UNICEF in cooperation with Future Makers Society during awareness sessions in Benghazi with displaced children as part of the UNICEF preventive health and hygiene efforts to protect children from water-borne diseases.
Highlights

- The Libyan Government leads the initiation of early recovery efforts with support of humanitarian actors, focusing on restoration of essential services, including reopening of schools, re-establishing primary health care services, and maintaining water and sanitation networks.

- To tackle vaccine stockouts, UNICEF supported the National Center for Disease Control (NCDC) with procurement of 250,000 doses of the Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV), 20,000 doses of the Measles and Rubella vaccine, and 10,000 doses of Vitamin A supplementation.

- UNICEF delivered 520,000 litres of safe drinking water and provided pumps and spare parts to the General Company for Water and Wastewater (GCWW) enabling the restoration of four non-functional boreholes in Derna.

- UNICEF continued the “Safe Water: Healthy Lives” campaign in collaboration with NCDC, directly reaching 24,454 individuals and another 306,405 people through social media platforms.

- UNICEF supported the deployment of 12 mobile child protection teams in affected areas, reaching 2,453 children with psychosocial support, including psychological first aid (PFA) and recreational activities.

- UNICEF began the cleaning of 11 schools in Albayda and Shahat to enable children to return to learning. 13,000 children were reached with learning materials, including 8,000 school-in-a-box kits and 100 Early Childhood Education (ECE) kits.

Situation Overview

Over a month since Storm Daniel ravaged North-eastern Libya on September 11, the humanitarian crisis’s profound impact continues. The storm’s aftermath left 43,421 people displaced, with 94% remaining in eastern Libyan municipalities and 6% moving to western Libya. As families grapple with the profound psychological stress of losing homes, loved ones, and their familiar environments, they’re actively seeking long-term solutions.

Efforts for early recovery are underway as the government collaborates with humanitarian partners to restore essential services. However, the toll is staggering. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the number of confirmed deaths stands at 4,345, and 8,540 individuals remain missing. While assistance efforts persist in the affected areas, a communication outage in Benghazi due to armed clashes has resulted in some delays in assessments and data collection.

Health and Nutrition: According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 84% of hospitals and 88% of Public Health Care (PHC) facilities are partially or non-functional, which hinders access to health services and exposes children, adolescents, and women to complications of preventable and curable morbidities. While health authorities are working hard to support and coordinate the resumption of regular health services, reduced human resources capacity, shortages in supplies and the damaged infrastructure are creating significant challenges, according to eastern health authorities. NCDC surveillance reports showed a relative decline of the reported Acute Diarrhoea cases from the flood affected areas after reporting of 4,464 cases since September 14 to October 16. However, NCDC has reported multiple cases of Rubella that surpass the outbreak threshold, and due to limited diagnostic
kits, further tracing and in-depth investigation to the alarming number of suspected Rubella cases were not possible highlighting the need to enforce disease surveillance and primary prevention capacities to prevent possible measles and mumps outbreaks, especially with noticed recurrent routine vaccines stock outs affecting storm affected localities, putting children at risk of vaccine preventable diseases.

**Figure 1**

Graph illustrates the fluctuation in prevalence of acute diarrhea cases in flood affected areas since 16. Sept to 16. Oct 2023

**WASH**: In response to storm damage to Eastern Libya's water and sanitation infrastructure, GCWW has restored parts of the sewage network, alleviating sewage flooding and blockages in Al Bayda and Derna. The Ministry of Education (MoE) also began rehabilitating schools including WASH facilities. GCWW completed cleaning the two desalination plants in Derna and Soussa, conducting test runs to assess damages and repair needs. The Man-Made River Project (MMRP) initiated rehabilitation for 3 boreholes in Bayada, aiming to restore water access. Engineers from GCWW headquarters (HQ) are assessing the water and sanitation infrastructure in the affected areas. Despite these positive developments, challenges remain. Water quality is still an issue, as water is still contaminated in most of the affected areas, and non-operational desalination plants contribute to ongoing water shortages. Flood damaged sewage infrastructure poses public health risks for residents. Improving water quality, repairs to desalination plants, and addressing damaged sewage infrastructure are essential priorities to ensure the health and safety of the affected communities, with a particular focus on vulnerable populations. Strengthening the region's water and sanitation maintenance capacity is also crucial for a sustainable recovery.

