Seventh Session
UN-GGIM: Americas

Séptima Sesión
UN-GGIM: Americas

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REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF
UNITED NATIONS
ON GLOBAL GEOSPATIAL
INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
FOR THE AMERICAS

Thursday September 10, 2020
@ 8:50 – 9:30 am (UTC-4)

Simone Lloyd, GISP
Jamaica Co-chair support
UN-GGIM Working Group On Geospatial Information And Services For Disasters &
Senior GIS Manager
National Spatial Data Management Branch,
Ministry Of Economic Growth & Job Creation, Jamaica

Outline

- Americas Disaster Vulnerability
- UN-GGIM WG Disasters Background
- Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information & Services for Disasters
- Status of Strategic Framework Implementation within the Americas
- Opportunities Presented by COVID-19
- COVID-19 Geospatial Response within the Americas

Americas' Disaster Vulnerability

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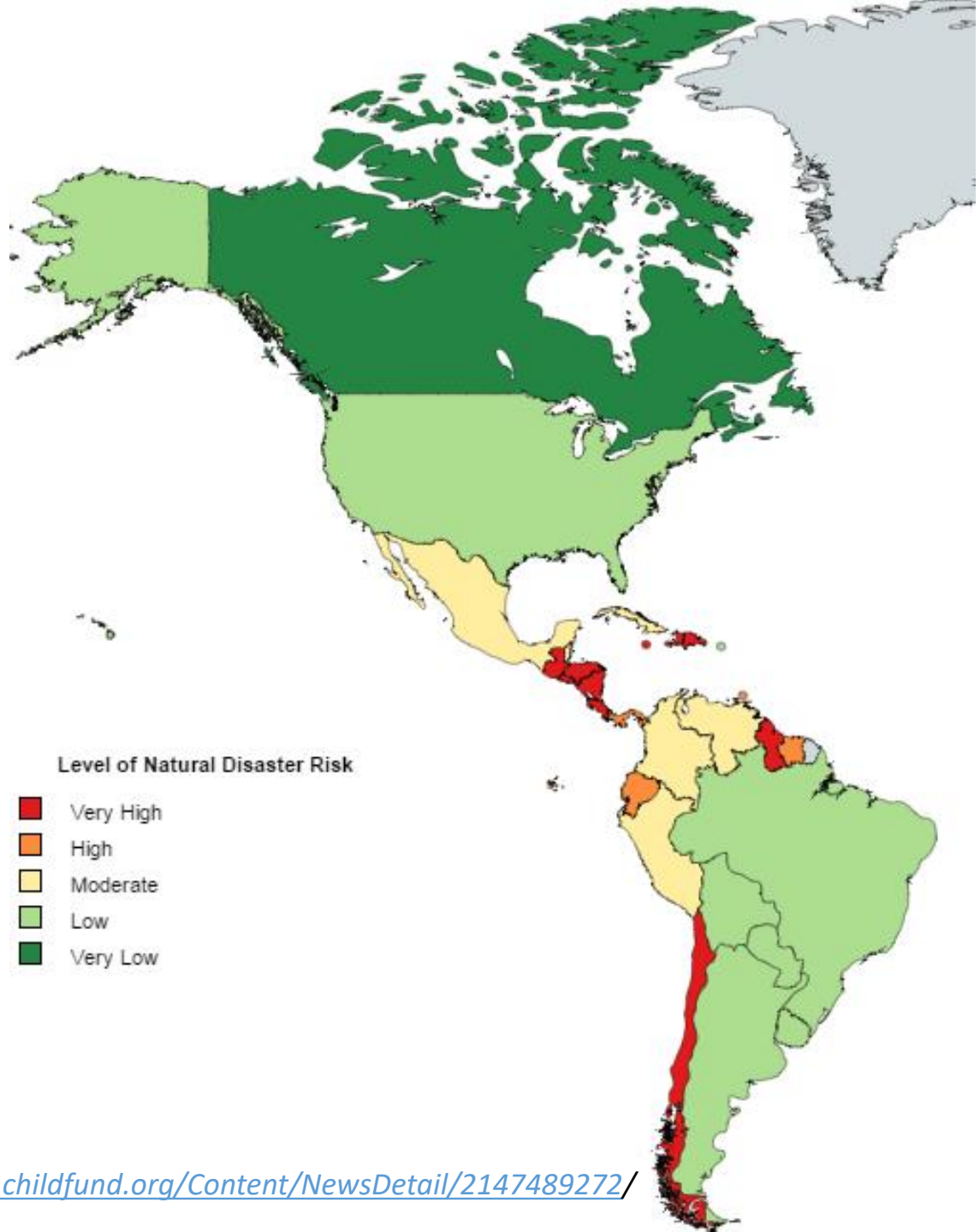

https://www.childfund.org/Content/NewsDetail/2147489272/

Americas:

North, Central, South America & the Caribbean

(multiple risk zone)

Natural Disaster Risks:

- **Hurricanes**
- **Tropical Storms**
- **Tropical Depressions**
- **Troughs**
- **Earthquakes**
- **Volcanoes**
- **Floods etc.**

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UN-GGIM WG Disasters

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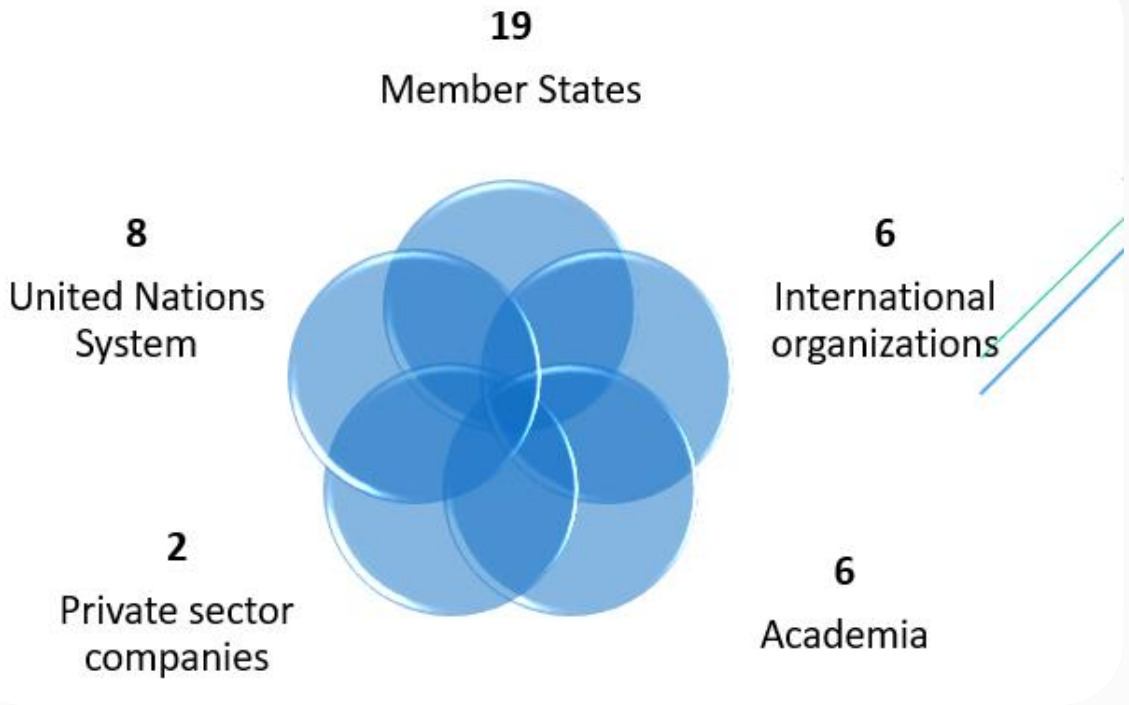
United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) in August 2015, under decision 5/110 supported the proposal to establish a working group to further develop and implement a strategic framework that would be:

- Focused in a practical manner;
- Aligned with the outcome and follow-up to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and its implementation;
- Able to take into consideration the special needs of developing countries, especially with respect to capacity building and knowledge sharing and;
- Broadly representative of different regions of the world and taking into account regional experiences.

Leadership & Membership

- **Co-chairmanship:** Jamaica and Japan
  (August 2019 – Present)

- **Previous Co-Chairmanship:** Jamaica and Philippines
  (2016 – 2019)



Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information & Services for Disasters

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

Access the Strategic Framework here:

http://ggim.un.org/documents/UN-GGIM_Strategic_Framework_Disasters_final.pdf

The Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters was adopted by the UN Economic and Social Council in July 2018 under resolution 2018/14 (available in all 6 languages, see below, Documents then 2018)

Arabic | Chinese | English | French | Russian | Spanish

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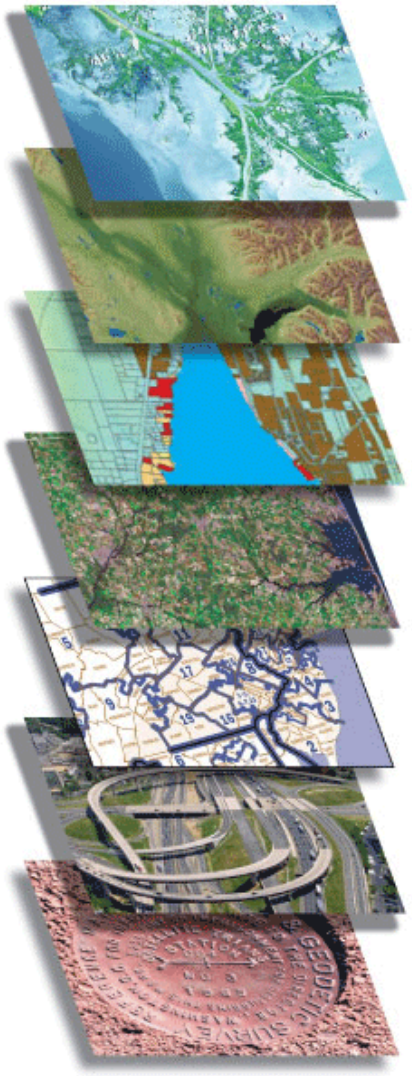
The Framework aims to guide Member States and other stakeholders in making available and accessible all quality geospatial information and services before, during and after disaster events.



Use of:

geospatial information & services

+

relevant statistical information

=

better understand, formulate policies and manage risks and impacts of disasters

Member States

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Five Priorities for Action

Governance and Policies

Awareness Raising and Capacity Building

Data Management

Common Infrastructure and Services

Resource Mobilization

Advance the use of Geographic information to support **Disaster Risk Reduction in the Americas.**

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http://ggim.un.org/meetings/2017-Kunming/documents/Session%207%20-%20UNGGIM%20WG%20on%20Geospatial%20Information%20and%20Services%20for%20Disasters.pdf

Strategic Framework Assessment Tool

UN-GGIM: Americas

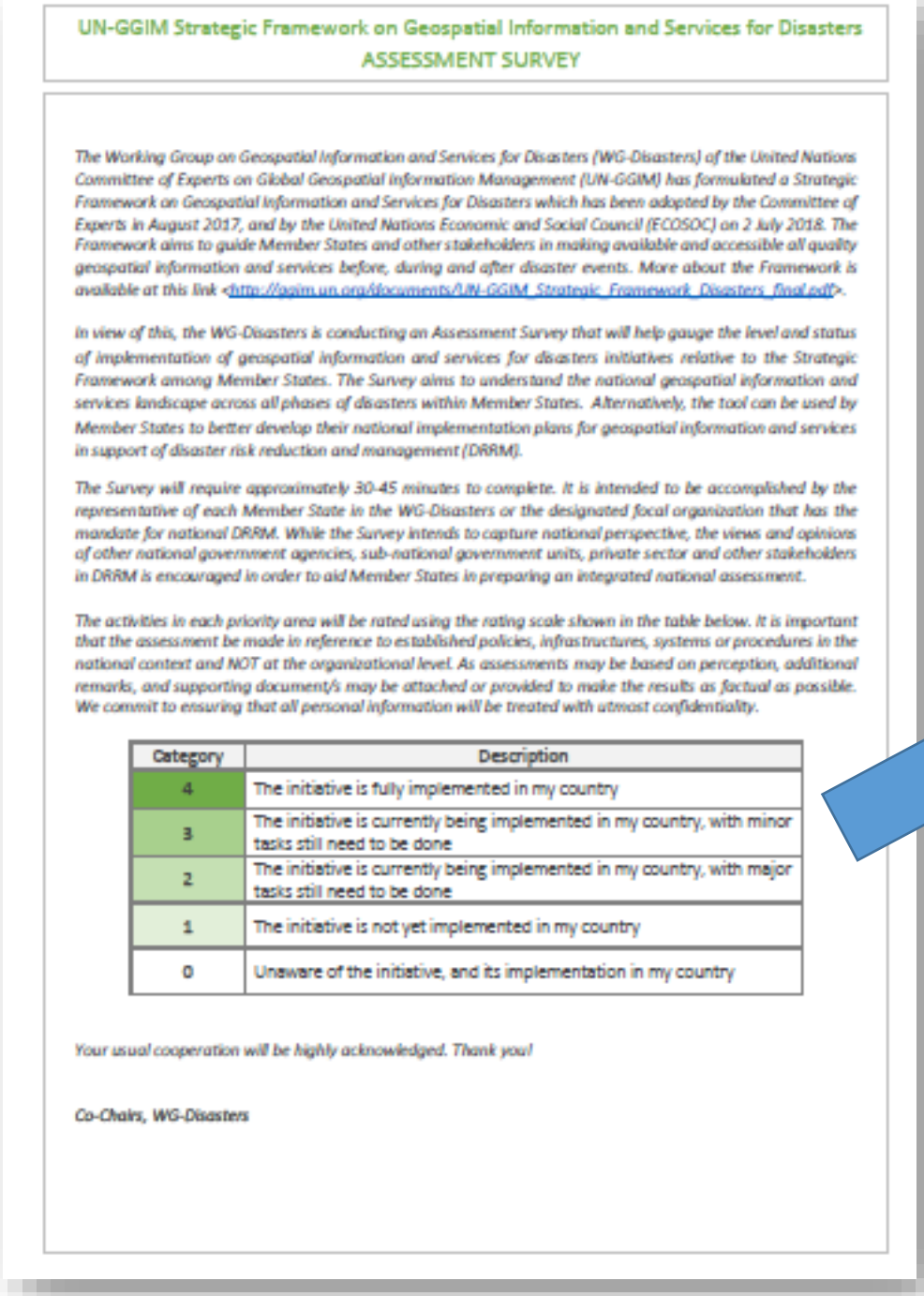
Assessment Survey

UN-GGIM WG-Disasters is conducting an Assessment Survey that:

- will help **gauge the level and status** of implementation of **geospatial information and services for disasters initiatives** relative to the **Strategic Framework** among Member States.

