

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 Verweckken (Benelux)
- Nour Sbaouli (Tunisia)
- Omar Salameh (Jordan)
- Neemat Awadelkarim (Sudan)
- Herbert Lwanga (Uganda) (Ex-officio from HTB)
- Simay Akar (Turkey) (Ex-officio from HTB)
- Miriam Cunningham (UK&Ireland) (Ex-officio from HTB)
- Magdalena Salazar-Palma (Spain) (Ex-officio from HTB)
- Mohamed Essaaidi (Morocco) (Ex-officio from HTB)

Goals

Our Committee's mission is to inspire and enable the IEEE volunteers in the Region to carry out and support impactful humanitarian technology and sustainable development activities at the local level. In particular, our goals include:

- Connecting with humanitarian volunteers and building the optimal humanitarian team in the Region,
- Mentoring existing SIGHT groups and prospective groups,
- Increasing visibility of humanitarian activities within the Region,
- Encouraging reporting of activities via vTools by monitoring and reaching out,
- Raising awareness of ongoing HTB/SIGHT activities,
- Encouraging submission of HTB/SIGHT project proposals and proposals for funding of activities,
- Encouraging celebration of SIGHT Week/Day across the Region,
- Encouraging students and young professionals involvement in humanitarian activities,
- Organizing R8 Humanitarian Activities Congress when budget allows and collaborating in organizing humanitarian conferences,
- Recognizing exceptional SIGHT groups and volunteers,
- Supporting SIGHT groups activities and encourage them to participate in Regional humanitarian activities,
- Developing programs and initiatives to enable volunteer engagement in humanitarian activities,
- Reviewing and evaluating of the overall effectiveness of humanitarian programs,
- Recommending best practices as they relate to programs and projects,
- Evaluating of funding proposals for projects to be carried out at the local level,
- Collaborating and establishing partnerships with other IEEE OUs, with external organizations and other entities with similar goals on humanitarian projects.

Our KPIs focuses on the following areas:

- Increasing the number of SIGHT groups in the Region by at least 20%.
✓ *Progress: 2 new SIGHT groups have been formed and 1 petition is pending.*
- Increasing SIGHT groups events reporting on vTools by at least 30%.
✓ *Progress: 113 events have been reported on vTools by R8 SIGHT groups.*
- Continuing at least 3 of the Humanitarian Programs and Initiatives 2021-22.
✓ *Progress: 3 programs have been launched, and 2 programs are scheduled for Q3/4.*
- Launching at least 3 new Humanitarian Programs and Initiatives in the Region.
✓ *Progress: 1 program have been launched, 2 programs are scheduled for Q3/4, and 2 initiatives are underway.*
- Coordinating and getting aligned with the newly established IEEE Humanitarian Technologies Board.
✓ *Progress: 2 meetings have been concluded, and communication is on an ongoing basis.*

Progress and Plans

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

- Community Support Program
- Connecting Humanitarian Experts
- Humanitarian Ambassadors Program
- R8 Humanitarian Activities Congress
- R8 Humanitarian Technologies Hackathon
- SIGHT Groups Accelerator Program
- 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 executing 2023 plans for programs and initiatives and monitoring their progress. Future plans focus on continuing plan progress monitoring, receiving feedback for improvements, and concluding 2023 programs and initiatives. Detailed description and status of each program and initiative is also included in this report.

Statistics

► SIGHT Groups Status:

- 32 groups in total:
 - 21 professional groups on Sections
 - 11 student groups on Student Branches
- 1 new group since last report:
 - Higher I A Sciences & Technologies (ISSAT Sousse) SB SIGHT
- 3 Sections have appointed Humanitarian Activities Chairs (*potential transformation to SIGHT groups*)

► SIGHT Membership:

- 4,404 active members as of June 2023
- YoY change: +1,435 members (+48.3%)

► Detailed statistics for each Section are 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 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.
- Participation in programs such as Humanitarian Voices and Humanitarian Ambassadors Programs is important in order to increase awareness of humanitarian activities in the Region.

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

Description: Provides support to R8 SIGHT Groups to implement projects that address local community challenges.

