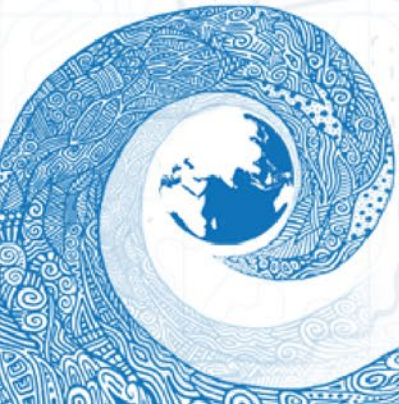


# Background and Review:

## 1<sup>st</sup> REGIONAL STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE WORKSHOP FOR BROADCASTING MEDIA IN THE TSUNAMI WARNING CHAIN

7-9 September 2021

Rick Bailey, Head of Secretariat  
UNESCO-IOC Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning & Mitigation System  
(IOTWMS)



# Background Information

1. Countries that border the North-West Indian Ocean are at risk of being impacted by tsunami generated by the Makran undersea trench, which can rupture at any time.
2. In 1945 a tsunami generated by this trench caused the death of many people. The estimated death toll ranges from a few hundred to 4,000.
3. A tsunami generated in this area may arrive on the Makran coastline within 20 minutes.
4. Much effort has been put into developing the capacity of our national and local authorities to warn and respond to such a crisis.
5. The media play an extremely important and urgent role in issuing tsunami warnings with public response advice to our at-risk coastal communities.

# TTF-29 Project: Strengthening tsunami early warning in the North West Indian Ocean region through regional cooperation

Project Funder: **UNESCAP Tsunami Trust Fund**

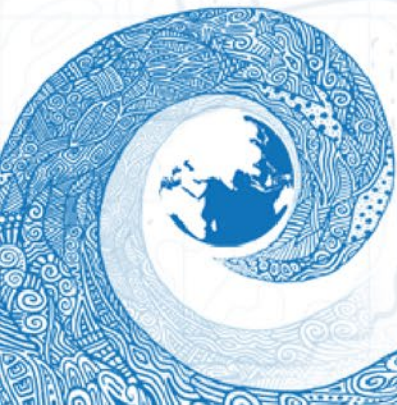
Participating Member States: **India, Iran, Pakistan & Oman, representatives from UAE**

Target Groups: **National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWCs), Disaster Management Organisations (DMOs), Communities, Response Agencies, Media**

Project Duration: **24 Months**

## Outcomes:

- 1 Better understanding of the risk knowledge based on scientific research**
- 2 Improvement of warning services at NTWC level and the organization of the national warning chains to assure timely warnings and rapid response with due emphasis on self-protection for near source events.**



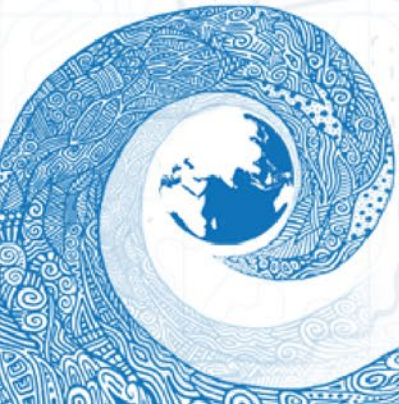


# Objectives of the 1<sup>st</sup> Media SOP Workshop

**Strengthening the engagement of the media in the tsunami early warning processes in the Makran region**

through

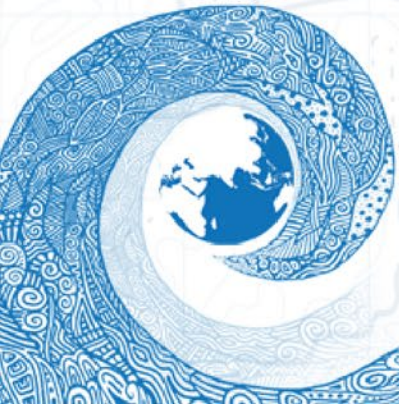
- **Strengthening relationships between broadcasting Media, NTWCs, and DMOs**
- **Understanding the national tsunami warning chains and the NTWC and DMO procedures**
- **Clarifications on the role of media in the national tsunami warning chain**
- **Discussions on the requirements for Media SOPs to facilitate timely and accurate dissemination of advice from the authorities.**



# A standard operating procedure (SOP)

- A SOP is a written document that describes the **actions to be taken in a system or process.**
- A SOP describes each individual activity in a sequence of activities, documenting **who does what, when, where, and how** for each activity.

