



*International Medical Corps teams are on the ground in Derna, providing aid.*

On September 10, a powerful “medicane” dubbed Storm Daniel made landfall in Libya, bringing strong winds and such heavy rainfall to northeastern areas of the country that two dams upstream of the coastal city of Derna collapsed the next day. The breach and resulting floodwaters had catastrophic consequences for the city’s people and infrastructure.

Estimates of the number of deaths range from about 4,000 to double or triple that amount, with about 9,000 missing and 46,000 people displaced. The city of Derna has been most affected, with at least 3,283 buried so far, according to a government spokesperson.<sup>1</sup> These figures are expected to increase as clean-up operations are underway and with stagnant water receding.

Schools have become temporary shelters for internally displaced people, and they are in urgent need of non-food items (NFIs), such as hygiene kits. Because healthcare infrastructure has been significantly affected, immediate emergency medical assistance and body bags for burials are needed. In addition, threat of further rain and flooding will exacerbate the outbreak of waterborne disease in an already strained environment. Therefore, access to clean water, working sanitation facilities, and hygiene promotion is critically required.

In Derna, there are four functional primary healthcare centers and one working hospital, where medical supplies, equipment and medication, as well as medical personnel, are needed. Due to the shock and grief of victims of the flood, mental health and psychosocial support (MPHSS) is required for survivors grappling with immense emotional trauma. Immediate food assistance also is required, as the storm has severely disrupted local supply chains.

### FAST FACTS

- Thousands of people are confirmed dead, while tens of thousands of people are missing and 40,000 people displaced
- The worst-affected areas are the cities Derna and Sousa, with the neighboring towns of Al Bayada and Al Makhaili
- Needs for healthcare, mental health services and household goods for the homeless, as well as logistical support, are high
- Libya is entering its rainy season, increasing the risk of outbreaks of diseases

### OUR FOOTPRINT

- International Medical Corps was the first international humanitarian organization to arrive in Libya after 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 teams have completed their coordination and rapid assessments in Derna, Sousa Al Bayada and Al Makhaili
- Our medical team has deployed to a Ministry of Health primary healthcare facility, are supporting a government field hospital and are providing medical services to affected populations in Derna.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/9/18/libya-floods-conflicting-death-tolls-greek-aid-workers-die-in-crash>

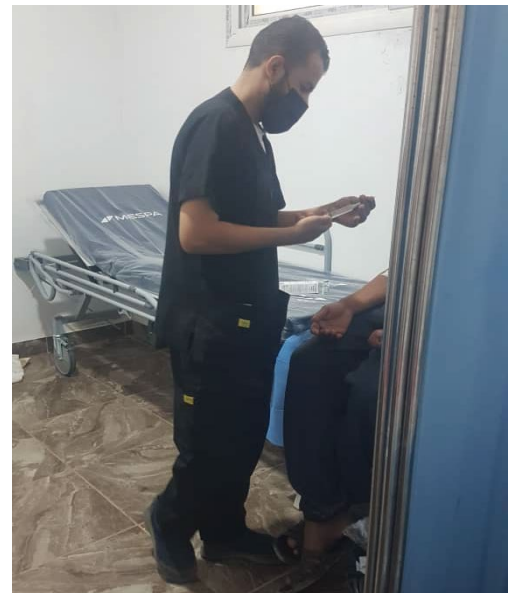
## International Medical Corps Response

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International Medical Corps arrived in Derna on September 14 to assess needs and meet with health authorities and other stakeholders, including the Libyan Red Crescent. International Medical Corps assessment teams also visited Al Bayada, Al Makhaili and Sousa.

As a result of this coordination, International Medical Corps deployed a medical team to a primary healthcare clinic (PHC) in the west side of Derna—an area that has a large population and was critically affected by the flood—and started services. We have recruited healthcare workers from Derna and nearby towns to work with our responders and will soon deploy additional medical personnel to expand services, including mental health care. One of our community health workers has already started visiting the communities to inform them of services available by International Medical Corps, while the PHC is already seeing an increase in its number of patients. Currently, International Medical Corps is the only international NGO providing health services in west Derna. A shipment of medication procured by International Medical Corps will arrive and be distributed to the PHC by September 19.

International Medical Corps also is working with local organizations such as the Libyan Red Crescent and community leaders to expand our response. We continue to focus on opportunities to prevent disease and provide continued care for survivors over the long term.



*An International Medical Corps doctor treats a patient at a primary healthcare center in Derna.*