



UN-GGIM

Working Group on Geospatial Information and
Services for Disasters

Work Plan 2020 - 2023

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UN-GGIM
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Services for Disasters

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Table of Contents

Contents

- LIST OF ACRONYMS 2
- BACKGROUND 3
- VISION OF THE WORKING GROUP 3
- OBJECTIVES 3
- The Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters 4
- GLOBAL PRIORITIES AND FRAMEWORKS 4
- WORK PLAN 2020 - 2022 6
 - Overview** 6
 - Purpose** 6
 - Goals of the Work Plan** 6
 - Work Plan Approach** 7
- The Logical Framework 8
- Work Plan for WG-Disasters 2020 - 2023 9
 - GOAL 1: FOSTER COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS RAISING** 10
 - Goal 2: IMPLEMENT THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTERS** 12
 - GOAL 3: DESIGN AND PREPARE SCENARIO-BASED EXERCISES ON DIFFERENT HAZARDS** 14
 - GOAL 4: PROVIDE A FORUM FOR DIALOGUE, COORDINATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING** 16

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CBO	Community-Based Organization
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CDM	Comprehensive Disaster Management
CEOS	Committee on Earth Observation Satellites
CRDM	Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management
CODs	Common Operational Datasets
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECOSOC	(United Nations) Economic and Social Council
EEl	Essential Elements of Information
EWS	Early Warning Systems
EO	Earth observation
FODs	Fundamental Operational Datasets
GA	(United Nations) General Assembly
GGIM	(United Nations) Global Geospatial Information Management
GEO	Group on Earth Observations
HVA	Hazard Vulnerability Risk Assessment
IAEG	Inter-Agency & Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IGIF	Integrated Geospatial Information Framework
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MER	Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
NHAs	National Hydrographic Agencies
NDMAs	National Disaster Management Agencies
NMAs	National Mapping Agencies
NSIs	National Statistical Institutions
NSDI	National Spatial Data Infrastructure
OGC	Open Geospatial Consortium
RBM	Results-based Management
SF-GISD	Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters
TG	Task Groups
TNA	Training Needs Assessment
UN	United Nations
UN-GGIM	United Nations Group of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management
UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
UNOCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
VGI	Volunteered Geospatial Information
WCDDR	World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction
WG-Disasters	Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters

BACKGROUND

1. The Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (WG-Disasters) was created by the Committee of Experts at its fifth session, under decision 5/110, ¹adopted in August 2015 with the mandate to develop and implement a strategic framework. A notable achievement of the WG-Disasters has been the preparation of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (SF-GISD) and its adoption by ECOSOC on 2 July 2018 under resolution 2018/14. The Framework serves as a guide for Member States in their respective national activities to ensure the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services across all phases of disaster risk management (DRM). The SF-GISD approach is applicable in addressing both thematic and compounded hazard scenarios.
2. The WG-Disasters is co-chaired by Jamaica and Japan and has 56 expert members from Member States, United Nations offices and agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia, private sector and from the United Nations System.
3. In keeping with decision 9/109 of the Committee of Experts at its ninth session, which asked the WG-Disasters to review its operational modalities, the Group conducted an exercise to redraft its Terms of Reference (TOR). At its tenth session in August 2020, the Committee of Experts under decision 10/108 endorsed the working group's revised TOR and approved the preparation of an updated work plan that would include existing and future work items. Some of these work items are, stimulating public awareness and increasing communication initiatives, including collaborations to convene forums to showcase the relevance and applicability of the SF-GISD.
4. This work plan is a deliverable as per decision 10/108 of the Committee of Experts.

VISION OF THE WORKING GROUP

5. Accurate, timely and reliable geospatial information and services are available, in a coordinated way, to decision makers and operational leads prior to, during and post disasters.

