

UNHCR Libya Flash Update #1

14 September 2023



Trucks carrying UNHCR aid to thousands displaced by floods, Libya. © UNHCR/Ziyad Alhamadi

SITUATION UPDATE

On 9-11 September, Storm Daniel – a tropical-like cyclone known as a medicane – hit eastern Libya. Severe weather conditions including strong winds, sudden heavy rainfall and widespread floods have affected several areas along the coast.

As local authorities and different actors are currently assessing the impact, the scale of devastation is still not fully assessed and humanitarian needs are mounting on the ground. Damage to roads, telecommunication networks and other communal infrastructure is complicating rescue and relief efforts.

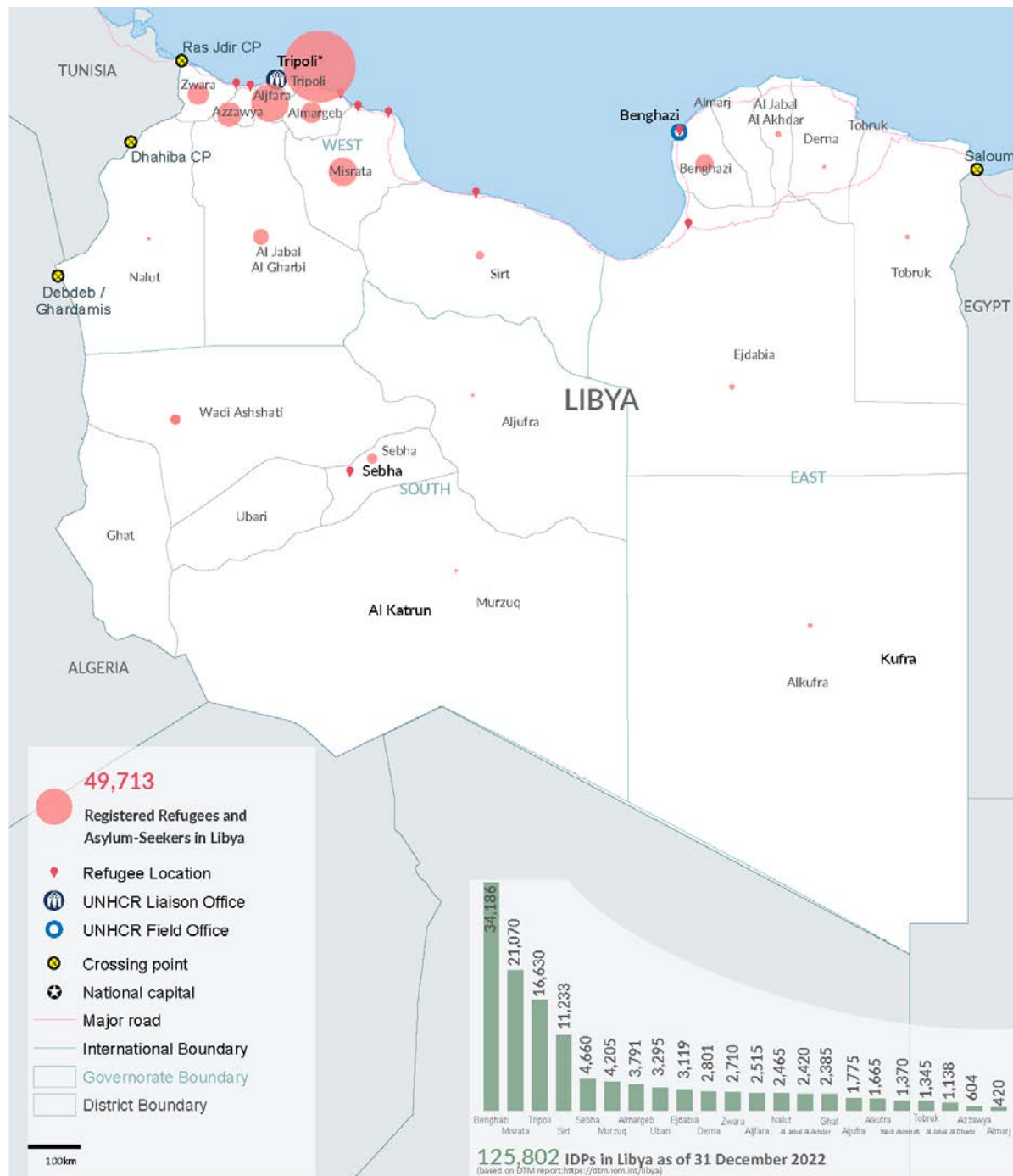
According to media reports, more than 5,000 deaths have been recorded and at least 10,000 people are missing. Among the worst affected is the city of Derna, where burst dams led to mud slides and washed away homes, hospitals and other infrastructure. Benghazi and most of the cities in the eastern part of Libya have imposed curfews and suspended school.

AFFECTED POPULATION

Some [50,000 refugees and asylum-seekers](#) are registered with UNHCR in Libya, including more than 1,000 who live in eastern Libya. However, UNHCR is aware of larger numbers of forcibly displaced people from Sudan and Syria who were not registered with UNHCR living in the affected areas.

In addition, some 46,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were hosted in eastern Libya before the storm and floods, the majority in Benghazi (IOM, [Displacement and Solutions Report, August 2023](#)). In the worst affected areas, some 2,800 IDPs lived in Derna and 3,100 in Ajdabiya.

The floods have caused mass displacement, including an estimated 30,000 people in Derna and 3,000 people in Ajdabiya alone.



UNHCR EMERGENCY RESPONSE

UNHCR is assisting refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs and people newly displaced by the storm and floods. UNHCR is in contact with asylum-seekers and refugees affected by the storm and was able to reach 250 people on 14 September who are in need of multi-sectoral assistance, including core relief items (CRIs) and mental health and psycho-social support (MHPSS).



Protection

- UNHCR is expanding its hotline to increase communication with communities through a dedicated storm response, including referral mechanism, and reinforcing its team in Benghazi to reach out to refugees, asylum-seekers and displaced people.
- Psychosocial support will be provided for affected populations. Community-based care arrangements will be established for children without family care as a matter of priority.



Shelter and basic needs

- UNHCR distributed today core relief items to 1,200 persons displaced by the floods in Derna. Items included blankets, plastic tarpaulins, kitchen sets, hygiene kits and clothes.
- UNHCR dispatched yesterday (13 September) CRIs from Tripoli to Benghazi to respond to the urgent needs of 5,000 people.
- Cash assistance will be provided if local banking systems allow.
- Small-scale shelter packages will be provided for people in affected areas hit by the floods.



Health

- UNHCR will provide medical supplies and equipment to support primary health care clinics and outreach teams.

COORDINATION

UNHCR is working closely with national and international partners to respond to the situation as part of a joint UN response. Together with its national partner LibAid, UNHCR is assessing the humanitarian needs on the ground to inform its response and enforcing relief coordination efforts.

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FLASH APPEAL

2023 Libya Flood Response

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