Nearly 10,000 people are missing and at least 8,000 people are dead after Storm Daniel hit part of northeastern Libya, causing severe rains and flooding that swept away entire villages. Derna, a port city in eastern Libya, was the worst hit after two dams burst killing thousands. About 30,000 people—one third of its population—were displaced by the flooding, according to the International Organization for Migration. Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) runs medical programs in the west of the country and dispatched an emergency team from Misrata yesterday evening, Septemebr 14. The team made up of a logistician and medical staff is due to reach Derna today by road, despite challenging conditions as Derna was split in two between east and west by the flooding.

MSF is in close contact with the Libyan Red Crescent—the main aid actor right now in Derna. The emergency team is travelling with supplies to donate on arrival, including 400 body bags, 200 medical kits to treat the wound (i.e., disinfectants, compresses, sutures, and bandages), and casualty care kits for 250 patients (i.e., gloves, antibiotics, dressings, and surgical masks).

As we often witnessing in the aftermath of disaster, local solidarity is strong, with many volunteers supporting rescue efforts. Given the scale of the disaster, it’s likely that medical facilities were damaged and there will be a great need to restore access to care for survivors.

**MSF’s deputy operations manager for Libya, Matthieu Chantrelle, gave the following statement:**

“MSF’s team managed to arrive in Tobruk yesterday. The information that we have is the city of Derna is really separated in two, the west part and the east part, where the access between these two parts is very complicated due to the overflow of the [dam]. It seems that civil society has mobilized and there are a lot of actors, individuals, and also some organizations that have arrived there with some materials—but it is not clear what.

“The first need is management of the dead bodies. There is a big need for mortuary bags. There is [also a need] to take care of the casualties—first aid—[ensuring] that the injured are treated. And then, there seems there is a big gap in terms of mental health. With [the] information we have, there are no actors in place responding to this.

“It seems also that from the number of casualties [already] confirmed it is going to be catastrophic figures. Apparently [there are] more than 30,000 displaced people [in Derna]. This will need a response: shelters, nonfood items, hygiene kits, and so on.

“[MSF’s] priority today is for the team to be able to arrive site [in Derna] to coordinate with the Libyan Red Crescent and to donate more than 200 medical kits and mortuary bags. And then after to assess the hospitals and health centers and the medical needs, [so that we can] launch operations as soon as possible. We’re getting ready to be able to send a team [as soon as] we’ve confirmed the needs.”