

Nazra For Feminist Studies
Urgent Appeal on Libya
September 2023



The MENA Gender Advocacy Hub Urgent Appeal-Libya

Case: Libyan Youth Deserve to Live and Save their Future.

In 2023, Asmaa Khalifa, the Libyan feminist and a member of our Hub, analyzed Libyan youth's values, aspirations, and concerns. 1,000 surveyed youth responded to climate change questions. Libya is heavily reliant on fossil fuels and their revenues. While awareness of climate change is high, its impact has yet to reach the group of young people who answered the survey. A total of 45 per cent said they did not consider climate change to be important, whereas 34 per cent did. This response mainly came from individuals living in rural areas whose families were particularly affected due to the impact on local agricultural production.

Join Asmaa & the MENA Gender Advocacy Hub to support Libyan youth to save their country and future.

Context:

On September 10, 2023, extreme rainfall from Storm Daniel hit parts of the Mediterranean. The heavy rains flooded parts of Libya's northeast, a disaster exacerbated by the collapse of two dams in the coastal city of Derna and swept away entire neighborhoods. The city has been through so much in the past decade, being controlled by Islamic State and being the hot spot of violent conflict. The devastating flooding has killed more than 6000 people, and 7000 were injured, with more than 10,000 missing, and the numbers are expected to rise.

The rescue teams are struggling, and their efforts are obstructed by the political chaos of a country split between two governments. Who responded quite late to the emergency and only began their coordination efforts on September 12th, it is unclear as of yet if their collaboration is effective.

Climate and environmental experts said that such flooding and other natural disasters are expected to increase with the rising global surface temperatures.

The disaster in Libya will have a psychological impact, with thousands of people lacking access to basic needs of food and safe and clean water with no shelters. The impact of the flood disaster exacerbates the humanitarian challenges caused by the ongoing conflict in Libya. Victims will be exposed to grave human rights violations, including the right to adequate housing and education.

Gender Impact:

The disaster will disproportionately impact less privileged groups, including women and girls. The impact of the flood disaster will exacerbate the existing structural gender inequality, and the gender-specific barriers and inequalities will pose unique threats to their lives, livelihoods, health, and safety and will increase the sexual and gender-based violence.

The gendered impact of the disaster will increase the barriers to equal access to essential services such as education, protection, and sexual and reproductive health. It will have a devastating psychological impact on women and girls.

Supporting the infrastructure for women will provide a brighter future for its young people and the entire society.

Take Action:

- Join the MENA Gender Advocacy Hub in advocating for a gendered crisis response.
- Urge the International community to have better facilitation due to the conflict zone in Libya and the existing political chaos.
- Urge the International community to respond rapidly to support search and rescue efforts.
- Urge the International community to put women's and girls' rights and needs at the center of humanitarian response that considers the protection and safety of women and girls especially when planning for relief items and shelters.
- Ensure an inclusive, holistic, and gender response addressing the gender inequality and empowerment of women and girls.
- Call the International community to address the climate change interventions better and ensure its gender aspect.
- Assist local authorities in assessing fragile areas around Derna.

For more information or media inquiries: advocacy@nazra.org