SESSION REPORT
COLLABORATING WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR: TOWARDS A GLOBAL NETWORK
15 October 2015; 14:30-16:30

The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) facilitated a breakout session *Collaborating with the Private Sector: Towards a Global Network* on 15 October 2015 during the World Humanitarian Summit Global Consultation. The objective of the session was to secure commitment for a global coordination architecture which would scale, replicate and ensure the coherence of private sector engagement in emergency preparedness and response.

I.   Summary

1.   The session attracted more than 40 participants from the private sector, member states, and the international humanitarian community.

2.   Participants received briefing materials on the concept of a global platform and key points for discussion (purpose, substance, format, facilitation and resources).

3.   The session featured keynote presentations from two private sector platforms. The Philippines Disaster Recovery Foundation (PDRF) and the Ebola Private Sector Mobilization Group (EPSMG) explained their rationale for creating platforms for dialogue and information sharing and discussed the value of connecting to other private sector networks at a global level.

4.   The private sector reiterated their willingness to engage more deeply in humanitarian preparedness, response and recovery through innovative solutions.

5.   UNOCHA, UNDP and UNISDR committed to work together to pilot the establishment of national and regional private sector networks and connect those networks (the Global Networks Project).

6.   Deloitte and World Vision announced their commitment to support the Global Networks Project.

II.   Messages

Rationale for establishing the global net of private sector networks through the Global Networks Project:

1.   Creating private sector networks supports the private sector's preference to engage in more coherent and coordinated action on disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery by establishing dialogue in advance.

2.   A global portal or platform that links all private sector networks would allow for the sharing of leading practices to address humanitarian needs more broadly.

3.   The cluster system can be a useful model for the private sector to deliver core competencies into a coherent strategy that builds on shared values and shared risks.

4.   The UN serves as a bridge for building trust and can channel collaboration between the private sector and governments.

5.   Successful collaboration requires all players to set common goals, envision successes, analyze risks, clarify roles and responsibilities and undertake innovative solutions.

Strengthening local networks:

1.   Engaging local business is crucial to achieving shared ownership and transparency. Local businesses play an important role in ensuring stability during emergencies. Continued business operations maintain employment and a stable income for local people and enable employers to share information as trusted sources.

2.   Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) have the potential to provide humanitarian assistance at the local level because they are integral to the affected community and possess the knowledge to engage in emergency preparedness and response activities. Local networks are crucial for engaging MSMEs.

3.   Humanitarian service providers need to reconcile the needs of disaster-affected people when making decisions remotely.

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Coordination Saves Lives

Facilitation:
1. Engaging the private sector effectively in humanitarian cooperation requires the participation of senior decision makers.
2. Private sector engagement in emergency preparedness and response can be encouraged by incentivizing companies to invest in preparedness and in areas affected by emergencies. Enterprise zones in the Philippines exemplified tax incentives for the private sector to invest in disaster-affected areas.
3. Investing in humanitarian services allows companies to benefit from branding as well as demonstrating their values to consumers.

III. Recommendations

1. Create private sector networks to incorporate local level partners and micro, small and medium sized enterprises, especially in crisis prone areas.
2. Provide training to the private sector, particularly MSMEs, on how to engage with UN agencies and the humanitarian system and how to undertake emergency preparedness and response activities.
3. Acknowledge existing local, national and regional networks and connect them to enable higher level collaboration and sharing of best practices.
4. Replicate and scale up the business-humanitarian partnership hub in the Philippines by establishing a common forum for clusters regionally and globally. This permanent group replicates the UN cluster system with civil society.
5. Engage CEOs from the private sector to ensure high-level participation in establishing a net of networks during the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2016 in Davos and the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul. The establishment of the net of networks could leverage private sector expertise, experience and innovative solutions to aid humanitarian needs as well as building capacity before crisis strikes.
6. The UN could engage in joint venture opportunities with companies or on thematic areas. For example, to conduct an assessment of a market's readiness for cash transfers in order to prepare for an emergency.
7. Take lessons learned from sudden-onset emergencies and reflect upon collective collaboration during slow-onset, complex and protracted crises.

IV. Annexes

1. Breakout Session Concept Paper
2. Creating a Global Net of Networks discussion facilitation handout

Panelists:
Rene "Butch" Meily, Philippines Disaster Recovery Foundation
Kimmo Laukkanen, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Finland
Sally Stansfield, Deloitte Consulting LLP
Gwi-Yeop Son, UN OCHA
Claire Esbenshade, ArcelorMittal
Ian Ridley, World Vision International
Stefano Bertasi, International Chamber of Commerce and Industries

Moderator:
Marcos Neto, United Nations Development Programme

Participants:
Asma Dakhouche, Hewlett-Packard (HP)
Cecilia Rosell, National Society of Industries of Peru
Darrell Gifford, Agility
Gianpiero Menza, United Nations Development Programme

Ichiro Miyawaki, Nippon Express Co.Ltd
Kevin Etter, UPS
Kiki Lawal, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)
Kyla Reid, GSMA
Linus Bengtsson, Flowminder
Pathompong Singthong, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand
Patrick Blanchet, Banque de l'Union Haïtienne BUH
Sahba Sobhani, United Nations Development Programme
Sophie Evans, Willis Re
Stuart Price, Vantage Partners LLC
Sue Adkins, Business in the Community