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Acknowledgements

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What our partners say

“Coordination with the private sector for enhanced and effective humanitarian principled responses is CBI’s core strength. CBI has built from its unique value proposition, which includes harnessing coordination with the private sector and its expertise and unique capacities to respond effectively to disasters and complex crises around the world.”



Emmanuel N. Nougba

Chief (Acting), Private Sector Engagement, Diaspora and Innovation Division. Office of Global Policy, Partnerships, Programs and Communications. Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance. USAID

“The private sector is key to the development of a country and should be an essential partner in humanitarian action. It is important to create an enabling environment for the sustainability of private-sector investments in disaster risk management. Partnerships between humanitarian organizations and private-sector networks like PSHP Madagascar are critical in strengthening this.”



Isabelle Salabert

Executive Director, AXIAN Foundation / President, Private Sector Humanitarian Platform Madagascar

At a glance



Crisis response and recovery

A category 5 cyclone struck Vanuatu in April, making it the first country in the world to respond to a major cyclone while its borders were closed. The local CBI network, the Vanuatu Business Resilience Council (VBRC) helped supply over 1,000 remote coastal households with 35 tonnes of food and NFIs over eight weeks, working with private-sector partners, NGOs and the UN to support the government.

[Read more about CBI Member Networks crisis response and recovery activities on pages 7 and 10–15](#)



COVID-19

CBI worked closely with the UN system, member networks and other partners to support the health response, strengthen crisis management (preparedness, response and recovery) and address critical economic impacts.

[Read more about CBI's COVID-19 response on pages 9, 10–15 and 17](#)



Gender, Disaster Management and the Private Sector

CBI launched a new publication on how gender considerations influence private-sector disaster management and how interlinked actions addressing gender, disaster management and the private sector can provide win-win solutions that benefit people, business and society as a whole.

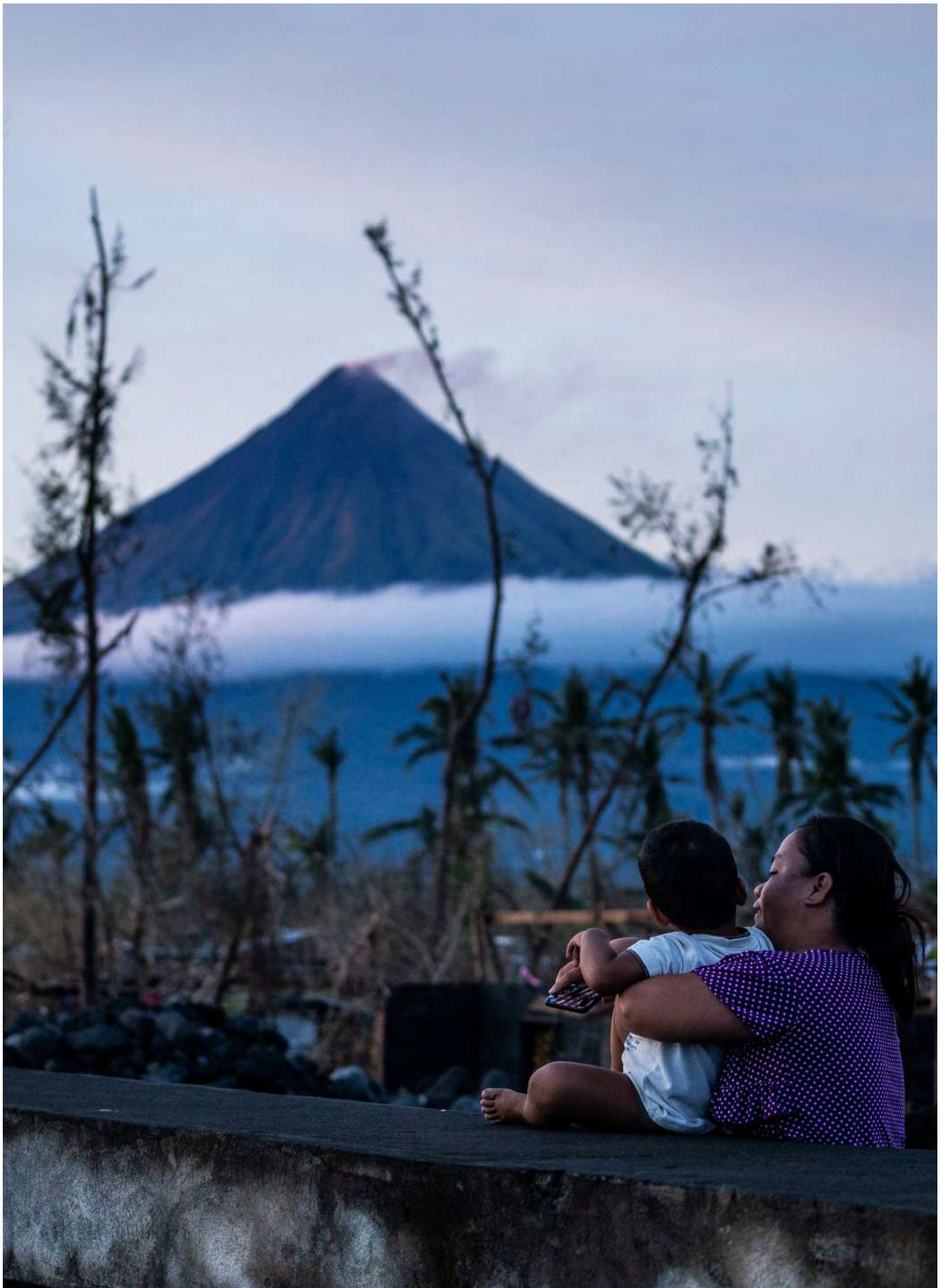
[Read more about addressing knowledge gaps on page 17](#)



