



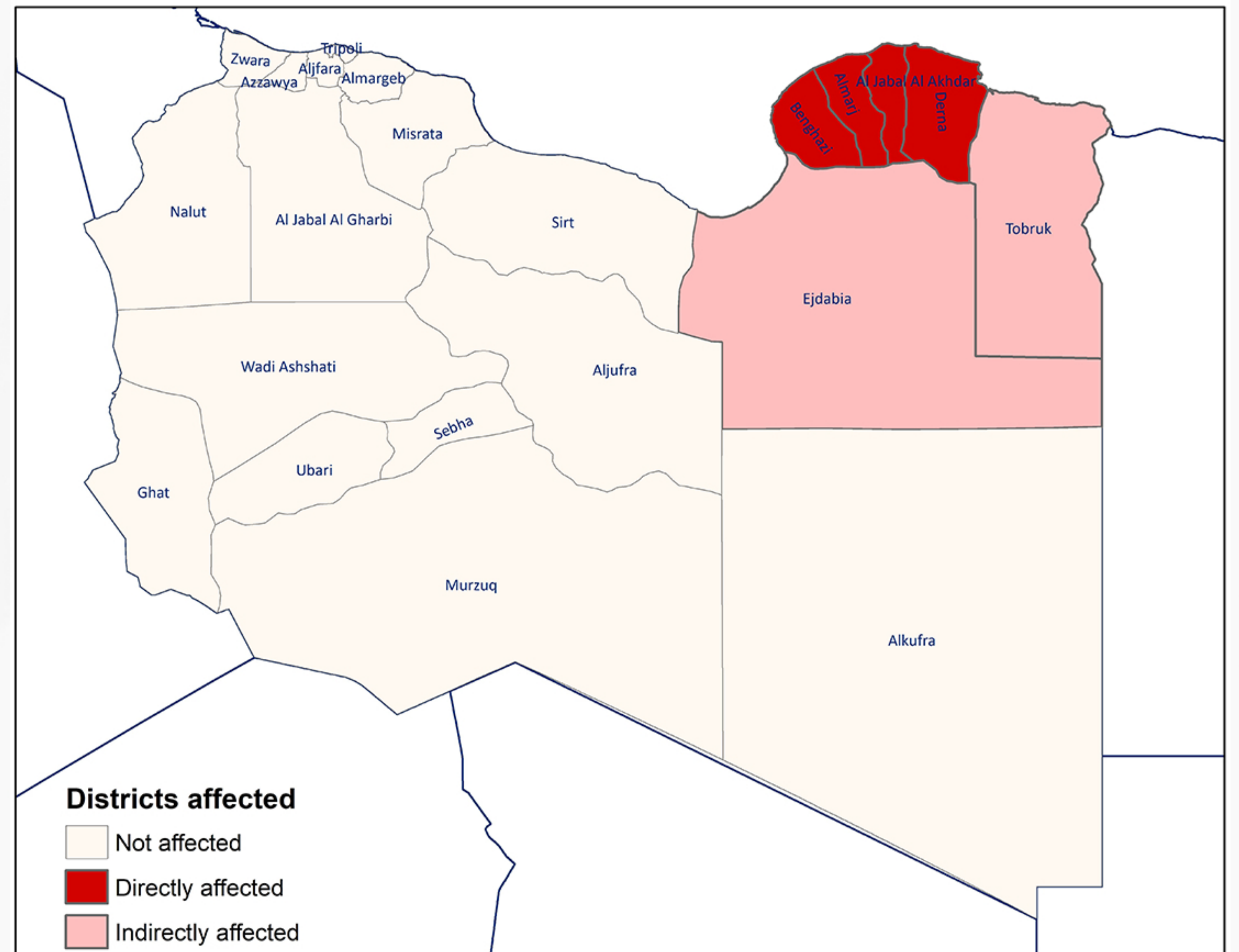
WHO Country Office, Libya

Situation Update #1: Tropical Storm Daniel
11 September 2023



Overall Situation:

On Sunday 10 September 2023, Tropical Storm Daniel made landfall on the eastern coast of Libya. The cities of Benghazi, Al Marj, AlBayda, Batah, Bayada, Derna, Shahat and Sousa, with a combined population of over 1.5 million, were affected by strong winds, heavy rainfall and significant flooding. Homes and infrastructure have been destroyed and many roads have been washed away. The floods led to the collapse of two dams in Derna, where local officials say at least 10 000 people are missing and many bodies have been swept out to sea. The city of Sousa is reported to be totally under water.



