

NRC’s operations in Sudan

Humanitarian overview

Sudan has endured over 900 days of relentless war and indiscriminate violence, plunging the country into an unprecedented catastrophe. The human cost is devastating. Sudan now faces the largest displacement crisis in the world, with over 12 million people forcibly displaced since the beginning of the conflict, including 9.9 million internally displaced people, and 2.5 million fleeing across borders.

With now over 30.4 million people in need (almost two thirds of the population), the humanitarian crisis in Sudan has reached catastrophic proportions. Hundreds of thousands have been killed, and entire cities and displacement camps reduced to ashes. In 2025, violence escalated further, marked by widespread violations of international humanitarian law, including the entrenched use of siege on cities and starvation as weapons of war. An unprecedented cholera outbreak also affected more than 100,000 people nationwide, and hunger spiralled. 24.6 million people, more than half the population are acutely food insecure, and 638,000 face catastrophic levels of hunger. In some areas, entire communities survive on nothing more than boiled leaves.

Sudan’s darkest hour is colliding with steep aid cuts that have forced many life-saving programmes to shut down. In 2025, aid agencies require **US\$4.2 billion to reach 21 million people**, yet only **23 per cent has been funded mid-year, a severe drop compared to the previous year**. Beyond funding, the international community failed to unite to protect civilians and ensure unfettered humanitarian access. Attacks on aid workers and local responders, and widespread obstruction to aid, continue unchecked, threatening the survival of too many.



Our core activities

-  Education
-  Information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA)
-  Livelihoods and food security
-  Protection from violence
-  Shelter and settlements
-  Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

NRC in Sudan

Established	2004-2009, 2020
International staff	64
National staff	409

Our areas of operation

Country office

- Port Sudan

Area offices

- Tawila, Jabel Marra Darfur
- Nyala, South Darfur
- Geneina, West Darfur
- Gedaref, Nile

Field offices

- Zalingei, Central Darfur
- Kadugli, South Kordofan
- Kosti, Nile



Our activities in detail

NRC returned to Sudan in 2020, and currently operates through four area offices in Nile, North Darfur, South Darfur and West Darfur, and two field offices in Central Darfur and South Kordofan. We are dedicated to helping people affected by war, protracted displacement and disasters by supporting their survival, protection and dignity.

We provide lifesaving multi-sectoral emergency responses prioritising cash assistance. We respond through education, protection, livelihoods and food security, access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene, shelter, and information, counselling and legal assistance programmes, as well as site management support. We use technology to improve our programmes, work closely with local partners and grassroots networks, and advocate for those in need.



113,300 people reached in 2025 ▼

Education

In coordination with the Ministry of Education, we support displacement-affected children, adolescents and youth to enjoy access to appropriate, quality education opportunities in safe and protected learning environments. Our teams:

- support displacement-affected children to remain connected and protected through the delivery of our emergency programme – First Phase Education Response
- build the capacity of teachers, education personnel and school-based management committees in core teaching, non-specialised classroom-based psychosocial support, and socio-emotional learning skill
- support access to learning opportunities to displacement-affected children and adolescents through improving learning environment in formal schools
- support displaced and out-of-school children to catch up on their learning losses through age-appropriate non-formal education programmes
- distribute learning and teaching materials to learners and teachers to facilitate access and improve retention



11,497 people reached in 2025 ▼

Information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA)

Our response supports displacement-affected communities to access legal documentation such as the national number, passports, national identity cards, birth registration and marriage registration, to enable them to have better access to services. We strengthen mechanisms of dispute resolution at the local level to help resolve property and land issues. We also promote access to essential services and have set up an eviction monitoring system to identify and respond to eviction threats and actual evictions of vulnerable IDPs taking refuge in schools and other public buildings. Our teams:

- create awareness through the provision of tailored information sessions – in-person and digitally – on access to legal documents
- provide one-on-one counselling and legal assistance to support displacement-affected communities to enforce their rights to access legal documents and essential services
- support collaborative dispute resolution of conflicts through technical and material capacity building of local authorities and community structures
- provide due diligence and security of tenure support to ensure sustainability of our interventions and mitigate against any potential risk of forced evictions
- provide eviction monitoring and response which focuses on identification of threats/actual evictions and follow up with eviction diversion or mitigation support; we are further coordinating the implementation of a roadmap for dignified relocations and re-opening of schools with a rights-based approach
- advocate for displaced people's land and property rights as the co-chair of the Housing, Land and Property Working Group, including through research and publication of reports and briefing notes



181,770 people reached in 2025 ▼

Livelihoods and food security

We support refugees, displacement-affected people and vulnerable host communities to help them meet basic food needs in areas with high levels of food insecurity. We aim to increase access to income-earning opportunities through small-scale off-farm income generating activities, on-farm food production and smallholders' access to input, output and financial markets. Our teams:

