

MONITORING OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE EXPLOSION OF THE KAKHOVSKA DAM

- Due to the explosion of the Kakhovska Dam on 6 June 2023, the population of Khersonska and Mykolaivska oblasts suffered direct consequences like flooding of settlements, destruction of buildings, water supply networks and other infrastructure, loss of property, difficulty in accessing basic services, etc. In order to urgently respond and help the population affected by the consequences of the explosion, Right to Protection launched emergency response groups that operated in the affected territories of Khersonska and Mykolaivska oblasts. The teams provided psychosocial, social support, legal advice and consultations on protection issues, transport services and other assistance that the population needed.
- The information collected through direct observation and during communication with the population was analyzed to comprehensively assess the situation.
- From 27 June to 14 July, the Right to Protection monitoring team conducted a survey of residents of the Khersonska oblast to obtain information for further planning of response measures. Two types of surveys were developed — interviews with key informants (local authorities representatives, local residents with an active public position, volunteers, etc.) and interviews with household representatives.



From 27 June until 14 July were interviewed:

- 149 household representatives;
- 17 key informants.



The further analysis concerns Khersonska oblast (*Bilozerska, Darivska, Khersonska and Chornobaivska territorial communities*).



The primary need of the households is financial assistance.



KIs* primarily note the need for bedding sets and building materials.



Disinfection means and antifungals are also among the main aid needed by HH.

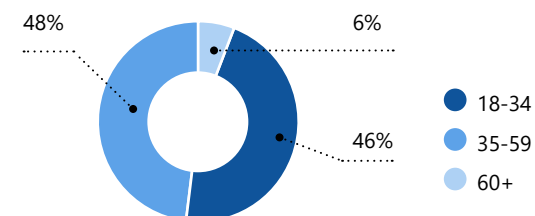
Demographics



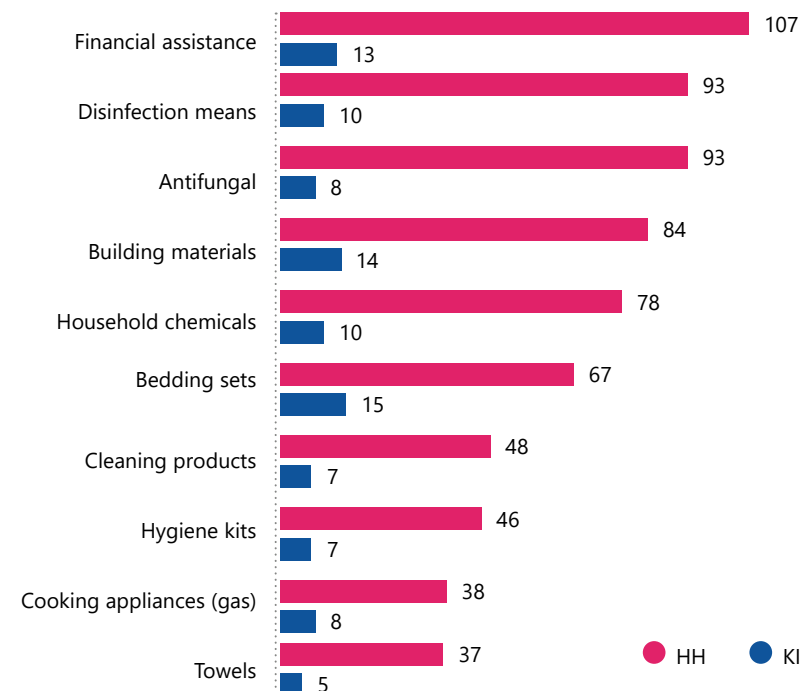
66%



34%



TOP 10 needs





According to the survey results of household representatives, **medicine** is the most accessible service (116 out of 149 household representatives indicated that medical services are available in their settlement).

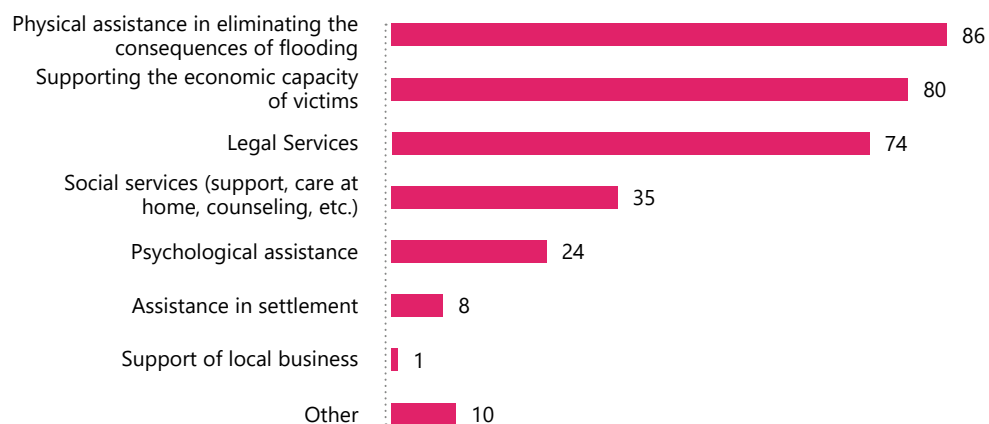


Among the services, the representatives of the HH* indicated the greatest need for **physical assistance in eliminating the consequences of flooding** and **supporting the economic capacity of victims**. The difficult financial situation of the local population is also confirmed by the lack of jobs in the oblast, which was revealed during monitoring. At the same time, in Kherson, there is a great need for workers of communal services. However, due to the difficult security situation and low wages, it is impossible to cover the available vacancies fully.

