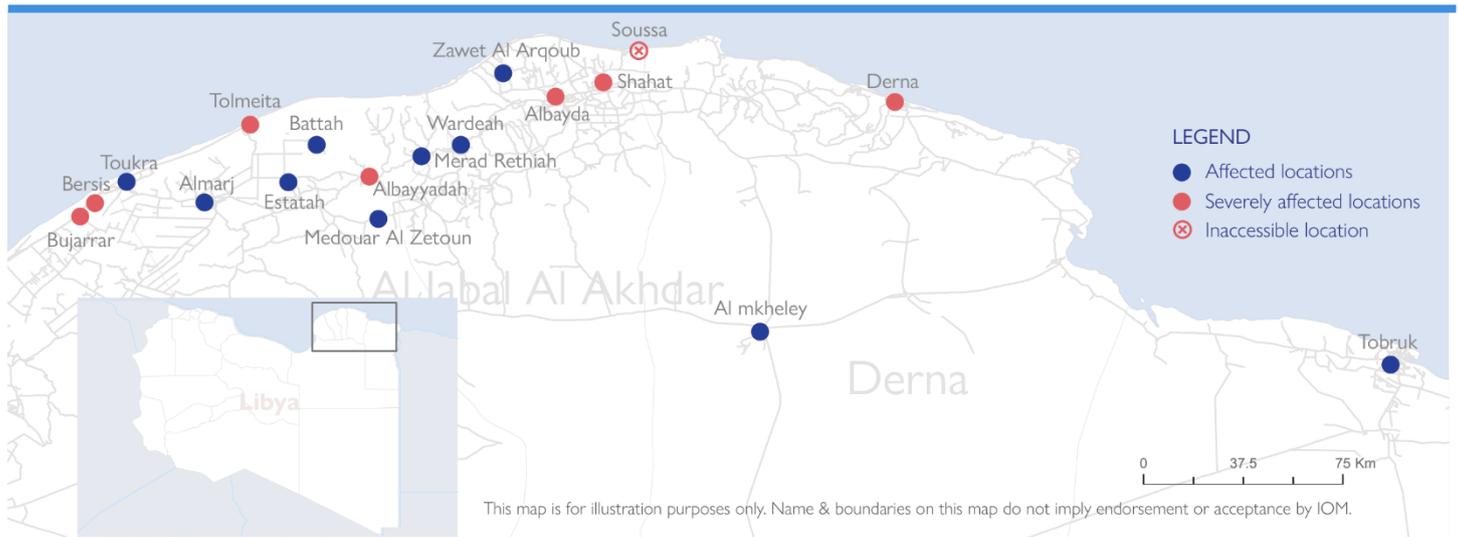


Libya: Flood update

Flash Update No. 4

18 September 2023 (as of 3pm local time)



Areas affected by Storm Daniel (IOM)

Highlights

- On 16 September, a UN delegation visited Labraq and Derna to assess the situation and facilitate the coordinated delivery of humanitarian assistance by international partners.
- Up to 230,000 of the 884,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance, following Storm Daniel, are women and girls.
- Contributions for humanitarian assistance have been announced by Australia (\$1 million), the European Union (EUR 5.2 million) and Norway (NOK 25 million) to support the affected communities.

Situation overview

The devastating Storm Daniel that struck northeastern Libya, on 10 September, led to extensive flooding and loss of life and infrastructure. This unprecedented disaster occurred in a country context of long-term political and economic instability and insecurity. The death toll stands at 3,958 fatalities with more than 9,000 people still unaccounted for, according to the World Health Organization ([WHO](#)). These numbers are expected to rise as information becomes more accessible. Derna, Shahat and Al bayada are reportedly among the most affected areas.

Several thousand people have reportedly moved out of Derna to eastern locations including Al bayda (1,238 individuals), Tobruk (1,200), Alfataeh (620), Toukra (25), Benghazi (37) and Martuba (55) among other locations. The majority of them are hosted by relatives, according to International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s [Displacement Tracking Matrix](#). IOM also reported that some people have been displaced to multiple locations in western Libya (Misrata 185 individuals), Qasr Akhyar (20), Hai Alandalus (50) and Ghiryar (5).

