

Impact Report 2024

NRC Sweden



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Cover photo: Riazul Islam/NRC

People collecting safe drinking water from NRC-supported Reverse Osmosis (RO) plant at climate hotspot Koyra sub-district in Bangladesh.

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Who we are

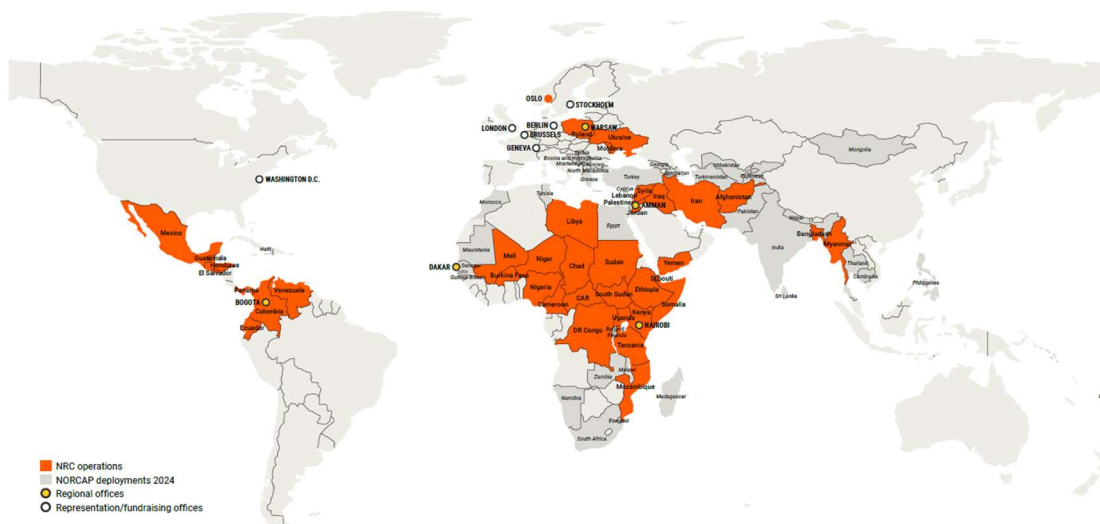
NRC Sweden (legally Insamlingsstiftelsen NRC Flyktinghjälpen Sverige) is a Swedish foundation established by the Norwegian Refugee Council in December of 2016, and its operations began in January 2017. The foundation has the goal to assist people displaced by conflict. It does this by making the Swedish public aware of the plight of displaced people and fundraising from private individuals and organisations to support people displaced by conflict.

All of this is done under the global brand of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), who NRC Sweden make grants to for work to support displaced people. Fundraising from the Swedish government humanitarian agency, Sida, is managed by NRC Norway. NRC Sweden has an ongoing relationship with the Norwegian foundation to pursue shared objectives, as well as provide and share funding and other resources to further these.

Since the beginning of its operations until December of 2024, NRC Sweden has managed to grant 129 million SEK to humanitarian programmes in 16 countries, protecting thousands of displaced people during crisis around the world.

