

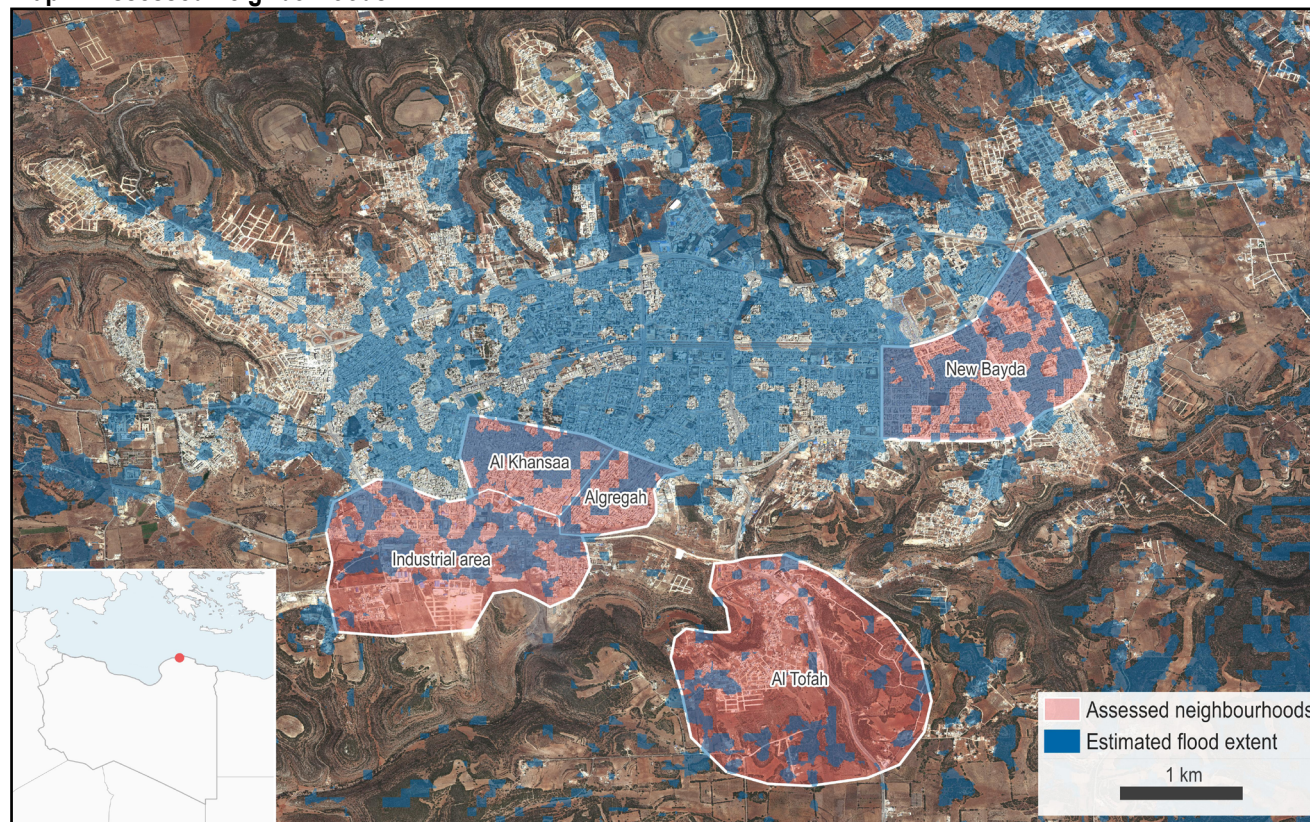
# Rapid Flood Assessment in Albayda

## Libya | 24 November 2020

### BACKGROUND

On 7 November 2020, exceptionally heavy rainfall was reported in Al Jabal Akhdar Mantika, leading the municipal authorities to declare a State of Emergency. The rains that took place led to the occurrence of flooding in many areas in the East.<sup>1</sup> Most notably in the city of Albayda, the heavy rains inundated several homes and caused the blockage of drainage channels in most of the city streets, which led to the closure of some intersections and neighbourhoods.<sup>2</sup> REACH, with funding from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and in coordination with the Area Coordination Group East and the Shelter and Non-Food Items (SNFI) Sector, conducted a rapid assessment to better understand the humanitarian needs of those living in areas in Albayda affected by flooding to support the humanitarian response.

