

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) Africa and United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

Title of initiative:	Tsunami projects for the ten countries in the East Coast of Africa
Countries primarily supported:	Djibouti, Kenya, Madagascar, Comoros, Kenya, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, South Africa and Tanzania
Duration:	From 1 August 2005 to 31 December 2006

Objectives

The overall goal of the initiative was to increase the understanding, knowledge and capacity of African countries in disaster risk reduction through a set of activities which include public awareness, education, advocacy and enhanced community participation.

The objectives of the initiative were:

- To promote multi stakeholder approach to disaster risk reduction; promote multi hazard early warning system at national level.
- To raise awareness on tsunami and other related disaster risks.
- To increase the understanding, knowledge and capacity of African teachers and school children on tsunami and other related coast hazards.

Achievements

In cooperation with the national government, African Union Commission, UNDP Country offices, Universities and community-based organizations, UN/ISDR Africa was able to raise the profile of disaster risk reduction in the region and especially among the above-mentioned ten countries along the Indian Ocean coast of Africa. UNOPS has provided operational support for the activities of the UN/ISDR Africa.

- **A consultative meeting on early warning and disaster reduction was held with all of the above-mentioned 10 African countries along the southwestern Indian Ocean Coasts (Nairobi, 17-19 October 2005)**

Delegates (35 officials including delegates from the above-mentioned ten countries) agreed on regional priorities for action for the eastern coast of Africa including establishment of a regional centre or focal point, enhancement of technical observation networks, synchronization of national platform activities, capacity building, and sensitization of policy makers.

- **The ISDR Africa supported the African Union Commission in the holding of the First Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Africa (Addis Ababa, 7 December 2005 preceded by the African experts meeting, 5-6 December 2005)**

African ministers in charge of disaster risk reduction and other high ranking officials from 41 countries as well as other international, regional and non-governmental organizations participated in the conference, and renewed their political commitment in implementing DRR at the national level and strengthening partnership for disaster risk reduction activities.

- **Second Consultative Meeting on National Platforms for disaster risk reduction in Africa (Nairobi, 13-17 March 2006)**

- The workshop was convened jointly with the International Federation of Red Cross/Red Crescent (IFRC) Nairobi Delegation.
- The workshop had two parts, training on disaster risk reduction and a consultative meeting for national platforms in Africa with specific focus on mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into school curricula.
- Over 50 participants representing 18 countries attended the workshop.

- **National public awareness workshops on disaster risk reduction for community leaders were held in four countries affected and at risk to tsunami (April 2006 -August 2006) in collaboration with leading national institutions**
 - Comoros: Three training activities (Grandes Comores, Anjouan Island, Moheli Island) were carried out in August 2006 for a total of 121 participants.
 - Kenya: A booklet was developed for primary students on coastal and marine disasters based on the research carried out by IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) in July 2006.
 - Madagascar: A training was conducted in April 2006 for three regions in the East Coast of Madagascar (Atsinanana, Analanjirifo and Vatovavy Fitovinany) for a total of 120 participants.
 - Tanzania: Two training sessions for primary school teachers were conducted in August 2006 in Coast and Mtwara Regions for a total of 28 school teachers.

- **Development of Public Awareness Material on Earthquake and Tsunami**

A booklet was developed in collaboration with African experts on geo-hazards. A total of 3,000 printed copies⁸² were distributed to all affected African countries.

- **Production, Translation of a Training Manual, Workbook and Road Map on Disaster Risk Reduction**

A training manual was developed by African experts on disaster risk reduction. The package of training material will be published into three languages (English, Portuguese and French) for the ten African countries in 2007.

- **Development of documentary on Best Practices on Tsunami in Africa**

A public documentary was edited in Nairobi based on the ten hours of raw footage video taken in Djibouti, Kenya and Seychelles and remote information gathering and interviews for Somalia. The ten minute film will shed light on the actual happenings, good and bad practices and lessons learned.

- **Regional Workshop on Tsunami, Related Coastal Risks and Education for Coastal Risks in Africa**

A regional workshop was organized to introduce disaster risk reduction into school curricula for the ten African countries along the East Coast (11-13 May 2006, Nairobi). Kenya, Seychelles, Mozambique, Madagascar, Djibouti, South Africa and Comoros were represented at the meeting. A draft school manual was developed by the participants.

- **Regional Consultative Workshop for the Media on Disaster Risk Reduction for countries of the East coast of Africa**

A two-day consultative meeting on Media and Disaster Reduction for Countries along the East Coast of Africa was convened (13-14 June 2006, Nairobi) highlighting a role of media in disaster risk reduction at national level. Journalists from Tanzania, Comoros, Mauritius, Madagascar, Somalia, Zambia, Djibouti, Seychelles and Kenya attended the meeting.

- **National workshops for teachers of Coastal Schools on Tsunami and related Coastal Risks and national retreat for the elaboration of a school manual and teacher's handbook on Tsunami and related Coastal Risks**

Seven countries⁸³ completed the teacher's training and retreat for elaboration of a school manual and teacher's handbook, as follow up of the regional workshop on Tsunami and Education, held in Nairobi from 11 to 13 May 2006.

⁸² English version (2,000 copies) and French version (1,000 copies) were printed.

⁸³ The seven countries are Kenya, Seychelles, Mozambique, Madagascar, Djibouti, Tanzania and Comoros. Only the government of Madagascar printed the manual.

➤ **National meetings of Consortium Partners to discuss the national proposals for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Early Warning System (IOTEWS)**

The UN/ISDR Africa assisted Seychelles (28 June 2006), Tanzania (19 July 2006), Kenya (24 -26 July 2006), Madagascar (7 July 2006) and Mauritius (individual contact in lieu of a meeting) to call all relevant stakeholders for a meeting to discuss the national project proposal for the IOTEWS before the Bali Meeting in July 2006.

➤ **Sponsor Ministers and National Focal Points to the 11th Session of the African Ministerial conference on Environment (AMCEN) (25-26 May 2006, Brazzaville, Congo)**

The conference urged, among other recommendations, that Governments in Africa integrate disaster risk reduction into development policies and programmes. The conference requested the partners of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to provide assistance in carrying out the Programme of Action for the implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction. The UN/ISDR Africa office assisted one minister and five national focal points for disaster risk reduction to participate in the conference.

➤ **Technical assistance and partnership-building for the development of fishing boat owner's and farmer's insurance schemes in the Seychelles**

The UN/ISDR Africa office has provided technical assistance as well as partnership fostering to the Government of Seychelles for the development of insurance schemes for two of its most vulnerable communities namely fishing boat owners and farmers to facilitate a shift from *ex-post* to *ex-ante* disaster financing.⁸⁴ The government has planned to provide financial resources to the "Agricultural Insurance Funds".

Contact person

Ms. Noroarisoa Rakotondrandria
Regional Programme Officer
UN/ISDR Africa
Tel: 254 20 7624568
Fax: 254 20 7624726
Email: noroarisoa.rakotondrandria@unep.org

⁸⁴ More information is available in the "Disaster Reduction in Africa - ISDR Informs (Issue 6, 2006, p. 7-9)". (<http://www.unisdr.org/africa/af-informs/issue6/Issue6-2006-english-ISDR-informs.pdf>)