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Major Activities 2015-2017



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UN Environment/OCHA Joint Unit
Palais des Nations CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 917 14 78
www.unocha.org/unep
www.eecentre.org

Banner photo: Oil well fire, Iraq, 2017. Credit: JEU

Cover photo: UNDAC team deployed in Ecuador after an earthquake, April 2016.
Credit: SRosales/Cruz Roja Ecuatoriana

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Acronym List

BRS	Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Convention Secretariats
CESDRR	Central Asia Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction
DFID	UK Department of International Development
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
DWM	Disaster Waste Management
ECHO	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
EEC	Environmental Emergencies Centre
EEF	Environment and Emergencies Forum
EFA	Environmental Field Advisor
e-FEAT	Electronic FEAT
EHA	Environment and Humanitarian Action
EMETNET	European Multiple Environmental Threats Emergency Network
EPR	Environmental Performance Review
ERP	Emergency Response Preparedness
EU	European Union
FEAT	Flash Environmental Assessment Tool
Groupe URD	Groupe Urgences Réhabilitation
HNPW	Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week under the Leading Edge Programme
IACRNE	Inter-Agency Committee on Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons

IETC	International Environmental Technology Centre
IMO	International Maritime Organization
JEU	UN Environment/OCHA Joint Unit
JRP	Jordan Response Plan
MIRA	Multi-Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessment
MSB Sweden	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
MSF	Médecins Sans Frontières
NaTech	Natural-Hazard Triggered Technological Accident
NEAT	Norwegian Refugee Council's Environmental Assessment Tool
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OCHA SBPP	OCHA Stand-By Partnership Programme
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECD WGCA	OECD Working Group on Chemical Accidents
OPCW	Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PCB	Polychlorinated Biphenyls
REA	Rapid Environmental Assessment
RIVM	Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment
RSM	Royal Society of Medicine
SAFE	Safe Access to Fuel and Energy Initiative
SAGEE	Strategic Advisory Board on Environmental Emergencies
UCPM	(European) Union Civil Protection Mechanism
UCPM TEC	UCPM Technical Experts' Course
UN	United Nations
UNDAC	UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination
UNDP	UN Development Programme

UNECE	UN Economic Commission for Europe
UN Environment	United Nations Environment Programme
UNHCR	UN High Commissioner for Refugees
UNISDR	UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNITAR	UN Institute for Training and Research
UNOSAT	Operational Satellite Applications Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WHO	World Health Organization
WRC	Women's Refugee Commission
WWF	World Wildlife Fund



*Hurricane Matthew in Haiti, January 2016.
A woman at the entrance to what is left of her home in Les Cayes.
Credit: IRIN, Bahare Khodabande/IRIN*

Executive Summary

The UN Environment/OCHA Joint Unit (JEU) provides Member States and people directly affected by environmental emergencies with a multilateral “one stop shop” to mobilise specialised humanitarian assistance. Since its creation, the JEU has undertaken 193 missions to 91 countries – with technical expertise provided on topics ranging from groundwater depletion and forest fires to dam breaks and chemical accidents.

The partnership between the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) has been leveraged to build synergies between development and humanitarian actors on disaster waste, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear response, as well as to streamline ongoing humanitarian response activities and policy with those of environment and climate change actors.

The availability of environmental expertise within the humanitarian system has never been more topical than it is today. The integration of environmental risk into humanitarian planning processes and operations is not only a requirement from an organizational accountability perspective but is also a key factor in addressing future risk. It additionally provides a concrete opportunity to link humanitarian and development work.

The JEU works in the interface between environmental management and humanitarian action, providing a wide range of services to member states and humanitarian organizations, such as: mobilizing technical expertise for preparedness and response missions; building and strengthening capacities of states to be better prepared for environmental emergencies; developing guidelines and tools; sharing knowledge and expertise; managing networks of partners; advocating for strong preparedness actions and mainstreaming environment into humanitarian action.

This report outlines the JEU’s activities from April 2015 to August 2017.

JOINT UNEP/OCHA ENVIRONMENT UNIT MISSIONS IN 2016



The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) respond to environmental emergencies through the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit (JEU). JEU combines UNEP's environmental expertise with the OCHA-coordinated humanitarian network. This helps to ensure an integrated approach by coordinating international efforts and mobilizing partners.

NUMBER OF MISSIONS

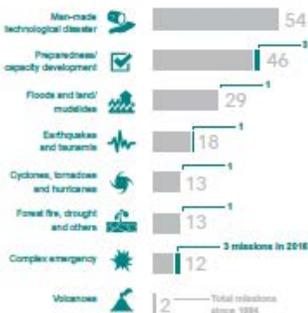


JEU facilitated **10 MISSIONS IN 2016**, providing support and expertise on environmental emergency assessments, and conducting training that delivers knowledge and understanding of effective response to environmental emergencies. JEU also provided technical experts with specialized skills to UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) missions.



TYPES OF MISSIONS

Of the 10 missions conducted in 2016, the majority were to provide technical expertise in response to environmental and complex emergencies. In addition, JEU contributed to training and exercises for enhanced environmental emergency preparedness, supporting governments, organizations and partners with technical advice.

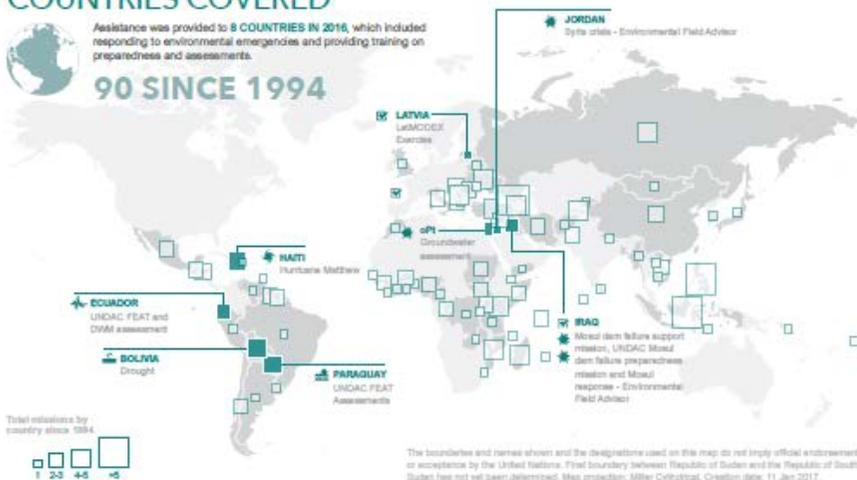


COUNTRIES COVERED



Assistance was provided to **8 COUNTRIES IN 2016**, which included responding to environmental emergencies and providing training on preparedness and assessments.

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Response



In the first hours after an environmental emergency, the JEU mobilizes experts and equipment, including mobile laboratories, to the affected area. These teams conduct rapid assessments, test for the presence of hazardous materials, analyse the possible effects on communities, and help national authorities develop strategies to respond.

The JEU also works to ensure that attention to environmental issues is an integral part of the humanitarian response. The aim is to save lives and alleviate suffering, and to ensure that humanitarian action builds the foundation for a quick and sustainable recovery so that local communities are more resilient in the face of future disasters.

RESPONSE MISSIONS

Sierra Leone flooding and landslide – coordinated deployment of environmental expert, August 2017

The JEU coordinated and supported the deployment of an environmental expert as part of a seven person UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team in Sierra Leone. The flooding and landslides in Sierra Leone directly affected more than 6,000 people and caused over 500 deaths. The environmental expert supported an analysis of immediate environmental risks related to the ongoing response, provided an overview of the needs, and opportunities for debris management, streamlined environmental considerations into assessments and supported information gathering and sharing for future risk reduction.

