

# NRC's operations in Libya

## Humanitarian overview

Since 2011, Libya has been mired in a protracted conflict resulting in increased violence, political fragmentation and macroeconomic instability. These factors, coupled with shifting frontlines, have triggered widespread population movement. The formation of the Government of National Unity in 2021 brought relative peace, reducing the number of internally displaced people to 125,902 as of August 2023 and increasing the number of returnees to 695,000. However, vulnerable and displaced communities still face persistent challenges and obstacles to access rights, basic services and durable solutions, with more than 300,000 individuals still in need of humanitarian assistance in Libya.

Adding to these challenges, in September 2023, devastating floods caused large-scale destruction in north-east Libya, particularly affecting the cities of Derna, Shahat and Al Bayda. Libya hosts over 700,000 refugees, migrants and asylum seekers with uncertain legal status and limited humanitarian support, experiencing grave protection risks and acute humanitarian needs.

Since April 2023, the large influx of refugees from Sudan has created new challenges for Libyans and non-Libyans alike. Based on official estimates, more than 210,000 new Sudanese arrivals have entered Libya since April 2023. Most Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers continue to arrive through informal crossing points, in Al Kufra in the southeast, and face severe protection risks including arbitrary detention, exploitation and trafficking. Humanitarian needs continue to rise, specifically in health, WASH, cash, food, and shelter, and particularly in the east of the country.



Photo: Mohamed Alfahd/NRC

## Our core activities



Education



Information, counselling  
and legal assistance (ICLA)



Shelter  
and settlements

## NRC in Libya

Established	2017
International staff	13
National staff	128

## Our areas of operation

- Tripoli
- Benghazi
- Tawergha
- Misrata
- Shahat



## Our activities in detail

NRC began operations in Libya in 2017, expanding support to internally displaced people (IDPs), returnees, host communities, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. In 2024, NRC assisted more than 119,000 individuals with education, legal assistance, shelter, cash and livelihoods services.

NRC notably responded in Tripoli, Benghazi, Misrata, Tawergha and Shahat. The response continues to deliver emergency assistance in hard-to-reach areas, while also focusing on early recovery and promoting durable solutions.



6,397 people reached in 2024 ▼

## Education

NRC's education response ensures that children and young people have access to quality, safe and inclusive education. The education environment in Libya requires emergency/transitional and resilience/sustainable support. NRC responds to both through its established community centres, in formal and informal schools, and through local partners. NRC also works with communities to provide community-based education services and provides training and support to incentivise teachers.

- **Remedial classes and basic literacy and numeracy** – supports academic achievement and is implemented with a flexible approach whether in-person or remote
- **Better Learning Programme (BLP)** – NRC's flagship psychosocial support reduces possible fear and stress and is essential to improved motivation and quality of learning
- **Teacher professional development** – provides strategies for wellbeing and active teaching from the INEE Teachers in Crisis Contexts (TiCC) training pack and NRC's BLP
- **Adolescent girls' clubs and boys' clubs** – provide essential leadership, decision-making and social and emotional skills to strengthen their resilience and community engagement
- **Youth technical and non-technical training and social engagement** – technical vocational training and non-technical training, social engagement and further learning opportunities



2,430 people reached in 2024 ▼

## Information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA)

NRC supports vulnerable displaced and conflict-affected communities to establish legal identity, including obtaining legal civil documentation (LCD), to claim their housing, land and property (HLP) and employment (ELP) rights, as well as access essential services (AES). This is done through raising awareness on legal protection needs by providing information at the community level. Through group information sessions (GIS), NRC raises awareness on LCD, HLP, ELP and AES rights, procedural requirements and how to exercise them. NRC is also providing information sessions to refugees and asylum seekers on relevant topics including residency, work rights, tenancy and civil documentation that provide specific information on available legal avenues.

Furthermore, the ICLA programme provides direct legal counselling and legal assistance: representation before formal courts, administrative bodies, or through collaborative dispute resolution mechanisms. The ICLA programme has also scaled up capacity-sharing activities, providing technical assistance and capacity building to duty-bearers, customary justice actors, humanitarian actors and displaced community leaders on property rights, protection against eviction, property restitution and compensation.

In 2024, the ICLA programme launched financial legal assistance (FLA) activities to support vulnerable, displacement-affected individuals in obtaining legal and civil documentation. The financial assistance is intended to cover court and filing fees, administrative costs, and the costs associated with issuing legal documents. The FLA has shown strong success in facilitating the issuance of passports and legal documents for undocumented individuals.



91,404 people reached in 2024 ▼

## Shelter and settlements

NRC aims at promoting the right to access safe, protective and adequate housing and basic services through functional community infrastructure and facilities for IDPs, returnees, and populations in urban areas heavily affected by the conflict. Adequate shelter is crucial for people to live securely, and the lack of it remains a significant obstacle to a sustainable return in many parts of Libya. In 2024 more than 91,000 individuals have benefited from shelter assistance.

NRC housing interventions comprise an integrated package that includes upgrades and repairs in shelter and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities. The aim is to improve various aspects of the physical shelter conditions, including protection from weather, privacy, safety, security, access to water and sanitation. In addition, our response includes support for essential aspects of family life and daily activities, such as sleeping and food preparation. These measures play a crucial role in improving physical living conditions, safeguarding household assets, and enabling individuals to meet their basic needs and address their priorities effectively. In 2024, the programme rehabilitated more than 350 houses in conflict-affected areas.

At community level, the shelter programme seeks to improve access to basic and essential services through the rehabilitation of essential infrastructure and facilities such as health centres, schools, water networks, sewage networks and power lines. In 2024, NRC has completed 10 infrastructure projects including schools, health centres and water pumping stations, and water networks.

In 2024, the programme has expanded its renewable energy interventions, providing solar power systems at both community infrastructure and household level. The programme also continued to prioritise emergency assistance for newly arriving refugees and areas affected by displacement and disasters. In 2024, the Shelter team delivered core relief items to more than 15,200 individuals.

## Cash and livelihoods

NRC's cash and livelihoods programme aims to improve the household economy of socio-economically vulnerable IDPs, returnees and host communities and to respond to situations where displaced people have immediate basic needs. By applying a market-centric and evidence-based sustainable livelihoods approach and by focusing on both short-term and long-term solutions we can meet the diverse needs of our programme participants. In 2024, the programme has benefited more than 14,000 individuals.

The programme provides support through multi-purpose cash assistance to cover basic needs, improve household living conditions as well as the development of wage and self-employment opportunities in targeted communities. The intervention strengthens household economy, leading to self-reliance and wellbeing. To ensure the sustainability of income for households we work with, NRC's LFS programming supports more inclusive market systems by engaging with existing market actors and excluded populations to co-create solutions which address market constraints in the existing market systems.

NRC's Cash and Livelihoods response in Libya covers many interventions, from first-line response to integrated programming with other sectors to promote self-reliance. Focus areas include:

- **Basic needs response** – rapid first-line response aimed at supporting acute or immediate protection needs with emergency multi-purpose cash assistance.

- **Improving the social and economic wellbeing and the ability to preserve living standards** – provision of regular cash assistance intends to cover basic needs, improve household living conditions, and increase economic and social wellbeing.
- **Livelihoods protection and growth** – promoting inclusive business, entrepreneurship, and employment opportunities through the provision of technical capacity building, business readiness skills as well as productive assets and cash grants.

## Our donors

### We are grateful for the generous support from our donors:

- Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA)
- United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR)
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- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- Education Cannot Wait (ECW)
- Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC)
- Swiss State Secretariat for Migration
- European Union (EU)
- KfW Development Bank (KfW)

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