



UN-GGIM

WG on Geospatial
Information for
Disaster Risk Management

Work Plan 2025 - 2026

Prepared by
UN-GGIM WG GI4DRM
July 2025

I. Background

The Working Group on Geospatial Information for Disaster Risk Management (Working Group GI4DRM) formerly the Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (WG-Disasters) was created by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) at its fifth session, under decision 5/110, ¹adopted in August 2015.

The WG-Disasters has been focused on improving the availability, accessibility, and timeliness of quality geospatial information and geospatial services to support disaster risk management. This is being executed by facilitating the creation of policies that promote open access to data and reducing data security concerns at all phases of disaster risk management, at all levels of government and towards the successful achievement of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The WG-Disasters was originally co-chaired by Jamaica and the Philippines, then later Jamaica and Japan. The Working Group GI4DRM is currently co-chaired by Jamaica and China (interim). Additionally, the Working Group has a membership comprised of 43 experts from Member States, United Nations offices and agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academia and the private sector.

The UN-GGIM Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters

The Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (SF-GISD) was prepared by the WG-Disasters on a participatory basis over a period of two years. The SF-GISD was adopted by the Committee of Experts at its seventh sitting in August 2017 and subsequently by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 2 July 2018 under resolution 2018/14. The Strategic Framework contributes to the implementation of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction 2015- 2030 and is also fundamental to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Strategic Framework guides all stakeholders and partners in the management of geospatial information and services in all phases of disaster risk management. Building on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)ⁱ, the strategic framework aims to achieve the following outcome:

“The human, socioeconomic and environmental risks and impacts of disasters are prevented or reduced through the use of geospatial information and services.”

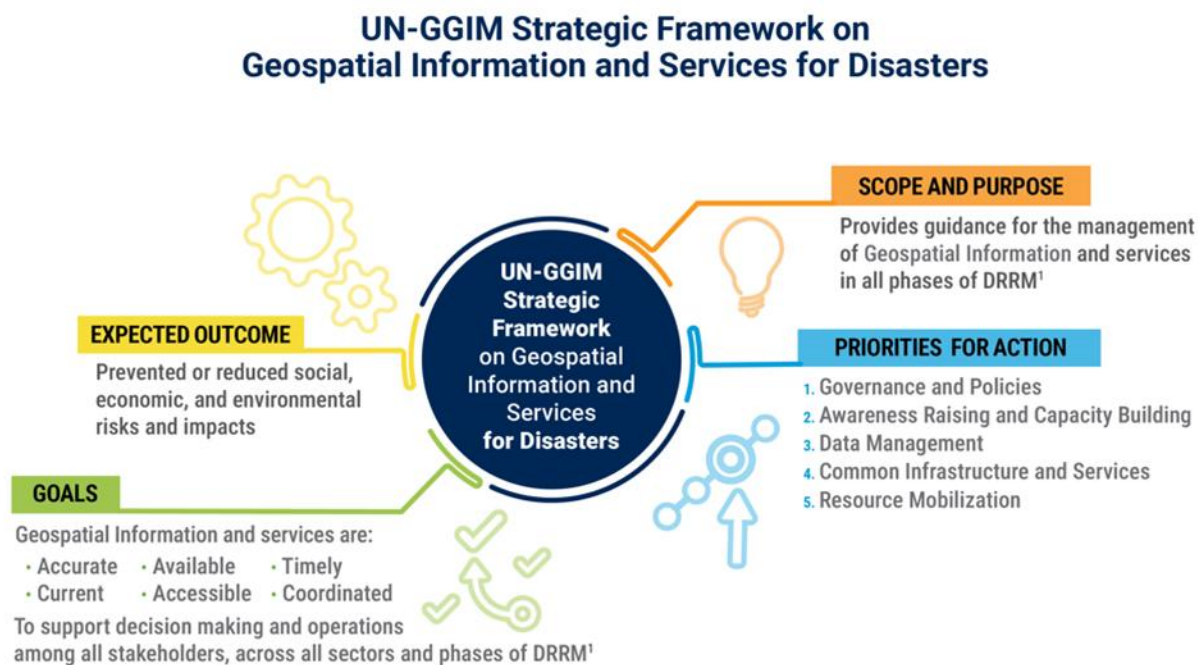
As outlined in the Working Group’s [2020 to 2023 Workplan](#), its work continues to be guided by global priorities and frameworks. The following have been taken into consideration in the preparation of the work plan and activities to be executed by the Working Group GI4DRM: i. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, ii. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, iii. UN-GGIM SFGISD, iv. UN-GGIM Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (IGIF) and decisions emanating from the annual sessions of the UN-GGIM.

