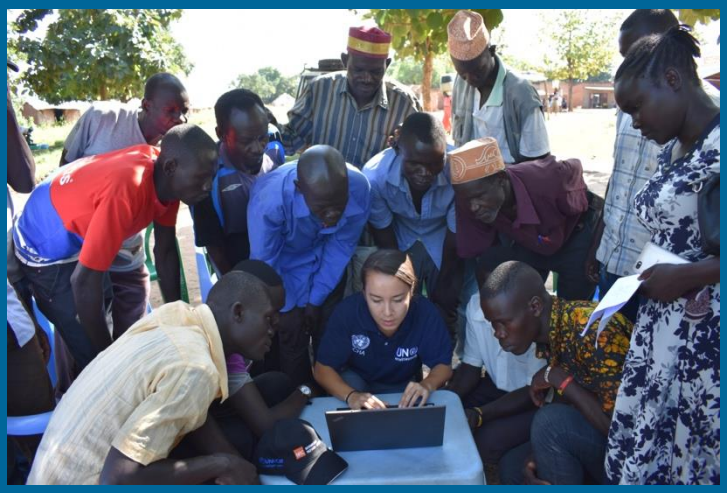
The Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+) Process Guidance



Integrating NEAT+ in Environmental Management Systems of Humanitarian Organizations

A Reference Document

Credits

This guidance document has been developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) / United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Joint Environment Unit (JEU).

The guidance document was developed by Emilia Wahlstrom and Mandy George, with significant contributions by Hortense Regnaut, Julia Krohn and Crystal Hung. Several experts from the Environment and Humanitarian Action Network acted as peer reviewers of the guidance.

The NEAT+ Reference Document is intended as guidance material only and is not to be regarded as binding international regulation or legislation. Neither the UN nor any of its agencies or employees make any warranty, expressed or implied, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or any third party's use or the results of such use of any information. Reference herein to any specific commercial product, process, or service by trade name, trademark, manufacturer, or otherwise, does not necessarily constitute or imply its endorsement, recommendation, or favouring by the UN or any agency thereof or its contractors or consultants.

Front cover photos: NEAT+ applied in Uganda and Myanmar (bottom right) © Mandy George.

Published in Switzerland, 2020 by the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit, Response Services Branch, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit
Response Services Branch, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland
ochaunep@un.org

Abbreviations

Organizations

EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
GAC	Global Affairs Canada
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
JEU	UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit
MSB	Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency
NRC	Norwegian Refugee Council
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WFP	World Food Programme
WWF	World Wild Fund for Nature

Thematic

CBPF	Country-Based Pooled Funds
EA	Environmental Audit
EEC	Environmental Emergencies Centre
EHA	Environment and Humanitarian Action
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMS	Environmental Management System
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FRAME	Framework for Responding, Assessing, Monitoring and Evaluating the Environment in Refugee Related Operations
FSL	Food Security and Livelihoods
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HCP	Humanitarian Programme Cycle
NEAT+	Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
PDCA	Plan-Do-Check-Act
PDNA	Post Disaster Needs Assessment
REA	Rapid Environmental Assessment
RMRP	Refugee and Migrant Response Plan
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION

Ensuring that environmental impacts are considered in humanitarian action as early as possible makes a huge difference to both people and the environment. Environmental stewardship during humanitarian action reduces conflict drivers and increases resilience. Timely planning, identification of key needs and issues, and integration of environmental considerations before and during humanitarian action can help save lives and preserve and restore human livelihoods. Unfortunately, humanitarian workers often lack the capacities and adequate tools to systematically integrate the environment into humanitarian programmes. The Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+) was designed specifically to address this gap.

The NEAT+ was developed by the Coordination of Assessments for Environment in Humanitarian Action Joint Initiative; a multi-stakeholder project aiming to improve the coordination between environmental and humanitarian actors[1]. The Joint Initiative identified a need to improve access to tools that promote the integration of environment and climate into humanitarian assistance.

As an environmental screening tool, the NEAT+ allows humanitarian actors to quickly identify issues of environmental concern before designing longer-term emergency or recovery interventions. The NEAT+ gives organizations a snapshot of environmental vulnerabilities in their operations and highlights environmental risks associated with specific activities. This information not only indicates how potential risks can be mitigated but can also be used to raise interest in environmental issues for advocacy and fundraising purposes.

This reference document has been developed by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP)/UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Joint Environment Unit (JEU). The JEU is a member of the Joint Initiative and is spearheading the development, application, and dissemination of the NEAT+. This document aims to:

(i) Provide an outline of environmental management within humanitarian organizations, including an explanation of available assessment tools;
(ii) Explain how the NEAT+ fits into overall environmental management systems within humanitarian organizations;
(iii) Illustrate how the NEAT+ can be used in field operations and integrated into the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC).

Throughout the document, examples illustrate the application of environmental assessment and management approaches by humanitarian organizations and the use of the NEAT+ for multiple purposes and in different settings. Links to additional information and guidance is also provided. Annexes contain additional information as well as Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on the NEAT+. This document has been designed for guidance purposes only, with each organization

[1] The Joint Initiative brought together the United Nations Environment Programme/UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Joint Environment Unit (JEU), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the Swedish Civil Contingencies agency (MSB) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). For more information about the Joint Initiative, please see: https://www.eecentre.org/2017/01/01/the-joint-initiative/

itself best equipped to define environmental management systems and tools for humanitarian settings.

Definitions used in the document

Environmental management: Environmental management refers to the capacity of organizations to assess their activities' impact on the environment; and to set policies, targets and objectives to reduce their footprint and mitigate negative environmental impacts. Environmental management generally involves adopting an environmental policy/strategy and an associated management plan.

Environmental policy: Environmental policy is the commitment of an organization or government to the laws, regulations, and other policy mechanisms concerning environmental issues. These issues generally include air and water pollution, waste management, ecosystem management, maintenance of biodiversity, the protection of natural resources, wildlife and endangered species.

For an example of an environmental policy implemented by a humanitarian organization, please see World Food Programme (WFP)'s environmental policy: https://www.wfp.org/publications/2017-wfp-environment-policy

Climate change policy is a specific sector of environmental policy, as it focuses on the climate and the mitigation of the negative impacts of the climate crisis. It would typically outline an organization's commitment to mitigate and compensate for its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Many organizations would include climate risks in their overall environmental policy.

Environmental Management System (EMS): The EMS provides the organization with the overall structure to environmental management and covers areas such as policies, objectives, structures, institutional processes and monitoring and evaluation arrangements.

Environmental Management Plan (EMP): The EMP is the plan that guides the implementation of environmental management and mitigation measures. It contains the following key elements: mitigation measures, implementation and monitoring program, cost estimates, resource requirements, budget and institutional arrangements.

Environmental and social safeguards: Safeguards are policies put in place to prevent and mitigate undue environmental and social harm associated with an intervention. During project design and implementation, safeguards help to define measures and processes to effectively manage risks and enhance positive impacts.

Read more about the environmental safeguards of international financing institutions: http://www.fao.org/investment-learning-platform/themes-and-tasks/environmental-social-safeguards/environmental-safeguards/en/

Environmental assessment: An analysis of the expected positive and negative impacts on the environment from a specific policy, programme or project, often involving stakeholder consultations. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) follows an internationally recognized process and is often required through country legislation.

2 MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS IN HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS

2.1 THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROCESS

Environmental management refers to an organization's capacity to: (i) assess their activities' impact on the environment; (ii) set policies, targets and objectives to reduce their carbon and environmental footprint; and (iii) mitigate the negative impacts their activities may have on the environment. A structured way to approach environmental management is to adopt an overall environmental management system (EMS) and an associated environmental management plan (EMP).

An EMS follows a typical Plan-Do-Check-Act Cycle (PDCA). The PDCA model is an iterative four-stage process for continuous improvement used by organizations. The process involves the following actions:

Plan: establish environmental objectives and processes necessary to deliver results in accordance with the organization's environmental policy.

Do: implement the processes as planned.

Check: monitor and measure processes against the environmental policy, including its commitments, environmental objectives and operating criteria, and report the results.

Act: take actions to continually improve the process.

A typical guideline for setting up an EMS is ISO 14001, an internationally agreed standard.

For an example of the establishment of an EMS by UN entities, please see the Greening the Blue website: http://www.greeningtheblue.org/our-approach/reducing-our-impacts/environmental_management_systems

See available guidance on Establishing an EMS, developed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), here: https://www.epa.gov/ems/guide-developing-environmental-management-system-do

The diagram below outlines the various steps associated with an environmental management process.

