The Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management

Multi-year Strategic Programme of Work 2021
The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is the most inclusive intergovernmental platform in the Asia-Pacific region. The Commission promotes cooperation among its 53 member States and 9 associate members in pursuit of solutions to sustainable development challenges. ESCAP is one of the five regional commissions of the United Nations.

The ESCAP secretariat supports inclusive, resilient and sustainable development in the region by generating action-oriented knowledge, and by providing technical assistance and capacity-building services in support of national development objectives, regional agreements and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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This APDIM Multi-year Strategic Programme of Work 2021-2030 was prepared under the overall direction and guidance of Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and Kaveh Zahedi, Deputy Executive Secretary for Sustainable Development of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

The team for the production of this report includes:

**Author and Supervision of Theory of Change Process for Programme Development**

Letizia Rossano, Director (APDIM)

**Theory of Change Consultants**

Eoin Paul Collins, Strategic Planning and Evaluation Consultant; and Sean O Siochru, Research Director, NEXUS Research Cooperative

**Members of APDIM Theory of Change Reference Group who provided input include:**

Animesh Kumar, OIC & Deputy Chief, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, UNDRR; Ashish Kumar, Director of SIAP; Edgar Dante, Chief Evaluation Unit, Strategy and Programme Management Division, ESCAP; Mahdi HajiMohammadi, ESCAP Desk officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Hans Guttman, Executive Director, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center; Kyoung Ko, Director of APCICT; Madhavi Lalithakala Ariyabandu, The Independent consultant for APDIM Review; Mohammad Hadi Daryaei, Deputy Head of International Affairs, Plan and Budget Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Rikke Munk Hansen, Chief, Economic and Environment Statistics Section, Statistics Division, ESCAP; and Sanjay Srivastava, Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction, ESCAP.

**Contributors**

Mostafa Mohaghegh, Senior Coordinator (APDIM); Amin Shamseddini, Programme Officer (APDIM); Ava Bahrami, Public Information Officer (APDIM)

**Operational Support**

Tara Sheshangosht, Staff Assistant (APDIM)

Email: escap-apdim@un.org  
Website: apdim.unescap.org

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Introduction

In response to a request made by APDIM’s 4th Governing Council, this document outlines the vision of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) for the 2021-2030 decade and proposes potential deliverables for the Biennium 2021-2022. This Programme of Work aims at positioning APDIM as an important regional centre for disaster information management and risk-informed development. APDIM aspires to do so by becoming a thought leader and go-to repository of information.

Disaster events have been devastating lives, economies, and environments regularly across the globe. The 2019 Asia Pacific Disaster Report developed by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM), shows that the absolute multi-hazard average annual loss (AAL) in US dollars for the region as a whole is a staggering USD 148,866 million which represents 54 per cent of global multi-hazard risk. These estimates refer to direct losses that normally represent only 30 to 40 per cent of total losses\(^1\), applying this assumption to Asia and the Pacific region, the total average annual loss, including indirect losses, would rise to USD 270,936 million — representing 1 per cent of the region’s gross domestic product (GDP). In individual countries, it could be a much higher figure\(^2\).

\(^1\) A methodology developed by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean indicates that direct losses.

\(^2\) The Disaster Riskscape Across Asia-Pacific Pathways for resilience, inclusion, and empowerment, Asia-Pacific Disaster Report, 2019
With the increased understanding that losses due to disasters undermine the ability of economic growth to reduce poverty and inequality, the need for disaster information management services and technical assistance to the member States is therefore even more relevant. Understanding hazard and risk in all its dimensions is fundamental for designing effective risk reduction measures and development plans that will not only contribute to reducing the existing stock of risk but also prevent the creation of additional risk. In the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, understanding disaster risk is the priority for action: “policies and practices for disaster risk management should be based on an understanding of disaster risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment.”

**The Mandate**

Member States decided to establish APDIM through the ESCAP resolution 67/4 in May 2011; the ESCAP Commission further reaffirmed its decision to establish APDIM and approved the statute of the Centre in 2015 through resolution 71/11 as a regional institution of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) mandated to **reduce human and material losses due to natural hazards and contribute to the effective design, investment and implementation of disaster risk reduction and resilience policies.**

The High-Level Policy Forum (HLPF) on the Sustainable Development Goals held in September 2019, further confirmed the relevance of APDIM in the Asia Pacific, the most disaster-prone region.

