



Minutes

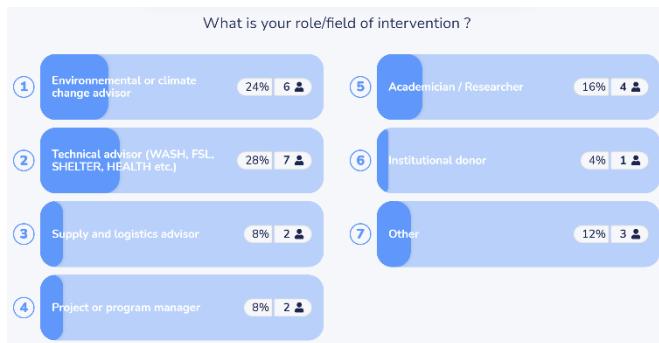
Environnemental Assessments Working Group session at the HNPW

17 April 2023

Location : online

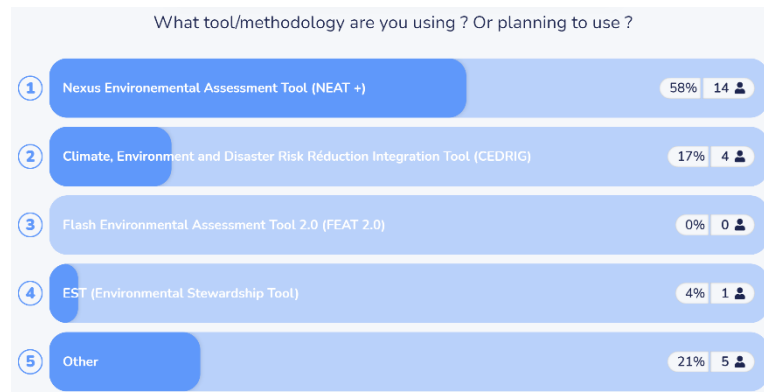
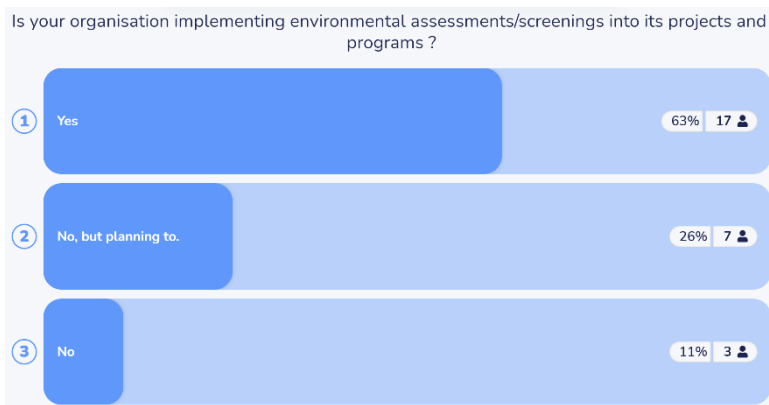
The Working Group on Environmental Assessment of the REH normally meets every two months. This meeting was held during the HNPW and was open to all to join. We were 51 to attend this meeting. Thank you all!

1. Participative Exercise



We started the meeting with a participative exercise to get to know the attendants. We wanted to know especially if they had experience using environmental assessments tools within their organisations.

We found that **most participants do use environmental assessments/screenings in their projects, and that when they do, they use the NEAT+:**



2. Introduction to the REH and the Working Group

We then briefly introduced the Réseau Environnement Humanitaire ([REH](#)) which is a network of French-speaking NGOs working together to reduce the environmental footprint of aid, with over 200 members including 20 organisations. Its mission is that, given the urgency and seriousness of climate and environmental issues, the REH works to improve understanding and awareness of these issues among French-speaking humanitarian and development actors, and supports them in adopting more environmentally friendly practices.

The REH developed the [Statement](#) of commitment on Climate by Humanitarian Organisations, which is signed by 13 organisations¹ and sets out targeted goals around:

¹ Groupe URD, ACTED, Alima, Gret, ACF, CARE, SI, MDM, ESF PUI, SIF, TdH and HI

1. Measuring our impact
2. Reducing our carbon footprint (-50% by 2030)
3. Adapting our humanitarian action to climate risks
4. Communicating on our progress
5. Encouraging others to raise the ambition

If you want to sign on the Declaration, you can contact the Secretariat of the REH at: secretariat@environnementhumanitaire.org.