OBJECTIVES

6. The WG-Disasters as per its terms of reference seeks to:
 - I. **Provide a forum for dialogue and coordination among Member States** , their relevant government bodies, the United Nations system, international disaster risk and emergency response organizations, non-government organizations (NGOs), private sector bodies, academia, other international organizations and experts, and donors with responsibility for disaster risk reduction and management.
 - II. **Improve the availability, accessibility, and timeliness of good quality geospatial information** for disaster risk management by encouraging policies to promote open access to data and reducing data security concerns at all phases of disaster risk management, at all levels of

¹ E/2015/46-E/C.20/2015/17

government and towards the successful achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- III. **Encourage greater coordination and collaboration on geospatial information activities for disaster risk management with the regional committees** and thematic networks of UN-GGIM, the UN regional commissions, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the UN Institute for Training and Research's Operational Satellite Application Programme (UNITAR-UNOSAT), the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER), the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), the Committee on Earth Observations Satellites (CEOS), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC).

The Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters

7. In 2018, the UN-GGIM WG-Disasters developed the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (Figure 1), which seeks to optimize the benefits of the use of geospatial information and services by Member States and other entities concerned across all phases of disaster risk management. The SF-GISD contributes to the implementation by Member States of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030, and also builds on General Assembly resolution 59/212 of 20 December 2004, which called upon Member States, the United Nations and other key stakeholders to assist in addressing knowledge gaps in disaster risk management by improving systems and networks for the collection and analysis of information on disasters, vulnerabilities and disaster risks to facilitate informed decision-making. Furthermore, disaster risk management is central to sustainable development. As such, the framework contributes to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

GLOBAL PRIORITIES AND FRAMEWORKS

8. The following global priorities and frameworks have been taken into consideration in the preparation of the work plan and activities to be executed by the WG-Disasters.

- i. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030
- ii. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- iii. UN-GGIM Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (SF-GISD)
- iv. UN-GGIM Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF)

9. The "Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015 - 2030", recognizes the importance of a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction and the importance of disseminating risk information with the best use of geospatial information technology. "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", recognizes that quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind. Further, the 2030

Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are highly dependent on geospatial information and enabling technologies as the primary data and tools for relating people to their location and place, and to measure 'where' progress is, or is not, being made.

Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters

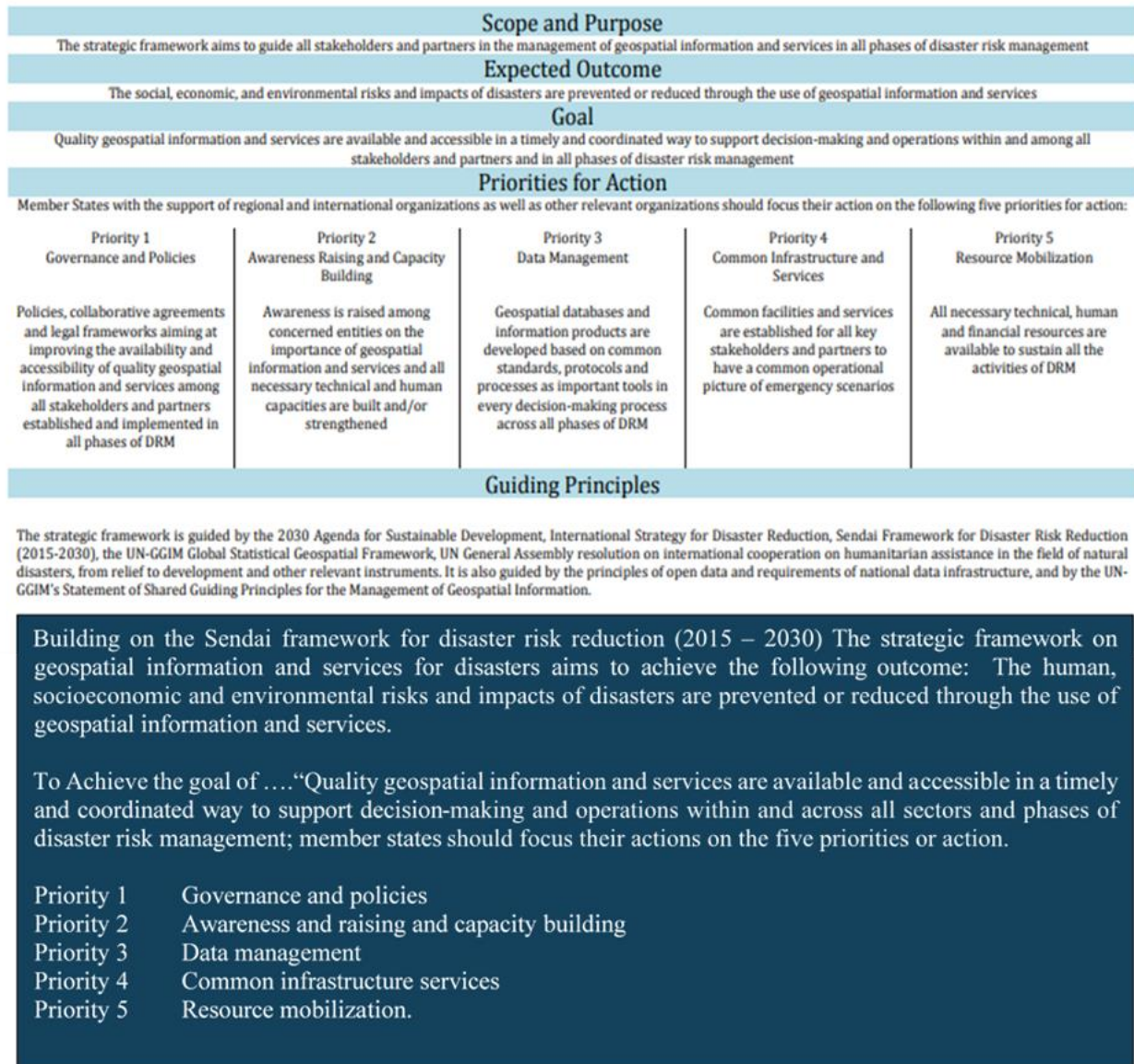


Figure 1: Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters

10. The IGIF provides a basis and guide for developing, integrating, strengthening and maximizing geospatial information management and related resources in all countries to assist with securing socio-economic prosperity and development. There is strong alignment between the two UN-GGIM frameworks, the IGIF and the SF-GISD. The IGIF is supportive of, and mutually compatible

with the SF-GISD. Countries or organizations seeking to establish improved DRM practices through the greater use of geospatial information and services are being encouraged to reference both frameworks as guiding documents. Given the global thrust towards sustainable development, it is imperative that national development agendas are aligned to these global frameworks, and therefore having them guide the preparation of this work plan.

WORK PLAN 2020 - 2023

Overview

11. This work plan was developed taking into account (a) the WG-Disasters Terms of Reference, (b) decision 10/108 detailed in report ([E/2021/46-E/C.20/2020/35](#)) on the tenth session of the Committee of Experts and (c) seven possible areas of work future outlined in decision 9/109 in report ([E/2020/46-E/C.20/2019/19](#)) on the ninth session. The goals of the work plan were formulated to capture the decisions and recommendations from all three documents which dovetails into the tasks to be completed by the WG-Disasters four Task Groups. The work plan details: the goals, activities, output/deliverables, responsible body, timeframe for completion and rationale and relevance. The work plan will guide the activities to be executed by the WG-Disasters over three years, from August 2020 to August 2023. The work plan is the operational and practical strategy for the delivery of the SF-GISD, for which WG-Disasters has coordinating and reporting responsibility.

Purpose

12. The WG-Disasters seeks to continue the work of advancing geospatial information and services to ensure that quality geospatial information is available and accessible in a timely and coordinated way to support decision-making and operations within and across all sectors and phases of disaster risk management.

