

Global Webinar Series

Environment and Emergencies in the face of COVID-19

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Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has only been the latest, very powerful wake-up call on the links between environment and emergencies. Disasters, crises and the environment are intrinsically interconnected. Therefore, a key element of emergency response is the rapid identification and mitigation of environmental risks. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) have been partners for the past 25 years, supporting countries in strengthening their capacities to respond to the environmental dimensions of disasters and complex emergencies.

Join us for a series of webinars on readiness for and response to the environmental dimensions of emergencies, with a special focus on managing these challenges in the face of COVID-19.

Programme



Environment and emergencies:
What you need to know
in a pandemic context

1 29 July

Crisis waste management:
COVID-19 and beyond

3 23 Sep

Enhancing the sustainability
of humanitarian action

5 25 Nov

14:00
15:30
CET

2 19 Aug

Environmental coordination
in emergencies: localisation
and lockdown challenges

4 14 Oct

Preparing for and
responding to chemical risks:
re-starting industry

6 16 Dec

What have we learnt
from past emergencies
and future outlook?

Global Webinar Series: Environment and Emergencies in the face of COVID-19

25 November
14:00 - 15:30 CET

Enhancing the sustainability of humanitarian action

5

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Agenda

- Moderator: Gregory Rulifson
- Opening remarks: Victoria Saiz-Omenaca
- Humanitarian action and sustainability: Why? Insights from India: Mihir Bhatt
- Managing WFP's environmental footprint – Stories from the field: Emanuela Cattaneo
- Climate crisis versus data revolution: A battle of the giants: Hussein Sulieman



Moderator



Gregory Rulifson

Sustainability Advisor in the Supply Chain Management Division of BHA (USAID)

Gregory is currently Sustainability Advisor in the Supply Chain Management Division of the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance at USAID where he facilitates the mainstreaming of improved environmental performance. He holds a PhD in Civil Engineering and Certificate in Engineering with Developing Communities from the University of Colorado-Boulder.

Opening Remarks



Victoria Saiz-Omenaca

Head of Office, OCHA Indonesia

Victoria is currently Head of the OCHA Indonesia Office where she oversees OCHA's engagement with the Government of Indonesia on disaster management and broader humanitarian issues and supports the work of humanitarian agencies resident in Indonesia. Victoria also manages OCHA's relationship with the ASEAN, and oversees the policy, capacity building and strategic engagement with ASEAN Member States. She holds a master's degree in Sociology.

Speakers



Mihir Bhatt

Director, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute

Mihir is Director at the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute. He is a Senior Fellow of the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative and advises the Climate Development Knowledge Network on climate-compatible development in India, with a focus on urban resilience, green finance, and renewable energy. Mihir holds a master's degree in city planning for developing areas from the USA and a master's degree in urban and regional planning from India.



Emanuela Cattaneo

Regional Environmental Adviser, WFP Regional Bureau for East and Central Africa

Emanuela is Regional Environmental Adviser at the World Food Programme (WFP), based in Nairobi, where she coordinates and manages environmental projects to reduce WFP's footprint on the environment. She holds a joint Master of Science in Sustainable Development from the Netherlands and Germany.



Hussein Sulieman

UNEP National Consultant and Professor, University of Ghadarif, Sudan

Hussein is Professor and Director of the Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographical Information Systems at the University of Ghadarif, Sudan. He is also a visiting fellow at Tufts University, USA. His main research interests are in the domains of geo-spatial analysis of environmental changes. He holds a PhD in environmental remote sensing from Germany.