



## Al Za'atari Camp Sweep Report: A shelter and NFIs assessment for winterization programming

November 2013

**REACH** Informing  
More Effective  
Humanitarian Action

 **UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

## Introduction

In order to support humanitarian planning and address information gaps, UNHCR requested the REACH team to conduct a baseline assessment in Al Za'atari Camp between 6 October and 20 October 2013 focusing on shelter and Non-Food Items (NFIs) for winterisation programming.

With the population of Al Za'atari refugee camp changing over time, humanitarian actors are constantly challenged to adapt and implement lifesaving services. In response to information gaps, between 6 October and 20 October 2013, a six day<sup>1</sup> camp sweep<sup>2</sup> was organized in Al Za'atari Camp to provide humanitarian actors with the necessary household-level information on Syrian refugees. This will facilitate a more efficient and targeted delivery of services and support to those living in the camp for the winter.

The data presented in this factsheet represents the findings of the household-level surveys, providing a snapshot to camp coordination and other key camp actors of demographics relating to the refugee population as well as specific shelter and NFI information.

## Methodology

Each refugee household was requested to answer a brief survey used to collect basic information regarding shelter and NFIs need to inform winterisation programming. A household was defined as a set of individuals / families sharing a set of shelters / caravans or compound<sup>3</sup>. For each family per household there was a looped question; so the number of families in a specific household would determine the amount of family questions asked (family questions asked =  $n$  number of families per household). This enabled the data analysis team to look at the data at both a household level and at also a family level. All the data collection happened on the same ODK (Open Data Kit) mobile data collection platform that has been used in Al Za'atari Camp since February 2013.

## Key Assessment Findings

Findings of the sweep reveal that a total of 74,447 individuals (16,110 families and 13,352 households) were residing in Al Za'atari Camp at the time of the assessment. This translates to an average household size of 5.57 people in contrast to the 6.58 recorded in May 2013; and an average of 1.21 families per household in contrast to the 1.38 recorded in May 2013.

There has been a 35% decrease in population in the camp since the May 2013 sweep<sup>4</sup>, and this decrease is fairly well distributed geographically across the camp. A total of 46% of the current population arrived during the three month period of January to March 2013.

Approximately 4,029 additional caravans are still needed in the camp in order to ensure that every family of more than 1 person has access to a caravan. Of this total 4,029 families, 3,582 (89%) are currently living in a household without a caravan. The remaining 11% of households possess at least one caravan but are entitled to additional caravans due to the large family numbers in the household.

Districts 1 and 2 are consistently reported as having the highest rates of privatised goods including the highest levels of access to electricity, television and private WASH facilities - highlighting the level of inequality between the districts. It can be concluded that districts can be split into different levels of inequality that need to be

# 73%

Of the households in the camp have an electricity connection.

# 4,029

Additional caravans needed to ensure that all families of more than 1 person have a caravan.

# 35%

Decrease in the camp population since May 2013

<sup>1</sup> The assessment occurred either side of Eid explaining the time gap between the 6th and the 20th despite being a six day assessment

<sup>2</sup> The Camp Sweep is a household level survey.

<sup>3</sup> Collection of tents/caravans put together but is regarded as one household despite possibly containing multiple families

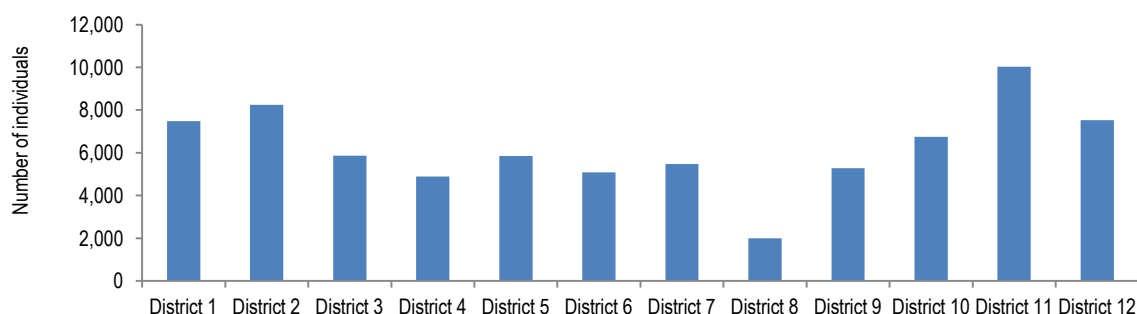
<sup>4</sup> For REACH May 2013 Sweep, please visit: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/y2ynm1hkqxcsmk/REACH%20-%20Camp%20Sweep%20-%20Fact%20Sheet%20-%202020%20June%202013%20-%20Final.pdf>

addressed in terms of shelter and winterisation item needs. Despite having the highest access to private goods and services, both Districts 1 and 2 fall beneath the UNHCR shelter standard<sup>5</sup> of 45m<sup>2</sup> per person as a result of the high population density.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

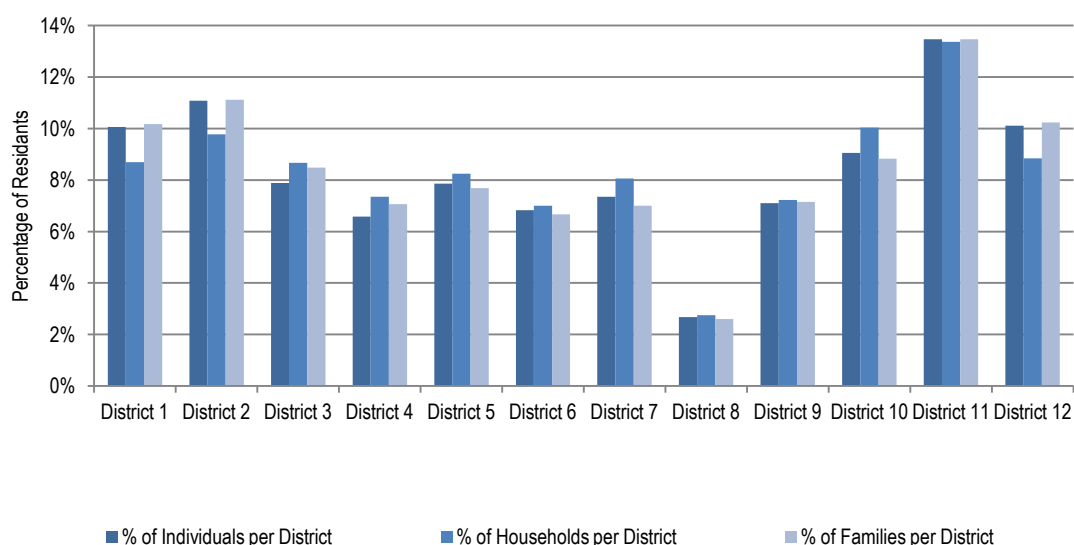
Findings of the sweep reveal that a total of 74,447 individuals (16,110 families and 13,352 households) are residing in Al Za'atari Camp. This translates to an average household size of 5.57 people in contrast to the 6.58 recorded in May 2013, as well as an average of 1.21 families per household in contrast to the 1.38 recorded in May 2013. The number of individuals per district varies as displayed in Figure 1.

**Figure 1: Number of individuals per district**



On average, there has been a decrease in the camp population of 35% since the May 2013 sweep, with this fairly well distributed across the geography of the camp. District 8 saw the greatest reduction of individuals since May 2013, with only 50% of the population recorded five months ago remaining (despite in early October 2013 influxes to the district being witnessed). This reduction in population may be due to the lack of available services in District 8 in comparison to other districts; however, this is not confirmed. District 6 reported the lowest number of people leaving, with a population count of 5,083 being 77% of the number recorded in May 2013.

