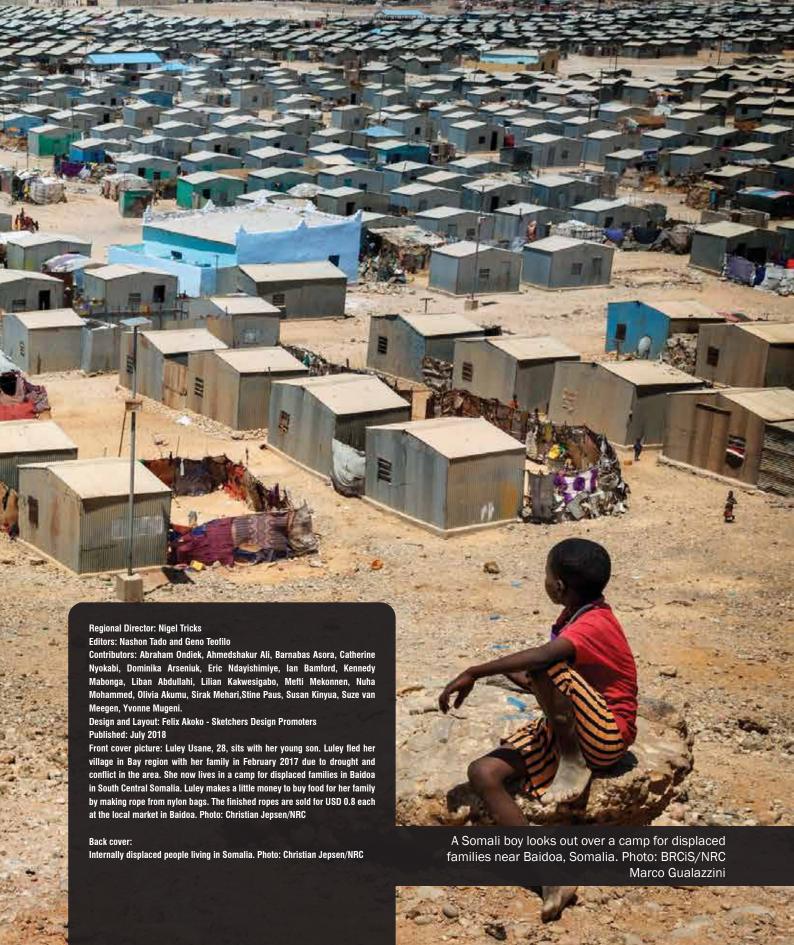


CONTENT

1. About Norwegian Refugee Council	
2. Regional Director's Message	
3. East Africa and Yemen: Operational Output 2017	
4. SOMALIA	5
Emergency response, resilience-building and durable solutions programming	5
Livelihoods and Food Security	5
Shelter	6
Information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA)	6
Water, sanitation and hygiene	6
Education	6
A leader and partner in durable solutions programming	
Surviving drought with few farming techniques	
5. KENYA	9
Supporting new arrivals and voluntary repatriation	9
Education	9
Information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA)	10
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	10
Food security and Livelihoods	10
Learning a new skill despite disability	11
6. SOUTH SUDAN	12
	12
Water, sanitation and hygiene	
Education	12
Information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA)	12
Shelter	13
Food security and livelihoods	13
7. YEMEN	14
Standing with humanity in a country ruined by war	14
Food security and livelihoods	15
Water, sanitation and hygiene	15
Education	15
8. UGANDA	16
Emergency response to a growing number of refugees	16
Education	16
Water, sanitation and hygiene	16
Shelter	17
Food security and livelihoods	17
Information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA)	17
9. ETHIOPIA	18
A safe haven in time of challenges	18
Shelter	18
	18
Education	
Food security and livelihoods	19
Water, sanitation and hygiene	19
Information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA)	19
Child protection	19
Spotlight on urban refugee programming	19
10. ERITREA	20
Building skills for self-reliance among the youth	20
Education	20
11. DJIBOUTI	21
Hope for refugees and asylum seekers	21
Water, sanitation and hygiene	21
Shelter Shelte	21
Education	22
12. TANZANIA	23
Protection from political persecution and insecure environments	23
Water, sanitation and hygiene	23
Shelter	23
Education	23
Camp coordination and camp management	23
A new beginning and a new school	24
12. PARTNERSHIPS	25
13. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW	27
14. PUBLICATIONS	30



ABOUT NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL

East Africa and Yemen Region
The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is an independent, humanitarian non-governmental organization providing 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, EAST AFRICA AND YEMEN

Provide a greater number of vulnerable people in hard-to-reach areas with access to humanitarian assistance, helping them to become resilient and achieve durable solutions to mitigate future disasters.

NRC CORE COMPETENCIES

We operate through six specialised programme areas, referred to as core competencies, which inform our activities. These include Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Livelihood and Food Security, Shelter, Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA), Education and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM).

The success of our programme delivery is supported by Monitoring and Evaluation, Advocacy, Communication, Finance, Logistics and Human Resources. Protection is mainstreamed across all programmes.

FORWARD FROM THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Dear Friends, Colleagues and Partners,

This past year, the East Africa region and Yemen experienced several crises at once, with massive numbers of people forced to flee their homes. Climate patterns in the region are increasingly erratic, and recurring drought in Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia brought a devastating food crisis that forced millions of people to leave their communities in search of water and food. Conflict drove the crises in Yemen and South Sudan, leading to drastic rises in malnutrition and cholera in both countries. These crises are intolerable, and they drive NRC and our partners to continue our life saving work.

NRC's vision of 'Rights respected, people protected' mandates us to continue to speak out against actions that put people's lives at risk. People surviving in conflict zones have rights, and should be protected from deadly conflict, forced evictions, and blockades that prevent food and medical supplies from reaching them. Despite these many challenges, our dedicated staff have worked overtime to bring aid or support to over three million people in the region last year.

In Somalia our scale up in programmes with other agencies, including emergency cash relief to families, helped to prevent a famine. Our resilience programmes enabled many communities to survive the drought crisis, and will lessen the threat of climate shocks in the future.

In Yemen the civil war has seen many innocent lives destroyed and countless civilians fleeing in fear from bombardment and cholera. Despite the challenges of blockades and restrictions on aid access, our teams were able to negotiate safe passage for aid deliveries, and provided shelter support to survivors who had lost their homes.

In South Sudan our rapid response teams, working with our partners provided life-saving food deliveries to people that had fled the violence and food crisis. Our staff travel by all available means, be it car, boat, helicopter or plane, to distribute emergency aid to families living in remote locations.

