INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION (of UNESCO)

Fourteenth Session of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group
for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System
(ICG/IOTWMS-XIV)

Jakarta, Indonesia, 17-19 November 2024

National Report of Sri Lanka

Page 1: Overview

Q1

Consent: I have read the above information and wish to proceed.

Confirm by clicking the checkbox

Q2

Please select your country from the list below:

Sri Lanka

Page 2: PART I: Basic Information

Q3

TNC Name:

Major General (Retired) H.M. Udaya Herath

Q4

Position:

Director General

Q5

Organisation:

Disaster Management Centre

Q6

Telephone Number:

Q7

E-mail Address:

dg@dmc.gov.lk

Q8

Fax Number:

Q9

Postal Address:

Disaster Management Centre,
120/2,Vidya Mawatha,
Colombo 07,
Sri Lanka.

Page 3: PART I: Basic Information

Q10

NTWC Agency Name:

Department of Meteorology

Q11

NTWC URL (web link) for tsunami warnings:

www.meteo.gov.lk

Q12

NTWC Agency Contact or Officer in Charge (person):

A. K. Karunanayake

Q13

Position:

Director General

Q14

Telephone Number:

Q15

E-mail Address:

athu1970@yahoo.com

Q16

Postal Address:

Department of Meteorology,
383, Bauddhaloka Mawatha,
Colombo-07

Q17

3a) Is your Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP) the same as your National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) agency?The TWFP is the 24 x 7 point of contact (office, operational unit or position, not a person) officially designated by the NTWC or the government to receive and disseminate tsunami information from an ICG Tsunami Service Provider according to established national Standard Operating Procedures. The TWFP may or not be the NTWC.

Yes

Page 4: PART I: Basic Information

Q18

TWFP Agency Name (if different from the NTWC Agency):

Respondent skipped this question

Q19

Name:

Respondent skipped this question

Q20

Position:

Respondent skipped this question

Q21

Telephone Number:

Respondent skipped this question

Q22

E-mail Address:

Respondent skipped this question

Q23

Postal Address:

Respondent skipped this question

Page 5: PART I: Basic Information

Q24

TWFP 24x7 point of contact (office, operational unit or position, not a person):

National Meteorological Centre

Q25

E-mail Address:

Q26

Telephone Number:

Q27

Respondent skipped this question

Cellular Telephone Number:

Q28

Fax:

Page 6: PART I: Basic Information

Q29

Yes

3d) Has your country appointed a Tsunami Ready Focal Point (TRFP)?The TRFP is a person from the Disaster Management (DMO) or similar institution that:- Acts as a national advocate for national implementation of the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP) or a recognised similar initiative to help make at-risk communities prepared and resilient to any tsunami threat within their Member State.- Actively contributes to the national implementation of TRRP or a recognised similar initiative.- Routinely update UNESCO-IOC ICG/IOTWMS on the status of the national implementation of the TRRP or a recognised similar initiative. - Informs relevant national authorities and orgaisations involved in the implementation of TRRP or a recongised similar initiative on any information and/or updates provided by UNESCO-IOC on activities related to making at risk communities Tsunami Ready.

Q30

If yes, please provide their details below:Name of the TRFP:

Chathura Liyanarachchige

Q31

Position:

Director - Preparedness Planning

Q32

Agency:

Disaster Management Centre

Q33

Telephone Number:

Q34

E-mail Address:

dirpreparednessplanning@dmc.gov.lk

Q35

Postal Address:

Disaster Management Centre,
120/2,Vidya Mawatha,
Colombo 07,
Sri Lanka.

Page 7: PART II: Hazard Assessment

Q36 **Yes**

4a) Has your country undertaken a hazard assessment?

Page 8: PART II: Hazard Assessment

Q37 **Single hazard assessment only on tsunami**

4b) What type of hazard assessment has been carried out?

Page 9: PART II: Hazard Assessment

Q38

4c) What type of multi-hazard assessment has been carried out? (select all that apply)

Drought,

Tsunami,

Epidemics,

Flooding,

Landslide,

Cyclone

Page 10: PART II: Hazard Assessment

Q39

4d) Who did the tsunami hazard assessment in your country? (select all that apply)

National Agency,

National / Local University,

National / International Consultant,

Please specify the name(s) of the agencies:

Disaster Management Centre, Department of Meteorology, University of Peradeniya

Q40

4e) At what level was the tsunami hazard assessment carried out? (select all that apply)

Village Level,

Other (please specify):

All 14 coastal districts have been covered.

Q41

4f) Which coastal areas have been mapped for tsunami hazard? Please include the names of the Region / City and an approximation of the percentage mapped.