**Child Protection**: Assessments conducted by UNICEF partners during the reporting period continue to show high needs for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). The need is especially high among internally displaced persons (IDP), where both children and adults alike experience psychological stressors and difficulties in coping with the new environment, uncertainty, or dealing with isolation. Some of the signs of psychosocial distress in children observed by the team included bedwetting, withdrawal, and aggression. UNICEF partners also observed that some parents had issues dealing with their children's attitudes or behaviors due to their own stress, trauma and lack of coping skills. Additionally, children with memories of the flood crisis were more sensitive to weather changes such as rain and thunder and showed trauma-related anxiety. Many displaced families lost essential documentation such as identity cards, birth certificates, marriage certificates, or property deeds which can hinder their access to basic services, social protection, or legal aid. Displacement and loss of lives has exposed children, especially unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), to increased risks of exploitation and abuse. UNICEF is working on building capacity of social affairs staff and strengthening the social welfare system to allow identification, registration and support to UASC. Immediate, coordinated efforts are vital for locating, identifying, and ensuring the care and protection of affected children, highlighting the urgent need for specialized child protection support.

**Education**: Storm Daniel caused significant disruption to the education sector in the East. According to MoE data, 117 schools and facilities across 15 municipalities were damaged by the floods, and several schools sheltered IDP
families. 98 schools in the region remain closed due to damage or accessibility issues caused by the floods. According to OCHA, initially 34 schools in the affected areas were converted into collective centres to accommodate IDPs. As of October 10, 11 of these centres continue to house IDPs, while 23 have been vacated and reopened for educational purposes.

MoE delayed the start of the academic year for all schools. However, at the beginning of October, all schools in affected region that were not damaged by the floods have now re-opened with the exception of schools in Derna. Currently, schools in Derna are being used for recreational and MHPSS activities for children, with regular studies planned to begin at the end of October. MoE is prioritising the rehabilitation and re-opening of flood-damaged schools to enable children to return to learning as soon as possible, whilst in parallel developing alternative plans for those students unable to access education due to the ongoing closure of damaged schools. In the medium to long-term, high rates of displacement may lead to additional overcrowding in classrooms, hindering child-centred teaching and learning. Swiftly reopening schools and providing educators with necessary steps to support children, especially girls, and their families, primarily since schools can act as points of entry for other essential services.

UNICEF RESPONSE

Coordination
UNICEF is co-leading the Nutrition thematic WG with PHCI- Ministry of Health (MoH) and focusing on identifying the gaps and ensuring the implementation and documentation of partners interventions to reach to every child and pregnant and lactating women. Also, UNICEF is working with partners and MoH to issue a joint statement to support optimum Infant and Young Child Feeding including management and monitoring of breast milk substitute. Through the Health Thematic Group, UNICEF is coordinating closely with main health stakeholders including NCDC, the Primary Health Care Institute (PHCI) and WHO along with advocacy at the Prime Minister Office to address the severe shortages of routine vaccines.

UNICEF is leading the WASH coordination among WASH partners, engaging main government stakeholders including GCWW, MMR, GDC to ensure partners’ alignment to government recovery plans and to allow provision of direct support to urgent WASH rehabilitations at affected areas.

UNICEF has assumed responsibility for the Education thematic WG coordination in partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC). UNICEF and NRC are leading the coordination efforts through weekly meetings with priority on schools rehabilitation and safe schools reopening.

Health and Nutrition
Collaborating closely with health authorities, UNICEF has assessed the essential medical supply needs in storm affected areas and committed to rehabilitating 14 health facilities. Bills of quantities are being prepared and the PHC essential package is being agreed upon with health authorities. Special emphasis is being placed on assessing Almikhili and Bayada hospitals, as well as the Taknis primary health care unit, with plans to install prefab trailers as interim clinics during their rehabilitation phase.