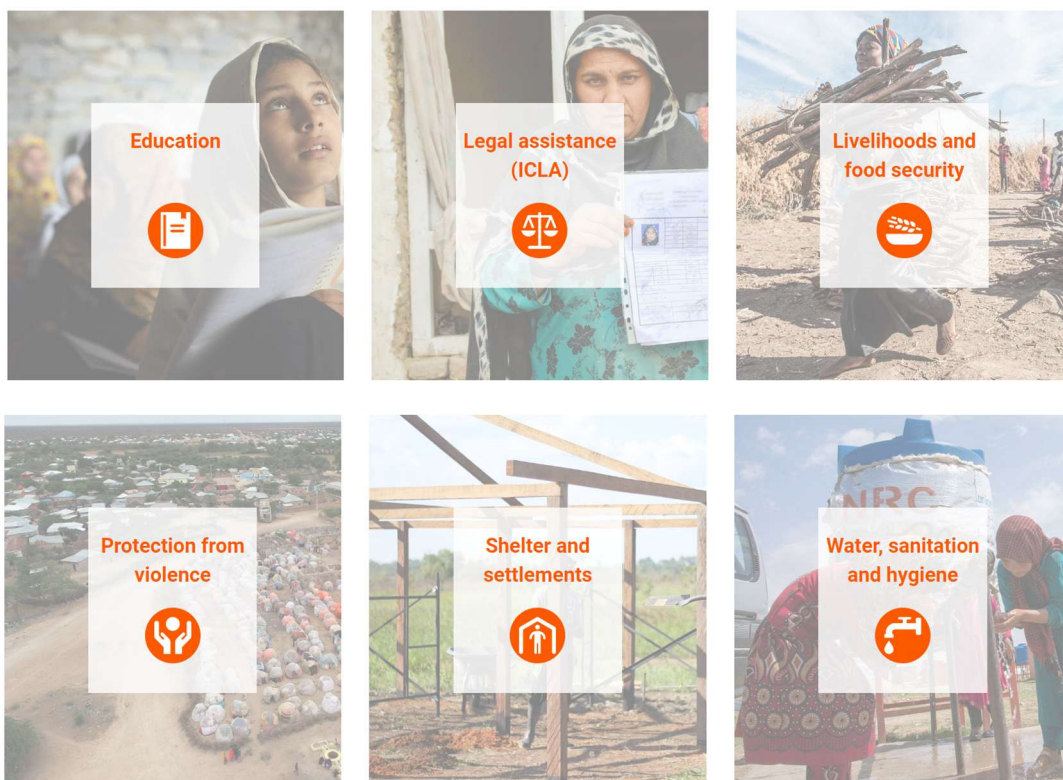
Our global brand

NRC Sweden is the Swedish arm of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), a global humanitarian organisation helping people forced to flee. We provide emergency assistance and protect people's rights in the world's most challenging crises. Our scale and expertise mean we reach and assist millions in areas where others cannot. Humanitarian principles are at the core of our mission. Our goal is self-reliance for the people we work with. We are a courageous advocate for displaced people. We enable others through partnership and contribute to lasting global solutions. Together, we save lives and rebuild futures. In 2024, NRC assisted 9.1 million people in 40 countries.



NRC's global work in 2024

At the root of NRC's programmes are our solid technical expertise and specific sectoral knowledge. Our programmes aim for the highest possible quality, whether in stand-alone or integrated approaches. Through decades of providing assistance and protection to displaced populations in complex contexts, we have developed expertise in different sectors, which we refer to as our core competencies. In 2024, these were:



NRC also operates NORCAP, the world's most deployed emergency response force of approximately 1,000 experts from various countries that move out at short notice to assist the UN and other organisations in humanitarian crises. NRC's headquarters are in Oslo, Norway.

Reporting scope

Timeframe

This report presents **results from NRC Sweden grants that concluded in 2024**. The grants were awarded between February 2023 and January 2024. The results from projects that were ongoing but not finalised during 2024 (for example two in Syria and one in Gaza) will be included in the Impact Report 2025.

Geography

The report encompasses 7 grants implemented in the following 6 regions:

Region	Grant (Amount SEK)
Niger	8,000,000
Bangladesh	5,000,000
North Central America (NCA)	5,000,000
Libya	4,000,000
Kenya	5,000,000
Somalia	First grant: 3,000,000 Second grant: 2,000,000



Resources

Total operating costs for NRC Sweden in 2024

End goal	-26 739 077	93%
Fundraising	-274 641	1%
Administration	-1 835 252	6%
Total operating costs	-28 848 970	100%

Results

The following section presents the results of NRC Sweden grants that concluded in 2024. These projects were implemented across eight countries, reaching tens of thousands of people with vital support.

The 2024 results at a glance

7 grants were completed in 2024 across 8 countries (Bangladesh, Kenya, Libya, Niger, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Somalia), with a total value of 27 million SEK. Tens of thousands of people supported with shelter, education, cash, legal aid, and WASH services.

