

Global Webinar Series

Environment and Emergencies in the face of COVID-19

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Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has only been the latest, very powerful wake-up call on the links between environment and emergencies. Disasters, crises and the environment are intrinsically interconnected. Therefore, a key element of emergency response is the rapid identification and mitigation of environmental risks. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) have been partners for the past 25 years, supporting countries in strengthening their capacities to respond to the environmental dimensions of disasters and complex emergencies.

Join us for a series of webinars on readiness for and response to the environmental dimensions of emergencies, with a special focus on managing these challenges in the face of COVID-19.

Programme



Environment and emergencies:
What you need to know
in a pandemic context

1 29 July

Crisis waste management:
COVID-19 and beyond

3 23 Sep

Enhancing the sustainability
of humanitarian action

5 25 Nov

14:00
15:30
UTC+2

2 19 Aug

Environmental coordination
in emergencies: localisation
and lockdown challenges

4 14 Oct

Preparing for and
responding to chemical risks:
re-starting industry

6 16 Dec

What have we learnt
from past emergencies
and future outlook?

Global Webinar Series: Environment and Emergencies in the face of COVID-19

23 September
14:00 - 15:30 UTC+2

Crisis waste management: COVID-19 and beyond

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Agenda

- Moderator: Marika Palosaari
- Opening remarks: Atul Bagai
- UNEP and COVID-19 waste management
Martin Guard
- Healthcare waste management in emergencies
Sally Edwards
- Crisis waste management: perspectives from around the world
Ana Fonseca



Moderator



Marika Palosaari

Regional Coordinator Disasters and Conflicts, UNEP Regional Office for Europe

Marika works as a Programme Coordinator at the UNEP Europe office where she has worked on projects assessing and addressing links between environment, conflicts and disasters, and is currently specializing in environmental aspects of human displacement. Marika holds a master's degree in Environmental Policy.

Opening Remarks



Atul Bagai

Head, UNEP India Office

Atul works as the Head of UNEP India Office and he has been working on UNEP's Ozone Action programme under the Montreal Protocol and building the capacity of subregional networks in Asia to enable them to meet the compliance targets under the Montreal Protocol. Atul holds a master's degree in History from India.

Speakers



Martin Guard

Hazardous Waste Specialist, UNEP Crisis Management Branch

Martin works as Hazardous Waste Specialist with the Rapid Environment and Climate Technical Assistance Facility (REACT) under UNEP to provide technical assistance to global UN peacekeeping and special political missions to improve their solid and hazardous waste management. He holds a master's degree in Conservation and a Ph.D degree from the UK.



Sally Edwards

Regional Adviser on Climate Change and Health, Pan American Health Organization

Sally is a Regional Adviser on Climate Change and Health in Panama where she works majorly on early warning systems for heatwaves, droughts, and climate sensitive diseases, the initiative on promoting an environmentally responsible and resilient health sector. Sally holds a master's degree in Environmental Epidemiology and Policy from the UK.



Ana Fonseca

Disaster Waste Management Specialist

Ana is a Waste Management Specialist who has been working with local and national governments on projects that support Local Communities and Economic Recovery through Disaster Waste Management initiatives in Indonesia, Philippines, Vanuatu, Ecuador, Haiti, Mozambique, Bahamas and Lebanon. She holds a master's degree in Environmental Engineering from Portugal.