

# Northeastern Libya Floods 2023

## Multi-Thematic Rapid Needs Assessment (MTRNA)

September, 2023

### KEY MESSAGES

- Whilst severe to very severe building damage was reported in 28% of the assessed muhallas, flooding of buildings was reported in almost half of assessed muhallas. **The highest levels of damage was reported in the baladiyat of Derna, Albayda, Shahat-Sousa, Um Arrezam, and Labrik.**
- **Displaced people were reported by KIs in 92% of the assessed muhallas** and were reported to stay mostly with their relatives or in collective shelters. The lack of sufficient shelters as well as the lack of privacy and space in shelters were the most frequently cited challenges faced by the people displaced.
- **Shelter and health were the most frequently highlighted priority needs.** Specifically, the lack of medicine, the lack of medical equipment and physical barriers to accessing health facilities were reported in the majority of assessed baladiyat.
- Although KIs reported that people have access to enough drinking water in the majority of assessed muhallas, water seller kiosks was the main source of drinking water. **Accessibility to water selling points and affordability of water since the flood were the main issues reported by KIs.**

### CONTEXT & RATIONALE

Between 10th and 12th September 2023, flooding caused largescale destruction in northeastern Libya, particularly in the city of Derna after two dams broke upstream. Up-to-date post-disaster information on the scope and severity of needs in affected muhallas is scarce.

### ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

The MTRNA is a joint assessment between REACH, UN agencies and the Libyan INGO Forum, coordinated by UNDAC, with data collected by 11 partners. It aims to provide an initial snapshot of multisectoral needs of affected muhallas to inform the international response to the [UN Flash Appeal](#).

The MTRNA is based on interviews conducted between 19 and 26 September with key informants (KIs) reporting on the situation in their muhalla (admin 4). In total, 122 muhallas were assessed. For the purpose of the analysis, findings have been aggregated to the baladiya (admin 3) level for some indicators.

This factsheet presents results for the whole affected area. Responses from multiple KIs in each muhalla were aggregated to obtain a single triangulated response per muhalla. Results are presented as a number of muhallas where KIs reported on an indicator. Findings are not generalisable and should be considered indicative only.

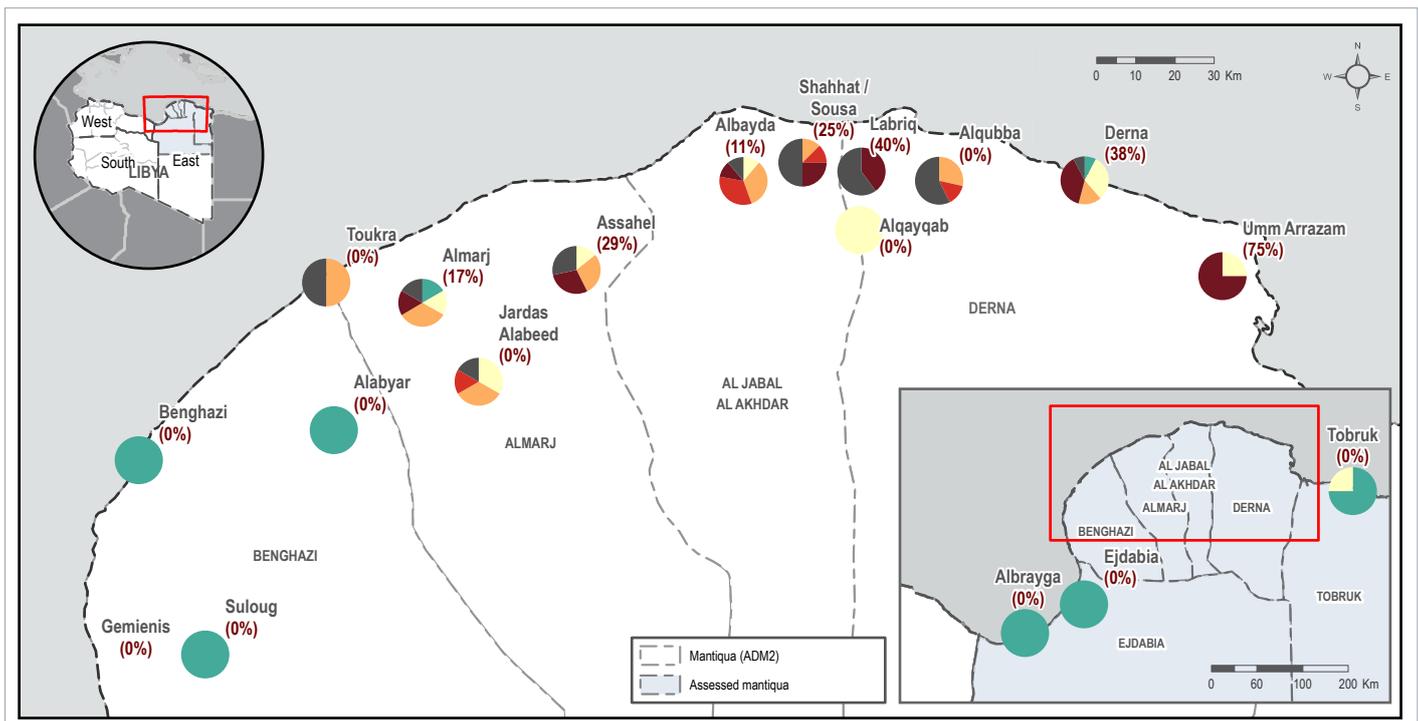
**28%** of assessed muhallas where key informants reported **severe or very severe building damage**

