



International Medical Corps distributed hygiene kits to IDPs in Derna.

On September 10, Storm Daniel hit Libya, unleashing powerful winds with speeds of up to 80 km/h (50 mph) and heavy rainfall. The following day, the formidable force of the storm caused the collapse of two dams located upstream from the coastal city of Derna, resulting in the confirmed loss of 4,333 people.<sup>1</sup> According to the regional emergency committee's report, 25% of Derna is submerged or destroyed. Despite the efforts of search-and-rescue teams in locating 452 survivors, more than 8,500 people remain missing.<sup>2</sup>

The catastrophe is straining Libya's healthcare system. According to the World Health Organization, 63% of hospitals and 52% of primary health facilities in the affected area are partially functional or non-functional.<sup>3</sup> And there is a deficiency of medicines necessary for the treatment of chronic diseases.<sup>4</sup> Most health risks for flood survivors are related to contaminated water sources and inadequate hygiene and sanitation facilities. These conditions heighten the risk of disease outbreaks, such as water-borne diseases, including acute watery diarrhea and cholera, and vector-borne diseases, including typhoid, dengue, malaria and yellow fever. The healthcare infrastructure has suffered substantial damage, requiring urgent deployment of emergency medical assistance and body bags for burials. More than 190 cases of diarrhea have been reported in the affected regions in the last two days by the National Center for Disease Control.<sup>5</sup>

### FAST FACTS

- More than 4,000 people are reported dead, while more than 8,500 people are missing and tens of thousands displaced
- In the affected area, 63% of hospitals and 52% of primary health centers are partially functional or non-functional
- The worst-affected areas are the cities of Derna and Sousa, along with the neighboring towns of Al Bayada and Al Makhaili
- Needs for WASH, healthcare and mental health services are critical in flood-affected areas.

### OUR FOOTPRINT

- International Medical Corps was the first international humanitarian organization 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

- We have three EMT Type 1 Fixed facilities operational in Derna and Sousa.
- MHPSS counselors and operators are providing remote MHPSS services through the National Helpline.
- Hygiene kits were distributed to IDPS in informal settlements in Derna.

<sup>1</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/libya-situation-report-4-oct-2023-enar>

<sup>2</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/libya-flood-response-humanitarian-update-28-september-2023-enar>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.emro.who.int/libya-floods/index.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/libya-flood-response-humanitarian-update-28-september-2023-enar>

<sup>5</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/libya-situation-report-4-oct-2023-enar>

The floods have displaced more than 40,000 people in Derna, with 30,000-35,000 currently residing in overcrowded camps and settlements in and around Derna governorate,<sup>6</sup> where they have limited access to clean water and sanitation. Furthermore, there is a pressing need for facilities, which places them at heightened risk of various health issues, including skin and respiratory infections.<sup>7</sup> In addition, when considering mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services within the affected communities, the primary issues raised by callers revolve around emotions of being overwhelmed, experiencing low moods, disrupted sleep patterns, heightened stress, and anxiety stemming from the pervasive uncertainty.

## International Medical Corps Response

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### Health

International Medical Corps has three EMT Type 1 Fixed facilities operating in flood-affected areas, providing primary healthcare services to flood-affected communities. Two are in Derna: Dar Al Salam PHCC in West Derna and Ehrir Kwesah in East Derna, where more than 680 patients have been seen; 30% have been children under 12. The third facility is at Sousa General Hospital. International Medical Corps continues to conduct rapid needs assessments targeting health facilities in remote locations that have yet to receive support.

### MHPSS

International Medical Corps recruited operators and MHPSS counselors to provide remote MHPSS services through the National Helpline. International Medical Corps' MHPSS counselors have received more than 30 calls; 30% were inquiries about available services, while 70% sought and received MHPSS services, including psychological first aid and well-being support. Sixty-five percent of the callers were female, and 35% were male.

### WASH

International Medical Corps received water bladders over the weekend to support our water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) response in health facilities, with community-based activities focused on infection and prevention control. International Medical Corps will also receive water modules—containing equipment to set up water networks that can serve up to 5,000 people each. With these supplies, we plan to rehabilitate and/or build water networks to ensure clean water is available in communities and at health facilities. Our team also conducted an assessment at Albayada Hospital, where water levels reached two meters, causing infrastructure damage and the destruction of medical equipment. In addition, the first floor was filled with mud, including bathrooms and examination rooms. International Medical Corps will work with the hospital management team to address urgent WASH needs to enable the hospital to function safely.

### Non-food Items

In collaboration with the Libyan Red Crescent and the Dar Al Salam Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Committee, International Medical Corps has distributed 280 hygiene kits to IDPs in informal settlements in Derna. Our team will also receive non-food items, including blankets, wheelchairs, crutches, cooking sets and mattresses, this week. International Medical Corps will work with local partners and authorities to distribute these items to the affected population.

### Coordination

Thematic working groups by UN agencies have been reactivated. International Medical Corps is coordinating with all working groups, including Health, EMT, Protection, WASH and GBV, to ensure a collaborative response with other stakeholders. International Medical Corps met with the Ministry of Health (MoH) in Benghazi to address the ongoing response efforts in areas affected by recent flooding. During the meeting, various topics were discussed, including future initiatives to extend assistance to additional flood-affected regions and the expansion of our MHPSS services. The MoH expressed appreciation for our vital role in delivering emergency relief to the affected population and reiterated the importance of our support throughout the recovery phase.



*International Medical Corps received water bladders for our WASH response in health facilities.*

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<sup>6</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/saving-lives-preventing-health-risks-and-restoring-health-care-services-aftermath-libya-floods>

<sup>7</sup> <https://reliefweb.int/report/libya/unicf-libya-humanitarian-situation-report-no-4-storm-daniel-and-floods-5-october-2023>