

Regional Workshop on the United Nations Integrated Geospatial
Information Framework (UN-IGIF)



UNIGIF Implementation

Good Practices & Challenges in Country Action
Plans

Regional Focus: Beyond the Africa

Accra, 17-21 November 2025

Sandro Semedo

Geospatial Information Officer

United Nations Global Geospatial Knowledge and Innovation Centre

What is UN-IGIF?

The UN Integrated Geospatial Information Framework provides a basis for developing and strengthening geospatial information management in all countries.

Framework Structure

- **9** strategic pathways for implementation
- **3** overarching principles for guidance
- Integration of geospatial, statistical, and other data for SDGs

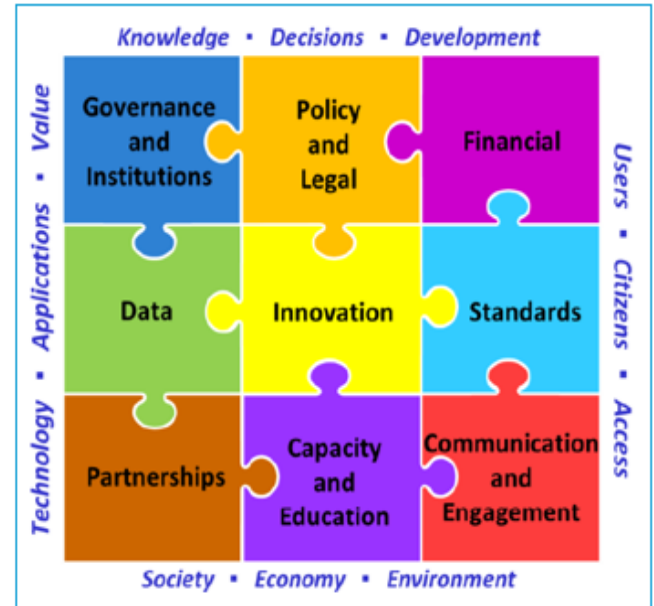
GOVERNANCE



TECHNOLOGY



PEOPLE



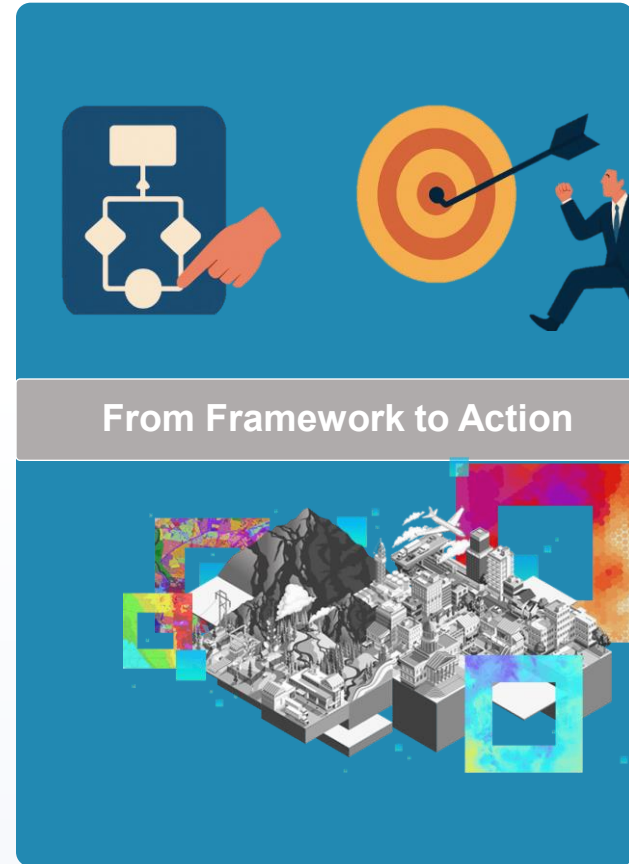
Country Action Plans: The Bridge to Implementation

Purpose

Translate the UNIGIF framework into country-specific, actionable strategies

Key Functions

- Assess current capacity
- Identify gaps and priorities
- Align with national development goals



Good Practices in UNIGIF Implementation

Governance & Institutions

- National coordination bodies
- Clear legal frameworks
- Inter-ministerial collaboration

Capacity Development

- Skills audits and training
- Institutional strengthening
- Knowledge-sharing platforms

Stakeholder Engagement

- Multi-stakeholder involvement
- Comprehensive needs assessments
- Consultative workshops

Technology & Innovation

- Fit-for-purpose approaches
- Open-source solutions
- National spatial data infrastructure

Regional Perspective: America

Good Practices

- Strong regional cooperation through, ECLAC and partners, and experience-sharing across Member States;
- Engagement of academia, private sector and open-source tools in geospatial initiatives
- Innovative land administration approaches
- Leveraging mobile technology

