

NRC's operations in Sudan

Humanitarian overview

More than three years of war have plunged Sudan into one of the world's largest humanitarian crises. Violence, displacement, hunger and disease continue to devastate communities. More than 13 million people have been forced from their homes since the conflict began – around nine million within Sudan and up to four million who have fled across borders. Millions have also returned to their areas of origin, where many face damaged homes and limited access to essential services.

While frontlines have shifted, fighting continues across Darfur and Kordofan and has spread into Blue Nile, driving further displacement and humanitarian needs. Drone attacks have become a defining feature of the conflict. Their growing use has expanded the reach of hostilities and put civilians and vital infrastructure at greater risk. Across Sudan, armed conflict incidents, including many that have been found to amount to serious violations of international humanitarian law, continue to expose civilians to grave protection risks.

In 2026, 33.7 million people, more than two-thirds of the population, require humanitarian assistance. Millions face acute food insecurity, while an estimated 825,000 children under five are expected to suffer from severe acute malnutrition. Years of war have devastated livelihoods and disrupted access to healthcare, clean water, education and other basic services.

The 2026 humanitarian response requires nearly US\$2.9 billion to assist 20.4 million people. It remains significantly under-funded. Yet funding alone will not be enough. Civilians must be protected and humanitarian organisations granted safe, rapid and unhindered access. Without both, the human cost of this war will continue to grow.



Photo: Marwan Mohammed/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 Sudan

Established	2004–2009, 2020
International staff	58
National staff	398

Our areas of operation

Country office

- Port Sudan and Khartoum

Area offices

- Tawila, North Darfur
- Nyala, South Darfur
- El Geneina, West Darfur
- Gedaref, Gedaref

Field offices

- Zalingei, Central Darfur
- El Obeid, North Kordofan
- Kadugli, South Kordofan
- Kosti, White 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 three field offices in Central Darfur, North Kordofan 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, 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.



175,888 people reached in 2025 ▼

Education

In coordination with the Ministry of Education, we support displacement-affected children, adolescents and youth to have 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 skills
- support access to learning opportunities to displacement-affected children and adolescents through improving learning environments 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 support learning and improve retention



48,631 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, 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:

- raise awareness through the provision of tailored in-person information sessions 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 shelter 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
- jointly with the protection cluster and other relevant clusters, 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



269,646 people reached in 2025 ▼

Livelihoods and food security

We support refugees, displacement-affected people and vulnerable host communities to meet their basic food needs and strengthen their livelihoods. We aim to increase access to income-earning opportunities through small-scale off-farm activities, on-farm food production and smallholders' access to inputs, outputs and financial markets. Our teams:

- improve access to food 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



151,376 people reached in 2025 ▼

Protection from violence

NRC is an active member of the National Protection Cluster, the Protection Cluster Strategic Advisory Group, and the Area Based Coordination System in Darfur. Our PfV programme focuses on protection monitoring and analysis, individual protection assistance, and civilian self-protection. In 2026, NRC further strengthened its protection programming through updated guidance, standard operating procedures and staff training. NRC's advocacy work draws on evidence from the PfV programme to raise protection concerns with decision makers and advocate for change. Our teams:

- conduct rapid protection assessments, monitoring and analysis, and advocate on key protection concerns through inter-agency coordination
- map services, establish referral pathways, refer people to relevant service providers and conduct awareness-raising sessions on key protection issues
- maintain a proactive presence and engage with communities and key protection actors
- provide individual protection assistance and protection case management to address urgent protection concerns through access centres and mobile teams
- support civilian self-protection and strengthen local ownership by working with community-based protection structures to develop and implement their own self-protection strategies
- use a community-based approach to coordinate services through multi-service community access centres, jointly used by NRC, community-based structures and other protection and non-protection actors. We support the handover of community centres to communities to strengthen local ownership and self-governance, alongside mobile site management and an urban displacement out-of-camp approach.
- lead and contribute to different consortia with key protection actors to provide more coordinated protection assistance to communities and individuals facing heightened protection risks



96,949 people reached in 2025 ▼

Shelter and settlements

We provide safe, adequate and dignified shelter for displacement-affected people living in makeshift shelters, informal settlements or with host communities. Our teams work in hard-to-reach locations and urban displacement settings, adapting assistance to the specific shelter, settlement and protection needs of affected families. Our response combines emergency shelter assistance, site improvements and shelter repairs with transitional and more durable shelter solutions, alongside technical support, coordination and community capacity strengthening. Our teams:

- respond to inadequate shelter conditions and provide essential household items
- support safe and dignified relocation of displaced people, including access to safe temporary and transitional shelter
- distribute 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 needs of affected communities
- conduct market assessments in Darfur and Gedaref to assess the availability, accessibility and suitability of materials and services and inform market-based responses
- conduct environmental screening to identify potential risks and inform environmentally responsible shelter and settlement interventions
- undertake site improvements, including site preparation, backfilling and levelling, and the installation of solar street lighting
- lead and coordinate the inter-agency response to flood-related emergencies in Tawila camps, working with relevant authorities, clusters, partners and service providers to identify needs and coordinate responses
- establish and train community structures to strengthen community participation, coordination and accountability

