

Libya – Floods

OCTOBER 13, 2023

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

4,345	8,540	42,000	250,000	\$71.4 MILLION
Deaths Reported Due to the Floods	People Missing Due to the Floods	People Displaced in Libya Due to the Floods	People Targeted for Assistance Through December	Required to Support Flood-Affected People Through December
<i>UN – October 2023</i>	<i>UN – October 2023</i>	<i>UN – October 2023</i>	<i>UN – September 2023</i>	<i>UN – September 2023</i>

- Floodwaters resulting from Storm Daniel contributed to significant damage across northeastern Libya, affecting housing, health facilities, water networks, and other infrastructure, with 42,000 individuals displaced as of mid-October, according to the UN. Relief actors conducted needs assessments across flood-affected areas in late September, identifying food, health care, protection services, shelter, and WASH as some of the most critical needs.
- A flight carrying 3 MT of USAID/BHA-funded emergency WASH supplies for an estimated 5,200 flood-affected people arrived in Libya on October 7.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Libya Floods Response in FYs 2023–2024	USAID/BHA ¹	\$11,045,341
	State/PRM ²	\$2,000,000
	DoD ³	\$371,000
	Total	\$13,416,341

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

¹ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)
² U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)
³ U.S. Department of Defense (DoD)

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 a.i. 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 Disaster Assistance Response Team (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 USG 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

October 7, 2023

A flight of 3 MT of USAID/BHA relief commodities arrives in Libya

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

Humanitarian Needs Persist for Flood-Affected Populations

The mid-September floods in northeastern Libya resulted in at least 4,345 deaths and displaced approximately 42,000 people as of October 12, according to the UN. International teams rescued more than 450 people in the initial days after the floods, though an additional 8,500 people remained missing as of October 11, the UN reports. The floods also resulted in the deaths of at least 101 health care professionals, exacerbating affected populations' already significant difficulties accessing medical care due to damaged or destroyed health facilities.

More than 96 percent of the 42,000 flood-displaced individuals were sheltering in the affected eastern Libyan municipalities—including Benghazi city, Darnah District's Darnah city and Labraq town, Al Jabal Al Akhdar District's Al Bayda city and Shahhat town, and Al Butnan's Tubruq city—as of late September, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM); less than 4 percent of the internally displaced persons (IDPs) left eastern parts of the country. Fourteen collective centers, including hotels and schools, are temporarily housing approximately 1,800 IDPs in flood-affected areas as of October 11, though 23 of the 34 schools used to host IDPs immediately following the floods have since reopened for education activities, the UN reports. IDPs previously sheltering in schools have reportedly received rental subsidies, registered for cash-for-rent assistance, or transitioned to hotels, according to the UN.

Floodwaters significantly damaged health facilities, housing, water networks, and other infrastructure across northeastern Libya, according to recent UN assessments. The assessment teams documented severe damage to buildings in nearly 30 percent of the assessed locations and flooding in buildings in nearly half of the assessed locations. Floods generated the highest levels of damage in Darnah, Labraq, and Umm Arrazam towns in Darnah District, as well as Al Bayda, Shahhat, and Sousa towns in Al Jabal Al Akhdar District.

Several humanitarian actors' multi-sector needs assessments identified food, health care, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services, safe drinking water, and shelter and house repairs as some of the most critical needs as of late September. The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has also cited humanitarian protection risks for children—such as abuse and exploitation—for flood-affected populations, particularly unaccompanied children or children who have been separated from their families or primary caregivers. UNICEF is working with local authorities to register children separated from their guardians as of early October.

Food prices have reportedly remained atypically high in affected districts as of late September, relief actors report. In addition, privately operated water sellers were the main source of drinking water as of early October, the UN

reports. While drinking water is available, some communities cannot afford it or have difficulty reaching areas with adequate water. Instead, people residing in flood-affected areas have reported consuming water from unprotected or untested water sources—such as household-collected rainwater, public tap-stands, public and private boreholes, and springs—that may pose increased risk for the spread of waterborne illness; health actors recorded approximately 2,380 cases of diarrhea in flood-affected areas of October 12, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO).

