



Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit

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OCHA UNEP

Vision

Our vision is for countries to be better prepared,
more resilient and able to effectively respond to
environmental emergencies.



OCHA UNEP

Environmental Emergencies

“An environmental emergency is defined as a sudden onset disaster or accident resulting from natural, technological or human-induced factors, or a combination of these, that cause or threaten to cause severe environmental damage as well as harm to human health and/or livelihoods.”

UNEP Governing Council, 13 November 2002



Priorities



PREPAREDNESS



RESPONSE



ENVIRONMENT IN
HUMANITARIAN ACTION



Response

In the first hours after an environmental emergency, the JEU can mobilise experts and equipment to the affected area

Immediate Deployment of technical expertise

Rapid environmental assessments

Onsite sampling and analysis



Current response mission

Floods in the Balkans 2014

Serbia: Estimated 30,000 evacuated and displaced people



Humanitarian needs:

- Clean water
- Food / agricultural support (loss of crops and livestock)

Environmental issues:

- Flood management
- Water and sanitation, public health issues
- Flooded industrial sites are being assessed for immediate environmental risks to the population

Flood management and environmental expertise deployed with the UNDAC team.



Preparedness

Contingency planning, training, and raising awareness of potential impacts of environmental emergencies

Risk and Hazard Assessments

Environmental Emergencies
Centre (EEC)

Preparedness trainings



Environmental Emergency Risk Index (EERI)

A strategic tool for prioritizing work on preparedness and environment in humanitarian action

Builds upon existing humanitarian, development and environmental performance indices

Focus on technological hazards and environmental vulnerability

Identify countries most at risk



Arsenic Waste Management Assessment Mission

1 - 8 May 2014 in Georgia

Objective: Provide recommendations for safe management, transport, storage and onsite disposal & containment of arsenic waste; assess amount of waste and extent of contamination

Team: national authorities, OSCE, UNDP, UNEP/OCHA



Cows walking through the arsenic waste site



Arsenic Waste Management Assessment Mission

Key findings

- Soils (to 0.5m), waste drums, ore to be placed in on-site secure sarcophagus
- Design and implement engineered diversion of surface waters
- Undertake sampling & reduce arsenic by mixing clean and contaminated soils
- Technical guidance for remediation and clean-up; budgeting for clean-up



Corroded drum containing arsenic waste

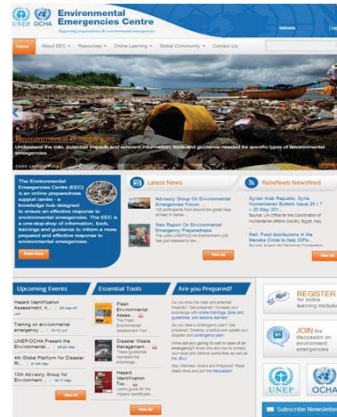


Environmental Emergencies Centre

a one-stop-shop of information, tools, trainings and guidance to inform a more prepared and effective response to environmental emergencies.

www.eecentre.org

- resources
- discussion forum
- events/calendar system
- online learning



Environmental Emergencies Centre

Online Learning – 5 different modules available for free.
Courses in English, French, Russian, Arabic and soon in Spanish

A screenshot of the Environmental Emergencies Centre online learning interface. The page is titled 'MAIN MENU' and features four large images representing different modules: 'SCENARIO ONE', 'SCENARIO TWO', 'PREPAREDNESS SECTION', and 'FINAL ASSESSMENT'. Below the images, there is a brief description of the course: 'This eLearning course guides you through two disaster waste scenarios; both should be completed to gain a comprehensive understanding of how to manage disaster waste. The preparedness section explains how to create a Disaster Waste Contingency Plan and the final assessment, if successfully completed, awards a certificate from the course. Click on the section you would like to explore.' The interface also includes a search bar, a list of course titles, and a navigation bar at the bottom with a play button and a progress indicator.



Training

Introductory and advanced **trainings** on a variety of environmental emergency preparedness and response topics

Face-to-face trainings

EEC eLearning modules



eLearning modules available at www.eecentre.org



Strengthening Environmental Emergency Preparedness Capacities in OSCE Region

Emphasis on technological accidents triggered by a natural hazard

Expected Results:

- Key Governmental partners' knowledge and skills strengthened for effective preparedness and response environmental emergencies.

- Improved collaboration between disaster managers and environmental experts for better management of priority environmental emergency risks



OSCE+
Switzerland 2014



Beyond Response: Environmental Emergency Preparedness

13 - 15 May 2014 Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Proposed follow up

- Regional seminar on mining tailings in collaboration with Central Asian regional environment center
- Organization of study tour on eco-based DRR from Afghanistan to Kyrgyzstan

Next Regional Workshop:

10-13 June in Georgia (with Armenia and Azerbaijan)

	Human	Long-term	Livelihoods
Tailings Хвосты - хранения	★	★	
Storage Agricultural Chemical Plants Склады		★	★
Industrial facilities Промышленные объекты	★	★	
Transport of dangerous goods Транспорт опасных грузов	★		★
Other Прочие	★		



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www.unocha.org/unep

