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Libya Storm Daniel & Flooding

Situation Report #2

21st September 2023



Photo taken by LRCS

Situation across the East		Response	
 884k People in Need	 4,006 Registered Deaths (WHO)	 65 Metric Tons of relief supplies Received	 10,500 Children Reached by NCDC with Measles campaign supported by UNICEF
 353k Children in Need	 8,548 Reported Missing (WHO)	 850 ppl Family Hygiene Kits Distributed	 500 Winter Clothing sets to children
 43k IDPs	 84 Schools Destroyed/Damaged	 15k ppl/3months Essential Medical supplies Distributed	 32,000 Water Purification tablets received
 18% Non-functional health facilities	 19 IDPs Occupied Schools		

***People in need and Children in need are from UN Flash Appeal and IDPs from IOM DTM**

Highlights:

- Children are among the most affected, at heightened risk of public health threats and mental health and psychosocial disorders.
- 55 Cases of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) among children displaced in shelters were reported by the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC).
- Out of 43,059 displaced by the floods according to IOM-DTM, UNICEF estimates that at least 17,000 may be children.

- Out of 114 schools, 4 are destroyed and 80 are partially damaged. At least 19 schools are still used to shelter internally displaced population.
- UNICEF responded from day two through its partner Libya Red Crescent and from day three through deployment of its teams and lifesaving supplies.
- UNICEF surged 5 national and 7 international staff in addition to the 9 staff already in Benghazi Field Office.
- UNICEF provided medical supplies for 15,000 people; hygiene kits for almost 1,000 people and clothing kits. 65 Metric tons of airlifted supplies are now also delivered to its partners in the East and are being distributed.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Africa's deadliest storm in recorded history¹ struck eastern Libya on Sunday, September 10, 2023, "Storm Daniel" caused widespread damage across northeastern Libya. Torrential rains and flash floods devastated multiple cities and towns, resulting in significant casualties and displacement. Derna, Albayda, Soussa, Al-Marj, Shahat, Taknis, Battah, Tolmeita, Bersis, Tokra, and Al-Abyar were among the most affected areas. Affected populations have either lost their homes or are sheltering in makeshift shelters, schools, hotels, or with relatives. Others are stranded inside their homes with no electricity or access to water. Furthermore, the number of children being separated and unaccompanied is still shifting as some initial reunification happened within extended families. Beyond the physical toll, the emotional trauma experienced by survivors, especially children, highlights the critical role of mental health and psychosocial support in the response to this humanitarian crisis.

The storm caused widespread displacement in affected cities, with an estimated 43,059 people fleeing their homes.² This number is likely underestimated, as data is limited for people hosted by relatives/communities. Some displaced households are currently being sheltered in schools (estimated at 19 schools as of today). Others are still moving to other parts of Libya, including Tobruk and Benghazi in the east, and Tripoli, Hai Alandalus, Misrata, Ghiryan, and Qasr bin Ghasheer in the west. The majority of IDPs are staying with relatives. UNICEF teams undertook several missions in affected areas since the third day and directly undertook rapid assessments and collected information from partners and authorities.

Derna suffered the most extensive impact from Storm Daniel, with two dams breaking and inundating substantial portions of the city. This resulted in extensive harm to approximately one-third of its infrastructure, with over 2,000 structures assessed as significantly impaired or demolished. Although there has been some partial restoration of the power supply, numerous areas within the city still face irregular electricity provision. Consequently, many critical facilities like hospitals rely on generators for their operation.

As of September 20, the World Health Organization (WHO) has officially confirmed 4,006 fatalities and 8,548 people missing.³ While the number of children among casualties is not confirmed, we expect that to be very high given that children are about 40 percent of the population. Tragically the death toll includes 406 migrants, of whom 250 were Egyptian nationals, 150 Sudanese nationals, and 6 Bangladeshi nationals are reported missing according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM). These numbers underscore the severe impact of the disaster. 452 people have been rescued since September 16.⁴ The search for survivors and the recovery of bodies continues albeit it is significantly decreasing.

