UN environment programme   OCHA   JOINT ENVIRONMENT UNIT

Responding to Emergencies, Protecting the Environment

Environment in Humanitarian Action: Global Training Manual Template

Introduction to Environment in Humanitarian Action

This module was developed as part of the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit's project titled Localisation of Environment in Humanitarian Action, and is part of a template of a training manual consisting of:
1 Introductory Module
11 Technical Modules
1 ToT Module

The template is an open source and available for any organisation or individual to use or refer to in the development and delivery of their Environment in Humanitarian Action training.
What distinguishes this training manual is its comprehensive and flexible framework. We encourage users to adjust the content to meet with the specific needs within their specific Contexts. We kindly ask that credit is given when using or adapting this resource.

MODULE OVERVIEW

This module provides the foundational understanding necessary for integrating environmental considerations into humanitarian action. It emphasizes the relationship between environmental factors and humanitarian efforts, outlining key principles and objectives that guide environmentally sustainable humanitarian interventions. The module also highlights the role of the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit (JEU) through the resources and tools it offers, showcasing its unique position as a collaborative entity providing specialized environmental expertise in emergencies. Through a combination of presentations, case studies, and interactive exercises, participants will explore best practices and tools that support the integration of environmental sustainability in humanitarian contexts. As a foundational module, it provides an overall picture of the environmental considerations in humanitarian action, setting the stage for subsequent modules that will delve into specific environmental issues of concern.

Learning outcomes

By the end of this module, participants will:

1. Understand foundational concepts of environmental considerations in humanitarian action.
2. Integrate key humanitarian standards and principles into environmental considerations.
3. Articulate the importance of environmental sustainability in humanitarian contexts.
4. Identify and access resources and tools offered by the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit to enhance environmental integration.
5. Apply insights from case studies and best practices to improve the environmental sustainability of humanitarian operations.

Estimated delivery time

Total time: 220 minutes

CONTENT OUTLINE

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

Step	Activity	Method	Duration	Materials Needed	Expected Outcomes
1	**Introduce the module.** Provide an overview of the module, its objectives, and the schedule.	Presentation, plenary discussion	5 mins	Slides, handouts	Understand the module's objectives and structure
2	**Explain the relationship between environment and humanitarian action.** Overview of positive and negative interactions between environment and humanitarian response. Discuss how environmental factors impact humanitarian action and vice versa.	Lecture, plenary discussion	20 mins	Slides, handouts	Understand the relationship between environment and humanitarian action
3	**Conduct an interactive exercise:** Identifying Environmental Interactions. Participants discuss and identify interactions between environment and humanitarian action.	Group work, discussion	40 mins	Flipchart, markers	Recognize different types of environmental interactions
4	**Explain EHA principles and objectives.** Introduce the foundational concepts of environmental considerations in humanitarian action. Define and explain core principles of EHA.	Lecture, Q&A	15 mins	Slides, handouts	Understand key principles of EHA
5	**Facilitate an interactive exercise:** Applying EHA Principles. Participants apply EHA principles to hypothetical scenarios.	Pair work, presentation	20 mins	Flipchart, markers	Apply EHA principles to scenarios
6	**Explain key humanitarian standards, guidance and principles.** Integrate key humanitarian standards including 'Do No Harm', Accountability to Affected People (AAP), The Sphere Standards, Climate and Environment Charter, and IASC guidance.	Lecture, demonstration	20 mins	Slides, handouts	Learn key humanitarian standards
7	**Conduct an interactive exercise:** Integrating Standards. Participants identify how to apply humanitarian standards to ensure environmentally responsible actions.	Group work, discussion	35 mins	Flipchart, markers	Apply humanitarian standards to scenarios
8	**Explain the importance of integrating environmental considerations.** Discuss the benefits of incorporating environmental considerations into humanitarian planning and operations.	Lecture, Q&A	10 mins	Slides, handouts	Understand the importance of environmental considerations

9	**Present EHA under the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit.** Explain the JEU's role, key services offered, and how to access JEU support during emergencies. Discuss specific tools and resources like the EHA Connect Digital Tool and Environmental Emergencies Learning Centre.	Lecture, Q&A	20 mins	Slides, handouts	Understand the role and resources of the JEU in supporting environmental considerations in humanitarian action.
10	**Present case studies and best practices.** Presentation of case studies that illustrate the significance of integrating humanitarian standards with environmental considerations. Discuss lessons learned and best practices.	Presentation, group discussion	25 mins	Slides, handouts, case study materials	Apply best practices from case studies
11	**Summarize and conclude.** Review key points, reinforce main takeaways, and address any questions.	Presentation, Q&A	10 mins	Slides	Reinforce key learnings and address questions

Facilitator notes

Section 1: Relationship between environment and humanitarian action

Key points

- Emphasize the interconnectedness of environmental and humanitarian factors.
- Highlight the ethical and practical reasons for integrating environmental considerations.
- Acknowledge the connection between environmental sustainability and climate change, while noting that this will be explored in greater depth in Module 5.
- Use real-world examples to illustrate concepts.