Selected results

- Niger: 1,500 children received birth certificates; 1,025 school kits were distributed; digital learning was piloted in three schools.
- Bangladesh: 3,330 households (14,801 people) accessed climate-resilient shelters, safe water, sanitation, restored farmland, repaired infrastructure, and legal support.
- North Central America: 82% of children in a bridging programme re-enrolled in school in Honduras; water, sanitation and hygiene was improved in five schools in Honduras and El Salvador; an education sector needs assessment was completed in Guatemala, which included analysis of access for migrant children.
- Libya: 512 people received cash to cover food and other basic needs; 30 entrepreneurs started or grew their businesses with grants and training.
- Kenya: 697 households received cash after floods; by project end, 22% of targeted households reported meeting their basic needs with this support.
- Somalia: 2,748 people received emergency cash; 65 households repaired and improved shelters; 50 latrines, including 10 accessible for people with disabilities, were built.

Niger

Humanitarian context

Niger is facing a complex humanitarian emergency marked by insecurity and ongoing violence against civilians through non-state armed groups. This has only been exacerbated by endemic poverty, the effects of climate change, including seasonal

flooding and pockets of drought, and the migration of livestock. As of March, 2023¹, the country registered 372,000 displaced people and 1.5 million in need of humanitarian protection assistance across the country.

Additionally, the Ministry of Education of Niger reported that more than 855 schools were closed in the country by the start of the project, affecting more than 444,290 children. Furthermore, lack of civil documentation remained a challenge in the Nigerien context and presented an additional obstacle for affected communities to access basic social services and the fulfilment of their rights.

Goal of the project

The goal of the project was to improve crisis-affected communities' access to basic social services like education and civil documentation and housing, land and property rights in the areas of Madaoua and the protective environment in Maradi in Niger.

What did the project achieve?

Delivery of classrooms, digital tools for education, and training for teachers.

A highlight of the project was the introduction of Ideas Cubes, which are offline digital libraries developed by Libraries Without Borders. These devices provide access to thousands of educational resources without needing internet or electricity, making them ideal for conflict-affected and remote areas. With Ministry of Education approval, NRC piloted Ideas Cubes in three schools, training 34 teachers (14 of them women) and 3 pedagogical supervisors. The pilot generated enthusiasm among students, teachers, and authorities, and highlighted the potential for scaling digital education across Niger.

Additionally, 20 smartphones and 74 SD cards were distributed. Moreover, 8 classrooms were constructed and equipped with 160 benches, allowing students to study in better conditions.

Delivery of 1,025 school kits and training in psychosocial support.

A rapid education assessment was conducted. This led NRC to the distribution of 1,025 school kits and 20 teaching materials. A total of 35 teachers (12 of them women) and local authorities were trained on psychosocial support and strategies for a safe and inclusive education. These training sessions equipped teachers to support students traumatised by forced displacement, prevent risks in emergency zones, and promote inclusive learning.

Assistance in birth registration was provided to 1,500 children and awareness sessions were carried out with 3,128 people.

NRC's team raised awareness among both host community members and internally displaced people (IDPs) on their rights to birth registrations. This was carried out in

¹ OCHA, Situation des mouvements de population (April 2023)

the Madaoua department and highlighted the importance of civil documentation through information sessions. Out of the 3,128 people at the sessions, 999 were women and 1,746 IDPs.

Legal counselling was provided to 267 individuals, and assistance in birth registration was provided for 1,500 children to receive their birth certificates. Training sessions for 41 registrars were organised on civil status rules and procedures, and material support was provided in two civil status centres, with digitalisation equipment provided to 3 municipalities. Additionally, two community dialogues were organised to prevent land conflicts and promote peaceful coexistence. 75 people were trained in housing, land and property rights.

Lessons learned

- **It is fundamental to have strong involvement by the Ministry of Education, local authorities, and the community.** This can ensure approval of activities and the sustainability of these beyond the project's lifespan.
- **It's key to consider infrastructure and staffing challenges.** There was a lack of dedicated spaces for Ideas Cubes, highlighting the need for infrastructure support, as well as staff for some of the activities. Future projects should budget for a dedicated space and a full-time facilitator to maximise the potential of digital education tools. The success of digital education has created demand for scaling to other regions affected by insecurity.

Bangladesh

Humanitarian context

Bangladesh is among the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world, experiencing frequent and severe natural hazards such as cyclones, floods, salinity intrusion, and river erosion. These climatic shocks have a disproportionate impact on impoverished rural communities, particularly in low-lying coastal regions such as Khulna and the flood-prone area of Sunamganj. Recurrent disasters have led to the displacement of thousands of families, damaged essential infrastructure, disrupted livelihoods, and exacerbated existing vulnerabilities, especially among women, children, and landless populations. Many of those displaced live in precarious, informal settlements with limited access to safe shelter, clean water, sanitation, and legal documentation for land ownership and essential services.

Goal of the project

The project aimed to strengthen the resilience of climate-affected communities by restoring essential services and supporting durable solutions for those displaced. Through a combination of climate-resilient shelter construction, water and sanitation infrastructure rehabilitation, and Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) support, the

initiative sought to enhance the safety, dignity, and legal protection of vulnerable households. The approach emphasised community engagement, gender-sensitive design, and collaboration with local organisations Uttaran and Efforts for Rural Advancement (ERA), laying the groundwork for long-term adaptation to the growing risks posed by climate change in Bangladesh.

What did the project achieve?

In total, NRC and local partners Uttaran and ERA supported 3,330 households (consisting of 14,801 people, 59% of whom are women) in Khulna and Sunamganj districts with climate resilient solutions.

Community shelters were established, and 30 households were repaired

NRC established climate-resilient community shelters in the Khulna and Sunamganj districts. Additionally, safe drinking water and sanitation facilities were implemented and a canal for agricultural restoration was excavated. Cash was also provided to repair 30 households' infrastructure, as well as roads and pathways.

Two water purifying plants were installed, benefiting 1,981 people

The project piloted two community-managed Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants, an innovative process to purify contaminated water. Now, over 1,981 individuals from 440 households have access to safe drinking water. These water plants particularly relieved women and adolescent girls from the burden of fetching water from distant places. The project also excavated 4 community ponds to ensure access to domestic use water for 200 households, benefiting 1,495 people.

Two shelters, a women-friendly shelter and a multi-purpose safe flood shelter, were established for 200 families

The 200 households were temporarily displaced during emergencies, and these shelters played a crucial role in protecting their lives, assets, and crops, even during non-emergency times. During the project implementation, 300 households received cash support to help them improve their sanitation facilities like the building of latrines. Additionally, the project renovated other sanitation facilities in five schools and conducted hygiene awareness sessions to 585 girls.

Improvement of livelihood through a cash modality to 1,175 households

Seasonal displacement was reduced, and livelihoods were strengthened in the community. This was done through the provision of cash, which was given to 1,175 households in both districts that were in vulnerable conditions.

Provision of legal rights allowed for 600 community members to exert their land-owning rights

The project helped displaced communities to increase their knowledge of legal identity, particularly focusing on public land ownership and addressing missing land documentation resulting from climatic disasters. As a result, 337 families without a home can now pursue legal land rights in Khas, where they have been temporarily

relocated; and 112 households retrieved missing land ownership documentation. Overall, this enabled 600 community members to advocate for their rights.

Lessons learned

- **Sensitising government departments on displaced populations' needs when it comes to housing and land is imperative.** Despite existing policies and guidelines in the country regarding the distribution of government-owned land to landless farming households, implementing these policies requires political will and robust long-term advocacy efforts. This can improve people's social and economic conditions and their resilience to face climatic disasters.
- **Community engagement is crucial for managing community shelters and fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility among the users.** This participatory approach not only enhances the sustainability of the shelter but also strengthens community resilience in the face of future climate crises. During this project, nineteen local people collectively donated their land to establish the women-friendly shelter, which significantly demonstrated community engagement and ownership of the project.
- **It's vital to involve local private donors to mobilise shelter land.** This should be part of the collaboration between the local community and the government to address pressing climate challenges.

North Central America (NCA)

Problem identified

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, school closures, two hurricanes and a tropical storm, the entire educational community in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala has been severely affected. According to NRC data, children face various barriers to access education, like areas controlled by different “maras”, gangs, and drug trafficking groups: physical and psychological abuse, threats or sexual abuse, the instrumentalisation of children for the sale of drugs, unsafe routes to go to school, early pregnancy, child labour, and displacement.

In Honduras, about 1.1 million children and adolescents (40% of the national school-age population) are out of school² and many schools have damage caused by weather events.

