

Kharaz Refugee Camp, Yemen

July 2018

Kharaz camp was opened in 2001 and remains the **only refugee camp in Yemen**. The vast majority of the population are **Somali refugees**.

The camp is located in **Lahj Governorate**, where average temperatures in summer exceed 40° Celsius. UNHCR maintains a **Field Office in Kharaz**.

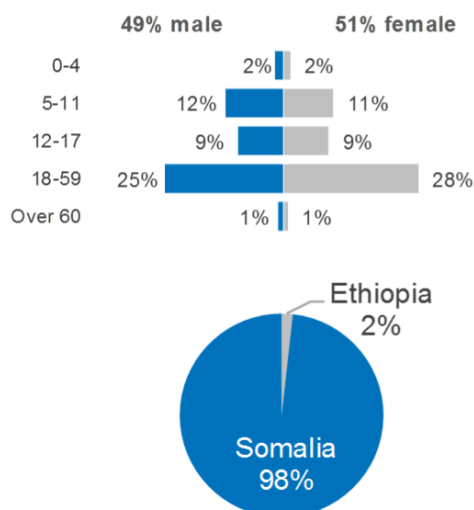
Since August 2017, UNHCR has been supporting Yemeni authorities to conduct a **verification exercise of refugees** living in Kharaz camp.

OVERVIEW

Total population	15,950*
Total households (HHs)	2,075*
Verified individuals	3,855**
Verified HHs	1,144**
Date opened	May 2001
Location	Lahj Governorate
Area	5.4 km ²
Number of shelter blocks	87
Distance from coast	17 kms
Number of partners	10

*total registered population in Kharaz Camp before completion of the documentation and registration exercise
**as of 26 July 2018

POPULATION DEMOGRAPHICS



UNHCR KHARAZ FIELD OFFICE

11 National Staff

PARTNERS

Coordination & Management	UNHCR, Governor of Lahj
Protection	UNHCR, INTERSOS, Al Gaith
Registration	IPNA, UNHCR, INTERSOS
Food security	WFP*, SHS, UNHCR
WASH	SHS, UNHCR
Health	CSSW, UNHCR, Office of Health
Education	Office of Education, SHS
Shelter and NFI	SHS, INTERSOS
Cash-Assistance	INTEROS
Security	Police Department Lahj

*Operational Partner



MAP OF KHARAZ CAMP



Working with Partners

- The UN Refugee Agency, 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 a community-based committee to provide protection and basic services for refugees living in Kharaz camp, as well as for members of the Yemeni host community.
- There are several refugee committees that are active in Kharaz camp, including the Somali Grand Council Committee, the Ethiopian Grand Council Committee, and committees for women, youth groups, teachers, tribal leaders and persons living with disabilities. Fifty percent of the refugees who are active in leadership/ management structures are female.

Main Activities

Protection

- UNHCR with partners carries out protection activities for refugees living in Kharaz camp, including cash assistance for the most vulnerable, legal and psychosocial counselling and services for children and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).
- With support from UNHCR, the Immigration, Passport and Naturalization Authority (IPNA) is conducting a registration and documentation exercise of refugees living in Kharaz camp. The verification of the refugee population started in August 2017 and is expected to be completed before the end of 2018. Current refugee documentation is expired, as a result of administrative hurdles that led to the suspension of registration activities in Kharaz since October 2013.
- The total number of refugees in Kharaz camp whose case files have been verified and updated now stands at 3,855 (as of 26 July 2018), with all refugees receiving new ration cards and identification documentation. In July, additional registration staff from IPNA were deployed to Kharaz camp to expedite the registration process.
- UNHCR initiated an Assisted Spontaneous Return (ASR) programme for Somali refugees in 2017, and is working with IOM, the Yemeni authorities, National Commission for Refugee Integration, Somalia (NCRI) and the Somali Embassy to support refugees' voluntary return to Somalia. UNHCR and INTERSOS established a Return Help Desk (RHD) in Kharaz camp where refugees seeking support to return to Somalia have been receiving counselling. So far, over 2,000 refugees have departed Yemen, which has included over 700 Somalis from Kharaz camp.
- So far in 2018, 20 Ethiopian refugees from Kharaz camp have been resettled to Sweden. They had been in protracted displacement in Yemen, some of them since 1992. Resettlement is a protection tool for refugees with specific needs who are at particular risk in Yemen.