The coastal regions affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami in Sri Lanka have been mapped for tsunami hazard. Accordingly, 14 coastal districts are covered in the hazard map.

However, this map was developed in 2012. It might need revisions considering the changes that have occurred in land use and the built environment in the coastal regions.

Q42

4g) For each of the data types listed below (in rows), answer the two questions (in columns). Select Yes / No / Don't know from the drop-down menu.

	Was this data used for tsunami hazard assessment?	Is this data publicly available?
Bathymetry	**Yes**	**Don't know**
Seismo-tectonic model	**Yes**	**Don't know**
Topography	**Yes**	**Don't know**
Land Cover	**Don't know**	**Don't know**
Infrastructure details	**Don't know**	**Don't know**

Other data used (please specify):
Tsunami impact and the extent of inundation were assessed based on field observations following the 2004 tsunami incident.

Q43

4h) What products do you have from the tsunami hazard assessment? (select all that apply)

Deterministic Tsunami Hazard Analysis,

Field Studies on Tsunami Impacts,

Hazard map,

Inundation map,

Evacuation map

Page 11: PART II: Hazard Assessment

Q44

4i) On a scale of 1 (Very poor) to 5 (Very good), please rate your country's capability to undertake tsunami hazard assessment

Capacity to undertake tsunami hazard assessment	**Poor**

Q45

4j) On a scale of 1 (Not a priority) to 5 (Essential), what is the priority level in your country to improve capacity in the following areas of tsunami hazard assessment?

Probabilistic Tsunami Hazard Assessment (PTHA)	**Essential**
Deterministic Tsunami Hazard Analysis	**Essential**
Field Studies on Tsunami Impacts	**Medium priority**
Hazard map	**Essential**
Inundation map	**Essential**
Evacuation map	**Essential**
What other areas of capacity in tsunami hazard assessment require improvement?	**The current version might be outdated since it was developed in 2012. Therefore, updating the hazard map is necessary.**

Q46

4k) On a scale of 1 (No capacity) to 5 (Very good), what capacity does your country have to give training and/or consultancy on tsunami hazard assessment to other countries?

Probabilistic Tsunami Hazard Assessment (PTHA)	**Poor**
Deterministic Tsunami Hazard Analysis	**Moderate**
Field Studies on Tsunami Impacts	**Good**
Hazard map	**Moderate**
Inundation map	**Moderate**
Evacuation map	**Moderate**

Page 12: PART II: Risk Assessment

Q47 **Yes**

5a) Has your country undertaken a tsunami risk assessment?

Page 13: PART II: Risk Assessment

Q48 **Single risk assessment only on tsunami**

5b) What type of risk assessment?

Page 14: PART II: Risk Assessment

Q49

5c) What hazards have been considered in your multi-hazard risk assessment? (select all that apply)

Epidemics,

Tsunami,

Drought,

Flooding,

Landslide,

Cyclone

Page 15: PART II: Risk Assessment

Q50

5d) Who did the tsunami risk assessment in your country? (select all that apply)

National Agency,

Please specify the name(s) of the agency(ies):

Disaster Management Centre

Q51

5e) At what level was the tsunami risk assessment carried out? (select all that apply)

Village Level

Q52

5f) Which coastal areas have been tsunami risk mapped? Please include the names of the Region / City and an approximation of the overall national percentage of risk prone areas mapped.

Tsunami risk assessment has been done for all 14 coastal districts.

Q53

5g) How many Cities / Municipalities / Regencies are at risk from tsunami?

Our country's administrative profile covers the district level. Therefore, all 14 coastal district (District, Divisional Secretariat, Grama Niladhari Divisions) are covered in the existing risk profile.

Q54

5h) What products do you have from the tsunami risk assessment? (select all that apply)

Risk map,

Evacuation map,

Guidelines (please specify below),

Other (please specify):

Community-based evacuation maps are developed using participatory tools.

Page 16: PART II: Risk Assessment

Q55

5i) On a scale of 1 (Very poor) to 5 (Very good), please rate your country's capability to undertake tsunami risk assessment

Capability to undertake tsunami risk assessment	**Fair**

Q56

5j) On a scale of 1 (Not a priority) to 5 (Essential), what is the priority level of your country to improve capacity in the following areas of tsunami risk assessment?

Tsunami risk assessment at national level	**Essential**
Tsunami risk assessment at regional level	**Essential**
Tsunami risk assessment at city level	**Essential**
Tsunami risk assessment at village level	**Essential**
Tsunami risk assessment at community / neighbourhood level	**Essential**
What other areas of capacity in tsunami hazard assessment require improvement?	**The current version of the risk map was developed in 2012. Therefore, updating the risk map is essential.**

Q57

5k) On a scale of 1 (No capacity) to 5 (Very good) what capacity does your country have to give training and/or consultancy on tsunami risk assessment to other countries?

