION COUNT MAFRAQ, JORDAN

Summary of Findings
February 2015

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UNICEF/REACH ZA'ATARI POPULATION COUNT

JANUARY 2015

INTRODUCTION

REACH has conducted several population counts within Za'atari Camp since its inception in July 2012. Although UNHCR registration data is available for the whole camp, these counts provide further information in the form of population *per district and per street/block*.¹ REACH counts also include residents of Za'atari that are registered in the host community but residing in the camp, reflecting figures of Syrian refugees present in the camp, rather than just those who are registered.

Za'atari camp is an evolving context in which residents move within the camp, into and out of the camp from the host community, and leave the camp permanently on an on-going basis, therefore regular counts are necessary in order to understand the caseload of refugees who access camp services. Accurate information about refugee caseloads helps humanitarian actors within the camp to plan and implement the distribution and delivery of goods and services for the community. Since the last population count in June 2014, a new block address system has been implemented. As a result, a new count was required to provide camp population figures per block, rather than street.

Between 30 December 2014 and 18 January 2015, REACH conducted a population count of Za'atari refugee camp in partnership with UNICEF. This assessment has provided information disaggregated by age, sex, block and district, date of arrival, area of origin and shelter type. REACH also proposed to measure the number of times residents have moved within the camp since their arrival to provide an insight into the degree of movement within the camp.

Methodology

Using maps of the new block system implemented by UNHCR in August 2014, mixed sex teams of REACH data collectors and Cash for Workers visited every household unit in Za'atari camp. Cash for Workers were supervised by experienced data collectors in teams of ten in the field. Data collection teams recorded key demographic information on a questionnaire uploaded onto smartphones via the open-source platform Open Data Kit (ODK). When filling their forms, data collectors were instructed to record GPS coordinates in front of each household within 6m of accuracy.

To keep track of progress during the population count data collectors marked shelters that had already been assessed, and shelters that needed to be revisited, so that it was possible to differentiate between those that had already been assessed and those where no one was present. After finishing each block, data collectors returned to non-assessed HHs using a revisit sheet; if no one was present, a second revisit was made before leaving the District. After completing all districts data collectors returned to all non-assessed HHs for a third revisit. On the third revisit, for shelters that could not be assessed due to no one being present, the GPS coordinates and household addresses were recorded using ODK.

The Field Coordinators were responsible for overseeing the quality of data collected, and ensuring that every data collector was working according to his or her assigned block. Field Coordinators conducted spot checks on a daily basis to ensure that the methodology was accurately followed and that all data collectors and Cash for Workers

¹ Prior to the implementation of the new block system in 2014, what are now 'blocks' were commonly referred to as streets. Under the new block system, streets are used in their most known form as the areas between blocks.

were administering the questionnaire as outlined in the training. Spot checks focused on GPS accuracy, data consistency, and the time taken to complete the questionnaire.

Challenges and Limitations

- Adverse weather conditions during winter storm Huda (7 – 11 January 2015) led to a number of limitations. Data collection was forced to stop during the assessment due to unsafe roads and limited access to Za'atari camp (see Annex 2 for data collection time frame).
- Since the storm caused shelter damage and flooding, a number of shelters were unoccupied during the population count. Some of these families had relocated outside the camp, and others to the shelters of friends and relatives in the camp. As a result, there is likely to be a proportion of Za'atari inhabitants who are unaccounted for in the population figures in districts 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, which were assessed after the onset of storm *Huda*. In turn, population figures for districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11 and 12 may be higher than the number currently present in the camp if residents who chose to leave to the host community during the storm and have not returned. Following discussions with UNHCR, it remains unclear exactly how many camp residents relocated outside of Za'atari camp permanently due to the storm, and how many left temporarily and have since returned, or intend to return.²
- Upon specific request from UNHCR, respondents were not asked directly about their shelter type. Instead, this information was recorded by data collectors based on their observations.³ Since block numbers and GPS points were recorded, this data can be verified in the field.
- In total, 327 households were unable to be assessed as no household members were present upon three re-visits. As the third re-visit was conducted after completion of all data collection, and includes households assessed across all districts, this is likely to include some empty households as well as households that were not present temporarily due to the storm.

Assessment Tool

The population count questionnaire was designed according to partners' requirements and based on previous population count assessment. The survey form was uploaded onto the Open Data Kit (ODK) application and conducted using smartphones. Before data collection began, the form was piloted to ensure that all questions were understood by enumerators and there were no errors. All data collectors and Cash for Workers were trained on the assessment tool and methodology by senior REACH field staff and provided with REACH visibility, clearly outlining the objective of the assessment to all respondents. The full questionnaire is available in Annex 1.

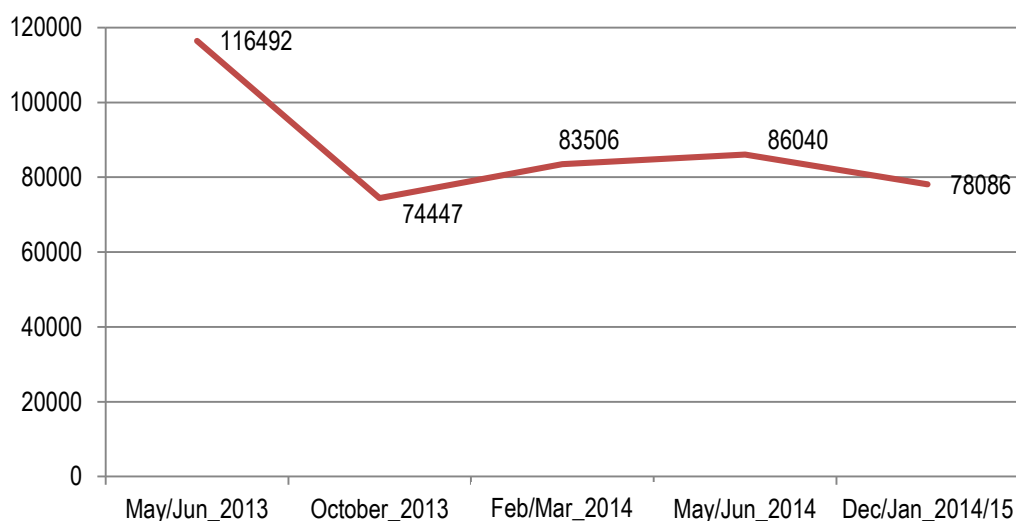
² Previous assessments of the response to flooding during the winter of 2013-2014 indicate that 5.7% of camp residents chose to leave the camp and stay with friends and family in the host community REACH/UNHCR Winterization Assessment in Za'atari Refugee Camp in Jordan, October 2014.

³ Previous assessments conducted in Za'atari camp have indicated that shelter is a sensitive issue and thus asking about shelter type directly can cause unnecessary alarm and insecurity amongst residents who fear that their shelters may be removed.

