



Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week 2024: Guide for the Private Sector

OVERVIEW

Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks (HNPW) is the largest annual gathering of humanitarian practitioners and experts from United Nations agencies and international organizations, governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector. Jointly organized by the [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#) (OCHA) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, HNPW provides an opportunity for professionals working in the sector to exchange experience, discuss new concepts, introduce new tools and ideas, connect, and collaborate in finding solutions to common challenges in crisis preparedness and response.

The in-person portion of HNPW 2024 will take place from **6 – 10 May** at the **International Conference Centre in Geneva** (CICG). There is also a ‘remote week’ with virtual sessions scheduled from 29 April – 3 May.

More than 1,000 participants are expected to attend the 300+ sessions organized by more than 60 humanitarian networks and partnerships. Most sessions are open to the public, though advance registration is required. [View the full list of sessions and register for individual sessions of interest here.](#)

The private sector has a key role to play in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters. In this guide, we have highlighted HNPW sessions that may be of interest to the private sector and to humanitarians interested in working with the private sector.

Please reach out to us at ochaprivatesector@un.org if we have missed something, if you have any questions, or if you’d like to meet up on the sidelines of HNPW.

KEY SESSIONS

Private Sector Welcome and Orientation

Monday, 6 May | 11:00 – 12:30 CEST | Salle 3 | in-person only

Join the [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#) (OCHA) and private sector focal points from a range of humanitarian organizations for an exclusive session aimed at welcoming private sector partners to HNPW, the premier annual event for humanitarian practitioners and experts worldwide.

This session will facilitate meaningful engagement and collaboration between private sector representatives and key stakeholders from the UN and wider humanitarian community. Through a dynamic roundtable format, participants will have the opportunity to share valuable insights, forge partnerships, and maximize their networking opportunities throughout the event. Don't miss this chance to connect with like-minded professionals and contribute to advancing humanitarian efforts globally.

Advance registration is required. [Learn more and register online here.](#)

The Power of Trust: Sustainable Partnerships with Local Businesses for More Effective Crisis Response

Wednesday, 8 May | 14:00 – 15:30 CEST | Plénière A | in-person only

Join us for a compelling high-level panel discussion hosted by the OCHA-UNDP [Connecting Business initiative](#) (CBI) focusing on the critical role of trust-building between the public and private sectors in disaster management. This interactive session will underscore the importance of genuine partnerships and coordination for effective disaster response and recovery efforts.

Distinguished panellists from diverse geographical backgrounds and contexts will draw upon their experiences in recent and ongoing emergencies to provide valuable insights.

During the session, participants will:

1. Explore strategies for fostering trust and meaningful partnerships between the local private sector, governments, and humanitarian entities;
2. Challenge traditional views of humanitarian response and explore the untapped potential of local businesses in enhancing resilience; and
3. Offer recommendations for involving local business networks early in preparedness and response, as well as recovery efforts.

Advance registration is required. [Learn more and register online here.](#)

OTHER SESSIONS OF INTEREST

Advance registration is required for all sessions.

Through A Localization Lens: Supply Chain Resilience Practices and Lessons Learned

Tuesday, 30 April | 08:00 – 9:30 CEST | remote only

Organized by the Global Logistics Cluster. The session will be presented as connected talks from respective agencies, including representatives of National Disaster Management Offices, United Nations agencies, International NGOs, International Red Cross/Red Crescent, and more, who have been leading or engaged in locally led humanitarian supply chain and logistics preparedness and response initiatives in various parts of the world. Good practices and lessons learned from on-the-ground experience will be highlighted, followed by interactive Q&As between the presenters and the audience. [Learn more / register online here.](#)

Innovation, Partnership, and the Future of Humanitarian Response: Lessons from Ahlan Simsim

Tuesday, 30 April | 12:00 – 13:00 CEST | remote only

Organized by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Sesame Workshop. This session will explore learnings from the Ahlan Simsim project, an initiative meant to support and scale up approaches, materials, and content in early childhood development (ECD) for children and families impacted by conflict, crisis, and displacement. The session will focus on lessons that can be replicated by humanitarian response actors and how programmatic approaches were integrated within national systems in Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria for locally driven solutions to context-specific problems. [Learn more / register online here.](#)

Anticipatory Action: An Introduction

Monday, 6 May | 14:00 – 15:30 CEST | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by Anticipation Hub. This interactive session will explain the basics on anticipatory action, for example, what it means, how it works, and what it looks like in practice, by way of case studies and exercises, with time for reflection and questions. [Learn more / register online here.](#)

The Role of Local Entrepreneurship in Creating Solutions for Displacement and Migration Crises

Monday, 6 May | 16:00 – 17:30 CEST | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM). This session will bring together local and international actors operating in a variety of countries to provide an insight into the role of entrepreneurship in the humanitarian-peace-development nexus, with a focus on the integration of migrants and displaced persons. [Learn more / register online here.](#)

Kits That Fit - Strengthening Local Engagement in Humanitarian Procurement

Tuesday, 7 May | 14:00 – 15:30 CEST | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Humanitarian Leadership Academy (HLA).