Tsunami risk assessment at national level	**Moderate**
Tsunami risk assessment at regional level	**Moderate**
Tsunami risk assessment at city level	**Moderate**
Tsunami risk assessment at village level	**Moderate**
Tsunami risk assessment at community / neighbourhood level	**Moderate**
Please gives the names of any individuals / institutions in your country that could provide this training / consultancy	**In terms of capacities, we can support other countries by sharing the knowledge of what has been done in Sri Lanka for the tsunami risk assessment.**

Page 17: PART II: Policies

Q58

6a) Does your country have a national tsunami policy? For each of the four disaster management phases listed below, select standalone policy / multi hazard policy / policy not available. Use the comments box to detail the specific name of the policy (if available).

	In what form is the policy?
Prevention and mitigation	**Multi hazard including tsunami**
Preparedness	**Standalone tsunami only**
Emergency response	**Standalone tsunami only**
Rehabilitation and reconstruction	**Multi hazard including tsunami**

What is the name of policy? (if available):

For the rehabilitation and reconstruction, a policy should be developed, particularly concerning tsunamis.

Q59

6b) Does your country have local tsunami policies? For each of the disaster management phases listed below, select standalone policy / multi hazard policy / policy not available. Use the comments box to detail the specific name(s) of the policy (if available).

	In what form is the policy?
Prevention and mitigation	**Multi hazard including tsunami**
Preparedness	**Standalone tsunami only**
Emergency response	**Standalone tsunami only**
Rehabilitation and reconstruction	**Multi hazard including tsunami**

What is the name of policy? (if available):

For the rehabilitation and reconstruction, a policy should be developed, particularly concerning tsunamis.

Page 18: PART II: Plans

Q60

7a) Does your country have national, local and community level tsunami disaster risk reduction plans? For each of the four disaster management phases listed below, select standalone plan / multi hazard plan / plan not available. Use the comments box to detail the specific name(s) of the plan(s) (if available). Please use the scroll bar to view the entire table.

	National level	Local level	Community level
Prevention and mitigation	**Multi hazard including tsunami**	**Multi hazard including tsunami**	**Multi hazard including tsunami**
Preparedness	**Multi hazard including tsunami**	**Multi hazard including tsunami**	**Multi hazard including tsunami**
Emergency response	**Standalone tsunami only**	**Standalone tsunami only**	**Standalone tsunami only**
Rehabilitation and reconstruction	**Multi hazard including tsunami**	**Multi hazard including tsunami**	**Multi hazard including tsunami**

What is the name of the plan(s) (if available):
Tsunami operational plans are available, outlining the emergency response procedures at each level.

Q61

7b) Are your country's tsunami disaster risk reduction plans based on hazards and risk assessments?

Yes

Page 19: PART II: Guidelines

Q62

8a) Does your country have national tsunami DRR guidelines? For each of the four lifecycle phases, select standalone guidelines / multi hazard guidelines / guidelines not available. Use the comments box to detail the specific name of the guidelines (if available).

	In what form are the guidelines?
Prevention and mitigation	**Multi hazard guidelines including tsunami**
Preparedness	**Multi hazard guidelines including tsunami**
Emergency response	**Multi hazard guidelines including tsunami**
Rehabilitation and reconstruction	**Multi hazard guidelines including tsunami**

What is the name of guidelines? (if available):
National Disaster Management Act No 13 of 2005, National DM Policy 2014

Q63

8b) Does your country have local tsunami DRR guidelines? For each of the four lifecycle phases, select standalone guidelines / multi-hazard guidelines / guidelines not available. Use the comments box to detail the specific name of the guidelines (if available).

	In what form are the guidelines?
Prevention and mitigation	**Multi hazard guidelines including tsunami**
Preparedness	**Multi hazard guidelines including tsunami**
Emergency response	**Multi hazard guidelines including tsunami**
Rehabilitation and reconstruction	**Multi hazard guidelines including tsunami**

What is the name of guidelines? (if available):
Guidelines are available for the preparation of DRR plans at the district, divisional, and GN levels. Also, tsunami exercise guidelines are available.

Page 20: PART III: Detection and Warning

Q64

9a) Does your country have a national capability to assess and/or receive potential tsunami threat information and advise/warn its coastal communities?

Yes

Page 21: PART III: Detection and Warning

Q65

9b) Does your country utilise the data provided by the IOTWMS Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs) for the Coastal Forecast Zones (CFZ) of your country's coastline to determine national threats or does it undertake its own threat assessments? (select all that apply)

Use TSP data

Q66

9c) Which organisation in your country has the responsibility for assessing and/or receiving potential tsunami threat information?Please provide the name and contact details.

