

Global Webinar Series

Environment and Emergencies in the face of COVID-19

Environmental coordination in
emergencies: localisation and
lockdown challenges

Welcoming Remarks

Juan Bello
Head of UNEP Colombia Project Office
Focal Point for Ecuador and Peru
UNEP Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

Programme



COVID-19
RESPONSE

UN
environment
programme



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RESPONSE.

nidm
Resilient India - Disaster Free India

Environment and emergencies:

What you need to know
in a pandemic context

1 22 July

Crisis waste management:
COVID-19 and beyond

3 23 Sep

Enhancing the sustainability
of humanitarian action

5 25 Nov

14:00
15:30
UTC+2

2 19 Aug

Environmental coordination
in emergencies: localisation
and lockdown challenges

4 14 Oct

Preparing for and
responding to chemical risks:
re-starting industry

6 16 Dec

What have we learnt
from past emergencies
and future outlook?

For ideas, comments, suggestions: Margherita Fanchiotti, fanchiotti@un.org

Agenda

- Welcome
 - **Juan Bello**, Head, UNEP Colombia Project Office
- Opening remarks
 - **Maj. Gen. Manoj K. Bindal**, Executive Director, India National Institute of Disaster Management
- Environmental coordination in emergencies
 - **Dan Stothart**, Regional Humanitarian Affairs Officer, UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Coordination, decentralization and localisation: insights from the Americas
 - **Juan Pablo O'Farrill Duque**, National Disaster Response Adviser, OCHA Mexico
- Beirut explosion: sneak peek into the Emergency Operations Cell
 - **Margherita Fanchiotti**, Focal Point for Response, UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit
- Q&A

Opening Remarks

Major General Manoj K. Bindal
Executive Director
India National Institute of Disaster Management

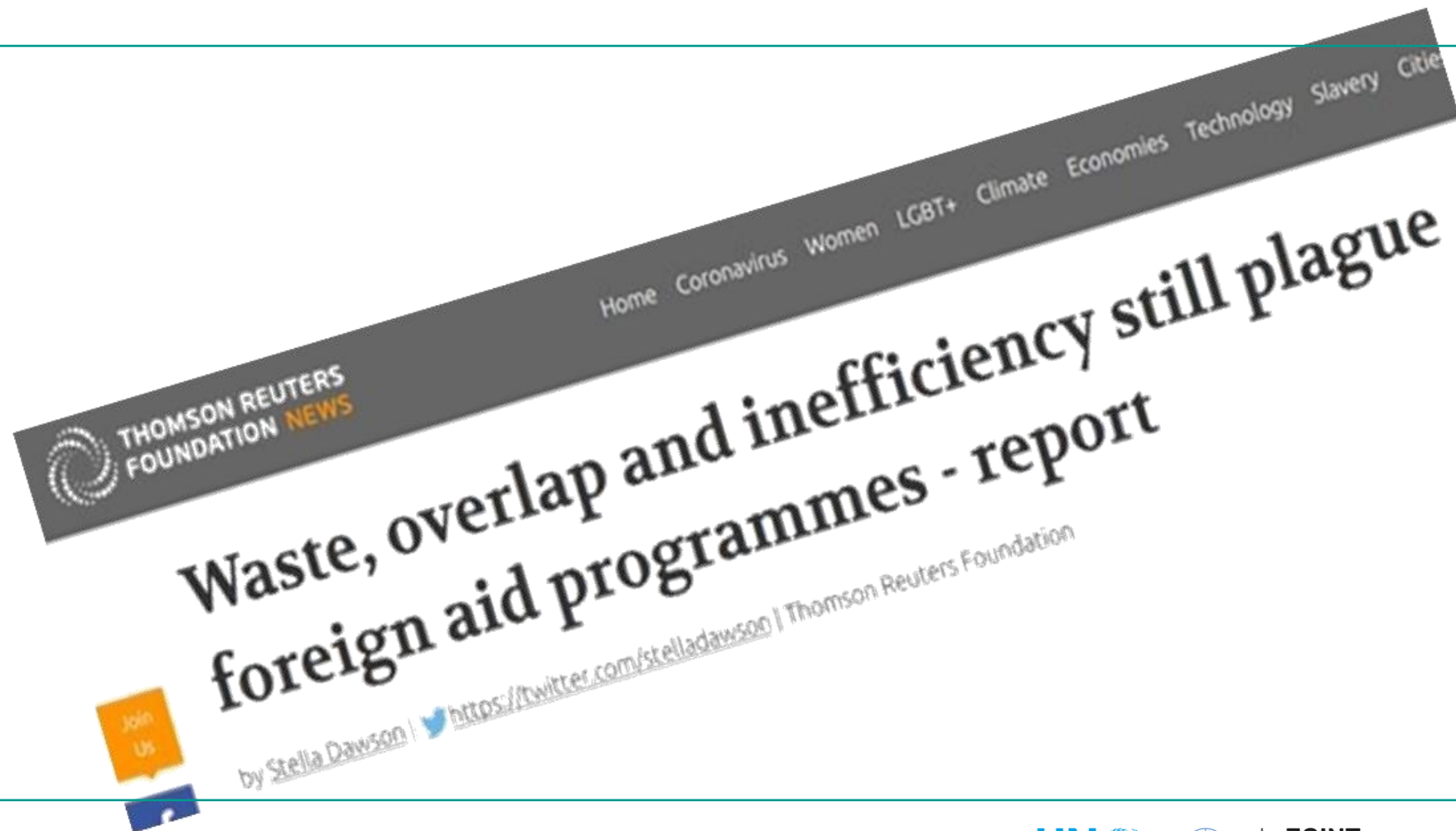
Environmental Coordination in Emergencies – Who, how, why...