Principles and Strategies

¹ E/2015/46-E/C.20/2015/17

The Working Group's work is further guided by the following principles and strategies.

1. **Collaboration and coordination**- encourage national, regional and global collaborations fundamental to the facilitation of improvements in the development, management, use and exchange of geospatial information, as well as the integration of statistical data and other information, to create new knowledge and supply products and services meeting user needs.
2. **Inclusion** - the intentional and equitable participation of all relevant stakeholders - particularly member states, agencies, and representatives from diverse backgrounds and capacities - in the group's decision-making, planning, and implementation processes.
3. **Ownership and accountability** - facilitate trust amongst geospatial data creators, providers and users, create a clear understanding of geospatial data through the publication of metadata.
4. **Respect and professionalism** - exhibit high levels of responsibility and consideration to stakeholders in the execution of daily operations.
5. **Share knowledge and promote good practices** - commit to policies and practices that ensure the continuous development, professional competence and ethical practices of geospatial information practitioners.



The achievement of the goals as outlined in the SF-GISD, requires Member States to be in a position to develop, maintain and provide the necessary geospatial information and services. Member States, with

the support of regional and international organizations as well as other relevant partner organizations, are called upon to focus their action on the following five priorities for action:

- Priority 1: Governance and Policies
- Priority 2: Awareness Raising and Capacity Building
- Priority 3: Data Management
- Priority 4: Common Infrastructure and Services
- Priority 5: Resource Mobilization

II. National Challenges

Recognizing that the Working Group GI4DRM's activities must be guided by the needs of Member States, it was deemed important to identify their challenges in managing and responding to disasters. Some of the main challenges and gaps identified by National Mapping/Geospatial Management entities are: - the availability, completeness, timeliness, accuracy, authoritativeness and accessibility of geospatial information. In addition are the challenges of collaboration, coordination and communication. Also identified are the needs to strengthen and better leverage existing geospatial information and technical capacity in Member States, noting that a few countries have laws or regulations that facilitate the provision of data and services to the international community in cases of disasters.

III. Workplan 2024 to 2025

This work plan was developed taking into account (a) the Working Group's Terms of Reference, (b) decision 13/107 detailed in report (E/2024/46 E/C.20/2023/19) of the thirteenth session of the Committee of Experts and (c) decision 14/108 detailed in report (E/2025/46 E/C.20/2024/190) of the fourteenth session. The priorities 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 Working Group, via its four Task Groups. The work plan details: the objectives, tasks, deliverables, responsible body and timeframe for completion. The work plan will guide the activities to be executed by the Working Group for the delivery of the SF-GISD, for which Working Group GI4DRM has coordinating and reporting responsibility.

Overall Priorities

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 overall goals and priority areas:

1. Data management - geospatial data in support of disaster risk management
2. Capacity building and raising awareness
3. Implementation of UN-GGIM Disaster Strategic Framework and alignment with Sendai Framework
4. Collaboration with international disaster risk management organizations

Tasks and Deliverables

The Working Group is organized into four Task Groups (TGs). The activities will be implemented by the members of the Working Group and the WG's Task Groups with assistance from through collaborations/partnerships forged with regional and international organizations and the UN-GGIM Secretariat. The tasks/activities outlined in the work plan will be executed by the assigned Task Group, under the guidance and direction of the Working Group's Co-Chairs. The tables that follow list the main tasks that will be implemented over the reporting period to support the advancement of Working Group to produce deliverables 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.

