

NRC

NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL

The world's most neglected displacement crises

10th EDITION

Published 4 June 2026





Published: 4 June 2026

Main authors and contributors: Tina Abu-Hanna, Jessica Wanless, H el ene Michou, Rebecca Crombleholme, Mathilde Vu, Eric Batonon, Giovanni Rizzo, David Garcia, Kat Achilles, Maisam Shafiey, Giorgio Lentini, Francesco Volpi, Insaf Garchi, Thomas Hill, Ulrika Blom, Deirdre Keogh, Ed Prior and Beatriz Ochoa

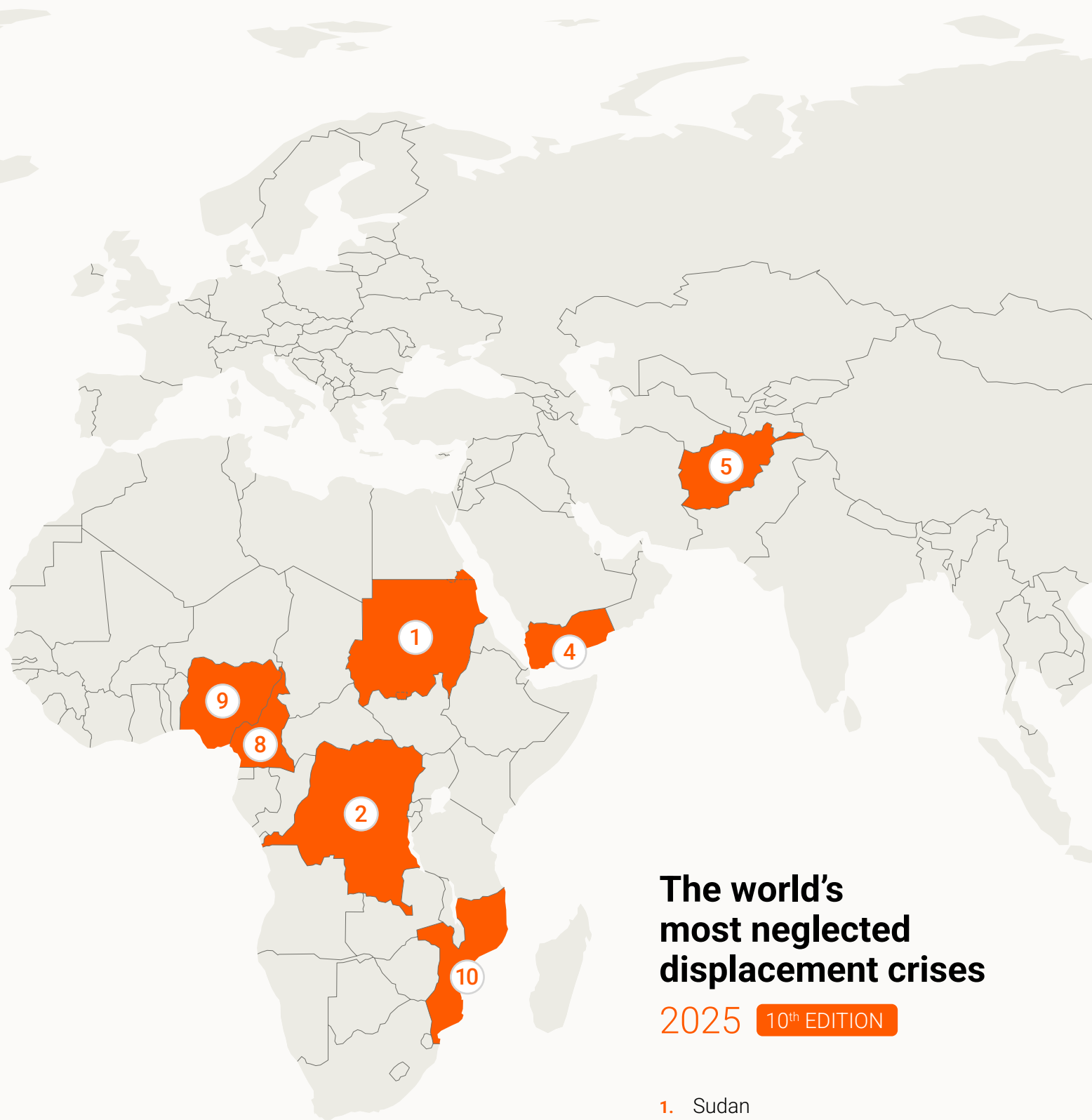
Design: Elwa Design Studio

Cover photo: "We fled from El Fasher by foot. On our way criminals took all our belongings." Awatif was forced to flee her home in Sudan in September 2025. She has sought refuge in Chad where she has nothing except for a shelter provided by NRC. Photo: Enayatullah Azad/NRC

Sources: UN Financial Tracking Service, Meltwater, ACAPS, IDMC, UNOCHA, UNHCR, WFP, NRC

Follow us: @NRC_Norway

www.nrc.no/neglected



The world's most neglected displacement crises

2025 **10th EDITION**

1. Sudan
2. DR Congo
3. Colombia
4. Yemen
5. Afghanistan
6. Honduras
7. Ecuador
8. Cameroon
9. Nigeria
10. Mozambique





Contents

Foreword	6
Introduction	8
Methodology	9
Ten years of neglect	10
1 Sudan	12
2 DR Congo	14
3 Colombia	16
4 Yemen	18
5 Afghanistan	20
6 Honduras	22
7 Ecuador	24
8 Cameroon	26
9 Nigeria	28
10 Mozambique	30
Conclusions	32
Recommendations	34

In Chocó, Colombia, the river has always been a source of sustenance and connection. Now, it has become an invisible border marked by fear and armed control.
Photo: Alejandra Muñoz - AICA Colectivo/NRC

Foreword

Every year, my frontline colleagues around the world help millions of individuals forced to flee. Our staff stay and deliver for people in their hour of need, and for 10 years they have been sounding the alarm about the scale of the neglect they see around them.

Our annual report on the world's most neglected displacement crises has reached its 10th year. Ten years of attempting to shed light on crises in which millions of people suffer largely in silence, away from media headlines, political attention, and donor engagement.

What is it that these 10 years have demonstrated? Primarily, they have shown that neglect is a choice. The fact that millions of displaced people are cast aside, year after year, without even basic support and resources, is in no way inevitable. It is the sum of choices made in the capitals of wealthy nations that could easily take a different approach, but largely choose not to.

Certainly the world does not lack for skills or resources. Be it building luxury yachts, arranging football World Cups or pioneering space exploration, our ability to overcome challenges and find solutions is almost limitless. Working with organisations like NRC that have the mechanisms and experience to reach those in need, we could therefore end this neglect together. We have the tools. But as a global community we have chosen not to act. And so millions continue to face their moment of greatest need alone, deprived of even the basic essentials for life.

