



# Scenarios for Mafrag

MoPIC, Mafrag Governorate, VNG  
International, Municipality of Amsterdam

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# Two key uncertainties...

**Growth**

**Economic situation**

**Stagnation**

The development of the local economy towards growth or stagnation relates to the growth rate in the region (high or low), the economic value generated (high or low), the level of exports and imports (high or low) and the level of employment (high or low) for example. Donor funds can play a decisive role in stimulating economic growth of Mafrq and Jordan.

**Less instability**

**Socio-political situation**

**More instability**

The socio-political situation can be characterised by more or less instability. Less instability means less dynamics, less conflicts/turbulence and social tension, and a low influx of people from outside of the region. More instability means more dynamics, more intense conflicts/turbulence that affect either the Middle East and therefore the impact on Jordan, or the stability within Jordan itself. There is more social tension. It also means a higher influx of people into the Mafrq region.

# ...lead to four scenarios

Less instability



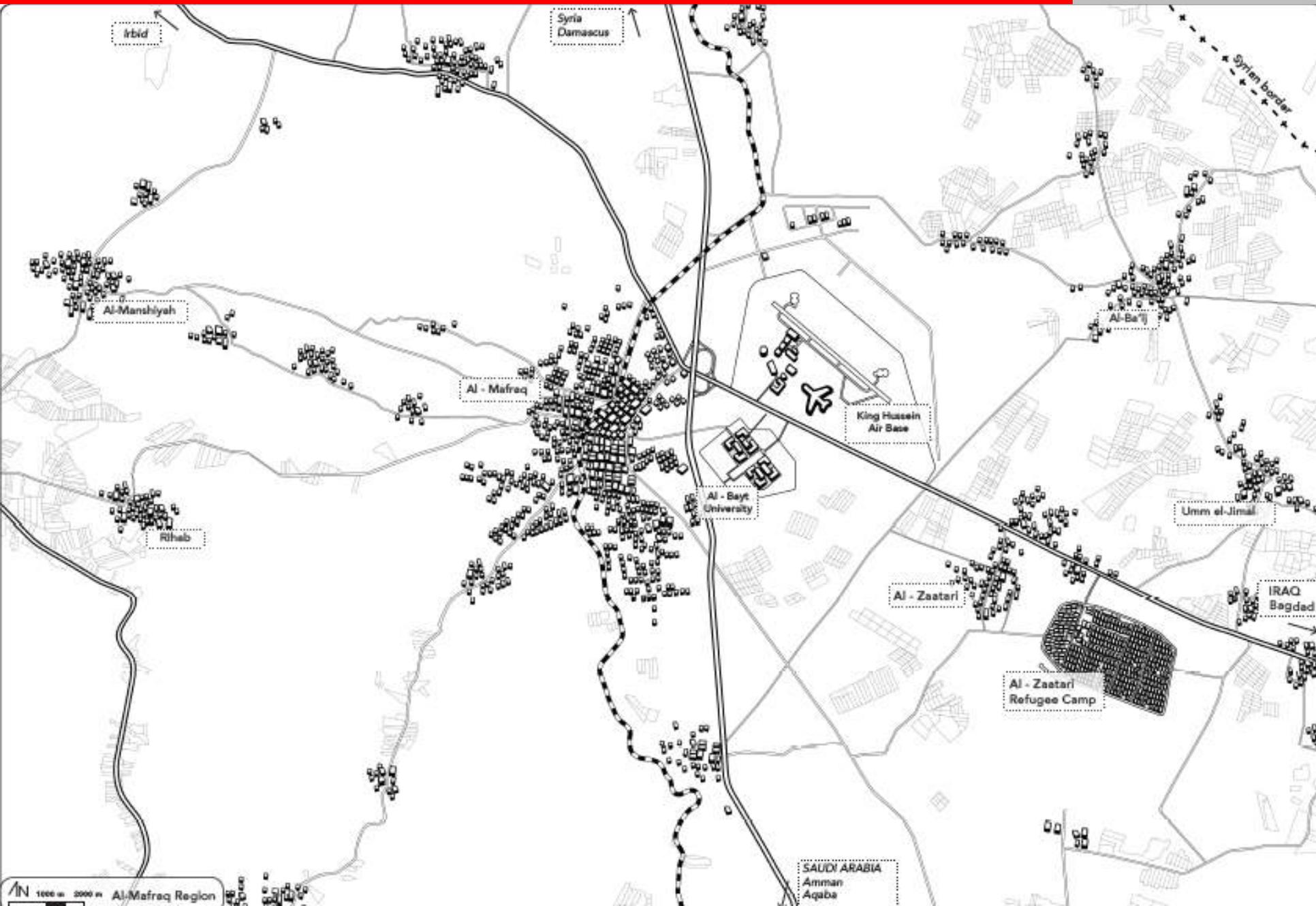
Economic growth



Economic stagnation

More instability

# Existing situation Mafrq region

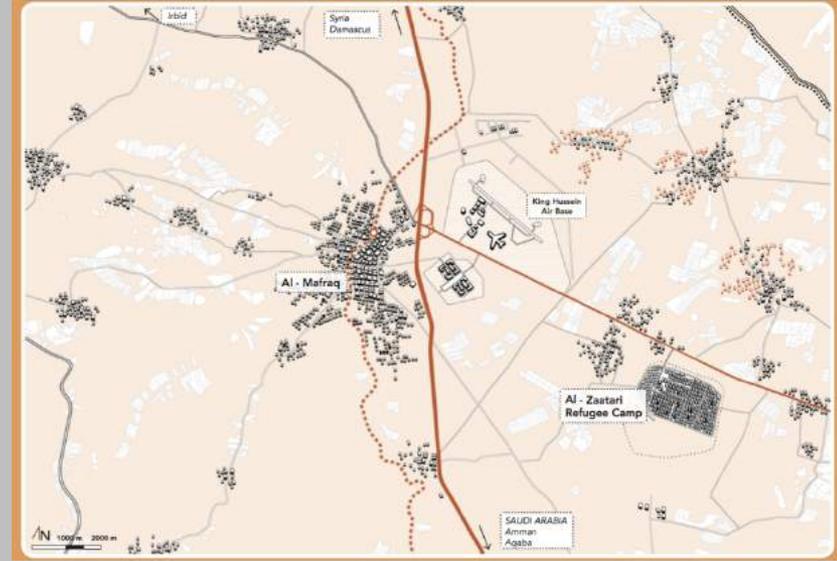
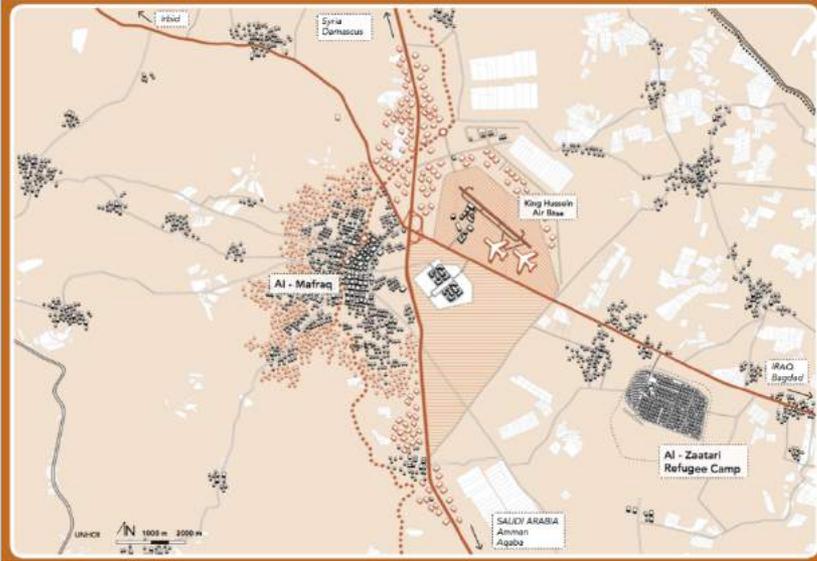


