Humanitarian Activities Committee   Theodoros Panagiotis Chatzinikolaou

Composition

- Theodoros Panagiotis Chatzinikolaou (Greece) (Chair)
- Abdullateef Aliyu (Nigeria) (Past-Chair)
- Lavender Ndunya (Kenya)
- George Papadimitriou (Switzerland)
- Lucija Brezočnik (Slovenia)
- Jan Verveckken (Benelux)
- Nour Sbaoulji (Tunisia)
- Omar Salameh (Jordan)
- Neemat Awadelkarim (Sudan)
- Herbert Lwanga (Uganda) (Ex-officio from Humanitarian Technologies Board)
- Simay Akar (Turkey) (Ex-officio from Humanitarian Technologies Board)
- Miriam Cunningham (UK&Ireland) (Ex-officio from Humanitarian Technologies Board)
- Magdalena Salazar-Palma (Spain) (Ex-officio from Humanitarian Technologies Board)
- Mohamed Essaaidi (Morocco) (Ex-officio from Humanitarian Technologies Board)

Goals

Our Committee's mission is to inspire and enable IEEE volunteers around Europe, Middle East and Africa to carry out and support impactful humanitarian technologies and sustainable development activities. In particular, our goals include:

- Building the optimal humanitarian team in the Region.
- Mentoring existing SIGHT groups and prospective groups.
- Supporting SIGHT groups activities and encouraging them to participate in Regional humanitarian activities.
- Increasing visibility of Humanitarian Activities within the Region.
- Raising awareness of ongoing HTB/SIGHT activities and encouraging submission of project proposals.
- Encouraging reporting of activities via vTools by monitoring and reaching out.
- Encouraging celebration of SIGHT Week across the Region.
- Encouraging Student and Young Professional involvement in Humanitarian Activities.
- Encouraging and highlighting the women involvement in humanitarian activities.
- Organizing R8 Humanitarian Activities Congress and collaborating in organizing humanitarian conferences.
- Collaborating with other IEEE OUs and with external organizations on humanitarian projects.
- Recognizing exceptional SIGHT Groups and volunteers.

Our KPIs focuses on the following areas:

- Increasing the number of SIGHT groups in the Region by at least 20%.
- Increasing SIGHT groups events reporting on vTools by at least 30%.
- Continuing at least 3 of the Humanitarian Programs and Initiatives 2021-22.
- Launching at least 3 new Humanitarian Programs and Initiatives in the Region.
- Coordinating and getting aligned with the newly established IEEE Humanitarian Technologies Board.

Progress and Plans

Towards achieving our goals and KPIs, the Committee has established the following programs and initiatives:

- Community Support Program
- Connecting Humanitarian Experts
- High Performing SIGHT Groups Program
- Humanitarian Ambassadors Program
- R8 Humanitarian Activities Congress
- R8 Humanitarian Technologies Hackathon
- SIGHT Groups Coordination Workshops
- Humanitarian Voices
- R8 Humanitarian Awards
- SIGHT Groups Monitoring and Mentoring
- SIGHT Week/Day
- Humanitarian Meets STEM Initiative
- Humanitarian Opportunities from Societies Initiative

