



Mauritius

Webinar:
**Lessons Learnt during
Exercise IOWave 2023**

12 - 13 December 2023

Name

*Mauritius Meteorological Services
meteo.intent.mu*

Scenarios Exercised



Andaman Trench (4 Oct)



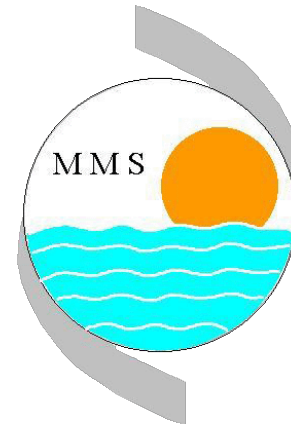
Makran Trench (11 Oct)



Heard Island (18 Oct)



Java Trench (25 Oct)



Exercise Participants



Vulnerable communities of coastal villages of Quatre Soeurs and Riviere Des Galets participated in a full scale evacuation exercise. Around 100 persons consisting of adults, children, elderly and disabled were moved to safe haven by the Police and Fire Service Officers who are the first responders. Schools and businesses in affected zones were closed and their personnel evacuated.

Residents of the outer islands of Agalega participated in the IOWAVE23 exercise.

In Rodrigues about 200 persons were evacuated from Gravier, St Francois, and Pointes Cotton which targeted mostly costal residents and lodges. Pupils from a school in a place called Gravier also participated.

National Tsunami Warning & Mitigation System



Tsunami Warning & Mitigation System in Mauritius involve many organizations. The Mauritius Meteorological Services issues watch and warning to the National Disaster Risk Reduction Centre (NDRRMC) and the Police. The National Coast Guard will be informed by the Police. The NDRRMC activate the National Emergency Operation Command (NEOC) depending on threat level. The NEOC coordinate all the mitigation activities and host also the crisis committee chaired by minister who is responsible in calling for evacuation if needed. In case of imminent threat the media broadcast warning to the public giving clear instructions on the time of tsunami wave strike and measures to be taken by the public to remain safe. Regular simulation exercise are used to help prepare at-risk communities .

National Organisation of Exercise IOWave23



The exercise was planned very well in advance giving us time to prepare. There were many pre exercise workshops organised by both IOTWMS and MMS to ensure the success of the IOWAVE23 exercise. Worth mentioning the SOP workshop has clarified the roles of the key actors in the warning chain. The Mauritius Fire and Rescue Service and National media who did not have SOP drafted a fresh one and this greatly facilitate matters on the exercise day.

The exercise was executed strictly according to SOP's and instructions from IOTWMS and with good collaboration among the stakeholders. The timelines for issuing warning was respected and all organisations involved responded positively. Mauritius is an archipelago with four inhabited scattered islands and those outer islands to mainland Mauritius are low lying and are most vulnerable. The northernmost island called Agalega consist of two islets. Only one of these possess a tsunami refugee centre. The challenge was to move the inhabitants by boat to the refugee centre and was perfectly executed.

The exercise though not used to evaluate Tsunami Ready or similar indicators in Mauritius enable a qualitative assessment about our tsunami preparedness.

During the exercise we obtained full collaboration and surprisingly very positive response of the public.

Lessons Learnt

The dissemination of warning originating from TSP's along the chain down to the person in danger flowed almost unimpeded and reach the person exposed rapidly. However there was some internet issues which we get around by using other mean of communications. This small problem was beneficial in the end since it highlight the usefulness of having alternate communication channels running in parallel for alerting. Concerning evacuations there was some conflict as both Police and MFRS were one site and had their own operation command. It was not clear who will lead. On a funny note some of the evacuee who board bus heading to safer ground were ask to pay for their bus fee. This was due to some misunderstanding and was cleared the same day.

All the coastal villages are at risk in Mauritius and has had table top exercise at the district council levels during the IOWAVE23 exercise. To enrol more at-risk communities in the exercise will require a lot of money and other resources which is allocated preferentially to cyclone preparedness in Mauritius.

Images

**EVACUATION OF STRANDED FISHERMAN AT QUATRE
SOEUR BY NCG AND SAMU**



**EVACUATION OF TOURISTS AT SHANDRANI RESORT
& SPA, LE CHALAND**





THANK YOU