

HNPW 2026 Private Sector Session Guide



Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks (HNPW) is the largest annual gathering of humanitarian practitioners and experts from United Nations agencies and international organizations, governments, civil society, academia, and the private sector.

Jointly organized by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, HNPW provides an opportunity for professionals working in the sector to exchange experience, discuss new concepts, introduce new tools and ideas, connect, and collaborate in finding solutions to common challenges in crisis preparedness and response.

HNPW will be organized over two weeks, with an online-only programme from 02–06 March, and an in-person event from 10–12 March. The in-person portion of HNPW 2026 will be held at the International Conference Centre in Geneva (CICG).

More than 1,000 participants are expected to attend the 270+ sessions organized by more than 60 humanitarian networks and partnerships. Most sessions are open to the public, though advance registration is required (and free). View the full list of sessions and register to attend HNPW at hnpw.org.

The full in-person programme is available at <https://hnpw2026.lovable.app/> with filters by day and by topic, including private sector engagement.

For ease of reference, the OCHA-UNDP Connecting Business Initiative Secretariat has curated a list of key sessions at HNPW 2026 that will touch on the topic of private sector engagement. CBI sessions are highlighted in yellow.

If you have any questions or want to reach out to the CBI Secretariat about their sessions or a possible bilateral meeting during HNPW, please contact Annik Tiedt at annik.tiedt@un.org.

3 March 2026 (virtual)

11:00-12:00	HNPW 2026: Engaging with the private sector to unlock data for evidence-based decision-making Remote (Online) This session explores practical pathways for engaging with the private sector to unlock data that can strengthen evidence-based decision-making. Panellists will share lessons on building trust, aligning incentives, and navigating legal and operational considerations. Learn more and register
14:00-15:30	TAKAAYA How community kitchens offer a local lifeline to Sudan's hunger crisis Remote (Online) This panel confronts the urgent reality that while Sudanese communities are demonstrating extraordinary leadership through Takaaya and ERRs, the global humanitarian system has yet to respond with the scale, flexibility, and respect that this moment demands. Learn more and register

4 March 2026 (virtual)

15:00-16:00	The Evidence Behind Cross-Sector and Private-Sector Engagement in Humanitarian Logistics Remote (Online) The session will unpack sector-wide research conducted by the global humanitarian and aviation organization, Airlink, and the Center for Humanitarian Logistics and Regional Development (CHORD) on how joint partnership with commercial aviation, logistics partners, and philanthropic actors can overcome key barriers to humanitarian aid delivery. Learn more and register
15:00-17:00	UAS Forum presentation. Link to Drone for Humanitarian setting and UNDAC missions Remote (Online) This remote session will introduce recent advances in the use of Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) in humanitarian action, with a focus on the work led by the Unmanned Aviation Coordination Forum and their integration into UNDAC response missions. Learn more and register

10 March 2026 (in-person)

09:00-10:30	Private Sector Welcome and Networking Salle 3 (Face-to-face) This interactive session, convened by OCHA's Private Sector Unit and the OCHA-UNDP Connecting Business Initiative (CBI), will bring together private sector companies, business-led NGOs, foundations and key humanitarian stakeholders. Learn more and register	Unlocking Capital for Humanitarian Action: Private Sector Partnerships for Safe Shelter Salle 1 (Hybrid) Humanitarian crises are escalating, yet traditional funding streams remain insufficient, leaving millions without safe and dignified shelter. How can private sector partnerships unlock new sources of capital to bridge this gap? Learn more and register
11:00-12:30	Global launch of the Sphere Handbook Revision Salle 4 (Hybrid) As the sector adapts to profound change, the Sphere Handbook remains a unifying framework for quality, accountability, and dignity in crisis response. Learn more and register	
11:00-15:30	Open Data, Low-Tech Tools & Dynamic Routing for Humanitarian Response Pleniere B (Hybrid) This session focuses on using an innovative streaming method, routing graphs adjust instantly without full rebuilds—enabling responders to reroute immediately as conditions change. Learn more and register	Coordinated and common services models, how data partners can join efforts to shape and support an effective humanitarian data ecosystem for operations, a deep dive into the H2H funding activation for Syria Salle 11 (Face-to-face) At a time when enabling services are facing funding cuts, the session will underline how essential these investments are for advancing locally led humanitarian action. Learn more and register
14:00-15:30	Reimagining Public-Private Emergency Coordination: Lessons Learned from Hurricane Melissa Salle 4 (Face-to-face) This session brings together representatives from government, humanitarian agencies, and the private sector to discuss coordination challenges, and share lessons learned on integrating tracking solutions on the ground. Learn more and register	"Silent Reset, Bold Results: Harnessing Technical Expertise for Children in Crisis" Salle Vevey (Hybrid) The session will emphasize the importance of strengthening technical expertise among educators, caregivers, and youth in humanitarian crises to provide and protect tools for locally led innovation, personalized learning, and resilience-building. Learn more and register