Environmental emergency support provided on environmental hazards in Ukraine, March-July 2017

The ongoing humanitarian situation in Ukraine has resulted in an elevated level of environmental risks. Accordingly, the JEU has provided ongoing technical support to the OCHA Ukraine office. In late February, the JEU provided technical advice on the possible consequences of an impact (shelling or otherwise) on chemicals stored at industrial and infrastructure facilities in eastern Ukraine. Using the Flash Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT), the JEU supported contingency planning through the estimation of expected exposure radius of potential scenarios on humans and the environment.

Two Environmental Field Advisors (EFA) from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation were deployed through the OCHA Stand-by Partnership Programme (SBPP) to Ukraine between May and July 2017. Through a combination of desk research, site visits, key information interviews and spatial analysis, the mission mapped industrial facilities and identified potential environmental hazards in Eastern Ukraine. The likelihood of selected environment risks was also

assessed. The findings and recommendations from the mission strengthened the contextual understanding of environmental risks in the area and will support humanitarian actors in risk mitigation and preparedness planning for environmental emergencies.

Benin oil pollution – UN Environment scoping mission, July 2017

In response to legacy pollution from abandoned oil platforms off the coast of Benin, the JEU supported UN Environment in the organisation of a scoping mission. The mission was conducted at the request of the Benin Ministry of



Environment. The mission confirmed that the offshore oil platforms are in a state of advanced disintegration. Also, the network of pipelines between the platforms, onshore facilities and export facilities have not been maintained or systematically inspected since 1998. Likely scenarios of an oil spill were discussed with officials of the Government of Benin, including leakage from the subsea pipeline, loss of control of one of the ten wells or a ship crashing onto the abandoned facilities in bad weather. The mission provided recommendations and advice for increased preparedness activities, concurrent to ongoing plans for future decommissioning and dismantling of the platforms. These recommendations included the development of a national contingency plan and coordination mechanism in the event of an oil spill.

Environmental expert mobilized for floods in Peru, March 2017

In early 2017, widespread floods in Peru affected over 615,000 people with more than 100,000 people estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance. Following consultations with Government counterparts, the United Nations Resident Coordinator requested the deployment of a UNDAC team to support the Government in multi-sectoral needs assessment and information management. An UNDAC team was deployed in



March 2017. This team was supported by an associate environmental expert from France, deployed through the (European) Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM). The environmental expert, who was specialised in hydrogeology, was responsible for integrating environmental issues such as water and waste management into the multi-sectoral needs assessments.

Chemical hazards in the Mosul response, Iraq, October-December 2016



Military operations to retake Mosul from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant began in late 2016 and has resulted in large-scale displacement. Various environmental hazards – which include those directly caused by the conflict, such as oil well and factory fires, as well as legacy issues

such existing pollution or hazardous materials – pose a threat to the well-being of those affected by the conflict as well as humanitarian responders.

In 2016, the JEU connected in-country actors with hazardous material experts who provided technical advice on managing the health and environmental impacts of the burning oil well and factory fires. The JEU

also worked with other international organizations to track and monitor potential environmental and health hazards remotely.

Following a request for additional in-country technical support from OCHA Iraq, two EFAs were deployed in early 2017 through the OCHA SBPP, with the support of the Danish Emergency Management Agency. The advisors were located in Erbil for three months with the main task to assess health and environmental hazards in Iraq. The mission provided recommendations and guidance for humanitarian actors and government counterparts on managing and mitigating potential environmental hazards.

Following the deployment of the EFAs, the JEU and UN-Habitat collaborated together in the systematic mapping of industrial installations in and around Mosul. The mapping and assessments of these installations was undertaken using the FEAT. These installations could potentially house hazardous chemicals and therefore pose a risk for humanitarian actors and returning Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). The findings, which have been published on UN-Habitat's Mosul Data Portal, enable industrial installations of concern to be monitored during the returns and recovery process.

Deployment of an Environmental Field Advisor, Jordan, 2016

Since the beginning of the Syria crisis, Jordan has witnessed a massive influx of over one million refugees, over 80 per cent of which are living in and sharing the already scarce environmental resources of their host communities. In order to



address environmental concerns, the use of an Environment Marker was approved to be used as part of the Jordan Response Plan (JRP) project review.

The JEU mobilized an EFA through the OCHA SBPP with the support of the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB Sweden) in order to provide technical assistance for the operationalisation of the Environment Marker and to strengthen environmental capacity among the Sector Task Teams of the JRP.

The EFA was deployed in November 2016 and supported the implementation of the response plan by identifying environmental risks that could affect the effectiveness of the response and jeopardise long-term recovery for a period of six months. In order to continue the momentum and to realise the long-term outcomes of the deployment, the JEU, together with the Regional Humanitarian Affairs Officer in West Asia, will follow-up on the specific recommendations made.

Hurricane Matthew, Haiti, October 2016

Hurricane Matthew struck southwestern Haiti in October 2016, leaving a trail of widespread damage throughout the nation. This hurricane was reportedly the strongest to hit the nation since 1964. A



Swedish associate environmental expert was deployed as part of the UNDAC team, mobilized at the request of the JEU through the UCPM. The expert worked in close collaboration with the UN Environment office in Port Salut, focusing on issues related to water and waste. Together with UN Environment, the expert conducted emergency environmental assessments with a focus on water contamination. All activities were undertaken in close coordination with the UNDAC team and the WASH cluster.

Deployment of technical experts to support drought response in Bolivia, September 2016



In 2016, Bolivia continued to suffer through an ongoing drought. The drought affected 131 municipalities in seven out of the country's nine departments. In response to a Government request for emergency support, the JEU – with the support of the UCPM – coordinated the deployment

of two hydrogeological experts in September 2016. The experts were deployed to support the Bolivian Government and UN agencies in mitigating the effects of the drought through the provision of technical advice regarding public investment for deep well water extraction projects. Through a critical analysis of the public water supply elements of the proposed drought relief program, the mission developed specific recommendations which strengthen the viability of the overall drought program. The mission also facilitated coordination between actors politically distanced from each other, and helped local institutions with substantive expertise and community networks engage in the decision-making process. The experts' mission findings were incorporated into a drilling project implemented by the Inter-American Development Bank.

Verification of unidentified object found in Somalia, May 2016

Following the reports of an alleged hazardous waste container in Somalia, the JEU contacted the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and other response partners. The combined expertise of these partners enabled a swift determination that the object was likely a



mooring buoy and did not contain any hazardous substances. This case is illustrative of the benefits that JEU's comprehensive network of partners provide when Member States are faced with potential environmental emergencies.

Ecuador earthquake, April 2016



In April 2016, Ecuador was struck by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake. With support of the UCPM, the JEU deployed a French environmental expert as part of the UNDAC team. In the initial phases of the response, the environmental expert led the identification of potential acute or life-threatening secondary environmental hazards. The FEAT was employed to assess the risks posed by damaged infrastructure and industrial facilities in the affected area. Given the massive need for support on debris and waste management, the expert also supported national and local authorities in assessing risks posed by temporary dumpsites. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), who subsequently deployed a team of disaster waste experts through MSB Sweden, continued work initiated by the JEU deployed expert. The earthquake response coincided with the launch of the Environmental Emergencies Centre (www.eecentre.org) online learning module on Disaster Waste Management in Spanish.