13. This work plan developed through consensus, identifies and defines the practical actions by which all collaborating Member States, academic, private sector, UN entities and international technical organizations will endeavour to deliver the goals and policy directives of the SF-GISD. It is anticipated that these actions may be considered for incorporation into the national development plans of Member States and mechanisms of accountability as articulated in the UN-GGIM IGIF.

Goals of the Work Plan

14. The work plan focuses on how the main goal and five (5) priorities for action of the SF-GISD will be achieved. Therefore, the work plan is organized based on the following four goals and priority areas:

Goals and Priority Areas

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Goal 1 | Foster Communication and Awareness Raising |
| Goal 2 | Implement the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters |
| Goal 3 | Design and prepare scenario-based exercises on different hazards for risk informed decision making |
| Goal 4 | Provide a forum for dialogue, coordination and capacity building |

15. The work plan is an operational document to achieve realistic, specific, high priority geospatial outcomes and targets towards the achievement of the goals of the SF-GISD. At the WG-Disaster’s general meeting on October 21, 2020, it was agreed that the work plan would span three years (2020 - 2023) and incorporate all recommendations and activities emanating from the report on the 10th UN-GGIM Session, in addition to activities identified and agreed on by WG-Disaster members to be undertaken up to 2023.

Work Plan Approach

16. The following approaches were adopted in the preparation of the work plan:
- A results-based management (RBM) approach - This will give priority focus to achieving the outcomes, building on best practices and lessons learned;
 - Guided by the goals and objectives of the WG-Disasters; and
 - A hybrid of an implementation and accountability approaches.

17. The activities will be implemented by the members of the WG-Disasters - Task Groups with assistance from its collaborating/partnering with regional and international organizations and the UN-GGIM Secretariat. The WG-Disasters is organized into four Task Groups (TGs). The tasks/activities outlined in the work plan will be executed by the assigned Task Group, under the guidance and direction of the WG-Disaster Co-Chairs. The four WG-Disaster TGs, leads, aims and membership are detailed in Table 1.

Table 1: Task Group Overview

Task Groups:	Lead	Aim	Membership
Task Group A. Implement and monitor the SF-GISD and administer the Assessment Tool	Jamaica	Initiate and support efforts to increase awareness and use of the Strategic Framework and its Assessment Tool. Support the administering of the tool, analysis of its results and encouraging advancement of the Member States through the priority area levels.	Japan, Jamaica, New Zealand, ESRI, UN-GGIM Academic Network

Task Groups:	Lead	Aim	Membership
Task Group B. Design and implement scenario-based exercises on different hazards, including predictive modelling to test and improve the SF-GISD per country and or region	Japan	Share accurate and timely geospatial data to stakeholders involved in disaster management	China, Japan, Sweden, Uzbekistan, UNESCAP, UNITAR-UNOSAT, GEO DRR WG, CEOS WGDDisaster, MapAction, GeoThings, CSIRO
Task Group C. Foster communication and awareness raising	Jamaica	Initiate and support activities that foster greater communication and awareness of the work executed by the WG-Disasters.	Jamaica, Japan, UN-GGIM Academic Network, CIESIN, CEOS WGDDisaster, GEO DRR WG
Task Group D. Support the use of the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework	New Zealand	Support and encourage the use of the IGIF in the implementation of the SF-GISD	New Zealand, Japan, Mozambique, Philippines, Poland, Thailand, UNESCAP, GEO, GeoThings

18. To achieve the required results and the expected outcomes, the WG-Disasters work plan 2020 – 2023 will need to be underpinned by:

- *Effective coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the activities;*
- *Harmonization of policies, programs and plans across Member States, international organizations, the private sector and academia related to or have the potential to have a significant impact on the achievement of the outcomes defined in the work plan;*
- *Documentation of lessons learned and best practices so that these can be considered in the preparation of subsequent work plans;*
- *Promotion of data sharing mechanisms to support decision making; and*
- *Creation of stronger and more effective partnerships and linkages among DRM organizations.*

The Logical Framework

19. The work plan sets out the activities that will contribute to achieving the outputs for each goal, as well as the Task Group responsible for implementation and the timeframes within which the activities should be completed. An overview of each goal and the related outcomes and outputs are presented below.

