



NORCAP GLOBAL PROVIDER OF EXPERTISE

**NOR
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NORWEGIAN CAPACITY
OPERATED BY NRC

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NORCAP

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NORCAP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Benedicte Giæver

COVER PHOTO

Dr. Mukeshkumar Prajapati,
deployed as an Emergency
Health Specialist to UNICEF in
Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.
Photo: Ingebjørg Kårstad/NRC

PRINT

Gamlebyen grafiske

A warm thank you to all
NORCAP colleagues who
have contributed to the report.

**IN 2018
NORCAP SUPPORTED
48 PARTNERS IN
83 COUNTRIES WITH
646 EXPERTS**

WHO WE ARE

NORCAP is a global provider of expertise that contributes to solving challenges in the humanitarian, development and peace-building sectors. Our ultimate aim is always to strengthen the resilience and protect the lives, livelihoods and rights of vulnerable people and communities.

NORCAP was established nearly 30 years ago to provide the UN with urgently needed extra personnel to deliver aid and help those in

need during and in the aftermath of the Gulf war. We were able to deploy experts at short notice to strengthen the response capacity, and this flexibility and can-do-attitude still runs in our veins.

Providing additional staff, however, is not enough. The world faces fundamental and complex challenges. The number of humanitarian crises has increased, often combining conflict and disasters triggered by natural hazards, and

the people affected need more than food and shelter. They have a right to be heard and to take part in shaping the response and their own futures in line with international human rights standards.

What we do

We want to make a change for people in need. That means working to uphold their dignity, build resilient communities and ensure peaceful transitions from conflict to democratic societies.

- We develop projects with partners at national, regional and global levels, building and strengthening their capacity to protect lives, rights and livelihoods.
- We promote more effective ways of working at the global level and in the field.
- We deploy experts to strengthen and develop our partners' capacity.

We believe that working together in a coordinated and sustainable manner is the best way to reduce needs, risks and vulnerability over time.

OUR EXPERTISE

NORCAP has a pool of more than 1,000 professionals recruited to meet the changing demands of a wide range of partners, situations and crises. Through specialised projects, some operated in cooperation with partners, we cover the following thematic areas:

Crisis response

Developing and strengthening crisis responses has been a focus for us from the outset, and the expertise we provide today ranges from protection, coordination, cash, education, health and nutrition to communication with affected populations, camp management and resilience.

Resilience and clean energy

We work with national authorities, regional institutions and international organisations to provide expertise in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation. Among other things, our experts help to improve vulnerable populations' access to energy in Africa and strengthen coordination in the sector.

Cash programming

Our Cash and Markets Capacity Development project, CashCap, deploys specialists to increase the use and effectiveness of cash and markets programming in humanitarian aid. It is governed by a steering committee of UN and NGO members.

Gender

We recruit and deploy senior gender expertise via GenCap, the Gender Standby Capacity Project. Our experts work with several agencies at a time to promote gender equality programming. GenCap is also an inter-agency project led by OCHA.

Needs analysis

ACAPS supports and can lead humanitarian needs analyses and assessments during complex emergencies and crises. NORCAP recruits and deploys specialists to these missions. The aim is to inform global planning and decision-making, and to strengthen approaches to risk management. ACAPS is led by the Norwegian Refugee Council and Save the Children Norway.

Protection

NORCAP provides expertise and capacity building within humanitarian protection, physical protection and protection of human rights. We deploy specialists to field, regional and global operations and strengthen humanitarian leadership and response through specialized projects, such as the Interagency Protection Standby Capacity (ProCap) and the Regional Emergency GBV Advisors (REGA).

Human rights and democratisation

The NORDEM programme provides experts to organisations aiming to build peace, strengthen human rights and develop capacity within rule of law and good governance. We also deploy observers to civilian monitoring mechanisms and international election observation missions worldwide.



NORCAP education in emergencies expert, Emile Ntampera. Deployed to UNHCR in Arua, Northern Uganda.