The **different working groups** of the REH were then presented which are:

1. **Carbon** Working Group, which aims to support member organisations to carry out their carbon footprints evaluations and then implement targeted measures to reduce the impact of their activities. It was the first WG created in 2021 (Consortium CHANGE).
 - a. Members: ACF, HI, ESF, CRF, MDM, PUI, Oxfam, SIF, SI, CARE
 - b. If you want to join you can contact: carbhone@environnementhumanitaire.org
2. **Environmental Assessment** Working Group, which aims to support member organisations to better integrate the environment into projects through the use of environmental assessment tools (NEAT+, CEDRIG, EST, OIE, etc.).
 - a. Members: SI, ACF, HI, Oxfam, Netherlands Red Cross, CRF, PUI, SIF, GAC, CARE
 - b. If you want to join, you can contact: evalenv@environnementhumanitaire.org
3. **Waste** Working Group, which aims to support member organisations to better integrate waste and its management into projects. It was created back in September 2022.
 - a. Members: ESF, Oxfam, ACF, JI, CRF, HI, SI, MDM, ACTED, SIF, PUI
 - b. If you want to join contact: dechets@environnementhumanitaire.org
4. **Sustainable and Responsible Procurement** Working Group, which aims to support member organisations to integrate sustainable procurement concepts into the supply chain. It just recently joined the network.
 - a. Members: ACF, PUI, MDM, Oxfam, Bioforce, HI, ALIMA, MSF Belgique, SI
 - b. If you want to join contact: achats@environnementhumanitaire.org

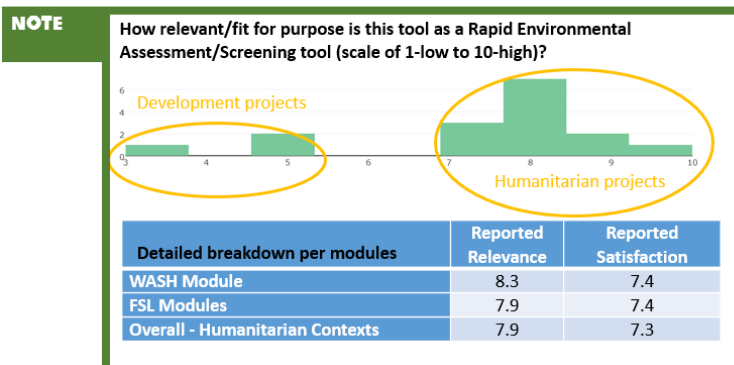
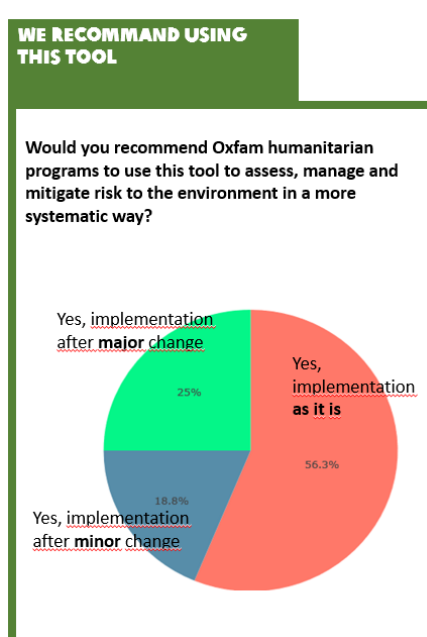
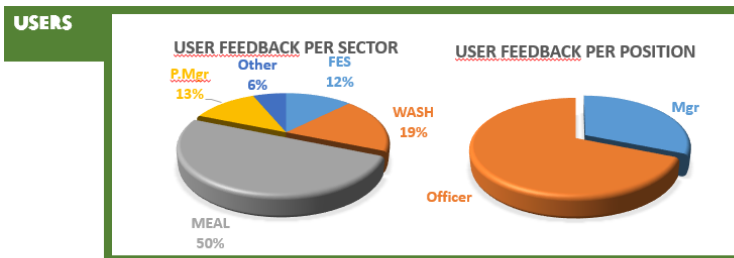
3. Review of the work of the WG

Since 2021, the WG :

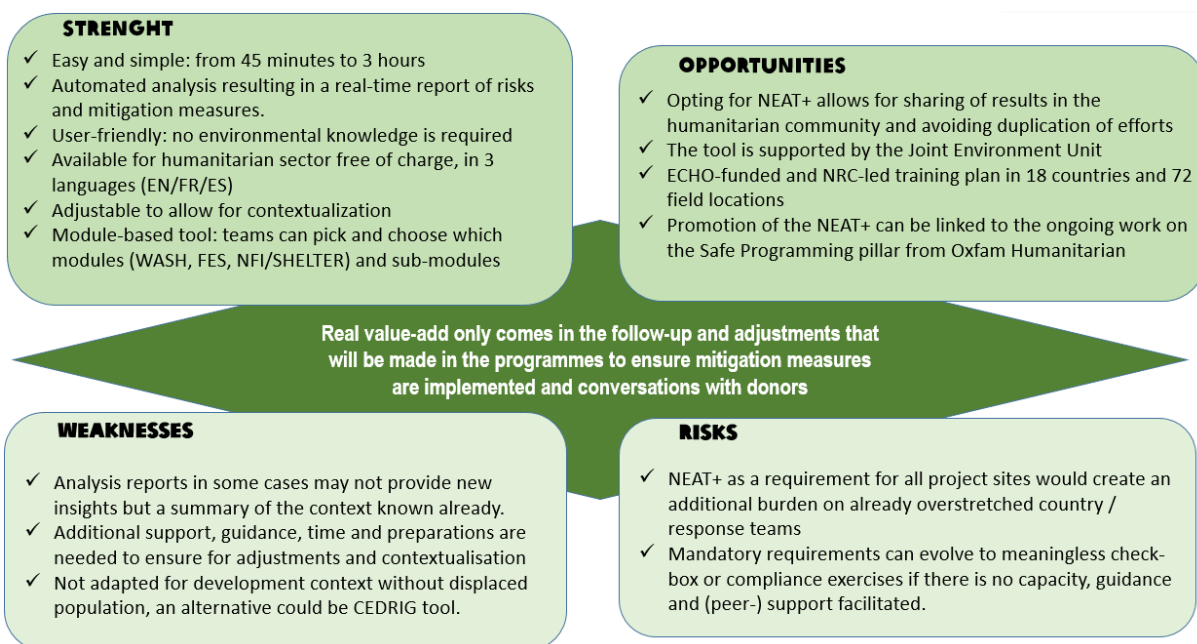
- Gathered **user feedback** on how to improve the NEAT+ tool (available [here](#)). These recommendations were submitted to the Joint Environment Unit which has the stewardship of the tool and many of these recommendations were taken into account.
- Tested other tool – CEDRIG
- Developed a **NEAT+ online tutorial series** (in [English](#) and [French](#))
- Worked closely with JEU and join the NEAT+ tool governance
 - o WG to join the Steering Committee and Technical groups

