RESEAU
ENVIRONNEMENT
HUMANITAIRE

HNPW 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESMENT WG

March, 18th 2025

Agenda

1. Getting to know you
2. Introduction to the REH and the working group
3. Presenting the MERA Matrix : methodology and how to use
4. Next steps
5. Q&A

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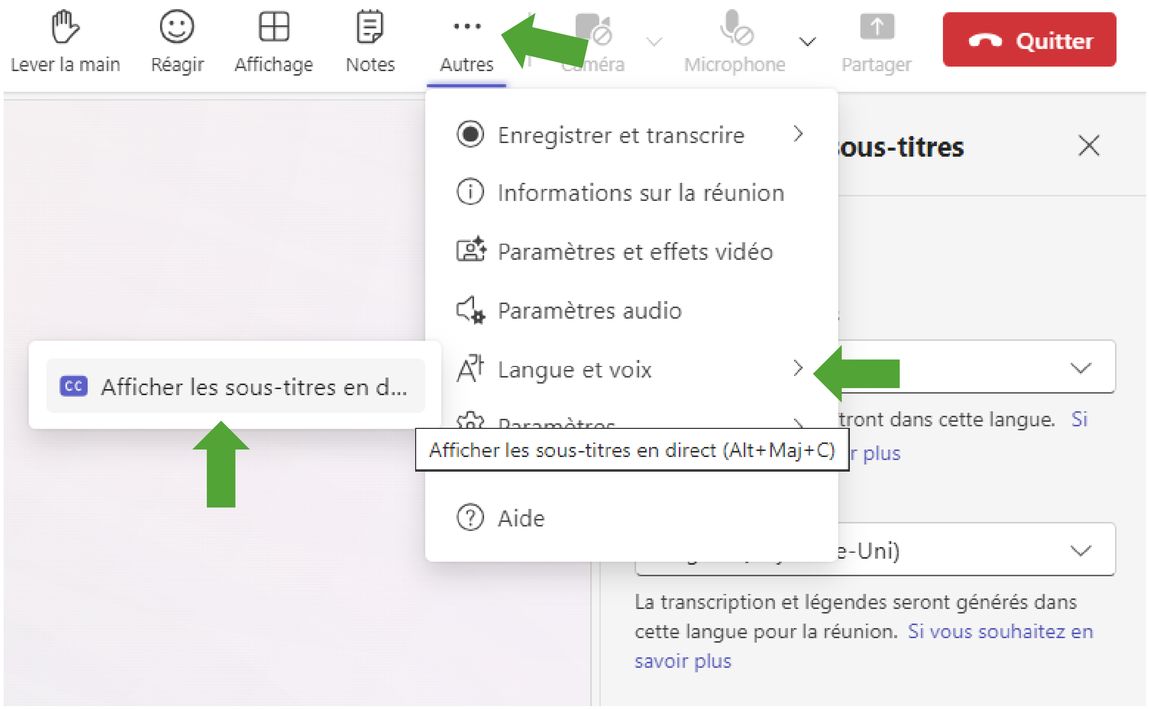
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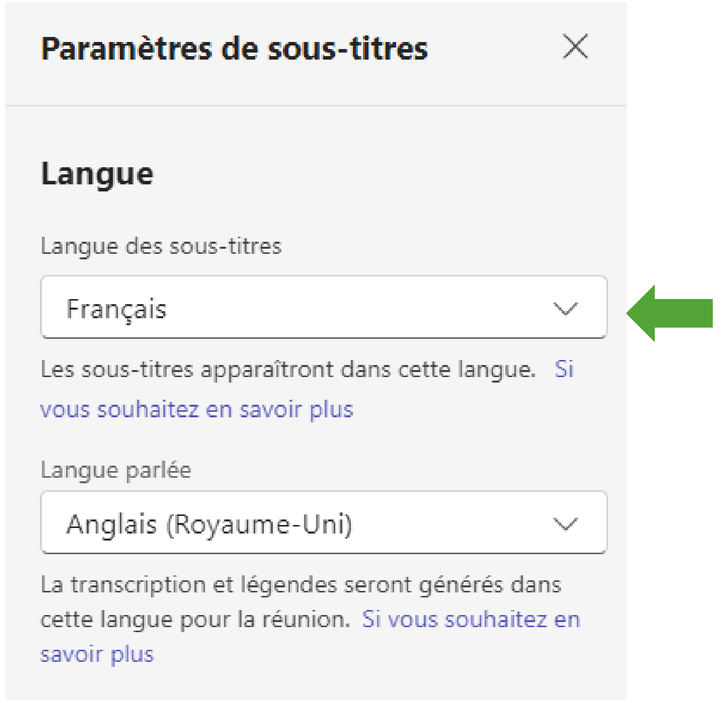
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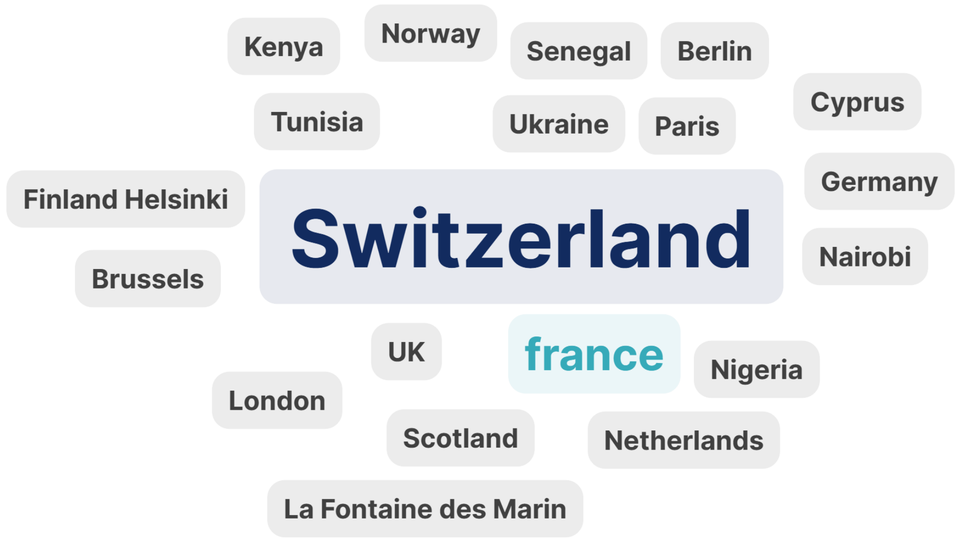
Where are you joining us from ?

