

*Sri Lanka*



**Webinar:**  
**Lessons Learnt during  
Exercise IOWave 2025**

**16 - 17 December 2025**

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# 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



# Exercise Participants



## Community Participation: (2579)

*PWD, Pregnant & lactating mothers, elderly & children.*

- Jaffna
- Batticaloa
- Kalutara

NEWswire  
November 5, 2025

## Sri Lanka takes part in Indian Ocean Tsunami drill

Read the full story in the comments section or on [www.newswire.lk](http://www.newswire.lk)

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JCL

## School Exercise: (619 evacuated)

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

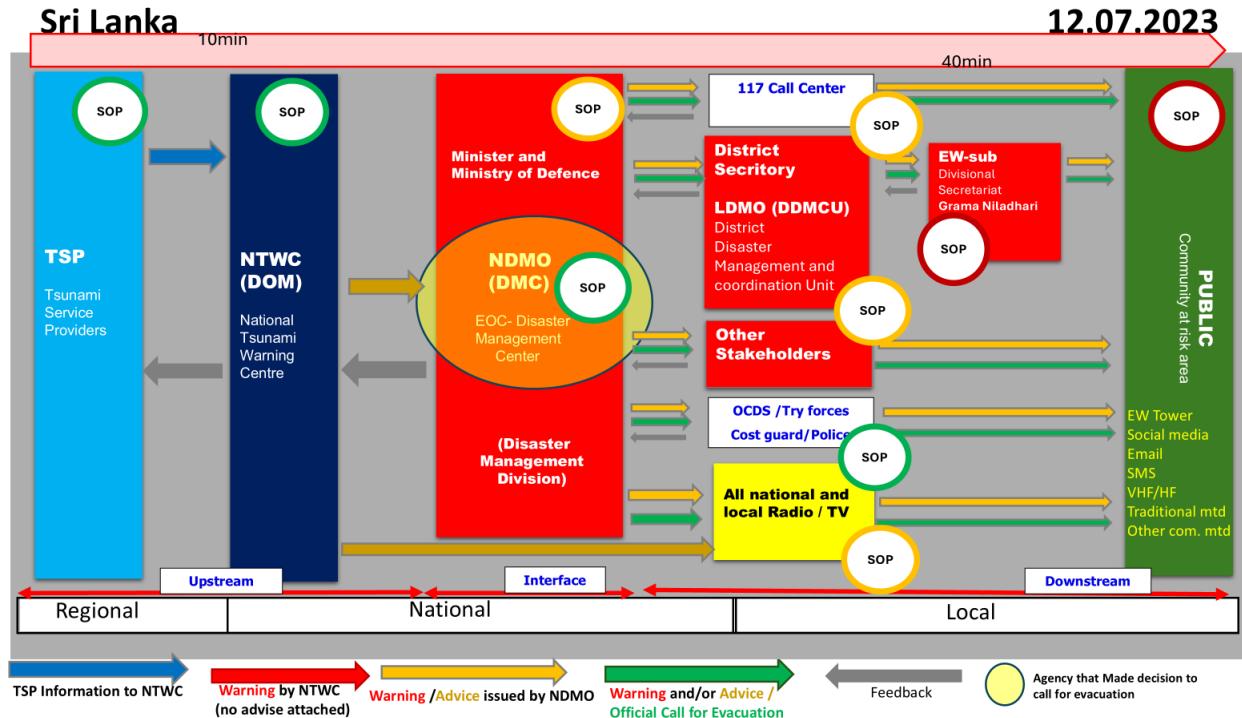


## Hotel : (89 Evacuated)

- Tagerine beach hotel

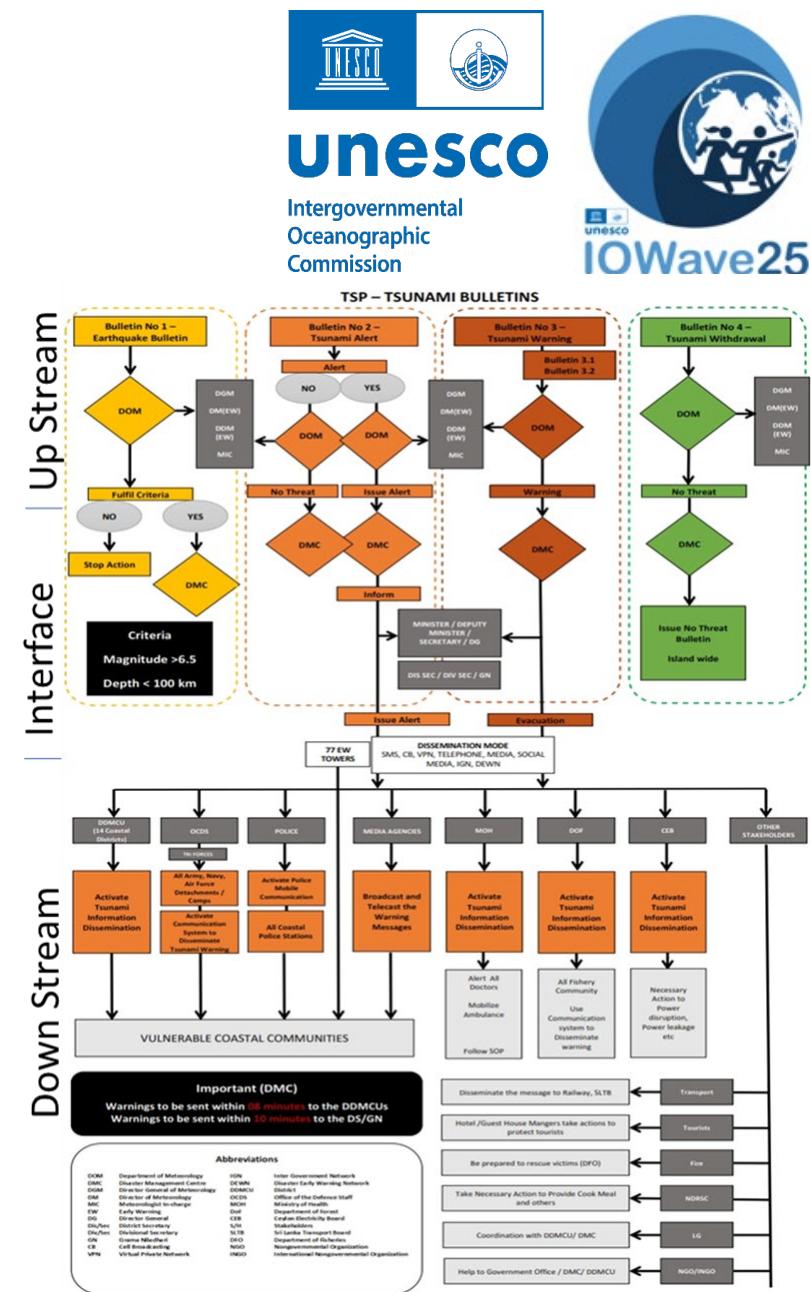
# National Tsunami Warning & Mitigation System

## Sri Lanka end-to-end TEWMS



### In Brief:

- 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

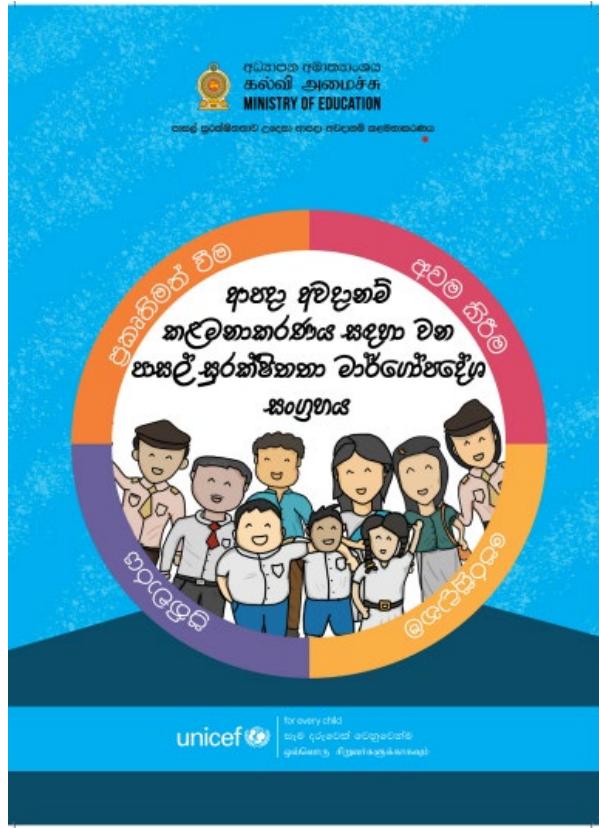
- **UNESCO-IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme.**
  - Tsunami Operational Plans have been prepared for all coastal districts.
  - An annual tsunami simulation exercise was conducted to test and strengthen preparedness.
  - Tsunami warning and evacuation signages were installed in identified vulnerable 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



## Support to communities to get prepared



- **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

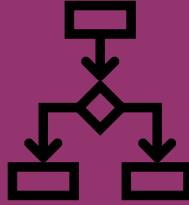


## Exercise Day – 5<sup>th</sup> November 2025- Summary

- 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



# 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

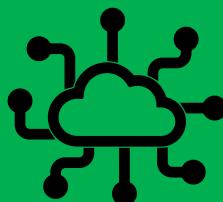
- **EW Tower Maintenance:** Ensure all 77 Early Warning (EW) towers are operational and can be manually activated when needed
- **Identified missing stakeholders:** Ensure EOC has current and comprehensive key contacts
- **Communication Testing:** Thoroughly test major communication channels, including 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