These consequences are evident on every page of all 10 of NRC's neglected crises reports. Often the same countries feature over and again. Populations are caught in repeated cycles of displacement, conflict and destitution. Communities in DR Congo, the Central Sahel, Nigeria, South Sudan and elsewhere are left to endure a spiral of neglect as wealthy nations turn increasingly inwards. We can do better. We must do better.

I am proud of the work NRC colleagues around the world do to push back against this tide of neglect, and to bring hope. They have saved lives, revived communities, and transformed futures. But without greater public support and pressure on politicians, the negative cycle of neglect will continue.

After 10 years, and in a world where the gap between humanitarian needs and available funding has never been greater, this 10th report must be the final wake-up call. It is time for a reboot of international solidarity, and to call an end to the world's indifference in the face of immense suffering.

We must take the choice to end neglect today.

Jan Egeland
Secretary General
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)



After fleeing the violence that killed her husband, Zawadi, 30, now lives alone with her three children in a camp near Kitchanga, eastern DR Congo. Each day, she goes door to door begging for food. Photo: Richard Ashton/NRC

Introduction

The world that watched

Neglect

to not give enough care or attention to people or things that are your responsibility

Source: Cambridge Dictionary

Ten years ago, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) published the first neglected displacement crises report with a simple, uncomfortable premise: some crises are left behind not by circumstance, but by choice. A decade later, that premise has only grown more certain.

Crises in 27 countries and across four continents have featured in this report over the past 10 years. Parents have woken to find their child has died of hunger in the night. Families are massacred in refugee camps. Footage capturing crimes against humanity go viral. There are killings in broad daylight. The world has watched but failed to act.

We expected more from an interconnected world. That an era of technological advancement and connectivity would lead to increased solidarity – a world where, with information at our fingertips, no crisis could hide. The 10 crises featured in this year's list exist in plain sight. We see, we document, and we move on.

We have seen each year that attention flows to where political and commercial interests align, not to where suffering is greatest. While a crisis can generate coverage and attract donor pledges, it can still be neglected if that responsibility bears no relationship to the staggering scale of need or to addressing the root causes. Worse still, when crises do escape the neglected crises list – however briefly – it is rarely through early action. More often, it takes undeniable catastrophe to force a moment of global attention.

Sudan embodies the most profound illustration of deliberate abandonment. The crisis erupted visibly, with unspeakable horrors broadcast

across social media by their very perpetrators. Stories were shared, grave acts of inhumanity limply condemned at high-level events, and Sudan sporadically made the news headlines. Nothing, however, changed. The momentary rise in attention did not translate into tangible political engagement, and the headlines faded. Sudan tops this year's list because visibility does not equal action.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) has featured in every single edition of this report. The same crisis, the same people, the same world looking away. There are people in the country who have been displaced for the entire duration of the report's existence – children who have grown up knowing nothing but life away from home. World leaders have had the chance to act on their behalf. They have chosen not to.

Rather than correcting its course, the world chose 2025 as the year to pull back. At a moment when displacement numbers reached record highs, humanitarian funding coverage fell to its lowest point in the last decade. The consequences were immediate: programmes across this list's 10 countries were cut, paused, or shut down entirely, leaving an enormous number of people without support. This will lead to worsening conditions and an increased risk of displacement. It will likely require assistance at a higher cost down the line. The world is not drifting towards failure – it is choosing it.

We live in a world that is not short of information, resources or precedent. In countries highlighted in this report, children are starving in a century that has the means to feed them. Millions across the globe are being abandoned, wilfully, because the world has chosen not to help, and not because it cannot.

Each year, news of this report reaches millions. The world has been watching. Where is the turning point that forces action?

Methodology

This report highlights the 10 most neglected displacement crises according to four metrics: media attention, funding, political will and, new for this year, the scale of displacement. This report is our analysis for the year 2025.

COUNTRIES ANALYSED

Countries that have more than 200,000 displaced people and are in a severe crisis (4 or 5) according to the INFORM severity index.

FUNDING COVERAGE

Definition: Evaluates the amount of funding made available by donors to meet humanitarian needs, as defined in the humanitarian response plans for both internal displacement and refugee crises.

Data sources:

- UN OCHA Financial Tracking Service (analyses humanitarian response plans and flash appeals)
- UNHCR Refugee Funding Tracker (analyses regional refugee response plans for host countries)

MEDIA ATTENTION

Definition: Analyses the level of media coverage of each displacement crisis.

Analysis: Uses Meltwater's media monitoring platform to determine the potential reach of articles on each crisis in four languages – Arabic, English, French and Spanish – by searching for specific displacement-related terms.

POLITICAL WILL

Definition: Evaluates the existence and effectiveness of international political engagement efforts to address specific displacement crises.

Ten indicators covering the following topics:

- political process and discreet diplomacy
- UN Security Council engagement and actions
- regional engagement and actions
- international engagement including dedicated envoys, high-level visits and donor pledging
- broader engagement including access engagement and accountability mechanisms

Scoring: NRC experts score these indicators based on their own knowledge and experience.

SCALE OF DISPLACEMENT

Definition: Evaluates the scale of displacement from and to a country, including the number of internally displaced people, refugees and asylum seekers from a crisis, as well as the number of refugees hosted.

Data sources:

- UNHCR's Refugee Data Finder (refugee and asylum seeker figures)
- IDMC's Global Report on Internal Displacement (internal displacement figures).

RANKING

Scores from the four criteria are indexed, equally weighted, and combined to create an overall ranking.

Validation: Peer review by regional and country experts ensures data reliability.

Result: The 10 crises with the highest scores on neglect are featured in the report.

