



UPDATE ON ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE CONNECTING BUSINESS INITIATIVES (CBI) IN 2019

Overview of 2019 achievements

- CBI, convened the 2019 Annual Event, working sessions for its Member Networks and an Executive Committee Meeting in the margins of the Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week in February in Geneva. The 3-day event provided an opportunity to bring together representatives from 11 networks and various partners to discuss private sector engagement in disaster management.
- In March the Connecting Business initiative invited its private sector networks from Asia and the Pacific to an inter-network learning event with the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) in March. It allowed participants from Fiji, Indonesia and Vanuatu to discuss information management and potential regional inter-operability in disaster preparedness, relief and recovery. They visited two emergency operations centers run by the PDRF in Clark near Manila airport and by the Government in Makati, respectively.
- In May the Connecting Business Initiative celebrated three years of operation and published the [CBI Progress Report 2018](#)

In 2019 nine CBI networks responded to 33 emergencies including:

- Mindanao Earthquake (November)
 - Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF – CBI Philippines) extended extensive support to the affected communities through the provision of tarps, bedding, latrine and hygiene kits, medicine, food packs, logistics assistance and drinking water.
- Hurricane Dorian (September)
 - CBI co-created a Business Guide for the Hurricane Dorian Response
 - The CBI Programme Coordinator was deployed to the Bahamas to engage with private sector actors in the response
 - Members of CENACED CBI network provided first responder support.
- Triple earthquake in Batanes Island, Philippines (July)
 - PDRF sent relief items and provided lifeline services to affected areas
- Cyclone Idai and Kenneth in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Comoros (April)
 - The Madagascar Private Sector Humanitarian Platform (PSHP) mobilized its members to contribute to relief and recovery efforts
 - Business Guide created.
- Earthquake in Central Luzon, Philippines (April)
 - PDRF and member companies helped rescue survivors buried under a collapsed supermarket
- Easter Sunday attack, Sri Lanka (April)
 - PAD SL helped after the Easter Sunday attacks in Sri Lanka in April. They provided food and non-food items via a supermarket outlet when other partners did not have access or were otherwise unable to provide immediate support

- CBI hosted 4 webinars (April, May, July, October) for its member networks to share updates, exchange lessons learnt and provide input to the CBI Secretariat.
- With the support of ECHO, CBI and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) developed a **Guidance Toolkit for private sector networks in manmade disasters**, including complex emergencies. In addition to a detailed literature review, the team convened consultation workshops in Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya and Turkey; organized an online consultation (August); hosted expert group meetings and carried out bilateral interviews with other experts and professionals (including UN private sector focal points, company representatives etc.). CBI also created a dedicated page on the online portal (including an introductory video) to raise awareness on manmade disasters and further engage stakeholders. Workshops have also taken place in Colombia and the Philippines and sessions to introduce the toolkit to new audiences are scheduled at the UN Global Compact Business for Peace event in November as well as through a webex for the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation. The toolkit has been translated into Spanish, French and Arabic.
- A progress update 'Agenda for Humanity - Connecting Business initiative Partner Paper 2018' - was published in June to provide an overview of the progress made by the Connecting Business initiative and its partners in 2018. All partners who made pledges to support the different initiatives launched at the World Humanitarian Summit report on their progress each year.
- CBI published three newsletters in April, July and November highlighting recent developments and upcoming opportunities.
- CBI together with the UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub and ESCAP convened a session during the ESCAP Disaster Resilience Week in August entitled "Combining capabilities: Public-private partnerships in disaster management". The session explored policies and practical solutions, highlighted good practices and discussed recommendations in strengthening private sector engagement in disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery.
- CBI Secretariat is working together with OCHA and UNDP Indonesia as well as the Indonesian Government with the aim of launching a private sector in the country network. CBI conducted a field visit to Indonesia and provided a small grant to support the potential CBI network. A local consultant was hired through this grant to support the implementation of the initiative in the country. Last 22-23 October, PDRF, the CBI network in the Philippines, shared its work and best practices to the Indonesian private sector through a video presentation in the "High-Level Conference and Co-Creation for Disaster Risk Reduction and Risk Management Solutions" held in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- CBI Turkey is now hosted under the Business for Goals (B4G) platform, a partnership between TUSIAD (the umbrella association of large businesses in Turkey), TURKONFED (the umbrella association of SMEs in Turkey) and UNDP. CBI Secretariat provided technical assistance to CBI Turkey during the process of updating their organizational structure using models from other CBI networks.
- CBI is working together with UNDP Vietnam to launch a network in the country. The landscape assessment report on the private sector's work on disaster management in the country is being finalized. CBI provided a small grant to hire a consultant team and organize relevant workshops to complete the landscape assessment process,

- In Ecuador, the UNDP country office who has completed a landscape assessment for private sector engagement and interest. They are working with CBI in launching a private sector network at the local level.

Networks – including those that did not experience disasters – participated in preparedness and resilience. They took part in simulation exercises, engaged in advocacy and national dialogues, built information and communication systems, and provided business continuity trainings, especially to micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

CBI reached more people through its **communication efforts and was featured in global reports.** The global online portal was visited by 62,000+ people and 876 followers and 150,000+ impressions were reached on Twitter. CBI was also referenced as an innovative initiative for engaging the private sector in the Agenda for Humanity Progress Report 2018, and two reports of the UN Secretary-General entitled 'Enhanced cooperation between the United Nations and all relevant partners, the private sector' and 'Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations' (2018).