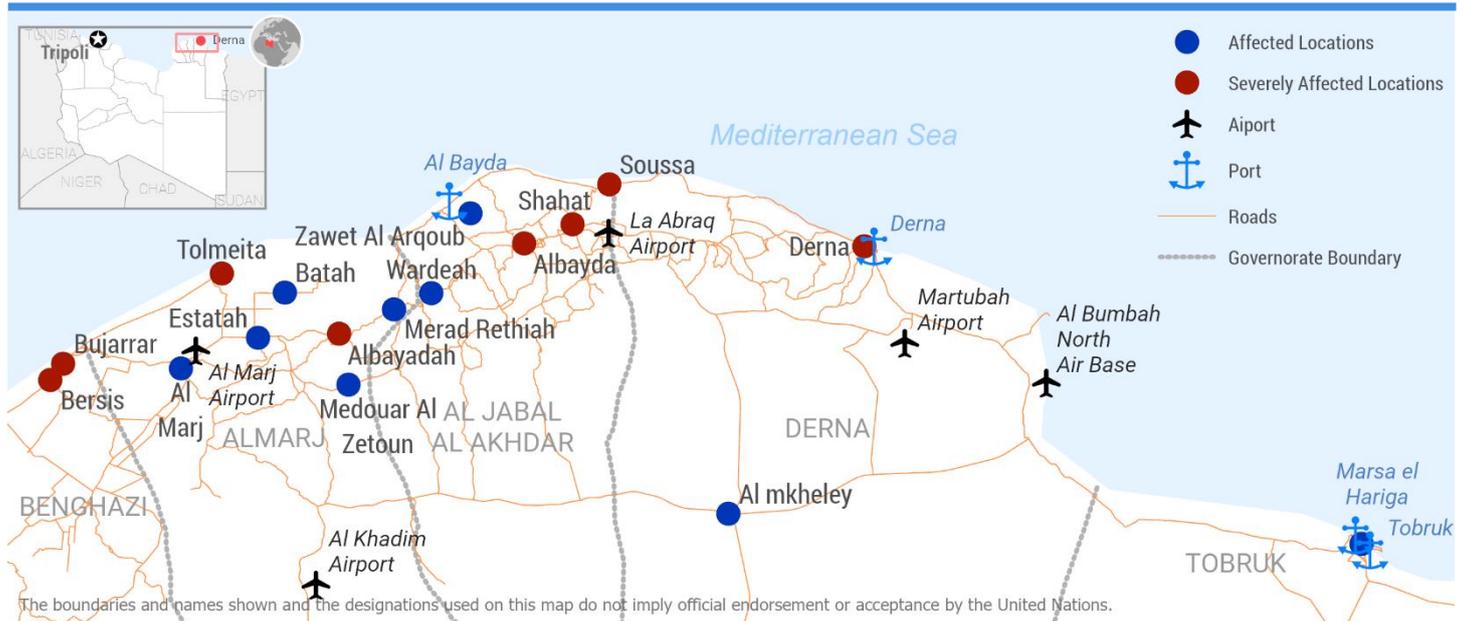


Libya: Flood update

Flash Update No. 5

19 September 2023 (as of 4pm local time)



Areas affected by Storm Daniel (IOM)

Highlights

- Ten days following Storm Daniel which caused the deaths of almost 4,000 people according to WHO, IOM reported that 406 migrants, including 250 Egyptian and 150 Sudanese nationals were among the deceased and an additional 6 Bangladeshi nationals were reported missing.
- There have been 150 reported cases of illness due to water contamination and Derna has recorded at least 55 children who have become sick as a result of contaminated water.
- Teams from nine UN agencies have been on the ground delivering life-saving assistance in the most affected areas despite access challenges.
- More pledges and in-kind assistance have been announced including from Canada, France, the United States, Turkey and ECHO.

Situation overview

Ten days have passed since Storm Daniel battered the northeastern coastal areas of the country on 10 September. The storm resulted in widespread floods that washed away entire neighbourhoods and wrecked homes in several coastal towns. The catastrophic consequences for the affected people and infrastructure are unprecedented.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has [confirmed](#) 3,958 fatalities as of 16 September. Among these, were 406 migrants, including 250 Egyptian and 150 Sudanese nationals and an additional 6 Bangladeshi nationals were reported missing according to International Organization for Migration (IOM). Despite the slim chances of finding survivors, the search-and-rescue operations are ongoing along with the recovery of dead bodies. There are several reported casualties among humanitarians.

The latest displacement figures indicate that 40,000 people have been displaced in the northeast of the country, according to [IOM](#), including 30,000 in Derna. Schools have been repurposed as temporary shelters for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the affected areas.

