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Saving Lives, While Protecting the Environment

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Washington DC**





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By the end of this talk:

How does environment factor into humanitarian affairs?

Examples of USAID investments in environment and humanitarian?

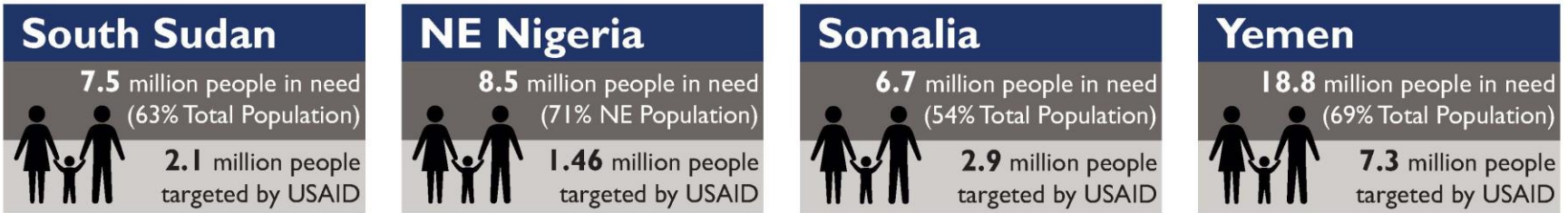
How can interinstitutional organizations bridge this interface?



U.S. Humanitarian Assistance for People Facing Famine in 2017

The U.S. is deeply concerned about the famine in South Sudan, as well as the risk of famine in northeastern Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen. We are one of the largest donors of humanitarian assistance for the people of these countries and will continue to work with other international donors to provide the life-saving aid needed to avert famine and help people in need.

U.S. assistance to people of these countries includes emergency food and nutrition, livelihoods support, critical health care, safe drinking water, shelter, protection for civilians, as well as sanitation and hygiene services.



- South Sudan:** Famine was declared in parts of South Sudan in February. An estimated 5.5 million people - nearly half of South Sudan's population - will face life-threatening hunger this year.
- NE Nigeria:** Years of conflict have limited access to food, health care, safe drinking water, and other services in northeastern Nigeria, where populations face an increased risk of famine in
- Somalia:** The risk of famine in Somalia remains high due to lack of rainfall, declining household purchasing power, high malnutrition levels, a widespread ongoing cholera
- Yemen:** Although the food security situation would be significantly worse without the current large-scale humanitarian effort, including assistance from the U.S., ongoing

Humanitarian Needs are Growing...

- The U.S. did not wait long to respond, quickly responding to humanitarian needs since the conflict began in 2013. Each month, U.S. assistance reaches more than 1.3 million people.
- Approximately 7,700 suspected cholera cases have been recorded since June 2016. The U.S. is responding with health services, nutrition assistance, hygiene promotion and access to safe water.
- Restrictions and restricts humanitarian access to some locations.
- With U.S. support, relief actors are pre-positioning food and other resources, as well as scaling up humanitarian operations, to deliver assistance in advance of the May-October rainy season.
- In early May, those in need of humanitarian assistance increased from 6.2 million to 6.7 million in Somalia, and an increase in the population facing life-threatening food insecurity from 2.9 million to 3.2 million.
- Throughout 2017, cholera cases and 361 deaths have been recorded since April 27. The U.S. is responding with support for cholera treatment centers, water treatment, community training on hand-washing, messaging campaigns on prevention, as well as medical supplies, soap and other hygiene items.

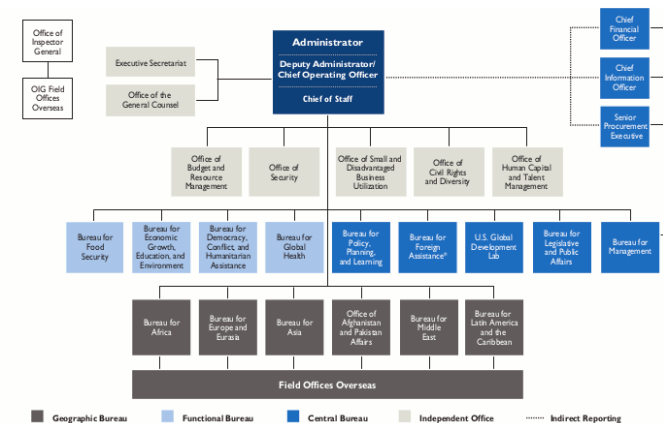


* Other Donor figures reflect UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)'s Financial Tracking System for CY 2017, while U.S. figures reflect the most recent U.S. announcements for FY 2017.

