

Humanitarian Technology Activities Committee

Theodoros Panagiotis Chatzinikolaou

Composition

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

Goals

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

- Supports SIGHT groups activities and encourage them to participate in Regional humanitarian technology activities,
- Develops programs and initiatives to enable volunteer engagement in humanitarian technology activities,
- Reviews and evaluates of the overall effectiveness of humanitarian programs,
- Recommends best practices as they relate to programs and projects,
- Evaluates of funding proposals for projects to be carried out at the local level,
- Connects with humanitarian volunteers and builds the optimal humanitarian team in the Region,
- Mentors existing SIGHT groups and prospective groups,
- Increases visibility of humanitarian technology activities within the Region,
- Encourages reporting of activities via vTools by monitoring and reaching out,
- Raises awareness of ongoing HTB/SIGHT activities,
- Encourages submission of HTB/SIGHT project proposals and proposals for funding of activities,
- Encourages celebration of SIGHT Week/Day across the Region,
- Encourages students and young professionals involvement in humanitarian technology activities,
- Organizes R8 Humanitarian Activities Congress when budget allows and collaborates in organizing humanitarian conferences,
- Recognizes exceptional SIGHT groups and volunteers,
- Collaborates and establishes 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:** 19 new SIGHT groups have been formed in 2023-24 (+61%), while 1 petition is pending.
- Increasing SIGHT groups events reporting on vTools by at least 30%.
✓ **Progress:** 251 events have been reported on vTools by R8 SIGHT groups in 2023 (YoY +120%), while 283 events have been reported in 2024 so far.
- Continuing at least 3 of the Humanitarian Programs and Initiatives 2021-22.
✓ **Progress:** All programs have been smoothly integrated to Committee's plan and structure.
- Launching at least 3 new Humanitarian Programs and Initiatives in the Region.
✓ **Progress:** 4 new programs and 2 initiatives are underway, and 1 initiative has been successfully concluded.
- Coordinating and getting aligned with the newly established IEEE Humanitarian Technologies Board.
✓ **Progress:** Collaborated on several R8 HTAC programs, and communication is on an ongoing basis. HTB has sponsored R8 flagship events (i.e., R8 SYP Congress, IHTC), as well as R8 new initiatives (i.e., R8 Climate Challenges). R8 HTAC Chair is participating on HTB Partnerships Ad-hoc and HTB Outreach Committee.

Progress and Plans

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

- Community Support Program
- Connecting Humanitarian Experts Webinars
- Humanitarian Student Ambassadors Program
- Projects Monitoring and Visibility Program
- R8 Humanitarian Activities Congress
- R8 Humanitarian Awards
- R8 Humanitarian Technologies Hackathon
- SIGHT Groups Accelerator Program
- SIGHT Groups Coordination Workshops
- SIGHT Groups Monitoring and Support Program
- Humanitarian Partnerships Initiative
- SIGHT Groups Leadership Support Initiative

The Committee worked towards executing 2024 plans for programs and initiatives, and currently focuses on monitoring their progress, receiving feedback for improvements, as well as concluding them. Detailed description and status of each program and initiative is also included in this report.

Statistics

► SIGHT Groups Status:

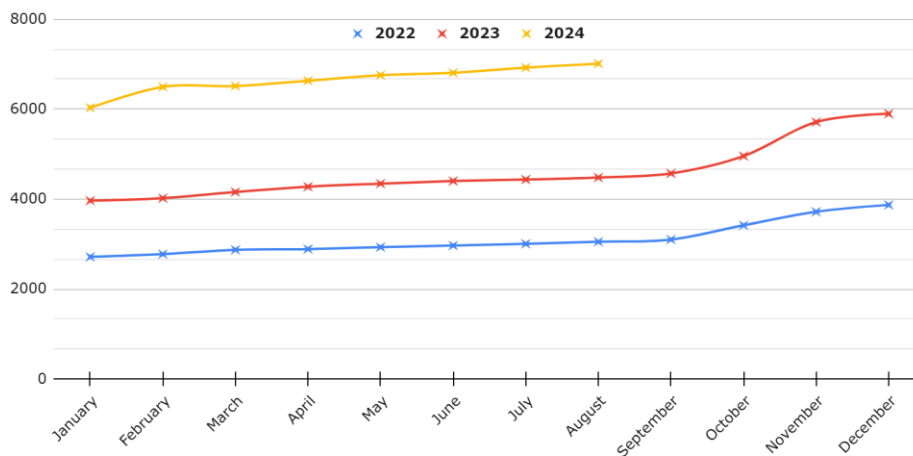
- 50 groups in total:
 - 25 professional groups on Sections and Subsections (+3 since last report)
 - 25 student groups on Student Branches (+7 since last report)
- 10 new groups since last report:
 - Italy Section SIGHT
 - Jordan Section SIGHT
 - Botswana Subsection SIGHT
 - Arab Academy for Science and Technology - Cairo SB SIGHT
 - Cairo University SB SIGHT
 - Ecole Polytechnique de Sousse SB SIGHT
 - Higher National Eng. School of Tunis SB SIGHT
 - Inst of Mgmt & Tech Enugu SB SIGHT
 - National Engineering School of Sfax SB SIGHT
 - Tafiia Technical University SB SIGHT
- 3 Sections without groups have appointed a Humanitarian Activities Coordinator (*potential transformation to SIGHT*)

