



The ESCAP Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness Informal Briefing Event

23 January 2022, 14:00-15:30 (Bangkok time)
Meeting Room H, UNCC, Bangkok & Online Connection: tbc

Background to the Trust Fund

Asia and the Pacific is the most disaster-prone region in the world. A person living in Asia and the Pacific is 5 times more likely to be affected by natural disasters than a person living outside the region. In 2021 alone, there were more than 150 natural hazard events in Asia and the Pacific, directly impacting 62.6 million people, causing over 4,000 fatalities and resulting in economic losses and damages of US\$41.3 billion.¹

Since the establishment of **the ESCAP Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness** following the devastating Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004, and through the financial contribution of US\$10 million from Thailand, followed by US\$2.5 million from Sweden and contributions from 10 more donor governments, **19 countries have directly benefitted from support in building regional and national end-to-end warning systems for coastal hazards.**

Operating in a regionally coordinated and programmatic way, the Trust Fund has helped reduce the total cost of establishing and maintaining early warning systems substantially, as compared to the sum of costs if every country maintained its own system. Furthermore, by pooling resources, the Trust Fund facilitates South-South and triangular cooperation, this approach has been especially useful for countries that are at high risk of disasters but possess limited domestic capacity in hazard monitoring and early warning.

Guided by its **Strategic Note 2021-2024**, the Trust Fund will continue to focus its support on the two people-centred pillars: i) strengthening multi-hazard early warning systems for all people, with a focus on the vulnerable and marginalized, and ii) strengthening social and economic resilience in Asia-Pacific. These pillars will be further supported by two modalities of implementation, namely, enhancing disaster and climate risk management through iii) regional cooperation, and iv) mainstreaming science, technology, and innovation.

Trust Fund Future - Need for regional partnership to achieve our collective goals

Strengthening early warnings remains the top adaptation priority for many countries in Asia and the Pacific. Countries with limited to moderate MHEWS coverage experience nearly eight times the mortality ratio compared to that in the countries with substantial to comprehensive coverage.² The launch of the United Nations Executive Action Plan for Early Warnings for All at COP27, signalled a global commitment to advancing MHEWS. The plan calls for initial new targeted investments of US\$3.1 billion between 2023 and 2027 ensuring that everyone on Earth is protected by life-saving warnings against increasingly extreme weather in the next five years.

Early Warnings for All is the key strategic priority of the Trust Fund. As the only regional funding mechanism supporting shared learning on disaster preparedness in Asia and the Pacific, the Trust Fund is uniquely positioned to catalyze action in the region to advance Early Warnings for all by 2027. To achieve this ambitious target, ESCAP's Trust Fund should be harnessed to galvanize regional cooperation through and between with the vast array of sub-regional priorities and existing initiatives in Asia and the Pacific working towards advancing MHEWS (See Figure 1 below).

¹ WMO, State of the Climate in Asia, 2021 & State of the Climate in the South-West Pacific, 2021

² UNDRR, Global Status of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems: Target G, 2022

