

NRC's operations in South Sudan

Humanitarian overview

South Sudan remains one of the most complex and protracted humanitarian crises globally in 2026. Humanitarian needs increased from an estimated 9.3 million people at the beginning of the year to approximately 10 million mid-year, driven by conflict, climate shocks, economic instability and continued displacement linked to the Sudan crisis.

Approximately 2 million people remain internally displaced within South Sudan. And since the conflict in Sudan erupted in 2023, over 1.4 million people have crossed into South Sudan, primarily returnees, placing sustained pressure on border areas and in settlement locations. Renewed conflict, insecurity and inter-communal violence have caused further displacement and constrained humanitarian access while global funding reductions strain already limited resources.

Linking humanitarian response with resilience and durable solutions, NRC has prioritised the delivery of life-saving and integrated assistance for crisis-affected people affected by displacement in border areas, locations of return and areas that are both hard-to-reach and under-served.



Our core activities

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

NRC South Sudan

Established	2004
International staff	17
National staff	247

Our areas of operation

- Renk (Upper Nile State)
- Northern Bahr el Ghazal State)
- Warrap State
- Western Bahr el Ghazal State
- Jonglei State
- Unity State
- Central Equatoria State



Our activities in detail

Through our mobile emergency response capacity, we provide lifesaving multi-sectoral assistance to crisis-affected populations in hard-to-reach areas across South Sudan. In areas where we have established operations, we ensure that displacement-affected people are safe, can exercise their rights, access quality services and protection, and secure durable solutions.

To that end, we contribute to the safe and stable environment needed to allow for return and reintegration or integration of displaced communities. We do this through advocacy, coordination, and collaboration, as well as integrated and multi-sectoral long-term interventions. Through these efforts, we do not work alone. We collaborate with communities, local partners and authorities and coordinate with other humanitarian organisations to deliver essential services. Access constraints, like bureaucratic impediments and insecurity, continue to heavily affect the overall humanitarian operation and the ability to reach people in need.



109,253 people reached in 2025 ▼

Education

Our education programme supports displacement-affected children and youth to access quality, safe and inclusive learning opportunities relevant to their psychosocial, emotional, and cognitive development and needs transitioning into livelihoods and community engagement through learning-to-earning pathways. Gender sensitivity, equity, and inclusion are key considerations guiding NRC's programming. We:

- provide rapid education response in the first phase of an emergency because education is lifesaving and strengthens recovery and resilience and is prioritised by the communities we work with
- support retention by creating physically and psychologically safe learning environments
- promote equitable access to education through providing teaching and learning materials, dignity kits and guided recreational activities for learners
- strengthen teacher capacity and wellbeing through continuous professional development, psychosocial support and teacher motivation
- provide non-formal and flexible education to support children and youth who missed education due to conflict and displacement, helping them to catch up with their peers and transition into the formal education system and/or livelihood pathways

- youth wellbeing through building skills in functional literacy/numeracy, vocational training, entrepreneurship, business management, life skills education, and linking to income earning and community engagement opportunities



112,632 people reached in 2025 ▼

Information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA)

NRC's specialised legal protection programme enhances displaced-affected communities' ability to claim and enjoy their rights and access legal remedies in proportion to need and according to "Do No Harm" principles, particularly on housing, land and property (HLP), legal identity including civil documentation (LID), legal stay, and employment law and procedures (ELP).

- HLP activities contribute to improved security of tenure, particularly for women, prevent unlawful eviction, support the amicable resolution of HLP disputes through collaborative dispute resolution methods and work towards the realisation of durable solutions by supporting returnees as well as internally displaced persons to obtain accurate information and take steps to secure their HLP assets in the areas of return.
- Through LID, obtaining nationality certificates and birth notifications and age assessments, communities have increased access to services such as education, health, and employment/livelihood opportunities.
- Interventions on legal stay support displaced or conflict-affected individuals in navigating obstacles related to legal and administrative processes for securing legal status. This includes assistance with refugee status determination, legal residency, and other immigration protection mechanisms.
- Through the ELP response, access to employment and/or the labour market is supported through facilitating access to work and supporting business registration/formalisation.



45,469 people reached in 2025 ▼

Protection from violence

Protection from violence programmes strengthen community safety and assist individuals at heightened risk of violence, coercion and deliberate deprivation of rights. We:

- undertake protection monitoring and risk assessments to inform evidence-based programming, analysis, advocacy and high-level humanitarian decision-making
- support communities to develop and implement safety and violence prevention plans that reduce risks and vulnerabilities, mitigate exposure to threats and strengthen capacities to stay safe
- provide individual protection assistance, deliver psychosocial first aid, and facilitate access to essential services and information that support individuals and communities to prevent, mitigate, and respond to protection risks



