

BRIEF: LIBYA, ONE YEAR SINCE STORM DANIEL: REFLECTIONS AND REMAINING NEEDS

Sep 11th 2024

0 Introduction

At the one-year mark since Storm Daniel devastated Libya's eastern coast, five leading international aid agencies: Acted, International Medical Corps (IMC), the International Rescue Committee (IRC), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and Première Urgence Internationale (PUI), reflect on the emergency flood response and highlight the remaining needs in the flood-affected areas.

International non-governmental organizations (iNGOs) have been instrumental in the flood response, delivering key immediate and short-term interventions, and supporting with expertise, resources, and established presence in affected areas and enabled a swift, large-scale responses, filling critical gaps in capacity, as outlined below:

Nearly 200,000 people were reached through the response of the five international aid agencies



WASH

Pipeline Reconnection: Reconnection of the main West to East pipeline in flood-affected areas and rehabilitated key water stations, ensuring water access for thousands.

Borehole Maintenance: Maintenance of 12 boreholes and 8 trucks, crucial for water distribution in affected areas, ensuring 49,500 people had access to necessary resources and WASH services.



SHELTER

NFI Distribution: Distribution of over 7036 non-food items (NFI), including winterizations kits, dignity kits and other to displaced populations.

School Rehabilitation: Rehabilitation of 14 schools, creating safe learning environments for children in affected areas.





HEALTH

Medical Consultations: Over 70,000 Medical consultations conducted addressing urgent health needs.

Health Facility Renovations: Long-term stabilization through 25 health facility renovations and capacity building of local health staff.

Health Awareness: Health awareness campaigns reaching over 80,000 people, improving public health practices.



PROTECTION

Child Protection & Education: Training of teachers and distributed educational materials, impacting over 8,900 children and 45 teachers.

Women Protection and Empowerment: Supported over 40,900 women and adolescent girls through psychosocial support, case management, referrals and distributions



LIVELIHOOD

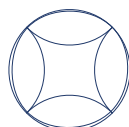
Cash Cards & Food Parcels: Distribution of 1,660 e-cards, cash, and food parcels, providing essential financial support to vulnerable households.

Training sessions: A total of 500 professionals, including medical staff, were trained on community support, PFA, UDOC, Emergency Response and other skills related to post disaster management.



Key Findings

The flood response saw several effective strategies, including a robust UN-led coordination mechanism with thematic working groups and the UN Resident Coordinator's supportive role. INGOs established a local presence, enhancing their responsiveness, while the Libya INGO Forum (LIF) facilitated strategic coordination and advocacy. The use of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with local authorities and the development of referral pathways with the Libyan Red Crescent (LRC) were key to operational success. Engaging community leaders, recruiting locally, and utilizing flexible funding also contributed to a more effective response. However, several challenges sometimes led to missed opportunities for optimization, including coordination challenges due to multiple overlapping platforms, frequent changes in approval processes, and financial liquidity issues.





One year later and despite an effective initial emergency response, needs remain, as the devastation caused by the floods has left critical gaps in essential services, as outlined below:

Health and mental health services:

Our teams continue to see a high demand for medical services and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). The affected population, particularly women and children, face health risks, including a shortage of medications. Several healthcare facilities still lack the necessary staff, particularly in specialties like child health and reproductive health.

Basic needs and livelihood support:

A significant number of displaced families require cash assistance to meet basic needs, as many have lost their sources of income. Immediate support is also needed for job opportunities, vocational training, and livelihood programs to stabilize the affected population's economic situation. Specific focus should be given to the local owners of small and medium size businesses which lost their source of income in the flooding and need support to restart their businesses.

Education:

There is an urgent need to address educational gaps, such as catch-up classes and remedial education, to ensure children continue learning in the aftermath of the disaster. Enrollment campaigns are needed to get children back to school.

Communication and information dissemination:

Improved communication channels are necessary to share timely and accurate information about available services. The current lack of such systems hampers effective support for affected populations.

Additional long-term needs and support requirements have also been identified, as detailed below:

Skills development and employment:

The delivery of trainings to support the affected populations to build their skills in alternative fields to what they worked, in light of the decrease in job opportunities. This effort aims to create sustainable employment opportunities and help rebuild the local economy.

Health system strengthening:

Reinforcement of the health system is essential, including the development of health curricula, training for health staff, and improvement of documentation and system-level resilience. These actions are crucial for ensuring the health system can effectively respond to future shocks.

Psychosocial support:

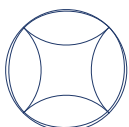
There is a need to ensure long-term availability of psychosocial support services, especially in schools and public spaces.

Legal services:

Housing, land, and property (HLP) services and legal consultations are required to address the complex issues arising from displacement.

Sustainable livelihood programs:

Implementing livelihood support programs that go beyond short-term cash assistance is necessary. This includes access to finance, skills training, and business development services, aimed at fostering resilience and long-term recovery.





WHAT ROLE CAN INGOs PLAY IN THE UPCOMING PERIOD OF RECOVERY?

ADDRESSING NEED GAPS:

Many needs, which are not being addressed by ongoing reconstruction work in the flood affected cities, remain including MHPSS, health, livelihood and system strengthening needs. iNGOs play a vital role in conducting thorough needs assessments to identify the most pressing requirements across affected areas and mobilizing resources to fill the gaps.

STRENGTHENING THE EDUCATIONAL FIELD:

As schools open their doors again, iNGOs work with local organisations to address educational gaps, including enrollment campaigns, catch up classes etc. In parallel, INGOs support the Ministry of Education in strengthening their program including teachers training, material support, reinforcement of the protective environment in schools, recreational activities for children.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND ENGAGEMENT OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS:

iNGOs focus on building the capacity of local stakeholders, including public services staff, health workers and community members, particularly in areas related to protection and health. This capacity-building should include organizational assessments and tailored training programs to enhance local response capabilities.

ENGAGEMENT OF LOCAL CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOS):

Engaging local CSOs, such as the Libyan Red Crescent (LRC), is vital for improving access and ensuring that support reaches the most vulnerable populations. This engagement can strengthen community-based approaches and enhance the effectiveness of relief efforts.

DEVELOPMENT OF REFERRAL SYSTEMS AND SERVICE MAPPING:

Enhance referral systems and service mapping to improve the accessibility of services for affected populations. Service mapping should involve local and international actors, including the UN, with subsequent training for local stakeholders and communities to effectively utilize and refer cases based on the mapped services.

SUPPORT LOCAL INITIATIVES THAT HELP THE COMMUNITY ADAPT TO AND MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE:

INGOs focus on identifying and supporting local initiatives led by civil societies, small and medium size businesses, community members which help the community adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change. In parallel, INGOs work in developing community awareness on environmental and climate changes and their effects.