Wordcloud Poll | 24 responses | 24 participants



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What type of organisation do you work for?

Multiple Choice Poll | 24 votes | 24 participants

NGO - 11 votes

UN - 6 votes

Academia/think tank - 2 votes

Other - 5 votes

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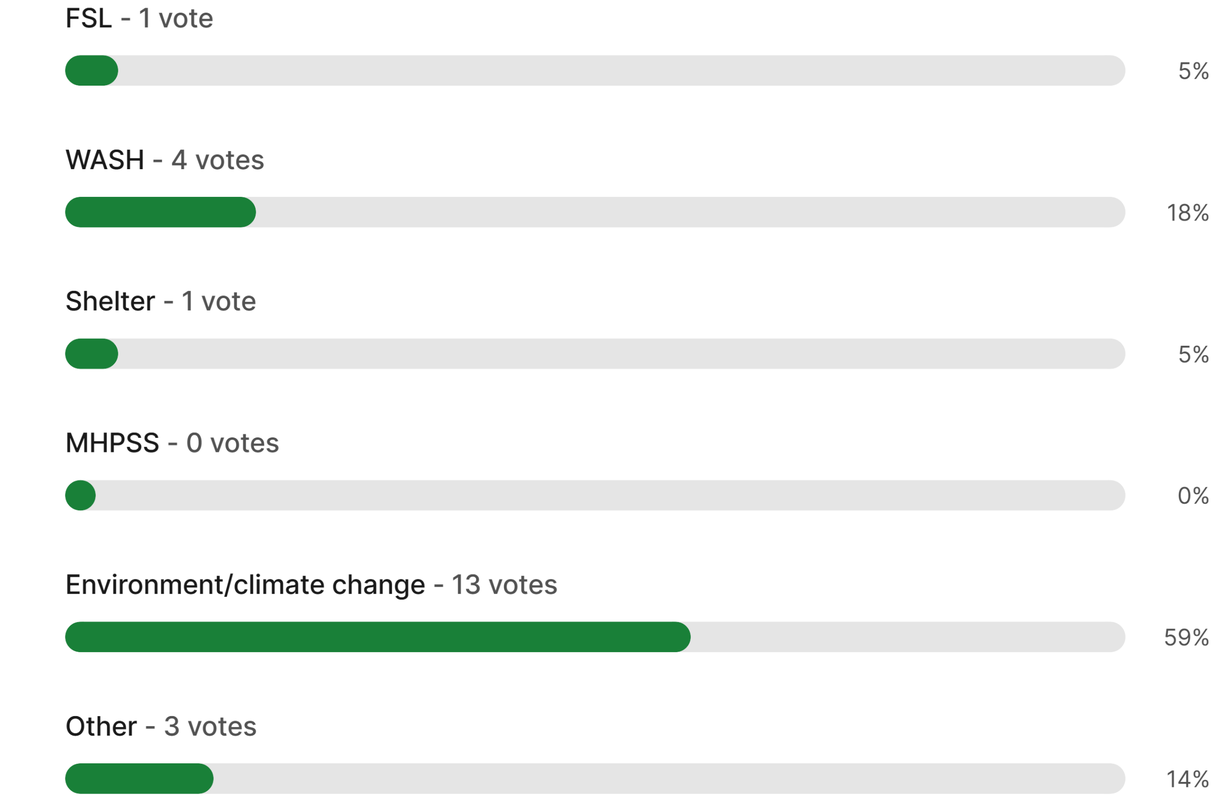
Which describes best your role:

Multiple Choice Poll | 22 votes | 22 participants



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Which best describes your role

Multiple Choice Poll | 27 votes | 27 participants

Programme manager - 6 votes

22%

Technical Advisor - 13 votes

48%

Other - 8 votes

30%

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The REH

REH

Réseau Environnement Humanitaire (Humanitarian Environment Network)

Since 2012, restructured in 2021

Francophone humanitarians & development workers to **reduce environmental footprint of aid**

300+ members

30+ orgs

4 working groups to operationalise : waste, carbon, sustainable procurement and environmental assessments

The working group

Environmental Assessments WG

Since 2021

Initially focus on NEAT+

Also explored other tools (CEDRIG, EST)

Help members and sector to use ES

Tutorials

NEAT+ feedback: 2022 and 2023

NEAT + Steering Committee member

Environmental analysis

Objectives: To quickly identify **issues of environmental concern,** to make emergency and recovery interventions more sustainable. It allows to understand **environmental risks**, to **mitigate and adapt** them, to make **humanitarian operations greener.**

Who: **Programs**, **Project Manager**, involving logistics or other concerned departments

When: When life-saving needs have been assessed, immediately following a crisis, ideally **before project proposal and/ or when designing the project.**

Rationale behind developing a multisectorial environmental risks analysis matrix

- ❑ Not fully satisfied by the existing environmental screening tools (awaiting improvements)
- ❑ Real added value only comes in the adjustments that will be made in program design
- ❑ Importance of guiding a participatory analytical process with the key project stakeholders

Multi-sectoral Risks Analysis Matrix

MERA Matrix – Why ?

The aim of the **MERA (Multi-sectoral Environmental Risks Analysis) matrix** is to help project developers and technical advisors to become **aware of the environmental risks** that their project may entail, and to quickly come up with **recommendations to mitigate the negative environmental impact of their project**

What

This matrix is intended to identify potential environmental risks and its associated mitigation measures. For activities in FSL, WASH, Shelter and MHPSS

How

The risks and associated mitigation measures listed in the matrix are organised by sector of intervention (FSL, WASH, Shelter, MHPSS), then by sub-sector and by activity within each sector.

When

MERA shall be used during project design to be able to integrate adequate resources in your proposal in order to effectively implement environmental risks mitigation measures.

Who

Project managers, project coordinators and technical advisors

A collaborative methodology for sector consensus & buy in

1

Review of existing tools' content

- Sectoral taskforces were created with a few experts (from 4 to 6 people)
- The sectoral taskforces reviewed the content of existing tools to select only the most relevant mitigation measures.

2

Matrix development

- The scope of the matrix was defined within the sectoral taksforces and with the WG
- The sectoral taskforces combined the review of the content of existing tools with their expertise to have a list of mitigation measures per sector and sub-sector/activity/stage.

3

Peer-review of the sectoral content

- Each sectoral taskforce reached out to hold revision session for their tabs.
- FSL, WASH and Shelter taskforces held public revision sessions to go through the content.

4

Harmonisation and diffusion

- Once the content was finalised, the EA WG agreed on the final look of the matrix and harmonised the tabs. The tabs were then translated to French and Spanish.
- Online sessions were held to difuse the matrix.

More than **200 people** involved, from **70 different organisations**

Peer review and collaboration was provided by experts within the following organisations :

This matrix was co-funded by the European Union Humanitarian Aid

Co-funded by European Union Humanitarian Aid

What it is not : not a new tool, but a practical alternative

- The matrix **does not replace environmental screenings** (ex: NEAT+, EST etc.) but can complement them.
- The matrix does not provide an **exhaustive** list of environmental risks and mitigation measures.
- This matrix is **not context specific**.
- It can serve as a basis to review other tools.