Reported deaths and missing persons (MOH figures as of 12:00 PM Monday 11 September 2023)

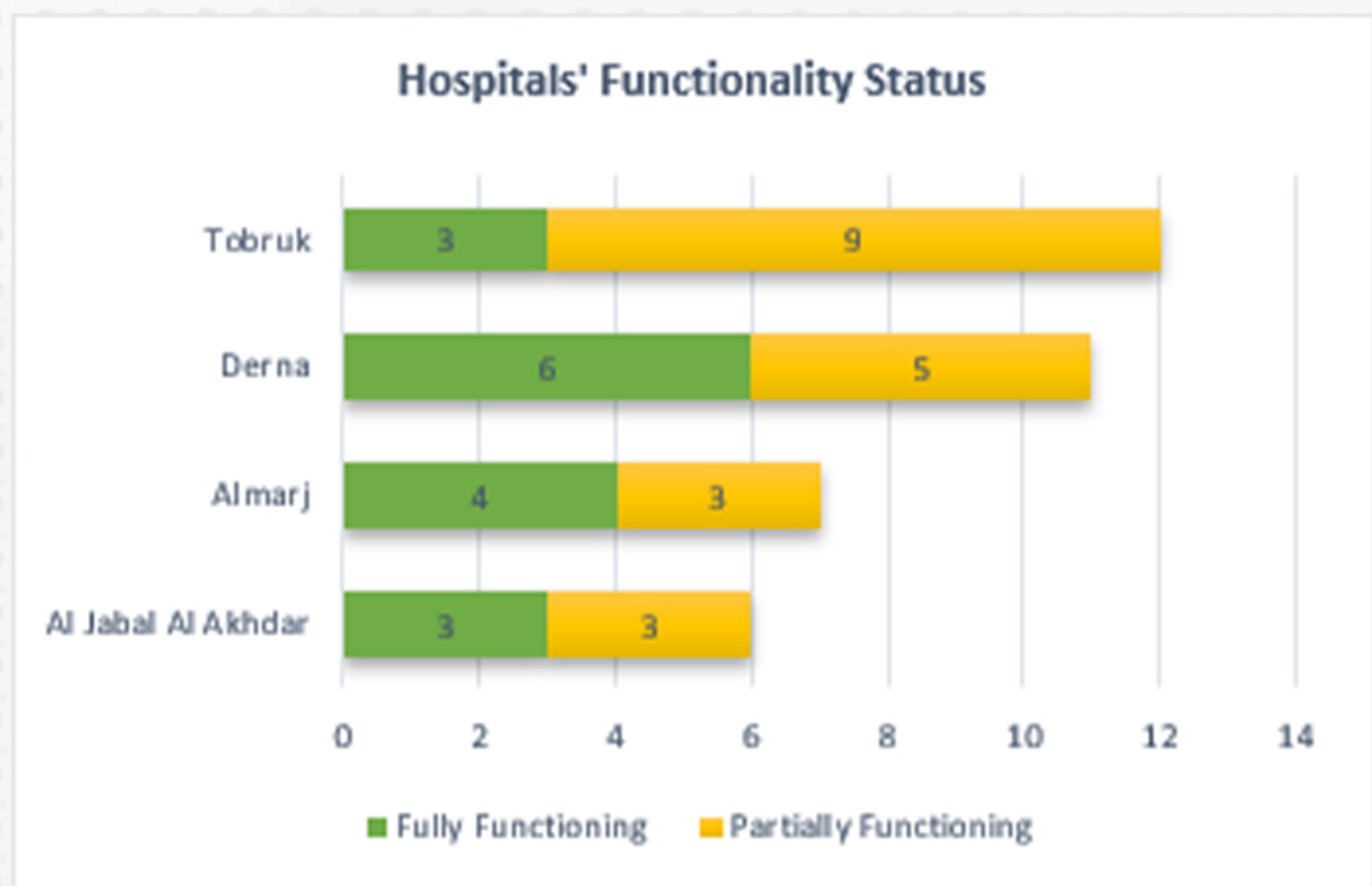
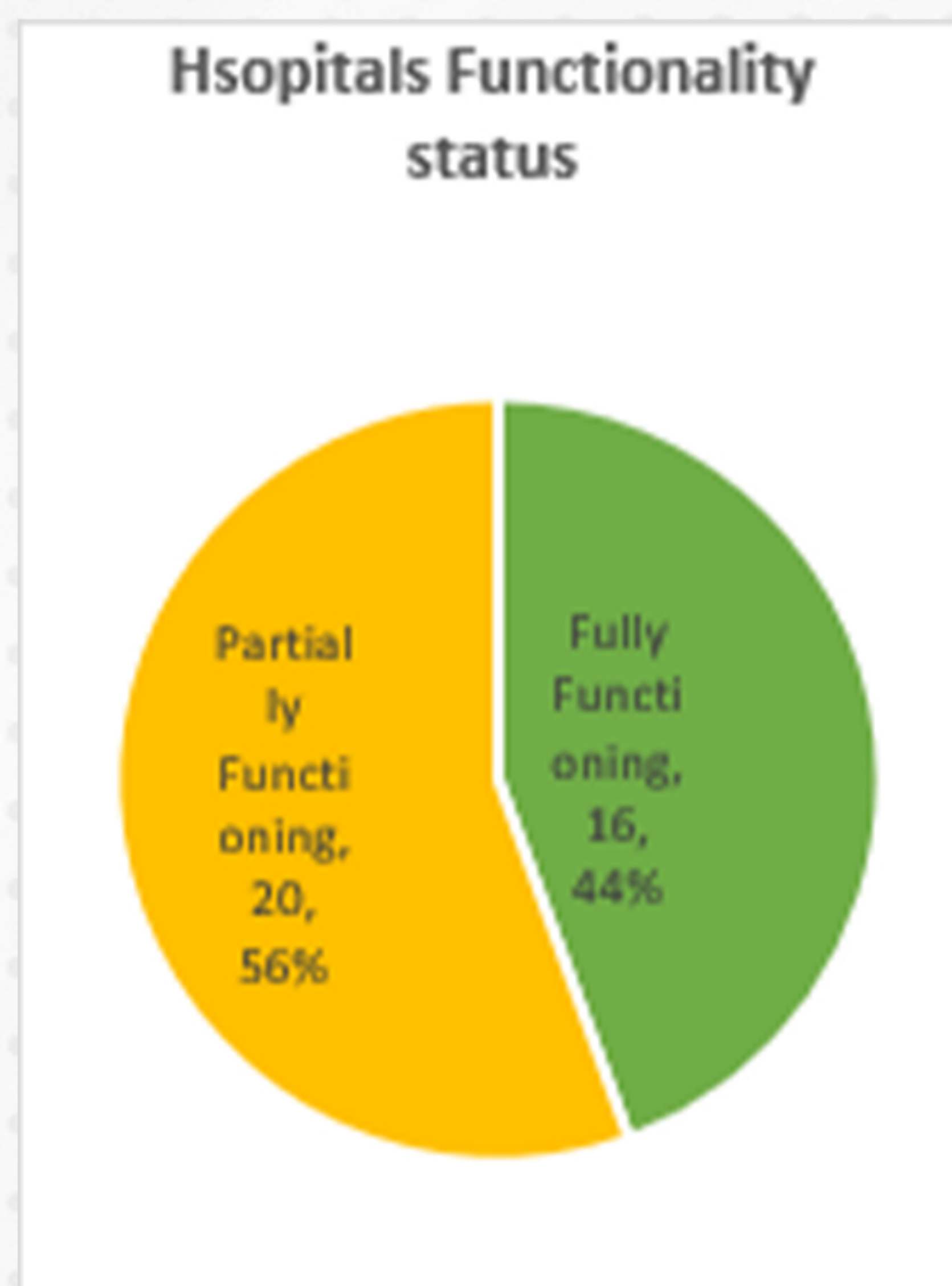
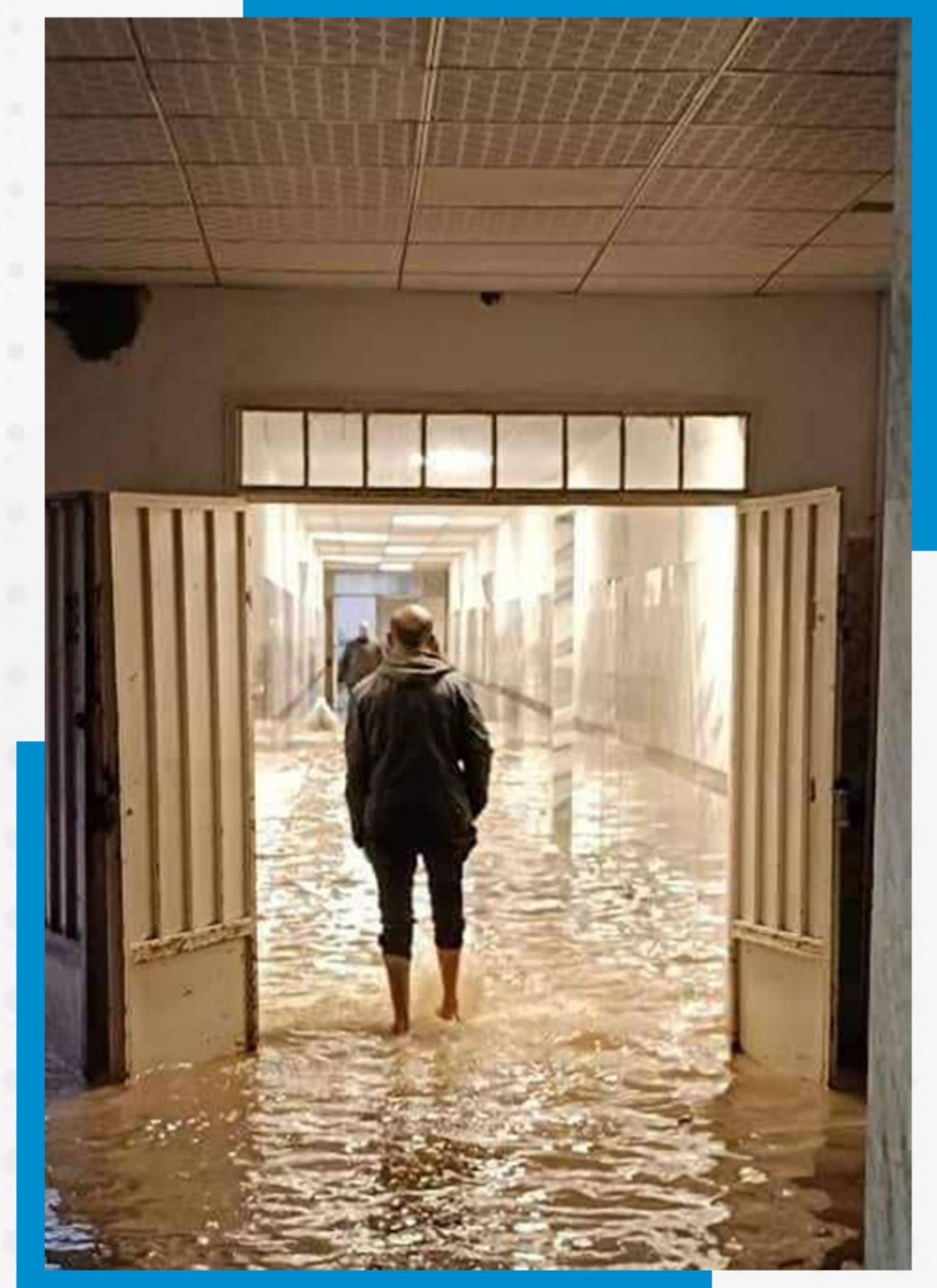
- **Reported deaths:** 36 deaths.
- **Reported lost/missing:** 231 persons.

