



NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL

HORN OF AFRICA

SOUTH SUDAN, UGANDA & YEMEN
ANNUAL REPORT 2014



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Editor-in-chief: Gabriella Waaijman.
Editors: Nashon Tado, Olivia Akumu, Wairimu Munyinyi Wahome.
Contributors: Abdirahman Jama, Ahmednur Abdi, Catherine Nyokabi, Isaac Ndolo, Farhiya Farah, Munier Mohammed, Lamin Manjang, Victor Moses, Fred Magumba, Waithira Wanjohi, Ragge Dahir, Muhumed Hussein, Abdelgadir Ahmed, Kenneth Oyik, Eman Yarrow, Ulrika Blom, Kennedy Mabonga, Melchizedek Malile, Asbjörn Lode.

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Front cover: The girl in Bambassi is among 2,700 refugees from South Sudan who benefited from shelter in Benishangul-Gumuz region of Ethiopia.
Back cover: 700 Households were resettled at Digaale Settlement in Hargeisa, Somaliland in 2014.



Foreword By The Regional Director

It is with great pride and honour that I present the NRC Horn of Africa, South Sudan, Uganda and Yemen Annual Report for 2014; a short summary of the accomplishments by our regional team, working in some of the most difficult areas under extremely trying conditions.

South Sudan, a country celebrating its independence attained in 2010, tragically sunk back into war and destitution in 2014 prompting NRC to scale up its humanitarian programmes. The conflict displaced over 2.2 million people in less than a year time; some 1.6 million people were displaced inside South Sudan and more than 600,000 sought safety across the borders. I was able to visit some of the IDPs and refugees who fled the violence. The people I spoke to all expressed a desperate and heart-breaking hope for peace. But with no peace in sight, NRC had little option but to continue to provide life-saving assistance in the areas of displacement, including through mobile teams that delivered assistance in some of the most volatile areas of the country. Despite the combined efforts of the humanitarian community, the response remains woefully inadequate compared to the needs, especially the need for peace.

The conflict in South Sudan happened at the back-drop of an ongoing large-scale crisis in Somalia, which displaced some 1 million people internally and another 1 million as refugees. In Somalia, NRC continued to push the boundaries of access. It is with considerable pride that we lead a consortium of 5 NGOs delivering resilience based programmes in some of the most hard to reach areas of South Central Somalia. As part of this effort, NRC opened an office in Kismayo from where we deliver on all 5 of our core competencies.

Once again, 2014 was a difficult year for Yemen where political unrest resulted in a very volatile security situation, affecting humanitarian operations across the country. Despite the dangerous operating environment and increased risk to staff, the NRC team in Yemen managed to expand the programme to address some of the additional needs, resulting from the unrest.

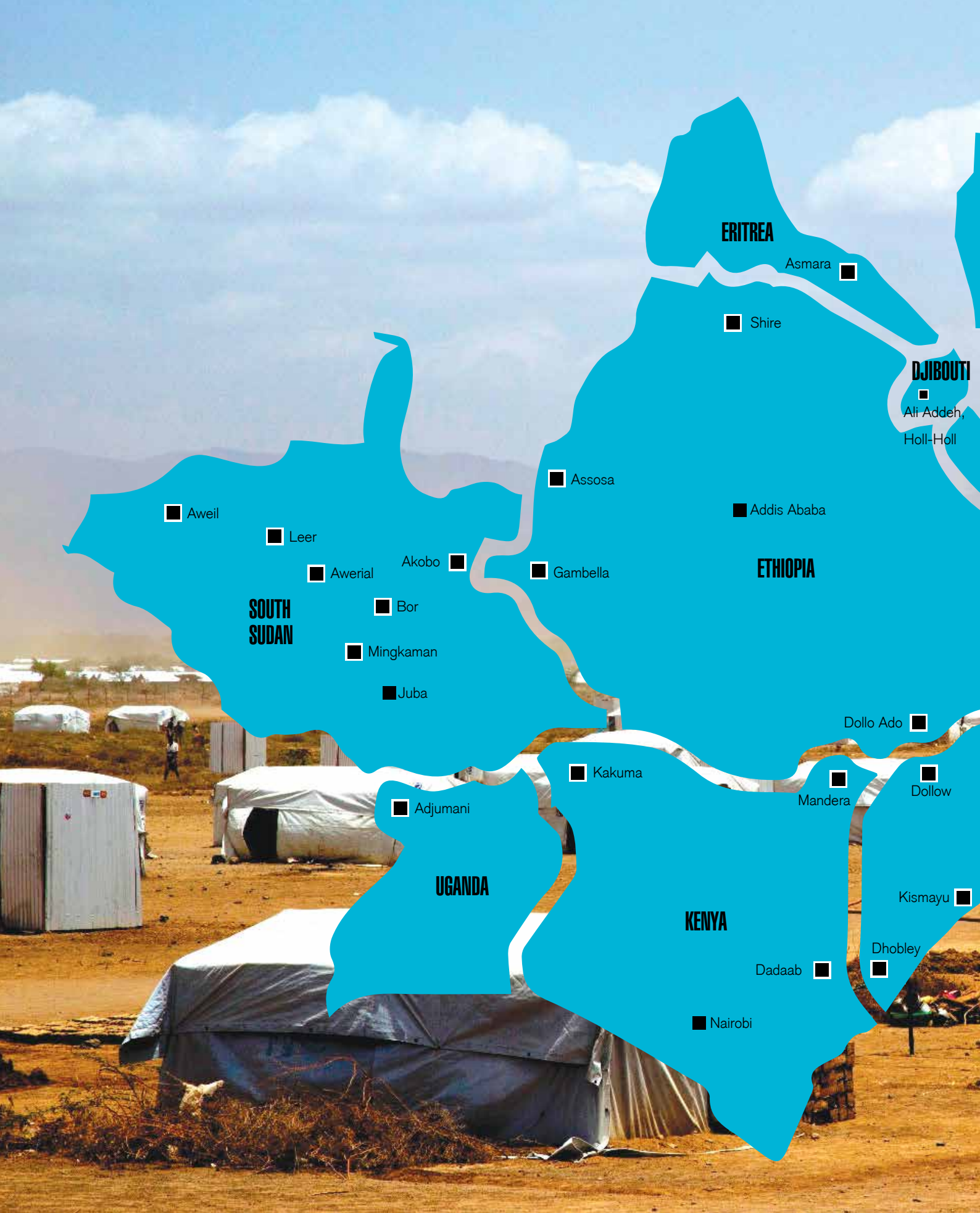
NRC has continued to contribute towards innovations and simple but creative solutions to some of the challenges that come with hosting large numbers of IDPs and refugees in the region. The most successful innovations have effectively made use of readily available local resources, which, through a combination of local knowledge and new technology, were turned into good use. Examples of such innovations include the Biogas project in Benishangul-Gumuz, Ethiopia, harvesting water from air in Assosa, Ethiopia, generating fuel from waste in Kenya and solar-powered water harvesting projects in Kenya and Somalia.

The above are just some examples of the work that NRC has done in 2014. I invite you to read through the rest of the report and visit our website, www.nrc.no for additional information.

I would hereby like to take the opportunity to thank our staff, programme partners and donors without whom the work of NRC would never have been possible. I hope we will continue to move forward together and support one another as we provide assistance to the most vulnerable people who depend on us for survival, safety and dignity.



GABRIELLA WAIJMAN
REGIONAL DIRECTOR
NRC Horn of Africa, South Sudan,
Uganda and Yemen



ERITREA

Asmara

Shire

DJIBOUTI

Ali Addeh,
Holl-Holl

Assosa

Addis Ababa

ETHIOPIA

Aweil

Leer

Awerial

Akobo

Gambella

SOUTH SUDAN

Bor

Mingkaman

Juba

Dollo Ado

Kakuma

Mandera

Dollow

Adjumani

UGANDA

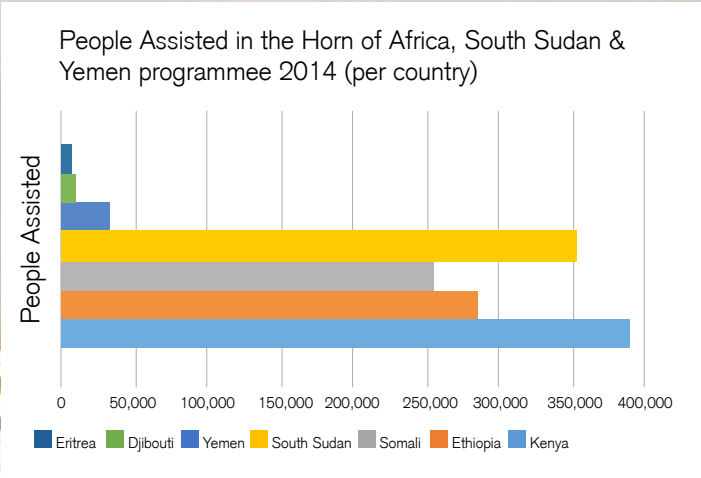
KENYA

Dadaab

Dhobley

Kismayu

Nairobi



NRC HORN OF AFRICA, SOUTH SUDAN, UGANDA & YEMEN

■ Field Operations 2014

2,000 Staff

29 Field Locations

8 Countries

Budget 2014: 615 Million NOK (70 Million Euro)

Mission, Vision, Achievements

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is an independent, humanitarian non-governmental organisation which provides assistance, protection and durable solutions to refugees and internally-displaced persons worldwide.

Our Vision: Rights Respected, People Protected

Our Core Values: Accountability, Dedication, Inclusiveness, Innovation.