- conduct site profiling and assessments to identify shelter, settlement and infrastructure needs and inform response planning
- repair damaged shelters to improve living conditions and provide adequate shelter for affected families



468,338 people reached in 2025 ▼

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

We address acute WASH needs and reduce public health risks through life-saving assistance, rehabilitating and sustaining existing WASH facilities and improving access to essential hygiene supplies. Beyond emergency response, we support more sustainable and inclusive WASH infrastructure at household and community levels. We engage communities, local partners, businesses and authorities in the provision and management of WASH services. Our teams:

- rehabilitate and construct water supply systems and support their management to improve sustainability
- promote meaningful community participation and ownership by supporting WASH and hygiene governance structures
- promote positive hygiene practices through awareness campaigns and community sensitisation
- provide inclusive sanitation facilities with appropriate waste disposal and treatment systems, and support community-based solid waste management
- improve WASH infrastructure in schools to support safer and more appropriate learning environments
- respond to water- and sanitation-related disease outbreaks, including cholera, by supporting infection prevention and control measures in affected locations, including camps and settlements
- develop approaches to reach people in urban settlements and hard-to-reach locations

- support displaced people, host communities, refugees and returnees in gathering sites, schools, camps and other displacement settings
- 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 help 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 support local 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 as a result of the conflict. Our teams:

- conduct regular market assessments to monitor market functionality and price trends
- integrate the use of our Electronic Voucher Modality across the different sectors including education, emergency response and LFS, supporting 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 721 local responders through over 4,200 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 through integration with NRC's CLEAR system that would strengthen preparedness and enable a more coordinated, rapid humanitarian response.

Multi-purpose cash assistance

We implement multi-purpose cash assistance at scale as part of an effective, efficient and people-centred response to Sudan's complex humanitarian emergency. NRC is a Cash Consortium of Sudan (CCS) partner, through which we implement MPCA in the Darfurs, South Kordofan and Gedaref in areas classified as IPC 4 and above. To date, we have supported over 26,000 households (182,321 individuals) with USD 5.7 million in assistance. Within the CCS framework, we have reached 16,377 households (90,785 individuals) with USD 5.61 million in support.

Digital modes of assistance

In 2026, NRC Sudan is increasingly using digital systems to support the delivery, monitoring and management of humanitarian assistance. These solutions span education, cash assistance, early warning and humanitarian coordination, helping teams move from fragmented and manual processes towards more integrated, timely and traceable ways of working.

Digital initiatives include the Student Attendance Tracking (SAT) system for student registration and attendance, RapidCash for emergency cash assistance, SEND-P for coordinated cash delivery, CLEAR for early warning, NeedAid Sudan for information and resources, and digital tracking of flour deliveries to bakeries. Together, these tools strengthen access to assistance while improving accountability, operational oversight and evidence-based decision-making.

Our teams launched several initiatives:

- The SAT system currently covers 206 schools, 842 teachers and approximately 58,200 students. SAT consolidates student and school records, supports attendance monitoring, and helps identify trends requiring follow-up. The system improves data quality and provides more timely information for education reporting, planning and programme management.
- The RapidCash system digitises registration, verification and monitoring of emergency cash assistance. To date, 3,842 households have been registered and 1,478 households funded, with digital verification and supporting evidence integrated into the workflow. The system improves beneficiary tracking, reduces manual processing and provides teams with more timely information on cash delivery and programme performance.
- NRC Sudan has contributed to the development of CLEAR, NRC's early-warning system, by reviewing its design and defining requirements relevant to the Sudan context. Contributions have focused on alerts for population movements and improved analytical reporting, enabling teams to identify emerging changes and use the information to inform operational and strategic decisions.
- Bakeries Digital Tracking uses financial service providers (FSPs), including Aidonic and LMT, to generate QR codes that support the tracking and verification of flour deliveries to bakeries. The system is being used across Tawila, Nyala, Zalingei, Wadi Salih and El Geneina, improving traceability of deliveries and providing better visibility of flour distribution across 1,142 bakeries.
- NeedAid Sudan web portal was established to provide Emergency Response Rooms (ERRs) with access to information on NRC's

cash assistance. The website complements messaging-based services through which applicants can find information about available cash support. It also hosts training materials and key documents, providing ERRs with a central resource for accessing guidance and programme information.

- NRC Sudan has played a key role in the development of SEND-P, a product of CCS (Collective Sudan) that is a shared digital platform supporting cash delivery and coordination between implementing organisations and financial service providers (FSPs). NRC's contribution has focused on designing and testing processes for selecting financial service providers, issuing and reconciling payments, managing tasks and support requests, and analysing the availability of cash and financial services.

Emergency response

Through the FASER Consortium and CCS, 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 both directly, through the IOM pipeline, 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 outbreaks and flooding.

Partnerships and capacity sharing

In 2026, 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 40 partnership agreements with 22 implementing partners and disbursed 34 Flexible Mini Grants (FMGs), with another 15 FMGs planned later this year. These partnerships enable interventions in key sectors such as WASH, shelter, education, ICLA, protection from violence, MPCA and capacity sharing.

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 six consortia with INGOs for Education, Protection, RRM and CCS.

Our donors

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Contact NRC 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