Dan Stothart
Regional Humanitarian Affairs Officer – Latin America and the Caribbean
UN Environment Programme

The last thing we want to see...



The last thing we want to see...



Meaning....?

It is about getting the **right people** and the **right resources** to the **right place** at the **right time** to do the **right thing**.

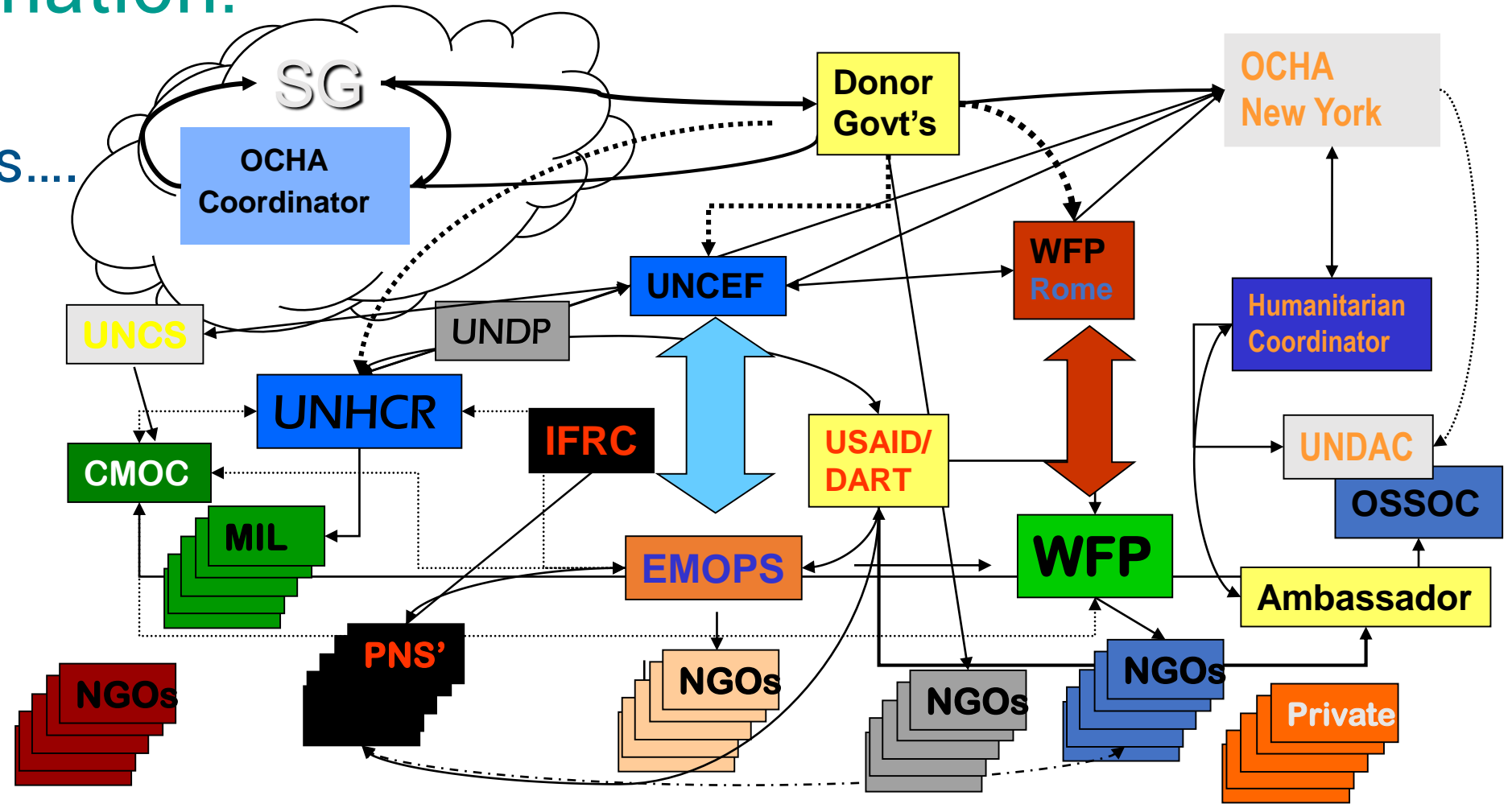
- What about environmental expertise?
- What about environmental resources?
- Which is the location with the greatest need, based on an alignment of humanitarian need and environmental impact?
- Which actions related to environment should be prioritised?

