

STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP:

Update of environmental assessment methodology as part of the “Coordinated Assessments for Environment in Humanitarian Action” Initiative

19 – 20 JUNE 2017

BACKGROUND

The *Coordination of Assessments for Environment in Humanitarian Action: A Joint Initiative*, is a collaborative effort among the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and the UN Environment/Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Joint Unit (JEU). The initiative aims to improve lives and livelihoods through the integration of environmental considerations in humanitarian relief operations by a) supporting coordination among humanitarian and environmental actors and b) improving access to and use of environmental data. The Initiative will update key environmental assessment methodologies and enhance their online accessibility. It seeks to overcome confusion around the abundance of available tools, to provide clear guidance on what tools exist, how they connect, and which one(s) will fulfil needs at a particular stage of humanitarian programming or type of emergency context.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The workshop will bring together a group of key stakeholders to discuss the outputs of a recent consultancy to scope options for content, approach, and structure to environment assessment methodologies, with a particular focus on the [Rapid Environmental Assessment](#) (REA). Emphasis will also be placed on links to other post-disaster/conflict environmental assessment methodologies including UNHCR’s Framework for Assessing, Monitoring and Evaluating the environment (FRAME) toolkit and the Norwegian Refugee Council’s Environmental Assessment tool (NEAT). Options for updates and enhancements will be discussed, which will reflect recent sectoral developments and thinking including the impact of climate change on resilience and ultimately support the use, integration and uptake of the REA and other environmental assessment tools and outputs in humanitarian programme planning and implementation.

The project team will present workshop stakeholders with options for updating both the content and structure of the REA. Additionally, recommendations for harmonizing the tool within broader humanitarian response and recovery assessment settings will be put forward. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to influence the direction of the work to ensure relevance, before the updating process begins.

TIME AND LOCATION

June 19 and 20 2017, 9am – 5pm, International Environment House, 11-13 Chemin des Anémones, Geneva, Switzerland.

DRAFT AGENDA

19th June: morning

- Opening, welcome and introductions
- Overview of Joint Initiative – objectives and work plan
- Presentation of consultancy findings and way forward for REA updating and harmonization

19th June: afternoon

- Discussion on proposed updates in breakout groups
- Presentations in plenary and agreement on key topics and modalities
- Day wrap up

20th June: morning

- Environmental data sharing online platform:
 - Options for platform hosting
 - What information do stakeholders want to share?
 - What data/ information do stakeholders most want to see?

20th June: afternoon

- Revisiting REA approach based on group feedback
- Ongoing partner activities and opportunities for piloting sections of updated methodology
- Next steps and wrap up

PARTICIPANTS

Key project stakeholders across a range of humanitarian and environmental stakeholders engaged in the Joint Initiative, from UN to international organisations, global cluster leads, NGOs, Red Cross Red Crescent and academic institutions will be invited to participate. Stakeholders will be consulted in advance on the environmental assessment methodology update by the project team.

CONTACTS

Joint Assessment Initiative: Mandy George (george14@un.org)

USAID’s Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance: Erika Clesceri (eclesceri@usaid.gov)

United Nations Joint Environment Unit: Emilia Wahlstrom (wahlstrom@un.org)