Photo: Ida Sem Fossvik/NORCAP

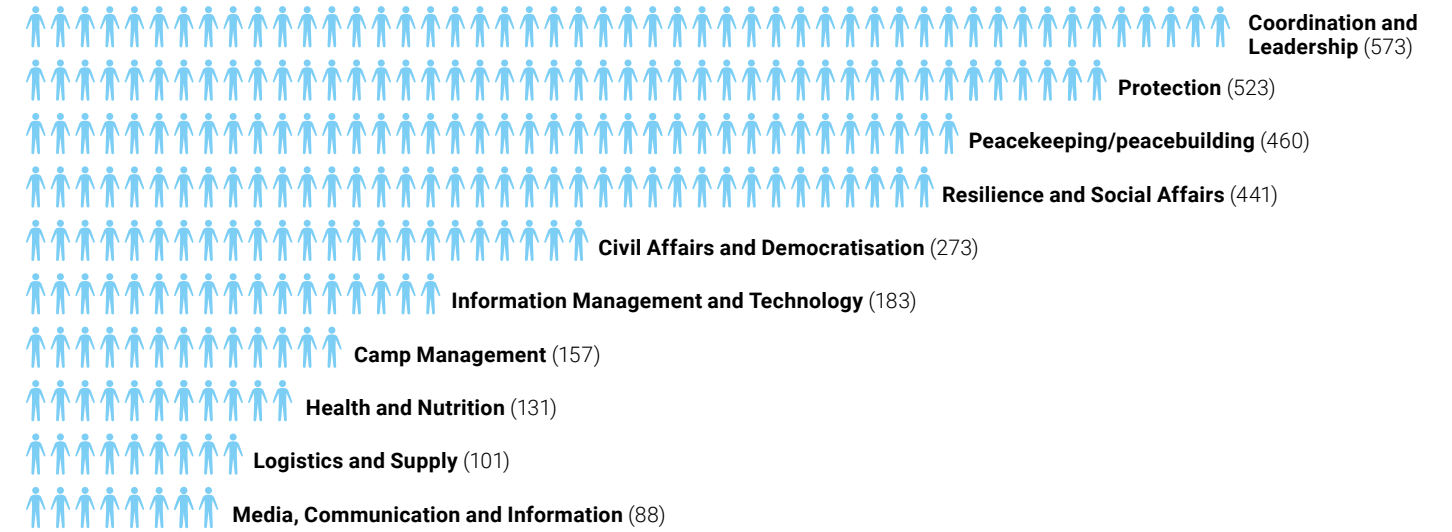
“NORCAP’s ability to adjust to changing circumstances with speed and precision makes it an important resource for the international aid community. We also challenge the status quo by encouraging and helping the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding sectors to do better. Our highly qualified experts work with local communities and national governments to protect people’s lives, livelihoods and rights.”

Jan Egeland

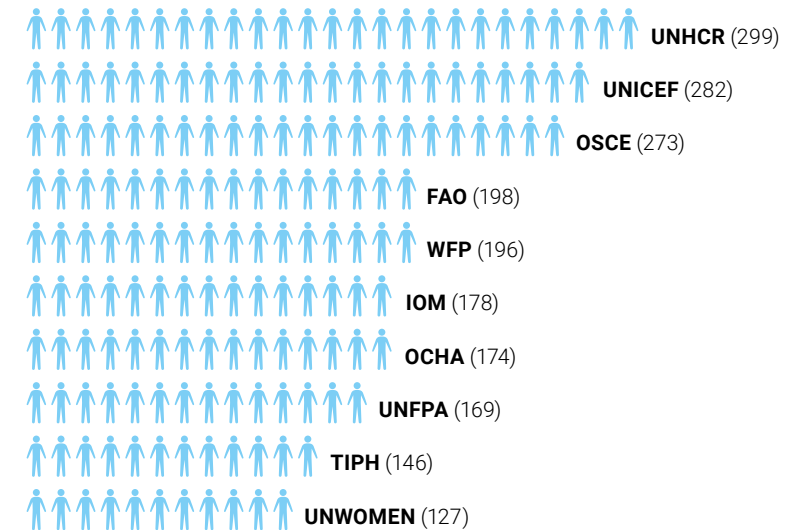


Photo: Tareq Mrahil/NRC

CONTRIBUTIONS BY CATEGORY (in person-months)



