

Kharaz Refugee Camp, Yemen

May 2020

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

As of early May 2020, **the camp is home to 8,935 refugees and asylum seekers**, mostly from Somalia and Ethiopia.

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

KEY INDICATORS

8,935

Number of refugees and asylum-seekers in Kharaz Camp as of 6 May 2020 .

52%

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

2%

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



A UNHCR partner staff educates a refugee woman on hand washing at a distribution site in Kharaz Refugee Camp. In March, UNHCR distributed soap and detergent to all camp residents, including additional quantities for the increased needs linked to COVID-19 prevention measures. © UNHCR/YPN Media, March 2020.

KEY FACTS:

2001 year of establishment

5.4 km² total surface

71 shelter blocks

17 km² total distance from coast

47per 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, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the World Food Programme (WFP), international and local NGOs, and community-based committees to provide protection and essential services for refugees living in Kharaz camp, and their 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, and 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 cash assistance for the most vulnerable, legal support, psychosocial services, including child protection, assistance to vulnerable persons, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention and response activities, psychosocial activities and community building. **As of April 2020, UNHCR conducted closed to 100 counselling sessions. UNHCR also helped to complete the instruction of two SGBV cases successfully.**
- 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, 325 refugees received assistance with registration and documentation.**
- UNHCR and INTERSOS manage a Return Help Desk (RHD) in Kharaz camp where refugees seeking support to return to Somalia receive counselling. The RHD is part of the Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme initiated in 2017 in partnership with IOM, the Yemeni authorities, National Commission for Refugee Integration, Somalia (NCRI) and the Somali Embassy to support refugees' voluntary return to Somalia. **So far, in 2020, 34 refugees have returned to Somalia from Kharaz Refugee Camp. All departure have been halt since March due to COVID-19.**

Education

- UNHCR partnered with the Ministry of Education Office's support two primary schools and a secondary school; including rehabilitation, refurbishing of classrooms, provision of washrooms and shaded outdoor areas. **For the 2019-2020 academic school year, 2,500 primary school children and almost 400 secondary school students access education through the UNHCR supported schools in the camp and receive support for school uniforms and kits. Some 155 teachers and administrative support staff received incentives through UNHCR's partnership with the Ministry of Education.**
- Since mid-March, all schools in Kharaz have been closed due to COVID 19. The Ministry of Education set up a distance learning platform that offers access to primary and high school curricula via the internet and two TV channels, as well as a digital library that holds online lessons and exam samples. The platform also offers psychological support materials to provide parents and students tools to help them cope with the situation.

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 on 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 April 2020, UNHCR supported clinic conducted close to 12,500 outpatient consultations for both refugees and Yemeni nationals.**

- The clinic also runs a Diarrheal Treatment Centre (DTC). It leads educational activities for community members as well as capacity building activities for medical staff to prevent and control the spread of cholera among refugees and host populations.

Food Security & Nutrition

- **In partnership with the UN World Food Programme, UNHCR distributes food to all 8,935 refugees and asylum-seekers registered in the camp to meet their basic needs.** Each refugee household receives a monthly food ration composed of cereals, pulse, oil, salt and sugar.
- 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, 318 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 however 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, 1,510 refugees benefitted from the cash programme.**

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 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 registered refugees and asylum-seekers in the camp.
- UNHCR also distribute 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. 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.
- UNHCR is also monitoring all activities in the camp and services provided by its partners



A refugee woman receives soaps, detergent and sanitary pads at a distribution site in Kharaz Refugee Camp. In March, UNHCR distributed soap and detergent to the camp residents. UNHCR provided additional quantities to cater for the increased needs link to COVID-19 prevention measures. © UNHCR/ YPN Media, March 2020.

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