STORM DANIEL - FLOODING EASTERN LIBYA

22 SEPTEMBER 2023



Ten days following Storm Daniel in Libya, which caused severe weather conditions and catastrophic flooding in northeastern parts of the country, nearly 4,000 people are reported dead according to WHO and more than 10,000 people are missing according to the Libyan Red Crescent. Despite the slim chance of finding survivors, search and rescue operations are still ongoing. A significant number of dead bodies is still in the streets and under the rubble, increasing the risks of water contamination.

Since IOM's Flood Update #2, the following evolutions are worth noting:

- The Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates has confirmed that the number of Palestinian victims of Storm Daniel, which hit the eastern region of Libya reached 23, in addition to dozens of missing families. Overall, 429 migrants (Egyptians, Sudanese, Palestinians and Bangladeshis) reportedly lost their lives in the catastrophe. Many migrant workers were residing in some of the most flood-affected areas of Derna and, as such, the above-mentioned number is likely to continue to increase.
- Beyond the 150 cases previously mentioned, no additional cases of poisoning due to water contamination
 were reported by the National Centre for Disease Control. IOM continues to monitor closely the
 situation.
- Several farmers reportedly lost their livestock in the floods. Overall, nearly 3000 ha of cropland are
 potentially affected (FAO). This will likely impact the livelihoods of many migrant workers in Jebl
 Alkhdar region, who are employed in agriculture fields.
- Mental Health and Psychological Support (MHPSS) is reportedly one of the central needs of floodaffected populations due to the distress and grief of survivors. Providing such support is one of the key priorities in the response efforts.

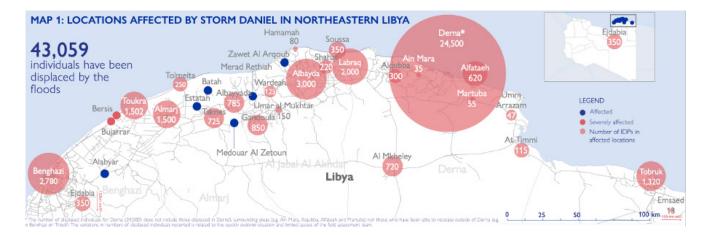
OVERVIEW OF SITUATION AND NEEDS IN FLOOD AFFECTED AREAS

As per <u>DTM Flash Update #5</u>, an estimated 43,059 individuals have been displaced by the floods in northeastern Libya. The lack of water supply is reportedly driving many displaced out of Derna to eastern and western municipalities, which explains a reduction in the overall number of displaced individuals in Derna.

Displacement within Eastern Libya

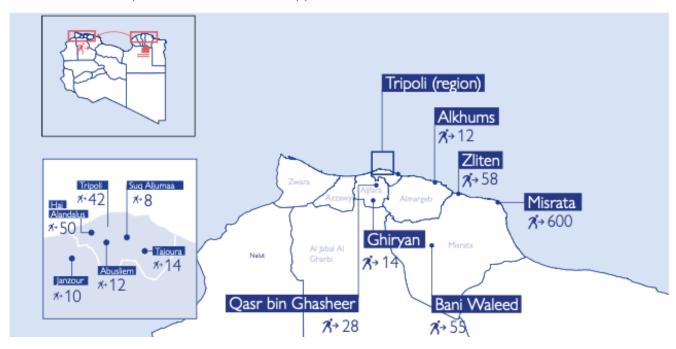
• Displaced individuals continue to move out of Derna to eastern locations including Tobruk (1,320 individuals) and Benghazi (730 individuals). Most of them are hosted by relatives.





Displacement from eastern to western Libya

- Field observers also report that individuals displaced from eastern Libya have moved to multiple locations in western Libya (Tripoli, Hai Al Andalus, Misrata, Ghiryann and Qasr Bin Ghasheer).
- Urgent needs include food, drinking water, and mental health and psychological support.
- Displaced households with school-aged children are concerned about their children's access to school and the provision of education supplies.



IOM EMERGENCY RESPONSE

IOM Libya, in coordination with local authorities, UN and partners, conducted an assessment of the situation on the ground as part of an interagency assessment team. IOM teams are on the ground in Eastern Libya and flood affected areas, with 84 national and international staff, providing multi-sector assistance in close partnership with the other UN partners and the Libyan Red Crescent. IOM established a 7500 sqm warehouse in Benghazi for inter-agency use (1000 sqm will be offered to other agencies). A smaller warehouse in affected areas (Al Bayda) is expected to be up and running tomorrow.





Displacement Tracking Matrix

• IOM Libya continuously collects information through DTM teams and is assessing the situation on the ground for a comprehensive overview on needs and gaps. To date – 5 DTM flash updates have been issued (DTM Flash Update #5).

Logistics & Supplies

- IOM is consignee (customs, storage, transport) for donor supplies flown in from UK and USA. Following the first UKAID flight that landed on 18 September, on 19 September the second one landed. This morning another USAID plane landed in Benghazi.
- IOM is exploring options for airlifting through Flexport some of the NFI stock from IOM RO Nairobi Global Stock.
- With the re-activation of Rapid Response Mechanism, WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA and IOM jointly distributed critical Food and Non-Food Items including kitchen sets, dignity kits, family food kits amongst others for 50 Households in Tolmetha day before yesterday and for 41 HHs in Sidi Khalifa yesterday. Another delivery in Toukra for 71 Households is planned.

Direct Assistance

 Since September 13th, 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 individuals were reached by this intervention.



Health

Since September 13th, IOM has provided healthcare services to 317 displaced individuals in schools in Benghazi and flood-affected areas.

On September 16th, IOM delivered medicines and supplies for 5,000 people, to enhance the capacity of the temporary hospitals established at Law Academy Shiha, in Derna.

Search and Rescue

• On September 15th, IOM Libya delivered key material (surgical masks; blankets; dead body bags; protective suits, etc.) to support Search and Rescue activities to the Libyan Red Crescent (LRC); National Safety Authorities (NSA) and General Administration for Coastal Security (GACS).

Mental Health and Psychological Support

• Since September 16th, IOM mobilized 8 MHPSS staff to travel to flood affected areas for assessment and support the humanitarian response.

Protection

- Since September 12th, IOM organized visits to 4 centers in Benghazi and 5 local schools where displaced individuals are temporarily sheltered to conduct needs assessments.
- On September 20th, IOM conducted meetings representatives from local NGOs and scout leaders to discuss response activities on the ongoing crisis.

Coordination

- IOM is working closely with national and international partners to respond to the situation as part of a joint UN response. The Rapid Response Mechanism as a coordination body was set up for the response. Among 10 Thematic working groups IOM is placed as coordinator for the Site Management pillar.
- IOM Head of Sub-Office in Benghazi has initiated Heads of Agencies daily morning briefing to create a space for UN agencies to strengthen coordination in the response.

FUNDRAISING

DONATE NOW: IOM has launched a public donation campaign to provide immediate emergency relief and recovery efforts: http://donate.iom.int/libya

FLASH APPEAL: IOM has contributed to the UNOCHA coordinated 2023 Flood Response.



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