

NRC's operations in Somalia

Nearly three decades of conflict, insecurity, political instability, recurrent climatic shocks, and economic strain, have led to severe humanitarian crises. The situation is exacerbated by conflict, drought, and climate change, with the number of people in need steadily increasing. Currently, almost 7 million people across the country require humanitarian assistance. The effect of the historic El Niño floods during the 2023 Deyr season have impacted over 2.5 million people.

In 2023, Somalia faced the worst drought in decades, followed by widespread floods within just a few months, creating immense pressure on the population. Despite some improvements, the humanitarian situation remains dire, with almost one in five Somalis experiencing acute food insecurity.

Acute malnutrition continues to affect many regions, with an estimated 1.7 million children between 6 and 59 months likely to suffer from acute malnutrition throughout 2024. Of these, approximately 430,000 are expected to be severely malnourished. Limited access to healthcare, coupled with insufficient functional health facilities, heightens the risk of maternal and infant mortality and increases the prevalence of preventable diseases like cholera.

Funding levels for the humanitarian response in Somalia remain insufficient, leaving critical gaps in lifesaving assistance and preventing communities from receiving essential support.



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 in Somalia

Established	2004
International staff	20
National staff	224

Our areas of operation

- Mogadishu
- Kismayo
- Baidoa
- Hargeisa
- Burao
- Jowhar
- Bossaso
- Qardho
- Galkayo
- Garowe
- Dhusamareb
- Dollow
- Luuq
- Wajid
- Hudur
- Bardere



22,431 people reached in 2023 ▼

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 formal and accelerated classes for children who have missed out on education to catch up with their peers, to ensure their transition into the formal school system
- engage with young people through our youth education programme, which helps young adults find opportunities to create their own businesses and cooperatives
- 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 teaching and learning materials



309,831 people reached in 2023 ▼

Information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA)

Many displaced people in Somalia are denied basic rights like land tenure. Our teams:

- help Somali refugees to return safely
- 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
- monitor evictions and provide tailored assistance to people affected by evictions



189,713 people reached in 2023 ▼

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:

- make lifesaving cash transfers (conditional and unconditional) to families so they can purchase food and household goods
- establish and strengthen social protection programmes to provide a safety net to vulnerable populations
- support communities' environmental conservation activities, like providing solar energy for irrigation
- support communities in 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 improved seeds, fertilisers and irrigation systems to increase yields
- provide livelihood training to empower farmers and other community members with new skills (for instance, farmers are trained to tackle diseases that can damage their crops)
- promote vocational training and business development programmes to equip the population with the skills needed for employment



55,067 people reached in 2023 ▼

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 using protection desks in conflict affected and hard to reach areas.
- through protection and solutions monitoring Network (PSMN), together with our partners

- conduct monitoring, reporting of displacements and protection incidents.
- engage communities through awareness and sensitization on protection risks, threats and vulnerabilities
- identify child protection and GBV related risks and refer to service providers
- provision of 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 a well-coordinated, effective and principled preparedness actions and responses, joint protection analysis for Protection Cluster at the National and Sub-national levels
- refer protection cases to specialised services



150,978 people reached in 2023 ▼

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 temporary/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



273,611 people reached in 2023 ▼

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

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

- construct household and community latrines including school sanitation facilities
- construct and rehabilitate water systems for drinking water
- promote sanitation and hygiene awareness
- train communities in how to use and maintain hygiene facilities and waste management systems

Our donors

We are grateful for the generous support from our donors:

- Somalia Humanitarian Fund (SHF)
- Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad)
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
- UN-Habitat
- Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)
- Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)
- European Union International Partnerships (INTPA)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- World Bank
- 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
- German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO)
- Qatar Fund for Development (QFFD)
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Kreditanstalt fuer Wiederaufbau (KfW)
- Education Cannot Wait (ECW)

Contact NRC in Somalia



Country director: Mohamed Abdi



SO.main@nrc.no; Mohamed.abdi@nrc.no



+252 618454597



www.nrc.no/somalia



Mogadishu, Somalia
NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL