



2024

Mission Overview

MISSION OVERVIEW



IOM has been operating in Libya since 2006 and continues to maintain a strong presence in the country. Working in close cooperation with the Government of Libya, IOM has reached thousands of displaced and conflict-affected Libyans and migrants in need through the provision of vital humanitarian and development assistance. As an active member of the United Nations Country Team, IOM in Libya has established a UN Network on Migration and is leading the Collective Outcome on Migration Management of the UN Sustainable Development and Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) for 2023 – 2025.

IOM Libya continues to maintain a strong presence in the country, with 686 staff working from one office in Tunis, two offices in Tripoli, one sub-office in Benghazi and field offices in Ghat, Gatroun, Ejdabia, Zwara, Bani Waleed and Sebha; as well as projects implemented in the south, east and west of Libya.








IOM LIBYA'S ACTIVITIES ARE SUPPORTED BY

IOM LIBYA ACTIVITIES REACH

-  PROTECTION
-  IBG/SAR/TECHNICAL COOPERATION
-  VOLUNTARY HUMANITARIAN RETURN
-  COMMUNITY STABILIZATION
-  LABOUR MOBILITY & SOCIAL INCLUSION (LMI)
-  HEALTH ASSISTANCE
-  HUMANITARIAN DIRECT ASSISTANCE
-  DTM
-  MRRM
-  MHPSS