**Figure 2: Percentage of individual, family and household distribution per district**



<sup>5</sup> Practical Guide to the Systematic Use of Standards and Indicators in UNHCR Operations;  
<http://www.unhcr.org/40eaa9804.pdf>

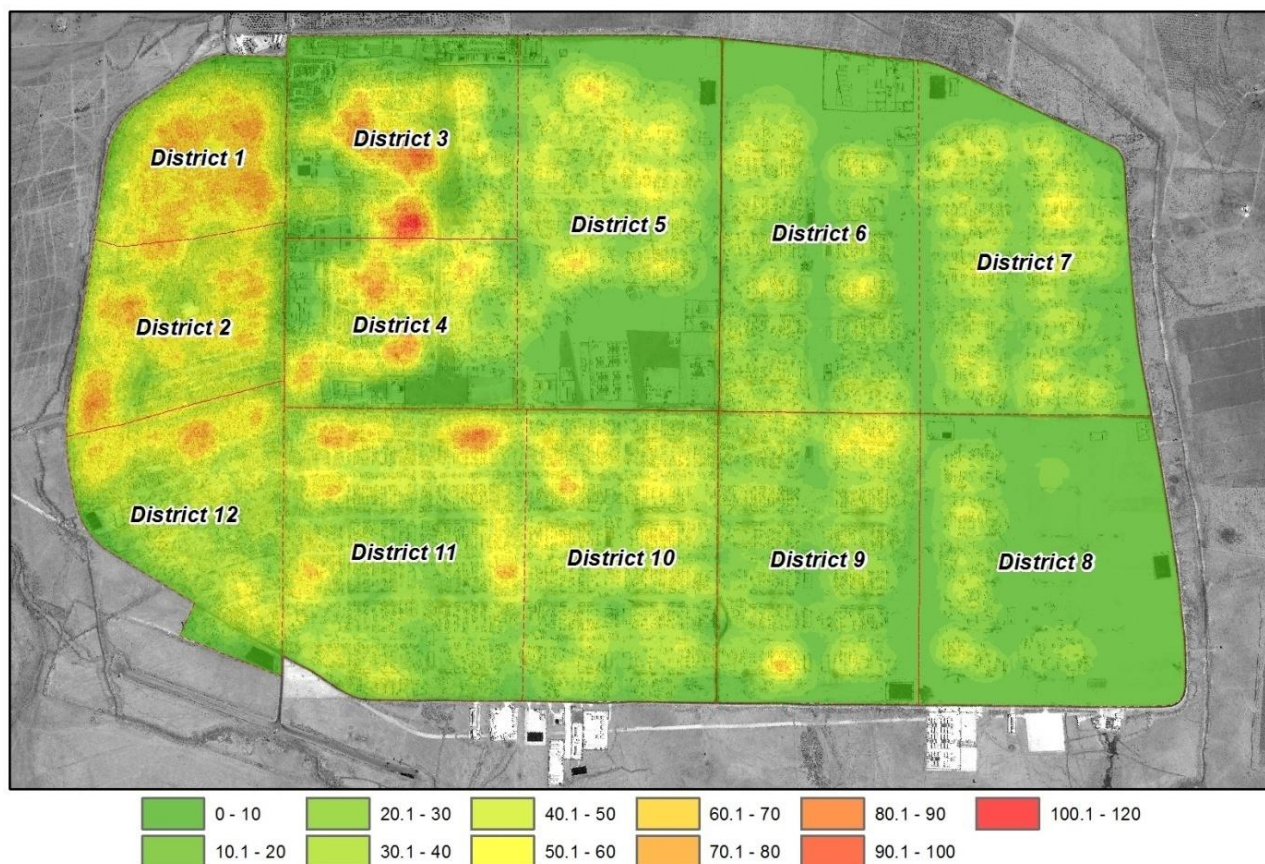


The average family size in October 2013 was recorded to be 4.6 people in contrast to the 4.7 in May 2013, which might indicate that families are leaving the camp as one unit rather than a certain demographic leaving and the majority of the family staying, which would cause a reduction in the average family size.

**Table 1: Population breakdown per district**

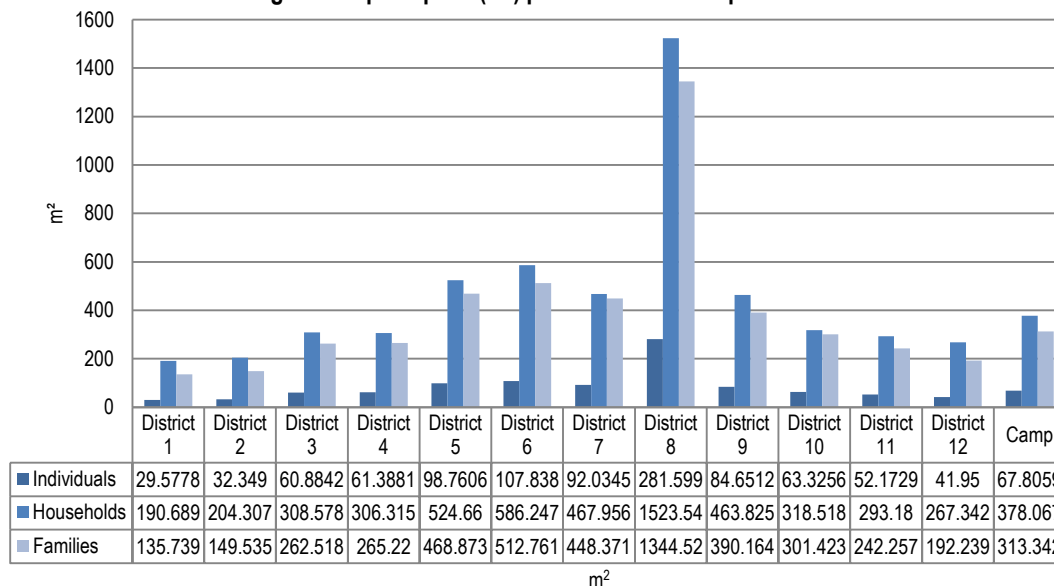
Districts	Individuals	Households	Families	% of Individuals per district	% of Households per district	% of Families per district	Number of tents	Number of caravans
District 1	7,485	1,161	1,631	10%	9%	10%	421	2,156
District 2	8,242	1,305	1,783	11%	10%	11%	465	2,213
District 3	5,864	1,157	1,360	8%	9%	8%	838	961
District 4	4,895	981	1,133	7%	7%	7%	861	653
District 5	5,849	1,101	1,232	8%	8%	8%	827	823
District 6	5,083	935	1,069	7%	7%	7%	409	1,096
District 7	5,471	1,076	1,123	7%	8%	7%	527	1,069
District 8	1,991	368	417	3%	3%	3%	192	376
District 9	5,282	964	1,146	7%	7%	7%	549	1,121
District 10	6,740	1,340	1,416	9%	10%	9%	721	1,533
District 11	10,025	1,784	2,159	13%	13%	13%	1,166	1,874
District 12	7,520	1,180	1,641	10%	9%	10%	846	1,657
<b>Camp Total</b>	<b>74,447</b>	<b>13,352</b>	<b>16,110</b>				<b>7,822</b>	<b>15,532</b>

**Map 1: Household density per hectare**



Map 1 illustrates the variation of household density across the camp (per hectare). As a result of the population variations per district in the camp and non-uniform district sizes, there are severe differences in the amount of open space per person per district as displayed in Figure 3. The average  $m^2$  per person across the camp is  $67.8m^2$  per person.