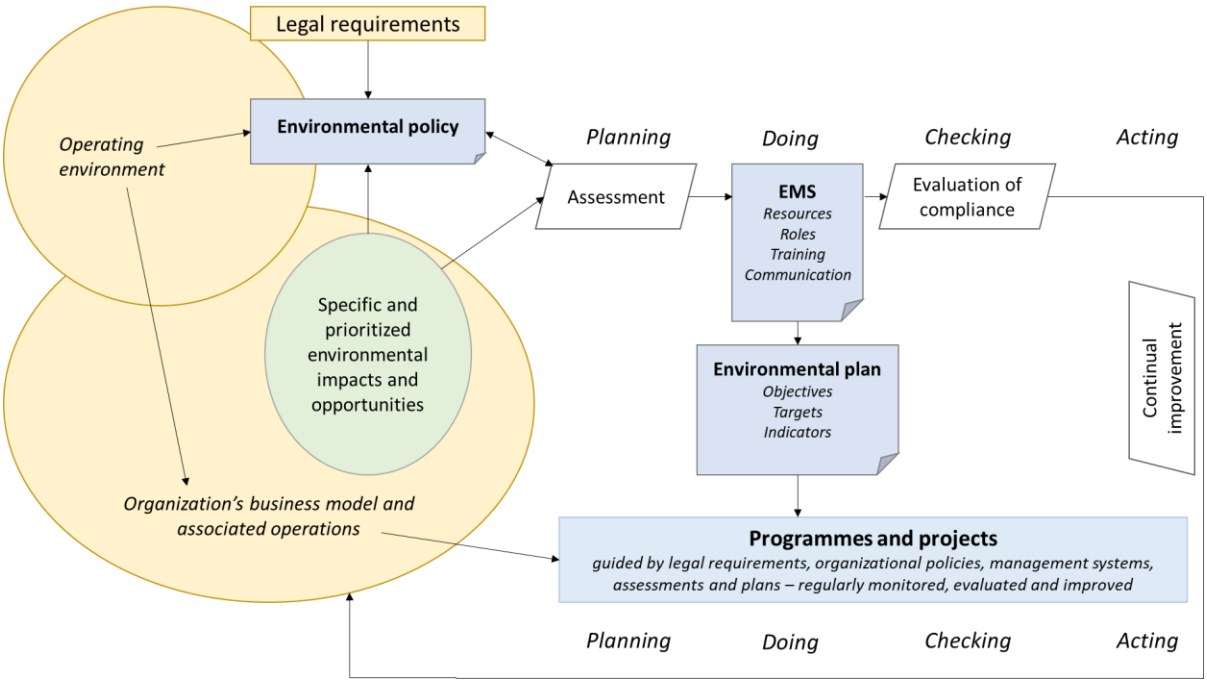


Figure 1: A simplified overview of the various elements of environmental management within an organization.

2.2 Environmental assessments – the basis of planning

Assessments form the basis of any EMS, and any programme and project activities are undertaken within the framework of an EMS. They represent the touchstone for planning, designing mitigation measures and monitoring. The importance of assessing humanitarian interventions for environmental impacts is essential to ensure that the 'Do No Harm' principle is respected and, where possible, opportunities for positive environmental outcomes are maximized.

There is a difference between assessing the overall environmental impacts of an organization's activities as part of setting up an environmental management system, and the assessment of project or programme activities once an EMS exists. An organization's environmental management system would include the system, processes and tools for conducting such programmatic/project assessments.

Policy/organizational-level environmental assessments

When setting up an environmental policy and associated EMS, an organization would go through the process of identifying the key environmental aspects (positive and negative) associated with its entire operations/business model. These would then be prioritized, and specific management measures put in place to ensure that negative impacts are mitigated. Staff would be trained on key environmental impacts and stakeholders would also be informed. Additionally, the process

of managing the environmental impacts of the organization's programmes, projects and specific operations would be defined at this stage.

Project and programme-level environmental assessments

An overall identification of an organization's environmental impacts does not automatically lead to the mitigation of all impacts associated with specific projects or operations. Organizations should therefore, as part of their EMS, establish a system for systematically assessing the environmental risks and impacts associated with their projects and operations – i.e. their programming directly assisting crisis-affected populations. Tools and mechanisms for this are described in detail in section 3.

An analysis of applicable legal requirements and standards associated with a specific operation or country should always be included in a programmatic/project assessment. This could include the need for a local environmental permit for water and sanitation infrastructure or the need for a waste permit to incinerate waste. In many instances, a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required by national legislation, though often requirements can be waived in humanitarian emergency contexts. Where possible, the legal framework conditions should be adhered to despite possible waivers, particularly in longer-term relief and recovery operations.

2.3 SETTING TARGETS AND MONITORING SUCCESS

Whether at organizational or programme/project level, it is imperative that the assessment of key environmental impacts leads to the mitigation of negative impacts. In addition to an organizational environmental management plan or strategy, individual programmes and projects would also be adapted during the planning phase or following an environmental assessment. The activities can either be changed to reduce environmental impacts and/or mitigation activities can be included. Examples of such measures would be the inclusion of waste reduction measures into a food delivery project, the inclusion of sustainable energy provision into shelter activities, or the objective to increase water or energy efficiency in a camp setting. Typically, environmental targets and indicators would be set up at both organizational (as part of the environmental plan) and programme/project level (as part of the project plan). While the targets and indicators will vary depending on the type of activity and context, having standardized environmental targets and indicators would make it easier for humanitarian organizations to monitor and compare the environmental impacts of their interventions. To assist in this work, UNEP plans to develop a global registry of environmental activities with associated indicators for humanitarian projects in 2020.[2] This activity and indicator registry would complement the NEAT+ tool.

[2] The guidance will be available on https://ehaconnect.org/

Progress on targets as well as the effectiveness of implemented mitigation measures need to be regularly monitored and evaluated. Continuous improvement forms the basis of environmental management, and communication on achievements builds commitment within the organization. When it comes to humanitarian programmes and projects, environmental monitoring and evaluation are ideally incorporated into other monitoring processes. For example, communication on environmental concerns should also be facilitated through community engagement and complaints and response mechanisms.

For more information on specific indicators and targets associated with humanitarian projects, refer to the Sphere standards (and specifically Shelter standard 7): https://www.spherestandards.org/handbook-2018/. Additional information provides the Sphere thematic sheet on reducing environmental impact in humanitarian response: https://spherestandards.org/wp-content/uploads/Sphere-thematic-sheet-environment-EN.pdf

For more information on monitoring and evaluation refer to the EHA Connect page on monitoring and evaluation, offering guidance for response monitoring in both sudden onset and protracted crises: https://ehaconnect.org/crisis-response-recovery/response-monitoring/

For an example of a study assessing the extent to which environmental factors were taken into account in a response, see the UNEP/OCHA JEU Nepal earthquake response environment and humanitarian action study. The study presents key findings, conclusions and recommendations on how to integrate environment into preparedness actions in high risk countries.

The complete country study can be found here: https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Nepal_EHA_Study-_20160120.pdf

2.4 Environmental training

A key component of continuously improving the effectiveness of an EMS is raising awareness and strengthening the capacities of staff members. Staff must be trained in environmental issues, policies and tools. Organizations have developed several tools (see below) to help humanitarian workers learn more about the integration of environmental considerations into humanitarian programmes. It is important, however, that an organization develops specific trainings for their staff, which focuses on their own prioritized environmental impacts and associated management processes.

Available trainings on environment and humanitarian action

The Environmental Emergencies Learning Centre hosts five different eLearning modules on a range of environmental emergency preparedness and response topics. The online training includes a course introducing environmental emergency preparedness and response, assessing chemical release risks using the Flash Environmental Assessment Tool, managing disaster waste, and preventing, preparing for and responding to industrial accidents. Courses are available for free in multiple languages:
https://www.eecentre.org/training/

The JEU Environment in Humanitarian Action free online training course provides humanitarian actors with an introduction to the topic and information on the consideration of environmental issues into humanitarian response. The course takes approx. 1,5 hours and is available in English, French, Spanish and Russian: https://www.eecentre.org/training/

The Groupe URD French online training: https://learning.urd.org/mod/page/view.php?id=176: This e-learning module in French is an introduction to the interaction between humanitarian response and the environment. It is aimed at professionals who wish to better integrate environmental issues into their programmes.

The ICRC Massive Online Open Course on EHA: This four-week free online course on Sustainable Development in Humanitarian Action provides users with a broad introduction on how sustainability can be applied to humanitarian action. The course looks at sustainability in the supply chain and field operations of a humanitarian organization, covering the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic efficiency, social equity and environmental preservation: https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/sustainable-development-humanitarian-action

The WWF training on Green Recovery and Reconstruction: The GRRT online training modules are designed for humanitarians, government officials, and local communities to increase awareness and knowledge of environmentally responsible disaster response approaches. The in-depth training modules are available in English, Spanish and Bahasa Indonesia: http://envirodm.org/green-recovery

3 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT TOOLS FOR HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS AND OPERATIONS

3.1 APPROACHES TO ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

Humanitarian organizations approach the environmental assessment of their programmes and projects in different ways. Some use an environmental checklist or marker (sometimes complemented by social elements such as gender and age), some use an environmental screening tool, while some employ a detailed environmental assessment. The box below provides the definitions of some commonly used tools.

Box 1. Examples of environmental assessments (from least to most comprehensive):

Screening process: The screening process refers to the evaluation of humanitarian projects based on their potential negative environmental impacts. It forms the basis of deciding whether avoidance or mitigation measures should be incorporated into project activities. A screening process is often based on environmental safeguards (see below). A marker is a synonym for a simple screening process.

Initial Environmental Examination (IEE): A preliminary study to capture potential environmental impacts of a project in order to determine whether conducting an EIA study is necessary.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA): Assessment of the likely environmental consequences of a proposed project. Project activities should be assessed for environmental risks and impacts. Mitigation measures should be developed to address negative environmental consequences, prior to project implementation.

Environmental Audit (EA): A detailed, documented and objective process to assess environmental issues in industrial operations. An EA should be carried out as the first step in an integrated program. An action plan detailing the effective use of natural resources and improvements to the production process should be developed and implemented following an audit.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): A SEA assesses the environmental impacts of policies, programmes and organizational activities. A SEA focuses on a specific region or an activity sector and identifies mitigation measures to enhance positive outcomes on the environment and natural resources.

Organizations can conduct individual assessments for each planned activity or base this analysis on assumptions associated with specific standard activities. Where an organization's activities follow a fairly standardized pattern, such an assessment is easier to conduct. If an organization carries out different types of projects in different geographic and legal settings, individual assessments should be undertaken for each new type of project or activity. There are

numerous tools and approaches available, where each organization will need to develop a system that works best for them. Many organizations follow a step-by-step approach, where the identification of environmental concerns in an initial screening would lead to a more comprehensive assessment, which in turn might lead to a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). An example of such a process is shown in Figure 2.

