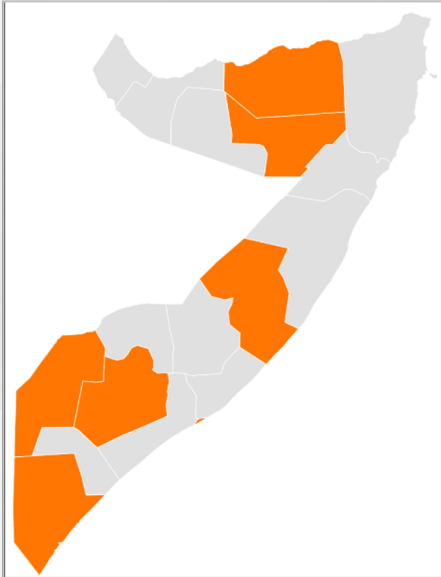




NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL

SOMALIA

AREAS OF OPERATION: RESILIENCE



CONTEXT

Conflict in Somalia led to the collapse of most economic, agriculture, and manufacturing activity. Three decades of development underinvestment, recurrent flooding, droughts and insecurity, leave communities with limited resilience and high fragility to shocks.

- 8.25m people in need of assistance.
- 8m people require safe drinking water.
- 3.8m people internally displaced.
- 2nd most climate-vulnerable country globally.

OUTCOMES/IMPACT

In 2023, NRC supported hundreds of thousands of people with resilience activities. This included:

- Solar-powered water systems, including wells, dams and boreholes.
- People supported with clean water access.
- Infrastructures: livestock markets, fish markets, slaughterhouses, and women's market stalls.

For the latest updates, please visit:

nrc.no/somalia

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Photo: Abdulkadir Mohamed / NRC

HOW WE SUPPORT: BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

The cycle of humanitarian crises in Somalia, and increasing climate vulnerability, will not end without dedicated efforts to strengthen the resilience of communities to shocks. We work to assist and empower them via tailored programmes.

NRC's resilience building approach

NRC has a unique opportunity to guide resilience approaches in Somalia. As consortium manager for the [Building Resilience Communities in Somalia \(BRCiS\) Consortium](#)—a multi-programme, multi-donor partnership of nine NGOs delivering over \$242 million of activities since 2013—we implement programmes as part of the consortium and independently.

Building on strong community links, our interventions establish robust networks and support the creation of community development plans. We improve local governance capacity, secure community and external investment, and establish infrastructure and systems to enable communities to support themselves.

Practically, this means improving irrigation, providing access to water, energy and animal feed, strengthening local markets, and improving livelihood opportunities and basic services. We often work with the private sector, focusing on agricultural resilience and entrepreneurial opportunities.

Across seven of Somalia's 18 regions, our activities occur alongside or integrated into humanitarian responses. We ensure the durable enhancement of community capacities to lead and implement sustainable local development.

NRC programmes and Intervention

Resilience is a systemic issue, requiring a cross-sectoral, partnership-based response. NRC programmes align with Somalia's Recovery and Resilience Framework and National Development Plan.

Community engagement, participation, and monitoring

Community engagement in planning and implementation drive our approach. Combining technical expertise and local perspectives, we focus on strengthening resilience in sectors prioritised by community members. We ensure ownership while building capacities for local planning, operation and management, as well as providing mechanisms to address conflict. Technical support ensures sustainability, respect for the environment, and a pathway to a life free from humanitarian need.

With all BRCiS members, our programmes incorporate continuous shock data collection, and Early Warning Early Action alert systems. These systems allow for rapid identification and response from both humanitarian actors and communities to crises. We also build natural resource management capacities with communities and officials to mitigate future shocks.

Water systems and management

Underdevelopment and poor water resource management is the leading cause of community vulnerability to drought and flooding, and one of the critical limitations to improving livelihoods and economic development.

We recognise (particularly for women and girls) the criticality of establishing sustainable water systems, and the networks to manage them, and place access to water at the core of our resilience efforts. We have established more than 30 major water supply systems for domestic and productive use across Somalia, including mega earth dams, boreholes, river water intakes and shallow wells.

NRC enhances local capacity to manage and maintain systems, establishing representative committees and maintenance funding plans, works with the private sector to expand scale and sustainability, involves local officials for planning and monitoring, and undertakes substantial environmental sustainability planning.

Diversified and sustainable livelihood strategies

An essential step towards resilience includes support for youth, women, men, and vulnerable groups to acquire and protect important productive assets, and diversification of livelihoods – particularly climate-resilient ones.

Our work includes a broad mix of context-specific activities: major irrigation schemes, installation of greenhouse units, generating new livelihood opportunities, supporting displaced women entrepreneurs with start-up business grants, developing market linkages for production and sale of fodder, expansion of market infrastructure, agricultural inputs, and vector control activities to protect livestock.

Our partners



BETTER AGRICULTURE TOGETHER

Communities have established farming cooperatives, covering 263 hectares with 688 members, increasing food security amid erratic climate conditions, drought and floods. Displaced people seeking to re-establish themselves, including pastoralists who have lost livelihoods, have been afforded new opportunities via improved climate smart agriculture and irrigation.



WATER PREVENTING DISPLACEMENT

Laanle village in central Somalia hosts 2,000 people, almost all displaced in previous droughts. Following solar-powered water system investment via BRCiS and FCDO, Laanle now hosting 3,000 drought displaced agro-pastoralists from Ethiopia, and providing low-cost water to 7,500 people in nearby villages.