



Libya Storm Daniel & Flooding

Situation Report #1

14 September 2023

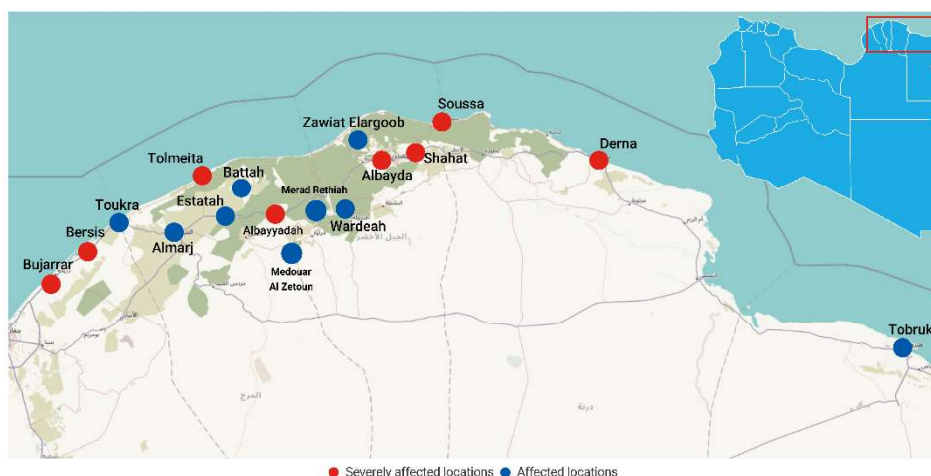


Libyan Red Crescent Society team supporting search and rescue operations at Derna
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SITUATION OVERVIEW

After making landfall in Libya on Sunday, 10 September 2023, the Mediterranean Storm Daniel, with fierce winds and sudden heavy rain, caused flash flooding in several north-east areas of the country, including Al-Jabal Alakhdar, Derna, Al-Bayada, Almarj, Shahat, Soussa and Benghazi to a lesser extent.

Based on initial assessments, Derna, Shahat, and Al-Bayada are among the most affected locations as Storm Daniel caused two dams to burst and waves of water to inundate populated areas. Destroyed and flooded roads are severely hampering search and rescue efforts and limiting access for humanitarian partners to deliver assistance. Bridges over the Derna River, which connect the east and western parts of the city, have collapsed.



Storm Daniel also caused significant critical infrastructure damage, particularly roads and bridges, disruptions to the telecommunications network and electricity grid across north-eastern Libya, severely hampering access, and relief operations. Preliminary information shows that at least 2180 buildings have been significantly damaged or destroyed by rushing floodwater.

Derna city is the most devastated among affected cities. Access to Derna was highly challenging during the first few hours of the crisis, as one point of entry from the side of Tobruk existed, two additional access points were established, and two field operations rooms formed, one at upper Derna and another at Alsahel Bab Tobruk part of the city, the entirety of latter part of the city suffer complete electricity outage, medical and field teams are relying on generators, severe fuel shortages is another issue. DTM estimates 30000 IDPs from Derna alone; among them, around 500 families are in registered shelters: Medical college, Alamal school, and Al-Intefada school; reportedly, a small number of children staying in mentioned shelters are separated from their families.

Official government spokespersons and the Libyan Red Crescent Society (LRCS) on the ground are reporting significant casualties, with over 6,000 confirmed deaths and nearly 10,000 people remain missing. There are reports of increasing numbers of children being separated and unaccompanied. However, the lack of accurate and reliable data across the affected regions and the challenging access due to collapsed dams and destroyed inner-city bridges remains a great concern.

Current estimates of IOM-DTM suggest up to 35,000 people have been displaced from all affected eastern locations after their homes were either flooded or completely collapsed. Many of these individuals have already been displaced multiple times due to conflict. Many internally displaced people (IDPs) and migrants are now sheltering in schools and other public facilities in Benghazi and other affected eastern cities.

The Libyan House of Representatives has appealed for international organizations, neighboring countries, and the international community to provide urgent humanitarian assistance to eastern locations affected by the storm and subsequent flooding. Humanitarian needs are catastrophic. The extent of infrastructure damage and human losses are expected to be much higher than initial estimates in the coming hours and days.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

While assessments are ongoing, current life-saving humanitarian needs include:

- Urgent **medical aid**, including supplies and disease prevention measures, are needed. Key hospitals in Derna, Albayda, Almarj and Soussa have limited functionality. Primary healthcare facilities and medical warehouses are significantly impacted by flooding. UNICEF, in collaboration with health authorities, is currently assessing healthcare needs and gaps. Derna's rural hospital is completely out of service and a temporary field hospital has been established to meet the most urgent needs.
- Survivors require **mental health and psychosocial services** due to emotional trauma. Specialized child protection support, including family tracing for separated and unaccompanied children, is vital. This includes reaching out also to those with special needs (people with disability, elderly, children, pregnant women).
- **Clean water, sanitation and hygiene promotion** are critical to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases and ensure the well-being of the affected population. Storm damage to WASH infrastructure and electricity outages have significantly impacted regular water supplies. Any large-scale contamination of water resources will pose a significant secondary public health risk. IDP families who are staying in

temporary structures have limited access to WASH facilities and public WASH infrastructure requires urgent rehabilitation.