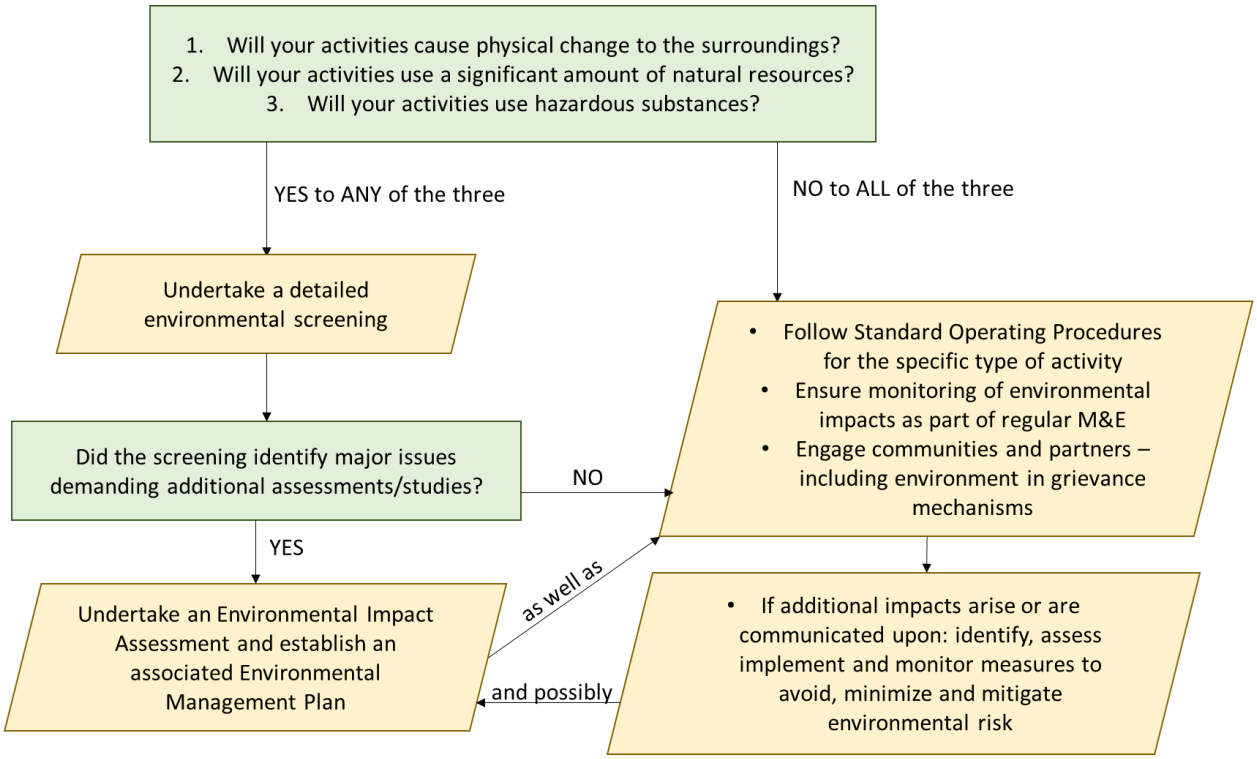


Figure 2: A simplified screening procedure showing how an initial screening leads to a detailed screening and potentially an Environmental Impact Assessments. Standard Operating Procedures are used throughout.

Several environmental requirements can be addressed through individual Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) such as the energy standards for lighting, requirements for water infrastructure, etc.

Within emergency contexts, there will be less time for detailed assessments in the early phases. As activities move towards recovery, there is time and opportunity to address environmental risk and a more detailed screening or assessment can be conducted (see Figure 3).

Example: Global Affairs Canada (GAC) Environmental Integration Process – Screening Tool

GAC's Environmental Integration Process Screening Tool is to be used by the Department's development staff and partners to determine the depth of environmental analysis that is required for an initiative. The categories are based on the initiative's potential environmental opportunities and risks, considering the sector, context, and scale. Environmental screening is required for all GAC's international development assistance initiatives.

More information on the Environmental Integration Process – Screening Tool can be found here:

https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/funding-financement/screening_tool-outil_examen_prealable.aspx?lang=eng

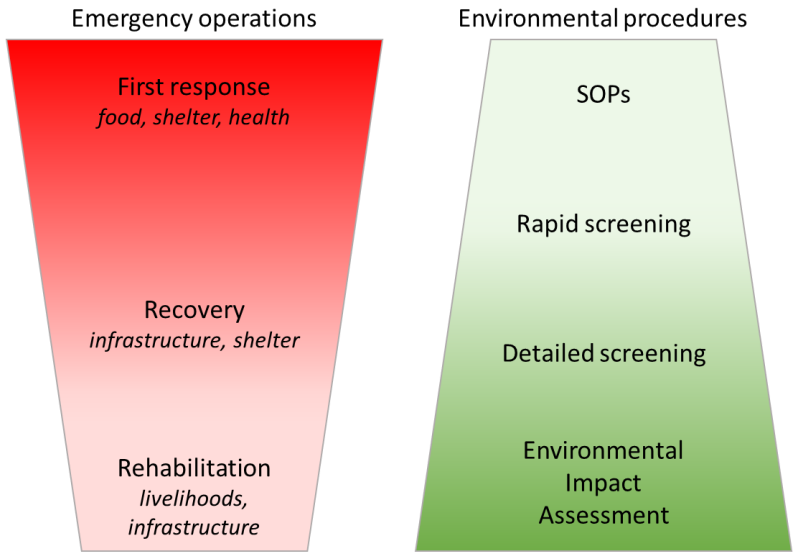


Figure 3: In a sudden-onset disaster, more detailed assessments take place as activities move from initial response to recovery.

Example: USAID's approach to EIAs

USAID uses Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as a tool to examine the existing environmental conditions of a strategy, program, project or activity, and to predict the potential impacts of those actions on the environment and the community. It also includes the development of mitigation measures and monitoring techniques to avoid, minimize, mitigate, remediate or offset those impacts. The aim of USAID's EIAs is to inform decision-making, leading to better, more sustainable actions.

The EIA process is implemented through USAID's environmental safeguards and procedures, consisting of two main phases. The first and simplest stage of considering the environmental impacts of an activity is the screening process or preliminary assessment. For this process, USAID uses screening protocols including categories of activities, which are either likely or unlikely to have a significant effect on the environment, and thus distinguish the level of environmental review needed. This process can also be part of a preliminary assessment, USAID's Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) —which may or not be required depending on a simple screening protocol. Based on the IEE, a decision on whether to conduct a full EIA is then made or deferred.

For most USAID activities, the EIA process goes no further than a preliminary assessment (IEE). Only activities with significant potential adverse environmental impacts go to a detailed EIA study.

Life-of-project compliance for USAID-funded activities requires effective application of the following core EIA skills: Characterizing the baseline situation, identifying potential impacts of concern, designing mitigation measures, and designing monitoring activities.

Follow-through on the EIA process during activity implementation consists of implementing the mitigation measures identified by the EIA process and monitoring this implementation and its effectiveness.

More information and resources on the USAID approach to EIAs can be found here: https://www.usaid.gov/environmental-procedures/environmental-compliance-esdm-program-cycle/principles-eia

A topic briefing on environmental assessment by USAID can be found here: https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1865/EIA-Topic-Briefing-2015-01-17.pdf

Organizations may have standard screening/assessment tools and procedures that can be reviewed to integrate screening/assessing for environmental risks, even without a full EMS in place. For example, questions can be added to a standard needs assessment template, which then, depending on the results, trigger the need for an in-depth environmental assessment. The most effective way to ensure that environmental screening and assessment tools are used is to make sure that they fit into and are referenced in the programme management system of the organization.

Example: UN Model Approach

The United Nation's Model Approach to Environmental and Social Standards for UN Programming (Model Approach) serves as a reference and benchmark for UN entities to use on a voluntary basis when adopting or revising their own environmental and social standards and safeguards. The Model Approach provides a first step in moving towards a common approach and strengthening policy alignment[3]. Humanitarian organizations are strongly recommended to follow the United Nation's Model Approach. This set of standards is intricately linked to the UN's goals and principles. These safeguards apply to specific projects, and not the organization's overall policy on environmental management.

The aim of the Model Approach (cf. diagram) is to provide organizations with a strategic framework, applicable to all projects and activities, including:

- *principles*
- *organizational policy standards regarding assessments and stakeholder engagement*
- *objectives and benchmarks for all eight thematic areas*

[3] https://unemg.org/impact/publications/

The Model Approach developed by the United Nations is an example of an EMS model that organizations can get inspiration from. Individual organizations are encouraged to adapt the Model Approach to their own specific needs and objectives.

The Model Approach can inform the screening or assessment questions of individual environmental assessments. Many organizations are striving for a comprehensive approach, where social issues (such as indigenous people's rights, labor conditions and gender) are examined together with environmental sustainability elements.

Learn more about the UN Model Approach here:
https://unemg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/FINAL_Model_Approach_ES-Standards-1.pdf

Refer to annex 2 in section 7 for a comparison between the NEAT+ & the UN Model Approach.

Example: Environmental markers in humanitarian settings

The Environment Marker was developed by UNEP and OCHA in 2014 to integrate environmental considerations into project design for humanitarian projects. The marker was integrated into the template for Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) and used in a similar way as the gender and age marker to provide a quick overview of the extent to which these issues had been considered in project design.

Since 2015, the Environmental Marker was applied in humanitarian programmes, for example in Afghanistan, South Sudan and Sudan. The use of the environment marker was hampered by the lack of environmental expertise in applying it, the lack of funds to address identified issues, and the unclarity as to how the screening process should take place. In some instances, the use of markers has become a "tick-the-box" exercise, not leading to substantial change in programming.

Since its original launch, the Environment Marker is no longer included in the standard assessment template for evaluating humanitarian projects submitted under CBPFs. However, the use of environmental markers continues. In 2019, in the development of the 2020 Venezuela Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan (RMRP), partners have piloted a sector-based environmental self-assessment, leading towards the introduction of an environment marker. It is hoped that these activities will be scaled up as a result of an increased demand to see environmental considerations applied in a cross-cutting manner.

The Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020 also included an environmental marker, linked closely to the legislative requirements of the country, which required environmental screening of all public and private development projects. The marker was introduced selectively in 2014 and expanded to all sectors (energy, food security, livelihoods, shelter, social stability and water) in 2019. Additionally, an environmental mainstreaming tool was developed, which evaluated how well the different sectors assessed environmental risks, developed response mechanisms and measured performance and progress.

A workshop conducted for Myanmar Humanitarian Fund implementing partners for 2020 discussed the use of environmental markers and evaluated key impacts and mitigation measures associated with specific humanitarian sectors.

More information on the original environmental marker can be found here:
https://ehaconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/EHA-Study-web_version1.1.pdf

More information on the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan environment marker can be found here:
https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/69474

3.2 CHALLENGES TO ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENTS

While humanitarian organizations have made significant improvements in harmonizing their approach to environmental assessments in operations, many challenges remain. These include:

- Environmental assessments are dependent on environmental baseline data, such as the state of the environment in a specific setting. While a large body of environmental data exists, it is sometimes **hard to access** and rarely exists in a format usable by humanitarian workers.

- **Many environmental assessment tools are available,** but there is a lack of awareness and accessibility on the type of tool most suitable to a specific context. There is a need to balance between the need for a specific sectoral tool (such as a water quality or waste assessment) and an overarching environmental assessment (taking all environmental issues and their interlinkages into account).

- Environmental assessments are **not properly integrated** into the HPC, sometimes because humanitarian organizations do not have clearly defined environmental/quality management systems and associated processes.

- When environmental assessments are conducted, there is a lack of **uptake** of the results. This could be due to the lack of expertise or funding to address the issues, as humanitarian projects tend to prioritize life-saving activities.

- Most assessment tools require the user to have **environmental expertise** that humanitarian workers do not necessarily have.

Faced with these challenges, humanitarian workers have called for a fast and user-friendly system or approach to access environmental data and perform environmental assessments of humanitarian projects without environmental expertise. The NEAT+ was created specifically to address this need and is described in detail in section 4.

3.3 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Existing environmental assessment tools are used to assess different types of situations in humanitarian response and the tool used should be selected according to the disaster timeline and context. For example, the Rapid Environmental Assessment tool assesses the entire disaster-wide context and can be used immediately after an emergency (e.g. for the whole crisis-affected area in Cox's Bazaar during the Rohingya Crisis, or for the whole Nepal earthquake affected area). Other tools such as the NEAT+ (see section 4) are designed as a project planning tool to assess the precise geographical area where a specific project is being designed, not the whole disaster-wide context (e.g. a specific camp being planned in Cox's Bazaar, or a camp for internally displaced people, or IDPs, in Nepal).

For more guidance on the types of tools, please see environmental assessments in crisis response: https://ehaconnect.org/crisis-response-recovery/assessments/

Box 2. Examples of environmental assessments used in disaster contexts

Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment in Disasters (REA): The REA is used to identify, define and prioritize overarching environmental impacts following a rapid-onset disaster or conflict situation. It is designed to be used one to two weeks post-disaster/crisis and within the first 120 days after the crisis. The time required to complete a REA depends on the disaster context, whether a community assessment is completed and the level of pre-assessment preparation.

Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA): The PDNA is a government-led assessment exercise and contains a specific environmental component, which seeks to integrate environmental needs within early recovery programming. A PDNA should be conducted within the first one to three weeks' post-disaster. It can take a minimum of three to six weeks to complete. A PDNA should not be carried out before the humanitarian phase of the disaster has concluded.

UNHCR Framework for Responding, Assessing, Monitoring and Evaluating the environment in refugee-related operations (FRAME) toolkit: The FRAME toolkit integrates a rapid environmental assessment into the overall FRAME assessment process. The objective is to survey the environmental conditions of a location during a specific time period, and to identify areas of concern in relation to the use of natural resources and the broader social and economic impacts.

More information on all these different tools can be found here:
https://ehaconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Joint-Initiative-scoping_study_final-1.pdf
https://ehaconnect.org/assessments.

4 NEXUS ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT TOOL (NEAT+)

4.1 NEAT+

The NEAT+ was designed as a simple environmental screening tool for humanitarian operations. It is freely available online for all to use and adapt. The below diagram outlines the audience, goal and use of the NEAT+ tool.

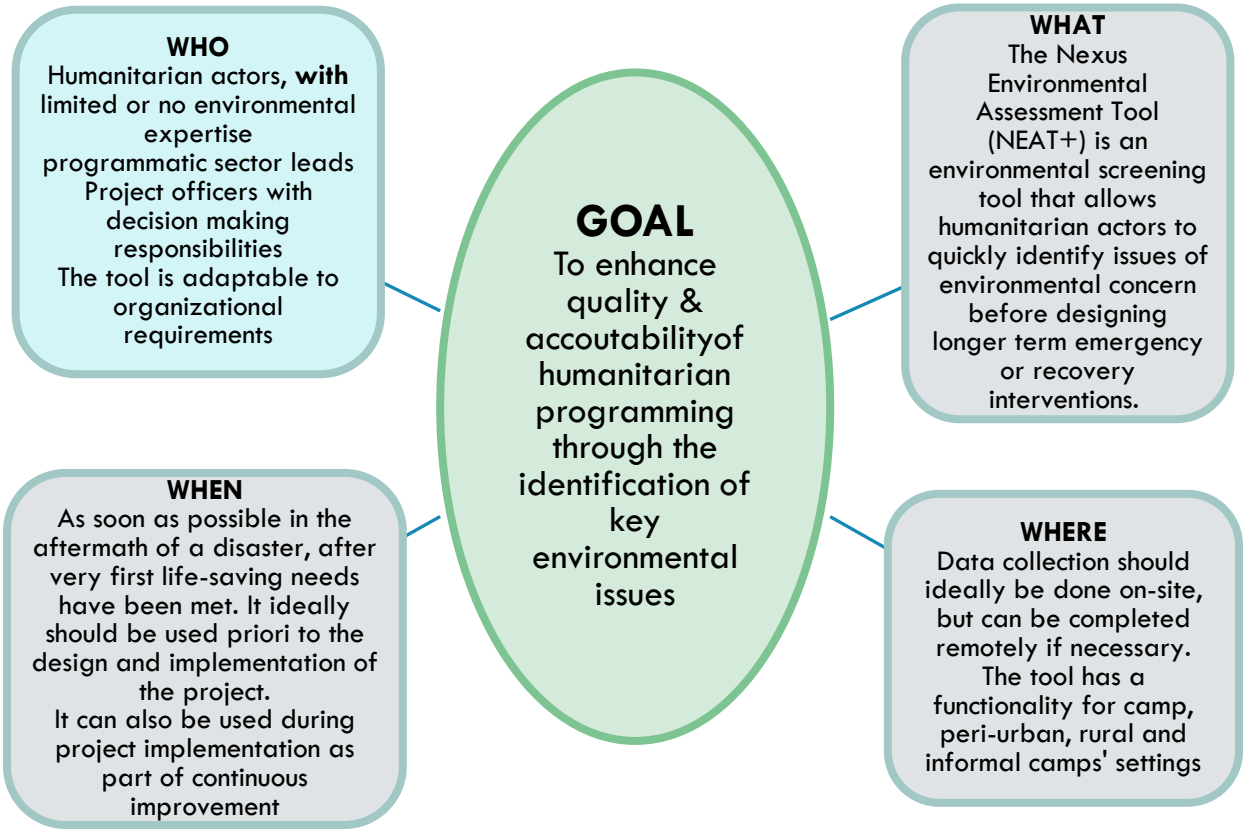


Figure 4: Outline of the audience, goal and of the NEAT+ tool

NEAT+ is based on KoboToolbox and Microsoft Excel software applications. KoboToolbox is a free and open-source field data collection tool for use in challenging environments, which allows both online (web-based) and offline (application-based) data collection. An Environmental Sensitivity Analysis is done automatically within the NEAT+ tool using pre-programmed logic in Microsoft Excel. Information can also be entered directly into Microsoft Excel, for example, for desktop analysis or data collection on paper.

NEAT+ was designed as a complete open-source toolkit that allows organizations to use the NEAT+ approach and underlying information to develop their own screening tools and

assessments. The underlying logic and questionnaires can be incorporated into organizational project management tools or quality management systems. A registry of environmental activities, indicators and targets for specific humanitarian sectors is currently under development and will complement the NEAT+ package.

To find out more about how to apply the NEAT+, please refer to the guidance toolkit which provides a thorough step-by-step guidance on how to use the NEAT+ (https://www.eecentre.org/resources/neat/) or watch our NEAT+ "how to" video: https://youtu.be/vRzjh9eQUTA

4.2 NEAT+ ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The NEAT+ follows a typical environmental assessment process, examining both the underlying environmental sensitivity of a specific setting (such as the type of vegetation or soil) as well as the expected environmental impacts associated with specific activities (e.g. type of shelter or cookstove used). The below diagram outlines the NEAT+ analysis process.