To mitigate the effect of power cuts threatening vaccine cold chains in flood-hit regions, UNICEF joined with health authorities, including NCDC, to dispatch five 50 KVA electric generators to vaccination centres in Derna and Albayda. To help address the issue of frequent vaccine stock outs, UNICEF supported the NCDC to procure 250,000 doses of OPV, 20,000 doses of the Measles and Rubella vaccine, and 10,000 doses of Vitamin A. These efforts support joint NCDC-UNICEF-WHO initiatives, especially considering the surging Rubella cases in the flood-affected areas.

With PHCI and the Emergency Coordination Cell (ECC), UNICEF launched a training program for health care workers in flood-affected regions. In the inaugural session in Shahat and Soussa, 53 professionals were equipped
with skills in infection prevention, basic life support, and foundational nursing techniques. Furthermore, the scope and number of UNICEF-backed medical mobile teams have been expanded, now including maternal and child health, mental health, nutrition, and health promotion across multiple regions.

A total of 812 children underwent consultations and nutrition screenings, revealing prevalent issues like respiratory infections, acute diarrhoea, and lice infestations. From this group, 238 children were diagnosed with malnutrition, including 12 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and 7 with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM). Nutritional interventions and referrals/treatment were initiated for these children. Another 439 pregnant and lactating women were screened, with 47 identified as underweight and provided necessary support.

In Derna, a dedicated mobile medical team addressed the MHPSS needs of the community and provided specialized care to children and mothers.

**WASH**

UNICEF has provided vital WASH support, benefiting up to 257,655 individuals. This comprehensive assistance includes the distribution of hygiene kits, including menstrual hygiene products that reached 7,655 people, along with safe water practice messaging and hygiene promotion campaigns. Moreover, during the handwashing day celebration, UNICEF distributed 3,000 bars of soap to IDPs and host communities in Al Bayda to encourage and facilitate proper hygiene practices. Additionally, in collaboration with NCDC and GCWW, UNICEF supplied 49,000 water purification tablets to Derna, 17,000 tabs and 56 drums of chlorine for reservoir disinfection, ensuring access to clean water.

To further enhance water safety, UNICEF facilitated the installation of 10 water tanks, each with a capacity of 2,000 litres, at IDP collective centres, directly benefiting 960 individuals. UNICEF also supported the GCWW in reinstating the water connection at Sousa’s desalination plant. Through the National NGO Asaraya, UNICEF implemented water trucking operations, delivering 520,000 litres of safe drinking water. Plans are ongoing for additional water deliveries through private contractors and other partners.

UNICEF provided pumps and spare parts to GCWW, restoring functionality of four boreholes in Derna. This initiative will benefit up to 25,000 residents by ensuring a reliable water supply. Furthermore, UNICEF is actively procuring critical spare parts and equipment, including specialized spare parts worth $130,000, to restore 25-30% of the functionality of desalination plants in Derna and Sousa to pre-flood capacity. UNICEF prioritizes sourcing WASH supplies locally to expedite the procurement processes, extending support to the General Desalination Company (GDC).

UNICEF has finalized emergency agreements with two International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO), IMC and INTERSOS, as well as one national NGO, Asaraya. These agreements encompass a comprehensive package of emergency WASH services, including hygiene awareness raising, water quality monitoring, distribution of non-food items (NFIs), light repair of WASH systems, and water trucking. Through these partnerships, UNICEF aims to address the immediate and urgent needs of all areas affected by Storm Daniel in the east of Libya.

**Child Protection**

October 10th marked one month since the deadly flooding, coinciding with world Mental Health Day. To shed light on the importance of mental health and recognizing the continuing MHPSS needs, UNICEF disseminated MHPSS messaging on social media platforms to equip children and caregivers with information and tools to enhance their wellbeing.

