

**Alert note**

*Floods in Serbia, 15 June 2023*

The **alert note** is intended to alert all ACT Alliance members to an emerging emergency situation. It provides basic information to inform decision making within the Alliance regarding possible response options and it also forms the ‘immediate assessment’ of the situation and needs in the affected areas. An alert note should be completed **as soon as it becomes obvious there is a humanitarian emergency**.

The information in the alert note should be kept **short and concise**. Where you do not have information to address a question identified below simply state that the information is not currently available. You will not be expected to have all the information detailed below in the early stages of an emergency.

The alert note should be completed by the forum and sent to the Regional Humanitarian Programme Officer for review and circulation, with a copy to the Regional Representative.

**Completed by: Philanthropy, Charitable Foundation of the Serbian Orthodox Church**

**Date completed: 21 June 2023**

**Forum: Europe forum**

**Type of emergency: Floods**

**Date of emergency (if rapid onset): 15 June 2023**

<b>1. The nature of the emergency</b>
On June 15, 2023, heavy rains hit the territory of the Republic of Serbia, causing floods throughout the country. 56 cities and municipalities affected by flash floods declared a state of emergency. Houses are flooded, huge material damage was done to crops, infrastructure is damaged. More than 300 people were evacuated from their homes. The weather forecast predicts new precipitation in the coming days, so there is a possibility of new floods. Landslides have been triggered in some municipalities, endangering houses.
<b>2. The impact and scale of the emergency (please include your source of information)</b>
Based on the initial assessment, this is a medium-scale emergency. In Požega (Zlatibor district), the Moravica river overflowed, flooding households, crops and the industrial part of the town. The water is receding slowly in some areas, however certain areas are located on depressed ground, so in those areas the water will have to be pumped out. A number of houses are still only accessible by boat. Railway traffic was completely suspended. In Trstenik (Rasina district), massive rainfall caused the overflow of the West Morava River and flash floods. Residential and auxiliary buildings, as well as agricultural land, were damaged. Citizens report enormous material damage. In Jagodina (Pomoravlje district), the Belica and Lugomir rivers overflowed in several places, flooding houses and agricultural land. Many residential buildings are flooded, traffic in the city center is interrupted, and bridges are closed. Thousands of people in hundreds of households from these territories were devastated, however, as reports of damage from the field, which is complicated by the impassability of roads, are still coming in, there are still no official quantitative data, nor any segregation. Authorities have called citizens to report damage with the deadline as of 20 July. The flash floods brought large amounts of mud into the flooded houses, left wet walls, destroyed furniture and electrical appliances that people could not protect. It will take some time to clean and sanitize the houses to make them livable again. In households where the crops are affected, the expected yield is destroyed, and as these households mainly live from agriculture, this can have major long-term economic consequences.
<b>3. Local and national capacity</b>

In the first hours after the water receded, the residents of the affected areas organized themselves to remove the accumulated mud from their houses. Cleaning houses and yards will take days. The Red Cross immediately delivered food and hygiene packages, drinking water tanks, boots and gloves, but the exact extent of the damage is still unknown. As the official collection of data on damaged households is still ongoing, the local authorities have not yet announced whether and how it will help the vulnerable population.

Philanthropy and EHO are in constant communication with other faith-based organisations that are planning to respond to avoid overlapping and to provide coordinated response. Apart of Red Cross and faith-based network in Serbia, there are no other responders at the field.

National authorities will not be able to reimburse all damage caused by floods. After the initial assessment, they will provide a response plan.

#### 4. Key needs and gaps

The floods have put the affected districts in a state of crisis. The flood-affected population find themselves in a desperate situation, with many unmet vital humanitarian needs such as access to safe shelter and non-food items, safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, and productive livelihoods.

Local and national authorities as well as crisis units are on the field day and night. It is very challenging to get the accurate data, but Philanthropy's and EHO's assessment teams are establishing ongoing communication with local authorities in order to assure timely and precise data.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund ( <i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i> )	X
Appeal ( <i>intended for large scale emergencies</i> )	

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

Capacity details of forum members with the intention to respond are given below.

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise	Support required	Estimated Budget range
Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation Serbia	Rasina and Zlatibor district			75,000 USD
Philanthropy, Charitable Foundation of the Serbian Orthodox Church	Pomoravlje district	MPCA		75,000 USD

#### 5. Potential responses

National ACT members Ecumenical Humanitarian Organisation Serbia (EHO) and Philanthropy, Charitable Foundation of the Serbian Orthodox Church have a long-term cooperation with the local authorities in the vast majority of the affected areas. Both organisations provided assistance for people affected by different natural and man-made disasters (floods, earthquakes, hail storms, landslides, wars, Covid19 etc). Philanthropy is member of the CaLP network with experience and expertise in providing various modalities of the MPCA.

EHO is planning to respond in Rasina and Zlatibor district by providing multipurpose cash (cash cards value approx. 200 EUR per household) for 300 affected vulnerable HH. Vulnerable HH will be identified in cooperation with local Red Cross and Center for Social Welfare. Philanthropy is planning to provide cash cards value approx. 200 EUR for 300 affected most vulnerable HH and agriculture livelihood in Pomoravlje district and information leaflet about cleaning procedure after floods issued by Institute for Public Health of Serbia. Philanthropy will define the selection criteria jointly with the local authorities once they conduct their assessment.