Increasing concerns revolve around the potential emergence of a health crisis, given the critical damage to water sources and sewer networks, there is a growing fear of waterborne diseases spreading. The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) has already reported 238 diarrhea cases attributed to water contamination, with Derna alone recording at least 55 cases of acute watery diarrhea among children.

Exposure to **landmines and unexploded ordnance** is a growing concern, exacerbated by floodwaters that have displaced these hazardous items into regions previously declared safe and free from contamination.

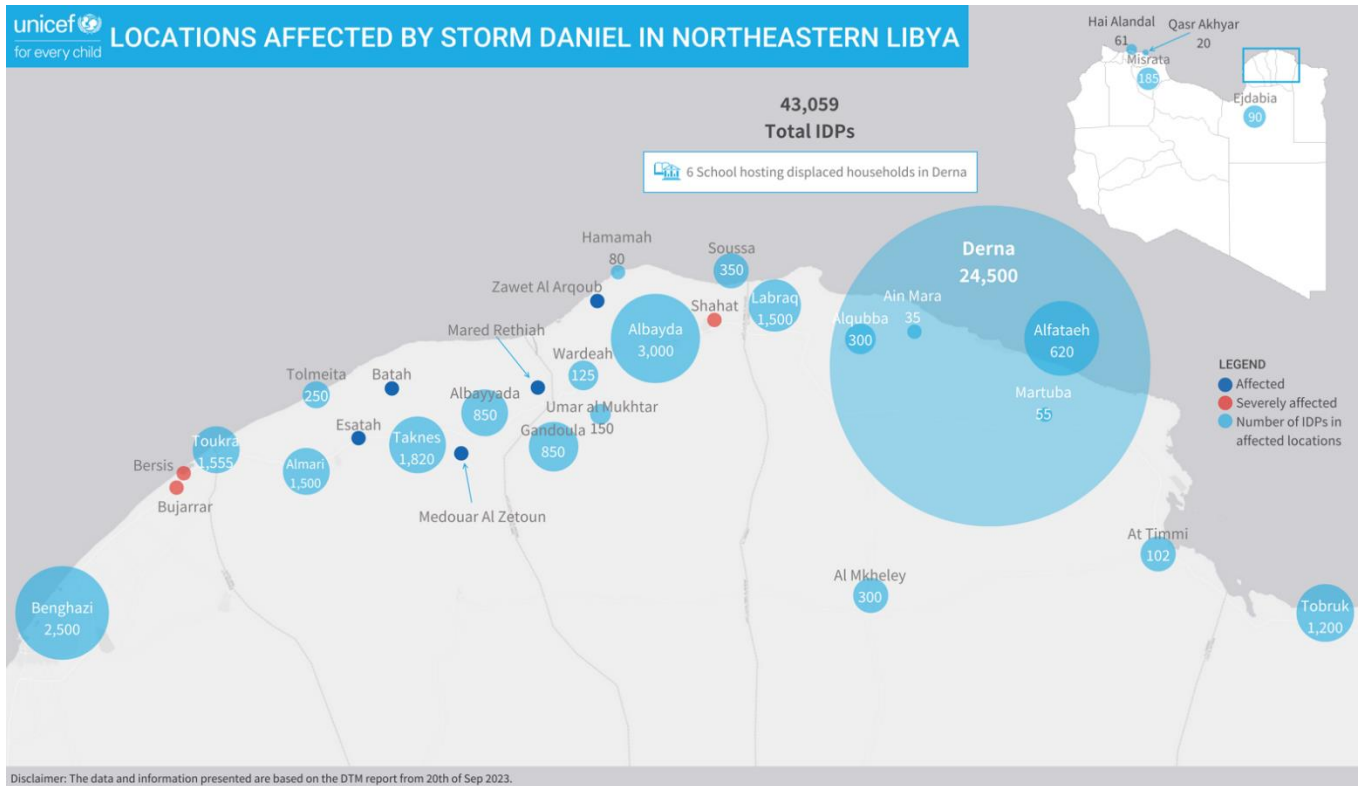
¹ [The Libya floods: a climate and infrastructure catastrophe - Libya | ReliefWeb](#)