Background information

Humanitarian actions and environmental factors have a bidirectional relationship, where each can significantly impact the other. While this section focuses on foundational interactions, it is essential to recognize that climate change intensifies many environmental challenges and vice versa. This connection will be explored more comprehensively in Module 5, which covers climate change, environment, and disaster risk reduction (DRR) in humanitarian action.

Content development: Relationship between environment and humanitarian action

Interaction Type	Potential impacts	Example
Humanitarian action impact on environment	Refugee camps: Large influxes of displaced people can lead to deforestation, water pollution, and waste management issues.	Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, the influx of Rohingya refugees has caused significant environmental strain.
	Conflict situations: Military activities can lead to habitat destruction and pollution	Ukraine conflict where industrial sites have been damaged, causing environmental contamination.
	Disasters: Response to disasters like earthquakes and floods often involves setting up temporary shelters and infrastructure, which can lead to environmental degradation if not managed sustainably	Emergency shelter construction in Haiti post-earthquake, which led to deforestation, soil erosion and general land degradation.
	Resource extraction: In crisis situations, unsustainable resource extraction for immediate needs can lead to long-term environmental damage.	Somalia, where charcoal production for fuel and trade has led to widespread deforestation.
	Resources contamination: Emergency interventions, if not properly planned, can lead to natural resources contamination and long-term environmental impacts, such as impact of water and sanitation interventions on water resources.	As observed in water contamination in Libya following floods in 2023.
Environmental impact on humanitarian action	Disasters: Environmental events can create immediate humanitarian crises, necessitating emergency response and long-term recovery efforts.	Natural hazards such as hurricanes, earthquakes, floods
	Climate change: Rising temperatures and changing weather patterns can exacerbate food and water insecurity, leading to displacement and increased need for humanitarian assistance. Note: The detailed exploration of climate change and its impact on humanitarian action is covered in Module 5.	Climate change in the Sahel region in Africa, posing threats of conflict and other humanitarian crises.
	Resource scarcity: Scarcity of natural resources like water and arable land can lead to conflicts and displacement, requiring humanitarian interventions.	The drought in the Horn of Africa drove millions from their homes and exacerbated conflicts.
	Environmental degradation: Degradation of ecosystems can reduce the resilience of communities to disasters, increasing the vulnerability and need for humanitarian assistance.	In the Philippines, deforestation has increased the impact of typhoons on communities.
	Pollution: contaminated resources can cause health crises and displace communities, requiring both immediate and long-term humanitarian responses.	Contaminated resources from oil spills or industrial accidents

Section 2: EHA principles and objectives

Key points

- Introduce the foundational concepts of environmental considerations in humanitarian action.
- Define and explain the core principles of EHA.
- Discuss the objectives of integrating environmental considerations into humanitarian action.

Background information

The principles of EHA are grounded on the need to minimize negative environmental impacts while promoting sustainability and resilience. These principles guide the planning, implementation, and evaluation of humanitarian interventions to ensure they are environmentally responsible. The principles outlined here are based on general environmental sustainability principles as well as international environmental law principles that have been deemed to be relevant to humanitarian action.

Content development: Core principles of EHA

Principle	Definition	Importance	Real-World Application
Prevention principle	Implementing measures to anticipate and avoid environmental damage before it happens.	Central to planning and environmental legislation, aiming to minimize potential damage. This approach prevents environmental degradation before it occurs.	Implementing a policy in emergency shelter construction that prioritizes the use of locally sourced, sustainable materials to prevent deforestation and reduce the carbon footprint of relief operations.
Precautionary principle	Taking preventive measures to avoid environmental harm when there is uncertainty about potential impacts.	Avoids actions in humanitarian situations that could cause significant or irreversible damage to the environment.	Avoiding the use of potentially harmful chemicals in emergency water purification processes until their safety is confirmed.
Rectification at source	Ensuring environmental damage or pollution is addressed at the location where it occurs.	Promotes immediate and localized action to mitigate environmental harm.	Designing water distribution systems in refugee camps that minimize water wastage at the source by using leak-proof piping and water-saving technologies, directly addressing potential environmental issues where they begin.
Polluter pays	Holding the person who causes pollution accountable for the costs of the damage and any required remedies.	Acts as a deterrent and directs accountability for harm, ensuring responsible environmental management.	Holding contractors accountable for the improper disposal of hazardous materials in a refugee camp, requiring them to fund the cleanup and rehabilitation of contaminated water sources. This ensures that those responsible for environmental damage bear the cost of remediation.
Cumulative impacts	Considering the combined effects of multiple activities on the environment.	Addresses the broader and long-term impacts on ecosystems and human health.	Evaluating the cumulative impact of multiple relief operations on local water sources in a crisis region.