Overall Strategic Objective for Horn of Africa Region: A greater number of vulnerable people in hard-to-reach areas get access to humanitarian assistance, become resilient to future disasters and find durable solutions.

Significant achievements for 2014

- More than one million people received direct humanitarian assistance from NRC in the Horn of Africa, South Sudan and Yemen in 2014.
- Armed conflict in South Sudan claimed thousands of lives and sent millions of people on the run seeking protection in displacement sites in Juba, Bentiu, Minkaman and elsewhere, as well as outside of the country into Kenya (Kakuma), Ethiopia (Gambella), Uganda (West Nile) and Sudan.
- South Sudan became part of the Horn of Africa regional programme, with field offices in Central Equatorial, Lake, Northern Bahr El Ghazal and Jonglei States, supporting people displaced by the conflict. NRC used mobile teams to provide assistance to IDPs outside of the protection bases.
- In Gambella, Ethiopia where South Sudanese nationals numbering 194,411 sought refuge, NRC assisted 166,319 refugees in Kule, Tierkidi, Lietchuor, Nip Nip and Okugo by building transitional centres, emergency shelters and latrines.
- In Kakuma, Kenya, NRC assisted 260,155 people drawn from the refugees and host communities, and 45,000 new arrivals from South Sudan.
- New field offices opened in Mandera in Kenya's North-Eastern frontier and Jijjiga in Ethiopia's Somali Region. In Somalia, NRC opened an office in Kismayo, bringing the total number of field locations in Somalia to 12. NRC assisted 256,931 people with emergency assistance and durable solutions delivered through projects based on NRC's core competencies.
- Uganda joined the Horn of Africa Regional Programme bringing the total number of countries to eight. Towards the end of the year, an area office was opened in Adjumani, West Nile Region to provide assistance to refugees crossing the border from South Sudan.
- In Yemen, an armed insurgency by the Al Houthi movement took control across most parts of the country including the country's capital, Sana'a leading to additional displacements and aggravated food and nutrition crisis. NRC was able to continue with operations and deliver assistance in the North, Central and South of the country throughout the crisis.
- In Djibouti, NRC began construction of hybrid shelters made from corrugated galvanised iron sheets and a cemented base, for refugees in Ali Addeh and Holl-holl, replacing traditional buuls and makeshift houses
- In Eritrea NRC completed a project supporting access to primary education. The project is planned to be expanded in 2015.



Photo: NRC

NRC operates through five specialised programme areas, referred to as core competencies. These are Shelter, Food Security, Education, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA). The core competencies are mutually reinforcing and adaptable to complex displacement situations.

Shelter

We all need a roof above our heads to feel safe and protected from harsh weather conditions, criminals, and wild animals as well as to preserve our dignity and privacy. Shelter is a natural basic need, shielding any species from external threats. NRC is mandated to provide emergency assistance, protection and durable solutions to people affected by displacement in the Horn of Africa; over the years, shelter support has become one of NRC's strongest competencies.

NRC remains one of the lead agencies in shelter provision across the Horn of Africa with exceptional expertise demonstrated in Dolo Ado, Shire, Assosa and Gambella regions of Ethiopia, Hargeisa, Burao and Mogadishu in Somalia as well as Aden and Abyan in South of Yemen. NRC supported shelters are adapted to suit the local environment and conditions and to conform to national government regulations.

In 2015 NRC envisages strengthening implementation of shelter activities, including scaling up of cash and voucher transfer-based programming in shelter delivery and building on lessons learnt from the Yemen shelter pilot programme.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Piloted in the Horn of Africa in 2011, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, or WASH, principally involves construction and rehabilitation of latrines, hygiene promotion and provision of clean water through the construction or rehabilitation of boreholes, shallow wells, water pipelines and collection points.

Currently, NRC is the lead agency in sanitation and hygiene in Kenya's Kakuma and Ethiopia's Dolo Ado refugee camps. In Somalia, WASH component has been mainstreamed into various shelter and education programmes.

NRC is also developing new innovations within its water provision projects, an outstanding example being the solar-powered water provision projects in Kenya, Somalia and Yemen.

Food Security and Livelihoods

The Food Security and Livelihood (FSL) strategy responds to primary needs provision, livelihoods recovery and resilience needs of people affected by displacement by building community asset bases, and capacities to improve resilience and emergency preparedness.

NRC is collaborating with the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to build on the resilience programming approach used in South Central Somalia and Yemen, and will enhance the development of new resilience programming models in South Sudan, the Mandera Triangle (Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia) and the Dikhil Cluster (Djibouti, Ethiopia and Somalia).

Together with the Education programme, FSL has established a youth response approach and will pilot refugee employment programming with the International Trade Centre in Dadaab, Kenya, with specific focus on private partnership and integration of new information and communication technology.

Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA)

ICLA has continued to play an instrumental role in cross-border programmes, especially in terms of information sharing, return assistance and monitoring between Dadaab in Kenya and South and Central Somalia. The main objective of ICLA is the attainment of a durable solution for voluntary return, resettlement, or local integration and that people affected by displacement are able to claim and exercise their rights.

NRC is taking a lead in addressing Housing, Land and Property (HLP) issues through provision of information on rights, remedies and entitlements, documentation, capacity building in HLP, eviction monitoring, legal counselling and assistance and Collaborative Dispute Resolution (CDR).

In 2015, NRC will continue to strengthen processes and conduct research on women's access to HLP rights, causes of land disputes and general mapping of HLP issues to expand the understanding on such issues.

NRC will strengthen eviction monitoring to ensure evictions are conducted legally and in line with the international and national legal and policy frameworks.



ICT lesson in Kenya's Dadaab Refugee Camp
Photo: Welldon Kinaro/NRC

Education

The education programme focuses on reducing barriers to basic inclusive education, providing relevant quality basic education and enhancing livelihood opportunities.

The Youth Education Pack (YEP) provides literacy and numeracy training, vocational skill training, and life skills training.

It targets youth from both refugee and vulnerable host community aged between 15 and 25 years, with limited or no formal educational background.

In 2015, NRC will continue to adopt an integrated approach that focuses on provision of quality education, safe learning environment and enhancing child protection. NRC is also focusing on strengthening the institutional capacity of the government and teachers to deliver quality education to learners.

Advocacy and Protection

NRC's advocacy work is intimately linked to its programmes. In order to support programmatic solutions, to ensure access to beneficiaries and to protect their rights, NRC uses advocacy as a way to bring about change in favour of the most vulnerable displaced, refugee and returnee populations using evidence generated by programmes to influence on identified issues at international, regional and national levels. A strategy for global advocacy is in place for 2015-2017. The overall aim is to influence policies and practices that strengthen displaced and vulnerable people's access to protection and assistance. The strategy will guide the development of country advocacy strategies and work plans and provide strategic direction in the implementation of the plans. NRC mainstreams protection throughout its programmes to ensure that project design and implementation address protection concerns of targeted populations. NRC has a Protection Policy in that prioritises response to risks that are caused or reinforced by displacement. Resource packs to support the implementation of the policy are currently being developed.

A New Strategy for 2015 To 2017

NORWEGIAN
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NRC

In 2014, NRC adopted a new strategy for the programming period 2015-2017 based on a thorough context and needs analysis of the region.

While on one hand the Greater Horn of Africa and Yemen has seen promising economic growth, discovered new natural resources and has embarked on daring infrastructural programmes to further stimulate economy and trade, these have existed alongside persistent hunger, conflict and displacement.

In December 2013, the scale of the regional displacement crisis increased significantly when war erupted in South Sudan. Subsequently, 2014 was dominated by the South Sudan emergency response and the refugees in the region continue to live in protracted situations where for most of them, prospects for durable solutions remained distant. It is anticipated that conflict, instability and displacement will remain features of the regional humanitarian narrative during the new strategy cycle.

The goal of the new strategy is to ensure that a greater number of vulnerable people in hard-to-reach areas access

humanitarian assistance, while becoming more resilient to disasters and are facilitated to find durable solutions for the challenges that they face.

To reach this goal, NRC will focus on strengthening its emergency preparedness and response systems, reinforce risk management practices, enhance programme quality and monitoring and evaluation, improve accountability and cost-efficiency and build on innovations.

A stronger emphasis on outcome monitoring including evidence-based and participatory programming will ensure effective planning and implementation of NRC's programmes. NRC's protection and advocacy work will also be strengthened using the evidence from the programmes, with key lessons being communicated in a credible and easy-to-access manner. Beneficiary participation and accountability systems, including complaints response and feedback mechanisms will be strengthened, as means to expanding the space for beneficiaries to become active, empowered participants in the quest for durable solutions.

 A greater number of vulnerable people in hard-to-reach areas access humanitarian assistance

 Strengthen emergency preparedness

 Reinforce risk management practices

 Enhance programme quality, monitoring and evaluation.

 Improve accountability and cost efficiency

 Strengthen evidence-based advocacy and protection

 Enhance beneficiary participation

 Build on innovations



NRC is strengthening its emergency preparedness and response systems. Photo: Emebet Abdissa/NRC

SOMALIA

Timely response to displacement needs



Photo: Badar Abdulkadir/NRC



Photo: Badar Abdulkadir/NRC



Photo: Nashon Tado/NRC

NRC's immediate priorities inside Somalia focused on saving lives and enhancing resilience to shocks through timely response to the needs of communities affected by displacement due to insecurity, food and water shortages and other causes. Emergency and durable solutions were provided for people recently displaced as well as for those displaced for many years, particularly in IDP settlements in Puntland and Somaliland.