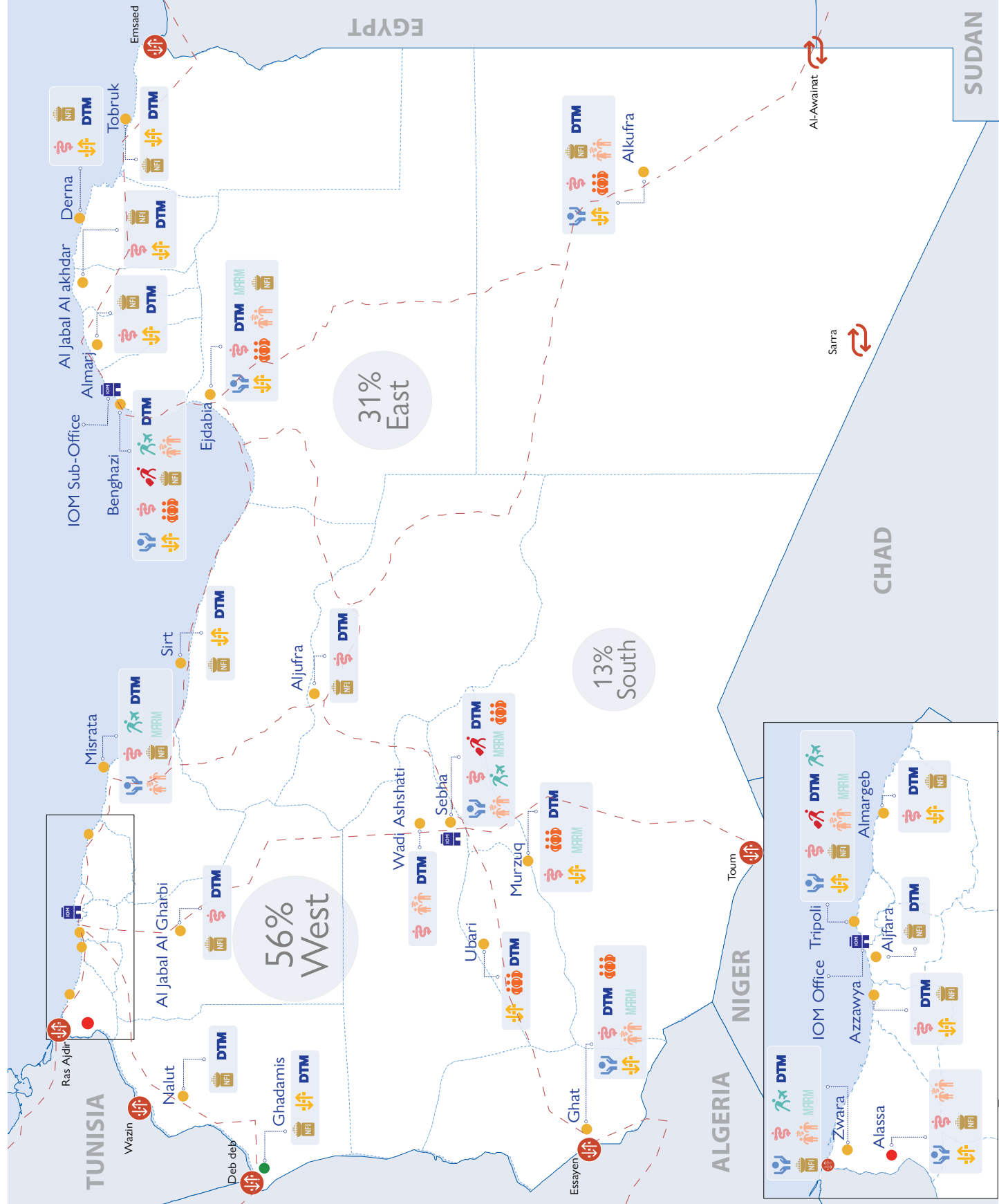
BORDER CROSSING POINTS

-  OFFICIAL BORDER CROSSING POINT
-  UNOFFICIAL BORDER CROSSING POINT

-  Mantika (District)
-  Baladiya (Municipality)
-  Muhiyalla (Town)
-  Migrants Percentage

STAFF KEY FIGURES

 **686** STAFF



MIGRATION CONTEXT AND TRENDS

Libya has been a destination country for migrants since the 1970s. After a peak of labour migration in the 1990s and an economic downturn due to international sanctions in the 2000s, Libya has increasingly become a transit country for migrants hoping to reach Europe.

Libya has faced political and security instability since 2011. The **power vacuum and absence of effective governance** allowed the establishment of influential militias and armed groups who compete over resources, including through illicit activities such as people smuggling and human trafficking. As irregular migration is considered a criminal offence in Libya, migrants face many challenges, including arbitrary detention. Moreover, there is no legislative framework for asylum in Libya as the refugee convention is not recognised.

As of January 2024, there were more than **706,000 migrants** in Libya, the highest numbers recorded since DTM started operating in Libya in 2016. Around eight in ten (78%) were men, 11 per cent were women, and 11 per cent were children (among whom 4% were unaccompanied). The main nationalities were Niger, Egypt, Sudan, Chad and Nigeria, which remain similar for each round of data collection.

The Central Mediterranean Route (CMR) remains the **deadliest known migration route in the world**. The number of deaths and disappearances on the CMR has increased in 2023 compared to the previous five years and stood at 2,498 — a 76 per cent increase compared to 2022. In 2023, a total of 157,652 individuals arrived in Italy from Tunisia (62%), Libya (33%) and Türkiye (5%).










In 2023, the **instability at the borders** with neighbouring countries impacted migration to and from Libya, and further exacerbated risks and vulnerabilities inside Libya.

As of August 2023, **125,802 individuals** are identified as internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 705,426 are identified as returnees (previously displaced persons returned to their locations of origin). From the total displacement stock figure, 75,643 IDPs as well as 616,832 returnees are identified as being on solutions pathways. If the overall security situation remains stable and further improvements are made in the conditions faced by displaced people, it is likely that an increasing number of those displaced will be able to find solutions to their displacement. In September 2023, Storm Daniel made landfall in Northeastern Libya, leading to the displacement of **44,862 individuals**.





Figures 2019 – 2024:

	<p>125 community stabilization projects implemented in South Libya supporting approximately a total number of 200,000 beneficiaries.</p>
	<p>38,089 migrants assisted to voluntarily return from Libya to 43 countries of origin</p>
	<p>1,100,00+ migrants and travelers participated in COVID-19 related initiatives (vaccination campaigns, awareness raising and medical screenings at borders)</p>
	<p>397,405 migrants, IDPs and host community members assisted with health care services.</p>
	<p>653,745 vulnerable individuals received assistance through MRRM and Direct Assistance programmes (food, NFIs and information material through awareness raising campaigns on the dangers of irregular migration and safe alternatives)</p>
	<p>27,180 migrants supported with MHPSS services</p>
	<p>42,205 migrants benefitted from IOM protection services (case management and referrals for for vulnerable populations including survivors of gender-based violence, unaccompanied and separated children and victims of trafficking)</p>
	<p>3,429 youths interacted through the Youth Employment One Stop Shop (YESS) since 2021.</p>
	<p>1,100 law enforcement officers have been trained, through a rights based approach, to elevate their proficiency in border and migration management since 2022.</p>

MISSION PROGRAMMATIC STRATEGY



IOM Libya's strategic principles for 2021 - 2024 are aligned with national responsibilities and priorities that call for assistance, stemming from international and national frameworks, and reflect the IOM global pillars of Governance, Resilience and Mobility:

1/ IOM aims to strengthen the capacity of the Government of Libya to manage migration and displacement challenges in a structured, coherent, predictable and humane manner, that leads to the reduction of vulnerabilities of migrants and host communities.