# The scenarios are visualised in maps

1. International playing field

Less instability

2. Regional playing field



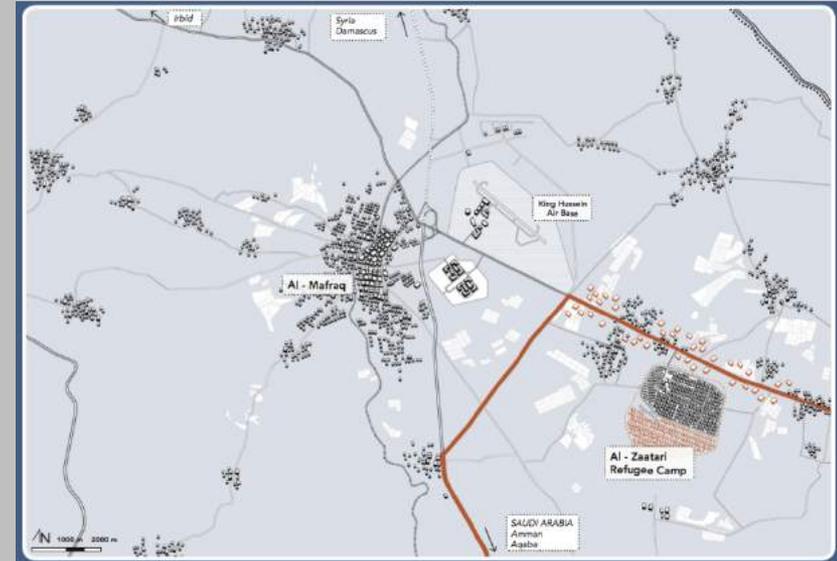
Economic growth

Economic stagnation

4. National playing field

More instability

3. Local playing field



# 1. International playing field

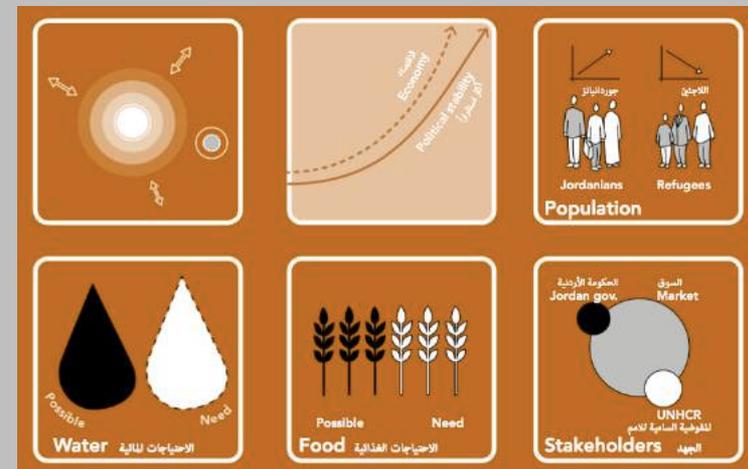
## Opportunities everywhere



Less instability

- Cease-fire agreement in Syria
- Only a small amount of refugees returns  
Trading routes are reopened
- Increasing exports of materials and services
- Refugees receive temporary working permits and move out of Za'atari
- Donor funds are reduced
- Opportunities for international tourism

- Innovations support efficient use of water
- Focus on international infrastructure networks
- Larger demand for both skilled and unskilled labour
- The government supports entrepreneurs with access to capital and networking opportunities
- Internal security is strengthened in response to the defeat of ISIS



Economic growth

# 2. Regional playing field

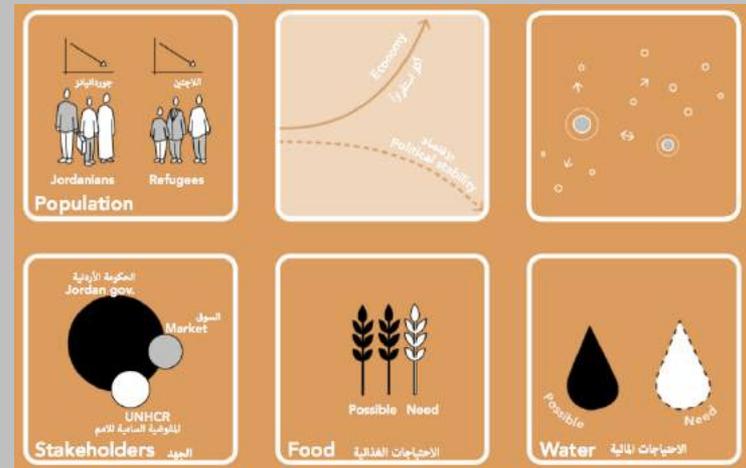
## Searching for opportunities

### Less instability



- Military actions in Syria have been suspended, but Assad remains in power
- Jordanian UNHCR centres have started to facilitate voluntary repatriations, but the majority of refugees stay
- Borders open up for trade
- Foreign donor aid has been declining as a result of the improving prospects in Syria
- Opportunities for regional tourism

