



2023 Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week: Guide for the Private Sector

OVERVIEW

Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks (HNPW) is the largest annual gathering of humanitarian practitioners and experts from UN 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 2023 will take place from **24 – 28 April** at the **International Conference Centre in Geneva (CICG)**. More than 2,000 participants are expected to attend over 200 sessions plus an exhibition area with more than 50 stands 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](#).

Businesses have a key role to play in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters. In this guide, the [OCHA-UNDP Connecting Business initiative](#) (CBI) team has 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 connectingbusiness@un.org if we've missed something, if you have any questions, or if you'd like to meet up on the sidelines of HNPW.

BUSINESSES ON THE FRONTLINES OF HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE: LESSONS LEARNED FROM TÜRKIYE AND BEYOND

Thursday 27 April | 4 PM – 5:30 PM CET | in-person only

A high-level panel and interactive discussion co-hosted by the OCHA-UNDP [Connecting Business initiative](#) (CBI), the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)'s Private Sector [Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies](#) (ARISE), and the [UN Children's Fund](#) (UNICEF) Business and Community Resilience team.

Building on lessons learned from recent high-profile emergencies, including the earthquakes in Türkiye, this session will highlight the benefits of involving local businesses in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery; discuss existing coordination challenges between the private sector and humanitarian organizations; and highlight the urgency to scale up preparedness and disaster risk reduction with private sector. Speakers include:

- **Ms. Paola Albrito**, Director, [UNDRR](#)
- **Mr. Arda Batu**, Secretary-General, [Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation](#)
- **Dr. Kit Miyamoto**, Founder and CEO, [Miyamoto International](#)
- **Ms. Virginie Mangin**, Editor, [SWI swissinfo.ch](#) (moderator)

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

OTHER SESSIONS OF INTEREST

Logistics Cluster Induction Session

Wednesday 19 April | 12 PM – 2 PM CET | remote only

Organized by the World Food Programme (WFP). The Logistics Cluster Induction is designed to familiarise participants with the Logistics Cluster by providing an initial experience of the cluster approach in an emergency setting as well as information about the cluster approach and the mandate and functions of the Logistics Cluster. It will be interactive with the opportunity for questions and discussion.

[Learn more / register here.](#)

Disaster Maps for Emergency Response: Situational Awareness Based on Remote Sensing

Thursday 20 April | 11 AM – 12:30 PM CET | remote only

Organized by the European Commission Joint Research Centre and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. This session will bring together experts from remote sensing, disaster managers, humanitarian actors, and other relevant stakeholders to discuss the use of remote sensing technologies in disaster management and humanitarian relief operations and explore the potential for strengthening collaboration and partnerships.

[Learn more / register here.](#)

Risk Analytics for Early Warning and Impact based Forecasting: Learning from recent UNDRR IFRC Collaboration

Thursday 20 April | 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM CET | remote only

Organized by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). This webinar will show case three initiatives that are helping the Red Cross to meet its commitment towards 25% of funding being allocated in advance of disasters and UNDRR to accelerate risk understanding in line with Sendai Framework targets.

[Learn more / register here.](#)

Flipping the System: What Will It Take for Greater Accountability to People in Crisis?

Monday 24 April | 4 PM – 5:30 PM CET | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by OCHA and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). This session is part of a broader conversation on the accountability to affected people and the Grand Bargain Participation Revolution efforts to bring donors into the collective efforts for change.

[Learn more / register here.](#)

Anticipatory Action: An Introduction

Tuesday 25 April | 11 AM – 12 PM CET | in-person only

Organized by the Anticipation Hub. This session will bring participants up to speed on anticipatory action by walking through the concept and answering questions of why, how, when and with whom to do it. The session will be interactive with small exercises.

[Learn more / register here.](#)

Local Procurement in Humanitarian Response

Tuesday 25 April | 11 AM – 12:30 PM CET | in-person only

Organized by the Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Research Institute. This session offers to bring together a community of practice to discuss the logistical, programmatic and strategic importance of local procurement for humanitarian response. The session will encourage a deep-dive into the current best practices and cross-cutting issues on the topic with a panel made up of stakeholders from academia, donor organisations, international NGO communities and innovation partners.

[Learn more / register here.](#)

Digital Engagement: Accountability to Affected Populations

Tuesday 25 April | 4 PM – 5 PM CET | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by UNICEF and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). UNICEF and UNHCR will share their work concerning their work on digital engagement.

[Learn more / register here.](#)

Digitalization and Artificial Intelligence Supporting Relief Operations and Emergency Preparedness and Response

Tuesday 25 April | 2 PM – 5:30 PM CET | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by the International Humanitarian City Dubai, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe, and the UN Importation and Customs Clearance Together Working Group. This session is focused on the power of digitalization and artificial intelligence in the humanitarian community. Based on a scenario, the session will simulate how the interoperability between existing tools, such as the Humanitarian Logistics Databank, Stock of Humanitarian Organisations Logistics Mapping platform, and Humanitarian Logistics Databank and the Automated System for Relief Consignments are key to the success of a humanitarian operations.

[Learn more / register here.](#)

Requesting Innovative Solutions from the Private Sector: What, Why and How?