² Libya — Storm Daniel Flash Update 5. IOM DTM (20 September 2023)

³ Situation Update: Storm/Flood in East Libya. WHO Libya - 19 September 2023

⁴ Situation Update: Storm/Flood in East Libya. WHO Libya - 19 September 2023

LOCATIONS AFFECTED BY STORM DANIEL IN NORTHEASTERN LIBYA



Healthcare services in affected areas are under considerable strain. Hospitals and clinics have sustained damage, leaving mobile medical teams to provide limited care. According to UNICEF team's assessments, the impact on healthcare infrastructure has been significant, requiring immediate rehabilitation and provision of equipment, following a first phase of focus on supplying medicines. In Derna, where the healthcare situation is particularly dire, there are 9 partially functioning and 1 destroyed Primary Health Care Center (PHC). Furthermore, most facilities are run by volunteers, including the 3 partially functioning polyclinics/hospitals and the established field hospital.

The storm and floods caused extensive damage to healthcare facilities, including hospitals and (PHCs). More than half of the facilities were either partially functioning or non-functional due to a shortage of resources and damage to buildings. This includes the local hospital in Albayada, which serves a catchment area of 75,000 people. The hospital's first floor is unusable, and its vaccination unit was affected by an electricity outage, damaging all its vaccine stock. The Almkhili rural hospital also sustained extensive damage, and its entire vaccine stock is unusable due to an electricity outage that affected the cold chain.

According to WHO, out of 54 Primary Health Care (PHC) facilities assessed in affected areas, 6.1 per cent were nonfunctional and out of 24 hospitals assessed 12 percent were nonfunctional. Health facilities in these areas are grappling with various operational challenges, including a lack of critical equipment and functional systems. Meanwhile, small cities such as Merad Massoud, Alwardiea, and Alhaniea grapple with a lack of medical facilities and transportation challenges. Health promotion activities and medical waste management are crucial needs in these areas.

Waterborne illnesses are a growing concern due to water supply issues, risk of contamination of ground water and lack of robust epidemiological data due to unavailability of health information system in most health facilities assessed.

Water and sanitation services face dire challenges post-flood. In Derna, half of the 18 boreholes in the city are out of service, and the sewage network is heavily damaged. Tap water consumption remains risky, and concerns mount about potential groundwater contamination. The sewage system is severely compromised, resulting in

sewage flooding and heightened public health risks. In Almkhaili, a city of 1,500, the water supply heavily relies on trucking due to electrical grid damage, this is the case in cities of Bayada and Soussa where water trucking cost increased by 40 - 60 percent while the sewage collection network is also damaged, contributing to sewage flooding and water contamination. Soussa, with its population of 20,000, faces water network damage, but electricity has been restored.

Rushing floodwater led to the demolition of water networks in multiple locations, including the destruction of pipes linking the water desalination plant at Derna, which was out of service prior to the event, damaging sewage pipes linking eastern and western Derna, cutting links between Man Made River boreholes at Albayada supplying Almerj and other cities.

The General Company of Water and Waste Water (GCWW) started deploying support to most affected cities, but the damage is beyond the limited operational capacity of GCWW. The GCWW suffers from significant shortages in basic equipment, including suction pumps, drainage pumps, water and sewage trucks. Added to this is the limited capacity of local WASH authorities in water quality testing, which is a major need.

Urgent needs include repairs to the damaged infrastructure and improved access to clean water and sanitation services, ensuring water quality testing and safety of water through chlorination and other precautionary measures. **Mental health and psychosocial support** (MPHSS) are paramount in helping individuals cope with the emotional aftermath of this disaster. This need is especially pronounced among children, who are particularly vulnerable to the psychological impact of such catastrophic events. Recognizing the importance of MPHSS and prioritizing its provision remains a central focus in the response efforts to address the broader repercussions of this crisis.

