

*Results through partnership:
environmental emergency
experiences*

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- A comprehensive approach
- OCHA-UNEP and integrated approaches: the Joint Unit
- Environmental Emergencies Partnership
- Discussion & next steps





Purpose

- **Describe OCHA experience using integrated approaches and partnerships in disaster management.**
- **Identify ways to strengthen implementation.**





Introduction: comprehensive approaches

- **Effective humanitarian assistance must integrate variety of disciplines, including environment.**
- **Preparedness, prevention, response preparedness and response must also be linked (e.g. lessons can support prevention, preparedness).**
- **Effective preparedness requires that these links be established before a disaster.**





Integrated approaches: Joint UNEP/OCHA Environment Unit

- Mandate from governments: *Mobilization and coordination of urgent international assistance to countries affected by environmental emergencies and natural disasters with significant environmental impact, under overall coordination by OCHA.*
- Addresses acute response phase activities
- UNEP & development agencies address longer term issues.





Examples of environmental emergencies

- **Industrial & Technological Accidents**
- **Forest Fires**
- **Natural disasters**
- **Combinations of technological / natural events (e.g. earthquake damage)**
- **Environmental impacts from complex emergencies (e.g. IDP camps)**





Joint Unit in Practice

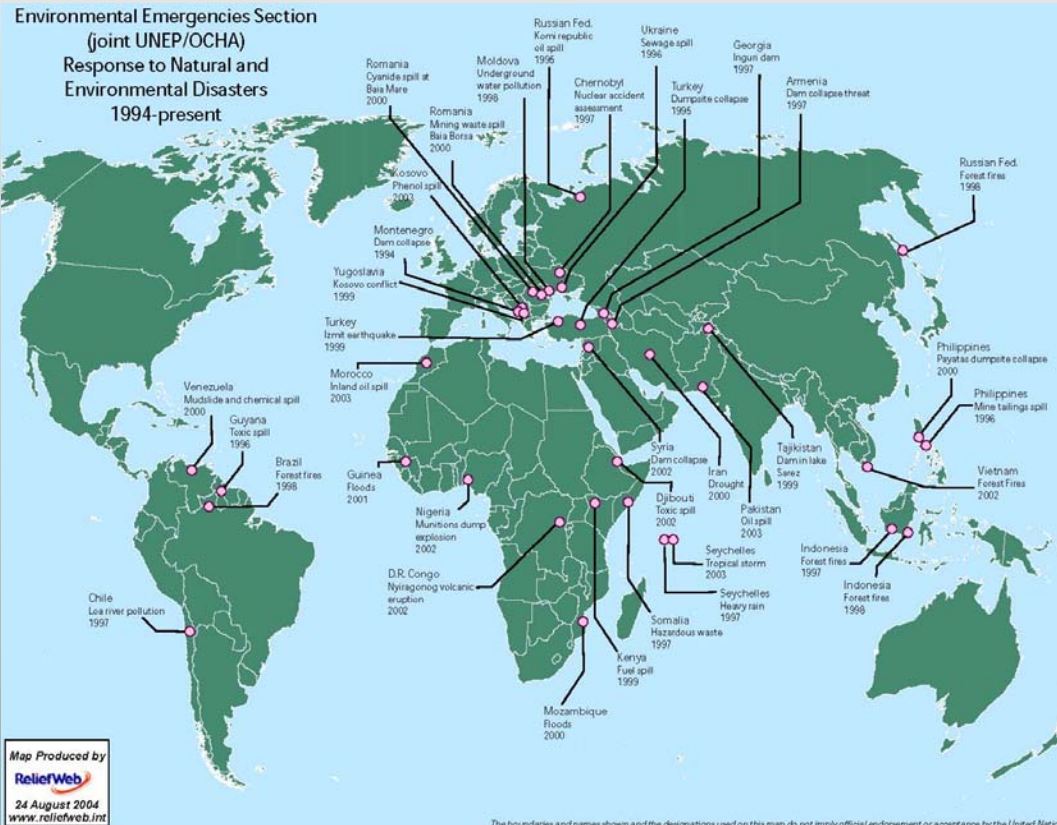
- **Tsunami Crisis**
 - Rapid Environmental Assessments: identify environmental issues relevant to human life / response.
- **Caribbean Hurricanes**
 - Joint Unit collaboration with UNDAC to identify acute environment impacts through rapid assessment.
- **Darfur crisis**
 - Rapid assessment is supported using methodology devised by Joint Unit, CARE, OFDA and other partners.
- **DR Congo**
 - Joint health, environment, radiological mission at site of uranium mine collapse.
- ✓ **Joint Unit ensures acute environmental issues are reflected in humanitarian response.**





Joint Unit: Global partners and reach

- National governments
- UN agencies
- NGOs
- Private sector



- forest fires
- conflicts
- mining tailings leak
- fuel spill
- pesticides
- floods
- dumpsite collapse
- hurricanes





‘Bridging gaps’ through the *Environmental Emergencies Partnership*

- **Ensures better collaboration between stakeholders & across disciplines**
- **Links prevention, preparedness and response.**
- **Focus is on practical action that respond to partner needs.**





EEP in practice

- **Practical projects**
 - Newsletter, training, harmonizing emergency reporting.
 - New partners: governments, research institutes, private sector...
 - Invitation to assist Environmental Emergencies Center development.
- **Catalyst for action**
 - Build multi-disciplinary networks & dialogue: e.g. UNHCR, CARE, UNV ...
- **EEP & tsunamis**
 - Range of possible activities – ‘settlements partnership, turning environmental lessons into action.





Conclusions

- **Partnership approaches have demonstrated practical value.**
- **Key challenges and next steps:**
 - Greater implementation is required
 - Engaging 'non-traditional' stakeholders





Contact Information

- www.humanitarianinfo.org/eep
- www.ochaonline.un.org/ochaunep