### Map 1: Assessed neighborhoods



### METHODOLOGY

Data collection took place during 16 November - 20 November. A total of 11 key informant interviews (KIIs) were conducted. Data was collected at the neighbourhood level, with enumerators interviewing purposively sampled key informants (KIs) based on their knowledge of the locality and the affected community. Neighbourhoods were initially identified through the Ministry of Social Affairs and confirmed by KIs as those areas where people were initially displaced due to flood damage. Findings have been aggregated to the neighborhood level. Due to the specific needs and circumstances of different assessed neighborhoods, KIs from New Bayda were analyzed separately. See the number and profiles of KIs on the right. Satellite imagery was used to detect the extent of the flooding, which was then checked by local field teams. All findings should be taken as indicative only.

### New Bayda

- Teachers (2)
- University representative (1)
- Civil engineer (1)
- Local authorities (1)

### Al Khansaa, Al Tofah, and Algregah (incl. the industrial area)

- Teachers (1)
- Health staff (1)
- Local authorities (4)

### KEY FINDINGS

While flooding occurred throughout Albayda, areas on the outskirts of the city were most affected by the flooding due to recent urban growth into what had previously been agricultural land.

### New Bayda neighborhood

- 116 people were initially displaced from the neighborhood, but are now reportedly starting to return.
- Roads, bridges, schools, and hospitals have been damaged.
- Water and electricity networks are in need of minor repairs.
- Particularly vulnerable groups are reported to be children with disabilities, elderly people and female headed households.
- Non-food item (NFI) and health care support were the priority needs identified, alongside more substantial infrastructural repairs.
- There are fears that the flooding may lead to an increase the number of COVID-19 cases without additional support for health facilities.
- As of 24 November, REACH enumerators reported some initial assistance has started to be provided by governmental and local non-governmental civil society organizations (CSOs) since data collection.

### Al Khansaa, Al Tofah, and Algregah (including the industrial area)

- 35 people were initially displaced from the neighborhoods, but have reportedly started to return.
- Damages are reported to roads, bridges, drains, and water supply networks.
- School and hospitals have also been partially or completely damaged.
- Several key services were reportedly unavailable in the neighborhoods prior to the floods, including waste management and health services.
- The most vulnerable populations are reported to be elderly persons and female-headed households.
- Health assistance and NFIs are reportedly the priority
- Fears that COVID-19 may spread were reported, and support was requested.
- As of 24 November, REACH enumerators reported some initial assistance has started to be provided by governmental and local non-governmental CSOs since data collection.

<sup>1</sup> The Libya Observer. "Municipality of Al-Bayda announces partial curfew due to flooding." November 8, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Garda World. "Libya: Restrictions implemented following flooding in Al-Bayda November 8." November 8, 2020.



# New Bayda neighborhood

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

An estimated 116 people were reported by KIs to have left the neighborhood due to the flooding, but were likely to return. Returns have already been recorded in the week prior to data collection although exact numbers are not yet known. Families were found during displacement to be separated, with households split up to move in with other relatives.

Those remaining in the neighborhood are reportedly living in their own houses, rather than informal sites. Minor damage was noted related to housing, with the most significant damage reported by KIs being that to the bridges and drains. Partial damage was also noted by all KIs to roads and streets, in addition to hospitals and schools that have suffered damage due to the flood.

Despite reported damage to roads, marketplaces were reported to be open, with all main commodities available, including food and pharmaceutical items. Prices for main food commodities, such as wheat flour, oil, rice and sugar, have reportedly remained stable. REACH price monitoring enumerators additionally noted that while shops closed temporarily after the flooding, they were able to reopen once the flood had receded.

