

Strengthening Environmental Screening Capacity of Humanitarian Organizations

Environmental Screening Report

NEAT +

Nexus Environmental
Assessment Tool

Urban Displacement and Out of Camps (UDOC)

Maiduguri

Borno State, Nigeria



25-26 April 2023

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INTRODUCTION

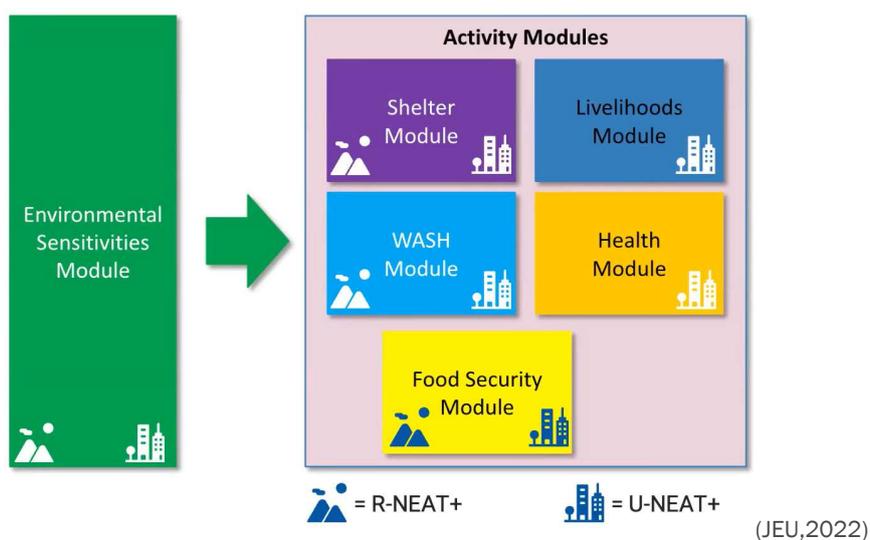
Humanitarian projects, although addressing protection needs and aiming for durable solutions for the crisis and conflict-affected communities, can result in adverse environmental impacts. These environmental impacts must be identified and addressed in the earliest stages of humanitarian response, which helps protect the environment and communities from any project-associated potential adverse impacts. There is a growing recognition of environmental risks; however, a systematic mainstreaming of environmental risk into project planning, designs and implementations is yet to be done. Mainstreaming environmental considerations into projects begins with an environmental screening. It evaluates projects' interventions against the sensitivities of the receiving environment to determine positive and negative environmental impacts. Environmental screening can be done using various tools depending on the project's nature, scale, location, and organizations' implementation capacity. Environmental screening is usually a requirement by local environmental authorities and donors but can also be an internal organizational compliance requirement.

This environmental screening report covers Shelter & Settlement, WASH and Livelihood projects Implemented by the Norwegian Refugee Council under the Urban Displacement and Out of Camps (UDOC) approach for families in Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria. This report is part of the **Error! Reference source not found.**ECHO-funded project on "Strengthening the capacity of humanitarian actors to do environmental screenings".

NEAT+

The NEAT+ is an open-source, rapid and easy-to-use environmental screening tool¹ mainly designed for humanitarian contexts. A consortium of humanitarian organizations developed and officially launched this tool in 2019. The tool assesses vulnerabilities and impacts of humanitarian response activities and generates summary reports providing a snapshot of baseline environmental conditions, potential environmental impacts, mitigation measures, and development opportunities. There are currently two versions of the NEAT+, the MS Excel-based Rural version and a web-based Urban version. The figure below shows that the NEAT+ consists of an Environment Sensitivity module and Activity modules covering core humanitarian activities: Shelter and Settlement, WASH, Food Security, Livelihood, and Health.