Status: Collaborating with HTB to monitor 2022 CFP funded projects status and to release [2023 R8/HTB CFP](#); awards up to US\$6,000 for SIGHT projects with submission deadline set at 31 August. All R8 SIGHT groups are eligible to apply and all R8 Sections and SBs without SIGHT group if commit to form one by November 2023.

► Connecting Humanitarian Experts

Description: Quarterly webinars on humanitarian topics presented by an expert in the field in order to understand the humanitarian impact in achieving UN SDGs from an engineering and technical perspective.

Status: These sessions are organized in collaboration with R8 YPs. The first webinar was organized on 21 June.

► Humanitarian Ambassadors Program

Description: Supports and trains volunteers to increase awareness and knowledge about IEEE humanitarian opportunities, increase the impact of existing SIGHT groups, and encourage the establishment of new groups.

Status: Preparations for program launching have been completed. To be launched in the upcoming months in two periods; one for Sections and one for Student Branches.

► R8 Humanitarian Activities Congress

Description: Brings together R8 SIGHT group members 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.

Status: Under planning to be hosted virtually for this year.

► R8 Humanitarian Technologies Hackathon

Description: Fosters competition amongst IEEE and SIGHT members, through their solutions to specific humanitarian challenges and targets tech proposals around specific UN SDGs.

Status: Theme confirmed (climate change) and structure finalized. Currently, raising awareness to SIGHT groups and sending invitations to judges. On the upcoming days, the call for participation will be launched.

► SIGHT Groups Accelerator Program

Description: Provides existing SIGHT groups seed funding for the new year's activities based on their humanitarian efforts and activities of the past year to celebrate the success of their activities, provide funding to organize more activities, help evaluate their health status and promote good practices.

Status: Program has been renamed. Criteria and rules are defined. [A website page](#) has been created. Collaboration with SAC has been established to enhance its promotion.

► SIGHT Groups Coordination Workshops

Description: Periodic online workshops with R8 SIGHT group leaders and volunteers to provide support and guidance to overcome any operational or organizational issues and obstacles they face or could face in the future and to ensure their optimal functioning.

Status: R8 SIGHT groups regional report launched to receive feedback from SIGHT groups. The first workshop was organized on 3 June in collaboration with HTB.

► Humanitarian Voices

Description: Delivers news articles regarding humanitarian activities and initiatives across our Region supported by photos on the field and highlight the achievements of SIGHT groups and inspire volunteers.

Status: About 7 articles submitted to R8 News. Our social media presence has been revamped to increase impact. The website has been updated (beta release) and is expected to include more SIGHT stories in the future.

► R8 Humanitarian Awards

Description: Part of the Region 8 Awards program and includes two awards (one for Sections and one for Student Branches) to encourage SIGHT Groups to raise visibility and recognize achievements.

Status: Successfully completed this year. Next steps to evaluate procedures for next year improvements.

► SIGHT Groups Monitoring and Mentoring

Description: Gathers statistical and leadership information for R8 SIGHT groups (monitoring) to identify actions needed for each case and communicate them to their leaders (mentoring).

Status: Statistics for H1 were gathered and emails were sent. The process will be repeated for H2.

► SIGHT Week/Day

Description: The annual international celebration in which SIGHT Groups are encouraged to organize and host their own activities to celebrate SIGHT Day with their members. Our Committee targets to increase awareness of IEEE SIGHT Week/Day and celebrate the impact SIGHT volunteers and groups are making.

Status: A webinar was hosted during SIGHT Day and a challenge was launched for SIGHT groups.

► Humanitarian Meets STEM Initiative

Description: Targets to spread IEEE humanitarian efforts and introduce sustainable development goals to pre-university students. The expected outcome is the creation of the "Humanitarian Meets STEM Hub".

Status: Established collaboration with R8 EPICS. Defined promotional options. Content to be created and published by Q4.

► Humanitarian Opportunities from Societies Initiative

Description: Targets to boost collaboration between R8 HuAC and Technical Societies through partnerships. The expected outcome is the creation of a value proposition of the R8 HuAC agenda to societies (and potentially to industry partners).

Status: Further discussions about planning and executing will take place in Q3/4.

