

Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit

At Environmental and Humanitarian Crossroads



Wendy Cue
Chief of Section

Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit
OCHA Emergency Services Branch
Geneva, Switzerland



OCHA UNEP

Vision

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

Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit



Technical expertise

+



Humanitarian coordination

=

Better Response

Mission

To mobilise and coordinate a comprehensive response to environmental emergencies to protect lives, livelihoods, ecosystems, and future generations.

Priorities



PREPAREDNESS



RESPONSE



ENVIRONMENT IN
HUMANITARIAN ACTION

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



Recent Activities

Scoping mission to support the Government in assessing industrial / chemical hazards and improving preparedness

The Gambia 2013



Three main areas of preparedness:

- Policy and legal framework
- (Industrial) hazard mapping
- Contingency planning for environmental emergencies

Integrate priority environmental emergency issues into the National Plan of Action for Disaster Risk Reduction (jointly with CADRI)

Environmental Emergencies Centre

a one-stop-shop of information, tools, trainings and guidance to inform a more prepared and effective response to environmental emergencies.

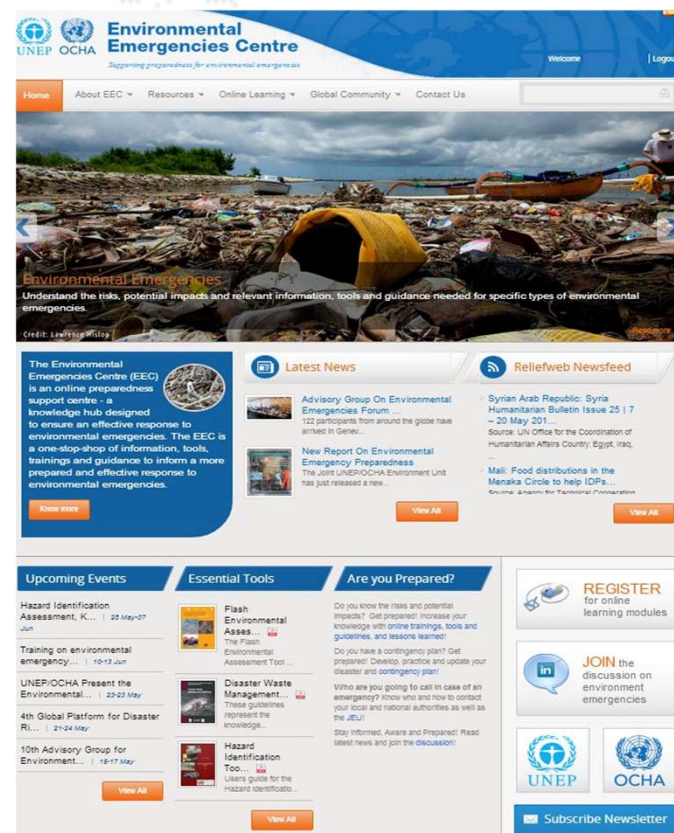
www.eecentre.org

resources

discussion forum

events/calendar system

online learning



Environmental Emergencies Centre

*Extensive database of **resources** – including tools, guidelines, reports, publications, legal documents, advocacy materials and more*



The screenshot displays the Environmental Emergencies Centre (EEC) website. The top header features the UNEP and OCHA logos, the title 'Environmental Emergencies Centre', and the tagline 'Supporting preparedness for environmental emergencies'. Navigation links include Home, About EEC, Resources (highlighted), Training, Global Community, and Contact Us.

The main content area is titled 'Resources' and includes a search bar and filters for 'Operational Phase' (Preparedness, Response, Recovery, Any) and 'Type Of Document'. A list of resources is shown, including 'Preparedness for Addressing Chemical Accident Prevention' and 'Fuel Spill and Fire - Rapid Environmental Emergency Assessment (October 2011)'. A detailed view of 'Health Care Wastes' is also shown, featuring a list of waste types, a description, and a photo of waste.

The 'Health Care Wastes' section includes a list of waste types: Infectious waste, Pathological and anatomical waste, Hazardous pharmaceutical waste, Hazardous chemical waste, Waste with high content of heavy metals, Pressurized containers, Sharps, Highly infectious waste, Genotoxic/cytotoxic waste, and Radioactive waste.