Task Group A: Geospatial data in support of DRR

Geo Data for DRR	Country
1. Michelle Edwards	Jamaica
2. Samdrup Dorji	Bhutan
3. Quanhong Zheng	China
4. Saiful Wazlan	Malaysia
5. Abdoreza Saadat	Iran
6. Sérgio Niquisse	Mozambique
7. Allison Craddock	United States
8. Maroale Chauke	South Africa
9. Nabila Licer	Morocco
10. Pablo Morales Hermosilla	Chile
Task Group Lead Quanhong Zheng	
Task Group Co-Lead Abdoreza Saadat	

Task Group Objectives

1. Provide a platform for communication and exchange on quality geospatial data acquisition, processing and exploitation services and the reduction of problems related to data security.
2. Promote the capabilities of geospatial data in decision making support across all phases of disaster risk management including disaster monitoring and warning, disaster analysis, emergency response, loss assessment and post disaster recovery planning etc.
3. Encourage collaboration in technology research and training for emergency data acquisition, rapid map creation and intelligent geoinformation services etc.

Geospatial data for DRR			
Tasks	Deliverables	Responsibility	Time Frame
1. Convene a seminar on Sharing and disseminating best practices of utilizing geo data for DRR, with a focus on successful case studies and implementation lessons learned.	Face to face meeting	Task Group Members	During WG's face to face meeting in 2026
2. Develop an excellent case collection of geospatial information for disaster response and emergency support from member states and other sectors.	Documents and Videos	Task Group Members	August 2026
3. Collaborate with UNGGKIC to convene and participate in activities related to the geospatial information support system for climate change and disaster prevention and mitigation.	Forum and meetings	Task Group Members	During 2026

Task Group B: Capacity development and awareness raising

Capacity Development and Awareness Raising	Country	Task Group Objectives
1. Michelle Edwards	Jamaica	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate and promote capacity development initiatives that build the capacity of member states to improve the availability, accessibility, and timeliness of good quality geospatial information for disaster risk management. Initiate and support activities that foster greater communication and awareness of the work executed by the UN-GGIM Working Group on Geospatial Information for Disaster Risk Management. Initiate and support activities that foster greater awareness of DRR related organizations, geospatial information and services platforms.
2. Samdrup Dorji	Bhutan	
3. Aster Denekeu Yilma	UNECA	
4. Simone Lloyd	Jamaica	
5. Odete Semião	Mozambique	
6. Nabila Licer	Morocco	
Task Group Lead		
Simone Lloyd		
Task Group Co-Lead		
Aster Denekeu Yilma		

Capacity Development and Awareness Raising			
Tasks	Deliverables	Responsibility	Time Frame
1. a) Design and implement a communication campaign/plan that describes the objectives, goals, work and benefits of the WG.	Communication campaign designed.	CD & AR TG	December 2025
b) Prepare material, including briefing package on the WG.	Briefing material and package prepared.	CD & AR TG	February - March 2026
c) Circulate briefing materials to relevant organizations and groups.	Briefing material and package circulated.	CD & AR TG	Quarterly basis. (2025 - 2026)
d) Design and circulate social media posts.	Social media posts are designed and circulated.	CD & AR TG	Quarterly basis. (2025 - 2026)
2. WG webpage maintained with updates on activities planned and pursued.	Webpage maintained	CD & AR TG	Quarterly basis. (2025 - 2026)
3. Maintain developed online survey instruments to facilitate continued data collection on existing DRR organizations, geospatial information and services platforms.	Online DRR survey instruments maintained.	CD & AR TG	Quarterly basis. (2025 - 2026)
4. Support continued maintenance of the Global inventory platform on DRR organizations, geospatial information and services platforms	Global DRR platform maintained.	CD & AR TG	Quarterly basis. (2025 - 2026)
5. Collaborate and conduct a joint Webinar on “Preparation, Response and Recovery: Lessons Learnt from Hurricane Beryl”	Webinar concept note drafted. Webinar agenda prepared. Webinar hosted.	CD & AR TG	April 2025 April 2025 May 2025
6. Prepare an updated version 2 of the ‘Background Paper on Geospatial Support through Partnership and Collaboration for Hurricane Beryl 2024: the Jamaica Case Study’	Updated document.	CD & AR TG	July 2025

