



2015

ANNUAL REPORT

HORN OF AFRICA

SOUTH SUDAN, UGANDA & YEMEN

NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL

NRC

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is an independent, humanitarian non-governmental organisation which provides assistance, protection and durable solutions to refugees and internally-displaced persons worldwide.

Our Vision:

Rights Respected, People Protected

Our Core Values:

Accountability, Dedication,
Inclusiveness, Innovation

Overall Strategic Objective for Horn of Africa Region:

A greater number of vulnerable people in hard-to-reach areas get access to humanitarian assistance, become resilient to future disasters and find durable solutions

NRC Core Competencies

NRC operates through 6 specialised programme areas, referred to as core competencies which inform our programmes. Programme delivery is supported by the Monitoring and Evaluation, Advocacy, Communication, Finance, Logistics and Human Resources functions. Protection is mainstreamed across all the programmes.

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FOREWORD

BY THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Dear friends,

NRC continued to deliver life-saving assistance to displaced persons in humanitarian situations across the region, often contending with security and access challenges from Somalia to Yemen and South Sudan, but driven by a commitment towards easing the suffering of crisis affected people and the desire to be part of the change towards durable solutions.

Another year has gone by and I am honoured to present to you our annual report for 2015 highlighting our achievements, lessons learnt and offering glimpses of our collective ambition in the Horn of Africa, South Sudan, Uganda and Yemen. With approximately 95 Million US Dollars and more than 2,000 staff in 8 countries in 29 field locations we touched the lives of close to 2 million people, half a million more than we did in 2014. We diversified our programming to place greater emphasis on restoring dignity in addition to saving lives; and we expanded our partner and donor base in order to be able to reach more people in need, with greater quality programmes.

I returned from a youth vocational skills graduation ceremony in Kakuma, Kenya in late December 2015 and seeing how very proud our students are with their certificates remains deeply humbling. It shows that saving

lives is not enough. People want to live in dignity and be the custodians of their own destiny. It is gratifying to see a greater emphasis being placed on equipping refugees with the skills and confidence to face the future. As you read on, you will meet Monica Lul, one of our youth education graduates from Kakuma, an only female student in her electrical class, who attended classes diligently, with her child strapped on her back, until completion. Hers is a story of resilience and determination, played out over and over again across the region.

We responded to two large-scale emergencies in the region. While populations in South Sudan were still trying to come to terms with the day-to-day realities of civil war in their country; the lives of civilians in Yemen abruptly changed in April 2015 when a simmering conflict erupted into an all-out war engulfing the country. And whereas expectations for peace and stability in Somalia remain high, the road towards it is a difficult and sometimes very dangerous one. These emergencies feed into the paradoxes that the world is faced with today. We witnessed population movements in all directions; we assisted refugees fleeing from Yemen into Djibouti and Somalia while others crossed into Yemen en-route to the Middle East; we supported refugees from Kenya moving back to Somalia; while responding to new displacement in Somalia; we provided shelter and protection for young Eritrean children in Sire, and found ourselves heart



NRC/Patrick Akena

broken when some of them moved on with smugglers in the night.

South Sudan is the world's youngest State, formed with a lot of goodwill and promise. Sadly, South Sudan has remained embroiled in conflict, with millions displaced as a result. NRC lost two colleagues in 2015 as a result of the conflict and insecurities. It is with a heavy heart that we remember Gatkuoth Gawar Chuol, who joined NRC in 2015 and tragically passed away in May 2015 when violence broke out in Leer; and Charles Korsuk Koboji, who has been



During a visit to Nyumanzi settlement in northern Uganda, the Regional Director joined refugees from South Sudan in learning hair and beauty techniques.

with NRC since 2007 and sadly lost his life in December 2015 when shot by an unknown gunman in Juba.

As the year came to a close, the drought situation in Ethiopia and Somalia got worse, adding to the humanitarian needs in the region. While agencies like NRC are doing all they can to meet these needs, the need for a long-lasting solution cannot be reinstated enough.

In 2016, we will continue our aim to reach people in some of the most difficult places in the region, either

through direct implementation or through partnership. We ended 2015 on a high note, with a high-level event co-hosted with Safaricom Ltd (the lead mobile network operator in Kenya) that explored partnership with the private sector. It is exciting to see what more we can do in 2016 to enrich lives together. Out of this partnership, the beautiful story of Monica Lul continues; she now stands to benefit from a placement with a Safaricom partner. Often we can do more for our beneficiaries by simply connecting the dots. These are the small, yet promising opportunities

that NRC strives to present to her beneficiaries.

The work of NRC would not be possible without the dedicated support of our staff, programme partners and donors. Therefore, I thank you all and look forward to an even better 2016, as we continue with our work in the Horn of Africa region.

Gabriella Waaijman
Regional Director
*NRC Horn of Africa, South Sudan,
Uganda and Yemen*



radh
YEMEN

SANA'A

**NRC HORN OF AFRICA, SOUTH SUDAN,
UGANDA & YEMEN (HoASSUY)**

Field operations
2,000 staff
29 field locations
8 countries

Aden

ibouti

Bossaso

Erigavo

Hargeisa

Burao

Garowe

Galkayo

SOMALIA

Dollow

Baidoa

MOGADISHU

nyayu



NRC

**NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL**

MIXED MIGRATION A GROWING CONCERN

International attention to the ongoing mixed migration situation in the Mediterranean Sea has recently increased in the wake of several disasters linked to people crossing the sea. The combined death toll of close to 3,000 migrants in a series of disasters occurring in 2015 is part of an escalating trend of preventable deaths. Among these incidents was the worst single ship-wreck tragedy ever on record involving the death of an estimated 800 migrants.

Displacement and migration have become a reality for an increasing number of people in the greater Horn of Africa and Yemen. As of September 2015 more than 100,000 people had fled Yemen to neighbouring countries across the Horn of Africa and the Middle East. Historically, the Horn of Africa and Yemen has seen four migration routes, an eastern, western, southern and northern route. Migrants traversing Djibouti

1,924,435: Number of people that received direct humanitarian assistance in the Horn of Africa in 2015, including 357,074 in Yemen and 676,802 in South Sudan.

into Yemen are mostly from Eritrea and Ethiopia who aspire to cross into Saudi Arabia. In 2015, this movement remained active despite presence of obstacles and threats

such as risk of capsizing in the Red Sea, smuggling cartels, blockade along the Saudi border and airstrikes in Yemen. Between March and September 2015 an upwards of 10,000 people, mainly Ethiopians had still attempted the perilous journey.

The main drivers of mixed migration across the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Mediterranean Sea and other bordering areas on land and sea include search for asylum in the hope for a better life, escape from threatening social and political conditions, climate change and environmental degradation and attempts to re-unite with relatives. Conflicts in a number of countries including Yemen, South Sudan and Somalia, political and economic instability, human rights violations and poverty coupled with diminishing livelihood opportunities have been strong push factors forcing large populations into the migration corridors. NRC is developing a mixed migrations strategy to inform its programming and influencing work, in 2016.

Photo: Contrasto/Marco Gualazzini



Enhancing its durable programming in 2015, NRC reached 647,192 people with Food Security interventions, 616,304 with WASH, 317,697 with Shelter, 198,898 with Education and 107,860 with ICLA.

Towards durable solutions

Globally more than 60 million people are displaced; more than ever before. As of 31st December 2015, 40.8 million were reported to have been displaced due to



NRC is putting more emphasis on reforming various operational and programming practices, with stronger investment in risk management, environmental and energy efficient use of resources.

conflict and violence, according to the IDMC 2016 report. In the Horn, South Sudan, Yemen and Uganda 5,430,000 people were displaced during this period. This is the biggest challenge of our lifetime. Without finding solutions for those that are

already displaced, this number will continue to grow.

practises. Good examples are stronger investment in risk management, stronger investment in national staff capacity, new partnerships and better environmental and energy efficient use of programming resources.

An example of NRC's commitment to durable energy and environmentally friendly programming, is the installation of a hybrid solar water pumping facility in Dadaab with capacity of 280000 litres per day, the highest in Africa.

Policies and practices, as well as the way humanitarian work is financed, often hinder the ability to find solutions for the displaced. The notion that displacement is temporary is challenged by reality. People are on average displaced for 20 years.

Under our emergency response programmes, NRC reached 241,000 IDPs outside protection bases in South Sudan with food and non-food items. In Yemen, NRC reached 40,900 people with cash based programmes under the emergency response; in Ethiopia NRC reached 7,000 drought affected people.

As part of our current strategy, NRC in the Horn, South Sudan, Uganda and Yemen is taking up the challenged to do more for people in hard-to-reach areas in getting access to humanitarian assistance, becoming resilient to future disasters and finding durable solutions.

This includes reforming various operational and programming

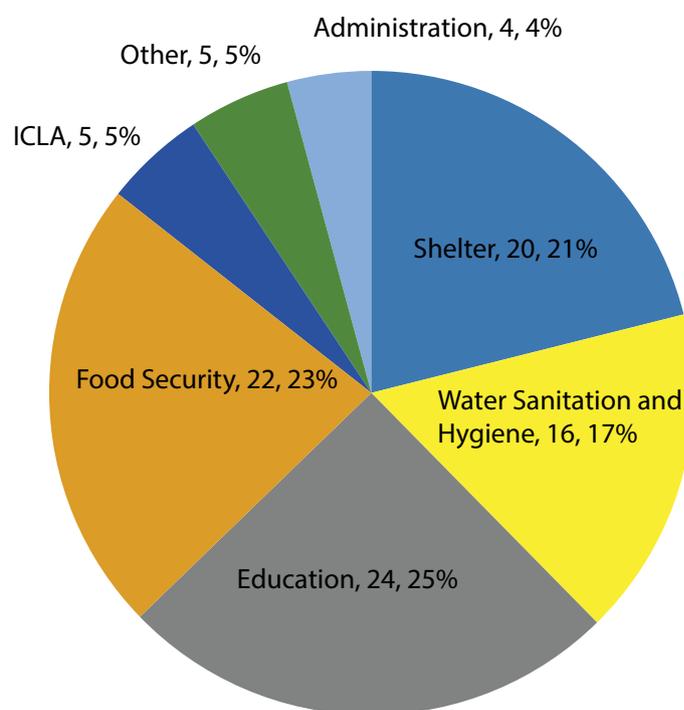
LIVING OUR MISSION

The Delivery of Core Competencies

NRC translates its mission into reality through the delivery of programmes and projects anchored on our core competencies in the eight countries: Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda, Djibouti, Eritrea and Yemen. In 2015, NRC through its delivery of programmes reached over half a million more people across the eight countries than it did in 2014.

