
World Humanitarian Summit 2016

Improving Cross-Sector Responses to Humanitarian Crises

Tuesday 24 May 11.00-12.30

Lüfti Kirdar Convention and Exhibition Center (LKCC),
Marmara

While the fundamentals of establishing inclusive partnerships are not ground-breaking, they become exponentially more challenging when combining humanitarian and private sectors. With 125 million people across the world in dire need of humanitarian assistance, and the frequency, severity and duration of disasters increasing, the United Nations, governments and civil society must work together with business to create more resilient communities and increase local capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from these crises.

Pioneering for their respective industry communities, though often competitors in business, the following partnerships have come together as examples of diverse and inclusive alliances in support of effective and humanitarian action:

1. Logistics Emergency Teams (LET), from the supply chain and logistics industry
2. Disaster Resource Partnership (DRP), from the engineering and construction industry
3. Crisis Connectivity Charter, from the satellite industry and
4. Humanitarian Connectivity Charter, from mobile network operators

Speakers

Alpha Bah, Chief ETC and WFP IT Emergency Coordination branch, World Food Programme (WFP)

Espen Barth Eide, Head of Geopolitical Affairs, Member of the Managing Board, World Economic Forum

Simon Gray, Vice President of Humanitarian Affairs at Eutelsat, Director of the Global VSAT Forum (GVF), elected ESOA Working Group Coordinator

Ed Martinez, UPS Foundation

Butch Meily, President, Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation

Pedro Rodrigues de Almeida, Head of Basic Industries, Member of the Executive Committee, World Economic Forum

Lawrence Yanovitch, President, GSMA Foundation

Note: LET and DRP are facilitated by the World Economic Forum; the Crisis Connectivity Charter and Humanitarian Connectivity Charter were developed with the support of the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC).

Additionally, the Connecting Business initiative will provide a global coordination mechanism to replicate and scale industry and cross-sectoral models.

Through the combination of experience, lessons drawn and new perspectives, this session explores how the private sector has joined industry, humanitarian and cross-sector networks to increase the resilience and reduce the vulnerability of disaster-affected and at-risk populations. It provides an opportunity for heads of state and governments, humanitarian leaders and other participants to discuss how public-private partnerships between the private sector and the UN cluster system can be established, managed and improved to enable the delivery of the agenda for humanity.

Disaster Resource Partnership (DRP)

The main objective of the DRP is to establish ongoing collaboration between private industry, the public sector and humanitarian organizations to use the strengths and capacities of the Engineering & Construction (E&C) community to deal with disasters. The DRP offers two levels of engagement: at the national level, through its national networks in India, Indonesia and Mexico, and at the global level, via the DRP global secretariat to facilitate the deployment of technical experts after large-scale natural disasters to support humanitarian action through the international humanitarian cluster system. The engagement depends on each company's proximity to the disaster area, its assets and skills, and the needs of the affected communities.

Logistics Emergency Teams (LET)

The LET is comprised of three of the largest global logistics and transportation companies: Agility, UPS and Maersk, that work together to support the Logistics Cluster led by United Nations World Food Programme. The partnership was facilitated by the World Economic Forum in 2005. The companies join forces to support the humanitarian sector pro bono during emergency response to large-scale natural disasters and deploy worldwide upon request from the Global Logistics Cluster. The LET unites the capacity and resources of the logistics industry with the expertise and experience of the humanitarian community to provide more effective and efficient disaster relief. A key reason for cooperating through the LET is to provide demand-driven, efficient response. The LET is the first partnership of its kind, formalizing a multistakeholder cooperation between the private and public sectors. It remains one of the best Forum-initiated and operational public-private partnerships.

Crisis Connectivity Charter

The Crisis Connectivity Charter is a set of commitments by the satellite community to enhance connectivity in times of crises, facilitating communications between – to – from – and across all those responding to humanitarian emergencies, including affected communities. Principles of the charter

include strengthening partnership between satellite industry, government and humanitarian sector; enhanced coordination to enable prioritization of humanitarian internet traffic during disaster operations; prepositioned equipment; training and capacity building. Established by the EMEA Satellite Operators Association (ESOA) and Global VSAT Forum, the Crisis Connectivity Charter is a direct outcome of a WHS Business Consultation hosted by the Government of Luxembourg and Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) in June 2015.

Humanitarian Connectivity Charter

With mobile networks and the connectivity they provide being lifelines for people affected by disaster, the GSMA Humanitarian Connectivity Charter supports Mobile Network Operators in improving preparedness and resilience to emergencies. The Charter consists of a set of shared principals adopted by key players in the mobile industry to support improved access to communication and information for those affected by crisis in order to reduce the loss of life and contribute to humanitarian response. The principles, objectives and aspirational activities of the Humanitarian Connectivity Charter are supported by the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC), the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

Connecting Business Initiative

Connecting Business is a multistakeholder initiative that is supporting the creation and strengthening of private sector-led networks at the local, national and regional levels, and among industry and thematic groups. It is also connecting those networks to one other and to other actors through a global portal and coordination architecture to amplify and replicate effective models. The initiative is supporting the private sector to integrate with disaster risk management systems both as industries through global partnerships, but also at the national level by incorporation into government and UN-led mechanisms. For example, members of the Philippine Disaster Resilience Foundation have formed private-sector clusters that are aligned and integrated with the government and United Nations disaster management mechanisms, and which also focus on risk reduction and preparedness.