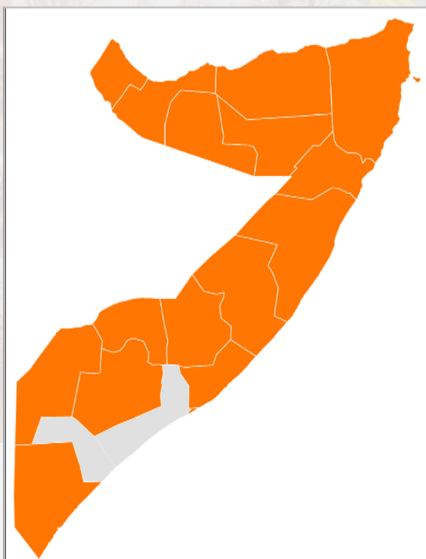


SOMALIA
AREAS OF OPERATION: WASH



CONTEXT

The need for better water, sanitation and hygiene services across Somalia is dire. 8m people need life-saving WASH support. Women, children, the elderly and displaced persons are disproportionately affected by the lack of service.

- About 8m lack access to safe water and facilities.
- 65% of people in urgent need are children.

OUTCOMES/IMPACT

In 2023, NRC supported 191,926 people (53.3% female) with better access to water, sanitation, and hygiene. This included:

- Wells, dams and other infrastructure, boreholes, built or rehabilitated.
- People assisted with better access to clean water.
- Households or communal latrines installed.
- People provided hygiene NFI kits.
- People provided hygiene promotion training.
- People receive cash/voucher for water needs

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

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Photo: Abdulkadir Mohammed / NRC

HOW WE HELP: WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)

NRC Somalia delivers complete WASH packages in synergy with other essential services. Safe drinking water, Sanitation and sustainable hygiene systems and supplies, and awareness raising are core to our life-saving work and resilience-building efforts.

NRC's WASH approach

In Somalia, access to safe water is life. It is essential for drinking, cooking, personal hygiene and livelihood activities like agriculture and livestock. None feel this more acutely than communities affected by displacement, particularly when impacted by conflict, drought or flooding, and the threat of a changing climate.

NRC Somalia provides access to safe water through the development of sustainable sources like wells, dams and boreholes – with a strong focus on solar energy as a primary source of water for pumping water from the water sources to the elevated storage for distribution. Our efforts prioritize environmental and conflict sensitivity while identifying opportunities to build community resilience with longer-term solutions and private sector partnerships.

Simultaneously, we work to improve hygiene and sanitation for displaced people and vulnerable communities. We provide temporary and permanent sanitation facilities – often at the community level, IDP settings, in schools and health centres – and equipment and training to help foster hygiene-conscious behaviours.

Who we help

In Somalia, we focus on internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, returnees, and vulnerable host communities, working across 16 of 18 regions.

NRC programmes and activities

Lack of access to WASH facilities deprives displaced families of the chance to make shelters into homes, and settlements into communities. Providing appropriate WASH systems, and educating people on good hygiene practices, we help achieve dignified living conditions, mitigate conflict, and enable livelihoods.

Our WASH activities are generally carried out alongside other programmes – including shelter, education and food security – in partnership with cluster and sector agencies.

Water supply

We provide access to safe water by constructing or rehabilitating water sources including boreholes, wells, dams, river intakes, rainwater harvesting and piped-water networks. Systems include distribution infrastructure, tanker points (to assist beyond the community) and solar- or hybrid-energy systems. Efforts are generally designed to build community resilience to future shocks.

To ensure sustainability NRC works with the private sector and public-private partnerships (particularly for infrastructure), and establishes representative water committees to manage resources. Environmental sustainability is facilitated via hydrogeological and hydrological surveys, salinity and environmental assessments, and projected water-use modelling.

As required, we provide emergency water distribution via community vouchers, trucking and community water storage solutions.

Sanitation

We aim to provide an improved standard of hygiene and reduce disease risk for displaced people. Our infrastructure support includes low-cost emergency latrines, permanent latrines (often in schools, health centres and settlements), and effective waste-removal systems. Where possible, community-driven cash-based approaches are utilized. We also modify or construct latrines to be accessible for Persons with Special needs (PSN). These efforts are complemented with sanitation NFI kits and equipment/campaigns for settlement clean-ups.

Hygiene promotion

Our efforts focus on driving positive behaviour for public health associated with water- and sanitation-related diseases, Covid-19, and environmental hygiene. Awareness and activity-focused campaigns, often during high-risk periods, use a range of platforms, coupled with training for healthcare workers and communities. We also provide hygiene kits as required.

Our partners



BETTER WATER ACCESS IN DROUGHT: BOREHOLES AVOID DISPLACEMENT & COMMUNITY-LED WATER TRUCKING

Laanle village in central Somalia hosts about 2,000 people, almost all displaced in previous droughts.

Following a solar-powered water system installation via BRCiS and UKaid, Laanle now hosts 3,000 drought displaced agro-pastoralists from Ethiopia, and provides low-cost water to 7,500 people in neighbouring communities.



In Kismayo, southern Somalia, drought-response water trucking – tweaked to let communities lead procurement – increased water response efficiency, reaching 83% more people than the standard approach.