The **Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA)** promotes democratic and resilient societies that are able to mitigate disasters and conflicts, and stay on a path toward peace and prosperity.

Offices within DCHA

1. Center for Democracy, Human Rights and Governance
2. Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA)
3. Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI)
4. Food for Peace (FFP)
5. Civilian-Military Cooperation
6. Conflict Management and Mitigation
7. American Schools and Hospitals Abroad





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Assessing Risk & Impact

Risk Perspective



Impact Perspective





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What are DCHA investments in Environment?

- Expertise in hydro-meteorological DRR, Sendai Agreement, WMO, met services (ag/transport), Over 25 years
- Since FY 2010: Climate Risk Reduction with conflict, governance, DRR, food security/downscale GCMs
- Since 1970s, Environmental Impact Assessment, Environmental Procedures 22 CFR 216
- Humanitarian and Resilience Programs include:
 - Interdisciplinary engagement
 - e.g., Watershed Protection, Soil and Water Conservation, Cookstoves, Reforestation, Water Quality Assurance Planning, Safe Medical Waste Management, Integrated Pest Management, Toxics/Cleaner Production/Waste Minimization, Safe Pesticides Use in Agriculture and Health, Energy Efficient Vertical Build Infrastructure (Schools/Hospitals), Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR)...



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Over 10 years ago USAID OFDA supported the development of the Rapid Environmental Impact Assessment for Disasters

Rapid Environmental Assessment (REA)

- **Goal:** to enhance the resilience of earthquake recovery and reconstruction efforts, began ~ 1 month after
- **Direction:** Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (MOSTE)
- **REA Team:** local and international experts, led by former Ambassador and National Planning Commission Vice Chairman
- **Funding:** USAID Biodiversity Hariyo Ban Project & WWF Nepal

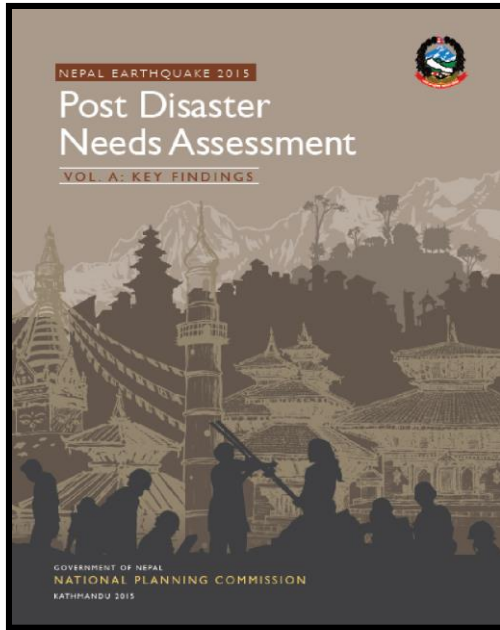




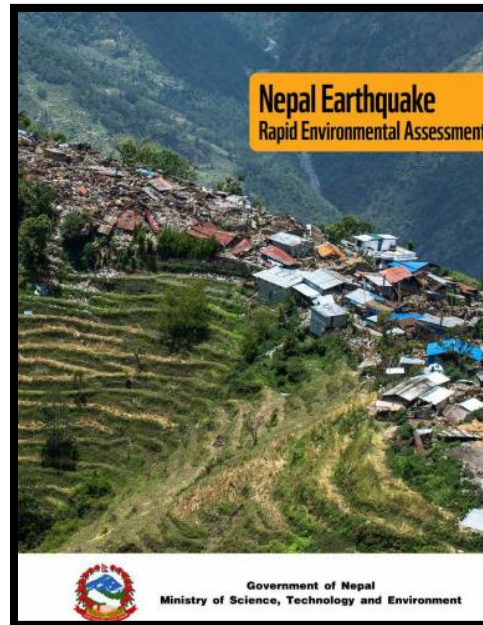
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Nepal Post-2015 Earthquake