On the right side, there is a sidebar titled 'Essential Tools' with links to 'Hazard Identification Tool' and 'Disaster Waste Management Guidelines'. Below this, there is a 'Flash Environmental Assessment Tool' and a 'View All' button.

Environmental Emergencies Centre

**Environmental Emergencies Centre**
Supporting preparedness for environmental emergencies

Home About EEC Resources Training Global Community Contact Us

< November 2013 >

mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat	sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Green Humanitarian -- Defining better practices in greening field operations
Venue: Geneva Centre for Security - GCSP, World Meteorological Organisation WMO/OMM Building.
Tuesday, December 03, 2013 To Wednesday, December 04, 2013
Contribute to an exchange on the current best environmental practices for humanitarian and military operations!
Following the Washington Exchange of November 5 and 6 2013, during which Military, humanitarian and environmental communities met.

Integrating environment issues into humanitarian action training
Venue: Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland Tuesday, November 19, 2013 To Wednesday, November 20, 2013
Groupe URD and the Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit are running a two-day training course on "Integrating environmental

Upcoming Events

Green Humanitarian -- Defining ... 03-04 Dec

9th Meeting Of UNEP's Expert ... 06-07 Nov

Integrating Environment Issues ... 19-20 Nov

Beyond Response Training In Brazzaville 11-15 Nov

[View All](#)

Essential Tools


Hazard Identification Tool [Pdf](#)


Disaster Waste Management Guidelines [View Online](#)

Flash Environmental Assessment Tool ... [Pdf](#)

[View All](#)

Tools & Guidance Publications Reports Useful Links

 **Flexible Framework for Addressing Chemical Accidents Preparedness**
The purpose of this guidance is to support any government that

**REGISTER** for online learning modules

**JOIN** the discussion on environmental emergencies



Upcoming Events

Green Humanitarian -- Defining ... 03-04 Dec

9th Meeting of UNEP's Expert ... 06-07 Nov

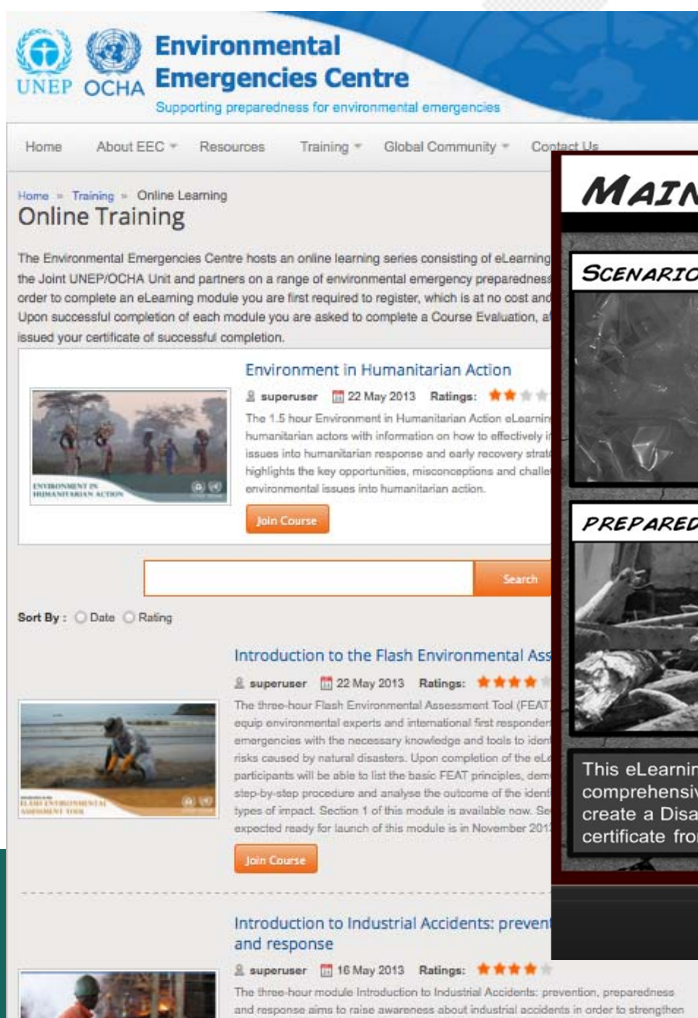
Integrating environment issues ... 19-20 Nov

Beyond Response Training in Brazzaville 11-15 Nov

[View All](#)

Environmental Emergencies Centre

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



The screenshot shows the website of the Environmental Emergencies Centre (EEC), a joint initiative of UNEP and OCHA. The header includes the logos of both organizations and the text "Environmental Emergencies Centre" with the tagline "Supporting preparedness for environmental emergencies". The navigation menu includes "Home", "About EEC", "Resources", "Training", "Global Community", and "Contact Us". The "Online Learning" section is highlighted, featuring a description of the eLearning series and a list of modules. The first module, "Environment in Humanitarian Action", is prominently displayed with a thumbnail image of people in a natural setting. Below it, the "Introduction to the Flash Environmental Assessment Tool" and "Introduction to Industrial Accidents: prevention and response" are also listed with their respective thumbnails and brief descriptions.



The screenshot shows the "MAIN MENU" for the eLearning course. It features four main sections, each with a thumbnail image and a title: "SCENARIO ONE" (showing a large pile of debris), "SCENARIO TWO" (showing a large pile of debris with a building in the background), "PREPAREDNESS SECTION" (showing a large pile of debris), and "FINAL ASSESSMENT" (showing a large pile of debris). Below these sections, a text box states: "This eLearning course guides you through two disaster waste scenarios; both should be completed to gain a comprehensive understanding of how to manage disaster waste. The preparedness section explains how to create a Disaster Waste Contingency Plan and the final assessment, if successfully completed, awards a certificate from the course. Click on the section you would like to explore." At the bottom of the menu, there is a navigation bar with a "SLIDE 14 OF 108" indicator, a "CLICK NEXT TO ADVANCE" button, and a timer showing "00:05 / 00:05".



OCHA UNEP

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

Response

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

Rapid deployment of experts

Rapid environmental
assessments

Onsite sampling and analysis





Recent response mission

Situation: Earthquakes and heavy flooding affected a gold mine and tailings dam 30km from the capital Honiara

Solomon Islands

2014



- Deployment of UNDAC Environment Assessment Team
- Assessment of Gold Mine tailing dam (potential threats to communities and the local environment)
- Identify risk reduction measures to minimize potential impacts

Response Mission

Situation: Heavy flooding in March 2013

Mozambique 2013



- Deployment of an environmental expert
- Multisectoral damage and needs assessment
- Recommendation of appropriate means of restoring livelihoods and reducing vulnerability to future disasters

Environment in Humanitarian Action

Integration of environmental considerations across the humanitarian programme cycle



Country-specific support
Update guidance
Raise awareness
Deployment of Environmental
Field Advisor
Environmental Reference
Group

Context



A growing recognition that **environmental considerations need to be consistently and appropriately addressed in humanitarian action** for sustainable, holistic relief and recovery in post-conflict and post-disaster situations.



Context

It is also increasingly recognised that environment is:

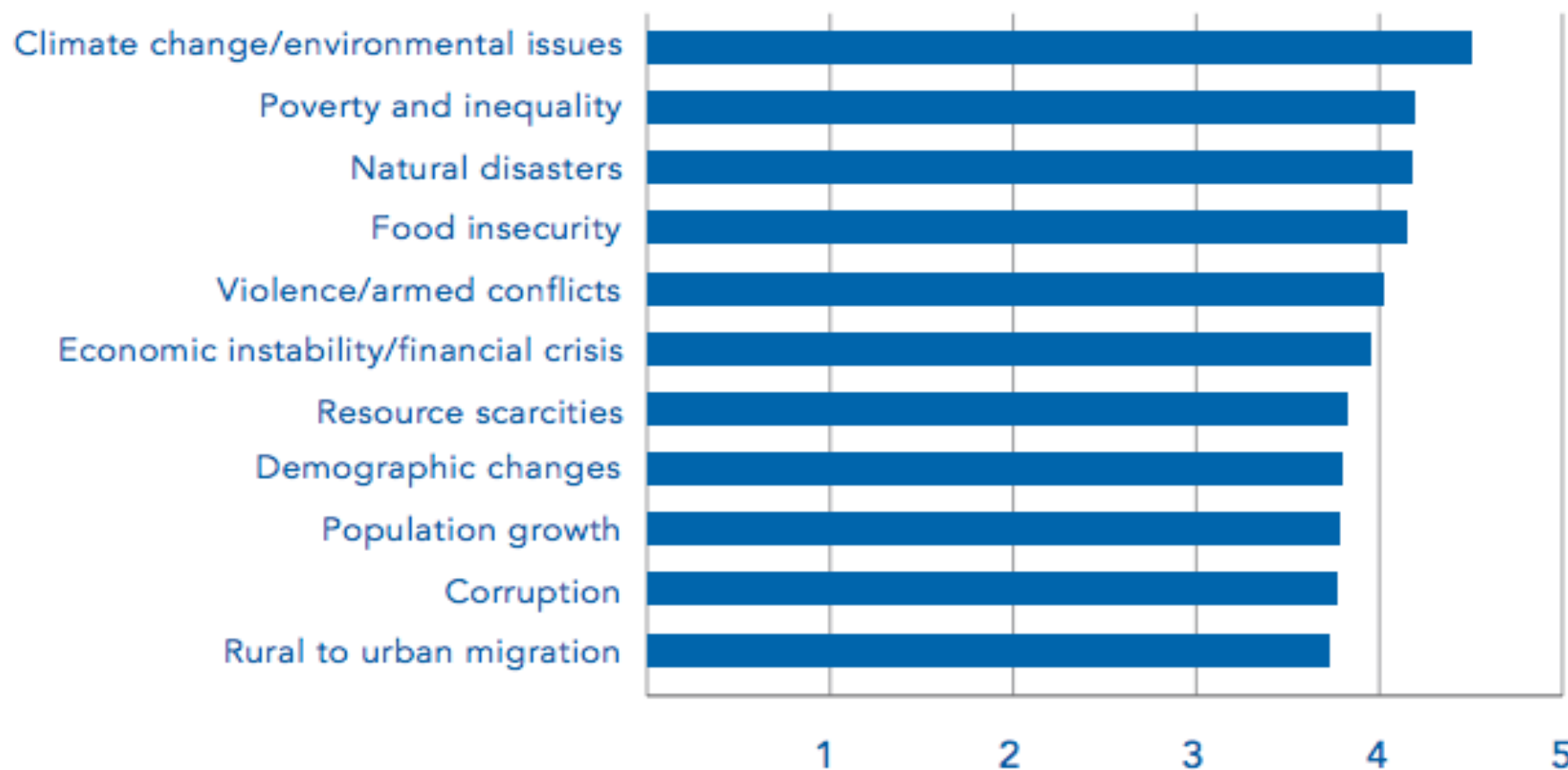
- > critical for aid effectiveness
- > central to reducing risk and vulnerability
- > vital to the necessary shift towards an anticipatory risk-management approach to humanitarian aid



Figure 9

Most important risks from the perspective of humanitarian experts

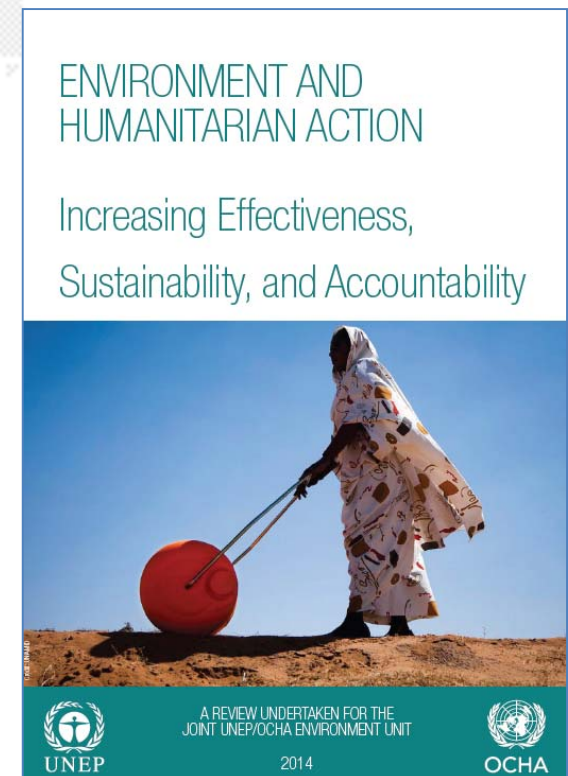
How important do you think the following issues will be in increasing vulnerability in the future?



