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UNITED NATIONS
Office for Outer Space Affairs

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) is responsible for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and assisting developing countries in using space science and technology for the benefit of humankind. www.unoosa.org

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Why space technology?

During a disaster, situational awareness can mean the difference between life and death. Satellites provide reliable and rapid communication, observation and positioning tools, especially when crucial on-the-ground infrastructure is damaged. The information satellites gather can also help anticipate or minimize the risks of disasters such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, fires or tsunamis.

Why UN-SPIDER?

The world of disaster management, disaster risk reduction and space-based technologies is complex. Knowledge and expertise are disparate and dispersed. UN-SPIDER is a platform through which institutions and practitioners learn about the potential of space-based information and can come together to access and use available knowledge, resources and expertise.

Who are we?

UN-SPIDER is the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response. The programme was established by the General Assembly in 2006 and it is being implemented by the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA).

UN-SPIDER aims to:

“Ensure that all countries and international and regional organizations have access to and develop the capacity to use all types of space-based information to support the full disaster management cycle.”



Our Activities

Providing technical advisory support



UN-SPIDER provides [technical advisory support](#) to requesting countries. The programme's experts evaluate disaster risk reduction and emergency response activities, and offer recommendations to improve these activities, as well as related policies and plans, with regard to the use of space-based technologies.

Fostering cooperation



UN-SPIDER bridges the gap between space, disaster risk management and emergency response communities by [fostering cooperation](#) and exchange of knowledge among the different stakeholders. UN-SPIDER helps build alliances and synergies and creates forums where all communities meet.

Managing knowledge



UN-SPIDER acts as a [knowledge manager](#) to promote the exchange of knowledge, experience and data. Its web-based UN-SPIDER Knowledge Portal is a gateway to pertinent information, lessons learnt, databases, contact data and news. The programme's [network of Regional Support Offices](#) provides regional and local expertise.

Building capacities



UN-SPIDER facilitates [capacity building](#) and institutional strengthening by providing technical training courses to requesting countries. These training courses aim to strengthen a country's abilities to benefit from space-based information for disaster risk reduction and emergency support.