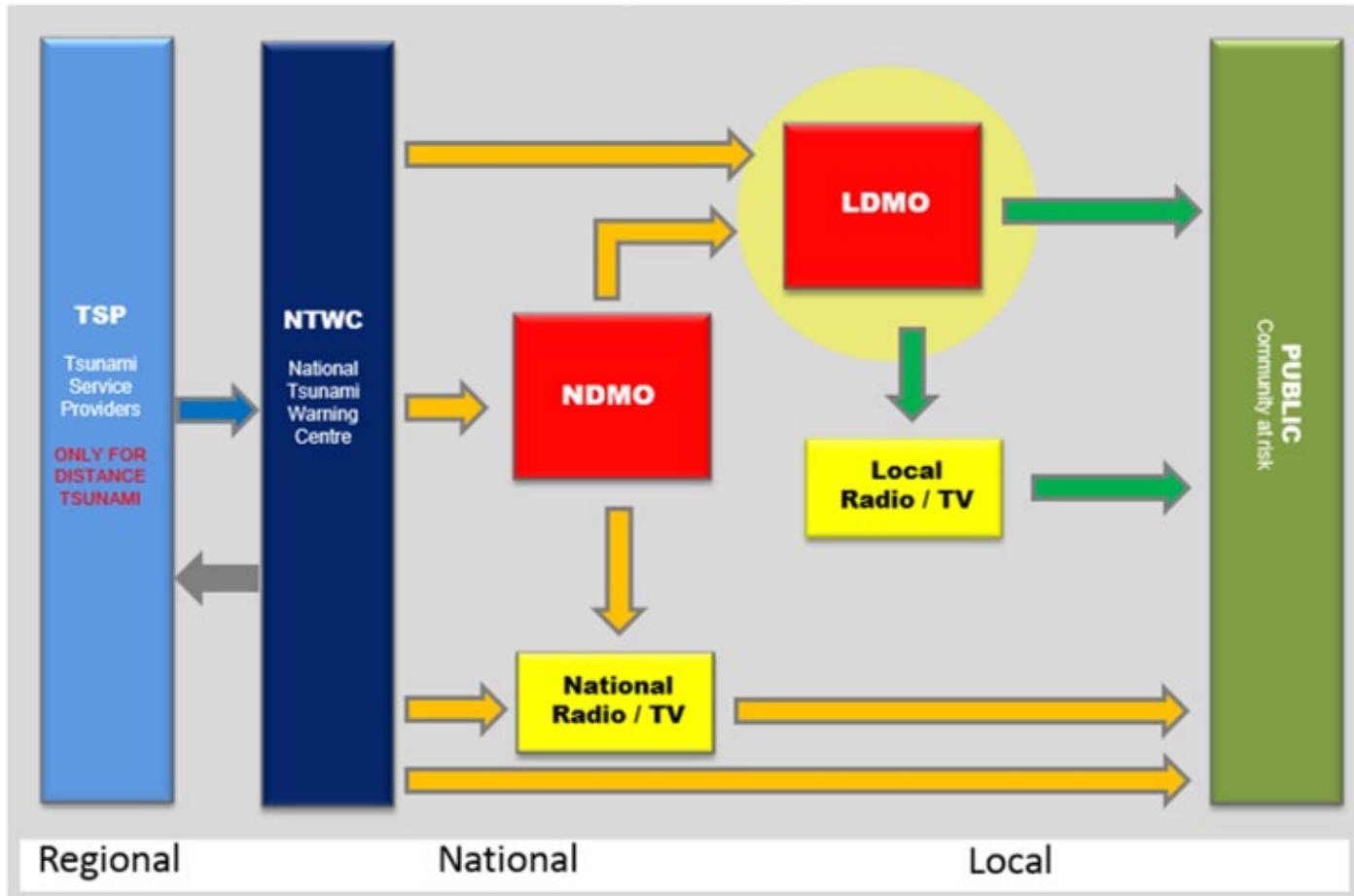
Source: IOC Manuals and Guides, 76



5 Min

7 Min

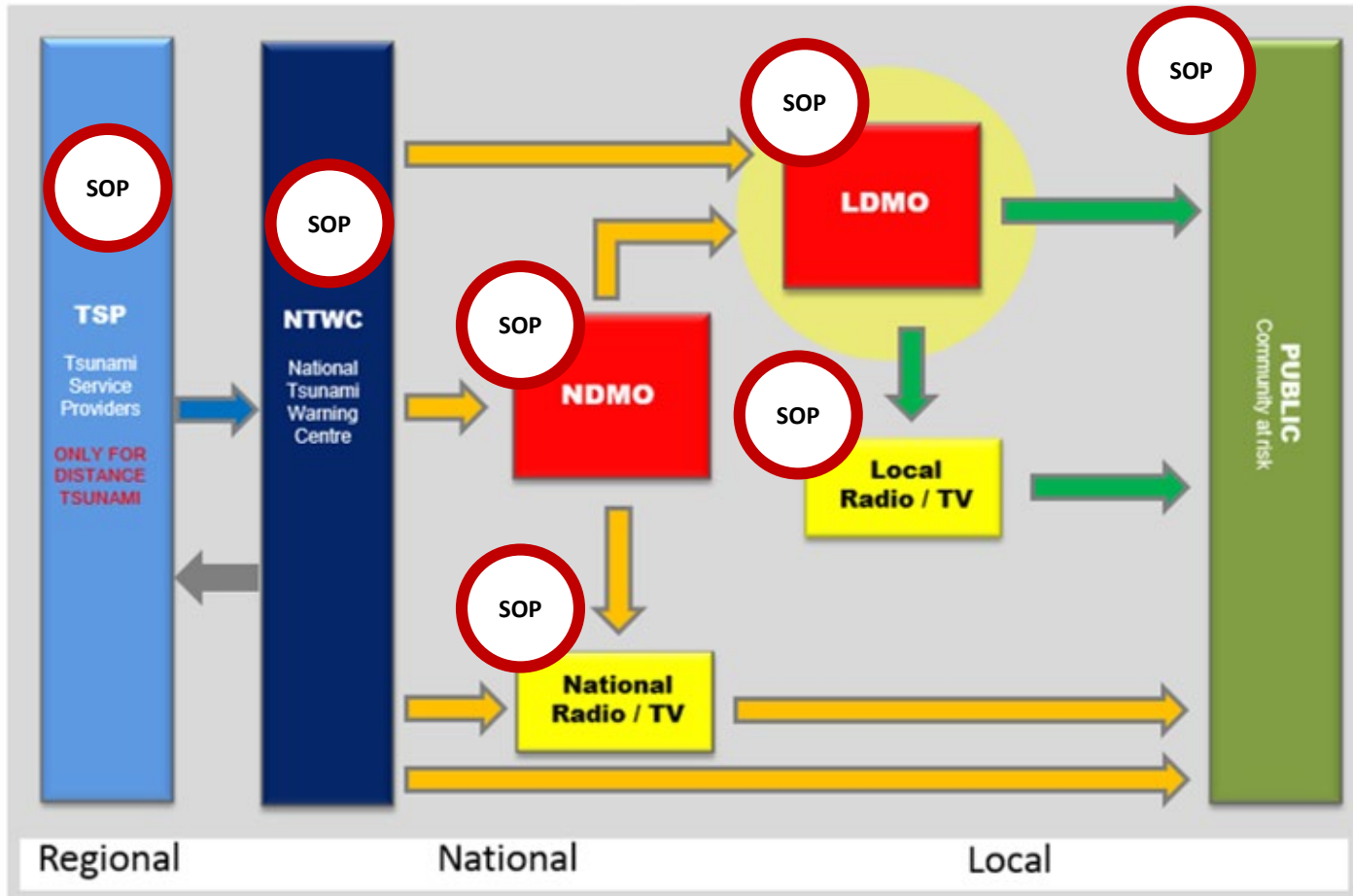
