



FLOODS CRISIS IN LIBYA

THE IRC'S RESPONSE AT A GLANCE

2024



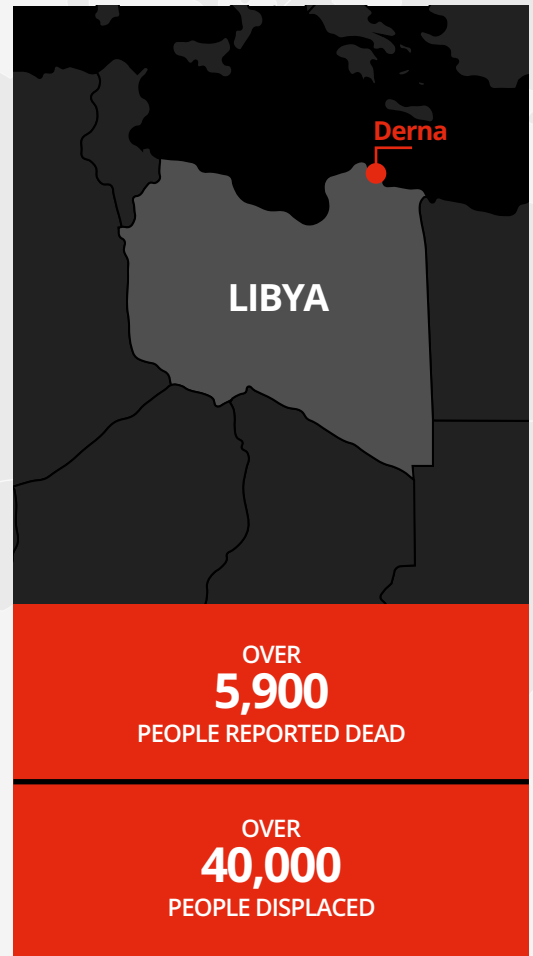
🕒 September 10, 2023.

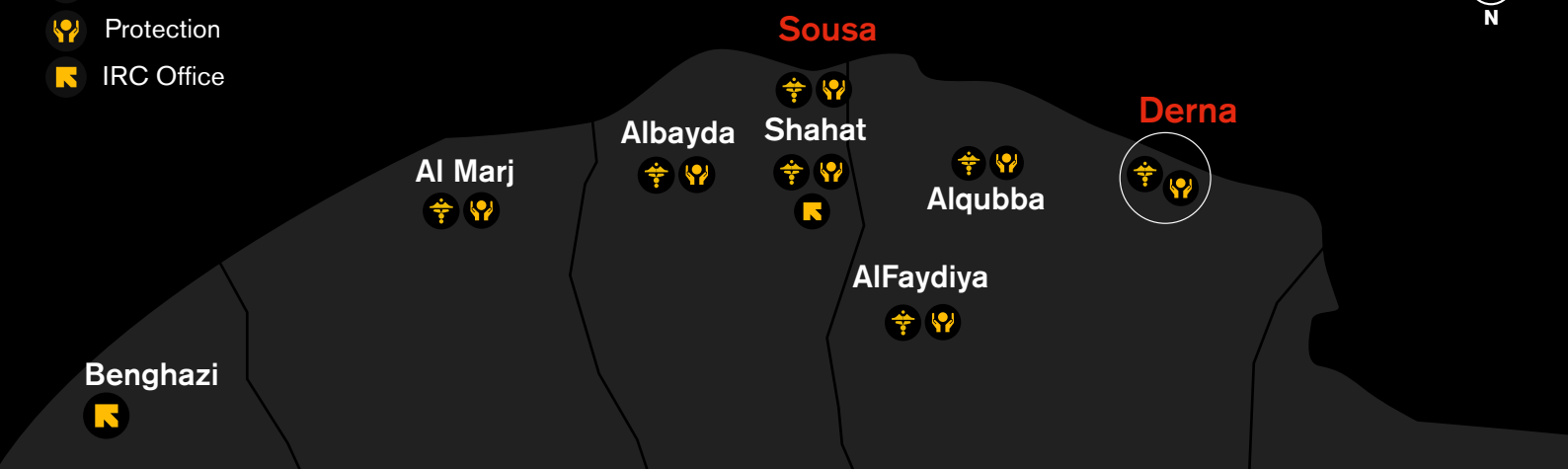
Storm Daniel hits the eastern coast of Libya with strong winds, heavy rainfall, and flash floods affecting various locations. The **city of Derna** has seen the worst of the devastation, where rainfall exceeded 100mm in just three days. This led to the collapse of two dams suffering from accumulated structural problems, which sent water rushing towards the city, washing away entire neighborhoods and splitting the city in half.