The Committee worked towards closing past year's programs and planning this year's programs and initiatives. Future plans focus on programs execution and progress monitoring. Detailed description and status of each program and initiative is also included on this report.
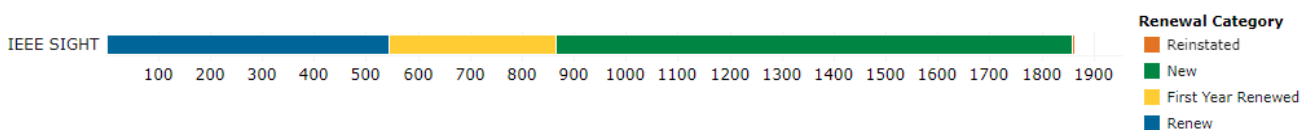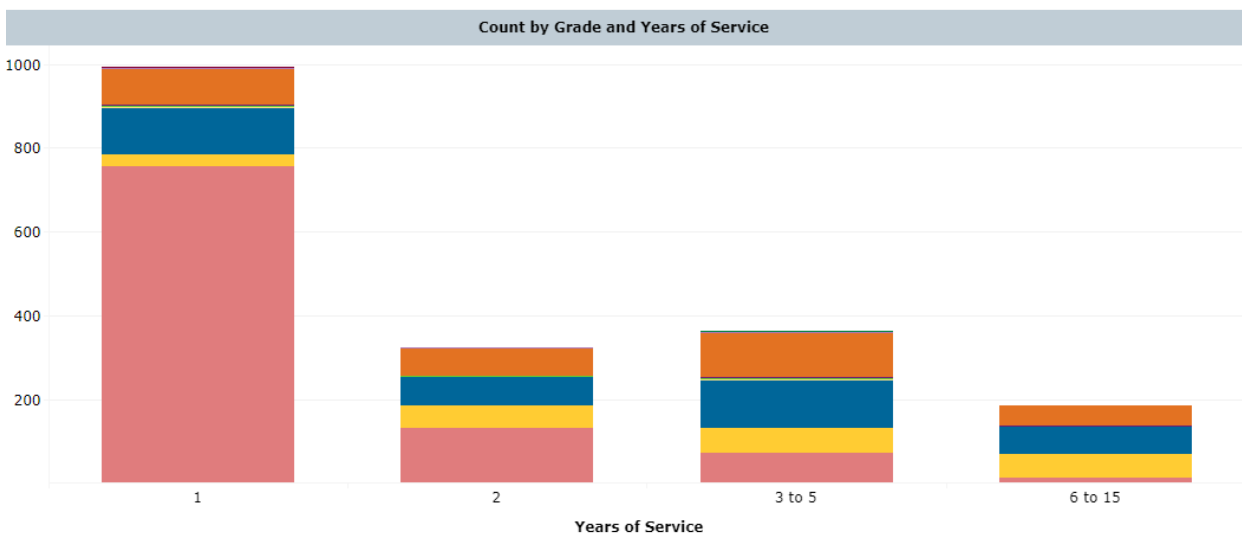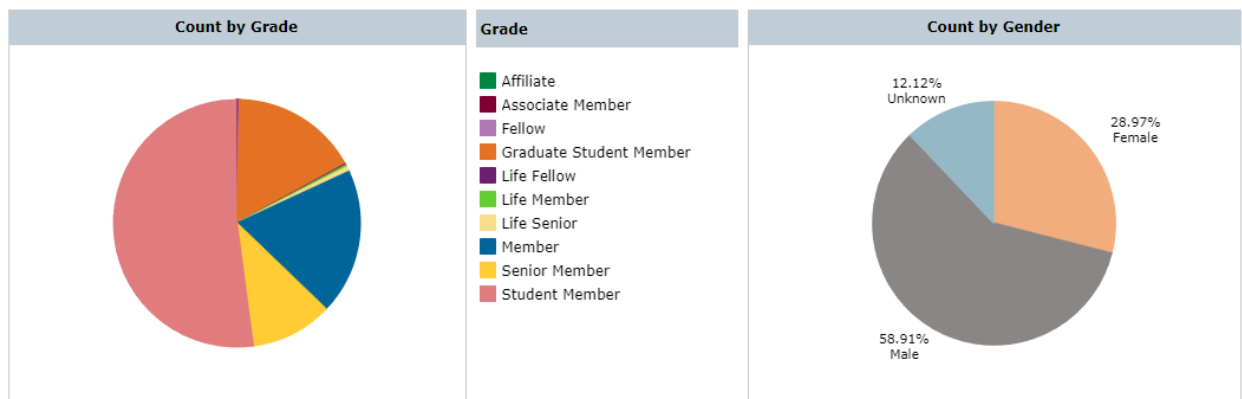
Statistics

➤ SIGHT Groups Status:

- 31 groups in total:
    - 21 professional groups on Sections
    - 10 student groups on Student Branches
- 1 new group:
    - Oman Section SIGHT
- 2 Sections have appointed Humanitarian Activities Chairs *(potential transformation to SIGHT groups)*

➤ SIGHT Membership:

- 1,864 active members as of March 2023
- *Detailed membership statistics for each Section is presented at the end of this report*

Points of Concern

- Some programs require handover during a crucial timing for the program execution.
- Social media and publicity coordination of the Committee in order to establish solid marketing plans and raise awareness of potential opportunities.
- In some cases, SIGHT projects closing should be completed under newly elected officers, which require a proper handover.