**46%** of assessed muhallas where key informants reported at least 10% of **houses were still flooded**

### Reported level of building damage

Percentage of building damage in the muhalla as a result of the flood, estimated by key informants

■ Mild (0-10%) 
 ■ Moderate (10-25%) 
 ■ Severe (26-50%) 
 ■ Very severe (>50%)\* 
 ■ No damage 
 ■ No Data

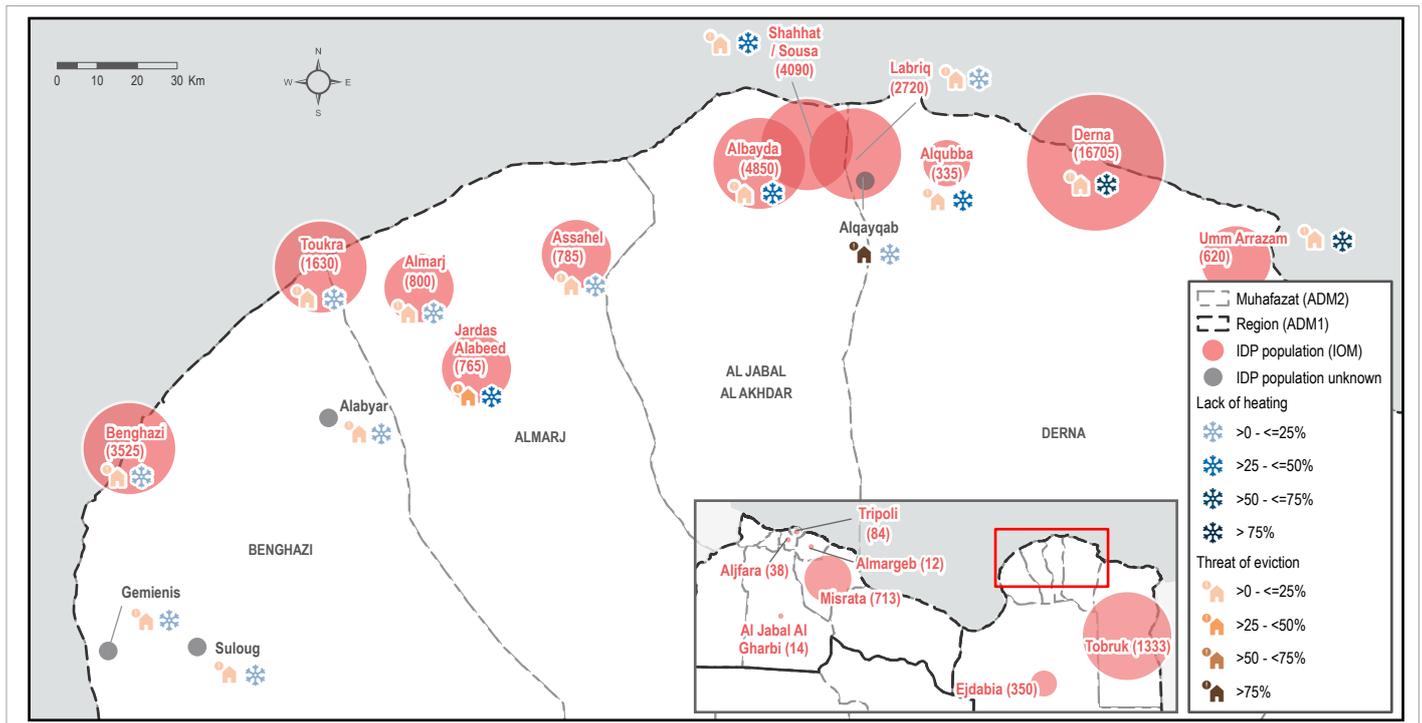


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

\* Percentage of assessed muhallas reporting very severe building damage shown in brackets after baladiya name

**Presence of displaced populations**

Percentage of muhallas (per baladiya) in which KIs reported lack of heating or/and threat of eviction as challenges for displaced people since the floods. The red circles represent the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) as reported by International Organisation for Migration (IOM), 29 September 2023



In 92% of assessed muhallas, KIs reported that persons had either arrived in the muhalla after being displaced from another area, or had been displaced within the same muhalla. While the [number of unaccompanied and separated children](#) remains unknown at the time of writing, KIs in 60% of assessed muhallas indicated that unaccompanied and separated children were in particular need of assistance as a result of the crisis.

