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Preventing and reducing the environmental impacts of disasters and conflicts while building resilience to future crises



DISASTERS AND CONFLICTS

UNEP has worked in dozens of crisis-affected countries across the globe – from Afghanistan to Haiti, from Syria to Sierra Leone. We support governments and other stakeholders as they work to minimize the threats to human well-being from the environmental causes and consequences of disasters and conflicts.

Unless natural resources are managed sustainably, rising populations and a booming demand for resources could trigger new crises around the world. Environmental degradation and climate change threaten the availability of water and food, increase the prevalence of disease, hinder society’s ability to bounce back from crises, and multiply the risk of new shocks.

Our work on disasters and conflicts contributes to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as well as the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. It has three areas of focus:

Risk Reduction

Reducing vulnerability to natural and technological hazards; raising awareness of environmental risks; and supporting countries to integrate the environment into their risk reduction policies and action.

Preparedness & Response

Helping partners prepare for crisis; intervening after crises to identify acute environmental risks; supporting efforts by peacekeeping and humanitarian actors to reduce their environmental footprint.

Recovery

Developing tailor-made programmes that help post-crisis countries strengthen environmental management to build resilience and support the consolidation of peace.

IN 2014-15 UNEP SUPPORTED

28
COUNTRIES
TO REDUCE THE
RISKS OF NATURAL DISASTERS,
INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS
AND CONFLICTS

**FIRST
MASSIVE
OPEN** 
**ONLINE COURSE ON
ECOSYSTEM-BASED
APPROACHES TO
DISASTER
RISK REDUCTION**
REACHED 12,000 PEOPLE IN
 **183**
COUNTRIES

**IN 2014-15 UNEP
RESPONDED TO
CRISES AND
SUPPORTED
RECOVERY IN
22 COUNTRIES**
- 10 OF WHICH
WERE ACUTE
ENVIRONMENTAL
EMERGENCIES 

Cleaning up Ogoniland

In 2011, following extensive field work, UNEP revealed that decades of oil spills in the Nigerian region of Ogoniland could require the biggest environmental clean-up ever undertaken. In a report, UNEP outlined immediate actions to be taken as well as strategies to support the region's long-term recovery. The Nigerian government has acted on those recommendations and is now working with civil society, communities and industry to develop a \$1 billion fund for the environmental restoration of Ogoniland.

Building resilience in Afghanistan

Since 2002, UNEP has been helping Afghanistan manage the major challenges of land degradation and natural resource mismanagement. After conducting a major environmental assessment in 2003, UNEP, at the request of the Afghan government, helped the country establish its first Environmental Protection Agency. Today, our work focuses on building the country's environmental resilience through disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, data collection and strengthening environmental laws and institutions.



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Our delivery partners



Our Plan

UNEP stands ready to assist countries at risk of, or emerging from, crisis. With \$1 million per year, we can provide immediate assistance to 10 countries in need. With additional funds, we can help a national government clean up major environmental damage, rehabilitate ecosystems and build capacity for sustainable natural resource management. This helps protect environmental resources that are critical to reconstruction and economic recovery; it also contributes to long-term peace and resilience and can help put countries on the path to sustainable development.

As climate change threatens more communities around the globe, UNEP will work with governments to put better environmental management at the heart of their risk reduction policies. UNEP can empower countries to protect their people, economies and ecosystems from the effects of natural and industrial disasters by helping them to better manage their shorelines, river basins and forests.

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