OVERVIEW OF FINDINGS

According to the population count **the number of Syrian refugees present in Za'atari is 78,086 individuals**. This latest figure is 7,954 less than the last population count of Za'atari camp, conducted in June 2014, which identified 86,040 people. Although this reduction is partly explained by residents unaccounted for due to temporary relocation following winter storm *Huda*, previous REACH population counts indicate that there are seasonal fluctuations in camp population, consistent with a reduction in camp residents over the winter period (see Table 1 below) ⁴

Figure 1: REACH population counts in Za'atari camp since May/June 2013



The figure of 78,086 residents, recorded by REACH in January 2015, differs from the 84,000 refugees officially registered with UNHCR, by approximately 6000 residents.⁵ In addition to this, REACH recorded 2,542 people who are residing in Za'atari but officially registered in the host community.⁶ In order to gain a better understanding of possible reasons for this disparity, REACH conducted community discussions within refugees in the camp.

According to these discussions there are a number of potential explanations which require further exploration:

- In light of a reduction of official food and health assistance in the host community, whether real or anticipated, large numbers of people remain registered in Za'atari camp while living in the host community. Refugees reported that this is to ensure that they, and their relatives, are still entitled to assistance from the camp while they are living in the host community.
- Community members also stated that some people remain registered in the camp while living elsewhere as this provides them with additional security by allowing them to return to Za'atari in case they fail to secure livelihoods and accommodation in the host community.
- It was reported in community discussions that a large number of families in Za'atari camp have opted to reside with family and friends in the host community during the cold winter months, with the intention to return when the weather is warmer. These families remain registered to facilitate their return.
- In relation to above, residents reported that many families have chosen to relocate temporarily due specifically to winter storm *Huda*.

⁴ During a Camp Coordination Meeting (20.01.2015) it was also reported that a total of 573 families from Za'atari camp have been transferred to Emirates Jordanian Camp (EJC) in recent months.

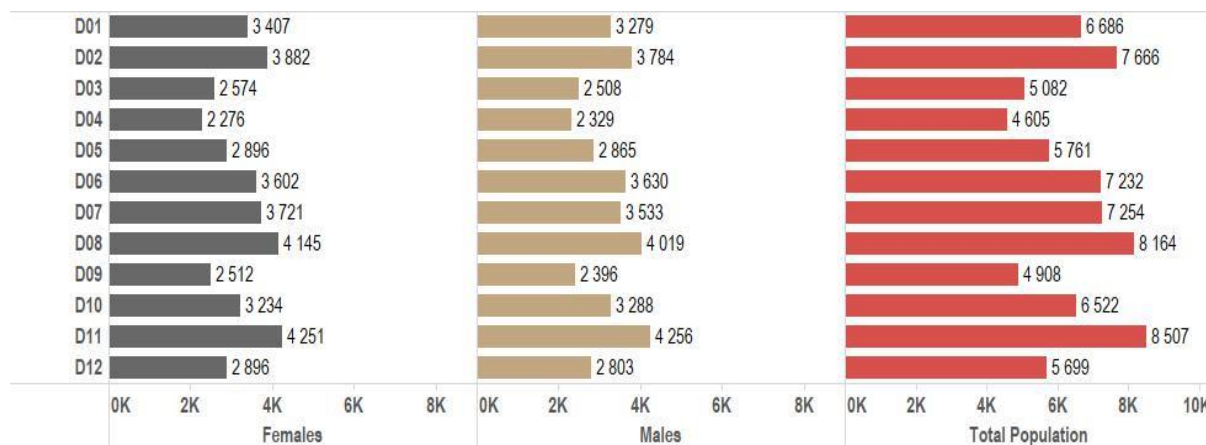
⁵ 83,994 at time of population count: <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/settlement.php?id=176&country=107®ion=77>

⁶ In the June 2014 the difference between REACH population data and UNHCR registration data was approximately 3000 residents, which matched closely with the number of residents recorded as residing in Za'atari while registered in the host community.

Population per district

The most densely populated Districts in Za'atari camp were districts 8 and 11, home to 8,164 and 8,507 people respectively. Districts 4 and 9 are the least populated with 4,605 people and 4,908 people, respectively.

Figure 2: Population per District



As the new block system for Za'atari is still in the process of being implemented, this had a number of implications for the population count:

- Block boundaries on the map are not entirely matched by reality on the ground in a number of districts.. As a result, several households did not fall within defined block boundaries but rather within streets which do not have a block address. When this happened, REACH assigned these households to the closest block.
- Districts 6, 7, 8, and 9 most closely match with boundaries on the ground, while the old camp (particularly districts 1, 2 and 12) are also closely aligned. However, in remaining districts, as block boundaries become established, and, where necessary, residents are moved from streets to ensure households sit within specific blocks, the population per block will have a margin of error.⁷

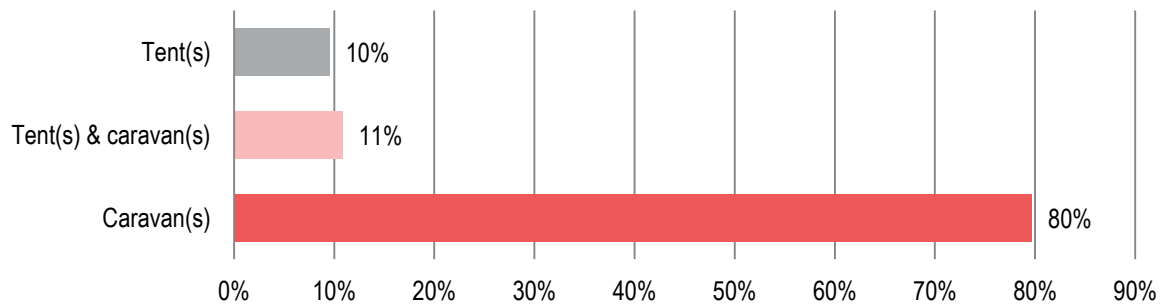
In contrast to previous population counts, REACH recorded the individual ages of all household members. Therefore, rather than requesting the number of females and males that fall within specific age brackets, REACH are able to provide exact figures of demographics and could, for example, indicate the total number of 18 year old males and 18 year old females in the camp. The dataset shared with partners currently includes age-brackets for practical use. Specific requests can be made to REACH for further age and sex break-downs

⁷ The degree of change is not expected to significantly impact population per block. The UNHCR site planning department can be contacted for the most up to date information on this matter.