- aims to **understand the national geospatial information and services landscape** across all phases of disasters within Member States.

- can be used by Member States to **better develop their national implementation plans** for geospatial information and services in support of disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM).



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

The Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (WG-Disasters) of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) has formulated a Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters which has been adopted by the Committee of Experts in August 2017, and by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 2 July 2018. The Framework aims to guide Member States and other stakeholders in making available and accessible all quality geospatial information and services before, during and after disaster events. More about the Framework is available at this link <http://ggim.un.org/documents/UN-GGIM_Strategic_Framework_Disasters_final.pdf>.

In view of this, the WG-Disasters is conducting an Assessment Survey that will help gauge the level and status of implementation of geospatial information and services for disasters initiatives relative to the Strategic Framework among Member States. The Survey aims to understand the national geospatial information and services landscape across all phases of disasters within Member States. Alternatively, the tool can be used by Member States to better develop their national implementation plans for geospatial information and services in support of disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM).

The Survey will require approximately 30-45 minutes to complete. It is intended to be accomplished by the representative of each Member State in the WG-Disasters or the designated focal organization that has the mandate for national DRRM. While the Survey intends to capture national perspective, the views and opinions of other national government agencies, sub-national government units, private sector and other stakeholders in DRRM is encouraged in order to aid Member States in preparing an integrated national assessment.

The activities in each priority area will be rated using the rating scale shown in the table below. It is important that the assessment be made in reference to established policies, infrastructures, systems or procedures in the national context and NOT at the organizational level. As assessments may be based on perception, additional remarks, and supporting document/s may be attached or provided to make the results as factual as possible. We commit to ensuring that all personal information will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Category	Description
4	The initiative is fully implemented in my country
3	The initiative is currently being implemented in my country, with minor tasks still need to be done
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0	Unaware of the initiative, and its implementation in my country

Your usual cooperation will be highly acknowledged. Thank you!

Co-Chairs, WG-Disasters

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Complete Strategic Framework Assessment tool:
https://bit.ly/2TxLF0t

Americas Region deadline: August 31, 2020
Global deadline: extended to Oct 2, 2020

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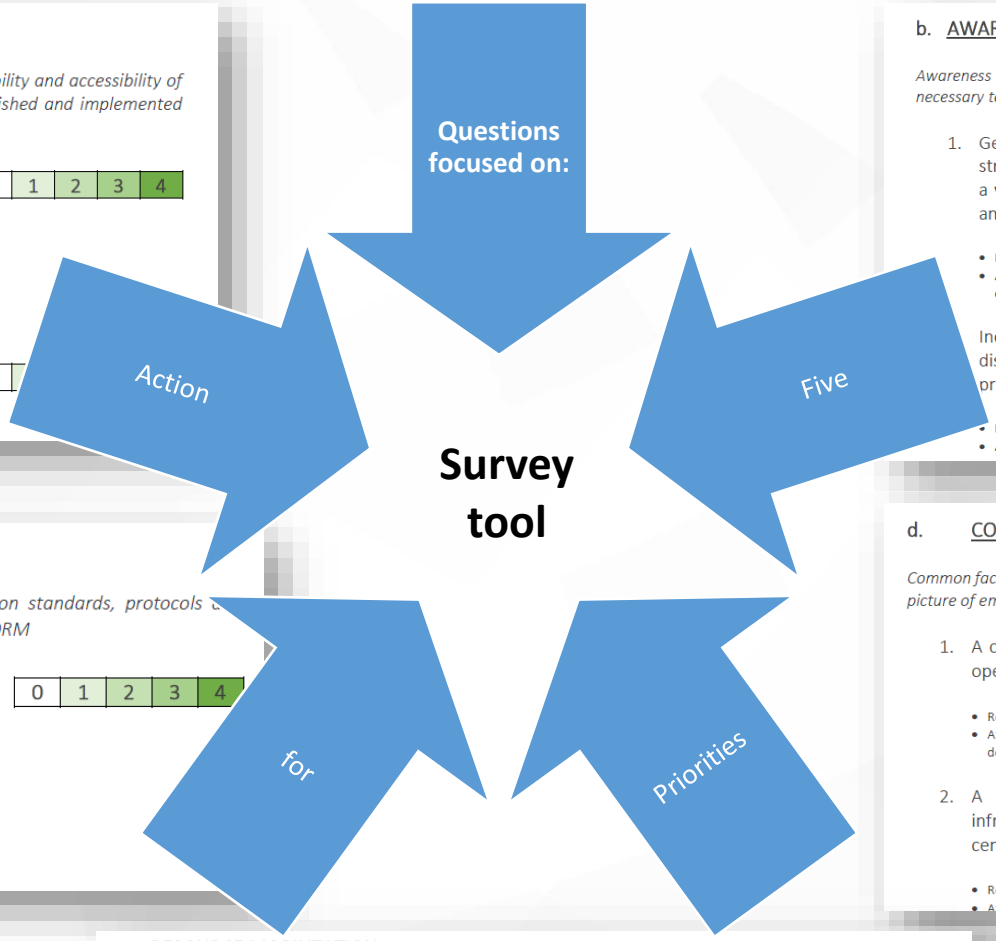

a. GOVERNANCE AND POLICIES

Policies, collaborative agreements and legal frameworks aiming at improving the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services among all stakeholders and partners established and implemented before, during and after disasters

1. Political support in terms of policy and leadership is provided by the government in implementing the **five priorities**[1] **for action contained in the strategic framework** — 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4
   - Remarks: _____
   - Attach pertinent document to support your assessment or provide the title of document _____
2. Financial support is provided by the government in implementing the **five priorities** for action contained in the strategic framework — 0 |

b. AWARENESS RAISING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Awareness is raised among concerned entities on the importance of geospatial information and services and all necessary technical and human capacities are built and/or strengthened

1. Geospatial information and services are translated into strategies and tools that can easily be understood and used by a wider audience (e.g., using local languages, reflecting area and issue-based scenarios, use of social media) — 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4
   - Remarks: _____
   - Attach pertinent document to support your assessment or provide the title of document _____

Inclusion of geospatial information management as applied to disaster risk management (DRM) in academic programs is promoted and advanced — 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4

- Remarks: _____
- Attach pertinent document to support your assessment or provide the title of

c. DATA MANAGEMENT

Geospatial databases and information products are developed based on common standards, protocols a processes as important tools in every decision-making process across all phases of DRM

1. A common and accessible database system of minimum/baseline geospatial information and services requirements, including an initial list of essential elements of information (EEIs) is developed and used — 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4
   - Remarks: _____

d. COMMON INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

Common facilities and services are established for all key stakeholders and partners to have a common operational picture of emergency scenarios

1. A common infrastructure and facility, particularly a national operations center is established — 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4
   - Remarks: _____
   - Attach pertinent document to support your assessment or provide the title of document _____
2. A maintenance program supporting the common infrastructure and facility, particularly a national operations center, is established — 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4
   - Remarks: _____
   - Attach pertinent document to support your assessment or provide the title of

e. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

All necessary technical, human and financial resources are available to sustain all the activities of DRM

1. DRM organizations are sensitized on the necessity of funding the acquisition, maintenance and updating of geospatial information and services for disasters — 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4
   - Remarks: _____
   - Attach pertinent document to support your assessment or provide the title of document _____
2. The academe and other scientific and research institutions are encouraged to prioritize funding for the conduct of researches, development and extension activities in the implementation of the strategic framework — 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4
   - Remarks: _____
   - Attach pertinent document to support your assessment or provide the title of

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Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters ASSESSMENT SURVEY

The Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters (WG-Disasters) of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Global Geospatial Information Management (UN-GGIM) has formulated a Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters which has been adopted by the Committee of Experts in August 2017, and by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on 2 July 2018. The Framework aims to guide Member States and other stakeholders in making available and accessible all quality geospatial information and services before, during and after disaster events. More about the Framework is available at this link <http://ggim.un.org/documents/UN-GGIM_Strategic_Framework_Disasters_final.pdf>.

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The Survey will require approximately 30-45 minutes to complete. It is intended to be accomplished by the representative of each Member State in the WG-Disasters or the designated focal organization that has the mandate for national DRRM. While the Survey intends to capture national perspective, the views and opinions of other national government agencies, sub-national government units, private sector and other stakeholders in DRRM is encouraged in order to aid Member States in preparing an integrated national assessment.

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* Required

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. Full Name *

Enter your answer

RATING SCALE AND PRIORITIES

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1	Unaware of the initiative, and its implementation in my country

The five priorities of the Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters are:
Priority 1: Governance and policies,
Priority 2: Awareness-raising and capacity-building,
Priority 3: Data management,
Priority 4: Common infrastructure and services, and
Priority 5: Resource mobilization.
(para 12 of the Annex of E/2018/L.15).

Strategic Framework on Geospatial Information and Services for Disasters ASSESSMENT SURVEY

a. GOVERNANCE AND POLICIES

Policies, collaborative agreements and legal frameworks aiming at improving the availability and accessibility of quality geospatial information and services among all stakeholders and partners established and implemented before, during and after disasters.

7. Political support in terms of policy and leadership is provided by the government in implementing the five priorities for action contained in the strategic framework (a.1)

Select the category (1, 2, 3, 4, 5) that best corresponds to your assessment.

1 2 3 4 5

Results of Strategic Framework Assessment Tool within the Americas

Strategic Framework - Survey Results

- While the Survey intends to capture national perspective, the views and opinions of other national government agencies, sub-national government units, private sector and other stakeholders in DRRM is encouraged in order to aid Member States in preparing an integrated national assessment.

- **Respondents:**
  - 42/198 UN-GGIM Member States
  - **12/36 UN-GGIM: Americas Member States**
  - **16 respondents within UN-GGIM: Americas**

Priority 1:

Governance and Policies

Good governance and science-based policies are essential

Outlines strategies at the National and Local Levels & Global and Regional Levels

To make available and accessible all quality geospatial information and services across all phases of the DRRM

Specific activities:

- Assessment and Planning
- Institutional Arrangements
- Collaboration and Coordination
- Monitoring and Evaluation

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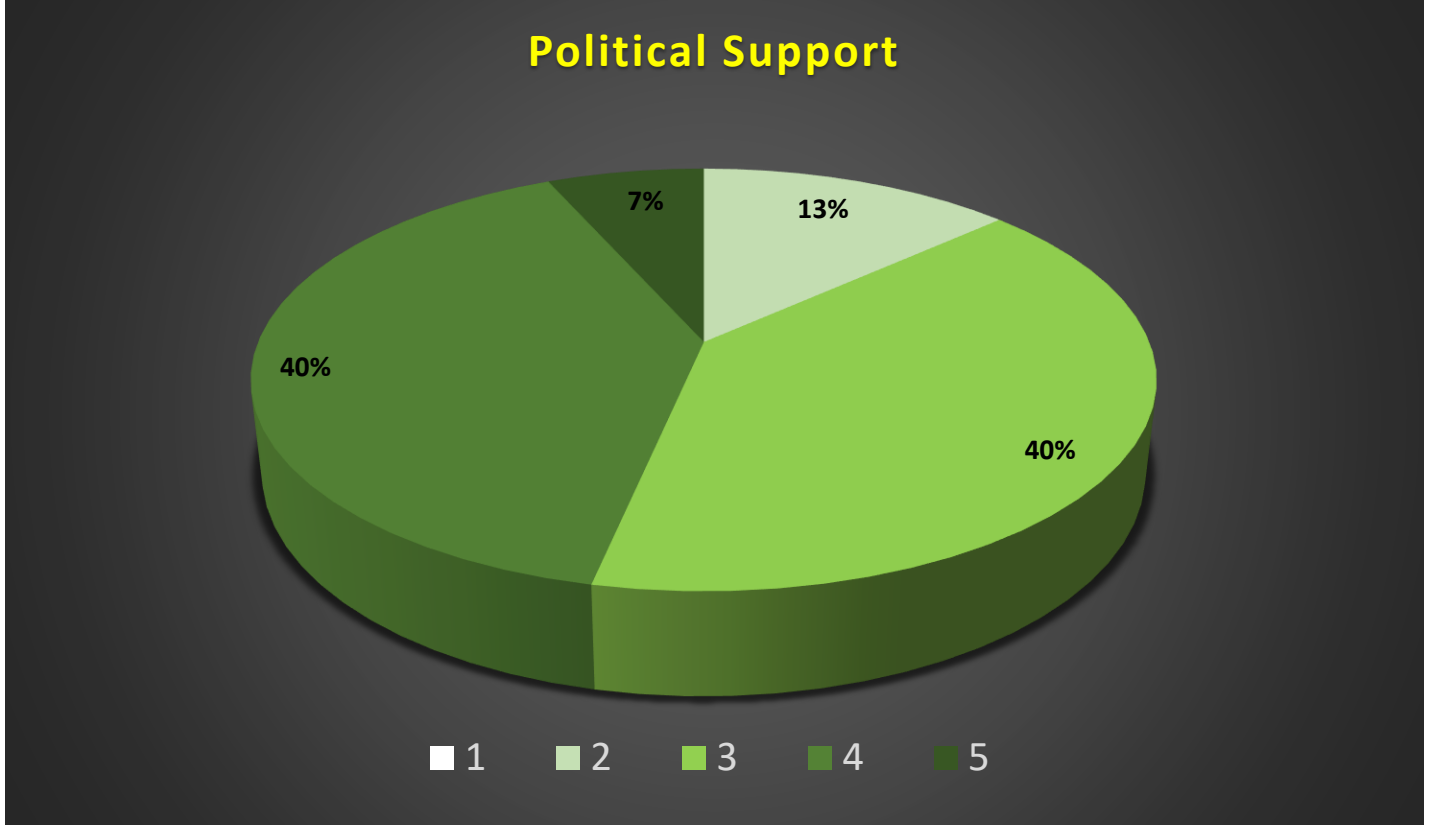
Priority 1:

Governance and Policies



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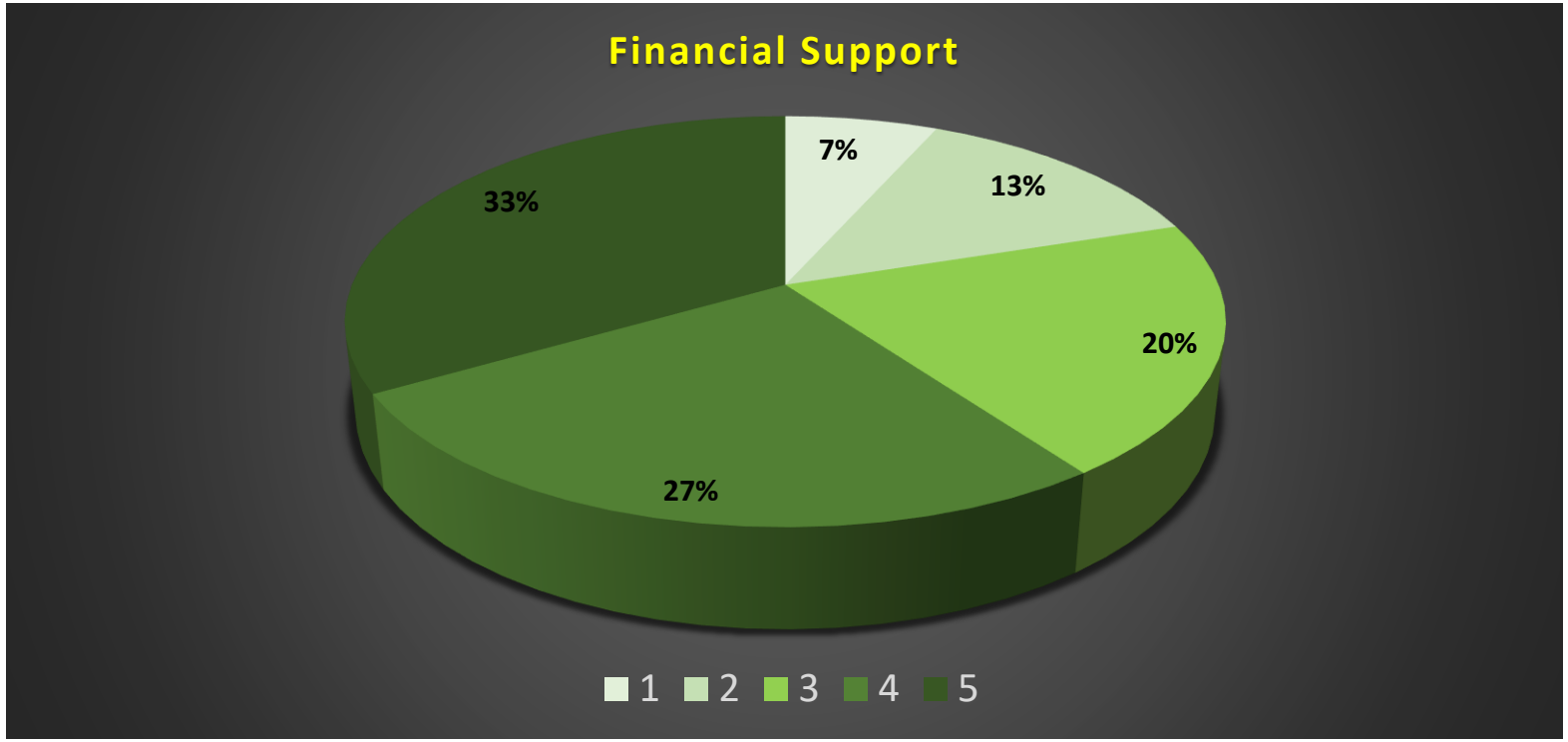
*Political support in terms of **policy and leadership** is provided by the government in **implementing the five priorities** for action contained in the strategic framework*

Priority 1:

Governance and Policies



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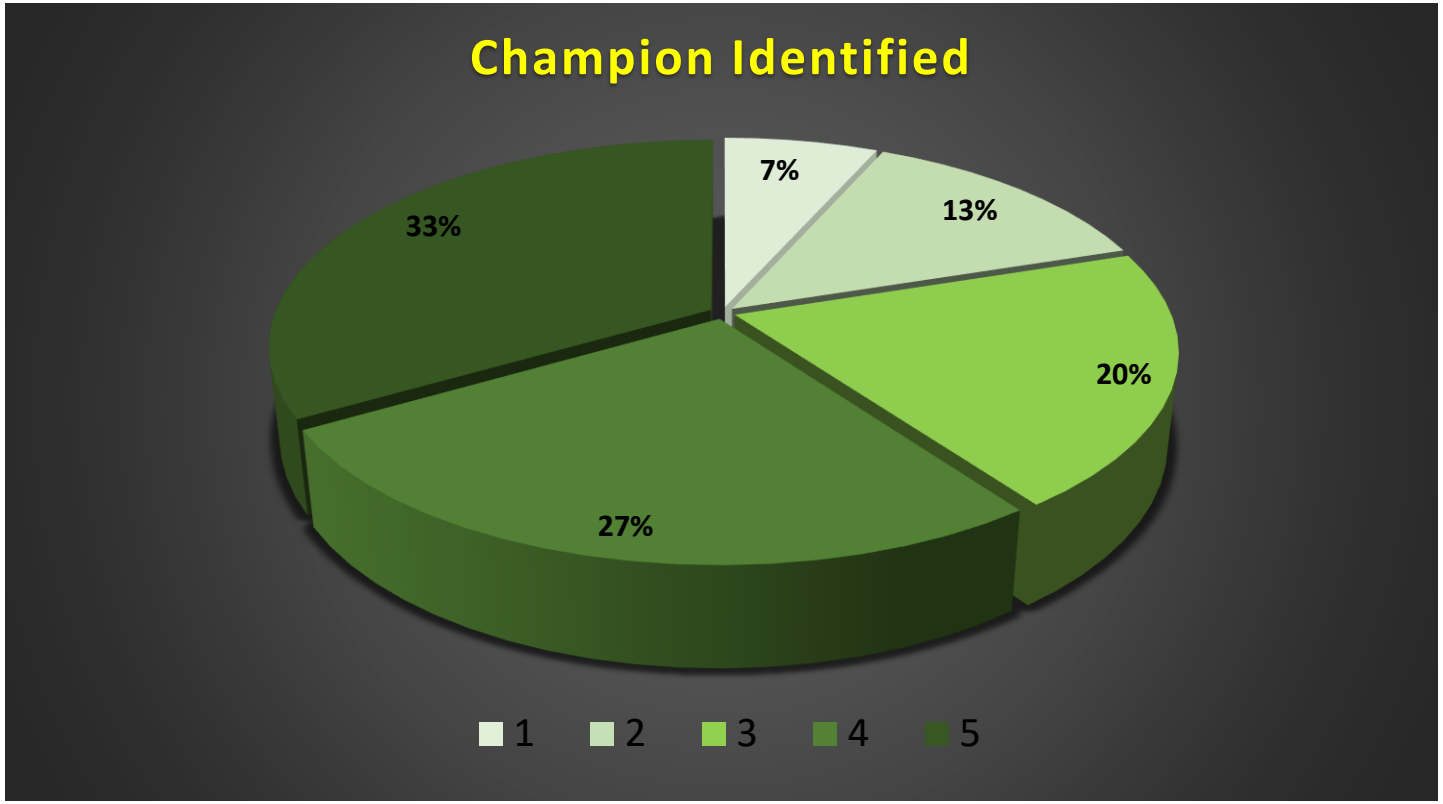
Financial support is provided by the government in implementing the five priorities for action contained in the strategic framework.

Priority 1:

Governance and Policies



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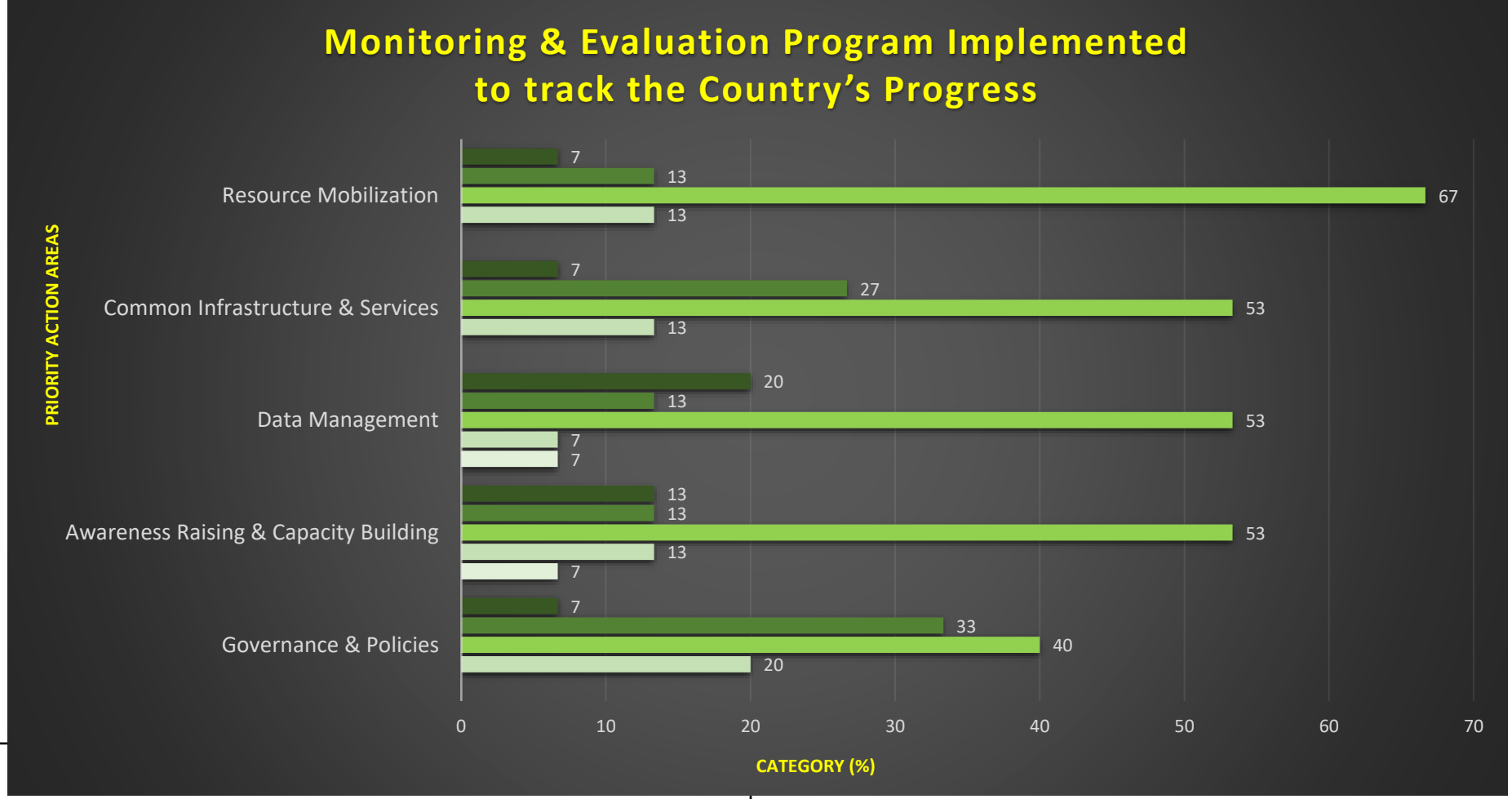
*A champion, i.e**., individual or organization that oversees the implementation** of the five priorities for action and ensures an inclusive participation of all stakeholders and key.*

Priority 1:

Governance and Policies



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Priority 2:

Awareness Raising and Capacity Building

Involves pursuing awareness raising and capacity building initiatives leading to better understanding and appreciation of the relevance of geospatial data and information to DRRM

Awareness of geospatial data and information holdings and gaps

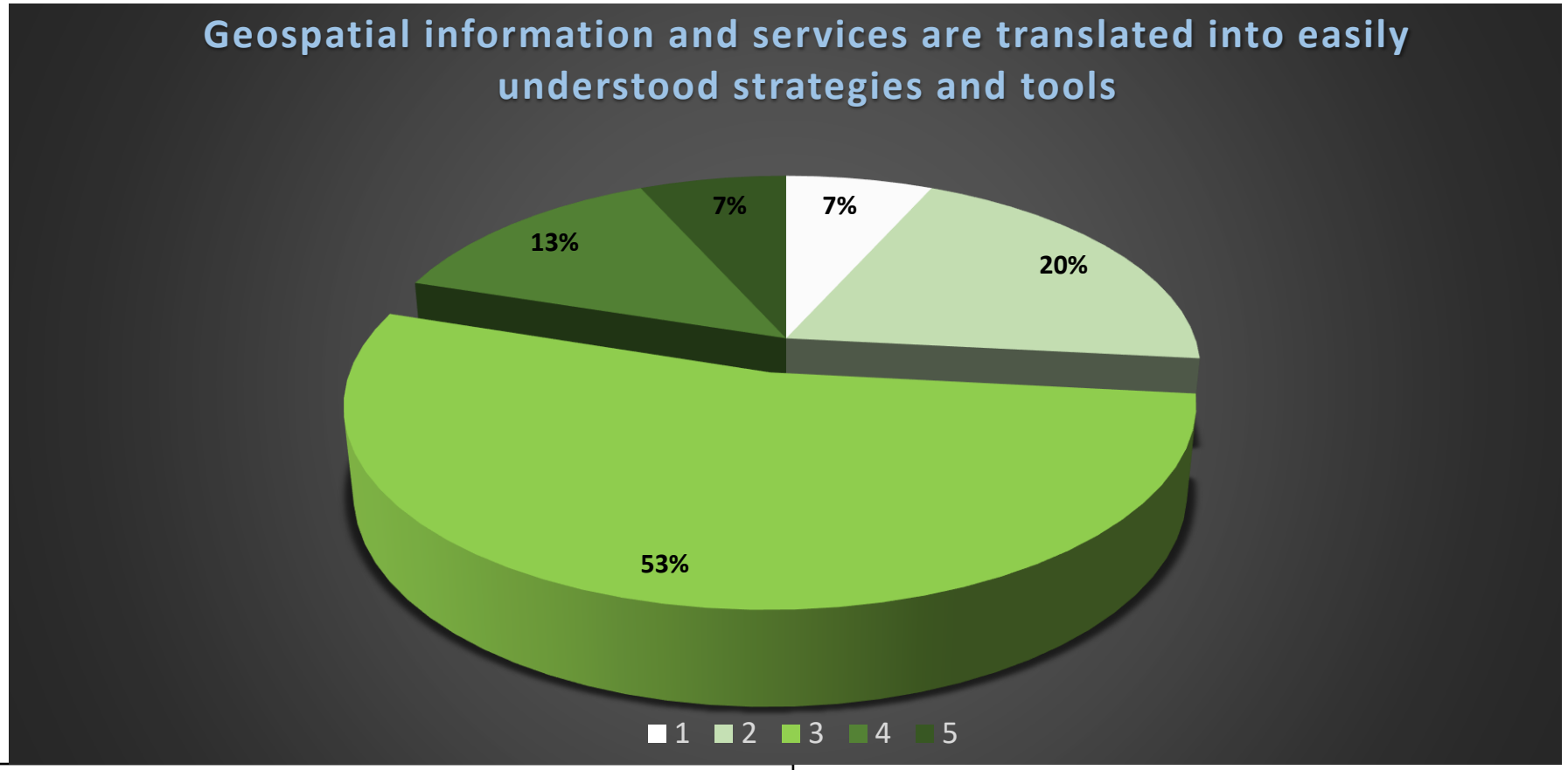
Inclusion of geospatial information management as applied to DRM in academic programs