Flooding in Paraguay, April 2016

In late 2015 and early 2016 Paraguay experienced severe and repetitive flooding. In response to these floods, the JEU facilitated the deployment of UN Environment's Regional Humanitarian Affairs Officer as part of the UNDAC mission in April 2016. The



JEU's participation enabled incorporation of environmental perspective and analysis into humanitarian needs assessment as well as into the interagency humanitarian response activities. In addition to assessing environmental hotspots, the Regional Humanitarian Affairs Officer facilitated the inclusion of environmental aspects into the Multi-Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA).

Mosul dam break preparedness support, March-April 2016

Upon request of the OCHA Country Office in Iraq, a JEU Senior Humanitarian Affairs Officer deployed to Iraq for four weeks in March and April 2016 in order to support preparedness for a



potential failure of the Mosul Dam. The Mosul Dam and its risk of failure has been well documented and widely reported on in international media and could affect millions of people. The mission identified priority preparedness actions focusing on a first tier of activities.

As a follow-up to the mission, an UNDAC mission was mobilized. The UNDAC team worked with national and international actors to facilitate the development of protocols for the reception of international humanitarian assistance in the case of a potential dam failure. The UNDAC team, in collaboration with UNDP, also supported the Government to ensure the establishment of an emergency alert system in areas deemed at high risk of flooding. Concurrently, the WHO Emergency Medical Teams' manager deployed with the UNDAC team to develop joint response protocols.

Additionally, the European Union's Joint Research Centre, through the UCPM, developed a number of dam failure scenarios, including flood maps. UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)'s Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT) supported with satellite and spatial analysis. The JEU contributed to this analysis by providing an overview of industrial installations of concern, as identified through the FEAT, in the flood zones.

Water assessment in Gaza, January 2016

In response to concerns related to groundwater contamination in Gaza, the JEU in coordination with the OCHA Country Office in the occupied Palestinian Territory, mobilised a technical environmental support mission to assess the situation on the ground and provide guidance to the Humanitarian Country Team on appropriate next steps and mitigation measures. The two expert mission was supported by Switzerland and the Netherlands.

The mission concluded that while the area is already under significant environmental stress, there are currently no ongoing activities that would significantly exacerbate any existing vulnerabilities or contribute to new groundwater contamination. The mission was able to, in a short time, assess and clarify possible groundwater contamination and advise on appropriate follow-up. The team also proposed a simple monitoring mechanism to act as early warning mechanism for the local authorities and humanitarian actors. The mission findings were presented to the Humanitarian Coordinator and local authorities prior to the team's departure.

Electrical fire involving hazardous chemicals in Paraguay, November 2015



Following a fire at an electrical station in Paraguay and the subsequent request for assistance from the Government of Paraguay, a team of five experts was deployed to provide emergency environmental assistance. This mission was characterised by the

successful collaboration between various responding international organizations including the JEU; the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Convention Secretariats; the Pan-American Health Organization; UCPM; and UN Environment.

Around 20,000 transformers were stored at the station, some of which contained persistent and highly toxic polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). It is estimated that around 6,000 transformers were completely destroyed in the fire. The fire generated around 3,000 tons of hazardous waste, as well as approximately 5,000 tons of contaminated soil.

The team was able to propose a tailored set of response, mitigation and future risk reduction measures.

Water pollution in Guatemala, June 2015

In June 2015, the Guatemalan Government requested emergency environmental assistance following reports of chemical water pollution in the river La Pasión in the Petén region. The JEU subsequently mobilised two international experts with support from UCPM and MSB Sweden. The experts provided advice on technical sampling and analysis to national and local authorities.



The mission was able to conclude that the surface waters did not contain the pesticides initially suspected to be the cause of the pollution. The study resulted in a number of recommendations for the safe distribution of water to affected communities and the development of a water sampling plan. The mission also led to a review of existing national emergency response plans and environmental legislation.

SUPPORT MISSIONS

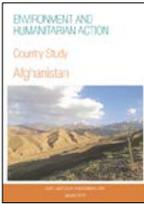
Haiti EHA country-level study, April 2015



In April 2015, OCHA and UN Environment, supported by Groupe Urgences Réhabilitation Développement (Groupe URD), undertook a mission to Haiti to assess environmental mainstreaming in the humanitarian response to floods, tropical storms, hurricanes and mainly on the aftermath of the 2010 earthquake. The study shows that immediately after the disaster, the environment was put under stress due to the procurement of material to construct emergency shelter, which exacerbated ongoing deforestation in Haiti. This was followed by transitional shelter initiatives that increased the demand for gravel and sand, leading to the expansion of unregulated quarrying which accelerated topsoil and riverbank erosion and increased the likelihood of landslides.

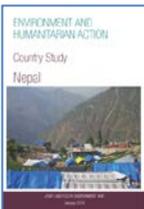
This case study illustrates that failing to include environmental considerations in humanitarian response undermines humanitarian principles of saving livings, reducing vulnerability to disasters and increasing resilience. However, positive changes were noted in the Early Recovery and Shelter clusters: environmental considerations were addressed in their subsequent initiatives focusing on debris management and procurement of certified timber from legal and sustainable sources for the construction of transitional shelters.

Afghanistan Environment and Humanitarian Action country-level study, June 2015



The conflict in Afghanistan, related mass population movements, and ongoing relief and recovery efforts have all contributed to environmental degradation in the country. The Afghanistan study provides guidance and advice to humanitarian actors on how to improve environmental mainstreaming in a protracted crisis. In addition, the study analysed the extent to which environmental concerns have been integrated into the Humanitarian Programme Cycle, particularly through the Environment Marker. The study indicated that while there is generally a high level of awareness of the need to support environmental mainstreaming, the majority of humanitarian actors require context specific practical guidance to ensure integration takes place.

Nepal EHA country-level study, July 2015



In July 2015, OCHA and UN Environment undertook a mission to Nepal to better understand environmental mainstreaming in a rapid onset emergency and to provide guidance and advice to humanitarian actors on how to improve mainstreaming in a rapid onset emergency. The team managed to interview numerous actors involved in the humanitarian response, and also participated in field visits to IDP camps, relocation sites and affected urban and rural areas. The study indicated that while there is generally a high level of awareness of the need to support environmental mainstreaming, much more can be done to integrate environment into preparedness actions in high risk countries. Five key factors to strengthen environmental mainstreaming in rapid onset emergencies were identified: environment in preparedness, integrate local environmental expertise, improve application of environmental assessment tools, integrate energy sector into the humanitarian response architecture and further enhance the environmental interoperability of surge mechanisms.

Readiness for Response



The JEU works to strengthen the environmental emergency response capacity of national, regional and global organizations. This takes place through assessment and technical support missions, trainings and workshops, development and distribution of tools and guidelines through the online Environmental Emergencies Centre (EEC)
www.eecentre.org

ASSESSMENT AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT MISSIONS

Supporting hazardous waste management in Tajikistan, June 2016

As part of a project on environmental emergency preparedness in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) states, supported by Switzerland, the JEU facilitated training in the mining town of Shurob in Sughd province in Tajikistan. Local residences in the town



were trained on the safe management of construction and hazardous waste. The training also included the safe management of asbestos, as large amounts of asbestos roof materials was discovered in the town during a previous mission. Demolition and disposal work of abandoned structures was initiated, and subsequently continued by the municipality with the support of UNDP.