Environment and Humanitarian Action: Study

Commissioned by the JEU and Finland to review the current state and provide a road map for future action

- Based on a review of literature and consultations with governments, UN, NGOs, field practitioners and key stakeholders
- Recommend collective action to improve the effectiveness, accountability and sustainability of humanitarian action
- Conclusions and recommendations for the humanitarian system, implementing partners and the donor community



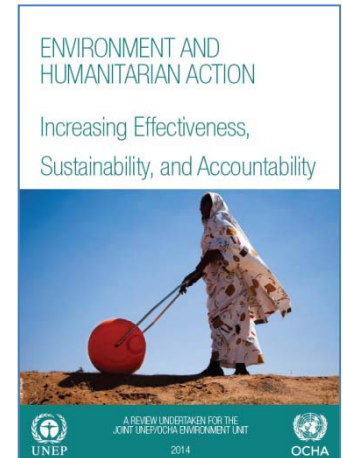
Environment and Humanitarian Action Study

Main Conclusions and Recommendations

- 1. Environment is still not systematically mainstreamed in global humanitarian action, despite being critical for effective, sustainable and accountable humanitarian response.**

Recommendations:

- address the lack of leadership & accountability
- increase the political commitment & resources



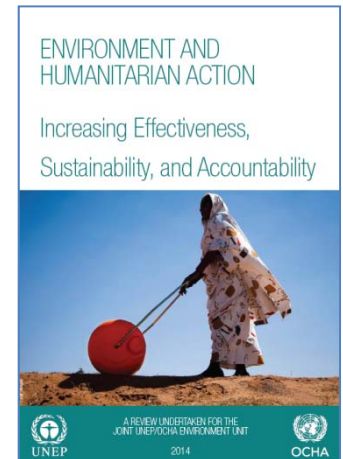
Environment and Humanitarian Action Study

Main Conclusions and Recommendations

- 2. Mainstreaming the environment is an approach that needs to be translated into clearly defined actions to achieve this vision, both at policy and field level.**

Recommendations:

- Priority country analyses
- Bolster existing mechanisms
- Mainstream in every stage of the Humanitarian Programme Cycle



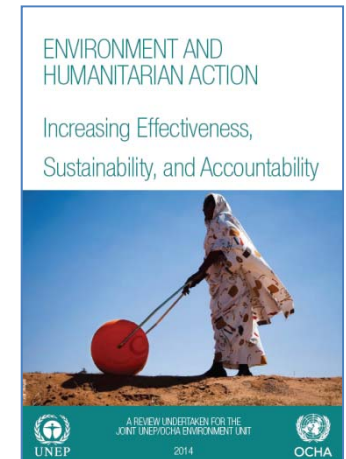
Humanitarian Program



Environment and Humanitarian Action Study

Main Conclusions and Recommendations

3. There is a need for a strong evidence-base of the benefits of mainstreaming environment



- Document detailed case studies to provide evidence of what has and has not worked effectively
- Adopt and execute strong advocacy strategies targeted at humanitarian practitioners

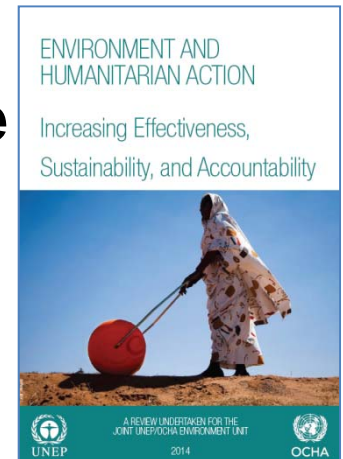
Environment and Humanitarian Action Study

Main Conclusions and Recommendations

4. There is a chronic lack of funding for environment in humanitarian action, despite good humanitarian donorship being critical for “future fit” humanitarian action

Donors should:

- Develop environmental mainstreaming policy for humanitarian aid
- Integrate environmental mainstreaming while analysing programme proposals & make the consideration of environmental impacts explicit in decisions
- Commit to longer-term funding



Case Study: Typhoon Haiyan

Super Typhoon Haiyan hit on 8 November 2013. Experts estimate that it was among the strongest storms ever to make landfall.