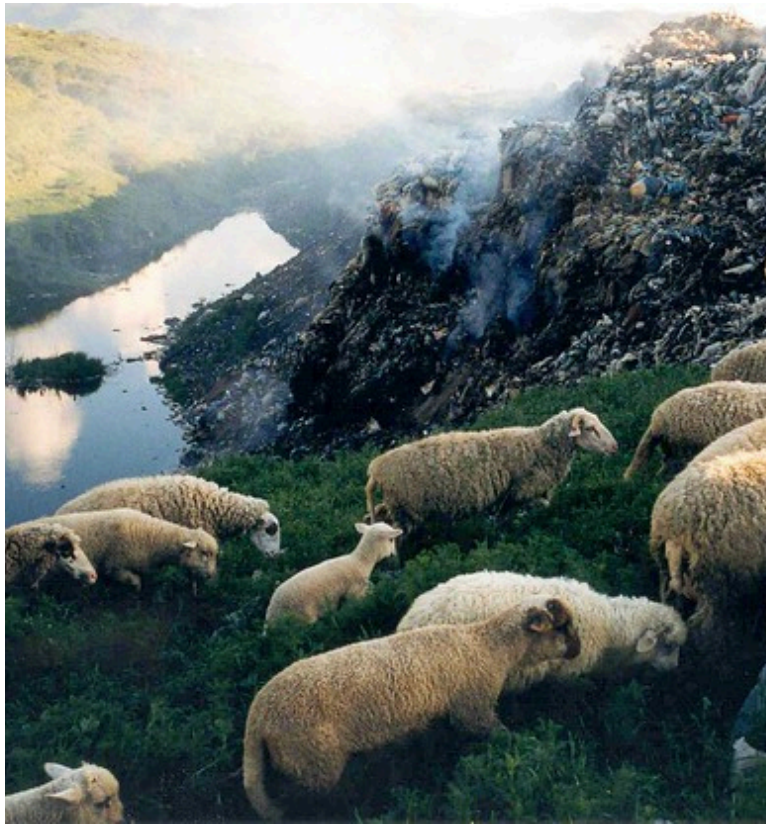|			
Sustainability and intergenerational equity	Promoting actions that ensure current needs are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, ensuring fairness across generations.	Protects natural resources and ecosystems, ensuring long-term benefits for affected communities.	Promoting sustainable livelihood projects that does not drain natural resources, such as sustainable farming, or sustainable fishing.
Public participation and collaboration	Involving the public in decision-making processes.	Enhances transparency, accountability, and community engagement in environmental management.	Including community input in the design and implementation of sustainable livelihoods programs in post-disaster recovery efforts.
Integration principle	Integrating environmental protection into all other policy areas to promote sustainable development.	Ensures comprehensive and cohesive environmental management across sectors.	Incorporating environmental considerations into all phases of humanitarian planning and response operations.

Objectives of EHA

Objective	Description	Example
Minimize environmental impact	Focus on reducing the immediate and direct negative effects of humanitarian interventions on the environment.	Using biodegradable materials for temporary shelters to reduce plastic waste and minimize environmental footprint.
Promote sustainable practices	Encourage the integration of long-term environmentally sustainable methods in all phases of humanitarian action.	Implementing water-saving technologies in camps to ensure the sustainability of resources and reduce long-term impacts.
Integrate environmental considerations	Ensure that environmental factors are a core part of the design, planning, and execution of humanitarian projects.	Before starting construction projects in disaster-affected areas, an organization should conduct either an environmental screening or a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), depending on the scale and potential impact of the project. For smaller projects, environmental screening can quickly identify any significant risks that may require further investigation. For larger or more complex projects, a full EIA is necessary to thoroughly assess potential environmental impacts and develop appropriate mitigation strategies.
Enhance community resilience	Strengthen the ability of communities to cope with and recover from environmental shocks and stresses.	Training local communities in sustainable farming practices that improve soil health and crop yields.
Ensure accountability and participation	Engage affected populations in decision-making processes to ensure that their needs and perspectives are considered.	Involving and consult local communities on the design and management of water and sanitation systems.

Section 3: Humanitarian standards, guidance and principles

Key points

- Explain the importance of integrating humanitarian standards into environmental considerations.
- Detail key international standards.
- Discuss how these standards can be applied in humanitarian operations to ensure environmentally responsible actions.

