



Inter-Agency Azraq Policy Meeting

6th November 2013

At an Inter-Agency meeting on Azraq refugee camp, chaired by the UNHCR Representative and attended by all agencies engaged in the camp, including the Syrian Refugee Camps Directorate (SRCD), the following Inter-Agency position was developed. This position is based on a review of the current refugee situation in Jordan and is subject to revision by the Jordanian Government.

Current estimates are that the Zaatari camp population is around 75,000. This figure will only be confirmed once a population verification exercise is completed in early 2014. Meanwhile, Zaatari is prepared and will continue to receive newly arrived refugees into Jordan, optimally no more than 80,000 persons.

As a result, Azraq refugee camp will for the time being remain a contingency site. The camp should be readied with a contingency capacity of 30,000 persons. Infrastructures are developed in Villages 3, 6 and 2 (including 1,600 T-shelters). Outside of a large influx scenario or other substantial change in the operation, the trigger to open the camp will be 600 or more arrivals into Jordan per day.

Action points

- Agencies engaged in Azraq will maintain operational readiness at 2 weeks' notice;
- Ongoing infrastructural works should be completed but agencies should not make any additional investments at the site beyond maintenance for the time being;
- Agencies should take measures to secure their assets on the ground and jointly review security arrangements in a holistic manner in coordination with SRCD;
- UNHCR and SRCD will prepare a joint communiqué on Azraq;
- UNHCR will continue to update donors on the refugee situation, including site preparedness in Azraq;
- The situation will be reviewed in mid-December and the operational posture adjusted as required.