Additional activities conducted under the Swiss-supported project in the OSCE region are described in the section “Exercises and Trainings”.

Third Environmental Performance Review, Tajikistan, November 2015

At the invitation of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the JEU in November partook in the third Environmental Performance Review (EPR) of Tajikistan. The EPR was conducted at the request of the Committee of Environmental Protection of Tajikistan. The JEU was responsible for drafting the chapter on Management of Natural and Man-Made Risks, as well as the associated recommendations. This was the first-time that risk management was included in the EPR of Tajikistan. The chapter explores the current situation, institutions involved, key legislation, projects and programmes related to disaster risk management. The chapter concludes with recommendations for improving risk management in Tajikistan.

FEAT assessment support in Armenia (2014-2015)

The JEU conducted missions to Armenia in 2014-2015 as part of the Swiss-supported project aimed at improving environmental emergency preparedness. Technical support missions (see section on Exercises and Trainings) were organised to train Ministry staff and partners on the use of FEAT.

After the conclusion of the project, actors in the countries continued - with remote support from the JEU - initiatives aimed at strengthening environmental emergency preparedness. UNDP Armenia, with financial support from the European Commission, incorporated environmental emergency topics into a project on disaster risk reduction (DRR). Activities were undertaken in the city of Kapan, Armenia, where authorities requested additional trainings of trainers on the FEAT methodology.

This new knowledge and expertise was consequently shared beyond the region. One Armenian facilitator participated in a UNDP/UN Environment/OCHA workshop on environmental risk in Almaty, Kazakhstan, acting as the main FEAT trainer, showcasing east-east collaboration between the Caucasus and Central Asia.

ENHANCED INTEROPERABILITY BETWEEN RESPONSE ACTORS

Joint initiative on environmental assessments, February 2017- Ongoing

COORDINATION OF ASSESSMENTS FOR ENVIRONMENT IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION



The project *Coordination of Assessments for Environment in Humanitarian Action: A Joint Initiative* was officially launched during the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW) in Geneva in February 2017.

This project is a collaborative effort to update key environmental assessment methodologies, enhance online accessibility of environmental assessments, strengthen the interconnectivity of available tools, and pinpoint which tools are used at particular stages of humanitarian programming or with various types of emergencies.

This joint initiative between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), MSB Sweden and the JEU will additionally, through the better dissemination of tools, resources and environmental data, support efficient consideration of environment and climate knowledge in humanitarian assistance.

This initiative focuses on improving the framework for the coordination of assessments between environmental and humanitarian actors in the emergency response phase. Specifically, the project seeks to support coordination at pre- and post-disaster or conflict entry points in the humanitarian response framework. Coordinating both humanitarian and environmental actors can ensure the sustainability of response activities, which translates into a more resilient reconstruction phase. The JEU offers technical inputs to the initiative and also supports coordination with other UN partners.

Networks

Leading Edge Programme, Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week and Focus Task Force on Environment in Response - 2016 and 2017

The Leading Edge Programme is an initiative of OCHA and donor governments. The Leading Edge Programme



aims to foster improved collaboration between networks and technical experts in crisis preparedness and response.

The Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW) provides a space for humanitarian actors to hold their annual meetings. This concept provides an opportunity for improved stakeholder engagement within the humanitarian sphere by bringing together experts and organisations in an enabling environment. The space is hosted by the Swiss Government and co-chaired by the UK's Department of International Development (DFID) and OCHA. The annual meeting of the Strategic Advisory Board on Environmental Emergencies (SAGEE) has been hosted at the 2016 and 2017 HNPWs.

The Focus Task Force (FTF) – a technical working group with representatives from the European Commission, MSB Sweden, DFID, USAID, WWF and the JEU –also convened at both HNPWs. In 2016, the FTF discussed the role and use of environmental assessments, and technical support capacities. A separate element of discussion covered climate-informed humanitarian responses. These discussions formed the basis of a joint initiative, funded by USAID, on streamlining environmental assessments in humanitarian action. During the 2017 HNPW, the FTF focused on integrating environmental data into humanitarian decision-making, as well as cash transfer programming and potential impacts and opportunities on and for the environment.

Coordination of the Environment and Humanitarian Action (EHA) Network, ongoing

The EHA Network aims to avoid, minimise, or mitigate environmental impacts of humanitarian action and to promote environmentally responsible humanitarian programming through collaboration and cooperation.

The JEU continues to coordinate the EHA Network through the facilitation of virtual meetings and collaborative development of the EHA network's work plan. Meetings are organised by members every two months. As part of advocacy efforts for EHA, the Network is currently cooperating for the development of key messages for various stakeholders.

The last face-to-face EHA Network meeting was held in February 2017. During this meeting, participants discussed the Network's priorities, desired achievements and advocacy strategy.

Inter-Agency Security Management Network group on UN operations in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear environments, May 2017

Following the JEU's involvement with chemical incidents in the Syria crisis, the JEU was invited to participate in a technical working group mandated to define UN safety policy around operations in chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear settings. The JEU has been providing input on how future policy may impact humanitarian aid programming.

Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) project and sub-projects, January 2017

A representative of JEU participated in a two-day inter-agency tabletop exercise, supported by Canada, under the auspices of the CTITF project on "Ensuring Effective Inter-Agency Interoperability and Coordinated Communication in Case of Chemical and/or Biological Attacks". The exercise was hosted by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical

Weapons (OPCW) and focused on the use of chemical and biological weapons in a protracted crisis.

Representatives of 18 international organisations came together to identify challenges and opportunities in coordinating the international response in case of a terrorist attack involving chemical or biological agents. The exercise explored, in detail, how different mechanisms would provide assistance to an affected state. Specifically, participants identified options for exchanging of information, coordinating assessments, planning of the response and communicating jointly. The exercise showed that the response would be very dependent on the mechanisms involved and that there is room to enhance the interoperability of response organizations. It also highlighted how the tools employed by the humanitarian response system, such as the UNDAC Mechanism, the on-site operations coordination centre and information products such as situation reports and activity reports, could be very useful in case of a technological or man-made accident. The tabletop exercise conclusions will further feed into the work of the task force, where development of additional guidelines, planning documents and tools is foreseen.

25th and 26th Meeting of the OECD Working Group on Chemical Accidents, October 2015 and October 2016

The JEU took part in the 25th and 26th Meeting of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Working Group on Chemical Accidents (WGCA) in October 2015 and October 2016 respectively.



At the 25th meeting, the draft programme of work of the WGCA for 2017-2020 was discussed. A project proposed and formulated by the JEU, continuing the work on Natural-Hazard Triggered Technological Accidents (NaTechs), was well received and approved by the delegations. A preliminary project steering group, composed of Germany, Netherlands, Switzerland, United Kingdom,

European Union, UN Environment and UNECE, was formed. Germany expressed interest in being able to potentially lead the project given its alignment with ongoing German responsibilities in the OECD. A tentative workshop was proposed for 2018/2019.

At the 26th meeting of the OECD WGCA, delegations were very interested in the ongoing work – conducted under the auspices of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction – on classification of hazards and the development of an Implementation Guide on Technological / Human-Induced Hazards in DRR. JEU services, such as the Environmental Emergencies Centre website, were well received by the delegations.

Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Industrial and Chemical Accidents, April 2016



The Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Industrial and Chemical Accidents brings together agencies involved in chemical accident prevention, preparedness and response. Actors collaborate to share information and identify opportunities for joint projects or advocacy.

