



Somalia: a country battling decades of hardship.

Somalia continues to face a complex humanitarian crisis driven by recurrent climatic shocks, ongoing conflict, and widespread displacement.

An estimated 6.9 million people require humanitarian assistance, with 4 million experiencing acute food insecurity. Approximately 1.7 million children are suffering from acute malnutrition, including 430,000 facing severe acute malnutrition.

In 2024, conflict emerged as the primary driver of internal displacement, accounting for 53% of the 477,000 displacements recorded between January and November. Overall, 3.5 million people remain displaced across Somalia.

An estimated 6.9 million people require immediate humanitarian assistance, with 4 million facing acute food insecurity. Alarmingly, 1.7 million children are experiencing acute malnutrition, including 430,000 suffering from severe cases.

The country has been severely impacted by climatic events, including droughts and floods, which have exacerbated the humanitarian situation. These

climate-related shocks have not only displaced communities but also destroyed livelihoods, leading to increased vulnerability among the affected populations.

Rural communities that rely on agriculture and livestock have been particularly hard-hit, with millions of animals perishing and farmlands rendered unproductive.

The loss of income sources has forced many families to migrate to urban centers or overcrowded displacement camps in search of



A displaced woman carries water on her back in Luglow IDP settlement, outside of Kismayo town, Jubaland state.

NRC programmes

In Somalia, we are committed to delivering aid in some of the most challenging areas.

The Norwegian Refugee Council implements largescale, high-quality humanitarian programmes, leveraging our expertise from operations in 40 countries worldwide.

Our presence in Somalia dates back to 2004, making it one of our longest-running missions. We

provide both humanitarian response and resilience-building efforts across all regions of Somalia, including areas with limited access.

With deep-rooted community ties and extensive experience, we prioritize support for Somalia's most vulnerable

communities. While our primary focus is on displaced communities, including internally displaced people (IDPs), refugees, and returnees, we also provided assistance to other vulnerable groups in need of humanitarian aid. Our support includes both rapid response interventions and long-term solutions to address the challenges faced by affected communities.

We provide aid through Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Livelihoods and Food Security, Shelter, Education; Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA), Protection from Violence (PfV), Durable Solutions; and Resilience Building.

A first responder to crises.

Our ability to quickly respond to emergencies is a defining aspect of our work in Somalia. We provide urgent relief through food and water vouchers, direct aid deliveries, multi-purpose cash assistance, emergency shelter kits, and hygiene supplies, helping

families survive the critical first weeks of displacement. With response times as fast as seven days after receiving an alert, we are able to reach affected communities nationwide, ensuring lifesaving support where it is needed most.

Minimizing the causes and effects of displacement



NRC is often at the

response, providing

forefront of crises

urgent aid where

it's needed most.



Data driven humanitarian response.

At NRC Somalia, we believe in evidence-based responses to humanitarian crises. As a leading organization in data collection, monitoring, and analysis, we collaborate with a broad network of partners to track internal displacement, protection risks, and forced evictions. Our Protection and Returns Monitoring Network (PRMN) provides real-time data that enables humanitarian actors to respond efficiently and effectively to emerging crises.

In cases of sudden displacement, PRMN flash reports help initiate a rapid, well-informed response. Over time, our data also supports long-term solutions, influencing policies and programmes led by governments, humanitarian agencies, and donors to create sustainable opportunities for displaced communities.

Reaching vulnerable communities in hard-to-reach areas.

Reaching those in **hard-to-access locations** is a priority for NRC Somalia. We work to ensure that

displaced and vulnerable communities receive assistance despite logistical and security challenges.

By partnering with local organizations, mobilizing community elders, and leveraging mobile technology, we extend our reach to remote areas.

Our approach strengthens community resilience and enhances access to lifesaving aid and durable solutions, helping people rebuild their lives where they are.

NRC office locations



Implementing market-based approaches.

Our market-based approaches are informed by comprehensive analyses of household priorities, market functionality, accessibility, and security. Our goal is to support existing local markets rather than disrupting them, ensuring that humanitarian aid strengthens, but does not replace economic systems already in place.

Whenever possible, our resilience programmes utilize multi-purpose cash transfers, allowing vulnerable households affected by shocks to purchase food, water, and essential goods. This approach not only meets immediate needs but also boosts local demand and stimulates economic activity.