Kits that Fit is exploring communications and supply chain innovations that will empower people to share what they really need to start the road to recovery. The project prioritises locally assembled kits containing locally sourced items to ensure they remain relevant. The briefing session will share learning from the first pilot being conducted in Kenya, which is focusing on WASH kits to address continuous humanitarian needs. [Learn more / register online here.](#)

Local Procurement: A Panel on Emerging Policy

Tuesday, 7 May | 14:00 – 15:30 CEST | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by the HUMLOG Institute. The session will feature a panel of leading voices in the humanitarian space in a facilitated conversation on the ways policy has, or could, encourage the use of local markets, engage local supply chains, and strengthen local economies. This interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral discussion amongst experts seeks to steer a conversation forward by focusing on the role policy can play in enhancing these benefits. [Learn more / register online here.](#)

H2H Action for Anticipatory Response

Tuesday, 7 May 24 | 14:00-15:30 CET | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by H2H Network. Less than one percent of humanitarian funding is targeted to anticipatory action, despite evidence demonstrating that we can predict, with some certainty, at least two-thirds of crises before they strike. In this session, the H2H Network will delve into their partnership with USAID's Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance on their accelerator program that aims to support members in developing new tools, products, and services to enhance anticipatory action. [Learn more / register online here.](#)

The Wheels Are Turning: Humanitarian Logistics Preparedness Thematic Updates

Wednesday, 8 May | 09:00-10:30 CEST | in person only

Organized by the Global Logistics Cluster. The session will provide a platform for logistics partners to share progress, discuss challenges, and outline next steps in their activity implementation. Insights will be shared on various aspects including institutional capacity development, impact measurement, environmental sustainability, humanitarian aid importation and customs clearance, stock pre-positioning, and communication and resource advocacy. These discussions aim to highlight the integration and contribution of these elements to locally led logistics preparedness and resilience efforts. [Learn more / register online here.](#)

Intellectual Property Rights in Humanitarian Innovation Partnerships

Wednesday, 8 May | 09:00-10:30 CEST | in person only

Organized by Norway's Permanent Mission to the United Nations and EFTA/WTO. Contracting and intellectual property right (IPR) negotiations can be challenging in humanitarian-private innovation partnerships. At the same time, these negotiations are important to build trust and mutual understanding and secure a win-win situation for all parties involved. The purpose of this session is to shed light on and debate the role of intellectual property right in humanitarian private innovation partnerships. [Learn more / register online here.](#)

Financial and Digital Inclusion - For People on the Move

Wednesday, 8 May | 09:00-10:30 CEST | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by World Vision International. In 2024, nearly 300 million people around the world will need humanitarian assistance. With more displaced people having access to digital communication tools, e.g., mobile phones, than ever – still their awareness of and access to digital financial services while “being on the move” – often across national borders – continues to be a major challenge. This session aims at bringing local and international voices together to share experiences and challenges in an interactive session. [Learn more / register online here.](#)

Linking Anticipatory Action to the Disaster Risk Reduction Agenda: Recent Advances in Risk Understanding and Financing

Wednesday, 8 May 24 | 09:00-10:30 CEST | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Resilient Planet Hub, and OCHA. This session will share the latest advances in risk understanding to inform anticipatory action. It will also showcase how different types of financing have been used for anticipatory action and discuss the global trends in humanitarian financing. [Learn more / register online here.](#)

Weathering the Storm with Inclusive Warnings for Vulnerable Communities

Wednesday, 8 May | 11:00-12:00 CEST | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). This session invites the community to participate in a highly interactive dialogue between national meteorological and hydrological services, disaster management authorities, humanitarian partners, and local actors to exchange lessons learned and remaining challenges in delivering inclusive warnings and finds ways to improve collaboration to reach the most vulnerable from forecasts to warnings to early actions. [Learn more / register online here.](#)

New Technologies: Making Sure We Include Rather Than Exclude

Wednesday, 8 May | 11:00-12:30 CEST | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by Sphere. Technology can simultaneously expand reach and create disparities in the humanitarian sector. This session will discuss what efforts can be made to ensure that technological solutions are accessible and inclusive as possible. [Learn more / register online here.](#)

HNPW Welcome Reception

Wednesday 8 May | 18:00 – 20:00 | in-person only

Organized by the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit. Don't miss this open networking reception for all HNPW participants! Light snacks and drinks will be served.