16:00-17:30	Designing Responsible AI for Humanitarian Settings: Readiness, Data, and Frontline Realities Salle 16 (Face-to-face) This session introduces technology readiness snapshots developed through GBV and Protection work. These include snapshots on trauma-informed survivor ICT access and safety, telemetry snapshots that show staff ICT access, digital constraints, and the infrastructural environments they work within, and a DPIA readiness check as part of broader governance and risk considerations. Learn more and register	The adaptation gap: getting climate finance to the places that need it most Salle 14 (Face-to-face) As humanitarian action retreats from resilience and disaster preparedness, communities are clear that they need more investment in the things that stop climate hazards from becoming climate disasters. What does that mean for the places we work? Learn more and register
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11 March 2026 (in-person)

09:00-10:30	Keynote Session - Shaping the Humanitarian Reset: From Global Commitments to Local Action Amphitheatre D bis (Hybrid) The session will draw on a pre-event survey and explore what the humanitarian reset looks like in practice. Participants will reflect on how the humanitarian sector has adapted in different countries, what practical steps have been taken and what opportunities lie ahead to turn global commitments into locally-led solutions. Learn more and register	
11:00-12:30	Lessons in Leadership: Prioritizing Collective Accountability to Affected People Salle 11 (Face-to-face) The session highlights progress to date, the need for collective action and leadership commitment to address systemic barriers to embed AAP across humanitarian responses. Learn more and register	
14:00-15:30	Myth to Reality: What is the Potential of Using Innovative Financing for Localization Pleniere C (Hybrid) There is a growing focus on “innovative financing” in the humanitarian sector. The Grand Bargain has successfully launched an Innovative Finance Community of Practice. Courses on humanitarian innovative finance have never had so much demand. Learn more and register	Financing and Scaling Long-Term Resilience at Community Level: What Works, What Doesn’t, and What’s Missing Salle 4 (Hybrid) This interactive workshop will bring together humanitarian and development practitioners, local government representatives, private sector actors, and donors to examine what has been tested in community-level resilience finance. Learn more and register

16:00-17:30	Corporate Philanthropy and Engagement in Humanitarian Action: How Can Businesses Step Up? Salle 4 (Face-to-face) This session explores how corporate foundations leverage expertise and industry networks to support disaster response operations across Asia. Through interactive discussions, participants will explore mechanisms that enable and scale solutions for more effective, locally-led humanitarian action. Learn more and register	Pooled Funds and Innovation: Good Practices Pleniere C (Hybrid) The CBPFs have sought to increase their financing and there have been concerted efforts to map and seek complementarity among pooled funds including UN-led, NGO-led, Femist-funds, Refugee-led Funds and Locally-led pooled funds. Learn more and register
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12 March 2026 (in-person)

09:00-10:30	Humanitarian crisis and climate challenges: is the humanitarian sector ready? Salle Montreux (Face-to-face) There is a need to strengthen the systematic integration of climate risks and related measures in humanitarian response. The session will showcase recent developments for climate sensitive approaches and tools and how they enable humanitarian outcomes for crisis affected communities. Learn more and register	Making shared Information Management Systems work Salle 12 (Face-to-face) In this presentation, we will unpack what it takes to effectively deploy shared Information Management Systems to be used in collaborative initiatives. We will share some lessons learned from supporting collaborative humanitarian efforts and will offer some practical recommendations to guide actors preparing to deploy shared Information Management Systems in the future. Learn more and register
11:00-12:30	Local and National Actors' Perspectives on the Humanitarian Reset Pleniere A (Face-to-face) This side event seeks to address this imbalance by providing a platform exclusively for local and national civil society leaders. This discussion will be anchored in reflections on the Humanitarian Reset, as well as inviting speakers to reflect upon how broader system transformation is unfolding in their countries. Learn more and register	Evidence on How Coordination Improves Operational Impact Across Humanitarian Responses in the WASH Sector Espace telecom (Face-to-face) This session will present the main findings of the study and highlight the coordination practices that have the greatest positive effect on outcomes. The discussion will focus on how stronger coordination can help protect delivery capacity in a context of shrinking resources and evolving expectations under the humanitarian reset. Learn more and register

14:00-15:30	From Data to Decisions: Directing Aid to Where and Who Needs It Most Salle 1 (Hybrid) This session will bring together experts to explore how evidence-based approaches in humanitarian needs, response, and monitoring data can support more informed decision-making and enhance the overall effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian operations. Learn more and register
16:00-17:30	Is it worth it? Joining the humanitarian sector in times of financial turmoil Salle 12 (Hybrid) This will be an in-depth conversation around what its like to join the humanitarian sector during a time of financial turmoil, and staffing restrictions. We will have speakers who are in the throws of job applications, those in early career programming, as well as asking for insights from experienced humanitarians. Is it worth it to join a sector that has significant money issues? Learn more and register

This guide is accurate as of 11th February 2026, but please note that information is subject to revision. For the latest and most accurate data on HNPW sessions, please visit hnpw.org.
Guide data collected and prepared by Fabrizio Bruzzese.