

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 and recurrent fighting, 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 less than 40,000. However, returnees and vulnerable displaced communities still face persistent challenges and obstacles to access rights, basic services and durable solutions.

More than 787,000 individuals are in need of humanitarian assistance in Libya as the country hosts more than 894,000 migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, many of whom face grave protection risks, including detention, violence and exploitation.

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 550,000 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 south-east, and face severe protection risks including arbitrary detention, exploitation and trafficking. Humanitarian needs continue to rise, specifically in education, WASH, and shelter, and particularly in the east of the country. The influx from Sudan has also placed additional strain on already fragile infrastructure and overstretched basic services, affecting both host communities and displaced populations.



Photo: Mohamed Alfahd/NRC

Our core activities



Education



Information, counselling
and legal assistance (ICLA)



Shelter
and settlements

NRC in Libya

Established	2017
International staff	9
National staff	102

Our areas of operation

- Tripoli
- Benghazi
- Tawergha
- Misrata
- Shahat
- Al Bayda
- Ajdabiya
- Jalu



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 2025, NRC assisted more than 38,000 individuals with education, legal assistance, shelter, and livelihoods services.

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



2,279 people reached in 2025 ▼

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
- **School rehabilitation** – ensuring that education spaces offer a safe and inclusive environment that enables quality learning and teaching



849 people reached in 2025 ▼

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. Financial legal assistance (FLA) activities 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.

In 2025, the ICLA programme faced severe access challenges that resulted in the suspension of activities for the most part of the year. However, through continuous advocacy, access negotiations and coordination with local stakeholders NRC Libya was able to resume ICLA activities in a safe and principled manner towards the end of 2025.



7,331 people reached in 2025 ▼

Livelihoods and food security

NRC's 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.

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 livelihoods and food security response in Libya covers many interventions, from first-line response to integrated programming with other sectors to promote self-reliance. Focus areas include:

- **First-line response** – rapid first-line response aimed at supporting acute or immediate protection through the provision of food parcels
- **Improving 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.



33,342 people reached in 2025 ▼

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 2025, the programme rehabilitated more than 770 houses in conflict-affected areas and provided an additional 275 with solar energy solutions

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 2025, NRC completed four infrastructure projects including schools, water pumping stations, and water networks.

The programme also continued to prioritise emergency assistance for newly arriving refugees and areas affected by displacement and disasters. In 2025, the Shelter team delivered core relief items to more than 13,000 individuals.

Our donors

We are grateful for the generous support from our donors:

- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)
- United Nations refugee agency (UNHCR)
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- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- Swiss Agency for Cooperation and Development (SDC)
- Swiss State Secretariat for Migration
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