20. Collectively, the activities to be undertaken over the three year period are expected to advance the overall outcomes emphasizing sustainability, accessibility, and interoperability of geospatial information across all phases of disaster risk management to the following:

- *Increasing resources and access to disaster risk financing instruments;*

- *Stakeholder partnerships and collaboration for DRM;*
- *Access to data, knowledge products information and tools;*
- *Deepening engagements between DRM and geospatial information management;*
- *Demonstration of good practices such as mainstreaming of DRR, adoption of DRM in private sector;*
- *Research and innovation towards finding solutions for DRM;*
- *Addressing knowledge gaps in DRM and geospatial information; and*
- *Improving systems and networks for collection and analysis of information on disasters, for decision making.*

Work Plan for WG-Disasters 2020 - 2023

21. The tables that follow list the main activities/tasks that will be implemented over the next three years to support the advancement of WG-Disasters to produce the outputs that contribute to the outcomes for this work plan. The lead focal point which may be a Task Group, Member State, or other organization is provided for each activity.

GOAL 1: FOSTER COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS RAISING

Tasks/Activities	Output/Deliverables	Responsibility	Time Frame	Rationale & Relevance
a) Development of a communication plan that describes the objectives, goals, work and benefits provided by the WG.	Communication Plan	Task Group C	January 2021	Facilitates information sharing and awareness of the WG's efforts within the UN system, among DRR bodies and beyond Sendai, SDG, IGIF
b) Develop and deliver presentations at regional meetings, webinars, conferences etc.	WG Disasters Presentations	Lead: Task Group C Support: Task Groups A, B & D	Ongoing upon requests received or as needed.	Facilitates information sharing and awareness of the WG's DRM efforts.
c) Development of online survey instruments to facilitate data collection on existing DRR organizations, geospatial information and services platforms	Survey instruments for DRR organizations and geospatial information and services platforms	Task Group C	June 2021	Promote awareness of existing DRR resources and aid collaboration and coordination support efforts in the event of disasters.
d) Facilitate global administration of online DRR organizations, geospatial information and services platforms survey instruments	Globally administer DRR organizations and geospatial information and services platforms survey	Lead: Task Group C Support: UN-GGIM Secretariat	September - October 2021	Promote awareness of existing DRR resources and aid collaboration and coordination support efforts in the event of disasters.
e) Development of an inventory of DRR organizations, geospatial information and services platforms on WG- Disasters webpage, from collected survey data	Inventory of DRR organizations, geospatial information and services platforms database	Lead: Task Group C Support: Task Groups A, B & D and UN-GGIM Secretariat	March 2022	Promote awareness of existing DRR resources and aid collaboration and coordination support efforts in the event of disasters.

f) Maintenance of DRR organizations, geospatial information and services platforms inventory	Inventory of DRR organizations, geospatial information and services platforms database	Lead: Task Group C Support: Task Groups A, B & D and UN-GGIM Secretariat	April 2022 onwards on an ongoing/annual basis.	Promote awareness of existing DRR resources and aid collaboration and coordination support efforts in the event of disasters.
g) Develop publications on WG and activities	Publications on WG activities e.g. brochures, flyers, newsletters	Lead: Task Group C Support: Task Groups A, B & D	February 2023 (1st publication) Ongoing/annum	Facilitate knowledge sharing and awareness raising.
h) Collaborate with other DRR bodies on DRR publications	Publications on DRR initiatives	Lead: Task Group C Support: Task Groups A, B & D	Ongoing/annum	Facilitate knowledge sharing and awareness raising.
i) Webpage maintained per quarter with updates on activities pursued.	UN-GGIM WG's webpage updated	Lead: Task Group C Support: Task Groups A, B & D	Ongoing/quarter	Provide up to date information to partners and end users.
j) Promote awareness and links between existing UN-GGIM Expert and Working Groups on relevant global policy frameworks across DRM initiatives e.g. Marine Working Group	Collaborations forged. Develop and deliver presentations and speeches.	All Task Groups.	Ongoing (at least once/annum)	Implement, monitor and raise awareness of DRR initiatives.