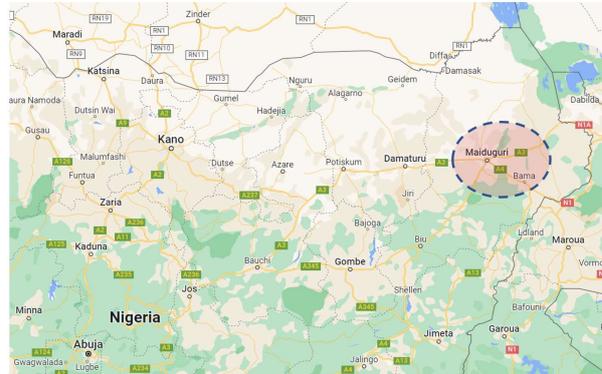
Figure: Technical Structure of the NEAT+



¹ <https://resources.eecentre.org/resources/neat/> or <https://neatplus.org/>

CONTEXT:

Nigeria's northeast is badly hit by internal conflicts, weak governance, and climate change, forcing some 2.2 million people to flee for safety and shelter in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe States. Almost 300,000 people live in Maiduguri Borno State, where the security situation remains fragile, and access of the affected population to humanitarian assistance and services is increasingly challenging. The Borno State Government has indicated the closure of all Internally Displaced People's (IDP) camps in Maiduguri, pushing some families to Maiduguri's metropolitan area. Many UN and humanitarian organizations are active in humanitarian response activities to assist the displaced families; NRC has initiated the UDOC approach to help over 12,000 displaced people who have moved to Maiduguri metropolitan council area.



The IDPs in Maiduguri live within the host communities; in most cases, the land is leased from relatives and known for three to five years. Most IDPs have lived for six years and have received some support from humanitarian organizations to sustain their lives but are also involved in small-scale rainfed farming and labour work to meet their needs. People's dependency on scarce natural resources is high, increasing competition and potential tensions over limited natural resources. The area has an arid climatic region with low annual rainfall and has recently experienced prolonged droughts. The land cover is predominantly desert, with sparse vegetation, providing the country's main rangeland grazing and limited rainfed cultivation.

PROJECT BACKGROUND:

The Norwegian Refugee Council in Maiduguri have ongoing and planned projects² on WASH, Shelter and Settlement, and Livelihood. The livelihood project is in the identification phase and is focused on providing agriculture inputs for rainfed agriculture activities to the IDPs. 160 households are expected to receive agricultural inputs, and an additional 170 households will be provided with kitchen gardening inputs. Inputs include groundnut seeds, beans seeds and organic liquid fertilizers, knapsack sprayers, and protective gear for rainfed farmers. The kitchen garden farmers will receive inputs like tomatoes, pepper, Amaranthus, lettuce, okra, and hibiscus seed. Tools & Kits such as watering cans, hand fork, garden hoe, rake, knapsack sprayer, organic liquid fertilizers and protective gear will be provided. In an earlier project, NRC

supported 350 tube wells and five deep boreholes in the same area.

The NRC's supported Shelter and Settlement activities include Transitional Shelters (TS) and Permanent Shelters (Mud-brick Shelters). Shelter materials include timber, zinc roofing sheet and gutter, mud bricks, sand and cement, metal doors and windows, and oil and coal tar. These materials are primarily available within the local markets. The mud-brick shelters are preferred considering the hot climatic conditions.

The WASH project includes the construction of 50 new pit latrines, rehabilitating 120 latrines, and solarized deep water boreholes from confined and unconfined aquifers that will serve 800 households. Hygiene education and the provision of kits are also part of the project.



² For additional information on the project, reach out to Phinias Muziva(phinias.muziva@nrc.no), Essam Al Washaly(essam.alwashaly@nrc.no), and Kolomi Babagan(kolomi.babagana@nrc.no)