South Central Somalia

NRC reached 212,873 people with humanitarian assistance in South Central Somalia, through various activities. A new shelter approach was adopted in South Central Somalia, empowering beneficiaries to decide on the kind of shelters they preferred, within agreed construction standards and principles. The strategy was a learning opportunity for beneficiaries. IDPs with construction skills were identified and hired as casual, paid workers in the construction of the shelters.

114,606 people in Kismayo, Gedo, Bay, Banadir and Shabelle regions benefitted from shelter provision. Poor host communities also benefitted from the project through promotion of peaceful co-existence between IDPs and host communities.

WASH interventions supported a total of 18,355 people. NRC collaborated with Warjanaay Water Company in Baidoa and Shabelle Borehole Water Company in Mogadishu in providing water to IDPs, increasing output volumes and reducing operation and maintenance costs by use of solar powered submersible pumps. Community-based pumps with capacity to empty latrines in congested IDP settlements promoted income-generating opportunities and reduced the need to construct new latrines, leading to safer methods of excreta disposal.

NRC initiated a resilience project dubbed Building Resilient Communities in Somalia – BRCiS. The project aims at enabling men, women and children in vulnerable communities to be more resilient to shocks by improving the absorptive, adaptive and transformative capacities of the people of South Central Somalia.

The Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) programme assisted 24,825 people in Banadir, Bay, Gedo and Lower Juba regions. The programme engaged local authorities in negotiating for land and tenure with land owners on behalf of beneficiaries, eviction monitoring and information provision on Housing, Land and Property rights to IDPs, local authorities, refugee returnees from Kenya and host communities.



Photo: Badar Abdulkadir/NRC



Photo: Christian Jepsen

Under the Alternative Basic Education project, 7,600 learners received educational materials. 17 technical advisers were recruited to support the Ministry of Education under the 'Go-to-School (G2S)' campaign. 720 YEP learners and 560 teachers were supported with vocational training and on-the-job teacher training, respectively.

Somaliland

21,197 people were assisted, in Somaliland. 787 primary schools received textbooks through the Go-to-School (G2S) initiative led by the Ministry of Education and supported by UNICEF. 106 officers from the Ministry of Education were trained on human resources policies and procedures. 53 schools were rehabilitated to provide better learning spaces.

Food security and livelihoods programmes reached 7,292 beneficiaries, comprising of poor and vulnerable internally displaced persons and host community members in Sanaag and Togdheer regions. Beneficiaries received cash grants, fuel-efficient stoves, small-scale business support and nutrition, hygiene and environmental awareness-building. However, recurrent conflict in Khaatumo area continued to hinder humanitarian operations and threatened stability in Sool and Sanaag regions.

325 households in Hargeisa and Burao received transitional shelters to enhance their living conditions. 400 families received family hygiene kits and 449 people benefited from construction of latrine units. Three garbage disposal and collection sites were constructed in one of the IDPs settlements in Hargeisa.

Puntland

"The YEP programme is relevant, effective and leads to positive change. The programme boosts life skill capacity among the youth and empowers them with vocational skills that transform them into productive members of the society." - Hon. Mohamed Ali Farah, Ministry of Education, Puntland.

Scholarships were provided for 1000 transit learners across 30 ABE schools in Galkayo, Garowe and Bossaso, from a total of 6,274 enrolled learners. Under the scholarships scheme, NRC provided monthly school fee vouchers to each scholarship beneficiary to enable them continue with education after transition to formal classes.

A graduation ceremony was held where 150 learners graduated from the Garowe Vocational Training Centre on successful completion of vocational courses offered under the YEP programme.

The ICLA programme exceeded its initial target beneficiaries due to a high demand to support HLP issues. 15,039 people from IDP settlements and surrounding host communities participated in awareness campaigns and information sessions on HLP rights, while 569 persons comprising local government officials, IDP representatives and aid workers underwent actual training on HLP rights. 2,557 IDP households were assisted in securing land rights. 2,124 obtained legalised land agreements and 433 received title deeds for permanent shelter, protecting them from forced evictions. Memorandums of Understanding were signed between NRC and the local government in Puntland, as a service provider.

The purpose of the MoUs is to facilitate provision of land tenure certificates for shelter beneficiaries. The certificate is a legal document signed by the local municipality securing ownership of the land and the house for the IDP beneficiaries. NRC covers the cost of the certificate in addition to related advocacy engagement on the issue.

NRC constructed a total of 295 transitional shelters in Garowe, Bosaso and Galkayo. 33 households received emergency shelter kits in response to fire outbreaks and 367 kits were placed under emergency response stock. 40 transitional shelters in 4 IDPs settlements in Burao were completed. 250 households in Bossaso and Garowe received 590 hand-washing kettles, and trainings in hygiene promotion. Latrine construction in Burao was started, to be completed in 2015. In total, 47,686 people were assisted in Puntland.

Somalia operational outputs

Location	Operational Details	Items provided	People reached
Puntland	Shelters for families	-	12,109
	Students enrolled in NRC supported schools	-	12,555
	People reached with income-generating assistance	-	2,854
	Teachers and Community Education Committee members trained	-	443
	People reached with ICLA assistance	-	19,725
Somaliland	Shelters for families	285	2,688
	Classrooms and other educational facilities constructed or rehabilitated	-	8,709
	Learners enrolled in NRC supported schools		7,555
	Latrines constructed	449	2,245
South Central	Shelters for families	3,520	114,606
	Students enrolled in NRC supported schools	-	7,776
	Latrines constructed	290	5,259
	Teachers trained	-	560
	People assisted with food and livelihood support	-	39,000
	Hygiene and sanitation kits distributed	-	9,697
	People assisted with non-food item kits	-	11,150
	People reached with ICLA assistance	-	24,825
	Total		281,756

**Beneficiaries are registered according to the different services received; those who received assistance in more than one sector have been counted twice e.g. shelter and education*

Technology in education

"I believe computers have the power to transform our societies, through information sharing, planning and technological advancement. Learning computer skills has helped me and my community re-think and question retrogressive traditions that prevail across Somalia, especially those dictating that girls and women cannot engage in new-age technology or other activities that are technical, mental and thought-provoking", - Hawokin, YEP graduate from Garowe, Puntland.

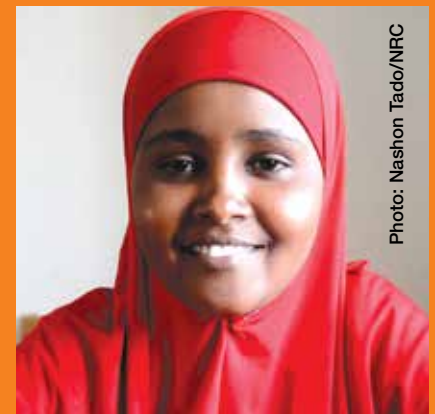


Photo: Nashon Tado/NRC

Reaching out to the
most vulnerable

Photo: Nashon Tado

Amidst its own security challenges, Kenya continued hosting a large number of refugees, with a population of 358,101 (95% Somali) in Dadaab refugee camp and 177,960 (49% South Sudanese) in Kakuma as of December 2014. The South Sudan crisis led to a total of 45,544 refugees fleeing into Kakuma, with an average weekly influx of 950 refugees entering through Nadapal border entry point. 66% of the new arrivals are children under 18 years, most of whom are unaccompanied minors at high risk of abuse.

Dadaab refugee complex

NRC offered the Accelerated Learning Programme (ALP) to 1,700 children in ALP centres in the Dadaab refugee camps. The teaching and learning was facilitated by 10 national teachers and 20 community refugee teachers. 40% of the learners were expected to be reintegrated into formal schools and the remaining 60% to move to the next level within the ALP.

More than 900 youth were reached through vocational and life skills training programme to improve their livelihood opportunities. Shorter skills training programmes were piloted, targeting youth who already possessed basic literacy and numeracy skills.

NRC provided refugees with safe water and in compliance with the Sphere Minimum Standards. A total of 1,461 latrines were constructed and 1,980 old latrines rehabilitated in Hagadera and Kambioos. Hygiene campaigns conducted in the camps focused on clean-ups, public health training and distribution of soap, family and personal hygiene kits and indoor residual spraying to control vectors.

A total of 124,010 people received food to meet their minimum nutritional requirements. Food security and livelihoods interventions supported 22 action groups of proactive women and youth from both refugee and host communities who received business management training, information on loan facilities and start-up kits.

The ICLA programme was established in Dadaab in 2014, to enhance returnees' awareness on rights, procedures and available assistance. Provision of relevant, accurate and reliable information on the three main return areas of Baidoa, Luuq and Kismayu was provided to refugees intending to return, allowing them to make informed decisions. 2,679 individuals were provided information and counselling and 501 returnees facilitated with a return package, provided by UNHCR. In total, NRC reached 134,358 people with humanitarian assistance in Dadaab.



Kakuma

NRC has been the lead agency in sanitation and hygiene promotion in Kakuma camps, established to assist refugees from South Sudan. In 2014, 4,225 family latrines and 1,775 communal latrines were constructed. 270 persons with disabilities were assisted with special latrine facilities.

NRC supported host communities in Turkana County, comprising a total of 13,300 people through rehabilitation and upgrading of boreholes, construction of latrines and awareness on public health risks through hygiene promotion. A partnership with Solvatten Charitable Foundation enabled NRC to provide 3,665 households with safe water kits that have the capacity to harness solar energy and treat contaminated water by deactivating the micro-organisms that cause disease.

NRC constructed a reception and transit centre at Nadapal to shelter thousands of refugees from South Sudan. Furthermore, NRC constructed 20 extra classrooms and completed renovations for 26 classrooms within the same area.