► SIGHT Membership:

- 7,013 active members as of August 2024 (*latest available statistics*)
- YoY change: +2,531 members (+56%) / 2-years change: +3,960 members (+130%)
- **Note:** SIGHT membership is free and does not require IEEE membership – [Become SIGHT member here](#)

► Detailed statistics for each Section are presented at the end of this report.

SIGHT Membership



Points of Concern

- Some programs require handover during a crucial timing for the program execution.
- Social media and publicity coordination to establish solid marketing plans and raise awareness of potential opportunities.
- In some cases, humanitarian projects closing should be completed under newly elected officers, which require a proper handover.
- Participation in programs such as Humanitarian Voices and Humanitarian Student Ambassadors Programs is important in order to increase awareness of humanitarian activities in the Region.
- Committee's activity growth has led to higher budget requirements in order to be able to provide high-level support.

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 Humanitarian Technologies consortium and R8 HTAC programs and funding opportunities to increase the level of impactful humanitarian technology activities and support local community needs.
- Sections without SIGHT groups could form one and start working on implementing humanitarian projects.
- Need for funding opportunities in two levels: (a) collaboration with other IEEE and non-IEEE entities for joint activities and sponsorships and (b) Sections support to SIGHT volunteers for traveling purposes whenever possible.

Appendix I. Programs and Initiatives

► Community Support Program

Description: IEEE R8 and HTB/T4G are partnering to conduct a collaborative call for proposals to support SIGHT Groups (and prospective SIGHT Groups) in Region 8 who would like to address local community challenges.

Status: [2024 R8/T4G CFP](#) supports projects with up to US\$5,000 and had a deadline on 6 September. 30 letters of intent were submitted, while 19 of them (63%) were invited to submit the main application and eventually 16 applications submitted (84%). Joint team from R8 and HTB of 12 reviewers was formed and provided feedback for final decisions.

► Connecting Humanitarian Experts Webinars

Description: Periodic online webinars on humanitarian topics presented by experts in the field focusing on a specific UN SDG each time. SIGHT Week/Day celebration is included under this program.

Status: The first webinar was organized on 28 April (SIGHT Day) focusing on SDG #4 (quality education). A full week of 5 webinars was organized on 25 September – 4 October in collaboration with 3 SIGHT groups focusing on SDG #3 (good health and well-being). The last webinar of this week was advertised as part of the IEEE Day celebrations.

► Humanitarian Student Ambassadors Program

Description: Supports and trains student volunteers to increase awareness and knowledge about IEEE humanitarian opportunities across our Region and impact the local communities.

Status: 82 applications received from 21 Sections; 35 applications approved (42%); 25 ambassadors proceed training phase (72%). 2 required (on-demand) and 3 optional (1 on-demand and 2 live) trainings were provided. 99 badges distributed so far for 9 different tasks out of 22 available.

► Projects Monitoring and Visibility Program

Description: Monitors the current status of active projects in the Region, ensure its successful closing and implement a visibility plan to publicize IEEE Region 8 impact on local communities.

Status: 4 capacity building webinars were organized to help 2024 R8/T4G CSP visibility and application relevance. Monitoring of 2023 R8/HTB CSP projects status: 1 still open, 1 pending final evaluation, 6 successfully completed, and 1 returned funds. Under discussion how to promote successfully held projects and showcase their impact

► R8 Humanitarian Activities Congress

Description: It includes humanitarian presentations, operational workshops, and networking opportunities, while attendees are expected to interact, discuss, and promote community development initiatives.

Status: In parallel with IHTC 2024 and co-organized with HTB with secured funding. 4 sessions will be organized covering all different focus areas of HTB.

► R8 Humanitarian Awards

Description: Part of R8 Awards with the Region 8 Outstanding Section / Student Branch SIGHT Group Awards in co-operation with the R8 A&R and R8 SAC (for the student award) Committees.