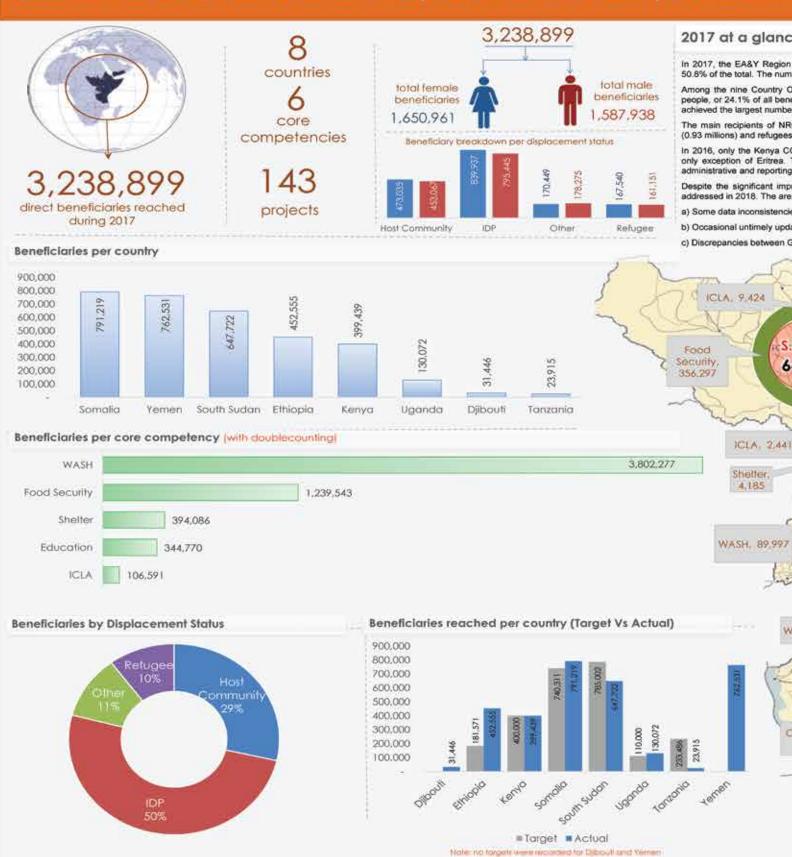
In Djibouti, we took an active role to support government efforts to promote durable solutions through local integration of displaced people.

I sincerely hope that 2018 will see a reduction in conflict in East Africa and Yemen, and that there will be more support and tolerance for refugees and displaced families. Focused efforts this year by governments in the region and the wider international community will be required in East Africa and Yemen to reduce conflict, maintain assistance for people at risk, and prevent thousands of people from being pushed back over the edge. To those countries and peoples who have done so much to host millions of refugees across the region, we extend our gratitude.

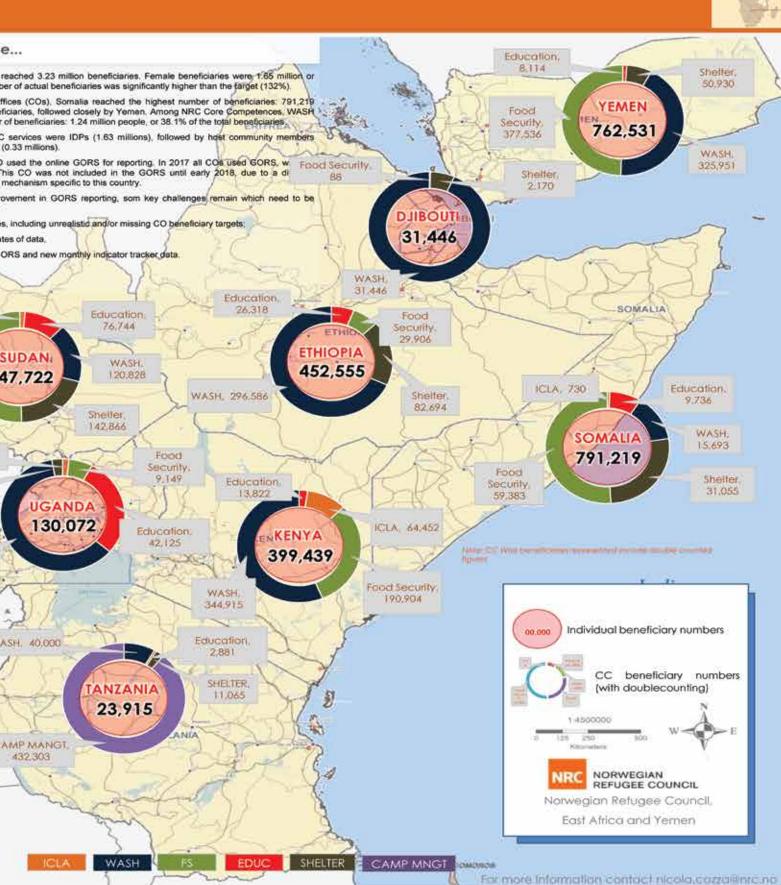
I would like to thanks all our partners including our donors, government institutions, humanitarian agencies, academia and research institutions, the private sector and individuals who have contributed towards our mission. You have helped us to save and improve lives, and we thank you for your continued support.

Nigel Tricks
Regional Director
Norwegian Refugee Council, East Africa and Yemen

East Africa and Yemen: Operational Output 2017







SOMALIA

Emergency response, resilience-building and durable solutions programming.

The drought crisis as well as ongoing conflict in Somalia increased the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance to surpass 5 million. Those affected represented 40 percent of the total Somalia population. Concerted efforts by multiple agencies scaled up the emergency response that in turn averted a looming famine. Somalia was in a pre-famine status for more than 9 months.

By the end of 2017, over 3.1 million people remained in crisis and emergency dispositions, and a total of 6.7 million people needed food aid. 1.1 million people remained internally displaced due to drought with the majority of those affected being women and children. Affected families lived in deplorable shelters or joined existing camps for displaced people across the country. NRC distributed targeted emergency shelter kits to more than 25,000 drought-affected households during the year. UNHCR estimates that 90,000 refugees returned to Somalia from neighboring countries. NRC supported more than 30,000 of these through return, reintegration and resilience building support in multiple return locations in the country.

Our programmes provided a combination of life-saving assistance or vital support services, resilience building and durable solutions support across Somalia in 2017 aiding a total of 791,219 people. Among them, 268,740 benefited from food assistance, 193,092 from shelter support, 22,219 from information, counselling and legal assistance, 267,183 through water, sanitation and hygiene and 34,627 people from education support. NRC took an active role in the introduction of Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) and roll out of coordinated responses in Somalia.

NRC progressively enhanced advocacy initiatives with special focus on forced eviction and harmonised cash support to drought affected. On evictions we ensured that messaging was in tandem with direct basic service support to affected households. 4700 households received integrated, multi sectoral post and pre-eviction support in Mogadishu, Baidoa, Kismayu and Galkayo. On harmonised cash support, our advocacy efforts at the donor and cluster coordination level led to the adoption of regional harmonised cash transfers by the cash working group.

Livelihoods and Food Security

Our cash-based activities reached 274,679 people through conditional and unconditional cash transfers.



Hodosalat walks with her son Zacharia towards their shelter in a camp for internally displaced people in Somaliland. She lost all her goats and camels during the 2017 drought. Photo: Adrienne Surprenant/NRC

Our approach included income-generation activities, agriculture and livestock support, training people on improved food production techniques, processing skills and non-food technical skills. We specifically supported solar-driven drip irrigation schemes, vegetable oil and honey value chains in selected production areas. Conditional cash transfer beneficiaries gained practical skills from training related to small-scale business and environmental conservation awareness. All the cash was disbursed to beneficiaries through mobile money, regarded as efficient, safe and fast.

In response to the 2017 drought emergency, NRC Somalia led the ECHO Cash Alliance, funded by European Commission (ECHO), a cash initiative of five international humanitarian agencies that provided multipurpose cash transfer benefits to seven hundred thousand drought- affected people in the most-affected and hard-to-reach locations in Somalia over a period of eight months. This multi-agency response, together with others prevented a looming famine.

