

# Kharaz Refugee Camp, Yemen

September 2020

Located in Lahj Governorate, south of Yemen, Kharaz camp opened in 2001 and remains the **only refugee camp in Yemen**.

As of end of August 2020, **the camp is home to close to 9,000 refugees and asylum seekers**, mostly from Somalia and Ethiopia.

**UNHCR and partners provide protection and assistance** to refugees and host communities

## KEY INDICATORS

**8,992**

Number of refugees and asylum-seekers in Kharaz Camp as of 30 August.

**52%**

Per cent of registered refugees are **women and girls**

**2%**

Percent of registered refugees in Kharaz Camp **are elderly** (>60 years old)



A refugees showing off the cash she just received from UNHCR. In Kharaz Refugee Camp, UNHCR uses cash-based interventions to provide protection and assistance to the most vulnerable refugees © UNHCR/ YPN Media, March 2020.

## KEY FACTS:

2001 year of establishment

5.4 km<sup>2</sup> total surface

71 shelter blocks

17 km<sup>2</sup> total distance from coast

47 per cent of the population in Kharaz have no occupation i.e. do not attend school nor work

1 UNHCR field office in Kharaz

9 community committees 0 partners implementing



## MAP OF KHARAZ CAMP



## Working with Partners

- UNHCR works closely with the authorities of Lahj Governorate, including the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, World Food Programme (WFP), international and local NGOs, and community-based committees, and provide protection and essential services to refugees living in Kharaz camp, and also the host community.
- At the community level, UNHCR partners with the different refugee committees, active in Kharaz camp. These include the Somali Grand Council Committee, the Ethiopian Grand Council Committee, committees for women, youth groups, teachers, tribal leaders and persons living with disabilities.

## Main Activities

### Protection

- UNHCR with partners carries out protection activities for refugees living in Kharaz camp, including legal support, psychosocial services, child protection, assistance to vulnerable persons, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention and response activities, psychosocial activities and community building. **Since the beginning of the year, UNHCR and partner provided specialised assistance to some 100 vulnerable children, 80 survivors of violence and over 2,000 refugees and asylum with specific needs.**
- UNHCR supports the Immigration Passport Naturalization Authority (IPNA) of the Government of Yemen (GoY) to renew the documentation of all registered refugees living in the camp. **Since the beginning of the year, more than 400 refugees received assistance with registration and documentation.**
- **UNHCR and INTERSOS reopened the Return Help Desk (RHD) in Kharaz camp on 19 August, anticipating the recommencement of boat movements between Yemen and Somalia.** RHDs are integral parts of joint GoY-UNHCR-IOM Assisted Spontaneous Return programme. RHDs are where Somali refugees who wish to return home first go to receive information on the programme and to register for future departures.

### Education

- Over the reporting period, **UNHCR worked with the ministry of education of the Government of Yemen and its partners to prepare for the reopening of schools in the falls.**
- In the Kharaz refugee camp, UNHCR supports a kindergarten, two primary schools and a secondary school in the camp. The schools are accessible for both camp residents and Yemini children from the neighbouring villages.
- For the 2020-2021 academic school year, UNHCR will help close to 3,000 children and adolescents go to school. Kids will receive support to buy school uniforms and material, including books, notebooks and pens. UNHCR will pay incentives to over 160 teachers and administrative support staffs.

### Health

- UNHCR supports a clinic in Kharaz Refugee Camp. The clinic provides emergency and primary health care, psychosocial health care services, reproductive health care, physiotherapy, nutrition and education of infant and child feeding practices. The clinic also provides sanitation and hygiene services to refugees and asylum-seekers living in the camp as well as host community members from the neighbouring villages. Patients are referred to the regional/national referral hospitals for specialised care. **As of September, UNHCR supported clinics conducted close to 27,000**

outpatient consultations and provided reproductive health services to about 2,500 refugee women.

- **Camp residents and Yemenis visiting the clinic all received educational information on COVID-19** to help them understand the risks and how they can protect themselves, their families and their communities.
- **UNHCR and partners set up a 20-bed- isolation centre for mild cases at the clinic.**

## Food Security & Nutrition

- **In partnership with the UN World Food Programme, UNHCR distributes food to all refugees and asylum-seekers registered in the camp.** Every month, nearly 9,000 camp residents received cereals, pulse, oil, salt and sugar, enough to meet their basic needs.
- UNHCR and partners also provide prevention and treatment for acute malnutrition for children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women. **Since the beginning of the year, 685 malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women received treatment for moderate acute malnutrition through the supplementary feeding programme.**

## Cash-Based Intervention

- In Kharaz Refugee Camp, UNHCR uses cash-based interventions to provide protection, assistance and services to the most vulnerable refugees including survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, foster parents of non-accompanied and other children at-risk and families facing acute needs, otherwise not covered by the regular programme. Refugees receive from USD 80 to USD 200, depending on their needs and level of vulnerability. **Since the beginning of the year, up to 450 refugees and asylum-seekers received cash every month.**

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- UNHCR and partners provide clean and safe water to refugees and host communities. On average, people in the camp are provided with 22 litres of potable water per person per day (l/p/d), above the 20 l/p/d standard for the stable situation. UNHCR also assists about 7,000 Yemenis living in surrounding villages with clean water.

## Shelter & NFI/Core Relief Items (CRIs)

- UNHCR provides core relief items, including blankets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, foam mattress, mosquito nets and solar lamps to all refugees and asylum-seekers in the camp.
- UNHCR also distributes soap bars and laundry detergent to all refugees living in Kharaz camp. As of March, UNHCR increased the quantities of soap and detergent distributed to residents of the camp to help them apply the COVID-19 prevention measures.
- Women and girls of reproductive age also receive sanitary pads.

## Camp coordination and camp management

- The Government is primarily responsible for Camp Management. The camp administrator represents the Government in the camp, and he is the focal point for all government authorities and services in the camp, including Police and Immigration, Passport and Naturalization Authority. The camp administrator monitors the activities and services provided in the camp.
- UNHCR is also monitoring all activities in the camp and services provided by its partners



*A refugee woman is waiting in line at a distribution of soaps, detergent and sanitary pads at a distribution site in Kharaz Refugee Camp.  
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