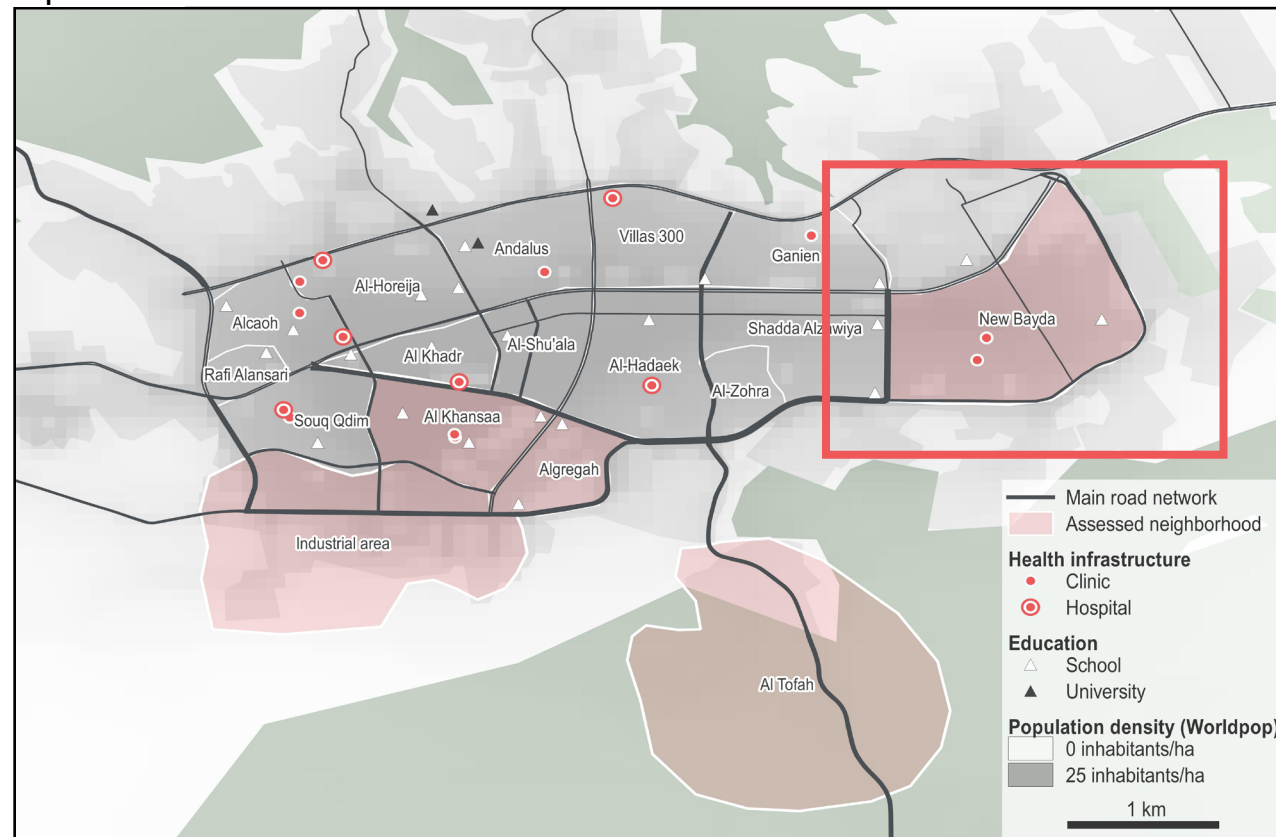
The most reported vulnerable groups said to be present in this neighborhood were children with disabilities, followed by elderly persons and female headed households; children with disabilities and elderly persons were also noted by KIs to be most at risk of heightened vulnerabilities due to the flooding. There was consensus amongst KIs that there were no available services in general to support persons with disabilities in this area, with one KI reporting to know at least one case of a child living without appropriate care in the neighborhood.