Shelter Type

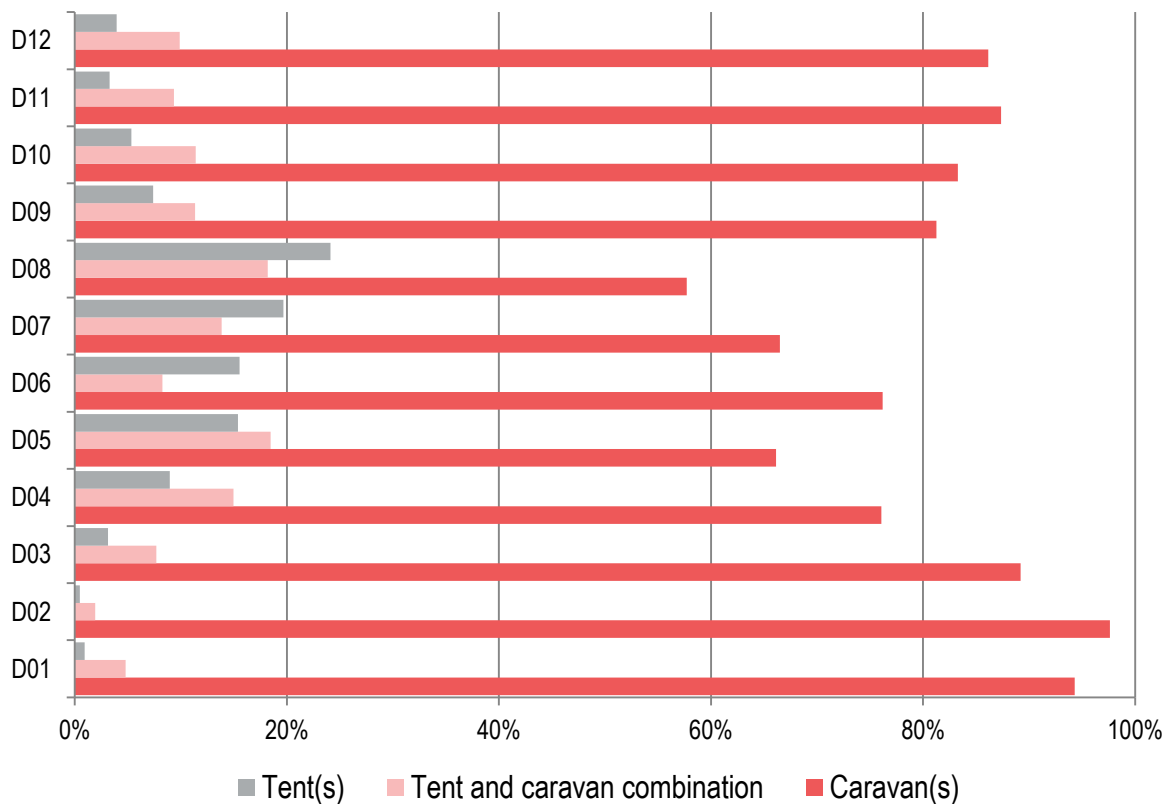
The vast majority of households (80%) were recorded as living in caravan(s). This was followed by 11% of households recorded as living in a combination of tent(s) and caravan(s), while 10% were observed to be dwelling only in tent(s).

Figure 3: Types of shelter in Za'atari camp



The Districts with the highest proportion of camp residents living in tents were Districts 7 and 8 with 19.7% and 24.1% observed to be living in a tent or collection of tents respectively. Meanwhile District 2 contained the largest proportion of residents living in caravans at 97.6%. District 5 had the highest number of households with recorded tent and caravan combinations at 18.5%.

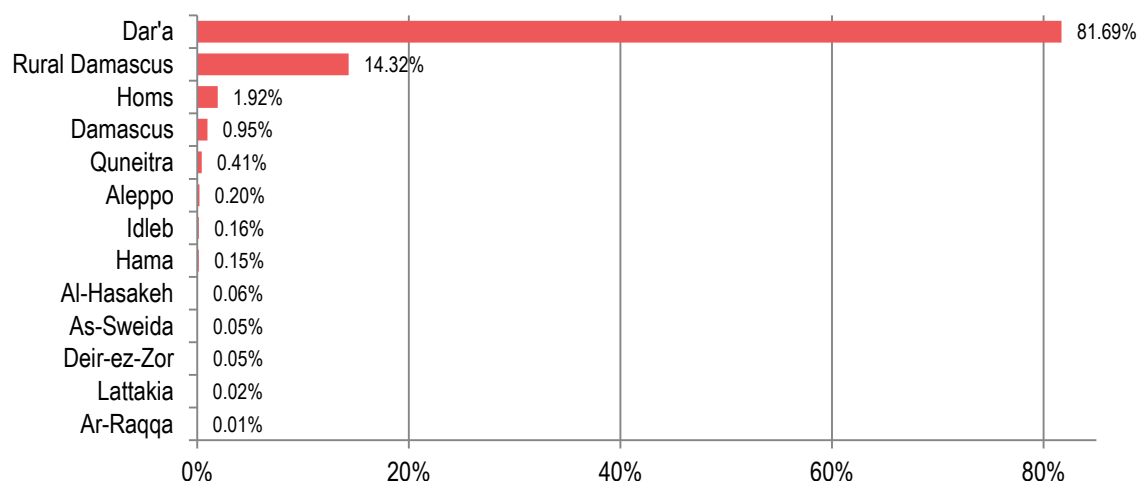
Figure 4: Types of shelter per District



Area of Origin

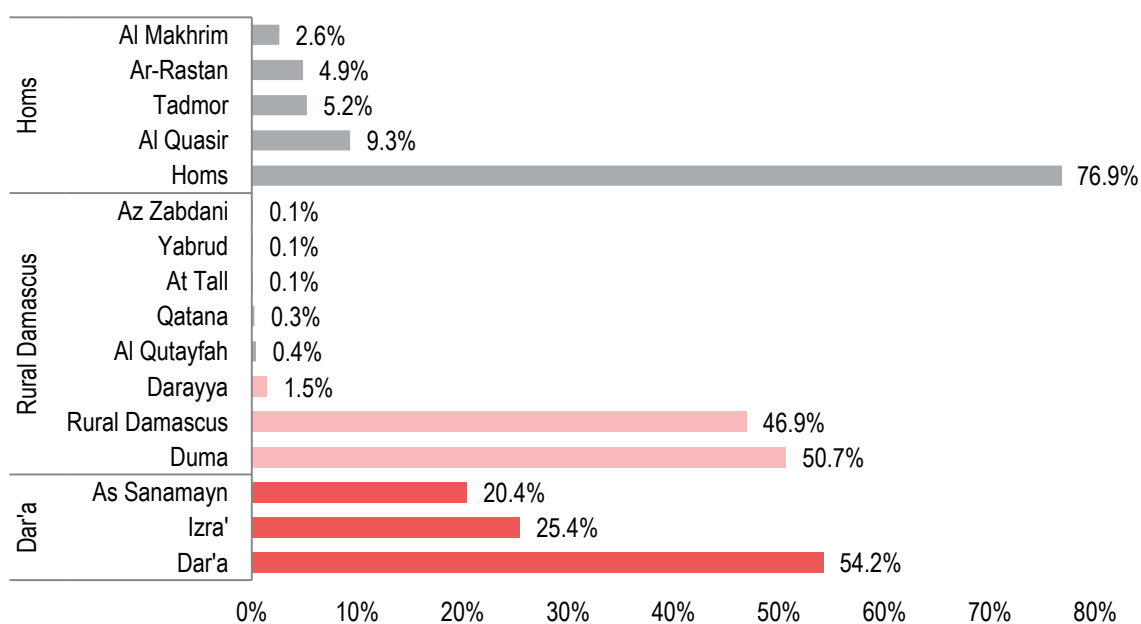
Residents from Dar'a Governorate in Syria continue to remain the most dominant presence in the camp, representing 81.7% of the population. This is followed by residents from Rural Damascus at 14.3%.

