

Norwegian Refugee Council

Photo Essay: Norwegian Refugee Council's Programme Activities

At the root of Norwegian Refugee Council's (NRC) programmes are our solid technical expertise and specific sectorial 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 six sectors, which we refer to as our core competencies. NRC will continue to develop our expertise within the six core competencies to ensure we become – and remain – a leading global actor in these sectors. We will continually draw from our experience and learning. In doing so, we will be able to develop appropriate programme designs and approaches adapted to changing humanitarian contexts, and will contribute to, and lead, on setting sector standards.

An integrated approach involving all our core competencies, closely linked to work by other agencies, is required to effectively ensure that individuals, households and communities are protected, that they receive appropriate assistance, and that they enjoy their social and economic rights. We apply a multisector approach to targeting and implementation based on the needs, vulnerabilities and priorities of people and communities in a given context.

Our six core competencies:

Camp Management: Camp management core functions include coordinating and monitoring assistance and protection, setting up and supporting governance and community participation mechanisms, managing and disseminating information, providing multisector feedback mechanisms, and maintaining infrastructure.

Education: We aim to ensure that all displaced children and youth enjoy quality education that is relevant to their psychosocial, emotional and cognitive development, from the start of emergencies. Displaced children and youth are highly marginalised in accessing quality education.

Livelihoods and food security: We provide food assistance to prevent loss of life and to contribute to the rehabilitation of local food and market systems. We promote livelihood strategies that protect, recover and strengthen individuals' and households' abilities to earn a living.

Information, counselling and legal assistance: Our ICLA activities support people to claim and exercise their rights through information, counselling, legal assistance, collaborative dispute resolution, capacity building and advocacy. ICLA programmes may engage in public interest cases, if this will lead to a direct positive effect for a greater number of individuals or create legal precedents that can generate positive structural changes.

Shelter: NRC provides physical safety, an identity and a foundation for recovery through its shelter and settlement programming. Working hand-in-hand with other NRC activities in the field through an integrated approach, we aim to create homes and build communities to protect people from the risks of displacement and enable them to live in dignity.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) promotion: By providing appropriate water and sanitation infrastructure, and educating people on good hygiene practices, we help displaced families achieve dignified living conditions.