Geospatial information management training programs

UN-GGIM: Americas

Priority 2:

Awareness Raising and Capacity Building



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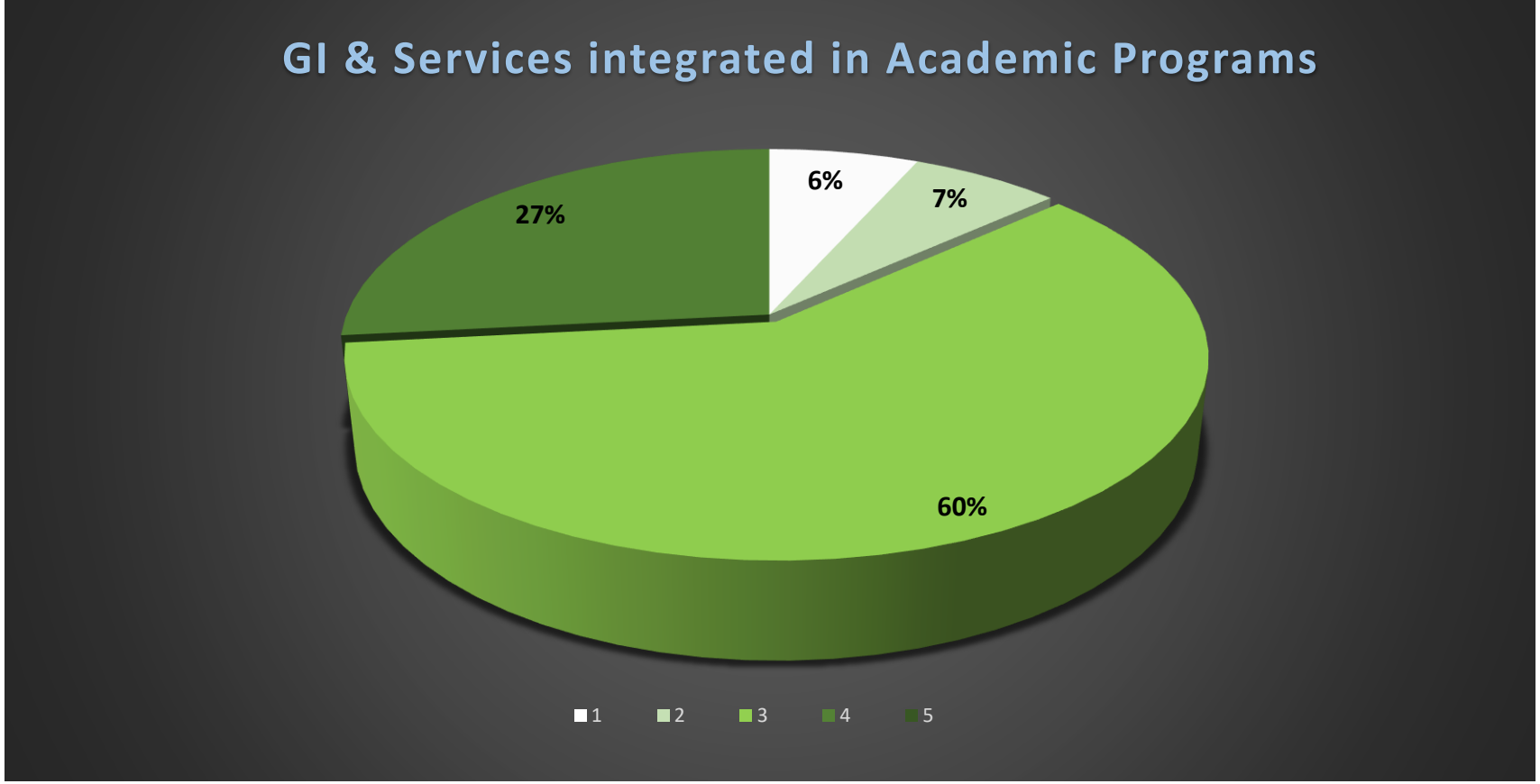

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Inclusion of geospatial information management as applied to disaster risk management (DRM) in academic programs is promoted and advanced

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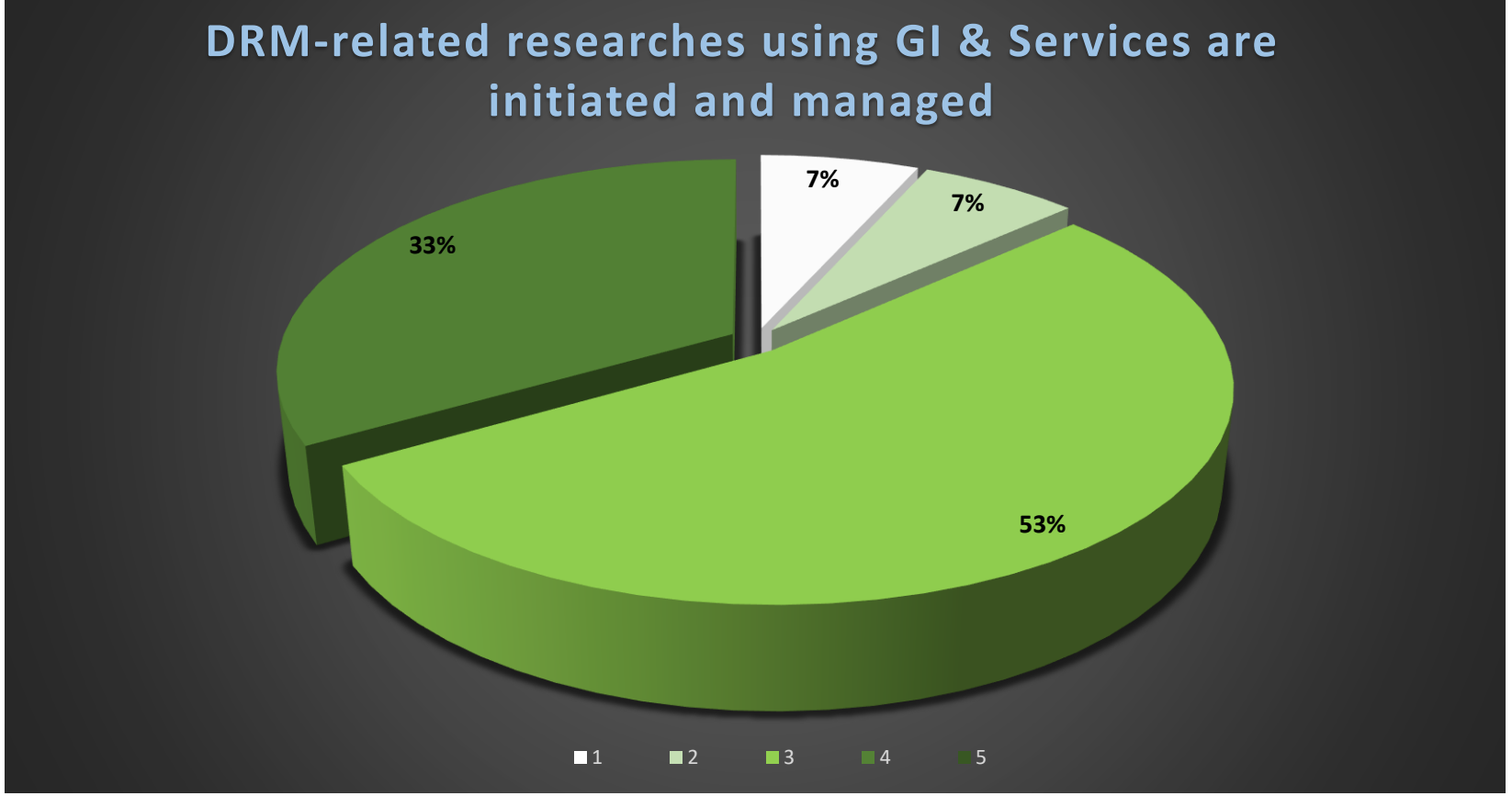
Priority 2:

Awareness Raising and Capacity Building



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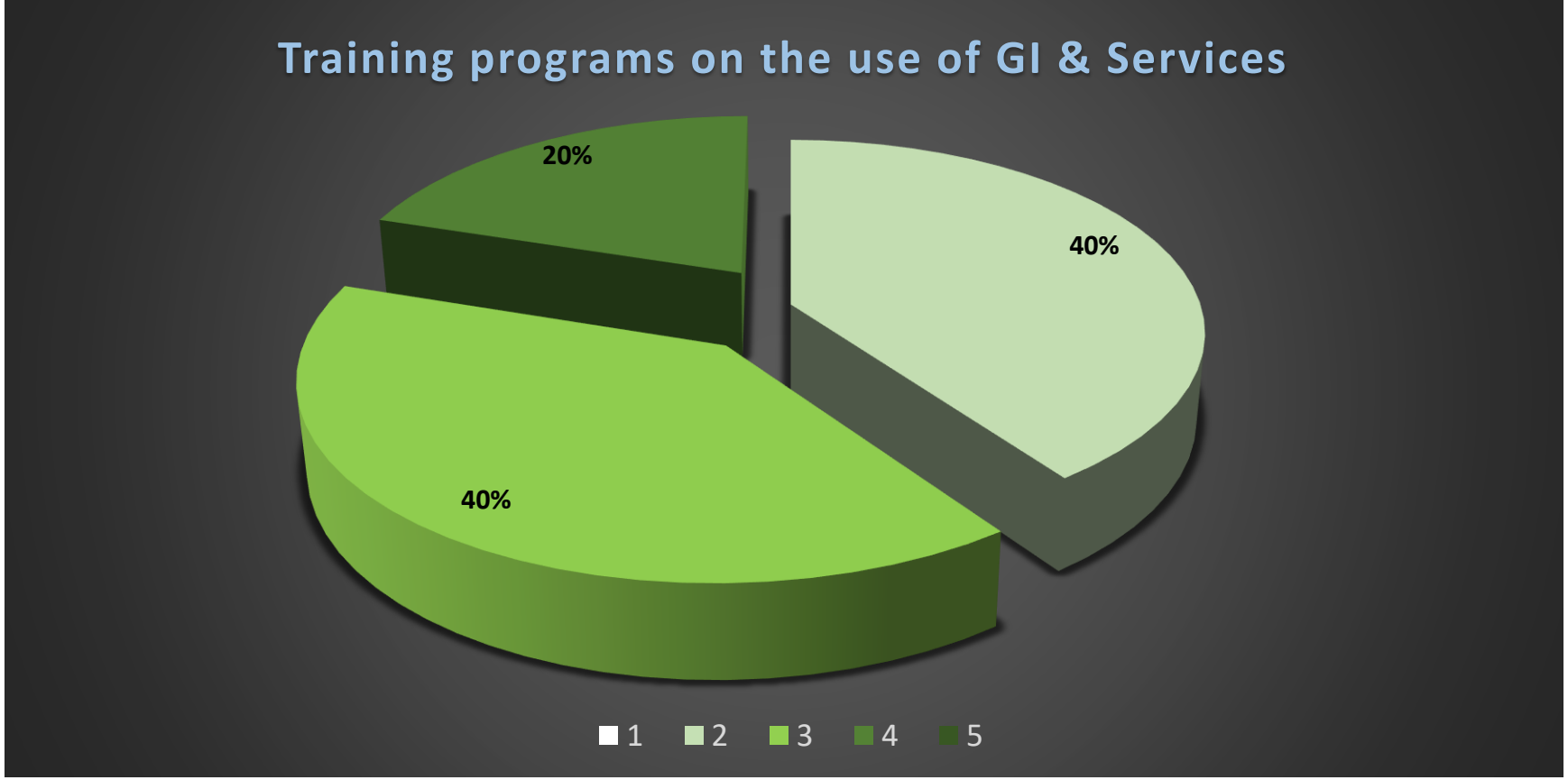

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Priority 3:

Data Management

Comprehensive methods of collecting and managing geospatial data and information:

- o Data Development
- o Data Standards and Protocols
- o Data Use Guidelines

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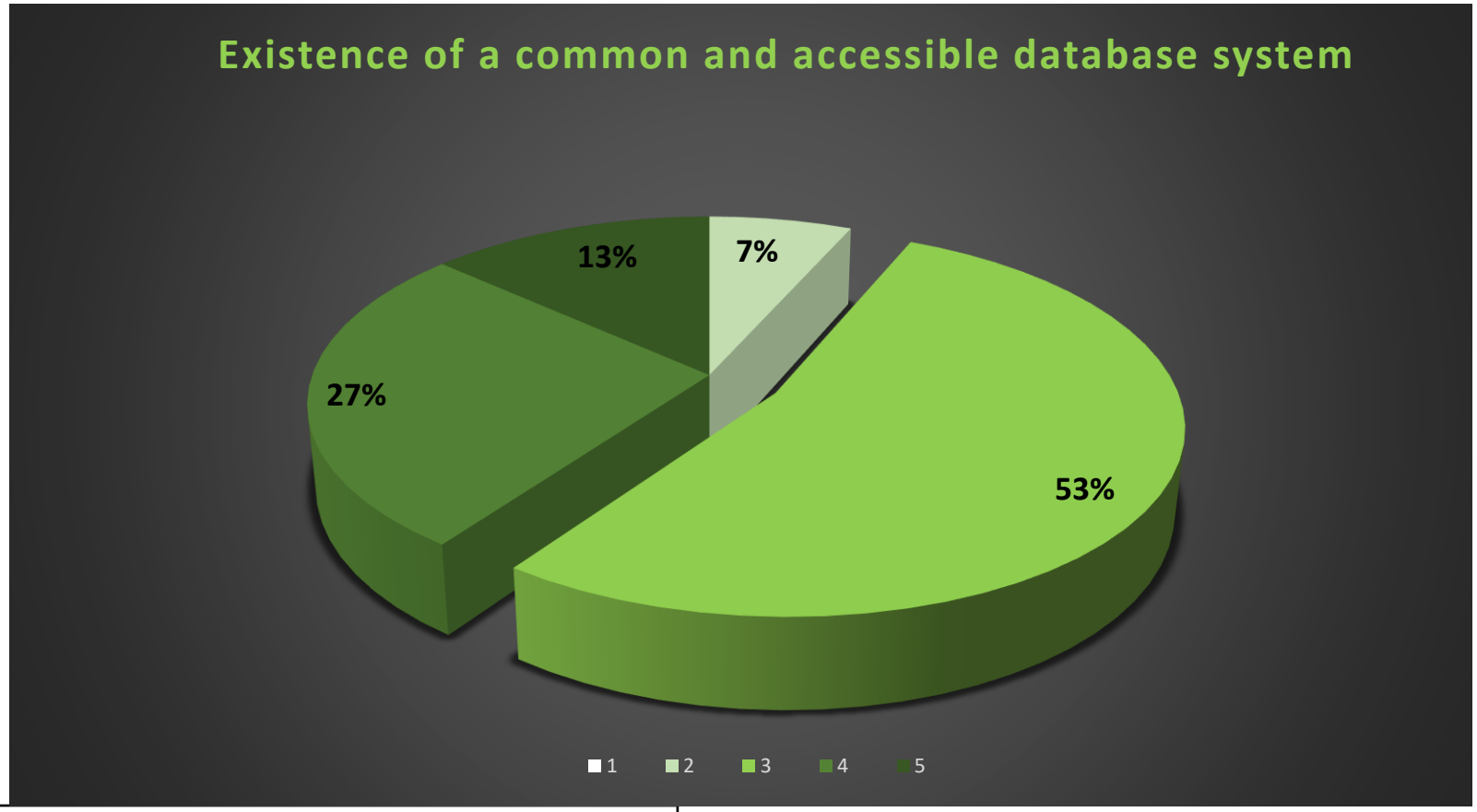
Priority 3:

Data Management



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A common and accessible database system of minimum/baseline geospatial information and services requirements, including an initial list of essential elements of information (EEIs) is developed and...