Figure 5: Syrian Governorate of origin of households in Za'atari Camp



The majority of households originating from the Governorate of Dar'a came from the District of Dar'a at 54.19%, followed by the District of Izra' at 25.42% (See Figure 6). The largest proportion of households from Rural Damascus came from the District of Duma, at 50.65% followed by the District of Rural Damascus at 46.94%. The vast majority of households from the Governorate of Homs originated from the District of Homs, at 76.8% followed by Al Quasir at 9.33%.

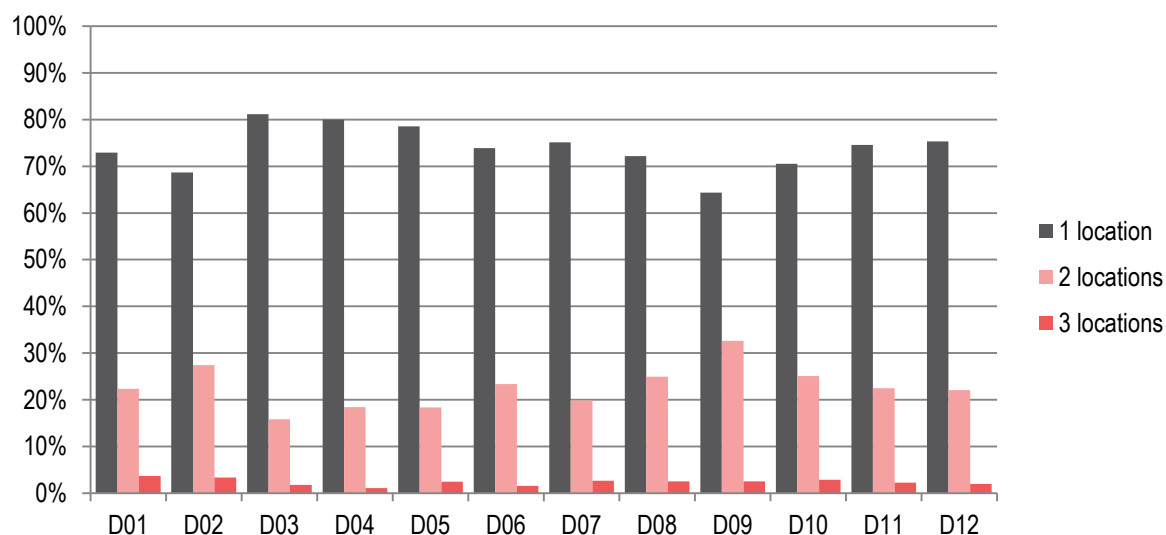
Figure 6: Syrian District of origin of households from Dar'a, Rural Damascus & Homs in Za'atari Camp



Movement within the camp

An overwhelming majority of households in Za'atari had reportedly only lived in one location in the camp. This indicates that the number of relocations within the camp is somewhat limited. District 9 contained the highest number of households that had lived in 2 locations at 32.6% while District 1 contained the largest proportion of households that had lived in 3 locations at 3.7%.

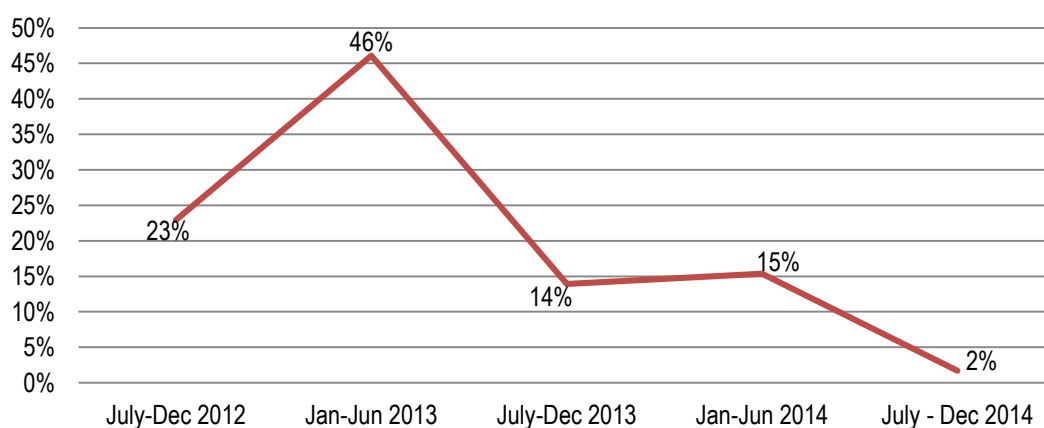
Figure 7: % households that have lived in 1/2/3 different locations in Za'atari camp



Date of Arrival

The largest proportion of households reported arriving in Za'atari camp between January and June 2013 at 46%. There was a large decrease in arrivals to the camp in the second half of 2014, with only 2% of all households assessed arriving between July and December of last year. Over 83% of residents have lived in Za'atari for more than one year.

Figure 8: Reported date of arrival in Za'atari camp (% households)



District 8 saw the largest influx of new arrivals in 2014 at 32%, followed by District 7 at 17%. Meanwhile, Districts 1 and 2 had the largest proportion of residents with the longest period of residency, with 19% and 24% of households reporting 2012 as their year of arrival in Za'atari camp consecutively.

Figure 9: Reported year of arrival in Za'atari Camp by District (% households)

