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Libya Storm Daniel & Flood

Situation Report #3

















28 September 2023



UNICEF team visits IDP shelter in Derna, UNICEF partners: FM and LRCS providing PSS, Credit: UNICEF.LCO/Derna/Sept23

Situation across the East

Response

 <p>884k People in Need</p>	 <p>429 Acute watery diarrhea in Children Cases</p>	 <p>67 Metric Tons of relief supplies Received</p>	 <p>10,500 Children Reached by NCDC with Measles campaign supported by UNICEF</p>
 <p>353k Children in Need</p>	 <p>117 Schools Affected</p>	 <p>2,505 ppl Reached with Hygiene kits</p>	 <p>3,600 Children provided with early development and recreational kits</p>
 <p>40k IDPs</p>	 <p>16k Estimated Number of IDPs Children</p>	 <p>90k ppl Covered with essential medical supplies for 3 months</p>	 <p>49k Water Purification tablets distributed</p>
 <p>18% Non-functional health facilities</p>	 <p>19 IDPs Occupied Schools</p>	 <p>333 Child, and 1,100 Women Micronutrients supplements distributed</p>	 <p>8,000 Child Covered with 200 school in box kits distributed to MoE</p>

¹ Libya Flood response Flash Appeal, Sept 2023 - Dec 2023 (Issued September 2023) [EN/AR]

Highlights

- As of 26 September, 40,018 individuals (16,000 are estimated to be children) were displaced according to IOM-DTM.
- 49,000 water purification tablets and 700 kg of chlorine powder have been dispatched to Derna and Al-Bayda to ensure water disinfection and prevention of water borne diseases in children.
- According to National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), 429 cases of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) in children were recorded in affected eastern cities, UNICEF supported with prepositioning of 15 Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) kits to treat up to 1,500 children and Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) to treat up to 1,000 children.
- UNICEF supported 15 health facilities with essential medical supplies, that can provide essential health care to 90,000 people for 3 months.
- UNICEF Child Protection and partners reached 328 children, including 159 girls and 169 boys with psychological first aid (PFA) and recreational activities in shelters, schools, and communal spaces in Derna and Benghazi.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Three weeks passed, since Northeastern Libya witnessed the devastating aftermath of Storm Daniel, a disaster unprecedented in Libya's history. As per EM-DAT disaster database, Daniel storm has been the deadliest since at least 2013 when Super Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines. Cities such as Derna, Albayda, Soussa, Al-Marj, Shahat, Taknis, Battah, Tolmeita, Bersis, Tokra, and Al-Abyar experienced severe devastation due to torrential rains and flash floods. Derna, housing over 100,000 residents, emerged as the epicentre of the catastrophe. Approximately one-third of its infrastructure was critically compromised, affecting over 2,000 structures according to UNICEF. Vital facilities, such as hospitals, had to rely on generators due to disrupted electricity. The calamity resulted in widespread displacement, with an estimated 40,018 individuals (over 16,000 children) remaining displaced as of 26 September² according to IOM-DTM. Many sought refuge in public schools, or with relatives, with many moving to other Libyan cities in the East and West, including Tobruk, Benghazi, Tripoli, Misurata, Ghiryan, and Qasr bin Ghasheer. The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported over 4,006 registered deaths, and 8,548 individuals still missing³. The migrant community also bore significant losses, leading to the death of 406 migrants.

Health and Nutrition

Storm Daniel has negatively impacted the region's health infrastructure and system, a sector which was already in need of refurbishment and essential equipment before the storm. The impact was particularly evident in the primary health care (PHC) facilities and vaccination centers, where the cold chain equipment was either flooded or without electricity for more than three days, resulting in the damage to vaccines. Over half of the health facilities in affected areas, including vital regions such as Derna, are now non-operational or partially operational. According to an assessment conducted by the UNICEF team, the Taknis Vaccination Center, Almkhaili Rural Hospital, and Albayada Rural Hospital were critically impacted, with damage to all their equipment, rendering them out of service. These three facilities were the only vaccination centres for the population in their catchment area. The World Health Organization's (WHO) assessment further underscored these challenges, revealing that 6.11 per cent of the 54 assessed PHCs and 12 per cent of the 24 assessed hospitals were non-functional. Such interruptions in the availability of health services, combined with the compromised vaccination supplies, pose significant risks for waterborne and vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks, which particularly impact children's health. No water borne diseases outbreaks were detected, however, displaced families have started to show some health issues related to displacement in unsanitary conditions, such as scabies and pediculosis. The broader health repercussions from damaged infrastructure, limited medical supplies and medicines, and