Shelter

During the emergency response to drought

displacement, our team constructed temporary shelters made from plastic sheeting and poles for displaced families. In other areas where former refugees returned home to Somalia, permanent shelters we built from cement, brick or wood made it possible for them to settle and rebuild their lives. Support for community centres, markets and centres enabled resettled people to begin to re-establish their communities. The family assigned to each new home received cooking and washing utensils, and training about environmental conservation. Working with local and national authorities, we pursued land tenure agreements through negotiations to ensure that new homeowners were protected from evictions. Overall, more than 190,000 people in South Central, Puntland and Somaliland benefited from shelter support. NRC constructed 2,000 permanent shelters and distributed more than 25,000 emergency shelter kits during the year.

Information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA)

The ICLA programme provided assistance to 22,219

displacement-affected people across Somalia, over half of them women. Our team supplied information about housing, land and property rights, collaborative dispute resolution training and support through legal assistance and institutional support to people affected by forced evictions. Formation of local committees and negotiations with local authorities, landlords and settlement leaders made it possible to expand the number and enhance quality of land tenure agreements.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

More than 267,000 people accessed clean water and improved their hygiene practices through our initiatives of constructing and rehabilitating water sources. Our engineering teams drilled boreholes and shallow wells, making it possible for drought-affected people to access potable water. Construction of elevated water tanks and ground collection sites known as berkads, helped these communities store water for future use.

To keep water-borne and related diseases at bay, our teams constructed latrines and distributed hygiene and sanitation kits containing soap, basins and water purification tablets. Hygiene promotion training and campaigns provided avenues to bolster the message about cleanliness in the home and the community.

Education

We reached 34,046 individuals, 15,344 of them female, across Somalia through student enrolment in schools for basic education, and our provision of scholastic materials. Vocational training and creation of job opportunities prepared students for future livelihood opportunities. Teachers benefited from improved teacher training.

A leader and partner in durable solutions programming

In 2017 NRC supported displacement-affected communities to attain durable solutions through the implementation of four EU and one DFID funded Durable Solutions programmes. NRC supported return, reintegration and resilience building through the implementation of integrated multi-core competencies programmes in selected return locations.



NRC supported Bishara to improve her crop production during the drought crisis. Photo: Amun Osman/ NRC

Enabling refugees and IDP returnees to become self-reliant pending the realisation of an appropriate long-term solution is a critical first step towards achieving durable solutions.

Enabling refugees and IDP returnees to become self-reliant pending the realisation of an appropriate long-term solution is a critical first step towards achieving durable solutions. During the year, NRC Somalia expanded its durable solutions portfolio and engagement with local organisations and institutions as part of broader but focused efforts towards providing long-term solutions for displacement affected communities.

Provision of Land tenure documents, schools and permanent housing construction and business skills support to more than 2,000 HH was a key durable solutions achievement during the year. Long-term durable solutions programmes are currently being implemented in all but one region of Somalia.

In 2017 NRC was actively involved in eight consortia. We were able to expand the number of multiyear durable solutions grants and go beyond our traditional donors. The NRC-led BRCiS expanded its portfolio of donors to include the World Bank. These consortia arrangements have in 2017 enabled NRC to expand reach, ability to advocate and influence relevant policies and meet multiple beneficiary needs in a more efficient manner. Through existing consortia, our ability to collectively engage and influence decision-making at various levels has increased.

Surviving drought with new farming techniques

"Working on the farm reminds me of my father. I used to help him and he taught me everything I know," says Bishara Abdi, a 74-year-old farmer in Bonkay village, south-central Somalia. While many women are retired at her age, she continues to work the farm herself.

Our organisation helped Bishara and her grandson improve their crop yields during times of drought crisis and food shortages in the country. This project is part of the Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS) consortium programme.

"I did not know about many of the new technologies; the drip irrigation, for instance. We had never seen anything like it. It was so simple and we got the hang of it quickly. I wish we had these tools when I was younger, but now I hope my grandchildren will benefit. Today I am teaching my grandson so that the future generation can continue to learn,"

Bishara says optimistically.



Bee-keeping project in Somalia enabled farmers to diversify their agricultural production options. They learnt new techniques in bee-hive construction and maintainance as well as monitoring and harvesting. Photo: NRC Somalia

KENYA

Supporting new arrivals and voluntary repatriation

Kenya hosted 480,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps, as well as in urban areas. Some have lived in Kenya for decades, while others fled to Kenya due to drought in Somalia and the South Sudan conflict.

Refugee rights remained a priority topic in 2017. The Tripartite Agreement between the Somali and Kenyan governments with the UNHCR on the closure of the Dadaab refugee camp was due to expire in May 2017. But the camps were still operational, as the Kenyan High Court ruled in February 2017 that the planned closure was unconstitutional, following a petition by human rights groups in the country. Kambioos refugee camp had been closed by March 2017 and refugees were relocated to the neighboring Ifo and Dagahaley camps.

Voluntary repatriations to Somalia slowed down from April 2017, when road movements were suspended due to security concerns. Drought, internal displacement and outbreaks of disease tested the absorption capacity in designated return areas of Somalia, leading some Somali refugees to delay their returns.

Education

Our Kenya programme supported displaced and vulnerable children and youth with basic education in the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps. Out-of-school children between 10 and 18 years of age enrolled and received training through our Accelerated Education Programme (AEP). Market-oriented vocational skills training, basic literacy, numeracy and life skills training helped young men and women to launch small businesses and earn income.

Expanded youth training centers in Kakuma, Kalobeyei and Dadaab increased access to our vocational training programme. The quality of education improved thanks to accreditation by the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), as well as computer skills enhanced by the Computer Society of Kenya (CSK). The two government institutions provided the training curriculum, assessed training workshops and equipment and certified the enrolled trainees at the end of training periods.

Use of technology in education was mainstreamed in the programme through Instant Network Schools, an initiative implemented in partnership with UNHCR, Vodafone and the Safaricom Foundation. Through the Ed-Tech project, our team developed tablet-based e-learning content to support early grade reading in English, Kiswahili and Somali piloted in YEP and AEP centers in Dadaab.



Refugees continued to return to Somalia from Kenya in 2017 under the voluntary repatriation programme. Photo: NRC



Nakhumicha and Atut demonstrate their mechanic skills to Norwegian Ambassador H. E. Victor Ronneberg during his visit to the vocational training centre in Kakuma refugee camp. Photo: Fatuma Abdullahi/NRC

Female participation in vocation skills training increased from less than 5% in previous years to 18.6%, including more women attending training in motor vehicle mechanics and plumbing, which were preferred by male students. Inclusion of persons with disabilities and removal of barriers to education access and use of infrastructure were the key drivers of educational activities.

Information, counselling and legal assistance

We supported Somali refugees in Dadaab and Kakuma with accurate, reliable and timely information about return conditions in Somalia. We also supported the voluntary repatriation process by enabling them to make informed decisions about their potential repatriation. The ICLA programme also worked with newly displaced people, assisting them in overcoming barriers to accessing refugee registration, securing legal identity papers such as birth certificates and enhancing awareness about housing, land and property rights within refugee camps. The ICLA programme completed research and evidence-based advocacy to address barriers to displacement-affected communities. The research focused on camp monitoring, cross-border movements monitoring, and mapping undocumented refugees in Dadaab.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Our teams worked to improve public health and living conditions for refugees residing in the Kakuma and

Dadaab camps, the Kalobeyei settlement, and for IDPs living within Mandera County. Reaching over 140,000 people, the benefits from improved access to safe and sufficient water supplies contributed towards saving lives and protecting livelihoods for people affected by displacement.

