



CONCEPT NOTE

HNPW 2026

Private Sector Welcome and Networking Breakfast

OVERVIEW

The private sector plays a crucial role in humanitarian response, from logistics and technology to financing and modelling innovative partnerships. As humanitarian challenges grow more complex, fostering collaboration between businesses, governments, and aid organizations is essential for effective crisis response.

This interactive session, convened by OCHA's Private Sector Unit and the OCHA-UNDP Connecting Business Initiative (CBI), will bring together private sector representatives and humanitarian stakeholders. It is designed as an opportunity for participants to connect and network across sectors.

Following brief opening remarks, participants will engage in a dynamic exercise, rotating between thematic stations covering key areas of private sector engagement in humanitarian action. Through facilitated discussions, participants will then share insights, identify challenges, and explore opportunities for collaboration.

The session will conclude with an interactive reflection, clustering key takeaways and ideas to drive meaningful partnerships beyond the 2026 Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week (HNPW).

DATE AND TIME

Tuesday, 10 March 2026
09:00 – 10:30 Geneva (UTC+1)
(In-Person Only)

LOCATION

[International Conference Center Geneva \(CICG\)](#), Salle 3

REGISTRATION

Advance registration is required.
[Please register online here.](#)

CONTACT

For more information, email
connectingbusiness@un.org.

Photo credit: CBI

MEETING OBJECTIVES

1. **Facilitate a structured networking opportunity** for businesses, aid/development organizations, and government representatives to exchange insights, build relationships, and explore potential collaborations in humanitarian response.
2. **Encourage knowledge sharing** and identification of key challenges, opportunities, and best practices in areas such as logistics, digital solutions, local market engagement, and climate adaptation.
3. **Capture key insights and ideas to identify concrete opportunities for strengthening private sector engagement** in humanitarian action.

PARTICIPANTS

This session welcomes participants from across the humanitarian and development system, private sector, government, and academia who are interested in strengthening cross-sector collaboration in crisis response. By fostering an interactive and engaging environment, the session aims to facilitate networking, a knowledge exchange, and the identification of opportunities for impactful partnerships.

PROGRAMME

08:15-09:00 Networking Breakfast

09:00-09:10 Welcome and Opening Remarks: Challenges and Opportunities for Public-Private Collaboration

09:10-10:00 Networking Rotations (10 minutes per station)

- Station 1: Innovation and Technology
- Station 2: Logistics and Supply Chain Innovation
- Station 3: Digital Payments and Financial Inclusion
- Station 4: Health

10:00-10:20 Networking Station Lead Presentations

10:20-10:30 Wrap Up and Closing Remarks

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

OCHA-UNDP Connecting Business initiative (CBI)



Established and jointly managed by the [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#) (OCHA) and the [United Nations Development Programme](#) (UNDP), CBI is dedicated working with local businesses to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. CBI Member Networks are independent chambers of commerce, trade federations, business associations and private foundations that are ready, willing and able to lead private sector disaster management in their countries. CBI empowers local businesses to work hand-in-hand with governments, civil society, humanitarian organizations and affected people to alleviate human suffering while building more resilient societies. Learn more at connectingbusiness.org or email connectingbusiness@un.org.

rev. 6 Feb 2026