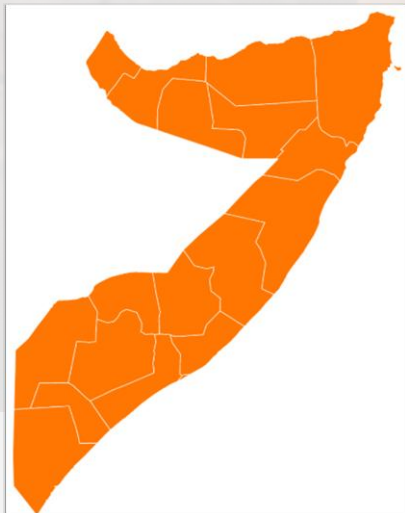




NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL

SOMALIA

AREAS OF OPERATION: ICLA



CONTEXT

In Somalia, conflict and disasters have displaced millions, forcing them to leave behind their homes, livelihoods, and legal rights. With the risk of prolonged or repeated displacement, many encounter significant barriers to attaining durable solutions.

- 3.5 million IDPs in 2,400+ densely populated sites.
- 85% of IDP sites are informal settlements on private land.
- IDP households lack formal land tenure, tenure insecurity is widespread, with forceful evictions since 2018.
- Majority of displaced communities lack legal identity documents, specifically civil and national documents.

OUTCOMES/IMPACT

In 2024, NRC supported over 122, 469 people (56% female) through ICLA activities. This included:

- People supported to secure land tenure.
- Forceful evictions prevented.
- People provided with legal assistance, specialised counselling, and information to exercise their rights.
- Participants trained on collaborative dispute resolutions and HLP.

For the latest updates, please visit:

nrc.no/somalia

Contact: ICLA Programme Development
Manager, Abbas Ahmed

abbas.ahmed@nrc.no

www.nrc.no/somalia



Photo: Abdulkadir Mohamed/ NRC

HOW WE SUPPORT: INFORMATION, COUNSELLING & LEGAL ASSISTANCE (ICLA)

Somalia hosts one of the world's largest displaced populations, with many unable to exercise their legal rights or secure durable solutions. Our efforts aim to bridge these gaps and support their path to stability.

NRC's ICLA approach

Our response focuses on three key areas: Housing, Land, and Property (HLP), Employment Laws and Procedures (ELP), and Legal Identity.

Through ICLA (Information, Counselling, and Legal Assistance) activities, we provide specialized legal counselling, information, and assistance to help displaced people secure their rights and achieve durable solutions. At both national and state levels, NRC advocates for policy reforms and legislative protections, while paralegal teams offer direct support to families and communities.

These efforts are reinforced by comprehensive data collection to monitor displacement trends and legal rights violations. NRC integrates research and advocacy to inform humanitarian responses and drive systemic change.

Through the UNHCR-led, NRC-implemented Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) and the NRC Evictions Portal, displacement trends and legal concerns are tracked, reported, and addressed in collaboration with key stakeholders.

Who we support

In Somalia, we focus on internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and vulnerable host communities, working across all 18 regions.

NRC thematic areas and activities

Housing, land and property: HLP rights are central throughout the displacement cycle. Disputes over land, resources, and governance are often the root causes of conflict and, alongside resource depletion, drive displacement. Once displaced, communities require access to land and natural resources for housing and livelihoods. Repeated and prolonged displacement is worsened by inadequate legal frameworks, weak state institutions, ineffective dispute resolution mechanisms, and limited awareness of HLP rights among displaced populations.

Legal identity: Access to civil documentation remains a major challenge for displaced people in Somalia. Legal identity is closely tied to HLP rights, as proving one's identity and family history is essential for securing land ownership and inheritance rights.

Employment, laws and procedures: Displaced individuals face significant barriers to income generation due to limited awareness of business registration, labor laws, and employment procedures in Somalia.

To address the above challenges, NRC provides:

case management: Tailored counseling and legal assistance provide individuals with guidance on procedures, legal options, and referrals. Those needing further support receive legal and administrative assistance, in-court representation, and dispute resolution services, including mediation, negotiation, and arbitration.

Access to information: NRC ensures displaced people receive accurate, timely, and credible information on rights, entitlements, legal remedies, and available services. Outreach tools include community sessions, information products, and awareness campaigns via video, radio, TV, social media, and SMS.

Capacity development: NRC provides technical and material support to strengthen institutions' ability to address legal and policy challenges effectively.

Policy influence and advocacy: Through research, policy briefs, and targeted advocacy, NRC works to drive systemic change. Since 2015, NRC has chaired Somalia's Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) Area of Responsibility (AoR), leading efforts to improve legal protections and awareness.



"INFORMATION AND AWARENESS SESSIONS FOR THE DISPLACED COMMUNITIES."

Our ICLA teams conduct information and awareness sessions to empower displaced communities with knowledge of their rights and access to essential legal services.

These sessions focus on Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) rights, legal identity, and employment laws, helping communities understand land tenure procedures, civil documentation processes, and income generation regulations.

Through community outreach, group discussions, legal clinics, and multimedia campaigns (radio, TV, social media, and SMS), NRC ensures accurate, timely, and accessible legal information reaches those in need.

These sessions help individuals navigate legal and administrative barriers, such as obtaining title deeds, national identity documents, and birth certificates.

Additionally, NRC provides practical guidance on dispute resolution mechanisms, offering mediation and legal support for housing disputes, eviction threats, and property claims.

By equipping displaced populations with legal knowledge and tools, NRC enhances their ability to make informed decisions, access justice, and secure long-term solutions, contributing to their stability and self-reliance.

Our partners



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