Food distribution in Kakuma-1 camp helped to combat malnutrition and sensitisation campaigns on basic nutritional practices helped refugees to balance their food intake. A 10 hectare green belt was established as a measure to reclaim degraded land. 106,422 indigenous and exotic tree seedlings and 4,810 fuel-efficient stoves were distributed. A total of 251,854 people in Kakuma were assisted.

Mandera

Over 210,500 people were displaced in 2014 in Mandera and Wajir counties, in Northern Kenya, with families relocating from border areas. Below-average rainfall in June to September, affected food production and led to shortage of food supplies, with Global Acute Malnutrition rates in the region rising above 20 per cent.

NRC opened a new office in Mandera to respond to displacement of populations as a result of inter-clan conflict between the Garre and Degodia that happened prior to and after the 2013 general elections.

NRC interventions in Mandera consisted of an integrated food security project with WASH, shelter and youth vocational training components. Approximately 3,220 people received assistance including 500 households that benefitted from cash transfers and 120 youth supported with vocational skills and start-up kits.



Photo: Georgina Goodwin

Kenya operational outputs

Locations	Operational Details	Items provided	People reached
Dadaab	Latrines constructed	3,207	7,305
	People assisted with emergency food rations	-	124,010
	People reached with ICLA support	-	2,697
	Learners enrolled in NRC-supported schools	-	1,346
Mandera	Learners enrolled in NRC-supported schools	-	120
	Latrines constructed	20	100
	People reached with cash and livelihood support	-	3,000
Kakuma	Latrines constructed	4,090	24,540
	People reached with emergency food rations	-	49,575
	Learners enrolled in vocational training	-	270
	People reached with hygiene promotion	-	153,419
	Energy-saving stoves distributed	4,810	24,050
	Total beneficiaries		390,432

YEMEN

Recurrent crisis with displacement needs

Al Mazrak IDP Camp in Hajjah Governorate.
Yemen has since delved into a crisis that has led NRC to re-focus its country interventions on emergency response.
Photo: Nashon Tado/NRC



Deadly violence escalated in Yemen in 2014 with months of armed clashes. The Houthi armed militia over-ran the Sana'a capital taking over military and government establishments. The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance increased from 14.7 million to 15.9 million over the year with 10.6 million, or 41% being food insecure. 246 migrants died at sea in 2014 alone compared to a total 179 who drowned over the previous three years.

Abyan Governorate

480 households in Khanfar District acquired new transitional shelters while 416 households in Zinjibar District benefitted from rehabilitated shelters and a community information and recreational centre.

The programme provided livelihood training and seeds to 300 households in Abyan that rely on flood irrigation to grow crops. Each farmer received water, sweet melon, sorghum, groundnut and sesame seeds in quantities estimated to cover 2 acres each, projected to produce a combined total of 1,800 tonnes of water melon, 2,400 tonnes of sweet melon, 300 tonnes of sorghum, 150 tonnes of ground nut and 75 tonnes of red sesame, a significant contribution to the food production in the district.

15 wells used for irrigation were repaired and rehabilitated. 10 water tanks, each holding 5,000 litres, were distributed to farmers in Khanfar District to support irrigation activities. Three solar powered water pumping machines equipped with drip irrigation facility were installed to boost sustainable agricultural production.

800 households in Khanfar and Zinjibar districts benefitted from cash transfers, livelihood grants and nutrition awareness campaigns. 2,950 people received cash-for-work in rehabilitating 14,070 acres of land owned by 2,765 farmers.

NRC enhanced access to veterinary services by training and providing start-up support to 25 community animal health workers. 1 veterinary clinic was re-established. In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Department, 3,200 livestock keepers were trained on improved animal husbandry. NRC constructed one fish landing site serving 1,000 fishermen and rehabilitated a fish market.

Residents of Emgibla, Sehan, Saken Waees and Alhabeel villages benefitted from rehabilitated wells providing clean drinking water. A broken sewerage system in Al Dergaig was rehabilitated, benefiting 1,100 families. 455 latrines were also constructed and 416 rehabilitated for returning IDPs in Abyan.

150 young learners in Abyan completed their vocational and life skills studies under the Youth Education Pack, aimed at facilitating their access to improved livelihoods and enhanced self-confidence.



Ayman Al Amer Hantoosh received 18,000 Yemeni Rials, an equivalent of 83.7 US Dollars for 10 days work. He opened a vegetable shop and succeeded in earning between 4,000 and 5,000 Yemeni Rials per week. Before that he did not have any source of income and was highly indebted as he had to borrow food and other basics needs to sustain his family.

Amran and Hajja Governorates

420 households in Harradh benefitted from shelter including one community centre. 100 households in Amran conflict zones benefitted from shelter rehabilitation.

Under an agreement with local organisation Al Amal, 50 latrines were constructed in Harradh. 400 hygiene and sanitation kits were procured for distribution and 7 hygiene promotion campaigns were conducted, reaching a total of 771 people.

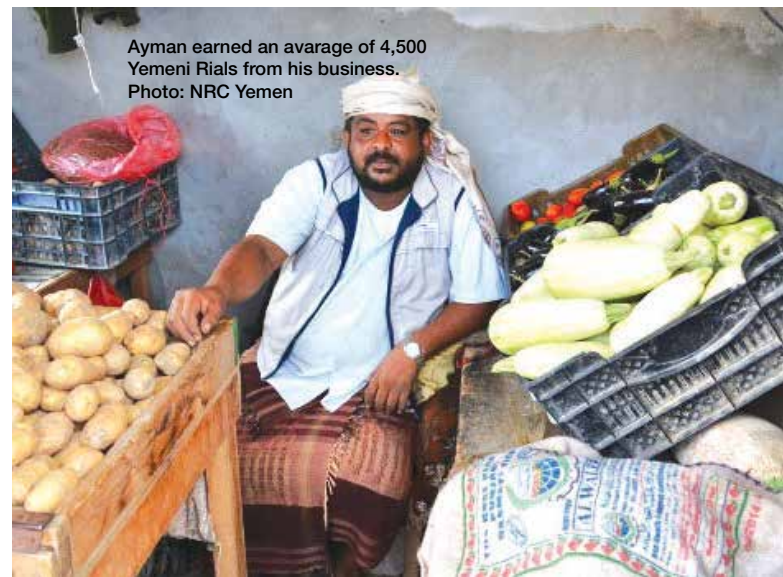
Conditional and unconditional cash transfers were conducted, each initiative benefitting 300 households in Hajjah Governorate, together with nutrition awareness sessions. 500 households benefited from livelihood training and received livelihood start-up grants. 5 wells, 3 classrooms, 6 road networks, 4 women centres and 4 environmental clean-up campaigns were completed under the cash-for-work project, involving 292 people. An economic empowerment centre for women was constructed in Harradh and 112 women trained in various incomes generation activities. 150 youths in Harradh completed vocational and practical life skills courses under the YEP programme.

Yemen operational outputs 2014

Location	Operational Details	Items provided	People reached
Amran, Hajja & Abyan	Shelters for families	1,010	5,856
	Latrines constructed	627	6,270
	Hygiene and sanitation kits distributed	690	4,140
	People reached with hygiene promotion	-	7,345
	Learners enrolled in NRC-supported schools	-	597
	People reached with nutrition and livelihood assistance	-	9,456
	Total beneficiaries		



300 learners completed vocational studies in Yemen.
Photo: NRC Yemen



Ayman earned an average of 4,500 Yemeni Rials from his business.
Photo: NRC Yemen

DJIBOUTI

Shelter provision for refugees

Hybrid Shelters in Ali Addeh Refugee Camp in Djibouti
Photo: Kadr Hussein/NRC



Characterised as a haven of peace and a quiet host to refugees for many years, Djibouti's refugee crisis is among the humanitarian situations in Africa that unjustifiably continues to receive little attention. NRC has provided relief assistance to refugees in Djibouti since March 2013, following a 2012 multi-stakeholder assessment that exposed significant humanitarian challenges affecting refugees in Ali Addeh and Holl-holl.

Ali Addeh and Holl-holl

Being the sole agency implementing shelter construction in the refugee camps of Ali Addeh and Holl-holl, NRC established 210 hybrid shelters, each with its own latrine in addition to 10 communal latrines. The refugees received plastic sheeting, hygiene kits, solar lamps, sanitation tool kits and non-food items.

NRC Secretary General, Jan Egeland visited Djiboutian refugee camps as part of a regional and global advocacy campaign to mobilise international support. In total, 9,951 refugees and asylum seekers received assistance in Djibouti. Since the start of the NRC programme in Djibouti, the transformation in terms of improved infrastructure as well as optimism is significantly tangible. In consultation with UNHCR, NRC initiated discussions with the Ali Sabieh Municipality and Ministry of Interior Affairs on prospects of issuing title deeds to refugees.

