

Jordan flash flooding: UN chief 'saddened' by loss of life

The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said on Thursday that he was “deeply saddened by the loss of life and extensive damage” that occurred from large-scale flash flooding near the Dead Sea, in Jordan, which reportedly swept away a bus carrying pupils and staff on a school trip.

According to news reports, at least 18 have been killed, and dozens of others injured. The victims were washed away by the floods in the Zara Maeen hot springs area, following heavy rains on Thursday. Many are being treated for serious injuries, and search and rescue efforts are ongoing.

Mr. Guterres conveyed his “condolences and deepest sympathy to the families of the victims” and the Government of Jordan.

He added that the “the United Nations stands ready to support ongoing rescue and relief efforts”.

The Dead Sea valley is prone to flooding as it lies below sea level and flash floods tend to occur when rain water rushes down from the adjacent hills.