



# UN-GGIM

UNITED NATIONS INITIATIVE ON  
GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL  
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT



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United Nations Initiative on  
Global Geospatial Information Management

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# WG-Disasters

Fact Finding Study & Review of Framework, Rules,  
Legislation and Policies on Geospatial Information and  
Services for Disasters



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# WG-Disasters Task Team 2

## **Mandate:**

To conduct a review of laws, rules and regulations already existing among the Members States when it comes to the provision of GI and services in times of disasters and integrate this into the policy framework by sixth session of the UN-GGIM Committee of Experts (August 2016).



# Methodology

- ❑ Review of relevant Global Frameworks, guidelines and relevant UN resolutions.
- ❑ Results of questionnaire from original scoping exercise.
- ❑ National SDI focal point contacted for copies of relevant frameworks
- ❑ The UNGGIM Knowledge base was also scoured to review existing SDI laws.
- ❑ NDOs contacted for contributions in order to review disaster legislation.
- ❑ 17 countries were selected for review with attempts made to capture member states from each UNGGIM region.



# Summary Analysis

## Global Frameworks

- ❑ **UN General Assembly Resolution 59/212** encourages the sharing of geographical data among Governments, space agencies and relevant international humanitarian organizations... to mitigate the effects of natural disasters.
- ❑ **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)** recognizes among its priorities for action the need to make non-sensitive hazard exposure and risk information freely available during disasters.



# Summary Analysis

## National Frameworks

- ❑ Only a limited number of countries examined have **specific** laws, rules or regulations in place to facilitate the provision of geospatial data and services to other stakeholders and partners during a crisis.
- ❑ Some countries with established SDI laws or policies, have sought to include specific provisions to ensure that geospatial data is effectively shared during times of disasters.
- ❑ Generally, there is quite a bit of fragmentation of laws in Member States when it comes to comprehensive GI for disaster response legislation, whether in the framework legislation itself or in the defined role and responsibility.



# Summary Analysis

## Philippines Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2010



- multi- stakeholder participation in the development, updating, sharing of and access to information for policy and planning and decision making before during and after disasters.
- establishes clear institutional responsibility (S10-12)
- standards and protocols development , SOPs (S9)
- Communication
- Capacity Building



# Summary Analysis

## The Geospatial Information Law of Latvia



- explicitly** states that users of geospatial data sets, which are involved in the disaster management, shall, in timely manner, provide themselves with a written permission of the holder of the geospatial data set for the use of the dataset.
- provide free access to the information

## Civil Protection Law, 2006

- create a system of civil protection for disaster management, ensuring the legal and organizational grounds for the protection of persons, property and the environment in cases of disasters and when there are threats of disaster.
- provide free access to the information





# Summary Analysis

## Cabinet Decision 25/10 Jamaica



- ❑ Establishes a National Emergency Response Geographical Information Systems Team (NERGIST).
- ❑ Specifies guidelines governing the operations of the emergency response teams pre, during and post disaster events.
- ❑ Speaks to the provision of data and sharing resources
- ❑ Addresses capacity building and communication.



# Summary Analysis



## United States of America

### Budget Circular A-16 Coordination of Geographic Information and Related Spatial Data Activities

- sets the coordination framework for civilian geospatial activities at the US Federal level.
- Section 5 speaks to the scope, which applies to all entities that collect, maintains, distributes or preserves spatial data.

## National Response Framework (NRF)

- FEMA is specifically authorized to lead information analysis, collection and dissemination.



# Summary Analysis

- ❑ Some jurisdictions have integrated provisions for the sharing of spatial data within their disaster management framework legislation. Reference here The Republic of South Africa, Namibia, EU States such as Hungary.
- ❑ Several of the disaster management policies and legislation follow a **post responsive** approach to disasters and the legislative and institutional models in place do not integrate GI across the emergency management framework.



# Recommendations

- ❑ Ideally, the laws should speak to data being made available **free of charge** for all phases of the disaster cycle (prior, during and post).
- ❑ National legislation should explicitly outline the institutional framework for coordination as well as outline a monitoring and evaluation regime.
- ❑ Regulations should be developed around frameworks requiring the pooling of resources to include organized groups of GIS professionals for data collection, analysis, interpretation etc. to effectively respond to disasters.
- ❑ Provisions in relation to international partnerships/alliances for DRM could be established into specific national frameworks to also include data, human resources or technical capacity.