During times of crisis, we facilitate community vouchers for water delivery, helping to stabilize prices and prevent market distortions that can arise from direct humanitarian contracting. By enabling communities to negotiate with service providers, we enhance efficiency, transparency, and local ownership of the response process.

By linking different market components, our programmes help communities preserve their livelihoods, reduce aid dependency, and promote long-term economic stability.

Applying inclusive approaches so that no-one is left behind.

To create meaningful and sustainable impact, our

approach prioritizes inclusivity, ensuring that no one is left behind. We work to enhance community resilience by facilitating the active participation of diverse groups, particularly those who might otherwise be underrepresented in decision-making and leadership structures.

Recognizing the complex social dynamics at play, we engage communities sensitively and strategically to mitigate potential tensions and foster cohesion and shared responsibility.

Our community action plans are developed through broad representation, ensuring the inclusion of women, girls, men, boys, youth, people with disabilities, and members of minority clans. By involving these groups in the design, implementation, and evaluation of humanitarian interventions, we help ensure that programmes are tailored to the diverse needs of the population and promote equitable access to resources and opportunities.

In practice, our inclusive approach means:

- Creating safe spaces for women and girls to express their priorities and participate in decision-making.
- Ensuring accessibility for people with disabilities, so they can fully engage in humanitarian and resilience programmes.
- Recognizing and addressing the unique challenges faced by minority people to promote social cohesion and reduce marginalization.
- Encouraging community-led solutions, where all voices are heard and respected, fostering a sense of ownership and sustainability.





Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)

Access to safe water in Somalia is not just a basic need-it is a matter of survival. Water is essential for drinking, cooking, hygiene, and sustaining livelihoods, yet millions of people struggle daily to secure a clean and reliable supply.

This challenge is most severe for displaced communities, particularly those affected by drought, flooding, and conflict, all of which are worsened by the growing impacts of climate change.

According to UNICEF, only 52% of the population has access to basic water, leaving approximately 48% or 7.8 million people in Somalia to be without access to safe water disproportionately affecting women, children, the elderly, and displaced persons.

These vulnerable groups are at higher risk of disease, malnutrition, and instability, especially during times of climate shocks.

We save lives and prevent diseases by:

- Constructing and rehabilitating water sources, including boreholes, wells, rainwater harvesting systems, and piped water networks, often in partnership with the private sector.
- Delivering emergency water supplies through vouchers, water trucking, and decentralized storage solutions to ensure communities have immediate access.

- Enhancing hygiene and sanitation facilities by building latrines in schools, clinics, and displacement camps, while also improving waste management services.
- Strengthening climate resilience by shockproofing water systems, promoting water conservation strategies, and encouraging sustainable resource management.
- Providing sanitation kits and supporting community-led cleaning initiatives to prevent disease outbreaks.
- Raising awareness through hygiene promotion campaigns, training healthcare workers, and mobilizing communities to adopt safe sanitation practices.



Livestock quenching their thirst at an NRC constructed borehole in rural areas of Puntland state, Somalia.

Ensuring the availability of sustainable water in the face of climate change in Somalia.

With climate change worsening water scarcity in Somalia, ensuring sustainable water access is more crucial than ever.

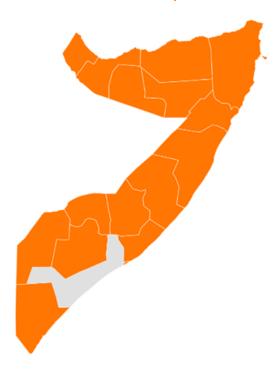
Our efforts are designed to strengthen community resilience against future shocks, with a primary focus on internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, returnees, and vulnerable host communities across 16 of Somalia's 18 regions.

A key component of our work is ensuring lifesaving and long-term water access, with a strong emphasis on:

- Environmental sustainability, through hydrogeological and hydrological surveys, salinity testing, and long-term water-use assessments.
- Harnessing renewable energy by deploying solar-powered and hybrid water systems to enhance efficiency and sustainability.
- Collaborating with the private sector to develop innovative, scalable, and cost-effective water solutions.

Our water activities are integrated with our other programmes—including shelter, education, food security, and other humanitarian programmes, ensuring a comprehensive response in coordination with cluster and sector partners.