The needs in the Horn of Africa grew, driven by the escalating conflict in Yemen and South Sudan. The region also supported opposite population movement trends, with the Voluntary Repatriation Programme in Kenya marking the first organised return of Somali refugees to the place of origin, in decades. The Yemen war produced new population movement trends with Somali refugees, who had initially sought refuge in Yemen, being forced to return to Somalia in search of safety. Notable was NRC's engagement in Housing Land and Property (HLP) rights in Somalia, where new frontiers were realised with the issuance of land deeds to IDPs in Baidoa and Kismayo faced with the threat of forced evictions. This HLP engagement showed that more can be done in hard to reach areas, going beyond basic needs to address some of the root causes of displacement.

The delivery of our core competencies is made possible by the kind support of our donors. NRC remains committed to ensuring that we spend most of our resources in areas where the needs are greatest, at beneficiary level.



COUNTRY DATA

Country	Male Beneficiaries	Female Beneficiaries	Total
Somalia	213,000	234,129	447,129
Kenya	175,114	281,045	456,159
Yemen	167,376	174,087	341,463
Djibouti	10,475	12,076	22,551
South Sudan	165,510	209,448	374,958
Uganda	5,230	3,608	8,838
Ethiopia	117,189	168,921	286,110
Total	853,894	1,083,314	1,937,208

Table of Beneficiaries per Country

Besides emergency assistance such as building shelters for displaced populations, the durable solutions approach ensures that vulnerable communities are provided with the tools that strengthen their resilience to future shocks.



Building Resilient Communities

During 2015, an estimated 4.9 million people in Somalia were in need of life-saving and livelihoods support and 1.1 million remained internally displaced while over 1.2 million were living as refugees across the Horn of Africa and Yemen. Although the rainfall improved in 2015, about 731,000 Somalis continued to face acute food insecurity, the vast majority being IDPs.

Insecurity remained a hard nut to crack, with access to critical locations hampered particularly in southern and central Somalia, impeding needs assessments, delivery of humanitarian supplies, and response monitoring. Inter-clan conflict and militia group blockades in rural areas disrupted trade flows, causing market deficits and leading

to an increase in food prices. NRC's strategic priority in 2015 was to ensure that displaced and vulnerable populations in Somalia, including those hard to reach, continued to have access to timely humanitarian assistance as well as durable solutions. As a measure of enhancing resilience programming in Somalia and building sustainable

livelihoods, NRC adopted participatory approaches to its programming. This involved improved assessment methods, beneficiary selection, owner-driven shelter strategies and community driven education, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Food Security programmes.

Somalia

South Central

The Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS) programme was a key entry point in strengthening capacity of local communities to resist and absorb minor shocks that often result into wide-spread humanitarian catastrophes when unattended to. Using long-term engagement with communities, early response and mitigation strategies created opportunities for better coping mechanisms.

Guided by the 10 November 2013 Tripartite Agreement, the Voluntary Repatriation Programme commenced in 2015 resulted in 4,339 refugees systematically leaving the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya assisted and returning back to Somalia. The safe areas of return identified by UNHCR included Luuq, Kismayu, Baidoa, Mogadishu, Dhobley, Dollow, Beletweyne, Wajiid and Jowhar. NRC partnered with UNHCR in Kenya through help-desk information dissemination on return areas, allowing refugees to make informed decisions. NRC scaled up its support in areas of return, to help find durable solutions for returnees, IDPs and vulnerable members of the host community.

NRC took the lead on forced eviction monitoring and tracking. Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance (ICLA) documented more than 130 forceful evictions affecting 126,195 individuals mainly in Mogadishu, Kismayo and Baidoa. A network

of paralegals supported Housing Land and Property cases in Baidoa, Dollow, Kismayo and Mogadishu. 6 Community Dispute Resolution (CDR) committees consisting of both host and internally displaced community members were established at settlement level to ensure community ownership of legal assistance and CDR approaches. A bi-annual Eviction Risk Map report was used by NRC and the Protection Cluster to identify the likelihood of evictions, mostly in South Central Somalia.

Solar powered water systems were installed in Dollow, Baidoa and Mogadishu resulting into reduction in operation and maintenance costs and improving the reliability of the safe water supply to beneficiaries. Cash transfers, undertaken jointly with food security programmes helped to fund the daily water consumption costs for the beneficiaries during the initial phase of displacements, resulting into improved water consumption per household.

NRC established new vocational training centres targeting young people in Dollo and Kismayo.



Photo: NRC/Abdalla Hashi

“Plumbing skills are scarce in Kismayo, yet there is a big demand arising from modern housing projects. My parents are aging and I am lucky that I can face the challenges that the future holds armed with my new skills”, says Bilal, vocational training learner in Kismayo. Bilal started working at a very young age, helping his mother earning some money to feed the family.

In total 494 trainees completed vocational courses in Baidoa, Dollow, Kismayo and Mogadishu under the Youth Education Pack programme and received business start-up toolkits facilitating easier entry into the job market.

Puntland

Shallow wells equipped with hand pumps were installed in areas with high probability of saline water intrusion

and shallow fresh aquifers. Fresh water supply, latrine construction and hygiene promotion activities were critical in controlling spread of water-borne diseases.

23,344 people received shelter support in Puntland with activities varying from construction of permanent and transitional shelters, provision of emergency shelter kits and distribution of non-food item kits.

Overall, food security support helped in sustaining incomes and employment opportunities and conserving the environment in Nugul and Bari regions of Puntland, while the use of cash transfers boosted the local economy. “We are able to make choices on what to purchase instead of being given pre-selected products”, says Omar a beneficiary from Salaxley in Garowe District.

Somaliiland

Food Security activities targeted vulnerable populations in Sool, Sanaag, Waqooyi Galbeed and Awdal settlements through unconditional cash transfers, income generating activities, small-scale business training and provision of inputs. Training on nutrition, hygiene and environmental conservation provided trainees with knowledge and skills that enabled them improve their living conditions.

Photo: Contrasto/Marco Gualazzini



Promoting alternative sources of energy: Somalia is blessed with abundant sunlight and NRC has been on the fore-front in promoting the use of solar energy to light homes.

With the arrival of more Yemeni refugees in Berbera, information and counselling desks under the Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance programme were established at entry points to respond rapidly to the needs of new arrivals.

Somali nationals returning from Yemen as a result of the crisis received information through focus group learning in Hargeisa and Borama, addressing security of land tenure.

Populations in Las Anood received transitional shelters and non-food items, whereas in Berbera, NRC rehabilitated dormitories. 9,475 refugees living at a transit centre in Berbera were provided with latrines, shower units, water storage units and garbage disposal facilities. Family shared latrines helped in reducing open defecation in the settlements.

“Home is where my heart belongs”

After nine years living at the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya, Hawa and one of her sons have finally returned to Baidoa, Somalia, to reunite with her two children who remained in Somalia. In 2005, Hawa and four of her children had abandoned their home fleeing conflict. Together, they crossed the border into Kenya as conflict in the Bay Region escalated. They settled at Hagadera in Dadaab refugee camp. Her husband had been killed during the conflict leaving her to raise their children on her own.

When information reached her that some parts of Somalia had been pacified by security agencies, she regained the courage to return, motivated by the desire to improve

Somalia

Photo: NRC/Abdirisak Aden



Hawa and her family happy to be back home

her community in Baidoa. When the opportunity to return was presented to her in December 2014, she faced her fears and decided to register for voluntary return. Eventually, she managed to safely go back to her hometown traveling the 882 Kilometers by road to Baidoa.

Her return was made possible through the assistance of the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) as part of a pilot project for safe and voluntary return to Somalia, as well as the reintegration of Somali refugees in Kenya. Through its Housing, Land and Property (HLP) component, The NRC in Somalia has been supporting the initiative by providing returnees with information on villages of origin, HLP rights and

remedies through legal methods. A total of 716 households from Kenya and 210 urban returnees within Somalia have been supported at way-stations of Dhobley, Baidoa and Mogadishu.

Back at home

Hawa says that life in Somalia is different from Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya. She is happy to return home, she says that home is always where the heart is, “it is not a bed of roses, but I live a normal life. My son has been struggling to get daily work at the marketplace and I have my share of challenges having to provide for the needs of my family. However, It is very fulfilling to know that my children will grow up among their own kin

without discrimination and seek to prosper in their lives”.

She is one of the beneficiaries of NRC’s shelter construction project being supported in the areas of return. The land ownership process has been negotiated with support from the NRC HLP project.

“Life in Dadaab refugee camp for me was full of uncertainty; I did not have any hopes or dreams. For that reason, I am not going back to Dadaab, unless Baidoa becomes too threatening for me to live in.

My grandchildren are benefiting from free education and hopefully, I will continue to get humanitarian support here and most importantly I wish to be buried here when I die”, says Hawa.

“There is a need to support returnees beyond the return package and decentralise support to reach their villages of origin. This is necessary in development and humanitarian programming in Somalia in order to avoid a relapse into new refugee and internal displacement situations. We need to mitigate further displacement possibilities and accelerate reintegration with the host communities”, says Ahmed Ali, NRC’s ICLA Project Officer in Baidoa.

Durable solutions for refugees and IDPs

There were 349,280 refugees living in Dadaab as of October 2015. Insecurity linked to terrorist activities remained a major challenge with frequent security incidents reported. Kakuma refugee camp located in the North of Kenya, 900 kilometres from Nairobi capital continued to swell as a result of refugees fleeing South Sudan. The total population rose to 183,489 in December 2015, with 46,653 refugees registered since December 2013 when the South Sudan conflict erupted. 50% of refugees in Kakuma originate from South Sudan while 30% are Somali refugees. The remaining 20% is made up of different nationalities.

In June 2015, an agreement was reached between the Turkana County administration, UNHCR and other humanitarian actors for the allocation of land at Kalobeyei for a new refugee settlement. The Kalobeyei initiative presents a strong case for integration of refugees with support from devolved government and host communities.