No concerns were noted with safety and security in the area.

## HEALTH AND COVID-19

All but one KI reported being concerned that the flooding might increase the spread of COVID-19. While there was no clear consensus between KIs on the rate of COVID-19 in the neighborhood, with no knowledge on exact case numbers, all KIs agreed that the hospitals and health care facilities would not be able to respond to an outbreak of COVID-19 without significant additional support. Support requested was mainly for medical equipment, such as respirators, as well as additional staffing.

Map 2: Location of basic infrastructure



## PRIORITY NEEDS

Basic NFI needs were found to be a high priority for the neighborhood (particularly for those recently returning to the neighborhood following the flood) with most commonly needed items reported by KIs as well as estimated numbers of households needing them as follows: standard NFI kits (including mattresses) (est. 100-400 households), shelter kits (plastic sheets) (est. 100-275 households), winter clothing kits (est. 100-275 households), blankets (est. 100-275 households).

The first priority for rehabilitation support mentioned was to roads and streets, followed by bridges and water supply networks. While KIs noted that water and electricity supply were available for most people in the community, rehabilitation support to water and electricity lines was nevertheless required.

Health needs were also mentioned by almost all KIs as one of the top neighborhood needs, with frequent references throughout interviews to low quality health infrastructure, now made worse by flood damage.

At the time of data collection, KIs reported that the neighborhood had not yet received any humanitarian assistance since the flooding. As of 24 November, some governmental and non-governmental organization have started to provide basic NFI and in-kind food assistance in the neighborhood, according to REACH enumerators. KIs noted that cash would be the most preferred form of assistance to support immediate needs in the neighborhood.



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# Al Khansaa, Al Tofah, and Algregah (including the industrial area)

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

An estimated 35 people were said by KIs to have left the neighborhoods due to the flooding. Those with minor damages to their houses were reported to have returned. Families were found during displacement to be separated, with households split up to move in with other relatives. Those remaining in the neighborhoods are reportedly living in their own houses rather than informal sites. Main infrastructural damage was reported by KIs to roads, bridges, small drains and water supply networks. Partial damage was also reported by some KIs to electricity networks, however this was not widely reported. Hospitals and schools were also noted by all KIs to have been either partially or completely damaged.

The following key services were also reported to be generally unavailable in the neighborhoods: water supply, solid waste management, transportation, health services and services for people with disabilities.

Markets were found to be functioning, despite damage to roads and streets; all food and pharmaceutical commodities were reportedly available and in sufficient quantity to meet demand. Prices have reportedly remained stable.

