

Tanzania

Scenarios Exercised:

- Andaman Trench (4 Oct)
- Makran Trench (11 Oct)
- Heard Island (18 Oct)
- Java Trench (25 Oct)



Top and Middle figures: Disaster Management Committees at DarMAERT and Lindi Municipal Council respectively discussing appropriate measures to be taken following Tsunami Alert. **Bottom figure:** Hon. Jenista Joakim Mhagama clearing doubt to the public on Tsunami threat through TV interview.

Exercise Participants

The following segment participated in the Exercise;

National Disaster Management Office - the Prime Minister's Office – Disaster Management Department (PMO – DMD), Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) as NTWC, Dar es Salaam Multi-Agency Emergency Response Team (DarMAERT), Regional Administrative Secretary (RAS), Municipal Councils (i.e., Tanga, Dar es Salaam, Pwani, Lindi and Mtwara regions), Prime Minister's Office responsible for Policy, Parliamentary Affairs and Disaster Management Emergency Operation Coordinating Centre (EOCC), Tanzania Police Force (OC-99), Fire Police Force and Rescue, Tanzania Red Cross Society, **Hospitals:** [Amana (Dar es Salaam), Ligura (Mtwara), Bombo (Tanga) and Tumbi (Pwani), (*consider attached appendix for the geographical location*)], Ambulencies and TBC Radio.

National Tsunami Warning & Mitigation System

Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) is the government institution of the United Republic of Tanzania (URT) which was established by the Act No. 2 of the Tanzania Meteorological Authority of 2019. The Authority is the only mandated institution of the URT for the provision of meteorological services within the boundaries of the URT. Further, TMA is designated as the National Tsunami Warning Center responsible for monitoring, forecasting and issuance of Tsunami warnings in the URT to ensure that there is a single authoritative voice. In this regard, TMA uses Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to communicate Tsunami early warning information to the community at risk by first conveying the message via Disaster Management Office - the Prime Minister's Office – Disaster Management Department (PMO – DMD). PMO – DMD through existing SOPs will further coordinate the implementation plans that will help reduce the effects that may arise. In addition, PMO-DMD as coordinator is accountable in activating relevant authorities and Disaster Management Committees at the Regional, District, Ward and Village/Street levels to cooperate and take appropriate measures. Awareness and provision of guidance to public during the events are some of the activities that is coordinated by PMO-DMD in working closely with relevant stakeholders.

National Organisation of Exercise IOWave23

Tanzania participated on 18th of October, 2023 Tsunami exercise by conducting a Drill Exercise that involved communications, coordination and testing of operational timeline Tsunami Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). The main objective of the IOWave23 exercise was to measure the performance of the National Tsunami Warning Chain and build readiness to the community and the authorities involved in the provision of warning and disaster management to reduce the harm that might have occur in the country during Tsunami events. The scope of IOWave23 Exercise involved Tanzania Meteorological Authority as National Tsunami Warning Centre (NTWC), national Disaster Management Office - the Prime Minister's Office – Disaster Management Department (PMO – DMD) and different Disaster Management Committees from National to village level along the coastal regions (i.e., Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Pwani, Lindi and Mtwara Regions). During the exercise the NTWC, PMO – DMD, different Disaster Committees and stakeholders involved in the National Tsunami Warning Chain used the time driven information flow based on respective existing SOPs customized to guide actions during Tsunami Emergency.

TMA activated IOWave23 Exercise at 06:24 UTC by sending notification alert to PMO – DMD on the event of Volcano eruption at Kerguelen Island. At 06:49 UTC PMO – DMD responded by partial activating the Disaster Management Committees and relevant authorities for disaster management to be ready in case Tsunami occurs. At 08:33 UTC TMA sent an update to PMO – DMD on possible Tsunami threat along the entire coastal belt of Tanzania. Correspondingly, PMO – DMD at 08:51 UTC sent warning information on Tsunami threat to disaster management committees at regional level with advisories on appropriate measures to be taken to marine users and community along/near the coastal area. Meanwhile, official call for evacuation was part of the information conveyed. At 09:17 UTC TMA provided further update to PMO – DMD about the Warning of Tsunami waves to areas of Madangwa, Ruvu, Jimbo, Vumba, Songosongo, Zanzibar, Vumbi, Gazija, Kutani, Msasani, Bagamoyo, Bomalandni and western Konde. This information also indicated the time of arrival of the first wave at Madangwa (13:08 UTC). Updated information on the observed Tsunami wave in Mozambique was sent to PMO – DMD at 12:05 UTC to ensure there is closely follow up of the arrival of the first Tsunami wave in Tanzania. Consequently, PMO – DMD continued updating warning information, instructions and appropriate measures to be taken by Disaster Management Committees at regional level to ensure that this information cascades to local levels. Based on respective SOPs and working guidelines, relevant authorities from regional to local levels responded step by step on appropriate measures taken prior and after the arrival of the first wave through the chain of information. It included activities of identifying and inspecting possible evacuation sites and routes; and Preliminary Mobilization of resources. Emergency responders and Police report on status of preparedness to evacuate and care for vulnerable communities were also part of the information. The Director for PMO – DMD call for termination of the exercise at 15:07 UTC, directing relevant authorities to conduct initial assessment, all victims continue to be given first aid while allowing the community to proceed with their normal operations and roads kept open.

The exercise proved to be a useful tool in testing the strength/weakness of Tsunami warning chain in Tanzania. However, the timing of the exercise coincided with an ongoing exercise of raising awareness to relevant authorities involved in disaster management on El Nino National Contingency Plan. This situation provided difficulties in planning and for involvement of community. Preparatory meetings were held regularly ahead of the exercise including training to experts prior to the exercise. However, it should be noted that, during the exercise there was a leakage of information on Tsunami warning from the team involved in the exercise to the community. This situation created severe panic to the community thinking they were about to be threatened by tsunami. At 17 hours UTC the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for Policy, Parliamentary Affairs, Labour, Employment, Youth and the Disabled, Hon. Jenista Joakim Mhagama had to call for press interview to clear the doubt. She also directed relevant authorities involved in the exercise to ensure they observe code of conduct pertaining the exercise to avoid building unnecessary stress to the community.

Lessons Learnt

Practically testing the National Tsunami Warning Chain for disaster management flow of information was very orderly. Inter-Agency Coordination was Very Good. Communication system and team work was very good among all involved institutions. Enhancing Municipal/region Capacity to manage disaster is a key to the Last Mile in Tsunami Warning and Mitigation. Improved techniques in conveying warning information through the National Tsunami Chain will be given high priority to avoid leakage of information to the public. It is recommended that, Regional Training workshop(s) that involves key responders will improve preparedness through cross learning. Resources to facilitate National pre-IOWAVE should be mobilized and coordinated at regional level.

Organisation Logo(s)



Further Information:

Please send to UNESCO-IOC IOTIC and ICG/IOTWMS Secretariat:

1. Videos of activities undertaken in IOWave23
2. Links to social media (X, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn) related to IOWave23
3. Links to online media related to news and coverage of IOWave23