WASH areas of operation







CASE STUDY:

Supporting drought-hit communities with access to safe and clean water

In the heart of Somalia, where the unforgiving sun beats down on parched earth, millions faced a desperate struggle for survival in 2024. Prolonged droughts and erratic rainfall had ravaged the land, leaving communities desperate for a basic necessity: water. Families were forced to trek long distances, their hopes dwindling with each step, as shallow wells and boreholes dried up. Overcrowding at the few remaining water points increased the risk of contamination and disease outbreaks, turning a life-giving resource into a potential threat. In some regions, communities resorted to using unsafe surface water, a desperate gamble that could lead to deadly diseases like cholera and diarrhea.

Hawa Ali, a 54-year-old mother from Shamindo village, knows this struggle all too well. The drought had not only stolen her community's water but also her livelihood, leaving her to care for her nine grandchildren with nothing but despair. "Before, we had to walk for hours just to fetch a few liters of water, which was often dirty and made our children sick," she recalls, her voice heavy with the memory of those grueling journeys under the scorching sun. The lack of clean water brought a cascade of hardships: dehydration, disease, and the added burden of making everyday tasks like cooking, washing, and caring for children nearly impossible.

But amidst this hardship, a lifeline emerged. The NRC, in partnership with the Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF), stepped in to rehabilitate two key shallow wells in Shamindo village. This intervention, part of a broader initiative, brought life-saving WASH services to over 17,000 individuals across Jowhar town in Hirshabelle state. The NRC's efforts included not only rehabilitating wells but also constructing latrines, ensuring access to clean water and promoting improved hygiene practices.

For Hawa, the impact was transformative. "I no longer worry about where to find water," she says, a glimmer of hope in her eyes. "My grandchildren can drink clean water, and I have time to care for them instead of spending hours searching for water." The once-common waterborne diseases have significantly reduced, bringing a sense of relief and improved health to her family and neighbors.

Beyond the immediate benefits, NRC's intervention has had a ripple effect throughout the community. Women now have more time to engage in other activities, and children can attend school without the burden of fetching water. "We feel safe, we feel hopeful," Hawa says with a smile, her words capturing the sense of optimism that has taken root in Shamindo village. The NRC's efforts have not only provided access to clean water but have also restored dignity and hope to a community struggling to survive.



Food Security & Livelihoods

Somalia continues to face severe food insecurity, limited livelihood opportunities, and gaps in nutrition and market knowledge due to conflict, fragility, and recurrent disasters including drought and floods.

These challenges are worsened by climate change conditions and environmental degradation, leaving 4.4 million people to face crisis-levels of hunger or worse necessitating urgent humanitarian assistance his situation is exacerbated by prolonged droughts, conflict, and high food prices, leading to widespread acute food insecurity and malnutrition.

Notably, 1.6 million children under the age of five are at risk of acute malnutrition, including over 400,000 who are likely to suffer from severe malnutrition.

We are empowering farmers in Baidoa through resilience programmes that enhance food security and sustainable livelihoods. By providing training on climate-smart agriculture to withstand droughts and erratic rainfall.

To mitigate these challenges, NRC employs both emergency and long-term strategies, ensuring vulnerable communities can meet their immediate needs while also building resilience for the future.

Our efforts focus on:

- Delivering unconditional cash transfers to struggling families, helping them meet basic needs while revitalizing local markets.
- Supporting entrepreneurship among women and youth by providing start-up capital and vocational training, fostering self-reliance in both urban and rural areas.
- Enhancing agricultural productivity by training small-scale farmers and pastoralists and investing in community-level resiliencebuilding projects.



An NRC staff visits a farm in Guriel town supported by NRC through it's food security and livelihood programme.

Building resilient communities: infrastructure and sustainable livelihoods

To address Somalia's longstanding food security challenges, it is essential to invest in resilient infrastructure and strong community networks.

NRC plays a pivotal role in helping communities withstand crises and establish durable solutions through targeted food security and livelihood programmes.

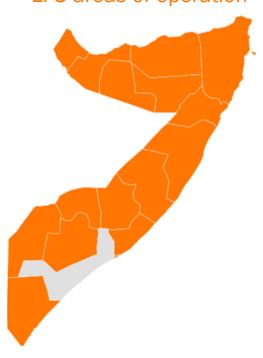
We achieve this through:

- Supporting displaced individuals with livelihood packages, helping them rebuild in their places of return.
- Constructing and improving essential infrastructure, including boreholes, markets, and irrigation systems.
- Promoting community-based savings and loan groups, linking them with broader resilience programmes.
- Enhancing market access and financial literacy, ensuring communities are aware of their legal and economic rights.

 Strengthening cooperative farming systems, enabling small-scale farmers to boost productivity and economic stability.