**Main challenges faced by people in displacement sites**

**92%** % of assessed muhallas where key informants reported the presence of displaced people

In those muhallas, the main reported challenges in displacement sites were (multiple options allowed):

- 55%** The number of shelters is insufficient
- 50%** Lack of privacy inside shelter (no partitions, no doors)
- 43%** Shelters are too small - not enough space for entire households

**Displacement locations inside muhallas**

In those muhallas where the presence of displaced persons was reported, the main reported locations of displaced populations inside the muhalla were (multiple options allowed)

- 88%** Hosted by friends and/or relatives
- 70%** Collective shelter in a public building (e.g. school, mosque, etc.)
- 32%** Hotel

**PRIORITY NEEDS**

Top 3 most reported priority needs, by % of assessed muhallas per mantiqa (Borda count, 1st priority gets 3 points, 2nd priority gets 2 points, 3rd priority gets 1 point. Counts are then summed up.)

	PRIORITY 1	PRIORITY 2	PRIORITY 3
<b>OVERALL</b>	Shelter	Health	Water
Al Jabal Akhdar	Shelter	Health	Water
Almarj	Health	Shelter	Water/sanitation
Benghazi	Shelter	Search and rescue	Health
Derna	Shelter	Health	Water
Ejdabia	Food security	Health	Shelter
Tobruk	Shelter	Health	Sanitation