² IOM-DTM Libya -Storm Daniel Flash Update 6, 26. Sept 2023

³ WHO Situation Update: Storm/Flood in East Libya, 19. Sept.2023

healthcare worker shortages further highlight the urgency of addressing these challenges to safeguard the well-being of the region's residents, especially vulnerable children.

WASH

Storm Daniel has severely affected the region's water and sanitation infrastructure, posing immediate and concerning environmental health risks. Destruction in this sector included water networks, sewage systems, and boreholes supplying multiple cities. Derna, for instance, witnessed a shutdown of half of its 18 boreholes, compounded by extensive damage to its sewage system, thereby escalating fears of groundwater contamination and waterborne disease outbreaks. Incidents of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) with possible linkage to stagnant or sewage-contaminated need to be monitored. The National Centre of Disease Control (NCDC) reported 429 cases of AWD in children across affected eastern region since the start of the crisis up to 26th of September. In Al-Marg, a cesspit flooded significant areas, while Sousse experienced sewage blockages due to sediment. Further, Al Bayda sewage treatment plant was overwhelmed with floodwater, leading to a mix of sewage and floodwater, with subsequent damage to essential equipment and facilities. Prior to this disaster, the region's water and sanitation infrastructure was already under strain, exemplified by Derna's non-operational desalination plant. To mitigate potential health crises, urgent and coordinated efforts are necessary to restore the region's water and sanitation systems.

Education

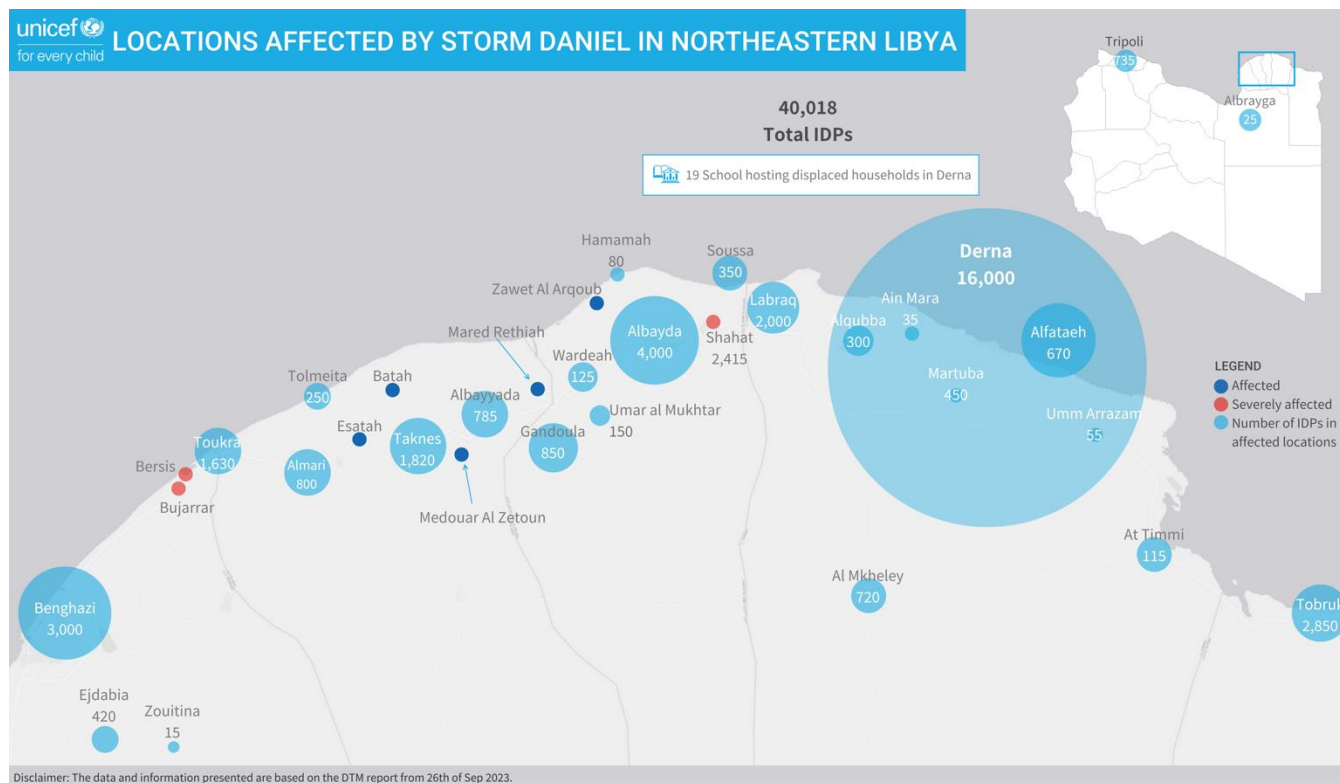
Educational facilities across 15 municipalities have been extensively impacted. According to ministry of education: 117 schools and educational facilities have been affected by the floods, 44 of which have sustained significant damage with 4 among them destroyed. Many schools have been repurposed to shelter internally displaced persons, reflecting not only the immediacy of the situation but the potential long-term disruption in the education of countless children. Supporting the Ministry of Education to re-open schools is a priority, to keep children learning and minimises learning losses. The Ministry is preparing an 'alternative plan' for those students whose schools were destroyed to ensure their continued access to education. In parallel, educators will require sustained support as they return to teaching; the high levels of displacement will have significant long-term effects on the quality of teaching and learning in schools, as classes face yet more overcrowding, providing active child-centred learning grows more challenging. Moreover, teachers will face additional pressures to provide first aid psychosocial support to their students even as they require the same support themselves. Reopening the schools and equipping educators with the right support tools is key to a return to normalcy.

Child Protection

The impact of the storm and the subsequent floods resulted in widespread displacement, separation of families, and complex vulnerabilities. In affected area, the floods resulted in an increasing number of separated and unaccompanied children. Many children are reportedly separated from their families or have lost their primary caregivers. These children face increased vulnerability, as they lack the protection and support networks provided by their families. Separated and Unaccompanied Children (UASC) may be at higher risk of exploitation, abuse, and trafficking in the aftermath of such disaster. The social welfare system is not prepared to deal with such an unprecedented emergency and lacks tools and means and capacity to identify, track and register separated and unaccompanied children (UASC), impeding family tracing and reunification of separated children, in addition to identifying urgent and immediate needs. Hence the number of UASC remains unclear as there are no official numbers shared by governments, or NGOs. Immediate efforts are required to locate, identify, and provide appropriate care and protection for these vulnerable children

The aftermath of Storm Daniel has left many children and families traumatized and emotionally distressed. The experience of witnessing the destruction of their homes, displacement, or the loss of loved ones is having severe

psychological impact of children and their parents' wellbeing. Partners have reported several instances of suicides, withdrawal, lack of sleep, bed wetting, etc among children, especially in shelters.



Summary Analysis of Programme Response

In collaboration with the Libyan Red Crescent Society (LRCS), UNICEF promptly initiated relief operations in response to the devastating floods in Libya. Our response began on the second day of the storm, and by the next day, our team was in Derna to assess service disruptions, ascertain protection needs, and coordinate urgent support for affected children and families. Integral to our strategy was the launch of rapid multisectoral needs assessments in Derna and other affected regions, informed by daily mission endeavors to understand the full scope of the crisis. Since 13 September UNICEF has surged 6 staff from Tripoli currently on the ground and 6 from abroad and has conducted 10 low profile missions with national staff (multiple days) and two international staff missions to Derna and neighboring affected towns.