CBI Annual Event

CBI brought its networks and partners together to share experiences, learn from one another and discuss opportunities for collaboration.

[Read more about CBI events on page 18.](#)



Malinao, Philippines

Residents of Barangay Baybay in Malinao, Albay, in the Philippines, rummage through what was left of their destroyed homes, a week after Typhoon Goni destroyed most of their village.. *Photo: Martin San Diego/OCHA*

Foreword



Marcos Athias Neto
Director, Finance Sector
Hub, United Nations
Development Programme



Rein A. Paulsen
Acting Director,
Coordination Division,
United Nations Office
for the Coordination of
Humanitarian Affairs

This past year has defied all expectations and has been extraordinary in the most difficult way. Some have gone as far as to say that the COVID-19 pandemic is the greatest challenge the world has faced since World War II. Without a doubt, in a context like this, business as usual was not an option. In addition to COVID-19, the world had to also continue to deal with a record-breaking number of disasters and ongoing violence across conflict-affected countries. These resulted in complex, multi-faceted emergencies.

Development gains – including progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – have come under threat. It is predicted that as many as 150 million people could be pushed into extreme poverty by 2021, reversing decades of progress to eradicate this.¹ According to projections, an additional 168,000 children will die from malnutrition² and 72 million children will remain illiterate.³

Urgent and effective action is required to address these pressing challenges. Solutions exist. The pandemic has demanded innovative solutions and aligned agendas for improved collaboration across sectors and even between governments, while renewing the focus on the importance of localized action.

Against this backdrop, as we reflect on COVID-19, its impacts and what comes next, we are proud to acknowledge the relevance and achievements of the Connecting Business initiative (CBI). By adapting its work plan for 2020 and redirecting resources, CBI found new ways to continue supporting local private-sector networks, adapting to urgent needs prompted by the pandemic itself and the added complexity it layered onto both new and existing crises.

The role of local actors, including business networks, as critical stakeholders in local responses was further highlighted in 2020 during lockdowns, when international response mechanisms could not be deployed or their capacities were limited.

In this context, CBI Member Networks engaged the private sector in humanitarian activities that were implemented in collaboration with United Nations agencies and governments, sometimes even leading the way when other sectors did not have the capacity to do so.

All CBI Member Networks addressed COVID-19 in 2020, while nine of the networks (Fiji, Haiti, Madagascar, Mexico, Pacific, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Vanuatu) and their partners also responded to 19 other emergencies, including flooding, earthquakes, conflicts, displacement, tropical storms, a fire and a volcanic eruption. Some networks had to deal with two or three crisis responses at the same time. CBI also supported new private-sector networks in crisis management, such as the Global Compact Network Lebanon after the Beirut port explosions.

Many CBI Member Networks were at the table in an official capacity, contributing to national disaster management plans, which earned them recognition in Global Humanitarian Response Plans and other reports. We look forward to building on these achievements of 2020 in the coming years.

This work would not be possible without our donors and partners: the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Boston Consulting Group, the UPS Foundation, the United States Agency for International Development and the United Nations Global Compact. They are unwavering in their commitment to engaging the private sector in disaster preparedness, response and recovery even when navigating change, transitions and challenging environments themselves. We look forward to deepening our ties with our current partners and welcoming new ones as CBI prepares to celebrate its fifth anniversary.

¹ World Bank, "COVID-19 to Add as Many as 150 Million Extreme Poor by 2021," 7 October 2020, www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/10/07/covid-19-to-add-as-many-as-150-million-extreme-poor-by-2021.

² Saskia Osendarp et al., "The Potential Impacts of the Covid-19 Crisis on Maternal and Child Undernutrition in Low and Middle Income Countries," Nature Portfolio, forthcoming, www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-123716/v1.

³ World Bank, "Pandemic Threatens to Push 72 Million More Children into Learning Poverty—World Bank Outlines a New Vision to Ensure That Every Child Learns, Everywhere," 2 December 2020, www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/12/02/pandemic-threatens-to-push-72-million-more-children-into-learning-poverty-world-bank-outlines-new-vision-to-ensure-that-every-child-learns-everywhere

Facts and figures



CBI is a demand-driven, multi-stakeholder initiative that is transforming the way the private sector engages before, during and after crises. Launched at the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016, it aims to increase local capacity, build resilience and alleviate human suffering.

