

Session Outcome Document

Twenty Years After the Tsunami 2004:

How Knowledge Transfer Could Improve Safety In Countries at Risk

World Broadcasting Union

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<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Agenda/Session/207>

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

Main lesson learned 20 years after the Big Tsunami:

- Providing accurate and timely information is primordial, but the key to success is the cooperation among all the actors that could share and spread this information, reach all the population and coordinate the action of the various actors on the field (*Ms Gill-CBU*)
- Adapt the early warning system to the various situations (geographic as well related to the nature of the hazard) in order to cover the whole range of possible channels of communication not only the traditional ones. Disasters tend to repeat, but very often in a different way from the previous one. The Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004 was provoked by earthquake. The following one affecting Palu was provoked by a mega-landslide. And the one in 2018 was provoked by a volcanic eruption. The sensors needed to detect these hazards are different... (*Ms. Karnawati, head of BMKG Indonesia*)
- Early Warning for All is a fundamental human right, because nowadays is absolutely essential to preserve the most important valuable thing that each human has: their life. A goal that the acceleration of the number and magnitude of hazards due to climate change, makes it more and more difficult to guarantee this fundamental human right (*Ms. Ilieva – ABU/MSL project*)
- Communication is absolutely essential but is probably the weakest link in the Early Warnings process. Providing life – saving information to each and everyone, even in the most remote and isolated areas is crucial.
(*Ms. Rana, media expert*)

- Timing is a **crucial** factor. The **Indonesian** Early Warning for tsunami –when the first systems were introduced after 2004 **disaster** - could alert people 5 minutes before the impact of the waves. The current alert systems can alert populations 30 minutes before the impact. We need to **make a good use** of this larger margin, to communicate to everybody in an effective way and to have plans in place to organize the evacuation from all the areas where the impact is expected within these 25 minutes....(*Mr. Jati, in charge of NDMA, Indonesia*)

Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)

- The recognition of Disaster Risk Reduction and of Climate change impact as two areas crucial for the WSIS is an important achievement. But in order to make this really an achievement, DTT and efforts of mitigation and adaptation to Climate change, need to be promoted to a separate action line of the WSIS +20. The next 30 years will see an increase of the number and of the magnitude of disasters that WSIS will have to recognize as a priority.

Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, commitments, figures, and success stories (3-5 bullet points))

- The fact that 20 years after the Great Tsunami all the countries that were affected that time are now covered by an Early Warning system is already an important achievement. But this is not sufficient. As discussed during the workshop, the hazards could have different natures, evolution and form of impacts. So, technology needs to take in consideration all possible variations and the use of A.I. could be beneficiary in this sense.
- *NDMA Indonesia* has created a platform called INArisk where all the alerts and risks for the region could be seen and monitored in real time: <https://inarisk.bnpb.go.id/> . A version of this app exists also for mobile phones and portable devices (inaRISK Personal)
- Plan International Indonesia has produced and released an app for early warning about floods in the Jakarta region (see the link: <https://safesteps.com/d-tech/2021.php#non-profit-category>) and now waits for its extension at the whole national level .
- *ABU and CBU* members in their respective regions (Asia - Pacific for ABU and Caribbean for CBU), have trained **thousands of media professionals in the** last 20 years about Tsunami alerts and also about all kinds of other alerts. Thanks to these **efforts many media outlets** are able to instruct population on what to do in case of imminent disaster and have established close links with the NDMAuthorities and Met Services in many countries.



Actionable plan and key recommendations (2-5 points)

- Use the occasion of the EW4ALL initiative to complete **the engagement of** the countries that don't have yet Early Warning systems, starting from those most in need.
- **Reinforce the infrastructure of all communication networks** (not only the telecoms ones, but also broadcasters' ones), making them more resilient to all kind of hazards.

Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2025 (one paragraph)

- Structure a dedicated section on what technology could do for DRR and Climate change within the next WSIS would be not only a laudable thing, but also will represent a first concrete action following the resolutions that will be taken at the next Summit of the Future in New York.