Dadaab refugee camp

NRC was the lead agency in WASH in Hagadera and Kambioos sub-camps in Dadaab, responsible for maintenance and improvement of water provision channels. Solid waste

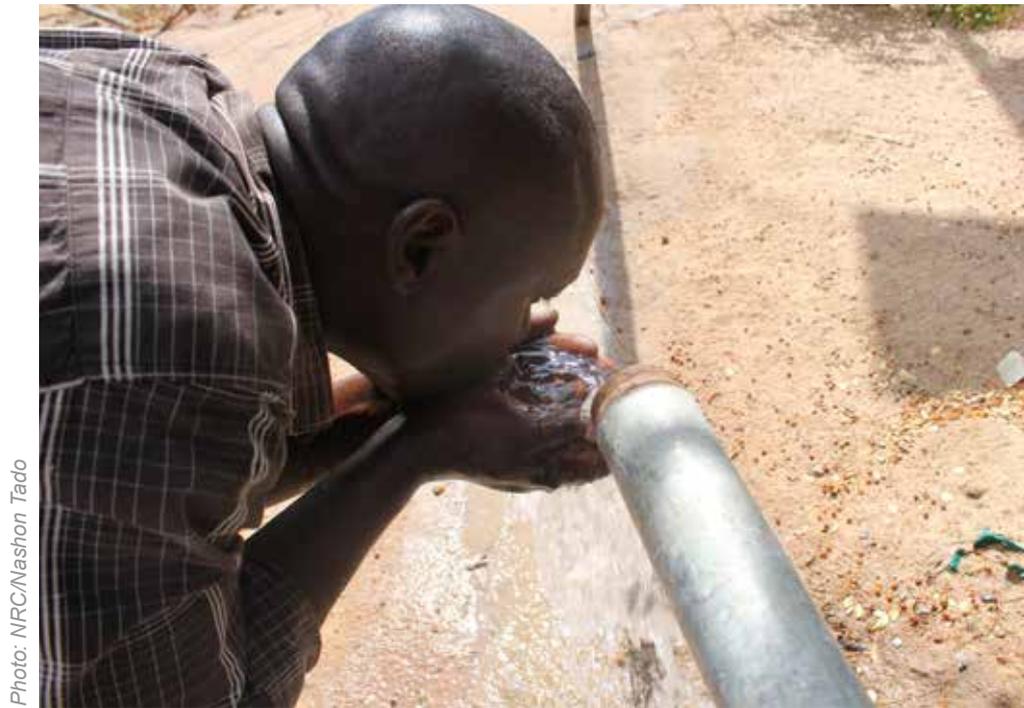


Photo: NRC/Nashon Tado

NRC completed installation of a third solar-powered borehole system equipped with 278 solar panels and 69.5 Kilowatt power rating located at Hagadera section of Dadaab. The facility is capable of providing 20,000 refugees with a daily average of 280,000 litres of potable water.

management services and vector control, latrine construction and hygiene promotion were also part of interventions.

4,339 Somali refugees from the five camp sections in Dadaab had returned to Somalia by end of 2015 as part of the 2013 legal framework for the safe and dignified voluntary repatriation for Somali refugees signed by the Government of Kenya, the Government of Somalia and UNHCR.

The returnees were provided with cash grants as NRC continued to advocate for safe, voluntary and dignified returns reminding all stakeholders that there was not yet

a set up that could respond to mass returns. In advocacy messages, NRC stressed that sending refugees to conflict affected areas without enabling conditions such as land, livelihood access, conflict mitigation and basic services, could be a serious risk resulting in rights abuses which could lead to secondary displacement. There are 5 Return Help Desks in Dadaab, namely Kambioos, Hagadera, Ifo main, Ifo 2 and Dagahley.

NRC provided access to nutritional food rations to 128,300 vulnerable refugees in Hagadera and Kambioos camps through general food distribution of cereals, pulses,

Kenya

vegetable cooking oil and salt. Complementary Corn Soya blend that is rich in protein was also provided for targeted feeding for children below five years, to curb cases of malnutrition. The food provided by the WFP was distributed twice a month, between January and April 2015. Besides food distribution, NRC supported livelihood recovery needs through material grant support to livelihood groups and skills enhancement in small business management and financial management. Groups involved in greenhouse farming, production of ice and plastic shredding were supported and reported improved incomes.

Kakuma refugee camp

NRC became the lead agency in water, sanitation and hygiene in Kakuma, supporting activities such as construction of 5,243 family latrines, 400 communal latrines, 7 block latrines in schools and public sensitisation about good hygiene practices. Solar safe water treatment kits contributed to the improvement of water sanitation standards including reduction of cholera cases among 94,310 people in Turkana West Sub County. NRC partnered with UNHCR in supervision of hydrogeological and geophysical surveys at the new proposed refugee settlement camp at Kalobeyei.

A youth training center in Kakuma-4 benefitted 2,076 people through vocational skills, computer, literacy

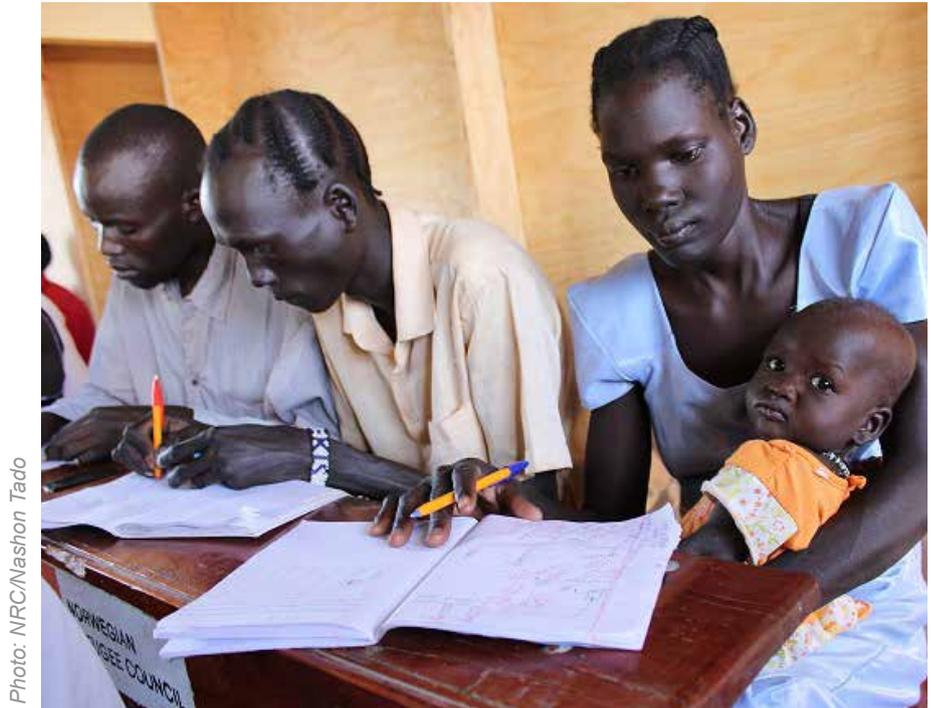


Photo: NRC/Nashon Tado

Monica Lul carries her 8-month old child to class every morning to attend electrical installation classes. "I have seen what knowledge and skills can do to transform an individual. Education provides a new beginning", she says.

and numeracy training. The construction process for the centre utilised available synergies with the shelter team handling construction while the WASH team worked with the host community agriculture trainees in installation of a hand pump.

NRC in partnership with World Food Programme distributed 5,638 metric tonnes of food during 12 cycles of distribution. A new WFP concept titled 'Bamba chakula' was introduced where 10% of food rations were converted to cash and sent directly to recipients through M-Pesa mobile money platform. This allowed beneficiaries to redeem the cash

as food stuffs of their own choice from selected dealers and enhanced efficiency by reducing the manual workload by aid partners as well as resulting in 50% reduction in the cycles of food distribution. Bamba Chakula is implemented directly by WFP. NRC played a secondary role in the joint market assessment, traders profiling, and information dissemination.

Mandera

Through advocacy initiatives, NRC engaged Mandera County Government and members of the County Steering Group who improved service delivery to IDPs.



Monica Lul tries her hand at assembling an electrical system at the Kakuma Youth Education Programme centre. “The fear of getting electrocuted has gradually subsided”, she says.

The first latrines were established at Dar-Al-Salaam IDP camp in Rhamu to improve levels of hygiene and sanitation.

The area of coverage was expanded beyond Rhamu in Mandera North to Elwak, in Mandera South. Rhamu hosts the largest number of IDPs at 3,752 families. NRC was the lead agency in supporting livelihood programmes through unconditional cash transfer and support to 33 women’s groups through conditional cash grants each receiving 1,853 US Dollars for income generating

activities. Support programme for men succeeded in purchasing donkeys and donkey carts for male beneficiaries. This served to facilitate inclusion and reduce resistance to

the cash transfer support for women. In Mandera East, NRC supported vocational training in Mandera Youth Polytechnic where 180 students were trained in areas such as masonry, welding, panel beating, wiring, motor vehicle mechanics and beauty therapy. The new site located at Elwak in Mandera South is home to 1,000 IDPs where NRC supported cash transfers and sanitation and hygiene programmes.

NRC chaired the NGO Forum made up of all active humanitarian actors implementing projects in Mandera County. Through this Forum, NGOs share information, coordinate response activities and common concerns. NRC is also a member of the County Steering Group and is considered a reliable partner on issues pertaining to IDPs.



Refugees receiving information at a return help desk in Kambioos, Dadaab refugee camp.

↓ YEMEN

Reaching out to the most vulnerable

With 21.2 million people, or approximately 82% of the population, in need of humanitarian assistance and protection, Yemen is now considered the biggest humanitarian crisis in the world within a single country. The number of internally displaced persons has risen to more than 1.4 million while 14.4 million have remained food insecure. Prior to the conflict, Yemen was the seventh most water-scarce country in the world. The crisis resulted in 19.3 million people, or 75% of the population, requiring access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

Political differences triggered an escalation of conflict in early 2015 after the Ansar Allah group, popularly referred to as the Houthis took control over large parts of the country. The militia group continued to advance towards the South into Aden, a strategic coastal entry point into the country. Triggered by this expansion, in late March 2015, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia leading a coalition of nine countries, mostly from the Gulf region, launched a series of indiscriminate air strikes impacting 20 out of 22 governorates.