Given Somalia's climate-related risks, our agricultural programmes focus on sustainability and shock-resistant practices. Similary, women's participation and community-driven planning are at the core of our approach, ensuring interventions are locally relevant and impactful.

LFS areas of operation







In Somalia, where millions people remain displaced, access to safe and stable shelter is critical. Shelter represents more than just protection from the elements—it is a place of safety, belonging, and recovery.

NRC is committed to not only constructing homes but also fostering resilient communities that can withstand future crises.

To achieve this, we:

- Offer emergency relief, including temporary shelters and essential household kits.
- Facilitate the construction of long-term

- shelters, ensuring they meet local needs and promote social cohesion.
- Develop well-planned settlements, incorporating WASH, education, health, and legal aid services where land tenure allows.
- Provide basic necessities, such as blankets, mattresses, and cooking items to support dignified living.

By combining immediate relief with long-term planning, NRC helps displaced families rebuild their lives with stability and dignity.

In 2024 NRC supported 36,472 **people** in Somalia to help them have somewhere they can call home – even if just temporarily.



One of the permanent houses constructed by NRC in Baidoa through its shelter programmes.



An aerial view of 1000 houses constructed by NRC for the displaced communities in Garowe, Puntland state.



Information, Counselling & Legal Assistance

With 3.5 million displaced people, Somalia has one of the largest internally displaced populations globally. Legal insecurity and lack of documentation remain significant barriers to achieving durable solutions. Most IDPs live in informal settlements. with 85% residing on private land and 80% lacking formal tenure rights. Since 2018, 1.17 million forced evictions have further deepened instability among displaced families.

Beyond housing insecurity, a large portion of displaced individuals lack legal identity documents, preventing access to civil registration, business licenses, labor protections, and essential services. Limited knowledge of legal processes and rights leaves many vulnerable to exploitation and forced evictions.

Through our ICLA programme, we provide legal support and advocacy to strengthen protection for displaced communities. Our core interventions include:

- Legal assistance and case management, which offers guidance on procedures and available legal options.
- Raising awareness and ensuring access to legal information, so communities understand their rights and available remedies.

- Building institutional capacity, equipping relevant authorities with tools to better address displacement-related legal issues.
- Advocacy and research, pushing for policy reforms and stronger legal frameworks to protect displaced populations.

By bridging the legal gap, NRC helps ensure that displaced communities in Somalia have the necessary legal tools to secure land tenure, access services, and achieve long-term stability.

ICLA areas of operation



Some perspectives of our ICLA programme participants

"Before NRC's support, I lived in constant fear. I didn't have legal documents. Now, I have legal documents proving my land rights, and I feel secure for the first time in years." – Amina Hassan, displaced mother of seven children in Baidoa.

"Thanks to NRC, I received legal guidance when my family was facing a serious eviction, and didn't know where to go. They helped us negotiate with the landowner and after proper notice period, we finally moved to another place." – Hassan Abdullahi, a displacement-affected father in Mogadishu, Somalia.

"I never knew my rights as a tenant before NRC's awareness sessions. Now, I understand the legal processes, I know what to say, and I can protect my family from any illegal attempts." – Fatima Ahmed, a widow in Kismayo, Jubaland state of Somalia.



NRC staff conducts awareness session In one of the IDP camps in Baidoa.



Facilitation of lease agreements for the displaced communities in Mogadishu.





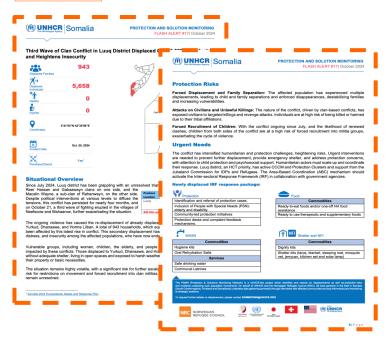
Protection from violence (PfV)

We work to protect those most at risk in Somalia and support communities' right to freedom from violence, coercion and deliberate deprivation.

Our teams:

- Capture new internal displacement and return of populations across Somalia to inform humanitarian response and advocacy.
- Issue flash alerts for massive displacement and hotspot areas affected by conflicts, droughts and floods.
- Collect protection data to strengthen the response to protection violations.
- Enhance access to emergency protection assistance for populations at risk.
- Refer protection cases to specialised services.
- Provide individual protection assistance through cash transfers.