In partnership with LRCS, 1,100 hygiene kits, 500 sets of children's winter clothing, and comprehensive emergency health kits to cater for 10000 people for 3 months have been distributed to beneficiaries. By September 22, UNICEF secured over 67 metric tons of vital supplies, including medical equipment, water and sanitation tools, shelter provisions, nutritional products, and psychosocial support materials. Partnering with the LRCS, we delivered crucial relief materials to displaced families in Derna. Additionally, in Benghazi, UNICEF is leading the WASH, Child Protection, Nutrition, and Education thematic Working Groups.

Health and Nutrition

UNICEF has been at the forefront of the response providing support to the Ministry of Health (MoH) and NCDC and health facilities in eastern Libya. UNICEF delivered Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) to cater the

health needs of 90,000 population over a span of three months⁴, targeting 15 health facilities in the flood affected and displacement areas. Additionally, UNICEF distributed 2 obstetric surgical kits for the Maternity unit in Alwahda hospital kits can support 200 deliveries to ensure the availability of Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) services. Also, essential emergency supplies were pre-positioned with the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) as part of the emergency preparedness plan for any outbreaks aim to cover the health needs of 60,000 affected population for 3 months. UNICEF further enhanced the healthcare capacity by equipping the Ministry of Health's Primary Health Care Institute with a package of maternal and child health supplies and equipment, including gynaecological beds, cardiotocography (CTG) machines, and first aid kits. Furthermore, Nutritional screenings were undertaken in displacement areas, where 76 children were screened, resulting in the diagnosis of cases of rickets, anemia. (7 cases GAM 9.2 per cent). Those children were provided with the needed micronutrients supplements. Mobile service delivery was amplified in flood-affected areas, as UNICEF-supported 3 mobile health teams. As a result, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services was provided to 28 beneficiaries in Derna, Soussa and Shahat. Furthermore, UNICEF continued to support the NCDC regarding the implementation of vaccination campaign that targets children (1-6 years) with Measles and Rubella vaccines and Vit A supplementation with target reach of 10,500 children.

Social and Behavioural Change

In collaboration with the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), UNICEF has launched a comprehensive Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) initiative to address public health challenges in flood-affected areas. The NCDC's endorsement of the "Safe Water: Healthy Lives" booklet, which provides essential guidance on waterborne diseases, hygiene practices, and the well-being of unaccompanied children, is a vital component of this endeavour. The booklet will play a central role in the upcoming "Safe Water: Healthy Lives" campaign in Derna, Soussa, and Albayda, scheduled to commence on 29 September. The campaign's primary aims are to reduce waterborne diseases and enhance public awareness of hygiene practices and children's well-being.⁵ The week-long "Safe Water: Healthy Lives" campaign will encompass a diverse range of activities meticulously designed to engage various stakeholders, including religious leaders, community members, and the general population. To reach religious leaders, the campaign will partner with 85 mosques and 76 Imams to disseminate key messages to their respective communities. Additionally, training of frontliners and community sessions will be conducted in shelter schools in Derna and operational schools in Albayda to reach a broader audience. Interactive sessions and awareness tents will also be strategically organized at significant locations, such as Derna's field hospital and the city entry point, to facilitate direct engagement with the population. Furthermore, a comprehensive house-to-house outreach will be conducted in specific areas, such as Al-Fatayeh, East Coast, Tobruk door, Artemisia, East and West Salam, and Sayyida Khadija neighbourhoods, ensuring that vital information reaches the most affected populations. As part of the campaign and to promote hygiene practices and provide support, 8,000 hygiene kits will be distributed to frontline workers and IDPs residing in shelters. In addition to the ongoing activities, a media network group has been established, comprising media representatives, religious leaders, and women councillors, who have all received training in Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE). This collaborative formation has not only created a community feedback platform but has also been bolstered by the implementation of a Rumors Detection and Response WhatsApp room, which effectively counters misinformation. Leveraging tools such as "Talkwalker" for social listening, the initiative has successfully crafted six pivotal messages, which have been disseminated through multiple channels, including hospitals, influencer pages, and local radio stations.

⁴ The IEHK kits were disbursed among various health institutions, including Primary Health Care Centre Number 3 and Polyclinic Number 4 in Albayda, Almkhili hospita in Alabraq, Alhaniea and Albayada hospitals in Alsahel, Salem Sassi, Dar Assalam, Um Almomenien PHCCs, Yousef Alharesh polyclinic and Alwahda hospital in Derna, Alhadaeq PHCC in Benghazi and Shahat District Health Office.

