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Global Webinar Series

Environment and Emergencies in the face of COVID-19

Register here: bit.ly/395pVzl

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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.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Programme

14:00 – 15:30 CET

1 **29 July** — Environment and emergencies: What you need to know in a pandemic context

2 **19 Aug** — Environmental coordination in emergencies: localisation and lockdown challenges

3 **23 Sep** — Crisis waste management: COVID-19 and beyond

4 **14 Oct** — Preparing for and responding to chemical risks: re-starting industry

5 **25 Nov** — Enhancing the sustainability of humanitarian action

6 **16 Dec** — What have we learnt from past emergencies and future outlook?

For ideas, comments, suggestions: Margherita Fanchiotti, fanchiotti@un.org

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6

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COVID-19 RESPONSE

Agenda

- Moderator: Samantha Brangeon
- Opening remarks: Muralee Thummarukudyil
- Environment and emergencies: lessons learnt and future direction: Urs Bloesch
- EU Civil Protection Mechanism: trends and environmental expertise in emergency response: Esther El Haddad
- Private sector case study: Andy Nicoll

Moderator

Samantha Brangeon
Environment Advisor, Groupe URD

Samantha works on the relations between humanitarian aid and the environment, and particularly the environmental effects of humanitarian operations. Before joining Groupe URD in 2015, Samantha worked for 8 years in the aid sector in charge of programmes, both at HQ level and in the field. She holds a master's degree in Sustainable Development and Organization.

Opening Remarks

Muralee Thummarukudyil
Operations Manager, Crisis Management Branch, UNEP

Muralee is the Operations Manager of UNEP Crisis Management Branch, where he manages response and coordinates projects ranging from assessment to capacity building and clean-up all over the world. He holds a PhD in Environmental Engineering from India.

Speakers

Urs Bloesch
Chief Executive Officer, Adansonia-Consulting, Switzerland

Urs is leading an environmental consulting office which carried out numerous studies and project evaluations in the humanitarian, development and conservation sector. He holds a PhD in Forestry Sciences from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETH) and completed postgraduate studies on developing countries (NADEL-ETH).

Esther El Haddad
Deputy Team Leader - Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC)
DG for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO)

Esther is Deputy Team Leader at the ERCC, where she coordinates the EU response to disasters within the framework of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism. She has a background in chemistry and holds a master's degree in International Humanitarian Action (NOHA).

Andy Nicoll
Senior Preparedness and Response Advisor Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL)

Andy has 30 years' experience in oil spill preparedness and response, in government and industry and as a Counter Pollution Officer for the UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency. He has recently returned from a two-year secondment to IPIECA as their Oil Spill Preparedness Group Manager. Andy holds a Diploma in Nautical Science and a Class 3 Certificate of Competency (Deck Officer) from the College of Maritime Studies, Warsash.