Educational facilities were extensively impacted, and in the 15 affected municipalities, the education landscape has been significantly damaged. According to the Ministry of Education (MoE), a total of 114 schools are in the area out of which, 80 schools suffered partial damage and 4 schools were totally destroyed, including 2 in Derna. IDPs have sought refuge in several schools, including 10 in Benghazi, 5 in Algoba, 10 in Shahat, 7 in Derna (all based on MoE data), and an additional 3 in Albayda (as reported by DTM).

UNICEF RESPONSE

UNICEF initiated an immediate response to provide relief to Daniel storm-affected locations, arriving on the ground on day two through its emergency response partner, the Libyan Red Crescent Society (LRCS). On day three, the UNICEF teams arrived in Derna, meeting with operation cells and authorities on the ground to assess immediate protection needs, the level of damage to basic services, and coordinate the provision of life-saving assistance to children and their families.

UNICEF teams initiated rapid needs assessment in Derna and other affected locations, including small towns in the northeast. The teams are conducting daily missions. UNICEF's Libya Representative and team also joined the UN interagency field mission to Albayda, Sahat, Soussa, and Derna on September 15-16.

During the first 2 days, UNICEF mobilized lifesaving supplies and core relief items to LRCS including 1,100 Hygiene Kits, 500 children winter clothes sets, and Interagency Emergency Health Kits. UNICEF delivered an emergency procurement of over 65 Metric Tons of essential and lifesaving supplies by September 21, including essential medical supplies, emergency Water and Sanitation supplies, emergency shelter items, nutritional supplies, and psychosocial support through recreation items. 500 sets of children's clothes and other core relief items were distributed in collaboration with LRCS to displaced families at shelters in Derna.

UNICEF leads the WASH, Child Protection, Nutrition and Education thematic Working Groups at Benghazi level.

Health and Nutrition:

Essential medical supplies (IEHK) that are enough to meet the basic health needs of 15,000 people for 3 months were delivered to two Primary Health Care facilities, one polyclinic and one mental health facility in Derna, in addition to waste management material in coordination with district health office in Derna.

UNICEF supported Ministry of Health's Primary Health Care Institute with essential equipment to support provision of Maternal, Child health and basic services at affected east of Libya cities, including gynecological beds, cardiocography (CTG) and first aid kits.

Supported by UNICEF, the NCDC initiated a precautionary measles vaccination campaign in storm-affected locations, targeting 12,000 displaced children, focusing on age groups of 1-6 years. During the first week of the flood emergency, a nutrition focal point supported by UNICEF conducted nutritional screening and examined a total of 67 children (36 males, 31 females) children in eastern Municipalities of Almarj and Alguba: 3 cases of rickets and 3 cases of anemia were recorded. Nutrition counselling services were provided to 18 mothers.

In response to multiple public health risks imposed by consequences of floods on affected areas, focusing on water safety, hygiene promotion, prevention of water borne diseases and psychosocial support, UNICEF initiated a media network group comprising of media representatives, religious leaders, and women councilors with Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) training, serving as a vital community feedback platform. A Rumors Detection and Response WhatsApp room was established to combat misinformation. Social listening on social media, utilizing tools like "Talkwalker", provided insights for developing six integrated messages. These messages were disseminated through various channels, including hospitals, influencer pages, local radio spots, and interpersonal communication. Messages were further amplified by preachers and Community Mobilizers through mosques and social media.

WASH:

To initiate water borne diseases prevention action, UNICEF supported the NCDC to dispatch 32,000 water purification tablets to Derna, with technical and supplies support from UNICEF. UNICEF has also initiated procurement of 100 drums of 25kg Calcium Hypochlorite to support the General Company of Water and Wastewater (GCWW). UNICEF will work with GCWW to chlorinate the 4 main water reservoirs in the city of Derna to avoid a potential outbreak of Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD). This intervention will benefit at least 50,000 people in Derna. At the request of GCWW and municipal authorities UNICEF will organize a quick refresher training on Water Quality Monitoring (WQM) with the aim to have mobile teams ready for deployment to conduct WQM in affected areas by end of September 2023. UNICEF joined efforts with other UN agencies through the activation of the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) and distributed a total of 170 family hygiene kits distributed for the benefit of 850 people including 250 men, 260 women, 340 children.

