

Welcome to the latest news bulletin from the Coordination of Assessments for Environment in Humanitarian Action (the Joint Initiative). For more updates, presentations, reports and other resources, please visit us at <http://www.eecentre.org/assessments> and share with your networks. As of next year, further updates on the Joint Initiative and its deliverables will be going through the 'Environment and Humanitarian Action (EHA) Network'. Please email ochaunep@un.org if you prefer your e-mail not to be merged into the EHA Network mailing list.

In the run up to the end of this two year phase of the Joint Initiative, we have been busy finalising our core deliverables, including building a digital Environment in Humanitarian Action (EHA) toolkit. EHA Connect is designed to bring humanitarian and environmental communities together to reduce vulnerability in disasters. The tool helps environmental actors to better engage in the disaster space and humanitarians to move towards emergency management systems that are more sustainable and resilient.

We also have exciting updates on the planned piloting of NEAT+, a Kobo toolbox-based environmental screening tool for humanitarian projects, as well as our plans for next year's Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week in Geneva, Switzerland.

EHA Connect online toolkit to bring humanitarians and environmentalists closer together

Our rebranded digital toolkit "EHA Connect", formerly referred to as the EHA Framework, is on track to be completed by the end of the year, with a formal launch planned for early 2019. The new name reflects our fundamental aim of connecting the humanitarian and environmental sectors and facilitating more effective collaboration between the two fields.

As an online, searchable resource, EHA Connect allows environmental actors to get involved in the disaster management space and humanitarian actors to mainstream environmental considerations in preparedness, response and recovery. EHA Connect can be used at any stage of disaster management, from preparedness through to recovery.

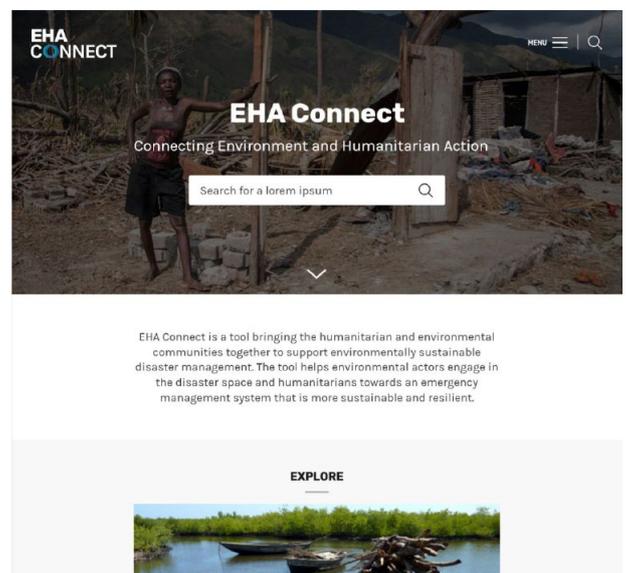
The content is structured around the humanitarian programme cycle (HPC), an operational framework used in the international humanitarian response system, and presented in two sections:

- Environmental Preparedness for disaster response
- Response and Recovery with specific guidance for sudden onset and protracted crises

The user can also explore the content by categories: humanitarian "clusters" or key thematic areas such as gender or debris and disaster waste. This is useful if looking for specific guidance on environmental issues in a particular area of work, for example, Shelter and Settlements or Disaster Risk Reduction.

More information about EHA Connect can be found [here](#).

A review of the website's content by EHA Connect working group members and partners is well underway. Anyone wishing to review content and provide feedback or additional tools and resources to include, please contact Joint Initiative Team Leader [Mandy George](#).



Field testing of NEAT + tool in Zambia and Uganda

In partnership with UNHCR, we will be piloting NEAT+ in Zambia's Mantapala refugee settlement, close to the border with Democratic Republic of Congo, at the end of November. The NEAT+ tool has been designed for the rapid identification of key environmental issues such as potential groundwater contamination, the overuse of fuelwood or the mismanagement of waste, by users with limited or no environmental expertise. The tool offers a technically robust analysis of the natural environment, natural resources and climatic events and other factors in the affected area, which can feed into the design of humanitarian projects. The tool consists of several technical modules relating to environmental sensitivity, shelter, WASH and food security and livelihoods.

The primary purpose of the mission, which is due to take place November 25-30, is to test and improve NEAT+ while highlighting key areas of environmental risk in Mantapala refugee settlement, which is currently home to around 13,000 people. Set up in January 2018, Mantapala is located between two forests and has three rivers running through or around the area, providing its principal source of freshwater. Key environmental issues facing the area include deforestation and the threat of flash floods.

UNHCR will use the results and environmental findings from this mission to begin to support the camp with mitigation activities.

We are also pleased to announce that early next year we will work with the development agency AVSI to field test NEAT+ in their new USAID graduation pilot project in western Uganda camps. Not only will this mission field test the tool as a proof-of-concept, it will also compare the tool's results to those determined by the more indepth environmental impact assessment, meeting regulatory requirements.

Anyone who is interested in desk or field testing the tool, please contact Joint Initiative Team Leader [Mandy George](#). In particular we are interested in hearing from other organisations working in Zambia or Uganda.

Planning for Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week

The Joint Initiative is involved in the preparation for next year's [Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week](#) (HNPW), which runs February 4-8, 2019. The annual event, which is co-chaired by OCHA and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), brings together diverse groups, including the UN, NGOs, Member States, the private sector, the military, academics and others to discuss solutions to challenges in disaster response. In 2018, more than 1,500 participants attended the HNPW, making it the largest annual event focused on collaboration in the humanitarian space.

The week will see several events featuring environment.

On Monday 4 February, 2019, participants will be invited to learn more about environment and humanitarian action at an open presentation, which will feature the Joint Initiative and highlight how a diverse set of actors came together to address environmental risks in response. Sessions on climate risk and environment in displacement settings are planned for Wednesday 5 February, 2019. A face-to-face meeting of the Environment and Humanitarian Action Network will be held on Thursday 7 February, 2019 and will officially launch EHA Connect. The UN Environment/OCHA Joint Unit (JEU) is closely engaged in the HNPW 2019 preparations, and is seeking volunteers to staff a booth where participants can test out the NEAT+ tool and EHA Connect.

Anyone interested in learning more about, or contributing to, the HNPW 2019 events, please contact [Emilia Wahlstrom](#) at the JEU.

Events

November: The Joint Initiative and partners including USAID, JEU, WFP and UNHCR, took part in three days of meetings in Geneva on the theme of *"Knowledge Exchange and Coordination of UN and Donor Approaches in Environment in Humanitarian Action"*. The November 12-14 meetings were an extremely useful opportunity to share knowledge and discuss the coordination of UN and donor approaches in EHA.

Partners News

The United Nations Environment Management Group (EMG) is inviting public comment on a draft document, *Moving towards a Common Approach to Environmental and Social Standards in UN Programming*, which is intended to serve as a reference and benchmark for UN entities when they adopt or revise their own social and environmental standards and safeguards. The document is available at: <https://unemg.org/consultation/>. Comments should be sent to the Environment Management Group Secretariat by email to emg@un.org by 30 November 2018.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) carried a story, *"Gauging the environmental impact of disasters"*, about the JEU's work on its website in October. The article touches on coordination efforts for better and faster response, and also highlights a host of JEU-generated training material and resources.

Best wishes,

The Coordination of Assessments for Environment in Humanitarian Action team



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