2/ Communities in Libya – including migrants, IDPs and host communities that have been affected by crises (natural, conflict) – are supported to build their resilience to shocks so that they are better able to withstand the effects of hostile environments, respond to the effects of crisis and have improved protection outcomes and greater access to life-saving assistance.

3/ IOM provides technical expertise for the development of efficient, rights-based and safe solutions to operational migration challenges including through labour migration and border management support.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES

Protection, representation and inclusion of all social groups is ensured throughout all programming. Conflict sensitivity concerns are incorporated, and the Do No Harm principle guides IOM's interventions. IOM uses the Institutional Framework for Addressing GBV in Crises to guide actions around risk mitigation and utilizes various participatory approaches to warrant inclusive representation.

Accountability to Affected Populations is a core IOM consideration. In Libya, a Common Feedback Mechanism (CFM) was established in 2019 to collect feedback directly from affected populations, enable beneficiaries to voice their thoughts and views, better understand the needs on the ground, and take more informed programming decisions. Needs and priorities are then circulated to response partners through agreed feedback pathways, which include guidance on response time to ensure feedback loop closure, document programme adjustment and build trust with affected communities.

In addition to promoting the CFM, IOM also integrates strategies to promote accountability to affected populations through its programmes and monitoring and evaluation activities. Regular focus group discussions, post-distribution and post-activity surveys, and internal IOM hotlines also provide opportunities for those who interact with IOM to provide feedback and, where necessary, file complaints.

In line with the above AAP efforts, IOM Libya is committed to Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Harassment (PSEAH) as an important cross-cutting issue. This is achieved through: trainings and awareness raising for all staff; safe recruitment practices including reference checking and the use of Clear Check; accessible reporting channels; and participation in the inter-agency PSEA Working Group. Additionally, IOM Libya has commissioned a consultant to review its programmes and activities in order to develop a risk mitigation strategy – to be completed by June 2024.

STRATEGY AND COORDINATION

Following an improved humanitarian situation in Libya and extensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders, the United Nations in Libya launched the **UN Sustainable Development and Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF)** for 2023 – 2025 in December 2022. The UNSDCF reflects a transition from humanitarian to more development-focused programmes. While durable solutions will be prioritized as the way forward, humanitarian needs persist, disproportionately impacting vulnerable groups, as can be demonstrated by Storm Daniel and the situations at the borders. Therefore, IOM will continue to provide humanitarian assistance and support for migrants, IDPs, and returnees, while contributing to improved migration management and durable solutions in Libya, in line with the **Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus**.

IOM in Libya has established a **UN Network on Migration** to ensure coordinated UN system-wide support to the Government of Libya in the implementation of effective migration strategies that promote the well-being and protection of migrants while also contributing to Libya's stability, development, and economic growth.

Additionally, IOM, together with UNHCR, is leading **Collective Outcome 2 (CO2) on Migration Management** of the Libya UNSDCF for 2023 - 2025. The CO2 brings together all actors (UN, donors, Government, INGOs) working on migration management to coordinate response, advocacy messages and find solutions to emergencies.

Under the CO2, IOM launched in 2023 and is also co-chairing the **Working Group for the Coordination of Lifesaving Assistance to Migrants and Refugees in Official Detention Centres in Libya** with UNHCR, to coordinate DC interventions as per the principled framework. Additionally, IOM co-chairs, together with UNICEF and WFP, the UNSDCF Pillar 3 on Social and Human Capital working group, and also co-chairs the M&E working group with UNICEF.

IOM is also a member of the **Inter-agency Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM)**, comprised of UN agencies, donors and INGOs, which aims to build upon available capacities and **streamline emergency humanitarian assistance provision**. IOM has been coordinating its Storm Daniel emergency response with UN and NGO partners through RRM, where IOM coordinates the site management sector. IOM also co-chairs the Shelter/NFI working group with UNHCR, co-chairs the logistics working group with WFP, and actively participates in multiple thematic working groups dedicated to WASH, Health, Nutrition, Food Security, Protection, and Early Recovery.