Timeline (Minutes after EQ)



5 Min

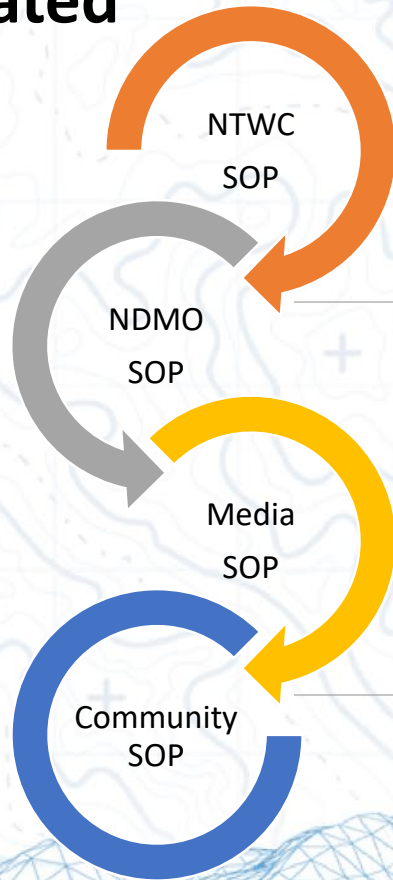
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Timeline (Minutes after EQ)