17 business networks

Seventeen business networks were engaged and supported by the CBI Secretariat

CBI engaged with business networks, helping them build their foundations and strengthening their contributions to disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response and recovery. These networks are based in the Bahamas, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Fiji, Haiti, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Madagascar, Mexico, the Pacific, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Vanuatu, Viet Nam and Yemen.

4,100 members

CBI Member Networks represent around 4,100 core members from different sectors and have access to more than 40,000 MSMEs.

Member companies represent a vast range of industries including Information and Communications Technology (ICT), Media and Entertainment, Financial Services and Insurance, Transport and Logistics and Housing and Construction.

Survey results

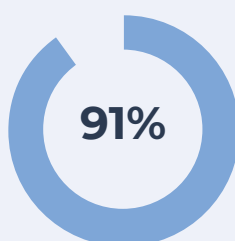


CBI conducts an annual survey among its Member Networks. In 2020 the results indicated that CBI is valued by its key stakeholders.



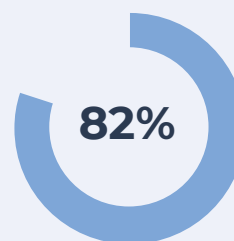
Influence

90 percent of the CBI Member Networks said CBI had a positive or very positive influence on their disaster preparedness and response work.



Coordination

91 percent of the CBI Member Networks said CBI helped them to coordinate with other United Nations agencies for disaster preparedness, response and recovery.



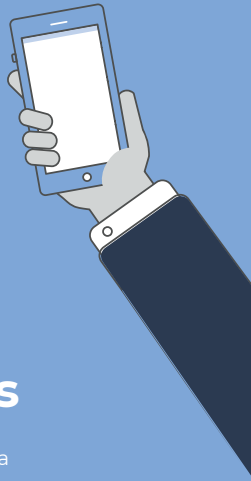
Peer-to-Peer learning

82 percent of the CBI Member Networks said CBI was successful or very successful at providing opportunities for peer-to-peer learning and disseminating good practices.

Preparedness

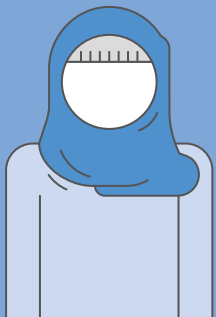
3.6 million people reached through early warning activities

CBI Member Networks coordinated via media and telephone service providers to send out early warning messages.



28,600 training participants

CBI Member Networks organized over 36 disaster preparedness training activities, reaching over 28,600 participants.



Recovery

13,900 people reached through recovery activities

CBI Member Networks supported people and MSMEs affected by crises through livelihood starter kits, training programmes, cash transfers, situation reports and information, telemedicine and support for community action groups to engage in recovery, among other responses.

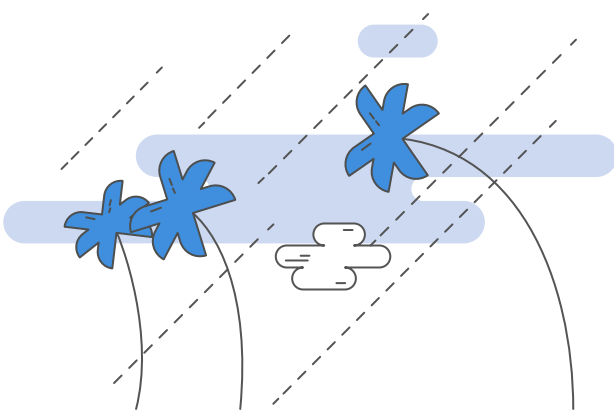


Response

All CBI Member Networks responded to COVID-19 crisis

In addition, nine networks responded to 19 other emergencies:

Conflict or violence (Haiti), **Drought** (Madagascar), **Earthquakes** (Mexico, Turkey), **Fire** (Madagascar), **Floodings** (Mexico, Philippines, Sri Lanka), **Tropical storms** (Fiji, Haiti, Madagascar, Pacific, Philippines, Vanuatu), **Volcanic eruption** (Philippines)



15.5 million people reached through crisis response activities

CBI Member Networks reached 14.3 million people through their **COVID-19 response activities** and 1.2 million people through activities responding to **other crises** (e.g., tropical cyclones, earthquakes).

US\$42.2 million raised

CBI Member Networks raised \$36.8 million for the **response to COVID-19** and \$2.5 million in financial contributions and \$2.9 million in in-kind contributions from their members for other **disaster preparedness, response and recovery activities**.

Source: CBI Member Network Survey 2020, self-reported data

Note: Figures reflect the minimum number of people reached. Some networks did not report on the value of member contributions or people reached.



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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_11550