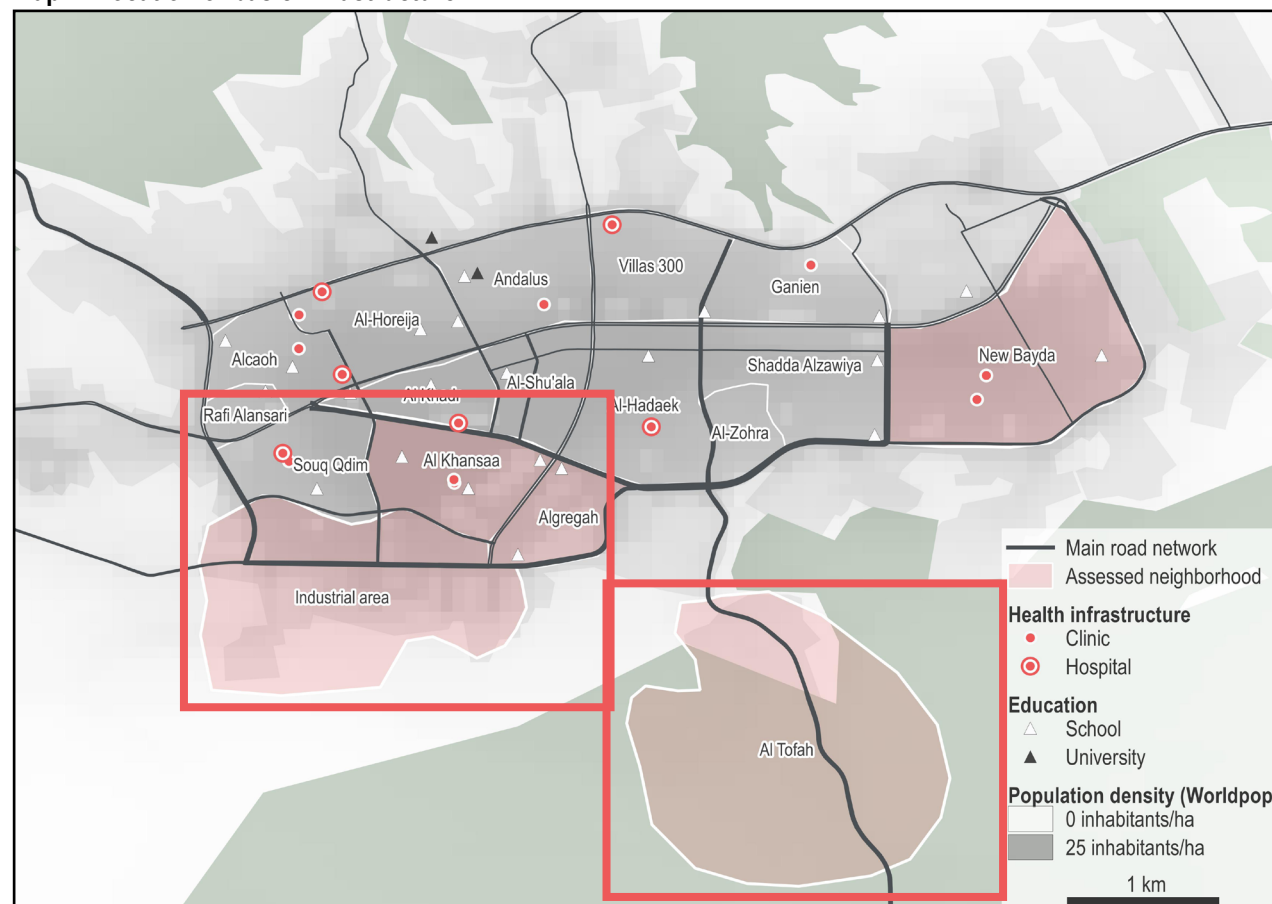
The most reported vulnerable groups said to be present in the neighbourhoods were elderly persons and female headed households. Elderly persons were also noted by KIs to be most at risk of heightened vulnerabilities due to the flooding.

No concerns were noted with safety and security in the area.

## HEALTH AND COVID-19

Three out of six KIs reported being concerned that the flooding might increase the spread of COVID-19. While there was no clear consensus between KIs on the rate of COVID-19 in the neighborhoods, with no knowledge on exact case numbers, all KIs agreed that the hospitals and health care facilities would not be able to respond to an outbreak of COVID-19 without significant additional support. Support requested was around the establishment of additional health facilities and clinics.

Map 2: Location of basic infrastructure



## PRIORITY NEEDS

Health needs were mentioned by all KIs as one of the top neighborhood needs. Basic NFI assistance was also found to be a high priority for the community (with an emphasis on those who were returning following the flood), with most commonly needed items reported by KIs as well as estimated numbers of households needing them as follows: standard NFI kits (including mattresses) (est. 35 households), shelter kits (plastic sheets) (est. 35 households), winter clothing kits (est. 35 households), blankets (est. 35 households).

The first priority for rehabilitation support mentioned was to roads and streets, followed by bridges and water supply networks.

At the time of data collection, KIs reported that some ad hoc assistance had been provided since the flooding. As of 24 November, REACH enumerators reported that additional basic NFI and in-kind food assistance had started since data collection, by government and non-governmental organizations. KIs noted that a combination of cash and in-kind would be the most preferred form of assistance to support immediate needs in the neighborhoods.