Djibouti operational outputs 2014

Location	Operational Details	Items provided	People reached
Ali Addeh & Holl-holl	Latrines constructed	189	1,850
	Shelter for families	255	1,530
	Shelter kits distributed	550	3,757
	Non-food item kits distributed	220	1,320
	People reached with hygiene kits	-	1,494
	Total beneficiaries		

**Beneficiaries are registered according to the different services received; those who received assistance in more than one sector have been counted twice e.g. shelter and education*

ERITREA

Solar energy for education

The Solar Energy Project in Eritrea benefited 8,000 students.
Photo: NRC



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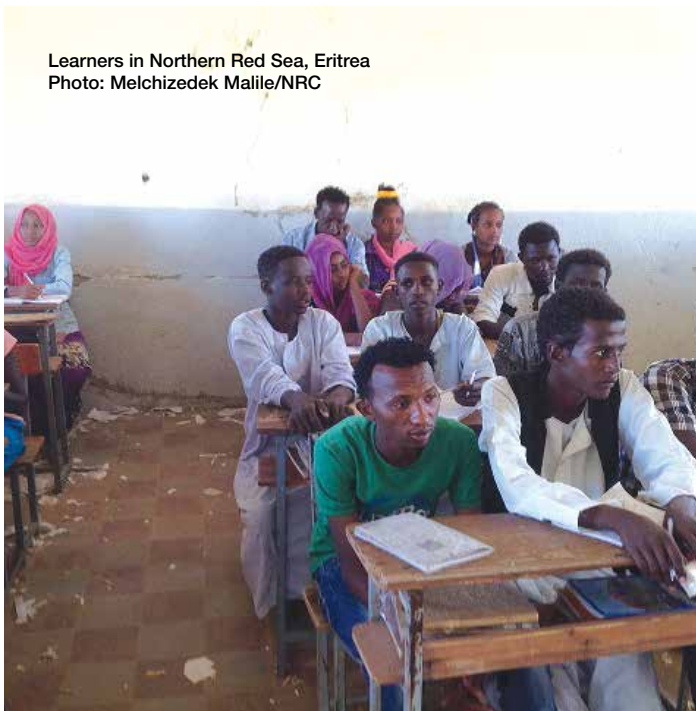
NRC

Poverty, famine, cycles of droughts and the 3-year armed struggle for independence from neighbouring Ethiopia, have had a combined negative effect on livelihoods of the Eritrean population. In addition, geographical remoteness, a harsh environment in the mountainous highlands and high temperatures have aggravated the living conditions for many young boys and girls who have had to walk for more than 4 hours every day to access education facilities.

NRC partnered with Eritrean Ministry of Education to provide solar power for 6 schools in areas of return and regions (zobas) with accessibility challenges namely, Anseba, Gash Barka, Northern Red Sea and Southern. The project benefited 8,000 school boys and girls in addition to 350 teachers. The assisted schools were Asmat, Kudobou, Mogaroib, Nakfa, Quantit and Tsororona.

This was a shared project between the NRC and the Ministry of education. The Ministry of Education provided computers and official authorisation to access sites and use the available infrastructures while NRC procured the solar energy components such as solar panels, inverters, chargers and other accessories to set up 10KV photo voltaic solar system for ICT departments and lighting in all the targeted schools. NRC also trained care and maintenance technicians from each school and one from the Education Ministry in Asmara.

Learners in Northern Red Sea, Eritrea
Photo: Melchizedek Maille/NRC



SOUTH SUDAN

A large-scale humanitarian crisis



Aerial Food drops in South Sudan
Photo: NORCAP



Displaced South Sudanese women queuing for food
Photo: Christian Jepsen

South Sudan was the epicentre of violence in 2014 as political fall-out between President Salva Kiir and former deputy Riek Machar triggered conflict across the country resulting in the deaths of tens of thousands and displacing more than 1.5 million people internally and over 600,000 to neighbouring countries.

The warring parties continued to confront each other often violating ceasefire for hostilities and orchestrating attacks in various strategic areas especially in Bentiu, Nassir and Malakal. The mediation process progressed in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia throughout the year but with very minimum, insignificant gains.

Central Equatoria State

NRC supported ALP centres managed by the Ministry of Education in Central Equatorial and provided teaching and learning materials and trainings to teachers and inspectors. There was a gradual continuation of the Intensive English Course aimed at teaching English for Arabic pattern teachers as well as methodology and life skills. The Youth Education Pack offered literacy, numeracy, life skill and vocational training to more than 1,500 vulnerable, displaced youths from the Juba Protection of Civilians areas and other surrounding camps.

232 people received training in Collaborative Dispute Resolution (CDR) mechanisms. 150 individuals were identified and registered under an ICLA project addressing statelessness aimed at enhancing protection of vulnerable persons.

NRC constructed a total of 4,207 shelters in Protected of Civilian (PoC) locations in Juba, benefitting more than 25,000 internally displaced persons. With support from other humanitarian partners, NRC successfully relocated all the IDPs from Tongping to PoC3 site and distributed solar lamps to 3,700 households.

Northern Bahr El Ghazal State

Dry season vegetable production activities were carried out including the distribution of vegetable seeds and hand tools to 400 households. Trainings in preparation of seedling nursery and transplanting were conducted. Training on post-harvest management was conducted for 400 farmers following the harvest of sorghum and groundnuts. The training achieved improved handling of farm produce, reducing post-harvest loss and damage and resulting in increased food security for households. A mainstreaming programme on Housing, Land and Property was established in Bahr El Ghazal State.

Warrap State

Cash grants were distributed to 40 groups of farmers across Twic, Gogrial West and Agok in Abyei, benefitting a total of

1,000 households, under the livelihoods project, enabling farmers to buy farming inputs directly from local traders.

Training sessions in seedling nursery preparation and transplanting were conducted for 1,000 farmers, taking advantage of available flood water in some of the project locations. 100 women were among those targeted in the 40 groups that received grants to support income-generating activities such as trading, loaning schemes and operating restaurants.

NRC is a member of South Sudan Rural Development Programme (SORUDEV), funded by the European Union and aims at increasing agricultural production and income of smallholder farmers in Western Bahr El Ghazal, Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Warrap and Lakes States.

Under SORUDEV programme, NRC partnered with Food and Agriculture Organisation to train government extension workers, implementing partners and staff under the Farmer Field School (FFS) initiative. By the end of the year, 46 farmers' groups had established village savings and loaning associations.

NRC rehabilitated water points operated by hand pumps, serving seven schools in Twic County. Response committees were established and trained to manage the water points together with hygiene training in 5 schools benefiting a total number of 2,786 students.

Education programme prioritised provision of alternative education and youth education to returnee children and youth where 6,395 children and youth were supported.

Unity State

Unity State was the worst hit by the conflict as violence against civilians intensified. Populations in Leer County spent months living in the wild as the county remained the centre of armed confrontation. A field office was opened in Leer County to facilitate programme support in education, food security and shelter. The political mood in the area remained a matter of concern, this being largely an opposition zone. By the end of the year, NRC had supported 61,104 people with emergency shelters and NFIs in Unity State.

NRC's Food Security Rapid Response team conducted verification of beneficiaries and distributed a total of 166.18 metric tonnes, 15-day ration of food to 18,069 beneficiaries and Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) for 3,433 children in Boaw, Unity State.

Jonglei State

As the year progressed, there were increased numbers of returnees witnessed from Awerial Mingkaman in Lakes State as a result of relative calm in Bor County, in Jonglei State. 1,500 households received emergency shelters. Construction materials for temporary learning spaces and learning materials were initially stored at Bor town to facilitate transportation to flood-affected areas in Duk and Twic East Counties.

The education programme reached 34 schools in Twic East and Duk counties with emergency education activities benefiting 8,420 war-affected children. NRC constructed 20 temporary classrooms in 5 schools and trained 114 teachers and curriculum administrators.

A campaign dubbed "Go Back to School" was conducted in schools and villages where campaigners used motorbikes and other forms of local transport to access project schools and communities. Through concerted efforts 3,968 children were reached with emergency education. A total of 1,486 community members and 36 education facilitators were mobilised and trained in psychosocial and life skills, to support 11 schools that had been re-opened.

1,200 households received fishing equipment and training in fish handling and small-scale business skills. The fishers groups forged links with local hotels in Mingkaman and Bor market to sell their fish collectively, increasing their bargaining power and leading to a subsequent increase in household incomes.

Lakes State

NRC was the Shelter and NFI cluster lead in Awerial County. At the start of displacement, NRC provided 33,239 displaced people with standard NFI kits and 70,463 people with acute emergency shelter kits. During the second phase, NRC constructed 7,377 emergency shelters in 3 sites identified and approved by the Government of South Sudan, giving shelter to 36,885 vulnerable people.

The ICLA programme expanded its operational coverage to Awerial County to assist IDPs and returnees in accessing their rights and to secure durable solutions.

652 elevated latrines (44 for schools) were constructed and 75 latrines repaired in Awerial County. The repair work involved replacing torn plastic sheeting with new ones, repairing broken doors and backfilling eroded sections around the latrines.



The South Sudan violence displaced more than 2 million people from their homes.
Photo: Christian Jepsen

Hygiene promoters conducted house-to-house visits, focus group discussions, soap distribution and garbage collection. Households in Awerial County received repair materials for 598 shelters destroyed by heavy downpour. Dispute resolution committees were established to ensure that humanitarian assistance to IDPs was not affected by disagreements between farmers and pastoralists.

Upper Nile State

NRC's Food Security Rapid Response mobile teams conducted general food distributions in Mading, giving out food to 8,000 adult beneficiaries and conducting BSFP for 1,800 children under the age of five. 12,853 beneficiaries received 223.166 metric tonnes of food and 2,772 children received Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme support in Wathjack location.

South Sudan Operational outputs 2014

Location	Operational Details	Items provided	People reached
Jonglei, Upper Nile, Unity, Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Central Equatoria, Warrap, Lakes	Shelter for families	7,867	111,500
	Latrines constructed	360	3,600
	People reached with hygiene promotion	-	28,924
	Learners enrolled in NRC-supported schools	-	37,470
	People reached with emergency food rations	-	148,749
	People reached with ICLA	-	20,455
	Total beneficiaries		

ETHIOPIA

Rapid response and durable solutions

2,365 learners enrolled in NRC
supported schools in Dollo Ado, Ethiopia
Photo: Artistgalla



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Ethiopia hosts the highest number of refugees in Africa with an estimated population of 700,000 as of December 2014. The majority of these refugees are from South Sudan and Somalia. While offering refuge to displaced populations from neighbouring countries, Ethiopia is also grappling with internal displacement estimated at over 840,000 mainly in the Somali Regional State.