On 18 September, the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Libya, Georgette Gagnon, [briefed](#) the media in New York virtually from Tripoli on the humanitarian situation in the affected areas. She also briefed on her recent visit to Derna with Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) Abdoulaye Bathily and representatives of UN agencies in Libya.

Destroyed bridges and blocked roads have severely disrupted local food supply chains, hampering access to markets and causing food shortages. Lack of updated reliable data on the impact of the floods due to access challenges is delaying much-needed relief efforts, according to the World Food Programme ([WFP](#)).

Concerns about a potential health crisis are growing as a significant number of dead bodies remain under the rubble. With the severe damage to water sources and sewer networks, concerns are mounting about the spread of waterborne diseases. A total of 150 reported cases of illness due to water contamination have been reported, according to the Director General of the National Centre for Disease Control. Derna has already recorded at least 55 cases of children falling ill as a result of contaminated water, according to the International Rescue Committee ([IRC](#)). Additionally, as Libya is entering its rainy season with the risk of disease outbreaks heightened, according to International Medical Corps ([IMC](#)).

Due to the substantial impact on [healthcare](#) infrastructure, there is an urgent need for immediate emergency medical assistance and body bags for burials. In Derna, there are four functional primary healthcare centres and one working hospital, where medical supplies, equipment and medication, as well as medical personnel, are needed.

Due to the distress and grief of victims of the flood, mental health and psychosocial support (MPHSS) is required to help survivors cope with the profound emotional trauma. Recognizing the significant psychological impact of this disaster, particularly on children, and providing psychosocial support remains a top priority in the response efforts.

Humanitarian Needs and Response

National humanitarian partners have been on the ground since the onset of the crisis, as were local communities and groups. Teams from nine UN agencies have been on the ground delivering life-saving [assistance](#) in the most affected areas despite access challenges.

In the past few days, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) teams have delivered emergency medical kits and primary care services to support 15,000 people for three months. The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) is distributing blankets, plastic tarpaulin and kitchen equipment to 6,200 displaced families in Derna and Benghazi. [WFP](#) is ramping up its emergency response, in partnership with LibAid, reaching over 9,000 affected people with food assistance. This includes dry rations (rice, pasta, wheat flour, beans, sugar, tomato paste and fortified vegetable oil) to cover their food needs for 15 days.

Since 13 September, IOM has delivered non-food items to IDPs and migrants in key locations, including Gaser Libya, Wardeya, Tulmitha and Toukra. In total, nearly 3,000 people are targeted by this intervention. A large IOM warehouse was established in Benghazi for inter-agency use. The agency also delivered medicines and supplies for 5,000 people in Derna and 4,000 families in Benghazi. A team of 6 medical doctors, nurses and psychiatrists from Tripoli and Benghazi is mobilized for the storm response in Soussa and Benghazi.

On 15 September, IOM also delivered key material, including surgical masks, blankets, dead body bags, protective suits among others to support search-and-rescue activities. In response to MHPSS needs, IOM mobilized eight MHPSS teams to travel to flood affected areas for assessment and support the humanitarian response.

International Medical Corps ([IMC](#)) deployed a medical team to a primary healthcare clinic (PHC) in the west side of Derna— an area that has a large population and was critically affected by the flood— and started services.

The [IRC](#) is working in close coordination with local authorities, other humanitarian organizations, and community leaders to address the pressing health and protection needs in the flood-affected areas including health and protection services and distribution of basic household items.

Together with the German armed forces, [THW](#) agency transported approximately 30 tons of relief supplies, including 100 tents with lighting, 1,000 camp beds, 1,000 blankets, 1,000 sleeping mats, 1,000 water filters and 80 power generators. The destination of these supplies is La Abraaq in the eastern Libyan municipality of Al-Baida.

Member States continue to respond through pledges and in-kind aid. [France](#) set up a field hospital in Derna that can accommodate 100 patients per day. France stated it will also allocate €4 million to the UN for emergency aid and reconstruction in Libya.

On 18 September, U.S. Agency for International Development ([USAID](#)) announced providing \$11 million in additional humanitarian assistance to the people of Libya affected by devastating flooding. This additional funding follows an initial \$1 million in USAID humanitarian assistance provided to meet immediate needs in the wake of the disaster.

The Government of [Canada](#) has also pledged \$5 million in humanitarian aid to Libya. The aid is to help humanitarian partners deliver immediate life-saving assistance, including emergency health, water, sanitation and hygiene, as well as shelter and non-food items, in the areas of northeastern Libya affected by the flooding.

Moreover, [Turkey](#) sent clean drinking water and five thousand food packets through Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) .

Following the activation of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism on 12 September, eight [EU](#) Member States have offered assistance consisting of an emergency medical team, search-and-rescue teams and equipment, heavy machinery, technical expertise and in-kind assistance (shelter, food and non-food items, power generators).