



AFUO Ukraine Crisis Appeal partnered with Caritas Ukraine Emergency Response

The Ukraine Crisis Appeal is proud to be one of the partners of Caritas Ukraine's Emergency flood relief program. For this we thank our generous donors for their continued support in gifting to our fund to enable us to continue to save the vulnerable lives of those ravaged by war in Ukraine.

#TogetherWeStandWithUkraine #TogetherWeSaveLives

1. SITUATION OVERVIEW

On June 6th the Kakhovka Dam was destroyed by Russian forces, unleashing an additional large-scale humanitarian crisis, within the already existing humanitarian crisis in the region. The Kakhovka Dam destruction requires both immediate and long term attention and response, and its effects will be felt in the immediate flooded area, as well as in the entire region (four oblasts) directly served by the reservoir. About 17,000 people are estimated to be directly affected by the flooding –both on the right and the left bank of the Dnipro river. An additional 700,000 people in the wider region (four oblasts) who depended on the Kakhovka Reservoir as a source of drinking water are also potentially affected. According to Ukrainian authorities, as of June 14, the level of the Reservoir had already dropped by 70 per cent, already causing severe water shortages in many towns and villages in the region.

The Prime Minister Denys Shmygal has reported that more than 3,700 people, including 474 children, have been evacuated from the affected area on the right bank (20.06.2023). Unfortunately, 21 people have died and more than 30 are still missing as a result of the flooding. There is no official data on the situation on the temporary occupied areas on the left bank. It is feared that many more have died, in particular residents of the temporarily occupied village of Oleshky.

The flood water levels, which reached a peak of 5.6 meters in the first days of the crisis, continue to gradually decrease, currently being at the level of 0.48 meters (as of 19.06.2023). In Kherson region, 4 settlements (832 houses) on the right bank of the Dnipro still remain flooded, while 17 settlements on the temporarily occupied territory are flooded as well. In total more than 135,000 tons of water from 505 houses and basements have already been pumped.

The immediate urgent humanitarian challenges continue to be:

- Shelter assistance and other basic needs for both evacuated people and those who have remained behind near the flooded areas, especially in the rural communities. Special attention is required for people with low mobility and special needs.
- Access to fresh drinking water for areas affected by flooding and also in the wider region.

The level of damage to housing and other vital infrastructure, as well as the **ecological consequences** of the disaster are being assessed. The floodwaters bore pesticides, chemicals, dead animals and fish. There was a large oil spill into the water from the dam itself. The situation is additionally complicated because of land mines which were swept up by the flooding waters and uncertainty of how they will react in the water and where they'll end up. After the Kakhovka Dam was blown up, the sea in Odesa began to turn green. On behalf of the local mayor's office, the water was tested for infectious diseases. Although no cholera was found in the water, rotavirus RNA and salmonella DNA were detected. Viktor Liashko, Minister of Health of Ukraine, said that the level of water pollution in Dnipro exceeds the norm by 28,000 times. In Mykolaiv region, cholera-like vibrio and a significant excess of lactose-positive E. coli were found in the Inhulets river and the Dnipro-Bug estuary. Consequences of ecocide: Oil stains weighing at least 150 tons are drifting along Dnipro. They can reach the Mediterranean. More than 50 thousand hectares of Ukrainian forests are flooded and at least half of them will die. This is more than the area of Iceland's forests. The Kakhovka Reservoir is covered with dead fish, which is around 95,000 tons of living bioresources. Bodies of dolphins from the Ukrainian shores are found on the Black Sea in Bulgaria and Turkey. More than 150 official cases have been recorded. It is possible that the current will bring roe deer, foxes and hares from the southern region of Ukraine to these countries. The flooded area was home to about 20,000 wild animals. The Kakhovka reservoir provided access to water for four oblasts which will effect living conditions and livelihood for the long term.

2. RESPONSE

CARITAS UKRAINE



Photo: Caritas Beryslav together with State Emergency Service delivering water to the flooder areas.

