

UNESCO IOC Tsunami Ready Pilot

Community Performance-based Tsunami Recognition Programme

Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System (ICG/IOTWMS)

Coastal communities can be better prepared for tsunamis through planning, education and awareness and the strengthening of their local emergency action. Recent tsunamis in Japan (2011), Chile (2014, 2015) and Indonesia (2010, 2018) attest to the high importance of readiness – when a tsunami arrives and communities are ready to respond, lives are saved and fewer die. UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready is a performance-based community recognition pilot under the UNESCO IOC and facilitated by IOC's tsunami information centres.

The 11th session of the ICG/IOTWMS in Putrajaya in 2017 encouraged Indian Ocean member states to pilot Tsunami Ready based on similar efforts in CARIBE EWS and established an inter-sessional Task Team on “Capacity Assessment of Tsunami Preparedness (TT-CATP)” to work with the Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre (IOTIC) for the purpose. As a follow up, the IOTIC and the ICG/IOTWMS secretariat organized a meeting of the TT-CATP and a Workshop on Indian Ocean Tsunami Ready in Jakarta (2017) which led to the finalization of the Guidelines for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Ready (IOTR) including 11 indicators, checklists and pilot implementation plan with national recognition. The 12th meeting of the ICG/IOTWMS Steering Group in Jakarta in 2018 approved these guidelines to be adopted for pilot implementation in select communities. In 2019, the Twelfth Meeting of the Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG-XII) recommended the UNESCO IOC Assembly to instruct ICGs to continue the Tsunami Ready pilot activities with UNESCO-IOC Recognition.

To date, within the Indian Ocean, the Tsunami Ready have been piloted in 6 communities in Odisha Province of India and 1 community in Oman. The communities of Jayadevkasaba Pahi, Podhuan, Tantiapal Sasan, Noliasahi, Keutajanga and Venkatraipur in India and AlSawadi AlSahil in Oman used Tsunami Exercise Indian Ocean Wave 2018 (IOWave18) as an opportunity to achieve and test IOTR indicators, and are awaiting formal recognition. Several other Member States in the Indian Ocean are interested in piloting UNESCO IOC Tsunami Ready in the near future.

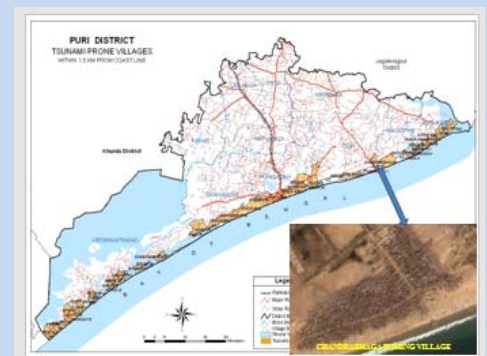
Indian Ocean Tsunami Ready Indicators

CTRI-1. Tsunami Risk Reduction Plan

The community to have information and knowledge of tsunami hazards affecting their area, understanding of their vulnerability (population, infrastructure, etc.), knowledge and capacity to access internal and external resources (funding, expertise, etc.), and plan to mitigate the risk.

CTRI-2. Designated and Mapped Tsunami Hazard Zones

The community have designated and mapped tsunami hazard zones. The primary source for mapping potential tsunami hazard zones is inundation modeling, which illustrates expected areas to be flooded by the tsunami. The modeling and mapping efforts should follow standards as applicable.



CTRI-3. Public Display of Tsunami Information

The community have a public display of tsunami information and response that identifies for example: (1) tsunami danger area and/or hazard zone (entering and leaving signs), evacuation routes, and assembly area; and (2) provides tsunami response education (go to high ground).

CTRI-4. Tsunami Evacuation Maps

The community have easily understood tsunami evacuation maps as determined to be appropriate by local authorities in collaboration with communities that depict tsunami evacuation routes and assembly areas. Maps should be based on tsunami hazard zone mapping and in accordance with the community's emergency operations plan.

CTRI-5. Distribute Outreach and Public Education Materials

The community developed and distributed outreach and public education materials that include, where appropriate, tsunami evacuation maps, evacuation routes, safety tips, and information about when and how to respond to warnings (including natural warnings for regions with a local tsunami threat).





CTRI-6. Outreach or Educational Activities Annually

The community hold at least three outreach or education activities annually to educate community residents, businesses, and visitors, with an emphasis on those in the tsunami hazard zone, on tsunami hazards, evacuation routes, how warning information will be received (including natural warnings for regions with a local tsunami threat), safety, and response.



CTRI-7. Tsunami Community Exercise

The community conduct an annual tsunami community exercise. The exercise can focus solely on the tsunami hazard or can be a multi-hazard exercises that also address the tsunami hazard. The exercises could be tabletop, functional, or full-scale. The exercise should include a communications test.

CTRI-8. Tsunami Hazards Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)

The community address tsunami hazards (local, regional and/or distant) in the community's emergency operations plan (EOP). If a community-level plan does not exist, other acceptable plans include a countywide EOP or a state or local comprehensive emergency management plan.

CTRI-9. Commit to supporting the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)

The community commit to support the emergency operations center (EOC) during tsunami incidents if an EOC is opened and activated. Ensure that the EOC can execute tsunami warning functions (public notifications) based on predetermined guidelines related to PTWS tsunami information and/or tsunami incidents.



CTRI-10. Means for a 24-hour Warning Point to Receive Warnings

The community have redundant and reliable means for a 24-hour warning point and EOC if activated to receive official tsunami threats from PTWS Tsunami Service Providers, National Tsunami Warning Centers/Tsunami Warning Focal Points, or other officially recognized agencies such as local emergency management agencies. Alerts must be able to reach the 24-hour warning point by at least three different systems.

CTRI-11. Means for a 24-hour Warning Point to Disseminate Warnings

Have redundant and reliable means for 24-hour warning point and EOC if activated to disseminate official tsunami alerts to the public. Alerts must be able to be disseminated from the 24-hour Warning Point and/or EOC through at least three different systems.

UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition

UNESCO-IOC recognizes that the community has built its capacity and implemented measures in accordance with the agreed indicators of the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Programme, and commits to continued maintenance to ensure the sustainability of this preparedness level.

UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition is NOT a Certification of a Tsunami Safe Community

Coastal communities seeking the UNESCO IOC Tsunami Ready recognition should follow the guidelines and meet all the indicators. For the Indian Ocean, the Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre (IOTIC) is responsible for administering the UNESCO IOC Tsunami Ready Pilot Program in Indian Ocean. The specific actions required to meet each indicators will vary among communities depending on the type of tsunami hazards and related vulnerability, and as determined by the local, provincial, national or regional Tsunami Ready Board. Determination of the range plausible local, regional, and distant tsunami threats in a particular community rests with the designated board, who will consult tsunami expert, IOTIC, IOC Tsunami Service Providers, National Tsunami Warning Centre and Emergency managers, Universities or Consultants. For recognition, a community must complete and submit the Tsunami Ready application form to the corresponding Tsunami Ready Board. Once approved, the UNESCO IOC will grant the Recognition.