4. Feedback on the NEAT+

Fred Jaunasse of the WG and of Oxfam Intermon then presented their feedback on their use of the NEAT+ tool. After having briefly presented the tool, he presented the results of a pilot project that took place from November 2021 to March 2022, where they piloted Excel version of the tool (no Kobo), in 12 countries in 4 regions.



They found that everyone recommended the tool, but with some minor or major changes. They also found much higher grades for the **purpose of the tool in humanitarian contexts rather than in development contexts.**



Overall, the WG thinks that:

- There could be a **merging urban and rural versions** or improving the rural and download it online
- The tool is not showing the concrete impacts on environment of the mitigation measures once implemented by the project → an interesting solution would be for the user to be able to **select the planned mitigation measures and then see the new state of the environmental risk.**
- The importance of creating and support a **Community of Practice** (for tool's improvement and dissemination) is underlined

Importantly, some of the feedbacks on the NEAT+ that was sent to the JEU was taken into account, especially the part on having the possibility to skip modules in the urban version of NEAT+. A [new version of tool](#) is

actually available² – although the WG has not had the opportunity to test it out yet. The JEU – which participated in the session – is very open to gather feedback, you can submit it [here](#).

5. Feedback on the CEDRIG

Louis Mauler of the WG and of Terre des Hommes Switzerland presented feedback on the [CEDRIG](#) tool. It is developed and offered by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and its aim is to assess risks from climate change, environmental degradations and natural hazards at the of **strategic, programmatic and project level**. It takes a dual perspective of both climate and environmental risks *and* impacts.

In comparing with NEAT+:

Advantages	Shortcomings
Climate change perspective	Expertise required
Light: rapid and offline assessment	Operational assessment = 2-4 days workshop
Compatible with "development" projects and contexts	Mitigation measures, opportunities and potential
Currently: SDC reviewing the tool with users (surveys, etc.)	Gender and inclusiveness : only implicit guidance

In TdH the tool is mainly used by the WASH sector in the Asia region (India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Myanmar) but not in a systematic way. The main challenges they have identified:

- **Expertise:** Train national and HQ staff to mainstream the use of CEDRIG – the current use depends on the profiles an experience of staff
- **Timing:** Integrate CEDRIG at the proper moment in PCM/strategic planning/programming
- **Implementation:** make sure to have the available means (financial, technical) to implement and monitor identified measures
- **Participation:** meaningfully engage with partners/community to understand context and ensure relevance (the SDC is developing support for this point)

It was asked if the SDC requires the use of a CEDRIG, and it seems that it is encouraged but not mandatory.

6. Participant experiences/feedback

We then opened the floor up for discussion, asking if the participants had any feedback on either NEAT+ or CEDRIG or any other tool that they might be using.

Participants mentioned the Environmental Stewardship Tool ([EST](#)) that was really developed for general staff to implement with local partners really about supporting the conversation with the implementing partners. However, it seems that it was rather hard to use with non-sensitized staff, but since then additional resources have been developed and the tool is actually currently being reviewed.

7. Perspectives for the WG

Looking forward, the WG will:

- By participating in the NEAT+ governance, **continue to accompany the development of NEAT+**
- Continue to gather and share our **user feedback (NEAT +, CEDRIG)**
- Potentially develop a follow up to our training series on how to **analyse and integrate the results from NEAT+**
- Monitor and improve **tools other than NEAT+, potentially develop tutorials on CEDRIG.**
- Advocate for funding for the development of the existing tools

8. Join the WG

Do not hesitate to join the REH ([here](#)) and then contact evalenv@environnementhumanitaire.org to join the WG!

² With the possibility to skip the modules, and to have different types of recommendation reports.