



Libya – Floods

SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

3,958	9,000	40,000	884,000	\$71.4 MILLION
Deaths Reported Due to the Floods	People Missing Due to the Floods	People Newly Displaced in Libya Due to the Floods	People Requiring Humanitarian Assistance Through December	Required to Support 250,000 People Through December
<i>UN – September 2023</i>	<i>UN – September 2023</i>	<i>UN – September 2023</i>	<i>UN – September 2023</i>	<i>UN – September 2023</i>

- On September 18, President Joe Biden announced \$11 million in new USG humanitarian assistance for flood-affected populations in northeastern Libya, bringing the total USG funding to \$12 million to date.
- Heavy rains, flash flooding, and the subsequent collapse of two dams following Storm Daniel’s landfall on September 10 and 11 have displaced more than 40,000 people across several districts in northeastern Libya, according to the UN. IDPs and affected populations require emergency food assistance, psychosocial support, shelter, and other types of assistance.
- Critical sanitation infrastructure, water services, and health facilities in affected areas suffered widespread damage due to the floods, resulting in urgent health, water, and sanitation needs among vulnerable groups.



TIMELINE

September 10–11, 2023

Storm Daniel makes landfall over northeastern Libya, resulting in heavy rain and widespread flooding

September 11, 2023

Heavy rain and flooding from Storm Daniel cause the collapse of the Abu Mansour and Darnah dams in Darnah

September 11, 2023

U.S. Charge d’Affaires, a.i., Richard B. Norland issues a declaration of humanitarian need due to the effects of the floods in Libya

September 11, 2023

USAID/BHA provides an initial \$1 million in disaster assistance funds for the flood response

September 13, 2023

USAID/BHA activates a DART in the region and a Response Management Team in Washington, DC, to coordinate the USG response to flood-generated humanitarian needs

September 18, 2023

President Biden announces \$11 million in additional USG funding, from USAID and the U.S. Department of State, to humanitarian partners providing urgently needed assistance

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

President Biden Announces \$11 Million in Funding for USG Response

On September 18, President Joe Biden announced \$11 million in additional U.S. Government (USG) assistance for populations in Libya affected by Storm Daniel, which made landfall over Al Butnan, Al Jabal al Akhdar, Al Marj, Benghazi, and Darnah districts on September 10–11, causing heavy rain and flash flooding. The storm resulted in the collapse of Darnah’s Abu Mansour and Darnah dams, which released an estimated 8 billion gallons of water across Darnah city on September 11. The newly announced funding enables USG partners to scale up humanitarian assistance to flood-affected populations in the coming weeks and months.

In addition to the newly announced \$11 million from USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) and the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration, USAID/BHA also provided an immediate \$1 million in humanitarian assistance on September 14 to meet populations’ most urgent needs. USG funding will support the UN World Food Program (WFP), the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and other UN and nongovernmental organization (NGO) partners to deliver emergency food assistance, health services via mobile medical clinics, hygiene supplies, shelter support, safe drinking water, cash assistance, case management, dignified management of the dead, family reunification support, and psychosocial support services to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other flood-affected populations. USAID’s Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) based in the region is working closely with partners and with Libyan authorities to identify priority needs, lead USG humanitarian response efforts, and ensure the timely delivery of assistance to the most affected populations.

Flooding Results in 3,958 Deaths and the Displacement of 40,000 People Across Affected Areas

Flooding has resulted in approximately 3,958 deaths, with at least 9,000 people missing as of September 18, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). Relief actors note the number of deaths may rise as relief operations continue. The floods also displaced more than 40,000 people across northeastern Libya, though these figures may be higher as access challenges have hindered data collection in the worst-affected areas, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports. An estimated 30,000 IDPs were sheltering in schools and other buildings in Darnah city and the surrounding area as of September 17. The UN estimates 884,000 people will likely require humanitarian assistance through December, with priority needs including health care, food, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) assistance, shelter support, psychosocial support, and other emergency relief supplies. The UN released a flash funding appeal on September 14, requesting \$71.4 million to support 250,000 of the most vulnerable flood-affected individuals between September and December.