NRC started an urban refugee assistance programme in line with the Ethiopian Government's out-of-camp policy for Eritrean refugees. In total NRC assisted 286,936 people in Ethiopia through its programmes.

Dollo Ado Refugee Complex

NRC built 730 bamboo shelters in Hiloweyn and Kobe camps and an additional 20 pilot mud brick shelters. Skilled and unskilled labour training on construction of shelters was provided to refugees and host communities.

NRC became the lead agency in sanitation and hygiene programming. 36 community-led committees were trained on sanitation and hygiene and took up the role of maintaining tap stands. Door-to-door hygiene promotion campaigns were conducted reaching 6,000 households. More than 40,000 people were reached by the mass campaigns.

The food security small business initiative support project expanded to Hiloweyn and supported 33 cooperatives with cash grants. Community based planning workshops were conducted for organised socio-economic groups. NRC supported irrigation and farming on arable lands along River Genale giving hope to refugees and host communities from Somali Region. The project aimed at strengthening regional resilience to food security. The first harvests under this initiative are expected in early 2015.

1,680 learners enrolled in Alternative Basic Education programme. They planted 550 tree seedlings as part of the environmental conservation component of ABE. Under the Youth Education Programme (YEP), 83 learners from Hiloweyn, Kobe and Melkadida successfully completed one year of vocational studies. Young people who had completed training back in 2013 were actively involved in income generating activities, were employed as support workers or had accessed learning-on-the-job opportunities. NRC worked closely with all market players to secure business contracts for the graduates. Six co-operatives run by YEP graduates were awarded a contract to sew uniforms for 3,000 learners.



Grain Winnowing in Leitchour, Gambella
Photo: Nashon Tado/NRC



NRC Constructed 450 transitional shelters in Benishangul-Gumuz.
Photo: Emebet Abtissa/NRC

Benishangul-Gumuz Region

450 transitional shelters were constructed, providing physical protection to 2,700 refugees and host community households. NRC led in the construction of a reception centre at Kushmegene where over 500 refugees had crossed the border from South Sudan. The centre is used for registration, as a feeding area and as an administration point.

97 learners completed courses on furniture and general construction, and received start-up kits. 165 ALP learners joined formal education and 300 girls pursuing ALP studies in Sherkole and Bambassi received sanitary kits. NRC built classrooms, offices, workshops and educational centres in Ashura, Bambassi and Tongo to support the emergency education project. A partnership with Benishangul Gumuz State Education Bureau provided training opportunity for primary school teachers.

1,371 households were involved in backyard gardening, including households from the host communities. 355 refugees received training in small business management practices and went on to engage in entrepreneurial activities.

Jigjiga Region

A new NRC office was established in Jigjiga to respond to the ever increasing IDP challenge in the Somali Region State. In its first intervention, 599 households in Kubi and Mayomuluko Woredas of Nogob Zone received 3,400 goats and sheep. 175 households benefited from income generating activities and 100 households received agricultural inputs and tools.

Tigray Region

The NRC Shire programme is striving to improve the quality of life of the Eritrean refugees and asylum seekers through the provision of durable solutions and an opportunity to live their lives with dignity. 7,095 refugees benefited directly from NRC's interventions in 2014.

Access to education for youth, provision of child protection support, permanent shelters and hygiene and sanitation facilities were NRC's key areas of support in the three refugee camps in Shire. A total of 1,000 YEP learners attended trainings conducted in the 3 YEP Centres, 49% being female. 30% of the learners were from the host community. NRC constructed two blocks of 6 classrooms, 2 offices, 2 extended workshops, a warehouse and 2 blocks of toilets.

NRC constructed 487 permanent shelters made of blocks and concrete and 235 temporary shelters made of tents and plastic sheeting. Out of these, 186 shelters were built specifically for unaccompanied children living in Mai Aini and Hitsats camps.

Rehabilitation of 116 shelters in the Mai Aini camp initially constructed by other agencies was completed by NRC and handed over to beneficiaries. Shelter maintenance for host community members around Adi Harush camp was completed for 30 households. In total, NRC provided shelter for 3,856 refugees, with female beneficiaries comprising 35% of the total.

The child protection programme is aimed at ensuring a protective environment for all children-at-risk, especially unaccompanied and separated children, victims of trafficking or sexual violence, children with disabilities, and other special needs. 742 unaccompanied and separated children in Adi Harush and Hitsats refugee camps received shelter support, food and non-food items. NRC also referred more than 300 children to specialised service centres and identified vulnerable children requiring psychosocial support.

Gambella Region

The Gambella humanitarian response was the biggest operation in Ethiopia in 2014, and the biggest emergency response for NRC in the Horn of Africa. The crisis was triggered by the outbreak of conflict in South Sudan on 15 December 2013. Previously, NRC operated 2 camps in Pugnido and Okugo with an estimated population of 50,000. Three new camps were created in 2014 for 192,000 refugees, with an average daily arrival of 850 people.



Photo: Emebet Abdissa/NRC

Floods swept across Leitchour and Nip Nip refugee camps cutting them off from road access to Gambella for several months. Humanitarian actors were forced to relocate thousands of refugees from the camps and rely on slow, river travel or helicopter flights for transport. Key entry points such as Burbiey and Akobo were also affected by floods and were often inaccessible, while river transport of arrivals from Akobo to camps was affected by low water levels during the dry season.

Before the Lietchuor flooding, 2,900 transitional shelters had been constructed to superstructure level, 2,001 tents erected and 9,250 emergency frames distributed. 134 transitional shelters and 3,000 emergency frames and 3 hangars had been constructed in Nip Nip.

In Terkidi camp, 2,500 transitional shelters were constructed. Of these 1,341 shelters were thatched using local materials, while the remaining shelters were covered with plastic sheeting. In addition, 2,394 tents were erected and 4,005 emergency frames distributed.

A total of 2,000 transitional shelters in Kule camp were constructed and covered with plastic sheets. 7,826 tents were pitched and occupied by refugees. In Okugo, 408 transitional shelters were constructed and mud plastering by beneficiaries was ongoing. 6 out of 13 hangars for the refugees to be moved to Okugo were completed. 532 tents were pitched ready for occupation. NRC cleared and demarcated 87 sites out of the planned 160 sites.

A total of 834 family latrines were constructed. Of these, 44 were in Terikidi, 416 in Kule, 159 in Okugo and 215 in Lietchuor. In addition, 770 communal latrines were constructed, 645 in Tierkidi, 16 in Lietchuor, 48 in Pamdong, 42 in Pagak and 19 in Okugo.

In total, 166,319 refugees were supported in Gambella through the NRC activities.

Ethiopia operational outputs

Location	Operational Details	Items provided	People reached
Assosa	Learners enrolled in NRC-supported schools	-	11,731
	Beneficiaries of livelihood assistance	-	4,294
	Shelters for families	450	1,856
	Educational professionals trained	-	1,267
Dolo Ado	Shelters for families	750	2,032
	People reached with sanitation and hygiene	-	85,032
	People reached with livelihood assistance	-	1,500
Shire	Students enrolled in NRC-supported schools	-	2,365
	Shelters for families	135	5,128
	Students enrolled in NRC-supported schools	-	921
Gambella	People reached with child protection assistance	-	1,046
	Shelters for families	10,366	107,104
	Latrines construction	1,606	16,060
	Hygiene promotion	-	39,115
	Emergency education	-	3,040
Jigjiga	Beneficiaries of nutrition and livelihood assistance	-	1,000
	People reached with livelihoods and IG assistance	-	3,445
	Total beneficiaries	-	286,936

People's Voices



Djibouti

"It takes courage to become a refugee"

Aboubakor is a 28 year old mother of four children. After her husband was killed, she continued receiving death threats and intimidating messages from militia groups, and she feared that the same fate that befell her husband would happen to her, leaving her children orphaned and destitute.

"For safety reasons, we fled from Mogadishu abandoning our home, small business and the life that we had been used to. A long and perilous journey ensued, taking us across South Central Somalia, Somaliland and all the way to Ali Addeh refugee camp. We first went through Loyade transit point where we were registered and transferred to Ali Addeh. The following day, we were visited by a team of NRC aid workers who came to our home and witnessed our situation", she narrates.

When Aboubakor arrived, she had nothing else besides a bag of clothes. She looked disturbed and confused, desperate for assistance. But one year later, she no longer looks unsettled and can afford to smile. Living in Section 5 of Ali Addeh refugee camp, she has acquired a sheep and plans to rear some chicken.

"Unlike some of my friends, I have resisted the temptation to embark on the perilous journey to Yemen and Saudi Arabia which has resulted in deaths and destitution for many migrants", she says. Together with her four year old daughter, she has completed training on hygiene promotion provided by NRC. She was also among the 205 female-headed households identified for shelter support.

"I have continued to receive different kinds of assistance from NRC since my arrival at Ali Addeh one year ago in 2013. However, the most significant kind of humanitarian assistance has been the hope and optimism that has constantly been restored even during difficult times. This has enabled me and my children to withstand challenges and wake up every day filled with new energy and inspiration. It takes courage to become a refugee, and in the end I have recovered my smile away from the anguish of terrorism and brutality", she says.

Training Turkana community members on use of solar safe water jerricans. Photo: Evelina Ronnback



Kenya

Safe water for host communities

It is common knowledge that boiling can make water safe to drink. But it is not widely known that ultra-violet light from the sun also kills micro-organisms. A new partnership between NRC and Solvatten Foundation is providing solar technology that provides simple, eco-friendly water heating solutions for households in Turkana County of Kenya.