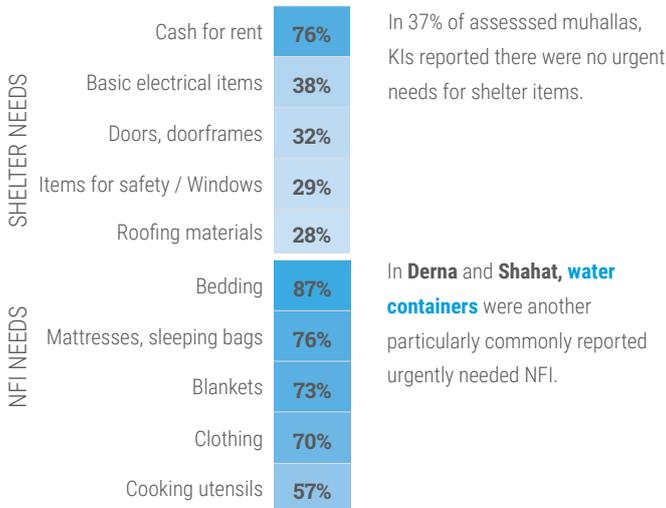
**Main reported information needs in the muhallas**  
(multiple options allowed)

- 77%** How to get healthcare/medical attention
- 73%** How to get food or information about nutrition
- 69%** How to get water

The most reported channels through which people would prefer to receive information were through a **phone call**, **face-to-face with a representative of an organisation**, and via **social media**.

## SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS

### Top 5 most urgent shelter and non-food item needs in the muhalla



### Main challenges to access non-food items (NFIs) in the muhalla since the flood

**66%** NFIs have become more expensive

**58%** Quantity of NFIs available at markets has decreased

**51%** Some markets that sold NFIs have stopped functioning

## IMPACT ON INFRASTRUCTURE

% of assessed muhallas per reported functionality status of key infrastructure

	● Not functional	● Irregular/Partially functional	● NC, do not know
CELL NETWORK*	2%	92%	5%
ELECTRICITY	3%	94%	3%
RADIO*	5%	86%	5%
INTERNET	2%	94%	4%

\* in 1% of muhallas KIs reported that the cell network did not exist prior to the storm and in 3% of muhallas KIs reported that the radio network did not exist prior to the storm.

## HEALTH

### Most reported challenges people face in accessing healthcare



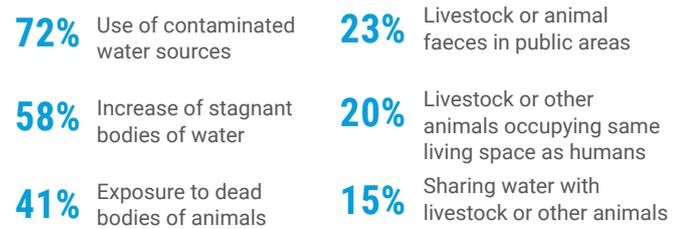
In addition to these challenges, in **Derna, Shahat, Albayda, and Al Jabal Al Akhdar**, key informants commonly reported **interruption of the entire system/fundamental health services** as a key challenge to healthcare, which further highlights the disruption of the floods to the health system in flood-affected areas. According to Médecins sans Frontières, [basic healthcare infrastructure has been particularly impacted](#), with damage to health centres and medical staff having died or mourning friends and relatives who died.

### Most reported urgent healthcare needs in muhallas

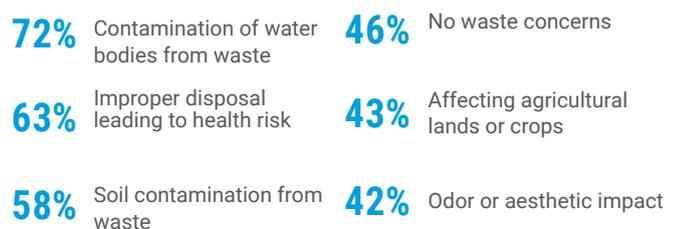


## ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS & HAZARDS

### Reported environmental risks in affected muhallas as observed by key informants (multiple options allowed)



### Reported most pressing concerns related to disaster-generated waste as observed by key informants (multiple options allowed)



