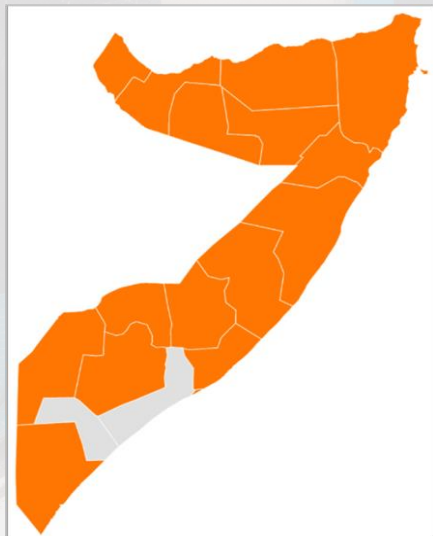


SOMALIA

AREAS OF OPERATION: SHELTER



CONTEXT

Shelter continues to be a major need in Somalia, with approximately 3.5 million people internally displaced. The needs of those in protracted displacement, some for nearly two decades, differ from those recently displaced. Although host communities face similar pressures, displaced populations remain among the most vulnerable and require urgent support.

- 4.1 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 2025, NRC supported 58,866 people (58% 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

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Photo: Abdulkadir Mohamed / NRC

HOW WE SUPPORT: SHELTER

Across Somalia, there is an urgent need for safe and sustainable shelter solutions. NRC delivers comprehensive shelter and non-food item (NFI) support, ensuring families have a safe place to stay, even if temporary.

NRC's shelter approach

Shelter goes beyond providing a roof—it ensures safety, identity, and a pathway to recovery. In Somalia, NRC supports not only housing solutions but also strengthens communities to be resilient and sustainable against current and future shocks.

We work with newly displaced populations, those in prolonged displacement, and host communities to assess immediate and long-term shelter needs in different contexts. From temporary and transitional shelters to durable housing, our approach promotes dignity and stability.

Our interventions integrate basic services, strengthen capacity in site and settlement planning, and ensure settlements are structured and responsive to local needs.

Working alongside partners and authorities, NRC co-chairs the Somalia National Shelter Cluster, leading innovative shelter approaches that have been 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 priority is to ensure people are safe from immediate harm, regardless of the cause. We provide upgradable emergency shelters (kits/tents) and NFI kits to support displaced families.

Mobile cash transfers are the main delivery method, enabling rapid response, flexibility, and support to local markets, with in-kind assistance and vouchers used when required. These interventions protect the most vulnerable and help restore stability and dignity.

Durable solutions for protracted displaced persons

In IDP settlements with secure land tenure, NRC enhances living conditions through settlement planning and re-planning. We support local authorities with training, provide transitional and permanent shelters, and develop linked infrastructure such as solar street lighting.

Settlement planning improves safety, privacy, and access to basic services, while integrating WASH, health, and education services. We also provide legal assistance and advocacy to secure long-term land tenure through authorities and private landowners.

Through an owner-driven approach, supported by NRC technical expertise, we ensure sustainable shelter construction, using contractors only when necessary. This approach supports housing, strengthens communities, and enables displaced people to move toward stability.

Vulnerable host communities

We work to reduce pressure on services and infrastructure in host communities resulting from population influx during or after crises. Typically, 10–20% of shelter assistance is directed to highly vulnerable host community members, while improvements to basic services are designed to benefit both displaced and host populations.

Our partners



REBUILDING LIVES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE AND DIGNIFIED SHELTER IN SOMALIA.

Across Somalia's major urban cities, including Baidoa, Kismayo, Garowe, Galkacyo, and Adado NRC supports displaced families to move from fragile, makeshift shelters into safer and more stable housing.

In rapidly growing towns, where displacement has strained infrastructure and services, these interventions address both immediate shelter needs and long-term solutions.

Through settlement planning and technical support, displacement-affected families are able to transition into permanent and semi-permanent houses.

In areas with secure land tenure, this is strengthened by legal assistance and engagement with authorities to reduce eviction risks and improve tenure security.

Access to improved shelter provides families with greater protection, privacy, and stability, while improving access to services, livelihoods, and education.

These efforts help restore dignity, and support displaced communities to rebuild their lives in a more sustainable way.

