Kharaz Refugee Camp

January 2023

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

The camp is home to 9,614 refugees and asylum seekers, the majority from Somalia and approximately 10 per cent from Ethiopia.

UNHCR and partners are the only providers of humanitarian assistance and protection activities to refugees and host communities in this area.

POPULATION OF CONCERN

9,614 **Number of refugees and asylum-seekers** in Kharaz Camp as of 31 December 2022.

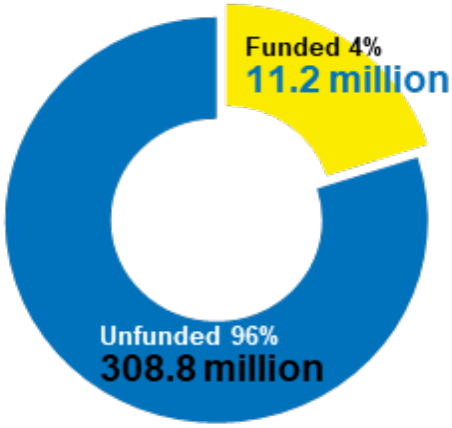
52% Of registered refugees and asylum-seekers are **women and girls**

2% Of registered refugees and asylum-seekers **are elderly** (>60 years old)

FUNDING (AS OF JANUARY 2023)

$ 320 million

requested for Yemen operation 2023 activities



KEY FACTS

The refugee camp opened in 2001 on the grounds of former military camp designated by the Government of Yemen.

Camp located in arid region 17 km from the coast.

5.4 km^2 total surface.
75 shelter blocks.

Working with Partners

- In the refugee camp, UNHCR works closely with the authorities of Lahj Governorate, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, and the UN World Food Programme (WFP). UNHCR also partnered with INTERSOS, Human Access (HA), Society for Humanitarian Solidarity (SHS), Al-Awn Foundation for development, and community-based committees to provide protection and essential services to refugees living in Kharaz camp and their host community.
- At the community level, UNHCR engages with different refugee committees active in Kharaz refugee camp. These included Al-Ghaith refugee committee, the Somali Grand Council Committee, the Ethiopian Grand Council Committee, committees for women, youth groups, teachers, tribal leaders, and persons living with disabilities.

Kharaz Self-Reliance and Solutions Strategy

- UNHCR developed a strategy for Kharaz self-reliance and solutions, recommending a comprehensive, phased approach along four pillars:
  - Advocacy with national authorities, donors, and UN agencies linked to the upcoming Global Refugee Forum - November 2023 and commitments made under GCR.
  - Implementation of an area-based approach in towns neighbouring Kharaz camp as well as in Basateen with a focus on investment in public services and livelihood opportunities.
  - Pursue durable solutions with a focus on ASR and VHR.
  - Engagement in Kharaz Camp (new intention survey, no new registration policy, roll out of CwC at household level).

Main Activities

Protection

- UNHCR and partners provide comprehensive protection activities in Kharaz refugee camp. They include case management, legal assistance, psychological support, child protection, assistance to vulnerable persons, psychological and social activities. All activities and services are open to host communities. In 2022, UNHCR and partners provided specialized assistance to 1,020 persons.
- UNHCR and the Immigration Passport Naturalization Authority (IPNA) of the Government of Yemen (GoY) provide documentation to all registered refugees living in the camp. In 2022, a total of 1,002 refugees and asylum-seekers received assistance with registration and documentation. These mainly included new-borns registered by their parents and refugees who renewed their cards.
- Through the community-based networks, community-based skill trainings have been delivered by women for women (including those from the host community). The trainings provide a place for women to socialise outside their homes, skills and aims to strengthen their empowerment in the communities.
- There is a Return Help Desk (RHD) located in the community centre. In 2022, 223 individuals, requested information and counselling on the Assisted Spontaneous Return programme and the Voluntary Humanitarian Return programme.

