Collection and analysis of data have revolutionized nearly every aspect of modern business. Yet these advancements have occurred at a time of increasing humanitarian need. While Governments maintain overall responsibility for responding to humanitarian emergencies, private sector actors can play a major role given their unique expertise, capacities, resources, and networks. The private sector is using data to become more effective and efficient. How can humanitarian organizations partner with the private sector to bring these same insights and techniques to emergency response?

Two years after the World Humanitarian Summit, where both the Connecting Business initiative (CBI) and the Centre for Humanitarian Data were launched, this session explores how businesses are partnering with the UN, governments, and civil society to improve humanitarian response. We focus on how increased sharing and use of data can support more resilient communities and build local capacity to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural disasters and other humanitarian emergencies.
About the OCHA Centre for Humanitarian Data

The Centre for Humanitarian Data was established by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to increase the use and impact of data in the humanitarian sector. The Centre is dedicated to creating a future where all people involved in a humanitarian situation have access to the data they need, when and how they need it, to make responsible and informed decisions.

The Centre is focused on four key areas of work: data services, including data standardization, sharing, and visualization; data policy, developing guidelines for data sharing and use at OCHA and establishing institutional data sharing agreements with humanitarian partners; data literacy, including training for humanitarian staff on data sharing and analysis; and network engagement, including thought leadership and events building a community of people and organizations dedicated to increasing the use and impact of data in humanitarian response. Support comes from the Government of the Netherlands, the Municipality of The Hague, the Education Above All Foundation, and several private sector partners.

About the Connecting Business initiative

The Connecting Business initiative (CBI) was launched at the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016 and it takes forward the Summit outcomes, as well as the 2030 Development Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction while also contributing to the Sustaining Peace Agenda. The initiative aims to transform the way the private sector engages before, during and after emergencies, increasing the scale and effectiveness of the response in a coordinated manner. Co-managed by OCHA and UNDP, CBI supports platforms for collective private sector action, connecting them to national government and international crisis management structures, thus enabling private sector resources to be deployed faster and more effectively. In 2017, CBI supported 13 private sector networks of which eight responded to crises, working alongside national and international actors in supporting affected communities, rebuilding critical infrastructure and helping in recovery. In addition, networks, including those that did not have emergencies, worked on disaster risk reduction and preparedness. They organized simulation exercises, engaged in advocacy, built information systems and trained companies on business continuity planning.

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This event will be webcast on webtv.un.org

Further information and registration instructions for each event will be available on OCHA’s website at:
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