The numbers of dead and missing are likely to rise as more emergency teams are deployed and more bodies are identified.

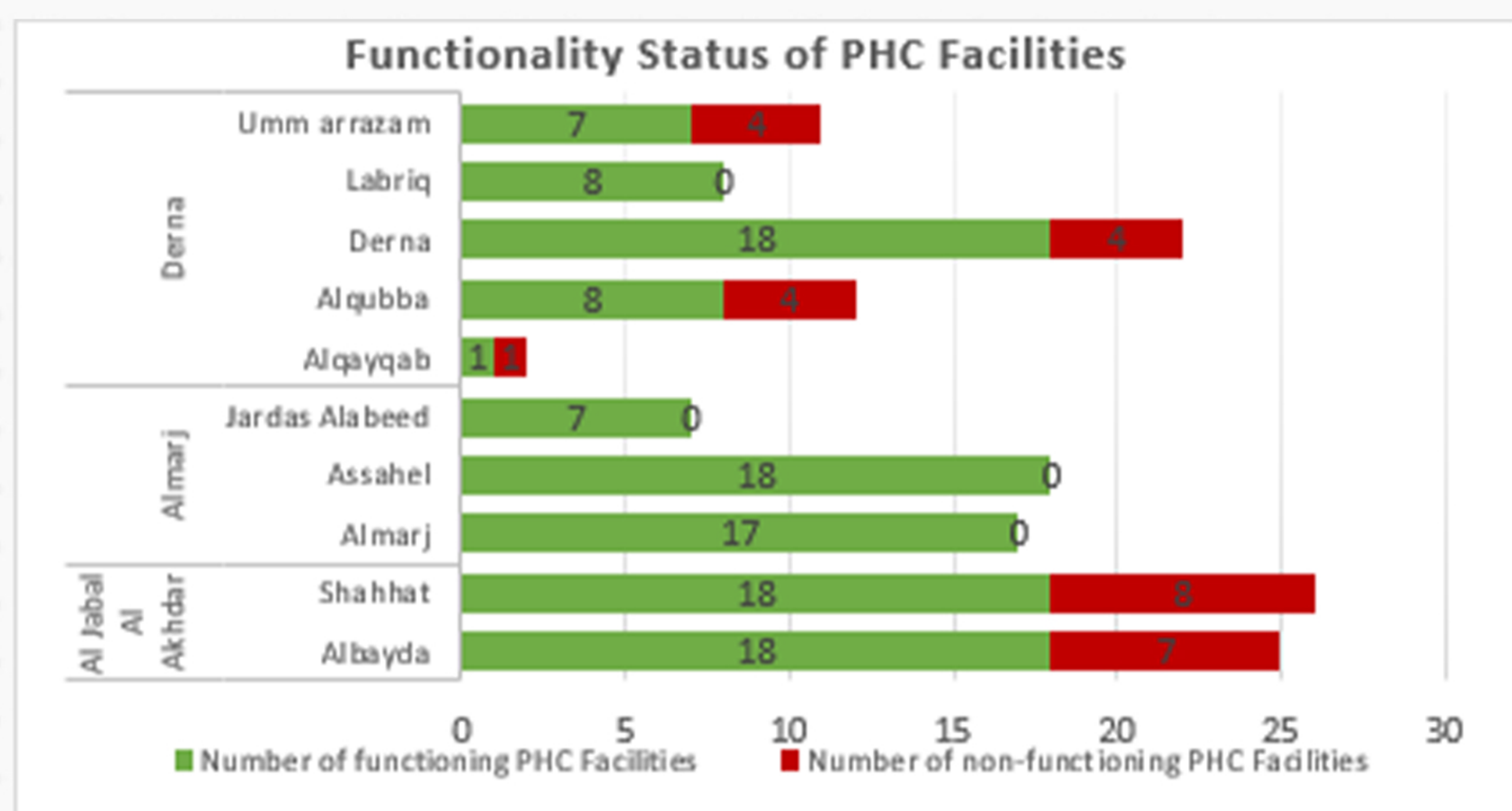
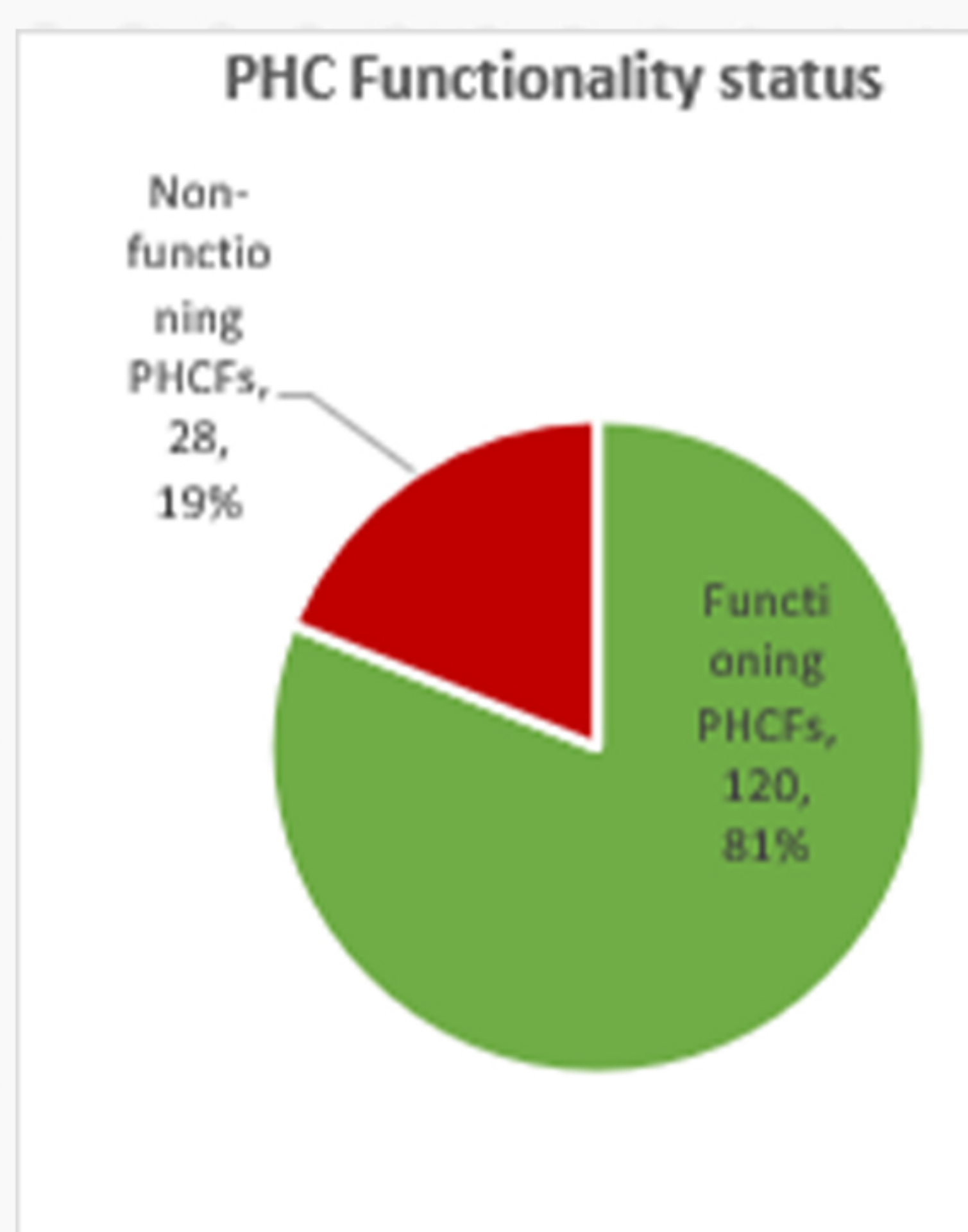
Status of health care services

