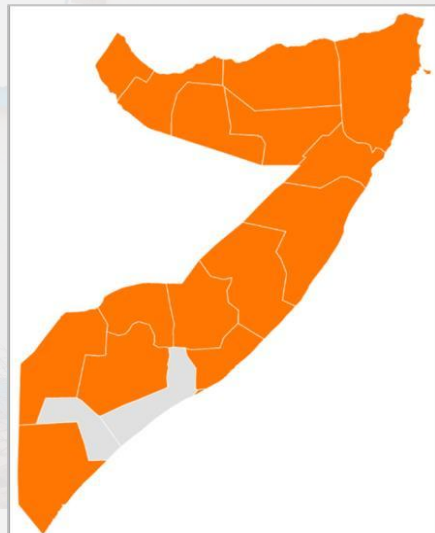




NORWEGIAN  
REFUGEE COUNCIL

## SOMALIA

### AREAS OF OPERATION: SHELTER



### CONTEXT

Shelter remains a critical need in Somalia, with an estimating 3.5 million internally displaced persons. The needs of long-term IDPs, some displaced for nearly two decades, differ from those of recently displaced populations. While non-displaced communities also face similar challenges, displaced individuals remain particularly vulnerable and in urgent need of support.

- 4.6 million people in Somalia require shelter.
- Shelter is among the top three needs of the displaced communities in Somalia.
- Households in the IDP sites own land/shelter.

### OUTCOMES/IMPACT

In 2024, NRC supported 36,472 people (53% female) to help them have somewhere they can call home. This included:

- People in crisis situations provided with emergency shelter kits.
- People supported with transitional or permanent shelters.
- Households provided support to purchase essential household items, or provided items directly.

For the latest updates, please visit:

[nrc.no/somalia](https://nrc.no/somalia)

Contact: Shelter Specialist,  
Abdirahman Hirad [abdirahman.hirad@nrc.no](mailto:abdirahman.hirad@nrc.no)

[www.nrc.no/somalia](https://www.nrc.no/somalia)



Photo: Abdulkadir Mohamed

## HOW WE SUPPORT: SHELTER

Throughout Somalia, there is an urgent need for secure and sustainable shelter solutions. NRC provides comprehensive shelter and non-food item (NFI) support, ensuring families have a safe place to call home, even if temporarily.

### NRC's shelter approach

Shelter is more than just a roof over a family's head—it provides physical safety, identity, and a pathway to recovery. In Somalia, NRC goes beyond building homes; we help strengthen communities, ensuring they are resilient and sustainable in the face of current and future shocks.

We work with newly displaced populations, those in protracted displacement, and host communities to assess short- and long-term shelter needs across various contexts. From temporary and transitional shelters that preserve life to durable housing solutions, we take a holistic approach that upholds dignity and stability.

Our efforts integrate basic services, training in site and settlement planning, and ensure settlements are well-structured and responsive to local needs.

In collaboration with partners and authorities, NRC co-chairs the Somalia National Shelter Cluster, pioneering innovative shelter solutions—many of which are now widely adopted.

### Who we support

In Somalia, we focus on internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, returnees, and vulnerable host communities, working across 16 of 18 regions.

## NRC programmes and activities

Our shelter responses are designed to meet the specific needs of those we serve.

### Emergency support for newly displaced people

Our top priority is ensuring people are out of immediate danger, regardless of the cause. We provide upgradable emergency shelters (kits/tents) and NFI kits to support displaced families.

Mobile cash transfers are the primary method of assistance, ensuring quick response, flexibility, and support for local markets, with in-kind aid and vouchers used when needed. These efforts protect the most vulnerable and help restore stability and dignity.

### Durable solutions for protracted displaced persons

In IDP settlements with secure land tenure, NRC improves living conditions through settlement planning and re-planning. We provide training for local authorities, transitional and permanent shelters, and linked infrastructure like solar street lighting.

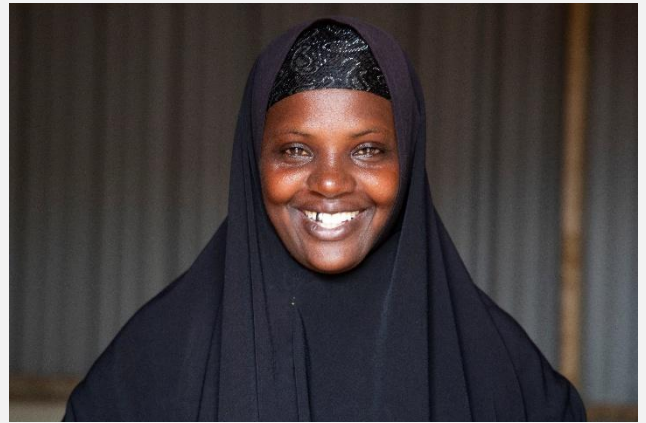
Settlement planning enhances safety, privacy, and access to basic services, integrating with WASH, health, and education initiatives. We also deliver legal aid and advocacy to secure long-term land tenure through authorities and private landowners.

Using an owner-driven approach, supported by NRC technical experts, we ensure sustainable shelter construction, relying on contractors only when necessary. This approach creates homes, strengthens communities, and helps displaced people transition to stability.

### Vulnerable host communities

We work to ease the strain on services and infrastructure in host communities caused by population influx during or after crises. Typically, 10 to 20% of our shelter assistance is allocated to highly vulnerable host community members, while basic service upgrades are designed to benefit both displaced and host populations.

## Our partners



### PROVIDING SAFE HOUSING FOR 200 DISPLACED FAMILIES IN BAIDOA

With funding from the UK's Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), in partnership with the Danwadaag Durable Solutions Consortium led by IOM, we have provided safe and durable housing for 200 displaced families affected by drought and displacement in Baidoa.

These homes offer long-term security, helping families transition from temporary shelters to permanent, and dignified housing. The project includes land tenure security, ensuring families have legal ownership and protection from eviction.

To enhance livelihood opportunities and resilience, NRC has integrated WASH services, community infrastructure, and skills training into the housing initiative.

By working with local authorities and community leaders, this programme strengthens self-reliance and promotes durable solutions for displaced families in Baidoa.

Through this programme, families not only gain safe housing but also access to essential services, economic opportunities, and a path toward stability and self-sufficiency.