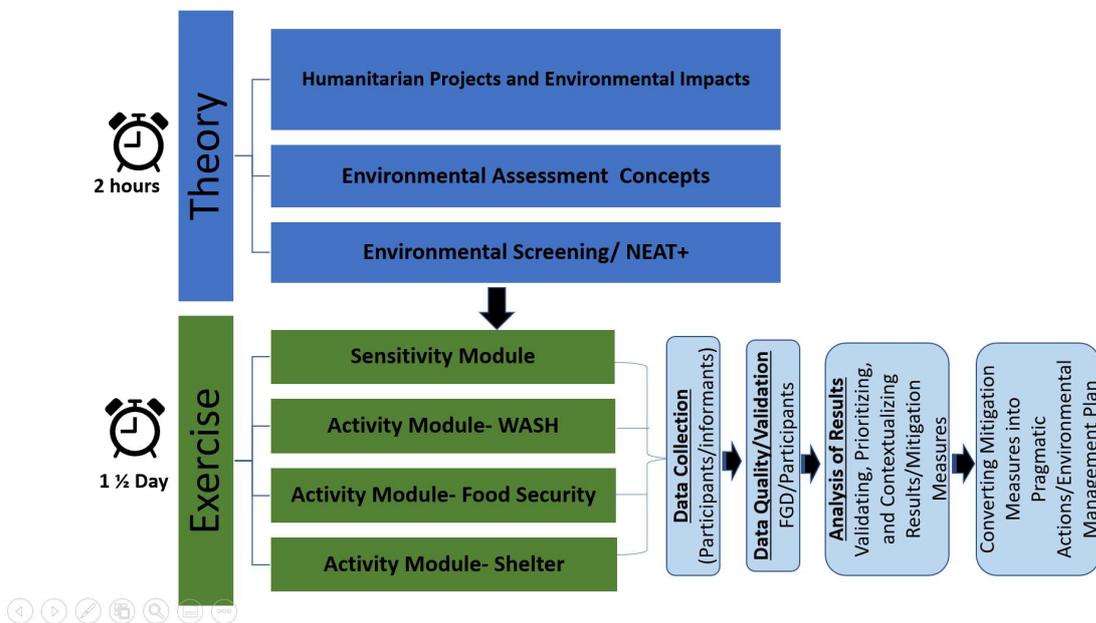
METHODOLOGY

This NEAT+-based environmental screening is part of the two-day capacity-building training held from 25 to 26 April, 2023, for humanitarian organizations operating in Maiduguri, Borno State. As shown in the figure below, a dual-purpose approach is used where participants are exposed to the concepts and environmental regulatory framework and conducting an environmental screening process. This is followed by a NEAT+-based screening for a project led by the participants covering the sensitivity module and Shelter, WASH, and Livelihood modules. Considering the context of Maiduguri, the Urban NEAT+ version is applied. The questionnaires were filled in a group exercise using information from the NRC’s planned projects on Shelter, WASH and Livelihood in Maiduguri urban settlements. The tool-generated results are analysed using criteria to contextualize and prioritize impacts and mitigation measures. The main criteria used for prioritization included the likelihood of the impact to occur, the nature of impacts, frequency, magnitude, and their importance to the crises-affected population. The mitigation measures against each impact are contextualized through group discussion and using the criteria such as financial viability, technical feasibility, social acceptance of the mitigation measures, within the organizational capacity and scope of the project, and alignment with the institutions’ policies. A field visit to the project site was conducted, and an on-site focus group discussion with community representatives was undertaken to get a closer look at the local situation and communities’ challenges and priorities.



The results after the analysis are compiled and synthesised, which should ideally be incorporated into the project proposal and planning.

Figure1: Overview of the Approach Employed



Sub-activity modules are selected which are aligned with the scope of the projects; some sub-activity modules that were not relevant are not part of this analysis, although they were completed as part of the group exercise to expose participants to all the sub-modules within the NEAT+.