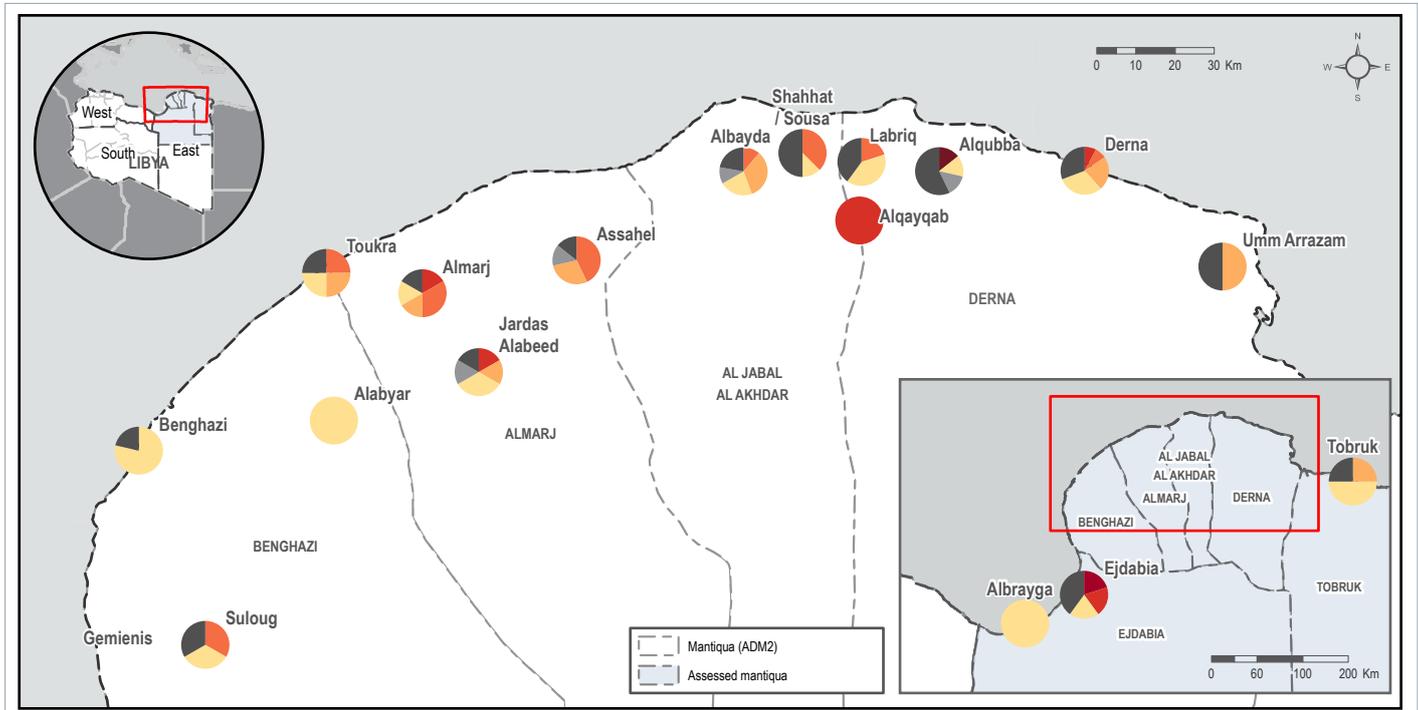
### Reported changes in the quality of water, soil, or air since the flood as observed by key informants (multiple options allowed)

The most commonly reported changes since the events were the **strong or foul odor in the air** (reported in 53% of assessed muhallas), followed by the **unusual taste or discoloration in water** (43%) and the **change in the colour or texture of soil** (34%).

