

Norwegian Refugee Council

Photo Essay: A snapshot of our Covid-19 response

The world is in crisis. Millions of people displaced by conflict live in overcrowded camps or slums, with extremely poor hygiene and sanitation facilities. When the virus strikes countries devastated by war and conflict, where hospitals have been bombed and the health system has collapsed, the consequences will be brutal. We must act now.

The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is working around the clock to slow down the transmission of the coronavirus to refugees and internally displaced people, and to mitigate the impact this crisis will have on vulnerable populations.

We have extensive experience in dealing with crises in the world's most vulnerable areas and are now stepping up our work on sanitation and hygiene facilities, as well as disseminating information on the coronavirus to displaced communities.

Refugees and internally displaced people are especially vulnerable to Covid-19 and other diseases because they are forced to move from place to place and live in overcrowded conditions with limited sanitation facilities and without access to decent healthcare or vaccination programmes.

The most important steps now are to raise awareness and meet the need for information and strengthened hygiene and sanitation in impacted communities around the world.

Our Covid-19 response includes:

- scaling up our work related to clean water, sanitation and hygiene facilities;
- disseminating information on the risks and the preventative actions associated with the coronavirus to displaced communities
- implementing other necessary measures related to protection, shelter, education and other critical services we provide
- supporting vulnerable communities mitigate and recover from the impact of the Covid-19 outbreak

We need a global push to limit the spread of the virus and to ensure we can continue providing essential services during the crisis.