LARGEST RECEIVING ORGANISATIONS (in person-months)



GLOBAL OVERVIEW 2018

NORDEM observed elections in:

- Armenia
- Azerbaijan
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Colombia
- El Salvador
- Georgia
- Lebanon
- Macedonia
- Madagascar
- Mali
- Pakistan
- Paraguay
- Russia
- Sierra Leone
- Tunisia
- Turkey
- Zimbabwe

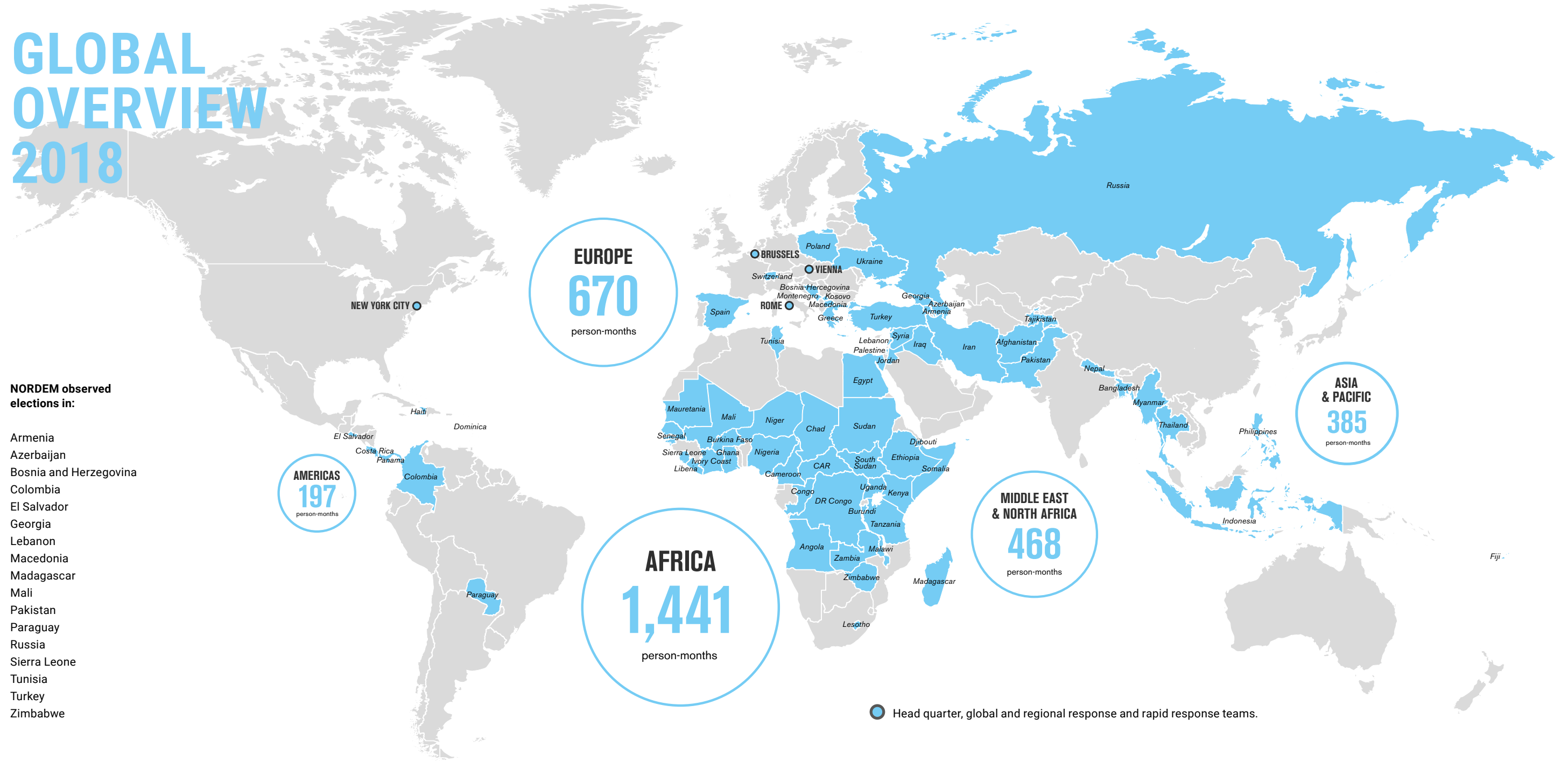




Photo: Sam Tarling/NRC

Alaa Mohammad (18) and Noufe Haywe (24) are the youth representatives on the Community Capacity Building committee at an informal tented settlement in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

BRINGING MORE EFFECTIVE WAYS OF WORKING TO THE FIELD

Under the 2016 Grand Bargain agreement, donors and aid providers pledged to make humanitarian action more effective and efficient. NORCAP contributes to that end by gearing up cash programming, strengthening the capacity of national and local responders and supporting greater continuity between humanitarian and development interventions.

FROM EMERGENCY TO DEVELOPMENT IN LEBANON

The huge influx of refugees into Lebanon from Syria has increased tensions between local communities and the new arrivals, particularly over access to jobs, basic services and housing.

This is challenging for the humanitarian response, which is currently shifting focus from short-term needs to longer-term resilience

and stability for both refugees and host communities. Through the UN reform, the humanitarian community hopes to ensure greater predictability and continuity of their efforts for Lebanon by responding to both groups in equal measure.

Since 2017, the NORCAP expert, Ida Aronsen, has helped strengthen ownership of and commitment to the ongoing UN reform to improve effectiveness and deliver as one.

As a coordination specialist, Aronsen was among others tasked with ensuring that the two key aid coordination frameworks for Lebanon, the Crisis Response Plan and the UN Strategic Framework, support and complement each other effectively.

NORCAP's independence from specific UN agencies and agendas made it easier for stakeholders to

accept Aronsen's strategic advice on how to improve accountability and push for progress.

