

NRC's operations in Somalia

Somalia continues to face a severe human crisis driven by nearly thirty years of conflict, political instability, climate shocks, and economic hardship. About 4.8 million people require urgent humanitarian and protection assistance.

Climate extremes and violence remain the key drivers of vulnerability. Around 3.3 million people are displaced within Somalia, many of them uprooted multiple times.

Drought conditions due to failed rains, sharp food price spikes linked to the 2026 Middle East conflict, currency depreciation and conflict-related displacement have left 6 million (one out of every three) people in Somalia facing crisis levels of hunger or worse after consecutive seasons of drought. Humanitarian agencies are warning of malnutrition rates higher than anything seen in the last five years: nearly 1.8 million children under five are at risk of acute malnutrition.

Aid cuts have wiped out support for displaced Somalis. Despite the scale of need, Somalia's humanitarian response remains 70 per cent underfunded.

Now another emergency threatens Somalis. The country's *Deyr* rainy season, expected in October 2026, is forecasted to be amplified by the global El Niño which could bring the country's most severe flooding since 2023. Forecasters warn that this year's El Niño could rival the floods of 2023, which displaced 1.2 million people, killed 8,000 farm animals, and damaged 11,000 hectares of farmland.



Photo: Abdulkadir Mohamed/NRC

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 Somalia

Established	2004
International staff	13
National staff	167

Our areas of operation

- Mogadishu
- Kismayo
- Baidoa
- Hargeisa
- Burao
- Jowhar
- Bossaso
- Qardho
- Galkayo
- Garowe
- Dhusamareb
- Dollow
- Luuq
- Dinsor
- Wajid
- Hudur
- Abudwak
- Bardere
- Bulaburde
- Lasanod
- Jalalaksi



37,118 people reached in 2025 ▼

Education

We want all displaced Somali children and youth, as well as those in the communities that host them, to go to school. Our education teams:

- provide first-line emergency education and protection response to newly displaced children
- provide formal and accelerated education for children who have missed out school to catch up with their peers, to ensure their transition into the formal school system
- train teachers in teaching approaches in crisis contexts, child protection and psychosocial support
- construct and rehabilitate temporary learning spaces and permanent classrooms, in coordination with our shelter teams
- provide psycho-social support to strengthen the coping mechanisms, resilience, and overall wellbeing of displaced children
- provide teaching and learning materials, and dignity kits for girls
- capacity building of Community Education Committees and Ministry of Education on management and school safety to improve governance and child safeguarding



108,684 people reached in 2025 ▼

Information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA)

Many displaced people in Somalia are denied basic rights like land tenure, legal identity and access to justice. Our teams:

- raise awareness about the rights of displaced people among local authorities and communities
- provide information and legal counselling on housing, land and property rights to displaced Somalis and Somali refugees who have returned to the country
- run an emergency hotline and call centre to provide immediate legal advice
- assist displaced Somalis to secure land tenure and rental agreements
- strengthen land governance and registries through targeted technical and material support
- influence inclusive land policies and legal frameworks to ensure equitable land rights
- monitor evictions and provide tailored assistance to people affected by evictions
- support displacement-affected people to obtain legal identity and access to justice and legal remedies through formal and customary dispute resolutions



66,279 people reached in 2025 ▼

Livelihoods and food security

Protracted conflict and political instability over decades have led to the displacement of people, the destruction of infrastructure, and the disruption of livelihoods and agricultural activities, resulting in increased food insecurity in Somalia. Our teams:

- support and strengthen government-led social protection programmes to provide a safety net to vulnerable populations
- support communities' environmental conservation activities, such as nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration, and access to clean energy for production
- support communities in the prioritisation of key needs and invest in critical infrastructure such as farm-to-market roads, soil protection, water harvesting structures and solarised irrigation channels
- provide smallholder farmers with access to farming inputs and advanced irrigation equipment to increase yields
- provide agriculture extension services and training to empower farmers and other community members with new skills (for instance, farmers are trained to tackle pests and diseases that can damage their crops)
- engage youth through the Technical and Vocational Training programme, which equip young adults with the skills needed for employment or to create their own businesses and cooperatives



43,898 people reached in 2025 ▼

Protection from violence

We work to protect those most at risk in Somalia and support communities' right to freedom from violence, coercion and deliberate deprivation. Our teams:

- do first-line response through protection help desks and case management in conflict-affected and hard-to-reach areas

- through the protection and solutions monitoring network (PSMN), together with our partners, conduct monitoring, reporting of displacements and protection incidents
- engage communities through awareness and sensitisation on protection risks, threats and vulnerabilities
- identify child protection and GBV-related risks and refer to service providers
- provide individual protection assistance through cash transfer to individuals and households facing protection issues or at risk of facing protection concerns
- monitor population movements including returns in specific locations such as transit sites, IDP settlements, border crossings, and temporary locations
- identification, documentation and referral of protection-related cases to service providers
- issue flash alerts for massive displacement and hotspot areas affected by conflicts, droughts and floods
- ensure well-coordinated, effective and principled preparedness actions and responses, joint protection analysis for the protection cluster at the national and sub-national levels



58,866 people reached in 2025 ▼

Shelter and settlements

We provide shelter and access to essential infrastructure and non-food items to internally displaced people, refugees and vulnerable host communities in Somalia. Our teams:

- construct and rehabilitate emergency, transitional and permanent shelters through cash and in-kind modalities and adopting owner-driven approaches whenever feasible
- distribute non-food items (NFIs) through cash and in-kind approaches
- prepare site/settlement plans and conduct training on site/settlement planning
- construct and rehabilitate essential infrastructure, for instance roads, community centres, markets, schools etc.
- co-chair the national shelter cluster at country level and regional cluster coordination groups



157,122 people reached in 2025 ▼

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Lack of access to safe water and adequate sanitation is a major driver of humanitarian needs in Somalia. Our teams:

- construct household and community latrines including school sanitation facilities
- develop and rehabilitate multi-use climate-resilient water systems for domestic and production use
- promote equitable access to water for displaced people through public-private partnerships
- provide emergency water trucking through community-led approaches
- distribute essential hygiene supplies (cash and in-kind) and water treatment inputs
- promote sanitation and hygiene awareness
- train communities in how to use and maintain hygiene facilities and waste management systems



355,779 people reached in 2025 ▼

Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

Multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) is a core pillar of NRC's emergency response in Somalia, providing flexible support to people affected by conflict displacement and climate-crisis.

- Cash assistance helps households meet urgent food, water, and basic needs while supporting local markets.
- The people assisted include caseloads linked to new displacement and referrals from health and nutrition actors.

Our donors

We are grateful for the generous support from our donors:

- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)
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- European Union, The Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA)
- Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- International Organisation for Migration (IOM)
- German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ)
- King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center
- Kreditanstalt fuer Wiederaufbau (KfW)
- Education Cannot Wait (ECW)
- Danish International Development Agency (Danida)
- Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- The LEGO Foundation
- Wellspring
- Mindfulness
- GloDollar
- Stellar Development

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