Department of Meteorology

Q67

9d) Does the organisation responsible for assessing and/or receiving potential tsunami threat information operate 24x7?

Yes

Q68

9e) What / which infrastructure is available to enable 24x7 operations? (select all that apply)

Computers,

Internet,

Landline Phone,

Mobile Phone or Cell Phone,

Fax,

GTS (WMO Global Telecommunication System),

UPS (Uninterruptable Power Supply)

Q69

9f) Which level of tsunami threat forecast information is produced by the responsible organisation? (select all that apply)

National,

Local

Q70

9g) Does the organisation have access to national and/or international seismic networks? (please select one from the following options)

Yes, national and international

Page 22

Q71

9h) Is national seismic data shared in real time?

Some national seismic data is shared in real time,
Please specify which seismic data is shared in real time:
Earthquake parameters of possible tsunamigenic earthquakes and local tremors with magnitude>2 are shared by GSMB

Page 23: PART III: Detection and Warning

Q72

9i) Does your organisation have access to GNSS data?

Respondent skipped this question

Q73

9j) Is the list of broadband seismometers operated by your country listed accurately in the IOTWMS seismic database http://www.ioc-tsunami.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=20796)?

Yes

Q74

9k) When compared to the IOTWMS seismic database (http://www.ioc-tsunami.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=20796), have you decommissioned or added broadband seismometers operated by your country (Check all that apply and include details in the comments section below)

Some stations have been added,

Please indicate which stations have been decommissioned or added, including the Station Name/Location, email Contact of the Station Operator (IOTWMS Secretariat will contact for more information).:

Station Name- BULK Location - Buddangala, Ampara Email of the SO- nilminith@yahoo.com, thaldena@gsmb.gov.lk

Page 24: PART III: Detection and Warning

Q75

9l) Does the organisation have access to national and/or international sea level networks? (please select one answer from the following options)

Yes, national and international

Page 25: PART III: Detection and Warning

Q76

9m) Is national sea level data shared in real time?

All national sea level data is shared in real time

Page 26: PART III: Detection and Warning

Q77

9n) Is the list of sea level stations operated by your country listed accurately in the IOTWMS sea level database (http://www.ioc-tsunami.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=20833)?

No

Q78

9o) When compared to the IOTWMS sea level database (http://www.ioc-tsunami.org/index.php?option=com_oe&task=viewDocumentRecord&docID=20833), have you decommissioned or added sea level stations operated by your country (Check all that apply and include details in the comments section below)

Some stations have been added,

Please indicate which stations have been decommissioned or added, including the Station Name/Location, email Contact of the Station Operator (IOTWMS Secretariat will contact for more information).:

The National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency +94 11- 2521000 +94 11- 2521006 postmaster@nara.ac.lk

Page 27: PART III: Detection and Warning

Q79

9p) What other observing networks are operated by your country and used for tsunami early warning?

No other observing networks are operated by the country

Q80

9q) Does the organisation have the capability of analysing real-time seismic and sea-level data for potential tsunami threat?

No

Q81

9r) Does the organisation have capability for tsunami modelling to support generation of threat forecasts?

No

Q82

9s) Does the organisation responsible for identifying a potential tsunami threat also issue national tsunami no threat, watches, advisories, alerts and/or warnings?

Yes

Q83

9t) What are the threshold or criteria (for example sea levels, magnitude) for declaring a potential national tsunami emergency, watch, alert, advisory or warning?

Information - 6.5 < Mag < 7.5

Watch - Mag > 7.5

Alert - Mag > 7.5 with Wave height > 0.5m (potential threat)

Warning > confirmation of tsunami wave triggering

Q84

9u) What actions were taken by your country's National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC) and/or Tsunami Warning Focal Point (TWFP) in response to earthquake events and messages issued by the IOTWMS TSPs during the inter-sessional period?

Update warning with additional information (estimated wave height and estimated arrival time)

Q85

9v) Did your country's NTWC and/or TWFP participate in the 6-monthly communications tests conducted by the IOTWMS TSPs?

Yes (please name the organisation(s) that participated in the additional comments)

Q86

9w) Did your country's NTWC and/or TWFP participate in national and/or international Tsunami Exercises (eg. IOWave) conducted in the inter-sessional period between ICG meetings?