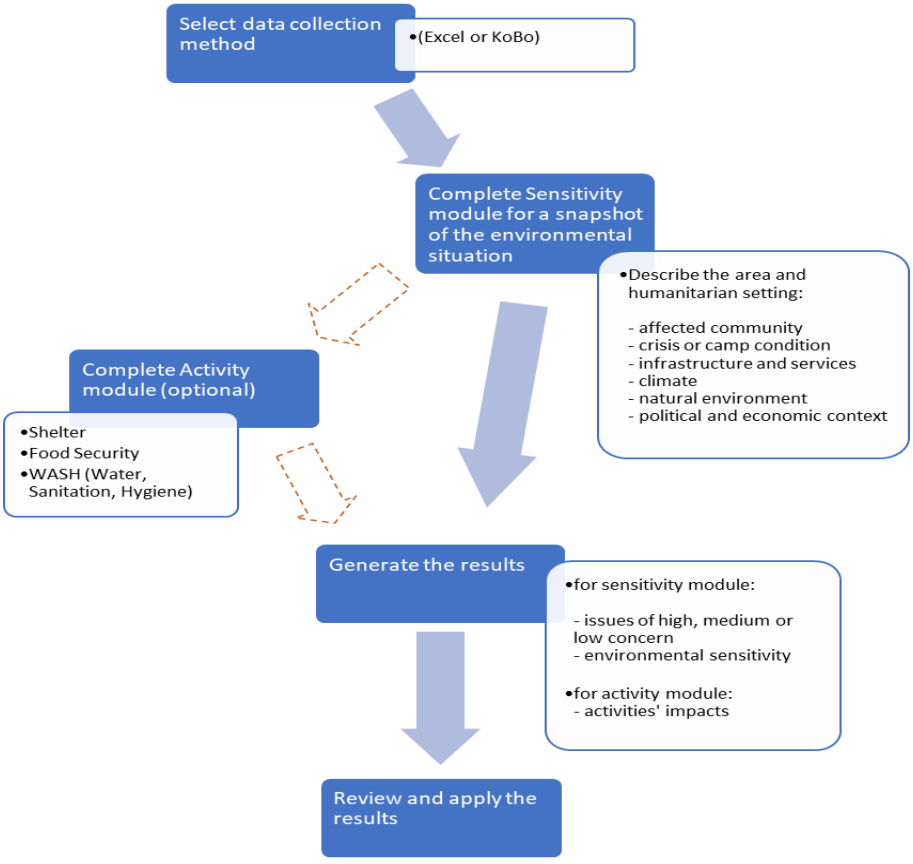


Figure 5: Process outline of the NEAT+ tool

Environmental sensitivity

The environmental sensitivity module assesses the sensitivity of the crisis-affected environment, highlighting and categorizing any underlying risks and vulnerabilities to the environment and affected communities. The module consists of a set of simple questions about the local environment and affected area such as camp conditions, profile of displaced population, infrastructure and basic services, climate, natural environment and resources, and socio-economic settings of the affected community. The user enters the requested information and data about the local environment and affected area in the NEAT+, either directly into Excel or using KoboToolbox, and a summary report indicating key environmental sensitivity issues will be automatically generated.

Data collection should ideally be done at the project site but can also be completed remotely if necessary. The module can be applied in camps/settlements, and peri-urban or rural non- or informal-camp settings. The sensitivity questionnaire should take approximately 30 minutes to complete.

Humanitarian activities

The tool contains three separate modules for the typical humanitarian activities of: (i) shelter; (ii) water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); and (iii) livelihoods and food security. These modules are optional and assess potential environmental impacts associated with project activities. Within each of these modules, the user can select the sub-module(s) most relevant to planned activities. Based on these responses, specific sub-modules of questions are displayed.

The shelter module focuses on identifying potential current and future environmental issues related to the siting of individual shelters and considers the presence of services and infrastructure for environmental management. It covers activities that fall under the remit of the Shelter Cluster coordination framework and thus includes activities such as cash-programming, non-food item distributions and energy. Activities are split into various sub-modules reflecting the thematic areas of intervention. The types of questions asked in this module refer to, for example, shelter siting, design, used materials, construction, household items and use of energy.

The WASH module focuses on ensuring sustainable and responsible use of water resources, including activities related to water, sanitation and environmental hygiene interventions. It considers the water demand, users/uses and if local water sources can support the need. It also covers issues related to minimizing potential source contamination. The questionnaire contains sub-modules asking about, for example, the design of water abstraction/extraction systems or wastewater management and drainage network design.

The food security and livelihoods (FSL) module covers food distribution activities. It is most applicable for protracted crises, but also suitable for emergency food distribution. Key environmental issues include energy requirements for cooking and waste generation. It also includes sub-modules on livestock, agriculture, and irrigation.

Every question in the activity sub-modules has an associated "tip" that provides additional information to be aware of. When the user selects a multi-choice response that may not reflect the environmental best practice, these tips are triggered. The tips provide information on potential environmental concerns associated with the design of activity and signposts the user towards best practices.

Environmental analysis

Potential environmental risks related to project activities are overlaid with the environmental sensitivity of a specific area to provide a comprehensive analysis of the potential impacts of proposed projects. The NEAT+ automatically produces a customized report showing areas of environmental risk categorized into the low, medium and high level of concern. A set of mitigation measures and suggestions for further resources and tools is also provided, allowing users to effectively prioritize areas of concern.

Environmental Sensitivity Analysis

NEAT +
Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool

Assessment of: Test	Date of Assessment: 28-Aug-19
Assessment completed by: Mandy George	Location: Bidibidi
Organisation completing assessment: JEU	Country: Uganda

Issues of High Concern	Issues of Medium Concern	Issues of Lower Concern
There is a high concentration and/or number of people. The potential environmental impact is greater.	The displaced population may be in a state of high uncertainty. There may be a lack of incentive to practice sustainable behavior.	The community may not be socially cohesive. This can prevent collective action and lead to social conflict.
The community may have low self-sufficiency. There may be a greater demand (and impact) on the local environment.	There may be a weakened or poor governance system. There may be low capacity for environmental management.	The environment has a low regenerative capacity. The effects of land and soil degradation are more significant.
The environment has high biodiversity value. Vulnerable and/or rare flora and fauna may be at risk.	The environment has fragile ecosystems. Loss of biodiversity may be an issue.	The water sources may be vulnerable to contamination. Water quality may be an issue.
The community may be close to a protected/conservation area. There may be legal/social implications.	Rates of deforestation may exceed regeneration capabilities. Deforestation may be a risk.	There is low capacity to manage solid waste. Environmental sanitation and disease transmission may be an issue.
There are areas of high cultural significance. This can threaten social cohesion.	The area may have poor slope stability. Landslides or mudslides may be a risk.	This area may be at risk of soil erosion from wind.
Indoor air pollution, caused by poor ventilation and cooking/heating, may be an issue.	Natural resources may be scarce and in high demand. This can lead to social conflict.	
There is low capacity to manage wastewater. Environmental sanitation and disease transmission may be an issue.	Natural resource availability/accessibility may be affected by changing climatic conditions.	

Figure 6: Example of environmental analysis, showing a comprehensive analysis of the potential impacts of the project

Lack of incentive to practice sustainable behaviors	
Additional Information	**Migitation Tips**
A state of locational uncertainty can foster environmentally detrimental behavior due to short time horizons and a lack of attachment to the local area. This can be further exacerbated by an absence of strong social governance systems. Livelihood opportunities and a strong protective environment can strengthen sense of place. Highlighting the benefits of appropriate environmental behaviors for their livelihoods might increase incentive to cooperate.	• Set up community grievance/feedback mechanisms • Organize sensitization campaigns to raise awareness on the benefits of adopting sustainable behavior and ensure that host community and people of concern are involved in the planning process
Weak capacity for environmental governance	
Additional Information	**Migitation Tips**
Institutions influence, both formally (e.g. governments and municipalities) and informally (e.g. tribal leaders or community committees), the interactions between people and the environment. Behavior is bound by socially acceptable norms and oversight, with consequences for inappropriate behavior. The shock of crises can weaken existing institutional governance systems.	• Engage with informal/formal institutions to understand capacity gaps and requirements • Increase environmental awareness of the informal governance systems within the camp • Where possible, integrate capacity building of local environmental authority management into response and recovery plans. If local governance structures exist – e.g. community development committees - support their development and implementation of environmental protection activities

Figure 7: Example of a NEAT+ sensitivity summary report and mitigation tips

These mitigation measures will depend on the identified environmental impacts (e.g. deforestation, water contamination, production of waste) and could include, for example, the provision of alternative energy sources, the implementation of WASH activities or the establishment of waste collection and recycling. Environmental authorities and local NGOs can often provide advice on specific mitigation measures, where sometimes more detailed assessments have to be carried out to design appropriate interventions.

Shower design

Environmental Environmental Concerns	Environmental Sensitivity	Potential Activity Impact	Potential Environmental
Key environmental concerns			
The water resources may have a low regenerative capacity. Water scarcity may be an issue.	High	High	**High**
Other environmental concerns			
The environment has a low regenerative capacity. The effects of land and soil degradation are more significant.	High	Medium	**High**
There is low capacity to manage wastewater. Environmental sanitation and disease transmission may be an issue	Low	Medium	**Low**
Migitation Tips			
• On-site wastewater reuse can reduce water consumption as well as the amount of wastewater generated. This also reduces risks of vector transmission through water stagnation. Household systems can be designed to collect water from showers and basins, and repurpose this for toilets or agricultural activities. • Construction materials can consume non-renewable or low-regenerative capacity natural resources. Material lifecycle, from extraction to disposal, should be considered - the initial design should promote future recycling, reusing or repurposing. Materials selection could be diversified to minimize dependencies on a single source.			
Additional Resources			
Sustainable Sanitation and Water Management (SSWM) Platform			Link
The SSWM Toolbox provides best practice guidance to humanitarian practioners in planning, implementing and sustaining water, sanitation and hygiene promotion interventions in different humanitarian settings.			
Greywater Management in Low and Middle-Income Countries			Link
This document provides design and implementation strategies for technologically appopriate solutions for greywater management in low- and middle-income countries.			
Additional Details/Comments			

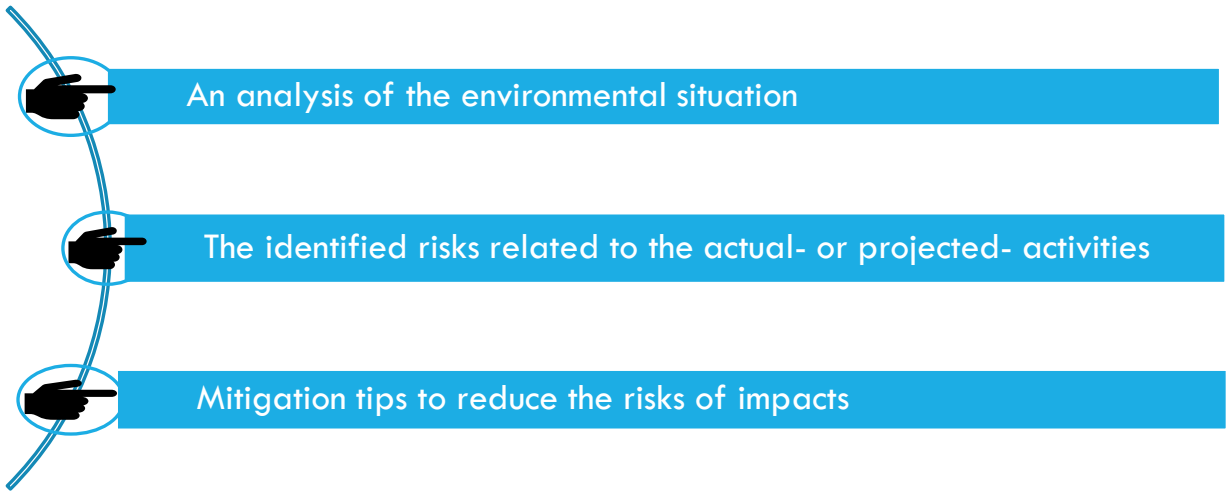
Figure 8: Example of NEAT+ activity module results with mitigation tips

For examples of tools for sustainable energy in refugee settings, see the Preparation Guide for a Sustainable Energy Project in Refugee Settings. The guide provides an overview of different tools and approaches to assess energy needs and capacity, energy market systems and development, and political and economic structures in refugee settings: https://energypedia.info/wiki/Preparation_Guide_for_a_Sustainable_Energy_Project_in_Refugee_Settings

For more cluster-specific information see the EHA Connect guidance for mitigating environmental impacts of specific clusters: https://ehaconnect.org/clusters/

A sample of mitigation measures are included in the NEAT+: https://www.eecentre.org/resources/neat/

To summarize, with the NEAT+, humanitarian workers have access to:



4.3 WHAT THE NEAT+ IS AND IS NOT

The NEAT+ is a multi-purpose tool that can be used in several different contexts. It is more comprehensive than a generic environmental screening tool, since it considers both environmental sensitivities as well as the impacts of proposed project activities and prioritizes environmental risks. It is, however, less comprehensive than a full EIA conducted by a trained expert and not intended to replace it. Nevertheless, the tool can help humanitarian workers determine whether a more comprehensive environmental assessment should be carried out and what types of experts should be involved.

It is primarily intended as a first assessment or screening tool which helps humanitarians focus on subsequent assessments and mitigation measures. The NEAT+ is not designed to help organizations meet specific legislative or institutional requirements, but it does play a role in

organizational environmental management. Additionally, it does not assess the disaster-wide context or differentiate between impacts caused by the crisis or humanitarian response. Where this is required, other tools should be used (see box 2).

4.4 How the NEAT + fits into the Humanitarian Programme Cycle

The NEAT+ would typically be applied during the design phase of a humanitarian intervention, when situation and needs assessments/analysis are conducted. The NEAT+ assessments would usually be carried out once life-saving needs have been met and before longer-term interventions (such as recovery projects) are planned. It could, however, also be used within the monitoring and evaluation phase of the intervention. Figure 6 illustrates where the NEAT+ fits into the Humanitarian Programme Cycle (HPC).

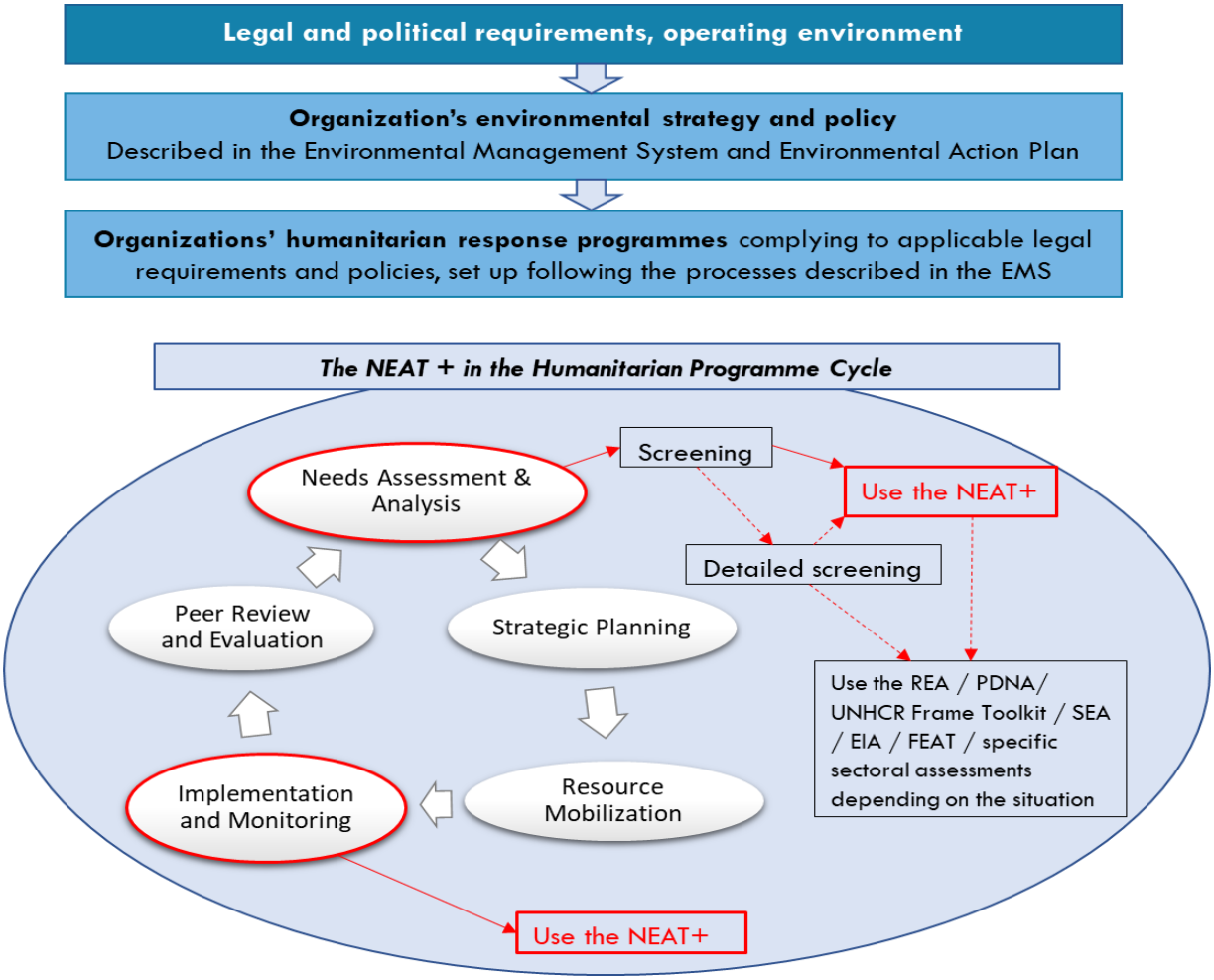


Figure 9: Entry points for NEAT+ in the HPC

The below diagram details the NEAT+ within a sudden-onset disaster timeline. It should be noted that the exact timeline will depend on the type of emergency and how long it takes to provide initial life-saving aid, and that timeframes are likely to change based on circumstances.

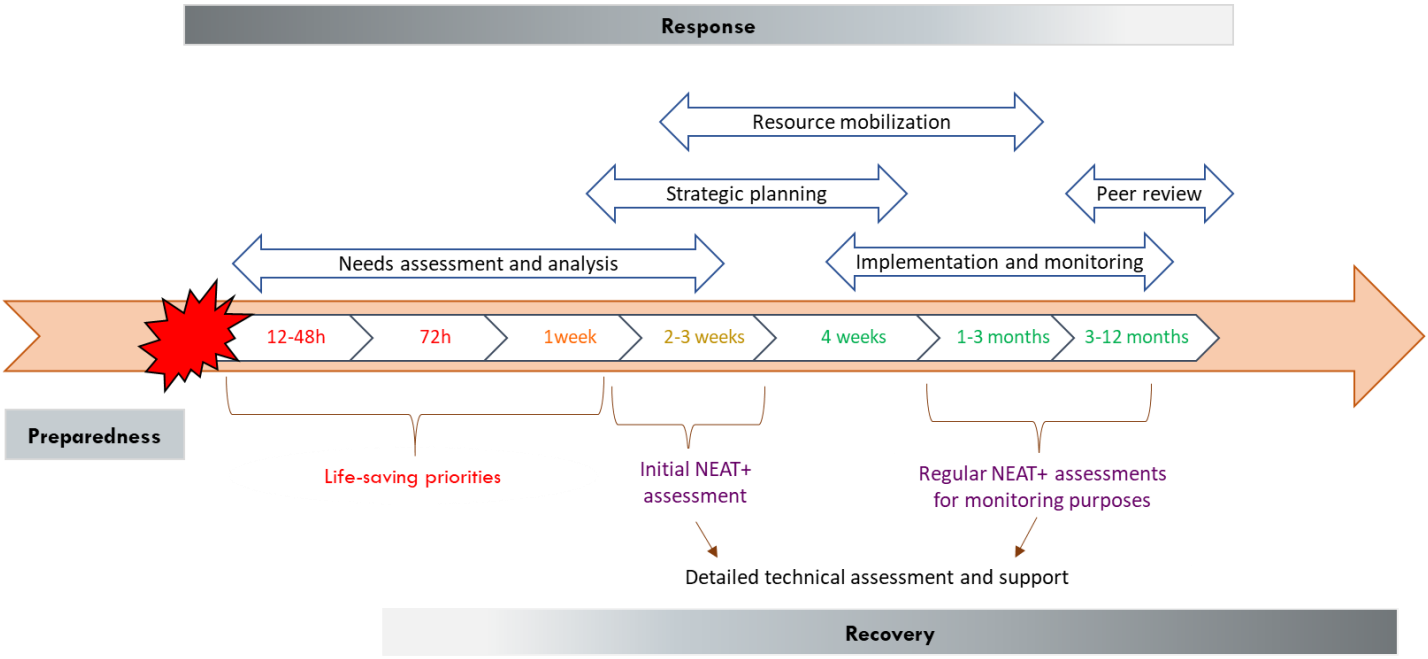


Figure 10: NEAT+ in a sudden-onset disaster timeline.

