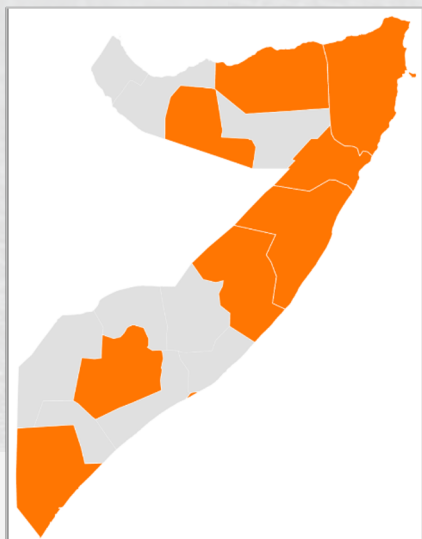




NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL

SOMALIA

AREAS OF OPERATION: EDUCATION



CONTEXT

Efforts by government institutions and civil society to enhance education services and accessibility are ongoing, however, limited capacity continues to hinder effective delivery, particularly for displaced children and those in conflict-affected areas.

- Across Somalia, over 3.4 million children are out of school, reflecting one of the largest education gaps globally.
- For displaced children, access to education remains extremely limited, with many unable to attend school at all.
- Those living in displacement face ongoing exclusion from education, with thousands growing up without access to education.

OUTCOMES/IMPACT

In 2025, 37,118 people (51% female) received support to access education. Through NRC's education programme. This includes:

- Crisis-affected children and youth have been enrolled in school and provided with learning materials.
- Teachers have been trained to enhance the quality of education.
- Classrooms have been constructed, rehabilitated, and equipped to expand access to education.
- Community Education Committee members have been trained to strengthen community engagement and school management.

For the latest updates, please visit:

nrc.no/somalia

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Photo: Abdulkadir Mohamed / NRC

HOW WE SUPPORT: EDUCATION

Education is a basic human right. In Somalia, access to quality education gives children and young people the knowledge and skills they need to build better futures and pursue opportunities.

NRC's education approach

To address the gap between capacity and growing needs, NRC Somalia's education approach prioritises expanding access to basic formal and non-formal education, education in emergencies, and youth vocational training for displacement-affected communities in remote, conflict-affected, and disaster-impacted areas.

Our interventions target school-aged children (6–18) and youth (15–24) who are out of school, have never enrolled, or have dropped out. We also support learners in emergency contexts to complete basic education or acquire vocational skills, ensuring relevant and meaningful learning outcomes.

Aligned with Federal and State Education Sector Strategic Plans, the Humanitarian Response Plan, NRC's Global Education Strategy, UNHCR's Refugee Education Strategy, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the INEE Minimum Standards, we work to ensure that every child has access to quality education.

Who we support

In Somalia, we support displacement-affected boys and girls (refugees, returnees, IDPs and vulnerable host communities) with access to quality and equitable education, working across 8 of 18 regions. (Gedo, Lower Juba, Bay, Mudug, Nugal, Bari, W/Galbed).

NRC programmes and activities

Our education activities focus on: 1) safe and inclusive learning. 2) teacher development. 3) policy engagement. 4) strengthening national education systems. It is delivered through an integrated approach that links education with WASH, protection, and legal support to deliver comprehensive support.

Support for basic formal education: NRC supports out-of-school and displaced children and youth to access and advance through formal education. This includes scholarships, learning materials, uniforms, emergency school feeding, protection services, and psychosocial support.

To improve learning environments, NRC contributes to classroom construction and rehabilitation, enhanced WASH facilities, provision of teaching and recreational materials, sanitary kits for girls, and teacher training with incentives—strengthening education quality, safety, and learners' psychosocial, emotional, and cognitive development.

Education in emergencies: In partnership with local authorities and partners, NRC supports crisis-affected children and youth to continue their education during emergencies. Our rapid response includes establishing temporary learning spaces, catch-up and accelerated learning programmes, remedial classes, and providing protection and psychosocial support.

Support to non-formal education: When access to formal education is limited, NRC provides Accelerated Education Programmes (AEP), delivering flexible, age-appropriate, and accredited learning for out-of-school, over-age, and vulnerable children and youth. AEP offers certified basic education using curricula, textbooks, and guidelines approved by Ministries of Education.

Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET): Our TVET programme provides youth with accredited pathways, including access to secondary and higher education, to strengthen their skills, confidence, and income opportunities. We offer life skills, literacy and numeracy training, and technical and business courses aligned with market demand. Delivered over 6–12 months in training centres and workplaces, the programme includes training materials, career guidance, government-recognised certification, and internships.

NRC also works with authorities and the private sector to support employment pathways for graduates, while strengthening training centres through infrastructure, capacity building, and equipment.

Our partners



European Civil Protection
and Humanitarian Aid
Operations (ECHO)



The LEGO Foundation



EDUCATION
CANNOT
WAIT



Norway



WHEN STUDENTS ARE FLOODED OUT OF THE CLASSROOM:

When heavy rains and flooding hit southern Somalia, thousands of families were displaced, forcing many children out of school.

Among them was Halima, who lost access to education when her family fled their home. For months, she remained out of school, as floods and displacement continued to disrupt learning for children across the region, leaving many uncertain about their future.

Hope was restored through an emergency education response supported by Education Cannot Wait (ECW) and implemented by NRC and partners.

Halima enrolled at Luglow Primary School, where she received learning materials, psychosocial support, and access to a safe learning environment.

Alongside hundreds of other displaced children, she was able to return to school, regain confidence, and begin rebuilding her future demonstrating the critical role of education in helping children recover from crisis.