UNICEF Child Protection programme has deployed 12 mobile teams in affected areas and scaled up its MHPSS interventions. A total of 2,453 children (1,284 girls, 1,169 boys) were reached with MHPSS activities, including Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) and recreational activities.
Additionally, 48 frontline staff (24 male, 24 female) received capacity building on child protection interventions including how to conduct PFA and safe identification and referral for children in need of case management and specialized services.

Due to the limited data on child protection, UNICEF, through the Child Protection WG (CPWG), and together with relevant partners, is finalizing preparations to initiate a rapid child protection assessment to better understand the needs in affected areas. The assessment will focus on the immediate child protection needs, while also looking at the situation of UASC and the mental wellbeing of children and caregivers. The rapid assessment is expected to be finalized in the coming week and the results will be presented through CPWG. While the child protection rapid assessment is conducted, UASC encountered during the assessment will be identified and registered.

UNICEF continues to organize an online campaign on mental health and wellbeing focusing on providing caregivers with concrete tools and skills that can support them in coping with the current situation. Moreover, the campaign also provides parents with tips on how to support their children’s wellbeing. Lastly, the campaign also addresses teenagers with messages on how to be kind to oneself with some simple exercises that can be done in moments of distress.

**Social and Behavioural Change**

The “Safe Water: Healthy Lives” campaign, a joint venture between UNICEF and NCDC, successfully reached 24,454 individuals directly and indirectly reached to another 306,405 people through social media platforms. Its objectives were two-fold: firstly, to prevent and reduce the prevalence of waterborne diseases through enhanced hygiene practices, and secondly, to highlight child protection concerns during crises, particularly for UASC.

Feedback from six sessions showcased the campaign's positive influence. It not only rectified misunderstandings about clean water, but also prompted better water management behaviours, including safe storage and appropriate handwashing practices. The participants resonated with the campaign, finding its content pertinent to their communities, and valuing its clear, approachable methods in addressing post-flood challenges.

A ripple effect was seen as 30 participants proactively discussed the campaign both online and offline, prompting peers to embrace clean water habits. A notable 10 were even motivated to seek volunteering roles in initiatives combating waterborne diseases. To bolster future campaigns, participants advised integrating trusted local sources of information and leveraging mosques, suggesting partnerships with religious leaders to incorporate campaign messages into mosque proceedings.

Tying into this effort, UNICEF commemorated World Handwashing Day on October 15th, 2023, by extending the reach of the “Safe Water: Healthy Lives” initiative. Focusing on three schools in Albayda, engaging 700 children with interactive handwashing tutorials, emphasizing the critical role of hand hygiene as a preventative behavioural measure,

UNICEF is ensuring engagement of the community around support provided by UNICEF through ensuring that all served communities are well informed about common feedback mechanism, that UNICEF is part of it, UNICEF is also ensuring proper follow up and adjustment for interventions based on comments and suggestion received from the community.

**Education**

UNICEF Libya continues to support children’s return to education in safe learning environments, minimizing the disruption to learning, and providing professional and wellbeing support for teachers and educational staff.

Based on its rapid mapping of damage to flood-affected schools, UNICEF began the cleaning of 11 schools in Albayda and Shahat to support MoE to reopen in time for the start of the academic year in Derna and enable
children to return to learning. UNICEF will also provide the schools with classroom furniture to replace the one damaged by the floods, including desks for students and teachers, and whiteboards. An additional 2 schools in Al Goba will be supported to reopen through the provision of classroom furniture.

The expansion of this intervention to reach additional schools with the inclusion of light rehabilitation of classrooms and WASH facilities is being closely coordinated with the education directorate in Derna and the crisis committee. Schools with the most urgent needs and largest number of students will be prioritized and targeted. In parallel, the MoE will distribute the 200 school-in-box kits provided by UNICEF for schools in Derna. Each kit caters to 40 students and will swiftly re-establish learning environments for up to 8,000 students when schools re-open. In addition, 100 Early Childhood Education (ECE) kits were distributed in Derna, Soussa, Shahat and AlBayda in coordination with the MoE, to support recreational activities across schools, reaching 5,000 children.