The General Assembly, as well as the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), have issued multiple resolutions encouraging an integrated understanding of disaster risk in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework and highlighted the critical need to build synergies at national, regional, and global levels between them. Through resolution A/RES/74/218, the General Assembly recognized the importance of promoting policies and planning that build resilience and reduce displacement risk in the context of disasters, including through **transboundary cooperation.** It further urged States to conduct inclusive and multi-hazard disaster risk assessments that consider climate change projections to support evidence-based disaster risk reduction strategies and guide risk-informed development investments by the private and public sectors. Moreover, the 2030 Agenda specifically demands the need for **new data acquisition and integration approaches** to improve the availability, quality, timeliness, and disaggregation of data to support the implementation of the new development agenda at all levels.

The General Assembly (A/RES/74/226 of 19 December 2019) also noted the endorsement by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its seventy-fifth session of the recommendation by the Governing Council of APDIM to **establish a sub-regional cooperation mechanism for slow-onset hazards** with a focus on sand and dust storms in South-West and Central Asia.

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP/RES/75/3 of 4 June 2019), called for the **strengthening of partnerships** among the Member States, sub-regional, regional, and interregional organizations and frameworks, and development partners, and in particular the United Nations system, in promoting sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.
APDIM proposes to achieve this vision by tackling key priorities towards the achievement of three Long Term Outcomes in the areas of Risk Information, Capacity Building and Regional Cooperation with a view to addressing the significant demands placed on member States to produce and analyse disaster information for planning and investing as well as reporting towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the Sendai Framework Targets for disaster risk reduction and resilience. The three long-term outcomes and corresponding deliverables described in this section are closely interconnected and sometimes sequential in nature. For each Long-Term Outcome, a visual “result pathway” has been included to reflect the logical framework underpinning the expected results for each specific outcome and across them.

The result pathways to achieve this vision are built on the recommendations of the Independent and Comprehensive Review of the performance of APDIM endorsed by the seventy-sixth session of ESCAP Commission, on ways to improve the substantive relevance and financial viability of APDIM in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. In addition, the Strategic Programme of Work also draws on the APDIM commissioned Assessment of the Gaps and Needs for Disaster Risk Information and Data Management Platforms in Asia and the Pacific Region that assessed the current capacities, available services, and needs of regional and national stakeholders for disaster risk information and risk data management in the region. APDIM further convened a group of stakeholders and experts who considered the Review recommendations and the outcomes of the Assessment through a Theory of Change lens to ensure accountability for impact and prioritize actions accordingly.

The APDIM Review underscored that some of the most noted gaps and disparities in meeting these demands are in data availability, in accessing available data, lack of tools, technical knowledge for analysis as well as for application of evidence and analysis for decision making at the national and local levels. Specific reference was made in the Review to significant gaps in understanding exposure to risk and vulnerability. With the exception of relief operations, disaster recovery and major infrastructure planning such as roads and housing there is still the limited application of available data on hazard risk vulnerability and exposure. In many of the countries of the Asia and Pacific Region, there is no institutional mechanism for this is to be initiated and there is scope for APDIM to raise the attention of member states around this through dedicated conferences and discussions as well as suggested guidelines and technical support.

Priority attention was suggested by the APDIM Review towards supporting Member States with accessing, analysing and application of data as well as for APDIM to utilize its intergovernmental mandate and its unique placement within the Commission to address the issues of data sovereignty, facilitation of communication and information coordination between

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3 Review of the establishment of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the development of Disaster Information Management pursuant to resolution 71/11, ESCAP/76/INF/4.
countries, addressing the prevailing information and knowledge gaps, exchange of expertise, experiences, and knowledge. Further, in the Asia Pacific region, there is a felt need for data on transboundary hazards such as earthquakes, floods, cyclones, sand and dust storms, drought, tsunamis as well as for mechanisms for cross-border connectivity for disaster information.

Member States consulted by the Independent Review and the Assessment reflected an acknowledgement that disaster risk data is scattered across different government agencies and there are often institutional concerns to share it. This question applies at the domestic level, within governments, and regionally between governments.

It was further noted in the Review that data that is relevant to risk reduction is also seldom collected or updated in standard and comparable formats, this makes the consolidation of the information for policy development purposes difficult and cumbersome. This also results in comparable difficulties for governments when reporting relevant information through international instruments, such as the Sendai Framework Monitor and the SDG Monitoring and Reporting Toolkit.

Given its unique position as a regional institution of ESCAP, APDIM can bring together the two still quite separate domains of technical disaster information and socio-economic information, enhancing disaster information management, building capacities, and connecting national and international efforts by bringing together disaster information and socio-economic information to support risk-informed development. As disasters carry clear gender implications, APDIM also endeavours to ensure attention to this aspect across all its programmes whether they focus on the production of information and analysis or its application.