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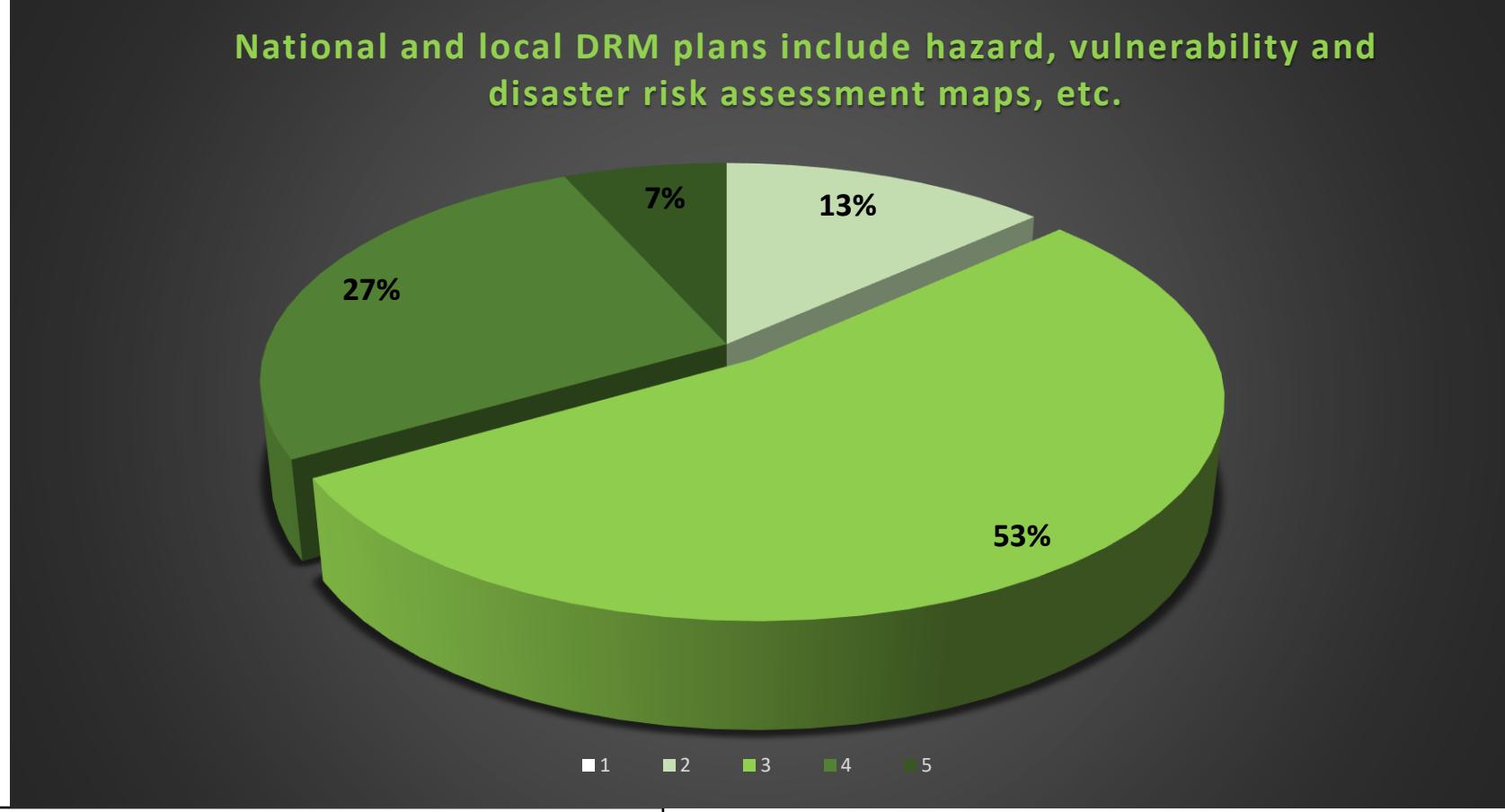
Priority 3:

Data Management



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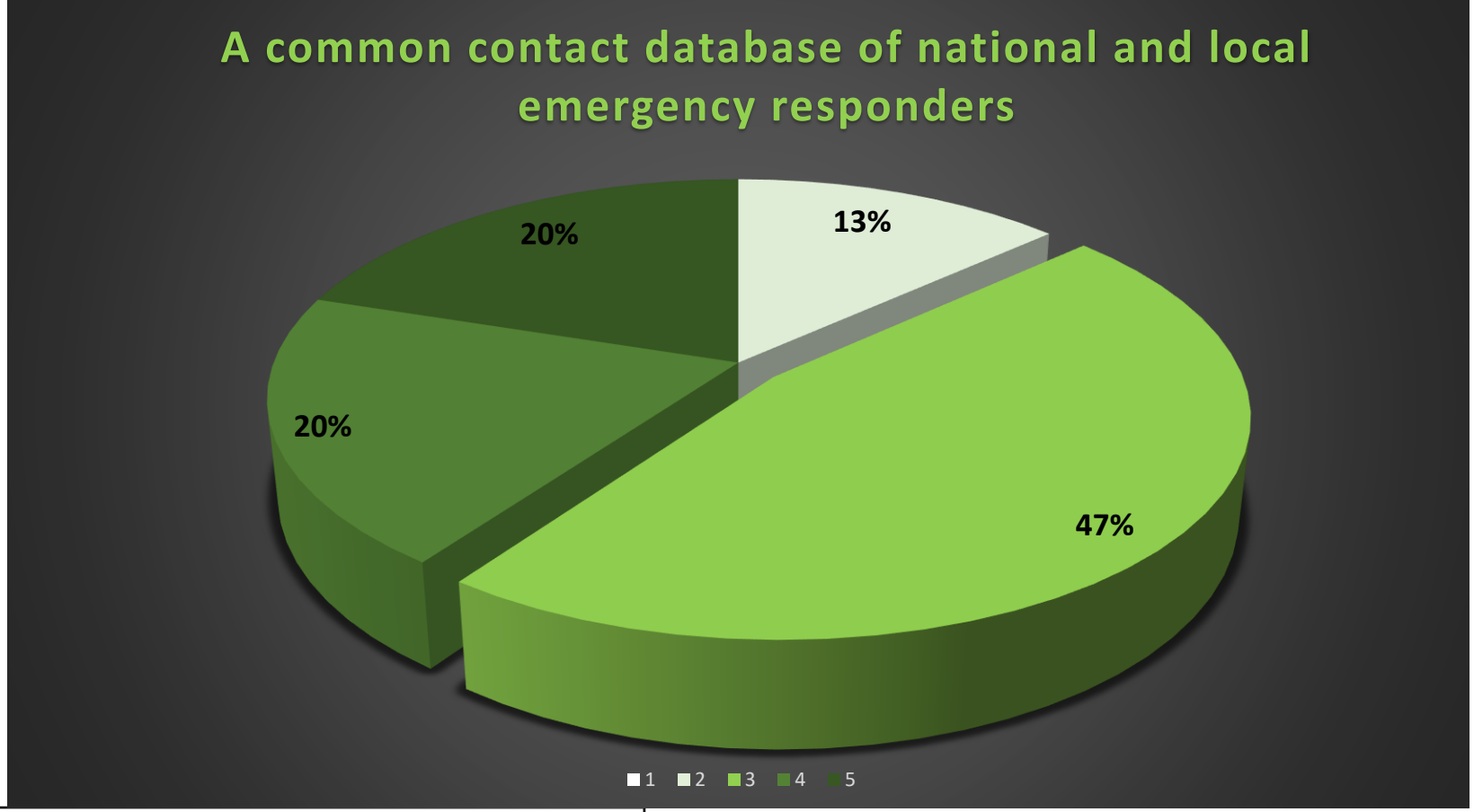
Hazard, vulnerability and disaster risk assessment maps, and other information products as crucial inputs to national and local DRM plans are developed and used

Priority 3:

Data Management



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A common contact database of national and local emergency responders, as well as a registry of all humanitarian response/assistance organizations are established, maintained and updated

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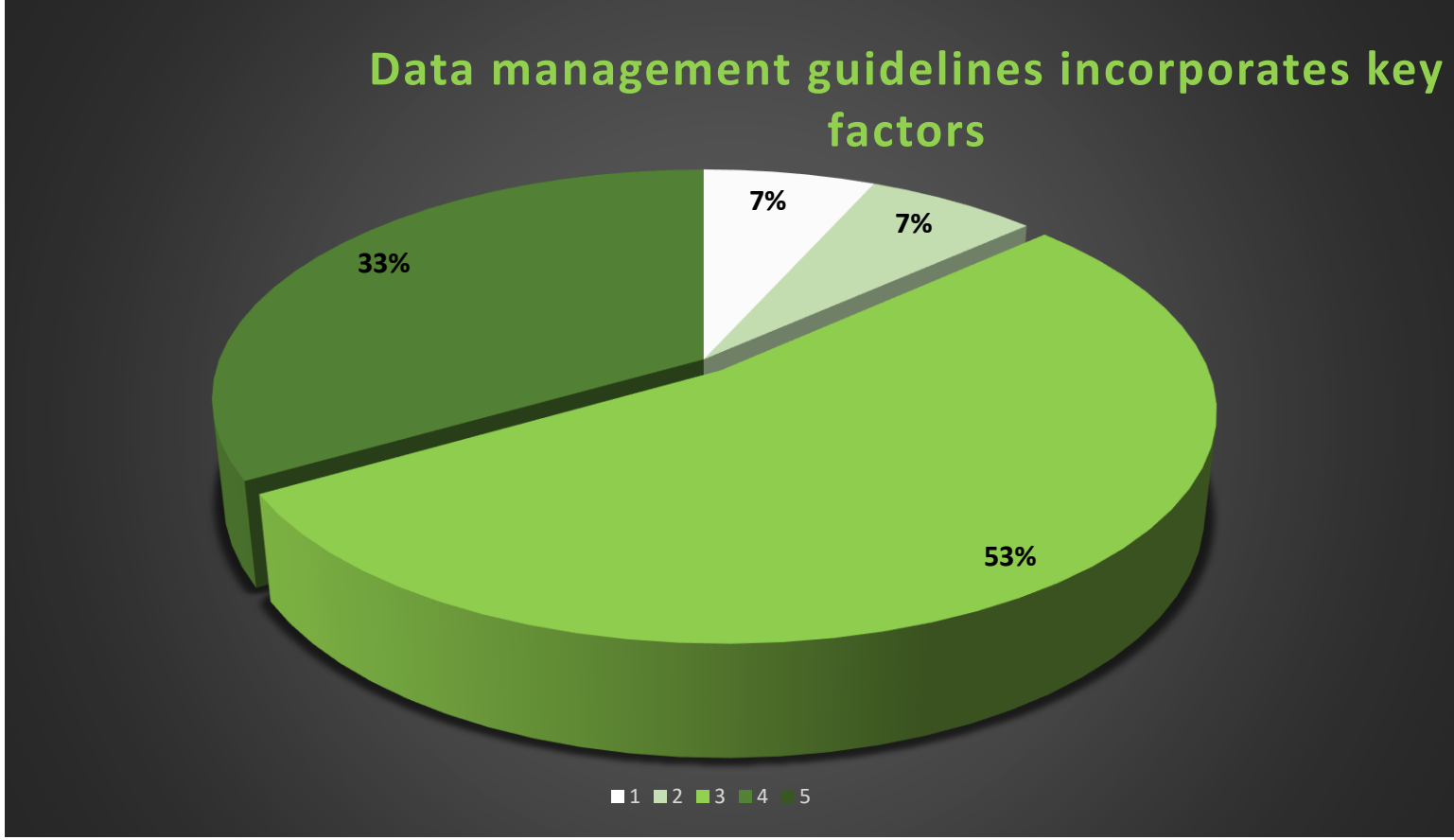
Priority 3:

Data Management



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Data management guidelines including, but not limited to data sharing; data classification; data custodianship; data stewardship; metadata; data security and control; and data backup and recovery ...