- Za'atari camp has been downsized, leaving many refugees without aid
- Rising unemployment and poverty rates cause people to move out of the region
- Infrastructure and public services are deteriorating
- King Hussein Bin Talal Development Area has closed its doors
- Mafraq's population declined to its pre-war state



Economic stagnation

# 3. Local playing field

## Opportunities in and around the camp

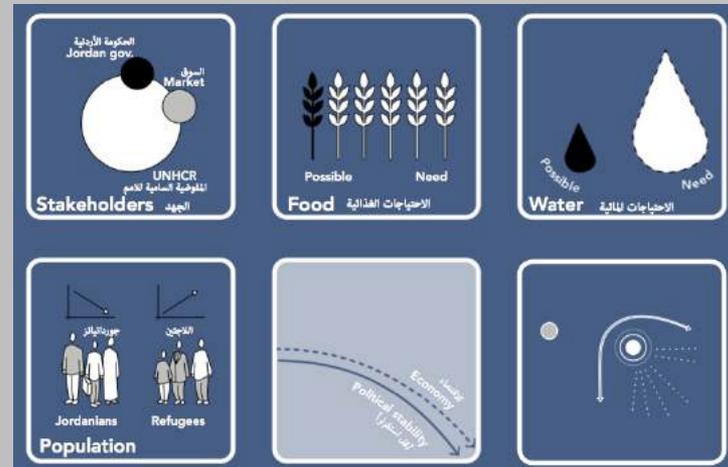
Economic stagnation



- Continued unrest in Syria and Iraq causes another influx of refugees
- Emerging economies support Jordan with investments in Za'atari and Azraq refugee camps
- Employment opportunities in the international aid sector
- Pressure on housing and public facilities

- There is a lot of skilled and unskilled labour available, but the job opportunities are limited
- Donors are very strict on how donor funds can be spent
- Social groups largely live alongside each other without interacting much
- Restrictions on water use for agriculture
- International roads suffer from a backlog in maintenance

More instability



# 4. National playing field

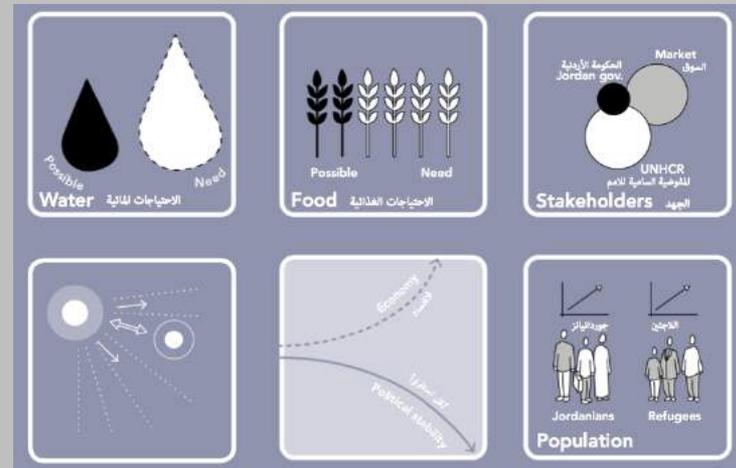
## Opportunities for Mafraq

Economic growth



- Mafraq's airport is an important national logistic hub
- Increased national trade creates job opportunities for Jordanians and Syrians alike
- Health and education services are overcrowded
- Pockets of extremism arise within Jordan, fed by ISIS fighters that have returned home

- Jordan remains a stable factor in a region dominated by instability
- Syrian refugees continue to come to Jordan
- Foreign aid is directed towards both refugees and the hosting communities
- Mafraq becomes the third largest city in Jordan
- There has been an urban expansion between the city and the camp



More instability