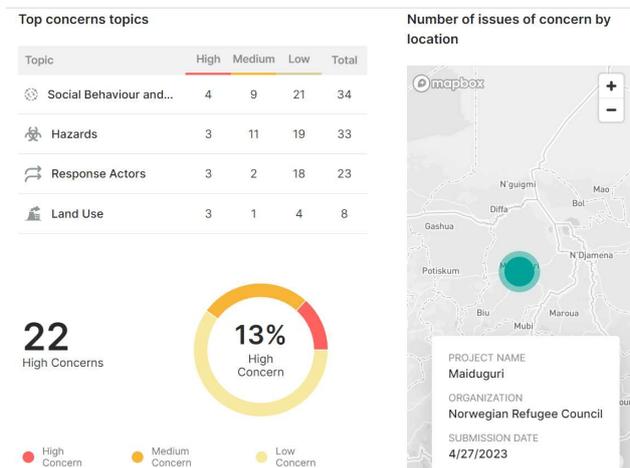
ANALYSIS OF THE RESULT SUMMARY

SENSITIVITY ANALYSIS

The Environmental Sensitivity summary helps understand the environmental baseline of the project location. It informs the project team about site-specific potential environmental risks and vulnerabilities resulting from the interactions between communities and the carrying capacity of natural systems against the proposed project activities.

The sensitivity analysis report shown below provides an overview of the baseline environmental conditions of the Maiduguri area and categorizes site-specific environmental issues into Low, Medium, and High concerns, but also development opportunities. These issues are structured around five broad categories, namely i) Affected communities, ii) Impacts on biodiversity, iii) Pressure on natural resources, iv) Pollution and environmental degradation, and v) Environmental hazard.

The main environmental issues highlighted in the sensitivity report are;



- High concentration of people, which leads to pressure on limited natural resources; therefore, environmental impacts are likely to be substantial and extensive in Maiduguri.
- The IDPs in Maiduguri may be uncertain due to the government's push to send them back to their place of origin, where conditions are still unfavourable for their return. There may be a lack of incentive to practice sustainable behaviour, leading to unsustainable use of natural resources.
- Protection concerns may be exacerbated by environmental stresses such as scarcity of resources, pollution, disease, degraded environment, deforestation, crop failures, etc.
- Wood and charcoal are the main sources of household energy used in local shelter constructions, leading to deforestation that may exceed the rate of regeneration capabilities.
- The impacts on land and soil degradations are more significant, as the environment that the community depends on for resources has a low regenerative capacity.
- Maiduguri is vulnerable to water scarcity due to dry climatic conditions and over-extraction of the groundwater than its regenerative capacity.
- The water sources may be vulnerable to contamination. Water quality may be an issue.
- There is a low capacity to manage surface water drainage/wastewater. Environmental sanitation and disease transmission may be an issue.
- The area has a heightened exposure to climate-related impacts and extreme weather events, particularly seasonal floodings, affecting natural resources availability and access.
- The area may be vulnerable to changing average and extreme temperatures due to climate change and the urban regions acting as local heat sinks. It may also be vulnerable to climate-related warming, releasing GHGs from the soil and affecting ecosystems and infrastructure.

SHELTER- Potential Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The Shelter summary report outlines environmental risks associated with the planned project activities and combines them with the sensitivities of the project location. Based on its significance, environmental risks are categorized as low, medium, and high. The potential environmental risks are prioritised by the training participants and communities visited during the project site visit. These potential environmental risks include.

- **Climate-related hazards**, such as flash floods, storms, and prolonged droughts, have been identified as a concern. Maiduguri is exposed to hydrogeological hazards, particularly floodings, which often damage shelters, properties, livestock, and people's lives if no adequate drainage is considered in the shelter constructions. Overpopulating land with build and houses reduces the ability of the ground to absorb rain and flood waters.
- **Deforestation** has been identified as a potential issue. The IDPs depend highly on humanitarian relief assistance, which is insufficient to meet their needs. Alternatively, they are exploring opportunities to save costs and make some income, and this often comes from natural resources, adding more pressure on existing scarce resources. In Maiduguri, the household energy is primarily wood and coal, leading to deforestation at an unsustainable rate.
- **Erosion and land degradation** has been identified as a potential concern in Maiduguri; poor vegetation and loose soil coupled with dry climatic conditions expose the land to degradation and soil erosion; soil erosion is also resulting from the vegetation clearance and the use of top fertile soil for mud-bricks production for building shelter. The excavation could also lead to water stagnation, resulting in mosquitos' breeding places. Land degradation and erosion are directly and indirectly linked to other socioeconomic issues.
- **Solid waste management** has been identified as a potential issue of high concern in Maiduguri. During the consultation with communities, it was revealed that there are no nearby waste dump sites, and waste often ends up in front of the houses and is burned in the open air. There are no adequate public services or infrastructure to manage construction or household waste. If a waste management and reduction strategy is not implemented, shelter project activities may also contribute to increased waste generation, with adverse health and environmental consequences. Unmanaged waste can also lead to water stagnation, increasing the risk of vector transmission.
- **Air pollution** has been identified as an issue of medium concern, indoor air pollution, caused by poor ventilation and cooking/heating, can be an issue. The extensive use of old vehicles, unpaved roads and industrial activities, and weak governance often results in poor urban waste management. Openair burning of plastic and other solid waste leads to toxic air pollution, causing diseases and other health issues.

