

# NRC POLICY



Photo: Shahzad Ahmad/NRC



NORWEGIAN  
REFUGEE COUNCIL

The Norwegian Refugee Council is an independent humanitarian organisation helping people forced to flee.

Our vision:

**RIGHTS RESPECTED  
PEOPLE PROTECTED**

## Our mission statement:

NRC works to protect the rights of displaced and vulnerable people during crisis.

Through our programmes we provide assistance to meet immediate humanitarian needs, prevent further displacement and contribute to durable solutions.

Through our stand-by rosters we provide expertise as a strategic partner to the UN, as well as to national and international actors. Through our advocacy we strive for rights to be upheld and for lasting solutions to be achieved.

We take action during situations of armed conflict, and engage in other contexts where our competencies will add value. We are a rights based organisation and are committed to the principles of humanity, neutrality, independence and impartiality.

## We achieve our vision through our actions:

### Programmes

NRC's primary focus is the emergency stage where needs are often most acute. However, we recognise that emergency relief alone cannot deliver solutions

and that it can also create aid dependency. NRC therefore pursues a holistic rights based approach, encompassing emergency relief and early recovery, seeking to build on displaced people's own resilience to promote sustainability and recovery.

NRC specialises in a dynamic, adaptive and mutually reinforcing set of core competences, including shelter, food security, education, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), information counselling and legal assistance (ICLA) and camp management with a particular focus on refugees and internally displaced people (IDPs). We may also include host communities in our activities given the important role that they often have in supporting displaced people and contributing to durable solutions.

We aim to ensure equal access and service to all vulnerable groups, especially by meeting the different needs of men, women, boys and girls. We involve displaced people and host communities in the identification of their needs as well as in the design, implementation and evaluation of programmes. We promote environmental sustainability and climate adaptation in our activities, and continuously adapt to changing needs. Risk management is an integral part of all NRC operations in order to ensure the safety and security of displaced and vulnerable people, and our staff.

## Standby rosters

NRC seeks to enhance the capacity of the international community and national actors, in particular the United Nations, in all stages of crisis, from prevention / early warning, preparedness and response, to monitoring, reconstruction, conflict resolution, sustainable development and democratic governance. As a strategic partner, we aim to ensure the rapid deployment of specialist personnel, whilst also supporting the continuity of operations and internal capacity building.

An overarching goal is to ensure that people in emergencies receive protection and assistance according to their needs and rights, with particular emphasis on the protection of civilians and the implementation of relevant UN resolutions.

## Advocacy

NRC advocates towards decision-makers in order to obtain full respect for the rights of displaced and vulnerable people. We advocate at local, national, regional and global levels, basing messages and strategies on our first-hand experience and specialised expertise. Advocating with the United Nations, especially with protection mandated agencies, is a priority in order to strengthen humanitarian response. We also engage with a range of other relevant actors in order to secure and maintain access to displaced and vulnerable people.

NRC conducts regional and inter-governmental outreach through strong presence in strategic capitals such as Geneva and Brussels, including by working with the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) which is a global leader in monitoring, reporting and advocating on internal displacement and the rights of IDPs.

## We are committed to living our core values:

- **Dedicated**
- **Inclusive**
- **Innovative**
- **Accountable**

These core values are fundamental in all our actions and in the workplace. They apply internally towards our colleagues and externally towards our partners, whilst the needs and rights of displaced and vulnerable people remain at the heart of everything we do.

## We are guided by:

NRC is committed to non-discrimination, respect for human dignity and prioritising the most vulnerable. We recognise that it is the primary duty of states to protect and assist displaced and vulnerable people. Where states are unwilling or not wholly able to fulfil this duty, we endeavour to respond and advocate with them to fulfil their duty. We work in partnership and alliances with local communities, authorities and UN agencies.

NRC promotes respect for the rights and duties contained in international human rights and humanitarian laws, particularly the Refugee Convention and Protocols, the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement and the Kampala Convention on IDPs in Africa. Specific focus is given to the protection of vulnerable groups and minorities, especially women and children.

NRC is committed to accountability and transparency in all activities, and adheres to:

- Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross /Red Crescent and NGOs in Disaster Relief
- Humanitarian Accountability Partnership
- The Sphere project: Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response
- INEE: Minimum Standards for Education in Emergency
- 'Do no harm' principle

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