In El Salvador and Guatemala, there are persistent challenges in inclusion, quality and relevance of education in learning, low results in standardised tests and learning, lack

² <https://www.elheraldo.hn/elheraldoplus/data/ninos-fuera-clases-matricula-escolar-educacion-honduras-EA11991173>

of resources for teaching, as well as low investment in school infrastructure. Around 30% of schools in El Salvador lack water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services in good condition³ and in Guatemala, over 1,300 educational centres don't have adequate WASH conditions for children to go safely to school⁴.

Goal of the project

The goal of the project was for people affected by situations of violence and living in at risk areas in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala to get access safe school environments and be prepared better for weather events.

What did the project achieve?

In Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, NRC worked to create safe and inclusive education environments, improve WASH in schools, and strengthen community preparedness for disasters.

Implementation of WASH committees in schools

In Honduras and El Salvador, NRC organised and trained committees connected to five schools for the promotion of hygiene and sanitation, which involved teachers, students, parents and caregivers. At the end of the project, 78% of the participants increased their knowledge in hygiene practices. Committee members were also trained to replicate these workshops themselves.

Improvement of WASH infrastructure in schools

In the five schools in Honduras and El Salvador, NRC also improved WASH infrastructure. This included the implementation of water storage and sanitary units, and handwashing stations. As a result, 86% of the facilities were clean and considered accessible to the student population three months after the improvement works had been completed. In addition, water tanks were installed in three of the five schools. Three months after these installations, 79% were kept clean and covered. Overall, 97% of the improved WASH infrastructure is still in operation.

Evacuation centre restoration and disaster risk reduction training

One evacuation centre, where people are often displaced to due to floods in the area, was restored in El Salvador. The work included repairs to the roof, a new septic tank, fixing of lights and doors. Community members were trained on disaster risk

³ <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/el-salvador/el-salvador-humanitarian-needs-overview-december-2023>

⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/report/guatemala/guatemala-humanitarian-needs-overview-2024-december-2023>

reduction topics and developed a communal response plan. During the monitoring visits, NRC observed that 100% of the rehabilitated works remain operational.

Tutoring children to facilitate their retention in the formal education system

In Honduras, children and adolescents out of school or at risk of dropping out were supported with educational vouchers to access educational materials and in the process of enrolment through the Bridging Programme (BP), a methodology NRC uses where weekly tutoring sessions are conducted to facilitate retention in the formal education system. 82% of the children who completed the programme were enrolled in school, and 93% of the children who were enrolled remained in it at the end of the project. NRC also updated the BP manuals with self-protection content and transferred the methodology to two educational centres in Cortés, enabling them to continue the programme independently. Awareness-raising sessions were conducted with parents or caregivers on the right to education and co-responsibility.

Development of an education sector needs assessment

In Guatemala City, Esquipulas and Tecun Uman, an assessment was conducted that presented a comprehensive analysis of the educational needs in Guatemala and the access to education for displaced children. One of the main conclusions was the lack of a structured educational approach during the transit of migrants. The assessment recommended leveraging community engagement during the planning and implementation of education projects and strengthening the link between the different education levels for a more cohesive approach. The report has been key to guiding the actions of the education programme in Guatemala and was disseminated with education cluster and educational authorities of Guatemala in 2024.

Lessons learned

- **Implementing projects in schools through the formation of committees that include students, teachers, and the parents' association is an effective practice.** This methodology allows for the identification of relevant needs according to the perception of the entire school community. And by involving them, it builds their capacities to lead similar initiatives in the future. In future projects, a specific component for institutional strengthening of these committees should be planned and budgeted for.
- **The content of the information shared needs to be updated depending on the context.** For this project, emphasis was placed on how to clean water storage areas to reduce the spread of mosquitoes and to include topics on preventing the spread of dengue fever. This update was considered of utmost importance by the educational staff to improve the safety of children in the schools.

Libya

Problem identified

Years of conflict and instability have left Libyan and non-Libyan people facing barriers to sustainably meeting their household basic needs and accessing core services. In recent times, this situation has been compounded by other shocks, including the decrease in oil prices, liquidity issues, natural disasters, continued political fragmentation resulting in weak governance, inter and intracommunal tension, and military mobilisation. Added to the devastating floods of September 2023 – which caused large-scale destruction, over 143,012 people were displaced⁵.