In April 2016, the JEU hosted the annual meeting of the group. Representatives of the European Commission, UNECE, OECD, UN Environment, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and WHO participated in the meeting. The group subsequently provided joint inputs to the work on establishing indicators and targets under the Sendai Framework for Action on Disaster Risk Reduction. Follow-up activities include the development of a joint brochure and the peer review of existing guidance and tools. The joint brochure was finalized in 2017 and is available on the EEC.

Workshops

Stakeholder Workshop “Update of environmental assessment methodology”, August 2017



This workshop convened key stakeholders to discuss environmental assessment methodologies. The outputs of a consultancy investigating the elements of various existing environmental assessments, in particular the Rapid Environmental Assessment (REA), were cross-examined. Discussions also extended to other post-disaster/conflict environmental assessment methodologies including UNHCR’s Framework for Assessing, Monitoring and Evaluating the environment (FRAME) toolkit and the Norwegian Refugee Council’s Environmental Assessment tool (NEAT). Options for updates and enhancements, to reflect recent sectoral developments and thinking including the impact of climate change on resilience and ultimately support the use, were discussed. The current integration and uptake of the REA and other environmental assessment tools was also raised, which culminated in actionable strategies to improve the use of environmental assessments in humanitarian programming.

IETC Symposium and Scoping Workshop on Mainstreaming Disaster Waste Management, February 2017

At the invitation of Osaka City and the UN Environment International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC), the JEU presented its activities at the Symposium on Mainstreaming Disaster Waste Management. The presentation outlined opportunities for mainstreaming disaster waste in emergency preparedness and response.



The JEU also facilitated a session on the same topic at a scoping workshop for a new IETC project on disaster waste management. Around 70 people participated in the symposium, and around 30 in the scoping workshop. Participants included national representatives working on disaster waste from twelve countries. Participants at the events shared their experience in managing disaster waste and identified opportunities for incorporating disaster waste into disaster preparedness planning as well as into solid waste management plans and strategies. The outcomes and recommendations will inform a future project on disaster waste management implemented by IETC and funded by the Government of Japan.

Interoperability Workshop for JEU Response Providers, November 2016

Key environmental emergency response partners gathered in Geneva in November 2016, to develop practical ways of further strengthening the delivery of international assistance to countries affected by environmental disasters. Representatives of the European Commission, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States attended the meeting together with representatives of UN Environment and OCHA.

Follow-up activities were identified in the areas of sequencing of tools and expertise, leveraging additional actors, engaging local actors in response, administrative rules for deployment, and strengthening preparedness. As a result of the workshop, the JEU updated its Standard Operating Procedures on response, developed guidance on the functioning and sequencing of the alert process, compiled information packages for experts, and committed to increase its efforts for identifying regional environmental emergency expertise and organising twice-annual webinars for experts to exchange information on past missions.

Disaster Waste Management Workshop, November 2016

At the initiative of MSB Sweden and UNDP, the JEU co-organised a workshop on disaster waste management (DWM) in November 2016 in Geneva. Twenty-four participants from a broad range of organisations came together to share experiences and identify opportunities for improving management of disaster



waste in disaster and crisis response. Representatives from UN agencies, NGOs, clusters, private sector and senior officials from the national and municipal governments attended. The workshop concluded with identification and prioritisation of joint actions to be taken. These actions are aimed at improving operational coordination, strengthening preparedness, partnerships, advocacy, communications and DWM funding modalities.

Environment in the Syria crisis workshop, January 2016

OCHA, UNHCR and UN Environment jointly organised a coordination workshop in January 2016 to evaluate the efforts of humanitarian partners in identifying and assessing possibilities for the mitigation of environmental consequences in the Syria crisis. Prior to the meeting, an Issue Brief was developed and shared in an effort to provide an initial overview of conducted studies and ongoing initiatives related to the Syria crisis and corresponding humanitarian response. Coverage aimed to include the refugee response in Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq and Turkey and the ongoing humanitarian response in Syria.

Participants at the meeting recognised the need to understand the role of environment along the entire conflict curve – from environment as a conflict driver, to environmental impacts of the crisis and associated humanitarian action, to environment as a peacebuilding opportunity. At the same time, the meeting recommended that joint work focus on

operationalising environment in humanitarian action. The meeting concluded that work inside Syria should aim to further strengthen links to local actors and to support the gathering of data that can eventually inform recovery and peacebuilding.

Interface procedures

Renewed Interface Procedures between the JEU and Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions Secretariat, October 2016

In October 2016, the JEU and BRS Conventions Secretariat renewed their existing interface agreement, signed in 2011, between the JEU and the Basel Convention. The agreement covers the responsibilities in case of an accident involving the transboundary movement of hazardous waste, where the Convention Secretariat will use the services of the JEU to offer joint assistance to affected countries. This agreement is referred to in a number of Convention decisions, and a separate trust fund has been set up by Convention parties to cover costs of emergency assistance. The interface procedures will be updated to reflect the merge of the Basel Convention Secretariat with those of the Stockholm and Rotterdam Conventions. The agreement will also form the base of joint training activities, with the first one taking place in February 2017 (see section “Exercises and Trainings”).



Renewed Interface Procedures between JEU and Ramsar Convention Secretariat, June 2016



In June 2016, the JEU and the Ramsar Convention Secretariat renewed their existing interface procedures, stemming since 2007. The interface procedures outline the practical mechanisms and arrangements for cooperation and coordination. As such, they contain contact points in case of emergency, procedures and arrangements for information sharing, as well as an overall commitment to coordinate responses following an environmental emergency or natural disaster affecting or likely to affect wetlands. The 2007 interface procedures were updated to reflect organisational changes but also to emphasise the importance of emergency preparedness.

ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES CENTRE

The JEU manages the Environmental Emergencies Centre (EEC – www.eecentre.org). The EEC operates as a hub offering information and training on environmental emergencies and how to respond to them. It provides tools, guidance, international policy guidelines, legal documents and training to support an efficient and rapid response.

In 2017 the JEU revised the website to make it more user friendly, and has continued engagement with operational partners and disaster responders to facilitate better sharing of experiences, information and lessons learned. The website has seen a major upgrade in the form of the migration of the online trainings to an enhanced learning platform on Moodle.



The new training platform now allows users to directly exchange information and knowledge thanks to the creation of a Discussion Forum. The platform also offers other improvements such as the tracking of learning progress, multiple language interfaces, direct access to completion certificates, and continuation of past progress. Many trainings have been translated and are now available in multiple languages. The new learning platform was launched in April 2017.

Since its launch in April 2017, users have completed 234 trainings on the renewed EEC learning hub (55 - Beyond Response; 102 - Flash Environmental Assessment Tool; 14 - Industrial accidents, 18 - Environment and Humanitarian Action; 45 - Disaster Waste Management).

eLearning Courses available on the Environmental Emergencies Centre

- ***Beyond Response: Better Preparedness for Environmental Emergencies***

The course has been completely overhauled and now provides an overview of the international environmental emergency response mechanisms and introduces the main actors and tools available for preparing for and responding to environmental emergencies. It also introduces tools and resources such as the Flash Environmental Assessment Tool and the Disaster Waste Management Guidelines, for which separate follow-up courses are available. The course is targeted for representatives of countries and organizations wishing to improve their readiness for environmental emergency response. The course is available in English and Spanish. A previous version is available in French and Arabic.



