

UNHCR Libya Flash Update #3

21 September 2023



UNHCR together with LibAid distributing core relief items in Benghazi on 21 September 2023, Libya.
Photo: © UNHCR/Ziyad Alhamadi

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

- Storm Daniel and flood waters have ravaged eastern Libya and an estimated 40,000-plus are people newly-displaced while the death toll continues to rise.
- UNHCR is working to meet immediate needs and has been on the ground to assess needs and distribute core relief items to affected people; over 5,000 people in Derna, Benghazi, Ajdabiya, Takness, Guandoola, Al Hania and Al Hamama have received relief items to date. Longer-term assistance will also be essential, notably for psychological support.
- An airlift from UNHCR's warehouse in Dubai with 53 metric tons of relief items to assist 10,000 people arrived in Benghazi on 19 September. The items reached Derna on 21 September and will be distributed to floods-affected people in the coming days.

AFFECTED POPULATION

The death toll has surpassed 4,000 people and thousands remain missing, according to WHO information. The floods have also caused mass displacement of an estimated 40,000 people, including 30,000 people in Derna and 3,000 people in Ajdabiya.

Some [50,000 refugees and asylum-seekers](#) are registered with UNHCR in Libya, including more than 1,000 who live in eastern Libya. However, UNHCR is aware of larger numbers of forcibly displaced people from Sudan and Syria who were not registered with UNHCR living in the affected areas. Among the deaths are at least 150 Sudanese and 23 Palestinians.

In addition, some 46,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were [hosted](#) in eastern Libya before the storm and floods, the majority in Benghazi. Among the worst affected areas, some 2,800 IDPs were living in Derna and 3,100 in Ajdabiya.

UNHCR EMERGENCY RESPONSE

UNHCR is scaling up its response and capacity in eastern Libya to assist refugees, asylum-seekers, IDPs and people newly-displaced by the storm and floods. UNHCR has been present in Benghazi since 2014 and has established partnerships with several national and international organizations.

Shelter and core relief items

- UNHCR is distributing core relief items and over 5,000 people have been assisted to date, including 1,200 people in Derna. Planning is underway to transport further relief items for over 16,600 people by road and air.
- UNHCR with its partner LibAid distributed items to about 400 people in Benghazi today, while other distributions took place in Ajdabiya, Takness, Guandoola, Al Hania and Al Hamama.
- 53 metric tons of core relief items, including tarpaulin sheets, kitchen sets, solar lamps, blankets, and other emergency relief items, arrived to Benghazi by air from UNHCR's global stockpile in Dubai on 19 September and will be distributed in Derna in the coming days.

Health

- Medicines for up to 10,000 people departed Tripoli on 19 September and arrived in Benghazi on 21 September. The items are planned to be handed over for assistance in Derna. Transportation of generators and rub halls is underway as well.

COORDINATION

UNHCR is working closely with national and international partners to respond to the situation as part of a broader UN response and leads the UN coordination for Protection and Shelter/NFI. The first inter-agency protection and Shelter/NFI meetings were convened on 19 September.