Capacity Development and Awareness Raising			
Tasks	Deliverables	Responsibility	Time Frame
7. Conduct Webinar on Disaster Risk Management and Climate Resilience	Webinar concept note drafted.	CD & AR TG	August 2025
	Webinar agenda prepared.		August 2025
	Webinar hosted.		September 2025
8. Prepare position paper on Disaster Risk Management and Climate Resilience to be presented at an appropriate DRR event.	Position paper prepared.	CD & AR TG	September - November 2025
	Position paper presented at an appropriate DRR event		
9. Encourage liaison between National Geospatial / Mapping agencies and National Disaster agencies to: a) foster increased membership within the Working Group b) forge collaboration towards implementing the Strategic Framework.	Global communication prepared and circulated.	CD & AR TG	September 2025
	Membership listing updated.		Quarterly basis. (2025 - 2026)
	Collaboration status log developed and maintained.		Quarterly basis. (2025 - 2026)
10. Conduct geospatial data and geospatial information management (GIM) training needs assessment amongst national disaster management custodians and users to improve the DRR efforts of member states.	Assessment tool developed, tested and administered.	CD & AR TG	October – November 2025
	Results of GIM and training needs assessment analysed, and report/position paper prepared.		December 2025 – January 2026

Task Group C: Implementation of UN-GGIM Disaster Strategic Framework and alignment with Sendai Framework

Implementation of the Strategic Framework and alignment with Sendai		Country
1. Michelle Edwards		Jamaica
2. Samdrup Dorji		Bhutan
3. Aster Deneke Yilma		UNECA
4. Map Action		
5. Simone Lloyd		Jamaica
6. Saiful Wazlan		Malaysia
Task Group Leads		
Michelle Edwards		
Task Group Co-Leads		
Saiful Wazlan		

Task Group Objectives

- Map the contributions of geospatial tools & services, including policy as defined by the nine IGIF strategic pathways towards progressing the Sendai framework across key sectors and at different geographical levels
 - A mapping of geospatial issues, data and services as laid out in the IGIF against the text of the Sendai Framework
 - Develop evidence or policy advice on conducting return on investment (ROI) analysis of use of geospatial (and counterfactuals)
 - Selective case studies of good practice at different scales, for different elements of the Sendai Framework and DRR cycle
 - Identification of policy gaps, and where potential for innovative application of geospatial data and services
- Comparison of this outcome with the UNGGIM Strategic Framework for Disasters

Implementation of Disasters Strategic Framework and Sendai Framework			
Tasks	Deliverables	Responsibility	Time Frame
1. Taxonomy of geospatial issues and terminology (high level)	Hierarchical set of key terms and definitions of geospatial	MapAction	June 2025
2. Case study identification and documentations - Selective set of case studies covering various scales, scenarios, outcomes to amplify the use of geospatial framework	Series of short case study examples highlighting target audience and problem, solution and relevance to Sendai	MapAction	TBD
3. Identification of gaps in <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Where geospatial is not being leveraged to support Sendai Where Sendai has outcomes and vision which geospatial is not currently supporting 	Part of final report	MapAction	TBD

Task Group D: Collaborate with existing international projects

Collaboration with International projects	Country
1. Michelle Edwards	Jamaica
2. Simone Lloyd	Jamaica
3. Aster Denekew	UNECA
4. Odete Semião	Mozambique
5. Nabila Licer	Morocco
Task Group Lead	
Michelle Edwards	

Task Group Objectives

1. To understand the dynamics behind global trends in disaster risk reduction and management and climate resilience to be able to support Member States in creating and making available, and accessible geospatial information.
2. Identify and collate relevant policies, projects, services and technological advancements being implemented in support of disaster risk management, to be used to update the UN-GGIM Global Disaster Risk Reduction Inventory Hub.
3. Initiate and foster partnerships to strengthen the use of geospatial information in support of DRR, particularly in developing countries, small island states and landlocked countries.

Capacity Development and Awareness Raising			
Tasks	Deliverables	Responsibility	Time Frame
1. Conduct research on the dynamics behind global trends in disaster risk reduction and management and climate resilience to be able to support Member States in creating and making available, and accessible geospatial information	Research findings	TG D	September - October - 2025
2. Facilitate open dialogue with representatives of UNDRR, UNDP and international disaster agencies on potential projects for collaboration, services access etc.	Engagement meetings	TG D	March – April 2025
11. Support continued maintenance of the Global inventory platform on DRR organizations, geospatial information and services platforms	Global DRR platform maintained.	CD & AR TG	Quarterly basis. (2025 - 2026)

¹ United Nations (2015): Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030: http://www.wcdrr.org/uploads/Sendai_Framework_for_Disaster_Risk_Reduction_2015-2030.pdf