How to use the MERA matrix

Recommended methodological approach

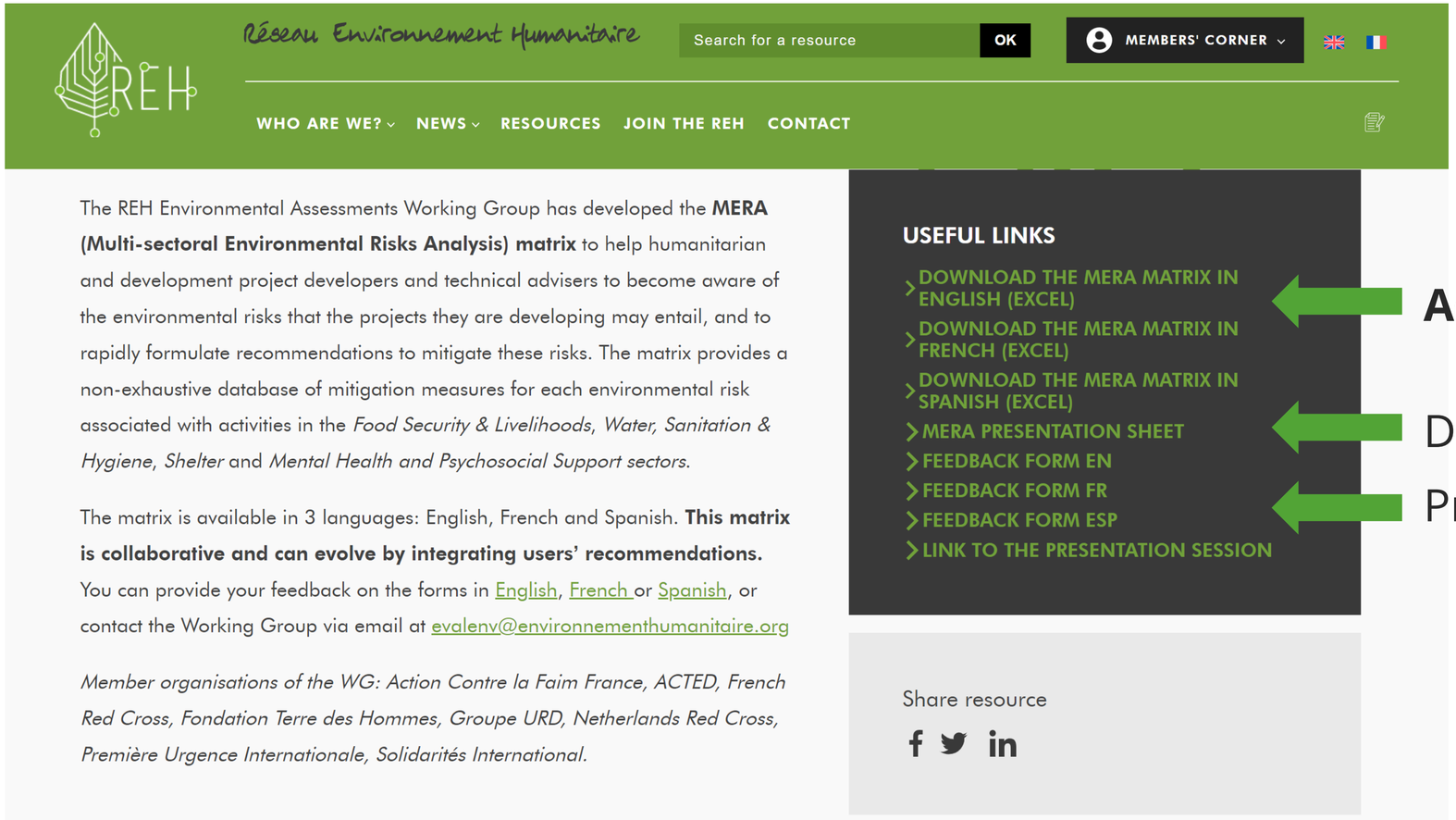
- ❑ Organize a **workshop** gathering all the key local stakeholders (NGO program and support staff, local partners staff, representatives of communities, etc.) to **contextualize the discussion**
- ❑ Once environmental risks and corresponding mitigation measures are prioritized, discuss how they can be **integrated** into project design
- ❑ Define the **adequate resources** to implement those mitigation measures (human resources, logistic, material, finance, etc.)
- ❑ Integrate the measures and associated budget in your proposal

Steps

1. Open the corresponding Sector tab
2. Filter by sub-sector/stage/activity related to your planned project
3. Select the priority environmental risks concerning your context
4. Select the most relevant mitigation measures for each of those risks
5. If needed, add columns to the matrix to fit your needs

Now let's look at the Matrix!

