



A view of some of the devastation caused by flooding in Derna.

On September 10, Storm Daniel made landfall in Libya, bringing strong winds (80 kmh/50 mph) and heavy rainfall to northeastern areas of the country. On September 11, two dams upstream of the coastal city of Derna collapsed due to the intense pressure caused by the heavy rain, releasing 30 million cubic meters of water that ripped through the city of 100,000 inhabitants. This catastrophic event swept entire buildings, with thousands of people still inside them, into the Mediterranean Sea. According to the Minister of Civil Aviation and a member of the emergency committee for the administration in eastern Libya, 25% of the city has disappeared.

The storm caused significant damage to infrastructure, including roads, telecommunications services and power. At least 715 buildings have been damaged, 7,000 families have been stranded¹ and 30,000 people have been displaced.² It is estimated that at least 6,000 people have died, while 10,000 others are still missing, with the city of Derna being most affected with at least 2,300 people confirmed dead.³ These figures are expected to increase as search-and-rescue operations are underway.

The aftermath of Storm Daniel has unfolded a multidimensional humanitarian crisis. Though search-and-rescue operations are the foremost priority, given the time sensitivity and high level of needs, authorities have requested that the international community focus on humanitarian assistance and early recovery efforts going forward. According to the Libyan government, urgent humanitarian needs include psychosocial support, food, shelter, non-food items (NFIs), healthcare and logistical support, as well as data assessment and specialized technical support.⁴ Mobile phone networks are weak and coordination of humanitarian services is a challenge.

FAST FACTS

- On September 10, Storm Daniel made landfall in cities along the northeastern coast of Libya.
- Catastrophic flooding—eight months' worth of rain—ripped through the region, destroying two dams, which deluged the city of Derna and surrounding towns
- At least 6,000 people are reported dead, while tens of thousands of people are missing and displaced
- Needs for healthcare, mental health services, food, shelter, household goods for the homeless and logistical support are urgently required

OUR FOOTPRINT

- International Medical Corps was the first international humanitarian organization in Libya when conflict began in 2011, and has since been providing critical health, nutrition, protection, mental health, and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services

OUR RESPONSE

- Our rapid-response team has just completed a needs assessment in the worst affected areas, including Derna
- We are sending medicines and medical supplies to affected areas for immediate distribution

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/libya-floods-disaster-brief-september-2023>

² <https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/libya-storm-daniel-flash-update-2-13-september-2023-displacement-tracking-matrix>

³ <https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/libya-floods-update-dg-echo-cogic-gdacs-un-ocha-wmo-media-echo-daily-flash-13-september-2023>

⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/libya-flood-update-flash-update-no1-13-september-2023>

The need to provide temporary shelter for people who have had their homes destroyed or rendered uninhabitable is a priority. Families whose homes have been destroyed are staying in schools. Displaced individuals are in urgent need of NFIs, such as tents, blankets, basic household items, hygiene kits, cooking utensils and flashlights. Because healthcare infrastructure has been significantly affected, immediate emergency medical assistance and body bags for burials are needed. Disrupted access to healthcare, combined with the damage to sewage networks and sanitation facilities, poses a significant risk for outbreaks of infectious disease. Access to clean water, working sanitation facilities, and hygiene promotion is critically required, to prevent the spread of waterborne diseases. Medical supplies, equipment and medication, along with medical personnel, are needed to treat the injured and ill. MPHSS services are required for survivors grappling with immense emotional trauma. Immediate food assistance is required, as the storm has severely disrupted local food supply chains.

International Medical Corps Response

As of September 14, International Medical Corps was the only international organization allowed inside Derna by authorities. Our rapid-response team conducted an assessment and met with partners, including staff at one of the few functional hospitals in the city. Access was granted based on our strong relationships and history of effective programming in the country.

International Medical Corps is rushing essential lifesaving medicines and medical supplies to the Derna area to assist with trauma and lifesaving response.

International Medical Corps also is working with local organizations and community leaders for a rapid expansion of its response, to prevent disease and provide continued care for survivors.

As the only international NGO [classified by the World Health Organization](#) as an Emergency Medical Team (EMT) Type 1, Fixed and Mobile, we are preparing to deploy an EMT in the coming days.



Members of our rapid-response team survey damage in Derna.