

# Key Findings of REACH Camp Sweep in Za'atari

## Factsheet

June 2013



*This project is supported by*



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**IMPACT** *Initiatives*



## INTRODUCTION

With the population figures of Za'atari refugee camp varying on a daily basis, humanitarian actors are constantly challenged to plan and implement life saving services. In response to information gaps, from 19 May to 29 May 2013, REACH - with the support of UNICEF - conducted a nine day camp sweep<sup>1</sup> in Za'atari to provide humanitarian actors with the necessary information on Syrian refugees. This in turn will facilitate a more efficient and targeted delivery of services to those living in the camp.

The data presented in this fact sheet represents the findings of the household level surveys which provided a snapshot to camp coordination and other key camp actors, giving an insight into demographics of the refugees as well as specific shelter and WASH related information.

## METHODOLOGY

Households were requested to answer a brief survey which was used to collect basic information on households living in the camp. Simultaneously, households were provided with a WASH kit voucher to minimise the risk of duplicate distributions<sup>2</sup>. Importantly, the survey was fully anonymous – no beneficiary data (such as addresses or ID numbers) were collected. Street leaders were involved to help prepare the community, along with enumerators from the camp who assisted in the data collection, the REACH team who managed the data collection and surveying process, and ACTED's hygiene promoters to disseminate key messages and distribute the vouchers. One survey was completed for each household living in the camp; and a household was defined as a set of individuals / families sharing a set of shelters / caravans or compound.

**Table 1 – Key figures**

New Administrative Name <sup>3</sup>	Previous Administrative Name	Individuals	% of total number of individuals	Families	Households	Caravans	Tents
District 1	Sector 1	11,257	10%	2,450	1,581	2,405	769
District 2	Sector 2	12,224	10%	2,550	1,597	2,604	395
District 3	Sector 3	9,823	8%	2,151	1,713	256	2,020
District 4	Sector 4	8,904	8%	1,955	1,481	265	1,756
District 5	Phase 5	9,293	8%	1,889	1,475	925	1,087
District 6	Module 4	6,641	6%	1,373	996	1,285	309
District 7	Module 6	8,706	7%	1,759	1,374	1,535	353
District 8	Module 7	3,954	3%	821	605	731	165
District 9	Module 5	7,963	7%	1,702	1,257	1,253	694
District 10	Module 3	10,729	9%	2,219	1,612	1,546	1,026
District 11	Module 2	14,978	13%	3,125	2,315	1,543	1,899
District 12	Sector 5	10,291	9%	2,178	1,491	1,722	1,044
<b>Total<sup>4</sup></b>		<b>116,492</b>		<b>24,493</b>	<b>17,494</b>	<b>16,307</b>	<b>11,637</b>

<sup>1</sup> The camp sweep is a household level survey.

<sup>2</sup> Vouchers for WASH kits were distributed to the entire camp, independently from the household's willingness to respond to the survey or not.

<sup>3</sup> A change in the geographical breakdown of Za'atari by Camp Management recently took place.

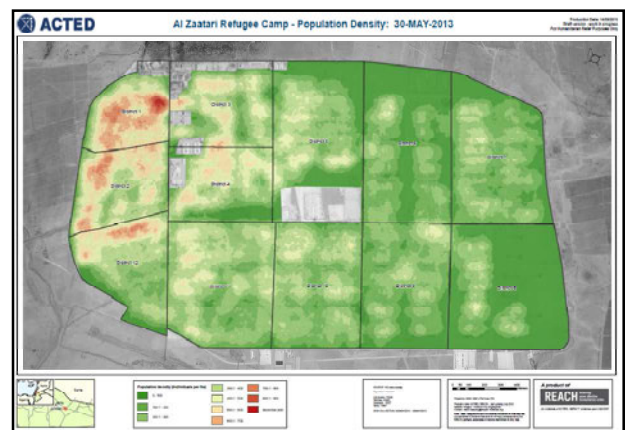
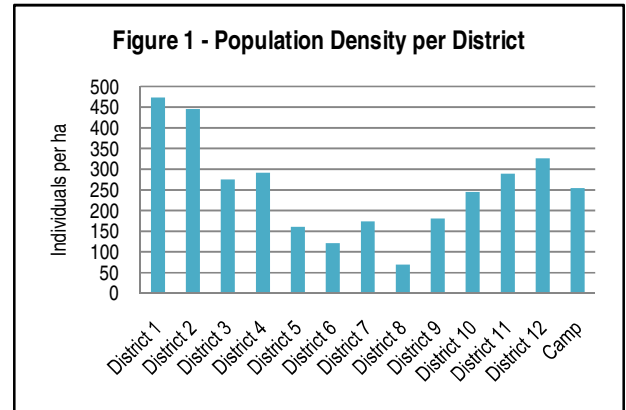
<sup>4</sup> In a small number of instances GPS points were out-of-range and are therefore not included in the district breakdown. The Totals are therefore slightly higher than the sums of all districts.