Formal vs. informal disaster response:

- Formal
 - Government and local authorities;
 - International humanitarian response system: UN, donors, regional organisations;
 - National Red Cross society;
 - Civil society;
 - Military.
- Informal
 - Affected people and communities;
 - Neighbourhood groups and NGOs;
 - Militia/rebels;
 - Religious groups;
 - Private sector.

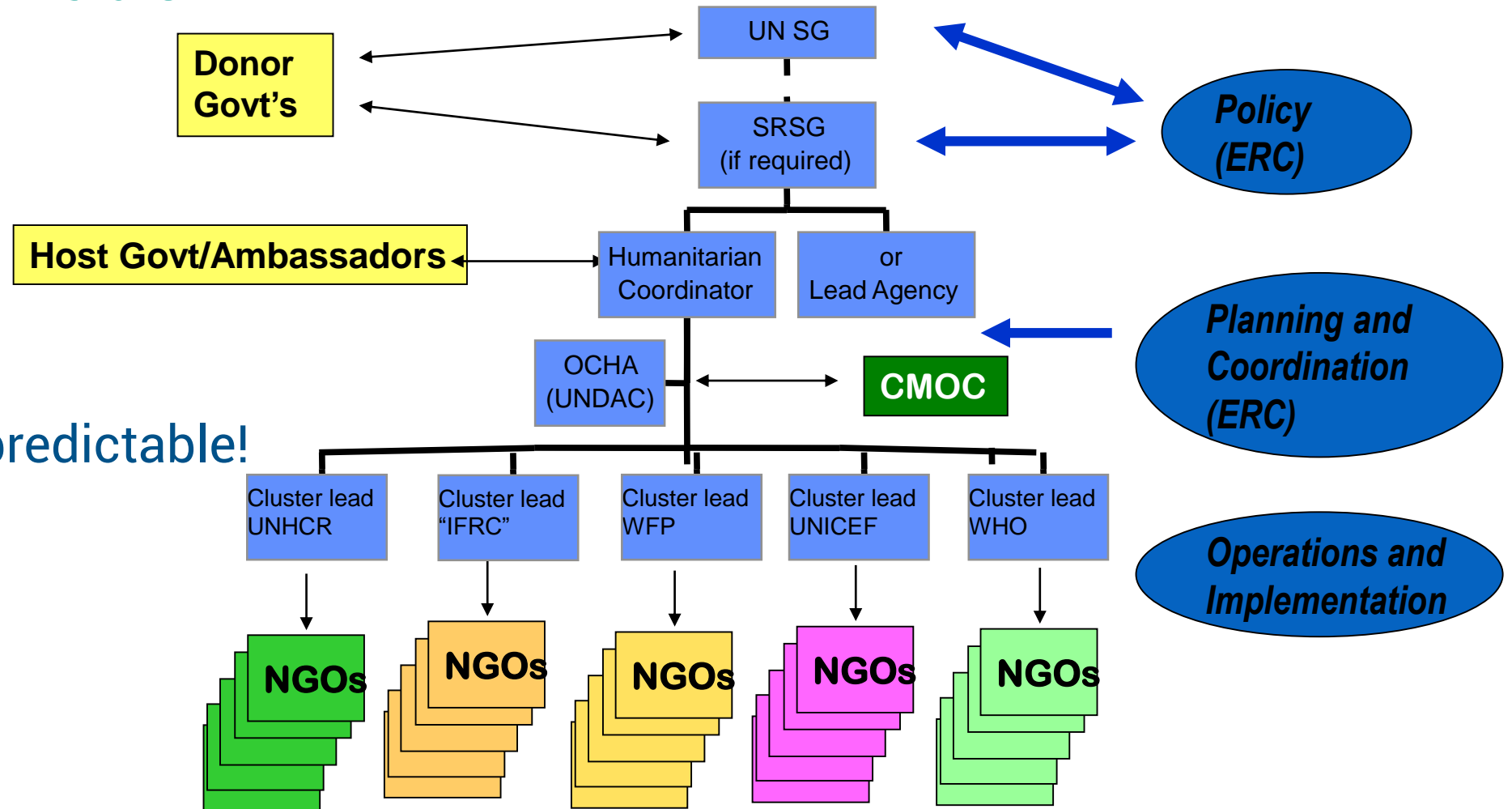
Relief coordination:

Moving from this....



Relief coordination:

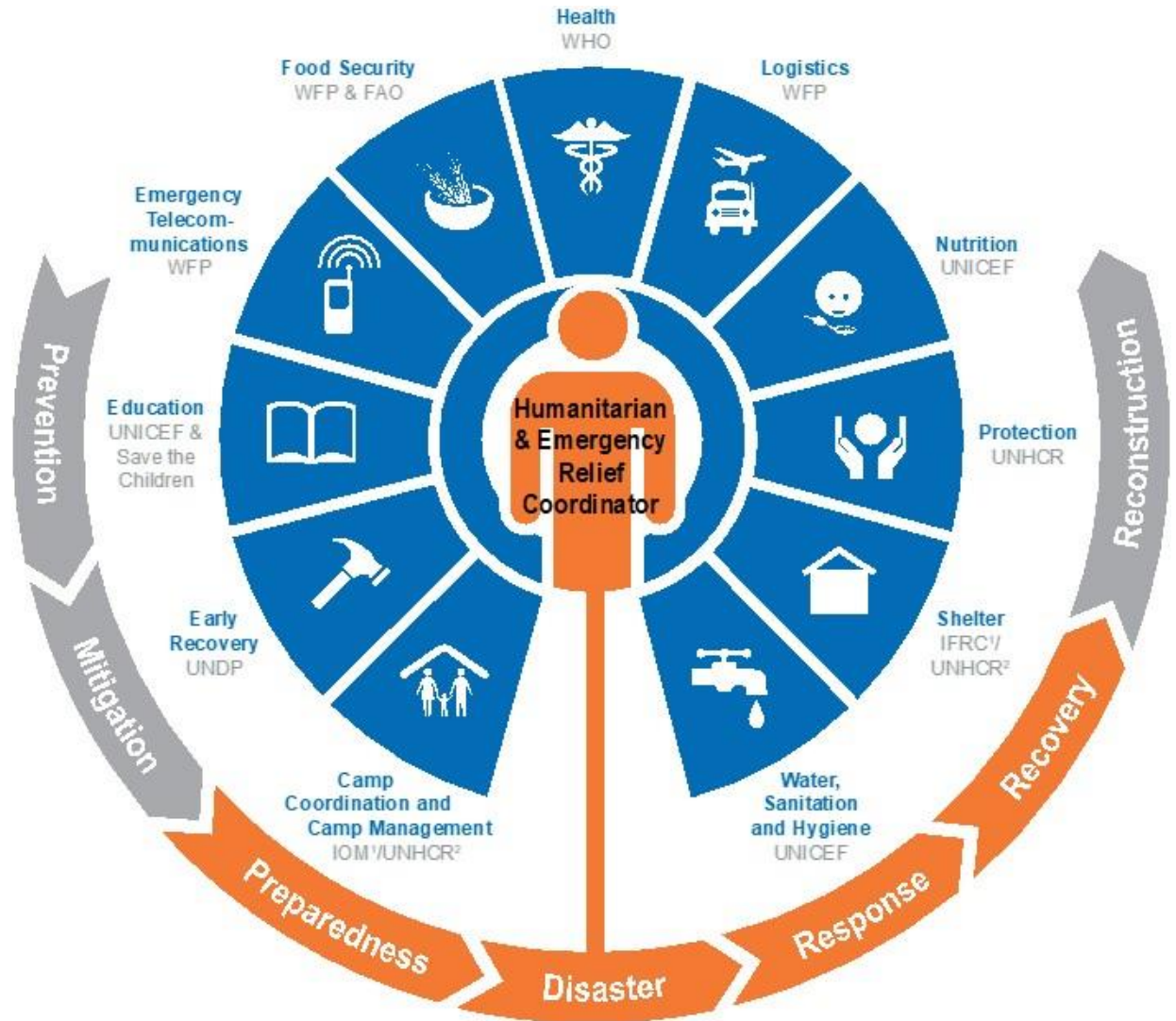
To this....