The vision and long-term outcomes of this strategic programme of work aim at supporting ESCAP’s broad principles of inclusivity, resilience, and sustainability by focusing on the use and application of data in a disaggregated way, geared towards building and strengthening resilience to disaster risk and informing sustainable development investments and plans.
APDIM Top Level Outcomes

**Problem Statement:**
A persistent gap exists at the regional, national and subnational levels when it comes to understanding risk, assessing the available risk information and using the information to inform resilience policies.

**Ultimate Outcomes**

**Effective Design, Investment and Implementation of disaster risk reduction and resilience Policies**

**Overarching Long-term Outcome**

Policies and practices for disaster risk management are based on an understanding of risk in all its dimensions of vulnerability, capacity, exposure of persons and assets, hazard characteristics and the environment.

**Long-Term Outcome 1: Risk Information in Place**
Effective disaster risk information available at regional and national level.

**Long-Term Outcome 2: Information Capacity and Usage**
Country and regional organizations have the capacity to access, understand and apply disaster risk information towards risk informed development policies and investments.

**Long-Term Outcome 3: Regional Cooperation**
There is effective regional cooperation and coordination to compile, access and apply disaster risk information.
Long-term Outcome 1: Risk Information

At present, there is a significant amount of data collected on hazard, risk, and vulnerability at the local level, which – however - either does not reach the national level or is not analysed and used for national-level planning purposes. Data at the local level is often collected post-disasters (mostly event by event), mainly for relief and response purposes. However, this data – if appropriately analysed and re-utilized – would provide a valuable source to better understand vulnerability and exposure in those areas. APDIM also observed that there are no systematic updates in place with regard to specific hazards and similarly there is a lack of clarity about what kind of systematic updates for varying hazards should be in place. There is merit, therefore, for APDIM to address this issue by enhancing awareness about the need for different departmental agencies to collaborate more closely; by producing guidelines to facilitate the establishment of stronger data policy and governance practices and mechanisms at the national level.

Access to effective disaster risk information is enabled and facilitated at the regional and national level.
National disaster management organizations often have limited connection and/or coordination with development ministries, meteorological agencies, research and academic institutions universities dealing with disaster research and national statistics agencies. There is certainly a need and a scope for APDIM, to encourage stronger linkages between disaster risk and socio-economic fields of analysis by encouraging multi-disciplinary workshops and discussions.

**Intermediate Outcome 1.1**

Development and sectoral policy makers are equipped to apply and use risk information in sustainable development processes.

**Key Deliverables**

- 1.1.1 Countries in the region are engaged to demonstrate how development planners can use and apply data/analysis in disaster risk reduction integrated planning.
- 1.1.2 Develop national knowledge products based on data available at the global and regional level with interpretation and visualization of disaster information and data to support impact-based risk assessment and planning.
- 1.1.3 UN Country Teams supported in mainstreaming disaster risk information management into country assessments, strategic frameworks and UN operations and plans.
- 1.1.4 Risk information forums and events (virtually or in-person) convened with national, sectoral, and provincial development planners and policy and finance ministries to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise in the region.

**Indicators**

- The number of instances a national and development administration applied APDIM-produced risk information products or analysis.

**Intermediate Outcome 1.2**

The use of disaster risk data at the national level is increased through strengthened national risk data governance.

**Key Deliverables**

- 1.2.1 Guidance is produced to facilitate risk data governance and risk data policy design in collaboration with the disaster risk statistics framework.
- 1.2.2 Countries are supported towards developing a nationally owned and maintained risk data platform.

**Indicators**

- The number of countries and organizations benefitted from APDIM guidance and services on risk data governance and policy design.
Intermediate Outcome 1.3

A regional data platform is developed to close gaps at regional level in hazard mapping and risk analysis.

Key Deliverables

➢ 1.3.1 A regional risk data platform is launched as part of APDIM’s portal.
➢ 1.3.2 Key partnerships at the global, regional, and national level are established to ensure data sharing and feeding to the data platform, to be hosted on the APDIM portal, can take place on an on-going basis.
➢ 1.3.3 Additional risk information services and analysis are provided by APDIM through the regional data platform.

Indicators

➢ APDIM Portal is operational and usable by the member states and organizations of the region.
➢ Regional, sub-regional and global partnerships on data sharing for APDIM regional data platform are established.
Theory of Change Pathway

**Long-term Outcome 1: Risk Information in Place**

**Effective disaster risk information applied at national level**

- Senior policy makers and managers have accessible reliable, trustable, and up-to-date disaster risk reduction information for use in public projects and policies.
- There is demand for integrated disaster risk reduction information by policy-makers, senior bureaucrats at national and sub-national level.
- Political support for disaster risk reduction investment.
- Long-term benefit of disaster risk reduction investment clear and tangible.