She helped to draft and finalise the first "One UN" results report for Lebanon for 2017, which documents joint progress on all peace and security, humanitarian and development interventions, strengthening the UN's transparency and accountability to the public.

"All stakeholders from the two coordination frameworks participated in joint planning workshops for the first time in 2018. This ensured a common understanding between humanitarian and development agencies on how to strengthen systems and resilience, and make sure it addresses the needs of the most vulnerable people," Aronsen says.

STRENGTHENING LOCAL RESPONDERS IN LAKE CHAD REGION

Protracted conflict has left 11 million people in urgent need of humanitarian assistance in the Lake Chad region. Local organisations and communities are often the first to respond to such needs. Given the right capacity, they have improved their ability to develop programmes and manage funds.

Following the Oslo humanitarian conference on Nigeria and Lake Chad in early 2017, we identified an urgent need to strengthen local responders in Chad and Niger. We worked with civil society organisations to assess needs and set up a pilot project to develop their capacity in terms of financial management, organisational development, monitoring and evaluation and diplomatic dialogue.

We deployed four experts to the project in May 2018 to work alongside local stakeholders in overcoming challenges, and the initiative was highly appreciated by the civil society organisations and our UN partners on the ground. Civil society organisations in Niger, for example, received training that gave them a clearer identity, a more strategic approach, more effective engagement and improved accountability and transparency.

This was illustrated when some or-

ganisations introduced themselves to the international community in Diffa and received feedback that local organisations had never presented their work and interests so coherently and clearly before. They also improved their engagement with donors.

Given the results of the pilot project, it will be expanded into a multi-year initiative that will also include Nigeria, where two experts will be deployed in 2019.

