



CBi Newsletter: 2020 in Review

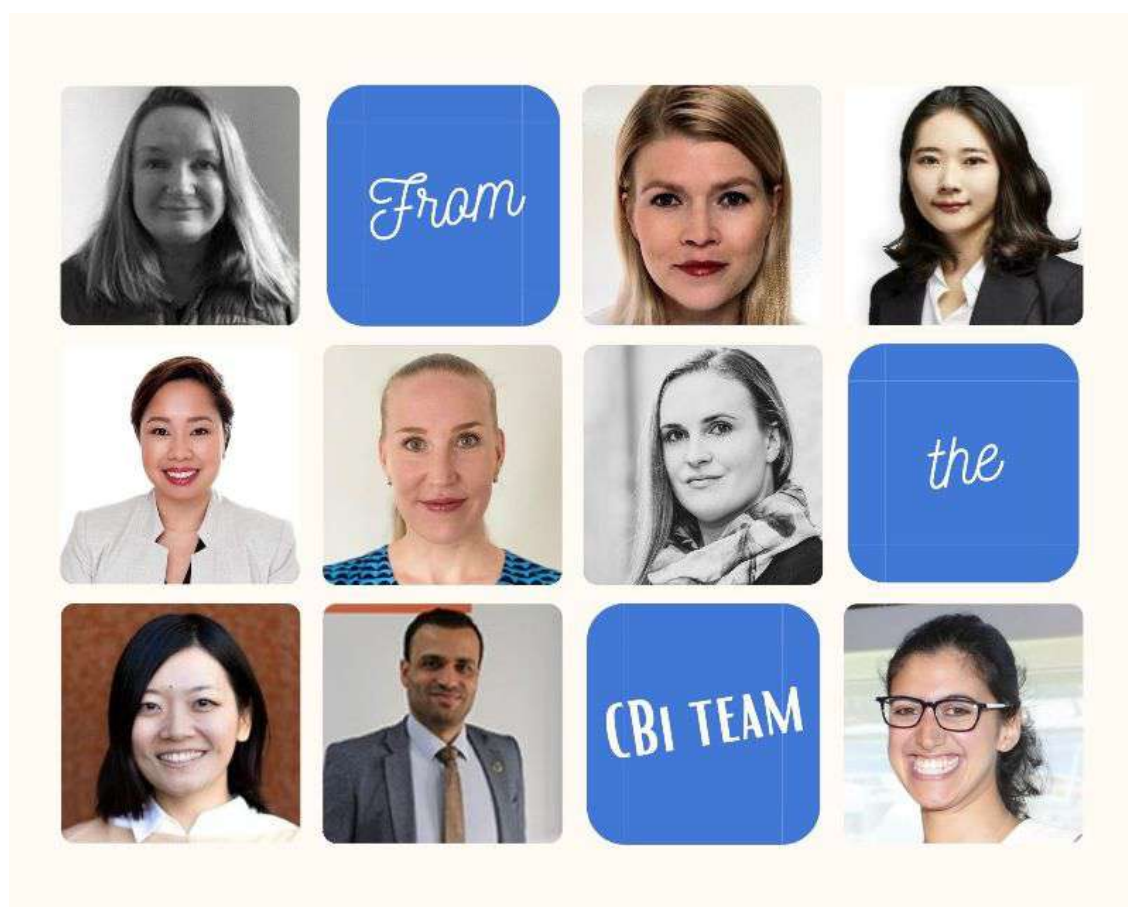


Photo credit: CBI Secretariat via Canva

Greetings from the CBI Secretariat

2020 brought unprecedented challenges worldwide. In fact, the COVID-19 pandemic is the greatest challenge the world has faced since World War II and climate change has contributed to an ever-increasing number of natural hazards, with a record-breaking 207 natural hazards occurring in the first half of 2020 alone. As such, the engagement of the private sector in disaster preparedness, response and recovery is more critical than ever.

Below is a "Year in Review" of what 2020 held for both the Connecting Business initiative (CBI) and our Member Networks.

Thank you to our networks and partners for their on-going support and dedication, for rising to the great responsibility and working together for better outcomes – here's wishing you all a peaceful 2021.

- The CBI Secretariat Team

CBI's Year in Review: A 2020 Recap



Gender & Disaster Management
(video also available in French and Spanish on the CBI YouTube channel)

Here is a short selection of highlights from the CBI Secretariat for 2020:

1. Support around **COVID-19 response and recovery** was offered, ranging from technical advice, tools and resources to thematic webinars and peer-to-peer knowledge exchange to catalyse adapted local activities as well as COVID-19 specific grants for Member Networks and regular [Sitreps](#) with a focus on COVID-19 activities.
2. CBI and its Member Networks have been highlighted as **good practice examples** in multiple key humanitarian documents. For example, CBI and the Vanuatu Member Network were featured in the [Global Humanitarian Overview 2020](#) by OCHA, the latter for its cash transfer programme rolled out in partnership with OXFAM.
3. CBI has started exploring new areas of work, such as including **a gender focus in private sector disaster management** (see video above) and **innovations and new technologies for disaster management**.

Visit the CBI website for more information

CBI Member Networks Spotlights from October to December



UN Resident Coordinator Gustavo Gonzalez and PDRF President Butch Meily on a field visit in the Philippines, November 2020 (Photo credit: PDRF)

Fiji

As part of their preparedness measures for the on-going and evolving situation with Tropical Cyclone Yasa, the Fiji Business Disaster Resilience Council (FBDRC) has formed a Viber messaging group for easier communication. They use this group to send updates and help disseminate severe weather bulletins and announcements from the NDMO and Fiji Meteorological Service. FBDRC also updated their inventory of assets and expertise from the private sector in order to take stock of possible resource requirements from the NDMO and other humanitarian partners.