The table below lists contextualized mitigation measures against the selected³ potential impact extracted from the tool-generated Shelter result summary.

Potential Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures
Deforestation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plant native tree species and discourage any use of invasive species of trees ▪ Educate communities on sustainable consumption of wood and charcoal for the household energy use ▪ Consider providing fuel-efficient stoves as part of the Non-Food-Items support ▪ Promote native tree plantations beside the water points and incorporate green areas in your planning. Green spaces also improve inhabitant satisfaction and can provide a natural cooling effect ▪ Minimize the use of wood and timber in the shelter construction, where alternatives to timber & shelter are available. ▪ Consider generating alternative livelihood sources for people who make their income from selling wood and charcoal
Flooding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consult national/local hazard maps ▪ Establish simple early warning mechanisms that are accessible to the community ▪ Map area of interest depicting main risks and root causes of flood risks ▪ Clear drainage canals and improve the infiltration capacity of the ground with vegetation coverage ▪ Implement flood-resistant shelters in compliance with appropriate building codes, and upgrade housing and infrastructure
Congested urban built-up areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement multi-hazard resistant housing and infrastructure ▪ Improve drainage and surface water penetration by using permeable surfaces

³ Please refer to Methodology section for more information on criteria used for selection for impacts and mitigation measures

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use community-based Disaster Risk Reduction methods to identify needs and priorities ▪ Establish multi-hazard warning systems, include climate-smart and climate resilience practices, and create awareness of climate adaptation ▪ Consider gender-specific adaptation strategies, as climate change impacts are disproportionate among gender
Erosion & Land Degradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Refill the excavated land used for making mud bricks within four days to avoid hosting vectors ▪ limit vegetation clearance to the project site only ▪ Plant indigenous trees as a revegetation measure ▪ Avoid excavating in areas near the surface or shallow sub-surface water flows. ▪ If possible, promote agro-forestry practices through other projects
Solid Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Separate organic and inorganic waste and designate separate waste dump sites at an appropriate distance ▪ Minimize the amount of packaging, substitute for paper or cardboard (biodegradable), and promote the principle of reducing, recycling, and reusing. ▪ Provide items according to assessed household needs. ▪ Select items strategically and consider each household's specific needs, which can reduce resource consumption and waste generation. ▪ Consider multifunctional items and post-crisis use of the items. ▪ Set up waste livelihoods projects, if possible, and promote best practices ▪ Ensure the waste contains no hazardous chemicals, which could lead to cumulative impacts. Ensure storing such chemical waste in approved containers to avoid any spills or leakages ▪ Arrange waste collection and awareness campaigns, and educate the community on potential health risks
Air Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider proper ventilation system in the shelter design ▪ Construction activities should be planned to minimize dust exposure to nearby sensitive receptors ▪ Water spraying can be used to minimize dust ▪ Vehicles used for the transportation of the construction materials should be well-maintained and should respect the speed limit ▪ Provide clean energy cooking materials, and discourage indoor cooking if there is a lack of a proper ventilation system ▪ Discourage open-air burning of waste

WASH- Potential Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The WASH summary informs the project team about the potential environmental risks that must be considered during project planning, design, implementation, and operation stages. In Maiduguri, the project site-specific key environmental risks are listed below.

