

Sri Lanka



Webinar: Lessons Learnt during Exercise IOWave 2025

16 - 17 December 2025

Chathura Liyanaarachchi
Disaster Management Centre
dirpreparednessplanning@dmc.gov.lk

Scenarios Exercised

- ☐ Sunda Trench (25 Sept)
- ☐ Makran Trench (15 Oct)
- ☐ Fani Maore Volcano (25 Oct)
- ☒ Sumatra Trench (05 Nov)



Disaster Management Centre
for Safer Communities & Sustainable Development in Sri Lanka
 Ministry of Defense



unesco
 Intergovernmental
 Oceanographic
 Commission





ගාල්ල දිස්ත්‍රික්කය මාදුම්පාගම ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම් කොට්ඨාසය 77 වේගමුල්ල ග්‍රාම නිලධාරී වසම් කුලතොඩ ගා / මාදුම්පාගම මධ්‍ය මහා විද්‍යාලය	මඩකලපුව දිස්ත්‍රික්කය වවුනගිවි ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම් කොට්ඨාසය බෙලතලුව බරගිරි / බෙලතලුව තන්තන්කුඩා මහා විද්‍යාලය	කළුතර දිස්ත්‍රික්කය <table border="1"> <tr> <td>අභ්‍යන්තර සඳහා යොදා ගන්නා හෝටලය</td> <td>සුරක්ෂිත මධ්‍යස්ථානය</td> <td>කළුතර ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම් කොට්ඨාසය</td> </tr> <tr> <td>රිසෝට් නම් හෝටලය</td> <td>කළුතර නිදසු මධ්‍ය මහා විද්‍යාලය</td> <td>714 මහ විජේකවුටු දකුණ ග්‍රාම නිලධාරී වසම්</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>717 ඩි දේශාචාරු බරගිරි ග්‍රාම නිලධාරී වසම්</td> </tr> </table>	අභ්‍යන්තර සඳහා යොදා ගන්නා හෝටලය	සුරක්ෂිත මධ්‍යස්ථානය	කළුතර ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම් කොට්ඨාසය	රිසෝට් නම් හෝටලය	කළුතර නිදසු මධ්‍ය මහා විද්‍යාලය	714 මහ විජේකවුටු දකුණ ග්‍රාම නිලධාරී වසම්			717 ඩි දේශාචාරු බරගිරි ග්‍රාම නිලධාරී වසම්	යාපනය දිස්ත්‍රික්කය ජේෂ්වරා කුඹුටු ප්‍රාදේශීය ලේකම් කොට්ඨාසය යාපනය / මෙතෝදිස්වි භාණ්ඩාගාරය / යාපනය
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Exercise Participants



Community Participation: (2579)

PWD, Pregnant & lactating mothers, elderly & children.

- Jaffna
- Batticaloa
- Kalutara



School Exercise: (619 evacuated)

- J/Methodist Girl's high school
- BT/BW/Kannankuda Maha Vidyalaya



Hotel : (89 Evacuated)

- Tagerine beach hotel

The block contains three logos. On the left is the UNESCO logo, which consists of a blue square with a white temple facade and the word 'unesco' in blue lowercase letters. In the center is the IOC logo, which is a white circle with a blue border and a blue compass rose inside. On the right is the IOWave25 logo, which features a large blue circle with a white globe and two stylized figures inside, and the text 'unesco' and 'IOWave25' below it.

Sri Lanka

10min

40min

Regional

TSP
Tsunami Service Providers

NTWC (DOM)
National Tsunami Warning Centre

National

Minister and Ministry of Defence

NDMO (DMC)
EOC- Disaster Management Center

(Disaster Management Division)

Local

117 Call Center

District Secretary

LDMO (DDMCU)
District Disaster Management and coordination Unit

Other Stakeholders

OCDS / Try forces
Cost guard / Police

All national and local Radio / TV

PUBLIC
Community at risk area

EW Tower
Social media
Email
SMS
VHF/HF
Traditional mtd
Other com. mtd

Upstream

Interface

Downstream

TSP Information to NTWC

Warning by NTWC
(no advise attached)