Nine months of conflict has taken an unacceptable toll on civilians' lives and basic rights. 5,970 lives have



Photo: NRC Yemen

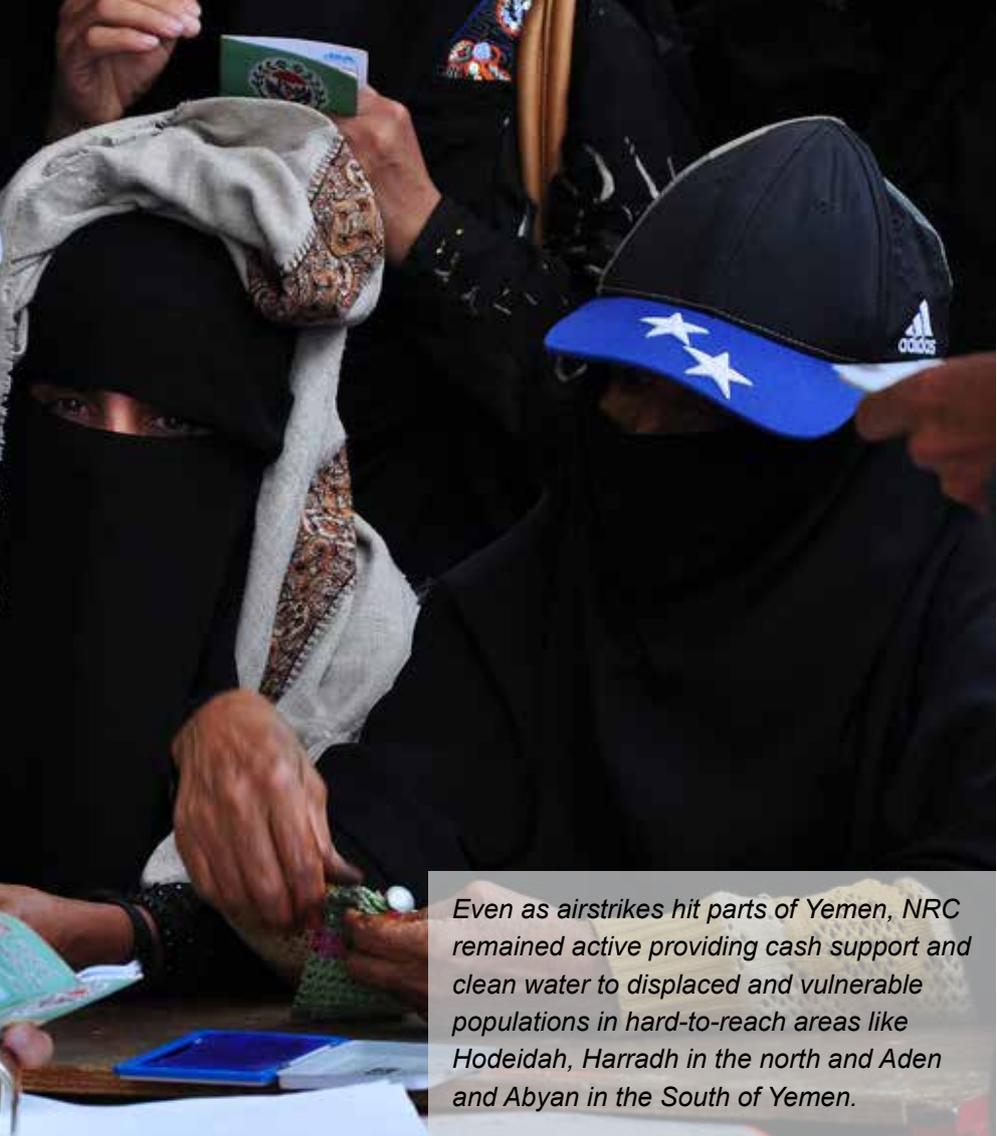
been lost and over 28,200 people seriously injured. The continued conflict also poses serious risks of exacerbating divisions within the Yemeni society with ramifications in the Middle East region.

Abyan, Aden and Dhamar Governorates

The escalation of conflict in Yemen resulted in a dire need for the provision of emergency temporary shelters and relief items for the displaced populations. People whose homes were destroyed during air strikes received cash support to help them rent alternative

homes and reduce their vulnerability by living in more secure, dignified environments. There was an improved access to shelters either in the temporary shelters provided or in rented houses.

Access to clean drinking water for daily consumption is critical to avoid diseases and epidemics. NRC provided water trucking services and distributed hygiene and dignity kits to displaced populations in Aden complemented by hygiene and awareness campaigns, helping to minimise spread of water-borne infections.



Even as airstrikes hit parts of Yemen, NRC remained active providing cash support and clean water to displaced and vulnerable populations in hard-to-reach areas like Hodeidah, Harradh in the north and Aden and Abyan in the South of Yemen.

NRC has supported displacement-affected communities to attain food security and resilience by providing cash transfers, supporting farm and non-farm based livelihood training and distributing farming inputs.

Amran, Hajja, and Hodeidah Governorates

Despite the challenges in access, NRC responded in the first week of April to the new needs as one of the first aid organisations. Emergency cash programming enabled vulnerable households to receive cash grants and an opportunity to

gain access to basic needs through local purchase. Monthly cash grants were disbursed in periods ranging from 3 to 5 months. It was observed that families supported with cash grants to purchase food and those supported through food distribution had improved their daily food rations from one to two or three meals per day and reported improvement in the variety of food type consumed.

In partnership with World Food Programme, NRC provided IDP households in Sanaa's capital with food rations, with one food basket containing wheat flour, pulses, cooking oil, blended soya, sugar and

salt. Beside direct food distribution, a cash package was provided where markets were functioning, allowing people to choose the food they needed and purchase from the local market. 21,140 people received unconditional cash for food. Post-distribution surveys showed that 66% of the cash was spent on food and the remainder was spent on essential non-food items, paying debts and health care.

The escalation of conflict in Yemen led to widespread displacement of populations. There are no IDP camps set up for displaced populations in Yemen, which means displaced populations are living either in make-shift shelters, in public buildings, renting or sharing with families.

Where appropriate, NRC provided vulnerable households with rental subsidies to enable them access appropriate shelter. The rental subsidies to IDPs living with relatives or friends in urban centres helped ease the pressure on the host families.

NRC focused on providing safe drinking water and hygiene kits in Amran, Hajja and Hodeidah, together with hygiene promotion. The main activities conducted were emergency water trucking, installation of water storage tanks, and distribution of ceramic water filters, hygiene kits and hygiene promotion campaigns.

Photo: NRC/Karl Schembri



Sabah using papers collected from the streets to cook as she can not afford cooking gas.

arrived at the foot of the hill to our neighbourhood I let go of our gas cylinder and tried reaching home, but couldn't get through. Everyone was fleeing in a panic, families with children. They fled their houses.

“My wife was very distressed. My daughter Tahani was outside. When I arrived a neighbour told me my daughter was together with his so I told him to take care of her while I went inside. I entered and it was a disaster. It was full of dust and debris. My wife was very tired because of her illness (kidney failure). I gathered them (my wife and children) and we decided to walk towards a school.”

From happiness to misery

Mahmoud Zeid and his wife Sabah speak of the day that they had to flee their home in July 2015 following an airstrike close to their neighbourhood in Jabal Al Nugm. Zeid used to work as a tailor but since the war and blockade started he no longer has a job. Sabah suffers from kidney failure. They have six children.

“I was out of the house with my son Mohammed. We were waiting in the queue for cooking gas, there were some 5,000 cylinders waiting to be refilled. At one point I heard a huge

explosion in our neighbourhood, but all of Sana'a was being bombed.

I was with Mohammed at the gas distribution point and planes were bombing the area. The planes were bombing everywhere. Then we got missiles raining on us, I don't know what they were, Tomahawks? Scud? “Here in Nugm it was hell. The sky above us was covered with debris and shrapnel and smoke. Everything was up in the sky. It was hell.

“My son Mohammad was afraid for his mother. I grabbed him so that we sought cover behind houses. Then we rushed towards home. When we

Mahmoud said: “Before the war I worked as a tailor. After the war I lost my job. I spent four months without work, work went down drastically, maybe three or four days and then nothing.

This is largely because of the electricity situation and the lack of money in people's pockets, there's no movement, it's as if life stopped.

Sabah said: “We went on foot. We took nothing with us, we had not time. During the bombing I was exhausted. I told them let's go to the school. We were too afraid. I felt



Photo: NRC

Despite the massive destruction due to the Yemen conflict, new rays of hope begin to shine. Mohammed Salem from Haroor Village in Abyan Governorate was among 300 local farmers who received cash support to engage in agricultural production. He cultivated two hectares of land and planted water melons, sesame and nuts. His first harvest of water melon was quite impressive, yielding considerably higher quantity of produce which helped him to increase his income. “The support provided has helped me to increase my source of income, I am now able to meet my family’s basic needs”, he says

paralysed till we reached the school. When we reached the school we could hear the missiles. We were a lot of people in one classroom. There were missiles and loud explosions. We were afraid.

“We came back home (after a few months) and we were happy to be back, one rests when he’s back home. But I had a lot of cleaning to do. A lot of repairs, so many things were damaged. There was dust and debris all over the place. Everything

was scattered on the floor. Mahmoud said: “Our sewage pipes were destroyed. The windows were gone and we had stones that came in with the blast. This room had a lot of cracks. It was as if the world turned upside down. Our house was damaged by all the blast of the explosions. Our windows were gone, our furniture, the television is gone, the roof has been damaged, and all the glass has been broken. We had glass flying from far away into our house. “I have five daughters and

one son. In this situation what kind of future can we talk about? A future for children? It’s all bleak. It’s a black canvas. This blots out the future of millions of children as regards their health, education, nutrition... nutrition affects growth. These problems brought by the violence affect our children. Children are traumatised by this war, how can we speak of the future? If this conflict goes on it’s a future of blood and darkness.”

DJIBOUTI

Arid and resource-scarce Djibouti hosts about 20,000 refugees, mainly Somalis, Ethiopian, Eritrean and lately, Yemenis fleeing war. Harsh climatic conditions and the El-Nino drought contributed to displacement in 2015.

Ali Sabieh and Ali Addeh

NRC constructed 54 shelters for the most vulnerable refugees and 24 shelters for host community members in Ali Addeh. The design of hybrid shelter was improved with the use of durable construction materials making it more suitable for the extreme weather conditions. NRC committed to build 25 additional similar shelters for refugees by end of January 2016, to accommodate an additional 100 individuals. NRC constructed 45 permanent shelters accommodating 298 individuals within the host communities who were dropped-out pastoralists, in Ali Sabieh.

The food security project focused on refugees and host communities through provision of income generating activities through trainings and cash grants benefitting 200 families (75% refugees and 25% from the host community) in Ali Addeh and 40 vulnerable families in Balbala. Cash grants and training on basic business management were successful in building the capacity of local communities and



Photo: NRC/Sofie Liesker

Salima and her husband, Mohammed sitting inside their temporary shelter in Markazi refugee camp in Obock, Djibouti. "I am just waiting for the war to end", she says

advance the self-reliance strategy. NRC provided livestock including goats to households in Ali Sabieh and provided training on animal production, marketing and animal health.