- **Water scarcity** due low regenerative capacity of the natural system and the imbalance in the rate of extraction and recharge has been identified as a high-risk issue in the Maiduguri informal settlement. Water demand exceeds the supply and threatens the natural carrying of the system. Water is extracted from confined and unconfined aquifers, exerting pressure on groundwater resources. In the near past deep groundwater tube well are also extracted for agricultural practices and supplementary irrigation for rainfed agriculture. Both shallow well and deep well are used to meet the water demands of the IDPs. Scarce water resources are in high need by IDPs and host communities and can potentially lead to social tensions.
- **Water sources are vulnerable to contamination** from poor drainage systems, and lack of proper sanitation infrastructure has been identified as a high-risk issue. Loose soil allows the movement of contamination, such as human waste, into water bodies. These water bodies may be used for drinking, cleaning, or bathing. Children and older people are particularly affected by contaminated water due to weaker immune systems.
- The project site has an enhanced exposure to **climate-related risks** such as **soil erosion, drought, and flash flooding**. This is primarily due to the porous nature of the soil, coupled with winds, prolonged drought and flash floods. Soil erosion has a direct impact on soil fertility and people's livelihood.

- **Solid waste management** has been identified as an issue of medium risk. There is low capacity, supporting infrastructure and awareness to manage solid waste. Environmental sanitation and disease transmission may be an issue. The distribution of WASH kits may lead to waste generation without a proper solid waste management strategy.
- **Wastewater management** has been identified as a medium-risk issue. There is a lack of drainage infrastructure and low capacity to manage wastewater and fecal sludge. Wastewater carries contaminants that harm human health; Wastewater ponds can turn into breeding grounds for mosquitos. Contaminated water can also drain into streams and other surface water used for washing, cleaning, and bathing, increasing the risk of further contamination among women and children. Environmental sanitation and waterborne diseases are severe issues in Maiduguri.

The table below lists contextualized mitigation measures against the most relevant anticipated impact extracted from the tool-generated WASH result summary.

Potential Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures
Water Scarcity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct hydrogeological surveys for bore well projects, and avoid confined aquifers ▪ Reduce water losses, and maximize water use efficiency (e.g., self-closing water points, regular pipe maintenance etc.) ▪ Establish a rainwater harvesting system and promote kitchen gardening ▪ Consider water ponds for groundwater recharge ▪ Ensure that water abstraction does not exceed its replenishment capacity. Conduct a water balance (supply/demand) study ▪ Ensure an exit strategy from water trucking ▪ Build capacity for water conservation practices ▪ Consider community green spaces to promote cohesion among the community and avoid potential conflicts over scarce resources
Water Contamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Safeguard (fencing) drinking water sources against contamination ▪ Properly store oil and chemicals and prevent any leakages into soil or water ▪ Machinery and chemical storage should be monitored for any leakages. Safely dispose of oil residuals, including waste oil, lubricants, and used filters. ▪ Identify improvements to sanitation infrastructure (e.g. improve latrine design) ▪ Conduct sensitization campaigns on good sanitation practices and links to health ▪ Maintain distance (minimum 15-20 meters) and keep the water source at a higher elevation from the contamination source ▪ Ensure reduced stagnation of water through proper drainage systems ▪ Protect water sources and monitor water quality regularly
Loss of Vegetation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Limit vegetation clearance to the project site only ▪ Plant indigenous trees as a revegetation measure ▪ Encourage wastewater reuse in watering vegetable gardens, trees, etc ▪ If possible, promote agro-forestry practices will be intensively promoted through other projects
Solid Waste Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Separate organic and inorganic waste and designate a waste dump site at an appropriate distance. ▪ Minimize the amount of packaging, substitute for paper or cardboard (biodegradable), and promote the principle of reducing, recycling, and reusing in all operations. ▪ Consider setting up waste livelihoods projects ▪ Promote waste management in communities via Reduce, Re-use and Recycle
Wastewater management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote the use of wastewater for kitchen gardening ▪ Consider a proper drainage system ▪ Improve sanitation infrastructure ▪ Consider necessary arrangements for the safe disposal of fecal sludge and its reuse as manure or biogas. ▪ Support community awareness programs
Deforestation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plan indigenous trees and discourage any invasive species of trees ▪ Promote alternative clean sources of energy for household use ▪ Promote tree plantation next to the water points