Background information

Humanitarian standards and principles are fundamental guidelines that help ensure humanitarian actions are ethical, effective, and respectful of the rights and dignity of affected populations. Integrating these standards into environmental considerations ensures that humanitarian interventions are not only effective in addressing immediate needs but also sustainable and responsible towards the environment.

Content development: Key humanitarian standards, guidance and principles

Standard/ Principle	Description	Importance	Real-world application
'Do No Harm'	Ensuring that humanitarian interventions do not cause additional harm to the environment or communities.	Prevents unintended negative consequences that could exacerbate suffering or damage the environment.	Avoiding the use of harmful chemicals in agricultural support programs to prevent soil and water contamination.
Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS)	The CHS outlines nine commitments to ensure that humanitarian organizations provide support that respects the rights and dignity of affected people. Specific commitments focus on environmental considerations, such as Commitment 4, which ensures that support does not cause harm to the environment, and Commitment 9, which emphasizes responsible resource management to minimize environmental impact.	Helps humanitarian organizations implement practices that reduce environmental impacts and promote sustainability in their operations.	Conducting environmental impact assessments and integrating sustainable resource management practices during humanitarian response operations.

The Sphere Standards	The Sphere Standards provide a set of common principles and universal minimum standards for humanitarian response, which include environmental considerations. They emphasize environmental sustainability in shelter and settlement planning, solid waste management, and energy supply systems, advocating for the integration of environmental impact assessments and the use of sustainable materials. The specific guidelines on Nature based Solutions for resilience-building in humanitarian contexts provides practical guidance for using the Sphere standards when implementing NbS to address societal challenges in humanitarian action	Help humanitarian organizations minimize their environmental footprint, ensuring that their actions do not exacerbate environmental degradation and are sustainable in the long-term.	Implementing sustainable water supply and sanitation practices in refugee camps to reduce environmental degradation. For instance, reusing debris for construction and promoting energy-efficient designs in shelters helps mitigate negative environmental impacts. Additionally, implementing safe waste disposal methods in camps to prevent contamination of water sources, ensuring the health and safety of the population and preserving local ecosystems.In protracted crises, continuous analysis of the operational environment helps adapt programs to reduce negative environmental effects.
Accountability to Affected People/Population (AAP)	Ensuring that affected populations are involved in decisions that affect them, promoting transparency and accountability.	Enhances effectiveness and relevance of interventions by involving communities in planning and implementation.	Involving local communities in the design and management of waste management systems to ensure cultural appropriateness.
Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations	A commitment by humanitarian organizations to systematically address climate and environmental crises in their operations.The Charter emphasizes collaboration, leadership of local actors, and evidence-based solutions. Specific commitments include: 1. Step up response to growing humanitarian needs and help people adapt to the impacts of the climate and environmental crises. 2. Maximize environmental sustainability of work and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. 3. Embrace the leadership of local actors and communities. 4. Increase capacity to understand climate and environmental risks and develop evidence-based solutions. 5. Work collaboratively across the humanitarian sector and beyond to strengthen climate and environmental action. 6. Use influence to mobilize urgent and ambitious climate action and environmental protection. 7. Develop targets and measure progress as commitments are implemented.	A framework that guides humanitarian organizations in systematically addressing climate and environmental crises, assess the immediate and longer-term environmental impact of all work, including programmes, procurement, logistics and premises and reducing the environmental footprint, and enhancing community resilience to climate-related risks.	Adopting renewable energy sources and promoting energy efficiency in humanitarian operations. For example, using solar energy in operations to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and improving water access through sustainable means, taking into consideration Nature based Solutions in programming.

IASC Guidance	Guidelines developed by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to integrate environmental considerations into humanitarian response. The IASC guidance emphasizes the importance of environmental responsibility in humanitarian action, outlining how organizations can reduce their environmental footprint and enhance sustainability. It adapts key elements from environmental management standards, such as ISO 14001, to the humanitarian context, providing practical measures for senior management and project planners to integrate environmental considerations at both organizational and programmatic levels.	Helps humanitarian organizations implement effective environmental management practices to reduce their environmental impact and promote sustainability in their operations.	Conducting environmental impact assessments during the planning phase of humanitarian projects.
Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities (IASC Guidelines)	Ensuring that environmental interventions in humanitarian action are inclusive and accessible to all affected populations, including persons with disabilities. This principle is emphasized in the IASC Guidelines on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action.	Enhances the accessibility and inclusivity of interventions, ensuring that no vulnerable group is excluded from the benefits of humanitarian efforts.	Designing green infrastructure in refugee camps that is both environmentally sustainable and accessible. For example, constructing eco-friendly, accessible pathways using permeable materials that reduce runoff and improve water absorption, or developing accessible waste management systems that use sustainable methods like composting.