The implementation of the program included an integrated WASH component in the provision of WASH facilities and services for the three camps of Ali Addeh, Holl Holl and Markazi. NRC remained the main focal point implementing sanitation and hygiene in the three refugee camps. Extensive social mobilisation was used as a key component in

the WASH programme strategy. NRC supplied safe potable water to more than 14,754 refugees. NRC also managed waste disposal and provided information on sanitation and hygiene.

Obock

Obock is located strategically across the sea from Djibouti and links to the northern locations of Fagal, Khor Angar and Tadjoura, as well as the Red Sea to Yemen. As a result of the deadly conflict in Yemen an estimated 30,000 refugees crossed the Red Sea into Djibouti and settled



at Markazi refugee camp in Obock. In addition to WASH interventions, NRC constructed 180 family-shared kitchen areas and distributed solar lamps and plastic sheets to the refugees. 200 goats were distributed to 66 families of pastoralists and vulnerable host communities living in peri-urban areas.

I am waiting for the war to end

Sometime in March 2015, Salima left her house in Yemen amidst heavy bombing from the Saudi-led coalition: “I packed a small

suitcase and ran away with my husband and five children. From our hometown of Husseyn in the Hadhramaut Governorate, we managed to travel by road to the port of Bab al Manded. There, we bought passage for the whole family to cross over to Obokh in Djibouti on one of the local fishermen’s boat”, she narrates.

“We initially settled in a local orphanage under construction arranged to welcome refugees. With four young children and a new-born, I used to spend most of my days indoors, washing clothes and taking care of my family”, she explained as her last born son

Mohamed slept peacefully in his makeshift crib, a hammock built with materials found at the construction site.

Born in the middle of a tragic war, the baby became a refugee at 14 days old. He looked as perfectly happy and serene as possible, and maybe even more. His mother was very weak and ran a high fever on her arrival in Djibouti, with childbirth amidst an ongoing war and running for her life across a devastated country having taken a heavy toll on her body.

Majority of refugees from Yemen stayed in the Markazi camp and the Al-Rahma orphanage in Obock.

Mohammed Ahmed, Salima’s husband, had relatives in Obock and he often used to leave the orphanage to spend the day with them or other local people. But Salima felt isolated, knowing that her brother had fled Yemen too although she had no way to contact him, and the rest of her family members were still in Yemen: “I don’t have my sisters here in Djibouti – I have no one in Djibouti. All my family and loved ones are still in Yemen, and all I want is to return to be together with them again”, she says.

Back in Husseyna, Salima was working as a tailor, sewing clothes for children and young girls. “Now I am just waiting for the war to end, but as I watch the news, the situation looks horrific”, she says. Looking out the window in the direction of the sea, she longs for her country, 30 nautical miles away across the strait. So close and so far altogether.

NRC was among the first responders to the Djibouti influx, moving available emergency stock to Obock. NRC constructed 64 temporary communal latrines creating a ratio of 1 latrine per 4 families. In addition, NRC was overseeing sanitation and hygiene and constructed 60 bathing facilities in Markazi.

ERITREA

Scaling up educational programmes

There have been concerted government efforts to increase enrolment of children in schools. Despite this, less than half of Eritrea's children between the age of 7 and 11 years are enrolled in school. Subsequently, a large number of youth and unaccompanied children crossed the border into Shire camp in the north of Ethiopia and some of them moved onwards towards Europe. NRC started operations in Eritrea in 2014, addressing the educational needs targeting vulnerable communities such as nomadic and semi-nomadic populations living in rural and remote areas. The initial project enabled learners in schools located in Anseba, Gash-Barka, Debub, Northern Red Sea, Southern Red Sea and Maekel to access computer studies by means of solar renewable energy with power supplied to computer laboratories.

In 2015 NRC scaled up its activities by establishing a youth education and skills development component. In mid-2015, NRC started the process of establishing a vocational skills training centre at Keren to respond to skills and livelihoods needs of the out-of-school youth. The vocational skills training programme in Eritrea comprises a Youth Education Pack (YEP) project in Keren, located in Anseba region that aims at reaching 500 out-of-school youth with vocational and entrepreneurial skills training to enhance their livelihood and employment opportunities. The one

year project which is implemented in partnership with the Eritrean Ministry of Education has two six-month training cycles with one cohort attending training in the morning while a second attends training in the afternoon.

The untold migrant crisis

"I'm too young to cross the border, but I have no other options", a 15 year old Eritrean girl says. She is sitting with legs crossed and her back against a purple painted wall in the house she lives in Adi Haroush refugee camp in Ethiopia.

the lack of family income. "I need to support my parents by going abroad and get a good job", she states.

She is one of many girls in the refugee camp situated in the foothills of Ethiopia's Simien Mountains. Most of the 34.090 Eritrean refugees in Adi Haroush are young males, many of them are minors.

"My mother got seriously ill and could not get enough medical support", a 12 year old boy gives as reason on why he left Eritrea. He came walking into the camp seven months ago together with two villagers. "I left my country with my friends, but no one from my family because I did not tell anyone", he says

Eritrea is a young nation with 4.5 million people on the Horn of Africa. The country gained independence from neighbouring Ethiopia in 1993 after 30 years of violent struggle. As attention remains on Syrians fleeing civil war, many young

Photo: Melchizedek Mailie/NRC



"I crossed the border by foot with a friend from school. I did not tell my parents", she says of her flight from Eritrea two years ago. The girl has a baby blue scarf wrapped around her head and wide brown eyes. The reason she left Eritrea was



NRC partnered with the Eritrean Ministry of Education to provide solar power for 6 schools in areas of return and regions with accessibility challenges. The project benefited 8,000 school boys and girls in addition to 350 teachers.

Eritreans dramatic escape from their homeland goes unnoticed. The children in Adi Haroush all tell the same story, about leaving without their parents' knowledge together with other kids. "I left directly after school together with my friends", a 14 year boy says. "I left with six school-mates. My parents wouldn't have let me go", another young girl tells. Two of her siblings had already gone to Ethiopia. "I had a big stress and left my country", she explains.

In pursuit of a better life on the death road

She explains that her plan is to follow her sister across the Sahara to Libya, a country on the brink of total collapse and home to many smugglers taking migrants on the Central Mediterranean route to Europe. She tells that she has lost contact with her sister. The last information is that the sister was

somewhere in Libya. The road she plans to take is among the refugees called the death road. "It goes through different countries that may involve organised trafficking. And though some make it, others don't", says Ahmednur Abdi, NRC Country Director for Ethiopia programme. Such is the paradox of migration, that in search of a better life, many are willing to risk death.

In 2015, 5% of the 788,000 migrant arrivals in Europe were Eritreans, according to the UNHCR. Only Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis migrate to Europe on a bigger scale. According to The Wall Street Journal, Eritreans accounted for a majority of the 3440 people who drowned in the Mediterranean in 2015. An explanation can be that Eritreans take the longer and thus more dangerous route between Libya and Italy across the Mediterranean. The Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis tend to take

the much shorter boat trip between Turkey and the Greek Islands. The children in the camp are well aware of the many deaths in the Mediterranean, but their plan to go to Europe remains unaltered. "I heard about them and felt sad", the 12 year old boy says about the news that many Eritreans have died in the attempt to cross the Mediterranean. "Sometimes I'm afraid", he adds. The 15 year old girl agrees. "I feel sad about them, and fear for my life when I think about it", she says. But still she wants to pay the smugglers in Libya so she can get a place on one of the many boats that cross the sea.

"I will go the illegal way and cross the Mediterranean, but I don't know how much it will cost me," she says, adding that she is aware of the dangers ahead. "Yes I know about the risks and the other problems on the way, but I still need to go. I only have two options: life or death."

↓ SOUTH SUDAN

Protracted violence despite peace deals

The 2015 South Sudan's civil war resulted in 1.6 million internally displaced and over 768,000 people to seek refuge in neighbouring countries. Over 200,000 people sought refuge inside protection of civilians sites of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). The warring parties continued to confront each other, often violating ceasefire agreements, orchestrating attacks in various strategic areas especially in Bentiu, Nassir and Malakal. The mediation process in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia encountered many setbacks throughout 2015.

NRC implemented activities under the organisation's five core competencies and in 2015, remained actively present in 7 out of the 10 states of South Sudan. Mobile teams were stationed in hard to reach areas across the country but primarily in Upper Nile, Jonglei and Unity States.

Unity State

A Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) response incorporated a pilot of community-

based camp management initiative in Leer together with a national capacity building programme with the CCCM Cluster. NRC provided education in emergency and food security assistance.

Jonglei State

NRC established temporary learning spaces for education in emergency ensuring that 2,598 children were able to attend classes. 7 out of 10 children in South Sudan have never set foot



Photo: Tuva Raanes Bogsnes/NRC



Photo: Tuva Raanes Bogsnes/NRC

Regina is a member of the rapid response teams coordinating food air drops in South Sudan.

The South Sudan programme is deploying mobile teams as a strategic shift to step up operation in areas which have been hard hit by the conflict. One mobile team is set up for NFI/shelter distribution and 3 others are responding in food-distribution in partnership with WFP.

Regina, a member of food distribution team says: "We make sure that the drop zone is clear before planes can drop the bags, before we begin supervision and distribution. We can cover 25 000 people in three days".



Kuir has returned to what used to be her home in the town of Bor, after nearly 2 years living as a refugee. The ruins leave no doubt about the atrocities that have taken place in the area. Kuir and her children had to flee in the middle of the night: “I was exhausted, my children fled and I could only grab my baby. It was terrible, we were half-dead”, she narrates.

inside a classroom. Overcrowding and lack of learning materials and teachers have remained key challenges. There were increased numbers of returnees witnessed from neighbouring Mingkamman in Lakes State into Bor County in Jonglei State as a result of the relative calm situation.

Lakes State

Education in Emergency activities in Lakes ensured that children and youth did not miss out on education despite the ongoing conflict.

Emergency education has also had the positive effect on young children by reassuring them of normalcy. 4,801 beneficiaries were assisted with latrine construction or rehabilitation and 100 cleaning campaigns promoted safe usage and protection against diseases.

Warrap and Northern Bahr El Ghazal

NRC provided food, education and information, counselling and legal assistance targeting returnees, internally displaced people and

host communities. The food security project included long-term support in livelihood diversification options, market linkage, capacity building and development of social infrastructure.

Central Equatoria State

NRC supported Protection of Civilians centres in Juba, known as POCs, through emergency education and shelter. NRC contributed to humanitarian coordination through its co-lead



Overcrowding and lack of learning materials remain constant challenges for educational facilities in all areas of South Sudan.

responsibilities in Protection, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and Food Security clusters. Working with UNHCR, NRC piloted a support project targeting IDPs at risk of becoming stateless by providing improved access to civil documentation. 205 people received housing, land and property related legal services.