- ***Introduction to the Flash Environmental Assessment Tool: FEAT***

The course has been refreshed and now aims to equip environmental experts and international first responders with the necessary knowledge to rapidly identify, prioritise, and mitigate the impacts of industrial chemical releases on human health and the environment. Upon completion of the eLearning course, participants will be able to list the basic FEAT principles, demonstrate its use in various scenarios, recall the step-by-step procedure for conducting a FEAT assessment and propose risk reduction measures for the different types of impact. The course is available in English and is being developed in Russian.



- ***Environment in Humanitarian Action***

The course provides humanitarian actors with information on how to effectively integrate environmental issues into humanitarian response and early recovery strategies. It highlights the key opportunities, misconceptions and challenges for mainstreaming environmental issues into humanitarian action. The course is available in English, French, Spanish and Russian.



- ***Introduction to Industrial Accidents: prevention, preparedness and response***

The course aims to raise awareness about industrial accidents in order to strengthen the capacity of government, industry and civil society representatives. With an improved understanding of what constitutes an “industrial accident”, participants will be better able to prevent, prepare and respond to these types of incidents. By taking the course, participants will also gain an understanding of when countries should ask and receive international assistance in preparation for or in response to an industrial accident. The course is available in English, French, Russian and Mandarin.



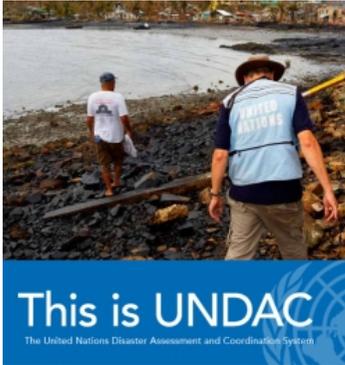
- ***Disaster Waste Management: best practices and tools***

The course seeks to provide humanitarian responders as well as local, national, and regional government authorities with increased awareness and enhanced knowledge on disaster waste and management strategies to mitigate their adverse environmental impacts. By taking the course, participants will be better prepared and more able to predict, identify, analyse, and plan the impacts of disaster waste in an emergency. The course is available in English, French, Spanish and Russian.



TRAININGS AND EXERCISES

Environmental injects provided for UNDAC disaster response courses, 2015-2017



Throughout 2015, 2016 and 2017, JEU has provided inputs to environmental sessions of the UNDAC courses. In 2017, these injects were completely revised, following the launch of the FEAT 2.0 Pocket Guide. Both UNDAC induction and refresher courses include mandatory training on the FEAT, as well as simulations of environmental emergencies. By introducing environmental elements into these

response trainings, responders to disaster situations will be better equipped to address the environmental impacts of disasters and will have improved awareness of the procedure for requesting additional environmental expertise where necessary.

Integration of environment into European Commission emergency response exercises, 2016- 2017

The JEU has contributed to a more effective and sustainable response to natural disasters by providing inputs to four EU-funded field exercises for emergency flood responders over the course of 2016 and 2017. These exercises tested EU civil protection mechanisms related to hydrological emergencies with environmental



emergencies occurring in the aftermath of natural disasters being one element of the exercises. The JEU provided environmental injects and advice for the exercises, which were held in Latvia, Romania, Austria and Macedonia. The FEAT was utilised in these exercises, with the

online course used as mandatory pre-training for the UCPM teams participating in these exercises.

At the invitation of ECHO, the JEU also took part in the UCPM Technical Experts' Course (TEC). The TEC prepares technical experts such as environmental experts, geologists, medical staff and water management experts for international deployments through the UCPM.

Workshop on chemical emergencies held with Basel, Stockholm and Rotterdam (BRS) Conventions Secretariat February 2017



The JEU continues working with the BRS Conventions Secretariat to jointly strengthen national capacities for chemicals emergency management. A workshop took place in February 2017 in Sao Paulo, Brazil with participation by representatives in the Latin American region. JEU together with the BRS Secretariat developed the training materials, with the UN Environment Regional Humanitarian Affairs Officer and one expert deployed through MSB Sweden acting as training facilitators. The purpose of the joint BRS/UN Environment/OCHA workshop on hazardous waste and chemical emergencies workshops was to provide information to BRS convention focal points and emergency managers on the best practices for preventing, preparing and responding to chemical emergencies.

Central Asia Seminar on Environmental Risk, November 2016

A seminar on environmental risks was organized by the Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR), the OCHA Regional Office for Caucasus and Central Asia and the UN Environment Sub-regional Office for Central Asia, with support of the JEU. The seminar was held on the base of the CESDRR, in the city of Almaty, Kazakhstan. The objectives of the seminar were to review environmental and technological risks and consider how these risks are integrated into existing national and sub-regional frameworks and

projects on DRR. Representatives of state authorities from Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan responsible for technical issues of environmental safety, environmental protection and civil protection participated in the seminar together with CESDRR experts and representatives of international organizations. An Armenian facilitator presented the use of FEAT in Armenia to his Central Asian counterparts. UN agencies and partners will follow up on the topics of the seminar and conduct a training of trainers in collaboration with the centre in October 2017.

Engagement with academia

The JEU has continued its engagement with research and academic institutions, providing inputs to courses and research projects, including offering guidance to students finalizing their Master's thesis.

At the invitation of the Division of Risk Management and Societal Safety of Lund university, the JEU conducted a lecture and seminar on humanitarian action and environmental emergencies, the INFORM risk index, as well as the Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) approach in October 2016 in Lund, Sweden. The lecture was part of the "Foundations for Risk Assessment and Management" course within the Master's programme. Through a case study of Kyrgyzstan, the seminar familiarised students with concepts on risk assessment, risk ranking and DRR.

Disaster Waste Management Training, March 2016

At the request of MSB Sweden, the JEU participated as a facilitator in a course on DWM targeted to MSB Sweden stand-by roster personnel, held in Stockholm between 15 and 17 March 2016. The course focused primarily on the role of a DWM expert in the wider humanitarian response, outlining the links to the work of clusters and national actors. Experts shared their experience dealing with waste caused by Typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda in the Philippines (2013), Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu (2014) and the earthquakes in Nepal (2015).

Environmental Field Advisor Training, December 2015

Approximately 20 EFAs on emergency deployment rosters received tailored training on the integration of environment into humanitarian programming. This training was held in December 2015 in Sweden. The training was developed by the JEU in partnership with MSB Sweden, the Swiss Development Cooperation, UNHCR and WWF. EFAs are deployed through the OCHA SBPP to sudden-onset disasters and conflicts to support humanitarian actors in environmental considerations. EFAs work to ensure a cross-cutting approach to response programming and support activities including risk evaluations, technical assessments and capacity building. EFAs from this training have already been deployed to Sudan, the Philippines and Jordan. With the strengthened expertise now available within the partner's emergency rosters, more EFAs are expected to be deployed in the future, thus strengthening environmental mainstreaming into humanitarian activities.

Training on Environmental Emergency Preparedness and FEAT in Georgia, November 2015

The JEU, together with the Georgian Emergency Management Agency, delivered a three-day training on environmental emergency preparedness and FEAT to 30 representatives from national ministries, non-government organisations and the private sector. This training equipped participants with knowledge of key tools and concepts for environmental emergency preparedness and response, including the application of the FEAT methodology. The training also included sessions on the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Impacts of Industrial Accidents. The theory was illustrated through a field trip to Rustavi Azot fertilizer plant where participants gained practical exposure of industrial safety measures and response procedures.