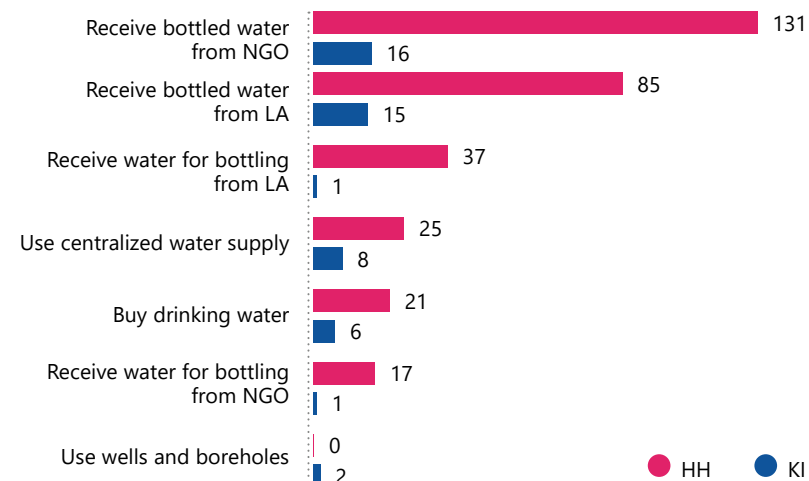


According to key informants, the population's largest request is for **legal services** (15 out of 17 KIs). Representatives of households mentioned the need for legal services as well. Owners of the destroyed property need help registering the destruction and proper information about the compensation mechanism. Support for economic capacity (11 out of 17) and social services (10 out of 17) were also mentioned by key informants as services needed.

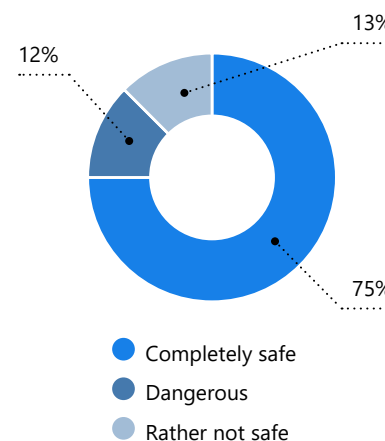
Services needed (HH)



Sources of drinking water



Water quality



Among the main sources of drinking water, representatives of households and key informants note **bottled water from NGOs and local authorities**. At the same time, the quality of water in the central water supply system and in wells and boreholes is rated as quite safe by 75% of the interviewed key informants.

* KI — key informants

HH — households

LA — local authorities

NGO — non-governmental organization



During the monitoring, it was found that local residents whose houses were flooded mostly move only within their settlements. They visit their property almost every day, where they perform repair work on their own or with the help of outsiders.



In most cases, people have moved temporarily and plan to return as soon as they finish repairing their houses, draining the property, etc. The survey results confirm this information.



About 40% of interviewed HHs* live with **relatives or acquaintances**. Almost a quarter live in their **own homes**, despite their houses being **partially flooded**. In general, nearly half of the representatives of the HH reported that their housing was partially flooded. In addition, it was found that those whose homes were destroyed also live in collective centers based on educational institutions' dormitories. Such buildings need additional equipment or repairs due to constant shelling.

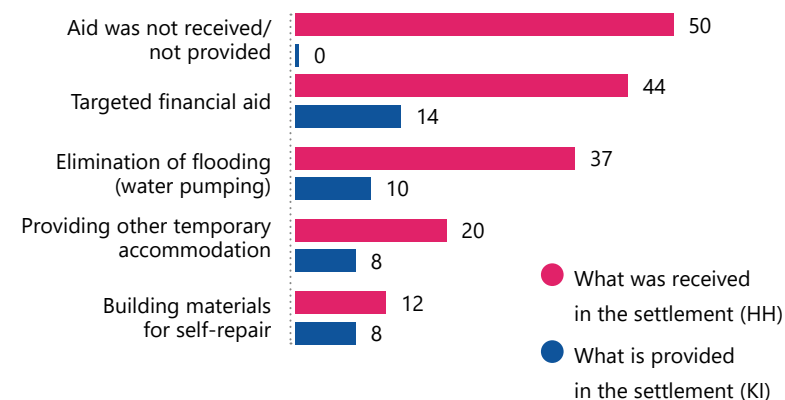
Degree of housing damage (HH)

Yes, it was partially flooded	80
Yes, it was completely flooded	54
Yes, the house was completely destroyed	6
The house was not damaged by the flooding	4
Yes, it remains flooded even now	2

Number of damaged houses (KI)

The number of damaged houses in the settlement	to 2000
Need of capital repair	to 700
Need of cosmetic repairs	to 700
Need a complete reconstruction	to 1200

Assistance in solving housing issues



More than a third of surveyed households (50 out of 149) indicated that they **did not receive any assistance** to solve housing issues after the flooding (full or partial) of their housing. A fourth of the respondents received **financial aid** and assistance in eliminating the consequences of flooding (pumping out water).

