FACT SHEET

UNHCR refugee response in Aden and Mukalla hubs and Marib

September 2021

The south and Marib host over 60% of all 141,600 refugees and asylum-seekers in Yemen. Most of them live in the urban areas of Aden, Mukalla and Sayun. Some 9,480 refugees live in Kharaz refugee camp. Already extremely vulnerable, refugees and asylum-seekers **are disproportionally affected by the combined effects of the war, the decline of the economy the breakdown of public services and the pandemic.** UNHCR and partners provide protection and assistance to refugees and their host communities.

KEY INDICATORS

87,304

Number of registered refugees in the south and Marib UNHCR, September 2021

3,960

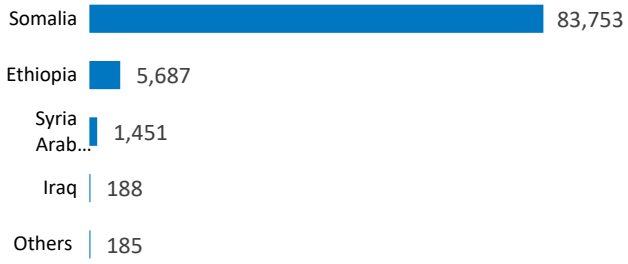
Number of registered asylum seekers in the south and Marib UNHCR, September 2021

36%

of all registered refugees and asylum seekers in the south and Marib **are women and girls** UNHCR September 2021

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS IN THE SOUTH AND MARIB

Country of origin



Khadija, a 32 year old Somali refugee, holds her younger brother in her home in Basateen, Aden. Khadija lost her job when COVID hit because she was perceived as a potential vector of the virus. Unable to pay rent and buy food for her family, she now relies on UNHCR's cash to survive. © UNHCR/Assem Abdulmalek

PROTECTION

- In the south, UNHCR worked with authorities to ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers have access to international protection and support their inclusion into health and education public services.
- **UNHCR assisted 48,650 refugees and asylum-seekers with protection services**, including legal support, psychosocial support, child protection, assistance to vulnerable persons, services for survivors of gender-based violence.
- **UNHCR worked with the Immigration Passport Naturalization Authority (IPNA) to register and provide documentation to refugees and asylum-seekers living in the south of Yemen**. So far this year, IPNA and UNHCR have issued over 11,000 refugees and asylum-seekers documentation.
- **UNHCR and partner conducted protection assessments** for over 1,460 refugee and asylum-seeking families in Aden. The assessments aimed to evaluate their level of vulnerability and refer them to adequate protection services, including cash assistance.
- **In June, UNHCR led a protection assessment in Basateen in Aden to gather information on the arrival and presence of Ethiopian nationals from the Tigray region and their living conditions.** The teams met with key informants, including refugee representatives, security forces members, Imams, and aid agencies staff. UNHCR will use the findings of the monitoring to adjust the refugee response and support advocacy.
- **In August, UNHCR introduced a new system for its cash assistance targeting refugees. The new system includes a new scoring system to assess the vulnerability of refugees better and help improve the targeting of the assistance and enhanced case management.** UNHCR piloted the scheme in Mukalla in September with some 160 refugee families. UNHCR rolled out the system in Aden area of responsibility in October, after the success of the pilot phase.
- Since the beginning of the year, **close to 14,000 refugees and asylum seekers in urban areas have received multi-purpose cash assistance to help them cope with the increased hardship of the conflict, the pandemic, and the lack of livelihood opportunities. Some 1,600 vulnerable refugees have also received cash assistance through the regular programme.** These include survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, foster parents of non-accompanied and other at-risk children and families facing acute needs. Refugees received from USD 80 to USD 200, depending on their needs and level of vulnerability.

EDUCATION

- **Since the beginning of the year, UNHCR has helped over 10,360 refugee children go to primary and secondary schools in the south.**
- **For the 2021-2022 academic school year, UNHCR assisted about 4,200 refugee school children with cash.** Registered refugees enrolled in UNHCR supported primary schools in Aden, and Lahj received YER 30,000. Those enrolled in secondary school in Lahj received YER 15,000. The money aimed to help them pay for uniforms and scholastic material.
- **UNHCR paid university grants to 19 selected Yemenis scholars from villages neighbouring Kahraz refugee camp in Lahj.** Each scholar received USD 1,250 to help pay for rent, food, clothes, books, and other learning material.
- **Sixty refugees students have received the DADFI scholarship, UNHCR higher education programme for refugees and asylum-seekers sponsored by the government of Germany.**
- **About 440 refugees and asylum-seekers received literacy, numeracy and language classes.**

- **UNHCR continued to support the Institute for Early Learning Center (IECL). The centre, run by Intersos in partnership with UNHCR, welcomes children with disabilities who can't access formal education** and teaches them to recognise colours, forms, letters and numbers. The most advanced class from which the student graduated prepares them to reintegrate the traditional education system, teaching them how to write and read. **Since the beginning of the year, the centre has supported 82 children aged from 3 to 14 years old, including 56 per cent of Yemenis children.**
- **In Basateen in Aden, UNHCR constructed 15 classrooms and 24 latrines**.
- **In Kharaz refugee camp in Lahj, UNHCR covered the payment of incentives for over 220 teachers, education, and service staff.**

