

CONNECTING BUSINESS INITIATIVE RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Transforming private sector engagement in crises



CONNECTING BUSINESS INITIATIVE

- launched at the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016 by UNDP, OCHA and other partners to transform the way the private sector engages before, during and after crises
- Improves disaster preparedness, response and recovery by integrating the private sector into national and international disaster management mechanisms
- Reduces risks and duplication while increasing the resilience of companies and societies

FRAMEWORK FOR COVID-19 ACTION

CBi works closely with the UN system, the private sector and other partners to:

1. support the health response
2. strengthen crisis management (preparedness, response and recovery)
3. address critical economic impacts

GLOBAL PARTNERS

- Boston Consulting Group
- Conrad N. Hilton Foundation
- European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
- United Nations Global Compact
- The UPS FoundationUnited States Agency for International Development

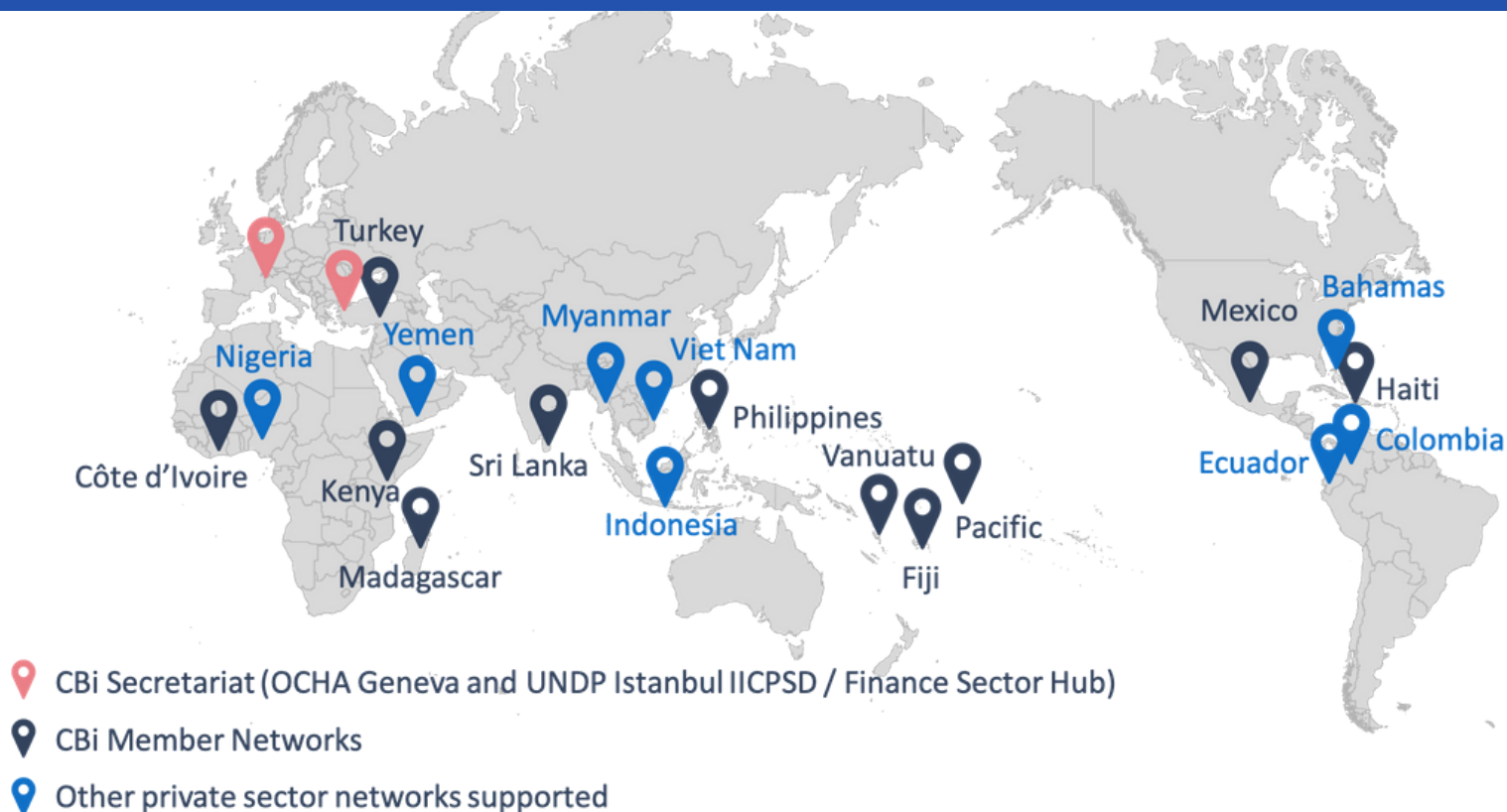
LOCAL PARTNERS

- CBi Member Networks have 50,000 members
- Collaboration with governments, UN Country Teams, NGOs



CBI SUPPORTED PRIVATE SECTOR NETWORKS

19 private sector networks supported in 2019



CBI NETWORKS KNOW HOW TO OPERATE IN CRISIS SITUATIONS

- The core activity of CBI and its networks is disaster management, networks have experience in health crises
- The CBI community is strong - networks are actively sharing experiences since 2016
- All CBI networks are responding to COVID-19 and some are addressing multiple crises simultaneously (e.g. Vanuatu, Fiji, Pacific response to Cat 5 Tropical Cyclone Harold while under lockdown conditions)