**Short-term access to sufficient food**

Baladiyat where KIs in the majority of muhallas reported foreseeing that people will not have access to sufficient food for the next 2-4 weeks, estimated proportion of muhalla population

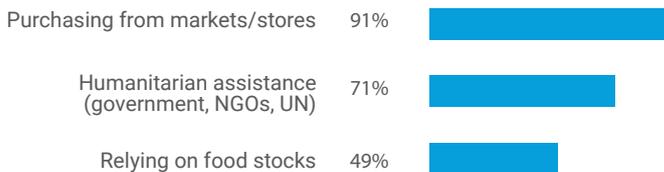
<25% 25-49% 50-74% 75-89% 90-99% 100% Not sure No data



**28%**

% of muhallas where KIs reported foreseeing that the majority of the people in the community did not have access to sufficient food for the next 1-4 weeks

**Most common sources of food after the floods**



**Impact of flood on marketplaces**

**49%**

% of muhallas where KIs reported that marketplaces had been affected by the floods

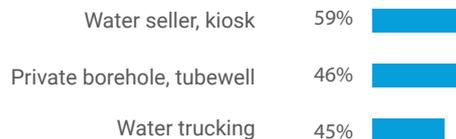
**Most reported ways in which the floods have impacted marketplaces in the assessed muhallas**

- 76%** Prices of food items have increased
- 67%** Quantity of food in markets has decreased
- 53%** Some essential food items are no longer available

The most frequently reported food needs were flour (reported in 88% of assessed muhallas), followed by bread (87%), rice (84%) and cooking oil (80%). The limited access to food combined with [increased cases of diarrhea due to water-borne diseases](#) might also contribute to worsening the nutrition situation in the region. In 41% of assessed muhalla, KIs reported malnutrition treatments as a health need not being met. The need for malnutrition treatment was reported in 11 of the 13 assessed muhallas in Derna baladiya.

**WATER, SANITATION, & HYGIENE**

**Most reported main sources of drinking water since the floods (multiple options allowed)**



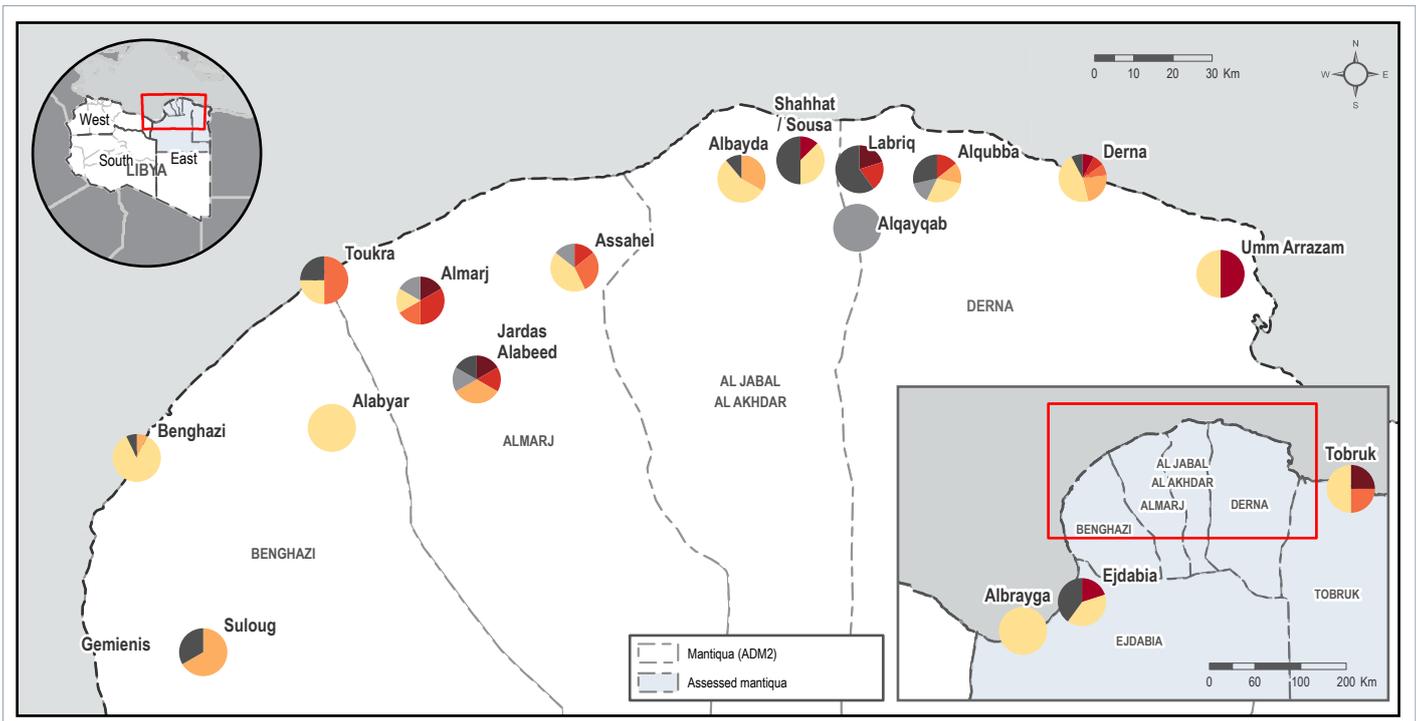
**Main reported challenges to accessing water since the floods (multiple options allowed)**

