



**NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL**

WHO ARE WE?

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is an independent humanitarian organisation helping people forced to flee. We work in crises across 40 countries, where we help save lives and rebuild futures for millions of people every year.

Our operations in the field provide shelter, ensure food security, deliver water and sanitation solutions, create education and livelihood opportunities, and provide legal assistance to refugees and internally displaced people.

OUR PILOT PROJECT IN SUDAN

Solar power was installed at 11 sites in Sudan in 2022. Since the eruption of violence in April 2023, we have seen security and health benefits as well as financial savings.



"When the war broke out, we were able to continue our operations and communication with colleagues in all area offices. Solar systems offered us additional security. During hibernation [a temporary pause in programming], if generators are running, armed groups will know where you are."

Betty Muthoka, NORCAP Regional Roving Electric Engineer, at NRC's East Africa Regional Office

"Solar power, though coming with a high capital cost at setup, is cheaper, more reliable, and more sustainable in the long run, in comparison with thermal generators. It is a silent system compared to generators, and is therefore good for the security, health and safety of our staff."

Ebrahim Wanjohi Njau, Head of Support, Sudan



NRC'S CAPITAL FUND: MAKING AID MORE SUSTAINABLE

What is the challenge?

The delivery of aid in many locations relies on diesel generators, which can be highly unreliable, particularly in remote areas.

The transportation of diesel fuel can be expensive and risky, as it may be subject to interference from armed groups. This can make the delivery of aid unpredictable for those who need it the most.

Most crises last at least five years, and the use of diesel generators and the fuel supply chain constantly increase the carbon footprint of our operations.

This is why NRC is working to upgrade from diesel to solar power, which is more dependable, clean, and affordable in the long run. Solar power is better for aid delivery, and better for the planet.

However, traditional humanitarian funding is often short-term and tightly earmarked, and hence not suitable to fund such longer-term capital investments.

We need a new capital investment fund.

Our solution

NRC is launching a new investment fund. The goal is to build a USD 100m+ fund to help change the lives of the 117 million people displaced by conflict.

About the fund

The fund will blend grants and loans from private and institutional investors, as well as resources from NRC's own reserves. It is legally held by NRC Norway, a 75-year-old international NGO funded by multiple governments and private donors, and with an annual turnover of more than USD 700m.

The fund will provide loans to NRC country offices and NRC partners, including local businesses and civil society organisations, to create multi-year, capital-intensive initiatives that enable displaced people to transition from aid dependency to self-reliance.

NRC's solarisation programme will be the fund's first focus area, providing loans to country offices to finance the replacement of diesel generators with solar technology. NRC country offices will repay their loans through internal financing mechanisms linked to traditional short-term donor funding, with NRC Norway ensuring repayment even in cases of delays or difficulties.

While refugees need support to emerge from crises, the best assistance we can offer is to enable them to achieve sustainable livelihoods. Early access to reliable energy is critical to achieving this. However, meaningful transformation can be accelerated by financing refugee-led business activities that promote self-reliance and a trajectory out of 'crisis mode.'

As the fund grows, it will expand to include capital-intensive services such as water, sanitation, housing, and connectivity, in addition to creating economic opportunities for business initiated by or serving displaced people. This includes areas like micro finance, supply chain enhancement, and agro-industries.

NRC has already invested some of its own funds to the initiative, and the initial countries are beginning to use these to solarise. We are now seeking investors and partners to further develop and possibly host the fund. NRC has a robust monitoring and evaluation function that will allow investors to not only recover their investments but also see the real long-term impact of their investments.

NRC offers

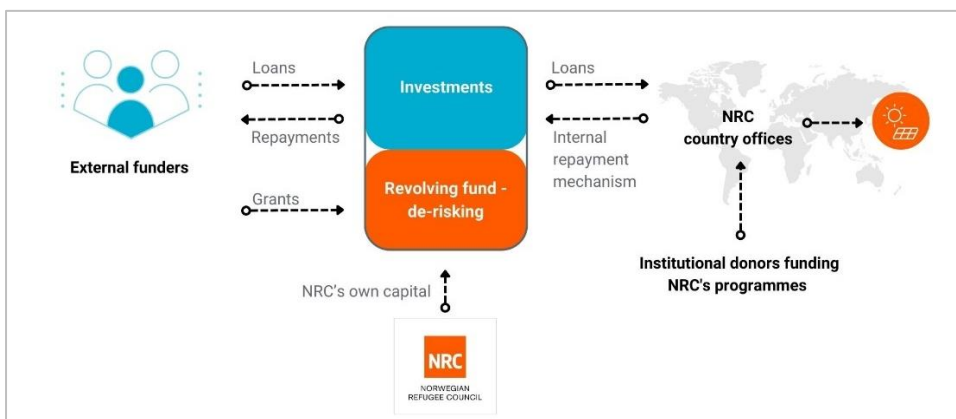
A full capital protection mechanism, using a triple layer of risk coverage:

1. NRC's own capital allocated to the funds and grants
2. NRC's funding structure (AAA governments)
3. equity reserves – our debt-to-equity ratio is steadily low (<0.8 in the last four years, 0.62 in 2022)

Measurable impact from the solarisation project:

- 50 per cent reduction in power-related CO2 emissions
- 30 per cent reduction in operating energy costs = a safe shelter for 18,000 more displaced families
- more reliable electricity = continuity of operations when things get worse
- health benefits stemming from zero air and noise pollution

Structure of the capital fund:



CONTACT US

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