4.5 APPLYING THE NEAT+ RESULTS FOR VARIOUS NEEDS

The NEAT+ results can be used for several different purposes. Most importantly, they should inform and influence project and programme design. The results provide information on the type of environmental impacts that are likely to occur and therefore guide further assessments and requests for technical expertise. They provide humanitarians with mitigation measures which can be included as environmental activities into project plans and proposals. Furthermore, the results act as an internal compliance mechanism, showing that an environmental risk assessment has been carried out. The results can also be used to compare baselines across various operations. Finally, the NEAT+ can inform an organization's public outreach and advocacy by highlighting issues which need to be addressed for a more sustainable response. Figure 8 outlines some of the NEAT+ uses.

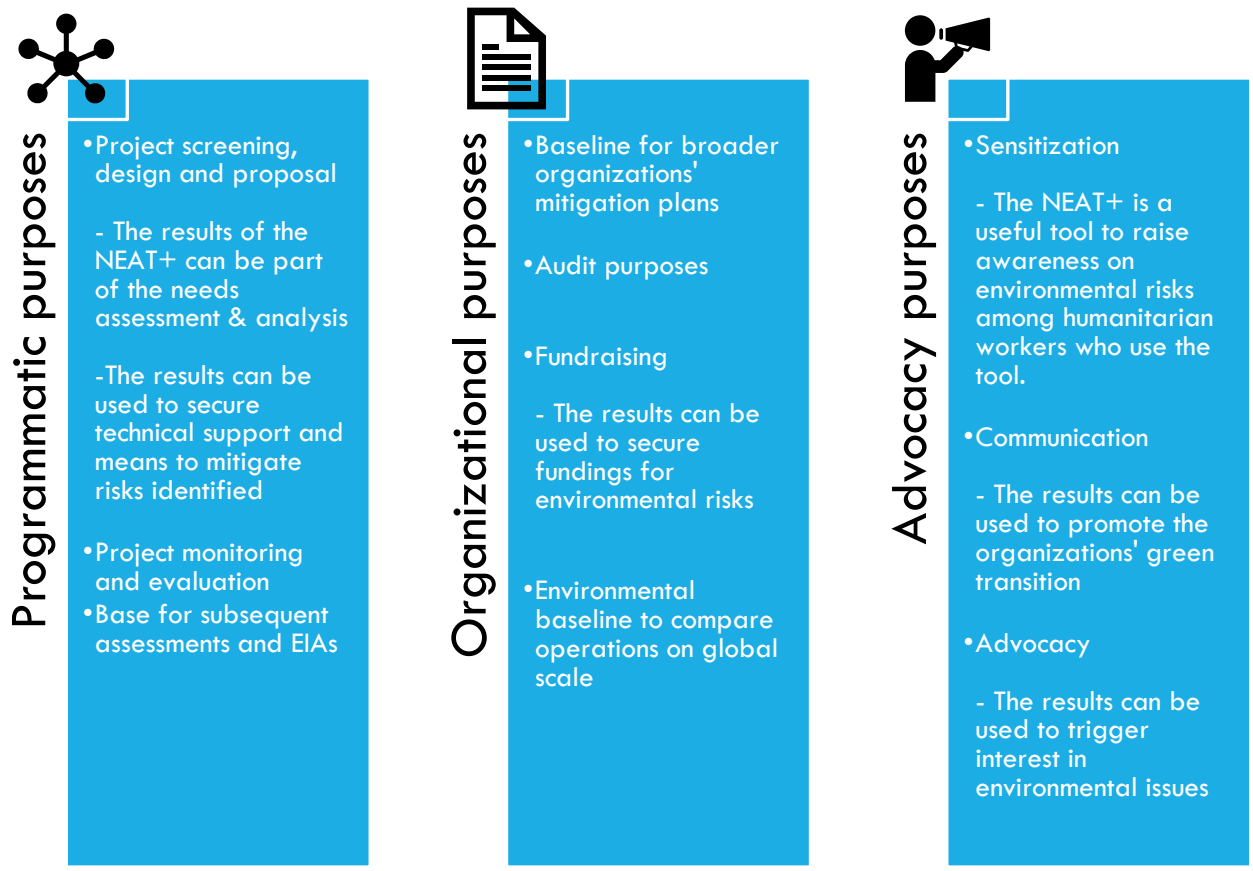


Figure 4: The various uses of the NEAT+

Example: How the NEAT+ has been used to date by humanitarian organizations

*The NEAT+ has been used for **programmatic planning purposes**:*

- As a site planning tool for upscaling a refugee transit center in Colombia. The NEAT+ field test provided tailored recommendations for mitigating environmental risks at the transit center. Key areas to focus on for the most impact include the establishment of a grey water reuse system to combat the issue of acute water shortages and switching to green energy solutions. For the expansion, improved drainage systems and nature-based solutions were recommended to reduce disaster risk from flooding and soil erosion.

- As a planning tool for new shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and food security and livelihood (FSL) activities in existing and new refugee settlements. The NEAT+ pilot in a refugee settlement in Uganda identified several key environmental concerns related to planned new humanitarian activities such as water and wastewater management. Improved WASH activities were recommended, for example, through the construction of hybrid motorized water supply systems for safe water supply and the training of residents to fix the water pumps themselves.

- <u>As a tool to revise and improve existing shelter and WASH activities in a refugee settlement.</u> In the same refugee settlement in Uganda, the NEAT+ pilot identified a set of potential response and mitigation activities to improve existing shelter and WASH activities. For example, a recycling program was proposed to address identified lack of institutional waste management and to improve the reduction of waste streams in the refugee settlement, creating new livelihood activities for refugees and hosts.

Image 1: Application of the NEAT+ with host community in Uganda, September 2019 © Mandy George.

For the full report and recommendations of the NEAT+ environmental scoping mission in Uganda, September 2019, please see here: https://www.eecentre.org/2019/11/11/bidibidi-refugee-settlement-environmental-scoping-report-and-recommendations/.

*NEAT+ is also used for the following **organizational purposes**:*

- The NEAT+ sensitivity module is being applied by UNHCR in refugee and displacement operations worldwide to establish an environmental baseline for operations. UNEP is supporting these efforts through the development of a dashboard whereby key environmental sensitivities can be compared across regions and timescales. The NEAT+ dashboard function will be available to all NEAT+ users in 2020 and available in the NEAT+ packaging on www.eecentre.org/neat.

- The NEAT+ is being adapted by the Lebanese Red Cross for use by the organisation. This will include adapting the mitigation tips and adding specific country context references.

While the NEAT+ was originally developed as a tool principally for rural displacement contexts, it has also been applied in non-displacement contexts by several organizations and yielded useful results. In these cases, the NEAT+ language may have to be slightly adapted by the person conducting the assessments.

The NEAT+ tool has also been tested in peri-urban contexts and the tool works well if there are minimal municipal services. As the questions are designed for rural contexts, it does not work as well for pure urban contexts. An urban adaptation of the NEAT+ is currently under consideration and interested organizations are requested to contact the JEU.

4.6 NEAT+ SUPPORT MECHANISMS

The NEAT+ should not be considered a standalone environmental assessment tool or management approach for humanitarian interventions and programming. As illustrated in previous sections, it forms part of an organization's overall environmental management system. As with other assessments, NEAT+ does not end once the assessment is over. The findings must be translated into further assessments if needed, or directly into mitigation measures as part of the planning and implementation process. In this respect, it is vital that the adequate financial and technical capacities are available within an organization to support the use of the NEAT+. This capacity would typically sit with other environmental management and compliance mechanisms, perhaps at headquarters or regional level.

It is also strongly recommended to link the NEAT+ assessments to geospatial support (see separate guidance note on geospatial data available in the NEAT+ zip file on the Environmental Emergencies Centre: https://www.eecentre.org/resources/neat/).

For additional information (see also section 5), queries or feedback on this reference document, please contact the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit at ochaunep@un.org.

5 ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Environment and Humanitarian Action (EHA) Connect, a comprehensive online repository of tools and guidance spanning the humanitarian-environment nexus: https://ehaconnect.org

Environment and Humanitarian Action Network: https://www.eecentre.org/partners/the-eha-network/

Green Recovery Connect - environmental helpdesk: http://envirodm.org/helpdesk\

Sphere thematic sheet on Environment: https://spherestandards.org/thematic-sheet-environment/

Environment in Humanitarian Action: What Donors Need to Know: https://www.eecentre.org/resources/environment-in-humanitarian-action-what-donors-need-to-know/

6 REFERENCES

Asian Development Bank (2012) Environment Safeguards - a good practice sourcebook. ADB.

Eccleston, C.H. (2011) Environmental Impact Assessment - A Guide to Best Professional Practices. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.

Eccleston, C.H. & March, F. (2017) Global Environmental Policy: Concept, Principles, and Practice. First Edition. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (2015) Environmental Safeguards. Available at: https://bit.ly/2Ug7WPP

German cooperation, GIZ & World Resources Institute (2015) Environmental and Social Safeguards at the Green Climate Fund. Available at: https://bit.ly/2WoFfmD

Hansen, P.E. & Jorgensen, S.E. (eds.) (1991) Introduction to environmental management. London: Elsevier.

Nel, J.G. & Kotze, L. (2009) 'Environmental Management: An Introduction' in Strydom, H. & King, N. (eds.) *Environmental Management in South Africa*. Second Edition. Johannesburg: Juta & Co., pp. 1-33.

