**IOC Circular Letter No XXXX** IOC/VX/DCS/

(Available in English only) 29 March 2024

To : ICG/NEAMTWS Tsunami National Contacts (TNCs)

ICG/NEAMTWS Tsunami Warning Focal Points (TWFPs)

ICG/NEAMTWS Officers

ICG/NEAMTWS Steering Committee

Cc : Official National Coordinating Bodies for liaison with IOC, Permanent Delegation/Observer Mission to UNESCO and National Commissions for UNESCO in ICG/NEAMTWS Member States1 European Commission Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) Directorate A – Emergency Management and rescEU

**Subject: New Project “Scaling-Up and Strengthening the Resilience of Coastal Communities in the North-Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Regions to the Impact of Tsunamis and Other Sea Level-Related Coastal Hazards (CoastWAVE 2.0 Project)**

I am delighted to announce that the proposed project initiative (CoastWAVE 2.0) outlined above gained funding approval from the European Union (EU) Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG-ECHO) in December 2023) and placed under the responsibility of UNESCO/IOC and its ICG/NEAMTWS Technical Secretariat.

CoastWAVE project phase – I, an endorsed as an Ocean Decade Action, commenced on September 1, 2021, and is set to conclude on June 30, 2024. As the project phase- I nears completion, preparations are underway for a final project meeting in June 2024 (specific date and location to be announced), where key results and outcomes will be showcased.

The new project (CoastWAVE 2.0) of 24-month, will start on 1 July 2024. It will be of direct benefit to some existing project countries, and also new countries. A kick-off workshop and formal launching of the project is envisaged by end of August 2024 (date and place to be announced). Kindly find information attached hereafter. The project team will start engaging with identified project countries shortly to start implementation preparations (Partnership agreements) ahead of the European summer holiday break to avoid any project delays.

Support is sought through collaboration within the ICG/NEAMTWS community, working groups, task teams, as well as other key partners including:

* • The European Commission's science and knowledge service,
* • Joint Research Centre (JRC) European Commission,
* • UNESCO field offices,

Should you require any additional information on the project, please contact Dr Denis Chang Seng, Programme Specialist and Technical Secretary ICG/NEAMTWS at [d.chang-seng@unesco.org](d.chang-seng%40unesco.org).

With your cooperation and involvement, selected communities will contribute to Ocean Decade Challenge 6 on Increase Communities Resilience to Ocean Hazards.

On behalf of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, I thank you for your ongoing involvement with the ICG/NEAMTWS.

Yours sincerely,

[signed]

Executive Secretary

Enclosure*:* Project summary

**Strengthening the Resilience of Coastal Communities in the North East Atlantic, Mediterranean Region
to the Impact of Tsunamis and Other Sea Level-Related Coastal Hazards Project**

