

Joint Environment Unit



The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) respond as one UN to the environmental dimensions of emergencies.

For over 30 years, the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit (JEU) has successfully coupled UNEP's technical expertise with OCHA's humanitarian coordination mandate. The partnership assists countries affected by disasters and crises and works to enhance the sustainability of humanitarian action.

The JEU amplifies outreach by operating through a network model. The unit liaises closely with UN agencies, programmes and affiliated organizations, as well as regional organizations, Member States, private sector, civil society and academia. Through its partners, the JEU ensures an interoperable and integrated response to a wide spectrum of technical issues.

The JEU addresses:

Environmental emergencies

Whether in response to natural hazards, technological accidents or a combination of them, the JEU can mobilize technical expertise at short notice for deployment to affected countries and provide remote support.

Sustainability of humanitarian action

The JEU coordinates with partners to address environmental sustainability in humanitarian action, increase collaboration between environmental and humanitarian actors, mitigate environmental risks and thereby facilitate adaptation to climate change in humanitarian projects and programmes.



What services does the JEU offer?

Working in the interface between environmental management and humanitarian action, the JEU offers a wide range of services to holistically address the links between environment and emergencies.



Training of experts to enhance readiness for deployment on UN environmental response missions



Rapid mobilization of environmental experts within 48 hours of an emergency, at no cost to affected countries



Strengthening interoperability between environmental, technical and humanitarian actors



Remote environmental assessment and analysis in sudden-onset or protracted crises



Convening actors for joint action and advocacy, i.e. through the Environment and Humanitarian Action Network



Customized tools and guidance, for example the Flash Environmental Assessment Tool, the Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool and the Disaster Waste Management Guidelines



Sharing knowledge and online trainings through tailor-made platforms like the Environmental Emergencies Centre (eecentre.org) and EHA Connect (ehaconnect.org)



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