**Intermediate Outcome 1.1**
- There are increased opportunities to appreciate/see benefits of application of risk information management to sustainable development.

**Intermediate Outcome 1.2**
- Use of disaster risk data at national level is facilitated through strengthened national risk data governance.

**Intermediate Outcome 1.3**
- Maintain close connections with global teams and global/Regional cooperation mechanisms to ensure disaster risk reduction potential is understood.

**Deliverable 1.1.1**
- Guidelines, best practice, etc.

**Deliverable 1.1.2**
- Create value products.

**Deliverable 1.1.3**
- Use of disaster risk data at national level is facilitated through strengthened national risk data governance.

**Deliverable 1.1.4**
- Forums/events facilitate knowledge exchange in region.
The Assessment underscored the importance for countries in the region to have a clear lead focal point with a mandate to take disaster information as a parameter for development planning and investments, but also noted that to date there is no institutional mechanism for this connection to be made. The Sendai Framework mandated National Platforms with this task but these, even when they are regularly convened, seldom have the power to make decisions. National planning/poverty reduction/SDG mandated agencies/climate risk management agencies are not yet fully operating in a coherent and coordinated fashion at the national level and it is important that they be brought into the discussion on disaster information management as key stakeholders. APDIM is in a unique position to highlight the need for coordinated dialogue through awareness-raising and capacity building, as well as networking by leveraging ESCAP’s development platforms and discussions. APDIM is also in a unique position to suggest and develop methodological approaches and tools that the Member States can apply for advancing risk-informed development planning and investments.
With the exception of relief operations, disaster recovery and major infrastructure planning such as roads and housing there is still the **limited application of available data on hazard risk vulnerability and exposure**. In many of the countries of the Asia and Pacific Region, there is **no institutional mechanism** for this to be initiated and there is scope for APDIM to raise the attention of member states around this through dedicated conferences and discussions as well as suggested guidelines and technical support. Examples in this connection would include, how to **use loss and damage historical data for evidence-based planning** and decision making on investments as well as to facilitate the use and application of national Meteorological data, disaster loss and damage data and information, climate projections, overlaying socio-economic/population information for SDG/development planning and implementation of NDCs, NAPAs.

**Intermediate Outcome 2.1**

Disaster risk information is understood by policymakers and development planners at national level and regional level as an integral component of development planning across different sectors as necessary to protect development gains.

**Key Deliverables**

- **2.1.1** Development planners are involved with risk reduction experts (such as national/provincial disaster data collection agencies, meteorological agency, flood/drought, climate hazard projections; geological data collection agencies; but also, the national statistics experts with socio-economic data) in the definition of key data and risk information necessary for (risk-informed development) application in development planning.
- **2.1.2** Efficient use and application of risk data by national stakeholders is promoted through in-person, virtual and video tutorials available in local languages.
- **2.1.3** Training and guidance is provided to countries to report data on the impact of hazards through existing international and national monitoring mechanisms, including the impact of Sand and Dust Storms through the Sendai Monitor Framework applying APDIM-developed specific guidance.

**Indicators**

- Number of national or regional development plans guided by disaster risk information.
- Number of multi-stakeholder national risk data application workshops are convened with APDIM’s support.
Intermediate Outcome 2.2

Key organizations at national level possess the knowledge (APDIM develops guidance), skills (APDIM delivers training) and international networks (APDIM organizes meetings/connecting national institutions in touch with each other) to ensure disaster risk information and data are fully applied to national development processes.

Key Deliverables

➢ 2.2.1 Customized training workshops and courses on the integration of disaster risk reduction into development planning are developed and organized for development policy and decision-makers in priority countries. (one country each year directly involved, with others invited to observe as appropriate)

➢ 2.2.2 Technical support is provided to at least one country towards the application of risk data and information towards specific developing planning processes at the national level.

➢ 2.2.3 Develop online video tutorials (language subtitles) to bridge supply and demand for risk information management at the policy design level by involving policy planners/practitioners.

Indicators

➢ Application of risk data and information in development planning in 2021 and 2022 by a country as a result of APDIM’s support.

➢ One country is supported with technical consultancy on the integration of risk data and information in national or sub-national development planning.
Theory of Change Pathway

Long-term Outcome 2: Information Capacity and Usage

Long-Term Outcome 2: Information Capacity and Usage
National and regional organizations have capacity to access, understand and use disaster risk information to inform development policies and practice.