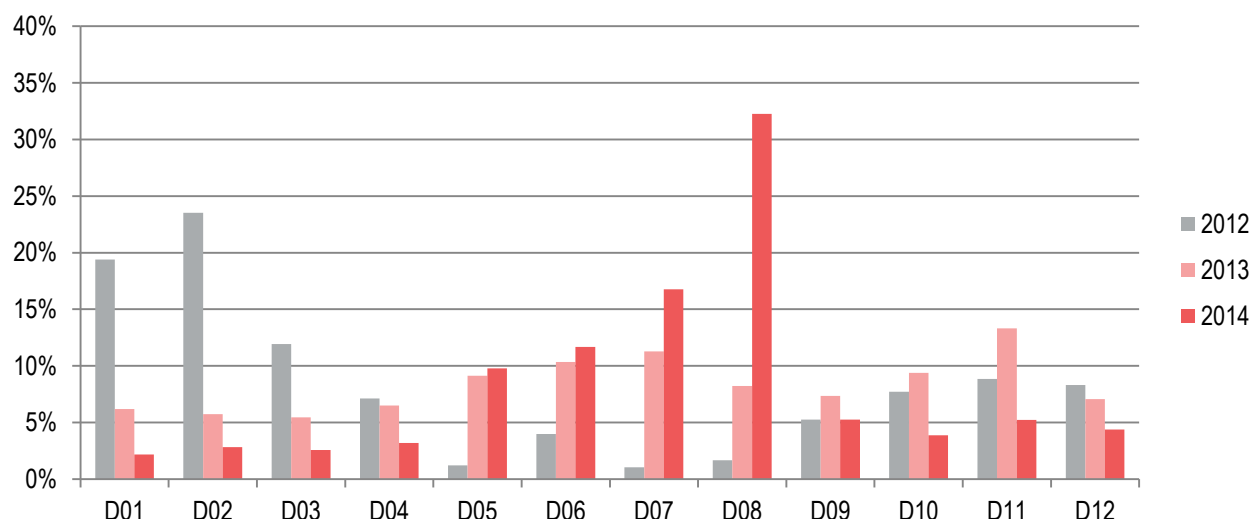
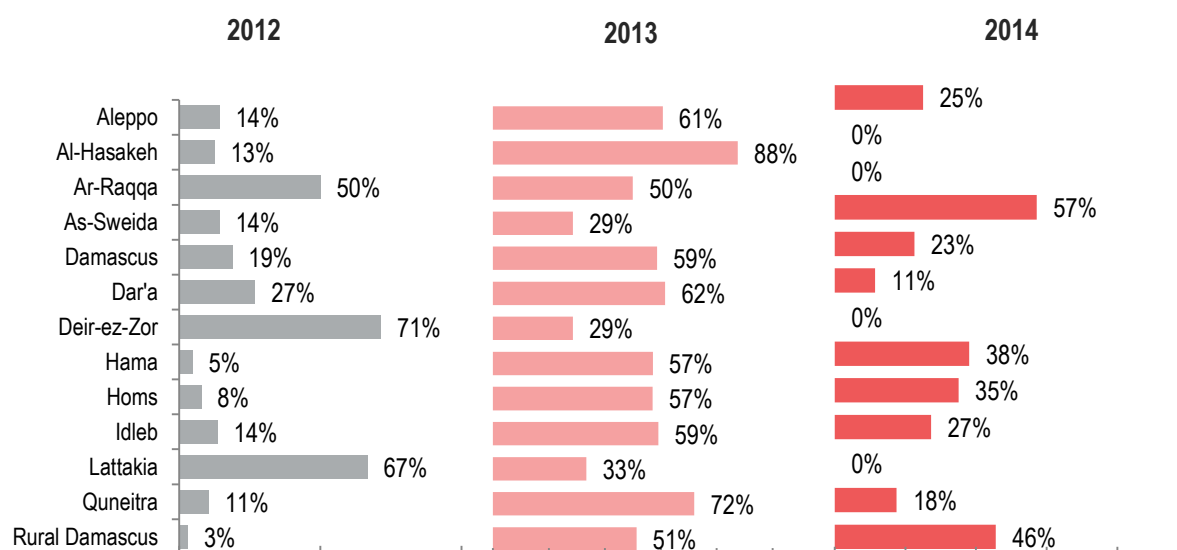


Figure 10 below shows reported year of arrival disaggregated by households' Governorate of Origin in Syria. According to findings, in 2012 and 2013 there were new arrivals from all 13 Syrian Governorates represented in the camp. However, in 2014 there were no new arrivals from Lattakia, Al-Hasakeh, Deir-ez-Zor or Ar-Raqqa.

Figure 10: Reported year of arrival in Za'atari Camp by Syrian Governorate of Origin 2012 / 2013 / 2014 (% Households)



CONCLUDING REMARK

In the rapidly evolving and dynamic context of Za'atari camp, regularly updated information about the refugee caseload within the camp is vital for organisations planning and delivering services, and enables the delivery of assistance to be better targeted to meet the needs of the camp community.

As the new block system evolves, this must take into account external and unexpected occurrences, such as the movement of residents, both within, from, and back to the camp, such as the changes observed in January 2015 as a result of storm Huda. The redrawing of block boundaries is also likely to affect the caseloads targeted by existing programmes, which should be carefully monitored to ensure that all refugees continue to access services and assistance in the camp.

ANNEX 1: ZAATARI POPULATION COUNT QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Record Location (GPS coordinates with 6m accuracy or less)
3. What is the gender of the Head of the HH?
4. Record District number
- 4.1 Record Block number
5. Is this household a tent or caravan? (direct observation)
 - Tent/s
 - Tent and caravan combination
 - Caravan/s
6. How many families are living in this household?⁸
7. How many people are living in this HH?
8. What is the gender and age for each member of your household?
8. Gender
- 8.1 Age (years)
- 8.2 Age (months)
9. How many people living in your household are registered in the Host Communities?
10. When did you arrive in Za'atari camp?
11. How many locations have you lived in, in Za'atari camp?
12. What is your area of origin? (Governorate)
13. What is your area of origin? (District)

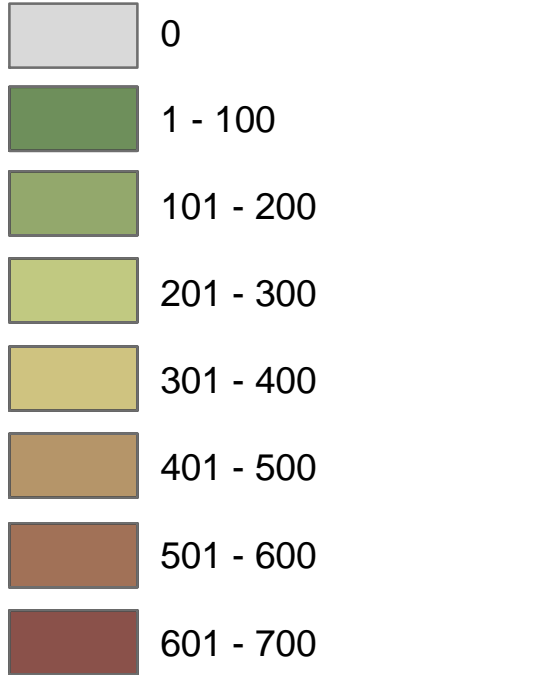
ANNEX 2: DATA COLLECTION TIME FRAME

Date	District Assessed
30.12.2014	1
31.12.2014	1, 2
04.01.2015	3, 12
05.01.2015	4, 11
06.01.2015	10, 11
12.01.2015 ⁹	5, 6
13.01.2015	6, 7
14.01.2015	8, 9
15.01.2015	9
18.01.2015	Third revisit for all districts

⁸ The household unit was defined as one or more people who share a living space and meals. The family was defined as parent(s) and children living together as a unit.

⁹ From the 7th-11th January, data collection was stalled due to the *Huda* storm which limited road access, damaged shelters and rendered an assessment of population figures inappropriate until families and households were provided with support.