Benefits included access to adequate and improved sanitation facilities built to local specifications, a clean living environment free from open defecation, and a reduction in water-borne diseases. We seek ways to expand into new areas in order to reach more vulnerable people, including host and local communities.

Food security and livelihoods

We responded during the drought crisis to protect and stabilise affected households by ensuring access to adequate and appropriate food. Our team carried out distribution of both direct food and non-food items. The use of cash vouchers helped cushion households from hunger in settings within and outside refugee camps where markets were functioning.

Conditional cash transfers ensured that refugees and other vulnerable people used cash allocations to purchase specific items while unconditional cash meant that recipients were free to select their preferred commodities. Our skills development training promoted access to appropriate labour, savings and loan programmes, and agricultural support through the provision of farm equipment.

In a bid to reduce the barriers to market access, we joined with partner agencies to launch SPARK Bay. This innovative website opened an online marketing platform that refugees and host communities could use to sell their handmade products.

Learning a new skill despite disability

Istarlin is a 17-year-old who has lived in Kenya's Kakuma refugee camp since 2009. She is funny, easy to talk to and popular among her classmates. She is also visually impaired. With the help of a screen reader and software programme that allows her to use the computer with ease, Istarlin is studying computer literacy at our programme's youth centre.

"I started studying ICT here, it's not braille so everyone can actually understand what I write. Having a disability doesn't stop us from living. We learn and can depend on ourselves," she says. Currently, 270 students are undertaking the information, communications and technology course at the youth centre. The course runs two hours a day, over the six-month term. Free transportation is offered for those who live far away, and to students with disabilities.

"Once I finish this course, I would like to work in an office with a computer, write emails and type documents in addition to being an interpreter," Istarlin says.



Istarlin is visually impaired, and speaks up about her condition to create awareness about help for refugees with disabilities. Photo: Fatuma Abdullahi/NRC

SOUTH SUDAN

Lives at risk as conflict persists

The 2017 humanitarian crisis in South Sudan included the declaration of famine in two counties of Unity State. The situation was eased in May because of immediate and sustained humanitarian aid. The number of people in the severe food insecurity zone was reduced from 6 million people in the third quarter to 4.8 million people by end of the year.

Parties to the conflict continued to restrict humanitarian agencies' access to communities in need. Insecurity spread in the states formerly known as Eastern Equatorial, Western Bahr el Ghazal and Jonglei, while Northern Unity and Upper Nile continued to be critically affected. With unsafe water in many areas, the spread of cholera compounded the situation. Close to 18,000 cases of cholera were confirmed by the end of the year.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Through ordinary and emergency response activities, our water, hygiene and sanitation activities contributed to improved health for 119,000 people.

Our activities ranged from the rehabilitation and drilling of water points, provision of hygiene and sanitation kits, and hygiene promotion. We supplied training that enhanced community capacity to manage water points through hand pump mechanics, promotion of water committees, water system construction and the rehabilitation of latrines.

Education

76,844 people, mostly children, received support through Education in Emergency programmes, vocational training, and food for education through the rapid response approach. Our team provided learning materials for students including desks, books and pens. Construction activities included rehabilitation of schools, and the construction of temporary learning spaces. Training courses were completed to prepare teachers and other personnel involved in learning and education activities.

Information, counseling and legal assistance

9,426 people accessed information through public awareness and sensitisation campaigns, and training activities to promote peaceful coexistence.



A community volunteer helps women to carry a heavy sack of white maize during a food distribution in Ngop, Unity State of South Sudan. Photo: Albert Gonzalez Faran/NRC

Our ICLA teams provided information for focus groups on housing, land and property rights, and training about collaborative dispute resolution. Legal and administrative assistance was provided to South Sudanese seeking identity cards, and other civil documents, such as birth and death certificates.

Shelter

Through our organisation's mobile rapid response teams, 142,286 displaced people were supported through construction of temporary shelters, distribution of cooking utensils, and repair kits for basic domestic appliances such as cooking stoves and solar lighting. Training was provided on repair kit usage.

Food security and livelihoods

With more than 6 million people nationwide not having enough to eat, lack of access to food became the biggest crisis in South Sudan. We partnered with World Food Programme to enable its Rapid Response Teams (RRT) to reach over 300,000 people with emergency food aid. The operation involved food airdrops and deliveries from WFP, with our teams conducting ground operations, including registration across villages, issuance of tokens or ration cards, and food distributions. We provided relevant information about how community members could access drop zone areas and took the lead in coordinating the collection of food commodities. Through the RRT, our South Sudan operation managed to serve new locations in Jonglei such as Fangag, Chuel and

We supported fishing communities along the Nile River in Jonglei, Central Equatoria, Unity and Bahr el Ghazal by providing fishing gear including nets and hooks. Fishing tradespeople received training about food preservation, safety and hygiene. In total, we supported 356,000 people through general food distributions, unconditional cash transfers, or agricultural production.

Due to the war in South Sudan, every day is a struggle for farmer Mary Nyadeng to put food on the table for her six children. As the large family's only breadwinner, Nyadeng's situation worsened when her cattle were stolen during the conflict.

"The needs in the community are great," she says. The 47-year-old lives in a small village in Koch county, in the northern region of the country. Sadly, her assessment of her community's needs is all too true.

Support from our country team has made life a little easier. Since 2014, Nyadeng has been receiving seeds to cultivate her two acres of land, where she grows corn and several other vegetables. Following each harvest, she's able to feed her children and sell a portion of the produce. Her profits go back to the household. "With the money, I'm able to buy oil and salt from the local market," Nyadeng says.



YEMEN

Standing with humanity in a country ruined by war

In late 2017, Yemen surpassed the 1,000-days marker of war in the country, a tragic milestone for a humanitarian catastrophe that was entirely man-made. Due to this complicated conflict that has no end in sight, 22 million people in Yemen required some form of humanitarian aid or protection last year.

More than two million people in Yemen remained displaced as the result of the conflict, and almost 300,000 refugees and migrants were vulnerable to protection risks. The country's unprecedented cholera epidemic surpassed one million suspected cases. Over 11 million Yemenis needed protection assistance. The key drivers of Yemen's crisis continued to be ongoing violence, the blockade of main ports, interference in aid delivery, the erosion of public services and rapid economic collapse.

As the conflict became more protracted, people exhausted their remaining resources.

Many families survived on only one meal a day, while at the same time there was a severe shortage of cooking fuel. Loss of income, displacement, devaluation of the local currency and inflated costs left more than 16 million people in need of food aid, with 8.4 million people at risk of starvation.

2.1 million Yemenis remained displaced from their homes, 75% of them in homes or shelters headed by women and girls. Displaced families were left without identity documents, inadequate access to shelter, and high unemployment. These circumstances raised the risks for Yemeni refugees to fall victim to human trafficking, labour exploitation, and other abuses. Violence against women was reported to have increased by 63% during the course of the conflict.

With regard to education in Yemen in 2017, 2.1 million children were out of school. 1,800 schools had been damaged, destroyed, taken over for military uses, or converted into shelters for people fleeing violence. 17,000 teachers were not receiving their regular salaries.