⁵ The "Safe Water: Healthy Lives" booklet endorsed by the NCDC provides essential guidance on waterborne diseases, hygiene practices, and the well-being of unaccompanied children. It serves as a valuable resource in the ongoing initiative led by UNICEF to address public health challenges in flood-affected regions. You can access the booklet [here](#).

WASH

UNICEF promptly took measures to address water and sanitation needs. In close collaboration with the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC), we dispatched 32,000 water purification tablets to Derna. Moreover, through the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in partnership with other UN entities, we distributed 281 family hygiene kits, directly benefiting 1,405 individuals, in addition to the 1,100 individual kits provided during prompt response. Recognizing the importance of collaborative action, the UNICEF-led WASH Coordination meetings engage over 15 partners, with participation from the General Company of Water and Wastewater (GWWC), the General Desalination Company (GDC) and a representative of the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG). Proactively addressing the water needs in Derna, UNICEF facilitated the installation of 6 water tanks at IDP sites and is in the process of identifying a local independent water quality laboratory to provide testing services (which is a prerequisite to water trucking). Once the water quality contractor is identified, UNICEF will proceed with water trucking via a commercial company. Our support to GWWC included the provision of chlorine drums for reservoir disinfection, chlorination products for households, and vital water pipes to reinstate the water connection at Derna's desalination plant. On the ground, two of our WASH experts have continuously assessed conditions in Derna and its environment, offering technical assistance to local governmental bodies. Furthermore, we have supplied an additional 17,000 water purification tablets and 700 kg of chlorine powder to GWWC, ensuring reservoir disinfection and enabling ongoing clean water access through the public network. The distribution of these tablets in collective shelters is currently ongoing. UNICEF has reached out to the GWWC and GDC to explore ways and means to restore water supply in affected areas especially Derna and Al-Bayda. Both the GWWC and GDC are developing a prioritized list of items needed to restore operation of the 3 damaged water desalination plants and 5 non-functional boreholes in Derna city. UNICEF will support local procurement of required items. UNICEF is also supporting water quality monitoring in the affected areas through the rapid training and deployment of mobile teams from local government and NGO partners. UNICEF has also established 3 partnerships with INTERSOS, Asarya and IMC to immediately start to provide a comprehensive package of Emergency WASH service in Derna, Al Bayda, Sousse, and surrounding cities.

Child Protection

Recognizing the importance of MPHSS and prioritizing its provision remains a central focus in the response efforts to address the broader repercussions of this crisis. UNICEF scaled up the implementation of MHPSS activities in the affected areas, deploying four operational mobile teams to provide comprehensive support. This number is set to increase to 15 teams by next week, reflecting the organization's commitment to meeting the growing needs on the ground. To date UNICEF has already made significant progress, reaching a total of 328 children, including 159 girls and 169 boys with psychological first aid (PFA) and recreational activities in shelters, schools, and communal spaces in Derna and Benghazi. Moreover, 14 women and 10 men were reached with awareness-raising sessions related to keeping themselves and their children safe. UNICEF is also engaging with the Social Affairs (MOSA) and the Social Solidarity Fund (SSF) to support establishing a dedicated information management system for tracking unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), while ensuring that identified UASC receive dedicated and individualized support. Furthermore, a total of 3,600 (1,980 girls, 1,620 boys) individuals have received comprehensive support through the provision of Early Childhood Development (ECD) and recreational kits. These kits are playing a crucial role in promoting the cognitive, social, and emotional development of children, offering them opportunities for learning, play, and psychosocial well-being. The distribution of these kits is contributing to creating a nurturing and stimulating environment for the affected children, enabling them to regain a sense of normalcy and resilience in the aftermath of the disaster.

Under the flood response coordination structure, the Child Protection Working Group has been activated with 25 actors under the lead of UNICEF in charge of the inter-agency child protection interventions. The priority of the working group is to strengthen the NGO/government co-leadership of this working group and support partners on

unaccompanied and separated children registration as well as provide short refresher trainings on the provision of 1st and 2nd line of the MHPSS.