Goal 2: IMPLEMENT THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTERS

Tasks/Activities	Output/Deliverables	Responsibility	Time Frame	Rationale & Relevance
a) Consult with Secretariat on the global consultation process for the strategic framework.	Consultations held. Strategic Framework Assessment tool administered.	Task Group A and Secretariat.	August - October 2020	Strategic Framework administered globally.
b) Encourage regional bodies and their Member States to respond to and complete the global consultation.	Responses for global consultation received from Member States.	Task Group A and Secretariat.	August - October 2020	Strategic Framework administered globally.
c) Conduct analysis of received survey instrument responses, prepare and deliver presentation on findings for Americas Member States at the 7th UN-GGIM: Americas Session.	A report of findings and recommendations of the Assessment Survey completed for UN-GGIM: Americas regional body.	Task Group A and Secretariat.	September 2020	Results for Americas region presented at 7th UN-GGIM: Americas Session.
d) Conduct analysis of received survey instrument responses and prepare report.	A report of findings and recommendations of the Assessment Survey.	Task Group A and Secretariat.	July 2021	Survey results analyzed and presented.
e) Seek opportunities to facilitate sharing of the strategic framework results on regional level at UN-GGIM regional meetings and other events.	Presentations developed and delivered.	Task Groups A and Secretariat.	Ongoing, as per received requests or as needed.	Presentations delivered on survey results per annum.
f) Organize and stage webinars in collaboration with UN-GGIM regional and DRR bodies towards promoting awareness on the strategic framework.	Webinars planned and executed. Presentations developed and delivered.	Task Group A and Secretariat.	Ongoing (Once/annum)	Minimum of one strategic framework webinar staged per annum.

g) Coordinate with Secretariat to prepare strategic framework survey results for WG's 11th session report.	WG's 11th session report prepared with survey results included.	Task Group A	July 2021	Strategic Framework survey results prepared and reported in WG's 11th session report.
h) Identify priorities for Strategic Framework implementation support based on survey instrument feedback.	Priority areas for support identified and communicated.	Task Group A & D	October 2021	Identification of key implementation areas where priority IGIF pathways will have most relevance
i) Review existing use of IGIF to develop country-level Action.	Country level reporting template developed.	Task Group D	May 2022	Understand how the IGIF is currently being used and the type of outputs being created
j) Review existing use of IGIF by other GGIM groups.	Report completed.	Task Group D	June 2022	Provide insight in to how the IGIF could be used to guide WG activities and collaborations with other groups (support "Thematic level" implementation.
k) Facilitate a summary of findings and any lessons learned from IGIF implementation review and report on and promote implementation options relevant to the Strategic Framework.	Lessons learnt review report completed.	Task Group D	July 2022	Identification of examples of and options for IGIF use. Promotion of these with Member States and other related groups.