❓ Impact on the people in affected areas.

Significant damage has been caused to infrastructure, including roads, bridges, health facilities, schools, and houses in the affected area, and with more than **40% of the city's estimated population displaced and unable to return home nor secure their livelihood**, the humanitarian situation in the months following the floods was dire.

Prior to the floods, people were already in a difficult humanitarian situation due to political instability and ongoing conflict over the past years. The Derna flooding serves as a stark reminder of how climate change in fragile contexts can lead to catastrophic outcomes.





September 20, 2023.

The IRC was among the early responders to the crisis and **delivered an integrated health and protection program**, with complementary non-food item distributions to help people affected by this tragedy recover.

Within the first month, the IRC was able to:

- 1 Assess flood affected areas and design an appropriate response.
- 2 Provide urgently needed logistical support to the Ministry of Health by **maintaining 7 ambulance vehicles**.
- 3 Deploy mobile medical teams to **address the critical shortage of medical staff in affected areas** and provide lifesaving health screenings, consultations, and treatment.
- 4 Deploy mental health & psychosocial support specialists to **provide mental healthcare consultations and treatment to flood-survivors**.
- 5 Deploy community health workers to deliver awareness sessions, focusing on psychological first-aid, mental health, and waterborne diseases.
- 6 Activate an emergency hotline to **ensure improved access to health for the affected population, especially for women and children** in Derna and neighboring cities.
- 7 Set up a network of community outreach volunteers to **identify people in need within the affected communities** and provided integrated protection services, with a focus on women and children.
- 8 Deploy an integrated protection team, consisting of child protection workers, women protection and empowerment specialists and protection and rule of law officers to conduct case management, recreational activities, information dissemination, dignity and baby kits distributions and other activities.



The IRC has established a **Memorandum of Understanding with the Libyan Ministry of Health**, enabling the rapid deployment of our medical teams, supplies, and resources to the hardest-hit areas.

“ Data from our client feedback mechanism shows that flood-affected communities continue to express their need for ongoing specialized medical support, including additional doctors, lab tests, and medications; and an overwhelming need for psychosocial support for clients still haunted by the trauma.

— Jared Rowell,
Country Director
International Rescue Committee - Libya

KEY FIGURES

People reached
69,356

59%

41%

33,756
Medical Consultations

901
Mental Health Consultations

23,277
Health Awareness

226
Hotline Assistance

3,997
Child Protection

5,112
Women Protection & Empowerment

2,087
Essential Material Assistance

12
Healthcare Centers Rehabilitated



Pharmaceuticals Supply

By monitoring the shortage in essential drugs against occurring needs, the IRC was able to **distribute medicine supplies to 8 healthcare facilities** in coordination with the Ministry of Health.

“
My grandma’s home was gone. My childhood school was gone.

I was horrified.

— Abdulsalam Budaraa,
Libyan flood survivor

Rescue.org 

Survivors continue to struggle with psychological trauma as a result of what they saw.

Abdulsalam was with his friends the night the floods hit Derna. After witnessing the destruction firsthand, he joined the search and rescue teams, hoping to help others and escape the recurring nightmares that haunted him.

“For weeks, I kept hearing the sound of water rushing through our city,” Abdulsalam recalls.

He goes on to describe his nightmares: “One image that stuck with me was the bodies of a family we recovered. The three of them were holding on tightly to each other, as if they were hugging.”

Three months later, Abdulsalam was admitted to the hospital after suffering a nervous breakdown. He was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.