Priority 4:

Common Infrastructure and Services

Infrastructure support is essential towards institutionalizing geospatial information and services

Infrastructure such as hardware, software, network and manpower capacities needed to process and further improve geospatial information and services

Possible establishment of a **Common Operations Center** by national governments, focused on the interoperability of systems and processes to allow geospatial data and information sharing among all DRM actors

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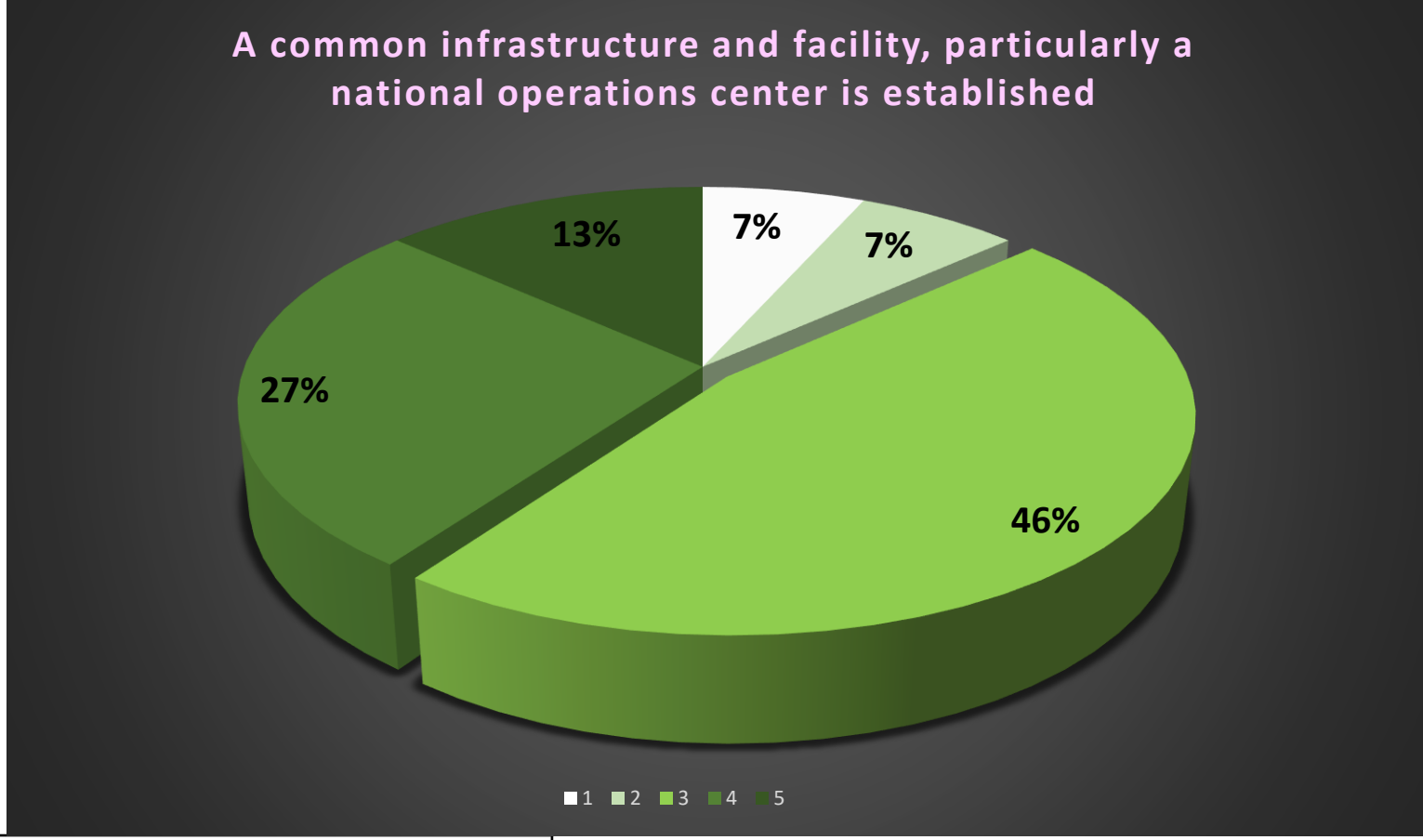
Priority 4:

Common Infrastructure and Services



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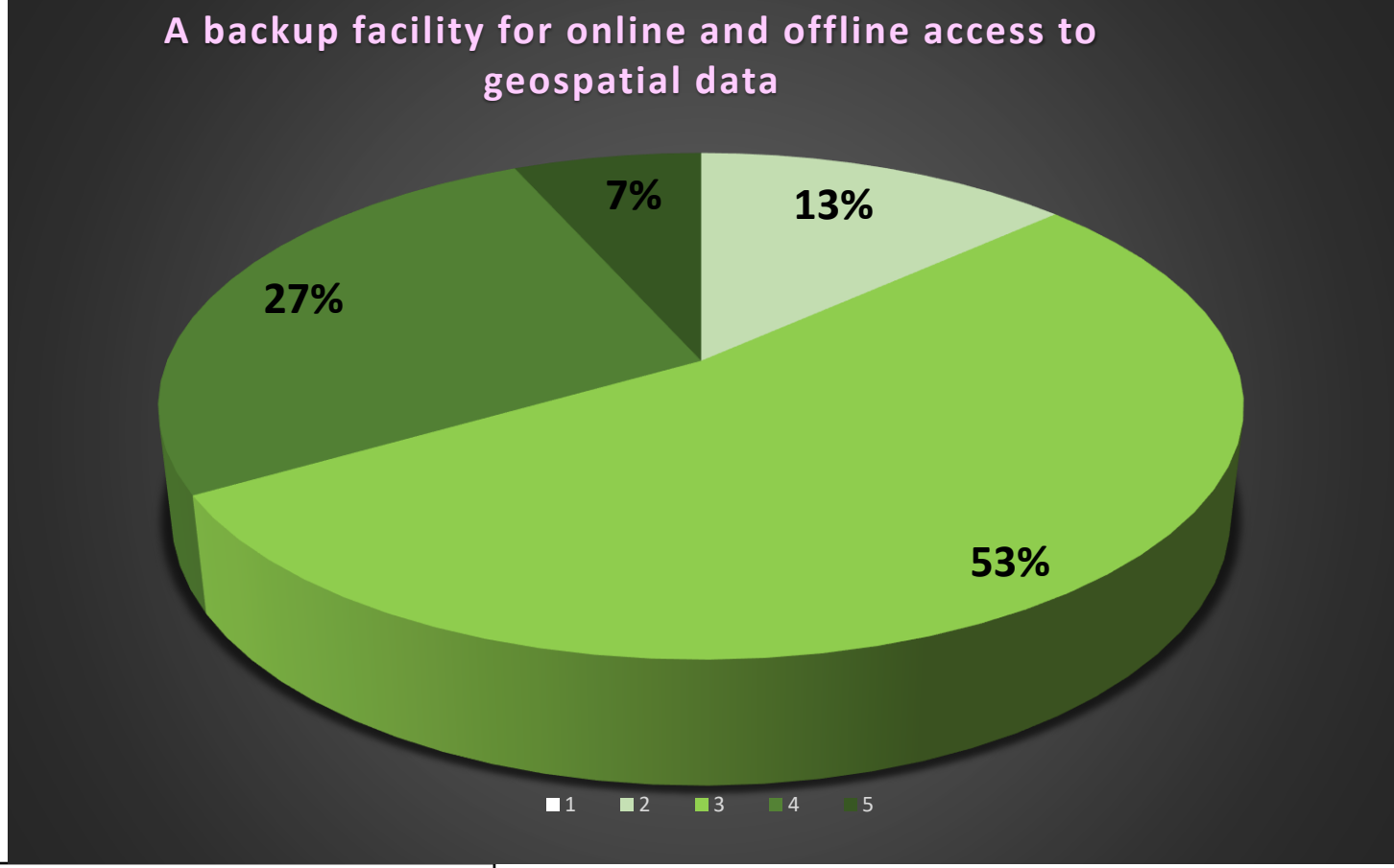
A common infrastructure and facility, particularly a national operations center is established.

Priority 4:

Common Infrastructure and Services



Category	Description
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3	The initiative is currently being implemented in my country, with major tasks still need to be done
2	The initiative is not yet implemented in my country
1	Unaware of the initiative, and its implementation in my country

*A backup facility for online and offline access to geospatial data **to sustain operations during disasters** is established.*

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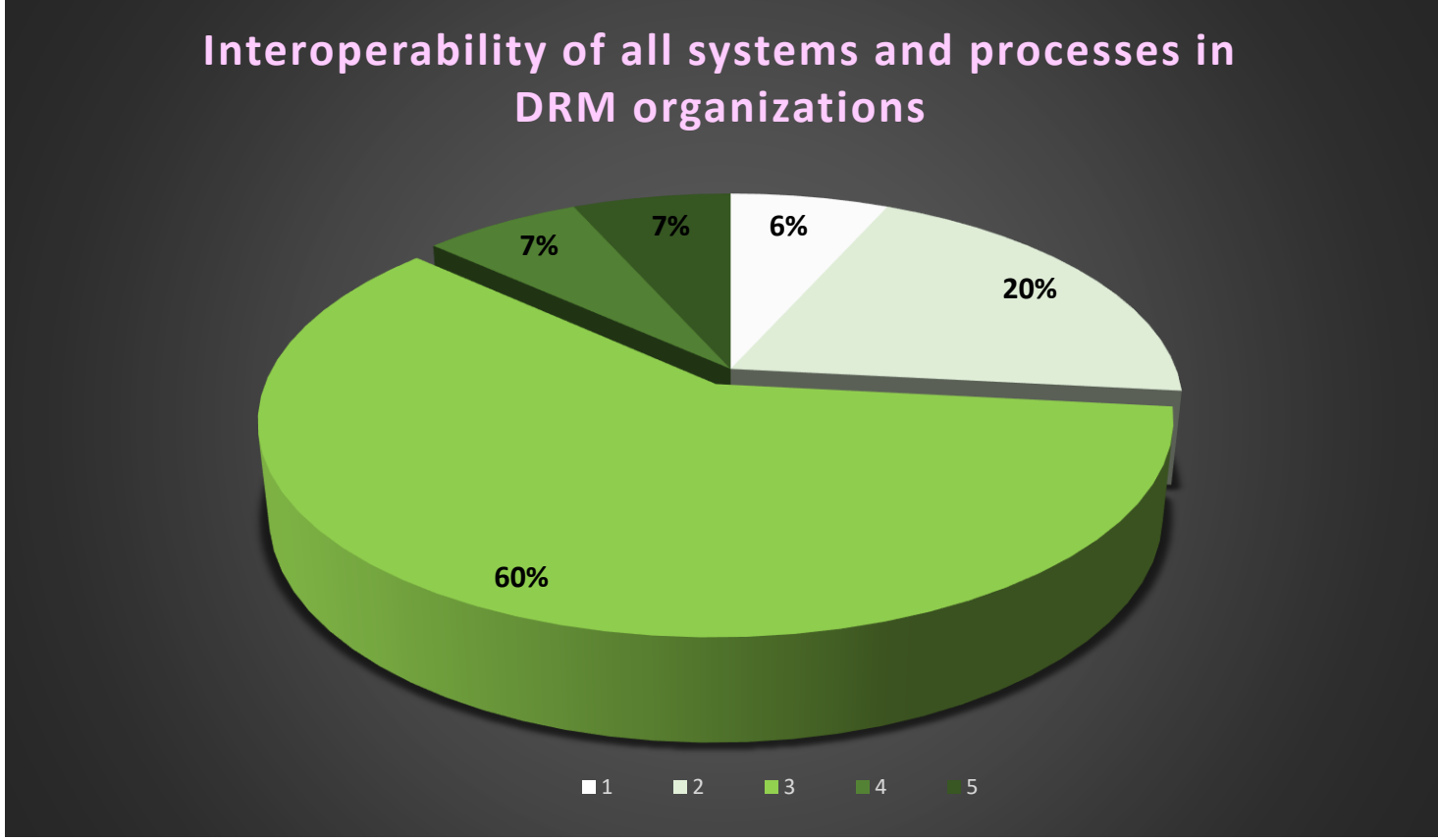
Priority 4:

Common Infrastructure and Services



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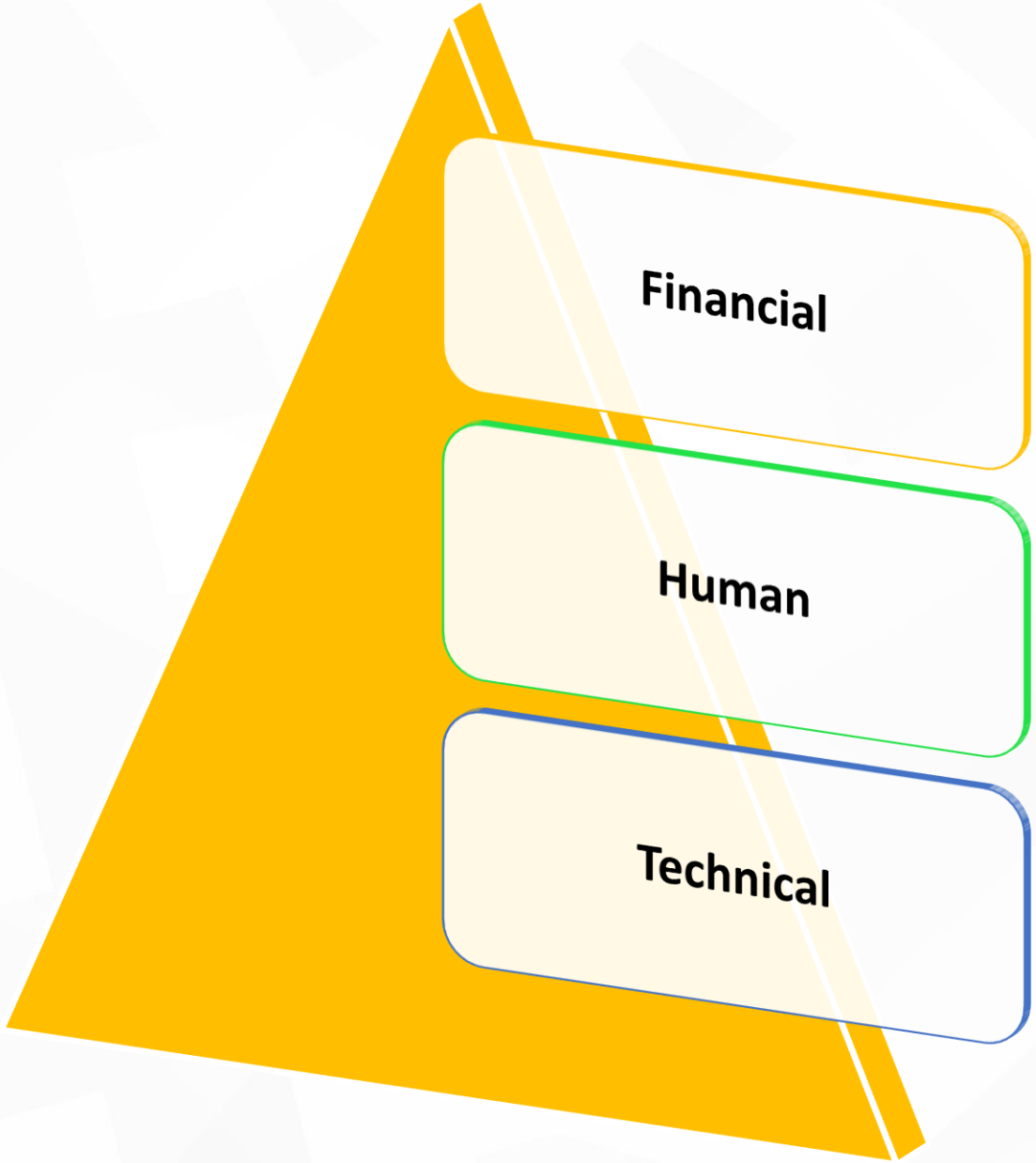
Interoperability of all systems and processes in DRM organizations is ensured.