**Figure 3: Open space ( $m^2$ ) per household composition**



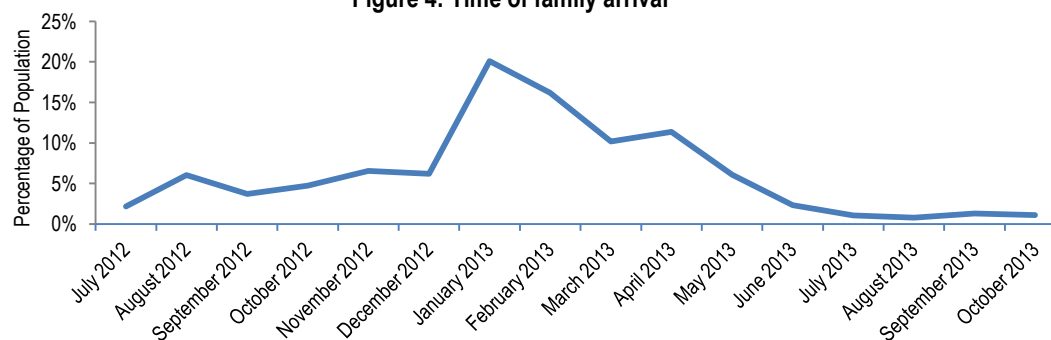
District 11 was recorded as the most heavily populated district (accounting for 13%); and combined with Districts 1, 2 and 12 displayed 44% of the total camp population, which has resulted in a lack of space per person in these districts ( $52m^2$ ,  $29m^2$ ,  $32m^2$  and  $42m^2$ , respectively). By comparison, District 8, which is the least populated district (see Table 1), has the largest open space ( $m^2$ ) available per person ( $282 m^2$ ) (6.2 times the current minimum standard for open space as stated by UNHCR).

The UNHCR Standard for space is a minimum of  $30-45m^2$  per person<sup>6</sup>. Districts 1, 2 and 12 now fall below the standard for the recommended amount of open space per person in a refugee camp. The de-congestion of over-populated districts to under-populated districts (possibly through the provision of additional services) may therefore be necessary in order to ensure all persons have a sufficient amount of open space to live healthily.

## ARRIVAL IN THE CAMP

A total of 46% of the current population of Al Za'tari Camp reported to have arrived between January 2013 and February 2013. The number of arrivals has decreased since then with 20% represented by arrivals in April to June 2013, and 4% arriving between July and October 2013. There was a small increase in arrivals in April 2013, corresponding with an upscale

**Figure 4: Time of family arrival**



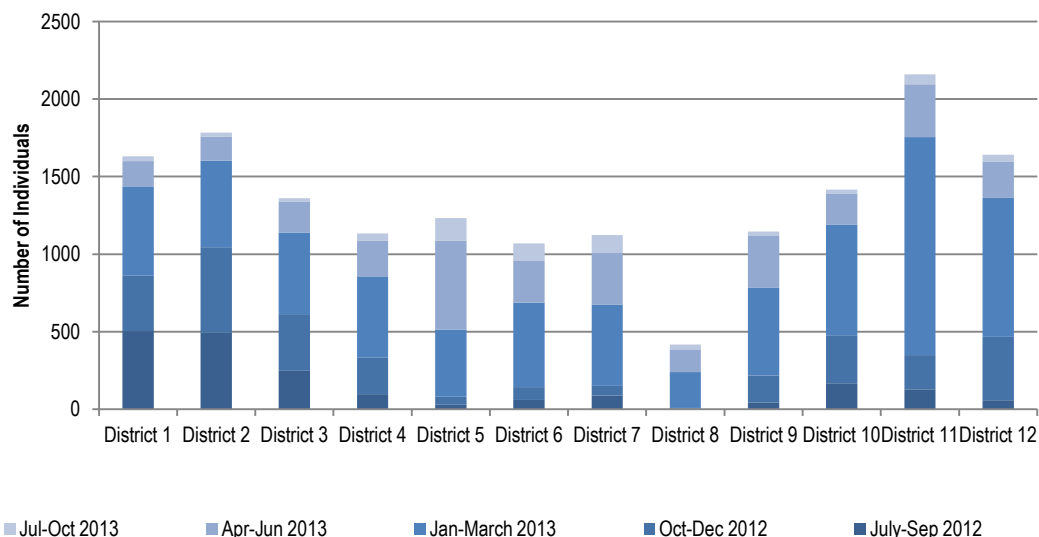
<sup>6</sup> Practical Guide to the Systematic Use of Standards and Indicators in UNHCR Operations, <http://www.unhcr.org/40eaa9804.pdf>

in violence between conflicting groups in Syria.

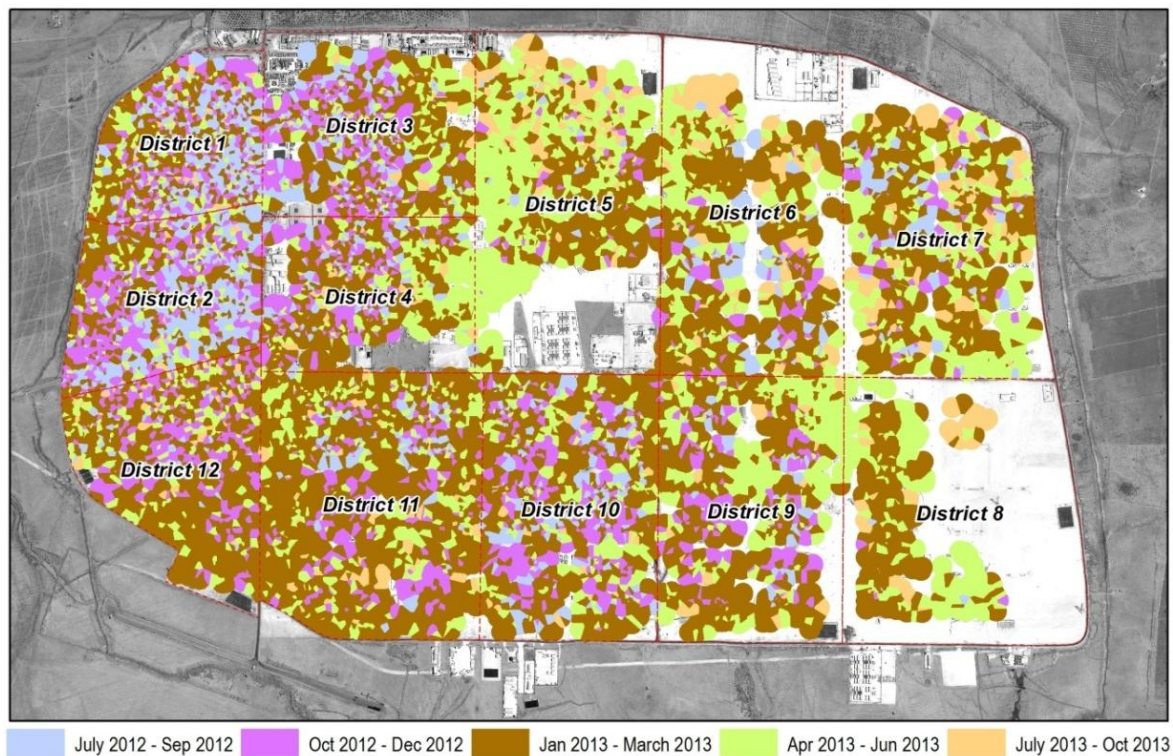
District 11 experienced the greatest surge in arrivals in the first three months of 2013 with 65% of the district's population arriving then, as displayed in Figure 5. Figure 5 and Map 2 display that 9% of the current population that arrived in 2012 are now spread across Districts 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11; which were not built until 2013 (see Map 3). This may therefore suggest internal movement within the camp from the older districts of the camp to the newer districts since January 2013.