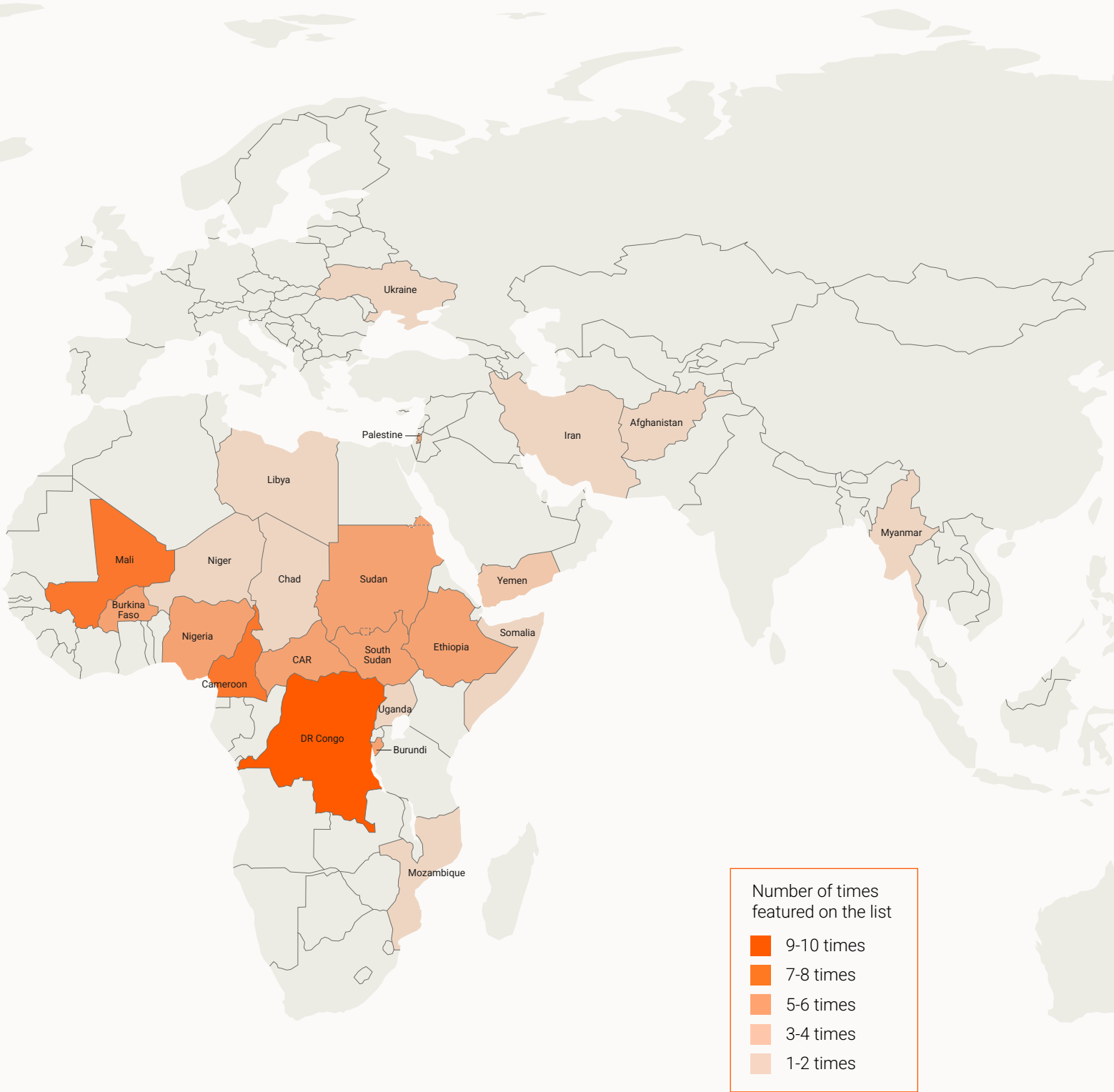
Further details of the methodology can be found on our website: www.nrc.no/neglected

Ten years of neglect



These 27 countries have all appeared on NRC's neglected crises list at least once. In most cases, being removed from the list is not a sign that a crisis is over, but that the neglect of other crises has deepened.

When we first published this report, neglected crises were 54 per cent funded on average. A decade later, that number has more than halved – down to just 25 per cent.



1

Sudan

Turning a blind eye to a crisis that cannot be missed

Hunger and bombardment across parts of Kordofan force families to flee. Many have settled here in Kosti, White Nile, with nothing. Photo: Ahmed Elsir/NRC



By the end of 2025, the world's worst humanitarian crisis had entered its thousandth day of war. Nowhere on earth are more people suffering, and nowhere is the gap between need and action greater, making Sudan the most neglected displacement crisis.

In 2025, the writing on the wall was clear, yet the warnings issued by Sudanese and international humanitarian organisations went unheeded. Catastrophes were already brewing as the Rapid Support Forces and allies enforced prolonged sieges in Zamzam camp, Al Fasher, Kadugli and Dilling. Civilians were cut off from food, water and essential aid. In some instances, families resorted to extreme measures, including boiling leaves to survive or scavenging discarded cow hide from slaughterhouses.

By April, the first of the sieges boiled over into massacres in Zamzam camp, killing vast numbers of people and forcing hundreds of thousands more to flee. Six months later, large-scale atrocities were committed in Al Fasher. Thousands were killed, sexual violence was rife, and countless people disappeared without a trace. There was no escape – people were targeted in the city and as they attempted to flee. In Kadugli and Dilling, mothers woke up to children who had died from starvation in their sleep.

“Sudan’s mass atrocities unfolded in real time on social media. The evidence was everywhere – the bloodshed visible even from satellites. International humanitarian law is repeatedly violated with impunity. What more does it take to spur action?”

Mathilde Vu
Advocacy Manager,
NRC Sudan

Ferocious conflict has left nine million people displaced within the country. Almost 29 million people faced acute hunger in 2025, with several areas experiencing active famine.

Over the course of the war, Sudan's crisis has steadily spilled across its borders. More than four million people have fled to Chad, South Sudan, Egypt, Libya and further afield. Many of these countries were already grappling with crises of their own and yet played generous hosts to refugees and returnees. This came at a cost, and the region shouldered a burden it could not afford.

Reaching people with aid in Sudan required running a gauntlet of danger, damaged infrastructure and intentional obstruction. Ninety-two aid workers were killed, detained or injured in 2025. Flooding and years of conflict had destroyed key transport routes, slowing the response and stretching already strained operations.

Amid the collapse of critical public infrastructure, local responders became even more vital to the humanitarian response. But just as pressure peaked, funding was cut, and resource shortages forced many to stop work altogether. Those who could continue – community volunteers, mutual aid groups and women-led organisations – operated under extreme risk, threatened with detention, torture and death. Within blockaded cities that outside organisations could not reach, they were the only lifeline.

While news of Al Fasher falling made international headlines, the increased attention did not translate into action. At the end of 2025, the humanitarian response stood at less than 40 per cent funded.

Sudan's war flickers on the global diplomatic agenda, only to fall away just as quickly. Political efforts to quell the conflict have mostly been performative and apathetic, unable or unwilling to take tangible action to protect civilians or ensure humanitarian access.

Sudan is vast, its crisis impossible to miss, and its neglect inexcusable. With sustained funding, humanitarian aid can sustain life, but only a political solution can restore it.