- Uninhabitable storm-damaged homes have forced affected populations into makeshift shelters, schools, hotels or into over-crowded houses with relatives. Many lack electricity and water. Urgent ***provision of temporary shelter and basic non-food items*** is required.
- As the full extent of Storm Daniel's damage continues to unfold, longer-term and emerging needs will most likely include ***restoring basic health, water, education and child protection services and infrastructure***. At least three secondary level rural hospitals, ten Primary Health Care Facilities and seven primary schools will require significant rehabilitation work. The number of facilities in need for urgent restoration is expected to rise.
- Inter-agency rapid needs assessments are currently being coordinated with significant participation of UNICEF. The intent of the initial assessment is to issue a UN Flash Appeal, covering the first month of the emergency response, in the coming days.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

The Libyan Red Crescent Society (LRCS), UNICEF's main emergency response partner, is leading the humanitarian response in affected eastern cities. LRCS is providing assistance to displaced families, establishing safe pathways to evacuate vulnerable people from flooded locations and collapsed building, providing first aid, and assisting search and rescue operations led by government agencies and the Libyan National Army (LNA). The LRCS along with LibAid and other local volunteers are also assisting with overall coordination and communication, providing crucial life-saving assistance.

The UN country team has started mobilizing supplies and resources in eastern Libya and providing technical support to the government. An emergency response team to assist in the humanitarian response has been established by the UN RC to support local authorities and partners on the ground and the Rapid Response Mechanism activated.

Supplies mobilized include health supplies, food parcels, NFIs, and hygiene and dignity kits. Human resource support includes mobile health teams, protection and teams distributing critical supplies. Given the dire and deteriorating humanitarian situation, major funding gaps exist. Additional financial resources, supplies and human resources are urgently required to support relief efforts during this acute phase of the crisis.

The Government of National Stability (GNS) and the LNA have established a Crisis Cell with the LRCS, Libyan Humanitarian Relief Agency (LIBAID), civil protection agencies and relevant ministries. LNA and LRCS oversee operations. The Crisis Cell has initiated deployment of human resources and supplies to storm-affected areas in the east.

Simultaneously, under the Government of National Unity (GNU) Prime Minister's directive, an Emergency Committee has been formed in the western region and deployed fire extinguishing vehicles, trucks, ambulances, supplies and rescue teams to storm and flood affected areas and temporary shelters are being established to provide temporary housing for the displaced communities and affected populations.

UNICEF RESPONSE

UNICEF is coordinating closely with the LRCS, the Crises Cell and Emergency Committee in the east and west of Libya, respectively. UNICEF is also in close coordination with international cooperation offices at line ministries. UNICEF and other UN agencies have activated the joint Rapid Response Mechanism.

With support from UNICEF, LRCS is providing humanitarian assistance in Derna and most storm and flood affected areas. Based on initial, rapid needs assessments undertaken by LRCS, UNICEF has started to mobilizing core relief items including:

- Essential medical supplies: Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHKs) that can cover the essential health needs of up to 10,000 individuals for 3 months
- Individual Hygiene Kits for children, women, and men (1,100)
- Winter clothing (500 sets) for children up to 16 years.

Due to high risk of water related public health hazards that can emerge from water contamination, and supported by UNICEF, the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) promptly dispatched 32,000 chlorine water purification tablets and is assisting to ensure safe drinking water for the affected population.

Supported by UNICEF and utilizing prepositioned MR vaccines and vitamin A at the NCDC, a measles vaccination campaign is in the preparation phase. This campaign will target approximately 12,000 displaced children aged 1 to 6 years. This initiative aims to provide crucial immunization and nutritional assistance to this vulnerable group.

UNICEF commenced an emergency procurement of around 50 tons of essential and lifesaving and core relief supplies that will be received and dispatched to support relief efforts in the field within the first few days of crisis.

Funding Status:

As the extent of the damage caused by storm Daniel becomes clearer, more significant needs relating to the destruction of basic health, water, education, and child protection infrastructure can be expected to emerge. UNICEF's initial response requires **\$6.5 million** to reach children with emergency services and supplies. To ensure the rapid deployment of emergency support to affected areas, UNICEF has mobilized US\$ 300,000 as initial institutional funding.

Description / Sector	Target Beneficiaries	Estimated Budget*
Health and nutrition	250,000 people including 75,000 children	US\$ 1,500,000
WASH	250,000 people including 75,000 children	US\$ 1,800,000
Child Protection	75,000 children	US\$ 950,000
Education	75,000 children	US\$ 750,000
Multi-purpose cash assistance	45,000 including 13,500 children	US\$ 1,500,000
TOTAL		US\$ 6,500,000

**Figures include technical assistance and programme staff, operational costs, and implementing partners.*