

Alert note*Ukraine, Kakhovka dam destruction
June 10, 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: HEKS / EPER Foundation
Date completed: 13 June 2023
Forum: Ukraine

Type of emergency: Flooding
Date of emergency (if rapid onset): 6 June 2023

1. The nature of the emergency:

Early Tuesday June 06, 2023, the destruction of the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant Dam which crosses the Dnipro River on the front line in Nova Kakhovka in Khersonska – has led to massive flooding, forcing dozens of thousands of people to flee and impacting at least 37 towns and villages which have been reported fully or partially flooded, according to the Ukrainian authorities. Kakhovka Reservoir, which was formed by the Kakhovka Dam and stretches 240 kilometres through Zaporizka, Dnipropetrovska and Khersonska oblasts, is one of the largest water sources in the south of the country. It provides water supply, including drinking water, to major industrial cities, including Kryvyi Rih, Marhanets, Nikopol and Pokrov, home to nearly 700,000 people.

2. The impact and scale of the emergency**Flood:**

- The floodwater continues slowly to decrease, with the average level reportedly at 4 metres, down from nearly 5.4 metres on 9 June, according to Ukrainian authorities. Nevertheless, **46 towns and villages** remain flooded in Khersonska oblast, including 32 in the Ukraine-controlled right bank of the Dnipro River, 14 in the areas under Russian military control, and 31 in Mykolaivska oblast, according to the Ukrainian police. The disaster has left at least 6 people killed and 29 missing in areas under Ukrainian control, according to the Government, in addition to around 8 killed in areas under Russian military control, according to Russian-installed authorities.

Security/mines threat:

- Landmines and UXOs are seen floating in flooded areas and posing direct threat to civilians and first responders.
- INGOs are currently NOT permitted to engage in mine action in Khersonska oblast.

Water level:

- 12m depth identified as critical; water level to be monitored closely, reported on timely, and responded to accordingly with WASH cluster in the lead.

Multidimensional impact:

- The flooding will likely impact around 80 settlements in the days ahead, gravely impacts access to basic services, including food and water, and will likely worsen an already fragile humanitarian situation, impacting hundreds of thousands of people on both sides of the front line.
- The destruction of the Kakhovka Dam has also reportedly destroyed the irrigation system and the water supply across southern Ukraine, including Crimea, according to Ukrainian authorities. It impacted areas largely consisting of agricultural lands, which has led to the disruption of agricultural activities in the midst of the season and will bear longer-term consequences.

3. Local and national capacity

Central and local Government:

The Ukrainian authorities have announced the evacuations of 16,000 people from these areas, and flooding can result in the movement of mines and explosive ordinance to the areas previously assessed as safe, putting thousands more people in danger in an area already impacted by explosives.

They are being evacuated by buses and trains to Mykolaiv, the administrative centre of the neighbouring oblast, and further to Khmelnytskyi, Odesa, Kropyvnytskyi, Kyiv and other cities across Ukraine. The flooding, which will likely impact around 80 settlements in the days ahead, gravely impacts access to basic services, including food and water, and will likely worsen an already fragile humanitarian situation, impacting hundreds of thousands of people on both sides of the front line.

International organisations:

Humanitarians have deployed multidisciplinary mobile teams to train and bus stations to assist people arriving from the affected areas.

Emergency humanitarian response is underway to provide urgent assistance to over 16,000 people affected by flooding, including drinking water, cash assistance, legal and psychosocial support.

United Nations and humanitarian organizations have already stepped up their operations to address the impacts, including by providing urgent assistance to over 16,000 affected people. Multidisciplinary mobile teams have been deployed to train and bus stations across Kherson oblast as cities in the west are preparing to receive evacuees. For its part, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is closely monitoring the situation at Zaporizhzhia and has reported no immediate threat.

A week after the disaster caused by the destruction of the Kakhovka Dam in Khersonska oblast, the UN and its humanitarian partners continued negotiations to provide assistance in areas currently under Russian control – where humanitarian access is extremely limited – at the same time as rapidly scaling up humanitarian assistance both to flood-affected people and those already impacted by the lowering of waters in the Kakhovka Reservoir.

The humanitarian response is assisting more people every hour, with the United Nations and its humanitarian partners delivering vital supplies – mainly water, hygiene items and food – enough to cover the needs of nearly 180,000 people, up from around 35,000 people reported on 9 June, according to OCHA.

4. Key needs and gaps

- Across the Ukrainian-controlled areas of Khersonska oblast and in Mykolaivska oblast, **evacuations, access to drinking water, food and hygiene items are the main pressing needs** of thousands of families impacted by the disaster. The situation is particularly concerning in Dnipropetrovska oblast, where over 160,000 people are facing water shortages, according to the local authorities.
- The Kakhovka Reservoir water levels – a source of drinking water for around 700,000 people in southern Ukraine – have reportedly dropped by 70 per cent, causing serious water shortages in several areas.
- The affected people mainly are displaced in Odesa, Kherson, Kryvyi Rih, Mykolaiv, Zaporizhzhia in existing collective shelters where they are offered basic needs assistance by international and local organisations.

Sources:

[Ukraine - Humanitarian Impact and Response Flash Update #6: Destruction of Kakhovka Dam \(14 Jun 2023\)\[EN/UK\] - Ukraine | ReliefWeb](#)

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
HEKS / EPER	Kherson	Basic needs	Water, food distribution	150 000 USD

5. Potential responses

HEKS / EPER emergency response

Location:

- HEKS/EPER is going to target affected people in the villages around Kherson city. The affected population in Ivanivka village is one of the main locations to be supported.

Number of flooding affected people to be assisted:

- The total target of the beneficiaries will be a minimum of 2000 individuals.

Proposed activities:

- Distribution of food kits and 200,000 liters of drinking water over a period of 4 months (start June 27 – October 27, 2023)

Estimated budget:

- 150 000 USD