2017 in brief

CBi Member Networks

At the global level, CBi supported 13 private sector networks in 2017 in setting up and strengthening strategic private sector engagement in disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response and recovery related areas. New networks were launched in Cote d’Ivoire, Vanuatu and the Pacific. Eight of the 13 networks responded to emergencies together with national and international actors. These included the Cyclone Enawo response in Madagascar, the flood and drought response in Sri Lanka, the earthquake response in Mexico, election preparedness in Kenya and support to conflict-affected populations in the Philippines. Other CBi Member Networks worked on
Flagship Tools

Together with the Boston Consulting Group, CBi developed two tools to help establish and strengthen private sector-led networks. The Network Assessment Tool enables networks to assess their maturity and performance, identify gaps, measure performance and plan priorities. This tool connects to the Network Foundation Guide, a step-by-step guide for launching and strengthening private sector networks. These tools will be developed into an online course module in the coming weeks. Find the preliminary version online.

Advocacy and Awareness Raising

In 2017, CBi raised awareness of and advocated for private sector engagement in disaster management by co-organizing and participating in 23 major events. The media coverage about CBi in 2017 reached an audience of over 129 million people in total. Events and coverage include:

The high-level side event during the United Nations General Assembly in New York on “Collective private sector action for disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response and recovery”. See the event press release here and a Devex article “Could new leadership mean a long-awaited humanitarian aid, development alliance?” about the event here.

The UN Climate Conference COP23 side event in Bonn on “Transforming Private Sector Engagement to Build Business and Community Resilience”. Read event press release here.

CBi was featured in the OECD-prepared “Anticipate, Do Not Wait, For Crises - Analytical Paper on WHS Self-Reporting on Agenda for Humanity Transformation” as a key innovation to enable more effective strategic
Engagement of business in building resilient communities and meeting the needs of people in crisis. Read the report [here](http://mailchi.mp/7ab907d9b354/cbi-newsletter-january-2018?e=2065c7bf70).

In the 2017 *Report of the UN Secretary-General* entitled “Enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, in particular the private sector”, CBi was featured as an example of the transformative role of local business networks. Read the report [here](http://mailchi.mp/7ab907d9b354/cbi-newsletter-january-2018?e=2065c7bf70).

**New CBi Online Portal**

The new online portal was launched in September. In addition to the more visual outlook, users can now become part of the online community by creating a profile, joining networks, following events and other content. In 2017 the portal has attracted a global audience from 156 countries reaching almost 30,000 page views.

In the coming months users will be able to get more information about emergencies and areas of needed support, organize interactive online discussions, collaborate, take online courses and access an online library.

Visit at [www.connectingbusiness.org](http://www.connectingbusiness.org)

**Join the Community Now**

**New Partners**

In 2017, three new global Resource Partners - Government of Australia, the European Union and the United Nations Global Compact - joined existing global level Resource Partners - the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the Government of Belgium, the Boston Consulting Group and the UPS Foundation. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies remains as a Program Partner of CBi. Hundreds of companies...
Interviews

Interview with David Young, the Boston Consulting Group, "Linking business and humanitarian actors to spark innovation"

Interview with Butch Meily, the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation, "Business partners with UN agencies, government to address crises in the Philippines"

Watch Member Networks interviews, here

Watch more CBi videos, here

Coming in 2018

New CBi Networks

Is your organization interested in starting CBi activities? Learn more about Member Network activities from interview videos here and read about the different levels of support provided in CBi partner prospectus. To start activities in 2018, express your interest to the CBi Secretariat at connectingbusiness@un.org or through the global portal.

Upcoming Events
Webinar

18 January 2018
Online
"Introduction to the Humanitarian System". The CBI and the UN Global Compact will co-convene a webinar to provide an introduction for organizations interested in humanitarian action. More information and registration here.

World Economic Forum

23-26 January 2018
Davos, Switzerland
CBI and partners will be in Davos in the Sustainable Impact Hub from 22-26 January, 2018. Visit the Hub at Promenade 72, Davos Platz, Switzerland and follow updates here.

CBi Annual Event 2018

6-8 February, 2018
Geneva, Switzerland
The CBi Annual event will take place during the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week in Geneva, Switzerland on February 6 while the CBi Thematic Working Sessions will take place on Thursday 8 February. Follow updates here and register for HNPW here.

New work streams

Complex Emergencies
While a body of knowledge and guidance material exist in relation to private sector engagement in disaster risk reduction and natural disasters, there is a significant gap in relation to collective private sector engagement in complex emergencies. CBi, with support from the EU, is developing new tools for these more challenging operating environments. Read More

Impact Measurement and Organizational Effectiveness
The results of the Network Assessment show that the lack of systematic monitoring, evaluation and impact measurement hinders the ability of private sector networks to demonstrate systematic evidence of impact, mobilize new members, and strengthen their overall efforts. In 2018 CBi will provide more support in this area.
Emergency Operations Centers and use of new technologies
There is a lot of interest from other countries to learn from the experience in the Philippines where the CBI Member Network - the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation - has set up the world’s first private sector Emergency Operations Center (EOC). In 2018 CBI will further assess how the private sector can support national systems, and potentially use of artificial intelligence and other big data tools for predictions.

Other Areas
As a demand driven initiative, CBI continuously looks for new opportunities to further scale private sector engagement for greater impact responding to the needs expressed by a variety of partners.

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