Yes (please name the exercise(s) and organisation(s) that participated in the additional comments)

Q87 9x) After the December 26 2004 tsunami and until now, was your country impacted by any damaging tsunami? If Yes, what was your national response to each event (please comment if warnings were issued by your NTWC in a timely manner to enable communities to respond, if public were evacuated, etc.)	**No**
Q88 9y) Since 2018, have there been any enhancements in your national warning SOPs and alerting?	Yes (please specify the enhancements): upgrade the NTWC SOP

Page 28: PART III: Dissemination

Q89 10a) How is the tsunami information (warning, public safety action, etc) disseminated within country? (select all that apply)	**Email,** **SMS,** **Telephone,** **Fax,** **Webpage,** **Radio,** **WhatsApp / Facebook / Other social media,** **Door-to-door,** **Sirens,** **Television,** **Warning towers,** **Megaphone,** **Police/military,** **Public alert system,** **VHF radio,** **VPN**

Q90

10b) For each emergency response organisation listed below, which communication methods for emergency response are available? (select all that apply)

National DMOs	**Telephone, Fax, Email, SMS**
Local DMOs	**Telephone, Fax, Email, SMS, Siren**
General Public	**Telephone, SMS**
Coastal Communities	**SMS, Siren**
Media	**Telephone, Fax, Email**

Other communication methods (please specify)
At the moment, 77 multi-hazard EW towers are installed. Currently, they are not fully functional. Therefore, there is a requirement to reinstate these towers as soon as possible.

Q91

10c) How is the warning situation terminated?

Once the 'All clear' bulletin is issued, the warning situation will be terminated. This decision (to issue all clear message) is subject to confirmation from both the NTWC (DoM in Sri Lanka) and the NDMO (DMC in Sri Lanka).

Q92

10d) What website is used for display of national threat status during events? Please provide the URL.

www.meteo.gov.lk
www.dmc.gov.lk

Q93 **No**

10e) Does your country's national tsunami warning system utilise the Common Alert Protocol (CAP) for the dissemination of warnings? If yes, please describe how the CAP is integrated into your warning dissemination processes, including any platforms or communication channels that are specifically utilised to broadcast CAP-formatted alerts to the public and relevant stakeholders.

Q94

10f) Who is primarily responsible for the direct dissemination of tsunami alerts to the public in your country, and what is the timeframe for these alerts to achieve effective last-mile responses? Please provide details.

Disaster Management Center (DMC)

Page 29: PART IV: Standard Operating Procedures

Q95

11a) For each of the (upstream) emergency response issues listed below (in rows), consider the four questions (in columns). Select a yes/no response using the drop-down menus.

	Does your SOP address this aspect of tsunami emergency response?	Is support required to develop/improve this aspect of tsunami emergency response in your SOP?	Is support required to develop Human Resources in this aspect of tsunami emergency response?	Is support required to develop infrastructure for this aspect of tsunami emergency response?
24/7 Emergency Operation Centre (EOC)	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**
Receiving information from the NTWC	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**
Response Criteria / decision making	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**

Q96

11b) For each of the (downstream) emergency response issues listed below (in rows), consider the four questions (in columns). Select a yes/no response using the drop-down menus.

	Does your SOP address this aspect of tsunami emergency response?	Is support required to develop/improve this aspect of tsunami emergency response in your SOP?	Is support required to develop Human Resources in this aspect of tsunami emergency response?	Is support required to develop infrastructure for this aspect of tsunami emergency response?
Warning dissemination	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**
Evacuation call procedures	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**
Community evacuation procedures	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**
Communication with NTWC	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**
Communication with Local Government	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**
Media arrangements	**No**	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**
Communication with other stakeholder i.e. Red Cross, Fire Brigade, Search and Rescue, Police, Army, Navy etc.	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**	**Yes**

Q97

11c) Would your country be willing to share your SOPs with the IOTIC and other countries?

Yes

Page 30: PART IV: Evacuation Infrastructure

Q98

12a) Does your country have the following evacuation infrastructure? (select all that apply and detail specific areas). Please use the scroll bar below to view the entire table.

Evacuation shelter	**Yes**
Comment:	Evacuation shelters have been identified in all 14 coastal districts. They have been mapped and designated. Public infrastructure and religious places are being utilized in case of a tsunami threat.
Vertical evacuation structure	**No**
Comment:	Hotels in the coastal belts have been tested as shelters during rehearsals. However, such infrastructure is not available in all 14 coastal districts. Additionally, some public institutions, such as police offices, are built in these areas to accommodate community evacuations.
Natural or artificial hill for vertical evacuation	**No**
Comment:	Natural hill areas have been identified and evacuation routes are designated to reach such areas.
Evacuation signage	**Yes**
Comment:	Evacuation signs were provided with the available resources covering 14 coastal districts.

Q99

12b) Is your evacuation infrastructure integrated in the evacuation plan?