Districts which have seen the greatest influx by proportion of their population since July 2013 are District 5 (12%), District 6 (11%), District 7 (10%) and District 8 (7%).

**Figure 5: Time of arrival by district**

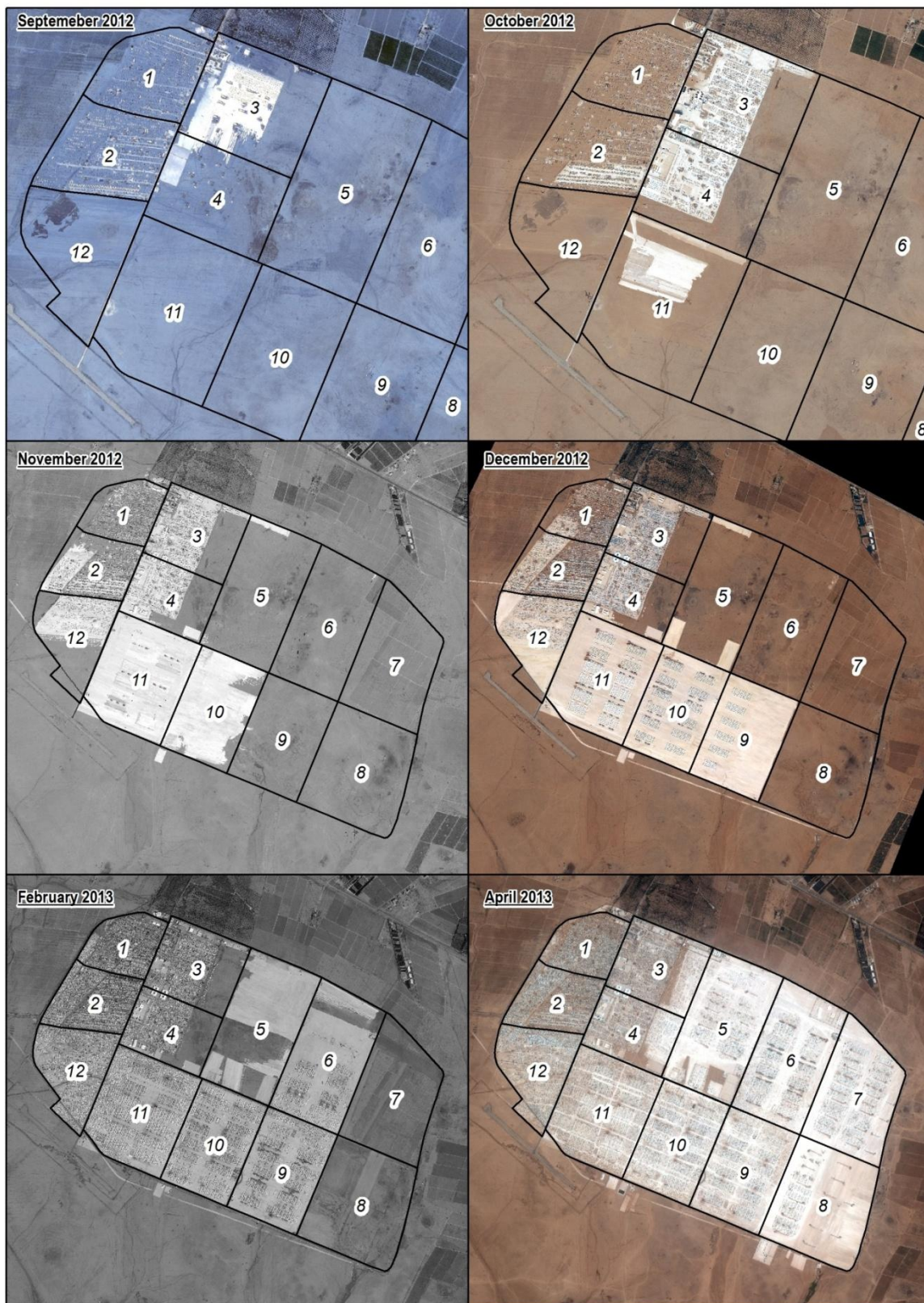


**Map 2: Time of arrival to the camp**





Map 3: Different stages of Za'atari Camp population influx



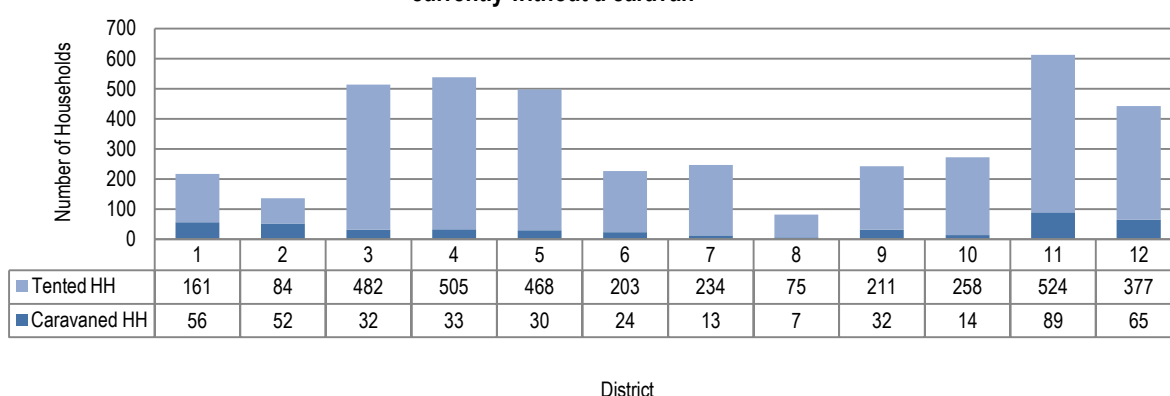
## SHELTER

A total of 7,822 tents were identified through the assessment; 68% of the number of tents identified in May 2013. Out of all households living in the camp, 50% were in possession of at least one tent at the time of the assessment. Of these, 72% reported to have just 1 tent, 21% to have 2, and 7% to have 3 or more tents per household. A large number of these tents have deteriorated considerably, leaving these households particularly vulnerable to winter conditions. Only 3,582 of the households reported not to have a caravan at the time of the assessment.

A total of 15,532 caravans were identified through this assessment, 97% of the May 2013 number. UNCHR have advised that 1,358 additional caravans have been distributed in this period, representing a total reduction of 11% or 1,896 caravans from May to October. This gap may be partially explained by the high use of caravans for purposes other than residential (i.e. shops/businesses). In contrast to the tent-household relationship, there is a high chance that households who are in possession of one caravan may also possess a second caravan; 38% of households have 1 caravan per household, 33% have 2, 18% have 3, 8% have 4, and 3% have 5 or more. This results in an average of 1.16 caravans per household.

Figure 6 displays the number of households that do not meet the current camp policy for a caravan per household (based on family composition). A total of 4,029 households need caravans based on the current population figures. A total of 89% of these caravans are for families living in compounds without a caravan between them at all. The remaining 11% of households possess at least one caravan but are entitled to additional caravans due to large family numbers in the household<sup>7</sup>.