Training of Trainers in partnership with UNDP Armenia and follow-up, October 2015

In October 2015, the JEU, in partnership with UNDP Armenia, delivered a training of trainers for the teaching staff of the Crisis Management State Academy of Armenia and Ministry of Emergency Situations representatives using FEAT 2.0. The eleven newly trained facilitators subsequently delivered workshops and trainings on environmental emergencies and the FEAT methodology to over 100 people.



TOOLS AND GUIDANCE

Complete revision of the Flash Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT) and launch of the FEAT 2.0 Pocket Guide in multiple languages, 2017



The FEAT assessment methodology was fully reviewed, updated and translated between 2015 to 2017. As a result, the FEAT 2.0 Pocket Guide has been developed as a concise hands-on tool to be used by responders in the field. It is accompanied by a full FEAT 2.0 Reference Guide, which additionally outlines the use of the FEAT methodology for preparedness. The FEAT 2.0 Pocket Guide is available in English, French, Spanish and Russian. Associated training courses and exercises have also been completely revised, including the online FEAT learning, which is available in English and will be launched in Russian in October 2017. UNDAC induction and refresher courses continue to incorporate the FEAT methodology as a core requirement. Work is ongoing in partnership with the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) and other actors to explore options for the development of an electronic FEAT (e-FEAT). An e-FEAT would provide easy access to a more comprehensive library of knowledge, significantly enhancing emergency preparedness and response planning for the benefits of communities and the environment. Thousands of substances, industries and scenarios would be available through a single tool, which can be utilised to evaluate complex risk and impact scenarios. The e-FEAT could be potentially deployed as a web-based or mobile application, which would benefit national responders, UNDAC teams, urban search and rescue teams, local authorities, disaster management agencies and environmental specialists. It adds agility, versatility, comprehensiveness and convenience for field practitioners in charge of chemical risk assessments. Discussions are ongoing for the identification of partners and resources for the development of the e-FEAT.

www.eecentre.org/feat

Complete revision and launch of the Environmental Emergencies Guidelines in multiple languages, 2017



Between 2015 and 2017, the second version of the Environmental Emergencies Guidelines (EE Guidelines) – which was first published in 2009 – was revised with financial support of Norway. The second version includes an overview of the various environmental emergency response actors and mechanisms available to support response. These guidelines are intended as a reference guide for countries, organisations and other stakeholders wishing to improve their readiness for requesting international emergency assistance. The guidelines focus specifically on the roles and responsibilities of regional and international institutions and frameworks in emergency response.

The EE Guidelines were officially endorsed by the SAGEE in February 2017 and are currently available in English, French, Russian and Spanish. The revised online learning “Beyond Response: Better Preparedness for Environmental Emergencies” describe the international environmental emergency response system in detail, and are a complement to the EE Guidelines.

www.eecentre.org/eeguidelines

Environment in the Emergency Response Preparedness approach, 2016

The JEU has updated existing guidance documents which accompany the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP). The ERP guidance aims to support national-level IASC partners in ensuring that environmental considerations are integrated into emergency response plans. The JEU provided inputs on risk analysis and monitoring within the ERP review, and illustrated how likelihood and impact assessments would work in relation to environmental hazards.

Launch of the ReliefWeb topic page on Environment and Humanitarian Action, July 2017

OCHA maintains ReliefWeb as an online service providing timely and reliably information for humanitarian actors. Topic pages on ReliefWeb feature various thematic issues of interest. A new Environment and Humanitarian Action topic page has been created, complementing information available on unocha.org/unep and the EEC. Given the reputation of ReliefWeb as a go-to source for humanitarian professionals, increased web traffic and outreach of informational products on EHA is expected.

<http://reliefweb.int/topics/environment-humanitarian-action>



EVENTS

Engagement in the European Multiple Environmental Threats Emergency Network, 2016-2017

The JEU has participated in the workshops of the European Multiple Environmental Threats Emergency Network (EMETNET) project. Through this project, a risk and impact assessment methodology for environmental threats, which can be used in sudden-onset emergencies, has been developed. Additionally, this project has enabled a network of experts who can undertake risk assessments and provide back-office support for deployed experts. The project tools are envisioned to be used in future trainings organised or supported by the JEU and the UCPM. The EMETNET risk assessment could be triggered as part of a request to the UCPM by the JEU for an environmental expert.

International Conference on Chemicals Management, October 2015

In October, a side-event on industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response was held at the International Conference on Chemicals Management. This event featured statements from the JEU, and the 2015 Green Star Awards winner video was also played.



International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Global Conference on Emergency Preparedness and Response, October 2015



The JEU has been engaged in the work of the Inter-Agency Committee on Radiological and Nuclear Emergencies (IACRNE) throughout the period covered by this report and has participated in the IAEA Global Conference on Emergency Preparedness and Response.

Policy and Advocacy



The JEU continues advocacy efforts for increased awareness of the potential impact of environmental emergencies. The JEU's efforts highlight the need for action in strengthening environmental considerations and integrations within preparedness and response elements of humanitarian crises.

The JEU continues to work with partners and colleagues to improve the integration of environmental elements into humanitarian programming. The JEU has contributed to the respective discourses at the World Humanitarian Summit and UN-Habitat discussions. Documents outlining entry points, key messages and key considerations have also been developed.

Environment Management Group Nexus Dialogue and Technical Segment presentation, April 2017

The JEU took part in the first of the Environment Management Group Nexus Dialogues Series focusing on the theme: “The Nexus Approach and the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda: Policy, Practice and Partnerships”.

A break-out group on EHA was convened, and highlighted the need for enhanced collaboration and action on a number of specific points including mapping of existing mechanisms, quantitative assessments and the need for high-level support. As a follow-up, the JEU contributed to a concept paper on EHA as a possible new topic for the Environment Management Group.

Cooperation for study on cash transfer and environment, February 2017

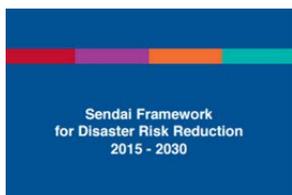
The JEU prepared a proposal for a research project on the potential environmental implications of cash transfer programming in response to a call for proposals by the London School of Economics. The JEU and the Shelter Cluster Environment Community of Practice supported students during their research. The research identified that linkages between environment and cash transfer programming are poorly understood and rarely acted upon. Various barriers of environmental mainstreaming in cash transfer programming were identified, and recommendations were provided accordingly. The findings stressed that cross-cutting issues need better integrated during the modality selection for humanitarian programming.

London Environment and Conflict seminar, January 2017

The JEU participated in the event “Man-made disasters: Toxic Remnants of War”. During the event, the JEU presented its work on the links between humanitarian response, environmental health risk, and conflict. Presentations were followed by a discussion about the links between conflict and environmental health. There was strong consensus about the significance of this challenge, and that further awareness and research is required. Around 100 people participated in the event, and provided overwhelmingly positive feedback.



Words into Action Sendai Framework Guide on Technological / Man-Made Hazards, 2017



The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 was adopted at the Third UN World Conference in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015. The framework takes a multi-hazard approach to risk and aims to ensure multi-hazard, including man-made hazards, biological, technological and environmental hazard management of disaster risk is factored in development at all levels as well as within and across all sectors with engagement from all of society.