Status: Updated eligibility and evaluation criteria with new questionnaire format for judges. Publicity via eNotice, personal emails, and social media posts. 9 nominations received in total, while the team of judges consisted of 6 for Section awards and 5 for Student Branch awards (in collaboration with R8 SAC).

► 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: 27 teams registered, while 18 were considered eligible (67%) out of which 5 finalists were selected to participate in-person on the finals. Selection phase hosted virtually, while finals hosted in-person during R8 SYP Congress. 3 challenges were selected this year focusing on quality education (SDG #4), clean water & sanitation (SDG #6), and industry, innovation, and infrastructure (SDG #9).

► 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.

Status: 2023 usage reporting was submitted by all SIGHT groups, while US\$2,975 already spent (70%) by mid-year. 2024 program has opened for applications until 31 October and funding up to US\$300. As a follow-up of HTB pilot support to 2023 edition, HTB/SIGHT launched "[SIGHT Group Activity Initiative](#)" with possibility of funding up to US\$200.

► SIGHT Groups Coordination Workshops

Description: Periodic online workshops with R8 SIGHT group leaders and volunteers on topics based on their reported problems and obstacles they face.

Status: The second workshop for 2024 was organized on 24 August focusing on IEEE Smart Village and EPICS in IEEE.

► SIGHT Groups Monitoring and Support Program

Description: Gathers statistical and leadership information for R8 SIGHT groups to identify actions needed for each case and communicate them to their leaders, while encouraging them to share their news through Humanitarian Voices.

Status: Renewed Humanitarian Voices and Regional SIGHT Group Self-assessment Report forms released. Monitoring emails for H1 were delivered with a new status monitoring panel released on website. The process will be repeated for H2.

► Humanitarian Partnerships Initiative

Description: This initiative is expected to provide a report about how we could collaborate both with IEEE entities, but also with external partners to enhance, support and participate on our activities.

Status: The expected outcome will be a white paper on collaboration and funding opportunities.

► SIGHT Groups Leadership Support Initiative

Description: This initiative is expected to provide a web info hub for new SIGHT group leaders to help them on their duties.

Status: Relevant materials have been updated on the R8 HTAC website. More resources will be identified and prepared.

► Other Activities

The R8 HTAC Chair is appointed as Advisory Committee Member in IEEE IHTC. The Committee is actively involved in Region 8 wide initiatives, i.e., Industry Tracks in R8 Flagship Conferences and R8 Climate Challenges.

Appendix II. Publicity and Outreach

► Social Media Presence

- Facebook: [IEEE Region 8 Humanitarian Technology Activities Committee \(@ieeer8humanitarian\)](#)
- Instagram: [@ieeer8humanitarian \(IEEE Region 8 Humanitarian Technology Activities Committee\)](#)
- LinkedIn: [IEEE Region 8 Humanitarian Technology Activities Committee](#)
- YouTube: [IEEE Region 8 Humanitarian Technology Activities \(@ieeer8humanitarian\)](#) (educational content released with 20+ videos)
- Website: htac.ieeer8.org (includes events repository, projects portfolio, and inspiring stories)

► Participation in Conferences

- IEEE MELECON 2024 – Porto, Portugal (25-27 June): Workshop on Advancing Technology for Humanity in Action with IEEE Humanitarian Technologies Consortium
- IEEE R8 SYP Congress 2024 – Grenoble, France (15-19 July): Humanitarian Technologies Workshop and Hackathon (co-organized with HTB)
- IEEE RTSI 2024 – Lecco, Italy (18-20 September): Workshop on Advancing Technology for Humanity in Action with IEEE Humanitarian Technologies Consortium (co-organized with R8 EPICS Ad-hoc)
- IEEE IHTC 2024 – Bari, Italy (27-30 November): IEEE R8 Humanitarian Activities Congress (4 sessions) and support on many humanitarian sessions (organized by R8, HTB, ISV, R8 EPICS Ad-hoc, R8 TIC Ad-hoc)

Appendix III. SIGHT Statistics by Section (as of August 2024)

Section	SIGHT Membership				SIGHT Group Status	
	Professionals	Students	Other	Total	2024 events reported	Elections schedule
Algeria Section	16	10	5	31	0	Q2
Austria Section	13	6	0	19	No SIGHT group – <i>Petition possible</i>	
Bahrain Section	39	16	3	58	1	2025Q2
Belarus Section	0	0	1	1	No SIGHT group	
Benelux Section	40	5	1	46	No SIGHT group – <i>Petition possible</i>	
Bosnia and Herzegovina Section	2	1	0	3	No SIGHT group	
Bulgaria Section	6	0	0	6	No SIGHT group – <i>Petition possible</i>	
Croatia Section	9	0	0	9	0	Q2
Cyprus Section	4	1	0	5	No SIGHT group	