2.1 million children were out of school in Yemen in 2017. Photo: Nuha Mohamed/NRC

Food Security and Livelihoods

Operating across the displacement and conflict-affected governorates of Hodeida, Lahj, Taizz, Al Dhale'a, Amran, Hajjah and Sana'a, Yemen's food security programmes reached some of the most vulnerable displaced and conflict-affected people. Overall, our team reached more than 377,000 people with assistance for emergency food needs.

Our organisational food security programme provided people with food, vouchers, cash and grants to help re-establish livelihoods and help people get back to work. Where possible, we provided households with monthly cash grants over a period of three to five months, allowing households to make choices and diversify their food types while helping sustain local markets.

Water sanitation and hygiene

As part of our mandate, it is important to ensure that people affected by conflict, including internally displaced people, returnees and host communities, have access to safe water, sanitation facilities and hygiene information for improved public health. Our contribution to address these needs in the governorates of Lahj, Aden, Amran, Taizz, Sanaá, Hodeida, Hajjah and Al Dhale'a included the provision of clean water for domestic use through trucking services and distribution of chlorine-based water treatment to live safely and more comfortably.

We provided families with mattresses, sleeping mats, blankets, mosquito nets, water buckets and kitchen utensils. Families in colder climates received winterisation kits.

During the year, we assisted 50,930 people with improved living conditions, shelter and enhanced protection. The shelter programme, however, remained critically underfunded in 2017 with just 20.5% of shelter requirements funded. This left millions of Yemeni people with inadequate shelter and high protection needs.

Education

NRC's education programme aimed to ensure that conflict and displacement-affected children in Yemen were able to attend school and remain safe and protected while there. The education programme reached conflict-affected communities in the Lahj and Hodeida governorates by repairing or constructing schools, distributing school materials and sanitary kits, training teachers and ministry staff, and establishing parent-teacher associations.

Working with minimum resources, we actively advocated to donors to increase their funding for education in line with commitments made at the previous World Humanitarian Summit. Education in Yemen was drastically underfunded in 2017, at just 19.9% of the conservative response plan. We reached more than 8,000 children with education programmes in 2017,



Mouad Abdu, aged 29, has worked for a year and a half with the Norwegian Refugee Council in Sana'a, Yemen. He is responsible for coordinating food assistance to 140,000 people in the city. Those who receive assistance are displaced from their homes elsewhere in the country.

"I am proud to work for NRC, and I consider myself lucky to be able to help people get what they need the most, namely food," says Mouad. "I am grateful to be part of that assistance. They are like family to me."

UGANDA

Emergency response to a growing number of refugees

In 2017, the population of refugees in Uganda had risen to nearly 1.4 million people by the end of the year, with more than 1 million from South Sudan and 230,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The refugees settled mainly in the West Nile and South West regions of the country. The influx of refugees from South Sudan and DRC was expected to continue, as there were no political solutions in sight to the on-going crises in these two countries. As Uganda hosted more refugees than any country in the region, aid for refugee programmes was severely underfunded.

The South Sudan refugee emergency in Uganda reached new heights, as the country received the single largest refugee influx from South Sudan, with close to 600,000 new refugee arrivals. 86% of the refugees from South Sudan were women and children.

Congolese refugees arrived mainly from North Kivu through various border points along Uganda's southwestern border. Refugees cited militia activities, violence, security and harassment as the main reasons for their flight. Increased support for host communities helped reduce tensions and lessened the burden on host communities.

This was supported with advocacy by development actors for the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), the Refugee and Host Population Empowerment (ReHoPE) approach, and the government's Settlement Transformative Agenda (STA).

Education

Encouraging school attendance opened up new opportunities for many of the people we served, allowing them to continue their education, and to start small-scale businesses. 41,315 people, most of them youth, benefitted from accelerated education programmes, education in emergencies programmes, support to existing host government schools and vocational skills training.

Teacher training in refugee training centres and host schools contributed to improved teaching skills, awareness of quality education and the importance of accelerated learning. We took the lead in advocating harmonised accelerated education programmes among humanitarian partners.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Our programmes included construction of water points, water trucking, latrine construction in settlements, schools and vocational centres, as well as hygiene promotion and the distribution of soap, sanitary pads and other basic items necessary for personal hygiene.



The Refugee population in Uganda had risen to nearly 1.4 million people by the end of the year, with more than 1 million from South Sudan and 230,000 refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Photo: Ingebjørg Kårstad/NRC

In parts of the Bidibidi refugee camp, unstable topsoil was found to be unsuitable for construction of latrines. In response, we advocated for relocating refugees to other areas with stable soil. Our proactive responses, and the work of other actors, meant there were no major outbreaks of water-borne diseases reported in 2017 in areas served by our WASH programme. Refugees had more water available for cooking and bathing, and proper latrine use and hygiene reduced the risks of contamination.

Shelter

NRC supported 4,185 people through the construction of shelters, schools and latrines. People with disabilities were given priority through specially designed construction projects to meet their needs. Refugees and host communities received training about shelter construction techniques, and aided our team in identifying the most vulnerable people within their communities. Construction of semi-permanent schools enabled children and youth to experience an improved learning environment. Distribution of seeds and tools helped to increase their income-earning opportunities. By the end of the year, more than 9,000 people were able to provide for their basic needs,improve income

sources and increase their own access to food through better agricultural production.

Food security and livelihoods

We supported conditional and unconditional cash grants and vouchers for affected families, to boost their purchasing power and to improve their living conditions.

For farmers, training in agricultural practices and distributions of seeds and tools helped to increase their income-earning opportunities. By the end of the year, more than 9,000 people were able to provide for their basic needs, improve income sources, and increase their own access to food through better agricultural production.

Information, counselling and legal assistance

Our organisation provided information services and training to refugees about land and property rights, civil documentation and housing, and refugee status determination. ICLA activities improved the understanding of refugee rights and responsibilities, as well supporting urban refugees to assert their rights to facilitate their integration in the capital Kampala.



ETHIOPIA

A safe haven in time of challenges

During 2017, Ethiopia's government continued to provide a safe haven for a large number of refugees from South Sudan, Eritrea and Somalia. Internal displacements caused by civil unrest, occurred in some of the same geographical locations affected by the drought crisis.

We partnered with the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA) and UNHCR in providing integrated humanitarian assistance to newly arrived South Sudanese refugees in Gambella and Assosa, Somali refugees in Dolo Ado and Eritrean refugees in Shire.

For internally displaced families, we worked with the National Disaster Risk Management Committee, UNOCHA led humanitarian cluster platforms, regional authorities and other humanitarian agencies to provide humanitarian assistance to displaced people in the Oromia and Somali regions.

Shelter

Violence in South Sudan triggered major movements of people fleeing across the border to Gambella, in Ethiopia. We responded to the influx by constructing emergency shelters, giving displaced people room to stay in safe environments as they pondered their future.

Additionally, the need for shelter maintenance and replacement of older dilapidated shelters was an urgent need not only in Gambella, but also in refugee camps in Assosa and Shire. We provided more than 27,000 refugees with transitional and emergency shelter in refugee camps and surrounding host communities. Overall, more than 55,000 refugees received emergency shelter and distributions of basic household utensils.