In 2022, the International Labour Organization (ILO)⁶ estimated the youth unemployment rate for 15–24-year-olds in Libya to be 51.5%, the third highest of any country in the world. In the absence of modern social safety nets, households employ various negative coping strategies, such as borrowing money, depleting savings, taking additional jobs, child labour, illegal/degrading work, and cutting spending on essential non-food items and healthcare. It is no surprise then that almost half of the surveyed households (46%) in the region were unable to meet their basic needs in the 30 days prior to data collection by NRC, in particular health (29%) and food (16%) needs.

Goal of the project

The objective of the project was to increase the resilience capacity of internally displaced people, refugees and migrants, through multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) as well as business skills training and business grants for livelihoods interventions.

What did the project achieve?

Approximately 604,000 SEK in cash assistance was delivered to 93 households (512 people)

This aimed to address the limited access to income and low purchasing power due to the low access to jobs and consequential low income of the population. NRC planned and managed to target households affected by the rising groundwater levels in Zliten⁷.

97% of the recipients stated that the assistance improved their access to food. Many also stated that the assistance enabled their household to better meet other basic

⁵ <https://www.nrc.no/countries/africa/libya>

⁶

<https://www.unicef.org/mena/media/23501/file/youth%20employability%20study%20final%20report%20sept%20kfw%20eu-op-03.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.undp.org/libya/blog/when-innovation-tackles-environmental-challenges-lessons-zliten>

needs, such as water, sanitation and hygiene (37%), education (20%) and shelter (11%) related needs, as well as others (23%).

Approximately 570, 000 SEK in business grant assistance delivered to 30 businesses

Thirty entrepreneurs (15 start-ups and 15 scale-ups, including 14 women and 16 men) received business mentoring support and business grants worth about 19,000 SEK each, which were distributed via a service provider. The project also provided training to 38 selected participants on the different aspects of business management, such as legal requirements, marketing, proposal writing, feasibility studies and more. This support helped launch or expand businesses, strengthened self-reliance and facilitated return to Tawergha.

Lessons learned

- **Strengthening community engagement is essential.** Involving the municipality in grant distribution fosters a deeper commitment from grantees to project deliverables and reduces the risk of grant misuse or resale.
- **Mitigating risks and ensuring accountability was more effective when all instalments were delivered together, reducing security risks in an unstable context.** A procurement tracking tool also helped monitor the progress of grantee businesses and anticipate launch dates.
- **Location Verification.** It is essential to verify the location of businesses and beneficiaries to ensure that grants are used within the target community.

Kenya

Problem identified

The drought in Kenya has been worsening throughout the years, with 2022 being the worst in the last 40. Coupled with the effects of the economic inflation, the war in Ukraine and the aftermath of COVID-19, the already vulnerable communities have not had an opportunity to recover from the shocks that these events have had in the economy and their food security.

As of 2023, 95% of the households in Turkana County, Kenya, experienced moderate to severe hunger⁸, likely due to high food prices and limited income. Poor dietary diversity score was reported by 95% of households in Mandera, 82% in Garissa, 81% in Marsabit, and 77% in Turkana, increasing the risk of malnutrition. In pastoral areas, herders have suffered widespread losses, with a recorded 2.6 million livestock deaths

⁸ https://repository.impact-initiatives.org/document/impact/1f7e0080/REACH_KEN2023_MSNI-BULLETIN_June-2023.pdf

attributed to the drought⁹. Half of the households lacked access to sanitation facilities and the risks during the El Niño period include loss of livelihoods, assets such as livestock, destruction of water infrastructure and settlements. Because of this, thousands of people were displaced from the flooded areas, and waterborne diseases and intercommunal resource-based conflicts increased.

Goal of the project

The project aimed at improving the communities' capacity to recover from drought in Kenya. In response to the severe drought followed by flooding in Garissa County, NRC partnered with Pastoralist Girls' Initiative (PGI) to deliver emergency cash support and strengthen coordination of the humanitarian response.

What did the project achieve?