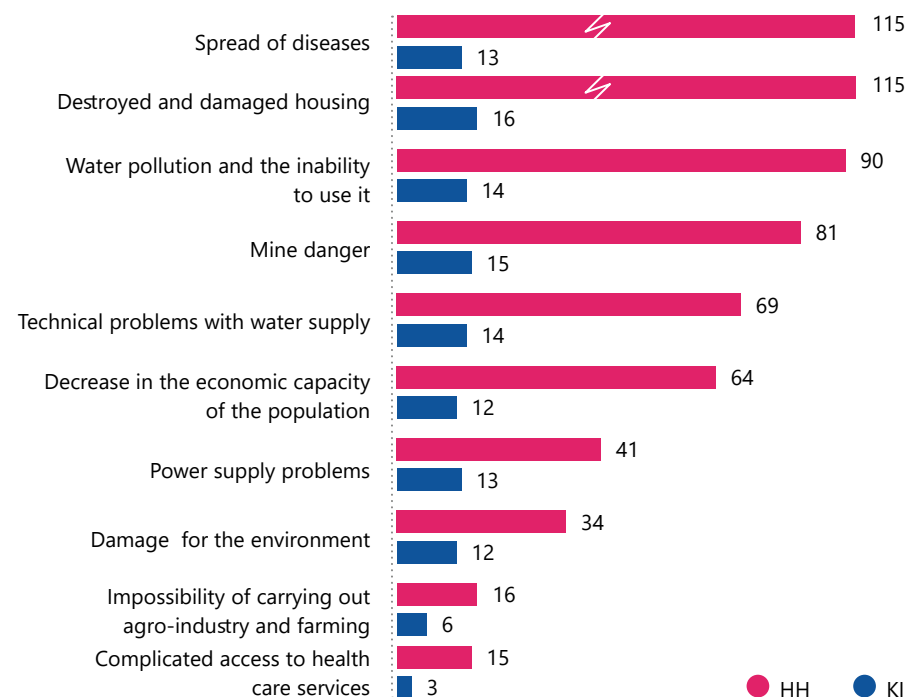


The majority of household representatives noted that they **do not plan to change their place of residence** shortly.



At the same time, isolated cases were found when people independently evacuated from temporarily occupied territories (TOT) by water. Also, after the explosion of the Kakhovska Dam, an increase in the flow of residents of the occupied territories of the Khersonska oblast, who left the TOT through the territory of russia, was recorded.

TOP 10 possible consequences



In addition to the urgent need for humanitarian aid, housing reconstruction, services, etc., some problems will require more comprehensive solutions because of their long-term consequences. Key informants consider **destroyed and damaged housing** to be the most important consequence of the Dam detonation, and these consequences are also crucial for HH*.



Among the most dangerous, representatives of households also name the **spread of diseases**. At the same time, key informants next to damaged housing consider **mine danger** the biggest problem.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Six weeks after the explosion of the Kakhovska Dam, the local population moved to the stage of combating the consequences of flooding after the water went down. The majority of people who have not moved far from their property or continue to live in houses affected by flooding try to eliminate the consequences of the tragedy on their own — make repairs, treat previously flooded premises, dry things, etc. So, over the past two weeks, the need for antifungal and disinfectants, construction materials has increased significantly. Residents are not able to perform all repair work on their own. However, for many, hiring repair crews may not be possible due to the lack of funds, so along with building materials, such assistance as repair work will also be in demand, especially considering the looming winter.
- Demand for legal services also prevails. Residents whose homes have been destroyed or damaged need assistance filing and documenting the destruction. This also indicates that the awareness of services and procedures related to destroyed housing needs to be increased.
- It is worth paying attention to raising the population's awareness about the possibility of receiving humanitarian aid and dealing with possible consequences — for example, how to act to reduce the risk of spreading diseases. In order to reach the maximum number of people, it is necessary to use various methods of information dissemination — official websites of relevant services, local authorities and NGOs, communities in messengers and social networks, handouts, etc. If possible, such information can also be conveyed during meetings of local authorities with community or settlement residents, involving representatives of various services (for example, medical institutions).
- Given the identified needs and difficulties, it is recommended to distribute humanitarian aid in small portions in different locations. On the one hand, this will make it easier for the population to access aid, and on the other hand, it will reduce crowds and the risk of targeted shelling.