Education

We supported access to education by building schools, supporting teachers and providing learning materials. An emphasis on vocational training in Shire, Dollo Ado, Gambella and Assosa provided youth with vocational and



NRC provided clean water to more than 290,000 people in Jijiga and Dolo Ado, while promoting sanitation and hygiene to prevent the outbreak of water-borne diseases. Photo: Nashon Tado/NRC

life skills, as well as basic business instruction. The accelerated education programme gave displacement-affected children an opportunity to return to formal schooling.

Food security and livelihoods

To bring hope for displaced people suffering from the shocks of drought, conditional and unconditional cash disbursements for drought and conflict-affected people enabled them to purchase food and basic necessities, while sustaining local markets. To improve livelihoods, we provided youth with job training, and upon completion, provided them with start-up capital and access to loans to open new businesses.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

In accordance with our policy, water, sanitation and hygiene was incorporated within our shelter response programme. In Jigjiga, where displaced people are dispersed widely in hard-to-access geographical areas, we constructed solar and diesel-powered boreholes, while promoting sanitation and hygiene to prevent the outbreak of water-borne diseases. In the Somali region including in Dollo Ado, programming was ramped up to respond to a major outbreak of Acute Watery Diarrhea. A combined total of 296,566 people benefited from activities implemented in the Dollo Ado and Jigjiga locations.

Information, counselling and legal assistance

In 2017, we began our first ICLA programming for refugees in Ethiopia. This included focusing on accessing legal identity and civil documentation, informed access for out-of-camp (OCP) status, and providing information about responsibilities and realities of urban residence. Our team supported people's access to security of tenure by providing information about Ethiopia's land tenancy law and leases.

Child protection

We identified appropriate care-givers for unaccompanied minors, provided meals, and offered them child-friendly spaces where children received clothing, shoes and pocket money. Training was provided to refugee social workers, community members, child parliament members and foster families to help shape positive attitudes and build collaboration among different groups.

Caregivers received training in protection with an emphasis on case management. Studies showed that the wellbeing of children in family care was relatively better than when staying in community care arrangements. There were challenges, however, to identify foster families due to the demographic composition of the Eritrean refugee population, which consisted mostly of single young men.

Spotlight on urban refugee programming

While most of East Africa's refugee population are living in camps, a growing number of displaced people are living in cities, including in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa. Lacking official status, refugees frequently face language barriers, difficulties in earning a living and exclusion from access to services due to suspicion, and their lack of official documents.

In 2017, the Government of Ethiopia took its first steps towards increased local integration for refugees, including providing out-of-camp permits. Eritreans are among the three largest refugee populations in Ethiopia with 165,252 persons. Other nationalities are South Sudan, of which there are 328,145, and 245,949 from Somalia. According to UNHCR, 19,970 urban refugees of different nationalities reside in Addis Ababa. Of those, over 12,000 Eritrean refugees are registered as out-of-camp persons of concern.

At the moment, only Eritreans can benefit from the Ethiopian government's out-of-camp policy. Eritreans in different refugee camps can apply and obtain an out-of-camp permit. However, many of them discover that urban life is also difficult and need support.



Weyni is one of Ethiopia's urban refugees, receiving a cash grant from our team under the urban livelihoods project. Due to her vulnerable status as a refugee with no reliable income, she obtains a monthly cash allocation of 1,000 Ethiopian Birr (about 43 USD). "One thousand Ethiopian Birr might seem like a small amount of money to live on for a month, but you only know how much it is worth when you don't have any other income. A day without food feels longer than an ordinary month" she says

ERITREA

Building skills for self-reliance among the youth

About 4,000 Eritreans left their country every month, with about one in ten of all prospective migrants to Europe coming from Eritrea, according to the UN. A relatively high number of those leaving the country were unaccompanied minors, who were at a high risk of exploitation and human trafficking abuses.

Within the country, school enrolment rates were low and declining. Less than half of Eritrean children were enrolled, with 443,490 children, and 230,859 adolescents out of school. The enrolment numbers were even lower for nomadic and semi-nomadic communities living in rural areas.

Education

Partnering with Eritrea's Ministry of Education, we provided vocational training skills for targeted out-of-school youth in the regions of Anseba, Northern Red Sea and Gash Barka. Job skills for youth in Eritrea offered improved and diverse career income opportunities. Courses included training in computers, electrical installation, masonry, plumbing, pottery, weaving and business management. The training enabled youth to be more self-reliant and built on the concept of expanding self-help options to school dropouts and other vulnerable and marginalised groups.

Special focus was given to youth with specific vulnerabilities such as young mothers, youth who are living with disabilities, and girls. We supported graduates to either seek employment from existing private sector enterprises or start small businesses using start-up kits and capital. Some graduates formed cooperatives, enabling them to access materials and financial support from the local government.



Vocational training, such as this pottery class in Anseba, Eritrea, has enabled young women and men to be more self-reliant and resourceful in their communities. Photo: Melchizedek Malile/NRC

DJIBOUTI

Inspiring hope for refugees and asylum seekers

Located on the Red Sea just across from Yemen, many Yemeni refugees fled the conflict to seek safety in Djibouti. In the refugee camps of Ali Addeh, Holl Holl and Markazi, our organisation took a leading role to provide water, sanitation and hygiene services as well as shelter services. Additional programme activities included livelihood support, food security and protection.

Beyond the core competency-based interventions, our Djibouti country team was actively involved in advocacy and lobbying efforts to improve refugee legislation with the government of Djibouti, and create a favourable environment for durable solutions through local integration. With the enactment of the new refugee law, we worked closely with the state agency in charge of refugee protection and assistance. This ensured that all stakeholders were properly informed about the new legal framework guiding refugee status, in line with the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and the Global Compact for refugees.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Five water sources and 14 water collection points were installed to enable 31,446 people to access clean water for drinking, cooking, and general household use. 2,200 metres of water pipeline was installed or rehabilitated to improve clean water access for refugee communities. To improve sanitation, we built 320 latrines to meet the needs of 1,600 refugees and indigenous host community members. Regular hygiene promotion sessions were conducted to inform and instruct residents about public health concerns. These included sessions on solid waste management, sanitation disposal, hand washing, and safe water storage.

Shelter

Using a new and approved home design, our team constructed 225 new houses made of brick and cement. The new housing design took into account the needs of refugees for privacy and proper ventilation, considering the extremely high temperatures in Djibouti. With the new design, parents and children were able to sleep in separate rooms.



"We came in a Sambouk (small wooden boat). In summer, it is hot like an oven here in Markazi refugee camp," says Riyad, a refugee from Yemen. His family benefited from our water project. Photo: Alvhild Stromme/NRC

An additional 42 houses were rehabilitated, and 524 shelter kits were distributed to enable refugees to rehabilitate and improve the state of their own dwellings.

Education

Under a pilot programme, we launched vocational training targeting refugee youth in Djibouti. A total of 88 young men and women completed courses in tailoring, information and communications technology, and beauty aesthetics. Through an agreement with the Djibouti government's National Department for Assistance to Refugees and Affected Populations, three qualified instructors were provided for the vocational study courses. Equipment was provided for the vocational skills training centre in the Ali Addeh refugee camp.

His help makes a difference

"The situation is hard here, I have two children, and it is very difficult for me to bring them here. I have nothing to offer them here, but it is also difficult to be away from them," says Khaled, who lives in Djibouti's Merkazi refugee camp.

Khaled used to work as a hotel receptionist back in Yemen. He fled the conflict in Yemen seeking safety in Djibouti. His work with our organisation supports the refugee community. "I have certificates. I have a good education. Here, I am engaged by NRC to make sure the water pump works and that it is clean. It may be small, but it's something," he says.