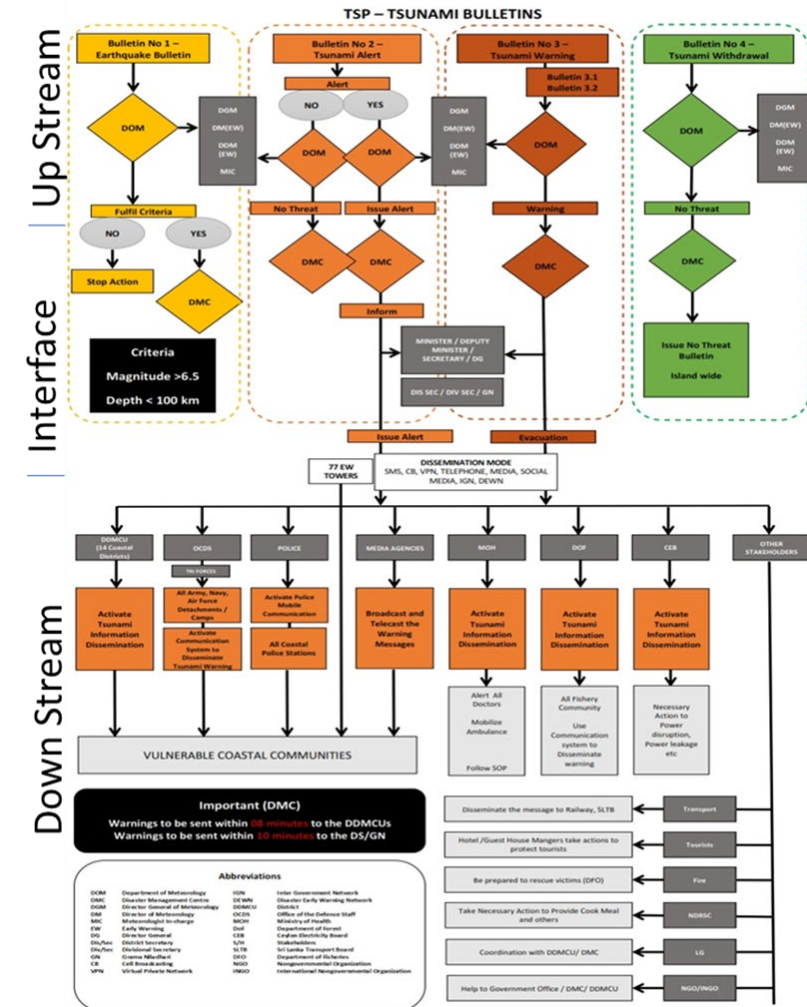
Warning /Advice issued by NDMO

Warning and/or Advice / Official Call for Evacuation

Feedback

Agency that Made decision to call for evacuation

- The Department of Meteorology (NTWC) generates national tsunami bulletins
- Disaster Management Centre (NDMO) is mandated to issue evacuation order
- DDMCUs as LDMO
- Decision-making template proposed by DG-DMC should be included – In practice



Support to communities to get prepared

- **UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme.**
 - Tsunami Operational Plans have been prepared for all coastal districts.
 - An annual tsunami simulation exercise was conducted to test and strengthen preparedness.
 - Tsunami warning and evacuation signages were installed in identified vulnerable areas.
 - A total of **12 criteria** were assessed during the preparedness process.
 - Due to certain constraints, tsunami warning boards could not be installed in some locations.
 - The Director General has communicated this matter via email to the respective authorities for necessary action



- **School Preparedness Programme**



National Organisation of Exercise IOWave25

Awareness and Sensitization of Tsunami Operational Plans

- Efforts extended to all 14 coastal districts in Sri Lanka

Appointment of Independent Observers

- From the national to community level
- Evaluate exercise procedures, SOPs and communication channels

Conduct the National Tabletop Exercise (TTE)

- Simulation exercise to assess Standard Operating Procedures at the institutional level



National Organisation of Exercise IOWave25

Press Release and Media Briefing

- Comprehensive release through major national media channels
- Media briefing to minimize confusion among coastal populations



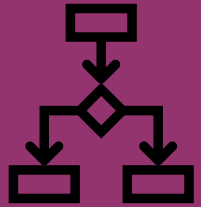
Exercise Day – 5th November 2025- Summary

- Tested communication from TSPs to NTWC, NTWC to NDMO, and NDMO to LDMO and other downstream entities and to the community level
- Conducted a functional tsunami simulation, including evacuation of coastal communities
- Practiced evacuation in selected coastal communities in Jaffna, Batticaloa, and Kalutara
- Assessed school preparedness plans
- Incorporated hotel sector for the tsunami evacuation simulation
- Tested the CTRIs of evacuated communities

Webinar: Lessons Learnt during Exercise IOWave 2025



Lessons Learnt



SOPs

- **Revisions for existing SOPs:** Identified gaps in the existing SOPs such as need for decision-making templates for public safety messages
- **Who issues warnings to the general public:** Emphasized the importance of clarifying the entity responsible for issuing warnings and their legal authority concerning community warnings in media releases.



Warning
Dissemination

- **EW Tower Maintenance:** Ensure all 77 Early Warning (EW) towers are operational and can be manually activated when needed
- **Identified missing stakeholders:** Ensure EOC has current and comprehensive key contacts
- **Communication Testing:** Thoroughly test major communication channels, including police communication
- **EW Mechanism:** Recognized the necessity for community-level enhancements, such as a 24/7 operational early warning mechanism and exploring cost-effective alternatives

Lessons Learnt



Exercise Planning

- **Incorporating more stakeholders into the exercise:** Missing stakeholders such as the health sector, fisheries and transport sector were identified
- **Night-time exercise:** Need for conducting simulation exercises during nighttime was identified



Technical Support

- **DART Buoys:** DART Buoy's functionality issues were identified while the need for installing more buoys was recognized
- **Hazard/ Risk maps:** Recognized the necessity for scenario-based tsunami hazard/risk maps, where technical assistance from IOTWMS would be incredibly helpful.
- **Collaborative research:** Need for collaborative research with local and international universities for impact-based warning dissemination strategies
- **Collaborative research:** Need to test the effectiveness of leveraging social media for effective communication

Images



THANK YOU