Population Density
Individuals per hectare



District Boundary

District	Number of people
1	6686
2	7666
3	5082
4	4605
5	5761
6	7232
7	7254
8	8164
9	4908
10	6522
11	8507
12	5699
Total	78086

Data Source:
Population data - REACH
Dec 2014-Jan 2015
Camp Boundaries - UNHCR

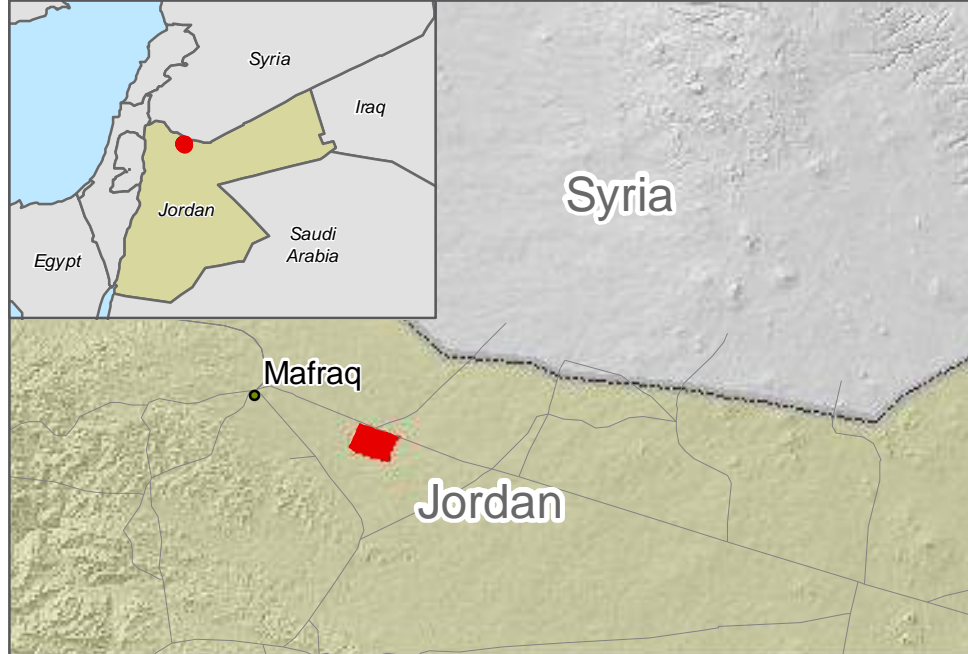
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Provided by: UNOSAT

Projection: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 37N

File: REACH_JOR_Map_Zaatari_MOV
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Contact: reach.mena@impact-initiatives.org

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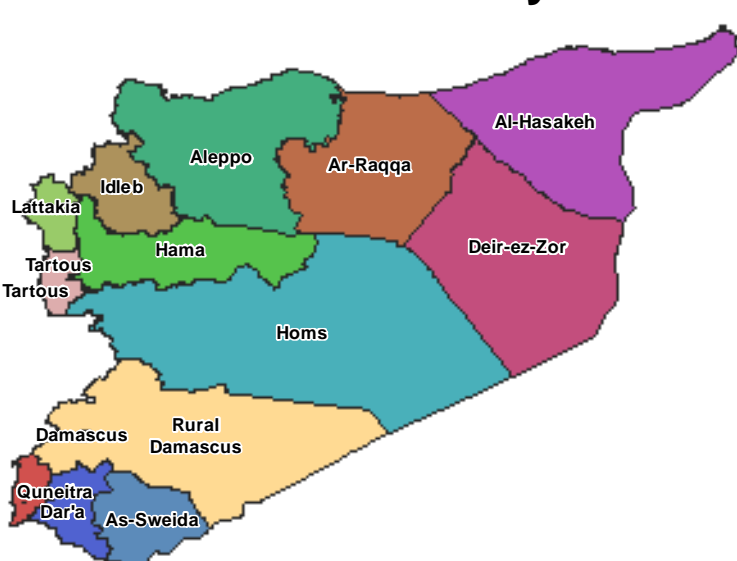


Syrian Governorate and Percentage of Households from each Governorate

Dar'a		81.7%
Rural Damascus		14.3%
Homs		1.9%
Damascus		0.95%
Quneitra		0.41%
Aleppo		0.20%
Idleb		0.16%
Hama		0.15%
Al-Hasakeh		0.06%
Deir-ez-Zor		0.05%
As-Sweida		0.05%
Lattakia		0.02%
Ar-Raqqa		0.01%

District Boundary

Governorates of Syria



Data visualization: Thiessen polygons
Creates polygons out of point locations to better illustrate spatial patterns. Each polygon contains one point that is closer in location to any other point feature.