Proposals for Improvements

- It would be beneficial for Sections to closely cooperate and monitor SIGHT groups projects progress as they are the financial responsible OU.
- Increase awareness of IEEE HTB/SIGHT and R8 HuAC programs and funding opportunities to help increase the level of impactful activities using technology appropriately to support local Community needs.
- Sections without SIGHT groups could form one and start working on implementing SIGHT projects.
- Need for funding opportunities in two levels: (a) collaboration with Societies for joint activities and sponsorships and (b) Section support to SIGHT volunteers for traveling purposes whenever possible.

Programs and Initiatives

➤ Community Support Program

This program focuses on supporting R8 SIGHT Groups that will implement community support projects to address local community challenges. Proposed projects should have a sustainability plan, demonstrate community buy-in, and be cost-effective, environmentally sustainable, trust enhancing, relevant to users and the community, and accessible. We expect a smooth launch, stimulated growth of budget and impact, and execute monitoring more closely for 100% project closing.

➤ Connecting Humanitarian Experts

Connecting Humanitarian Experts targets to organize quarterly webinars on humanitarian topics presented by an expert in the field. The desired outcome of these webinars is to understand the humanitarian impact in achieving UN SDGs from an engineering and technical perspective and how can we achieve these SDGs.

➤ High Performing SIGHT Groups Program

High Performing SIGHT Groups Program is a new initiative targeting to provide existing SIGHT groups a seed funding for the new year activities based on their humanitarian efforts and activities of the past year. The program aims to recognize the success of the SIGHT Groups activities, provide funding to organize more activities, help to evaluate the health of the SIGHT Groups and promote good practices of the funded SIGHT Groups.

➤ Humanitarian Ambassadors Program

Humanitarian Ambassadors Program is a new initiative targeting to keep an eye in each corner of the region. The program aims to increase awareness and knowledge about humanitarian technologies, increase the impact of existing SIGHT groups, and encourage the establishment of new SIGHT groups.

➤ R8 Humanitarian Activities Congress

IEEE Region 8 Humanitarian Activities Congress is an annual event that aims to bring together R8 SIGHT group members of to share results, lessons learnt and experience with peers across the region, and to discuss and address various humanitarian and community development projects, as well as to promote the use of technology for social good. The congress typically includes presentations, workshops, and networking opportunities for attendees. During the Congress, participants from different countries across the region are expected to participate and interact in order to discuss and promote community development initiatives.

➤ R8 Humanitarian Technologies Hackathon

This is an event meant to foster competition amongst different SIGHT groups, through their solutions to specific humanitarian needs in the Region. The event involves participation of all SIGHT groups in the Region and targets solutions around SDGs. The desired outcome is to award tech proposals that can solve humanitarian challenges. If winning OU doesn't have a SIGHT group, then they will be mentored towards forming one; otherwise, if it is a well-standing SIGHT group, then they will be mentored towards submitting a project proposal to a HTB/SIGHT CFP.

➤ SIGHT Groups Coordination Workshops

Through these workshops, our committee provides support and guidance for SIGHT Groups to overcome any operational or organizational issues and obstacles they face or could face in the future, to ensure the optimal functioning of these groups to deliver the committee's goals and objectives. This will be achieved by means of periodic online workshops with SIGHT group leaders and volunteers. Topics will be based on feedback from SIGHT groups using reports. We aim to achieve more productive and smooth operation of SIGHT Groups, more collaboration between SIGHT Groups, and better planning for future projects and initiatives.

➤ Humanitarian Voices

This program delivers news articles regarding our humanitarian activities and initiatives supported by photos on the field. It aims to highlight the achievements of the SIGHT groups and inspire others, whether they are SIGHT members or not, to contribute to achieving the mission and vision of the IEEE to advance technology for the benefit of humanity.

➤ R8 Humanitarian Awards

This is part of the Region 8 Awards program, and it includes two awards to encourage SIGHT Groups to raise visibility and recognize achievements. It follows R8 A&R timeline and directions, and it includes two awards, namely Outstanding Section SIGHT Group of the Year Award and Outstanding Student Branch SIGHT Group of the Year Award.

➤ SIGHT Groups Monitoring and Mentoring

SIGHT Groups Monitoring and Mentoring focuses on gathering information of SIGHT groups in one place and making sure that they have access to all information needed. After checking members count, officers and events reporting (monitoring), we identify actions for information to be sent by email (mentoring). We might also schedule mentoring calls if requested by the SIGHT groups.

➤ SIGHT Week/Day

SIGHT Day is an annual international celebration in which SIGHT Groups are encouraged or organize and host their own activities to celebrate SIGHT Day with their members. Our Committee targets to increase awareness of IEEE SIGHT Week/Day within IEEE SIGHT OUs, and celebrate the impact SIGHT volunteers and groups are making.