Child Protection:

UNICEF started establishing mobile child protection and psychosocial support teams in collaboration with the Social Affairs (MOSA) and NGO partners (Future Makers and CDC), who are conducting basic child protection screening and psychological first aid in Shahat and Benghazi shelters. UNICEF will be linking social affairs mobile teams with IRC, INTERSOS and LRCS as UNICEF partners. UNICEF has planned intensive training for next week intended to build the capacity of mobile teams on identification of unaccompanied and separated children and on providing psychological first aid. As part of its collaborative efforts with MOSA, UNICEF supports MOSA's child development center (CDC) at Benghazi to provide psychological first aid to 51 displaced families at Benghazi Sidi Khalifa Area, through CDC Mobile teams.

Education

In response to this crisis, UNICEF has taken swift action, providing 200 school-in-a-box kits capable of establishing a classroom for 40 students. These kits have been delivered to the Ministry of Education (MoE) for distribution based on prioritized needs. UNICEF is collaborating closely with the MoE and affected municipalities, UNICEF led the convening of the thematic education working group to initiate joint coordinated response with education partners. UNICEF will support the reopening of schools through a comprehensive approach, that includes conducting a rapid assessment of affected schools, furnishing classrooms, supplying resources, and offering school-in-a-box kits for schools with no structural damage. Furthermore, UNICEF will support teachers with targeted training and provide students with specialized resources, including an adapted life skills activity booklet. In the long term, UNICEF's commitment extends to the establishment of the Learning Passport, an online platform tailored to the educational needs of Libyan children, ensuring continuous access to quality education.

Communications and Engagement

On media engagement, over 95 interviews in 5 days were done by Country Office, Regional Office and Headquarters with leading international media outlets: CNN, BBC, AJ, ABC, Sky News etc. Communications have also been shared on social media on the field mission conducted to Derna.

Interviews:

[CNN Live](#) [BBC Washington](#) [ABC](#) [Aljazeera Live](#) [France 24](#) [CNN Aljazeera Inside Story](#)

Field Mission:

<https://x.com/UnicefLibya/status/1703080646481002510?s=20>

<https://x.com/UnicefLibya/status/1703120521829728756?s=20>

<https://x.com/UnicefLibya/status/1703423573782892758?s=20>

Funding Status:

As the extent of the damage caused by storm Daniel becomes clearer, more significant needs relating to the destruction of basic health, water, education, and child protection infrastructure can be expected to emerge. UNICEF's initial response requires **US\$ 6.5 million** to reach children with emergency services and supplies for 3 months. To ensure the rapid deployment of emergency support to affected areas, UNICEF has mobilized US\$ 1,562,000 as initial institutional funding, including an emergency loan from Headquarters of US\$ 1,000,000.

Sector	Target Beneficiaries	Estimated Budget*	Funding Received	Funding Gap in US\$	Funding Gap %
Health and nutrition	250,000 people including 75,000 children	US\$ 1,500,000	\$450,000	\$1,200,000	80%
WASH	250,000 people including 75,000 children	US\$ 1,800,000	\$550,000	\$1,400,000	78%
Child Protection	75,000 children	US\$ 950,000	\$362,000	\$850,000	89%
Education	75,000 children	US\$ 750,000	\$200,000	\$550,000	73%
Multi-purpose cash assistance	45,000 including 13,500 children	US\$ 1,500,000	\$0	\$1,500,000	100%
TOTAL		US\$ 6,500,000	\$1,562,000	\$5,500,000	85%

**Figures include technical assistance and programme staff, operational costs, and implementing partners.*