Education

- UNHCR is working with the authorities to integrate Kharaz schools into the national education system. Rehabilitation work has taken place at Kharaz camp schools, completing improvements to classrooms, washrooms and shaded outdoor areas.
- In May, 1,960 primary school students and 241 secondary school students in the camp completed their year-end exams. At the same time, 169 students completed the 9th grade transitional Ministerial exams and 64 school children completed year-end exams in the community-based Accelerated Education Programme (AEP). In July, 92 students completed their last secondary school grade Ministerial exams.
- Some 145 teachers and administrative support staff are provided with an incentive through UNHCR's partnership with the Ministry of Education.

Health

- Each month, UNHCR offers primary healthcare and health awareness education for over 2,000 refugees and the host community in Kharaz camp. Some 40 percent of the patients treated in the Kharaz camp clinic are from the Yemeni host community. Health services that are available in Kharaz include: emergency treatments, psychosocial healthcare services, reproductive healthcare services, physiotherapy and referrals for refugees to receive specialised treatment.

- UNHCR is responding to prevent and control the spread of cholera among refugee and host populations through a Diarrheal Treatment Centre (DTC) in Kharaz camp, along with carrying out hygiene promotion and community awareness campaigns and capacity building activities to benefit health staff. Since mid-May, the DTC in Kharaz has received 18 suspected cases of cholera (four refugees and 14 migrants), out of which, 11 cases were confirmed by Rapid Cholera Testing (RCT). No cholera-related deaths have so far been reported in 2018.

Food Security

- In partnership with WFP, UNHCR distributes food rations to 7,000 vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers registered in Kharaz camp.
- In late July 2018, UNHCR distributed 500 food baskets, donated by the Emirates Red Crescent (ERC) to refugees in Kharaz camp. The food baskets, consisting of 10 kg rice, 10 kg wheat flour, 1 kg pulses, were distributed to 500 families who, due to their registration status, had not received rations during the June and July general food distributions.

Water and Sanitation

- The refugee population in Kharaz camp is provided with an average of 25 litres of potable water per person/ day. Further to this, UNHCR assists some 7,000 Yemenis in surrounding villages with potable water.
- On 5 July, the Governor of Lahj and UNHCR inaugurated a water project in a neighbouring village that will benefit the host community for the foreseeable future.

Core Relief Items (CRIs)

- To prevent the further spread of cholera, UNHCR is distributing soap bars and laundry detergent to all refugees living in Kharaz camp. Female hygiene items (sanitary napkins) are distributed to all refugee women and girls aged 12 and above.
- In July, UNHCR will conduct a CRI distribution for registered refugees in Kharaz camp. Refugees with new ID cards will receive blankets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, foam mattress, mosquito nets and solar lamps. Further distribution rounds will follow for other refugees with new ID cards.

External / Donors Relations

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by: Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, United States of America, United Kingdom, Japan, CERF, Sweden, Finland, Canada, Switzerland, France, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Educate a Child Programme, Private donors Germany, Slovakia and miscellaneous private donors **who have specifically contributed to UNHCR programmes in Yemen in 2018 as well as other donors who have contributed through broadly unearmarked and broadly earmarked funding, including:** Private donors in Australia, Spain, Republic of Korea, Japan and Italy, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Denmark, Switzerland, France and Italy.

Contacts

Jacqueline Parlevliet, Head of Sub Office Aden, Yemen, parlevli@unhcr.org

Natalie Schmidthaeussler, Assoc. External Relations Officer, Aden, Yemen, schmidth@unhcr.org