Section 4: Importance of integrating environmental considerations

Key points

- Discuss the benefits of integrating environmental considerations into humanitarian action.
- Highlight the ethical, practical, and strategic reasons for doing so.
- Provide real-world examples to illustrate the importance and benefits.

Background information

Integrating environmental considerations into humanitarian action is crucial for ensuring that humanitarian interventions are not only effective in addressing immediate needs but also sustainable and responsible in the long term. This approach helps protect natural resources, reduce environmental degradation, and enhance community resilience. It also aligns humanitarian actions with broader goals of environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

Content development: Importance of integrating environmental considerations

Ethical reasons

Ethical considerations involve the moral responsibility to protect the environment for current and future generations.

Importance
Ensuring that humanitarian actions do not harm the environment aligns with the ethical principle of 'Do No Harm'.

Real-World Application:
Implementing reforestation projects in post-disaster recovery to restore ecosystems and provide livelihoods.

Practical reasons

Practical considerations involve the tangible benefits of integrating environmental sustainability into humanitarian actions.

Importance
Sustainable practices can lead to more efficient use of resources, cost savings, and improved effectiveness.

Real-World Application:
Using solar panels in refugee camps to reduce reliance on costly and polluting diesel generators.

Strategic reasons

Strategic considerations involve aligning humanitarian actions with broader goals of environmental sustainability and resilience.

Importance
Integrating environmental considerations enhances community resilience, reduces long-term risks, and contributes to sustainable development.

Real-World Application:
Building flood-resistant infrastructure in disaster-prone areas to protect communities and reduce future humanitarian needs.

Section 5: EHA Under UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit

KEY POINTS

- The UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit (JEU) serves as a unique partnership between UNEP and OCHA, designed to address the environmental dimensions of emergencies through rapid mobilization, coordination, and provision of technical expertise.
- Key services of the JEU include conducting rapid environmental assessments, providing direct technical support, building capacity, and offering specialized tools to mitigate environmental risks in humanitarian contexts.
- JEU's impact is broad, having mobilized over 300 missions in almost 100 countries, effectively responding to natural hazards, technological accidents, and complex crises by providing on-ground and remote environmental support.

Background information

- *Overview of the JEU:*
  - Founded in 1994 and housed within OCHA's Emergency Services Branch in Geneva, the JEU is a dedicated unit focused on integrating environmental considerations into humanitarian response.
  - The JEU provides impartial and independent advice while coordinating international efforts and mobilizing partners to support countries affected by disasters.
  - The unit works with organizations dedicated to long-term rehabilitation to ensure a seamless transition from emergency response to recovery.

- *Role and mission:*
  - JEU's mission is to reduce the environmental impact of humanitarian actions, enhance the sustainability of humanitarian projects, and support climate adaptation in crisis settings.
  - It offers technical support, manages the EHA Connect digital tool, EHA Network and the Environmental Emergencies Centre, enhancing collaboration between environmental and humanitarian actors.

- *Areas of work and impact:*
  - Environmental Emergencies: The JEU responds to natural hazards, technological accidents, or combined crises by rapidly deploying technical expertise within 48 hours and providing remote support.
  - Sustainability of Humanitarian Action: The JEU coordinates with partners to adapt humanitarian operations to climate change, integrating environmental considerations into disaster risk reduction, response, and recovery.

- *JEU's approach:*
  - JEU pairs UNEP's technical expertise with the OCHA-coordinated humanitarian network to provide customized and practical solutions for environmental emergencies.
  - The unit's approach emphasizes the importance of strengthening interoperability, convening relevant actors, and sharing knowledge through training and resources.

Content development: UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit

Table 1: Key services offered by the JEU

Service	Description	Example Applications
Rapid environmental assessments	Conducts assessments in emergencies to identify environmental risks and advise on mitigation measures.	Assessing pollution risks in industrial accident responses.
Technical support and guidance	Provides direct technical support for field operations, including waste management, pollution control, and sustainable resource use.	Supporting waste management in refugee camps to minimize environmental degradation.
Capacity building and training	Offers resources and training to enhance environmental knowledge and skills of humanitarian actors.	Conducting workshops on environmental risk reduction in disaster response operations.
Strengthening interoperability	Enhances collaboration between environmental and humanitarian actors to streamline environmental management in crises.	Coordinating joint actions in multi-agency humanitarian responses.
Knowledge sharing	Manages platforms like the Environmental Emergencies Centre and EHA Connect for accessing guidance, case studies, and best practices.	Providing access to training modules on managing disaster waste.
Customized tools and resources	Develops and provides access to specific tools for emergency response, such as the Flash Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT) and guidance on disaster waste management.	Using NEAT+ for environmental screening in humanitarian projects.