- 49%** Water selling points are difficult to reach
- 48%** Water is too expensive / Water source is damaged due to the floods but still functioning
- 46%** Insufficient number of water selling points

## Access to drinking water

Baladiyat where KIs in the majority of the assessed muhallas reported that people will not have access to sufficient drinking water for the next 2-4 weeks, estimated proportion of muhalla population

■ <25% 
 ■ 25-49% 
 ■ 50-74% 
 ■ 75-89% 
 ■ 90-99% 
 ■ 100% 
 ■ Not sure 
 ■ No data



Al Jabal Al Akhdar, Almarj and Derna mantiquas recorded high reports of people not treating water before consumption (in 88%, 84% and 63% of assessed muhallas respectively) while KIs in these same mantiquas widely reported the use of contaminated water sources as an environmental risk (in 83% of assessed muhallas in Derna, 79% of assessed muhallas in Almarj, and 71% of assessed muhallas in Al Jabal Al Akhdar). This could highlight an increased risk of contracting water-borne diseases in these areas.

As poor sanitation also fosters the spread of diseases, it is worth noting that in 24% of the assessed muhallas, less than half of the population was reportedly not accessing functioning sanitation facilities. In Almarj mantika, less than half of the population had access to operational latrines and toilets in 47% of the assessed muhallas.

### Most reported types of sanitation used in the muhalla since the floods

- 76%** Flush or pour-flush toilet
- 31%** Pit latrine without slab-platform
- 27%** Pit latrine with slab-platform

### Main reported challenges to accessing sanitation since the floods

- 60%** Sanitation facilities are unclean/unhygienic
- 58%** Facilities too crowded
- 41%** Sanitation facilities are not functioning or full

## EDUCATION

### Reported damage to education facilities

Proportion of primary and secondary schools by level of damage in assessed muhallas according to KIs observation.

PRIMARY		SECONDARY	
9%	Completely destroyed	12%	
8%	Severely damaged	12%	
6%	Damaged	9%	
13%	Minor damage	27%	