Education

Following the devastation of Storm Daniel in eastern Libya, UNICEF took immediate action by distributing 200 'school-in-a-box' kits to the Ministry of Education (MoE). Designed to swiftly re-establish learning environments in crisis situations, these kits can accommodate up to 8,000 students, with each kit catering to 40 students. In tandem with the MoE and affected municipalities, we've embarked on a preliminary assessment of the impacted schools, a process that is currently ongoing to ascertain the full extent of damage and needs. Our partner, Asarya, has begun a detailed mapping exercise to prioritize the schools in direst need of support. Based on the results of this mapping, UNICEF will support the MoE to re-open schools through cleaning, light rehabilitation and provision of furniture and learning materials, as required. Beyond providing immediate assistance, our holistic strategy encompasses specialized training for educators and provision of life skills resources for students. As part of our longer-term response UNICEF is developing the Learning Passport, a digital platform tailored to meet the educational requirements of Libyan children, ensuring uninterrupted access to top-tier education. Establishment of the Learning Passport has been approved by the Minister of Education, and with the domain now in place, UNICEF is working closely with the Ministry on approval of educational content to populate it, in order to launch officially and provide continuous access to quality learning for children. In parallel, UNICEF assumed responsibility for sector coordination through the RRM Education Thematic Group and is leading the sector through weekly meetings to ensure a harmonised response and minimise duplication of efforts from humanitarian partners.

Communication and engagement

UNICEF continues to engage with the media, providing regular updates on the humanitarian situation in flood-affected areas of Libya and UNICEF's response. In addition, UNICEF issued a press release on 28 September to shed light on the 16,000 displaced children in eastern Libya following Africa's deadliest storm in recorded history and in an appeal for funds to support long-term recovery efforts focused on education, health, and water.

[Alsharq TV](#), [RND](#), [Libya Alahrar](#) [Alaraby](#) [Libyan PM](#), [UNICEF official discuss aid for flood victims \(mb.com.ph\)](#)
[Nearly 300,000 children affected in Libya - AOHRUK](#) [يونسف: 300 ألف طفل تضرروا بفيضانات ليبيا وبحث في كيفية دعمهم](#)
[\(alaraby.co.uk\)](#) [300 ألف طفل تضرروا بسبب فيضانات ليبيا](#) - [AOHRUK](#) [Almarsad](#) [Alwasat](#) - [Ejaz](#) – [Alhadath Libya](#) - [Libya](#)
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<https://www.rnd.de/politik/hochwasserkatastrophe-in-libyen-unicef-mitarbeiterin-im-interview-7IVU5MOFNVCDPMSMNFNYXJLJ34.html>

UNICEF conducted a field mission, headed by the Regional Director and the Representative to Derna and Albayda on 26 and 27 September. During the mission, UNICEF met with the authorities, visited schools hosting IDPs, Primary Health Clinics, and met partners on the ground.

Funding Status

As the extent of the damage caused by Storm Daniel becomes clearer, more significant needs relating to the destruction of basic health, water, education, and child protection infrastructure can be expected to emerge. UNICEF's initial response requires **US\$ 6.5 million** to reach children with emergency services and supplies for the initial three months (this appeal is in our revised Humanitarian Action for Children).

UNICEF has raised **US\$ 5.4 million**, including US\$ 1.6 million in institutional funding. UNICEF would like to thank the Central Emergency Response Fund, its National Committees, for their generous support to UNICEF's response efforts.

Following the latest assessments, UNICEF will issue next week a revised appeal, encompassing emergency, recovery, and rehabilitation needs until June 2024.

Sector	Target Beneficiaries	Estimated Budget in US\$	Funding Received in US\$	Funding Gap in US\$	Funding Gap in %
Health and Nutrition	250,000 people including 75,000 children	1,500,000	700,000	800,000	53%
WASH	250,000 people including 75,000 children	1,800,000	3,800,000	-	0%
Child Protection	75,000 children	950,000	662,000	288,000	30%
Education	75,000 children	750,000	200,000	550,000	73%
Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance	45,000 including 13,500 children	1,500,000	-	1,500,000	100%
TOTAL	-	6,500,000	5,362,000	1,138,000	18%