- work to improve food access through cash-based interventions, market support, and targeted assistance to local food actors. For example, we support bakeries to increase bread production and sell at reduced prices, making food more affordable and accessible to vulnerable communities.
- provide immediate food assistance through communal kitchens, cash for food programmes, multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA), and cash-for-work activities that enable people to earn income while contributing to community services and infrastructure
- foster economic inclusion and self-reliance by providing youth, men and women from refugee, IDP and host communities with soft and technical skills, combined with cash grants for demand-driven small business activities. This approach strengthens local markets while enabling individuals to generate sustainable income.
- assist families with safe access to small backyard gardens, providing seeds, tools, and training to enhance their own food production, enabling households to increase income, improve dietary diversity, and build long-term resilience
- support host and displacement-affected communities to adopt improved natural resource management activities, promoting sustainable livelihoods and protecting local ecosystems



69,195 people reached in 2025 ▼

Protection from violence

NRC is an active member of the Protection Working Group, the National Protection Sector, the Protection Cluster Strategic Advisory Group, and the MHPSS Working Group. Alongside the well-established site management programme, NRC is piloting the NRC Protection from Violence programme focussing on protection monitoring, analysis, individual protection assistance, and civilian self-protection through community-based protection. The protection programme is supported by NRC's advocacy work, to ensure that evidence from the ground is taken to the attention of decision makers and contributes to change. Our teams:

- conduct protection assessments, analysis, and advocacy
- maintain a proactive presence and individual response services to reduce and address protection concerns
- support civilian self-protection, through working with local groups
- provide comprehensive coordination of services through mobile site management and an urban displacement out-of-camp (UDOC) approach



10,082 people reached in 2025 ▼

Shelter and settlements

We provide access to adequate housing for displacement-affected people. We support site preparation and allocation, distribute and pitch tents, and help repair damaged shelters and build durable ones, while training communities in basic carpentry skills. We provide technical support for flood mitigation and distribute essential relief and household items. Our team:

- responds to inadequate shelter conditions and provides essential household items
- supports safe and dignified relocation of IDPs, ensuring access to safe temporary/transitional shelters

- distributes core relief items including emergency shelter kits and family tents
- construct temporary shelters using locally sourced materials, in line with traditional building practices and the specific needs of the affected populations
- undertakes site improvements including site preparation/site level interventions (backfilling and levelling).
- undertakes shelter repair activities for damaged shelters aimed at improving living conditions and providing adequate shelter for affected households



133,031 people reached in 2025 ▼

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

We address acute WASH needs and reduce public health risks through the delivery of life-saving WASH assistance, re-storing and sustaining existing WASH facilities and enhancing access to critical hygiene supplies. Beyond emergency response, we also support the establishment of a more sustainable and inclusive WASH infrastructure at the household and community levels. We seek to engage local resources (people, local partners, businesses and authorities) in the provision of WASH services. Our teams:

- undertake rehabilitation and construction of water supply systems and facilitate their management to improve sustainability
- ensure meaningful participation and ownership of the community through supporting WASH and hygiene governance structures
- promote positive hygiene practices through hygiene awareness campaigns and sensitisation sessions.
- provide inclusive sanitation facilities with appropriate waste disposal and treatment mechanisms and improve living conditions through public- and community-supported solid waste management
- improve WASH infrastructures in schools to offer a safe environment to children
- respond to water and sanitation-related disease outbreaks such as cholera by ensuring infection, prevention and control

protocols are in place in the affected locations such as camps and settlements

- explore new ways to reach more people in urban settlements, and in locations that are not easily accessible by other partners
- support targets groups including IDPs, host communities, refugees and returnees in gathering sites, schools, camps and off-camps
- integrate behaviour-change practices and themes of gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) across all the aforesaid intervention areas

Advocacy and policy

We advocate for the protection of civilians across Sudan, including those forced to flee violence, respecting International Humanitarian Law. We press the world's leaders to address the crisis in Sudan, end the suffering and engage with humanitarian community to improve the quality of the response. Our positions and policy recommendations are informed by the reality on the ground and by the people we serve.

Cash and markets

We design and deliver comprehensive, emergency cash responses to ensure that displacement-affected populations meet their priority needs with choice and dignity. Cash transfers are part of our efforts to integrate a markets-based approach in our programming. We empower local market actors to take the lead in responding to the needs of their communities and to benefit host communities' struggling economies. NRC continues to explore digital transfer options to reach the most vulnerable populations in hard-to-reach areas where the banking system is disrupted and financial infrastructure damaged in the wake of the April conflict. Our teams:

- conduct regular market assessments to ensure market functionality and monitor price trends
- integrate the use of our Electronic Voucher Modality across the different sectors including education, emergency response and LFS, ensuring a timely and dignified access to essential goods and services in every local market
- build the capacity of staff and partners on cash and market-based concepts,

modalities and delivery mechanisms, enabling an effective response

Group cash transfers

NRC introduced the Group Cash Transfer (GCT) approach in June 2023 as an innovative method to support locally led relief efforts in Sudan. Since its inception, NRC has successfully disbursed cash grants ranging from USD 2,000 to USD 5,000 to various local responder groups across the country.