Something more predictable!

“Cluster” approach:

- Lead agency in each sector;
- Objective: a more predictable response;
- Cluster leads are “providers of last resort” in case of gaps in their sectors;
- Where is environment??



Who's who?

Humanitarian	Environment
Civil protection / NEMO	Ministry of Environment
NEMO local offices or civil defence branches	Local government environment department? Autonomous environmental corporation? Departments: Forestry, water resources, urban affairs, etc....
Red Cross	<i>Equivalent?</i>
UN agencies – OCHA, UNHCR (establish presence on the ground if not present already)	UN environmental agencies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNEP (often not present in country); • UNDP (often without environmental emergency experience, mandate is recovery)
Sector coordination: UNICEF, WHO, IOM, WFP etc...	<i>Equivalent?</i>
International humanitarian NGOs	International environmental NGOs and advocacy groups
Local humanitarian or development NGOs	Local environmental or development NGOs
Civil society and community groups	

Our interests are not so different....

1. Environmental degradation / pollution can directly contribute to or cause a crisis;
2. Underlying environmental factors can worsen existing humanitarian needs;
3. Environment can affect long-term survival, coping, recovery and long-term resilience;
4. The response can damage the environment if not designed carefully – Do No Harm principle;
5. The response could be used to improve environmental management. Build back better.

But we're under lockdown.....

- Virtual OSOCC – channel information through one single portal;
- <https://vosocc.unocha.org/>
- Activation of Remote Environmental Assessment and Analysis Cell.

GDACS is a cooperation framework between the United Nations, the European Commission and disaster managers worldwide to improve alerts, information exchange and coordination in the first phase after major sudden-onset disasters.

GDACS ALERTS VIRTUAL OSOCC MAPS & SATELLITE IMAGERY SCIENCE PORTAL ABOUT GDACS

Margherita Fanchiotti, OCHA YOUR PROFILE LOGOUT English Session expires in 20 minutes

Update colour scheme: 1 hr, 1-3 hrs, 3-6 hrs, 6-12 hrs, 12+ hrs, None

Disasters Simulator Training Meetings Discussions Users Lists Statistics

Archived discussions SURVEY TEMPLATES RELIEF TEAM DIRECTORY ADMIN

Selected list: Environmental Emergencies Roster

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Environmental Emergencies Roster

Apply filter

Name

Org

Category

No criterium

Categories

Dissemination list

Message type (according to role in roster)

Find people – for in-person coordination or remote support:



HUMANITARIAN ID

CONNECTING RESPONDERS

Contact management – for on the ground and remote support:

- Finding environmental professionals responding to the disaster – and who to offer your (remote) support to;
- Searching for specific contacts (e.g. a cluster coordinator);
- Better understand responder capacity and gaps;
- Providing the right people with the right information;
- <https://humanitarian.id/>



Key messages:

- Environmental work must be integrated in the overall humanitarian operation – it will not be considered a priority if it does not appear to save lives or livelihoods;
- There are many actors – but this also means many potential allies and sources to work with, if you go in with a collaborative mindset;
- Get involved in humanitarian coordination – to contribute to the response, not just to police it!
- We need to find a way to speak each other's language – environmental issues ARE humanitarian issues and humanitarian issues ARE environmental issues.

Further learning:

- OSOCC e-learning course: <https://www.insarag.org/45-en/global-structures/global-news/505-osocc-e-learning-course> (also available on the Virtual OSOCC in the “Training” tab (look under “e-learning” discussion);
- Cluster approach (and many other coordination issues): <https://www.buildingabetterresponse.org/>
- Virtual OSOCC intro video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IA6tOJolzHs>
- Humanitarian ID intro video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w0Sh3eaSdh0>

Thank you



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Coordination, decentralization and localization: insights from the Americas

Juan Pablo O'Farrill

National Disaster Response Advisor—OCHA Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
Active UNDAC Team Member

Latin America and the Caribbean



High middle-income countries
Capacities vs. inequalities



Exposed to natural disasters and
increased humanitarian impact



Often impacted by environmental
emergencies



Now the epicenter of the global pandemic



Despite challenges LAC is receptive to
international humanitarian cooperation



Integrating environmental emergencies component in the field



Some UNDAC missions in LAC and EE (Haiti 2016; Mexico 2017; Colombia 2018; Bahamas 2018...)