A "Words into Action" Sendai Framework guide on technological/man-made hazards has been developed by a drafting group co-chaired by the JEU and UNISDR. The objective of the guide is to improve the understanding of technological hazard management as it relates to DRR. The Words into Action Guide provides practical considerations for addressing man-made and technological hazards in DRR. The launch of the guide took place at the Global Platform for DRR in Cancun, Mexico, as part of a May 26 side event on technological hazards within DRR. The guide is currently undergoing public consultation and is expected to be finalized and launched by the end of 2017.

HABITAT III Discussion Paper: Environmental Emergencies and the New Urban Agenda, October 2016

The JEU developed a discussion paper targeting government representatives and other stakeholders engaged in the Habitat III process. This paper examines how environmental emergencies are reflected in the Draft Outcome Document of the New Urban Agenda.



This paper builds upon JEU's experience in preparing for, and responding to, environmental emergencies in urban settings and included the findings of the 2012 JEU report "Keeping up with Megatrends: The Implications of Climate Change and Urbanization for Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response". A number of recommendations for strengthening preparedness for environmental emergencies in the New Urban Agenda were also developed. The New Urban Agenda was subsequently adopted at the third UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) which took place in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016.

Alternative Classification Schemes for Man-Made Hazards in the Context of the Implementation of the Sendai Framework, June 2016

The JEU developed an analysis with input from the members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on Industrial and Chemical Accidents to the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Indicators and Terminology Relating to DRR. The paper presented an overview of existing classification schemes for man-made (human-induced) hazards as well as key considerations for the design of a classification scheme for man-made hazards in the context of the implementation of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction. The paper also discussed how the decisions made by member states will influence the scope and structure of the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

World Humanitarian Summit: Opportunities for environmental engagement, February 2016



In February 2016, the UN Secretary-General (SG) launched his report titled “One Humanity, Shared Responsibility” which set the tone and ambition for the World Humanitarian Summit held on 23-24 May 2016. It was a high level political report that situated humanitarian issues within the context of the broader political landscape. The report extended beyond reshaping the humanitarian aid sector, and looked at the urgent need to put humanity at the center of our individual and collective decision-making. As an annex to the report, the SG put forward an Agenda for Humanity, encapsulating the SG’s vision, and outlining what is needed to deliver on the five core responsibilities identified in the report.

The JEU conducted a review of this report exploring the extent to which environment, natural resources, multi-hazard risk and climate change are featured in the SG’s report and the Agenda for Humanity. The report identified entry points in the humanitarian reform agenda to progress towards a low-impact humanitarian assistance system. This would broaden the focus from short term stability to long term resilience and bridge the divide between first humanitarian response, early recovery and human development.

At the backdrop of the World Humanitarian Summit and the Agenda for Humanity, the UN Secretary-General and the heads of UN agencies, with the endorsement of the World Bank and funding partners, signed a commitment to the New Way of Working around “collective outcomes”. The New Way of Working aims to not only meet humanitarian needs, but also to reduce needs, risks and vulnerability over time.

Environment and Humanitarian Action (EHA) Country Level studies and Synthesis Report, 2015-2017

Country level studies completed in 2015 (Afghanistan, Haiti, and Nepal) gathered evidence on the extent to which environment is integrated into humanitarian action. Findings and recommendations have been brought together in an EHA Synthesis report highlighting areas requiring attention from humanitarian organizations. The Synthesis report outlines major humanitarian trends that will shape the future integration of environmental considerations in humanitarian action. Changes in the humanitarian landscape range from shifts in the scale and type of humanitarian crises to global policy initiatives and reform agendas. By viewing these changes against evidence from humanitarian response operations in Afghanistan, Haiti and Nepal, the document provides examples of the extent to which environmental considerations have been incorporated into humanitarian action, also outlining areas of possible future work.

Evidence from the three cases studies overall: *Supports* findings in other research indicating that environmental issues are not consistently or substantially integrated into humanitarian action in a systematic or systemic manner; *Reveals* areas where environmental considerations have been successfully integrated into humanitarian action, generally at the level of an individual Cluster or other mechanism; and, *Underscores* the need for action to ensure that environmental issues are identified and addressed in humanitarian action.

The five priority areas under which recommendations fall include:

1. Strengthen *accountability* as a precondition to ensure that environment is integrated into humanitarian response.
2. Build *institutional* arrangements as a precondition to ensure that environment is integrated into humanitarian response.
3. Ensure that humanitarian *funding* includes mandatory environmental screenings.
4. Conceptualize and articulate the environment-humanitarian challenge in terms of building *resilience*.
5. Feeding the evidence base into the multi-stakeholder reform agendas, as outcomes from the *Word Humanitarian Summit*.

EVENTS

2015 Environmental Emergencies Forum, June 2015

The 2015 Environmental Emergencies Forum (EEF) was organized by the JEU in June 2015. The EEF is a biennial global forum focused on environmental emergencies. The Forum was held in Oslo, Norway and hosted by the Government of Norway with the support of the Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection. More than 110 participants from 35 countries, including representatives from 72 organisations were present. Participants included government representatives, UN agencies and programmes, regional organisations, academia and research facilities, private-sector and industry groups, and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), who gathered to share experiences, promote partnerships, and agree on priority areas of focus for international cooperation. The 2015 Forum explored the nexus of environmental risk, humanitarian crisis and climate change, identifying ways to better prepare for and respond to environmental emergencies and to contribute to global policy discussions. The format allowed for networking opportunities and sharing of knowledge.



Green Star Awards IV, June 2015

Three organizations from around the world, who have demonstrated outstanding efforts to confront environmental emergencies, were honoured as recipients of the fourth Green Star Awards at the occasion of the 2015 EEF in June 2015. All these organizations have demonstrated remarkable achievements in raising awareness, building capacity and effectively responding to environmental emergencies.

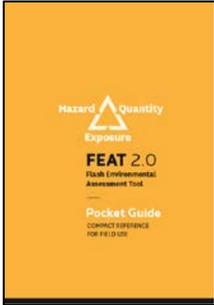


The Green Star Awards recognize outstanding efforts to reduce the environmental and humanitarian impacts of disasters and conflicts.

The 2015 Green Star Awardees were:

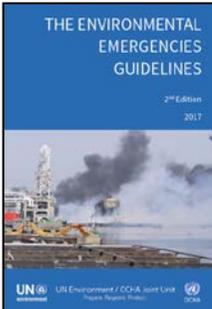
- Preparedness category: The Malagasy mining and refining project Ambatovy for spearheading the decommissioning of severely corroded ammonia tanks in 2014, abandoned in a densely populated area for almost 30 years, thus reducing risk and avoiding a potential chemical emergency
- Response category: The French Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (Cedre) was recognized for its invaluable expertise and support in the aftermath of coastal and marine oil spills in the Philippines and in Bangladesh in 2013 and 2014.
- Environment and Humanitarian Action category: The Women's Refugee Commission (WRC), USA, won the award for putting cooking fuel on the humanitarian agenda through its Safe Access to Fuel and Energy Initiative (SAFE). In displacement settings, food rations typically must be cooked in order to be eaten, but cooking fuel is rarely provided.

Publications



FEAT 2.0 Pocket Guide

Available in English, Russian and Spanish
<http://www.eecentre.org/feat/>



Environmental Emergencies Guidelines

Available in English, French, Russian and Spanish
<http://www.eecentre.org/eeguidelines/>



*Caption: Demolition and disposal work of abandoned structures in Tajikistan
Credit: JEU*

www.unocha.org/unep
www.eecentre.org

For more information, please contact
ochaunep@un.org



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