KEY FACTS

SUDAN



Population:

46.8 million



People in need of humanitarian assistance:

30.4 million

SCORE

Media reach

Media coverage of the displacement crisis



Negligible

LEGEND

Negligible: 0–0.24
Low: 0.25–0.49

Medium: 0.5–0.74
Large: 0.75–1

Humanitarian funding

Percentage of requested humanitarian funding received

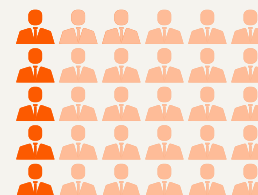
38%



Political will

The existence and effectiveness of political engagement

6/30



LEGEND

Not at all effective: 0–7
Little effect: 8–15

Somewhat effective: 16–23
Very effective: 24–30

Displacement

Total number of people displaced from and to the crisis



13.3 million

*data correct as of 9 March 2026.

DR Congo

Three decades of bloodshed and a decade of documented neglect

Beatrice lost her husband and one of her children to war. She now cares for her two-year-old and three-month-old alone. They fled in search of safety in January 2025. Photo: Ed Prior/NRC



The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DR Congo) is a land of vast wealth and vast suffering. The country's history has been marked by armed conflict since 1996. Thirty years on, over 200 armed groups vie for control, and violence, displacement and poverty have become part of everyday life for communities across the country.

DR Congo is the only country to feature continuously on our list of the world's most neglected displacement crises.

Ten years of data tells us that the crisis and needs in DR Congo are widely recognised and understood. Displacement has been documented, humanitarian plans carefully costed, and warnings raised repeatedly – including by this report – year after year. What has been missing is sustained funding, accountability and the political will to address what people need and the root causes of violence.

2025 marked a painful deterioration for eastern DR Congo. Fighting intensified in North and South Kivu provinces, forcing families to flee repeatedly, sometimes three or four times within a single year.

“For millions of Congolese families, crisis has become a permanent reality. People are forced to flee again and again, losing their homes, livelihoods and their children’s chances of an education.”

Eric Batonon
Country Director,
NRC DR Congo

In the north-east of the country, Ituri province saw clashes between ethnic groups, armed actors and foreign forces. Villages became frontlines, schools became barracks, livelihoods were destroyed and civilians were left exposed, with no safe place to turn.

Nearly 10 million displacements due to conflict were recorded in 2025 alone, with many people returning to their places of origin. This was often unsafe, but for some, it was simply the only option.

Families returned to find their homes damaged or taken over, farms left untended, businesses destroyed and livestock stolen. Access to land, a cornerstone of survival, had often disappeared altogether. While most families had owned land before fleeing, only a few held the documents necessary to reclaim it.

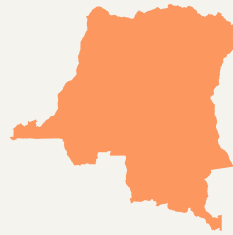
A brutal year was met with an aid response that was only 27 per cent funded, marking the lowest level of funding for DR Congo since 2016. Health clinics were forced to close, protection services were cut back and food aid was reduced.

Without renewed international commitment, DR Congo risks another decade in the shadows, its suffering prolonged and its people ignored.



Hundreds of families sleep in this school after fleeing their homes in Goma. During the day, they vacate the classrooms to make space for learning. Photo: Ed Prior/NRC

KEY FACTS DR CONGO



Population:
117.8 million



People in need of humanitarian assistance:
21.2 million

SCORE

Media reach

Media coverage of the displacement crisis



LEGEND

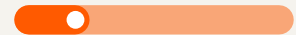
Negligible: 0–0.24
Low: 0.25–0.49

Medium: 0.5–0.74
Large: 0.75–1

Humanitarian funding

Percentage of requested humanitarian funding received

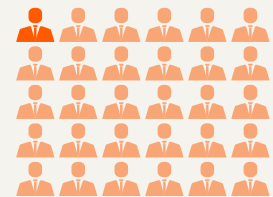
27%



Political will

The existence and effectiveness of political engagement

1/30



LEGEND

Not at all effective: 0–7
Little effect: 8–15

Somewhat effective: 16–23
Very effective: 24–30

Displacement

Total number of people displaced from and to the crisis



6.1 million

*data correct as of 9 March 2026.

3

Colombia

A country trapped in a rollercoaster of neglect

One resident of this fishing community told us: "People can no longer go out to their plots of land or go fishing. We don't feel safe here anymore." Photo: Alejandra Muñoz - AICA Colectivo/NRC



Colombia's armed conflict has been raging for over 60 years. Nearly a decade after the historic peace agreement was reached, over nine million people continue to live under the influence of organised armed groups. A country of exceptional biodiversity and economic wealth, Colombia's abundance has coexisted with profound inequality, and its civilians pay the highest price.

In 2025, more than 155,000 civilians in rural areas were forced into confinement by armed groups – a tactic used to exert control over territory. People were trapped in their homes, unable to move freely for weeks on end. Daily life, in its most basic form, came to a halt. Farming was out of the question for communities who heavily rely on agriculture, and pain and illness were endured behind closed doors. Those who resisted confinement risked their lives.

Catatumbo, in Colombia's north-east, erupted into violence in January 2025 as organised armed groups fought for territorial control, claiming civilian lives and forcing thousands to flee in search of safety.

“People affected by this conflict have found no lasting solutions. Too many are repeatedly displaced and trapped, with no end in sight.”

Giovanni Rizzo
Country Director,
NRC Colombia

One and a half million people were impacted by the ongoing conflict and violence in 2025 – three times more than the previous year. Humanitarian funding struggled to keep pace. And the response was only 28.7 per cent funded.

Bordering Venezuela, Colombia is also host to 2.8 million refugees and migrants, making it the world's third largest hosting country. Yet, it received less than 10 per cent of the funding needed to support them.

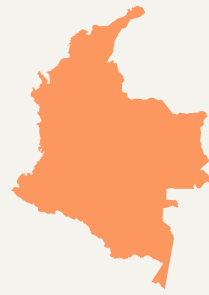
Colombia's humanitarian figures rise and fall, but the oscillation does not signal an improvement, only cycles of endless crises. With over seven million people driven to flee within its own borders, Colombia is home to the second largest internally displaced population in the world.

Addressing a crisis as protracted as Colombia's requires much more than emergency aid. Long-term investment and consistent international support for a genuine peace process have become more urgent than ever before.



A woman who was forced to flee her home in Catatumbo due to threats from armed groups. She is now living in a wooden house with a makeshift roof and depends on humanitarian aid for survival. Photo: Milena Ayala/NRC

KEY FACTS COLOMBIA



Population:
53.1 million



People in need of humanitarian assistance:
9.1 million

SCORE

Media reach

Media coverage of the displacement crisis



Negligible

LEGEND

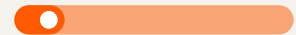
Negligible: 0–0.24
Low: 0.25–0.49

Medium: 0.5–0.74
Large: 0.75–1

Humanitarian funding

Percentage of requested humanitarian funding received

18%



Political will

The existence and effectiveness of political engagement

10/30



LEGEND

Not at all effective: 0–7
Little effect: 8–15

Somewhat effective: 16–23
Very effective: 24–30

Displacement

Total number of people displaced from and to the crisis



10.5 million

*data correct as of 9 March 2026.