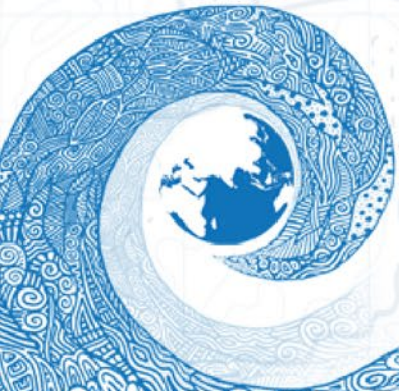
# Integrated



5  
Min

# Timeline-driven

7  
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## Key points:

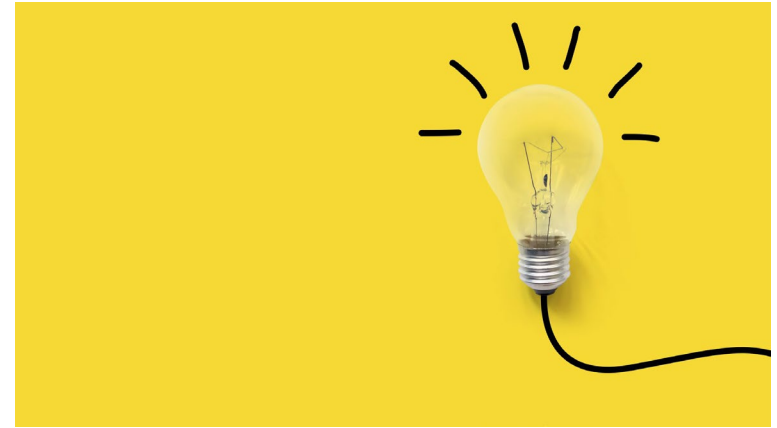
- Tsunami warning chains are only as strong as the weakest link
- NTWCs, DMOs and Media need all work together to deliver warnings and advice to the public
- Tsunamis may arrive in just minutes to a few hours... SOPs are essential to ensure best practice is followed in times of extreme urgency
- SOPs must be regularly tested for effectiveness and ability to deliver timely warnings



“Media are a bridge between the agencies and the public”

## Key points:

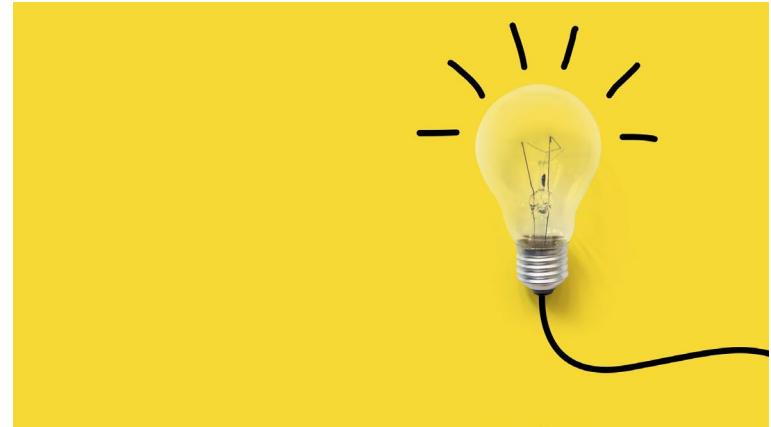
- Warning messages should be sourced from the national authorities and no possibility of “fake news”, uninformed news, or out-of-date warnings
- Warning messages must be concise and clearly advise what it is the communities need to do to survive the tsunami threat... action orientated
- Warning messages should adopt the Common Alerting protocol (CAP) to be interoperable
- Contact details must be kept up-to-date



Only use warnings from  
the authorities

## Key points:

- Media centres must be truly 24/7 and not just replay old news overnight
- Media centres and communication infrastructure need to be resilient in times of natural disasters... infrastructure, redundant communications, personnel available, transportation
- Media have important role with community education prior to events



Tsunamis can happen quickly at any time of the day... media need live 24/7 capability



# Working process to draft Media SOPs and support required