Esther Lowoi, a mother of two children, is a member of the Legio Maria host community in Kakuma and one of the beneficiaries of the solar safe water technological initiative. "The new technology has significantly improved the lives of the community members using it, reducing reliance on firewood, affording more time for income-generation and making it easier for families to cope with domestic duties", she says.

"The Solar Safe Water jerrican helps me to prepare tea for my children, as well as warming water for bathing and doing the laundry. It has transformed my household conditions and now I do not rely on firewood as much as I used to", she adds.

Solvatten is an award-winning technology and is typically used in situations where water resources are scarce and prone to contamination.

It enables children and their families living without access to safe water a means to treating their water, in a user-friendly and affordable way. NRC has been distributing Solvatten water kits to the target population of 9,000 households living in Kambi America, Nanyanaemeyan, Lopur, Leteya, Nadapal

and Lokangae and plans to reach more villages in 2015. The provision of Solvatten water kits in Kakuma has been made possible by a donation from the Erling Persson's Family Foundation.

'Digital' youth embracing technology in education

Sucado Farah, a 21 year old female refugee from Somalia is among the new crop of young Dadaab refugees who have taken interest in information, communication and technology, and have been nicknamed 'the digital generation' due to their ability to quickly internalise the ICT concept.

"I am pursuing computerised secretarial courses in Hagadera at the Dadaab refugee complex. The skills acquired have transformed me by enhancing self-confidence, respect and dignity in my life. I have become much more competent than before in terms of computer literacy. I believe that with my acquired ICT skills, I am in a better position to help my people and rebuild my country besides helping my family", she says.

Computerised secretarial skills are making it possible for trained youths or graduates to start and manage businesses, offering typing, printing, scanning, photo printing and cybercafé services to the people living in the camps. With plans for voluntary repatriation on course, many young refugees are taking up ICT courses through the NRC YEP programme, with the hope of utilising the skills and generate income, when they are back home.



Lahem plans to expand his electronic service shop to offer services to more people.
Photo: Nashon Tado/NRC



Farhiya attending to her customers in Burao.
Photo: Nashon Tado/NRC

Yemen

Training yields new opportunities

Lahem Ali is one of the NRC Youth Education Pack (YEP) programme beneficiaries from Abyan, Yemen who completed training in mobile and electronics maintenance course. He has opened a small shop next to his house where he repairs mobile phones for relatives and neighbours.

“Upon graduating, I received a start-up grant from NRC and together with a little sum of money from a family fund raising, I embarked on my new career as an electronics repairman. I plan to relocate to the market-place, expand my shop and offer services to more customers”, he says.

Before taking up vocational training, Lahem used to work as a casual labourer in the same market-place. This was a difficult time, filled with the uncertainty that a daily wage-related livelihood brings.

“I would wake up in the morning and head to the market with no guarantee of getting a job. If there was work, I would do it, if there was none, I would pray to Allah to give me strength and patience”, he says. The training has had a remarkable effect not only on his income, which has increased, but also on his levels of self-confidence and self-belief. He speaks positively about life and is willing to encourage young men and women to learn vocational skills.

The objective of YEP programme is to enhance protection of and access to livelihood opportunities for displaced youth, enabling them to become productive members of their communities. NRC has established one YEP centre in Harradh in the north and is running one in Abyan in the South to reach 300 IDPs, returnees and host community youth with various skills training.

Somalia

Former refugee supplies food in Burao

Farhiya is a returnee to Kosar in Burao from Ethiopia where she spent four years at Daror refugee camp. She had nothing but her traditional *buul* (hut) and had to rely on well-wishers for various forms of support. She used to receive food rations from humanitarian agencies but felt the need for a more stable and durable solution that would enable her to become self-reliant in terms of meeting her basic food needs.

“My curiosity about NRC’s work led me into taking up courses on livelihood and income generation where I gained vital skills in small business management. After completing the course, I received a start-up voucher valued at USD 200 which I used to buy household stocks at wholesale prices. I embarked on setting up a local store outside my house, and within a few days customers started to call on me for supplies.

Now my shop has expanded and I have also started rearing chicken at the back yard, producing eggs, and enabling me to feed my family as well as sell and earn an income”, she says.

The food security and livelihood programme in Somaliland assisted 7,279 people in 2014 targeting farmers, small and middle entrepreneurs, who benefitted from cash grants, fuel-efficient stoves, training and awareness-raising on nutrition, hygiene promotion and the environment.

“I embarked on setting up a local store outside my house, and within a few days customers started to call on me for supplies”.



Photo: NRC

“I make 10 South Sudanese Pounds, an equivalent of 3 US Dollars per bundle, earnings that I used to buy food for my family. Sometimes I have to walk for up to 5 hours to collect firewood”.

“The oldest of my seven children is 15 years old and helps in fetching water and taking care of the other children. My husband is away with another family (polygamy is common in South Sudan) and I have no family in Leer to support me. In order to earn money for food I collect firewood, straws and palm branches which I sell at the market. I make 10 South Sudanese Pounds, an equivalent of 3 US Dollars per bundle, earnings that I used to buy food for my family. Sometimes I have to walk for up to 5 hours to collect firewood. If I do not collect enough, or no one is willing to buy the firewood, my family has to skip a meal”, she says.

“Schools in Leer are currently not open, but I hope to be able to send my children to school in the future. However, hungry children make bad pupils and consequently the level of concentration in school is low”, she concludes.

NRC came to Leer County, Unity State and distributed emergency relief packages consisting of tarpaulins, blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen sets and soap to 7,000 households. For Nyaloth, this gives her the opportunity to build a new shelter for her family. As an added benefit, the relief package is light and can be carried if Nyaloth and her family decide to go back to their home town.



Nyaloth with her family in Leer South Sudan.
Photo: Ulrika Blom/NRC

South Sudan

“Hungry children make bad pupils”

The war in South Sudan forced hundreds of thousands to flee from their homes. In Leer, Unity State, two tanks stand as reminders of how hastily the troops fled; burned houses tell stories of looting and destruction. This is the story of Nyaloth, a mother of seven who is struggling to support her family.

“I came to Leer County in January 2014 after fighting broke out in my village, Pungiak. My house was burned, my family’s belongings looted and along with my seven children, I had to leave the village in search of a safe haven. We walked for two full days until we reached the town of Leer, which had been relatively peaceful. Like us, most of the people in Leer had sort refugee there, when the fighting intensified in their villages,” she narrates.

Nyaloth found shelter in a small shop whose owner had also fled into Leer because of the conflict. He allowed her to stay in his shop with two other families. This way, Nyaloth found a safety in Leer and wants to stay here until the fighting ends or the rainy season starts, whichever comes first, and she can return home. She cultivates maize and sorghum at home although heavy rains sometimes affect the crops.



Konkara (right) plans to enhance her computer skills with the hope of joining the best technical college in Eritrea.
Photo: Melchizedek Malile/NRC

Eritrea

“My dream is to become an electrical engineer”

Among the school going girls in Mogaroib Junior and Senior Boarding School in Gash barka Region of Eritrea who come from disadvantaged families is Konkara from Shakat. Konkara is from a minority ethnic group called Kunama and comes from a family of seven. She is currently in grade 10 and has been in the school for the last 3 years. She is the last born in her family and the only child who has had a chance of getting an education.

The only other person in her family who went to school was her brother who dropped in Grade 2 due to lack of motivation. Going to school has not only given Konkara the opportunity to pursue her education fully, but has also protected her from being married off at an early age.

“For the last 3 years we have learnt about electrical energy from theories. I am therefore excited about the solar power lighting system because it has given me an opportunity to have a first-hand experience”, says Konkara.

“I will now embark on enhancing my computer skills with the goal to better my life and chances of joining the best technical college in Eritrea. My dream is to become an electrical engineer specialising in electronics and to help my family rise from poverty. Eventually, I want to contribute to the development of my own country”, she concludes.

Innovation for durable solutions

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"Innovation is key to improving humanitarian efficiency" – Jan Egeland, NRC Secretary General

New ideas and innovations play a significant role in NRC's programming in the Horn of Africa region, linking humanitarian work with new economic and social dynamics, and providing the means to harness local resources for production.

Recycling plastic waste

A project on recycling plastic waste for industrial and domestic purposes is being supported by NRC at Hagadera in Dadaab refugee complex, Kenya. Waste materials collected from households and public spaces by residents and community workers are taken to a land-fill for grading. From here, the plastic is transferred to a processing machine that shreds it into granules which are compacted and packaged for selling to industrial companies in Nairobi.

The project was initially set up in 2012 by Care International and is currently managed on a daily basis by the Refugee Recycling Income Group (RRIG). The community-based organisation generates income from the sale of shredded and compacted plastic waste product earning an average of 15 Kenya Shillings (0.2 US Dollars) per kilogramme of the packaged product. NRC assists this group to find markets for the waste products. The project has contributed significantly to the reduction of plastic waste in Hagadera and beyond, improving the overall solid waste, hygiene and sanitation situation.

Biogas energy

In an exciting project in Assosa, Benishangul-Gumuz region of Ethiopia, NRC introduced biogas fuel as an alternative source of energy at Bambassi Refugee Camp. The technology involves use of human and animal waste products to generate gas which can burn as fuel product with sufficient capacity to cook food safely and effectively at household level. The goal of the project is to convert waste into energy and make sanitation a profitable investment.

Following the initial implementation of the pilot phase in May 2014, refugee populations in Assosa provided feedback on positive impact from the biogas technology, through reduced dependence on firewood for cooking, and women were able to save more time to attend to income-generating activities rather than going in search of firewood.