Yes

Page 31: PART IV: Tsunami Exercises

Q100

12c) Are tsunami exercises incorporated within national policies and guidelines? (select all that apply)

National guidelines

Q101

12d) At what levels were the exercises conducted during the inter-sessional (between ICG meetings) period? (select all that apply)

National level,

Village level,

Community/Neighbourhood level,

School level,

Other (please specify):

District and Divisional levels

Q102

12e) What kind of tsunami exercise activities have been undertaken in your country and how many times during the inter-sessional (between ICG Meetings) period?

Organisation table top exercise	**Yes**
Comment:	Once in two years in line with IOWave exercises
Inter-organisation table top exercise	**Yes**
Comment:	Once in two years in line with IOWave exercises
National tsunami drill/exercise	**Yes**
Comment:	Annually
Indian Ocean Wave exercise	**Yes**
Comment:	Bi-annual
Local tsunami drill/exercise	**No**
Other (please specify)	**Yes**
Comment:	School drills are conducted. The frequency of these events depends on the action plan.

Page 32: PART IV: Public Awareness

Q103

13a) Who is responsible for tsunami public awareness programmes in your country?

National Disaster Management Office

Q104

13b) What tsunami related education and awareness materials do you have? (select all that apply)

Leaflets or flyers,

Posters,

Booklets,

Information boards,

Tsunami Signage,

Video, or other visual or oral media,

School curricula

Q105

13c) Would your country be willing to share these education and awareness materials with the Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre (IOTIC) and other countries?

Yes

Q106

13d) Do you undertake the following tsunami awareness activities?

World Tsunami Awareness Day	**Yes**
Comment:	Annually
Global Disaster Risk Reduction day	**Yes**
Comment:	Annually
Public tsunami preparedness outreach	**Yes**
Comment:	Depends with the action plan.
School and/or children awareness	**Yes**
Comment:	Depends with the action plan.
Exhibitions	**Yes**
Comment:	Depends with the action plan.
Competitions or other ways of highlighting tsunami safety	**Yes**
Comment:	Depends with the action plan.
Tsunami Exercise	**Yes**
Comment:	Depends with the action plan.

Q107

13e) Use the boxes below to indicate any areas in which you require support from the IOTIC to develop or enhance public awareness in your country. If you do not require support, please leave blank.

Customisation of general materials to country or community

,

Development of tsunami awareness programmes, activities or campaigns

,

Participation/support by international agencies or experts to your country's activities

,

Provision of general tsunami awareness materials,

Other (please specify):

Best practices and case studies would be essential to enhance the preparedness.

Q108

13f) Can your country offer support to other Member States to develop or enhance public awareness in their country?

Yes (please specify what type of support):
General materials prepared to improve community awareness on tsunamis can be shared.

Page 33: PART V: UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP)

Q109

14a) Does your country have an interest to participate in the UNESCO-IOC TRRP?

Yes, we are already participating,
Additional comments:
Recently, the Tsunami Ready action plan for Sri Lanka was developed. However, the project is yet to run a pilot. In line with the recent IOWave 23 exercise, Tsunami Ready Indicators were tested at the community level.

Q110

14b) Aside from UNESCO-IOC TRRP, is your country currently implementing any other tsunami resilience and preparedness related initiatives or programmes?

Yes (please describe the initiatives or programmes below)

,

Other tsunami resilience and preparedness related initiatives or programmes being implemented in your country:

There is ongoing work to strengthen the preparedness of public institutions such as schools. Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions are conducted, covering several schools in the coastal districts. Additionally, school drills have been conducted.

Q111

14c) What number of villages, cities/districts and provinces/state levels in your country are at risk to tsunami?

City / District	**14**
Province / State	**5**

Q112

14d) Does your country have a National Tsunami Ready Board (NTRB)The National Tsunami Ready Board (NTRB) is responsible for guiding the community on the steps for Tsunami Ready recognition and for the review and approval of the community's Tsunami Ready application. It consists of designated representatives of the National Emergency Management Agency or Disaster Mangement Office, NTWC, TNC, the scientific community, and other invited guests.

No (if no, is there another existing coordination mechanism that can fulfil this role of NTRB? please specify below)

,

Please specify any existing coordination mechanisms that can fulfil this role of NTRB:

According to the current Disaster Management Act and the National Disaster Management Plan of Sri Lanka, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) is appointed. These TACs will consist of various professionals and experts in disaster risk management and related subjects. They will advise the Council and the DMC on required disaster risk management-related activities. Accordingly, the NDMP outlines the members of the TAC for tsunami early warning. This mechanism can support the tsunami-ready initiative in Sri Lanka.