Czechoslovakia Section	2	0	1	3	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
Denmark Section	7	1	1	9	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Egypt Section	243	151	28	422	31	Q2
<i>Arab Academy for Science & Tech - Cairo</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	2	1	2025Q1
<i>Cairo University</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	24	1	2025Q1
<i>Egypt University of Informatics</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	27	2	Q2
Estonia Section	4	3	1	8	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Finland Section	9	4	0	13	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
France Section	47	16	6	69	0	Q2
Germany Section	122	35	7	164	5	Q2
Ghana Section	34	16	5	55	1	2025Q2
Greece Section	44	24	4	72	0	Q2
Hungary Section	3	1	0	4	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
Iceland Section	1	0	0	1	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
Iran Section	35	9	11	55	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Iraq Section	12	0	8	20	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Israel Section	5	1	1	7	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Italy Section	127	30	4	161	0	2025Q1
Jordan Section	165	156	8	329	17	2025Q1
<i>Al-Balqa Applied University</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	62	3	Q2
<i>Al-Huson University College</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	5	0	Q2
<i>Tafila Technical University</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Newly formed SIGHT group – Waiting to be added on the system</i>	
Kenya Section	154	134	25	313	17	2025Q2
<i>Jomo Kenyatta Univ of Agriculture & Tech</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	20	0	2025Q1
Kuwait Section	19	10	1	30	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Latvia Section	40	16	1	57	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Lebanon Section	20	14	1	35	17	Q2
<i>American University of Beirut</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	0	0	Q2
Lithuania Section	1	0	0	1	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
Malta Section	1	0	0	1	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
Mauritius Section	10	1	0	11	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Morocco Section	37	35	11	83	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Nigeria Section	194	75	11	280	4	2025Q1
<i>Enugu State University of Science & Tech</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	24	2	2025Q2
<i>Federal University of Technology Owerri</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	14	11	Q2
<i>Inst of Mgmt & Tech Enugu</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>Newly formed SIGHT group – Waiting to be added on the system</i>	
<i>Nnamdi Azikiwe University</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	2	3	Q2
North Macedonia Section	4	1	0	5	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
Norway Section	13	4	0	17	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Oman Section	8	5	3	16	2	Q2
Poland Section	20	4	4	28	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Portugal Section	35	8	0	43	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Qatar Section	10	1	0	11	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Romania Section	12	3	0	15	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Russia Section	2	0	0	2	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
Russia (Northwest) Section	3	0	0	3	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
Russia (Siberia) Section	5	1	1	7	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Saudi Arabia (East) Section	43	10	7	60	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Saudi Arabia (West) Section	22	5	7	34	0	2026

Serbia and Montenegro Section	19	1	1	21	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Slovenia Section	2	0	0	2	<i>No SIGHT group</i>	
South Africa Section	23	2	0	25	0	Q2
Spain Section	53	14	3	70	0	Q2
Sweden Section	20	6	0	26	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
Switzerland Section	20	2	2	24	0	Q2
Tunisia Section	552	2,238	298	3,088	8	Q2
<i>Ecole Nationale D'Ingenieurs De Tunis</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	47	20	Q2
<i>Ecole Polytechnique de Sousse</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	27	1	2025Q1
<i>ESPRIT</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	833	32	2025Q1
<i>HI Informatics & Mathematics of Monastir</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	25	16	Q2
<i>Higher Inst of Applied Sci & Tech of Sousse</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	66	16	2025Q1
<i>Higher Inst of Computer Science</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	39	13	2025Q1
<i>Higher Inst of Information Tech & Com</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	60	27	Q2
<i>Higher National Eng. School of Tunis</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	129	7	Q2
<i>Higher School of Sciences & Tech of H Sousse</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	168	22	Q2
<i>National Engineering School of Sfax</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	51	2	2025Q1
Turkiye Section	112	96	56	264	0	Q2
Uganda Section	177	72	4	253	0	Q2
<i>Kyambogo University</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	33	0	2025Q2
UK and Ireland Section	227	32	12	271	0	Q2
Ukraine Section	18	1	1	20	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
United Arab Emirates Section	46	12	17	75	<i>No SIGHT group – Petition possible</i>	
<i>American Univ of Sharjah</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	1	0	Q2
Zambia Section	9	1	1	11	0	Q2
R8 - Without Section	155	69	17	241	-	
<i>Botswana Subsection</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	1	2025Q1
<i>Tanzania Subsection</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	0	Q2
<i>Bule Hora University</i> ^ℓ	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	1	0	Q2
R8 - TOTAL	3,075	3,359	579	7,013	283	-

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 “Q2” for elections should hold them as soon as possible as their officers term is ending soon.