

## OVERVIEW

One year ago, on the night of 10 September 2023, heavy storms and rainfall triggered devastating floods in northeastern Libya, particularly affecting the city of Derna and surrounding areas. The disaster resulted in thousands of deaths and left tens of thousands individuals displaced (OCHA, 2024) and widespread destruction of homes, public infrastructure, and livelihoods.

Acted has been present in Derna since 2019 and was one of the first international organization on the ground to provide essential support to the affected population. Aligned with its mission to save lives and support people to meet their needs, Acted provided a **multi-sectoral flood response** comprising of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), infrastructure rehabilitation, cash assistance, psychosocial support and psychological first aid, non-food items, and community-led initiatives.

## PROTECTION



*“Seeing the children’s increased happiness and attachment to us as facilitators is incredibly rewarding. Their frequent inquiries about future activities show the positive impact we’re having”*

– PSS activity facilitator in Derna

The flood severely affected the mental health of the affected population. Acted has provided comprehensive **child protection** support through provision of recreational and structured psychosocial support (PSS) activities, Case Management, referral mechanisms and cash for protection. As a sustainability measure, Acted has strengthened the PSS capacities on the ground through training of over 260 frontliners, teachers and local civil society organizations in PSS and psychological first aid.



Acted provided **protection services** to the affected population through protection monitoring and the access to an emergency hotline, together assisting over 550 households. Group PSS sessions were provided for both women and parents, providing support and guidance to over 700 individuals, and vulnerable households with protection needs were referred to local services available or received cash for protection.



*“The PFA training has significantly improved my ability to support students. The skills I’ve gained help create a more supportive and resilient learning environment. These skills have enhanced my ability to support students experiencing emotional difficulties in our daily school environment.”*

- Psychological First Aid (PFA) for teachers training participant in Derna

## EDUCATION

High level of emotional distress and sadness, coupled with damaged schools have affected school attendance and performance. Acted has provided material support to seven schools to strengthen functionality and quality of education. Six schools have also benefitted from rehabilitation. Furthermore, Acted supports the provision of remedial/catch-up classes with over 120 students reached to date.

## Numbers at a glance



**40,800+ people** reached with WASH assistance



**3,600+ children** reached through child protection services



**3,600+ people** supported through protection services



**410 households** received multi-purpose cash assistance



**11 public infrastructures** have been rehabilitated



**8,000+ community members** benefited from community-led projects

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## WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)



### COMMUNITY-LED INITIATIVES

Acted enhanced community engagement through a participatory and bottom up approach in five flood-affected neighbourhoods in Derna. Existing community committees and community champions were trained on topics such as community participation, services mapping, collecting feedback, concerns, and information from community members. 10 community-led projects have been implemented and 98 individuals participated in focus group discussions.



*"While this initiative may represent only a small portion of Acted's work in Libya, it has had a profound impact on the communities we serve. The enthusiasm and willingness of the participants to engage and support each other was truly eye-opening."*

- Acted deputy project manager

### NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

A total of 1,000 NFI kits and 897 winterization kits have been distributed to ensure affected populations have access to essential items such as cooking utensils, blankets, clothes, etc. Moreover, Acted is providing multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) with 410 households supported to date.

### STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY ROLE IN THE RESPONSE

In collaboration with Tanmia 360 and the Libyan Hostels Youth, the Resource Centre (RC) in Benghazi facilitated the collection and distribution of critical items including water, food, blankets, hygiene kits, and medical equipment. The first 3 weeks following the flood, the RC conducted: (i) one-day training on Psychological First Aid, (ii) a week-long training on Psychosocial Support, Child Protection and Data Collection, both dedicated to local first-responders, (iii) a networking event focusing on Managing Crisis and (iv) a focus group discussion on Media in Times of Crisis. In total 92 individuals, of which 65 female, benefitted from the RC activities.

Acted delivered its multi-sectoral flood response through close collaboration with local authorities and its partners Libyan Red Crescent (LRC), Scouts, Alsharaka, and Tanmia 360.



Acted's WASH intervention comprises of rehabilitation of two WASH infrastructure and the set up of a water laboratory through provision of high-quality equipment in the city of Derna, enabling water quality testing to benefit the provision of safe water to the inhabitants of Derna city. To respond to urgent water needs following the flood, Acted delivered clean water to over 6,400 individuals through water trucking and installed 100 water tanks across Derna. More than 2,300 hygiene kits and over 40,800 individuals have been reached with hygiene promotion messages to prevent the spread of diseases and preserve well-being.



*"This lab will analyze water quality and ensure that clean and safe water reaches the citizens, enhancing public health and increasing the community's resilience against future crises."*

- Derna local authority on the water lab provided by Acted



*"Every help we receive is invaluable, given the difficult circumstances we face. Every item offered is a lifeline during these difficult times."*

- Ali\* at a hygiene kit distribution

### WAY FORWARD

Acted focuses on supporting remaining humanitarian needs, strengthening the protective environment and providing durable and sustainable solutions to the flood affected population. In the next months, we will continue to provide protection and education services, multi-purpose cash assistance, rehabilitation of public infrastructures, support to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and local civil society actors, including through dedicated resource centers in northeastern Libya. Additionally, Acted is promoting climate and circular economy initiatives in the region through capacity building and grant provision.