Table 2: Tools and resources provided by the JEU

Tool/Resource	Description	Usage in Humanitarian Contexts
Flash Environmental Assessment Tool (FEAT)	A rapid assessment tool designed to identify environmental risks during the early stages of emergencies.	Used to quickly assess environmental impacts during initial disaster response operations.
Environmental Emergencies Guidelines	Key guidelines offering practical advice on managing environmental emergencies in humanitarian contexts.	Used by field teams to guide the environmental aspects of emergency response operations.
EHA Connect Digital Tool	An online platform providing resources and connections for integrating environmental considerations in humanitarian action.	Used to access best practices, case studies, and practical guidance on environmental integration.
Environmental Emergencies Learning Centre (EEC)	A training platform offering courses and resources to build environmental competencies in humanitarian actors.	Used for self-paced learning and professional development in environmental emergency management.
VEHA (Virtual Environmental and Humanitarian Adviser)	An online resource offering sector, and sub-sector specific recommendations and links for relevant guidelines and support	Used by practitioners and professionals working in response, planning and management teams.
NEAT+ (Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool)	A screening tool that supports environmental risk assessment and decision-making in humanitarian projects.	Helps humanitarian actors evaluate the environmental impacts of planned activities, and provides project and site specific mitigation measures.
EECentre Resource Library	Access to a comprehensive library of case studies, best practices, and guidance notes relevant to humanitarian settings.	Provides information on past missions, case studies and best practices, training materials, communication materials, tools, guidelines, and policy documents.

Table 3: Accessing JEU support

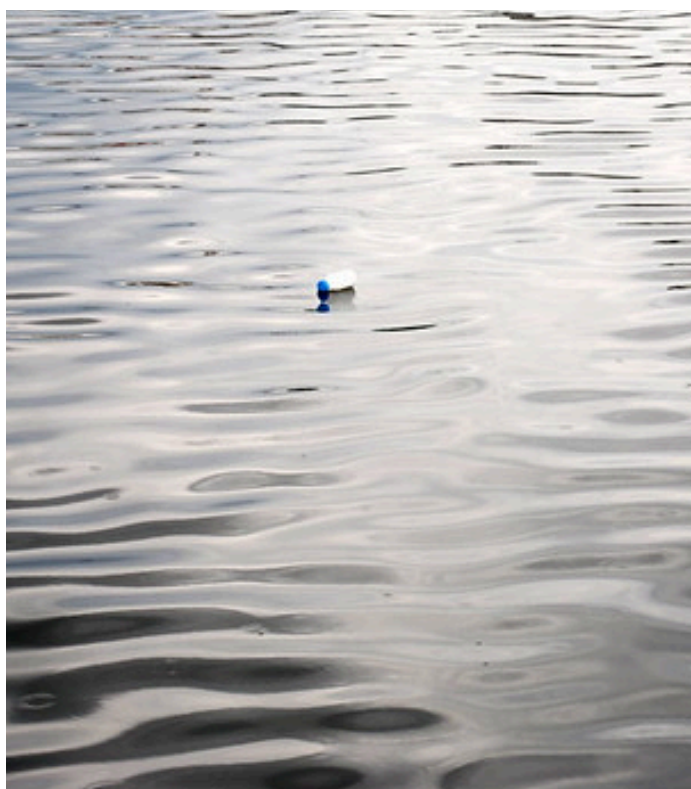| Access Method	Description	Guidance for Humanitarian Actors
Contact points	Direct contact through JEU focal points for rapid mobilization of expertise during emergencies.	Contact details are available on the EEC platform.
Online platforms	Tools like EHA Connect and the Environmental Emergencies Centre provide access to resources and training.	Humanitarian actors can register and access resources anytime to enhance their preparedness.
Requesting support	Practical steps for requesting assistance, including forms and guidelines available online.	Follow the online procedure for submitting requests for environmental expertise.
Field deployments	On-ground technical support and guidance are available upon request for immediate response needs.	Engage JEU experts for on-site assessments and technical advice during crises.

Section 6: Case studies and best practices

Key points

- Present case studies that illustrate the importance of integrating environmental considerations into humanitarian action.
- Highlight lessons learned and best practices from these case studies.
- Provide real-world examples to reinforce the concepts discussed in previous sections.

Background information

Case studies offer concrete examples of the challenges and solutions related to integrating environmental considerations into humanitarian contexts. By examining these real-world instances, participants can gain insights into effective strategies and practices that have been successfully implemented in various humanitarian settings.