SHIFTING POWER RELATIONS WITH CASH

The use of cash-based interventions in humanitarian emergencies has gained ground in recent years, reflecting global efforts to fulfil Grand Bargain commitments on the issue and to promote a more localised humanitarian response.

CashCap's activities grew significantly in 2018 in line with increasing demands for its services, and it has supported around 50 per cent of all national cash working groups worldwide. Its inter-agency deployments are perceived as neutral because they are independent of specific agencies' interests, making its experts the preferred choice for global clusters and coordination bodies.

To increase expertise among organisations working on cash in

Syria, CashCap deployed experts to the country and a regional specialist, Fe Kagahastian, to Jordan. Kagahastian supported three cash working groups inside Syria in harmonising their tools and strategic approaches.

The Syria response was a good opportunity to pilot a new way of working, combining cash and market-based interventions with gender and age considerations. The initiative, established by Kagahastian and Madhumita Sarkar, a GenCap expert, was based on feedback from Syrians who said they preferred to receive cash assistance and that their most pressing needs were economic opportunities and access to basic services.

This was a great opportunity for the two specialists to team up and improve response analysis and programming.

“Cash and market-based initiatives could provide Syrian people the dignity and purchasing power to access basic needs and services and pursue economic opportunities,” says Kagahastian. “However, it was important to consider gender and age, to make sure the programming understood the needs of different vulnerable groups.”

The collaboration also led to a joint workshop in Amman that



People displaced because of drought receive cash assistance in the Injil district in Herat, Afghanistan.

was attended by 69 participants, including representatives of UN agencies, international and national organisations and government ministries.

The joint approach will continue in 2019, supporting sectors and agencies with cash and market-

based programming to consider gender issues in their projects. Kagahastian and Sarkar will also work to improve system-wide tools and provide a roadmap for the collection and analysis of data disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other diversity indicators, to ensure that the assistance pro-

vided is relevant to beneficiaries' needs, priorities and capabilities.



Photo: Ingrid Prestetun/NORCAP

NORCAP Executive Director, Benedicte Giæver together with our site planner, Shyam Sundar, in Balukhali camp in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. NORCAP has worked in the country to help the Rohingya refugees since the beginning of the influx in Autumn 2017.

HOW TO REQUEST EXPERT PERSONNEL

NORCAP deploys experts on demand to the UN, regional organisations and national governments. If your country office or organisation believe NORCAP experts would improve the delivery of aid and services to affected populations, please get in touch.

HOW TO JOIN NORCAP

The recruitment of highly qualified and motivated experts is vital for NORCAP to maintain our position as a responsive and trustworthy strategic partner to key stakeholders.

NORCAP recruits experts in areas of high demand to protect lives and livelihoods of affected populations and strengthen their resilience. Our experts are diverse in terms of nationalities, language skills and gender.

Would you like to be part of our team? NORCAP is constantly looking for people with the right professional background, personal skills and motivation. We recruit new members several times a year.

More information about requirements for requests and opportunities with NORCAP can be found on our website:

www.nrc.no/norcap

NORCAP DONORS

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (NMFA) and NORCAP have worked closely to strengthen the capacities of humanitarian response since 1991. Financial support from the NMFA has included framework partnership agreements from 2009 to 2017 and additional funds in emergency situations.

The Department for International Development (DFID) has supported NORCAP since 2012. In 2017 DFID funded initiatives such as ACAPS and CashCap capacity-

building activities and is currently funding a range of NORCAP interventions in emergency settings.

The European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) has been supporting NORCAP since 2012. ECHO has also been a key partner for CashCap together with the NMFA, SIDA, USAID OFDA/Food for Peace, Swiss Development Cooperation and the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

NORCAP also receives resources from UN agencies, Norad, EEA

Grants, SIDA, World Bank, US Department of State - Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, USAID OFDA/Food for Peace, Swiss Development Cooperation and various other donors. Some deployments are cost shared or fully funded by the hosting organisation. Canada, Norway, Switzerland, the UK, the US and ECHO provided funds for ACAPS in 2017, while OCHA funds the operation of ProCap and GenCap.



NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL