

UKRAINE SITUATION REPORT KAKHOVKA DAM FLOOD RESPONSE

07 JUNE 2023



SITUATION OVERVIEW

In the early morning of 06 June 2023, the dam of the Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant, on the Dnipro River in southern Ukraine, was bombed, putting a large area at risk of flooding and as such threatening the lives of residents and forcing many to evacuate their homes. The flooding and its secondary effects are leading to urgent humanitarian needs to which IOM and partners are responding. Early indications show that the affected communities will also require reinforced recovery efforts to help them cope with the environmental damage, health impact, damage to livelihoods, and to repair damaged houses. The crisis also threatens the safe operations of the nearby Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. The dam is located in the city of Nova Kakhovka which is currently under the control of the Russian Federation.

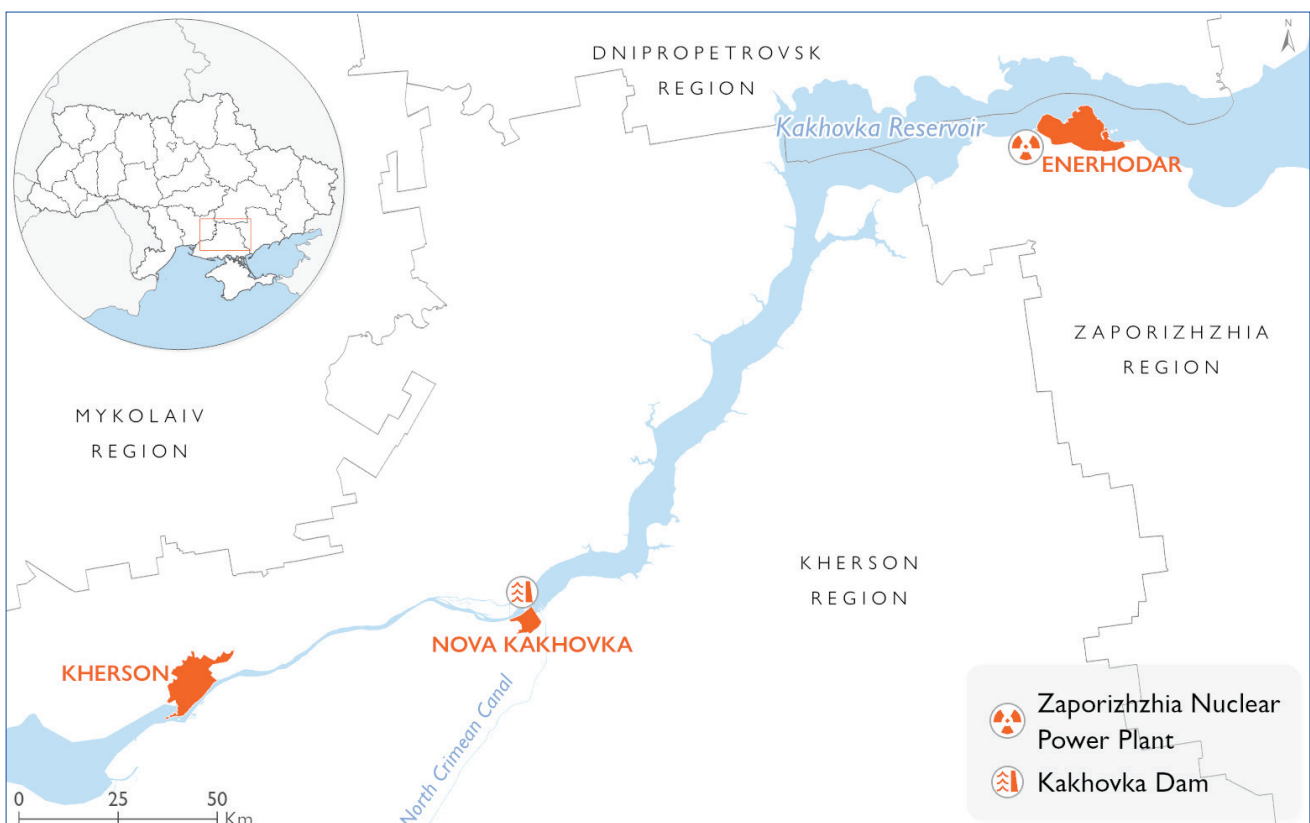
Flooding has been reported in both Ukrainian and Russian-controlled areas of Ukraine's Kherson Region, which are separated by the Dnipro River. The Government of Ukraine reported yesterday that more than 1,300 houses were already flooded. It is difficult to assess and realistically predict all the consequences of this incident, however, it seems that the water level is not rising as fast as predicted,

allowing additional time for evacuation.

Kherson city - still recovering from heavy fighting in late 2022 - is downstream from the Kakhovka Dam and is already partially flooded. Residents in affected communities have been recommended to evacuate the area and Ukrainian authorities indicated that approximately 17,000 people are in the critical zone on the Ukrainian-controlled western bank of the Dnipro River alone. The first evacuations begun on 06 June and despite challenges in accessing flooded areas, partner response to urgent needs also started, in coordination with local authorities.

The uncontrolled release of water is reportedly moving unexploded ordinance and waste, while waterborne diseases are an anticipated long-term issue. The reduction of the Kakhovka Reservoir is also anticipated to affect the water supply to other areas of Ukraine and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea as well as the cooling systems of the nearby Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, Europe's largest nuclear power station. The damaged Kakhovka Hydroelectric Power Plant itself is a critical component of Ukraine's strained energy supply system.

AFFECTED REGION



CRITICAL NEEDS

Ukrainian authorities alongside IOM and humanitarian partners are evaluating needs on the ground in the affected areas and among the evacuated populations. Local authorities in Kherson and Mykolaiv Regions have highlighted the pressing need for access to water, sanitation and hygiene supplies, along with drilling equipment and dewatering pumps in Kherson. The current additional requirements for safe, clean drinking water are estimated at more than 500,000 litres per day. The IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Flash Alert from 06 June indicates that most evacuated families and individuals have so far moved within Kherson Region, while some have travelled to other areas of Ukraine like Mykolaiv. Partners stand ready to support evacuated populations, including in collective centres. The destruction of the dam has escalated the need for immediate humanitarian support and may have longer-term implications, notably through the impact on the affected populations' livelihoods, health and access to consistent, clean water supply. This is in addition to possible country-wide and yet unpredictable effects on the energy supply and security.

KEY MESSAGES

- 1. Infrastructure should not be a target in warfare as it puts lives at risk.**
- 2. Access to safe and sufficient drinking water is an urgent need in the affected areas, and a multi-sectoral response will be needed to support affected households.**
- 3. IOM's Common Pipeline system has pre-positioned crucial non-food items (NFIs) and hygiene kits on behalf of partner organizations and can provide rapid support.**
- 4. The destruction of the dam will create not only immediate humanitarian needs but it also poses health risks and will affect the livelihoods, water and energy supply of a large number of people.**
- 5. Partners are analysing existing resources and available stocks, considering the need to concurrently reposition or prepare response plans for any further increase in humanitarian needs.**

IOM RESPONSE

IOM is well positioned to work with the Government of Ukraine and partners to meet urgent needs. Working in coordination with partners through the cluster system, relevant national actors, as well as the regional and local authorities in Kherson and Mykolaiv, IOM has 30 staff in an operational hub in Odesa covering the southern regions and field presence in Mykolaiv and Kherson Regions alongside a network of local implementing partners. On 06 June, a multi-sectoral team arrived in Mykolaiv to assess and respond to emerging needs and the Organization initiated a Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) in Kherson Region. IOM has rolled out the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) to track population movements and intentions through flow monitoring approaches.

To respond to the identified needs, IOM is rolling out the distribution of water through trucking, water bladders and water bottles, and will make available water treatment materials. IOM is also preparing to provide core relief items, including NFIs, shelter repair items or kits, and hygiene kits. The Organization has stocks prepositioned in warehouses across the country, most notably in Odesa, Dnipro and Kyiv, and is working closely with the Logistics Cluster and local partners to support the timely delivery of urgently needed relief items. To support the system wide response, IOM will also make available crucial NFIs and hygiene kits for local partner organizations through the Common Pipeline, and emergency shelter kits are being prepared for delivery should the need arise. A mobile health and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) team is on stand-by to be deployed to support crisis affected populations as soon as needs are confirmed and is coordinating with partners for potential infection prevention control or medical supply support. Collective centres in Mykolaiv as well as other areas have been recently supported through Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) preparedness initiatives. The CCCM team also stand ready to support should assistance be needed in reception sites, where populations may be evacuated. IOM is ready to provide further multi-sectoral support to families evacuated to other regions, through established presence and programming.