Content development: Relevant case studies

Case Study	Context	Environmental Challenge	Humanitarian Response	Lessons Learned
Ukraine conflict	Conflict causing environmental damage due to military activities, including destruction of industrial sites.	Pollution from damaged industrial sites, habitat destruction, increased pressure on natural resources.	Environmental impact assessments, remediation measures, sustainable resource management practices.	Early environmental impact assessments and collaboration between humanitarian and environmental organizations.
Gaza conflict	Waste management issues and pollution in a densely populated conflict area.	Accumulation of waste, water contamination, air pollution due to conflict and blockades.	Waste segregation and recycling programs, alternative waste treatment technologies, community engagement.	Community involvement in waste management and innovative waste treatment solutions.
Environmental challenges in Somalia	Severe drought, deforestation, and land degradation exacerbated by conflict and displacement.	Water scarcity, soil erosion, loss of biodiversity, unsustainable agricultural practices.	Rainwater harvesting, sustainable agricultural practices, reforestation efforts.	Integrating environmental sustainability into humanitarian interventions to enhance resilience and reduce risks.
Cox's Bazar Rohingya refugee crisis	Influx of refugees causing significant strain on local environment.	Deforestation for firewood, overuse of water resources, inadequate waste management.	Reforestation programs, sustainable water management, community-based conservation initiatives.	Sustainable resource management in refugee settings and involvement of refugees and host communities in conservation.
Resource conflicts in Lake Chad	Resource conflicts due to shrinking lake, affecting millions in surrounding countries.	Water scarcity, competition over natural resources, displacement caused by environmental degradation.	Resource-sharing agreements, sustainable livelihoods programs, conflict resolution mechanisms.	Addressing environmental drivers of conflict and promoting collaborative resource management for peaceful coexistence.

ACTIVITIES

1.Case study analysis

- *Activity:* Participants will analyze a provided case study (e.g., the environmental impact of humanitarian operations in Cox's Bazar) and discuss the lessons learned and best practices that can be applied to their own contexts.
- *Discussion points:* What were the key environmental challenges? How did the humanitarian response address these challenges? What lessons can be learned from this case study?

2. Interactive exercise: identifying environmental interactions

- *Activity:* Participants will work in small groups to identify positive and negative interactions between environment and humanitarian action in different scenarios.
- *Scenario example:* Various humanitarian contexts will be provided where participants will need to discuss environmental impacts, mitigation strategies, and response integration.
- *Outcome:* Present findings to the larger group, identifying key interactions and mitigation strategies.

3.Interactive exercise: Understanding EHA Principles

- *Activity:* Participants will work in pairs to discuss and define each EHA principle in the context of their work.
- *Outcome:* Develop a shared understanding of the principles and how they apply to various humanitarian contexts.

4.Group discussion: applying humanitarian standards

- *Activity:* Facilitate a group discussion on how to apply key humanitarian standards and principles such as 'Do No Harm' and Sphere Standards to ensure environmentally responsible actions.
- *Discussion points:* What standards are most relevant in your work? How do these standards support environmental sustainability?
- *Outcome:* Create a list of standards with examples of how they can be applied in real-world scenarios.

5. Interactive exercise: applying EHA objectives

- *Activity:* Participants will engage in a facilitated discussion on how to achieve the objectives of EHA in humanitarian projects, sharing their experiences and insights.
- *Discussion points:* How can these objectives be implemented effectively in different contexts?
- *Outcome:* Develop actionable strategies for applying EHA objectives in humanitarian action.

6.JEU interactive session

- *Activity:* Participants will learn about the JEU's key services, such as rapid environmental assessments and capacity building, and work in groups to explore how to access JEU support during emergencies.
- *Scenario example:* Participants will be given a hypothetical emergency scenario and tasked with identifying which JEU services and resources (e.g., EHA Connect Digital Tool) would be most beneficial and how to access them.
- *Outcome:* Understand the practical application of JEU resources and support in real-world emergencies, enhancing their ability to integrate environmental considerations effectively.

RESOURCES

Materials

- *Slides:* these should be designed to cover each step in the facilitator's guide, providing visual support for key concepts, examples, and case studies mentioned in the module.
- *Handouts:* handouts should include summaries of the main topics, such as environmental principles, case studies, and key points from the lecture.
- *Flipcharts and markers:* these are essential for the interactive exercises, where participants will map out environmental interactions, apply principles, and discuss standards.
- *Case study materials:* case studies that reflect real-world applications of the concepts discussed should be provided.
- *JEU factsheets:* detailed information on JEU's services, tools, and resources to support humanitarian actors in integrating environmental considerations.