USAID Delivers 3 MT of Emergency Relief Supplies to support Flood-Affected Populations

On October 7, USAID airlifted 3 metric tons (MT) of emergency relief supplies to Libya from its warehouse in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The supplies—to be distributed by USAID/BHA partners—include 20 water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) materials to help an estimated 5,200 flood-affected people access safe drinking water. This brings the total amount of emergency relief supplies USAID/BHA has dispatched to Libya for the flood response to 29 MT to date. A USAID/BHA nongovernmental organization (NGO) partner had already begun distributing commodities—including blankets, hygiene kits, and shelter kits—from USAID/BHA’s two previous airlifts to affected individuals in Darnah and Al Jabal Al Akhdar in early October.

The U.S. Government (USG) continues to prioritize the delivery of humanitarian assistance to flood-affected communities and closely coordinate response efforts with UN, NGO partners, and other stakeholders in the region. The USG is the largest donor to the Libya floods response to date, contributing more than \$13 million in funding as of October 13.

NATIONAL, INTERNATIONAL, AND U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

KEY FIGURES



35,200

Flood-affected people reached by WFP emergency food assistance



17

Health facilities in affected areas that received health kits from WHO

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

The UN and humanitarian community in northeastern Libya continue to mobilize a comprehensive response to address the emergency needs of flood-affected populations. In coordination with its local partners Asarya and the Libyan Humanitarian and Relief Agency, USAID/BHA partner the UN World Food Program (WFP) has reached an estimated 35,200 flood-affected people with 216 MT of emergency food assistance as of mid-October.

HEALTH AND WASH

Relief organizations are working to provide urgent health care services, essential medical supplies, and WASH support to flood-affected communities across northeastern Libya. Relief actors have also continued to dispatch medical personnel to support communities' immediate health needs as of October. State/PRM partner the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provided two generators and temporary warehouses to health authorities and procured 10,000 units of basic medicine for affected individuals in Darnah as of September 28. Additionally, another NGO is operating three emergency medical team at permanent health facilities—two in Darnah and one in Sousa—providing primary health care services to flood-affected people as of October 9.

WHO has distributed health kits to 17 health facilities in Al Bayda, Darnah, Shahhat, and Sousa, and has provided 11 non-communicable disease kits to public health centers in Al Bayda, Darnah, Al Marj, Shahhat, and Sousa as of October 12. Since the start of the emergency response to the floods, WHO has distributed nearly 28 MT of emergency kits, medicine, and medical supplies.



7,700

Number of hygiene kits provided by UNICEF

As of October 5, UNICEF had set up ten water tanks in IDP sites, providing safe drinking water to nearly 1,000 individuals. UNICEF has also provided chlorine to Libyan authorities for four main reservoirs in Darnah, as well as 32,000 water purification tablets to support 5,000 flood-affected people. In addition, UNICEF distributed nearly 7,700 hygiene kits, including menstrual hygiene products, and organized safe water practice messaging and hygiene promotion campaigns as of the same date. Local authorities were also restoring the desalination plant servicing Darnah and Sousa cities as of early October. UNICEF and its implementing partners have supported these efforts through the procurement of equipment and water truck deliveries. An NGO was also conducting maintenance on sanitary facilities and providing water truck services in Benghazi, Darnah, Labraq, Sousa, Al Jabal Al Akhdar’s Taknis town, Al Marj District’s Toukra town, and Tubruq as of October 4.



32,000

Number of people reached with emergency shelter supplies

SHELTER

Relief actors are reaching populations displaced by the flooding with shelter and settlement support. Humanitarian organizations had delivered emergency relief supplies— including blankets, kitchen kits, and plastic tarps for shelter in ten affected areas, reaching 32,000 affected individuals as of October 11.

USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LIBYA FLOODS RESPONSE IN FY 2024⁴

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
UNICEF	Protection		\$1,000,000
WHO	Health		\$954,000
Implementing Partner	Health, Protection, WASH		\$2,000,000
Implementing Partner	Health, Protection		\$1,040,000
Implementing Partner	Protection, Shelter		\$1,000,000
TOTAL USAID FUNDING FOR THE LIBYA FLOODS RESPONSE IN FY 2024			\$5,994,000

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE LIBYA FLOODS RESPONSE IN FYs 2023–2024

TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING	\$11,045,341
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING	\$2,000,000
TOTAL DoD FUNDING	\$371,000
TOTAL USG FUNDING FOR THE LIBYA FLOODS RESPONSE IN FYs 2023–2024	\$13,416,341

⁴Year 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 October 13, 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.
- 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