LIVELIHOOD- Potential Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Environment and livelihoods are co-dependent; when land is degraded or prone to natural hazards, productivity decreases, directly impacting communities' livelihood and well-being. Interventions that focus on short-term benefits and neglect consideration of the environment can jeopardize long-term food security and livelihood opportunities. Therefore, a healthy and productive ecosystem is a prerequisite for those reliant on the environment for their livelihoods. The Sphere Standards (2018) also state that environmentally sensitive options within the livelihood interventions be chosen whenever possible.

This section summarises the environmental vulnerabilities, key impacts and mitigation measures associated with the NRC's livelihood project in Maiduguri, Borno State, Nigeria. The prioritized potential environmental impacts from the proposed livelihood project activities are listed below.

- **Climate-related hazards**, particularly flash flooding, droughts, and changes in rainfall patterns, have been identified as an issue in the Maiduguri area. The IDPs are engaged in rainfed agriculture, which is highly dependent on rainfall, but with the unpredictability of the rain due to climate change, resulting in low agricultural productivity. Climate hazards might also lead to reduced yields and heat stress for field workers
- The use of **chemical fertilizers and pesticides** are common agricultural practice in Maiduguri, which is an issue of environmental concern. This often leads to land degradation and contamination of surface and groundwater resources. Pesticides are often toxic to human health and the environment, particularly when usage is poorly managed. Continued poor pesticide practices increased pest resistance, necessitating even higher dosages. Pesticides also destroy other flora and fauna, damaging ecosystems and decreasing biodiversity.
- **Water scarcity** may be an issue due to the overconsumption of water for agriculture, considering the dry climatic conditions in the Maiduguri area. Some farmers also use groundwater for irrigation, which could impact the groundwater aquifers if the water balance is not considered. On-farm practices such as unlevelled land and type of crops could also affect water consumption.
- **Land and soil degradation** has been identified as an issue associated with livelihood interventions. Land and soil can be degraded with unsustainable agriculture practices such as monoculture, tillage etc.
- **Deforestation** may be an issue if agricultural land is expended for cultivation.

Potential Project Impacts	Mitigation Measures
Climate-related Hazard	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use localized and easy-to-use early warning systems ▪ Support climate-smart and conservation agriculture: low till, diverse rotations, cover/tree/shrub crops more resilient to drought ▪ Support capacity-building and awareness programs on climate adaptation and resilience in the context of agriculture
Use of Chemical Fertilizers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assess traditional knowledge and promote good practices through awareness campaigns ▪ Promote Integrated Pest Management practices, and discourage the use of chemical fertilizers ▪ Provide only organic fertilizers, and educate farmers on the benefits of using organic fertilizer ▪ Monitor water quality and disseminate information to all stakeholders.
Water Scarcity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote on-farm and off-farm water-saving practices ▪ Support drought-tolerant seed and other agriculture inputs ▪ Conduct hydrogeological assessment for groundwater extraction for agriculture ▪ Support suitable alternative water sources such as farm-based rainwater harvesting, conjunctive water use, and supplementary irrigation. Etc. ▪ Explore the potential of household wastewater reuse for agriculture. ▪ Support farmer awareness programs on water-saving & heat management at field
Land and Soil Degradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote polyculture and rotational crop cultivation ▪ Intercrop with legumes or other nitrogen-fixing species ▪ Promote low tillage farming and discourage the use of inappropriate farm machinery ▪ Take appropriate localized measures to minimize waterlogging and salinization ▪ Support agriculture extension services, and local farmer learning centres,
Deforestation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discourage the expansion of agricultural land at the cost of cutting trees ▪ Support native tree plantation and other agro-forestry measures when possible ▪ Support community awareness programs

RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

Some key learning from the environmental screening exercise and recommendations are listed below.