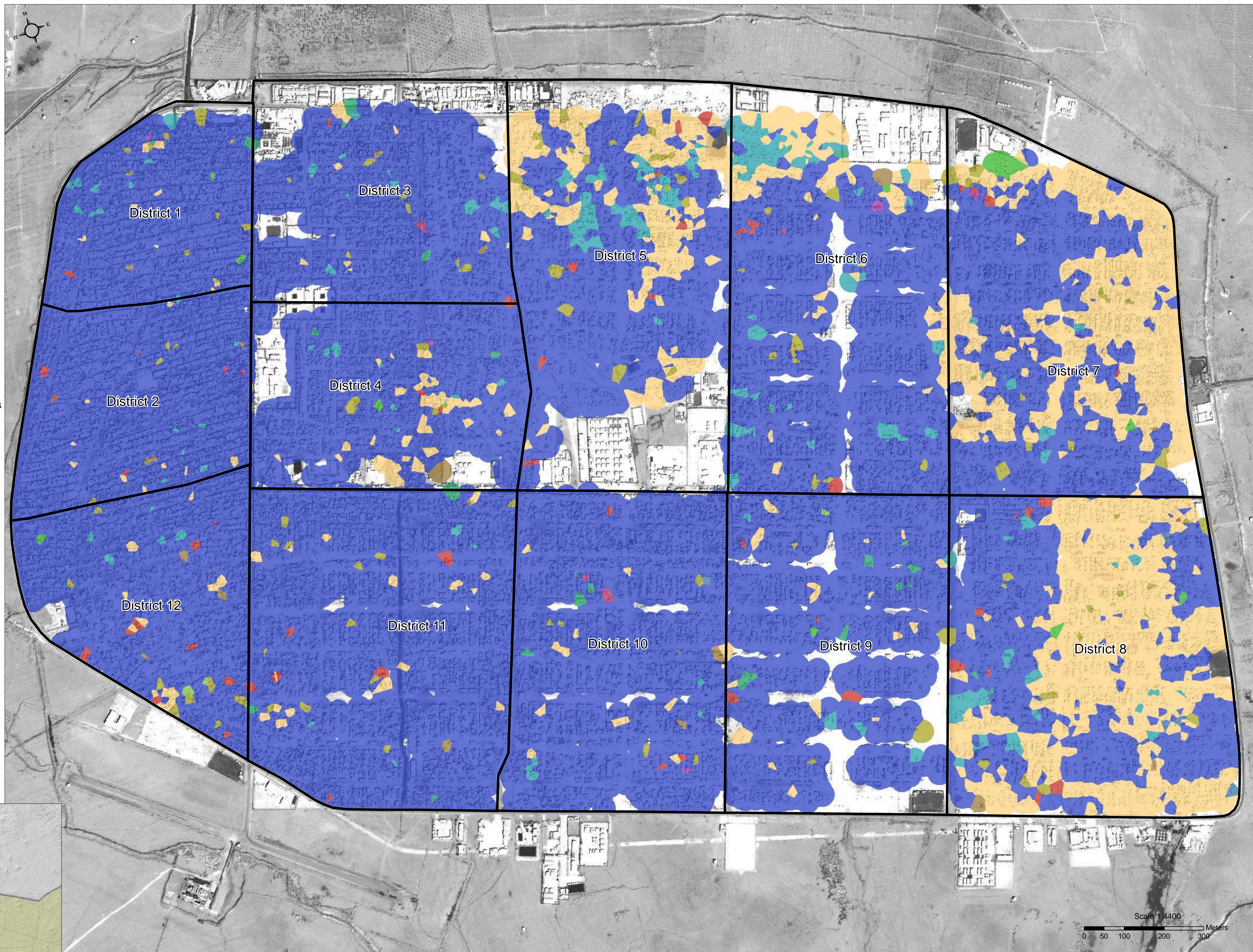
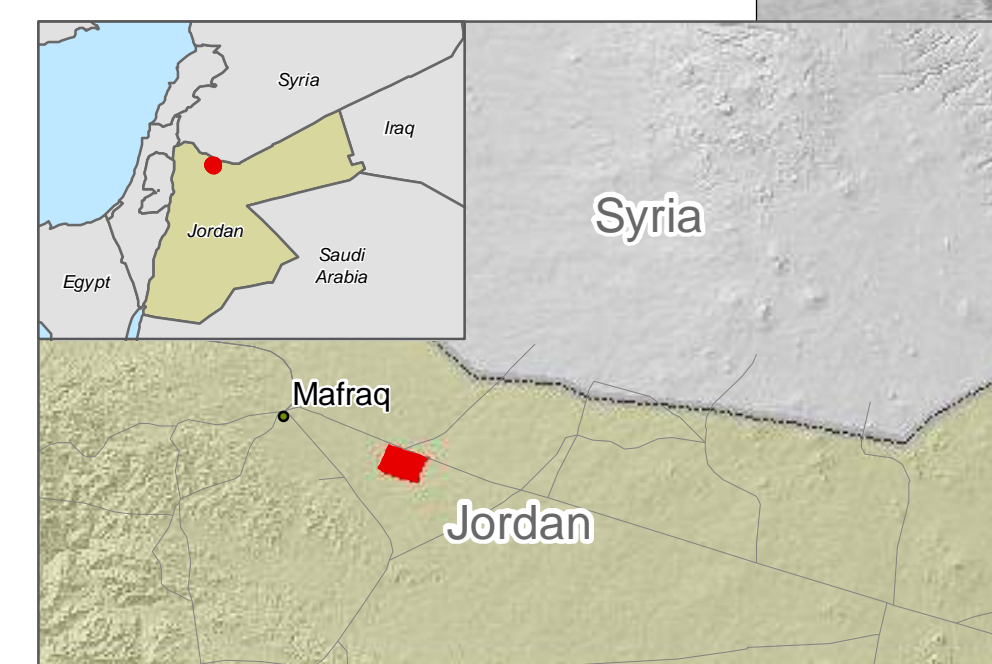
Data Source:
Population data-REACH
Dec 2014-Jan 2015
Camp Boundaries - UNHCR

Satellite Acquisition Date:
11/11/2014 by Digitalglobe
Provided by: UNOSAT

Projection: GCS WGS 1984
File: REACH_JOR_Map_Zaatari_CCM
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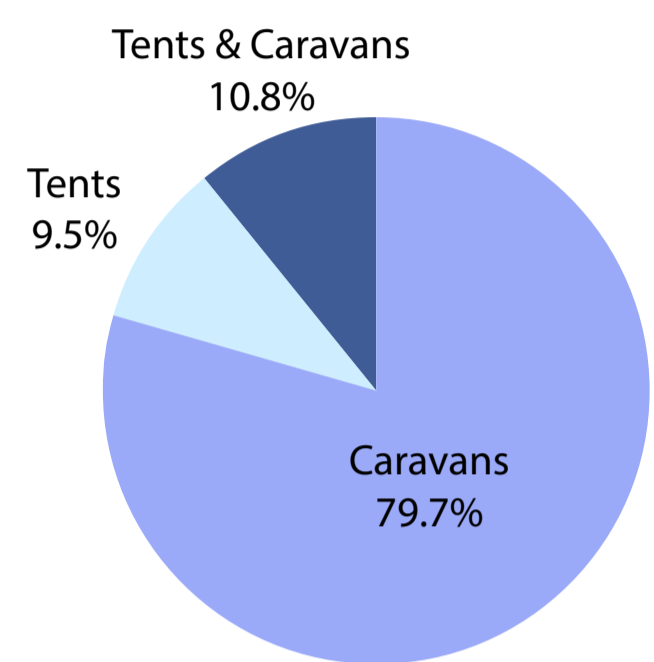
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Scale 1:4400
0 50 100 200 300 Meters

Household Shelter Type

- Caravans
- Tents
- Tents and Caravans
- District Boundary



Data visualization: Thiessen polygons
Creates polygons out of point locations to better illustrate spatial patterns. Each polygon contains one point that is closer in location to any other point feature.