14 September 2021

| **Organization ►** | **UNESCO/IOC** |
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| **Title of Project** | **Scaling-Up and Strengthening the Resilience of Coastal Communities in the North-Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Regions to the Impact of Tsunamis and Other Sea Level-Related Coastal Hazards (CoastWAVE 2.0 Project)** |
| **Donor/funding Source** | European Union (EU) - Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) |
| **Project amount** | EUR 1,2 million (the “EU Contribution”). |
| **Responsible Project Officer (RPO)** | Denis CHANG SENG, Tsunami Resilience Section, UNESCO/IOCEmail: d.chang-seng@unesco.org  |
| **Geographical scope/benefitting countries** | **North-Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Sea**:  |
| **Area of influence** | 40 NEAMTWS Member States |
| **Start of the project** | 01/07/2024  |
| **Implementation Period** | The Agreement is 24months  |
| **Hazard/Risk scenarios covered** | Tsunamis and Other Coastal Hazards |
| **Brief summary** | The CoastWAVE project Phase-II (CostWAVE 2.0) is aimed at Scaling-Up and Strengthening the Resilience of Coastal Communities in the North-Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean Regions to the Impact of Tsunamis and Other Sea Level-Related Coastal Hazards. It will build collective and common capacities in tsunami hazard assessment and evacuation mapping using probabilistic approaches. It will track changes in the level of tsunami awareness and risk perceptions. The project will install additional tsunami detection, monitoring and alerting systems. It will scale up UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognized communities in existing and new countries, as well as synergies actions where possible within existing coastal resilient initiatives (e.g. Making Cities Resilient 2030). A key outcome is to engage and create dialogues with multi­ stakeholders and users involved in coastal resilience in a multi-hazard/risk context with the aim to create shared prevention and resilient preparedness for ocean related hazards to reduce their impact through better understanding and integration of tools, strategies and polices. |
| **Local Implementation Partners** | * Tsunami Service Providers (TSPs) and National Tsunami Warning Centres (NTWCs),
* Tsunami detection and sea level monitoring organizations/institutions in participating countries,
* Civil Protection Agencies and First Responders and other Members of the National Emergency Management System e.g. National Tsunami Warning Focal Points & National Tsunami Contacts, Ministries of Education, Ministries of Tourism etc.
* Local: District/Community Emergency Organizations, Community Emergency Response Teams
* Local government/authorities at Tsunami Ready pilot location.
* Community leaders, community members and tourists/visitors at Tsunami Ready pilot locations.
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| **Other institutions and stakeholders** | * Scientific/research organisations/institutions in participating countries. The project will solicit the support of scientific/research organisations/universities in participating countries particularly in the field of coastal inundation modelling and evacuation mapping,
* Disaster risk reduction organisations at national and EU UCPM level. National Civil Protection Authorities (CPAs) and the Union Civil Protection Mechanism are expected to be both contributing partners and beneficiaries. The CPAs will be involved in developing the Tsunami Ready Standards and Guidelines for the NEAMTWS region and will benefit from implementation at national level,
* UNESCO field offices will assist with logistics and liaison with national stakeholders in Egypt and Morocco,
* Professional associations, NGOs and media Communication group to raise awareness of the Programme and project objective and expected outcomes,
* Joint Research Centre (JRC), the European Commission's science and knowledge service
* United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
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| **Project components** | The project will be implemented through four components:**Component 1:** Build and strengthen tsunami hazard assessments and evacuation mapping using probabilistic approaches, risk knowledge, risk communication, and decision-making capacities.**Component 2:** Scale-up and expand Tsunami Ready in selected NEAM countries.**Component 3:** Enhance and density early warning, detection, monitoring, and alerting systems.**Component 4:** Enhance dialogues with Emergency Responders, Decision Makers on High Impact Low Probability (HILP) tsunami events within a multi-hazard context to improve strategies and effective decision-making capabilities. |
| **Project outcomes** | **Outcome 1:** Standard and improved tsunami hazard assessments and evacuation mapping based on Probability approaches for better planning and improved understanding, effective communication and better decision-making from regional, national to local level of tsunami.**Outcome 2**: Enhanced understanding and communication of tsunami and other sea­ level-related risk in selected communities in the selected NEAM countries.**Outcome 3**: More coastal communities and countries in the NEAM region joining the UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Programme to be better prepared to respond to sea-level­ related hazards.**Outcome 4**: Increased/improved access to near real-time seismic and/or sea level detection and alert technology to provide early warning of rapid onset sea level-related hazards in more coastal communities in selected NEAM countries.**Outcome 5:** New affordable sea level device to provide early warning of rapid onset sea level-related hazards in NEAMTWS countries enhanced.**Outcome 6:** Improved understanding and knowledge of how to address HILP tsunami events, highlighting strategies and procedures to factor and integrate tsunamis in multi-hazard approaches, and enhance real time decision making and long-term planning |
| **Monitoring and Evaluation** | A monitoring plan will be developed to guide project implementation as well as mid-term and end of project evaluation to ensure sustainability throughout project duration and the implementation of similar projects by UNESCO. As a requirement of UNESCO’s results-based management approach, the project coordinator will provide annual reports on progress and update targets on UNESCO’s “System of Information on Strategies, Tasks and the Evaluation of Results (SISTER) and its replacement the Core Manager Production Environment” platform.  |
| **Sustainability elements** | * Sustainability will be ensured through the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme itself which requires a high level of local support and validation and has a requirement for the execution of annual renewal and reassessment on a four-year basis.
* Through the ICG/NEAMTWS Reporting to the Global Working Group on Tsunamis and Other Hazards Related to Sea-Level Warning and Mitigation Systems (TOWS-WG) on an annual basis, additional sustainability is ensured at the international basis.
* The project is focused on implementing Tsunami Ready in one community within each pilot country and enhancing local technical capacity for replication and this approach provides a high measure of sustainability for tsunami preparedness and response.
* All project results and products will be embedded within the ICG/NEAMTWS and governance structures
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| **Publications, videos, communication activities/products** **An agreed** communication and visibility (C & V) plan have been developed related to the Actions | * Circular Letters
* Press and media conferences.
* Conferences, Workshops /webinars/ information meetings and briefings
* Socialize survey results and focus group discussions.
* Maps and videos
* Website (e.g. NEAMTIC), radio, social media, and other articles etc.
* ICG/NEAMTWS Steering Committee, Working Groups/ Task Teams and ICG/NEAMTWS sessions.
* Publications and reports
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