

**United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR) Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning (PPEW) Bonn**

<b>Title of initiative:</b>	Evaluation and Strengthening of Early Warning Systems in Countries Affected by the 26 December 2004 Tsunami <sup>104</sup>
<b>Countries primarily supported:</b>	Indian Ocean countries
<b>Duration:</b>	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**

➤ **Core System Implementation**

- A special session “Indian Ocean disasters: risk reduction for a safer future” was organized at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) (January 2005, Kobe, Japan). It resulted in a “Common Statement” which emphasizes the importance of improving national systems and regional cooperation mechanisms for disaster reduction and disaster relief and the need for establishing tsunami early warning systems in the Indian Ocean region.<sup>105</sup>
- A scoping meeting on the development of tsunami early warning systems, with specific reference to the countries in the Indian Ocean region, was organized by the UN/ISDR secretariat and the UNESCO/IOC in Kobe on 22 January 2005 immediately after the WCDR. About 100 participants namely delegates from governments and UN organizations as well as other experts were represented in the meeting.

➤ **Public Awareness and Education**

- A publication “Developing Early Warning Systems: Checklist”<sup>106</sup> was developed to support governments and communities in implementing effective people-centred early warning systems. The checklist was presented at the Third International Conference on Early Warning (Bonn, Germany, 27-29 March 2006). The English version has been translated into 19 languages.<sup>107</sup>

➤ **Coordination and Partnership-building**

- A publication “Lessons for a Safer Future”<sup>108</sup> was produced by drawing on the experiences of numerous organizations and individuals during and following the Indian Ocean Tsunami of December 2004.
- The initiative supported one liaison officer specialized on advocacy and public information from July 2005 to December 2006 to work for the Office of the UN Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery, former U.S. President Bill Clinton. The UN/ISDR secretariat jointly with WMO and UNESCO/IOC assisted the Special Envoy in promoting development of tsunami early warning system and disaster risk reduction in the Indian Ocean region within a global multi-hazard framework.

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<sup>104</sup> 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-PPEW are mentioned in this section. The activities related to the UN Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery as well as the Indian Ocean Consortium were supported by UN/ISDR’s New York Liaison Office.

<sup>105</sup> The full text of the common statement is available on: <http://www.unisdr.org/wcdr/intergover/official-doc/L-docs/special-session-indian-ocean.pdf>

<sup>106</sup> <http://www.unisdr-earlywarning.org>

<sup>107</sup> The 19 languages are Afrikaans, Arabic, Bengali, Burmese, Chinese, Farsi, French, Hindi, Indonesian, Malay, Portuguese, Russian, Sinhalese, Somali, Spanish, Swahili, Tamil, Thai and Urdu.

<sup>108</sup> <http://www.unisdr.org/ppew/tsunami/pdf/Lesson-for-a-safer-future.pdf>

- The initiative also facilitated the development and launch of Indian Ocean Tsunami Consortium consisting of the ISDR System partners (UNESCO/IOC, WMO, UNOCHA, UNDP, UNEP, IFRC, and the World Bank), and the Office of the Special Envoy for Tsunami Recovery. The Consortium was launched during the Third International Conference on Early Warning (EWC III) (Bonn 27-29 March 2006) at a session “Roundtable Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Response Systems”. As of 31 August 2006 eleven countries<sup>109</sup> submitted national plans to address their needs and gaps for capacity building for reducing tsunami risks and to request support of the Consortium in mobilizing necessary financial resources.
- The UN/ISDR secretariat participated and/or provided substantial inputs to the UNESCO/IOC-hosted five major coordination meetings on the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System.<sup>110</sup> Among other items, UN/ISDR secretariat contributed to the establishment of the Sixth Working Group on Mitigation Preparedness and Response for the Intergovernmental Coordination Group (ICG) to support strengthening national and regional mitigation, preparedness and response capabilities of tsunami early warning within a multi-hazard framework. The Sixth Working Group was formally adopted in the coordination meeting in Bali, Indonesia in August 2006.

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<sup>109</sup> Comoros, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Pakistan, Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania and Thailand

<sup>110</sup> (1) Paris, France (3-8 March 2005), (2) Grand Baie, Mauritius (14-16 April 2005), (3) Perth, Australia (3-5 August 2005), (4) Hyderabad, India (14-16 December 2005) and (5) Bali, Indonesia (31 July - 2 August 2006)