Deliverables
2.2.1 Guidance
2.2.2 Training
2.2.3 Facilitate networking

Deliverables 2.1.1
Collaboration between DRR experts and planners in defining risk-informed development

Deliverable 2.1.2
Localised/customized training of trainer’s tutorials for efficient application of risk data

Intermediary Outcome 2.2
Key organizations at national level possess the knowledge, skills and international networks to ensure disaster risk information and data are fully applied to national development processes

Intermediate Outcome 2.1
Disaster risk information is understood as an important element (or integral part) of development planning and to protect development gains

- There is clarity about the skills required to analyze disaster risk
- National agencies have capacity to provide sustained and relevant disaster risk reduction training across all sectors
- Policy makers understand disaster risk as a key parameter for development and resilience building
- Policy makers have the ‘know-how’ to analyze information
- Readily “usable” data exists (i.e., data applied to socio-economic analysis)

Coordinating mechanisms at national and regional level (see LTO 1 and LTO 3 pathways)
Long-term Outcome 3: Regional Cooperation

There is effective regional cooperation and coordination to compile, access and apply disaster risk information.

Intermediate Outcome 3.1
Increased understanding at regional level of transboundary impact of hazards.

The need to address shared vulnerabilities through the prioritization of multi-hazard early warning systems for transboundary disasters is recognized in a number of ESCAP policy documents, notably the Regional Roadmap for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific and the 2017 Ministerial Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation and Integration in Asia and the Pacific. The APDIM Review highlighted that the Member States and partners recognize the strength of APDIM as a UN ESCAP regional institution and specifically underscored APDIM's distinctive ability to bring together, at the regional level, technical elements such as meteorological and seismic information with the social and economic parameters, i.e., exposure to risk, vulnerability, gender, and social aspects of disaster risk. The Review also noted that Member States attach a strong significance to how APDIM is evolving as a platform addressing cross border disaster issues through regional and south-south cooperation, building information base on cross-border disasters with research, data, evidence, analysis, management strategies; facilitating cross border connectivity to improve the flow of information on transboundary water and river systems, seismic information, meteorological information, air quality issues and further informing and facilitating intergovernmental discussions for regional cooperation on cross border disasters. The Member States also highlighted priority needs for producing ‘impact-based forecasting’ (based on disaster loss and damage information and analysis), both for country-level and cross border disasters. This is an important area of work which APDIM can address in collaboration with other relevant divisions in ESCAP, the World Meteorological Agency as well as other organizations active in this field in support of countries, through bilateral and multilateral programmes, such as the World Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Key Deliverables
- 3.1.1 Risk analysis of transboundary hazards is produced prioritizing the highest impacting hazards at the social and economic level by producing additional hazard analysis in partnership with relevant regional and international institutions.

- 3.1.2 Systemic risk analysis at the transboundary level is introduced through a discussion at the regional level and at least one subregion/area analysis of systemic risk is developed with a view to foster cooperation to tackle reduction and mitigation options in the most at-risk areas.

Indicators
- Transboundary risk analysis produced by APDIM.
Intermediate Outcome 3.2

Trans-boundary cooperation on disaster risk information management is facilitated and supported.

Key Deliverables

➢ 3.2.1 Regional collaboration initiatives, including regional plans of action, are developed on the basis of APDIM produced and/or facilitated hazard analysis, including Sand and Dust Storms.
➢ 3.2.2 Guidelines are issued to facilitate the sharing of data at the regional level for monitoring of risk hazards with a priority focus on transboundary hazards.
➢ Early Warning cooperation and coordination mechanism on sand and dust storms for the South, South-West, and Central Asia.

Indicators

➢ The number of regional collaborations facilitated by APDIM around transboundary hazards.
Theory of Change Pathway:
**Long-term Outcome 3: Regional Cooperation**

**Long Term Outcome 3: Regional Cooperation**
There is effective regional cooperation and coordination to compile, access and apply disaster risk information

- Common regional platform in place where data can be shared/hosted across all disaster risk reduction issues
- Geopolitical complexities in hosting/sharing information regionally are mitigated
- Regional cooperation mechanisms encourage and build trust between countries
- Regional organization has agreed mandate and resources to create mechanism for transboundary information, collection
- APDIM has a strong profile in the region
- Mechanisms/partnerships for cooperating on areas readily agreeable and relevant issues e.g. climate change
- Country-groups organized around common disaster issues e.g. sand and dust storms, waters, floods
- Countries know how to join and benefit from existing cooperation mechanisms
- Regional Plans of Action for priority areas in place
- Capacity/resources for policy and operational to present at regional level
- Countries recognize common interests in cooperating regionally
- Increased understanding at regional level of transboundary impact of hazards
- APDIM produces high visibility products e.g. ASEAN product on drought risk
- Two priority trans-border products?