DEMONSTRATION OF EXPERIENCE

9 CBI MEMBER NETWORKS AND THEIR MEMBERS RESPONDED TO A TOTAL OF 31 DISASTERS IN 2019

- Droughts
- Earthquakes
- Epidemics
- Fires
- Floods
- Freeze
- Heavy rainfall and landslides
- Political instability
- Protracted displacement
- Terrorist attack
- Tropical storms

DIMENSIONS OF CBI RESPONSE

Service offer

CBI SUPPORT FOCUS

1. Risk containment and mitigation in communities
2. Communications, advocacy and public outreach
3. Economic impact and business continuity
4. Advocacy and policy dialogue

SUPPORT TO UN SYSTEM

CBi has a global support role in coordinating the UN emergency private sector focal points group in collaboration with the UN Global Compact. CBi helps to raise resources to support the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund, Global Humanitarian Response Plan and UN COVID-19 Multi-Partner Trust Fund. CBi also supports UNDP and OCHA country offices on engaging with private sector networks around COVID-19. All UNDP/OCHA country offices have access to information, resources and guidance. Countries where CBi has networks can apply for funding to enhance collaboration. CBi Secretariat engages in global UNDP and OCHA work streams.

SUPPORT TO CBI NETWORKS

Knowledge management and online collaboration platform for CBi networks

Guidance and support for CBi networks in drafting and implementing COVID-19 response and recovery plans

Funding (US\$20,000 – US\$60,000 to selected CBi networks, ideally with UNDP and/or OCHA country offices)

Hazard monitoring and risk mitigation measures in selected networks

Checklists, resources and training modules

Industry specific guidance

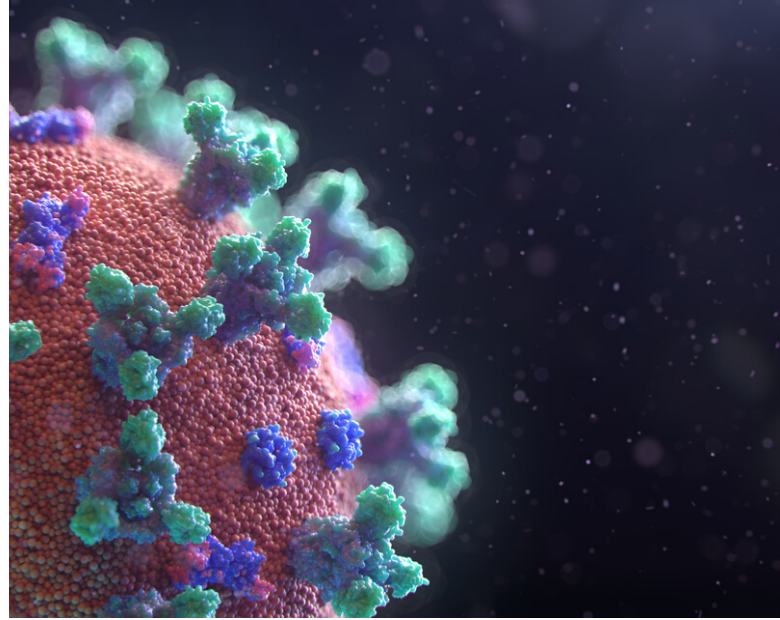
Regular webinars to exchange best practices

Joint advocacy messaging

Lessons learned

CBI SUPPORT TO BROADER BUSINESS COMMUNITY

- Updating the [UN Business Guide on COVID-19](#)
- Provide information to the private sector under [COVID-19 emergency page](#)
- Inspire by sharing information about CBI networks' response
- Co-organize open webinars with partners
- Share advocacy messages that help the private sector engage in COVID-19 response
- Disseminate good practices and private sector innovation
- Support companies with bilateral queries and match their offers with identified needs



EXAMPLE OF COVID-19 RESPONSE

PHILIPPINE DISASTER RESILIENCE FOUNDATION (PDRF)

Together with business groups raised US\$30 million to fund grocery vouchers to over one million urban poor residents in Metro Manila Area

Partnered with e-wallet services, digital finance group, and an online crowdfunding platform to help purchase essential protective gear for healthcare institutions

With the Armed Forces of the Philippines, PDRF member companies and the Department of Labor and Employment provided buses to transport to healthcare workers

Helping procure disinfectants and ventilators for public hospitals





**EXAMPLE OF DOUBLE CRISIS RESPONSE -
COVID-19 AND
CATEGORY 5 TROPICAL CYCLONE**

**VANUATU BUSINESS
RESILIENCE COUNCIL (VBRC)**

Vanuatu was hit by a category 5 tropical cyclone Harold while under pandemic lockdown conditions. Affecting over 6 islands and 140,000 people, the cyclone destroyed power and water systems, communications and homes.

The network supports the government response, and activated its preparedness measures, including providing preparedness checklists for business. The VBRC cluster system was already activated for COVID-19 and now works on the tropical cyclone response.

VBRC also activated the telecommunications teams to reconnect the islands, as well as shipping and logistics for relief and recovery efforts. They also conducted an aerial, ground and marine assessment. The network is actively engaged in the recovery activities, including facilitating logistics into the country.

Prior to the cyclone, VBRC provided pandemic business continuity training to businesses and the government, facilitated quarantine facilities, arranged donated COVID-19 test kits and medical supplies to be imported from China and worked with the Government to develop the country's stimulus package for business and employees.

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