Where many humanitarian agencies lack access, GCTs can be effectively implemented through local responders, ensuring aid reaches hard-to-reach areas. These grants have empowered local responders to address urgent humanitarian needs effectively, maintaining the spirit of solidarity and ensuring dignified assistance. To date, we have supported about 509 local responders through over 1,200 GCTs. Together with the local responders, we successfully collect market data from highly inaccessible areas, improving evidence-based programming and enhancing the speed and efficiency of response. Efforts are also underway to activate community-based early warning systems through local responders and emergency rooms that would strengthen preparedness and enable a more coordinated humanitarian response.

Multi-purpose cash assistance

We implement multi-purpose cash assistance at scale for an effective, efficient and people-centred response to the complex humanitarian emergency across Sudan. NRC is a Cash Consortium of Sudan (CCS) partner where we implement MPCA in the Darfur's, South Kordofan, and Gedaref in areas that are IPC 4 and above. To date, we have supported 29,500 households (156,000 individuals) with USD 7 million in assistance. Within the CCS framework, we have reached 11,000 households (54,500 individuals) with USD 3.8 million in support.

Digital modes of assistance

In 2025, NRC Sudan expanded its digital portfolio to improve access, accountability, and efficiency in programme delivery. We utilise NRC's Digital Community Hub (DCH) to allow a two-way communication channel between NRC and displacement-affected populations. This enables people in need to raise questions and

trigger emergency alerts, communicate their needs and obtain referrals for specialised services contributing towards Community Feedback Mechanisms. They may also provide feedback and voice complaints

We use the channel to send information in bulk on aid distribution, and to promote hygiene and nutrition best practices, information required. We also leverage the DCH mass messaging capacity to conduct remote data collection, including displacement monitoring through key informants, initial needs assessment, and post distribution monitoring, in locations where access remains a challenge.

Our teams launched several initiatives:

- a Self-Application pilot in Kassala that was accessed by more than 2,500 households, reducing barriers to assistance and streamlining verification and referral processes
- a Digital Registration and Distribution mechanism built on NRC Collect, supporting 125 households through a digitised end-to-end process that now complements NRC's central database called CORE, to harmonise data across area offices and provide real-time oversight
- the Early Warning Solution (CLEAR) is under development to link community-based alerts with GIS and threshold-based triggers, supporting preparedness and rapid response.
- sector-specific digital solutions including a Student Attendance Tracking system that registered over 7,000 students and 50 instructors across 10 schools, and a Bakery Support MIS to monitor flour distribution and bread production
- five dashboards for real-time monitoring and planning: the M&E Weekly Tracking Achievement Map Dashboard 2025, the RRM Alert Tracking Dashboard 2023–2025, the RRM Dashboard 2025, the Digital Registration and Distribution Dashboard 2025, and the Self-Application – Kassala Dashboard, enhancing CFM analytics, RRM responses, and evidence-based project planning and decision-making

Emergency response

Through the Rapid Response Mechanism, we provide immediate lifesaving support to displaced populations within the first 14 days of a crisis. Our first line interventions include multi-purpose cash assistance for basic needs, provision of emergency shelter, non-food items solutions, and water and sanitation services. We have invested in strengthening our presence in hard-to-reach locations and besieged areas through a team of trained staff and volunteers which enables us to deploy as early as possible to affected locations to conduct assessments and provide lifesaving support, until a longer-term solution can be found in coordination with other humanitarian partners.

NRC also provides emergency assistance in non-RRM locations both directly and with local partners on an ad hoc basis when there are rapid deteriorations in the humanitarian situation including conflict displacements, high food insecurity/famine, cholera outbreak and flooding.

Partnerships and capacity sharing

In 2025, NRC's Sudan team has scaled up its partnerships with local and national organisations to strengthen Sudan's humanitarian response. So far, NRC has signed 41 partnership agreements with 17 implementing partners and disbursed seven Flexible Mini Grants (FMGs), with another 56 FMGs planned later this year. These partnerships enable interventions in key sectors such as WASH, shelter, education, ICLA, protection from violence, and livelihoods and food security.

At the core of NRC's strategy is a commitment to capacity-sharing, system strengthening, and innovative financing. Alongside funding, NRC is investing in technical mentorship and institutional development, while also partnering with the Centre for Humanitarian Leadership to deliver crisis leadership training for Sudanese NGOs. In response to inflation and cash shortages, NRC is pioneering blockchain-based digital currency transfers with COALA Pay, ensuring more efficient and resilient support to partners and communities.

Coordination and collaboration

We are a member of all relevant national and subnational coordination forums. We coordinate through the cluster system in Sudan, the Refugee Consultation Forum, and the INGO Forum. Our approach to coordination goes beyond participation, as we share our knowledge and expertise. We are an active member of Strategic Advisory Groups (SAG) and the Cash Working Group (CWG), and co-chair of the housing, land, and property rights sub-sector and the technical working group for GCTs. We invest in state-level coordination in each of our areas of operation. Alongside these, NRC is currently part of four consortia with INGOs for RRM and CCS.

Our donors

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Contact NRC in Sudan



Country director: Shashwat Saraf



SD.info@nrc.no



www.nrc.no/sudan



House 566 Council Street, Hai Almattar, Square 1, Port Sudan, Red Sea, Sudan