## KEY FINDINGS

### DEMOGRAPHICS

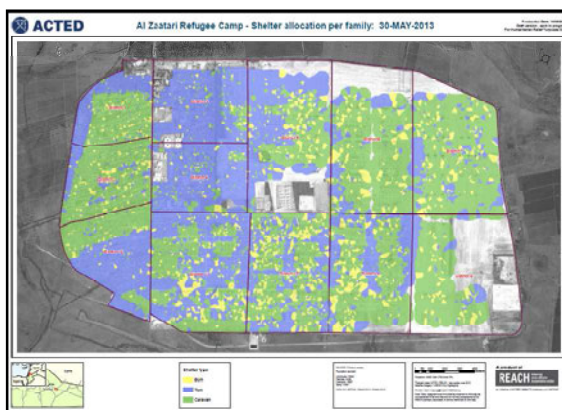
Findings of the sweep reveal that a total of 116,492 individuals, 24,493 families and 17,494 households are residing in Za'atari camp. This translates to an average household size of 6.58, as well as an average of 1.38 families per household. The number of individuals and households per district vary strongly, as illustrated in Table 1. When these figures are compared to the varying sizes of administrative units within the camp, a considerably differing population density per district can be noted. For example, those areas settled first (e.g. districts 1 and 2) are clearly the most densely populated, as can be seen in Figure 1 and Annex I (*Population Density*).

The overwhelming majority of individuals (93%) originate from the Governorate of Dara. Of the remaining 7%, the main areas of origin are Damascus (with 350 households) and Homs (with 360 households). This reflects the trends in the conflict within Syria with the fighting near the border, as well as the location of Jordan and the border crossings. Previous assessments have also shown that often communities congregate in similar areas in the camp, relying on social networks and ties.



### SHELTER

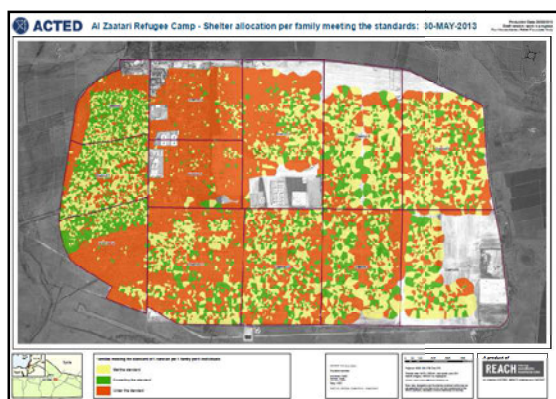
A total of 11,637 tents were identified through the camp sweep; 39% of households reported to have one tent, 10% of households reported to have two tents, and 2% of households reported to have three or more tents. 49% of households reported not having a tent (residing in caravans only).



The assessment also highlighted that there are now more caravans than tents in Za'atari, with a total of 16,307 caravans. This will continue to increase as UNHCR is currently expanding the distribution of caravans. Currently, 35% of households reportedly have one caravan, followed by 15% of households having two caravans, and 7% of households having three or more caravans. A total of 43% of households reported to not have a caravan (and thus residing in tents only). Annex II (*Shelter Allocation per Family*) shows the relative prevalence of tents and caravans per district of the camp.

As demonstrated in Figure 4, a dynamic shelter allocation per family per district can be observed; in districts 3 and 4 families predominantly reside in tents, while in districts 2, 6, 7 and 8 clearly caravans prevail.

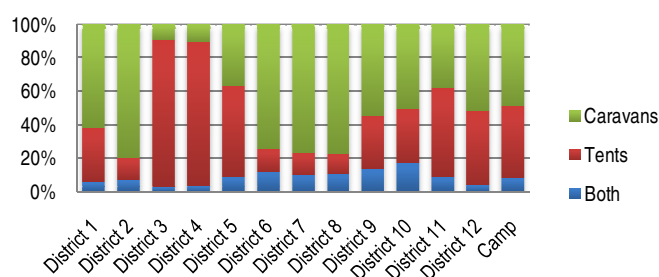
UNHCR has set a standard of one caravan per family, except when the family has more than five individuals, in which case an additional tent is provided. This standard is on its way to being implemented with the ongoing distribution of caravans. However, at the time of the camp sweep, on average 27% of families meet the standard regarding the number of caravans / tents per family size, while 53% of families are living below the standard (generally no caravan) and 20% are living above the standard (generally more than one tent).