Priority 5:

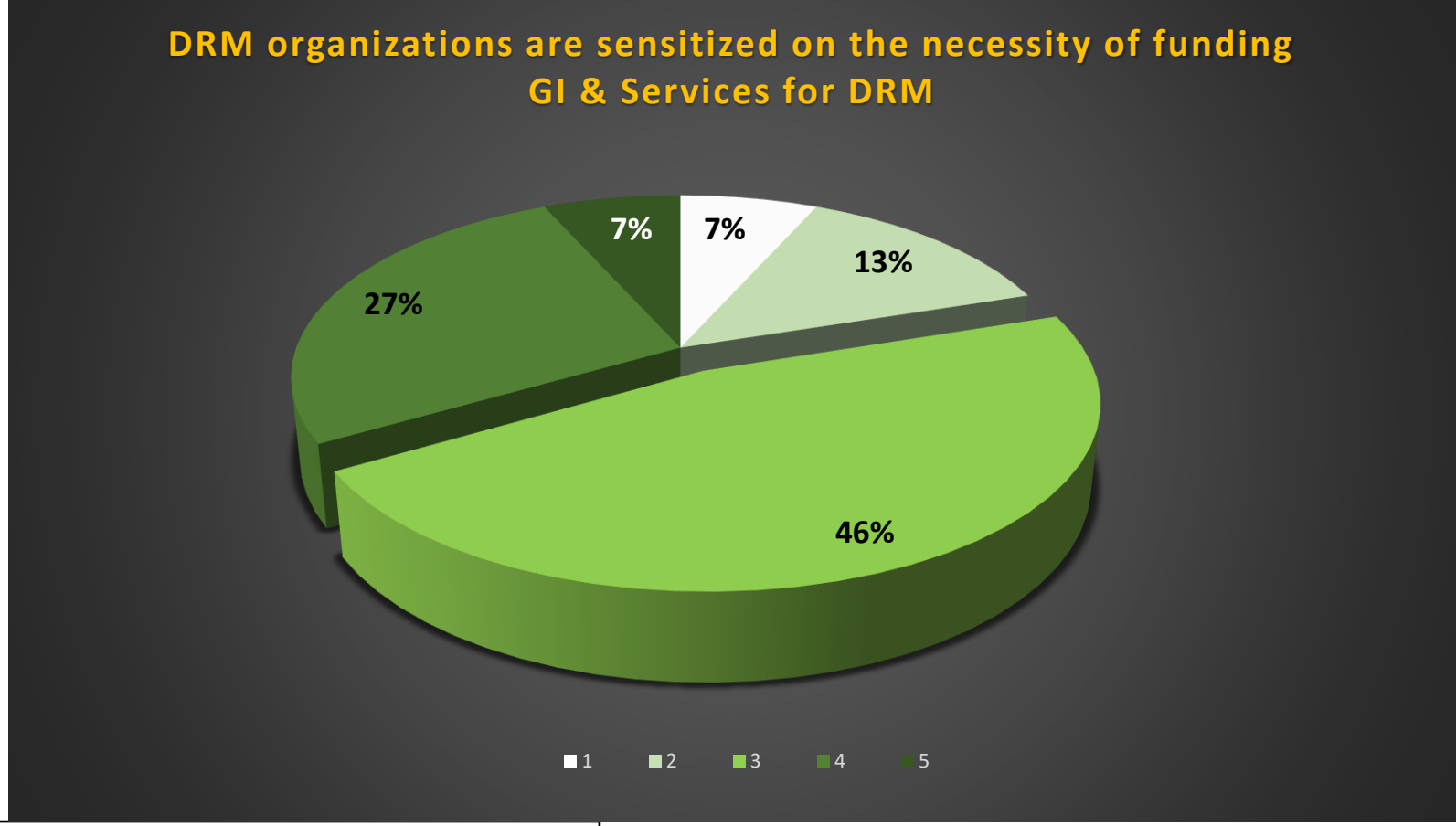
Resource Mobilization



Extensive resources needed for the creation, improvement and maintenance of all geospatial information and services in order to sustain all DRRM activities:

Priority 5:

Resource Mobilization



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DRM organizations are sensitized on the necessity of funding the acquisition, maintenance and updating of geospatial information and services for disasters.

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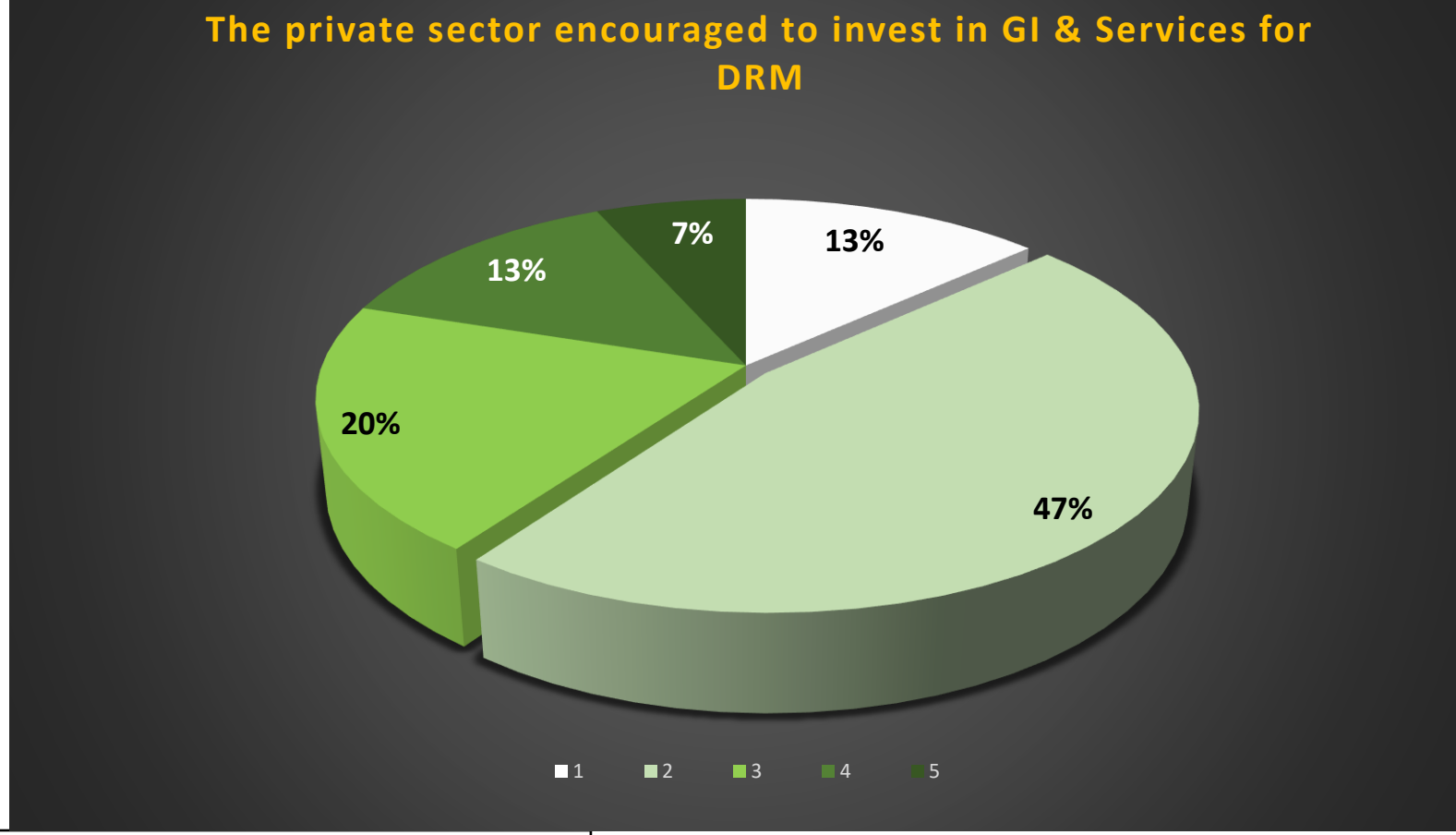
Priority 5:

Resource Mobilization



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The private sector, including financial institutions are encouraged to invest in the provision of geospatial information and related services for DRM.

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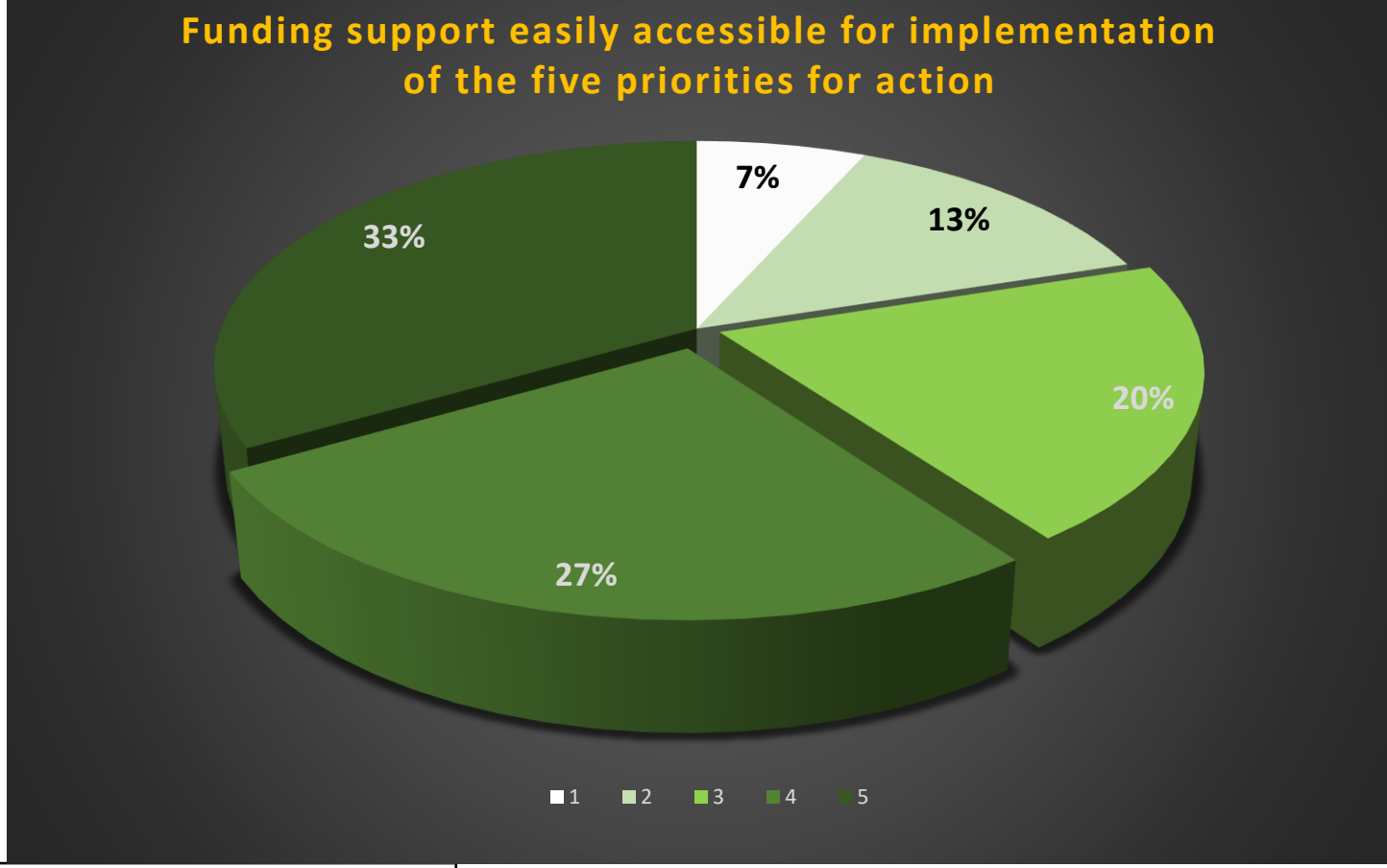
Priority 5:

Resource Mobilization



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*Funding support for the activities in the implementation of the five priorities for action, including **grants, loans and other forms of financial support** are easily accessible.*

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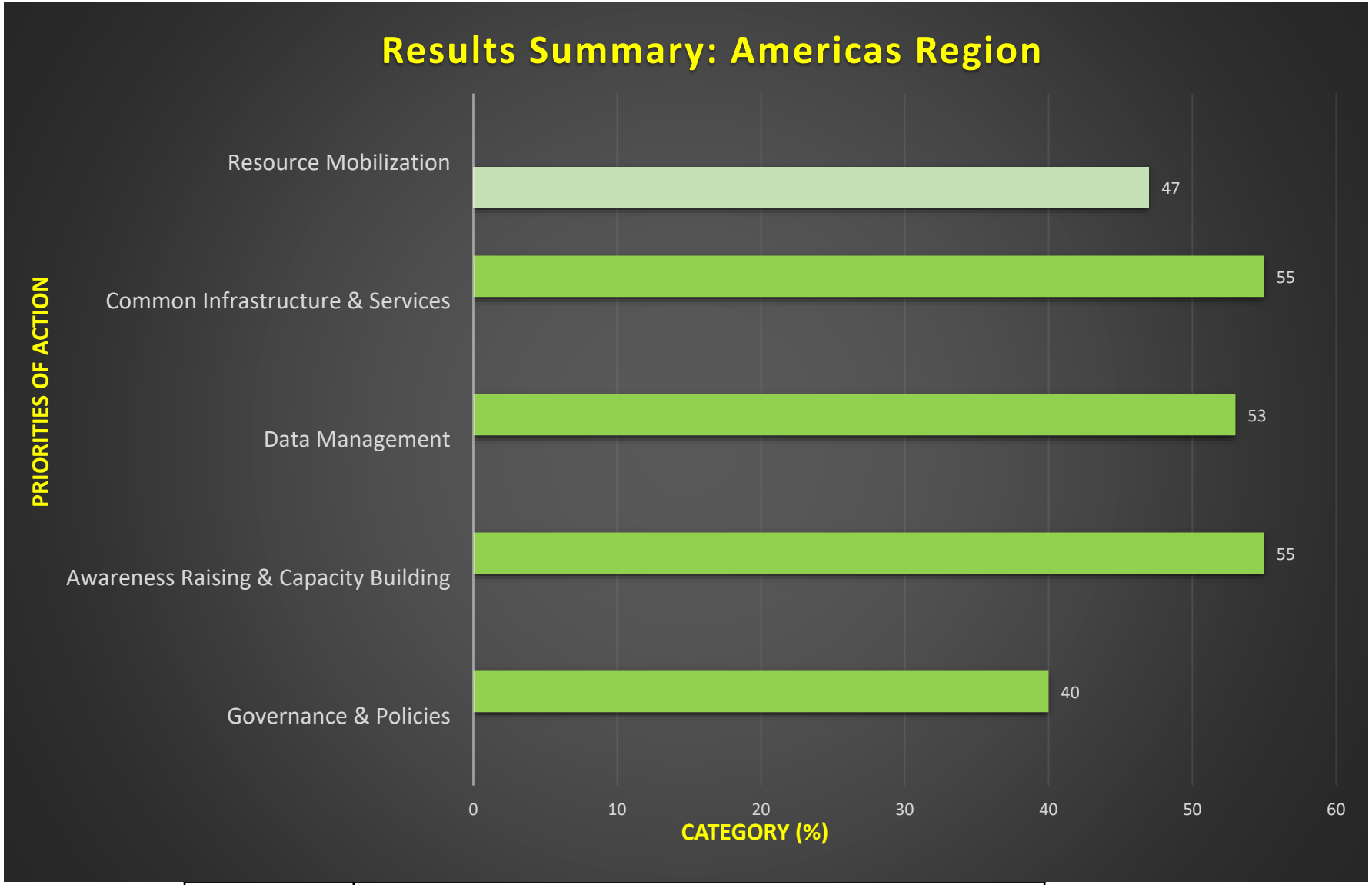
Results Summary: Americas Region



