

Libya – Floods

SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

4,006	8,548	43,000	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 Flood-Affected 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>

- Two flights carrying 26 MT of USAID/BHA-funded emergency shelter and WASH supplies for thousands of flood-affected people arrived in Benghazi city on September 20 and 21. USG personnel including, Commander of USAFRICOM General Michael Langley, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Richard B. Norland, and members of USAID’s DART accompanied the second flight and immediately consigned the commodities to USAID/BHA partner IOM.
- The floods and resultant dam collapses have displaced more than 43,000 people in northeastern Libya as of September 20, according to IOM.
- Affected populations continue to urgently require comprehensive multi-sector humanitarian assistance due to the flood-induced emergency in northeastern Libya as of September 22.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING	For the Libya Floods Response in FY 2023	
	USAID/BHA ¹	\$3,419,223
State/PRM ²	\$2,000,000	
Total	\$5,419,223	

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 4

¹ USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA). Funds reflect a portion of the announced funding that has been committed or obligated as of September 22, 2023.

² U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

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 prompt the collapse of the Abu Mansour and Darnah dams in Darnah

September 11, 2023

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

September 13, 2023

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

September 14, 2023

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

September 18, 2023

President Joe Biden announces \$11 million in additional funding to support efforts of humanitarian partners providing urgently needed assistance

September 20–21, 2023

Two flights of relief commodities carrying 26 MT of USAID/BHA commodities arrive in Benghazi

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

USG Delivers 26 MT of Urgently Needed Relief Supplies to Support Flood-Affected Populations in Libya

An estimated 26 metric tons (MT) of USAID/BHA-funded emergency relief supplies, which USAID/BHA procured with a portion of the \$11 million in funding President Joe Biden announced on September 18, arrived in Benghazi city aboard two flights, a commercial flight on September 20 and a U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)-operated flight on September 21. The commodities included blankets for up to 6,400 people; hygiene supplies, durable plastic sheeting for shelter, and water containers, each sufficient to support up to 6,000 people; and shelter repair kits for up to 5,000 people from USAID’s warehouse in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

U.S. Government (USG) personnel, including Commander of U.S. Africa Command (USAFRICOM) General Michael Langley, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., Richard B. Norland, and members of USAID’s Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) accompanied the second DoD-operated flight and immediately consigned the commodities to USG partner the International Organization for Migration (IOM). Along with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other nongovernmental organization (NGO) partners, IOM is distributing the relief supplies to flood-affected populations during the coming days.

More Than 43,000 People Remained Displaced Across Northeastern Libya

The September 10–11 floods and resultant collapse of two dams in northeastern Libya has resulted in the displacement of more than 43,000 people across Benghazi, Al Butnan, Darnah, Al Jabal al Akhdar, and Al Marj districts, as of September 20, IOM reports. Internally displaced persons (IDPs) across northeastern Libya urgently require food, mental health and psychosocial support, and safe drinking water, according to IOM. Most displaced individuals—an estimated 24,500 people—remain in Darnah city. The number of displaced individuals in Darnah decreased from 30,000 IDPs as of September 18 as limited safe drinking water is driving people to seek shelter in other areas, including Benghazi city and Al Butnan District’s Tubruq city, IOM reports.

An increasing number of IDPs are arriving in Al Jabal Al Akhdar’s Al Bayda city and Benghazi city—which host the second and third highest number of IDPs, approximately 3,000 and 2,800 IDPs, respectively—as of September 20, according to IOM. While many IDPs in northeastern Libya are residing within and are supported by the host community, some populations are seeking temporary shelter in 19 schools across affected districts and require humanitarian support, the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) reports.

Contaminated Water Increases Health Risks in Affected Areas Amid Widespread Damage to Health Facilities

Damage to sewage systems in flood-affected areas has increased concerns of water contamination, rendering water unsafe for consumption and use, according to the UN. Moreover, contaminated water may also increase the risk of waterborne diseases, putting vulnerable populations at increased risk. As of September 20, at least 150 people have become sick due to water contamination since the flooding, according to the UN. Relief actors have scaled up water trucking services to provide affected populations with safe drinking water, including in Darnah city—where local authorities have discouraged the use of city water sources—and in Al Jabal Al Akhdar’s Al Bayda and Sousa cities.

Local authorities have deployed teams to support affected cities as of September 22; however, shortages of drainage pumps, sewage trucks, and other equipment, as well as limited capacity to conduct water quality tests hinder authorities’ ability to respond. Urgent needs include improved access to clean water and sanitation services, repairs to damage sewage and water infrastructure, and water quality testing and precautionary treatments, such as chlorination, according to UNICEF.

KEY FIGURES



\$3 Million

In dedicated USAID/BHA support for emergency food assistance programming to date in FY 2023



58 MT

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

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 22. As of the same date, WFP had dispatched 40 MT of nutrition supplies to its warehouse in Benghazi city to support its emergency response. Several USG UN and NGO partners are also broadening existing programs to support the distribution of cash and in-kind food to flood-affected communities throughout the coming weeks.

HEALTH AND WASH

Relief organizations are working to provide urgent health care services and essential medical supplies to flood-affected communities across northeastern Libya. Between September 11 and September 16, the UN World Health Organization (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 such as 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

Additionally, health actors are scaling up their disease surveillance and infectious disease control programs as affected populations remain vulnerable to waterborne diseases such as cholera. Relief actors work to prevent and mitigate the spread of infectious diseases as they address the emergency water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs of flood-affected populations. UNICEF has delivered more than 65 MT of life-saving commodities including emergency medical, nutrition, shelter and WASH supplies to affected areas as of September 21, while the Libyan Red Crescent Society is providing temporary sanitation facilities and restoring damaged WASH infrastructure 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. 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 22.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LIBYA FLOODS RESPONSE IN FY 2023³

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	Health	Affected Areas	\$100,000
WFP	Food Assistance	Affected Areas	\$3,000,000
	Logistics Support		\$198,600
	Program Support		\$ 120,623
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$3,419,223
STATE/PRM			
UNHCR	Multi-Sector	Affected Areas	\$1,000,000
Implementing Partner	Multi-Sector	Affected Areas	\$1,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$2,000,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE LIBYA FLOODS RESPONSE IN FY 2023			\$5,419,223

³Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect a portion of the publicly announced funding that has been committed or obligated as of September 22, 2023.

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
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at reliefweb.int.

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work