On the REH website: https://www.environnementhumanitaire.org/en/ressource/multi-sectoral-matrix-of-environmental-risk-analysis-and-mitigation-measures-mera-reh-environmental-assessments-wg-october-2024/



Access the matrix in Excel format here

Detailed methodology & more info

Provide feedback

Now let's look at the Matrix!

Food Security and Livelihoods (FSL)

Sub-sector	Activity	Potential environmental risks	Mitigation measures
Food assistance	In-kind food distribution	Increased greenhouse gas emissions and other negative environmental impacts through the whole food supply chain	•Quantify GHG emissions to ensure appropriate movement planning. For instance, the Humanitarian Carbon Calculator is a tool that can support the quantification. •Rationalise movement planning: limit truck movements, consider truck and other shipments pooling initiatives, use lower-emissions and electric vehicles whenever feasible. Agro-fuels, on the other hand, are not recommended as they may compete with food crops. •Preposition food stocks. •Include sustainability criteria when evaluating tenders. Establish minimum requirements for working with suppliers. Include environmental standards in the procurement tenders (i.e., sustainable palm oil certification). Prioritise supplies with an environmental impact traceability. •Identify procured items' emission impacts and identify what can be substituted with a lower impact. •Rationalise packaging volumes with suppliers to reduce the number of transport journeys required for equivalent transport quantities. •Proper/accurate needs assessments to prevent resale of distributed inputs in the market (double transport would increase carbon footprint). •Procure from companies that certify traceability of environmentally friendly production. •Seek procurement of agro-ecological products. •Ensure appropriate standard procedures for commodity transportation and storage (FIFO, training at the household level, safe storage infrastructure).
Food assistance	In-kind food distribution	Improper food storage and/or untreated/composted food waste can create hygiene and health problems for people, plants and animal	•Ensure safe disposal of contaminated and spoiled food items. •Consider other use for spoiled foods (ex. fertilizer making, feed for animals, etc.). •Ensure appropriate design of distribution rounds and dimensioning of distribution site.
Food assistance	In-kind food distribution	Overcrowding at distribution site and impacts on grassland	•Provide access to safely designed sanitation facilities with proper treatment systems and sanitation chains •Minimize clearing of land in order to minimize soil erosion, adverse hydrological changes and habitat degradation •Organize awareness sessions at distribution sites to sensitize recipients on the fragile natural resources and locally relevant environmental impacts of human activity (cooking, food production, food purchases, etc.) •Ensure appropriate dimensioning of grazing areas for livestock if beneficary population is pastoralist
Food assistance	In-kind food distribution	Additional deforestation induced by increased use of wood and charcoal for cooking food aid items	•Distribute clean cooking energy and energy-efficient stoves as standard items (through in-kind, cash or voucher). •Distribute selected food items that have a reduced time of cooking, and make sure people are aware about meal preparation and cooking practices that have the potential to reduce cooking time (ex. soaking legumes and pulses for several hours, etc.). •Ensure appropriate awareness-raising around risks, impacts of deforestation and ways to combat it. •Conduct awareness about tree planting and management of wood resources. •Consider embedding integrated programs that support proper management and recovery of trees and forests (afforestation, FMNR -farmer managed natural regeneration training, reforestation, circular bioeconomy, Integrated Natural Resource Management, permaculture, etc.). •As an indirect measure not directly related to food assistance, promote IGAs in a more sustainable manner : bee keeping, crop/vegetable farming, livestock rearing, seed pressing, charcoal production, all have sustainable and environmentally friendly ways of being done. IGAs that could contribute to the sustainable management of natural resources and minimise overexploitation. •Undertake a waste audit to understand waste volumes and types to inform the potential for waste recycling and any related livelihood activities or cooperation with private enterprises or linked to the national level systems. For instance, the WREC tool developed by the Logistics Cluster can be used to support the auditing (see

Guidance note | FSL | WaSH | Shelter | MHPSS | References

3 4 5 1 2 6

Next steps

This matrix is collaborative and can evolve by integrating users' recommendations:

→ You may contact the Working Group via this email: evalenv@environnementhumanitaire.org

→ Provide your feedback on the matrix through this form: https://forms.office.com/e/DpypSTnNkr (EN) https://forms.office.com/e/iPgdYVeFER (FR) or https://forms.office.com/e/CK2EcB8PL9 (ESP)

Any questions?

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Thank you!

evalenv@environnementhumanitaire.org