United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) Geneva

Title of initiative:	Evaluation and Strengthening of Early Warning Systems in Countries Affected by the 26 December 2004 Tsunami[89]
Countries primarily supported:	Indian Ocean countries
Duration:	From 1 February 2005 to 31 December 2006

Objectives

The objective of the initiative was to link the available technical capacities on tsunami early warning with humanitarian and emergency management capacities.

Achievements

- **Integrated Risk Management**

  - The initiative supported initial consultation process and development of a draft document for consultation, "Words Into Action (November 2006)"[90] for the implementation of the Hyogo Framework. About 2,000 copies were printed and distributed to the members of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction, focal points for the Hyogo Framework for Action and national platforms and permanent missions to United Nations in Geneva. A revised guideline document was presented at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction scheduled in June 2007 in Geneva.

- **Public Awareness and Education**

  - Three short video clips (3-10 minutes) on disaster risk reduction, "Everybody's Business"[91] (English, French and Spanish), "Power of knowledge: Story of a little boy from Semilieu, Indonesia"[92] (English) and "Lessons save life: Story of Tilly Smith"[93] (English, French and Spanish) were produced to emphasized the importance of integration of disaster risk reduction into every day decision making and how the critical factors such as traditional knowledge and education contributed to saving lives when the Indian Ocean Tsunami hit in December 2004.
  - Three television documentaries for BBC Earth Report[94] were produced jointly with Television Trust for the Environment (TVE),[95] and were broadcasted by BBC in October-November 2006. The topics covered were; the role of education on disaster risk reduction in South East Asia, Central Asia and the Caribbean; Tsunami recovery process in Thailand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka; and lessons learned from major disasters in Congo, Cuba, Bangladesh, Japan, Iran and French Alps. These documentaries were also aired by BBC WORLD.

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[89] The title is the same as the overall multi-partner, multi-donor initiative led by the UN/ISDR although only specific activities of the UN/ISDR Geneva are mentioned in this section.

[90] http://www.unisdr.org/eng/hfa/docs/words-into-action-consultation-draft.pdf

[91] About 100 copies were produced in English for distribution to major partners and the media. In collaboration with UNESCO, the clip has been translated in French and Spanish.
http://www.unisdr.org/eng/media-room/media-room.htm

[92] http://www.unisdr.org/eng/media-room/mr-videos.htm

[93] http://www.unisdr.org/eng/media-room/mr-videos.htm

[94] http://www.tve.org/earthreport, http://www.tve.org/earthreport/archive/doc.cfm?aid=1809,
http://www.tve.org/earthreport/archive/doc.cfm?aid=1801, http://www.tve.org/earthreport/archive/doc.cfm?aid=1659 and
http://www.tve.org/earthreport/archive/doc.cfm?aid=1661

[95] TVE is an UK-based independent, non-profit organization.

- Thirty five Disaster Reduction Field Libraries[96] were delivered to the countries most affected by the tsunami[97] to enhance basic knowledge on tsunami, early warning and disaster risk reduction.[98]
- A bibliographic catalogue of publications, "ISDR-Biblio: Issue 1: Tsunami – 2006"[99] was produced. About 1,000 copies were distributed to UNIX centers, UN libraries and permanent missions to UN in Geneva and at various tsunami related meetings.
- A publication "Learning from disaster recovery – guidance for decision makers"[100] was produced by the International Recovery Platform (IRP) supported by ADRC, UNDP and UN/ISDR to provide a systematic analysis of disaster recovery experiences including the lessons from the Indian Ocean Tsunami of December 2004, Hurricane Katrina of August 2005 and the India/Pakistan earthquake of October 2005.
- An online interactive game, "Stop Disasters" [101] was developed by a UK production company, Playerthree Limited, with substantive inputs by the UN/ISDR to teach children 13 to 18 years of age how to protect cities and villages against natural hazards through disaster risk planning and management. It was tested by experts from the Conseil en communication ludo-éducative in Paris and in schools in Jamaica, Australia, India, Vietnam and Africa, in collaboration with IFRC, ACTION AID, UK PLAN INTERNATIONAL, Emergency Management Australia, USAID, and SEEDS. The game is being translated into several languages[102] with the support of additional donors.

> **Community-based Approaches**

- An international workshop "Strengthening the resilience of local communities to cope with water related natural hazards"[103] (Copenhagen, 16-18 November 2005) was hosted by the Government of Denmark. About 40 representatives from disaster risk management authorities, practitioners, and NGOs from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Thailand identified practical steps for the integration of community concerns into public policies.

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[96] The Field Library is in a form of blue metal trunk on wheels packed with books and journals.

[97] African institutions (IGAD, African Union, SADC, SADRC), Bangladesh, Indonesia, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Oman, Seychelles, Somalia (Somali Embassy in Nairobi), South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Yemen.

[98] http://www.unisdr.org/eng/library/field-lib/fl-introduction.htm, and http://www.unisdr.org/eng/library/field-lib/field-library-catalogue.htm

[99] http://www.unisdr.org/eng/library/biblio/isdr-biblio-1-tsunami-2006.pdf

[100] http://www.undp.org/bcpr/iasc/content/docs/Learning_from_Disaster_Recovery_Exec_Summary_May2006.pdf

[101] The game can be accessed for free at: http://www.stopdisastersgame.org.

[102] Currently, French, Spanish and Chinese versions are available.

[103] Press release is available at:
http://www.unisdr.org/eng/media-room/press-release/2005/pr-200534-Building-Safer-Coastal-Communities.pdf