Wednesday 26 April | 9 AM – 10:30 AM CET | in-person only

Organized by Tinkr and Innovation Norway. To make sure that humanitarian response meets needs in the best and most efficient way, partnerships are essential. Partnering with the private sector and making use of innovative solutions can be challenging for humanitarian organisations. In this session, humanitarian organisations that have used innovation friendly procurement procedures to partner with the private sector and develop new, needs-based solutions for their response will share their lessons learnt and advice for the sector.

[Learn more / register here.](#)

How to Plug-and-Play Your Supply Processes for Better Responsiveness, Coordination, and Flexibility

Wednesday 26 April | 9 AM – 10:30 PM CET | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by the Humanitarian Logistics and Supply Chain Research Institute. This interactive session aims at discussing the challenges faced by humanitarian organizations when adapting their logistics processes to different situation in a round-table discussion.

[Learn more / register here.](#)

Addressing Climate and Disaster Risk in Humanitarian and Fragile Contexts

Wednesday 26 April | 2 PM – 3:30 PM CET | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the International Organization for Migration. This session will draw upon recent reflections and lessons learned from country-level engagement in South Sudan, Madagascar and other settings to highlight progress made and potential opportunities for strengthening collaboration, financing and knowledge sharing on disaster and climate risk reduction in fragile contexts and across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

[Learn more / register here.](#)

Local Procurement Learning Framework

Wednesday 26 April | 4 PM – 5:30 PM CET | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by the Humanitarian Logistics Association. To increase localised approaches and improve the efficiency of aid delivery, more awareness is needed on the benefits of local procurement and the tools and resources available to shift aid bureaucracies to policies that buy more items locally. This session will discuss the creation and development of the recently produced Local Procurement Learning Framework that supports humanitarian agencies with adopting policies that take a more holistic view of local procurement in support of localisation.

[Learn more / register here.](#)

HNPW Welcome Reception

Wednesday 26 April | 4 PM – 6 PM CET | 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.

[Learn more / register here.](#)

The Pacific Disaster Center: Two Decades of Global DRR, MHEWS and Early-Action Innovations

Thursday 27 April | 11 AM – 12:30 PM CET | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by the Pacific Disaster Center (PDC). PDC will discuss their DisasterAWARE platform, a multi-hazard early warning, hazard monitoring, and risk intelligence platform, that provides near real-time analytics on disaster risk and impact, along with recent innovations in disaster risk reduction and anticipatory action. The session will also showcase the new Global Flood Early Warning Technology developed by PDC, the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

[Learn more / register here.](#)

Working Across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus: What Have We Learned?

Thursday 27 April | 11 AM – 12:30 PM CET | in-person only

Organized by the Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance. This session will highlight recent learning on how humanitarian actors, from across the sector, have been implementing Humanitarian-Development-Peace (HDP) nexus approaches. It will build on ALNAP original research and findings from key evaluations to share lessons learned, barriers, challenges, and a reflection on where more work is needed. Unlike most policy-level discussions to date on the HDP nexus, the focus will be on findings and lessons from empirical and evaluative evidence.

[Learn more / register here.](#)

Early Warning for Humanitarians: From Impact Estimation to Mobilization

Thursday 27 April | 2 PM – 3:30 PM CET | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by the European Commission Joint Research Centre, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the World Meteorological Organization. This session aims at bringing together multi-hazard early warning system providers, disaster managers, and humanitarian actors to explore the role of disaster early warning in humanitarian decision-making.

[Learn more / register here.](#)

From Readiness to Response: How Building Telecommunications Capacity Leads to Rapid and Cost-Efficient Response

Thursday 27 April | 2 PM – 3:30 PM CET | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by WFP. This session will present the benefits of investing in emergency telecommunications preparedness, developed by Emergency Telecommunications Cluster, and illustrate how sustained investments in stakeholder coordination, capacity and infrastructure readiness yields higher benefits in terms of response effectiveness.

[Learn more / register here.](#)

DP-DHL GoHelp Conference: Disaster Preparedness and Response Program

Thursday 27 – Friday 28 April | 9 AM – 5:30 PM CET | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by Deutsche Post DHL Group. This invitation-only two-day meeting will highlight the 2022 achievements of the DP-DHL Group's GoHelp programme, discuss the scale-up of current GoHelp programmes and partnerships, and devise a vision/strategy for GoHelp through 2030.

[Learn more / register here.](#)

Accelerating Localization Connecting with and Leveraging Locally-Led Networks and Platforms: Moving from Commitment to Action

Friday 28 April | 9 AM – 10:30 AM CET | hybrid (remote and in-person)

Organized by Community Empowerment for Rural Development. This session will provide an opportunity to take stock of efforts to link networks led by local civil society actors into formal inter-agency processes of the UN, NGOs and donors, and identify priority good practices and challenges in such coordination, dialogue and consultation moving forward.

[Learn more / register here.](#)

Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks Closing Ceremony

Friday 28 April | 11 AM – 12 PM CET | remote only

Organized by OCHA. This final session of HNPW 2023 will briefly recap major themes of the event and discuss prospects for the future of the HNPW.

[Learn more / register here.](#)



OCHA-UNDP Connecting Business initiative (CBI)

Established and jointly managed by the [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#) (OCHA) and the [United Nations Development Programme](#) (UNDP), CBI is dedicated to the idea that the private sector has a critical role to play in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters. CBI Member Networks—independent chambers of commerce, trade federations, business associations and private foundations—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.