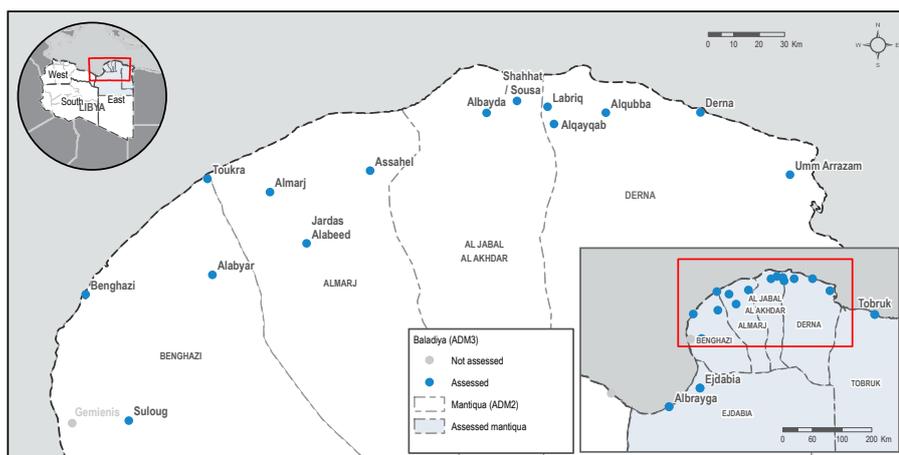
### Reported impact on school-aged children

Most reported ways in which the floods have impacted school-aged children in the muhalla, according to key informants

- 69%** Children are out of school as the infrastructure is damaged or schools have been repurposed after the floods
- 56%** Children experience psychosocial distress related to the flood
- 56%** Some children do not go to school as their parents/caregivers are in a precarious situation

# ASSESSMENT COVERAGE

## Areas covered by assessment



## METHODOLOGY OVERVIEW

The joint Multi-Thematic Rapid Needs Assessment (MTRNA) is based on quantitative interviews with KIs reporting on the situation in their muhalla.

Muhallas were purposefully sampled for data collection based on satellite-detected flood-affected areas and reports from teams on the disaster-affected area. Data collection targeted at least 3 KIs per muhalla, whose responses to each question were aggregated to obtain a single triangulated response per muhalla. When there was no consensus between a majority of KIs, responses were coded as "No consensus" (NC). For single-choice questions, responses of different KIs reporting on the same district were aggregated by mode (most frequent response). For example, if for a given question 1 KI responds "no" and 2 KIs respond "yes", the aggregated response for the muhalla is "yes". For select multiple, all KI responses are retained in the aggregated results.

Results are presented as number of muhallas where KIs reported X (X being the aggregated muhalla-level result as described above). **Results reflect the views of KIs and are indicative only.** Due to the KI approach, results cannot be

disaggregated by gender, age, or disability status of the respondent, for more information, please see "Note on KI profiles".

### Data collection partners:



### Technical support:



### In partnership with:



### Analysis by:

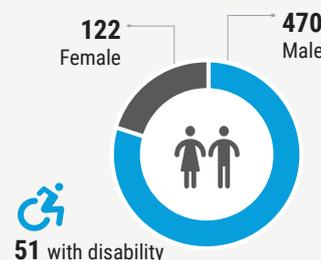


**122** muhallas covered

Alabyar	3	Labriq	6
Albayda	10	Shahat	9
Albrayga	1	Suloug	3
Almarj	8	Tazirbu	2
Alqayqab	1	Tobruk	5
Alqubba	8	Toukra	5
Assahel	8	Umm arrazam	5
Benghazi	19		
Derna	16		
Ejdabia	6		
Jardas Alabeed	7		

## KI PROFILES

**592** KI interviews conducted



### TYPE

- 90 Teachers
- 82 Health professionals
- 79 NGO workers
- 51 Civil employee
- 46 Community leader
- 35 Engineer
- 34 Leaders of local organisations
- 15 Religious leader
- 160 Other

### AGE

- 2 18 years old
- 47 19-24
- 262 25-44
- 214 45-60
- 43 61-75
- 4 76+
- 20 Unknown

### Note on KI profiles:

The MTRNA provides a broad and indicative picture of needs in the first phase of an emergency. It is based on KI reports at muhalla-level, with limited control over sampling, and by nature does not aim to provide granular data disaggregated for specific groups. Variations in responses from different KI profiles are indicative only. For a more detailed understanding of the needs of specific groups (including women, persons with disabilities, etc.) to inform subsequent phases of the emergency, in-depth representative sectoral or thematic assessments are required.