



Highlights

- Following the devastation caused by Storm Daniel which made landfall in Libya on 10 September, the death toll continues to rise with estimates ranging from 5,000 to 6,000 dead depending on sources and almost 10,000 people still missing. A total of 3,922 deaths have been registered in hospitals, according to WHO sources. Rescue teams continue their search for survivors.
- Significant displacement is being observed across affected regions, most notably in Derna, where available data indicates that at least 30,000 individuals have been displaced.* Search and rescue operations are ongoing, especially in Derna, where accessibility remains a critical challenge due to damaged infrastructure.
- Approximately 884,000 people in five provinces (Mantikas) live in areas that have been directly affected by the storm and flash floods in Libya and have been impacted to varying degrees.
- Existing information and initial field observations suggest that the most immediate needs include ambulances, trauma and emergency surgical kits, first aid and psychosocial support, medical personnel, body bags, medicines for hospitals and health centers amid exponential growth in health needs following the storm and flooding.
- Critical infrastructure, including healthcare, electricity, buildings, roads and telecommunication, have been significantly damaged. Progress is being made toward restoring electricity and communications to the affected areas.
- The UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordination launched a Flash Appeal on 14 September during a donor briefing. Humanitarian partners request \$71.4 million to respond to the most urgent needs of 250,000 people targeted out of the 884,000 people estimated to be in need, over the next three months.

(*) According to the IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix, Libyan Red Crescent and the Ministry of Health.

Situation overview

In the aftermath of Storm Daniel's catastrophic impact on Eastern Libya, a multidimensional humanitarian crisis has unfolded, necessitating immediate and coordinated action. The foremost priority is search and rescue operations, but given its time sensitivity, the authorities requested the international community to focus on humanitarian assistance and early recovery efforts going forward.

The scale and nature of the flooding has affected thousands of IDP, returnee, migrant, and refugee families who were already living in dire conditions in northeastern Libya before the storm hit. The consequences of the storm have resulted in a new wave of displacement for vulnerable Libyans and other affected groups causing around more than 38,000 people to be displaced in the affected areas. The situation in Derna is particularly concerning, where the estimated count of displaced individuals exceeds 30,000 people from a total population of more than 150,000. According to the International Organization for Migration's Displacement Tracking Matrix, 3,000 people have been displaced in Al Bayda, close to 2,600 people and 2,200 people have been displaced in Benghazi, and 1,000 people have been displaced in Al Mkheley, Wardeah and Sousse. Primary and secondary displacement due to the destruction of houses, poses an immediate threat to life and heightened protection risks.

The hardest-hit areas include Derna, Albayda, Soussa, Al-Marj, Shahat, Taknis, Battah, Tolmeita, Bersis, Tokra, and Al-Abyar, among others. Schools and hotels are being used as shelters. Albayda's hospital, which serves the entire Green Mountain region, has been flooded, forcing the evacuation of patients in intensive care units to private hospitals and clinics, and relocating other patients to different buildings. Derna is reported to be the most affected location with Storm Daniel having led dams to burst and water to sweep through large areas of the city causing major devastation. One INGO estimated that 30 per cent of the city may have disappeared as a result.

Based on UNOSAT analysis, over 2,200 buildings are estimated to have been exposed to flooding. According to REACH, in 2022, most Libyan households (69 per cent) interviewed in Derna were found to have unmet needs related to Health and WASH. The local authorities of Derna have described the city's situation as rapidly deteriorating and issued a call for international intervention. With the collapse of most roads, the municipality is urging relevant authorities to establish a sea corridor for emergency relief and evacuations.

The health facilities infrastructure has been severely affected from the massive destruction across the city of Derna. Yet, the functionality status of health facilities is changing rapidly. Based on the health assessment results from 14 September, almost half of the assessed health facilities are reported non-functional. This is due to either a damaged building (partially/ fully) or lack of staff to operate the facility.

The population in the affected areas are in deep shock due to the crisis. During the assessment, many children who were separated from or lost their families were witnessed in Derna. Most of the children were extremely devastated and crying with no one to support them. There is a huge need for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Services.

The massive destruction of infrastructure, flooded roads, and collapse of dam in Derna has resulted in urgent WASH needs to ensure access to safe drinking water, re-establishment of basic sanitation facilities to avoid the spread of communicable diseases. The threat of outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, including TB, measles, and influenza, was identified as a major risk in the 2023 Humanitarian Overview (HO) and is likely to be exacerbated by the impact of the storm.

A rapid needs assessment conducted by an INGO on 14 September in Derna identified food, shelter, health and nutrition as the four most reported immediate needs. Respondents highlighted a preference for in-kind assistance, only 5% reported access to regular water and hygiene items, 85% reported no access to a nearby market, and 60% of respondents raised risks related to water access. These include damaged roads, lack of clean water, the presence of corpses in water leading to contamination hazards, electricity cuts preventing use of water pumps, fear of another flood.

Critical infrastructure, particularly roads and bridges, suffered extensive damage due to Storm Daniel, severely hampering access and relief operations in the affected areas. One of bridges in the Lethron area is reportedly on the verge of collapse while a dam near Benghazi has started leaking for which assessment is being conducted to determine the risk. In Derna, of the city's seven entrances, only two from the south are currently navigable and all three inner-city bridges were destroyed, making the city virtually inaccessible, while multiple dams have also collapsed. The only remaining southern road to Derna, the Dhahr al-Hamar Road has sustained damage with a possibility of collapse and cut off access to Derna. In Soussa and Shahat, major roads linking the cities have either been flooded or completely swept away.

Humanitarian Needs and Response

Aid has been dispatched from various points across the country to assist those affected. Authorities have dispatched several shipments of supplies, including 14 tons of medical aid, along with personnel to augment local response capabilities. The Emergency and Support Service also dispatched six medical convoys to the Eastern region, which also included relief personnel. Field hospitals were established in Derna and Al-Marj. Temporary shelters were also established to provide temporary housing for the displaced communities. In the city of Benghazi, 18 schools have been converted into temporary shelters and are currently hosting at least 522 displaced families.

The UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Libya tasked an emergency response team to support local authorities and partners in the region and assist in the humanitarian response. In addition, the Humanitarian Coordinator activated the Rapid Response Mechanism. Surge capacity is currently deployed, including through the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination mechanism, to support response and relief operations. The Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator announced the allocation of \$10 million from the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support people affected by the floods.

The UNDAC team arrived on 13 September, supporting the coordination of humanitarian actors who are scaling up their response. A rapid inter-agency assessment comprising 10 UN agencies is ongoing today and tomorrow (15-16 September), to provide an initial assessment of four affected areas – Derna, Shahat, Albayda and Al Marg.

Urban and water-based search-and-rescue efforts are underway alongside aid and medical assistance, with international support including from Algeria, France, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Spain, Tunisia, and Türkiye.