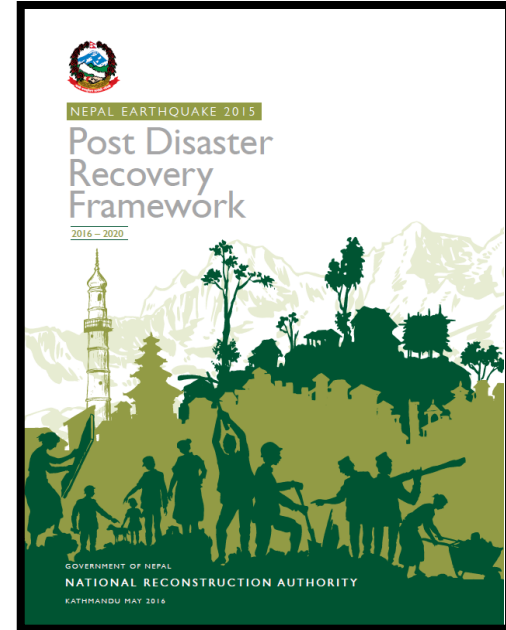
Assessment and Recovery Planning



**Rapid multi-
sectoral
assessment to
quantify damage
and loss**



**Assessment of direct
environmental
impacts and risks
from reconstruction**



**Recovery
objectives and
implementation
strategies**

Principles for Green Recovery and Reconstruction



1.9 Billion
Bricks
Needed



- 1. Maximize reuse or recycling of building debris, debris management**
- 2. Separate debris from wastes. Inventory and monitor hazardous wastes, like healthcare, industrial, agrochemical, petroleum**
- 3. Work with local environmental entities to avoid sensitive site disposal**
- 4. Work with environmental engineering for materials sourcing of construction materials (sand, aggregate)**
- 5. Opening for energy efficiencies and technologies, brick making.**

Preparation Before the EQ, Applying Lessons

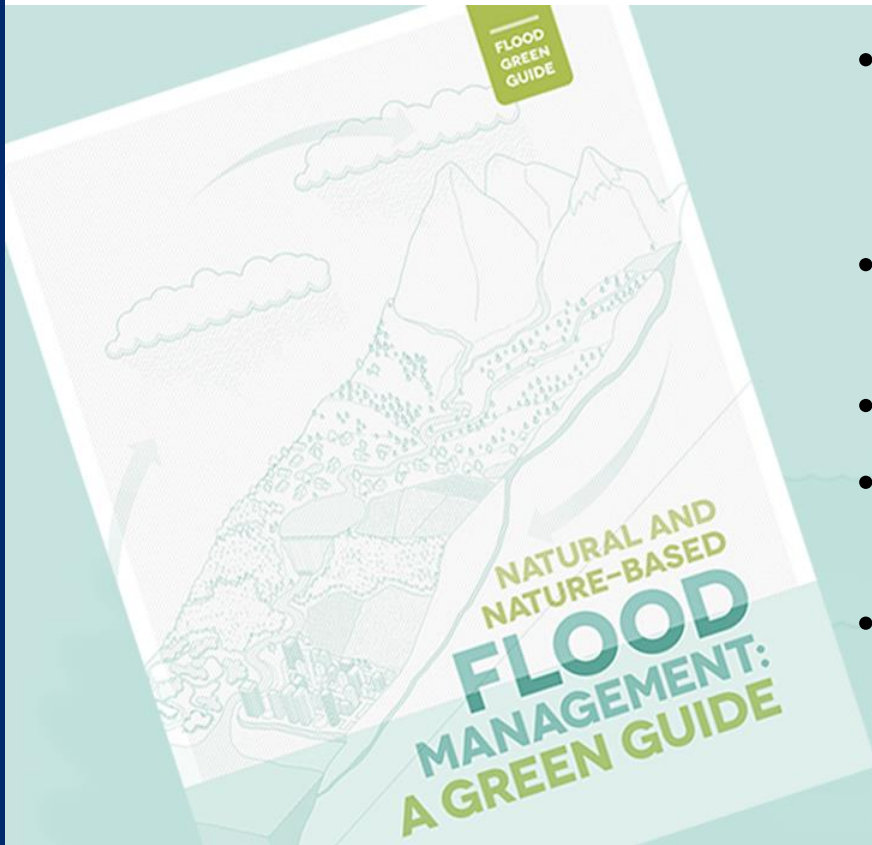
- In 2014, WWF Nepal trained **Ministries in GRRT** after **floods and landslides** common in **Nepal** during monsoon season
- **Green Recovery & Reconstruction Toolkit (GRRT)** training
- Developed by **WWF & American Red Cross** after 2004 Indonesian **Tsunami**
- **Improvement over 2010 Haiti REA**, country environmental leadership