Yemen

An entrenched cycle of aid dependency

Ali Abdu has been a public servant for 35 years. His salary can no longer cover food. He is forced to work as a daily labourer on a farm in addition to his day job. Retirement is now out of reach. Photo: Khalid Al-Banna/NRC



Yemen, home to the ancient Kingdom of Saba and the towering mud-brick skyscrapers of Shibam, has for 11 years been consumed by one of the worst humanitarian crises. A country with an extraordinary history and a culture defined by generosity and hospitality, it is now a place where life has been almost entirely torn apart.

By the end of 2025, more than 18 million people – over half of Yemen’s population – faced acute food insecurity. Water scarcity threatened millions more, as deteriorating infrastructure and climate shocks left entire communities without reliable access to safe water. Nearly half a million people were severely affected by flooding alone. An estimated 7.6 million people did not have adequate housing or household items – the majority living in conditions so appalling, they would have made headlines anywhere else in the world.

Severe funding cuts and the designation of Ansar Allah as a foreign terrorist organisation created an increasingly complex operational environment. Waves of detentions of UN and former UN staff made it untenable for many humanitarians to continue operations in the north of the country, where the majority of people in need are.

“The consequence of repeatedly taking the short-term approach is a system that disengages from a context before building any exit strategy. This leaves people trapped in dependency on aid.”

Kat Achilles

Head of Advocacy for the Middle East and North Africa, NRC

By the end of the year, the entire UN humanitarian system, along with several international organisations, had withdrawn from the north, leaving only a small number of humanitarian actors. Economic collapse across the country continued, with inflation devastating people's ability to purchase food and other essentials.

Years of economic fragility have had cascading consequences. Teachers can no longer afford to remain in their jobs because of the lack of salaries. Without teachers, children cannot be educated. Without educated graduates, there are no doctors to provide healthcare, no technocrats to govern, and no teachers to replace those who left. The collapse of one system accelerates the collapse of others.

When these systems fall away, the layers of protection that a functioning society provides for the most vulnerable simply stop existing, and standardised humanitarian assistance cannot address the underlying conditions.

Neglect in Yemen extends beyond the humanitarian sphere. It encompasses the wider neglect of a society before it has been supported with the means to stand on its own.



Ahmed fills a jerry can with water inside his shelter, after it was provided by NRC. Photo: Suleiman Al-Shara'abi/NRC

KEY FACTS YEMEN



Population:
34.9 million



People in need of humanitarian assistance:
19.5 million

SCORE

Media reach

Media coverage of the displacement crisis



LEGEND

Negligible: 0–0.24
Low: 0.25–0.49
Medium: 0.5–0.74
Large: 0.75–1

Humanitarian funding

Percentage of requested humanitarian funding received

29%



Political will

The existence and effectiveness of political engagement

0/30



LEGEND

Not at all effective: 0–7
Little effect: 8–15
Somewhat effective: 16–23
Very effective: 24–30

Displacement

Total number of people displaced from and to the crisis



4.9 million

*data correct as of 9 March 2026.

5

Afghanistan

A population battling poverty, disasters, and restrictions on women

Ghazia, 9, now lives in an old open-air barn on a poultry farm after being forced to flee her home in Torkham. Photo: Maisam Shafiey/NRC



Five years after the Taliban's return to power, Afghanistan's crisis is intensifying. Communities already affected by decades of war and political unrest are forced to endure catastrophic earthquakes, extreme poverty, mass deportations from neighbouring countries, and systemic restrictions on women's rights.

Around half the population of Afghanistan requires humanitarian assistance.

Global funding cuts announced in 2025 are already having a devastating effect. Nearly four million children are on the brink of malnutrition. Over 400 health facilities have been forced to close, severing access for millions of people.

Against this backdrop, Afghans are being forced to return from Iran and Pakistan. In 2025 alone, 2.9 million Afghans returned to their country, many under coercive conditions. Having fled in search of safety, they are now arriving back with nothing. These returns represent a significant protection failure.

“Day by day, the humanitarian situation deteriorates, and year by year, donors disengage. Afghanistan has become politically isolated, with humanitarian aid left to carry the burden of an entire country's basic services.”

Jacopo Caridi
Country Director,
NRC Afghanistan

In 2025, communities already depleted by poverty were buried under rubble. A 6.0-magnitude earthquake struck Kunar province, killing over 2,150 people and destroying thousands of homes. Less than three months later, an earthquake of similar magnitude hit Balkh, on the other side of the country.

In October, cross-border tensions with Pakistan erupted into the most significant violence since 2021, escalating into full-scale war in early 2026. Airstrikes have killed and wounded hundreds and forced tens of thousands of families to flee and live in precarious and inhospitable conditions.

Since the Taliban returned to power, almost 100 edicts have been issued limiting women's and girls' access to education, work and public life. Without female doctors, women's healthcare collapses. Without female aid workers, women become unreachable.

The international community must engage with Afghanistan's crisis on multiple fronts. Neighbouring countries need consistent support as they host Afghans who have nowhere safe to go, while broader international assistance and longer-term support are required to address the root causes of displacement.



Afghans who have been forced to return to their country from Iran and Pakistan wait to receive information on NRC's available services. Photo: Maisam Shafiey/NRC

KEY FACTS AFGHANISTAN



Population:
46 million



People in need of humanitarian assistance:
22.9 million

SCORE

Media reach

Media coverage of the displacement crisis



Negligible

LEGEND

Negligible: 0–0.24
Low: 0.25–0.49

Medium: 0.5–0.74
Large: 0.75–1

Humanitarian funding

Percentage of requested humanitarian funding received

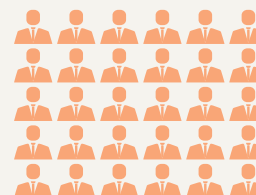
42%



Political will

The existence and effectiveness of political engagement

0/30



LEGEND

Not at all effective: 0–7
Little effect: 8–15

Somewhat effective: 16–23
Very effective: 24–30

Displacement

Total number of people displaced from and to the crisis



9.5 million

*data correct as of 9 March 2026.

