

UNHCR Libya Flash Update #4

26 September 2023



UNHCR distributes core relief items and hygiene kits in Al Marj on 24 September.
Photo: © UNHCR/Ziyad Alhamadi

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

- Storm Daniel and flood waters have ravaged eastern Libya and an estimated 40,000-plus are people newly-displaced while the death toll continues to rise.
- UNHCR is working to address immediate needs and has been on the ground to distribute core relief items and hygiene kits to affected people; over 18,000 people in Derna, Benghazi, Ajdabiya, Takness, Guandoola, Al Hania, Al Hamama, Al Kharooba, Al Marj and Al Wardia have received relief items to date. Longer-term assistance will also be essential, notably for psychological support.
- Onward displacement of flood-affected families to western areas of Libya has been observed. To help better determine needs and target its assistance, UNHCR is liaising with its partner LibAid to receive the latest lists of flood-affected displaced families reaching Tripoli and western areas. Twelve families from Derna arrived in Azzawya city, some 70 kilometres west of Tripoli, marking the first known IDPs seeking refuge in this area. Additional displaced families have recently arrived in Tripoli at the Regatta Village Resort, where families displaced from Derna have already concentrated. So far, some 50 families are estimated to be residing in this area.

AFFECTED POPULATION

The death toll has surpassed 4,000 people and thousands remain missing, according to WHO information. The floods have also caused mass displacement of an estimated 40,000 people, including 30,000 people in Derna and 3,000 people in Ajdabiya.

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. Among the deaths are at least 150 Sudanese and 23 Palestinians.

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

UNHCR EMERGENCY RESPONSE

UNHCR has been present in Benghazi since 2014 and has established partnerships with several national and international organizations. UNHCR is scaling up its response and capacity in eastern Libya to assist refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs and people newly-displaced by the storm and floods. Efforts to expand UNHCR's capacity to respond to flood-affected families are underway, including renting warehouses to stock relief items essential for humanitarian assistance.



Shelter and core relief items

- UNHCR is distributing core relief items and hygiene kits, with over 18,000 people assisted to date in ten affected areas, including 6,000 people in Derna. Planning is underway to transport further relief items for over 16,600 people by road and air, with plans for a second airlift in the coming week.



Health

- Two generators and rub halls arrived to Benghazi on 23 September. The items were handed over to the Ministry of Health to support in the response for flood-affected people. Medicines for up to 10,000 people arrived in Benghazi on 21 September. The items are planned to be handed over for assistance to individuals in Derna.

COORDINATION

UNHCR is working closely with national and international partners to respond to the situation as part of a broader UN response and leads the UN coordination for Protection and Shelter/NFI. The first inter-agency protection and Shelter/NFI meetings were convened on 19 September.

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FLASH APPEAL

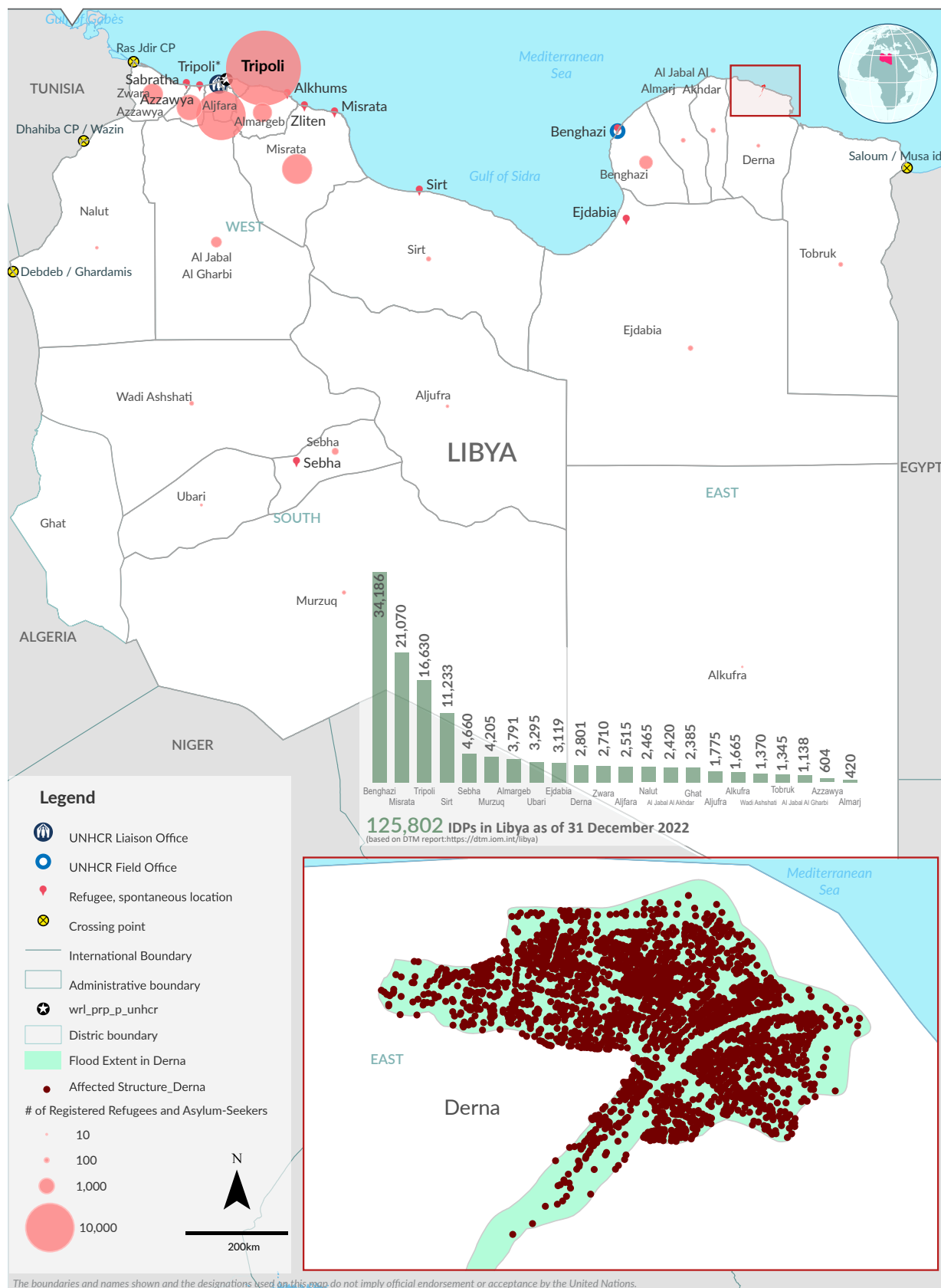
2023 Libya Flood Response

BACKGROUND

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.

Search and rescue operations as well as humanitarian needs assessments are ongoing and the full impact and scale of the devastation is still being determined; more than 4,000 deaths and 10,000 missing are reported as entire neighbourhoods have been destroyed. Damage to roads, telecommunication networks and other communal infrastructure is complicating rescue and relief efforts.

OCHA [reports](#) that floodwaters have shifted landmines and other ordnance left over from years of conflict. IRC has [warned](#) of a public health crisis in flood-affected parts of Libya, particularly in Derna, as water sources have been severely contaminated by sewage, leaving thousands without access to clean and safe drinking water.



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