

NRC's operations in **Yemen**

Humanitarian overview

Yemen continues to be one of the world's worst humanitarian crises. Nine years of devastating conflict, economic deterioration and the collapse of public services have left two-thirds of the population – some 21.6 million Yemenis – dependent on humanitarian aid and protection for survival. Houses, farms, hospitals, schools and water systems have been damaged or destroyed. Approximately 14 per cent of the population (4.5 million people) are internally displaced while 17 million people are unable to consume adequate food, putting their lives or livelihoods in jeopardy.

An unprecedented six-month truce between the parties to the conflict in 2022 significantly reduced fighting, civilian casualties, and conflict-related displacement, and brought hope to millions of Yemenis. But while the military conflict has quieted, there is still fighting in some locations, the economic conflict continues – pushing the price of food and basic goods up and further out of the reach of many – and the political situation remains extremely volatile.

Continued support from the international community will be crucial for two-thirds of the population who rely on that assistance.

NRC's operation

NRC assists people who have fled their homes, the communities who host them, and those who return to rebuild their lives.

We are often one of the first organisations to respond after a crisis. We not only provide this critical emergency aid, but also assist with programming aimed to promote self-reliance and durable solutions. Wherever possible, we use local products and labour, recognising the skills that exist within the communities we support.

We respond to needs in a holistic manner. Alongside programming, we use advocacy approaches to available legal frameworks. We encourage states, parties to conflict and local authorities to uphold their legal obligations towards people affected by displacement.

NRC in Yemen

Established	2012
International staff	16
National staff	283



NRC in Yemen

Country office

Sana'a

Areas of operation

Amanat Al Asimah, Sana'a, Hajjah, Hodeidah, Amran, Aden, Lahj, Abyan, Taiz, Marib, Dhamar and Al-Dhale'e



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Education

The education sector is one of the most neglected areas within Yemen's humanitarian crisis. Displacement, attacks and misuse of schools have deprived roughly 2.7 million children of education. It has also left half of all teachers without pay. School-aged children make up an estimated 33 per cent of the overall population in need of assistance. Out-of-school children not only suffer a loss of educational opportunities, but also valuable social networks which provide protection, support, a sense of normality, and hope for the future.

We focus on children who have had their education interrupted or denied, via the provision of multiple, tailored pathways back to learning for displacement- and conflict-affected children, adolescents, and youth.

NRC is recognised as a leading education partner in Yemen. We work with children, teachers, communities, ministries and other authorities, as well as national and international education partners, to ensure children in Yemen are able to learn in a safe and protective environment.

We do this by:

- promoting children's right to education via community mobilisation, awareness raising and advocacy
- ensuring learning environments are safe and accessible to all children by repairing old and damaged classrooms and constructing learning spaces, latrines, and handwashing facilities
- incentivising, equipping and training teachers and other education staff to provide quality, safe and inclusive education
- ensuring all children have the resources they need to fully participate in lessons through the provision of teaching, learning and recreational materials
- establishing multiple pathways back to formal education through providing a range of non-formal and technical and vocational education opportunities for children, adolescents and youth who may need more specialised or intensive education support
- activating or reinvigorating parent-teacher associations and other community support structures,

to promote community ownership and sustainability

- advocating for the right to education through clusters and different education platforms at the Yemen and global level

Information, counselling and legal assistance (ICLA)

A single document can determine the future of an entire family. Birth certificates and IDs open up access to health care, protect and secure rights, and enable children to enrol in education. But millions of displaced people in Yemen do not have the necessary legal documents, blocking them from accessing services, and are often not aware of their rights or local legal structures.

Similarly, access to housing, land and property (HLP) rights is a critical challenge. Displaced Yemenis are exposed to various protection risks including evictions from sites where they have settled and from housing they are renting.

Since early 2018, to fill a significant gap in these areas, NRC has implemented programming that help Yemeni people – particularly women and children – access legal, civil documentation (LCD) and HLP rights.

Our ICLA team is currently focused on:

- awareness-raising on legal rights-related civil documentation and housing, land and property rights
- providing legal counselling and assistance to access critical legal and civil documentation
- providing legal assistance to displaced communities on housing, land and property rights, through negotiation with authorities and landowners to reduce evictions
- post-eviction support
- providing technical support and training to clusters, authorities and partners on housing, land and property rights

- capacity building of local authorities, including the Civil Registry Authority and community leaders
- advocating for positive policy changes that affect peoples' rights

Protection from violence

Yemen is facing a complex protection crisis, with 17.7 million people considered in need of a form of protection assistance. Widespread destruction of civilian infrastructure, marginalisation, exclusion, discriminatory norms and practices, explosive ordnance contamination, and a large number of internally displaced people, alongside the socioeconomic impacts associated with the deteriorating economy have increased pre-existing vulnerabilities and stretched already weakened institutions and public services.

NRC Yemen delivers programmes that aim at reducing, mitigating and responding to protection risks faced by the population in Yemen. The most severe of these risks are: threats to life, safety, and security; lack of civil documentation; housing, land, and property (HLP) rights; forced evictions; protracted and multiple displacement; specific risks to women and girls; and child recruitment.

Our programming is implemented through three inter-linked outcomes:

- 1. Individual protection services:** general protection case management (PCM), individual protection assistance (IPA), cash and voucher assistance for protection outcomes, protective accompaniment, psychological first aid (PFA), referrals and facilitated cash referrals.
- 2. Community level protection services:** community-based protection networks, trainings and regular engagement, community level protection monitoring and analysis of trends, peaceful coexistence and community initiative (pilot project).

3. Protection leadership and evidence-based advocacy: protection monitoring and advocacy, national protection cluster co-ordination role.