Combating Food Insecurity: The Power of Collaborative Partnerships

Wednesday, 8 May | 14:30-15:30 CEST | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the Food Security Cluster. This session aims to showcase the power of diverse and innovative partnerships in addressing food security challenges, especially at the grassroots level. It will unite stakeholders like UN agencies, NGOs, Member States, and local actors to showcase collaborative successes. Special focus will be on initiatives elevating food security and livelihoods for women and girls, highlighting the power of targeted, anticipatory efforts in combating global hunger. [Learn more / register online here.](#)

Digital Threats for Women and Girls in Humanitarian Settings

Wednesday, 8 May | 14:00-15:30 CEST | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by United Nations Childrens Fund (UNICEF). This panel discussion highlights the uneven impact of the digital revolution, particularly on vulnerable women and girls in humanitarian settings, addressing nuanced dimensions of cyber violence. Featuring local NGO representatives, community leaders, and technology experts, the discussion underscores the necessity for community-driven responses. [Learn more / register online here.](#)

Humanitarian Logistics in Sieges

Wednesday, 8 May | 14:00-15:30 CEST | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by the HUMLOG Institute. This workshop will provide a platform to discuss delivering aid in besieged areas through a focus group format, encouraging participants to share personal experiences and insights. The session will tackle challenges of operating in hostile environments, aiming to improve humanitarian effectiveness and impact. [Learn more / register online here.](#)

The Power of Knowledge in Humanitarian Logistics

Wednesday, 8 May | 16:00-17:30 CEST | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by the Humanitarian Leadership Academy. This session will bring together key experts to share learning and outcomes from their work on knowledge sharing in humanitarian supply chain and logistics contexts. [Learn more / register online here.](#)

Anticipatory Action: A Crucial Piece of The Disaster Risk Management Puzzle?

Thursday, 9 May | 09:00-10:30 CEST | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by the Anticipatory Action Task Force. Anticipatory action mitigates the impact of predicted shocks and thus reduces humanitarian needs, saving lives and safeguarding livelihoods. Through case studies in Niger, Philippines, Zambia, Somalia, this session will discuss how anticipatory action can contribute to broader risk management efforts at the country level, and why coordinated approaches are required to make it work at scale. [Learn more / register online here.](#)

Agility, Resilience Through Local Capacity Investment in Humanitarian Action

Thursday, 9 May | 11:00-12:30 CEST | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by World Vision International. The interactive session will feature speakers from local and international non-governmental organizations, government, and the local private sector to discuss strengthening locally led humanitarian action and preparedness. Attendees will learn how nurturing local capacity can enhance resilience and agility in humanitarian efforts. [Learn more / register online here.](#)

Silent Crisis: Information, Decision-Making, and Communities on the Frontlines of Climate Change

Thursday, 9 May | 14:00-15:30 CEST | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by Internews. This session will delve into climate-affected communities' realities, focusing on their information ecosystems and decision-making roles to empower them in navigating climate impacts. It challenges the status quo by emphasizing the importance of local solutions and calls for action to advocate for inclusive climate communication channels engaging diverse actors, particularly those in affected communities. [Learn more / register online here.](#)

Unlocking Development Solutions in Crisis: Public-Private Partnerships and Innovation

Thursday, 9 May | 14:00 - 15:30 CEST | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). In the complex landscape of crisis-affected countries, there is an increasing recognition of the need for integrated and sustainable solutions that bridge humanitarian, peace, and development efforts. The UNDP and partners invite you to a panel session to explore innovative development solutions in crisis settings. The session aims to explore and promote innovative approaches that bridge the gap between humanitarian, development, and peace efforts in crisis contexts. [Learn more / register here.](#)

HELP Logistics

Thursday, 9 May | 14:00-15:30 CEST | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by the HUMLOG Institute. This session will provide an opportunity for HELP Logistics to engage with stakeholders on the future of the work being done. Participants will have an opportunity to workshop the ideas and concepts being developed through the HELP Logistics programme. [Learn more / register online here.](#)

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)



OCHA

At the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), we bring the world together to tackle humanitarian emergencies and save the lives of people caught in crises. OCHA's private sector team provides neutral advice, guidance and support to corporations and foundations on the best ways to engage in humanitarian emergencies. Learn more at www.unocha.org or email OCHAPrivateSector@un.org.

OCHA-UNDP Connecting Business initiative (CBI)



Established and jointly managed by the [OCHA](#) and the [United Nations Development Programme](#) (UNDP), CBI is dedicated working with local businesses to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. CBI Member Networks are independent chambers of commerce, trade federations, business associations and private foundations that are ready, willing and able to lead private sector disaster management in their countries. CBI empowers local businesses to work hand-in-hand with governments, civil society, humanitarian organizations and affected people to alleviate human suffering while building more resilient societies. Learn more at connectingbusiness.org or email connectingbusiness@un.org.

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