The importance of training and capacity building (e.g., Regional Environmental Training in Mexico)



Creation of a regional roster to strengthen environmental emergency readiness and response in LAC

Some preliminary insights...

- ✓ To raise awareness on the importance of EE in rapid response (to save lives)
- ✓ To integrate EE into the priorities in UNDAC missions
- ✓ To understand the linkages between environmental and humanitarian impact
- ✓ To bridge between immediate to medium- and long-term solutions

Many thanks and...
¡VIVA LA VIDA!

Juan Pablo O'Farrill
OCHA ROLAC
ofarrill@un.org



Beirut explosion: sneak peek into the Emergency Operations Cell

Margherita Fanchiotti
Focal Point for Response
UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit

Beirut explosion



BBC NEWS

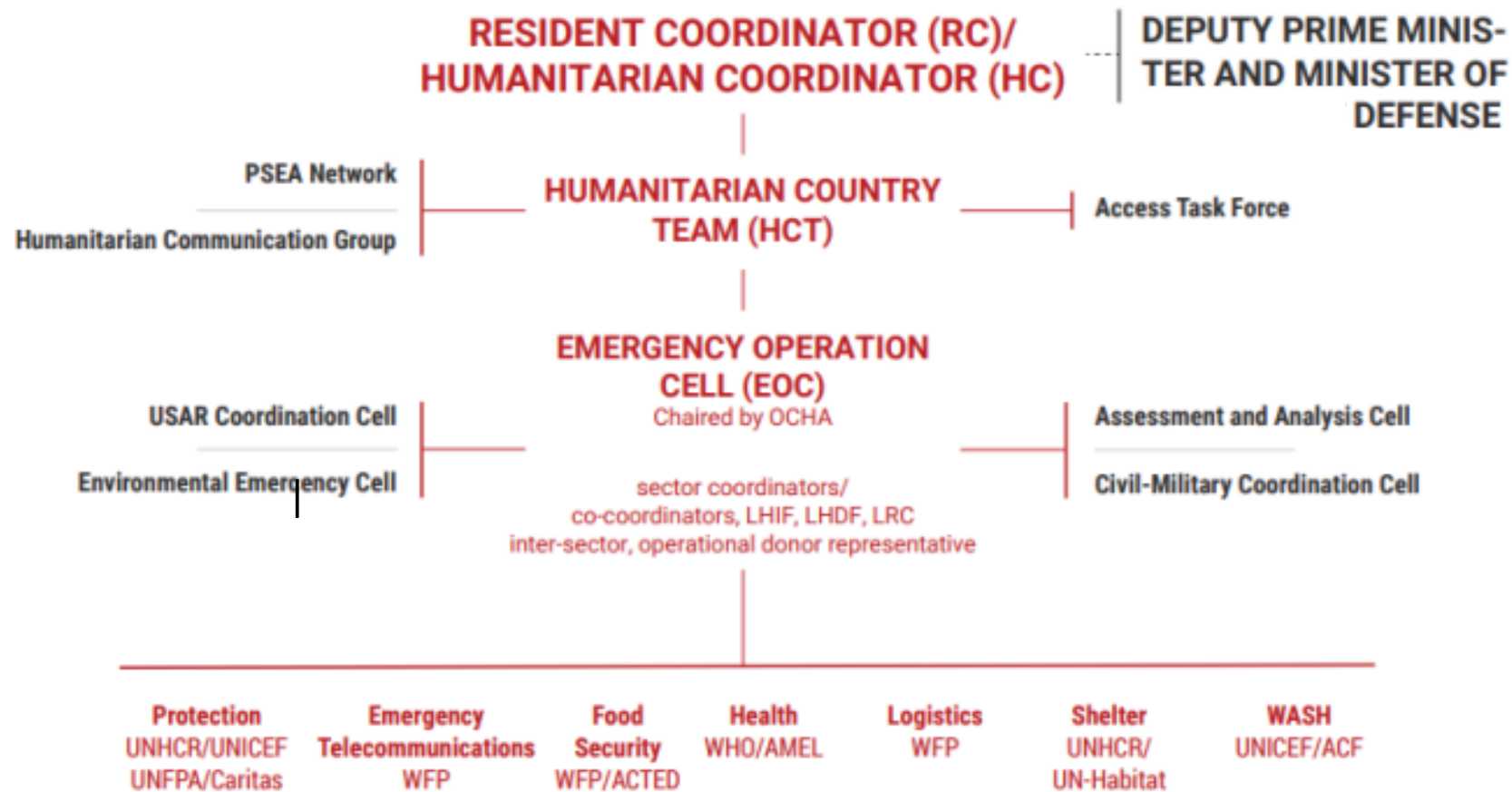
Humanitarian impact

- 178 reported deaths
- 6,000 + people injured
- 30 + people reported missing
- About 300,000 displaced

