

Kharaz Refugee Camp, Yemen

December 2020

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

As of end of August 2020, **the camp is home to over 9,200 refugees and asylum seekers**, mostly from Somalia and Ethiopia.

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

KEY INDICATORS

9,264

Number of refugees and asylum-seekers in Kharaz Camp as of 31 December.

52%

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

2%

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



A young Somali refugee draws a picture at the early intervention centre in Kharaz refugee camp, in Lahj, Yemen. The centre, run by UNHCR partner Intersos, offers children with special needs a safe environment to develop basic skills until they can integrate into the formal education system. © UNHCR/Marie-Joelle Jean-Charles, February 2020

KEY FACTS:

2001 year of establishment

5.4 km² total surface

71 shelter blocks

17 km² total distance from coast

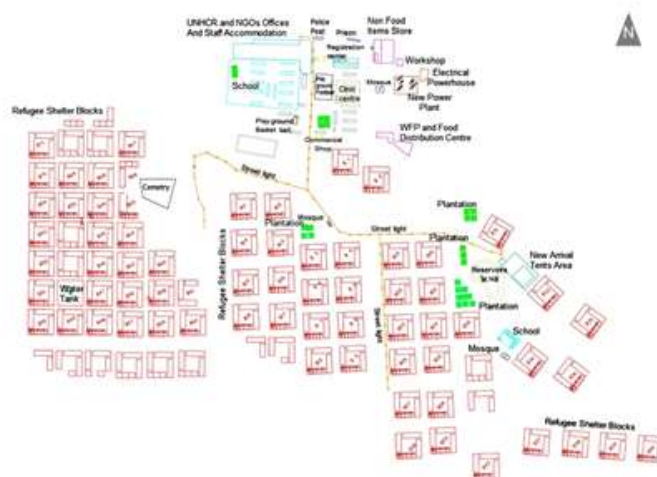
47 per cent of the population in Kharaz have no occupation i.e. do not attend school nor work

1 UNHCR field office in Kharaz

9 community committees 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 UN World Food Programme (WFP), aid organisations, 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 partners with the different refugee committees, active in Kharaz camp. These include 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

- UNHCR with partners carries out protection activities for refugees living in Kharaz camp, including legal support, psychosocial services, child protection, assistance to vulnerable persons, gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response activities, psychosocial activities and community building. **In 2020, 500 vulnerable children, about 450 survivors of violence and over 1,200 refugees and asylum with specific needs, received specialised assistance in the camp.**
- UNHCR supports the Immigration Passport Naturalization Authority (IPNA) of the Government of Yemen (GoY) provide documentation to all registered refugees living in the camp. **In 2020, more than 860 refugees received assistance with registration and documentation.** These included mostly 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

- The 2020-2021 academic school year started in October with the reopening of the schools. **UNHCR intends to help close to 3,000 children and adolescents go to school for this new school year.** UNHCR distributed cash to parents of school children to buy school uniforms and material, including books, notebooks and pens. UNHCR also paid incentives to over 160 teachers and administrative support staffs.

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 best feeding practices. The clinic also provides sanitation and hygiene services to refugees and asylum-seekers living in the camp and host community members from the neighbouring villages. The clinic refers to the regional/national referral hospitals patients needing specialised care. **In 2020, UNHCR supported clinic conducted some 31,000 outpatient consultations and provided 7,000 reproductive health consultations to residents of the camps 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- over 9,200 as of the end of December- received cereals, pulse, oil, salt and sugar, enough to meet their basic needs.
- As of the end of December, **UNHCR and partners also treated 835 malnourished children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and nursing women** through the supplementary feeding programme. In 2020, UNHCR and partners also **distributed supplementary food to over 600 children under two years olds to prevent 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. Refugees receive from USD 80 to USD 200, depending on their needs and level of vulnerability. **Since the beginning of the year, up to 450 refugees and asylum-seekers 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 provides 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 distributes 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 the camp residents 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 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 is also monitoring 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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