The Nexus Environmental Assessment Tool (NEAT+)

What is the NEAT+?

✓ A simple environmental project-level screening tool for humanitarian contexts

✓ Combines environmental data with site-specific and activity-based questions to automatically analyze and flag priority environmental risks

Why NEAT+?

- A simple, user-friendly way for non-environmentalists to identify environmental concerns
- Flags key issues for subsequent mitigation and advocacy
- Open-source, based on Kobo toolbox, adaptable to individual or organizational needs

Who?

Humanitarian actors, e.g. field staff, community members and team leaders working in camp, peri-urban or rural non-camp or informal camp settings

When?

After life-saving needs have been met; immediately following a crisis and prior to project design, or during a change in humanitarian setting, such as an expansion of a camp or development of new livelihood support programmes

NEAT ✚ How does the NEAT+ work?

NEAT+ combines Kobo toolbox questionnaires available on mobile phones, tablets and computers, with an automated Microsoft Excel analysis in three steps:
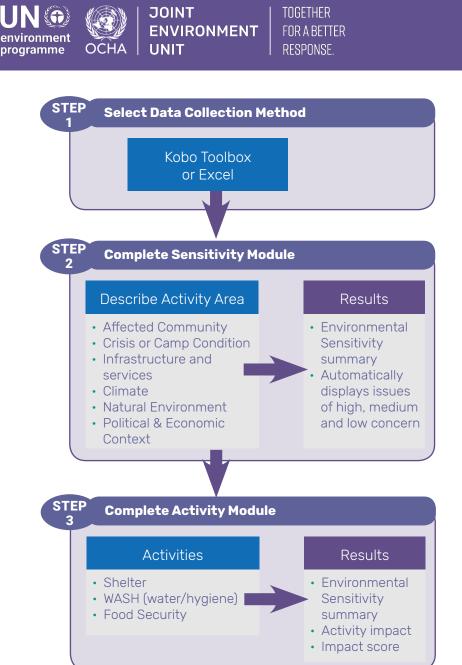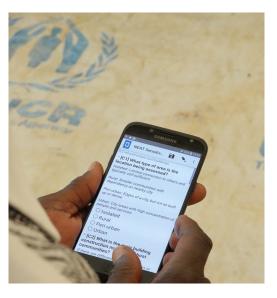
STEP 1 Select the data collection method.

STEP 2 Complete the Environmental Sensitivity Module (20-30 minutes) to receive an automated summary of key environmental concerns.

STEP 3 Complete Activity Modules on WASH, shelter or livelihoods and food security (around 45 minutes per module) to automatically establish the environmental impacts of the chosen activity.

STEP 1 — Select Data Collection Method

Kobo Toolbox or Excel

STEP 2 — Complete Sensitivity Module

Describe Activity Area

- Affected Community
- Crisis or Camp Condition
- Infrastructure and services
- Climate
- Natural Environment
- Political & Economic Context

Results

- Environmental Sensitivity summary
- Automatically displays issues of high, medium and low concern

STEP 3 — Complete Activity Module

Activities

- Shelter
- WASH (water/hygiene)
- Food Security

Results

- Environmental Sensitivity summary
- Activity impact
- Impact score

A December 2018 pilot of the NEAT+ at the Mantapala refugee settlement in Zambia highlighted the use of wood for construction materials as a high risk factor for deforestation.

Disclaimer

NEAT+ results are not a substitute for a full environmental impact assessment (EIA) in such instances where full EIA are required or would offer benefit to inform project design and implementation. NEAT+ will not capture comprehensive consideration of issues that might arise via a full EIA process, nor remove the need to, and benefit derived from, engaging with environmental experts to fully understand the extent of considerations that may be relevant for a given project or broader response context.

The NEAT+ can be downloaded on EHA Connect at https://ehaconnect.org/resource/neat/

NEAT+ was developed with the support of Joint Initiative* partners:

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE · WWF · UN environment OCHA | JOINT ENVIRONMENT UNIT | 25 YEARS Together for a bette response. · IUCN · NRC NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL · MSB Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency · UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

* a multi-stakeholder project aimed at improving collaboration between environmental and humanitarian actors

Joint Environment Unit:

The United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) respond as one UN to the environmental dimensions of emergencies. The partnership assists countries affected by disasters and crises and works to enhance the sustainability of humanitarian action.

Contact information

UN Environment/OCHA Joint Unit
OCHA Response Support Branch
Geneva, Switzerland

Email: ochaunep@un.org
www.unocha.org/unep
www.eecentre.org
https://ehaconnect.org

@EnvironmentOcha