Darnah city experienced the most severe flooding, as the storm prompted the collapse of two nearby dams—the Abu Mansour and Darnah dams—on September 11. The flooding caused by the storm and dam collapses generated large-scale damage to houses, other buildings, roads, bridges, electrical utilities, health care facilities, and telecommunications. Widespread damage to critical infrastructure has not only generated humanitarian need, but has also impeded relief actors’ ability to reach affected populations and to gather reliable information on priority needs, USG partners report. Despite access challenges, Libyan authorities and relief organizations are reaching people in need as response efforts scale up. Libyan authorities have been leading search-and-rescue operations and delivering humanitarian assistance across affected areas, though severe infrastructure damage and fuel shortages continue to hinder response operations as of September 18. Moreover, international actors have begun to increase their presence in Libya in recent days, with relief agencies from several countries dispatching field hospitals, medical equipment, and shelter supplies to affected districts between September 11 and 18.

Widespread Health Needs Persist Among Flood-Affected Populations in Northeastern Libya

Flood-affected populations continue to urgently require health care services, as approximately half of the health facilities in flood-affected areas were partially functional or non-functional as of September 18, the UN reports. The situation remains particularly dire in Darnah city, where only one health center remains structurally intact and the facility lacks doctors, fuel for generators, and medicine. Inadequate WASH services—including a lack of safe drinking water and suitable sanitation facilities—may leave flood-affected people at increased risk to the spread of communicable diseases. In addition, nearly 300,000 children exposed to Storm Daniel are now at increased risk of cholera, diarrhea, dehydration, and malnutrition, according to the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF). In Darnah city alone, local health authorities reported at least 55 children have fallen ill after drinking contaminated water as of September 16.

KEY FIGURES



9,150

Estimated number of people reached with WFP in-kind food assistance

NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL, AND U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

The UN and humanitarian community in northeastern Libya are mobilizing a comprehensive response to address the emergency needs of flood-affected populations. The UN World Food Program (WFP) has reached an estimated 3,500 people in Darnah District; 2,500 people in Jabal al Akhdar; 2,150 people in Benghazi; and 1,000 people in Al Marj with in-kind food assistance, including flour, pasta, and rice, as of September 17. As of the same date, WFP had dispatched 40 metric tons (MT) of nutrition supplies to its warehouse in Benghazi city to support its emergency response. Additionally, with the new support from USAID/BHA announced on September 18, WFP is working to deliver emergency food assistance to 100,000 people in northeastern Libya throughout the coming weeks. Several UN agencies and NGOs are also broadening existing programs in northeastern Libya to support the distribution of cash and in-kind food to flood-affected communities throughout the coming weeks.



58 MT

Amount of medicine and medical supplies WHO has dispatched to affected areas

HEALTH AND WASH

Relief organizations are providing urgent health care services and essential medical supplies to flood-affected communities across northeastern Libya. Between September 11 and September 16, WHO delivered two separate shipments—each comprising 29 MT—of health supplies, including medicine, medical equipment, and trauma kits, to affected areas. WHO is using the commodities to restore the functionality of health facilities in affected areas and deploy mobile health clinics. Relief actors, including multiple NGOs, have also dispatched medical personnel, including doctors and paramedics, to support communities' immediate health needs in recent days.



1,100

Number of sanitation kits and water treatment materials provided by UNICEF

Health actors are scaling up their disease surveillance and infectious disease mitigation programs as affected populations remain vulnerable to waterborne diseases such as cholera. Relief actors are working to prevent and mitigate the spread of infectious diseases as they address the emergency WASH needs of affected populations. UNICEF dispatched 1,100 sanitation kits and water treatment materials to affected areas on September 14, while the Libyan Red Crescent Society is providing temporary sanitation facilities and restoring damaged WASH infrastructure—which will support up to 200,000 people—as of September 18.



8,600

Number of people reached with UNHCR emergency shelter supplies

SHELTER

Relief actors are reaching populations displaced by the flooding with shelter and settlement support. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had delivered emergency relief supplies—including blankets, kitchen kits, and plastic tarps—to approximately 5,000 people in Benghazi city and 1,200 people in Darnah city as of September 16. Meanwhile, IOM dispatched shelter supplies, including blankets, kitchen sets, and mattresses, sufficient to support more than 2,400 households to Benghazi city on September 14.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed, often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources, such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).