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FLASH APPEAL

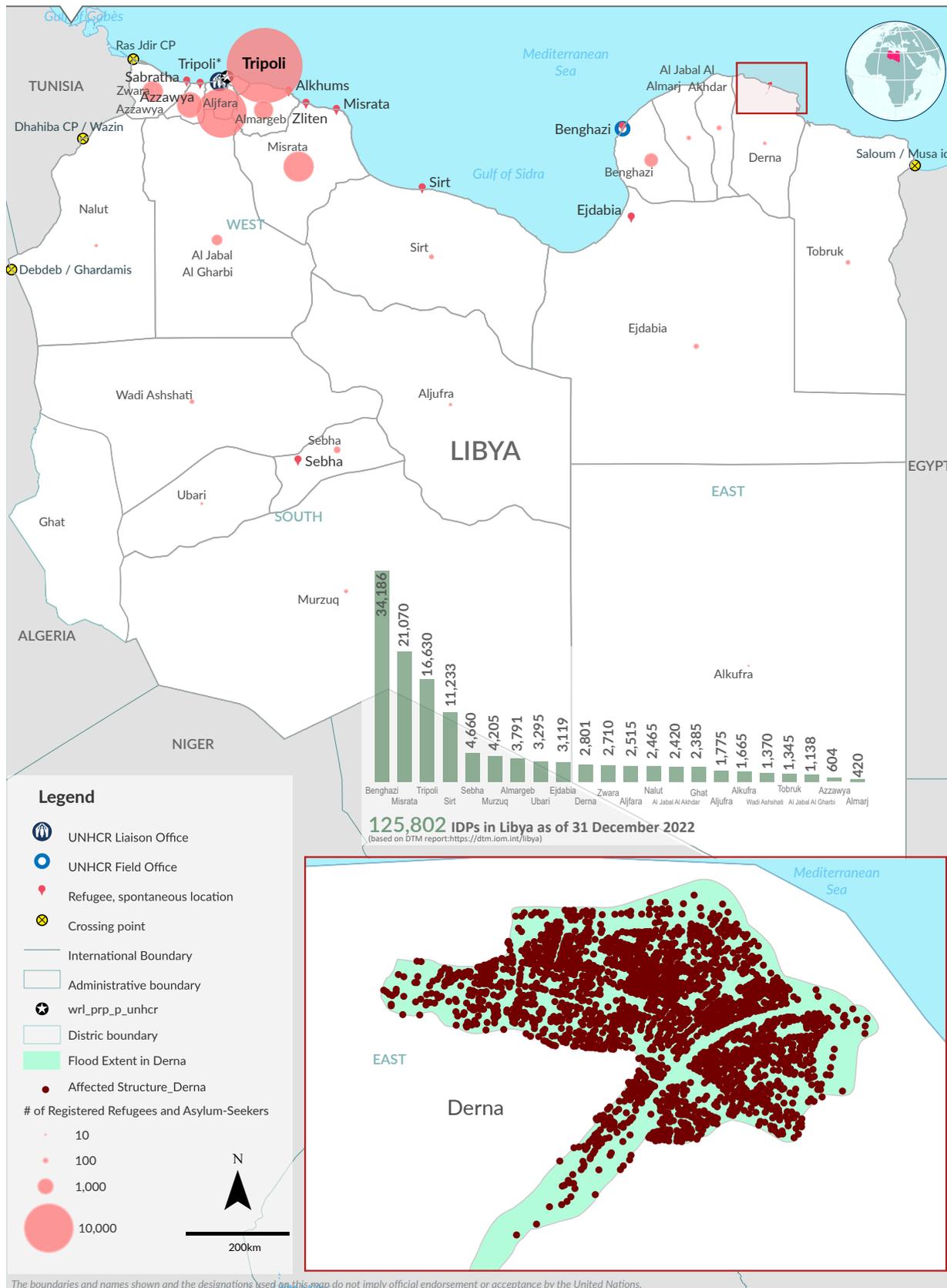
2023 Libya Flood Response

BACKGROUND

On 9-11 September, Storm Daniel – a tropical-like cyclone known as a medicane – hit eastern Libya. Severe weather conditions including strong winds, sudden heavy rainfall and widespread floods have affected several areas along the coast.

Search and rescue operations as well as humanitarian needs assessments are ongoing and the full impact and scale of the devastation is still being determined; more than 4,000 deaths and 10,000 missing are reported as entire neighbourhoods have been destroyed. Damage to roads, telecommunication networks and other communal infrastructure is complicating rescue and relief efforts.

OCHA [reports](#) that floodwaters have shifted landmines and other ordnance left over from years of conflict. IRC has [warned](#) of a public health crisis in flood-affected parts of Libya, particularly in Derna, as water sources have been severely contaminated by sewage, leaving thousands without access to clean and safe drinking water.



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