Kharaz Refugee Camp, Yemen
September 2021

Located in Lahj Governorate, south of Yemen, Kharaz camp opened in 2001 and remains the only refugee camp in Yemen. As of 30 August, the camp is home to nearly 9,490 refugees and asylum seekers, mostly from Somalia and Ethiopia.

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

**KEY INDICATORS**

9,488
Number of refugees and asylum-seekers in Kharaz Camp as of 30 Aug 2021.

52%
Per cent of registered refugees are women and girls

2%
Percent of registered refugees in Kharaz Camp are elderly (>60 years old)

**KEY FACTS:**

2001 year of establishment

5.4 km² total surface

71 shelter blocks

17 km² 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

A Somali refugee woman waiting at a cash assistance at a distribution site in Kharaz refugee camp, in Lahj, Yemen. © UNHCR/YPN, March 2020

MAP OF KHARAZ CAMP

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Working with Partners

- In the camp, UNHCR worked closely with the authorities of Lahj Governorate, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the UN World Food Programme (WFP). UNHCR also partnered with the Charitable Society for Social Welfare (CSSW), INTERSOS, Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS), and community-based committees to provide protection and essential services to refugees and their host community.

- At the community level, UNHCR also partnered with the different refugee committees active in Kharaz camp. These included 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

- Protection activities reached 234 vulnerable children, about 243 survivors of violence, and over 480 refugees and asylum with specific needs. Assistance included legal support, psychosocial services, child protection, assistance to vulnerable persons, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response activities, psychosocial activities and community building.

- UNHCR supported the Immigration Passport Naturalization Authority (IPNA) of the Government of Yemen (GoY) to provide and renew the documentation of all registered refugees living in the camp. Since the beginning of the year, close to 3,400 refugees and asylum-seekers have received assistance with registration and documentation. These mainly included newborns registered by their parents and refugees who renewed their cards.

- Since the beginning of the year, about 1,180 Somali refugees have visited the Return Help Desk (RHD) in the camp to receive information about the Assisted Spontaneous Return Programme (ASR). Twelve families have signed up to depart. Since 2017, the ASR programme has provided Somali refugees who wish to return home with documentation, transportation, and financial support in Yemen to facilitate the journey and return and reintegration assistance in Somalia. Boat movements have been suspended since March 2020 following the COVID-19 outbreak.

Education

- Class started on 15 August for the 2021-2022 academic school year. UNHCR intends to help close to 3,200 children and adolescents go to school this year. All registered refugees enrolled in UNHCR supported primary schools in Aden and Lahj will receive YER 30,000. Those enrolled in secondary school in Lahj will receive YER 15,000. The money will help to help pay for uniforms and scholastic material. This is to support refugees enrolment in primary and secondary schools. UNHCR will also pay incentives to over 160 teachers and administrative support staff.

- UNHCR also paid university grants to 19 selected Yemeni scholars from villages neighbouring the camp. Each scholar received USD1,250 to support their studies, including rent, food, clothes, books, and other learning material. UNHCR annual higher education programme offered to Yemeni nationals complements the DAFI scholarship provided to refugees and asylum seekers.

Health

- Since the beginning of the year, UNHCR supported-clinic in the camp provided over 12,850 outpatient consultations for emergency and primary health care and 2,410 reproductive health consultations to the camp’s residents and Yemeni nationals living in the neighbouring villages. The clinic also provided psychosocial health care services, physiotherapy, sanitation and hygiene services, nutrition, and education on infant and child best feeding practices. The clinic transferred to referral hospitals patients needing specialised care.
Food Security & Nutrition

- **Over 9,330 refugees received monthly food rations of cereals, pulse, oil, salt and sugar to meet their basic needs.** The UN World Food Programme, UNHCR and Intersos jointly led the distribution.

- **About 320 malnourished and highly vulnerable children aged 6-59 months and pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers received treatment and prevention for acute malnutrition.** In 2021, UNHCR aims to reach 1,000 children, pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers with treatment and prevention for acute malnutrition.

Cash-Based Intervention

- **Since the beginning of the year, up to 345 refugee and asylum-seeking families have received cash every month.** In Kharaz Refugee Camp, UNHCR uses cash-based interventions to assist the most vulnerable refugees, including survivors of gender-based violence, foster parents of non-accompanied and other children at-risk, and families facing acute needs. Families receive from USD 25 to USD 84, depending on their needs and level of vulnerability.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- **UNHCR and partners provide clean and safe water to refugees and host communities. On average, people in the camp have access to 30 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)

- **NHCR helps refugees replace old blankets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, foam mattresses, mosquito nets and solar lamps.** UNHCR also distributes hygiene kits and sanitary hygiene kits to refugees to help refugees keep good hygiene and protect their health. **Since the beginning of the year, over 8,700 refugees have received soap and detergent. Some 2,800 women and girls also receive sanitary hygiene kits.**

Camp coordination and camp management

- **The Government is primarily responsible for Camp Management.** The camp administrator represents the Government in the camp and acts as 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 monitored all activities in the camp and services provided by its partners.**

SPECIAL THANKS TO DONORS

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MORE INFORMATION

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