➤ Humanitarian Meets STEM Initiative

A new initiative targeting to spread IEEE Humanitarian Efforts and introduce sustainable development goals to pre-university students. This initiative will coordinate STEM activities through the Humanitarian Ambassadors Program and the High Performing SIGHT Groups Program.

➤ Humanitarian Opportunities from Societies Initiative

This is a new initiative targeting to boost collaboration between R8 HuAC and other Societies. The aim is to drive the committee's agenda, with partnership from societies and this is to be done through creation of a value proposition of the agenda, to the societies.

SIGHT Membership Statistics by Section *(as of March 2023)*

Section	Section SIGHT Group	Student SIGHT Groups	Profes-sionals	Students	Other	New	First Year Renewed	Others Renewed	Rein-stated	Total
Algeria	Yes	-	6	8	0	4	5	5	0	14
Austria	No	-	7	2	0	2	3	4	0	9
Bahrain	Yes	-	12	7	2	5	5	10	1	21
Benelux	No	-	12	10	0	4	4	13	1	22
Bosnia and Herzegovina	No	-	1	1	0	1	0	1	0	2
Croatia	Yes	-	4	1	0	1	1	3	0	5
Cyprus	No	-	3	1	0	0	1	3	0	4
Czechoslovakia	No	-	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Denmark	No	-	2	5	0	2	0	5	0	7
Egypt	Yes	-	38	117	0	114	19	22	0	155
Estonia	No	-	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Finland	No	-	5	2	0	2	2	3	0	7
France	Yes	-	16	6	1	9	3	11	0	23
Germany	Yes	-	39	43	0	25	12	45	0	82
Ghana	Yes	-	5	4	0	3	2	4	0	9
Greece	Yes	-	13	22	0	6	10	18	1	35
Hungary	No	-	2	1	0	0	1	2	0	3
Iran	No	-	2	7	0	1	5	3	0	9
Iraq	No	-	3	0	0	2	0	1	0	3

Israel	No	-	3	0	0	0	1	2	0	3
Italy	No	-	34	19	0	6	9	38	0	53
Jordan	No	2	10	69	1	37	22	21	0	80
Kenya	Yes	1	18	74	0	47	7	38	0	92
Kuwait	No	-	3	3	0	2	2	2	0	6
Latvia	No	-	26	15	0	36	3	2	0	41
Lebanon	Yes	1	12	0	0	5	2	5	0	12
Lithuania	No	-	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Malta	No	-	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Mauritius	No	-	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Morocco	No	-	7	16	0	11	5	7	0	23
Nigeria	Yes	1	31	7	0	10	12	16	0	38
North Macedonia	No	-	2	1	0	1	0	2	0	3
Norway	No	-	3	4	0	2	2	3	0	7
Oman	Yes	-	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Poland	No	-	4	0	0	1	1	2	0	4
Portugal	No	-	8	17	0	4	8	13	0	25
Qatar	No	-	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
R8 - Countries Outside Sections	-	-	17	45	0	45	6	11	0	62
R8 - Subsections of Africa Council	-	1	0	3	0	2	1	0	0	3
R8 - Apo/Fpo	-	-	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Romania	No	-	7	2	0	5	2	2	0	9
Russia (Siberia)	No	-	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	2
Saudi Arabia	No	-	9	3	0	5	2	5	0	12
Serbia and Montenegro	No	-	6	3	0	0	2	7	0	9
Slovenia	No	-	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
South Africa	Yes	-	6	3	0	4	2	3	0	9
Spain	Yes	-	23	9	1	4	7	22	0	33
Sweden	No	-	10	3	0	3	3	7	0	13
Switzerland	Yes	-	7	2	0	1	3	4	1	9
Tunisia	Yes	2	18	526	0	399	87	58	0	544
Turkey	Yes	-	10	49	0	31	5	23	0	59
Uganda	Yes	1	26	115	0	117	13	11	0	141
Ukraine	No	-	8	1	0	0	2	7	0	9
United Arab Emirates	No	1	12	4	0	4	3	9	0	16
United Kingdom and Ireland	Yes	-	72	42	0	25	31	57	1	114
Western Saudi Arabia	Yes	-	2	4	0	1	1	4	0	6
Zambia	Yes	-	2	3	0	1	0	4	0	5
Region 8	21	10	578	1,281	5	993	322	544	5	1,864