"This is likely to decrease demand by refugees for assistance from humanitarian agencies, making them more self-dependent. It has also improved the relationship between refugees and host community through business transactions" – Ahmednur Abdi, NRC Country Director for Ethiopia.

Solar energy for water provision

The solar-powered water distribution system was piloted in Dadaab refugee camp, Kenya in 2013. The transformative system is able to serve a population of 8,000 refugees in Hagadera through its large capacity solar-powered pump to produce an average of 160 cubic metres per day.

Cost assessments have proven that the system is able to fully repay its investment capital within an approximate 5-year period. Unlike diesel-operated boreholes, the solar technology accumulates an annual saving of USD 20,000. This means that NRC is able to invest its savings in other projects that require capital and maintenance, therefore reach more refugees with assistance.

Photo: Patrick Okello/NRC



Working with Partners

In 2014, NRC made progress in building and strengthening strategic partnerships with key allies such as the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to effectively respond to humanitarian challenges in the region. Several country programmes also developed consortia with international and local organisations.

Stand-by Rosters

NRC Expert Deployment Capacity, NORCAP strengthens the capacity of the international community to prevent and to respond to humanitarian challenges through the provision of expert personnel to national governments and international organisations. NORCAP is operated by the Norwegian Refugee Council and funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

77 experts were deployed to the region in 2014 (37 to South Sudan, 15 to Ethiopia, 15 to Somalia, 2 to Kenya, 6 to Yemen, and 2 to Uganda), where they supported protection, coordination and educational activities of UN and government agencies. A Kenyan engineer was deployed to Sierra Leone by NORCAP in response to the Ebola crisis.

Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

NRC has developed strong partnership with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) through a working formula agreement signed in February 2014, in the presence of the Executive Secretary of IGAD, H.E Eng. Mahboub Maalim and NRC Secretary General, Jan Egeland. NRC is currently working on a strategy to facilitate the actualisation of the partnership agreement.

Governments

Working closely with local and national governments enhances information sharing, as well as exchange of knowledge and skills. NRC witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Kenya and Somalia Governments, and is a member of the Durable Solutions working group focusing on returns of Somali refugees in Kenya. In Somalia, NRC is building capacity of government officers in the Ministry of Education under the 'Go-to-School' educational programme. In Ethiopia, NRC is working closely with the Government agency Administration of Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) in all programme locations.

Donors

NRC is proud to associate with all its donors and continues to maintain constructive working partnerships, leading to positive transformation in the lives of the most vulnerable people in the Horn of Africa, South Sudan and Yemen. In 2014, the main donors were the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA), European Commission Humanitarian affairs and Civil Protection (ECHO), United Kingdom Department for International Affairs (UKAID), Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR).



Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection



Safaricom Foundation's CEO
Mr. Bob Collimore visited NRC in Dadaab and
expressed interest in NRC's ICT programme.
Photo: Welldon Kinaro/NRC



Private Sector

NRC is keen to promote durable solutions by engaging strategic partners from the private sector. In Kenya, a partnership with UNHCR has enabled NRC to work closely with Safaricom Foundation, Microsoft and Hewlett-Packard to establish an information, communication and technology platform where learning is supported by a cloud system and teachers and learners are able to interact through a virtual environment. NRC is also constructively engaging private sector in other countries within the Horn of Africa and Yemen.

Financial Overview

The Horn of Africa, South Sudan, Uganda and Yemen programme secured a total funding of 98 million US Dollars in 2014, from 66 million in 2013 and funding spent was 97.97 million US Dollars.

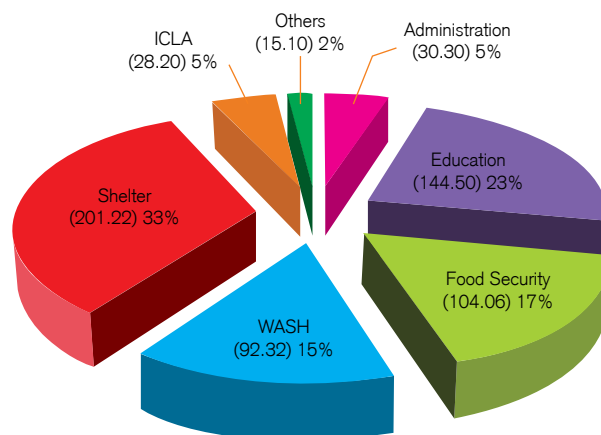
NRC rolled out a number of finance tools including electronic budgeting and proposal overview (eBPO), and provided finance and donor regulation training to staff in the field and the regional office. To enhance efficiency, NRC introduced online daily posting of costs, conducted internal audit in Ethiopia, and revised NRC finance manuals to make them updated for the latest developments within the countries of concern as well as changes in donor regulations.

In 2015, NRC will further improve financial management tools by developing new electronic budgeting and electronic master budget tool that will make budgeting, reporting and budget management much easier and less time consuming.

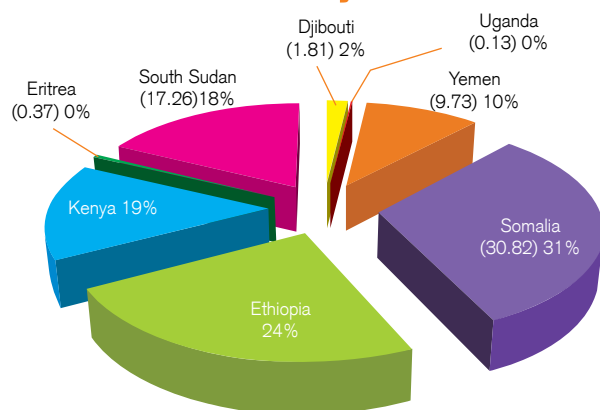
Funding (in million USD)

Country	2013	2014
Somalia	33.64	30.82
Kenya	12.38	14.60
Ethiopia	12.78	23.65
Yemen	6.80	9.73
Djibouti	0.77	1.81
South Sudan	-	17.26
Eritrea	-	0.37
Total	66.37	98.37

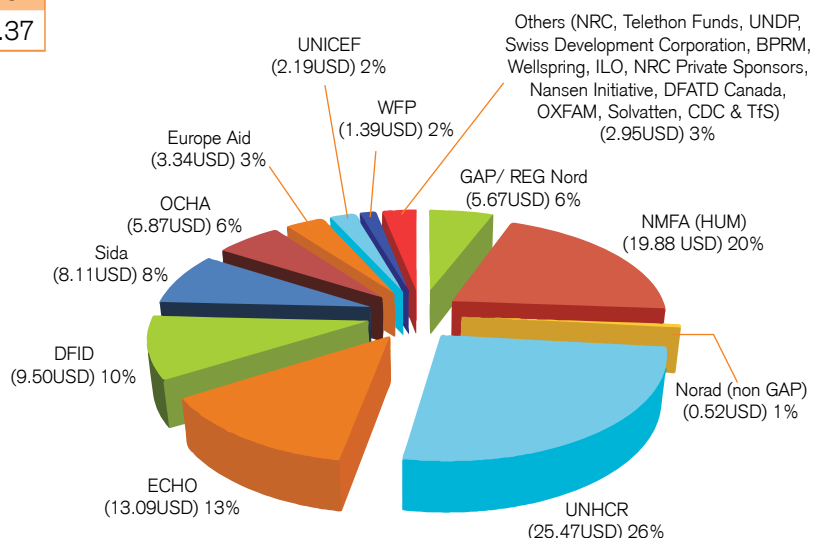
Core Competencies



Country

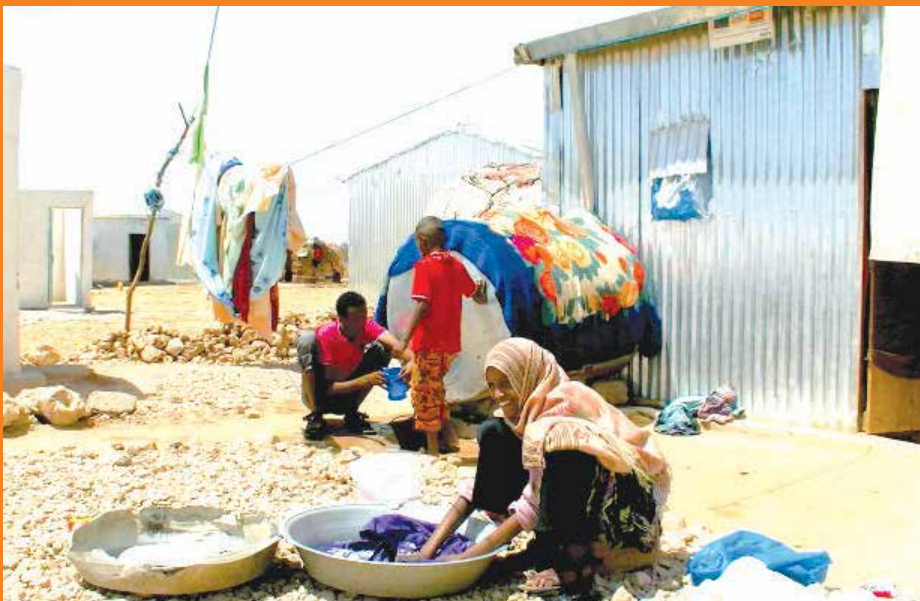


Donors





More than 3,000 women, men and children received shelter support from NRC in Dollo Ado, Ethiopia
Photo: Artistgalla



NRC NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL

Lavington Green, ElMolo Drive,
Off James Gichuru Road
P.O. Box 21211- 00100
Tel: +254 020 434 8246
Mobile: 0716 430 333, 0735 501 450
Fax: +254 020 434 8250
Facebook: NRC Horn of Africa & Yemen
Website: www.nrc.no