DISPLACEMENT TRACKING MATRIX (DTM) AND RESEARCH

Since 2016, DTM has continuously tracked internal displacement (IDPs and returnees) in Libya, as well as trends related to migration to, through and from Libya, with 50 round reports and datasets presenting the number of people on the move and details about their living conditions and the challenges that they face in Libya. In September 2023, when storm Daniel made landfall on northeastern Libya, for example, actors engaged in the emergency response relied on DTM Libya for displacement data. DTM Libya provided a flash update within 24 hours of the onset of the storm and published regular rapid assessments on the number of displaced individuals and their needs throughout the emergency response. The unit has published several studies on themes ranging from climate change, gender and remittances to guide and provide the evidence upon which IOM and other humanitarian and development partners can design and implement relevant activities. The unit also implements technical assistance, capacity building, and advocacy activities related to data and research in support of various Libyan government offices, other UN agencies, and NGOs (national and international).



PROTECTION

The protection crisis in Libya continues to disproportionately affect the most vulnerable people, and severe human rights violations continue to be perpetrated with impunity. IOM protection work in Libya is multifold and aims to improve service delivery to populations in vulnerable situations including but not limited to survivors of gender-based violence, unaccompanied and separated children and victims of trafficking; implement community based protection programming to raise awareness and foster resilience; strengthen institutional mechanisms through capacity building and advocacy on topics such as counter trafficking and smuggling of migrants, child protection, access to education, and human rights; and advocate for the decriminalization of irregular migration and establishment of alternatives to detention, especially for migrants in the most vulnerable situations including but not limited to children, women and migrants with health needs.



VOLUNTARY HUMANITARIAN RETURN (VHR) AND REINTEGRATION

The IOM Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) and Reintegration programme supports migrants to voluntarily return to their countries of origin. Services under the VHR programme are designed to provide tailored assistance to migrants in Libya and upon return to their countries of origin. It provides outreach services, an information hotline, counselling and screenings; immediate direct assistance; assistance to obtain travel documents, nationality screenings and other consular services; cross-referrals with other UN agencies and local and international organizations as well as coordination with countries of origin for specialized assistance to returnees in the most vulnerable situations such as victims of trafficking, migrants with medical needs and/or unaccompanied and separated children; pre-departure health checks, departure and transportation assistance as well as arrival and reintegration assistance in countries of origin.



DIRECT ASSISTANCE (DA) AND MIGRANT RESOURCE AND RESPONSE MECHANISM (MRRM)

IOM's Direct Assistance (DA) programme provides lifesaving core relief items to affected populations with a particular focus on migrants in detention centres and at disembarkation points, as well as the most vulnerable IDPs, to restore their wellbeing, dignity and improve their living conditions in the aftermath of disasters. Assistance is delivered through IOM's MRRM and DA mobile teams that mainly operate in Tripoli, Zwara, Bani Walid, Sabha, Qatroun, Ghat, Ajdabiya, Benghazi and in additional locations inside Libya where needs arise. MRRM/DA emergency assistance operate in coordination with Shelter, Food Security and WASH Sectors and contribute to the Inter-Agency Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in Libya.

The MRRM programme brings together, under one mechanism, a wide range of services and needs-based assistance for vulnerable individuals in the host community and migrants in distress who reside in urban areas.

The MRRM in Libya was established to provide assistance such as food and non-food items, medical assistance, and referral services to IOM's various units such as protection, psychosocial support and to other partners. Migrants are also informed of the risks of irregular migration and its alternatives such as the Voluntary Humanitarian Return (VHR) programme.



LABOUR MOBILITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION (LMI)

The IOM Labour Mobility and Social Inclusion (LMI) programmes strived to contribute to capacity enhancement in labour migration governance by offering policy and technical guidance, supporting the development of strategies and administrative structures that promote efficient and transparent labour migration flows, and facilitating skill development to harness the full potential of human capital in Libya for economic development. Specifically, LMI interventions aimed at strengthening individuals and communities' resilience by reducing skills mismatch to improve livelihoods through TVET reform and private sector engagement. LMI also supported people's mobility by strengthening bilateral ties with migrants' countries of origin through regional roundtables, regional migration pathways and its legal mechanisms and skills enhancements through high-level policy engagement between relevant line-ministries and diplomatic representation of countries of origin. Finally, LMI enhanced governance by investing in national and local capacity in labour migration governance, sensitizing for legal reform of national labour migration legislation and through research and technical support on Labour Market Data Management (LMIS).



