



Photo: Dust Storm in Benghazi, Libya © IOM Libya 2024/ Moaiad Duffani

### Brief context:

Libya is considered one of the countries least prepared to face the challenges of climate change according to the ND-Gain Index (ranking third-last out of all middle-income countries), and ranks 40 out of 191 countries as per the INFORM Risk Index.

Climate and disaster resilience remains absent from the political priorities of the country, a lack of capacity that is set to further compound existing vulnerabilities, especially in the face of disasters.

In September 2023, Storm Daniel made landfall in eastern Libya leading to thousands of deaths and tens of thousands displaced. Beyond this example, Libya has been repeatedly affected by extreme weather conditions and hazards, including floods (regularly occurring, since 2018), droughts, wildfires, earthquakes, intense heat, sandstorms, and desertification. These climatic hazards are taking place in an environment characterized by insecurity and institutional vulnerability, heightening the risk of intensifying disputes over scarce resources and undermining social cohesion.

This highlights the urgent need to develop early warning systems and to strengthen Libya's overall strategic and operational disaster risk reduction and disaster risk management capacities.

### Current approach and programming:

IOM works towards enhancing Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation capacity in Libya to contribute to strengthening the resilience of disaster-affected communities / communities at risk of displacement, while also reinforcing the national capacity to mitigate the impact of natural hazards and disasters.

IOM's DRR/CCA work in Libya comprises two pillars: 1) knowledge production and policy development; 2) community resilience and capacity strengthening.

## RESULTS ACHIEVED

### Knowledge Production and Policy Development:

- ▶ IOM [mapped](#) existing DRM frameworks and initiatives, analyzed and mapped hazards, identified risks, and assessed current resilience capacities in Libya.
- ▶ IOM [assessed](#) stability in areas of return and displacement in Libya, facilitating data-driven policymaking and informing programmatic activities.
- ▶ IOM [carried out](#) Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (VCA) in two flood-affected municipalities in Libya: Albayda and Shahhat. VCAs in Ghat and Tobruk are underway.
- ▶ IOM [assessed](#) the impact of Storm Daniel flooding on the health sector in the affected region.

- ▶ IOM is engaging policymakers, technical agencies, and civil society representatives for the development of a Disaster Risk Reduction strategy and action plan.

### Community Resilience and Capacity Strengthening:

- ▶ IOM conducted a community-based DRR consultative process aimed at gathering disaster and climate-risk information from affected communities and local authorities in cities prone to flooding to identify gaps, and review, assess and recommend potential activities that can mitigate shocks.
- ▶ Building on the DRR consultative process, IOM is developing and piloting a community mapping methodology involving intensive field-level data collection, active community involvement, and imagery to create community hazard and resource maps.
- ▶ IOM is developing Community Action Plans (CAPs) in flood-prone areas. Once developed, in-kind assistance will be provided for the implementation of community-driven climate change risk-management projects.
- ▶ IOM trained national technical focal points and first responders on Strategic and Operational Flood Response, including flood rescue training, weather forecasting and climate change adaptation, flood response equipment and techniques, practical techniques and experience-based learning.
- ▶ IOM provided flood kits to the eastern branch of the National Safety Authority (NSA), complementing the flood training. The equipment consisted of boats equipped with engines, throwlines, wading poles, safety boots, personal flotation devices, waterproof phone pouch and torches.
- ▶ IOM facilitated knowledge transfer between the National Meteorological Center (LNMC) and the Turkish State Meteorological Service (TSMS) through a dedicated study visit to Turkey for LNMC officials.
- ▶ IOM enhanced awareness among municipal authorities and community members about climate change and its impacts, fostering dialogue and knowledge-sharing to identify solutions for adaptation and resilience.
- ▶ IOM is reconstructing drainage systems and culverts to improve flood resilience. Complementing these efforts, community awareness campaigns focusing on environmental preservation, climate change impacts, and DRR strategies are being held. As part of these campaigns, IOM is promoting nature-based solutions to enhance soil stability, contributing to long-term environmental and disaster



Photo: Flood Emergency Response Training, Benghazi, Libya © IOM Libya 2024/ Moalad Duffani

### The way forward

Building on ongoing interventions and in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, IOM is addressing the mobility dimension of the crisis along two main objectives:

**S01: Enhancing disaster risk management (DRM) preparedness and response capacities of national and local authorities, improving climate analysis and planning, and proactively anticipating and mitigating risks.**

- Developing tailored trainings for national and local authorities based on identified needs related to climate analysis, forecasting, adaptation and mitigation actions.

- Strengthening capacities in preparedness procedures, risk assessments, contingency planning, mitigation strategies, and emergency response mechanisms and processes.
- Organizing disaster preparedness, weather forecasting and climate change adaptation, flood safety and rescue trainings for local stakeholders (technical agencies, service providers and first responders).
- Building the capacity of local first responders, including the civil defence and national safety authorities, Libyan Red Crescent (LRC), Libyan scouts, and local CSOs to enable them to play an active role in disaster preparedness and response.
- Developing a community-centered anticipatory framework in Ghat and Shahhat (two flood-prone cities in southern and eastern Libya) to further advance monitoring, capacity-building, and preparedness efforts.
- Continuing to advance and advocate for a DRR legislative framework in collaboration with other agencies and national stakeholders.

**S02: Raising community awareness on climate change and its impact and planning strategies for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and disaster risk management (DRM), to ultimately develop comprehensive approaches for sustainable and durable solutions**

- Conducting the Solutions and Mobility Index (SMI) analysis annually alongside detailed, location-specific assessments to monitor and evaluate conditions in each municipality, enabling data-driven decision-making for tailored interventions.
- Producing robust data for quantifying, qualifying, and analyzing displacement in the context of climate change and disaster, and advocating for the integration of IOM's data into national reporting mechanisms, providing critical evidence on the impacts of displacement.
- Producing hazard mapping updates on a regular basis using advanced GIS tools and participatory approaches.
- Leveraging data and technology including Early Warning System (EWS), to inform evidence-based policies and interventions.
- Collaborating with national and local governments, civil society organizations, and international partners to address the complex challenges of displacement in the disaster-conflict nexus.
- Conducting community vulnerability and capacity assessments, with a participatory and inclusive process, to better understand main hazards, exposure, vulnerabilities and coping capacity.
- Developing community action plans with the aim of mitigating hazard impact and/or improving adaptation to climate change scenarios, ultimately enhancing resilience to shocks and improving livelihoods:
  1. Construction of community infrastructure (drainages, sustainable and durable housing and different structures) with appropriate quality and standards (Building Back Better [BBB] principle).
  2. Construction of water facilities that reduce vulnerability to climate change.
  3. Implementation of livelihood diversification measures, including through the introduction of climate smart agriculture.
  4. Rehabilitation or construction of sanitation facilities that reduce the risk of contamination during disasters.
  5. Ecosystem restoration and nature-based solutions.
- Organizing community awareness raising campaigns on climate change and its consequences in Libya.
- Promoting civic education, by fostering community understanding of the negative impact of pollution and environmental degradation and the importance of preserving biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management and ecosystems.
- Supporting communities in establishing structured DRR task forces, which also contribute to improved community cohesion.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION

Giacomo Terenzi, Head - Programme Development Support Unit  
[gterenzi@iom.int](mailto:gterenzi@iom.int)

IOM Libya PDSU  
 Cc: [iomlibyaPDSU@iom.int](mailto:iomlibyaPDSU@iom.int)

