CONCEPT NOTE

“Partnering with the Private Sector: How Data Can Improve Humanitarian Response”

High-Level Event in the Margins of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Wednesday 26 September 2018, 13:15 – 14:30, Conference Room 12

Background

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.

Objectives

- Highlight innovative ways that data is being used to improve the effectiveness of humanitarian response, especially through data sharing, predictive analytics, and communication with affected communities.
- Showcase the positive impacts of collective private sector action and public-private partnerships and promote emerging models of cooperation from around the world.
- Demonstrate the UN’s progress on the “Agenda for Humanity” commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit, especially those encouraging the
private sector to take a leadership role in helping people affected by natural disasters and conflict.

**Format and Programme**

**Opening panel**
- Ms. Ursula Mueller, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, United Nations
- Ms. Asako Okai, Assistant Administrator and Director of the Crisis Bureau, UNDP
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (Speaker Name TBC)
- Ms. Monique Pariat, Director-General for Humanitarian Action and Civil Protection, ECHO
- Ms. Sanda Ojiambo, Head of Corporate Responsibility, Safaricom

**Interactive Discussion**
- Mr. Firzan Hashim, Country Director Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management / CBi Member Network, Sri Lanka
- Amazon, (Speaker Name TBC)
- Ms. Jane Meseck, Senior Director of Global Programs and Partnerships, Microsoft Philanthropies
- Ms. Lauren Bateman, Surge Information Management Support, American Red Cross
- Mr. Luis Fernando Gomez, Co-founder & CEO, Transparenta

The event will be webcast on [webtv.un.org](http://webtv.un.org).
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. For more information please visit centre.humdata.org.

About the Connecting Business initiative

The Connecting Business 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. 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.

The Connecting Business initiative 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. Operational and technical support is provided by United Nations Development Programme and United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, while the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction provides technical advice. Additional support comes from (in alphabetical order) the Boston Consulting Group, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, European Union (EU) Enhanced Response Capacity, Government of Australia, Government of Belgium, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, United Nations Global Compact and The UPS Foundation. In addition, more than 500 companies support CBi Member Networks on the ground. For more information please refer to www.connectingbusiness.org.