**Intermediate Outcome 3.2**
Cooperation is fostered at regional level on disaster risk information management

- Deliverable 3.2.1
  Facilitates sand and dust storm regional action plan in 2021 and two trans-boundary action in 2022

- Intermediate Outcome 3.1
  Increased understanding at regional level of transboundary impact of hazards

- Deliverable 3.2.2
  Guidelines to facilitate sharing of data at regional level

- Deliverable 3.1.1
  Two priority trans-border products?

- Deliverable 3.1.2
  Regional discussion in 2021 on two priority issues

- Deliverables
  1.3.1 Regional Risk Data Platform
  1.3.2 Partners

**Intermediate Outcome 1.3**
A regional data platform is developed to demonstrate the efficacy of transborder partnerships in closing gaps in risk and hazard data for disaster risk reduction
Partnerships

APDIM’s approach to partnership and building synergies was enshrined in its founding mandate (ESCAP Resolution 71/11 of 29 May 2015) as the Commission recognized that the main objective of APDIM would be, inter alia, to strengthen regional cooperation on information sharing and management of disaster risk reduction. The APDIM Independent Review further underscored the priority of working in coordination with national and international institutions, including through the Global Partnership on Disaster-related Statistics, the working group on geospatial information and services for disasters of the Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management, the Regional Committee of United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for Asia and the Pacific to help to ensure alignment with internationally agreed development goals and to continue to foster cooperation and synergies among relevant initiatives on statistical development and geospatial information management. Similarly, critical to the achievement of APDIM’s long-term objectives is the close interaction with substantive divisions of ESCAP, more specifically Information and Communication Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction, Statistics, Environment and development, Social development, Macroeconomic policy, and financing for development as well as the ESCAP’s sub-regional offices. Moreover, APDIM – in line with the United Nations Development System Reform – will continue to liaise closely with the Regional Coordination Office in Bangkok and Resident Coordinators in relevant countries.

Special attention will also be placed to interaction with sister organizations in the United Nations system, including through systematic engagement in the working group and coordination mechanisms – such as the United Nations Sand and Dust Storms Coalition, the UNCCD's
working group on the Sand and Dust Storm Toolbox and the World Meteorological Organization Steering Committee of the Warning and Advisory System for Sand and Dust Storms.

Further formal partnerships and informal working arrangements are being built and will be further strengthened with a view to augment APDIM’s capacity and outreach. To this end, APDIM will seek to continue building on the model of work it established for the production of forthcoming risk assessment of the impact of sand and dust storms in the region which is counting on the active contribution to the research methodology and analysis of over ten between government institutions, think tanks, research centres and academia – all engaging their services and time with APDIM on a pro-bono basis.

APDIM will seek to shape its partnerships with two key focus areas: hazard-specific on the one hand and information technology innovation and coordination on the other. APDIM already built a significant web of partners in its effort on sand and dust storms and will seek to build similar partnership networks around key hazards of focus for the region such as earthquakes and floods. With regard to information technology, APDIM will especially focus on building synergies with partners that could enhance the quality and range of products and services it can offer to its stakeholders.

**Assumptions**

In order for APDIM to achieve its ten-year vision and medium-term outcomes, a number of assumptions related to its effective administrative and institutional functioning must be met.

**Income**
APDIM will receive on a yearly basis the agreed contribution of USD2.5million from the Islamic Republic of Iran and will complement its income with additional voluntary contributions from other donor governments reaching by 2025 a minimum of 30% of its total resources.

In addition, APDIM will continue to receive significant pro-bono collaboration from think-tanks and research institutions, collaboration, and advice quantifiable in the range of USD 100,000 annually.

**Human Resources**
APDIM will not experience significant gaps in its organigramme and staffing requirements over the years and will be able to promptly fill any additional positions created in line with the organigramme approved by the Governing Council.

**Institutional Collaboration**
ESCAP’s relevant divisions, in particular Information and Communication Technology and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, Environment and Development Division, Statistics Division, Strategy and Programme Management Division, Division of Administration as well as sister Regional Institutions, such as the Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development and Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific will continue to collaborate proactively with APDIM towards seamless synergetic action at regional and international level.

