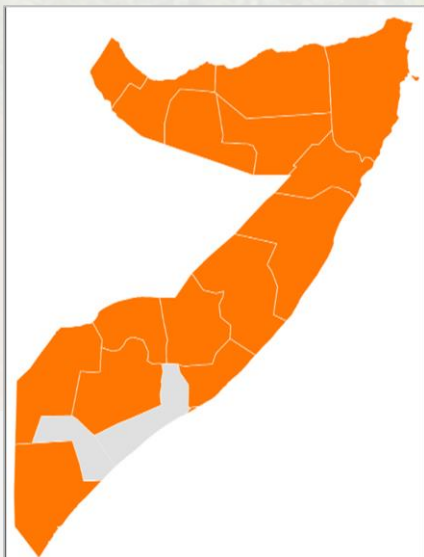




NORWEGIAN  
REFUGEE COUNCIL

## SOMALIA

### AREAS OF OPERATION: LFS



## CONTEXT

In Somalia, conflict, fragility and recurrent disasters result in inadequate food access, limited livelihoods opportunities, and limited nutrition and market knowledge.

- 6m people require food assistance.
- 1.4m children may be acutely malnourished.
- Exacerbated by climate change, environmental degradation and limited capacity of local authorities.
- Shocks include drought, floods, disease, locusts, and forced evictions.

## OUTCOMES/IMPACT

In 2021, 132,064 people (49.7% female) were supported to ensure food security and/or access to livelihoods and income.

- 56,315 people provided safety net cash support for diversified needs.
- 67,862 people received cash for food needs.
- 6,282 people provided agricultural inputs.
- 3,167 people (64% female) received business start-up grants and training.
- 5 infrastructure projects established: livestock market, 2 fish markets, 2 slaughter houses, 1 vocational training centre.

For the latest updates, please visit:  
[nrc.no/somalia](https://nrc.no/somalia)

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Photo: Abdulkadir Mohamed / NRC

# HOW WE SUPPORT: LIVELIHOODS & FOOD SECURITY

Every person has the right to an adequate standard of living - including the right to food and livelihood protection. We support this right in Somalia with both emergency and long-term solutions.

## NRC's livelihoods and food security approach

During conflicts, disasters and displacement, food production and market systems collapse. People lose their ability to earn a living. We aim to mitigate these risks in Somalia, ensuring food security and livelihood opportunities for displacement-affected people.

Using both standalone and integrated activities, NRC improves access to food and other basic needs via short-term cash-based emergency support, integrating with social protection activities. Simultaneously, we support communities with small-scale food production and non-farm income-generating initiatives. Our graduation models help to avoid dependency, and ensure the most needful are fully supported.

NRC emphasises women's engagement and incorporates participatory community practices to design context-appropriate interventions. We also remain flexible, offering timely support, continual adjustment for rapidly changing contexts, and the best possible contribution to durable solutions.

## Who we help

In Somalia, we focus on internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, returnees, and vulnerable host communities. We work across 11 of 18 regions, giving particular attention to hard-to-reach areas.

## NRC programmes and activities

### Cash-based programmes

As a short-term emergency measure we improve people's access to food (and other essential needs) through cash-based support, integrating with safety-net programmes where appropriate. These protections help communities protect their assets and overcome shocks without negative coping strategies.

Our programmes include Multipurpose Cash Transfers (MPCT) on a conditional or unconditional basis and safety-net cash transfers. Transfers are accompanied by nutrition, food safety and home hygiene education. Cash programmes largely take place via mobile money, ensuring flexibility, dignity and privacy, though other tools are used as required.

### A focus on livelihoods

Many of Somalia's young people are engaged in unstable employment, providing an uncertain future – particularly for displaced people. To help, we generate livelihoods through sustainable skills development and vocational training, aiming to diversify and improve household incomes,

Aligned with Somalia's 2020-2024 National Development Plan and guided by market analysis, we provide assets and training to the next generation of artisans, agriculturalists and entrepreneurs in urban and rural areas. In doing so, NRC works with the private-sector to transition trainees into meaningful employment.

Reflecting Somalia's climate vulnerability, agriculture-based livelihoods approaches are designed sustainably, with climate and shock resilience front of mind.

### Resilience building: Infrastructure, community networks

Resilience is crucial to building durable solutions and shock-resistant communities.

NRC supports a range of resilience-building tools. We offer livelihood support packages to displaced people willing and able to return. We also help establish collective savings and loans groups, integrating them with further NRC services and other resilience-building efforts. NRC participates in market-building and awareness-raising activities related to legal rights and access to essential services.

## Our partners



### FARMERS PRODUCE FODDER IN DROUGHT, SAVING LIVESTOCK & BOOSTING INCOME

Amid Somalia's drought, a lack of water and pasture killed hundreds of thousands of livestock animals, devastating incomes and communities.

But, in Baidoa and Kismayo, southern Somalia, NRC supported cooperatives of 270 farmers to produce 18 hectares of fodder. Within four months, farmers in Baidoa had produced enough to keep their animals healthy during drought, and making fodder available for 880 other farmers via local markets. Despite water constraints, fodder production was ensured by NRC's installation of a solar-powered water systems and irrigation schemes, supported by FCDO and USAID.

Fodder production is a lucrative and underdeveloped commercial opportunity in Somalia, with significant growth potential; contract farming (producing for the market) is easily replicated across other cooperatives in riverine and agro-pastoral areas. NRC-supported irrigation schemes equate to year-round production, helping to build community resilience, stable incomes, and storage of fodder for lean times during drought.