**Communication and media engagement**

UNICEF maintains its ongoing communication delivering frequent updates on the humanitarian conditions in regions of Libya affected by the floods, along with UNICEF’s response efforts, including early recovery. This is done through traditional and social media. Media engagement included: https://english.elpais.com/opinion/2023-10-10/libya-faces-the-aftermath-of-an-unprecedented-catastrophe.html, Anadolu Agency (AA) English.elpais and AfrigateNews.

UNICEF Libya commemorated the one-month mark of the floods which also coincided with the Global Mental Health Day through a digital campaign that was commenced with the one month mark video of Shoroq, a displaced girl Derna and featuring UNICEF Representative highlighting the impact of the crisis including the invisible effects and the need to prioritize mental health.

The digital content was widely distributed on social media. These digital assets included three videos for adolescents on Dealing with Emotions - X, Dealing with problems /Dealing with Problems - Facebook, as well as social media graphics and visual with Signs of trauma and mental distress in children, Emotions, Dealing with mental health after a crisis: Tips for you and Tips for Caregivers.

UNICEF Libya released its revised Humanitarian and Recovery Response Plan for US$ 26.5 million up to June 2024, to scale up and sustain our current response efforts, moving towards immediate recovery interventions. This plan will support 250,000 people, including 100,000 children.

**Summary of Programme Results**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>Total Result</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children and women accessing primary health care in UNICEF-supported facilities</td>
<td>207,456</td>
<td>91,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nutrition</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling</td>
<td>39,338</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of children aged 6 to 59 months receiving MN supplementation</td>
<td>26,520</td>
<td>663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of pregnant women receiving preventative iron supplementation</td>
<td>52,500</td>
<td>1,100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WASH</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs</td>
<td>175,000</td>
<td>35,160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Number of People reached with critical WASH supplies | 175,000 | 10,000
---|---|---
Number of People reached with handwashing behaviour-change programmes | 175,000 | 3,000

**Child Protection**
Number of Children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community based MHPSS | 40,000 | 2,753
Number of actors from service providers and/or institutions trained on Child Protection approaches | 600 | 62

**Education**
Number of children receiving individual learning materials | 20,000 | 13,000

**Cross Sectoral**
Number of affected people (children, caregivers, community members) reached with timely and life-saving information on how and where to access available services | 250,000 | 188,446

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**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 are expected to emerge. UNICEF’s initial response required **US$ 6.5 million** to reach children with emergency services and supplies. UNICEF has now developed a revised appeal encompassing both humanitarian and recovery response for **US$ 26.5 million**. UNICEF has so far received **US$ 8.5 million**, including US$ 1.6 million in institutional funding. UNICEF would like to thank the Central Emergency Response Fund, Canada, Japan, and the UNICEF National Committees for their generous support.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SECTOR</th>
<th>TARGET</th>
<th>APPEAL</th>
<th>RECEIVED</th>
<th>GAP - US$</th>
<th>GAP - %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>250,000 people including 75,000 children</td>
<td>$ 9,000,000</td>
<td>$ 4,834,000</td>
<td>$ 4,166,000</td>
<td>46%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and Nutrition</td>
<td>250,000 people including 75,000 children</td>
<td>$ 7,500,000</td>
<td>$ 1,121,000</td>
<td>$ 6,379,000</td>
<td>85%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>75,000 children</td>
<td>$ 3,000,000</td>
<td>$ 1,825,000</td>
<td>$ 1,175,000</td>
<td>39%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>75,000 children</td>
<td>$ 3,500,000</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 3,500,000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Protection</td>
<td>45,000 including 13,500 children</td>
<td>$ 500,000</td>
<td>$ 31,117</td>
<td>$ 468,883</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-sectoral: PSEA, AAP, SBC, Evaluation and RRM</td>
<td>250,000 people, including 100,000 children</td>
<td>$ 500,000</td>
<td>$ 31,117</td>
<td>$ 468,883</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 26,500,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 8,493,117</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 18,006,883</strong></td>
<td><strong>68%</strong></td>
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