IMMIGRATION AND BORDER GOVERNANCE (IBG) AND SEARCH AND RESCUE (SAR)

Libya continues to face multiple challenges related to the management of its borders, especially in the desert area of its western and southern regions. The Immigration and Border Governance (IBG) team assists the Libyan Government in enhancing border management systems and procedures, as well as their capacities to perform Search & Rescue in the Desert (SARD) operations, while upholding human rights and facilitating human mobility. Within the IOM Border Governance portfolio, the Search & Rescue (SAR) programme works with Libyan authorities towards preventing further unnecessary and tragic deaths at sea or in the desert and has provided tailored infrastructure and specialized equipment support, and provides protection-oriented and humanitarian-based assistance to migrants upon disembarkation or following their rescue in the desert.



The IOM Migration Health programme provides health services to migrants and IDPs, such as fitness to travel screening for VHR and resettlement programmes, and through regular visits to priority locations by mobile health teams. In addition to providing primary health care services and referrals to access lifesaving interventions and specialized care in hospitals, IOM offers health services to migrants in detention centres, at disembarkation points and in urban settings. The health programme also aims to strengthen the Libyan health system, including support for enhanced disease surveillance, tuberculosis response and multi-dimensional COVID-19 response, particularly contributing to the national vaccination campaign for migrants. The support also includes strengthening the border health systems, points of entry and migratory routes, to prepare for and respond to public health emergencies.

As part of the Migration Health portfolio, the IOM's Mental and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) programmes apply a community-based approach and aim to reduce psychosocial stressors while promoting the consideration of social and psychological factors in the provision of safety, human rights, dignity, and basic needs. MHPSS interventions also aim to foster a social environment that helps individuals, families and communities realize their potential and resources to respond to crisis and increase resilience in both individual and community level. In Libya, IOM provides capacity building on MHPSS, offers direct mental health and psychosocial services - including referrals for migrants in detention centres and at disembarkation points and support to national MHPSS coordination.



COMMUNITY STABILIZATION (CS) AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR)

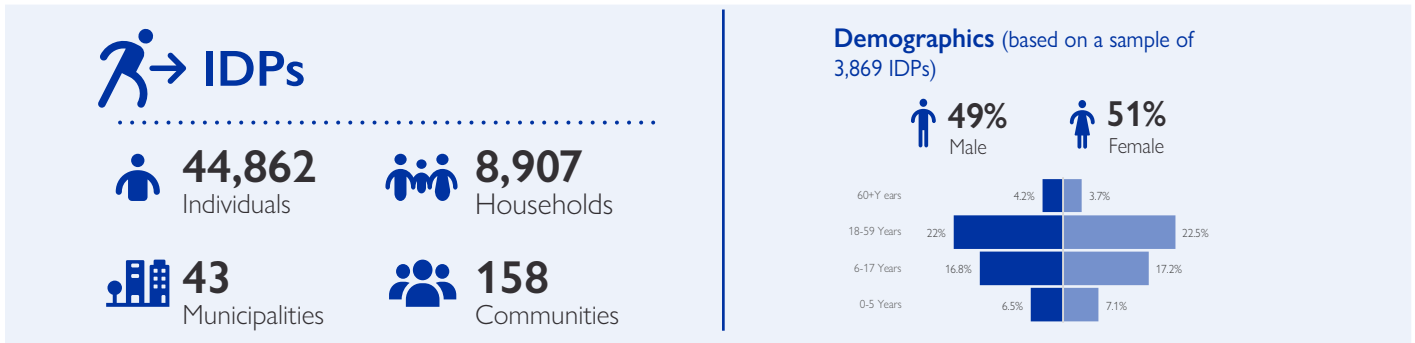
IOM's Community Stabilization (CS) programme has supported local communities along migration routes in Libya since 2016, addressing drivers of instability and vulnerability, and contributing to the restoration of normal social and economic life for Libyan communities and migrants. Using a community-led approach, the CS programme works to create critical opportunities for constructive interaction among divided and competing groups, building trust and strengthening social bonds. IOM achieves this by employing a proven participatory methodology that brings together local communities, tribal and community leaders and civil society organizations from diverse backgrounds to identify and prioritize targeted interventions that respond to community needs. Interventions include infrastructure projects to improve basic services, social cohesion and local peacebuilding initiatives, and livelihoods projects to support income-generating activities and job creation for vulnerable groups.

To facilitate economic recovery and rebuilding of the social structure in the aftermath of Storm Daniel, IOM is implementing Community Based Planning (CBP) in areas impacted by the floods and mass displacement. Community Improvement Projects (CIPs) endeavor to repair or replace critical infrastructure, such as damaged water infrastructure. Since 2021, the CS unit has also been working on Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction by contributing to strengthening the resilience of communities affected by or at risk of being affected by natural hazards, and further reinforcing the national response capacity (through structured local investments) to mitigate the impact of climate-related disasters in Libya.