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Delivery method

- **Lectures:** present key concepts and principles of environmental integration in humanitarian action, using case studies and examples for illustration.
- **Group work:** engage participants in collaborative activities, encouraging them to share experiences and knowledge while working through hypothetical scenarios.
- **Q&A sessions:** facilitate open discussions to engage participants and clarify concepts, particularly on applying humanitarian standards and accessing environmental support.
- **Pair work:** pair work is used for activities like applying EHA principles to scenarios, where participants can work in smaller teams to deepen their understanding before presenting their findings.
- **Interactive exercises:** conduct hands-on exercises such as identifying environmental interactions and applying EHA principles to real-world scenarios.
- **Presentations and plenary discussions:** use presentations to introduce topics and facilitate plenary discussions that allow participants to engage collectively with the module content.
- **Case study analysis:** analyze specific case studies to explore practical applications of environmental standards and lessons learned from past humanitarian interventions.

Assessment tools

- **Quizzes:** short quizzes at the end of the module to assess understanding of key concepts.
- **Reflection questions:** open-ended questions for participants to reflect on what they have learned and how they can apply it to their work.
- **Case study analysis:** participants should analyze case studies and answer guided questions that assess their ability to apply the principles discussed in the module.
- **Interactive simulations:** use simulations to assess participants' decision-making skills in applying environmental standards and tools in hypothetical emergency situations.
- **Group presentations:** assess participants' ability to develop and present environmental integration strategies for a specific humanitarian scenario.

Reflection and review questions

1. Relationship between environment and humanitarian action

- How do environmental factors impact humanitarian actions, and vice versa?
- Can you provide an example of a positive and a negative interaction between environmental factors and humanitarian responses?

2. EHA principles and objectives

- What are the core principles of Environmental Humanitarian Action (EHA)?
- Why is it important to integrate these principles into humanitarian programs?

3. Humanitarian standards guidance and principles

- How does the 'Do No Harm' principle apply to environmental considerations in humanitarian contexts?
- Explain the role of the Sphere Standards in ensuring environmentally responsible humanitarian actions.

4. Importance of integrating environmental considerations

- What are the ethical, practical, and strategic reasons for integrating environmental considerations into humanitarian action?
- How can integrating environmental considerations improve the effectiveness and sustainability of humanitarian interventions?

5. EHA Under UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit (JEU)

- What are the key services provided by the JEU, and how can they support humanitarian actions?
- How can humanitarian actors access JEU's support, and what tools are available to enhance their environmental response?

6. Overall reflection

- How has this module changed your understanding of the importance of environmental considerations in humanitarian action?
- What are three key takeaways that you will apply in your work?

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Interconnectedness of environment and humanitarian action:
The environment and humanitarian actions are closely linked, with each having the potential to impact the other positively or negatively. Integrating environmental considerations into humanitarian responses ensures that interventions do not exacerbate existing environmental challenges.

2. Principles of Environmental Humanitarian Action (EHA):
Understanding and applying core EHA principles, such as prevention, precaution, and sustainability, are essential for minimizing negative environmental impacts and promoting long-term resilience in humanitarian operations.

3. Importance of humanitarian standards and environmental responsibility:
Key standards and principles, including the Core Humanitarian Standard, 'Do No Harm,' and Sphere Standards, guide environmentally responsible humanitarian actions. Integrating these standards ensures that humanitarian interventions are ethical, effective, and sustainable.

4. Ethical, practical, and strategic benefits of environmental integration:
Incorporating environmental considerations into humanitarian action aligns with ethical obligations, enhances operational effectiveness, and supports long-term strategic goals of community resilience and sustainability.

5. Real-world applications and lessons learned:
Case studies from various contexts (e.g., Ukraine, Gaza, Somalia) illustrate the importance of integrating environmental considerations in humanitarian settings. These examples provide valuable lessons on implementing environmentally responsible practices and avoiding adverse impacts.

6. Link to climate change:
While this module introduces the connection between environmental factors and humanitarian action, a deeper exploration of climate change impacts and responses is covered in Module 5. This linkage highlights the broader context of environmental sustainability within humanitarian interventions.

7. Community engagement and public participation:
Effective EHA requires the involvement of affected populations in decision-making processes. This approach enhances transparency, accountability, and the relevance of humanitarian actions, ensuring that interventions meet both community needs and environmental standards.

8. Application of standards in different humanitarian scenarios:
Practical exercises and scenario-based discussions help participants apply the learned principles and standards, preparing them to implement environmentally responsible actions in real-world humanitarian contexts.

9. Role of the JEU in EHA:
The UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit plays a critical role in providing rapid environmental screening and assessments, technical support, and capacity building for humanitarian actors, enhancing the environmental sustainability of emergency responses.