**Figure 6: Graph displaying UNHCR shelter requirements per district for households currently without a caravan**



Figures 7 and 8 demonstrate the covered space per person (m<sup>2</sup>) for the entire camp population (figure 7) and for families sizes 5 and 6 (figure 8). This indicates that currently 26% of the population of the camp is living below Sphere indicator of 3.5m<sup>2</sup> of covered space per person. It is also noted that for household population size of 5 and 6 persons, where the current shelter policy is for one caravan only, then the % of people with less than 3.5m<sup>2</sup> of covered space is 51%. The distribution of the amount of covered living space can be seen in map 4.

<sup>7</sup> Caravans are planned to be distributed per family, rather than per household



Figure 7: Square metres of covered space per person for the total camp

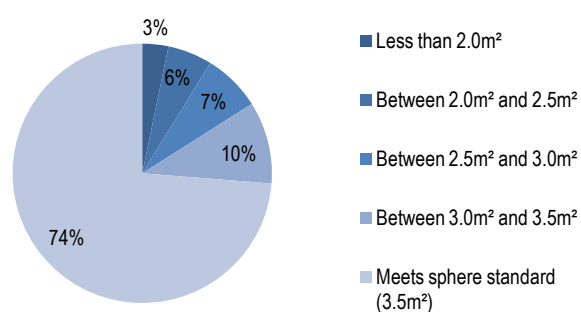
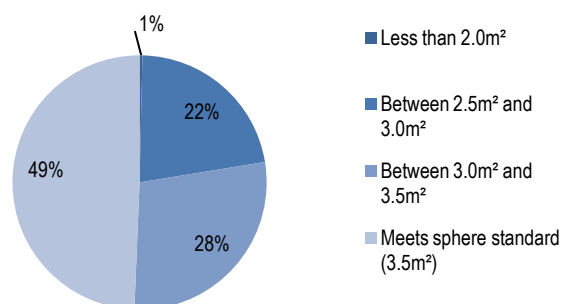
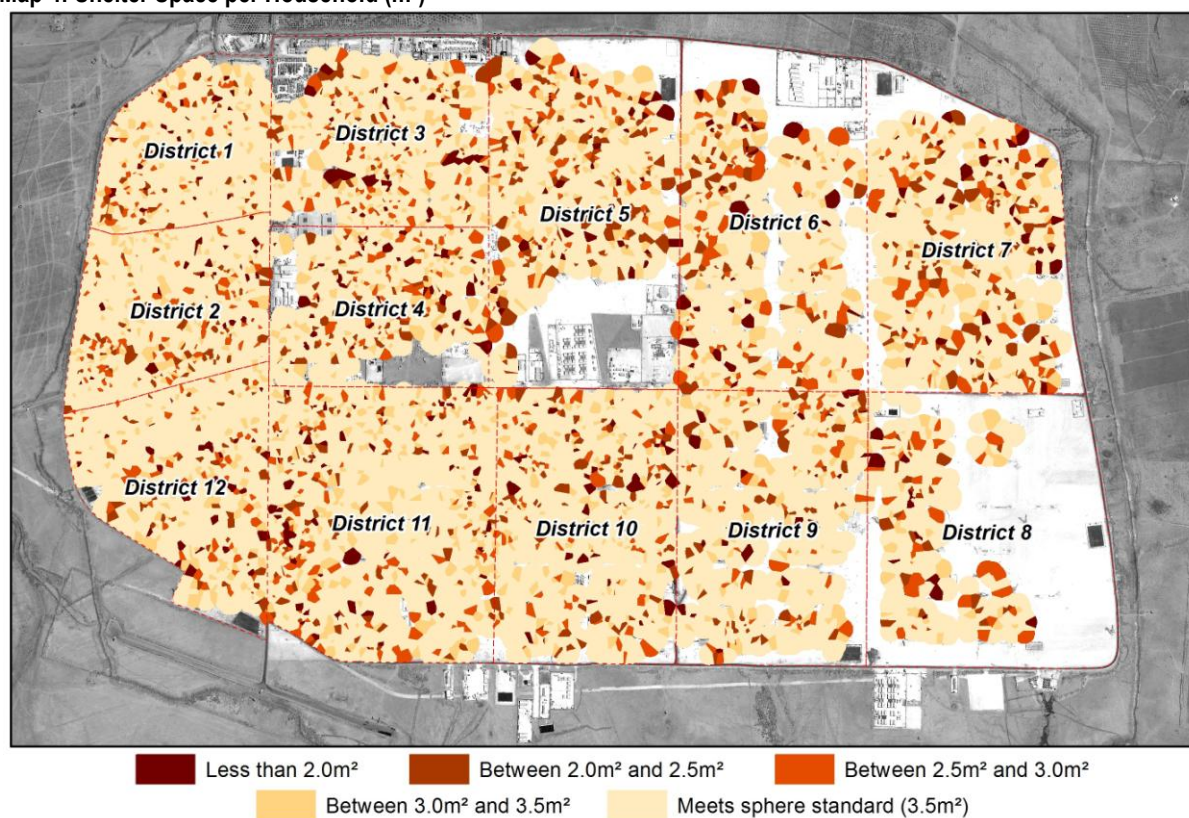


Figure 8: Square metres per of covered space person for households with 5 or 6 persons



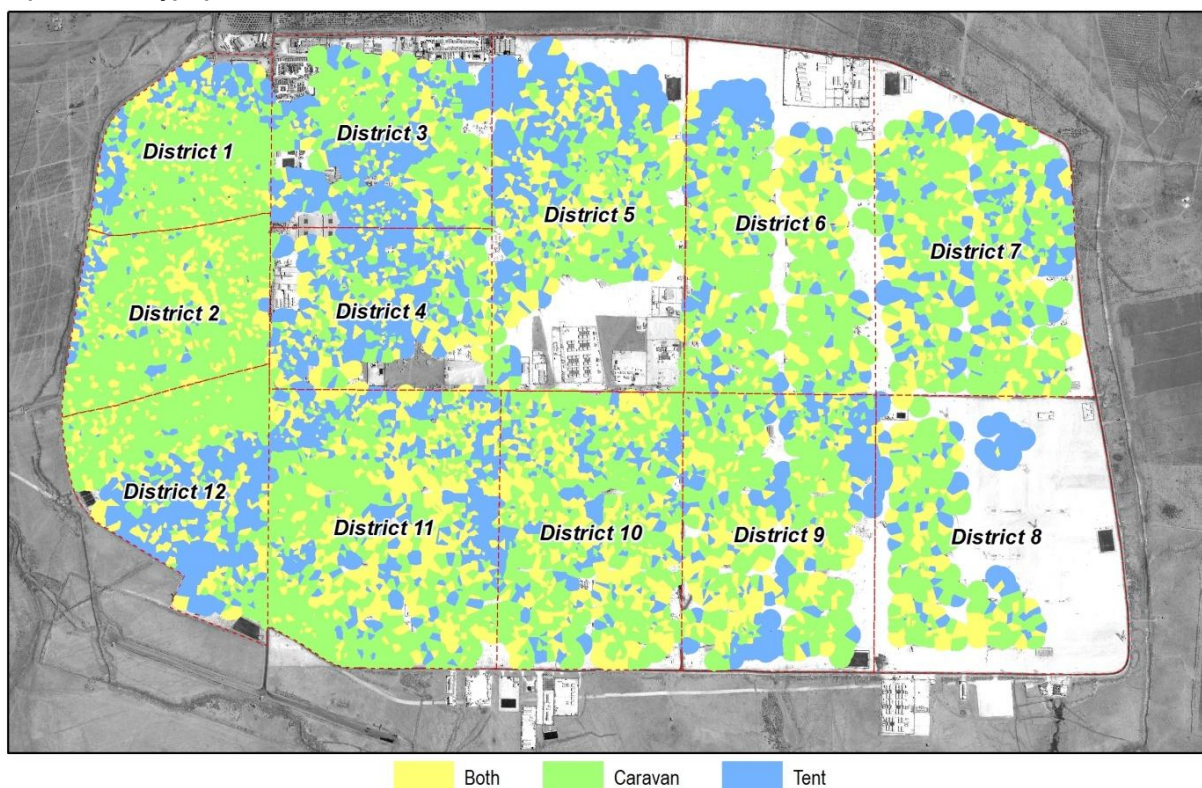
Map 4: Shelter Space per Household (m²)



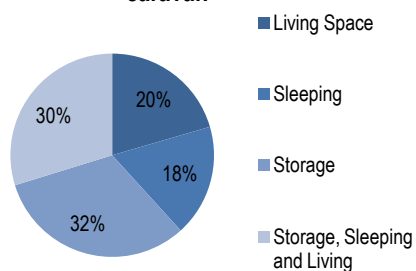
The distribution of shelter type breakdown is uneven across the camp between districts, and also internally within the district as displayed in Map 5. Districts 1, 2 and 11 have the highest ratio of caravans to households, being 1.86, 1.7 and 1.4 for every household respectively. The average number of families per household is 1.21 persons. The lowest ratio of caravans to households is in District 4 (0.67), with the camp average being 1.16 caravans per household. It is also noted however that whilst having the one of the highest ratio of caravans per household, district 11 also has the highest number of households in tents.

Map 5 displays the distribution of shelter type (tents and caravans) across the entire camp. A majority of households in the camp live in either a caravan (50%) or a household composed of a caravan and tent (23%), with only 26% of the households only living in a tent, and <1% reported to be living in kitchens and other non-caravan/tented households.

**Map 5: Shelter type per household**

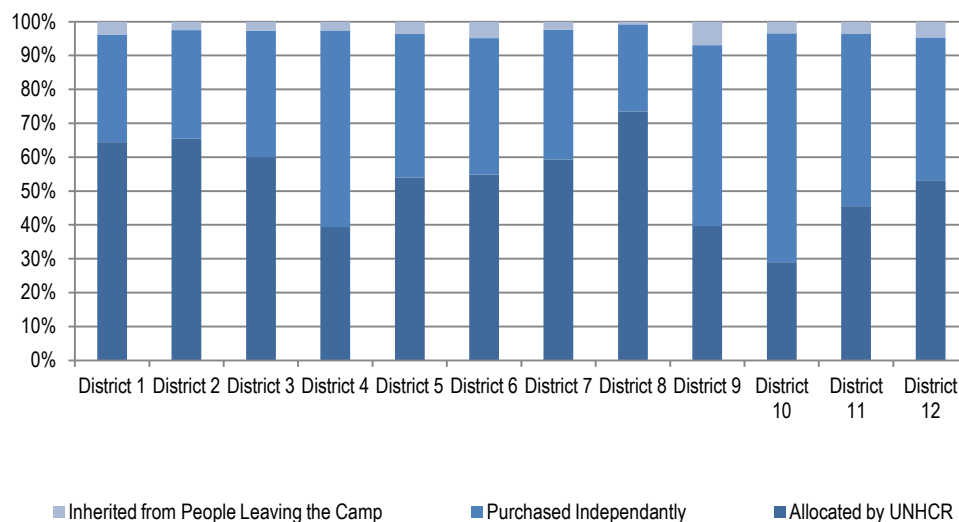


**Figure 9: Use of tents when there is >1 caravan**



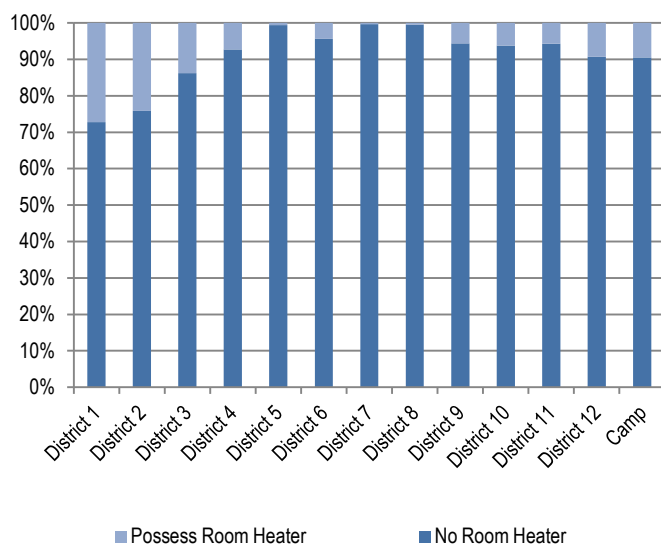
Investigation was made into the use of a tent in a household complex that contains both caravans and tents. Figure 9 shows the breakdown of by reported use. Tents being used for storage, sleeping and living amounted to 30%. The use of tents solely for sleeping was reported at 18%, storage at 32% and living at 20%.

Out of all caravans being used as residential in Al Za'atari Camp, 53% were reported as being allocated by UNHCR, 43% caravans reported as having been purchased independently, and 4% inherited from people who have left the camp (see figure 10 for district breakdown). A majority of caravans purchased independently are found in Districts 4, 9, 10, 11 and 12; with the largest percentage being in District 10. The highest percentage of caravans inherited by previous residents was reported in District 9.

**Figure 10: How households obtained their caravan**

## COOKING AND HEATING

### ROOM HEATER

**Figure 11: Distribution of households with room heaters**

A total of 91% of households reported not to have a room heater of any kind, with variations between districts in terms of heater ownership. District 1 and 2 recorded the highest percentages of households with a room heater (27% and 24% respectively) whereas Districts 5, 7 and 8 show the lowest percentages (1%, <1% and 1% respectively). This could be linked to longevity of household presence in the camp as heaters were distributed last winter; households which arrived after the 2012/2013 winter season would therefore not have received a heater.

Of the houses with room heaters fueled by gas, 88% of households recorded having one room heater and 11% recorded having two room heaters.

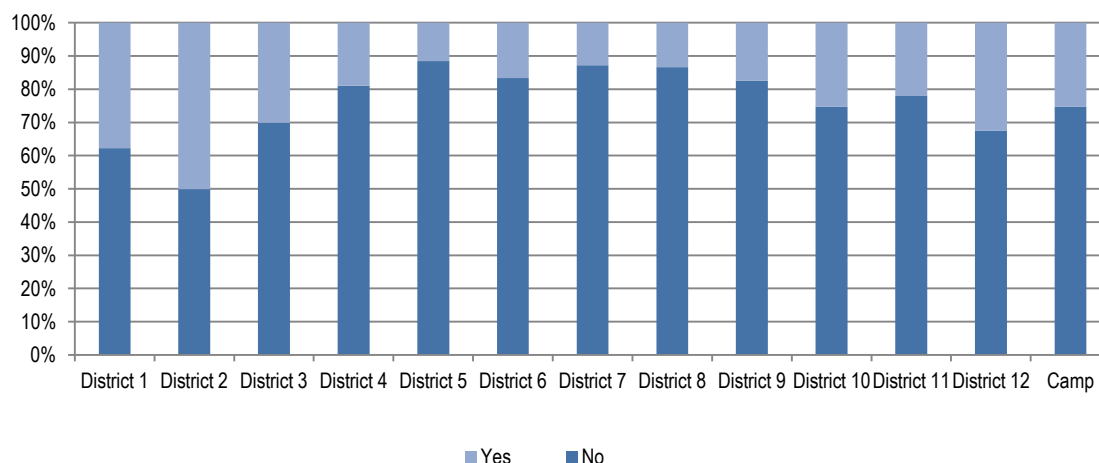
A total of 87 households (less than 1%) reported having an electric heater at the time of the assessment. The majority of these heaters were found in districts 1 and 2. It is noted that only 6 households reported to have more than 1 electric heater.



## COOKING STOVE

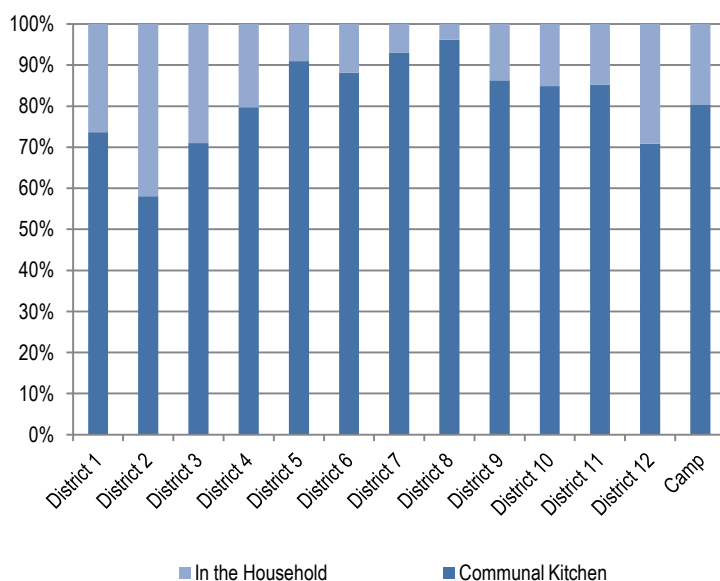
One-fourth of households in the camp reported having at least one cooking stove. Of the 3,381 households in possession of at least one gas stove for cooking, 99% only have one. Less than 1% of households in the camp own an electric stove for cooking (104 in total), and of those 99% only had one, compared to 3,326 households who have only one gas stove for cooking. This is not surprising as gas stoves have been part of the distribution kits internally within the camps, and electric have not been. All electric stoves have therefore been procured from external sources to UN/NGO distributions.

Figure 12: Household possessing a stove for cooking



## COOKING MAIN MEALS

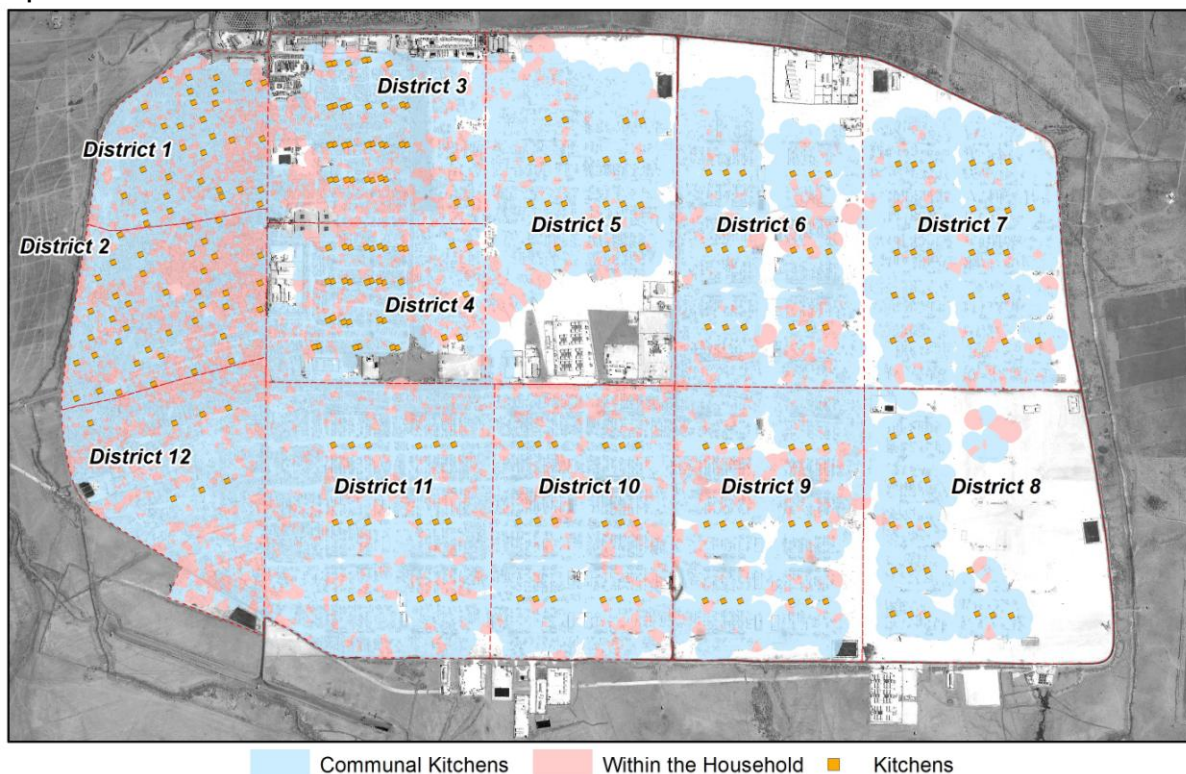
Figure 13: Where households cook their meals



A total of 80% of households reported to cook their meals in communal kitchens.

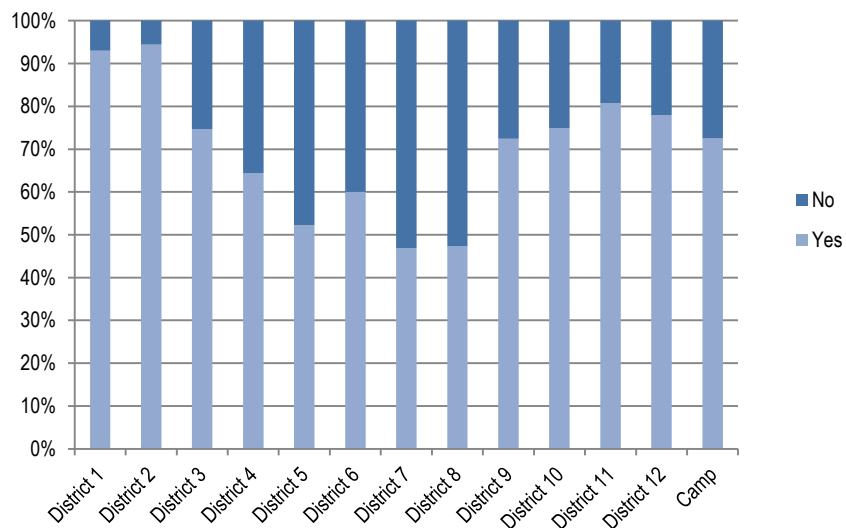
Surprisingly, only 63% of households with a cooking stove cook their main meals at home; the remaining 37% still use communal kitchens. This may imply that this latter group use the cooking stove for cooking tea/coffee or are concerned with the scarcity of available gas.

Map 6 illustrates the sporadic spread of households that cook at home or in communal facilities, an occurrence which therefore cannot be directly related to the geographical distance between household and communal kitchen. It could imply, rather, that gas scarcity is of a particular concern in areas where a majority of households cook in the communal kitchen rather than their household.