United Nations (2001). Terms of Reference of the Environment Management Group. New York.

USAID (2005) USAID environmental procedures training manual for USAID Environmental Officers and USAID Mission Partners. Africa Edition. Boston.

7 ANNEXES

7.1 ANNEX 1. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS) ON THE NEAT+

Can the NEAT+ be adapted?

The NEAT+ can be adapted according to the organization's specific needs. The Excel documents can be modified by a qualified member of staff to meet the organization's requirements. To discover how to do so, please refer to the guidance note 05 on Adapting the NEAT+, available here: https://www.eecentre.org/resources/neat/

How does the NEAT+ link to national governments/requirements/capacities?

The NEAT+ was designed for programmatic purposes, is free of charge, public and can be used by various actors. It can be used to enhance national capacities when used by government actors; or be used to implement national plans and projects, though it does not fulfil national legal requirements.

The NEAT+ feeds on local data to deliver a small-scale, precise analysis. Therefore, it is important to engage local communities in the NEAT+ analysis in a two-way process: gathering data from them and feeding the information back to them. Communities have a right to information about the situation and humanitarian activities implemented and the NEAT+ results provide valuable information for communities on the potential risks they face. The NEAT+ can also provide organizations with the opportunity to engage in dialogue with the affected community. Additionally, collaborating with local communities allows humanitarians workers to collect accurate data. This community engagement process is key to an accountable and accurate humanitarian response.

How is the NEAT+ used at headquarters vs. field levels?

The NEAT+ can be used in several contexts. Although it was designed for on-site field project assessments, headquarters can use the NEAT+ for two main purposes:

a. Data collection tool: the NEAT+ can provide a snapshot of environmental vulnerabilities in all operations.
b. Raising awareness of environmental issues: the results of the NEAT+ can be used to trigger interest in environmental issues, for advocacy and for fundraising purposes.

At field level, the NEAT+ can be used:

a. As a project tool in the field for an initial rapid screening/assessment (particularly for non-environmentalists).

b. Data captured by NEAT+ can then be sent from the field to headquarters, in order to support mitigation and/or prioritization of environmental support.
c. To help technical field professionals advocate to managers for changes in programmatic approach.

What capacities and support are needed to use the NEAT+?

Environmental expertise is not necessary to use the NEAT+. It is, however, useful to know the functionalities of KoBoToolbox and to read the NEAT+ Guidance Notes or watch the introductory step-by-step video on how to use the NEAT+ (available here: https://www.eecentre.org/resources/neat/).

At headquarters level, environmental support is needed to help humanitarian workers make use of the NEAT+ results and to support the incorporation of the mitigation measures provided by the NEAT+ into programmes and projects.

On request, the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit can also provide an introductory webinar on the application of the NEAT+ tool, please contact ochaunep@un.org.

How was the NEAT+ designed? What methodology does it use?

The tool has been designed on Microsoft Excel to utilize Excel's analytical functionality for the automated analysis. Data entry can be done directly on Excel. However, the user interface on Excel for inputting form data has limited functionality. As such, the KoBoToolbox software has been used as an alternative form of data collection. KoBo is increasingly being used in the humanitarian sector as a data collection tool and can be used as a webform or on a phone or tablet. Data collected through KoBo is stored on a server, thus allowing any results or data to be accessed remotely. However, using KoBo requires the setup of a project on the online KoBoToolbox platform (https://kobo.humanitarianresponse.info) and the downloading and copying of data from the KoBo server onto the NEAT+ Excel file. For a demo of how this works see: https://youtu.be/vRzjh9eQUTA

The analysis process relies on a quantitative calculation based on weightings and scores applied to different responses. The individual weightings and scores have been assigned by the NEAT+ lead designer with inputs from technical experts and validated by numerous reviewers and rigorous testing. Reviewers were asked to test the tool using scenarios they were familiar with. The outputs of the automated results were then cross-checked against the expected results of the environmental experts, and weightings or scores were adjusted if necessary.

To know more on how the NEAT+ works and its methodology, please refer to the guidance notes, available here: https://www.eecentre.org/resources/neat/

Is the NEAT+ a legal requirement?

The NEAT+ is not a legal requirement. It can, however, be used to fulfil governmental targets and legal requirements regarding environmental and climate policies. In addition, the NEAT+ is a tool that can be used to reach the Nexus Humanitarian/Development objective of the Grand Bargain

(https://agendaforhumanity.org/initiatives/3861).

Engagement 4 of the Nexus states that NGOs commit to: *Perform joint multi-hazard risk and vulnerability analysis, and multi-year planning where feasible and relevant, with national, regional and local coordination in order to achieve a shared vision for outcomes. Such a shared vision for outcomes will be developed on the basis of shared risk analysis between humanitarian, development, stabilization and peacebuilding communities*.

As an assessment tool dedicated to analyzing environmental risks and vulnerabilities, the NEAT+ is highly relevant to achieve engagement 4 of the New Way of Working promoted by the international community and OCHA.

7.2 ANNEX 2. NEAT+ AND THE UN MODEL APPROACH

The UN Model Approach consists of a set of guiding principles and thematic areas (Figure 9).

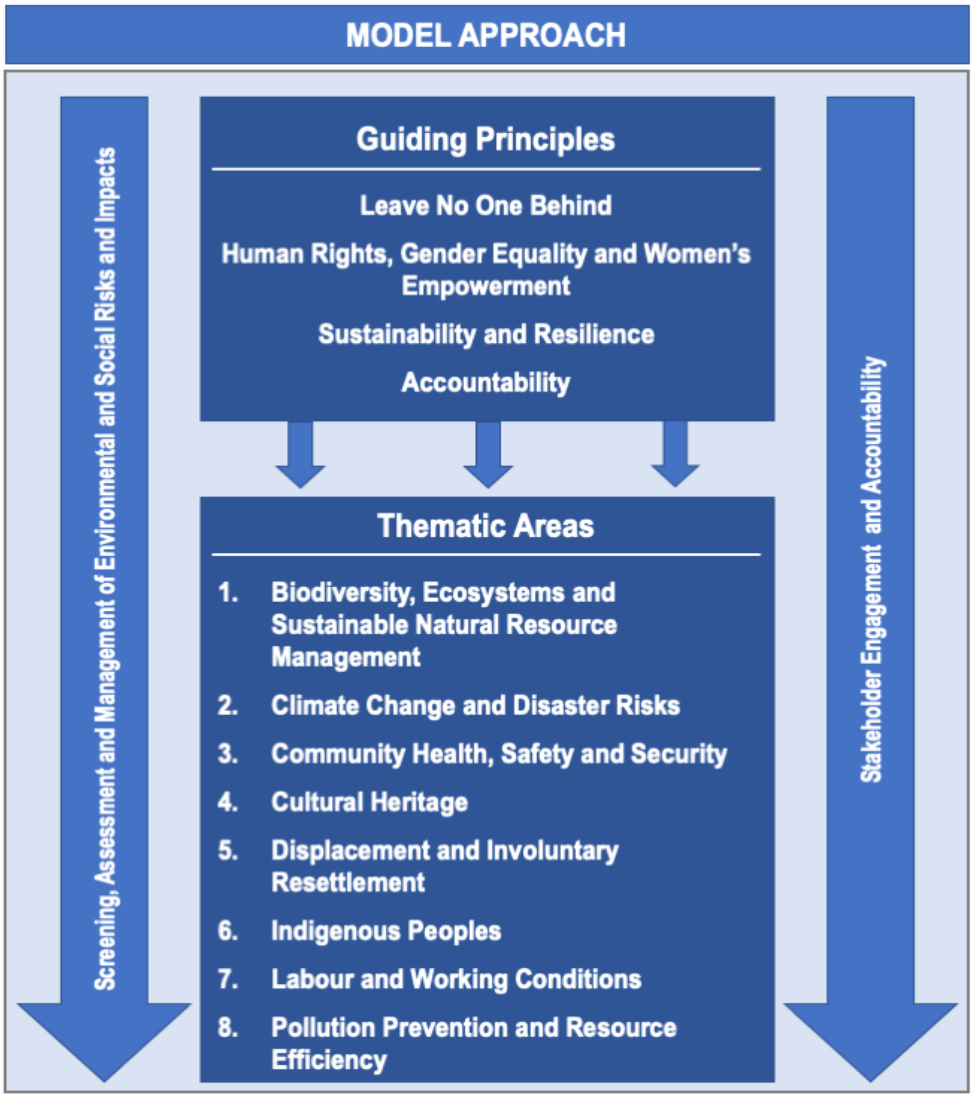


Figure 5: Entry points for NEAT+ in the HPC.

The following table outlines the links between the various thematic areas of the UN Model Approach and the NEAT+.

Environmental/social standards	How NEAT+ addresses this thematic area
Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	The NEAT+ identifies environmental risks in the Environmental Sensitivity Module related to biodiversity and ecosystems as two of the primary categories.
Climate change and disaster risks	The NEAT+ includes climate change impacts in its analysis, including the impact on availability or access to water and the importance of ecosystem preservation.
Community health, safety and security	Links between environment and human health are covered in NEAT+. This includes indoor air pollution from cooking, poor solid waste management practices, unmanaged wastewater and poor sanitation infrastructure.
Cultural Heritage	In the sensitivity analysis the NEAT+ includes the existence of cultural heritage sites.
Displacement and Involuntary resettlement	The NEAT+ is mostly used in migration and displacement contexts.
Indigenous people	The NEAT+ does not specifically focus on indigenous people, but includes different kinds of populations in its analysis, including host communities in displacement contexts.
Labor and working conditions	Not addressed.
Pollution prevention and resource efficiency	The NEAT+ covers a broad range of issues related to pollution prevention and resource efficiency in the activity modules. It analyses and provides mitigation tips on waste, pollution, hazardous materials, water use and conservation and resource efficiency.