War, no food

In 2011 South Sudan gained independence from Sudan, ending a generation of war. Some thought that the country would finally be able to feed not only itself, but also its neighbours. However, four years on, these predictions have been proved wrong. The civil war

that broke out in 2013 has resulted in massive forced displacement. In addition, the lack of food and markets that have collapsed are constantly pushing communities to the brink of starvation. According to UN agencies working in the war torn Country, every two minutes another South Sudanese child becomes severely malnourished.

“People of South Sudan are exhausted. Many have sold off their assets and their livestock have been lost. Recovery of assets depleted will take some time. In 2015 the hunger season was severe due to a poor harvest reported in 2014 and in the conflict affected states, people eat whatever is available,

the situation is terrible”, says Mary Karanja who is the Food security manager in NRC and the co-lead of the Food Security Cluster.

Affects children

“It is evident that in some areas, especially in the conflict affected states and for the displaced communities, without food assistance, there would be nothing else to eat and the food security situation would be more severe” “It is the small children, those up to 24 months that will be affected first. If they don’t get enough to eat their brain and body does not develop as it should. This process is irreversible”, Karanja explains.



Photo: Akena/NRC

Uganda's refugee integration system enables refugees to acquire useful vocational skills and put them into use directly within their settlement locations.

Assistance to refugees in West Nile region

In Uganda, refugees live among host communities in settlement areas, instead of in a refugee camp. This set up allows for better integration and acceptance by the host communities, improved dignity and self-reliance, cost efficiency and a solutions oriented approach. The Uganda settlement model is being studied by neighboring countries that themselves are hosting large numbers of refugees.

NRC's Uganda West Nile programme started in September 2014 although actual implementation began in January 2015. The programme's objective is to improve the lives of people affected by conflicts and disaster



Kuer at work. She fled violence back in Jonglei, South Sudan

“I enjoy the rattling sound of the sewing machine”

Adau Kuer is a 26 year old married woman with five school-going children. In 2014, she fled conflict in Jonglei State of South Sudan. Kuer joined the tailoring class in September 2015.

She narrates how her face lightens up every-time she enters the class and sees the sewing machines.

“I just love the mesmerising sound of the machine when sewing,...I feel happy when I learn how to make a new cloth, this will help me in the future because I will get some money and take care of myself and family”, she says.

through innovation and integrated intervention. NRCs interventions are mainly in the areas of education, food security and livelihood.

With two field offices, in Adjumani and Arua, the programme targeted a total population of 11,400 covering four refugee settlements in the West Nile area of Uganda (Ayillo 2, Nyumanzi, Maaji and Rhino camps).

Three fully functional vocational skills training centers in addition

to 3 Accelerated Learning Programme, or ALP centres, were constructed. Youth and children were able to access vocational training, and quality basic education which, in addition to education enhanced their protection from potential harm and abuse. 6 public schools were provided with educational materials including furniture for 3,368 pupils. 48 teachers were recruited and trained, enhancing quality of teaching as well as improving retention of learners.

The Food Security and Livelihood programme strengthened food production ability of 523 households by providing agricultural farm inputs including seeds and tools. There was reduction in instances of conflicts and unrest among the youth from different ethnic groups by engaging them in civic activities. The programme enhanced capacity and built partnerships with five local institutions by signing partnership agreements and providing power generators and computers.

Hawa Hussein (4) is one of ten siblings. Her mother Maryam has lost all her livestock and the girl now lives in a community for displaced persons in Erer, in the drought affected Siti zone in Ethiopia.

Large scale response to refugee crisis

Ethiopia was Africa's largest refugee hosting country with over 720,000 refugees, mainly from South Sudan, Eritrea, Sudan and Somalia. Meanwhile, persistent droughts and violent conflict led the Somali region of Ethiopia to host 475,192 IDPs out of Ethiopia's total IDP population of 834,759

Dollo Ado, Somali region

In Dollo Ado Camp, an average of 27,569 cubic metres of clean water was provided to refugees on monthly basis, minimising risks of water-borne diseases spreading and reducing the challenges associated with search for water outside the camp such as sexual violence targeting women and girls. Water system operation was improved and

maintained by rehabilitating 20 old water points, a 5km water pipeline and 2 boreholes.

More than 1,050 urine diversion toilets and communal latrines in need of maintenance were rehabilitated while at the same period, 282 households benefited from sanitation facilities including 78 urine diversion toilets, with 13 set aside for the host community in addition to 183 dome shape

latrines and 21 bathing units for refugees. NRC conducted training activities focusing on child-to-child activities in and out of school, WASH committees and public hygiene promotion campaigns.

Use of improved farming techniques led to a significant yield increase. 195 people in Kobe and Hiloweyn received maize, beans, onion seeds, fertilizers, wheel barrows, shovels, digging tools to support the planting,

Photo: NRC/Yared Ayele



Using biogas energy for cooking in Bambassi refugee camp.

weeding and harvesting processes. Post-distribution monitoring for business groups supported at Hiloweyn showed that out of 33 business groups, 29 groups remained stable, able to support operations and earn income. A total of 40 tonnes of maize was harvested from Kobe irrigation project, enough yield to provide food for 150 people for a period of 6 months. 80 tonnes of fodder crop for animals was harvested from Hiloweyn irrigation project. A new 1400m canal constructed as part of expansion of the irrigation capacity covered an extra 45 hectares of land. This is likely to increase the yield in the coming year.

1,574 learners enrolled for Alternative Basic Education programme and continued to attend lessons throughout the year. Two new ABE centres were established

in Kobe and Melkadida to meet the growing demand for education among out-of-school children within the age groups of 11 to 14 years. 242 learners from Melkadida transitioned to formal primary schools. A survey on the vocational skills programme focusing on 2014 graduates from Hiloweyn and Melkadida showed that 61% were able to gain meaningful employment. The income range for the trained artisans in all categories was between 10 and 30 US Dollars per week.

Benishangul-Gumuz Region of Ethiopia

NRC constructed 1,374 temporary shelters using plastic sheets, bamboo and eucalyptus poles. The shelters were useful in accommodating approximately 6,870

“Using gas instead of firewood has made life easier for me. I am able to save more time to go to the market and sell vegetables instead of going in search of firewood”, says Salina*, a refugee living in Bambassi refugee camp in Assosa.

The biogas technology involved use of human and animal waste products to generate gas which can burn as a fuel product with sufficient capacity to cook food safely and effectively.

new arrivals and refugees relocated from Ashura camp. 3,482 refugees and host community members received seeds for planting and agricultural tools. Refugees without access to land were provided with the alternative of practicing multi-storey gardening technique. NRC supported vocational training, Alternative Learning Programme, and Adult Literacy program in Sherkole, Bambassi and Tongo benefitting 3,130 young people. 30% of 400 Youth Education Pack (YEP) trainees were host community members. Tailoring and hair dressing were found out to be the most appealing among women and girls and having the best promise for employment.

Dire Dawa/Jigjiga Programme

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene was introduced in Jigjiga in 2015 as a response to increasingly poor hygiene, lack of clean potable water

and risk of diseases from unplanned waste disposal. NRC provided clean water to 7,000 IDPs through construction of four traditional water harvesting units each with holding capacity of 800 cubic metres.

NRC reached 317 households through livestock support, animal health training and small business enterprise in Babili woreda of Fafan zone. Three grinding machines and cash grants were disbursed in support of self-help groups. To improve the health of the livestock, community animal health workers were trained and equipped with start-up kits. NRC expanded its Jigjiga operational area to Siti Zone responding to the drought national emergency triggered by prolonged failure of the rains.

The Tigray region of Ethiopia

345 permanent and Sphere-compliant shelters were built in Mai Ayni refugee camp in addition to 354 in Hitsats, affording vulnerable and displaced persons reliable shelter and protection from unfavourable external conditions. Refugees were involved in monitored construction work, in collaboration with Administration of Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA), UNHCR and Refugee Central Committee (RCC). NRC increased shelter provision from 489 to 699 shelters absorbing an additional load of refugees from 2,445 to 3,495 refugees.

Although Child Protection is not a core competency, the critical needs in Tigray Region involving large numbers of unaccompanied and separated children migrating from Eritrea, has necessitated a response.

Intervention in child protection continued to have a positive impact, making NRC the lead child protection agency in Mai Ayni Zone. In 2015, 3000 vulnerable children who arrived in Tigray from Eritrea were registered at Endabaguna screening centre and received support including shelter, food and educational support.

Protection support reached 9,154 children and young people. 591 persons of concern were reunited with their close relatives and secured their privilege to enjoy a nurturing family environment, while 33 children were placed under foster care.

The Gambella region of Ethiopia

The Gambella humanitarian response to the influx of South Sudanese refugees remained the biggest operation in Ethiopia in 2015 and the biggest emergency response for NRC in the Horn of Africa. Previously, NRC operated 2 camps in Pugnido and Okugo with an estimated population of 50,000. Three new camps were created in

2014 for 192,000 refugees. NRC constructed 2,158 transitional shelters in Kule, Tierkidi, Jewi and Pugnido-I refugee camps of Gambella, catering for 10,790 refugees. 4,194 family tents, 2,700 small-size or 'Bajaj' shelters in Jewi and Pugnido camps and 20 temporary reception centers also known as hangars were provided.

Construction of access roads in Jewi, Kule and Tierkidi greatly improved camp management services, water drainage and movement of refugees within the settlements.

200 Emergency communal latrines were constructed at Jewi refugee camp in response to congestion and lack of adequate facilities in Leitchour and Kule. 1,145 household latrines were constructed in Kule, Tierkidi, Leitchour and Jewi camps. Hygiene promotion intervention mainly focused on safe excreta disposal and management, safe hand washing practices at critical times, safe water management at house hold level and safe disposal of solid wastes.

A total of 12,766 youth and children were reached through ALP, YEP and Education in Emergency programmes in all the camps. NRC developed its own curriculum for vocational skills trainings focusing on carpentry, masonry, electrical installation, catering, food preparation, cosmetics, hair dressing and tailoring.



Photo: NRC/Emebet Abdissa

“They go to school and they have a place to call home, and a family that loves and takes care of them. I always believe that if you are under my roof then you become part of my family”

Two emergency education learning centres were constructed in Okugo refugee camp. Maintenance for 24 semi-permanent ALP classrooms in Kule and Tierkidi ensured continuation of learning in difficult conditions. As part of NRC’s policy on 30% host community allocation, 1,413 youth benefited from the YEP host community programming in Gambella.