Philippines

November 2013

14.1 million
Affected

4.1 million
Displaced

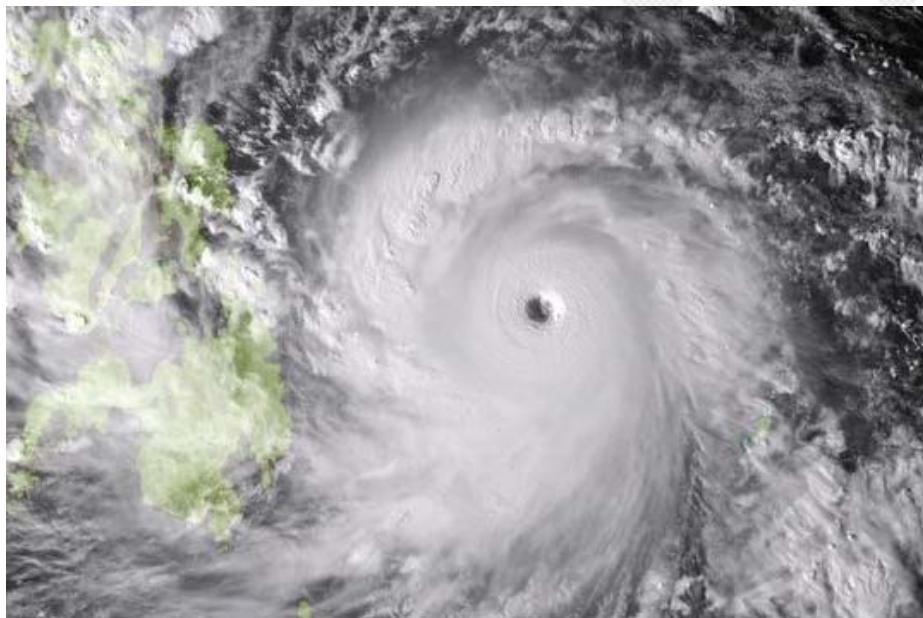
6,000
Killed

Infrastructures
Destroyed



Case Study: Typhoon Haiyan

Super Typhoon Haiyan hit the Philippines on 8 November 2013. Experts estimate that it was among the strongest storms ever to make landfall.



- Typhoon Haiyan destroyed crops, agricultural land, fisheries, coconut trees and vegetation, affecting livelihoods
- Environmental factors need to be considered in the rehabilitation strategies

Case Study: Typhoon Haiyan

Response Mission: Environmental Expert and Oil Spill Expert deployment

- Environmental expert in the UNDAC team for rapid assessment of potential releases of hazardous substances or significant damages to the ecosystem
- Main finding - 800,000 litres Estancia oil spill



**Specialised expert in oil spill
clean up deployed**









Case Study: Typhoon Haiyan

EHA Mission: Disaster Waste Management Expert and Environmental Field Advisor deployment

- Disaster Waste Management expert provided advice and training on safe and sustainable management of disaster waste
- Environmental Field Adviser providing practical advice on how to integrate environmental considerations into humanitarian action.

