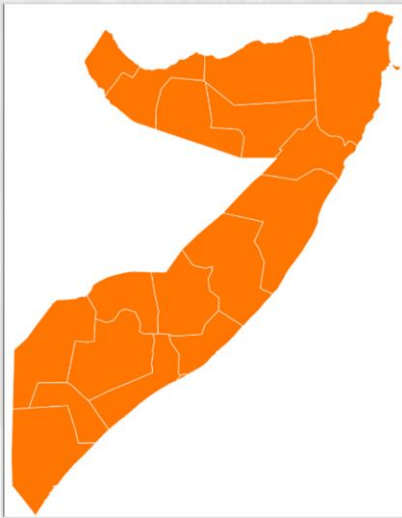# NRC NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL

SOMALIA
AREAS OF OPERATION: ICLA

CONTEXT

Conflict and disasters in Somalia have forced millions to abandon their homes and livelihoods, losing a range of legal rights in the process. Combined with the risk of protracted or recurring displacement, many face numerous obstacles to achieving durable solutions.

- 2.9m IDPs in 2,400+ densely populated sites.
- 85% of IDP sites are informal settlements on private land.
- 80% of IDP households lack formal land tenure, tenure insecurity is widespread, with 1.14m forceful evictions since 2018.
- Majority of displaced communities lack legal identity documents, specifically civil and national documents.

OUTCOMES/IMPACT

In 2021, we supported over 160,000 people (57% female) through ICLA activities. This included:

- 59,565 people (70% female) supported to secure land tenure.
- 77,608 forceful evictions prevented.
- 19,000+ people provided legal assistance, specialised counselling, and information to exercise their rights.
- 2,400+ participants trained on collaborative dispute resolution and HLP.

For the latest updates, please visit:
nrc.no/somalia

Contact: ICLA Specialist, Shezane Kirubi
shezane.kirubi@nrc.no

www.nrc.no/somalia

HOW WE SUPPORT:
INFORMATION, COUNSELLING & LEGAL ASSISTANCE (ICLA)

Somalia has one of the world's largest displaced populations. Many cannot exercise their legal rights and struggle to attain durable solutions to their displacement challenges. Our efforts work to address these gaps.

NRC's ICLA approach

Our response addresses and supports three areas: Housing, Land and Property (HLP), Employment Laws and Procedures (ELP), and Legal Identity.

ICLA activities provide specialised counselling services, information, and legal assistance to ensure displaced people can exercise their rights and achieve durable solutions. NRC works at national and state levels to ensure systemic policy change and legislative protection. This is combined with community-level assistance via paralegal teams and communities.

Underpinning these efforts, and supporting a range of other humanitarian interventions, is robust data collection to monitor displacement and legal rights infringements, coupled with research and advocacy.

Via the UNHCR-led, NRC-implemented Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) and NRC's Evictions Portal, displacement trends, events and cases of concern are identified and reported to relevant stakeholders, and responses developed.

Who we support

In Somalia, we focus on internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and vulnerable host communities, working directly and indirectly across all 18 regions.

NRC thematic areas and activities

Housing, Land and Property challenges caused by repeated and protracted displacement are exacerbated by inadequate legal and policy frameworks, weak state institution capacities, mechanisms for dispute resolution, and limited awareness of HLP rights among displaced people. A common outcome–forced eviction–is one of Somalia's major protection concerns.

Legal Identity problems, particualrly access to civil documentation, is a major challenge for displaced people. In Somalia, these are inextricably linked to HLP rights, which rely on a person's ability to prove their identity and family history.

Employment, Laws and Procedures outsizedly impact displaced people's access to income generation, as they face limited understanding or acess to business registration, and labour laws and proceedures in Somalia.

To address the above challenges, NRC provides:

Case management via tailored counselling and legal assistance; people in need are provided individual advice regarding procedures, legal options and courses of action, as well as referral if required. Cases requiring further intervention are provided legal and administrative support, in-court representation, and Collaborative Dispute Resolution (i.e. mediation, negotiation, arbitration).

Access to accurate, credible and timely information regarding rights, entitlements, remedies, available services, and legal or administrative requirements. Tools include: community outreach and group information sessions, information products, and awareness campaigns via video, radio, TV, social media, and SMS.

Capacity development, such as technical and material support to enable institutions to better lead on resolving issues.

Policy influence, research and coordination, including targeted advocacy to affect policy and systemic change. NRC lobbies stakeholders, produces research and policy briefs, and raises awareness on specific issues. Since 2015, we have also chaired the HLP Area of Responsibility (AoR) in Somalia.

Our partners

"THIS IS MY LAND. YOU HAVE TO GO."

In 2015, Sangaabo and her children were displaced to Baidoa. NRC negotiated a five-year tenure agreement with the landowner for her and other IDPs, as well as providing support for shelter.

In 2021, however, Sangaabo and other residents faced eviction after landowners refused to extend their tenure agreement. They had nowhere to go.

ICLA sessions allowed Sangaabo and others to renegotiate for a short-term extension, giving them the chance to find alternative land, relocate their shelters, and secure long-term tenure at a new site. Sangaabo's family now lives without fear of forced eviction.

ROBUST DATA COLLECTION SYSTEMS

NRC Eviction Information Portal | bit.ly/3v02EvD

NRC operates a digital eviction monitoring platform in collaboration with the Government and the Protection Cluster, aiming to improve monitoring, analysis, advocacy, eviction prevention and response.

NRC efforts to address eviction involve monitoring and reporting to inform strategic advocacy and humanitarian planning and response, enabling government-led initiatives to prevent forced evictions or facilitate dignied relocation. This includes the institutionalisation of eviction prevention and response across local municipalities.

Protection and Return Monitoring Network (PRMN) | bit.ly/38MeElb

Established in 2006, PRMN is UNHCR-led, NRC-implemented initiative, led and operated by ICLA teams.

A network of 33 national agencies monitor and report on displacements and protection incidents across all of Somalia's states. PRMN operates a digital dashboard, and provides regular and incident based reporting to inform / trigger humanitarian responses.