GOAL 3: DESIGN AND PREPARE SCENARIO-BASED EXERCISES ON DIFFERENT HAZARDS

Tasks/Activities	Output/Deliverables	Responsibility	Time Frame	Rationale & Relevance
a) Formalize scenario-based exercises community of practice.	TOR, clear target, strategic community.	Task Group B	July 2022	Facilitate sharing of best practices and scenario-based exercises including predictive modeling.
b) Develop exercise scenarios.	Discussed scenario, exercise platform.	Task Group B	September 2022	Provide a standard template for scenario-based exercises (per hazard).
c) Collaborate with the UN-GGIM Working Group on Marine Geospatial Information on developing scenario-based exercises that incorporate a marine element.	Discussed scenarios, exercise platform	Task Group B	May 2022	Provide a standard template for scenario-based exercises (per hazard).
d) Conduct scenario-based exercise/s.	Exercise/s is/are conducted.	Task Group B	November 2022	Demonstrate the standard template for scenario-based exercises (per hazard).
e) Summarize the exercises.	Report of the exercise.	Task Group B	December 2022	Document best practices and scenario-based exercises.
f) Promote, including through good practices and impact, sharing of data and knowledge to improve DRR.	Scenario-based exercises on different hazards developed. UN-GGIM WG Disasters Functions.	Task Group B representative/s In collaboration with GEO DRR WG Subgroup 1/CEOS WG Disasters representative		Facilitate sharing of best practices and scenario-based exercises including predictive modeling.

GOAL 3: DESIGN AND PREPARE SCENARIO-BASED EXERCISES ON DIFFERENT HAZARDS

Tasks/Activities	Output/Deliverables	Responsibility	Time Frame	Rationale & Relevance
g) Increase the use of Earth observation data for achieving the Sendai Framework’s Global Target E, that is to substantially increase number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies.	Lessons learnt and data products platform developed.	In collaboration with GEO DRR WG Subgroup 2/CEOS WG Disasters representative.	Ongoing/annually	Promote partnership between governments and private sector on the use of data products platforms. Enhance awareness on the use of EO data for DRM.
h) Share existing thematically focused WG activities (geohazards, flood, landslides, seismic, wildfire, volcanoes, etc.) where Earth observations are being integrated, as well as geographic focus areas and relevant stakeholder agencies and organizations.	Database of WG activities by hazards and use developed.	Lead: Task Group C In collaboration with CEOS WG Disasters	Ongoing/annually	Document the use of data products platform for knowledge sharing.

GOAL 4: PROVIDE A FORUM FOR DIALOGUE, COORDINATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Tasks/Activities	Output/Deliverables	Responsibility	Time Frame	Rationale & Relevance
a) Development of a training plan for earth observation (EO) data	Training plan developed.	Task Group B & C In collaboration with GEO DRR WG Subgroup 2	As the need arises	Facilitate information sharing within the UN system, among DRR bodies and beyond, regarding other technologies, data and platforms relevant to DRM.
b) Showcase how Earth observation (EO) data can complement data governments already have to assess risk and risk trends over time.	Two (2) Case studies developed and published on website.	Task Group B & C In collaboration with GEO DRR WG Subgroup 2	One case study/annum	Promote increased use of EO data for risk analysis.
c) Showcase how Earth observations can be used to describe and visualize vulnerability and exposure.	One (1) Training and information sharing workshop held.	Task Group B In collaboration with GEO DRR WG Subgroup 2	As the need arises	Document and promote the use of data products platform for knowledge sharing.
d) Collaborate with other DRR bodies on DRR capacity building initiatives	DRR capacity building initiatives executed.	All Task Groups.	Ongoing/annum	Facilitate knowledge sharing, awareness raising and DRR capacity building.

GOAL 4: PROVIDE A FORUM FOR DIALOGUE, COORDINATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Tasks/Activities	Output/Deliverables	Responsibility	Time Frame	Rationale & Relevance
e) Provide WG Disasters representation on Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) WG Disasters.	CEOS WG Disasters meetings attended and action items executed.	Task Group A	As per scheduled meetings.	Facilitate information sharing among DRR bodies and beyond.
f) Provide WG Disasters representation on Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) Disaster Pilot Project.	OGC Disaster Pilot Project meetings attended and action items executed.	Task Group A & B	As per scheduled meetings.	Facilitate information sharing among DRR bodies and beyond.
g) Provide WG Disasters representation on Inter Agency and Expert Group on Disaster-related Statistics (IAEG-DRS).	IAEG-DRS meetings attended and action items executed.	Task Group B	As per scheduled meetings.	Facilitate information sharing among DRR bodies and beyond.