“Sherkole is my new home”

She fled the horrors of war in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and ended up in a refugee camp in Ethiopia, where two years later, 47

year old Masika Baseme Jeanne has become a businesswoman. “I came empty handed; I was getting away from conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. It was a scene of horror and tragedy; my husband was killed, my son was kidnapped and taken for recruitment as a child soldier and my daughter (not in photo above) was raped and assaulted by soldiers”, she narrates.

Back in DR Congo, Masika used to be a taxi driver. Life was hard for Masika and her family in DR Congo. And their loss was huge. When they had to flee their homeland, life became even worse. While most refugees prefer to hang

on to the past and reminisce how life used to be before crisis erupted, Masika has chosen to move forward.

She carries the painful memories with her, but has transformed the anger into a positive drive that pushes her do more to succeed in life. She was part of a group of 80 people trained in business management through the NRC Assosa programme.

They were put in groups of four and received capital in the amount of 1500 Ethiopian Birr (about 72 US dollars). Most of the groups succeeded in opening and sustaining small shops, cafeterias,

A BOLD ADVOCATE IN THE REGION

poultry stalls, bakeries and fruit, vegetable and cereal businesses.

Masika is part of a group of four women who are engaging in bakery business. Their bakery produces 1,050 loaves of bread every morning, which is distributed to restaurants, shops and sold by the road side for one birr each.

She has rented a room where together with her son and daughter, they have opened a restaurant business. She has managed to buy the property with the money she saved from catering income. Part of the restaurant is used to bake bread with her business partners.

As a result of her industry, Masika is not only able to provide for her own family, she has also become an adoptive mother taking care of three orphans: “They go to school and they have a place to call home and a family that loves and take care of them. I always believe that if you are under my roof, then you become part of my family “

“But I thank God for keeping us safe. I am now a self-sufficient woman and I am proud of it. For me, Sherkole camp is home. All I want is to work hard and keep my family safe”, she says.



Photo: NRC South Central Somalia

In Somalia, 1500 title deeds were issued as a result of effective collaboration between the NRC Housing, land and Property (HLP) programme and the federal authorities.

Evidence informs the basis for the advocacy work that NRC undertakes. NRC has continued to use the evidence generated by the eight country programmes to lobby and contribute to influencing agendas within the region and globally. NRC recognises that long term changes within the humanitarian sector will come from informed policy and practice changes that support equitable access to human rights for all, within structures that are led by governments and are implemented through national plans that support durable solutions. NRC has remained an active member of the Regional Durable Solutions Secretariat that aims to provide leadership on durable solutions within the region.

In Somalia, 1500 title deeds were issued as a result of effective collaboration between the NRC HLP programme and the federal

authorities. While there remains the risk of failure to respect the deeds in some instances due to the weak implementation of laws

A bold advocate in the region

and policies in Somalia, NRC has led the way in showing that it is possible to provide long term solutions in the midst of on-going conflict.

This initiative also provided an opportunity to strengthen linkages between humanitarian actors and the State as the custodian of the rule of law.

In Yemen and South Sudan, NRC has emphasised the need for increased international community engagement towards finding lasting solutions to conflicts. At the Valleta Civil Society Summit in November 2015, NRC requested that the needs of refugees from the Horn of Africa be accorded the same attention as other crises like Syria. The Yemen crisis led to a return of Somali refugees fleeing the conflict, introducing a new aspect of migration in the region. The impact of Yemen is felt in Ethiopia, Djibouti and Somalia, countries that were already struggling with meeting humanitarian needs before the influx of refugees from Yemen.

The disregard for peace processes and deals in South Sudan and Yemen has had huge ramifications on displaced populations and has stretched humanitarian actors. NRC continues to demand accountability and impartiality in the solution processes for the two countries and for the UN Security Council, the AU and other international institutions to provide firm demands on respective warring parties to respect civilian rights and arrive at a peaceful solution to mitigate further displacement.

In Kenya under the Voluntary Returns Programme, NRC continues to advocate for voluntary, safe and dignified return for refugees. As an observer of the Tripartite Agreement Commission and lead of the Return Agenda, NRC plays a significant watchdog and advisory role in the process.

With support from Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), NRC has completed

a review of the normative framework relating to the protection of IDPs in Kenya, last year with key recommendations to the Government of Kenya to adapt the draft national IDP policy and to ratify the Kampala Convention, align national legislation to the provisions of the convention and accept the oversight role of the monitoring mechanisms within the African Union system.

The effects of climate change have contributed to displacements in the region through the vicious cycles of drought and El Nino phenomenon that have been experienced across the region. Refugees in Djibouti, Somalia and Kenya have cited lack of rains and pastoral grounds as reasons for secondary movement, the initial movement for most of them having being caused by conflict. NRC is pushing for integration of climate change mitigation strategies into broader humanitarian responses.

PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES ↓



NRC and Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) formed a partnership to benefit youth trainees in refugee camps, promoting mentorship programmes, linkages with the job market in the private sector and supporting curriculum development.

African Union

The NRC African Union Liaison Office provided support to the AU African Common Position on humanitarian issues in Africa (CAP). The CAP will go a long way in reshaping the humanitarian architecture of Africa through the implementation of key humanitarian strategies anchored on ten principal pillars that speak to gaps and challenges of the current Africa's humanitarian system. Initiatives included the World Humanitarian Summit Africa regional consultations, expert review of the draft CAP, the Specialised Technical Meeting that cemented comments and inputs into the final outcome CAP document.

NRC African Union Liaison Office in partnership with the Information, Counselling and Legal Assistance programme released a report titled 'Kampala Convention: Make it work for women', that focuses on the rights of displaced women to housing, land and property. To achieve gender equality, it calls for an end to harmful practices that deny displaced women their housing and land rights.

Partnerships and Initiatives

Building Resilient Communities in Somalia (BRCiS)

BRCiS Consortium members have worked with 99 communities since November 2013 and will start operations in 68 new communities across the Southern and Central regions of Somalia in 2016. The BRCiS Consortium has an innovative approach to delivering services to the most vulnerable populations of Somalia.

The Consortium, under NRC's lead, has come up with 99 tailor-made action plans, one for each community. Stepping away from the usual boundaries between sectors, the BRCiS design puts emphasis on synergies between a wide range of activities, aiming at four main outputs: improving access to water and sanitation, developing livelihood opportunities and general food security, ensuring dignified shelter, and supporting the communities' capacity to anticipate, mitigate and recuperate from shocks.

Cash Learning Partnership (CaLP)

NRC is interested in using cash and voucher programming as a modality across all areas of programming and phases of displacement. The Cash Learning Partnership offers a viable platform enabling NRC to use cash and voucher programming

in responding to needs of displaced populations who face new challenges, as they have often left their homes, assets and other safety nets behind them. CaLP has conducted training to NRC field staff as well as provided training tools aimed at enhancing quality programming.

Stand-by Rosters

61 experts were deployed to the region in 2015 (27 to South Sudan, 13 to Ethiopia, 7 to Somalia, 6 to Kenya, 5 to Yemen, and 3 to Uganda). Deployed experts supported protection, coordination and educational activities of UN and government agencies.

NRC Expert Deployment Capacity, NORCAP strengthens the capacity of the international community to prevent and respond to humanitarian challenges through the provision of expert personnel to national governments and international organisations.



Photo: NRC/Nashon Tado

NORCAP is operated by the Norwegian Refugee Council. 2015 deployments were funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNHCR, European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) and Department for International Development (DfID).

The Moving Energy Initiative (MEI)

The MEI seeks to meet the energy needs of displaced people in a safe, sustainable manner, developing solutions for heating, cooling, cooking, lighting, electrification and



A private sector consultation organised by NRC in Nairobi in December 2015 brought together the key actors in telecommunications, manufacturing industry, and energy sectors. NRC emphasised the need for joint collaboration and win-win partnerships.

water and sanitation. Access to safe, secure and reliable energy is often inadequate for refugee and IDP camp inhabitants, who rely overwhelmingly on traditional biomass such as firewood to cover their basic energy needs. NRC partnered with Chatham House, Practical Action, UNHCR, DfID and GVEP International in understanding and creating awareness about energy-related needs of refugees in Dadaab, Kenya. A report titled 'Heat Light and Power for Refugees: Saving Lives, Reducing Costs' presents for the first time estimates of the volume and costs of energy used in situations of forced displacement worldwide.

Private sector engagement

The profit-making or business sector, contributes to the highest share of employment in different countries in the region. Boosting private sector development and involvement through greater access to finance, infrastructure and skills development has been identified as harbouring benefits to humanitarian practice.

Through active collaboration and engagement with the private sector, an enabling environment for vulnerable communities including youth can be promoted, particularly

as related to micro credit facilities, information technology and cash transfer programming. NRC established partnership with private sector organisations like Kenya Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Samasource, Toto Health Limited and Unilever.

Partnership with Vodafone and Safaricom Limited continue to scale up mutually beneficial initiatives within refugee camps such as the youth vocational skills training programme.

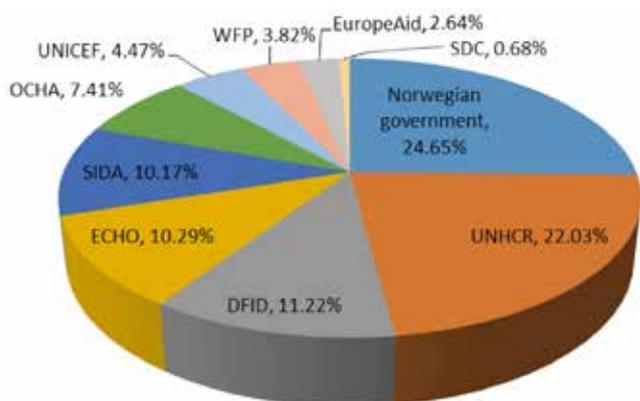
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

NRC Horn of Africa, Yemen, and South Sudan total actual funding was spent in 2015 was 94.66 million USD or 726.83 Million NOK. This was 3.37 % decrease from the 2014 spending of 98.37 million USD or 18.05% increase from 2014 spending of 615.7 Million NOK. To improve budget management and accountability, NRC rolled out improved finance tools including electronic budget monitoring tool, electronic donor budget template, and electronic master budget. NRC regional finance department will prioritise to train staff on the new financial templates in 2016.

