

OCHA - UNDP WHS Commitments re Connecting Business initiative: 1 January – 31 December 2017

1. Highlight the concrete actions taken between 1 January – 31 December 2017 to implement the commitments which contribute to achieving this transformation. Be as specific as possible and include any relevant data/figures (max 250 words)

OCHA has been continuing its work on growing the Connecting Business initiative (CBI) together with UNDP and with technical support from UNISDR to facilitate the engagement of national and global private sector in disaster risk reduction, emergency preparedness, response and recovery. In 2017, CBI provided support to 13 private sector-led networks to anticipate, strategically engage in disaster management and connect to disaster management mechanisms. According to the self-reporting, the networks provided contributions estimated at about US\$20 million (financial and in-kind). Eight of the networks responded to emergencies in 2017 and others worked on preparedness and recovery activities. CBI also developed two flagship tools for the private sector networks and built a global online portal which was had viewers from 157 countries.

- 2A: How are you measuring progress toward achieving your commitments? Please check one or more of the boxes below.

- Through existing, internal systems or frameworks for monitoring, reporting and/or evaluation.
- By reporting to, or using reports prepared for, UN principal organs, UN governing boards, or other international bodies
- Through multi-stakeholder processes or initiatives (e.g. IASC, Grand Bargain, Charter for Change, etc).
- By applying processes/indicators developed to measure WHS commitments specifically.
- Other measuring progress other

(max 20 words)

- 2B: How are you assessing whether progress on your commitments is leading toward change in the direction of the transformation?

Previously there was a gap in the baseline data on private sector contributions and measuring the importance of private sector engagement in emergency preparedness, response and recovery. Lack of systematic monitoring, evaluation and impact measurement hinders the ability of private sector networks to demonstrate systemic evidence of impact and strengthen their overall efforts. CBI has started to map this more holistically and in 2018 one of the three new work areas focuses on impact measurement.

3. A. Please select no more than 3 key challenges faced in implementing the commitments related to this transformation.

- Adherence to standards and/or humanitarian principles
- Buy-in
- Data and analysis
- Field conditions, including insecurity and access
- Funding amounts
- Funding modalities (earmarking, priorities, yearly agreements, risk aversion measures)
- Gender and/or vulnerable group inclusion
- Human resources/capacity
- IHL and IHRL compliance and accountability
- Information management/tools
- Institutional/Internal constraints
- Joined-up humanitarian-development analysis, planning, funding and/or response
- Multi-stakeholder coordination
- Preparedness
- Strengthening national/local systems
- Other challenges faced

max 20 words

3B. How are these challenges impacting achievement of this transformation?

The challenges have resulted into reduced scale of quantitative targets, for example, having to slow down the pace at which new networks are absorbed into CBI to ensure quality first before quantity.

4. Highlight actions planned for 2018 to advance implementation of your commitments in order to achieve this transformation.

In 2018, CBI will continue to strengthen the existing CBI networks and will include 3-4 new networks. In addition, three new work areas are introduced: 1) Complex emergencies - CBI, with support from the EU, will develop and implement a guidance toolkit for business networks interested in taking action in complex emergency contexts; 2) Impact measurement – CBI will develop monitoring and evaluation tools to measure the impact of business activities in support of disaster management; 3) New technologies are being piloted by CBI member networks. CBI will further assess how the private sector can support Emergency Operations Centers, national disaster management systems, artificial intelligence and big data tools for predictions.

5. What steps or actions are needed to make **collective progress** to achieve this transformation? (max 75 words)

To make collective progress on this transformation, the UN should provide increased institutional support and systems to support greater private sector engagement in preparedness, response and recovery. Funding streams should be adapted and made available to support initiatives working in the humanitarian – development nexus (currently still either humanitarian or development).

6. List any good practice or examples of innovation undertaken individually or in cooperation with others to advance this transformation.

CBI networks are championing a new way of working, encouraging seamless cooperation between the governments, UN agencies, the private sector and NGOs. This multi-stakeholder collaboration has resulted into many innovative examples, for example, joint simulation exercises between the government or military and the private sector, setting up the world's first private sector-led Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the Philippines, development of mobile apps for preparedness, response and recovery, use of mobile operator data and tools in rescue operations and predictions and organising start up competitions for preparedness solutions. In 2018 CBI will further assess how the private sector can support national systems, and use of artificial intelligence and other big data tools for predictions.