**Figure 5 – Shelter per Family Meeting the Standard**  
(see Annex III)

As can be seen in Annex III (*Shelter per Family Meeting the Standards*), in districts 1 and 2, respectively 39% and 34% of families are living above the shelter standard set for Za'atari, while in districts 3 and 4 nearly all families are living below the standard, respectively 91% and 90%. In district 8 the highest percentage of families meeting the standard can be found, namely 48%, followed by districts 6 and 7 (both 42%). However, it is important to note that while the standards set by UNHCR/Shelter Cluster for Za'atari are met or exceeded in some districts, other living conditions such access to space, services, and safe living conditions may remain a challenge in the same areas. For example, districts 1 and 2 have a high percentage of families meeting standards regarding the number of tents/caravans per family size, yet rate poorly in terms of shelter condition, infrastructure and site planning.

**Figure 4 - Shelter Allocation per Family per District**



**Figure 6 - Shelter Allocation per Family per District Meeting the Standards**

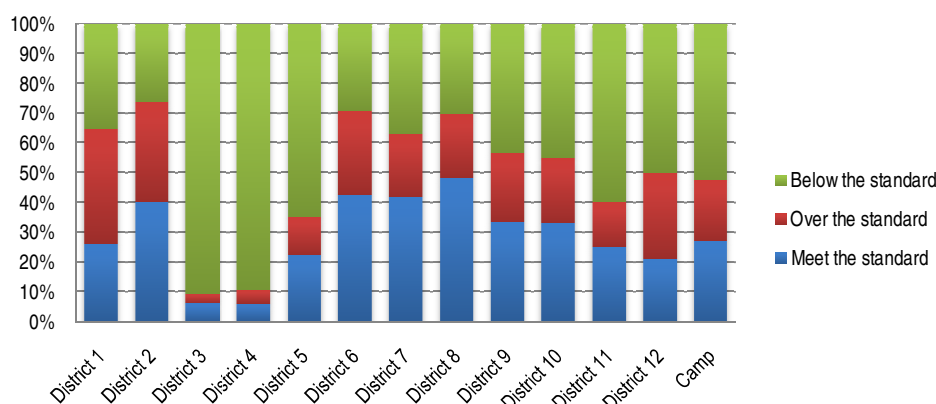
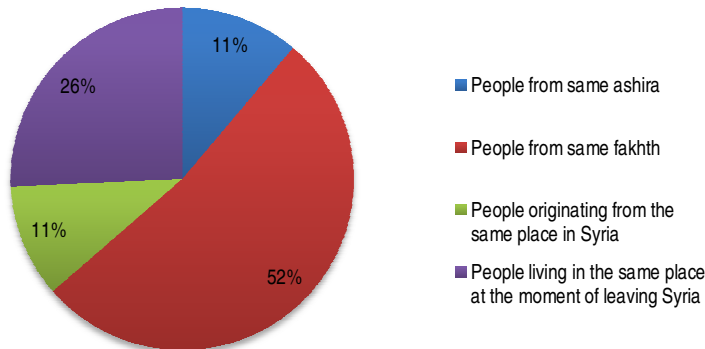
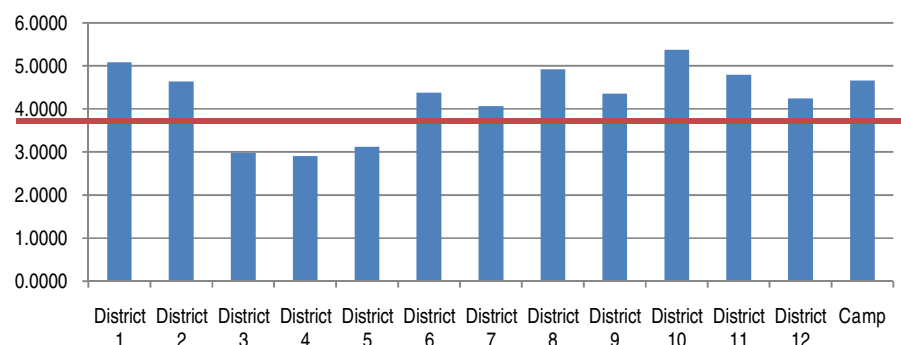


Figure 7 - Shelter Location Preferences



Approximately half of the households (52%) reported that given the choice they would prefer their shelter location to be nearby Syrians from the same *fakhth*<sup>5</sup>. A quarter of the households, 26%, indicated they would chose to live with people with whom they had lived at the moment of leaving Syria, while 11% of households reported to prefer living with people from the same *ashira*<sup>6</sup>, and 11% reported to prefer residing with people originating from the same place in Syria. This has previously been identified when mapping highlighted clustering of shelters by area of origin and *fakhth*, and anecdotally is well known within the camp as a reason for many caravans / tents being moved.