Education

- There are 3,200 students enrolled in two primary schools and one secondary school in Kharaz refugee camp, courses are taught in Arabic. UNHCR and partner provide school supplies such as uniforms, textbooks, notebooks, and writing utensils to students, and support to 155 teachers.
- The DAFI scholarship programme, which provides tertiary education scholarships for refugees, is available for a very limited number of students dreaming of accessing tertiary education. There are currently 41 students being supported through this programme in college or Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

Health

- There is one health clinic serving refugees, asylum-seekers, and the host community. The clinic provides emergency and primary health services, psychosocial health care, reproductive healthcare, and physiotherapy. The clinic also a centre for information and awareness raising on nutrition support, infant and child feeding practices, sanitation, and hygiene. The clinic provides a number of free medications to refugees.
- In 2022, the clinic treated 28,411 individuals through out-patient services (both refugees and Yemeni nationals), conducted 3,494 reproductive health consultations, and 1,777 vaccinations, 8,174 laboratory tests. The clinic also provided psychosocial health care services to 3,311 individuals and physiotherapy to 2,822 individuals. The clinic provided 50,479 persons with education on sanitation, hygiene, nutrition, and infant and child feeding practices. 523 refugee patients were referred to the regional or national referral hospitals for specialized care and provided ambulance services to 80 host community members.

Food Security and Nutrition

- In partnership with the World Food Programme, all refugees and asylum-seekers registered in the camp receive food distribution on a bi-monthly basis. Refugees receive a food basket of basic commodities. approximately 60% of the WFP food basket was distributed (Wheat flour, Pulses, Oil, Rice), and two items were missing from the kit (sugar and iodized salt).
- UNHCR and partners provide prevention and treatment for acute malnutrition for children aged 6 months to 5 years and pregnant and breastfeeding women.

Cash-Based Intervention

- UNHCR uses cash-based interventions, as it is an efficient and effective protection responses, to assist the most vulnerable refugees, identified through socio-economic assessments and case management.
- UNHCR uses cash-based interventions to provide protection, assistance, and services to the most vulnerable refugees. Emergency Cash Assistance is available as a protection tool should the need arise.
- In 2022, **2,342** refugees and asylum-seekers received multi-purpose cash assistance on a monthly basis. Refugees receive between 80-200 USD, depending on their needs and level of vulnerability. Cash transfers give purchasing power to vulnerable people who know best what they need to improve their families' food security and well-being. Enabling them to buy locally also helps in supporting the local markets.

Water and Sanitation

- UNHCR and SHS provide clean and safe water to refugees and surrounding host communities. On average, people receive 30 liters of potable water per person per day (l/p/d), standards in a stable situation. Water is also pumped to 7,000 Yemenis living in surrounding villages at an approximate volume of 30 liters/day per person.

- SHS also implements garbage collection and sewage vacuuming in and around the camp, while delivering awareness raising campaigns in the camp.

Shelter and NFIs

- UNHCR provides Non-Food Items (NFIs), including blankets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, mattresses, 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 along with sanitary pads to all women and girls of reproductive age living in the camp.
- In October 2022, UNHCR and SHS did a general one-off NFI distribution in the camp to 9,730 individuals who received mattresses, blankets, thermal fleece, jerry cans, tarpaulins, 4x5 plastic sheets, solar lamps, and stove. UNHCR also supported around 300 of the most vulnerable refugees to replace their basic core relief items.
- In 2022, 11,665 sanitary and hygiene kits were distributed to women and girls.
- In 2022, UNHCR conducted rehabilitation procedures for 30 latrines and maintenance for 115 shelters including windows, doors, and roofs.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- The refugee camp is under the management of the Government of Yemen. The camp administrator represents the Government and acts as the focal point for all government authorities and services provided in the camp, including Police and Immigration, Passport, and Naturalization Authority.

Donors*

Thank you for supporting displaced persons and UNHCR: **United States of America** 62,9 million | **Germany** 11,9 million | **Sheikh Thani Bin Abdullah Bin Thani Al-Thani Humanitarian Fund** 8,4 million | **CERF** 6 million | **Japan** 4,48 million | **Denmark** 2,27 million | **Kuwait** 2 million | **Sweden** 2 million | **UNO-Fluechtlingshilfe** 1,98 million | **Canada** 1,5 million | **Country-Based Pooled Funds** 1,37 million | **France** 1,3 million | **Spain** 1 million | **Switzerland** 1 million | **European Union** 968,083 | **Private donors Canada** 669,251 | **Qatar** 626,055 | **United Kingdom for UNHCR** 534,084 | **Qatar Charity** 500,188 | **Kuwait-America Foundation** 500,000 | **Fondation de Luxembourg** 477,327 | **Private donors Lebanon** 349,288 | **Private donors Kuwait** 275,180 | **Fondation Philanthropique Famille Sandoz** 263,158 | **Private donors United Arab Emirates** 234,482 | **Iceland** 222,338 | **Australia for UNHCR** 209,181 | **HUMANITI** 198,377 | **Other private donors** 476,355

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