6

Honduras

Invisible borders and continuous underreporting of numbers

Salomé (not her real name) and her three children survived an attack on her family, but two of her children were killed. They fled with only the clothes on their backs. Photo: Nelson Guevara/NRC



For over a decade, Honduras has been dealing with a three-pronged crisis: insecurity, climate shocks and forced displacement. In 2025, political and global dynamics shifted, and Honduras was deprioritised for humanitarian assistance.

Within the country's main cities, invisible borders drawn as part of criminal violence remained, trapping people within neighbourhoods and bringing everyday life to a dangerous standstill. Healthcare, schools and jobs became harder and harder to access as people were prevented from moving beyond their own street.

During the dry season, forest fires swept through nearly 60,000 hectares of greenery across Honduras, while extreme autumnal rainfall damaged urban infrastructure.

“Funding cuts have eroded our ability to effectively reach and help those affected by violence and disasters.”

Giorgio Lentini
Country Director,
NRC North Central America

NRC data estimates that at least 21,000 people were forced to move in the first nine months of 2025, including more than 9,000 due to violence. For many people, the search for safety does not end with leaving home. Displacement is often cyclical as people continue to feel unsafe in the places to which they flee, and one in five displaced people is forced to flee again.

As the United States tightened its migration policy and limited asylum options, Honduras – a key transit country on the migration route north – bore the consequences. People were left stranded without legal pathways or viable alternatives.

When funding shortfalls forced a global hyper-prioritisation in June 2025, Honduras did not make the cut. The humanitarian response was thus only 11 per cent funded, and the country entered 2026 excluded from international humanitarian response planning. Recognition, visibility and evidence-based action are the first steps needed to end the neglect in Honduras.



The lack of funding has forced NRC to reduce operations, leaving gaps in the areas of education, protection and legal assistance. Photo: Ariel Sosa/NRC

KEY FACTS HONDURAS



Population:
10.8 million



People in need of humanitarian assistance:
1.6 million

SCORE

Media reach

Media coverage of the displacement crisis



LEGEND

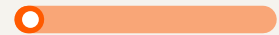
Negligible: 0–0.24
Low: 0.25–0.49

Medium: 0.5–0.74
Large: 0.75–1

Humanitarian funding

Percentage of requested humanitarian funding received

11%



Political will

The existence and effectiveness of political engagement

1/30



LEGEND

Not at all effective: 0–7
Little effect: 8–15

Somewhat effective: 16–23
Very effective: 24–30

Displacement

Total number of people displaced from and to the crisis



404,469

*data correct as of 9 March 2026.

Ecuador

An escalating crisis of urban violence

"Honestly, it's scary here. You're not even safe at school. You go to collect your child and you don't know who's standing next to you," one Venezuelan in Ecuador told us.
Photo: Milena Ayala/ NRC



Ecuador is a surprising addition to this report. A middle-income country famed for the Galápagos Islands and a reputation for stability in a turbulent region, Ecuador has long been overshadowed by the crises of its neighbours. That perception, however, is now dangerously outdated.

Not a single day has passed without a murder in Ecuador since 2021, and in just a few years the country has become the most violent in Latin America. In 2025, homicide rates rose by 40 per cent compared to the previous year.

Throughout last year, more than 100,000 people were estimated to have fled their homes. Extortive text messages, unwittingly witnessing a crime, and the threat of forced recruitment were among the drivers of displacement. Defying a criminal gang's WhatsApp demand carried significant risk, with repercussions ranging from a bomb planted at a family's home to the abduction of a loved one – or even murder.

Many people have remained within the same cities, resorting to extreme measures to survive, including hiding away indefinitely or restricting their movements.

“How do we explain to the world that a WhatsApp message from an organised criminal group has a comparable impact to a weapon? It forces entire families to flee overnight.”

Francesco Volpi
Area Manager,
NRC Ecuador

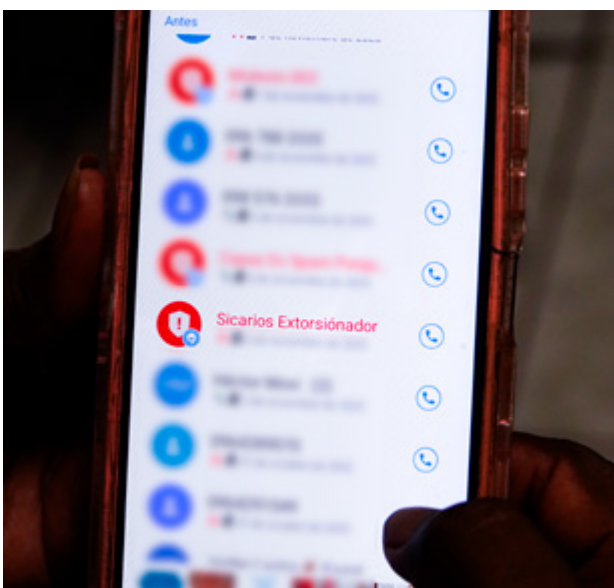
Violence in Ecuador has taken on insidious forms. Organised groups marked territory using local landmarks – such as homes, businesses, and sports facilities – which residents learned to read as risk zones. The daily lives of thousands of people were severely disrupted. Even schools, once places of safety, became recruitment grounds for criminal groups.

Distrust caused by extortion and violence meant that many crimes were unreported and many needs unregistered. Victims lack guaranteed access to protection, assistance or long-term solutions.

Ecuador hosts nearly 440,000 refugees and migrants from Venezuela, a commitment that deserves recognition. A significant shortfall in international funding, however, has made it harder to sustain support for a government contending with overlapping pressures.

Stronger engagement from the international community, donors and national authorities cannot be delayed. This includes greater investment in the integration of people seeking safety within Ecuador, alongside more robust policies to protect and assist victims of violence.

The crisis will soon become impossible to ignore. Humanitarian organisations stand ready to act.



"A friend of mine, a female community leader, was beaten, kidnapped and sent to hospital after answering the phone." Photo: Milena Ayala/ NRC

KEY FACTS ECUADOR



Population:
18.3 million



People in need of humanitarian assistance:
No official figure

SCORE

Media reach

Media coverage of the displacement crisis



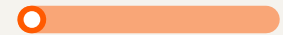
LEGEND

Negligible: 0–0.24 Medium: 0.5–0.74
Low: 0.25–0.49 Large: 0.75–1

Humanitarian funding

Percentage of requested humanitarian funding received

8%



Political will

The existence and effectiveness of political engagement

3/30



LEGEND

Not at all effective: 0–7 Somewhat effective: 16–23
Little effect: 8–15 Very effective: 24–30

Displacement

Total number of people displaced from and to the crisis



890,899

*data correct as of 9 March 2026.