Currently, 49,000 refugees and asylum-seekers are registered with UNHCR in Libya, including more than 1,000 who live in eastern Libya. In addition, a 2,800 internally displaced persons (IDP) were registered in Derna ahead of Daniel crisis, according to [UNHCR](#).

Following the flash floods, up to 230,000 of the 884,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance are women and girls of reproductive age (15 to 49 years) among whom an estimated 24,000 women are pregnant and in need of essential sexual and reproductive health services, according to United Nations Populations Fund ([UNFPA](#)). Around 2,625 pregnant women are among the people in need of humanitarian assistance and expected to give birth in the next month.

In Derna, three schools in the west and three others in the east are currently hosting displaced households and these families are likely to be relocated. Based on preliminary assessments, access to the city is limited due to the absence of secure roads along with disruptions to internet and power services. Bridges over the Derna River, which connect the east and western parts of the city, have collapsed with efforts underway to install a temporary bridge.

With bodies that may be still submerged in the water, there are growing concerns of potential disease outbreaks, stemming from contaminated water. The most affected neighbourhoods are reportedly Al-Maghar (which was 97 per cent flooded), Al-Eilwa (96 per cent), Al-Bilad (78), Al-Batin (61), and Alzzwhur (21), according to [REACH](#).

In Al Marj, approximately 90 per cent of displaced within the city have reportedly returned to their homes after drainage efforts. It is expected that the number of IDPs in surrounding areas will significantly increase if parts of Derna are evacuated due to water contamination. In Wardeah City, a power outage has been ongoing since 10 September and around 170 houses in Gandoula have been damaged by the floods, according to [IOM](#).

Humanitarian Needs and Response

On 16 September, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Libya and Head of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) and the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC) visited Labraq and Derna. The delegation obtained a first-hand assessment of the situation, spoke with survivors and rescue personnel, and met with authorities including the Libyan National Army (LNA) to facilitate the coordinated delivery of humanitarian assistance by international partners.

The UN and partners continue to provide critical aid despite enormous challenges. A total of 29 metric tons of health supplies, provided by [WHO](#), arrived in Benghazi, from Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The supplies aim to reach almost 250,000 people with essential medicines, trauma and emergency surgery supplies and medical equipment. There are also body bags for the safe and dignified movement and burial of the deceased.

In Derna, United Nations Children's Fund ([UNICEF](#)) and Libya Red Crescent Society (LRCS) have started to provide health kits, aiming to reach 10,000 people in 3 months, in addition to hygiene kits for 1,100 people and 500 sets of winter clothing for children.

LRCS teams continue to provide first-aid to survivors, reunite families and support search-and-rescue efforts. The latter are ongoing under the coordination of local authorities with international support from Algeria, Egypt, Hungary, Italy, Jordan, oPt, Russian Federation, Spain, Tunisia, Türkiye, UAE. Emergency medical assistance is being provided by France, Italy, the Russian Federation and Türkiye. Additionally, authorities have deployed heavy equipment, including excavators, but gaining access to heavily affected areas remains a challenge. In Derna, the hardest-hit areas are witnessing increased activity, including cleaning, removing wreckage, activating basic services, and reopening roads.

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has activated a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to the North Africa Region to lead the U.S. Government's humanitarian response. This team will identify priority needs and coordinate with Libyan and international humanitarian partners to deliver support.

Moreover, [Norway](#) is providing NOK 25 million for life-saving assistance in the northeastern part of the country. The funds will be channelled through the UN, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Norwegian humanitarian partners in Libya.

The [European Union](#) is providing Eur 5.2 million through its partners active in the country, enabling them to strengthen assistance with a focus on shelter, health, food, water, sanitation and hygiene, and protection.

The [Australian Government](#) provide \$1 million for urgent life-saving humanitarian assistance to affected communities. This will be delivered through the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The \$1million humanitarian assistance announced today will be used to provide food, water, blankets and medical supplies to those who are most vulnerable.