246,359 people reached in 2025 ▼

Shelter, sites and settlements

NRC's shelter, site and settlement response is integrated across core competencies – ICLA, Education, Protection from Violence, and WASH – to address the holistic needs of displacement-affected populations in severely affected locations. Assistance is climate-sensitive and delivered across four thematic areas: emergency shelter, transitional shelter, settlement infrastructure, and site management, supporting emergency response, resilience and integration. Cash is prioritised as a modality, transitioning into durable solution pathways through:

- emergency shelter kits and relief items to meet immediate humanitarian needs
- construction/rehabilitation of emergency shelters during an emergency response

- communal shelter solutions through transitional or long-term shelter and settlement response
- construction of temporary and semi-permanent classrooms
- training and awareness-raising on shelter construction to promote localisation and sustainability
- technical supervision and monitoring to ensure structures and shelters meet required standards and comply with community norms and cultures



221,938 people reached in 2026 ▼

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

Our WASH projects provide displaced-affected people with:

- emergency safe drinking water through water treatment and water production
- provision of adequate and safe access to emergency sanitation and hygiene facilities to meet immediate humanitarian needs
- improved displacement-affected communities' hygiene practices through provision of trainings, hygiene promotion campaigns and sessions, and hygiene kits distribution
- constructing and rehabilitating water supply systems and sanitation facilities in schools and communities, combined with capacity building and maintenance support to promote sustainability and long-term functionality
- safe disposal of human waste and solid waste
- prevention of water- and waste-related diseases through the adoption of safe and hygienic practices

Advocacy and policy

NRC provides contextualised, comprehensive analyses of the context, and projections as well as scenarios to all humanitarian actors, donors, and diplomatic missions in South Sudan to inform the humanitarian response. Through

research and advocacy, we influence considerations around context analysis, durable solutions, needs-based assistance, humanitarian access, and implications of returns and refugee flows across the country. Our goal is to enhance service delivery and protection for the displacement-affected population. Advocacy is conducted both publicly, through media engagement and external position papers, and privately, through targeted meetings and briefings with relevant interlocutors.

Cash and markets

Informed by robust analysis of the context, NRC selects the most appropriate response modality. We promote cash and markets-based interventions, and mainstream cash, voucher, and market-based approaches, supported by sound market and protection analysis. Where appropriate to the context, cash transfers are used as the default modality to reduce aid dependency and restore the dignity of displacement-affected populations while supporting market systems. In 2026, NRC uses multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) and sector-specific cash assistance, with group cash transfers also introduced during the year. MPCA remains the most used approach, reaching **112,596 people** so far in 2026. Such responses are coordinated with the Cash Working Group. In cases of undeveloped markets, as is the case in most parts of the country, NRC incorporates activities in its programmes to support market functionality, for example seed fairs.

Durable solutions

Displaced people and the communities hosting them, authorities, local actors and NRC work together towards durable solutions – a future where return, local integration or relocation leads to dignity, independence and lasting change. Durable solutions begin with displacement-affected communities being able to make voluntary and informed decisions about what is best for them. Through Community Action Plans, people identify their own priorities, from education and legal assistance to infrastructure and economic recovery. Guided by these priorities, NRC collaborates with local authorities and other actors to address the most important issues identified, ensuring each step reflects what communities need most for sustainable return and integration.

Emergency response

NRC pools capacities on the Emergency Rapid Response Mechanism (ERRM) in South Sudan, through the NRC-led ERRM Consortium and with key stakeholders, for coordinated preparedness and lifesaving integrated support to people affected by sudden-onset disasters including conflict and flooding. This is guided by the ERRM Framework providing standards for the rapidity, efficiency, and effectiveness of first-line responses. NRC's emergency response is integrated with longer-term interventions aimed at self-reliance and durable solutions in areas of return or (re-)settlement.

Humanitarian coordination

Recognised for its proactive leadership in coordination across South Sudan, NRC is represented on the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), NGO Forum Steering Committee, and Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG). NRC co-leads the Protection, WASH, and Shelter, Land and Site Coordination (SLSC) clusters and serves as the HLP workstream lead within the SLSC Cluster. We are also co-coordinating the Durable Solutions Working Group and are actively involved in the Cash Working Group and the Access Working Group. By collaborating with other humanitarian actors, NRC aims to improve humanitarian sector efficiency, address access challenges and highlight key programmatic areas for resource allocation in a contracting funding landscape.

Localisation

NRC leverages partnerships and collaboration with the private sector, civil society, and community-based mechanisms on programme delivery, advocacy and influencing. NRC has ongoing implementation agreements with 14 local partners for interventions in emergency response, education and durable solutions.

Meaningful collaboration with the government, that embeds knowledge and strengthens service delivery systems, is attained at relevant levels. Since 2020, with financial support from Education Cannot Wait (ECW), NRC has seconded staff to the Multi-Year Resilience Programme (MYRP) Secretariat housed within the Ministry of Education.

Our donors

We are grateful for the generous support from our donors:

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- European Union (EU)
- Education Cannot Wait (ECW)
- Global Partnership for Education (GPE)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- IKEA Foundation
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