Funding per country (in Million USD)

Country	2014	2015
Djibouti	1.81	2.23
Uganda	0.13	2.23
Yemen	9.73	9.26
Somalia	30.82	29.37
Ethiopia	23.65	22.78
Kenya	14.60	10.65
Eritrea	0.37	0.21
South Sudan	17.26	17.93
	98.37	94.66

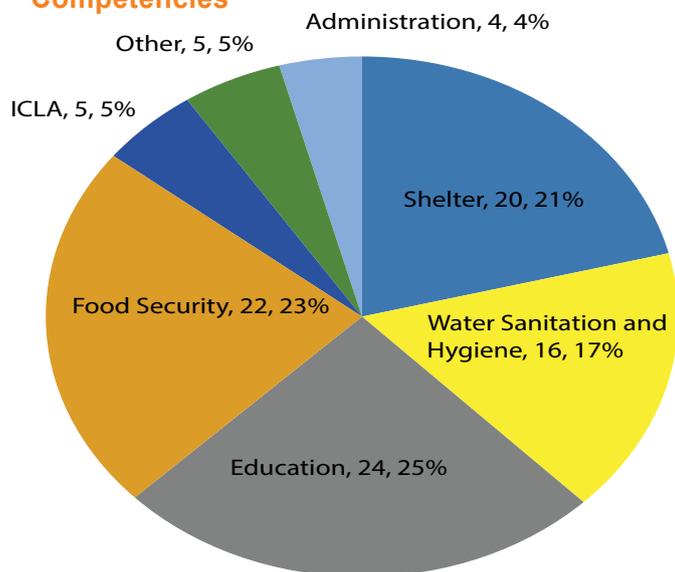
Donors



Funding per donor (in Million USD)

	USD	%
GAP/REG Norad	4.78	5%
NMFA (HUM)	15.60	16%
Norad (non GAP)	2.96	3%
UNHCR	20.86	22%
DFID	10.62	11%
ECHO	9.75	10%
SIDA	9.63	10%
OCHA	7.01	7%
UNICEF	4.24	4%
WFP	3.61	4%
EuropeAid	2.50	3%
SDC	0.64	1%
NRC TELETHON FUNDS	0.45	0.5%
NRC PRIVATE SPONSORS	0.43	0.4%
BPRM	0.41	0.4%
FAO	0.34	0.3%
NRC Own Funds	0.30	0.3%
OTHER PUBLIC FOREIGN ORGANIZATIONS	0.13	0.1%
GIZ	0.12	0.1%
Wellspring	0.11	0.1%
USAID (OFDA)	0.07	0.1%
OTHER FOREIGN COMPANIES/ ORGANIZATIONS	0.07	0.1%
OTHER FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS	0.01	0%
OTHER UN ORGANIZATIONS	0.01	0%
	94.66	100%

Competencies



Our main donors



OPERATIONAL OUTPUTS 2015

In 2015, NRC Horn of Africa biggest programme expenditure areas were Education at 24%, Food Security at 22% and Shelter at 20%. WASH was at 16% and ICLA at 6%. Education remains a priority for NRC globally. While most humanitarian players do not view Education as life –saving, NRC continued to champion Education in Emergencies, due to its ability to provide second opportunities to displaced populations, mitigate protection violations and as part of the NRC global 1 Million Initiative campaign. Camp Management was reintroduced as a global core competency in NRC in 2015. None of the 8 country programmes implemented CCCM in that year.

While displacement needs in the region are on a rapid increase, available resources in 2015 were not determined not by priority but also by Government policies related to shelter provision, which limit the nature of shelter programming, shrinking humanitarian funding that determined how much country programmes could deliver. In some countries like Yemen and South Sudan, on-going conflict made it difficult to deliver assistance in a timely manner. In Kenya, the Voluntary Returns Programme in Dadaab has impacted on shelter construction. Displacements in Somalia due to forced evictions and in South Sudan and Yemen, due to conflict translated into an increase

for shelter against the funding that was available.

Over 60,000 persons received ICLA support in Somaliland, especially on forced evictions and displacement matters. South Sudan had about 35,000 beneficiaries for ICLA while Kenya had about 10,000 beneficiaries. South Sudan had the highest beneficiaries for emergency food rations in 2015, more than Ethiopia and Somalia which are currently faced by drought. However, this could change in 2016, as the drought situation gets worse and respective Governments open up to support. There was a marked delayed response for the drought situations

in Ethiopia and Somalia from donors in 2015, affecting the ability of agencies like NRC, to provide timely assistance.

It should be noted that countries like Kenya (in Kakuma) Djibouti and Yemen used unconditional cash transfers instead of direct food distribution for reasons ranging from empowering beneficiaries to make their own informed choices, subsequent injection of capital into local host economies and access issues that prevented delivery of supplies in countries like Yemen.

The following tables provide a break-down of outputs for each country programme.

Yemen operational outputs 2015

Locations	Operational details	Items provided	People reached		
		Quantity	Males	Females	Total
Yemen	Shelter rehabilitation	125 homes	429	446	875
	Emergency shelter kits	450 kits	1,512	1,638	3,150
	Latrines rehabilitated	125 latrines	429	446	875
	Rental subsidies	1,920 households	6,586	6,854	13,440
	Unconditional cash transfer	5,847 households	20,055	20,874	40,929
	Hygiene and sanitation kits distributed	5,700 kits	19,551	20,349	39,900
	Household Non-Food Item kits distributed	5,045 kits	17,304	18,011	35,315
	Water trucking	5,221 households	18,000	18,550	36,550
	People reached with food in-kind distribution	30,000 households	83,510	86,919	170,429
	Total beneficiaries	-	167,376	174,087	341,463

Operational Outputs 2015

Somalia operational outputs

Locations	Operational details	Items provided	People reached		
		Quantity	Males	Females	Total
South Central	Shelters for families	4,056	12,658	11,681	24,339
	Non-Food item provision	12,327	37,310	36,653	73,963
	Students enrolled in NRC supported schools	-	17,314	17,052	34,366
	Teachers trained and/or provided with incentives	-	980	346	1,326
	Education Committee and Ministry of Education members supported		135	104	239
	People reached with food and livelihood assistance		15,498	32,187	47,685
	People reached with ICLA support		8,295	10,121	18,416
	People reached with water, hygiene and sanitation support		39,204	42,253	81,457
Somaliland	Shelters for families		1,154	1,214	2,368
	Classrooms constructed or rehabilitated	29			4,635
	Hygiene and sanitation kits distributed		596	874	1,470
	People provided with ICLA assistance	438 households	994	1,637	2,631
	People reached with food security and livelihood support	4,231 households	13,353	12,038	25,391
Puntland	Shelters for families		25,788	25,123	50,911
	People reached with food and livelihood assistance	1,831	4,335	6,655	10,990
	People reached through cash and food voucher		275	475	750
	People supported with water, sanitation and hygiene		4,912	4,521	9,433
	People reached through hygiene sensitization		1,057	1,646	2,703
	Teachers, Ministry of Education and Committee members trained	585	381	204	585
	Learners enrolled in NRC supported schools	11,500	5,689	5,811	11,500
	People supported through ICLA	6,995	18,437	23,534	41,971
	Total beneficiaries		208,365	234,129	447,129

*Beneficiaries are registered according to the different services received; those who received assistance in more than one sector have been counted twice e.g. shelter and education

Kenya operational outputs

Locations	Operational details	Items provided	People reached		
		Quantity	Males	Females	Total
Dadaab	Latrines constructed	320	640	960	1,600
	People reached with hygiene promotional activities		65,399	65,118	130,517
	People reached with emergency food rations		51,320	76,980	128,300
	People reached with ICLA assistance		4,562	4,558	9,120
	Learners enrolled in NRC supported schools		668	380	1,048
Mandera	Learners enrolled in NRC supported schools		84	96	180
	People reached with sanitation and hygiene support		218	182	400
	People reached with livelihood support		618	1,425	2,043
Kakuma	Family latrines constructed	5,243	13,544	20,314	33,858
	Communal/shared latrines constructed	400	871	695	1,566
	Shelter for families	32	92	137	229
	People reached with emergency food ration	-	26,836	24,076	50,912
	Learners supported through vocational training	-	831	1,245	2,076
	Solar safe water treatment kits distributed	18,862	9,431	84,879	94,310
	Total beneficiaries		175,114	281,045	456,159

Djibouti operational outputs 2015

Locations	Operational details	Items provided	People reached		
		Quantity	Males	Females	Total
Djibouti	Shelter for families	123 houses	2,291	2,403	4,694
	Unconditional cash transfer	222 households	659	675	1,334
	Hygiene and sanitation kits distributed	2,464 kits	5,729	9,055	14,784
	People reached with plastic sheeting and solar lamps	552 households	1,415	1,557	2,972
	People reached with livestock support	560 goats	381	336	717
	Total beneficiaries	-	10,475	14,026	22,551

South Sudan operational outputs 2015

Locations	Operational details	Items provided	People reached		
		Quantity	Males	Females	Total
South Sudan	Shelter for families	9,631 houses	29,587	28,204	57,791
	Latrine construction	90 latrines	-	-	545
	People reached with hygiene promotion training	1,691 households	3,297	6,853	10,150
	Learners enrolled in NRC supported schools	-	13,415	12,075	25,490
	People reached with emergency food rations	-	103,126	137,883	241,009
	People reached with income-generating and livelihood support	-	1,360	2,815	4,175
	People reached with Information, Counselling and Legal Aid	-	14,725	21,073	35,798
	Total beneficiaries	-	165,510	208,903	374,958

Ethiopia operational outputs 2015

Locations	Operational details	Items provided	People reached		
		Quantity	Males	Females	Total
Assosa	People reached through educational support	-	1,525	988	2,513
	Beneficiaries of livelihood assistance	-	1,799	1,501	3,300
	Shelters for families	1,374	4,107	2,738	6,845
Dolo Ado	Shelters for families	-	1,095	1,130	2,225
	Students enrolled in NRC supported schools	-	630	944	1,574
	People reached through hygiene and sanitation support	-	21,451	24,323	45,774
	Beneficiaries of livelihood and income-generating assistance	-	370	386	756
Shire	Shelters for families	-	4,164	1,467	5,631
	People reached with food security and livelihood support	-	1,322	928	2,250
	Students enrolled in NRC supported schools	-	754	686	1,440
	Teachers trained	-	31	2	33
	People reached with child protection assistance	-	8,138	2,527	10,665
Gambella	Shelters for families	-	10,780	12,680	23,460
	People reached with educational support	-	8,833	9,286	18,119
	Food security and livelihood support	-	533	4,802	5,335
	People reached with water, sanitation and hygiene support	-	48,582	100,301	148,883
Jigjiga	People reached with livelihoods and income-generating assistance	-	135	172	307
	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene support	-	2,940	4,060	7,000
	Total beneficiaries	-	117,189	168,921	286,110



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