While interdisciplinary collaboration is critical to inform robust DRR actions, it faces multiple barriers and obstacles. These include conceptual, definitional, methodological, institutional and resourcing constraints. These are in addition to shortcomings in education systems that introduce interdisciplinary thinking too late.

Although inter- and trans-disciplinary collaboration is essential for advancing understanding of complex (eg mega) disaster events, there is even greater need for interdisciplinary engagement on risk assessment and monitoring, including emphasis on extensive risk conditions, and complex, compounding risks.

WG 5: Problem Statements
WG5: Future Direction

- Strategically promote the value of interdisciplinary / transdisciplinary research and collaboration in academic and scientific arenas, especially integrated research on disaster risks.

- Invest in human capacity development and sustainability science related to DRR in education systems, especially higher education systems.

- Maintain an openness to work in an evolving environment, with particular attention to the applied need for DRR actions. This includes flexibility to accommodate diverse perspectives.

- Work to foster a new knowledge system for DRR that integrates scientific, as well as local & indigenous knowledge.
WG 5: Imperative Actions

- Accelerate efforts to create an enabling institutional environment for interdisciplinary collaboration and research, including changes in the educational sector, extending from post-graduate to under-graduate & secondary school levels.

- Ensure that interdisciplinary collaboration efforts for disaster risk reduction align synergistically with those foreseen in the SDGs, Paris Agreement, New Urban Agenda and Humanitarian Summit.

- Actively promote intergenerational dialogue to ensure both the current and future momentum of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaboration.

- Ensure that there is effective communication and collaboration between the scientific communities and other actors as indicated in the Sendai Framework.
Interdisciplinary scientific cooperation at national level has shown encouraging development, signalled by the experience of Japan through JANET-DR, UK-ADR and the efforts of IRDR NCs.

However, recognising that the distribution of DRR-related scientific capacity is uneven within countries, intercountry and regional cooperation are essential for building and embedding capacity for robust, interdisciplinary collaboration.
Both the quality and robustness of the synthesis reports will be informed by the level and depth of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaboration in relation to the four Sendai priorities.