Five Caritas Ukraine organizations have been actively responding since the first days: **Caritas Kryvyj Rih, Caritas Mykolaiv, Caritas Odesa, and Caritas Kherson and Caritas Beryslav**. While the response has been comprehensive, a special focus has been on providing access to drinking water, and 30 settlements affected by the disaster have already been reached with water and other essential needs. The director of **Caritas Kherson** visited the affected areas the day of the explosion and was among the first humanitarian organizations to be providing aid directly to those in need on the ground and assessing the situation. Other Caritas network organizations are assisting with supplies: e.g. Donetsk in Dnipro, Kamyanske, Kharkiv, and Kolomyja.

Caritas Ukraine is coordinating resources and the wider relief effort, mapping the needs and actions, helping centers to focus on priorities and tracking any gap areas, planning both short and long term

response. The emergency response as by now is provided in four sectors: **WASH (access to water and hygiene), Protection (Psychosocial support), Food Security and Shelter**.

Main themes as of June 20, 2023:

- The main need for the affected areas (flooded and those affected by the draining of the Kakhovka reservoir) is drinking water. In just 13 days, the Caritas network distributed **100,000 liters of water** to residents of about **30 settlements** in Kherson, Dnipropetrovsk and Mykolaiv oblasts suffering from the destruction of Kakhovka dam.
- Our focus is on the hard to reach rural areas and two most suffering cities – Kherson (Kherson region) and Pokrov (Dnipropetrovsk region).
- Taking into account the possibilities, local organizations deliver water daily in mostly small batches - 2-4 tons. Water is depleting, so we are expanding our capabilities and trying to find partners for transportation.
- Other assistance provided includes:
 - **2 388** hygiene kits,
 - **653** food packages,
 - **14 014** portions of fast food,
 - **7** beds for people with low mobility
 - **640** power banks and **9** generators
 - clothes, pumps for pumping out water etc.
- **Local organizations from different regions of Ukraine continue to send humanitarian goods to the affected regions.** We are positioning our supplies in warehouses for rapid response as needed: predominantly water, hygiene kits and food. In the last days:
 - Caritas Beryslav received humanitarian cargos from Caritas Lviv, Caritas Boryslav, Caritas Berdychiv, Caritas Buchach. They contained plaids, instant noodles, antiseptics, children's, women's, men's shoes.
 - Caritas Kherson received humanitarian supplies from Caritas Makariv to distribute in two settlements water, fast food and animal/pet food.
 - Caritas Donetsk in Dnipro provide 2 tons of food and hygiene kits to the people suffering from the flooding (fast food, pasta, coffee, cereal, bread, hygiene, water and sleeping bags). Director, Fr. Vasyl Panteliuk, visited the charity kitchen of Caritas Beryslav.

Going forward, priorities are:

- Provision of clean water and hygiene products, as most of filtration station and water wells are not functioning.
- Restoring access to water: deepening of wells; water cleaning, disinfection (filters, etc.); water pumping (electric pumps and others).

- Restoration of housing (small and medium repairs), cash grants for the purchase of furniture, household appliances.
- Further (long term) significant challenge will be the restoration of livelihoods, as soil erosion caused by the floods, destroyed agricultural lands in the region which were crucial sources of income for the affected population.

2. COORDINATION

In response to the tragic incident, Caritas Ukraine has established a field coordination group. This dedicated team is diligently working to assess the urgent needs and coordinate the efforts of local Caritas centers in providing assistance to those affected. The field coordination group of Caritas Ukraine plays a crucial role in gathering information, conducting assessments, and analyzing the specific needs of the affected communities. They work closely with local Caritas centers to ensure a coordinated and effective response, pooling resources, and expertise to address the most pressing needs of the affected. Also Caritas Ukraine is coordinating activities with local power authorities (in flooded regions and regions where people were evacuated), State Emergency Service of Ukraine, other humanitarian actors working on overcoming of the effects of flooding.

Working in close coordination with local authorities, international organizations, and The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Caritas Ukraine conducted a thorough assessment of needs and risks in the affected areas.

3. MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

Photos from Caritas Ukraine

Photo:



Photo: Director of Caritas Donetsk in Dnipro, Fr. Vasyl Panteliuk came in person to Caritas Beryslav with 2 tons of humanitarian cargo.



Photo: Assistance of Caritas Kryvyi Rih for residents of Pokrov, who, as a result of undermining the Kakhovska dam, were left without water