Kharaz Refugee Camp, Yemen

May 2021

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

As of May 2021, **the camp is home to nearly 9,270 refugees and asylum seekers,** mostly from Somalia and Ethiopia.

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

KEY INDICATORS

9,269

Number of refugees and asylum-seekers in Kharaz Camp as of 30 April 2021.

52%

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

2%

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

Women lined up to receive their cash assistance at a distribution site in Kharaz refugee camp, in Lahj, Yemen. © UNHCR/YPN, March 2020

KEY FACTS:

2001 year of establishment

5.4 km^2 total surface

71 shelter blocks

17 km^2 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

MAP OF KHARAZ CAMP

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 living in Kharaz camp 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 **300 vulnerable children, about 120 survivors of violence and over 1,980 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 documentation to all registered refugees living in the camp. **As of the end of April, some 250 refugees and asylum-seekers in the camp received assistance with registration and documentation.** These mainly included newborns registered by their parents and refugees who renewed their cards.
- **UNHCR and INTERSOS maintained the Return Help Desk (RHD) in Kharaz camp to counsel and register Somali refugees in the Assisted Spontaneous Return Programme (ASR).** Since 2017, the ASR provides 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.

Education

- For the 2020-2021 academic school year, **UNHCR supported two primary schools and a secondary school in the camp frequented by close to 3,000 children and adolescents.** UNHCR distributed cash to parents of school children to buy school uniforms and material, including books, notebooks and pens. UNHCR, in partnership with Educate a Child, supported the school with stationery and paid incentives to over 160 teachers and administrative support staff. In April, the school year ended a month earlier than usual as a preventive measure to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. Final exams are scheduled for June. The schools will reopen for the new school year in September.
- **UNHCR also helped 75 students, including those from the camp, access tertiary education through the higher education scholarship programme (DAFI).**

Health

- UNHCR supported a clinic in Kharaz Refugee Camp. **The clinic provided emergency and primary health care, psychosocial health care services, reproductive health care, physiotherapy, nutrition, and education on infant and child best feeding practices**. The clinic

also provided **sanitation and hygiene services** to refugees and asylum-seekers living in the camp and host community members from the neighbouring villages. The clinic transferred to referral hospitals patients needing specialised care. **Since the beginning of the year, UNHCR supported clinic conducted some 10,000 outpatient consultations and provided 2,000 reproductive health consultations to the camp's residents and Yemeni nationals living in the neighbouring villages.**

Food Security & Nutrition

- **UNHCR distributed food to all refugees and asylum-seekers registered in the camp in partnership with the UN World Food Programme.** Every month, all camps residents- about 9,270 as of the end of May- received cereals, pulse, oil, salt and sugar, enough to meet their basic needs.
- As of the end of April, **UNHCR and partners also treated about 290 malnourished children aged 6-59 months and pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers** through the supplementary feeding programme**.** And they **distributed supplementary food to another 290 children under two years olds to prevent 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

- 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. **Since the beginning of the year, up to 345 refugee and asylum-seeking families 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 have access to 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 provided 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 distributed soap bars and laundry detergent** to all refugees living in Kharaz camp. UNHCR increased the quantities of soap and detergent distributed to the camp residents to help them apply the COVID-19 prevention measures.
- **Women and girls of reproductive age also received sanitary pads every month**.

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.

A refugee woman waits to receive her hygiene kits composed of soaps, detergent and sanitary pads at a distribution site in Kharaz Refugee Camp. © UNHCR/ YPN Media, March 2020.

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