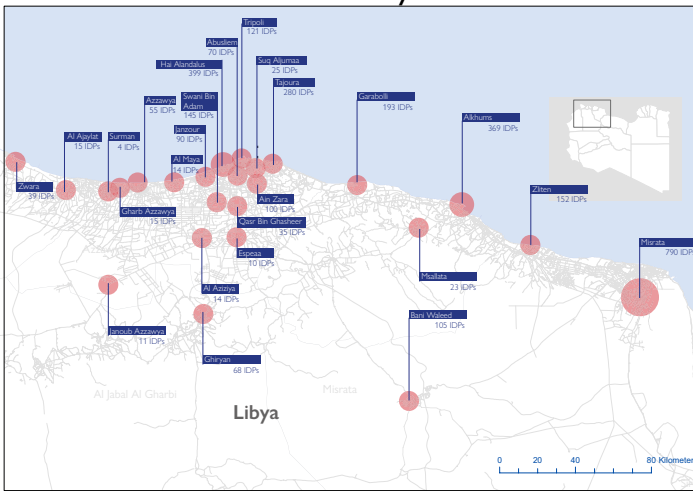


STORM DANIEL RESPONSE

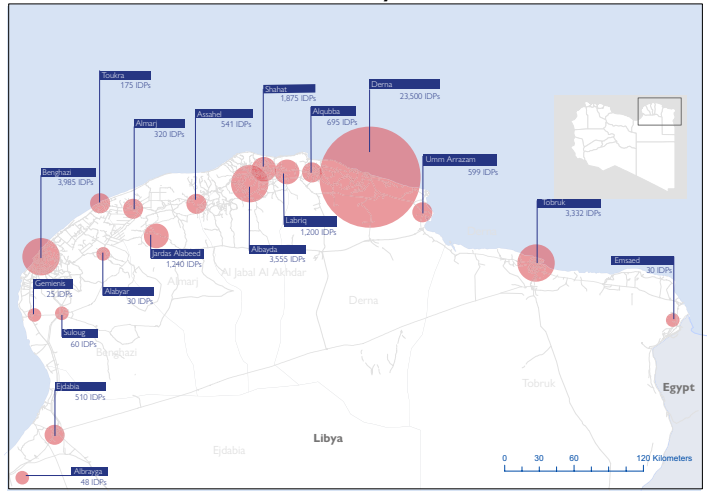
On Sunday, 10 September 2023, Storm Daniel made landfall in Libya causing severe weather conditions affecting the northeastern areas of Libya, including Benghazi, Albayda, and Derna. The storm led to the displacement of 44,862 individuals and the death of more than 4,345 individuals, as well as significant infrastructure damage.



IDP Location in Western Libya



IDP Location in Eastern Libya



All maps are for illustration purposes only. Name & boundaries on this map do not imply endorsement or acceptance by IOM.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The [IOM Flash Appeal](#) for the Storm Daniel response was launched on 22 September 2023. As of May 2024, it is 33 percent funded, allowing for the **delivery of life-saving assistance** based on the most urgent needs identified through DTM, including healthcare services, NFIs, shelter kits, and WASH services. As of May 2024, **IOM has assisted 66,000 individuals** in flood-affected areas. IOM is coordinating its response with other UN partners through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) aimed at providing life-saving assistance to people affected by conflict or disasters.

RESILIENCE, RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION

As per the 12-month USD 30 million [Resilience, Recovery and Reconstruction \(RRR\) Plan](#), IOM shifted its intervention modality to accommodate changing priorities as the disaster phase gave way to a **post-disaster setting**. While continuing to address the remaining most urgent humanitarian needs, IOM enhances affected communities' resilience and supports their recovery; contributes to reconstruction efforts; scales up and mainstreams Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) activities; strengthens Libyan authorities' disaster preparedness, prevention, and recovery capacities; and accompanies national authorities' efforts in finding long-lasting solutions to displacement. In doing so, IOM ensures **complementarity and coherence across emergency relief, development, and peacebuilding efforts** within the broader Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus.

Mission Overview

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CONTACT

Giacomo Terenzi, Head - Programme Development Support Unit

gterenzi@iom.int

IOM Libya PDSU

Cc: iomlibyaPDSU@iom.int