The NRC protection team coordinates with other sectors to provide an effective, rapid response to support at-risk individuals in coping with their specific protection situation and building up their resilience.

Livelihoods and food security

The Ukraine crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic have hit the Yemeni economy hard, exacerbating extremely fragile living conditions. Socio-economic conditions have deteriorated further. The already weak public infrastructure has limited capacity to cope with extreme climate change events and other natural disasters. Exchange rates, fuel shortages, a rise in global food prices and food imports have negatively impacted food availability, access and affordability.

Malnutrition and hunger are rife. Some 17 million people are considered food insecure, with conflict and insecurity the main drivers of increasing food insecurity levels throughout the country.

The objective of NRC's Livelihood and Food Security programming is to protect the rights, dignity and livelihoods of vulnerable people affected by the conflict and displacement in Yemen, in addition to saving lives.

NRC uses a market systems approach to respond to emergencies and promote sustainable livelihoods where market systems are functional. In emergency situations, we support improved access to safe food by:

- distributing in-kind food baskets where markets are not fully functional
- providing cash and voucher assistance where markets are functional

We support livelihood restoration and resilience building by:

- providing training in modern production technologies and livelihood kits (agricultural inputs, tools and fishing kits) to small-scale farmers and fishery communities
- providing training in livestock management and provision of small ruminants to vulnerable households to increase their asset base
- supporting rehabilitation and/or installation of agricultural infrastructure including solar irrigation systems
- providing business management training and start-up capital for youth and female entrepreneurs
- providing vocational skills training to youth and women to support viable market driven self-employment activities based on a thorough understanding of the local market conditions

Shelter

Millions of people in Yemen continue to lack access to basic services. Some 7.5 million people live in inadequate shelter conditions or without access to essential household items.

NRC supports displaced communities to address shelter and non-food item needs through addressing the causes, including inadequate protection from the elements owing to the emergency nature of the shelter, unaffordability of repairs due to insufficient income or lack of access to required materials in the local markets, insufficient security of tenure and ownership documentation.

The NRC Yemen shelter team works to improve the living conditions for thousands of conflict-affected families by providing shelter/NFI solutions that are adapted and contextualised based on specific needs. NRC seeks to ensure shelters are safe, secure, and designed to resist hazards and provide privacy. Wherever possible, we use a market-based approach to

provide shelter assistance as well as using local suppliers and labour, helping local economies to recover.

We invest in creating safe, dignified and appropriate living conditions by:

- providing life-saving emergency shelter kits and non-food items
- constructing transitional shelters
- constructing/rehabilitating the homes of returnees
- providing cash for rent
- providing settlement infrastructure

Camp coordination and camp management (CCCM)

An estimated 1.6 million people have settled in 2,431 sites throughout Yemen. These sites are usually small and spread out, with poor service provision. The majority of the people in these sites have faced multiple and protracted displacement. Evictions are becoming increasingly common, as an estimated 87 per cent have no occupancy agreements.

NRC CCCM teams aim to improve coordination structures, information management systems, and access to equitable services and assistance in displacement sites with a focus on moving towards durable solutions with full participation of the displaced and host communities. Our camp management team is focused on:

- supervising, monitoring and coordinating safe and dignified access to multi-sectoral service at site level
- establishing camp governance mechanisms and enabling community participation
- ensuring the care and maintenance of camp infrastructure
- managing information on the camp population's changing needs
- disseminating information both to the camp population and to other stakeholders
- participating in strategic planning with relevant stakeholders around issues of contingency plan-

ning, environment, exit strategy

- advocating on behalf of/with the camp community to external stakeholders

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH)

For the displacement-affected population in Yemen, sustainable access to sufficient and safe water, appropriate sanitation facilities and living in a healthier environment are some of the most urgent needs. Prolonged conflict amplified by flooding, environmental degradation and other climate change-related effects has damaged and overstretched capacity of water supply infrastructure. This coupled with lack of adequate sanitation facilities and poor hygiene practices has increased the risk of water-related diseases and other public health and protection risks.

To address this, our WASH team, in collaboration with other sectors, aims to address acute WASH needs and reduce protection risks through delivery of life-saving assistance and restoring and sustaining existing WASH facilities which are inclusive.

We achieve this by:

- rehabilitating and constructing water supply systems and facilitating their governance to improve sustainability
- strengthening community-based water resource management to improve resilience and climate change adaptation
- using, supporting and developing markets to meet affected populations' WASH needs
- promoting positive hygiene practices through hygiene promotion campaigns with the aim of changing behaviour
- providing inclusive sanitation facilities with appropriate disposal and treatment mechanisms
- improving WASH services in schools to strengthen better learning outcomes in collaboration with the education sector
- improving living environments through community and government-supported solid waste management

Advocacy

Aside from the day-to-day advocacy and influencing work embedded in the delivery of our core competencies described above, NRC is also strategically placed to influence broader local, national and international discussions, policies and practices that impact the humanitarian situation in Yemen. NRC actively engages in or co-chairs key coordination mechanisms including the Humanitarian Access Working Group, the NGO Advocacy Working Group and the Durable Solutions Working Group to name a few.

We base our advocacy and influencing on the needs of the communities we work with as expressed directly to us by them and elevate their voices into decision-making spaces. The most critical themes running across our advocacy include access to aid and protection and the removal of barriers to self-reliance and durable solutions. Our advocacy is also designed to help ensure a principled, efficient, effective and accountable humanitarian response.

NRC in Yemen is grateful for the generous support from our donors:

- European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
- European Union
- USAID BHA
- Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Swedish International Development Coordination Agency
- Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
- Swiss Development Cooperation
- World Food Programme
- United Nations Population Fund
- Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs – Yemen Humanitarian Funds
- UNICEF
- German Federal Foreign Office
- Education Cannot Wait