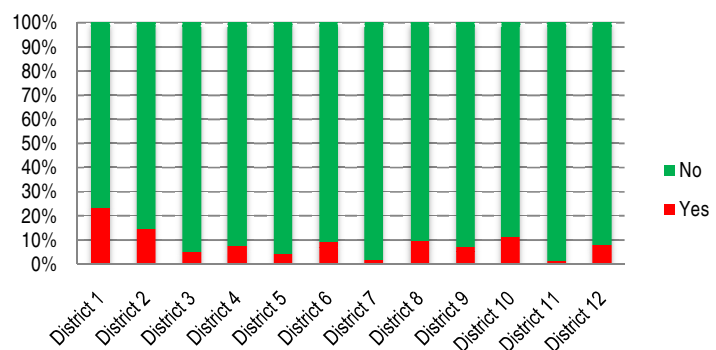
Overall, Za'atari camp has an average of 4.6m<sup>2</sup> of internal shelter space per refugee, which is above the established sphere standard of 3.5m<sup>2</sup>. As Figure 8 illustrates, districts 3, 4 and 5 display a lower number than the established standard. This varies quite substantially by district, and highlights that more established areas have a higher density of shelters but also more space within shelters per refugee.

Figure 8 - m<sup>2</sup> of Shelter per Refugee

## WATER

Findings reveal that 8% of households own a private water storage deposit. Most commonly, households reported to have a small tank (1m<sup>3</sup>) for the storage of water (52% of respondents), followed by big tanks (2m<sup>3</sup>) (27% of respondents) and finally barrels (200L) (21% of respondents).

Figure 9 - Private Water Storage per District



<sup>5</sup> *Ashira* is the main high-level organisational unit that structures the Syrian population, it is different from a paternal name or an assumed name in that it is a basis for actual cohesive social structures. Larger ashiras are subdivided into "legs" (*fakhths*).

<sup>6</sup> The main high-level organisational unit that structures the Syrian population.



Private water storage is highest in district 1 (30%), followed by district 2 (17%), as can be seen respectively in Annex IV (*Private Water Storage: District 1*) and V (*Private Water Storage: District 2*). In districts 11 (1%), 7 (2%), 4 (4%) and 3 (5%) very low numbers of private water storage were reported.

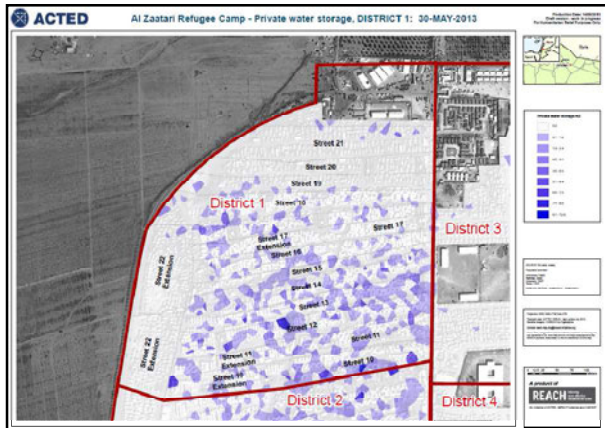


Figure 10 – Private Water Storage: District 1  
(see Annex IV)

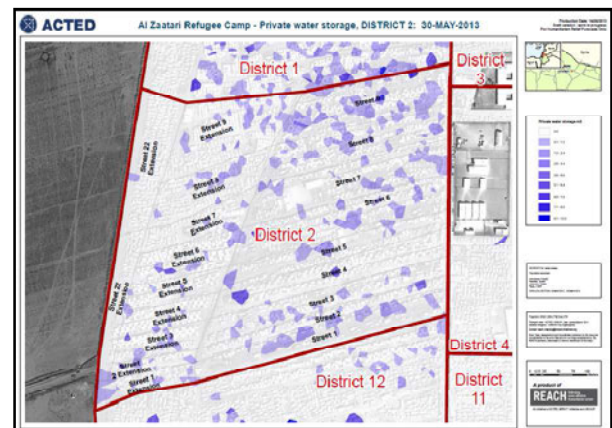
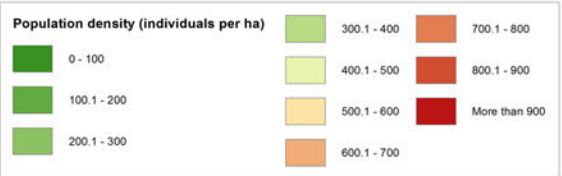
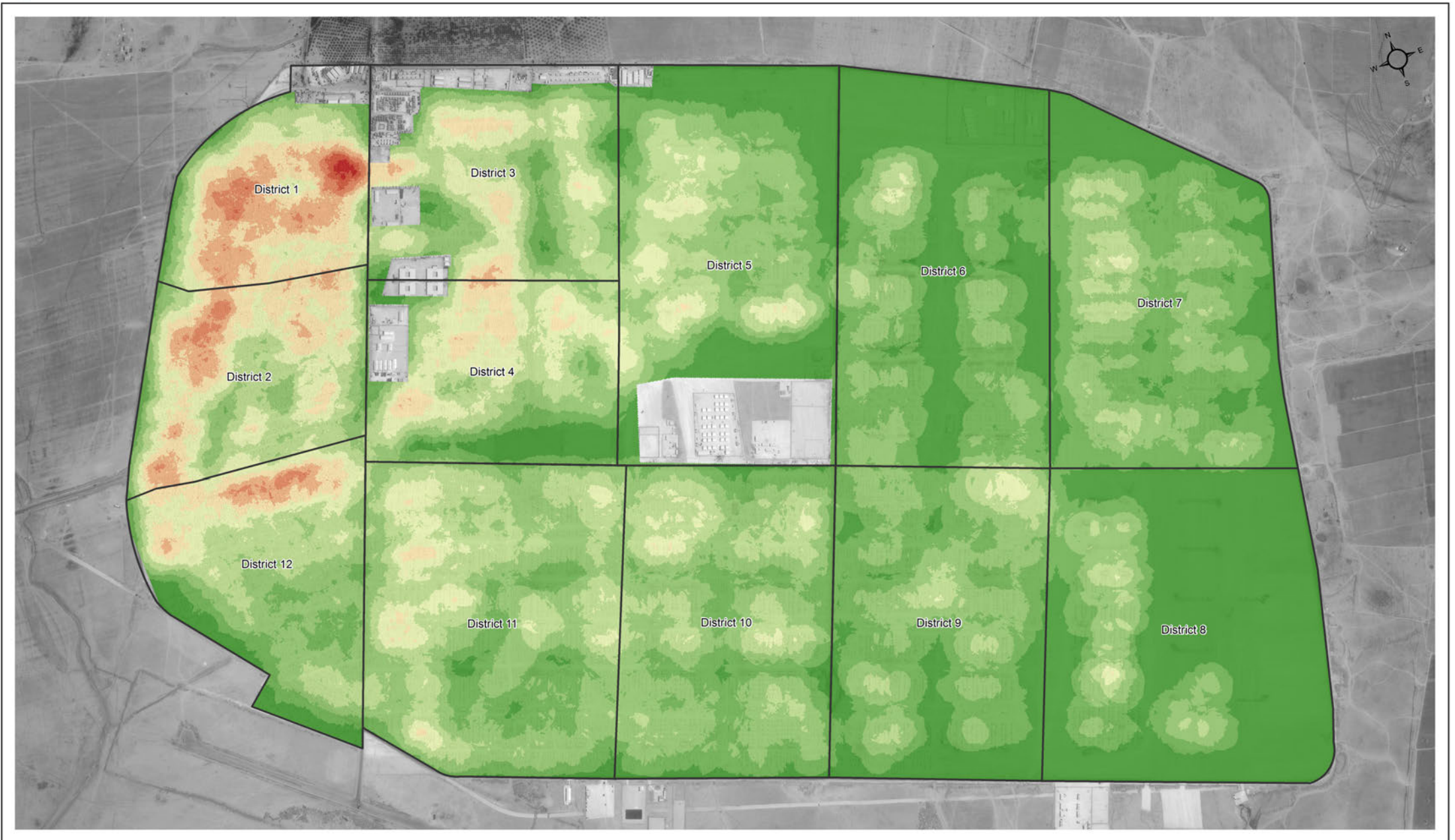


Figure 11 – Private Water Storage: District 2  
(see Annex V)

## REACH

REACH was formed in 2010 as a joint initiative of two INGOs (ACTED and IMPACT Initiatives) and a UN program (UNOSAT). The purpose of REACH is to promote and facilitate the development of information products that enhance the humanitarian community's capacity to make decisions and plan in emergency, reconstruction and development contexts.

At country level, REACH teams are deployed to countries experiencing emergencies or at-risk-of-crisis in order to facilitate interagency collection, organisation and dissemination of key humanitarian related information. Country-level deployments are conducted within the framework of partnerships with individual actors as well as aid coordination bodies, including UN agencies, clusters, inter-cluster initiatives, and other interagency initiatives.



SOURCE: Full camp sweep,  
Population recorded:  
Individuals: 116492  
Families: 24493  
Caravans: 16307  
Tents: 11637  
DATA COLLECTION: 20/MAY/2013 - 30/MAY/2013

0 50 100 200 300 400 Meters

Projection: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 37N  
Thematic data: ACTED / REACH - last update June 2013  
Satellite Imagery: 13/05/2013 by DigitalGlobe  
Contact: reach\_mapping@impact-initiatives.org

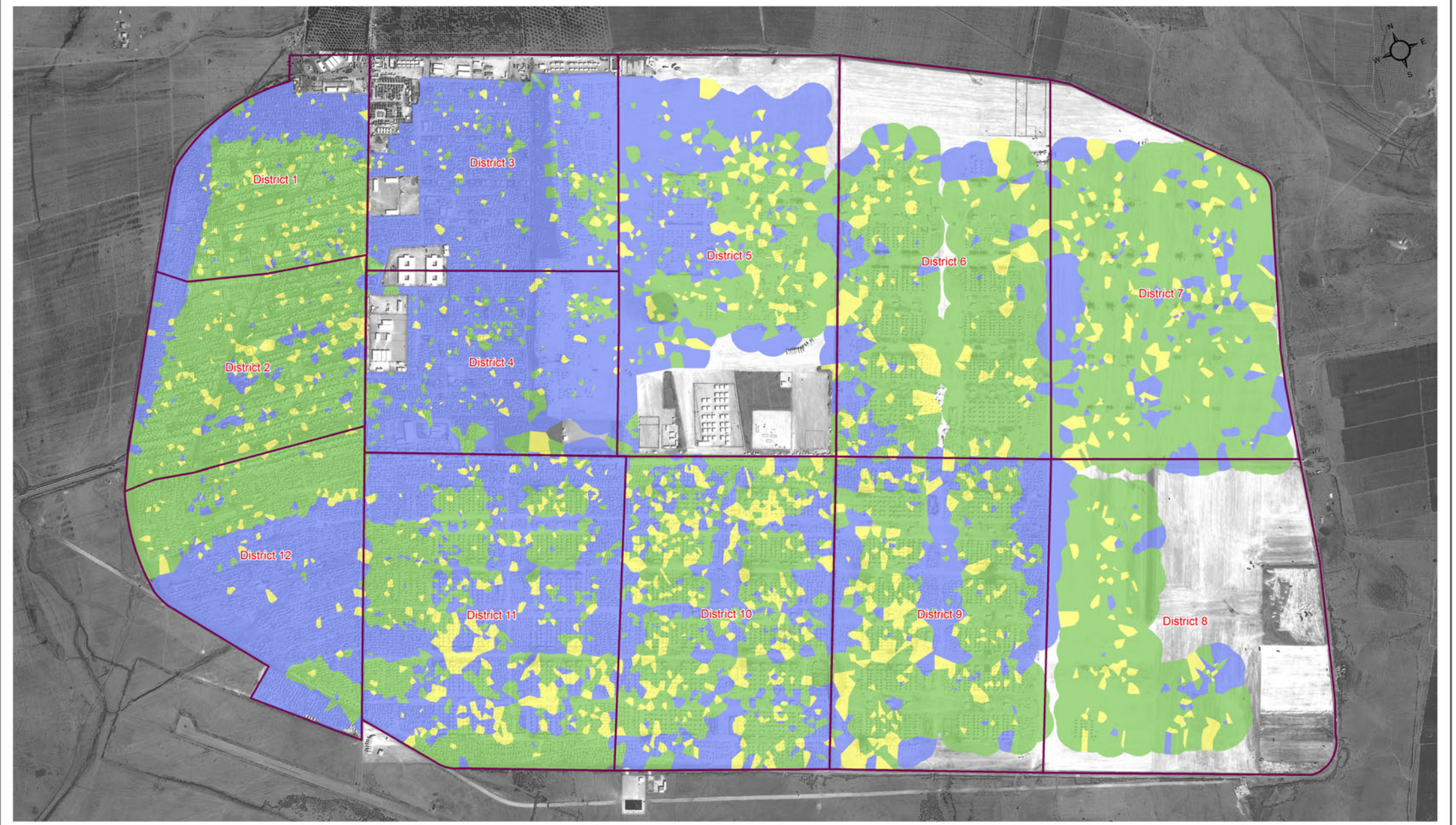
Note: Data, designations and boundaries contained on this map are not warranted to be error-free and do not imply acceptance by the REACH partners, associates or donors mentioned on this map.

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**REACH** Informing more effective humanitarian action

An initiative of ACTED, IMPACT Initiatives and UNOSAT





**Shelter type**

- Both
- Tent
- Caravan

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**Families meeting the standard of 1 caravan per 1 family per 5 individuals**

- Met the standard
- Exceeding the standard
- Under the standard

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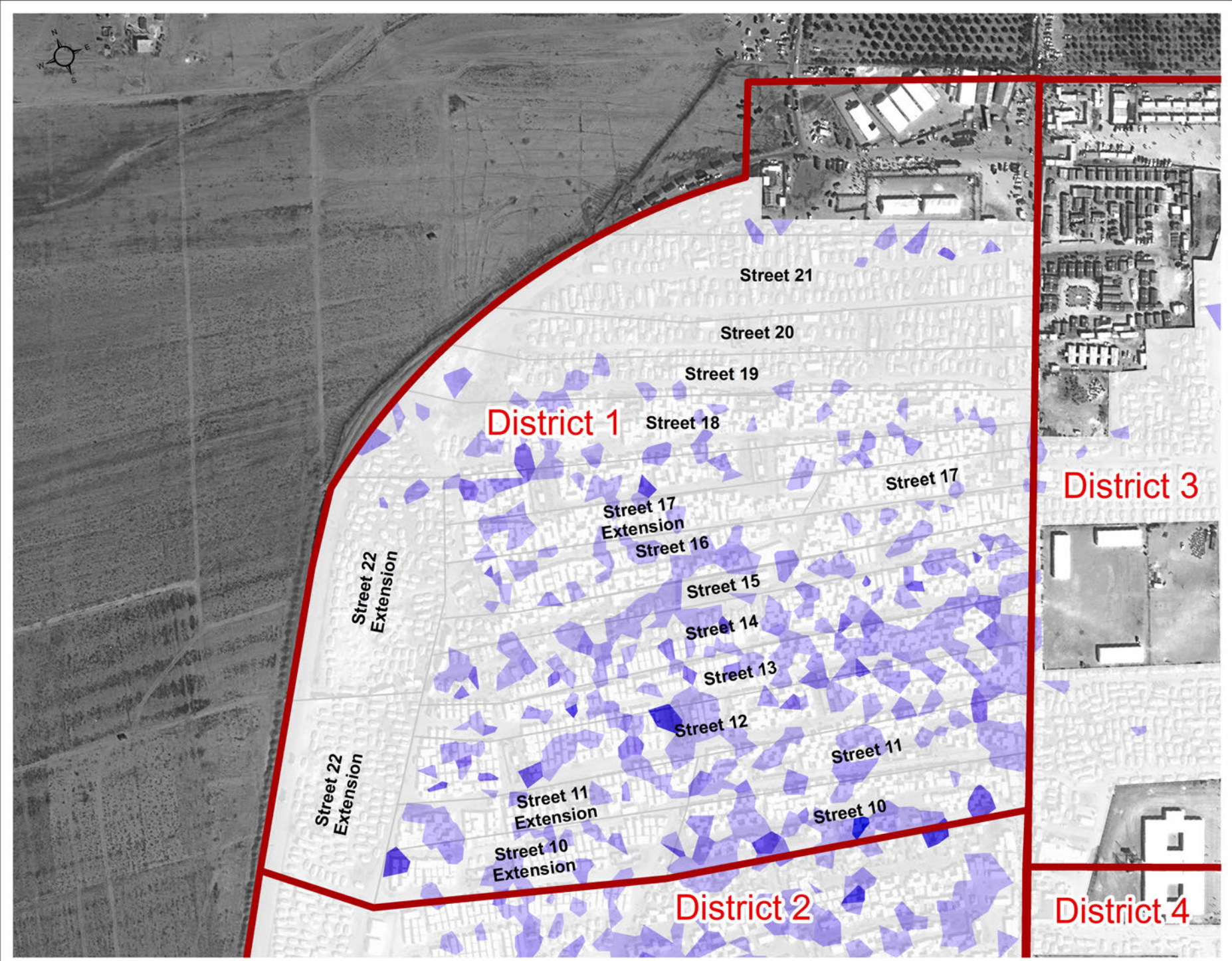
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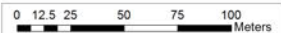
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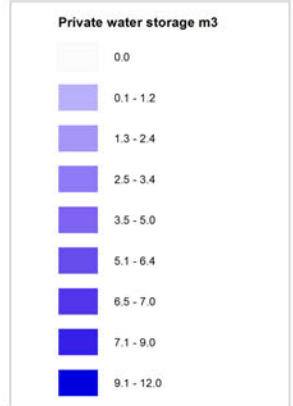
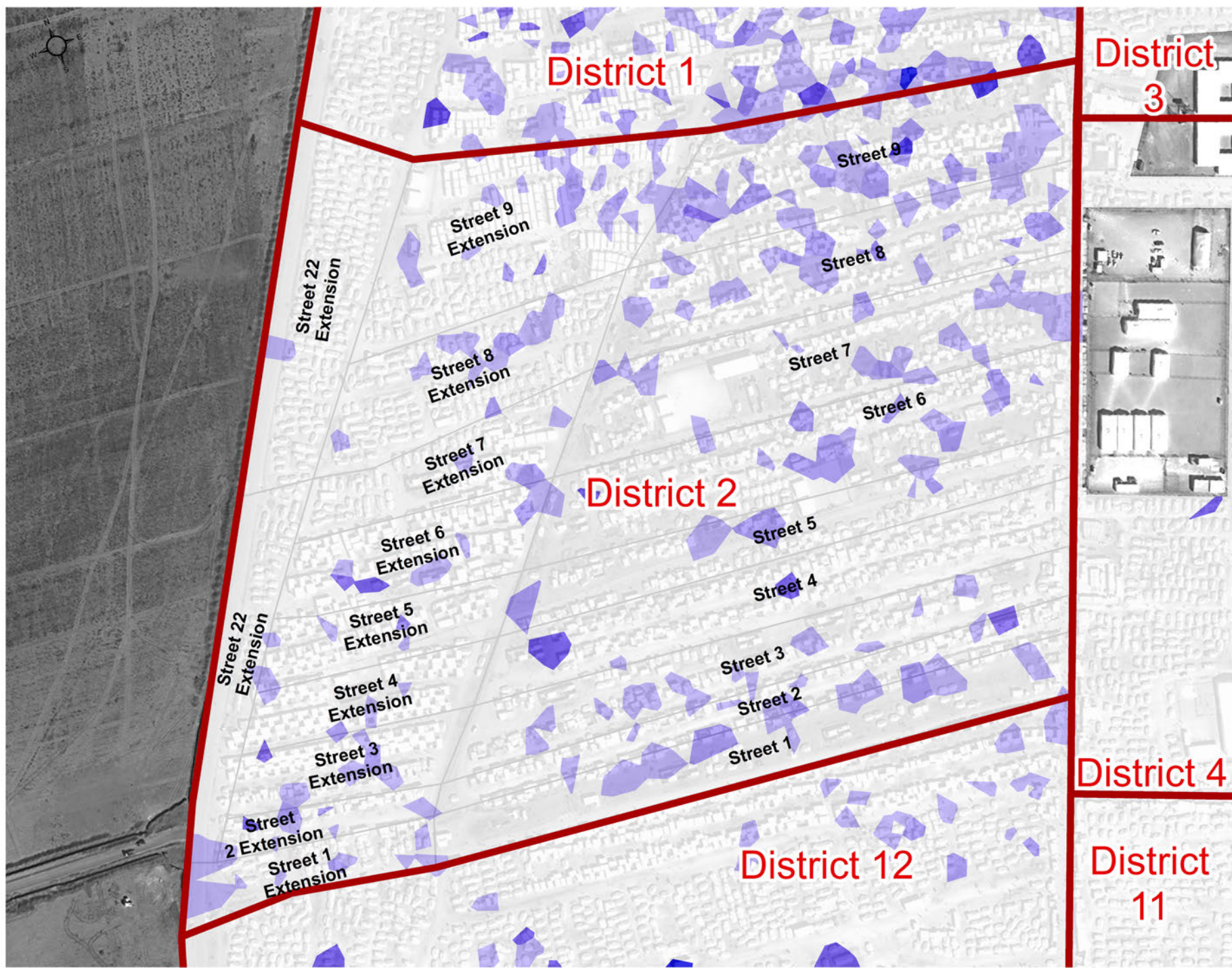
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0 12.5 25 50 75 100 Meters

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