**Public Information**
APDIM will be effective in strengthening its image as a strong credible actor at the regional and international level by contributing think pieces and blogs in specialized and technical fora as well as by participating in broader sustainable development discussions and ensuring the knowledge and products it develops are well known in the region.
This Programme of work for the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management (APDIM) sets out the specific activities that APDIM will carry out towards the achievement of the Long-Term Outcomes and Deliverables outlined in the APDIM Multi-year Strategic Programme of Work.

**SDGs Targets Related to Disaster Risk Reduction**

1. **No Poverty**  
   - Target 1.5

2. **Zero Hunger**  
   - Target 2.4

3. **Good Health and Well-Being**  
   - Target 3.13

4. **Quality Education**  
   - Targets 4.7 and 4.8

5. **Clean Water and Sanitation**  
   - Target 6.6

6. **Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**  
   - Targets 9.1 and 9.4

7. **Sustainable Cities and Communities**  
   - Targets 11.1, 11.3, 11.4, and 11.5

8. **Climate Action**  

9. **Life Below Water**  
   - Target 14.2

10. **Life on Land**  
    - Targets 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, and 15.9
Long Term Outcome 1: Risk Information

Deliverable 1.1.1
Countries in the region are engaged to demonstrate how development planners can use and apply data/analysis in disaster risk reduction integrated planning.

Planned Activities 2021-2022
- APDIM will produce a report of best cases or a report which will be documenting a specific country’s experience in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in national development plans.
- APDIM will facilitate national-level workshops in three countries.
- APDIM will develop guidelines for applying risk information in development plans.

Deliverable 1.1.2
Develop national knowledge products based on data available at global and regional level with interpretation and visualization of disaster information and data to support impact-based risk assessment and planning.

Planned Activities 2021-2022
- APDIM will conduct impact-based risk assessments at country level for hazards such as sand and dust storms and floods which will be delivered as a report/workshop or survey.
- APDIM will conduct impact-based forecast for sand and dust storms through the Sand and Dust Storms Warning Advisory and Assessment System (SDS-WAS) and floods.

Deliverable 1.1.3
UN Country Teams supported in mainstreaming disaster risk information management into country assessments, strategic frameworks and UN operations and plans.

Planned Activities 2021-2022
- APDIM will provide its three key services including information and knowledge management, capacity development and facilitation of regional cooperation to national, sectoral, provincial development planners and policy and finance ministries through maintaining close connection with country teams as well as global and regional cooperation mechanisms/projects including UN Coalition for Sand and Dust Storms, Typhoon Committee, ESCAP Drought Mechanism, ECO, ASEAN, etc.

Intermediate Outcome 1.1
Development and sectoral policy makers are equipped to apply and use risk information in sustainable development processes.
Deliverable 1.1.4
Convene risk information forums and events (virtually or in-person) with national, sectoral, and provincial development planners and policy and finance ministries to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise in the region.

Planned Activities 2021-2022
➢ APDIM will organize a virtual regional expert forum on risk information and in later stages establish a permanent virtual forum on its Portal. APDIM will also organize a high-level regional expert meeting on risk information to engage development planners and policymakers.

Intermediate Outcome 1.2
The use of disaster risk data at the national level is increased through strengthened national risk data governance.

Deliverable 1.2.1
Guidance is produced to facilitate risk data governance and risk data policy design in collaboration with disaster risk statistics framework.

Planned Activities 2021-2022
➢ A guideline will be produced on risk data governance and policy design.

Deliverable 1.2.2
Countries are supported towards developing a nationally owned and maintained risk data platform.

Planned Activities 2021-2022
➢ As part of a result-based process after the guidelines on risk data governance and policy design are produces (under deliverable 1.2.1), APDIM will engage with and support three countries in the region by organizing workshops, providing tailored solutions, and following up on the application.

Intermediate Outcome 1.3
A regional data platform is developed to close gaps at regional level in hazard mapping and risk analysis.

Deliverable 1.3.1
A regional risk data platform is launched as part of APDIM’s portal.

Planned Activities 2021-2022
➢ The online standards and specifications of the regional risk data platform is defined and APDIM Portal will feature the regional data platform which will be available and accessible to all users.
Deliverable 1.3.2
Key partnerships at global, regional, and national level are established to ensure data sharing and feeding to the data platform, to be hosted on APDIM portal, can take place on an on-going basis.

Planned Activities 2021-2022
➢ As an on-going process, APDIM will be continuing its advocacy and outreach efforts to build partnerships which will feed into the APDIM Portal.

Deliverable 1.3.3
Additional risk information services and analysis are provided by APDIM through the regional data platform.

Planned Activities 2021-2022
➢ The regional data platform will be featuring additional information services and analysis.
Long-term Outcome 2: Information Capacity and Application

Intermediate Outcome 2.1

Disaster risk information is understood by policymakers and development planners at national level and regional level as an integral component of development planning across different sectors as necessary to protect development gains.