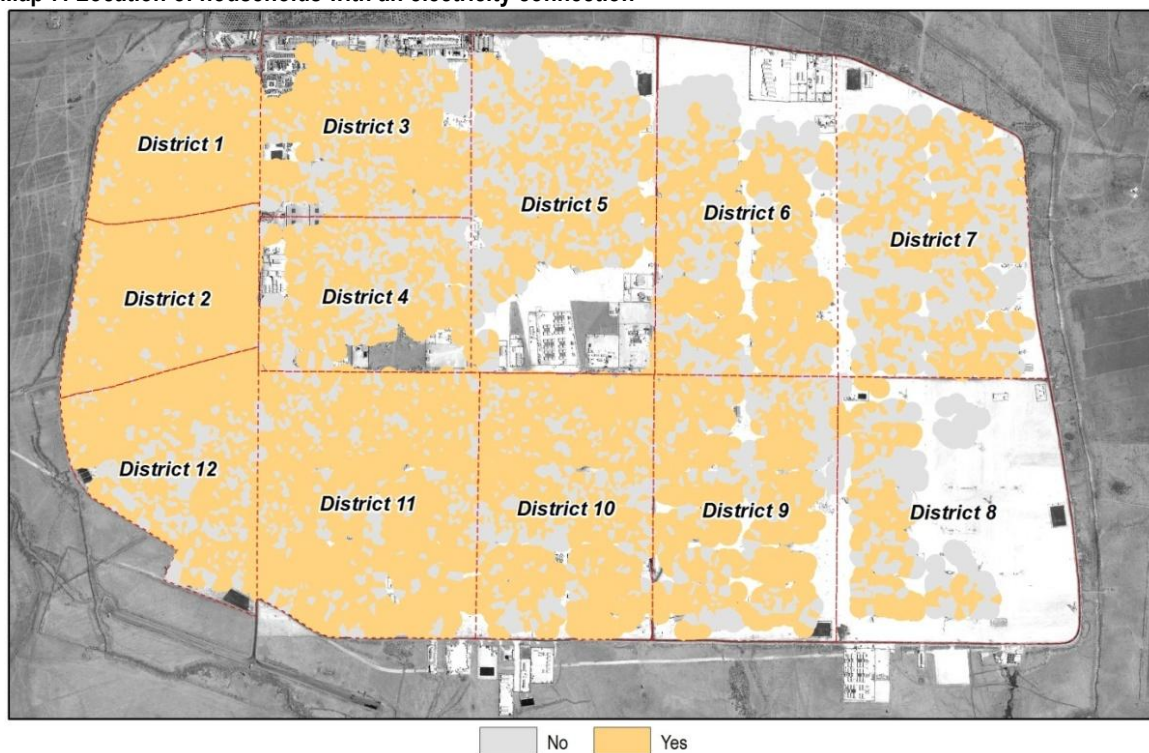
**Map 6: Location of households that cook their meals at home or in communal kitchens**

## CONNECTIVITY

A total of 73% of households in the camp are connected to electricity. However, when this is broken down by district it is clear that electricity connection is unevenly distributed. Districts 7 and 8 have lowest connection rates to electricity, with over 53% of residents in these areas not having access to electricity by comparison with 6% and 7% of households in District 1 and 2 not having an electricity connection.

**Figure 14: Households with an electricity connection**

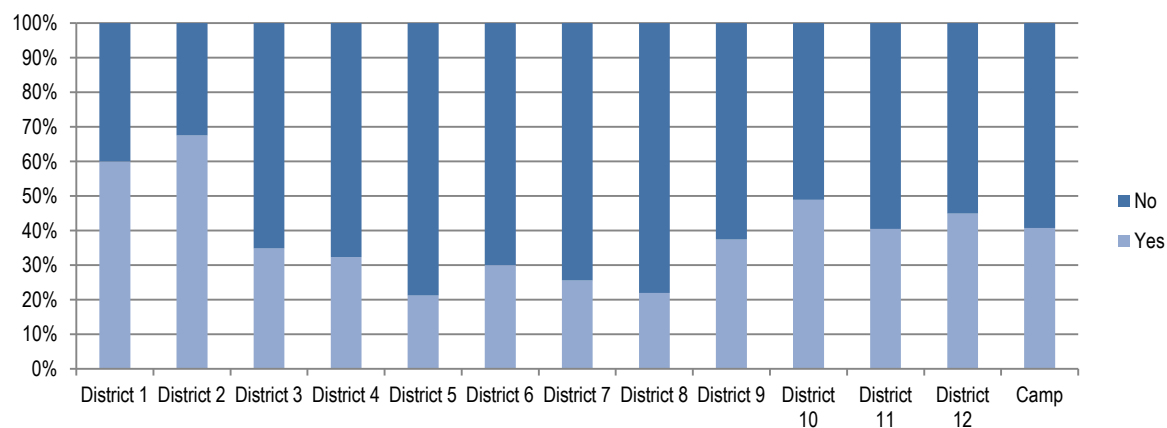
Of the households that do not have an electricity connection, 54% solely lived in a tent, 33% were living in a caravan, 12% possessed both shelter types and less than 1% are living in kitchens. Map 5 clearly illustrates the uneven access to electricity across the camp, implying that a household's location in the camp will more likely determine their access to electricity rather than the type of shelter they live in.

**Map 7: Location of households with an electricity connection****TV ACCESS**

Across the camp, 41% of households reported having access to television, with similar patterns of distribution per district as for electricity connection as summarised in Figure 14.

Over 60% of residents in District 2 reported have a access to a television, whereas a majority of households in District 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 do not have access to a television.

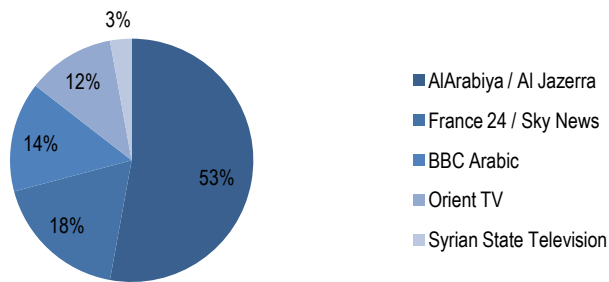
Of the 73% of households that reported to have access to electricity (9,683 households), only 55% reported access to television. However, 2% of households who reported no access to electricity also reported having access to television which may imply that they have access to their neighbour's / a communal facility.

**Figure 15: Households with access to television**



## CHANNELS WATCHED

Figure 16: News channels reported to be watched



Al Arabiya / Al Jazeera is by far the most watched news channel, with over half (53%) of the households in Al Za'atari Camp who own a TV set reporting to watch this channel. Only 3% of households watch Syrian State Television which could be a possible indication of the political positioning of the camp residents.

## CHANGES SINCE MAY 2013

Comparisons between the data sets of May 2013 and October 2013 can be seen in Table 2. As can be seen, there has been reduction in individuals, households, families, number of tents and number of caravans since the May 2013 assessment. Despite this trend being consistent across all household configurations there is sometimes huge disparity in numbers between the different districts.

Table 2: Population breakdown per district

Districts	Individuals	Households	Families	Number of tents	Number of caravans
District 1	66%	73%	67%	55%	90%
District 2	67%	82%	70%	118%	85%
District 3	60%	68%	63%	41%	375%
District 4	55%	66%	58%	49%	246%
District 5	63%	75%	65%	76%	89%
District 6	77%	94%	78%	132%	85%
District 7	63%	78%	64%	149%	70%
District 8	50%	61%	51%	116%	51%
District 9	66%	77%	67%	79%	89%
District 10	63%	83%	64%	70%	99%
District 11	67%	77%	69%	61%	121%
District 12	73%	79%	75%	81%	96%
Camp Total	65%	76%	67%	68%	97%