



NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL

SOMALIA

AREAS OF OPERATION: SHELTER

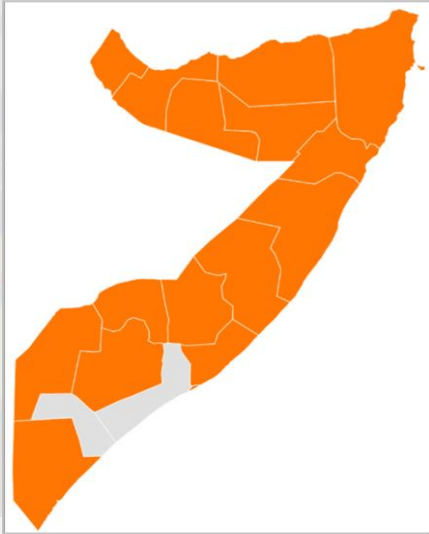


Photo: Abdulkadir Mohamed / NRC

CONTEXT

Shelter is a critical need in Somalia. According to the official figures, there are an estimated 3.8 million IDPs in over 4,000 sites in Somalia. The needs of different categories of IDPs, i.e. people who have been IDPs for nearly two decades and those displaced more recently, vary. Non-displaced communities face the same challenges but displaced people are particularly vulnerable.

- 4.9m people are projected to be in need of shelter and NFIs.
- Shelter is among the top three needs for almost two-thirds of IDPs.
- Less than 25% of IDP households in IDP sites own land/shelter.

OUTCOMES/IMPACT

In 2023, NRC supported 87,145 people (64.6% 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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HOW WE HELP: SHELTER

Across Somalia, people urgently need secure, comprehensive shelter solutions. NRC delivers holistic shelter and non-food item (NFI) services to help families have a place to call "home" – even if just temporarily.

NRC's shelter approach

Shelter is more than just a roof over a family's head. It means physical safety, a sense of identity and a road to recovery. In Somalia we don't only support building homes — we help build communities. We strive to ensure sustainable, resilient communities that can weather the shocks they face now, and those to come.

We work with newly displaced people, those in protracted displacement, and host communities to understand shelter needs in the short and long term, in various contexts. From life preserving temporary or transitional shelters, to long-term homes ensuring durable solutions, we build holistic approaches to enable people to live in dignity.

Through these efforts we support integration with basic services, and deliver training for site and settlement planning to ensure settlements are well planned and suit local needs.

Working with a range of partners and authorities, NRC co-chairs the Somalia National Shelter Cluster and regularly pilots new shelter solutions, several of which are now being utilized.

Who we help

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

Ensuring people are out of immediate danger is our first priority, regardless of the cause. Our efforts include providing upgradable emergency shelter (shelter kits / tents) and NFI kits.

Assistance is primarily via mobile cash transfers to support response time, flexibility and local markets, though in-kind and vouchers are also used.

These efforts ensure that the most vulnerable are protected and gain a sense of stability.

Durable solutions for protracted displaced persons

In IDPs settlements, where proper land tenure is available, we improve living conditions via settlement planning or re-planning. We also provide training for community authorities, supply socially acceptable transitional and/or permanent shelters and build linked systems like solar street-lighting.

Settlement planning enhances physical protection, safety and privacy and provides basic infrastructure and services. We integrate with WASH, health and education efforts, and simultaneously deliver legal aid and advocacy to ensure long-term tenure via authorities and private land owners.

At a practical level, we take an owner-driven approach (supported by NRC technical experts) to shelter construction, ensuring ownership and sustainability, using contractors only when capacity is unavailable. This helps to create homes, build communities, and transition people from displacement.

Vulnerable host communities

We strive to address the additional burdens on existing services and infrastructure within host communities that result from population influx during or after crises.

Generally, 10 to 20 per cent of our shelter activities support highly vulnerable host community members, while basic service improvements are designed to meet host community needs.

Our partners



PROVIDING SAFE HOUSING FOR 6,000 PEOPLE IN BAIDOA

The need for homes for displaced people in southern Somalia's Baidoa is vast. Huge numbers of newly arrived or protracted IDPs reside in over 500 camps.

Recently, FCDO and NRC support helped 6,000 people via cash-based, owner-driven housing as part of a relocation to a dedicated site for displaced people: Barwaaqo.

The homes are one part of a durable solutions approach, including providing land titles to remove forced eviction-related protection risks, as well as latrines, community hygiene training, and tree-planting.

After consultations with community members and local authorities, a corrugated, galvanised iron structure was selected as the most appropriate – providing resilient, affordable, fireproof, expandable and secure housing – and transfers of mobile money cash instalments began.

Communities were supported to collaborate on construction under the direction of camp leaders, NRC engineers and NRC-trained site supervisors.

"I would not be able to construct my house as easily and effectively had we not come together," says Sugay Ali, a solo mother of three who relocated to Barwaaqo, "now my children have a home."

Once construction was completed, families have settled in, some – like Sugay – planting gardens and developing opportunities for income. Months after moving in, up to 95% of homeowners reported better living conditions, including protection with the elements, expanded living space, and better security.