- This environmental screening report provides a valuable baseline for organizations operating in Maiduguri, Borno State of Nigeria. It assesses the baseline environmental conditions and lists the potential environmental impacts of Shelter & Settlement, WASH and Livelihood projects implemented by NRC under the UDOC approach. The report also provides contextualized mitigation measures to address environmental risks and serves as a base for future environmental screenings in the area.
- The exercise should be followed by a detailed Environmental Management Plan, where the mitigation measures are translated into project activities with clear implementation responsibilities. Developing an environmental management plan should be a collaborative effort and must be monitored by the implementing agency for compliance. For self-reconstruction, adequate monitoring mechanisms should be in place. Contractual terms can be used to enforce contractor and subcontractor compliance.
- Environmental assessment tools, including NEAT+, are more effective when applied during the project planning phase, where there is more room for any potential adjustments in the project design or implementation strategy; however, they can also be used for ongoing projects to avoid and mitigate adverse environmental impacts through corrective actions.
- NEAT+ is a participatory tool, and it's more effective when input data and results are discussed among the project team and with wider stakeholders. The environmental data collection and the discussion process are as important as the outcome of the environmental screening process. This helps in the collective understanding of project-related environmental impacts, helps create awareness, and contributes to learning on environmental issues.
- The quality of environmental screening outputs depends on the reliability of the input data and analysis of the result summary. Minimizing data biases and giving considerable time to explore various data sources to validate and triangulate data is important. Merely relying on assumptions and completing the questionnaire without conducting field visits and consultation with important stakeholders should be discouraged. NEAT+ is a flexible tool, and changes in the questionnaire can be made even at a later stage when more reliable information is available.
- Focus group discussion and community engagement are essential aspects of an environmental screening process, it helps in utilizing traditional knowledge of the local communities and understanding the community's challenges and priorities. It also gives them a sense of inclusion in the process and informs them about their responsibility in addressing environmental impacts.
- NEAT+ generates a list project associated impacts and suggests mitigation measures; however, it is important to analyse and contextualize these impacts and mitigation measures. It is also important to look beyond the tool-generated result summary and consider other important impacts and mitigation measures associated with the project activities. This might require some input from environmental experts and other stakeholders. As such, NEAT+ should not be viewed as an absolute but as a guidance tool.
- It is important to consider mitigation measures within the project's duration and scope. Mitigation measures will not always mean 'doing new/additional things' but, in most cases, 'doing things differently' in a more environment-friendly manner. Options need to be explored if some mitigation measures could be done through other projects within the organization or in collaboration with other partner organizations active in Maiduguri.
- Environmental screening may not be seen as a one-off or stand-alone exercise. Humanitarian organizations must systematically mainstream environmental screening as an embedded process within the program cycle or, where possible, integrate environmental screening into existing project procedures and practices, such as Situational Analysis or Rapid Assessments.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

- Access to NEAT+ weblink used in this environmental screening (files provided with the folder)
- ECHO Environmental Guidance: https://civil-protection-humanitarian-aid.ec.europa.eu/what/humanitarian-aid/climate-change-and-environment_en.
- Environment and Humanitarian Action (EHA) Connect, a comprehensive online repository of tools and guidance spanning the humanitarian-environment nexus: <https://ehaconnect.org>.
- Environmental Emergency Centre - library of resources and tools for environmental emergency prevention, preparedness, and response Resources: <https://resources.eecentre.org/>.
- The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)- Green Response: Environmental Quick Guide (2022): <https://www.ifrc.org/document/green-response-environmental-quick-guide>.
- Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool: <https://neatplus.org/>.

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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