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USAID WWF Nature-Based Flood Management



- Historical issue with unfit structural methods for flood control, faulty flood walls
- Developed by WWF for USAID OFDA, DRR Advisor, 2017
- Urban Issues
- Structural Means, Appropriate for High Value (Hospitals)
- Constructed wetlands, Upper Watershed conservation





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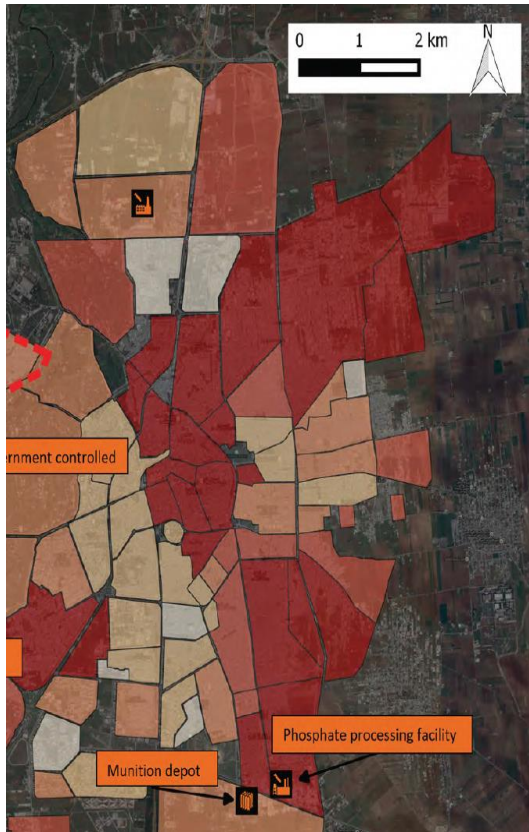
What should more environmental organizations do?

- Much of conservation regular work contributes to nature-based-DRR
- However, many of these orgs need to better understand:
 - BEFORE a disaster...
 - Hazards and risks awareness, not steady state, and ways to build resilience
 - Humanitarian architecture, MIRA, PDNA, UN Clusters





Mapping Environmental Impacts of the Syrian Conflict



Dutch NGO Pax, 2015,
Toxic Remnants of War

Goals

- Provide humanitarian actors with data for environmental impact and toxicity assessments
- Inform public health and safety
- Decrease the likelihood of lasting environmental pollution

Data Collection

- partners or local NGOs; remote sensing; geospatial data; citizen science (including connecting with Syrian refugees)

Challenges

- Lack of field access; data verification; security concerns with using public data

Environment in International Policies and Practices

- Applying environmentally responsible practices as part of disaster response is well established international policy

-International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies Code of Conduct for disaster relief:



“We will pay particular attention to environmental concerns in the design and management of relief programmes.....”

-UN Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Framework

(i) Environmental and natural resource management

- (a) Encourage the sustainable use and management of ecosystems,
- (b) Implement integrated environmental and natural resource management approaches



Coordination of Assessments for Environment in Humanitarian Action: A Joint Initiative (2016-18)



A woman at the entrance to what is left of her home in Les Cayes, Haiti after Hurricane Matthew (October 2016).

The goal of the initiative:
To improve lives and livelihoods by supporting humanitarian action through coordination with environmental actors both before and after disasters.



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Thank you