Khaled is supporting our water, sanitation and hygiene programme in Markazi refugee camp of Djibouti. He left his job as a receptionist in Yemen and crossed the sea to Djibouti to seek safety. Photo: Alvhild Stromme/NRC

TANZANIA

Protection from political persecution and insecure environments

Last year, the number of refugees and asylum seekers rose sharply in northwestern Tanzania due to political instability and insecurity in Burundi and Democratic Republic of Congo. By the end of 2017, there were over 244,000 Burundian and 19,000 Congolese refugees newly arrived in Tanzania.

Due to a major funding shortage, the humanitarian response failed to meet the basic needs of refugees in the Nyarugusu, Mtendeli and Nduta refugee camps. As a result, there was overcrowding in the displaced communities, and a shortage of resources for all programme services for refugee families. Despite the introduction of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) where Tanzania was chosen as a pilot country, the local government had not yet implemented the revision of the refugee policy.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

We were the lead agency for sanitation and hygiene services in the Nyarugusu refugee camp, which hosted over 150,000 refugees, mainly from Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi.

In Nyarugusu, we maintained and upgraded the existing water supply chain, providing refugees with safe water in compliance with minimum standards. Public health programmes included construction of latrines, hygiene promotion, vector control and management of solid waste. A total of 2,000 emergency latrines and 1,356 transitional latrines were constructed, with about 1,000 full latrines decommissioned. Hygiene promotion activities conducted in the camps focused on cleanup campaigns, public health training, repair of hand washing facilities, and distribution of family and personal hygiene kits.

Shelter

NRC constructed 756 transitional shelters in Mtendeli and assisted 100 households with materials to upgrade their emergency shelters. In Nyarugusu, we provided 800 tents to new arrival families.

Our organisation was also selected to pilot a community-driven shelter project. In this project, humanitarian organisations provided 800 tents to new arrival families. Our organisation was also selected to pilot a community-driven shelter project. In this project, humanitarian organisations provided materials and technical supervision while refugees provided the labour.

Education

NRC constructed a vocational training centre and built and equipped two schools with a total of 18 classrooms in Mtendeli refugee camp. Students from the accelerated education programme were integrated into the formal education system. By the end of the year, 2,354 school children – more than half of them girls – were benefiting from education support. A youth training programme in Mtendeli refugee camp provided basic vocational training, math and literacy skills. 122 youths, including 71 females, were enrolled in the programme.

Complementary classes included language, drama and music. 95 youth were enrolled exclusively for information and communication technology training. To facilitate studies for young mothers, we provided child nurseries at the youth centre, which hosted 43 children.

In collaboration with other education actors, we provided joint teacher training on the teachers in crisis context manual. A total of 303 teachers from all three refugee camps were trained. Through the Kibondo District Council, our team supported a host community school with 85 three-seater desks, used by 255 pupils.

Camp coordination and camp Management

We are among the leading camp management agencies in the Tanzania refugee camps. Engaging with camp stakeholders, we mapped existing coordination capacity within the camps, identifying needs and gaps. Feedback and complaint mechanisms supported community outreach by establishing a centralised point and mobile phone help service. Induction sessions with various agencies operating in the camps improved referral services for beneficiaries. We also facilitated intra-camp relocations to decongest the refugee reception centre.

A new beginning and a new school

In the Mtendeli refugee camp, to Diane's dismay, there were no schools. Nor were there books or pens for her to study on her own. For the first time since she fled the violence in Burundi, Diane will soon have a safe learning environment again.

In 2017, our team began construction of a primary school near Diane's home, so she'll have no trouble going to

school. Her excitement is mounting and her impatience grows. She and her friends frequently visit the construction site to monitor the progress. "I hope I will get teachers who make me laugh, like those that I had in Burundi," she says. "I want to study very hard so I can become a teacher too."



"In Burundi, we had a charming teacher who used to make us laugh. I liked to study. I had classroom materials. I also had clothes and shoes." Our education manager in Mtendeli Ntigwiyahuligwa Ngulinzi listened to Diane's views about education and encouraged her to pursue her learning. Photo: Ingrid Prestetun/NRC

PARTNERSHIPS

African Union

In 2013, the NRC's Pan African Liaison office to the African Union (AULO) became a registered legal entity through the signing of a host agreement with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

The liaison office advocated for the production and use of timely displacement data towards preventing and responding to protection needs in humanitarian situations. Through its annual high-level dialogue on displacement and launch of the Africa report on Internal Displacement jointly convened with the African Union Commission, our office established a multi-stakeholder policy space that raised critical challenges as well as providing recommendations to address forced displacement. Over the past year, AULO worked extensively in promoting the protection agenda in regional disaster risk reduction policies. The office complemented the policy work by undertaking country-focused advocacy through field missions and private messaging to the African Union Commission's chairperson highlighting the protection and access challenges identified by field operations.

The office as a consortium member launched a three-year European Union funded project that aimed at advancing the practice of human rights in Africa through increased civil society organisation engagement with regional human rights mechanisms. NRC AULO spearheaded the process of enhancing civil society capacity in promoting the protection of displaced persons through the monitoring of the ratification and implementation of the Kampala Convention. Activities also targeted the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, more specifically supporting the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on refugees, asylum seekers, migrants and internally displaced persons.

Government ministry of education

Through the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programme, NRC partnered with governments' ministries of education in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The partnership enabled NRC to support refugees and internally displaced people through provision of vocational training, imparting relevant skills that helped transform their lives.

The TVET programme's overall goal was to contribute to increased employment and income generation for rural populations by improving their access to quality labour-market-oriented vocational training. "We are very committed towards working hard to improve TVET and also the growth of employment in the East African Community," says the Chairperson of East African Community Council of Ministers, Hon. John Munyingu. (Source: meac.go.ke)

Stand-by Rosters

84 experts were deployed to the region in 2017, including 24 to Ethiopia, 17 to Somalia, 15 to South Sudan, 12 to Kenya, 10 to Uganda, 3 to Yemen, 2 to Djibouti and 1 to Eritrea. Our organisational Expert Deployment Capacity, NORCAP, strengthens the capacity of the international community to prevent and respond to humanitarian challenges through provision of expert personnel to national governments and international organisations. NORCAP is operated by Norwegian Refugee Council. 2017 deployments were funded by Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNHCR, European Commission Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) and UKAID.

Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS Consortium)

BRCiS – Building Resilient Communities in Somaliais a consortium at the forefront of resilience building initiatives in Somalia with a strong focus on developing a culture of learning, collaborating and adapting across partners and stakeholders. With 6 different grants from 3 different donors, and 11 NGO partners, BRCiS is a funding coordination platform for quality resilience programmes.

In 2017, BRCiS set up community-based resilience programmes in new areas of the southern and central regions of Somalia as well as in Somaliland and Puntland. The Ministry of Finance of Somalia contracted the consortium to deliver water management infrastructures through World Bank funding.

In addition, the consortium coordinated a large drought response, including the provision of water, health and nutrition services and a massive safety net programme for vulnerable and displaced families. The response reached more than 2.6 million drought affected people in 38 districts and according to Somalia stakeholders and external evaluators, contributed to averting the famine.