Three hospitals (two in Al Bayda and one in Sousa) have been flooded and forced to close. Another two (in Al Marj and Toukra) have been partially damaged. Patients are being transferred to other hospitals nearby. Although Shahat and Sousa have suffered very heavy flooding, its main health facility (Qurena Hospital) is reportedly intact and able to receive patients referred from other hospitals. However, out-patient services in the area have been severely disrupted.

Even before the storm hit, only 16 of the 36 hospitals in the affected areas were reported to be fully functional. [Source: HeRAMS Libya Sep 2023]. The other 20 hospitals were closed or functioning only partially due to budget shortfalls and critical shortages of staff, medicines, supplies and equipment.



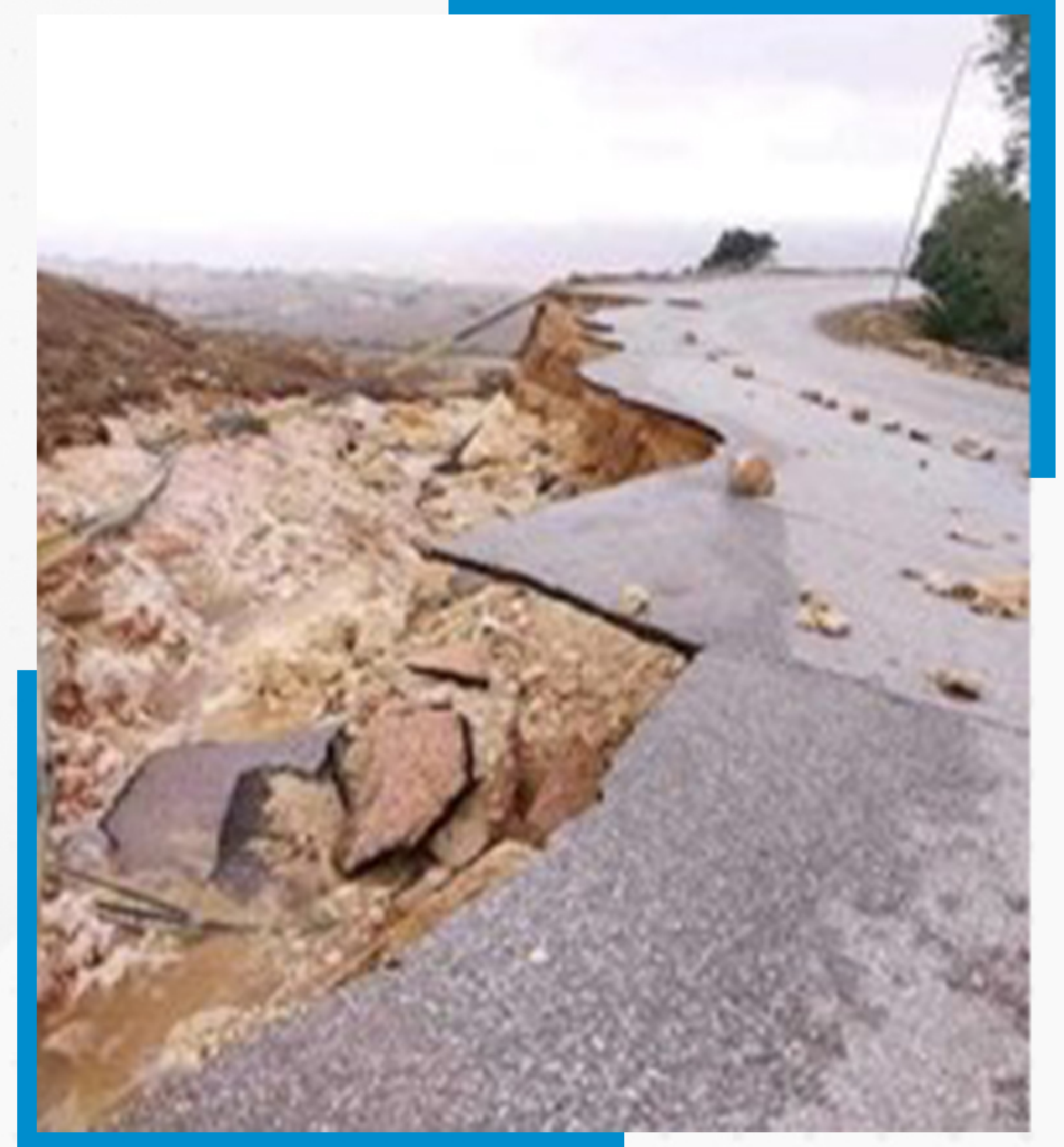
Before the floods hit, over 80% of the 148 primary health care facilities in the main affected areas were reported to be fully functional. Their status following the floods is currently unknown.





Immediate supplies requested by the Ministry of Health (MoH)

- Emergency health kits, surgical supplies and consumables
- Anaesthesia drugs
- Body bags
- Medicines to treat chronic disease patients
- Disinfectant
- Bedsheets
- Oxygen masks
- ICU equipment (beds, monitors)



WHO Response to date

- WHO Libya has been in direct contact with the MOH to identify urgent needs and support the emergency health response. It is dispatching emergency kits and supplies to hospitals in the area.
- Three WHO field coordinators deployed in AlBayda, AlMarj and Derna are monitoring the evolving situation and providing real-time information. WHO's sub-office in Benghazi is also monitoring the situation closely and participating in the MoH's rapid health needs assessments.
- WHO is helping the MoH activate its emergency operations centres in AlBayda and Benghazi.

Priority Actions:

- Conduct an in-depth assessment of the health situation in the affected areas.
- Identify the immediate health needs of those displaced by the floods.
- Support hospitals and clinics by providing critical medicines and supplies.
- Prepare risk communication and educational messages in close coordination with the MoH and National Centre for Disease Control; share with partners and disseminate on WHO Libya social media platforms.

Coordination with partners:

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has convened an emergency meeting to coordinate humanitarian efforts, map partners' activities and the availability of contingency supplies, and activate rapid funding mechanisms including a possible Flash Appeal.

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