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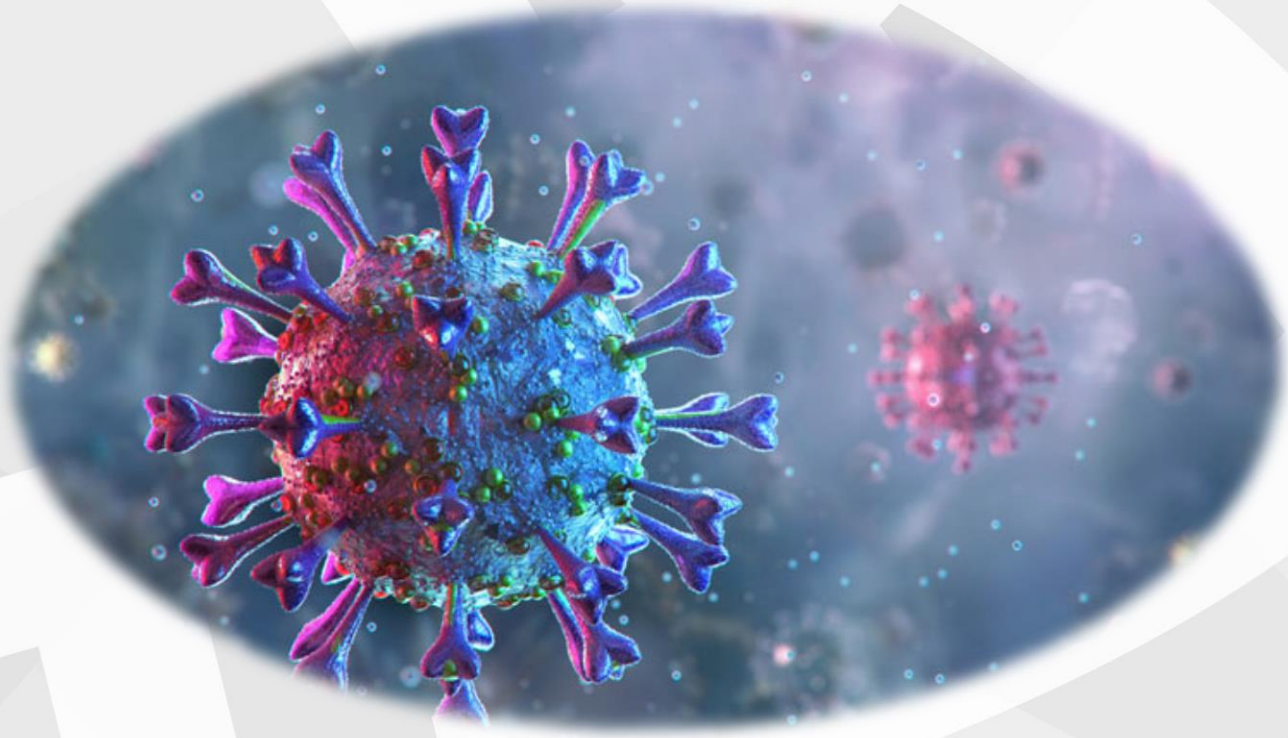

Opportunity presented by COVID-19

Opportunity Presented by COVID-19

- **COVID-19 pandemic** is the largest global disaster challenge recorded. As horrific as it has been, it has created an ideal opportunity to **test and apply the Strategic Framework.**

- COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the **critical importance of access to available and trusted geospatial information** to support **decision-making** during all phases of disaster risk management.

- UN-GGIM WG Disasters encourages Member States to consider implementing the Strategic Framework, particularly given that the COVID-19 pandemic provides a unique opportunity for monitoring and tracking each country's progress across the Framework's five priorities for action. *Outlined in draft Decision 10/108, UN-GGIM 10th session (Sept. 2020).*

- Reliable, accurate, available and timely Geospatial information are key towards facilitating better decision making

ECLAC and UN-GGIM Americas:

"Questionnaire on geospatial support to COVID-19"

(April to May 2020)

UN-GGIM: Americas

Organizational agreements for geospatial support to COVID-19

- **Technical groups/committees** to define data needs and facilitate provision eg. Brazil, Mexico

- Activation of **National Emergency Operation Centers (NEOCS)** and provision of geospatial support eg. Sint Maarteen, Antigua y Barbuda, Ecuador, Jamaica - National Emergency Response GIS Team (NERGIST)

- Establishment of **National Taskforce** eg. Guyana

- **High Level Commission** for the Prevention and control of Coronavirus eg. Dominican Republic

Geospatial Support provided for COVID-19

- **Products:** Static GIS maps, dynamic web maps and applications, ArcGIS Survey 123 forms
- **Incident maps** were generated as well as case count per district/neighborhood webmaps
- Mapping of **COVID19 cases** (confirmed, recovered, deaths, quarantined, contact tracing, etc.)
- **Hot spots analysis** for COVID-19 cases
- **Vulnerable groups mapping** and analysis (elderly etc.)

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Geospatial Support provided for COVID-19

- **Quarantine area** mapping
- **Isolation centres** mapping
- **Hospital beds occupancy** and availability
- Mapping and monitoring of **travel patterns and health status of public health workers**

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Platforms or dashboards for the integration and publication of geospatial data

- **ArcGIS Operational Dashboards** were primarily used for visualization, monitoring and management.

- Some were public facing and others private for internal government use.

- Many benefitted from the **ESRI Disaster Response Programme**.

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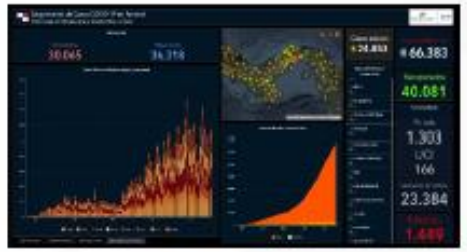
Chile

Mexico

Dominican Republic



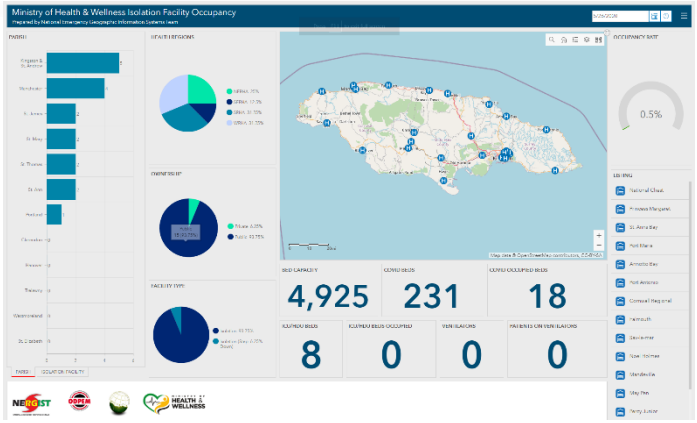
Panama

Antigua&Barbuda

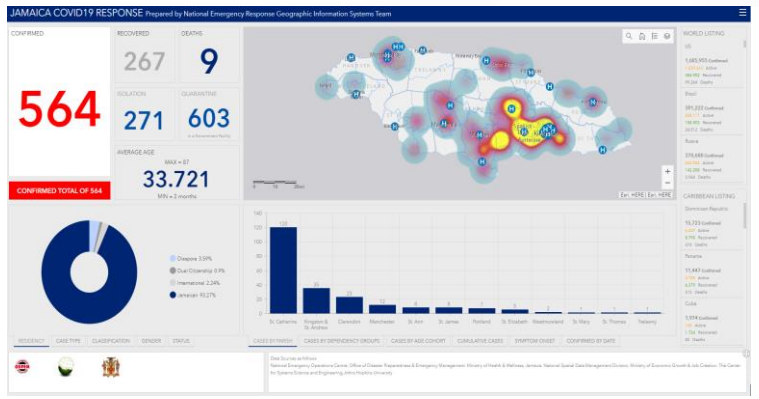
Colombia

United States

Honduras



Jamaica



Jamaica

ECLAC and UN-GGIM Americas. 2020. "Questionnaire on geospatial support to COVID-19"

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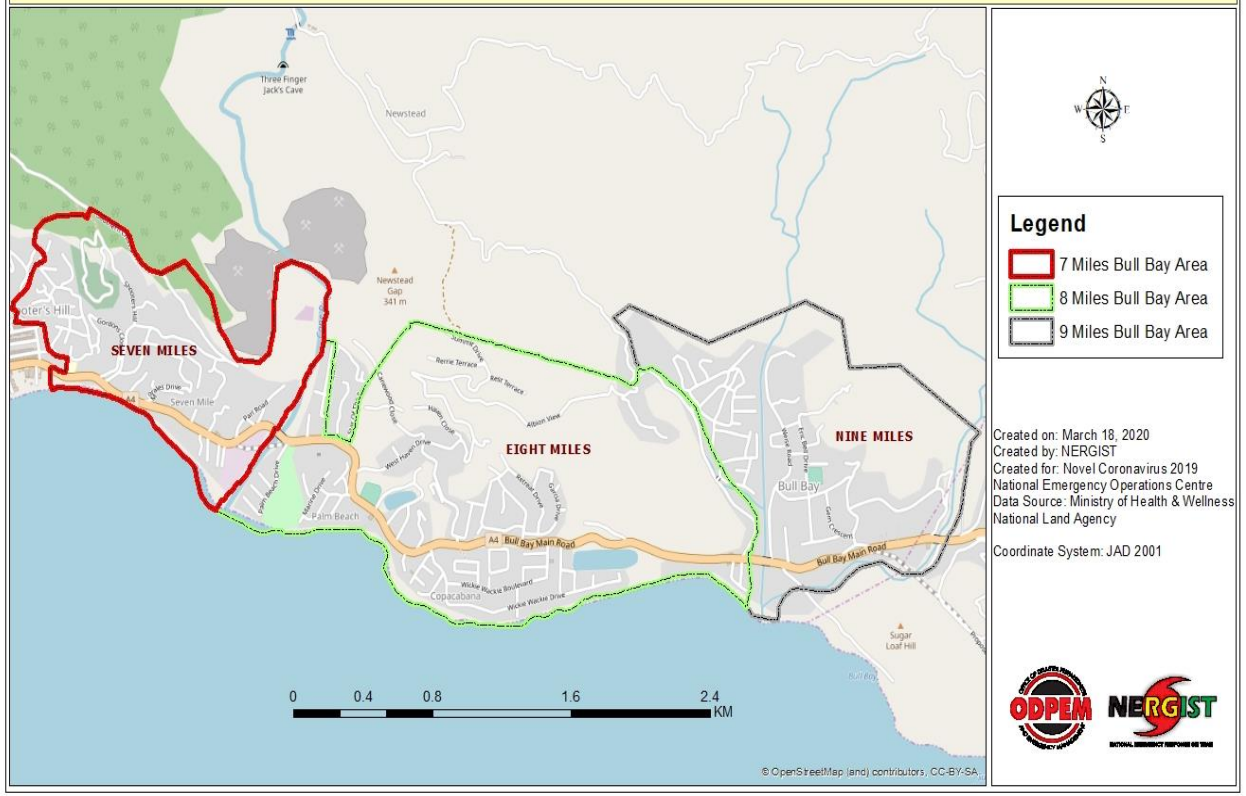
COVID 19 ISOLATION CENTRES DISTRIBUTED NATIONALLY

COVID-19 QUARANTINE AREAS SEVEN(7) - NINE (9) MILES BULL BAY - ST ANDREW



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Use of satellite images for obtaining georeferenced information or statistical data

- **38%** indicated use of satellite imagery eg. optical images, radar images, living atlas and ArcGIS online satellite tiles. Eg. Argentina, Brasil, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Panama

- **62%** did not use satellite imagery. This is a potential area to examine access and capacity building in the use of raster datasets.

Geospatial Gaps Observed While Responding to COVID-19

- Lack of or limited data interoperability
- High levels of data disaggregation between various entities, with little communication among them (silos).
- Lack of human resource with geospatial skills eg. One GIS Officer in some smaller Caribbean countries
- Need for a national address system

Geospatial Gaps Observed While Responding to COVID-19

- Difficulties in data availability at the local level, especially in rural areas
- Need for continuous upgrading of the geospatial skills level
- Need for effective coordination for the exchange and analysis of inter-institutional geospatial information

COVID-19 pandemic provides a unique opportunity for monitoring and tracking each country's progress

Strategic Framework's Five Priorities of Action

Utilize the gaps as areas for opportunity and growth

- ***Simone Lloyd, GISP***

Co-chair support

UN-GGIM Working Group on Geospatial Information and Services For Disasters

&

Senior GIS Manager/Trainer

National Spatial Data Management Branch

Ministry Of Economic Growth & Job Creation,

Jamaica W.I

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Thank you!

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