Cameroon

A threefold crisis with millions under the world's radar

Faouzia has been living in Cameroon for more than a decade after fleeing her home in the Central African Republic.
Photo: Patricia Pouhe/NRC



Cameroon continued to face a complex and protracted humanitarian crisis in 2025. Violence in the Far North, Northwest and Southwest regions persisted, forcing thousands of people from their homes and limiting access to essential services. Ongoing arrivals from the Central African Republic in the east of the country placed additional pressure on already fragile systems.

Around three million people were in urgent need of humanitarian aid by the end of the year, while ten per cent of the population was reported to be acutely food insecure. Prolonged and frequent displacement and rising living costs have eroded families' ability to afford the basics of daily life.

The Far North region has been absorbing the consequences of the Lake Chad Basin conflict since 2014. More than a decade later, nearly 510,000 people in the region have been driven from their homes – 40,000 in 2025 alone – while communities devastated by 2024's severe flooding struggled to recover as they faced further flooding in 2025.

“The crisis in Cameroon is becoming increasingly one of protection. Civilians, especially women and children, are suffering the consequences of the conflict. Many children have experienced prolonged disruptions to their education over the years.”

Hamadou Hassane
Regional Director for
Central and West Africa,
NRC

The number of people displaced across Cameroon climbed to over 1.5 million by June 2025. The scale and severity of the crisis rose while funding fell, and the humanitarian response for the year was only 24 per cent funded.

Cameroon would benefit from increased international attention. Without this, the crisis will quietly deteriorate, invisible to the world and devastating to those living through it.



The crises in the Far North region have left 1.2 million people in need of humanitarian aid. This includes people displaced within the country, Nigerian refugees and those who host them. Photo: Patricia Pouhe/NRC

KEY FACTS CAMEROON



Population:

29.4 million



People in need of humanitarian assistance:

3.3 million

SCORE

Media reach

Media coverage of the displacement crisis



Negligible

LEGEND

Negligible: 0–0.24
Low: 0.25–0.49

Medium: 0.5–0.74
Large: 0.75–1

Humanitarian funding

Percentage of requested humanitarian funding received

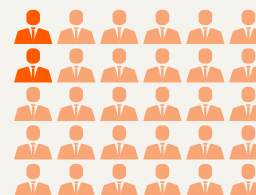
24%



Political will

The existence and effectiveness of political engagement

2/30



LEGEND

Not at all effective: 0–7
Little effect: 8–15

Somewhat effective: 16–23
Very effective: 24–30

Displacement

Total number of people displaced from and to the crisis



1.6 million

*data correct as of 9 March 2026.

Nigeria

A country of enormous potential and enormous crises

Four girls stand in the remains of a damaged school in Plateau State where kidnapping cases have forced schools to shut down. Photo: Samuel Jegede/NRC



Africa's most populous nation, Nigeria, also has one of the continent's largest economies. It is a cultural powerhouse that boasts a globally influential film and music industry, and a fast-growing tech sector. The vibrance of its cities, however, stands in sharp contrast with the prolonged crisis dominating the country's north.

While the Nigerian government has made efforts to address insecurity in the country – with military operations, humanitarian corridors, and dialogue with armed actors – the violence persists. Each region in Nigeria carries its own burden.

The north-east is contending with a 17-year-long armed conflict, which intensified profoundly in 2025. Non-state armed groups killed at least 4,000 civilians. The north-west faces organised criminality that has displaced thousands, destroyed livelihoods and driven some of Nigeria's worst malnutrition rates. Meanwhile, intercommunal and farmer-herder disputes claim the country's middle belt, forcing tens of thousands of people to flee their homes, and killing many others.

“We had a discussion with our peers when funding was cut in 2025. We agreed that, no matter what, we had to make sure babies did not die from starvation.”

Thomas Hill
Country Director,
NRC Nigeria

The consequences for children are catastrophic. Families watch their children waste away while armed groups intentionally target farmlands. Soaring prices degrade people's ability to buy enough food. Over six million children are predicted to face acute malnutrition by September 2026, with two million in severe, life-threatening conditions.

With the humanitarian response only 31 per cent funded, the gap between needs and resources in 2025 was vast. This must not continue.

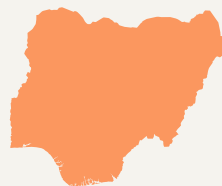
People in Nigeria need more international aid. But they also need a government willing to account for its resources and the assurance that the limited funding that does arrive is invested efficiently and reaches those who need it most.



A narrow path cuts through a displacement camp in Monguno, Borno State. These makeshift shelters have for years been the only refuge for families forced to flee their homes. Photo: Samuel Jegede/NRC

KEY FACTS

NIGERIA



Population:
229.2 million



People in need of humanitarian assistance:
7.8 million

SCORE

Media reach

Media coverage of the displacement crisis



Negligible

LEGEND

Negligible: 0–0.24
Low: 0.25–0.49

Medium: 0.5–0.74
Large: 0.75–1

Humanitarian funding

Percentage of requested humanitarian funding received

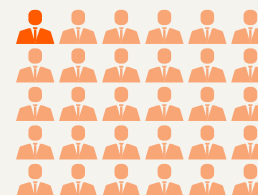
31%



Political will

The existence and effectiveness of political engagement

1/30



LEGEND

Not at all effective: 0–7
Little effect: 8–15

Somewhat effective: 16–23
Very effective: 24–30

Displacement

Total number of people displaced from and to the crisis



4.2 million

*data correct as of 9 March 2026.

10 Mozambique

A population caught in the throes of violence and climate disasters

Displaced families in Namuapala, Metuge District, receive cash vouchers from NRC-supported mobile shops.
Photo: Herminio Joaquim/NRC



Famous for its white-sand beaches and an abundance of natural resources, rich in minerals and dotted with coral reefs, Mozambique attracts investors and tourists alike. But in the north, conflict terrorises civilians, while drought and cyclones devastate communities across the centre and south.

Mozambique's crisis is worsening. Insecurity is forcing schools to close, and a generation of children has been left without education and without options. For many, armed groups offer the only sense of structure, income or belonging in a world that has left them behind.

The conflict that has been raging since 2017 grew in both geographic reach and severity in 2025.

“With the number of people requiring urgent life-saving assistance almost tripling in 2026, neglect brings death closer in Mozambique.”

Ulrika Blom
Country Director,
NRC Mozambique

People who were forced to flee found little footing in host communities throughout 2025. Scarce land, dwindling resources and a lack of assistance only deepened the burden on families already living beneath the poverty line. Many were driven to move again and again in search of income. Others chose to stay or return home, weighing the risk of insecurity against the risk of starvation.

As the frontlines of the conflict shifted and spread, the roads leading to the most vulnerable communities grew increasingly dangerous, cutting off essential aid. Funding that was already inadequate in 2024 fell even further, and the total humanitarian response was only 23 per cent funded in 2025.