Using data to enhance protection and response

Accurate data is essential to safeguard rights and inform effective legal interventions. At the core of NRC's protection from violence efforts is a strong data collection system that monitors displacement trends and legal rights violations in Somalia.

To enhance eviction monitoring and response, NRC operates the Evictions Portal, a digital platform developed in partnership with the Government and the Protection Cluster. Through a dedicated team of monitors, the portal tracks and reports forced evictions, enabling data-driven advocacy, improved prevention, and better humanitarian responses.

Similarly, NRC supports the Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN), a nationwide displacement tracking system led by UNHCR and implemented by NRC. Since its establishment in 2006, PRMN has engaged 33 national agencies to monitor and document displacement and protection incidents across all Somali states. The digital dashboard and real-time reporting system provide essential insights to trigger humanitarian action when needed.

By leveraging technology and community networks, NRC ensures systematic monitoring and evidence-based responses to better protect displaced communities.









Education

Despite the efforts of government and civil society, education access remains limited for displaced and conflict-affected children. With 4.8 million children aged 5 to 17 are out of school, many of whom are from displacement-affected communities. This situation underscores the urgent need for targeted educational interventions to support displaced children in Somalia.

NRC works to ensure access to education for children (6-18) and youth (15-24) who are out of school, have never attended, or are in crisis-affected areas.

In 2024, we improved education access for 25,871 people.



We partner with ministries, authorities, and communities to support education via:

- Providing basic formal education, including scholarships, school materials, feeding programme, and child protection.
- Building and rehabilitating classrooms, equipping WASH facilities, and offering teacher training and incentives.
- Establishing emergency learning spaces, remedial programmes, and psychosocial support for crisis-affected learners.
- Provision of Education in Emergency
 Programmes for the displacement-affected
 children who are out of school in hard-to-reach
 areas.
- Implementing Accelerated Education
 Programme to help over-age and out-of-school children continue learning.
- Delivering Technical and Vocational Education (TVET) to equip youth with practical and business skills.

These efforts ensure that displaced and vulnerable children in Somalia have access to quality education and opportunities for a better future.



Somalia's cycle of humanitarian crises and growing climate vulnerability will continue without collective efforts to build resilient communities. Three decades of underinvestment, recurring floods, prolonged droughts, and insecurity have left communities highly fragile and unable to cope with shocks. Without

NRC focuses on assisting and empowering these communities through targeted, sustainable programs that address their most pressing challenges.

This includes enhancing irrigation, improving access to water, energy, and animal feed, reinforcing local markets, and expanding livelihood opportunities and essential services. A key part of our approach involves partnering with the private sector, particularly in agricultural resilience and entrepreneurship, to create sustainable pathways for recovery and economic stability.

Community engagement, participation, and monitoring

Our approach is driven by community engagement in planning and implementation. By combining technical expertise with local insights, we prioritize resilience-building in key sectors identified by communities.

We foster local ownership, enhance capacity for planning, operation, and management, and establish mechanisms to address conflict effectively.

Early Warning, Early Action

With all BRCiS members, our programmes incorporate continuous shock data collection, and Early Warning Early Action alert systems.

These systems allow for rapid identification and response from both humanitarian actors and communities to crises. We build natural resource management, capacities with communities and officials to mitigate future shocks.

We also do resilience design and ecosystem restoration. We transform risks into opportunities through a collaborative, community-driven approach to tackle climate shocks, addressing vulnerabilities, and unlocking opportunities for sustainable growth.

NRC leads the largest resilience-building consortium in Somalia.

Sustainable water systems and management.

Poor water resource management are key factors driving community vulnerability to droughts and floods, limiting overall development.

We focus on establishing sustainable water systems and management networks, ensuring water access remains central to resiliencebuilding efforts.

We develop water supply systems for both domestic and productive use, including mega earth dams, boreholes, river intakes, and shallow wells.

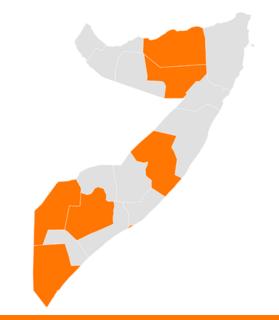
Diversified and sustainable livelihood strategies.

A key aspect of resilience is ensuring that livelihoods are profitable, and capable of withstanding shocks. By supporting entrepreneurs in expanding businesses, building networks, and saving for future uncertainties, we empower communities to be more self-reliant.