Q113

14e) Which institution(s) should be involved in the implementation of TRRP or similar national initiative? (please use a comma between the name of the institutions)

According to the NDMP, the following stakeholders are considered as the members of the TAC on tsunami early warning.

Ministry of Disaster Management, Disaster Management Centre, Department of Meteorology, Geological Survey and Mines Bureau, National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency, Dept. of Civil Eng., University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka Navy

Additionally, other key stakeholders such as district coordination units, UN agencies, NGOs, INGOs and CBOs can be included.

Q114

14f) Are any communities (for example, villages, cities, districts, provinces or states) in your country currently working towards implementing or interested in implementing the UNESCO-IOC TRRP or similar national initiative?

Yes (please list the names of the communities below),
Names of the communities working towards or interested in working towards TRRP:
During the last IOWave23 simulation exercise, several communities were tested for their tsunami readiness by assessing the tsunami-ready indicators. The villages or the communities are: Senthoor and Jayanagar villages in the Kuchchaweli Divisional Secretariat

Q115

14g) Have any communities in your country achieved recognition through UNESCO-IOC TRRP or similar national initiative?

No

Page 34: PART V: UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP)

Q116

15a) Is there national capacity to develop tsunami hazard maps?

Yes, it can be partially done through mobilising national experts and funding, but also needs some international technical expertise

Q117

15b) Is there national capacity to train the community on identifying and estimating the number of people that live in the tsunami hazard zone?

Yes, it can be partially done through mobilising national experts and funding, but also needs some international technical expertise

Q118

15c) Is there national capacity to train the community on the inventory of available economic, instrastructural, political, and social resources to reduce tsunami risk at the community level?

No, there is a strong need for technical support organised through IOTIC and/or ICG/IOTWMS activities

Q119

15d) Is there national capacity to work with the community to develop tsunami evacuation maps, plans and procedures at the community level?

Yes, it can be partially done through mobilising national experts and funding, but also needs some international technical expertise

Q120

15e) Is there national capacity to work with the community to develop a public display of tsunami information?

Yes, it can be partially done through mobilising national experts and funding, but also needs some international technical expertise

Q121

15f) Is there national capacity to work with the community to develop local context outreach and public education materials?

Yes, it can be easily done through mobilising national experts and funding

Q122

15g) Is there national capacity to train and build capacity of community to be able to organise and implement outreach and education activity?

Yes, it can be easily done through mobilising national experts and funding

Q123

15h) Is there national capacity to train and build capacity of community to be able to organise and implement tsunami exercises?

Yes, it can be easily done through mobilising national experts and funding

Q124

15i) Is there national capacity to train and build capacity of communities to be able to develop their community Emergency Operation Plan?

Yes, it can be partially done through mobilising national experts and funding, but also needs some international technical expertise

Q125

15j) Is there national capacity to train and build capacity of communities to manage 24/7 tsunami emergency response operation?

Yes, it can be partially done through mobilising national experts and funding, but also needs some international technical expertise

Q126

15k) Is there national capacity to train and work with the communities to develop mechanisms (means and procedures) to receive 24/7 warning?

Yes, it can be partially done through mobilising national experts and funding, but also needs some international technical expertise

Q127

15l) Is there national capacity to train and work with the communities to develop mechanisms (means and procedures) to disseminate 24/7 warning to the community?

Yes, it can be partially done through mobilising national experts and funding, but also needs some international technical expertise

Page 35: PART V: UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme (TRRP)

Q128

15m) Which of the following challenges inhibit the implementation of TRRP or similar national initiatives in your country? (select all that apply)

Limited resources (for example, champions, leadership, scientific support, social support)

,

Limited support of government (for example, policy, financial)

,

Limited awareness,

Other (please specify):

Since tsunamis are infrequent, but their impact severity is high, there is a need to have continuous awareness programs, commemoration, and sensitization among vulnerable groups.

Page 36: PART VI: Narrative

Q129

16) Please briefly describe any innovations or modifications to national tsunami warning and mitigation procedures or operations since the last reassessment. For example, this might include tsunami related research projects, implementation of new seismic and/or sea level monitoring technologies, tsunami mitigation activities and best practices (especially in preparedness and emergency management), as well as public education programmes or other measures taken to heighten awareness of the tsunami hazard and risk.

Since the 2018 capacity assessments, the Disaster Management Centre (DMC) of Sri Lanka has led several initiatives. Although a comprehensive standard operating procedure existed for tsunami early warning dissemination, a country-specific protocol was employed to make decisions during a tsunami threat. This protocol, based on the magnitude of the earthquake, allowed the DMC to call for evacuations without waiting for further technical information from the NTWC.