Multi-purpose cash assistance

NRC delivered multi-purpose cash transfers to 697 households affected by the floods (98% of the project target), stabilising their economies and reducing negative coping mechanisms. By the end of the project, 22% of targeted households reported meeting their basic needs.

Evidence-based response

A Joint Needs Assessment document was developed, to tailor the response to refugees and host communities based on clear evidence.

Community engagement

Local leaders were involved in beneficiary selection, sensitisation and feedback processes, which fostered transparency and ownership. Robust feedback mechanisms enabled continuous adaptation and strengthened accountability.

Coordination and policy engagement

Collaboration was fostered with different partners like UNHCR, the government and local partners to ensure a coordinated response across the Dadaab and Fafi sub-counties, minimising duplication of efforts and maximising the reach of the aid. Participating in collective efforts for emergency response made sure that the interventions were timely, that resources were optimised and that the aid was effective. Additionally, part of the project was the participation in the Kenya Cash Working Group for information sharing and policy alignment.

⁹ <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/kenya/kenya-drought-response-plan-january-december-2023-issued-january-2023>

Lessons learned

- **Strong partnerships with local and international actors from other organisations and the community lead to efficient, coordinated responses.** Future projects will continue prioritising these partnerships.
- **Climate-adaptation measures became necessary after floods disrupted access and increased commodity prices.** Flexible contingency planning should be built into future projects to maintain aid delivery in the face of climate-related shocks.
- **Challenges in beneficiary identification arose due to population shifts, complicating targeting.** Better data systems and ongoing monitoring are needed to improve responsiveness in such dynamic environments.

Somalia

Problem identified

Somalia is facing a complex humanitarian crisis due to recurrent droughts, floods, and conflict. In Luuq District, Gedo Region, the 2023 El Niño-induced floods, coupled with inter-clan violence, caused significant displacement, infrastructure damage, and livelihood disruption. The floods affected over 15,000 families in Jubaland¹⁰, exacerbating food insecurity, lack of clean water, and displacement. The floods also devastated agricultural activities, with approximately 65% of riverine farms being destroyed and all growing crops being washed away by floodwaters.¹¹ Livestock were reported dead, and makeshift houses were flooded. Latrines, community services, shops, markets and health posts were also destroyed, impacting local commodities' access to food and public health.

Goal of the project

The overall objective was to provide access to life-saving humanitarian assistance, durable solutions, improved public health and resilient support to people affected by displacement in Somalia.

What did the project achieve?

In Luuq District, Gedo Region, NRC provided emergency support to 6,150 people affected by El Niño floods and displacement, addressing urgent needs in shelter, sanitation, hygiene and livelihoods.

¹⁰ <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/somalia/somalia-situation-report-30-apr-2024>

¹¹ <https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/104823>

50 latrines were implemented to help people affected by the floods and over 6,000 people participated in a hygiene-focused campaign

Of the 50 latrines implemented, 10 were designed for persons with disabilities, ensuring inclusive access to sanitation. The hygiene promotion campaigns had a direct positive impact on the target communities by improving their hygiene practices and reducing the risk of disease outbreaks. Critical health messages reached many individuals, contributing to healthier living conditions for the community.

Cash for the rehabilitation of shelters

65 households (481 individuals) received cash to rehabilitate their shelters and purchase essential non-food items. This allowed families to upgrade their shelters into safer and more resilient structures with better living spaces, protecting them from environmental hazards and ensuring their well-being.

Multi-purpose cash

335 households (2,748 people) received three months of multi-purpose cash transfers, approximately 1,030 SEK per household per month. This enabled participants to meet their basic needs, support their livelihoods, and facilitate economic recovery during the post-flood period.

Lessons learned

- **Engaging the affected community in decision-making processes and project activities enhanced project effectiveness and community ownership.** Sessions were conducted with the community where their entitlements, project details, duration, feedback mechanisms and their specific roles were discussed and agreed upon.
- **The cash usage for the rehabilitation of shelters was more effective by actively involving the people in the decision-making process.** This fostered a sense of ownership and created self-employment opportunities. It also optimised resource distribution by empowering beneficiaries to negotiate and source materials from their trusted local vendors. This approach also supported capacity development through the hands-on experience, which contributed to the timely upgrading of shelters through parallel efforts from the households.

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