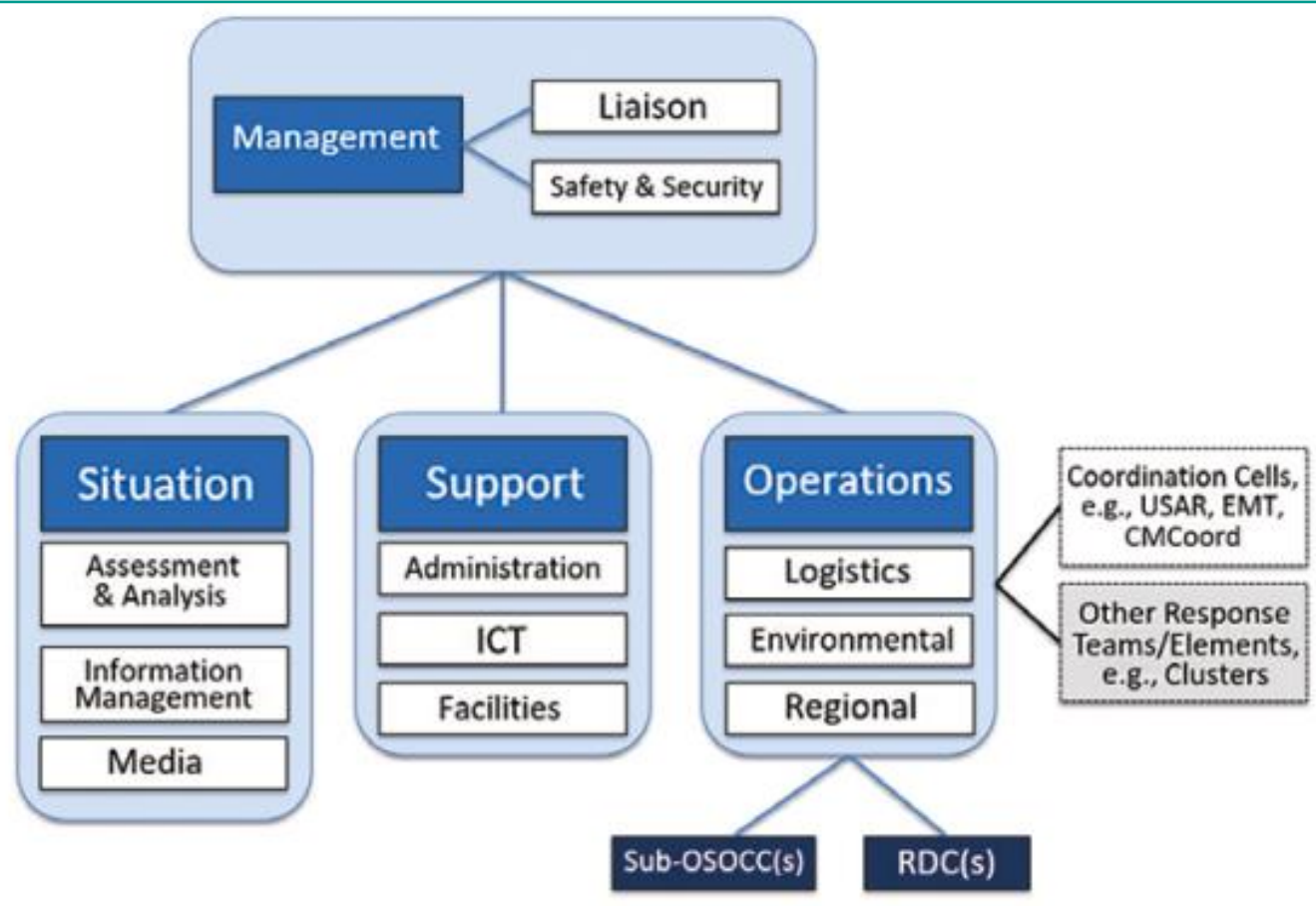
Response



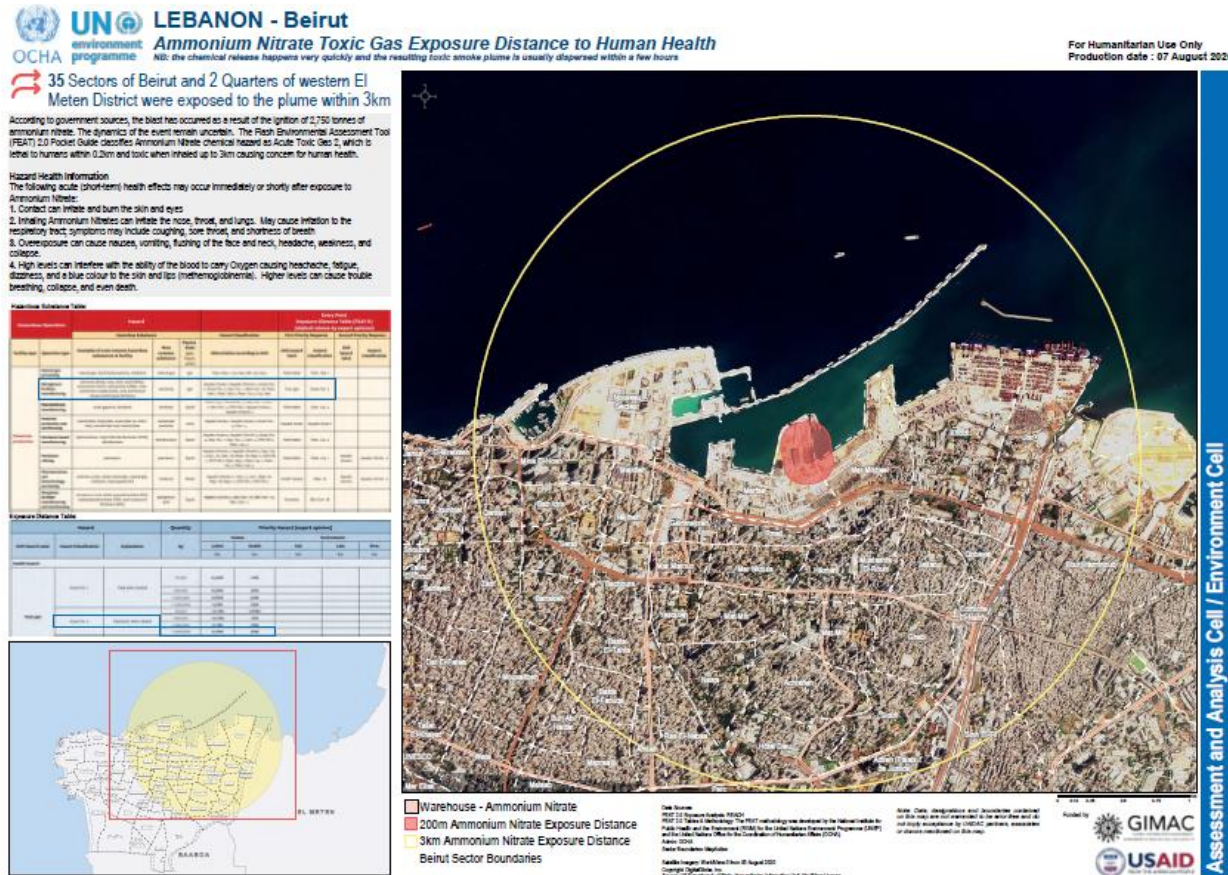
Coordination structure - External

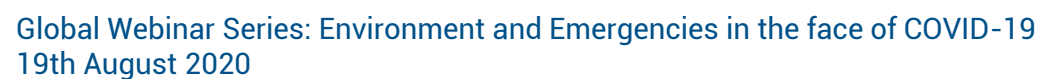


Coordination structure - Internal



Environment Cell





Environment Cell



UNHCR Lebanon @UNHCRLebanon · Aug 11

"#Beirut has been hosting us for years, it's our duty to give back."

After the blast, refugee volunteers Khaled, Mohamad, Ayman, Zahra & Kawthar joined community efforts to distribute food & water and remove debris from houses & streets.

♥ Inspiring solidarity in #Lebanon now



11

125

314



Coming together is a beginning;
keeping together is progress; working
together is success.

Henry Ford

Thank you



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Margherita Fanchiotti
Focal Point for Response, UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit
fanchiotti@un.org

Q&A Session

Thank you for attending today's webinar!

The third webinar will take place on 23 September 2020 and will focus on crisis waste management.

For comments and questions about the Global Webinar Series, please contact the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit (JEU) at ochaunep@un.org
