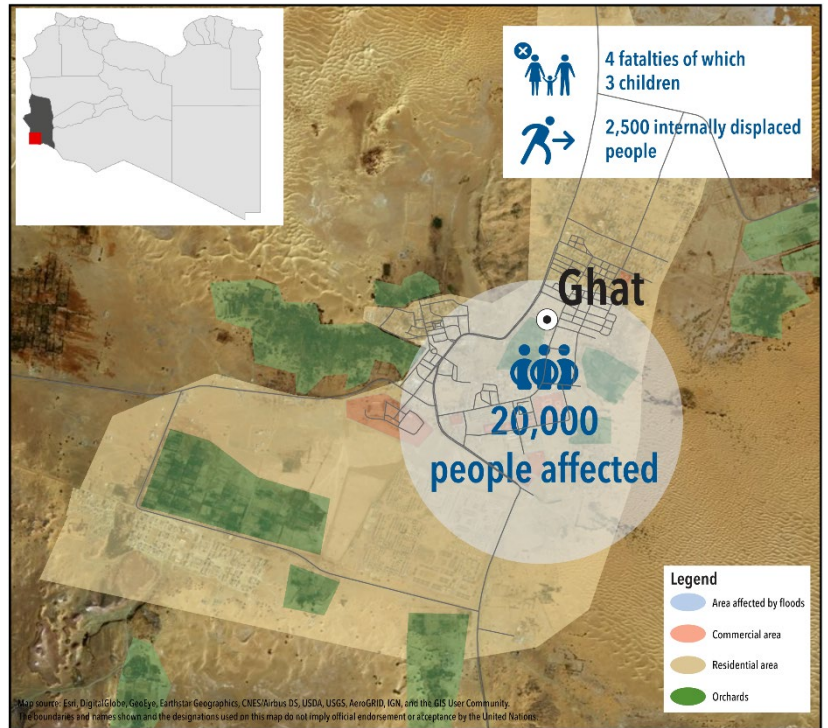


This report is produced by OCHA Libya in collaboration with the inter sector coordination group and the humanitarian partners.

Highlights

- Heavy rains caused flooding and damage in several locations in Ghat municipality from 28 May to 5 June.
- Over 20,000 persons have been affected and about 2,500 are currently displaced to nearby areas.
- Four people died, including three children, and about 30 suffered minor injuries.
- An Emergency Cell including the municipality, the local police and the Libyan Red Crescent, has been activated.
- Initial humanitarian needs identified include: shelter, food and non-food items, and health services. Immediate humanitarian response is provided by the local counterparts; OCHA is monitoring sectoral needs.
- Severe damage of roads, telecommunications, houses and farmland vital for livelihoods have been reported.



Situation overview

A wave of heavy rainfall and thunderstorm has hit the south western region of Libya. The rainfall commenced on the 28 May 2019 and intensified on the 2 June. The municipality of Ghat has been severely affected, including: Silila, Ta'ala, Ghat, Albakat, Saya, Alfiyat, Al-Sharika and Al-Siniyah. The rainfall and thunderstorm are expected to continue, decreasing in intensity in the coming days. The water levels have not receded and vary between 0.5 to 2 meters depending on the area. The municipality activated the Emergency Cell consisting of local authorities, police and the Libyan Red Crescent.

According to the local counterparts, over 20,000 people have been affected by the floods and an estimated 2,500 have been displaced to nearby areas. Most of the displaced families are hosted with relatives or sheltered in three schools habilitated by the municipality. Human casualties have been reported. To date, four died (including three children and one adult) and 30 people suffered minor injuries.

Severe damage to infrastructure and farmland vital for livelihoods were reported. Ghat hospital was partially flooded and service provision has been affected. The official exams for elementary and middle school scheduled for next week have been postponed. There is a risk of running out of fuel and domestic commodities due to the infrastructure damage. The airport remains operational.

The Emergency Cell reported displaced persons in remote locations who might need temporary accommodation, but numbers are still to be confirmed. Based on the magnitude of damage, they estimate that IDPs will be able to gradually return home within a month's time.

Humanitarian Needs and Response

IOM/DTM is mobilizing their teams for a rapid needs' assessment; however, due to the Eid holiday and remoteness of the affected areas, initial findings will be shared by the end of the week.

Based on the Emergency Cell evaluation of the situation, the immediate needs include temporary shelter; non-food items, including: mattresses; food supplies, as well as nutritional supplies for infants; hygiene kits along with cleaning materials; and health care for the flood affected population.

The local police with the support of the Libyan Red Crescent are carrying out search and rescue operations of those trapped by the flooding. At the first stage, the need of rubber boats to support evacuation efforts, was also conveyed. Due to dire situation the Prime Minister office has allocated ten million Libyan Dinars for flood response in Ghat.

Food security partners reported food stocks sufficient for 2,000 affected families, which could be delivered in a three days' timeframe; provided no access challenges are encountered. Shelter partners are planning the distribution of core relief items to an estimated 400 displaced families. At the same time, health sector partners could relocate a mobile clinic from Sebha to Ghat to support the Hospital delivery of health services. A team of doctors and nurses from Sebha is also available to reinforce the provision of health care in the affected areas. Medical supplies are available and ready for positioning. The surveillance and Rapid Response Teams in Sabha and Ghat have been mobilized and activated to minimize the likelihood of disease outbreaks