Deliverable 2.1.1
Development planners are involved with risk reduction experts (such as national /provincial disaster data collection agencies, meteorological agency, flood/drought, climate hazard projections; geological data collection agencies; but also, the national statistics experts with socio-economic data) in the definition of key data and risk information necessary for (risk-informed development) application in development planning.

Planned Activities 2021-2022
➢ APDIM will conduct needs assessment at regional and country level.

Deliverable 2.1.2
Efficient use and application of risk data by national stakeholders is promoted through in-person, virtual and video tutorials available in local languages.

Planned Activities 2021-2022
➢ APDIM will organize workshops as well as produce videos in local languages.

Deliverable 2.1.3
Training and guidance are provided to countries to report data on the impact of hazards through existing international and national monitoring mechanisms, including the impact of Sand and Dust Storms through the Sendai Monitor Framework applying APDIM-developed specific guidance.

Planned Activities 2021-2022
➢ APDIM in partnership with UNDRR will target three or four country and support them throughout the process of reporting the impact of sand and dust storms.
Intermediate Outcome 2.2

Key organizations at national level possess the knowledge (APDIM develops guidance), skills (APDIM delivers training) and international networks (APDIM organizes meetings/connecting national institutions in touch with each other) to ensure disaster risk information and data are fully applied to national development processes.

Deliverable 2.2.1
Customized training workshops and courses on the integration of disaster risk reduction into development planning are developed and organized for development policy and decision-makers in priority countries. (one country each year directly involved, with others invited to observe as appropriate).

Planned Activities 2021-2022
➢ APDIM will organize two country level workshops.

Deliverable 2.2.2
Technical support is provided to at least one country towards the application of risk data and information towards specific developing planning processes at the national level.

Planned Activities 2021-2022
➢ As per the interest of a Government, technical support will be provided.

Deliverable 2.2.3
Develop online video tutorials (language subtitles) to bridge supply and demand for risk information management at policy design level by involving policy planners/practitioners.

Planned Activities 2021-2022
➢ After conducting the needs assessment (under deliverable 2.1.1), APDIM will develop online videos for its target audiences.
Long Term Outcome 3: Regional Cooperation

Intermediate Outcome 3.1

Increased understanding at regional level of transboundary impact of hazards.

Deliverable 3.1.1
Risk analysis of transboundary hazards is produced prioritizing highest impacting hazards at the social and economic level by producing additional hazard analysis in partnership with relevant regional and international institutions.

Planned Activities 2021-2022
➢ APDIM, in partnership with other relevant regional and international institutes, will conduct regional risk assessment for floods and earthquake.

Deliverable 3.1.2
Systemic risk analysis at transboundary level is introduced through a discussion at the regional level and at least one subregion/area analysis of systemic risk is developed with a view to foster cooperation to tackle reduction and mitigation options in the most at-risk areas.

Planned Activities 2021-2022
➢ APDIM will produce a think through piece on systemic risk analysis with a transboundary approach at regional scale.
➢ APDIM will conduct a systemic risk analysis at subregional level in Asia and the Pacific to inform discussions.

Intermediate Outcome 3.2

Trans-boundary cooperation on disaster risk information management is facilitated and supported.

Deliverable 3.2.1
Regional collaboration initiatives, including regional plans of action, are developed on the basis of APDIM produced and/or facilitated hazard analysis, including a Sand and Dust Storms.

Planned Activities 2021-2022
➢ Further to APDIM’s forth coming regional level risk assessment for sand and dust storms, floods and earthquake (under deliverable 3.1.1), APDIM will facilitate discussions for developing a sub-regional plan of action for combating the negative impacts of sand and dust storms, floods and earthquake.

Deliverable 3.2.2
Guidelines are issued to facilitate the sharing of data at regional level for monitoring of risk hazards with a priority focus on trans-boundary hazards.

Planned Activities 2021-2022
➢ APDIM will develop guidelines on data sharing at a regional level.
Deliverable 3.2.3
Early Warning cooperation and coordination mechanism on sand and dust storms for the South, South-West, and Central Asia.

Planned Activities 2021-2022
➢ APDIM will organize a subregional consultative meeting and host the SDS-WAS node for South-West Asia.

As part of Governance activities, APDIM will:
➢ Organize its Governing Council meetings on a yearly basis.
➢ Participate and organize side events at ESCAP Disaster Risk Reduction Committees.
Email: escap-apdim@un.org
Website: apdim.unescap.org