

UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme
National Tsunami Ready Programme – Implementation Level and Choosing Community
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Tsunami Ready recognizes Communities.

There are two (2) decisions that the National Tsunami Ready Programme should make.

1. At the start of the Programme, decide on the LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION (village, parish, borough, district, municipality, county, emergency management area, etc.).

Key considerations:

- a. Not too small so that it would be impossible to do all (and many left behind), but not at such a large level that the information and the alerts do not reach the population at risk.
- b. Resources will be needed to reach 100% of tsunami-vulnerable communities, and then also to sustain the Programme (recognition renewals).
- c. The Community must have a government authority that will be recognized, e.g., Mayor, Representative from Parliament, Chief. This is important for national recognition and acceptance.
- d. The Community must have a jurisdiction that will be recognized, e.g., follow already established country divisions/management structure. It is not prudent to reinvent another way to "divide" up the country.
- e. A Level should correspond to an area that has a 24/7 focal point for receiving and disseminating national alerts (e.g., Local DMO office, police or fire station, 24 x 7 clinic, etc)
- f. The Community must have an authority, management structure (e.g., emergency management committee, emergency management office, mayor/chiefs office, etc) to support the development of the evacuation maps, local response plans, provide input on the population, decide on places for signage.

Once the LEVEL is decided, the country can determine the total target number of communities for Tsunami Ready Recognition, and then the resources needed and timeline for 100% recognition (e.g., in Puerto Rico in 2005, a goal was set to implement Tsunami Ready at the municipal level (46 municipalities where inundation modeling showed there was a threat) and the goal was achieved by 2015).

2. As the Programme proceeds, decide which COMMUNITY to target. Key considerations:

- a. **There is INTEREST** by the "Authority/Structure" to be recognized. It is important to note that the Tsunami Ready Programme is voluntary, and that it is a lot of work (but rewarding).
- b. Level of threat. The higher the threat the more important it is to be Tsunami Ready, and also, probably greater the interest.
- c. Level of vulnerability. There are social/economic/cultural considerations. It may be a good idea to target where there is more vulnerability, and which would not have the resources to implement
- d. Previous work to build upon, especially tsunami or other hazard work.
- e. Existence of volunteer groups, NGOs, e.g., Red Cross or Crescent, GOAL
- f. Opportunity to highlight and potential to socialize project at the national level (such as through traditional media, or social media). This is especially important for the first Tsunami Ready community in the country, since it leads to other communities want to get Tsunami Ready.