



NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL

SOMALIA

AREAS OF OPERATION: ICLA

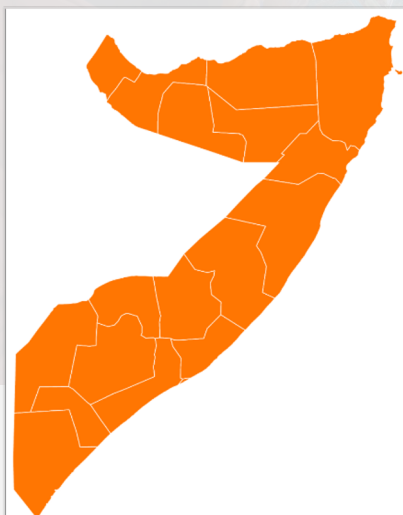


Photo: Abdulkadir Mohamed/ NRC

CONTEXT

In Somalia, conflict and disasters have displaced millions, forcing them to abandon their homes, livelihoods, and legal rights. With displacement often prolonged or recurring, many face major barriers to achieving durable solutions.

- Around 3.5 million IDPs live across more than 2,400 overcrowded displacement sites.
- Over 80% of IDP sites are informal settlements, often located on privately owned land.
- Most IDP households lack secure land tenure, with widespread tenure insecurity and continued risk of forced evictions.
- A large proportion of displaced communities lack civil and national identity documents, limiting access to services and rights.

OUTCOMES/IMPACT

In 2025, NRC supported over 108,684 people (65% 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

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

Somalia has one of the world's largest displaced populations, with many unable to access their legal rights or achieve durable solutions. Our work focuses on addressing these gaps and supporting their path toward stability.

NRC's ICLA approach

Through ICLA (Information, Counselling, and Legal Assistance), we provide legal counselling, information, and support to help displaced populations access their rights and achieve durable solutions. NRC also advocates for policy and legal reforms at national and state levels, while paralegal teams offer direct assistance to families and communities.

These interventions are backed by strong data collection systems to monitor displacement trends and rights violations. NRC links research and advocacy to inform responses and promote lasting change.

Through the UNHCR-led, NRC-implemented Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) and the NRC Evictions Portal, displacement dynamics and legal issues are monitored, reported, and addressed in collaboration with key partners.

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 play a key role throughout the displacement cycle. Disputes over land, resources, and governance are major drivers of conflict and displacement, compounded by resource scarcity. Following displacement, access to land and natural resources is essential for shelter and livelihoods. Protracted and recurring displacement is worsened by weak legal frameworks, fragile institutions, ineffective dispute resolution mechanisms, and limited awareness of HLP rights among displaced communities.

Legal identity: Civil documentation remains difficult to access for many displaced people in Somalia. Legal identity is closely associated with HLP rights, as establishing identity and family history is vital for securing land ownership and inheritance rights.

Employment, laws and procedures: Displaced populations face considerable obstacles to earning income, driven by limited awareness of business registration, labour laws, and employment processes in Somalia.

To address the above challenges, NRC provides:

case management: Targeted counselling and legal support offer individuals guidance on procedures, legal options, and referrals. For those needing further assistance, services include legal and administrative support, court representation, and dispute resolution through mediation, negotiation, and arbitration.

Access to information: NRC supports displaced people with access to accurate and timely information on their rights, entitlements, legal remedies, and services. Outreach is delivered through community sessions, information materials, and campaigns using 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: NRC drives systemic change through research, policy briefs, and focused advocacy. Since 2015, it has chaired Somalia's Housing, Land and Property (HLP) Area of Responsibility (AoR), spearheading efforts to enhance legal protections and awareness.



SECURING IDENTITY FOR DISPLACED FAMILIES IN MOGADISHU

Under NRC's Integrated Rental Subsidy (IRS) project, in close collaboration with the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) Somalia, 777 displaced families in Banadir region – Mogadishu, the capital city were supported to obtain national identification cards.

For many displaced families, this marked a critical step toward inclusion, enabling them to be formally recognised and access essential services.

For displaced families, a national ID is more than just a document, it is a gateway to opportunity. It also enables them to access basic services, opens pathways to employment.

By addressing barriers to legal identity, the project supports families to move beyond displacement and begin rebuilding their lives.

Funded by the FCDO through the Danwadaag consortium, this project contributed to long-term solutions by strengthening integration and self-reliance.

It highlights the importance of legal identity as a foundation for recovery, empowering displaced communities to participate fully in society and secure a more stable future.

Our partners