HEALTH

- **UNHCR continued to support three health facilities in Aden (Basateen) and Kharaz Refugee Camp (Lahj), including a government-run clinic in Aden.** Since the beginning of the year, the clinics conducted around 43,500 consultations and provided primary health care to refugees and host community members, including displaced persons and returnee families. The clinics referred over 1,200 patients in need of specialised care to advanced health facilities. More than 7,900 women from the displaced and Yemeni communities received reproductive health services. The clinics also provided physiotherapy to 1,200 disabled refugees.
- **UNHCR supported- Oral Rehydration Corner (ORCs) in Basateen clinic has treated 63 cholera cases since the beginning of the year.**
- **Over 60,000 refugees, asylum seekers, and Yemenis participated in educational activities on nutrition, sanitation, and hygiene best practices during the same period. And more than 100,000 refugees, asylum seekers, and Yemenis participated in health awareness and sensitisation campaigns on COVID-19.**
- **In June, 34 refugees, including health workers, vulnerable people with chronic disease, and those above 60 years old and 41 Yemeni health workers, received their first COVID-19 vaccine.** Ahead of the vaccination campaign, UNHCR led awareness-raising activities, including distributing educational material in the Somali language, helping to encourage eligible refugees to register to receive the vaccine. An additional 30 eligible refugees have already registered.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- **UNHCR partnered with the UN World Food Programme to lead monthly food distributions to over 9,330 refugees in Kharaz refugee camp.** The food distributions aim to ensure that vulnerable refugees have enough food to meet their basic needs.
- **With UNICEF, WFP, and its health partner, UNHCR supported treatment and prevention of malnutrition amongst children and pregnant and nursing women.** Between January to April 2021, close to 750 malnourished and highly at-risk children below five years old and pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers with acute malnutrition treatment through the therapeutic and supplementary feeding programmes. Over 400 highly at-risk children aged below two years also received specialised nutritional supplements to prevent acute malnutrition. Caregivers of children enrolled in the programme also received education on nutrition and hygiene best practices.
- **UNHCR also supported about 30 community health workers to conduct nutrition screening, referrals and monitoring at the community level**. Community health workers also acted as hygiene promoters, led educational activities, supported vaccination campaigns, and helped distribute hygiene kits.

WATER AND SANITATION

- **In Kharaz refugee camp in Lahj governorate, UNHCR and partners provided access to clean and safe water to refugees and host communities.** On average, refugees in the camp received 22 litres of clean water per person per day (l/p/d). UNHCR also supported over 7,000 host community members in the surrounding villages with access to water through three motorised boreholes.
- **In Basateen in Aden, UNHCR installed three motorised water wells Basateen in August.** The wells will be connected to a communal water tank to supply homes, schools, and clinics in the neighbourhood reaching over 70,000 people.
- **UNHCR and partners led hygiene awareness campaigns reaching close to 17,000 people.** Community health workers also distributed some 1,200 educational leaflets to promote clean and healthy practices.
- **UNHCR also worked with over 240 refugees, displaced Yemenis, and host communities' members to run clean-up campaigns through a cash-for-work project in Basateen.** Participants received a monthly cash payment of USD 220 to collect garbage in blocks, markets, and main roads and lead community outreach activities that promote good hygiene practices. The teams now received dedicated training to lead COVID-19 awareness-raising activities in their communities.

SHELTER AND NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIS)

- UNHCR provided **non-food items** to refugees in Kharaz refugee camp. Items included blankets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, foam mattresses, mosquito nets, and solar lamps to replace old ones.
- UNHCR also distributed **soap bars and laundry detergent** to all refugees living in Kharaz camp. **Women and girls of reproductive age also receive sanitary pads.**

CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT

- **Karaz refugee camp in Lahj governorate is the only refugee camp in Yemen. It is home to close to 9,500 refugees.**
- **The Government of Yemen is primarily responsible for Camp Management**. The camp administrator 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.
- **In 2021, UNHCR engaged in a responsible and consultative shift towards a settlement approach for refugees in Kharaz refugee camp.**

COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF-RELIANCE

- **UNHCR worked with six refugee committees in Aden and Hadramout governorates**. Refugees elect members of the refugee committees to represent them. They work in coordination with UNHCR, its partners, and the local authorities. UNHCR supports the refugee leaders with small monthly incentives for communication and transportation. A similar setting is in place in Kharaz refugee camp, where each residential block has a representative.
- **In Kharaz refugee camp, UNHCR continued to support the refugee association, Al-Gaith association.** Al Ghaith Association runs a community centre and supports refugees in the camp with computer and language classes, offers accelerated learning programmes, and leads awareness-raising activities. **In September, UNHCR, INTERSOS and Al-Ghaith, trained 17**

teachers and members of the association. The training covered topics such as teaching method, class preparation, classroom management and time management. Training of teachers is part of UNHCR's support initiatives to improve access to quality education.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

REFUGEES

- **Since 2017, UNHCR has supported the Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme to provide a safe return to Somali refugees who wish to go home.** The pandemic forced UNHCR and partners to halt the boat movement since April 2020. UNHCR continued to work with partners in Yemen and Somalia to resume the boat rotation. Somali refugees who wish to return home visited the dedicated Return Help Desks (RHD) to receive information and register. Since the beginning of the year, about 500 Somali refugees have signed up to return home in Basateen (Aden), Kharaz Refugee Camp (Lahj) and Mukalla (Hadramaut).
- **So far in 2021, UNHCR has helped 34 refugees facing heightened protection risks resettled from Yemen. In 2021, UNHCR aims to help up to 200 refugees (85 cases) from Yemen with resettlement to a third country.**

Working with partners

NHCR works in close collaboration with the Government of Yemen and the local authorities and aid agencies to implement activities. UNHCR partners supporting the refugee response in the south and Marib include Society for Social Welfare (CSSW), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), INTERSOS, Al-Magd Charitable & Humanitarian Relief & Development (MCHR), Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS), UNICEF and the UN World Food Programme (WFP).

SPECIAL THANKS TO DONORS

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MORE INFORMATION

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