Data Source:
Population data - REACH
Dec 2014-Jan 2015
Camp Boundaries - UNHCR

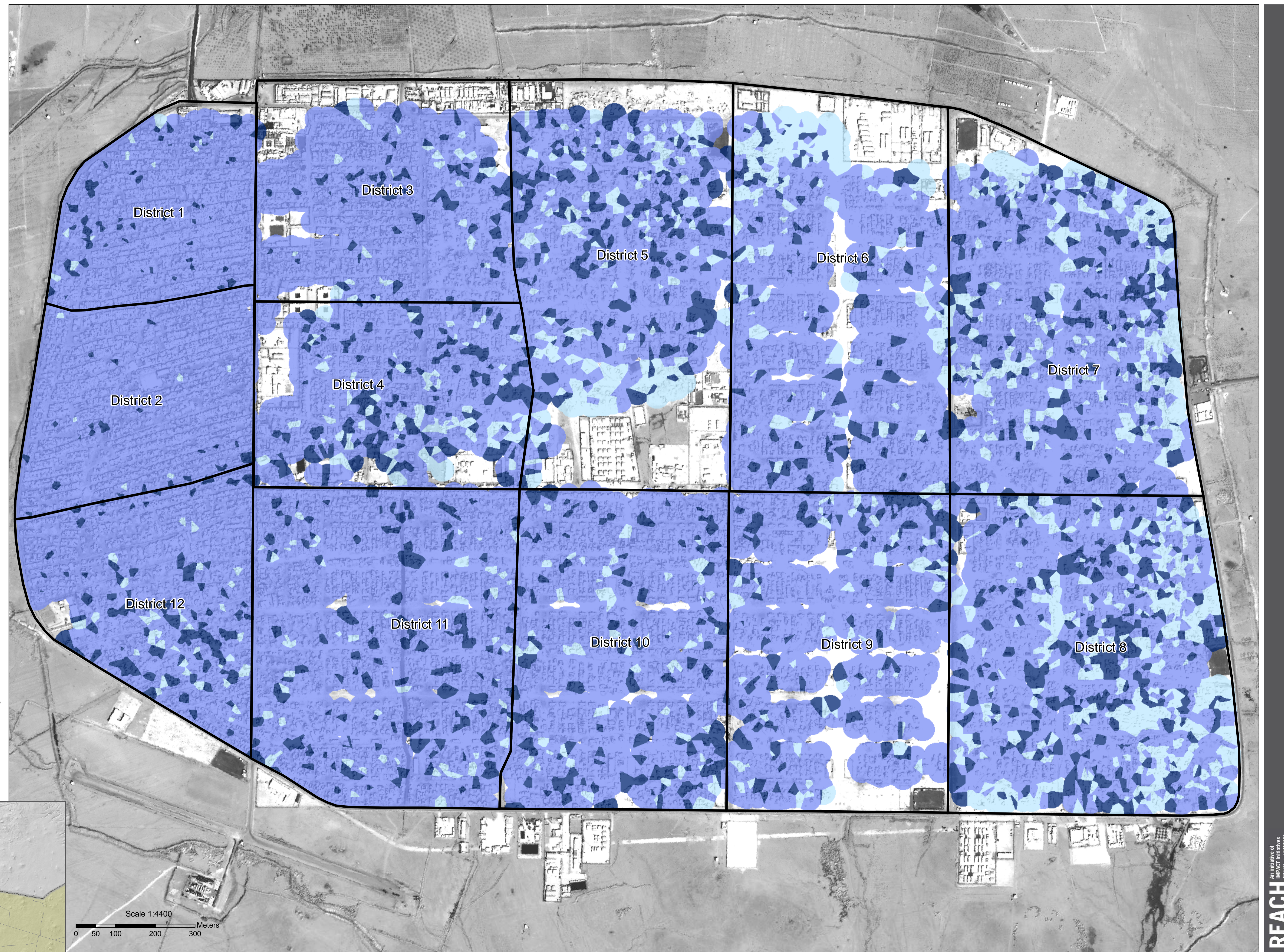
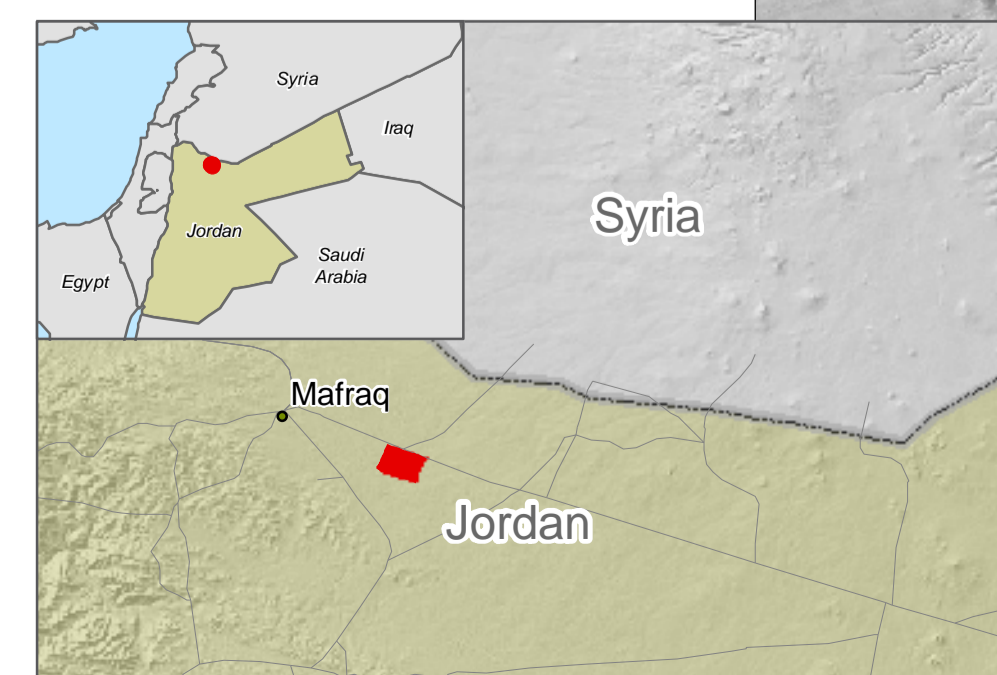
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Provided by: UNOSAT

Projection: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 37N

File: REACH_JOR_Map_Zaatari_CCM
_ShelterType_2Feb2015_A1

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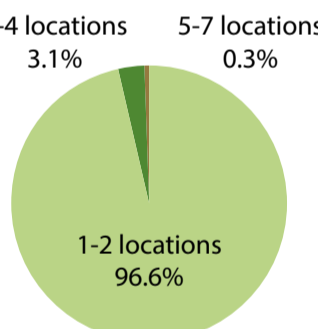


Number of locations lived

- 1-2 locations
- 3-4 locations
- 5-7 locations

District Boundary

Number of Locations	Number of Households
District 1	1190
1-2 locations	1134
3-4 locations	52
5-7 locations	4
District 2	1299
1-2 locations	1248
3-4 locations	49
5-7 locations	2
District 3	897
1-2 locations	870
3-4 locations	24
5-6 locations	3
District 4	848
1-2 locations	834
3-4 locations	12
5-7 locations	2
District 5	1034
1-2 locations	1002
3-4 locations	30
5-7 locations	2
District 6	1269
1-2 locations	1234
3-4 locations	28
5-7 locations	7
D07	1373
1-2 locations	1304
3-4 locations	59
5-7 locations	10
District 8	1506
1-2 locations	1463
3-4 locations	41
5-7 locations	2
District 9	907
1-2 locations	880
3-4 locations	27
5-7 locations	0
District 10	1124
1-2 locations	1075
3-4 locations	42
5-7 locations	7
District 11	1520
1-2 locations	1474
3-4 locations	42
5-7 locations	4
District 12	960
1-2 locations	935
3-4 locations	23
5-7 locations	2
Total	13927



Data Source:
Population data - REACH
Dec 2014-Jan 2015
Camp Boundaries - UNHCR

Satellite Acquisition Date:
11/11/2014 by Digitalglobe
Provided by: UNOSAT

Projection: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 37N

File: REACH_JOR_Map_Zaatari_CCM_RelocationInCamp_2Feb2015_A1

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