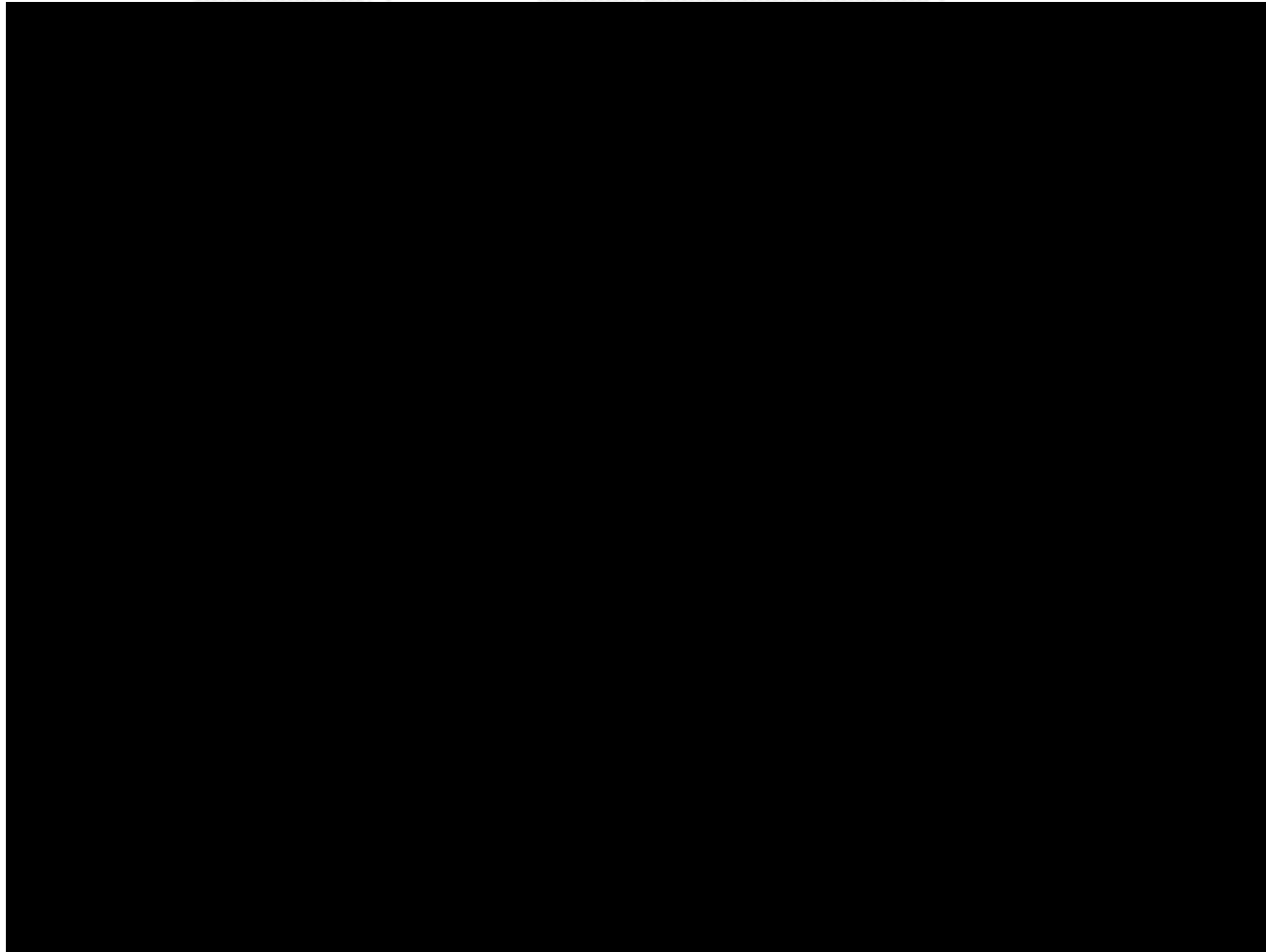








Advocacy activities



Environmental Emergencies Forum

*Biennial global forum bringing together
policy makers, environmental experts and disaster managers*

Advocacy

Awareness Raising

Global Partnerships



Next EEF:

1-3 June 2015
Oslo, Norway

Green Star Awards

Biennial Green Star Awards recognize champions who strive to prevent and reverse the effects of environmental disasters

- A joint initiative between Green Cross International, OCHA and UNEP
- An Award for excellence in preparedness and response to environmental emergencies
- 3 categories:
 - ✓ Prevention and Preparedness
 - ✓ Response
 - ✓ Environment in Humanitarian Action



2015 GREEN STAR AWARDS
Presentation ceremony:

June 2015
Oslo, Norway





Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit



www.unocha.org/unep



OCHA UNEP