Time is the one resource Mozambique does not have.



New displacement surges in northern Mozambique as aid shrinks. Photo: Alix Vaval/NRC

KEY FACTS MOZAMBIQUE



Population:
34.9 million



People in need of humanitarian assistance:
1.3 million

SCORE

Media reach

Media coverage of the displacement crisis



LEGEND

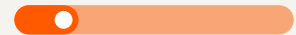
Negligible: 0–0.24
Low: 0.25–0.49

Medium: 0.5–0.74
Large: 0.75–1

Humanitarian funding

Percentage of requested humanitarian funding received

23%



Political will

The existence and effectiveness of political engagement

1/30



LEGEND

Not at all effective: 0–7
Little effect: 8–15

Somewhat effective: 16–23
Very effective: 24–30

Displacement

Total number of people displaced from and to the crisis



498,969

*data correct as of 9 March 2026.

Conclusions

Each of the 10 neglected crises outlined in this report is distinct in terms of context and humanitarian requirements. But we can draw several broad conclusions across them.

Underfunding is the new normal

Funding fell to a third of what was required in 2025, the lowest coverage in more than a decade. This was primarily driven by the steep cuts in US funding, which were followed by reductions from other donors including Germany, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Humanitarians were pushed to make impossible decisions, hyper-prioritising who to help and who to leave behind. Not one of the crises featured on our list reached the halfway point of their funding requirements, with Honduras and Ecuador in particular falling behind with very little attention from the donor community.

An entire generation is being lost to neglect

Children and young people in neglected contexts are growing up without education, stability or the possibility to get jobs. Armed groups and criminal networks can take advantage of this vulnerability, and young people can become easier recruitment targets. Forced recruitment can thrive in areas where neglect has firmly shut every other door.

Neglect is fuelling the global hunger crisis

We are witnessing the rapid unfolding of a global hunger crisis right in front of our eyes. Across many of the countries in this report, acute food insecurity has become the most devastating expression of neglect. Parties to conflicts use hunger as a weapon of war, while recurring climate shocks are met with shrinking budgets. Cycles of displacement are stripping communities of their land, their income, and the institutions on which their food security depends.

The drivers of displacement are multiplying

Factors forcing people to flee have expanded into a web of overlapping, mutually reinforcing threats. In many countries featured in this list, no single driver operates alone.

Armed conflict and climate shocks weaken communities, while economic desperation renders them vulnerable. Threats have become digitalised, and a message on WhatsApp or an extortion call can displace a family as effectively as a bomb.

Responders stand ready, with local organisations holding the line

In areas that international organisations cannot reach, local responders are still present. As donor budgets shrink and internationals withdraw, local responders are carrying more of the response with fewer resources.

Being a humanitarian has become more dangerous

During the last decade, humanitarian action has come under increasing strain. Access constraints have made it costlier, slower and more complex to deliver critical aid. Sanctions, counterterrorism measures, bureaucratic impediments and a growing disregard for international humanitarian law continue to hamper response efforts. Attacks on humanitarian workers have risen dramatically, and disinformation campaigns are eroding trust and escalating risks for aid workers.

Political resolutions remain the only way out

The humanitarian response cannot solve what political and economic interests are not prepared to address. The trajectory of neglect will only worsen without humanitarian diplomacy that matches the scale of what is unfolding, and a genuine commitment to inclusive peace processes.

This report opened with a question: where is the turning point?

Ten years of data, 27 neglected countries and millions of lives later, the answer is stark and uncomfortable: it is a choice, one that has not yet been made.

A father and his daughter in front of their hand-made shelter in an informal settlement in Mohmandara, Afghanistan. Photo: Maisam Shafiey/NRC



Recommendations

What action will you take?

There are actions both big and small that can contribute towards a turning point to address the repeatedly neglected crises covered in the 10 years of this report. Some are the responsibility of states and donors, some fall to the media, and some can be taken by the general public. What action will you take?

More talk, more action

International conferences are a symbolic step towards bringing neglected crises onto the policy radar of states, but meeting for the sake of meeting is not enough. These events should

include a pledging component with both financial and political commitments, and mechanisms to follow through on these pledges.

Recognising that a humanitarian response will not solve long-running cycles of conflict and displacement, states can sponsor or discreetly support diplomatic initiatives to address the root causes and bring relevant parties to the negotiating table. This should include contexts where de facto authorities control certain areas or countries.

Millions of people are facing acute hunger in Sudan. These farmers head to the fields to put their training and financial grants provided by NRC into practice and provide food for their community. Photo: NT/NRC



Spend money better

The decline of humanitarian aid funding is not inevitable. It is a choice. Donor governments must recognise the dangers of leaving millions without aid in already neglected contexts. They must concentrate their humanitarian and development assistance on fragile and conflict-affected areas rather than according to geopolitical interests or publicity potential.

Responsibility does not sit with traditional donors alone. It includes other states, development banks and the private sector. Neglect is more expensive in the long run. The more entrenched crises become, the greater the risk of spillover, protracted displacement and long-term aid dependency. Early action is almost always cheaper than a late response.

Donors must also ensure that funding includes direct allocations to local and frontline responders, in line with existing localisation commitments and the need to better support those who are present before, during, and after a crisis.

Share responsibility

Responsibility must be shared. At a time of record displacement, states must uphold pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum and under the Global Compact on Refugees – including increasing refugee resettlement quotas and ensuring safe and legal routes for all those fleeing crises, not just those in the headlines.

Refugee protection should not fall disproportionately on countries bordering conflict zones. Many already host refugees from neighbouring countries while managing vast internal displacement of their own.

States must be the guardians of the rules-based order they helped shape. That means finding ways to overcome blockages at the UN Security Council, using all diplomatic means to ensure parties to conflict respect international humanitarian law, and being bold in calling out – and holding accountable – those who show blatant disregard for the rules of war.

Uncover neglect

Neglected crises must be recognised. Suffering must not happen in silence. The media has a responsibility to uncover the stories that are hidden away.

If red tape such as lack of media permissions, visas or other access issues hinders reporting from a crisis, use media platforms to advocate for the necessary changes. Rely on and support national journalists. And explore digital and remote solutions to get first-hand accounts from people on the ground.

The public must read up on neglected displacement crises and support quality journalism that covers them. Use the platforms at your fingertips to share stories from neglected crises – your reach is wider than you think.



Aline, 30, with her four children. They sit in front of the classroom where they are currently living after fleeing home. Photo: Gloire Munesh/NRC



NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL

The Norwegian Refugee Council
Prinsens gate 2
0152 Oslo, Norway

www.nrc.no