Our vision is for countries to be better prepared, more resilient and able to effectively respond to environmental emergencies.
Environmental Emergencies

“An environmental emergency is defined as a sudden onset disaster or accident resulting from natural, technological or human-induced factors, or a combination of these, that cause or threaten to cause severe environmental damage as well as harm to human health and/or livelihoods.”

UNEP Governing Council, 13 November 2002

Priorities

PREPAREDNESS

RESPONSE

ENVIRONMENT IN HUMANITARIAN ACTION
Response

In the first hours after an environmental emergency, the JEU can mobilise experts and equipment to the affected area.

Immediate Deployment of technical expertise
Rapid environmental assessments
Onsite sampling and analysis

Current response mission

Floods in the Balkans 2014
Serbia: Estimated 30,000 evacuated and displaced people

Humanitarian needs:
• Clean water
• Food / agricultural support (loss of crops and livestock)

Environmental issues:
• Flood management
• Water and sanitation, public health issues
• Flooded industrial sites are being assessed for immediate environmental risks to the population

Flood management and environmental expertise deployed with the UNDAC team.
Preparedness

Contingency planning, training, and raising awareness of potential impacts of environmental emergencies

Risk and Hazard Assessments
Environmental Emergencies Centre (EEC)
Preparedness trainings

Environmental Emergency Risk Index (EERI)

A strategic tool for prioritizing work on preparedness and environment in humanitarian action

Builds upon existing humanitarian, development and environmental performance indices
Focus on technological hazards and environmental vulnerability
Identify countries most at risk
**Objective**: Provide recommendations for safe management, transport, storage and onsite disposal & containment of arsenic waste; assess amount of waste and extent of contamination

**Team**: national authorities, OSCE, UNDP, UNEP/OCHA

Cows walking through the arsenic waste site

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**Key findings**

- Soils (to 0.5m), waste drums, ore to be placed in on-site secure sarcophagus
- Design and implement engineered diversion of surface waters
- Undertake sampling & reduce arsenic by mixing clean and contaminated soils
- Technical guidance for remediation and clean-up; budgeting for clean-up

Corroded drum containing arsenic waste
Environmental Emergencies Centre

www.eecentre.org

resources
discussion forum
events/calendar system
online learning

Environmental Emergencies Centre

Online Learning – 5 different modules available for free.
Courses in English, French, Russian, Arabic and soon in Spanish
Training

Introductory and advanced trainings on a variety of environmental emergency preparedness and response topics.

Face-to-face trainings
EEC eLearning modules

eLearning modules available at www.eecentre.org

Strengthening Environmental Emergency Preparedness Capacities in OSCE Region

Emphasis on technological accidents triggered by a natural hazard

Expected Results:
- Key Governmental partners’ knowledge and skills strengthened for effective preparedness and response environmental emergencies.

- Improved collaboration between disaster managers and environmental experts for better management of priority environmental emergency risks
Proposed follow up

• Regional seminar on mining tailings in collaboration with Central Asian regional environment center
• Organization of study tour on eco-based DRR from Afghanistan to Kyrgyzstan

Next Regional Workshop:
10-13 June in Georgia (with Armenia and Azerbaijan)