The school preparedness programs were conducted in several schools in coastal districts in Sri Lanka. The school Preparedness program is a full operational drill to test and evaluate the operational and decision-making readiness of Principals, staff, students and school committees in the event of a tsunami affecting Sri Lanka. The exercise allowed these schools to simulate the evacuation of students to properly identified safe locations as well as to simulate the School's Disaster Management Plan which was developed.

Sri Lanka, as a member state of the IOTWMS, initiated the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme, outlining the action plan for this initiative. However, the National Tsunami Ready Board has not yet been appointed. The provisions in the Disaster Management Act and the National Disaster Management Plan will be considered for appointing the National Tsunami Ready Board. According to these provisions, the Technical Advisory Committee for tsunami early warning can be utilized for this purpose. Once the national body for this program is appointed, the initiative can officially commence. Also, during the recent IOWave exercise, the tsunami-ready indicators were tested.

Sri Lanka actively participated in the IOWave23 simulation exercise. In line with the exercise, NDMO (DMC) conducted the following activities:

1. Awareness and Sensitization of Tsunami Operational Plans in 14 Coastal Districts - While the full-scale exercise was limited to three villages in the Kuchchaweli Divisional Secretariat Division in Trincomalee District due to financial constraints, awareness and sensitisation efforts regarding tsunami operational plans were extended to all 14 coastal districts in Sri Lanka in accordance with IOWave23.

2. National-Level Meeting to Develop the Seal-Off Plan - A seal-off plan was developed under the guidance of the DG-DMC to facilitate the efficient evacuation of at-risk communities in coastal regions. Battalion heads were granted authority to support community evacuation in the event of an actual incident and to control the movement of people toward evacuated zones while ensuring the security of those areas.

3. Tabletop Exercise (TTE) - An upstream TTE was arranged with national stakeholders. During this exercise, participants were presented with a simulated situation or problem that they needed to discuss, enabling them to formulate appropriate responses or solutions.

4. Press Release/National Level Media Briefing Before the Full Simulation Exercise - A comprehensive press release was prepared and disseminated through major national communication channels, including print, broadcast, and telecast media. The release provided details about the exercise's objectives, purpose, date, and time. Additionally, a media briefing was conducted to minimise unnecessary confusion among coastal populations during the exercise.

5. Regional and National-Level Tsunami Simulation Exercise on October 4, 2023 - The core aim of this exercise was to conduct a functional Tsunami simulation, including the movement and evacuation of people and resources, thus creating a realistic response "on the ground." This involved the active participation of DDMCUs and District Secretariat officials from selected coastal communities in Trincomalee District, as well as selected schools in Trincomalee, Galle, and Matara. The exercise was designed to rigorously test all facets of Sri Lanka's warning and emergency management systems and processes, utilising practical scenarios, communication methods, and actual centres. Areas to be addressed, especially at the community level, included evacuation plans with assigned responsibilities, safety centre plans with designated responsibilities, movement plans specifying modes and responsibilities, coordination with other stakeholders, and camp administration covering registration and family tracing, among other elements.

Q130

17) Please provide a brief summary of plans for future tsunami warning and mitigation system improvements

One noteworthy concern identified during the IOWAve23 exercise was the non-receipt of bulletins from the Indian TSP. In a real emergency, the absence of bulletins from multiple TSPs could pose challenges for decision-making at the NTWC. NDMO expects to develop contingency plans, with the support of IOTWMS, to address such situations should they arise.

Additionally, seismic activity on the southern coast of Sri Lanka makes the country more susceptible to near-field tsunamis. The NTWC and NDMO of Sri Lanka are aware of this situation and have identified the need for improved monitoring and detection capacities to effectively identify such threats. The NDMO also seeks to further improve current SOPs by integrating necessary procedures for near-field tsunamis and expects support from IOTWMS in this effort.

Currently, the 77 multi-hazard EW towers are not fully functional, making it a major requirement to reinstate these towers to ensure timely communication with vulnerable communities.

Furthermore, there is currently no SOP for media communication in Sri Lanka. The NDMO aims to develop such an SOP to outline the media's response during a tsunami threat.

Q131

18) Please list areas where your country would like support for targeted capacity development.

The NDMO and NTWC of Sri Lanka are eager to support knowledge-sharing sessions. The expertise of the officials in both institutions can be used to share best practices in Sri Lanka. Additionally, the NDMO would like to share national guidelines and action plans, particularly those related to tsunami disaster risk reduction in Sri Lanka. Furthermore, the NDMO is willing to share educational materials with the IOTWMS and other member states.

Q132

Upload Documents

SOP.pdf (5.1MB)