Support for Protection and Assistance for Refugees in Kenya (SPARK Consortium)

Members of the SPARK livelihoods consortium were Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Handicap International (HI), Film Aid Kenya (FAK), Action Africa Help International (AAH-I) and Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). Through joint efforts, the agencies promoted social and economic cohesion among refugees and Turkana host community living in Kakuma Refugee Camp and Kalobeyei Settlement. The consortium launched an online marketing platform dubbed SPARKBay, helping to expand market opportunities for commodities produced by livelihood beneficiaries.

A visit to NRC projects in Ethiopia by the Norwegian Royal Family

In November 2017, Crown Prince H.R.H Håkon and Crown Princess Mette Marit visited Hitsats refugee camp just outside Shire, a district in northern Ethiopia. The visit enabled them to learn more about Norway's support to education for refugee children.

Roughly 2,000 refugees journeyed from Eritrea to Ethiopia every month in 2017. Most of them were minors, and about one in ten had fled alone, risking kidnapping, forced labour, rape and human trafficking. The camp provided shelter and protection to about 10,000 refugees from Eritrea.

The tour included a visit to a vocational training center built by NRC offering courses for young refugees. Here the youth study to become certified carpenters, chefs, hair-dressers and tailors. Each course lasts six months and to be certified, the students must pass an exam approved by the Ethiopian authorities.



The Crown Prince and Crown Princess of Norway visited the NRC vocational training centre in Hitsats refugee camp of Ethiopia's Tigray Region. They spoke with young refugees gaining various skills through the Youth Education Programme (YEP). Photo: Beate Simarud/NRC

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

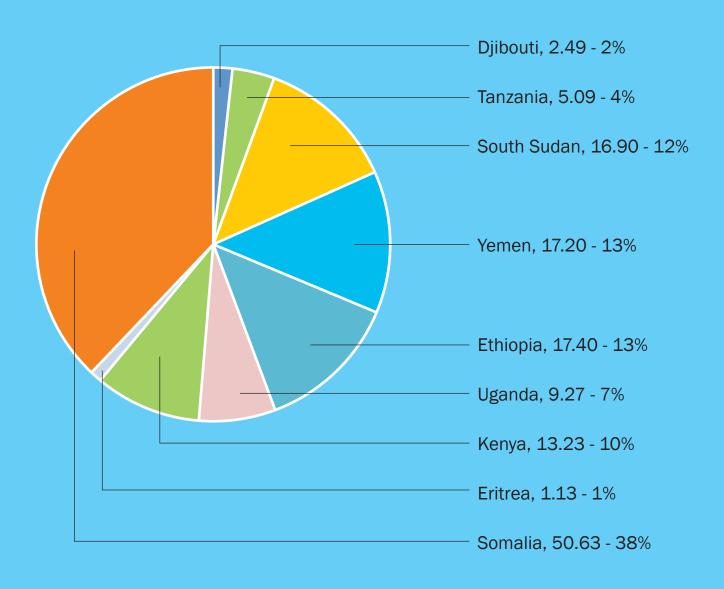
NRC East Africa and Yemen total actual funding spent in 2017 was 133.35 million USD or 1,094.9 million NOK.

This is a $58\,\%$ increase from the 2016 spending of 84.53 million USD or 57% increase from 2016 spending of 696.6 million NOK.

FUNDING PER DONOR (IN MILLION USD)

#	DONOR	USD
1.	NMFA (HUM)	23.35
2.	DFID	22.29
3.	UNHCR	22.28
4.	ECH0	19.60
	SIDA	10.65
6.	OCHA	9.07
7.	WFP	5.02
8.	UNICEF	4.04
9.	DEVCO	3.70
10.	NORAD	2.28
11.	OTHER EU ORGANISATIONS	2.19
12	NRC PRIVATE SPONSORS	1.63
13.	NRC OWN FUNDS	1.29
14.	NRC TELETHON FUNDS	1.21
15.	OTHER FOREIGN COMPANIES	1.01
16.	UNDP	0.89
17.	SWISS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION	0.80
18.	GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA (GAC)	0.42
19.	OTHER FOREIGN ORGANISATIONS	0.37
20.	OTHER UN ORGANISATONS	0.34
21.	USAID (OFDA)	0.30
22.	STATE SECRETARIAT FOR MIGRATION (SEM)	0.21
23.	DUTCH MFA	0.17
24.	FCO	0.14
25.	WELLSPRING	0.05
26.	OTHER FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS	0.04
27.	START NETWORK	0.02
28.	GIZ	0.01
29.	WORLD BANK	0.01
30.	TOTAL	133.35

SPENDING PER COUNTRY (IN MILLION USD)





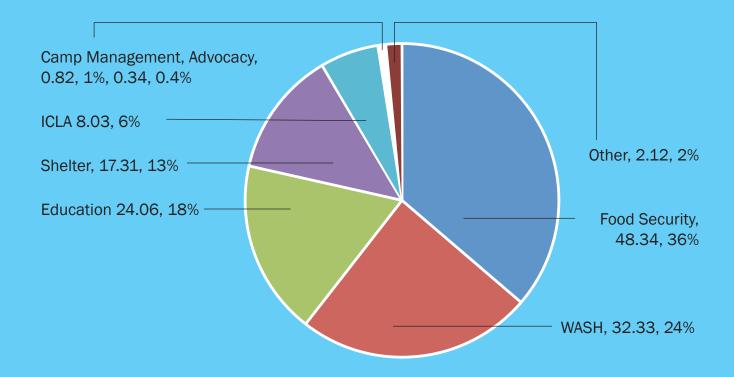








SPENDING PER CORE COMPETENCY (IN MILLION USD)













PUBLICATIONS

"Recognising Nairobi's refugees – The challenges and significance of documentation proving identity and status"

Published in partnership with the International Human Rights Clinic (IHRC) at Harvard Law School, the report is part of ongoing research on documentation for refugees in Nairobi and aims at broadening understanding on access to legal documentation for urban refugees. The publication examines the sensitive issues surrounding the significance of documentation on refugees, legal and policy framework and recommendations.

"Putting protection at the heart of the new global compact - Refugee perspectives from Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti"

Conducted by our organisation and teams, this study was undertaken to gather perspectives of refugees on the asylum system, its gaps and challenges, in order to bring those voices and perspectives into the discussions around the proposed content, and priorities of the Global Compact and Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF).

"Back to square one"

Published in partnership with UN Habitat and the Somalia Protection Cluster, the report presents findings and recommendations of a post-eviction study, going a step further to assess border protection implications triggered by the incident as well as the impact on affected populations.

"A review of the legal framework relating to the proposed culture of the Dadaab refugee camp and repatriation of Somali refugees"

We commissioned this report through the Thomson Reuters Trust Law programme. The report highlights that, despite the Kenyan High Court having found the closure of Dadaab to be unconstitutional, there remain significant, potentially difficult issues to be addressed if durable solutions for Dadaab's inhabitants are to be found and implemented.

All publications are available online: www.nrc.no



Our cash-based activities reached 274,679 people through conditional and unconditional cash transfers. In response to the 2017 drought emergency, NRC Somalia led the ECHO Cash Alliance, funded by European Commission (ECHO), a cash initiative of five international humanitarian agencies that provided multipurpose cash transfer benefits to seven hundred thousand drought- affected people in the most-affected and hard-to-reach locations in Somalia over a period of eight months. Photo: Christian Jepsen/ NRC





East Africa and Yemen Region

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