Key Challenges

- Significant disparities between nations
- Countries are not all moving at the same pace in applying and tracking UN-IGIF and other global frameworks
- Fragmentation of geospatial data and responsibilities across institutions, limiting interoperability and efficient data sharing
- Sustainability of donor-funded initiatives

Regional Perspective: Asia-Pacific

Good Practices

- Diverse approaches reflecting development levels
- Strong technical capacity in several countries
- Regional cooperation through UN-GGIM-AP
- Integration with disaster risk reduction strategies

Key Challenges

- Significant disparities between nations
- Political sensitivities around data sharing
- Balancing security with open data principles
- Language and cultural diversity
- Resource constraints in SIDS

Regional Perspectives: Europe & Arab States

Europe

Good Practices:

- INSPIRE Directive foundation
- Advanced data infrastructure
- Strong public-private partnerships

Challenges:

- Non-EU country integration
- Legacy system compatibility

Arab States

Good Practices:

- Focus on economic diversification
- Smart cities initiatives
- Regional data infrastructure

Challenges:

- Political instability impacts
- Limited data sharing culture
- Technology dependency

Cross-Cutting Challenges in Action Plan Development

Financial Resources

- Limited national budgets
- Difficulty demonstrating ROI

Political & Institutional

- Competing agency mandates
- Lack of political will
- Weak legal frameworks

Technical & Capacity

- Skills shortages
- Limited UNIGIF understanding
- Legacy system issues

Data Quality

- Incomplete datasets
- Inconsistent standards
- Privacy and security concerns

Recommendations: Planning Phase

1. Conduct Comprehensive Assessment

- Baseline assessment using UNIGIF maturity model
- Stakeholder analysis and needs assessment
- Review existing policies, strategies, and infrastructure

2. Ensure Inclusive Participation

- Multi-stakeholder steering committees
- Private sector and civil society engagement

3. Align with National Priorities

- Link to SDGs and national plans
- Ensure political support

Recommendations: Implementation Phase

Start with Achievable Goals

- Prioritize based on impact and feasibility
- Establish realistic timelines
- Celebrate and communicate early successes

Build on Existing Initiatives

- Leverage existing data and systems
- Integrate with digital transformation
- Avoid duplication

Establish M&E Framework

- Define clear indicators
- Regular progress reviews
- Document lessons learned

Regional Cooperation: Key to Success

Learn from Peers

- Participate in regional UN-GGIM committees
- South-South and triangular cooperation
- Share experiences and best practices

Leverage Regional Resources

- Technical support from regional committees
- Access to training platforms
- Cross-border collaboration



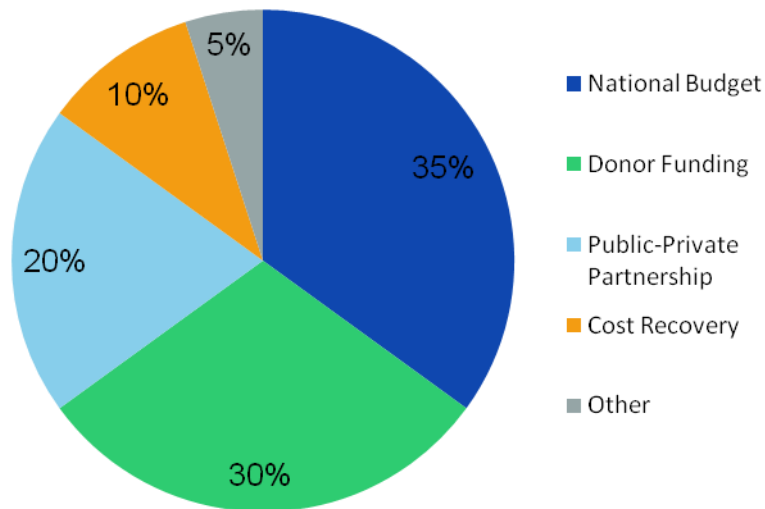
Contribute to global knowledge by sharing country experiences and innovations

Addressing Financial Challenges

Solution Strategies

- Develop compelling business cases linking geospatial data to economic benefits
- Explore innovative financing mechanisms
- Prioritize based on national development goals
- Leverage open-source and cloud solutions

Funding Model Distribution



Critical Success Factors

**Strong Political
Commitment**

**Adequate
Resources**

**Sustained Capacity
Building**

**Strategic
Planning**

**International
Cooperation**

Key Takeaways

Country Action Plans are essential bridges between UNIGIF framework adoption and real-world impact

- **Regional context matters** – there is no one-size-fits-all approach
- **Challenges are significant but surmountable** with strategic planning and cooperation
- **Success requires** political commitment, adequate resources, and sustained capacity building
- **Benefits justify investment** – better decision-making, improved services, and SDG progress

Call to Action

View UNIGIF implementation not as a technical exercise, but as a **strategic investment** in national development infrastructure

This investment will yield benefits across all sectors and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Together, we can build stronger geospatial information frameworks worldwide

