

Turkish Red Crescent (TRC) Launches a Humanitarian Operation in Libya

On September 11, Storm Daniel struck northeastern Libya, causing huge damage along the coastal areas, particularly in Derna and Al Bayda cities. According to the UN weather agency WMO, two dams burst during heavy storms over the weekend, sweeping entire neighborhoods in the city of Derna into the sea. The floodwaters reached a peak in northeastern Libya on Sunday, with strong winds of up to 80 kilometers per hour, interrupting communications and bringing down electricity towers and trees.

On Monday, Libya's Presidency Council appealed to friendly countries and international aid groups to provide aid for the flood-stricken areas in the eastern region. Abdul Hamid Dbeibeh, the head of Libya's Tripoli-based unity government, declared all areas exposed to the deadly flooding as disaster zones, and announced three days of national mourning.

The country's official news agency reported on Tuesday that the death toll caused by the devastating floods in Libya's eastern city has risen to 5,300.

In a statement, the Interior Ministry in Eastern Libya of the government appointed by the House of Representatives said that thousands of people are still missing, according to the news agency.

Local rescue teams are continuing the search for missing people. Other cities and towns affected by the weekend catastrophe include Benghazi, Bayda, Al Marj, and Soussa.

The Turkish Red Crescent has launched a campaign and deployed an emergency relief team of 6 experts to support the Libyan Red Crescent's response activities in the flood affected areas. 300 food parcels and 300 hygiene sets have been sent to Libya immediately.

On September 13, a cargo ship with 1.700 metric tons capacity, coordinated by the Turkish Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency (AFAD) will be departing from western city of İzmir Alsancak Port, loaded with emergency relief materials.

The Turkish Red Crescent is contributing with the following items to the mentioned cargo ship: 250 tents, 5,000 blankets, 10,000 food parcels, + 200 hygiene kits, 2,000 kitchen sets, 1 truck load of bottled water, 3,000 canned meats, 1,500 body bags, 1,000 sleeping bags, 1,000 sponge beds, 50,000 surgical masks, 4 generators, 300 flashlights, 2,000 power banks, various clothing and shoes, baby diapers, radios etc. 2 additional logistics staff will also be deployed to accompany the vessel.

The Turkish Red Crescent team is working in coordination with the Libyan Red Crescent teams to help relieve the suffering of the affected populations.