Haiti

The AGERCA continued raising awareness around disaster preparedness for hurricane season and reporting on events such as the [60 earthquakes](#) registered in November alone.

Philippines

The Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation (PDRF) responded to a triple threat - Typhoons Goni & Vamco and COVID-19 - working in collaboration with UN agencies and

the government to provide shelter, food and non-food items, transportation, and more. For more information, see [the humanitarian needs assessment](#).

The network launched Project K3 in collaboration with the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Aid Programme to strengthen the health care capacities of local government units, health care institutions, and local communities to address COVID-19 needs. Read more [here](#).

PDRF has also been part of a government-led group developing the National Vaccine Roadmap for the Philippines, in addition to AC Health, Zuellig Pharma, Unilab and Boston Consulting Group. PDRF took part in the online Summit focusing on communication, distribution, and administration of vaccines on December 16, looking at the current landscape and best practices from experts around the world among other things.



Sri Lanka

The Asia Pacific Alliance for Disaster Management Sri Lanka (A-PAD SL) facilitated private sector engagement in the Disaster Management Center (DMC) multisectoral meeting to prepare for the Monsoon season amidst the pandemic. The network was an evaluator and participant in the October 13 table top tsunami simulation, served as a technical advisor for the DMC's "Access to Examinations Amidst Disaster" initiative, and is initiating dialogue around the intersection of disasters (when more than one disaster occurs at once) to improve preparedness and response.

APAD-SL also worked with HSBC and the Ministry of Health to support 50 newly established quarantine centers for women and girls, including donations of washing machines, pedestal fans, electrical kettles, water filters, wellness packs, hygiene pack for males and females and detergent. For more information, click [here](#).

Vanuatu

The Vanuatu Business Resilience Council (VBRC) has been engaging in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts, including coordinating economic policy with the government and lobbying for SME support, running the business support center for affected businesses, and has undertaken three collaborative network surveys to forecast the effects of COVID-19 on business. VBRC is continuing and expanding its unblocked cash transfer programme in partnership with OXFAM.

Read more about how CBI networks are responding to COVID-19

Prospective Networks



Photo credit: UNICEF/Arimacs Wilander

Indonesia

A webinar on Risk Communication in Disaster Management for Policymakers and Private Sector was held on November 30 by CBI, UNDP and OCHA Indonesia. The webinar had over 100 attendees representing private sector and government agencies.

Vietnam

UNDP Vietnam and the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, with the support of CBI and The UPS Foundation, conducted a policy forum on "Supporting SMEs impacted by COVID-19: Narrowing the gap from policy to implementation" on December 8 in Hanoi, Vietnam. The forum gathered state agencies, businesses and related stakeholders on the promulgation and implementation of policies to support SMEs, cooperatives, household businesses impacted by COVID-19.



Recent Webinars and Events

Join us live for
a conversation between experts

Fragility, conflict and COVID-19: A private sector approach

14 DECEMBER 2020 | 13.00-13.30 CET



Michelle Breslauer
(Moderator)
Senior Manager, Governance & Peace
United Nations Global Compact



Rein Andre Paulsen
Acting Director
Coordination Division at the United
Nations Office for the Coordination
of Humanitarian Affairs



Christina Bache
Chair of the Business for Peace
Working Group of the Principles for
Responsible Management Education

Watch our live session on Zoom: <https://undp.zoom.us/j/86717188661> or Twitter: https://twitter.com/connecting_biz

Nov 2-3: Two webinars on “Gender and the Private Sector in Disaster Management” featuring an overview of CBI research on the topic and best practices from partners such as UN Women, GSMA, and more. View the recordings [here](#).

Nov 26: Two webinars on “New Technologies for Disaster Management” co-hosted by CBI and the SDG AI Lab to present and engage in a discussion around CBI’s new workstream on the topic. View the recordings [here](#).

December 9-10: Global Humanitarian Policy Forum organised by OCHA and the UN Foundation, with four sessions over two days, including one on COVID-19 beyond health, featuring Nicole Clifton from CBI global partner the UPS Foundation, and one on localisation featuring Rene “Butch” Meily from CBI Member Network the PDRF. Further information and recordings can be found [here](#).

December 14: Live conversation between experts on “Fragility, conflict and COVID-19: A private sector approach” co-organised with the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) and featuring Rein Paulsen from OCHA, Christina Bache from the Principles for Responsible Management Education Business for Peace working group and Michelle Breslauer from UNGC as the moderator. View the recording [here](#).

Recent blogs & content



Teaser of the interview of Ed Martinez (UPS Foundation) by Dave Young (BCG).
More details below.

“In search of durable solutions: Local private sector networks addressing internal displacement” by Tiina Mylly: Read it [here](#).

“Peace and stability during the COVID-19 pandemic: Private sector contributions” by Tiina Mylly: Read it [here](#).

“Why Gender Matters to the Private Sector in Disaster Management”: Read it [here](#).

Interview of Ed Martinez from the UPS Foundation by Dave Young from BCG: Teaser video above, and full-length interview [here](#).



The success of the Connecting Business initiative to date would not be possible without the support of Global Resource and Programme Partners—namely in alphabetical order: Boston Consulting Group, Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, European Union (EU) Enhanced Response Capacity, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, United Nations Global Compact, USAID’s Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance and The UPS Foundation—which provide financial and in-kind contributions, expertise and guidance, as well as strategic leadership to the initiative.

Get engaged!

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in the Philippines

Access COVID-19 business
continuity resources

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