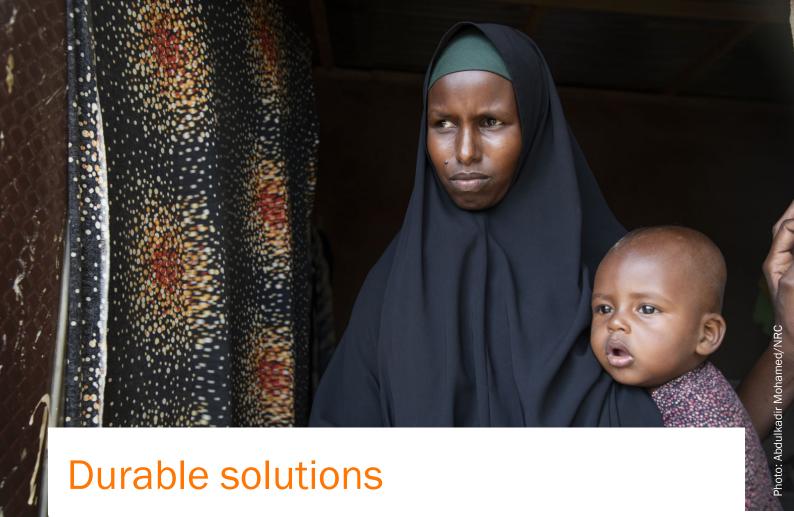
Our activities focus on major irrigation projects, greenhouse farming, start-up grants for displaced women, strengthening fodder production and trade, improving market infrastructure, enhancing agricultural input supply, and implementing vector control strategies.



Resilience areas of operation
(Note: Below locations are NRC only, resilience building by other NGOs as part of BRCiS is underway across 14 regions.







Ensuring durable solutions for displaced communities requires eliminating discrimination linked to displacement status. However, internal displacement in Somalia remains one of the most complex and prolonged humanitarian and development challenges globally.

Currently, 3.5 million Somalis are internally displaced, alongside 95,185 returning refugees from Kenya, Yemen, Djibouti and Libya, both of whom struggle with discrimination, limited livelihood opportunities, inadequate relocation options, and weak legal protections.

To address these challenges, we adopt a holistic, multi-sectoral approach, integrating livelihoods, legal aid, and essential services to promote long-term solutions.

 Enhancing government capacity to lead durable solutions and improving land tenure security in

- urban and peri-urban areas.
- Expanding access to sustainable essential services, including WASH, sanitation, and housing, through area-based approaches.
- Fostering self-reliance among displacementaffected communities by promoting livelihood opportunities and economic stability.
- Investing in disaster preparedness to mitigate and prevent displacement caused by recurrent droughts and floods.
- Advancing policy initiatives to strengthen legal protection for displaced communities and ensure long-term solutions.



An aerial photo of a durable solutions site in Baidoa, constructed by NRC in partnership with UN-HABITAT.

126,287 people

Have benefited from our durable solutions support, and improved access to basic services in 2024.

This includes land tenure security, improved access to housing, livelihoods support, water, sanitation, education, and legal aid.



Advocacy

With nearly 20 years of experience on the ground in Somalia, we possess profound understanding of the challenges faced by vulnerable communities. Our deep-rooted local expertise allows us to witness firsthand the impact of displacement and identify solutions that deliver lasting change.

We leverage our in-depth knowledge and evidence-based research to advocate for improved conditions for displaced people at all levels.

This includes engaging with authorities, international governments, and humanitarian networks to strengthen the humanitarian response, save lives, and address the root causes of the crisis. We play a leading role in coordinating advocacy efforts among international NGOs, ensuring that people can access essential aid.

In Somalia's complex operational environment, we pioneer innovative approaches to data collection and connect key stakeholders with the realities on the ground.

Our expertise and credibility make us a trusted source for information on the humanitarian situation, and we are regularly called upon to brief governments and international media outlets. In all our endeavors, we amplify the voices of displaced people, ensuring they can speak with dignity and power.

About NRC worldwide

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is an independent humanitarian organisation helping people forced to flee. We work in both new and protracted crises across 40 countries, providing emergency and long term assistance to millions of people every year. We stand up for people forced to flee, advocating their rights. NORCAP, our expert deployment capacity, supports the UN and other authorities in crises. NRC also runs the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre in Geneva, a global leader in reporting on and advocating for people displaced within their own country.



Our work is only possible with the generous support of our partners:





















MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF DENMARK Danida





























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