Online Presence

- Facebook: [IEEE Region 8 Humanitarian Activities Committee \(@ieeer8humanitarian\)](#)
- Instagram: [@ieeer8humanitarian \(IEEE Region 8 Humanitarian Activities Committee\)](#)
- LinkedIn: [IEEE Region 8 Humanitarian Activities Committee](#)
- Website: huac.ieeer8.org

SIGHT Statistics by Section (as of June 2023)

Section	SIGHT Membership				SIGHT Group Status	
	Professionals	Students	Other	Total	2023 Events reported	Elections needed soon
Algeria	12	13	0	25	0	No
Austria	9	3	0	12	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Bahrain	34	13	3	50	7	Yes
Belarus	1	0	0	1	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
Benelux	25	11	0	36	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2	1	0	3	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
Bulgaria	2	0	0	2	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
Croatia	5	3	0	8	0	Yes
Cyprus	3	2	0	5	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
Czechoslovakia	1	0	0	1	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
Denmark	3	6	0	9	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Egypt	109	204	6	319	2	No
Estonia	4	1	0	5	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
Finland	6	4	0	10	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
France	31	6	4	41	0	Yes
Germany	80	51	2	133	12	Yes
Ghana	13	6	0	19	2	Yes
Greece	28	31	1	60	0	No
Hungary	4	1	0	5	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
Iceland	1	0	0	1	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
Iran	33	14	1	48	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Iraq	13	2	0	15	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Israel	5	0	0	5	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
Italy	62	25	2	89	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Jordan	97	169	2	268	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
<i>Al-Balqa Applied University</i> [⚡]	-	-	-	-	12	Yes
<i>Al-Huson University College</i> [⚡]	-	-	-	-	0	Yes
Kenya	79	123	1	203	7	Yes
<i>JKUAT</i> [⚡]	-	-	-	-	3	No
Kuwait	14	6	0	20	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Latvia	32	17	0	49	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Lebanon	16	3	0	19	4	No
<i>American Univ of Beirut</i> [⚡]	-	-	-	-	4	Yes

Lithuania	1	0	0	1	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
Malta	1	0	0	1	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
Mauritius	6	3	0	9	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Morocco	20	29	2	51	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Nigeria	130	65	0	195	0	No
<i>ESUT</i> [↙]	-	-	-	-	0	No
North Macedonia	3	2	0	5	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
Norway	7	5	0	12	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Oman	6	4	0	10	0	Yes
Poland	12	3	0	15	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Portugal	20	19	0	39	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Qatar	6	1	1	8	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
R8 Countries Outside Sections	64	92	0	156	-	
R8 Subsections of Africa Council	12	5	2	19	-	
<i>Bule Hora University</i> [↙]	-	-	-	-	0	Yes
Romania	8	4	0	12	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Russia (Northwest)	2	0	0	2	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
Russia (Siberia)	3	1	0	4	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
Russia	5	0	0	5	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
Saudi Arabia	33	8	1	42	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Serbia and Montenegro	14	5	1	20	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Slovenia	1	1	0	2	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
South Africa	20	3	0	23	0	Yes
Spain	42	14	3	59	0	Yes
Sweden	16	6	0	22	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Switzerland	13	3	0	16	0	Yes
Tunisia	208	1,182	101	1,491	4	No
<i>ESPRIT</i> [↙]	-	-	-	-	36	No
<i>ESSTHS</i> [↙]	-	-	-	-	22	No
<i>ISSAT Sousse</i> [↙]	-	-	-	-	<i>Waiting to be included in vTools</i>	
Turkiye	83	86	31	200	1	No
Uganda	79	136	0	215	0	Yes
<i>Kyambogo University</i> [↙]	-	-	-	-	1	No
Ukraine	18	3	0	21	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
United Arab Emirates	37	11	1	49	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
<i>American Univ of Sharjah</i> [↙]	-	-	-	-	0	Yes
UK & Ireland	144	57	1	202	1	Yes
Western Saudi Arabia	22	6	2	30	10	Yes
Zambia	3	4	0	7	0	Yes
Region 8	1,763	2,473	168	4,404	113	-

Notes:

- Sections without SIGHT Group and more than 6 SIGHT members are eligible to [form one](#).
- SIGHT groups should report at least 2 activities per year in [vTools events](#); please encourage your groups to report.
- SIGHT groups flagged as “Yes” for elections should hold them by the end of the year as their officers term is ending soon.