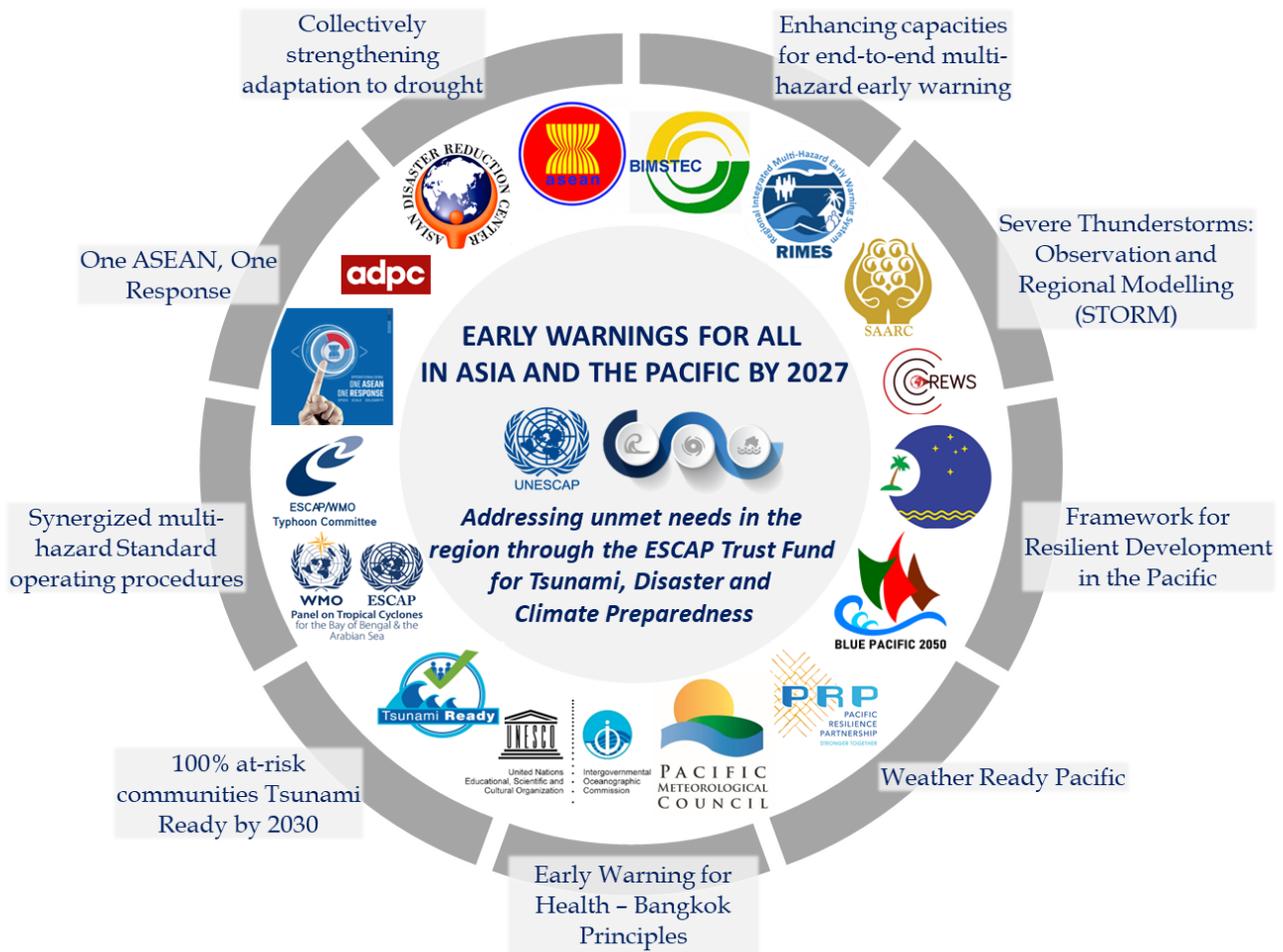


Figure 1: The Trust Fund is a key mechanism to support partnerships and cohesiveness between regional and sub-regional initiatives working towards advancing early warnings for all in Asia and the Pacific.

Given the transboundary nature of hazards, no one country can on its own ensure effective early warning. People-centred early warning is a regional public good that depends on technological innovations, innovative financing solutions and forward-looking policy planning. **As the most disaster impacted region of the world, secure continuous funding will be catalytic to achieving early warnings for all in Asia and the Pacific.**

Objective of the Briefing Event

The informal event aims to brief members to the Trust Fund advisory council, National governments and partners involved in Trust Fund activities, potential future donors and other development partners on the history of achievements, current strategy and governance of the ESCAP Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness, as well its alignment with regional priorities and development strategies to promote Early Warnings for all in Asia and the Pacific.

This briefing event will also serve as a prelude to a broader resource mobilization event focused on early warnings for all in Asia and the Pacific during the 4th Asia-Pacific Disaster Resilience Week, 24-28 July 2023.



Provisional Agenda

Time	Agenda Item
14:00-14:05	1. Opening of the session by Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Director, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP
14:05-14:10	2. Welcome remarks and History of the Trust Fund by founding donor, Thailand (tbc)
14:10-14:30	2. Presentation on the Trust Fund: Presentation by Trust Fund Secretariat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Achievements of the Trust Fund ▪ Current TF Strategy ▪ Trust Fund Governance (decision making process, quality assurance etc) ▪ Future potential: Early Warnings for All in Asia and the Pacific ▪ Consultations with potential donors
14:30-15:10	4. Open Q&A: Moderated by Ms. Tiziana Bonapace, Director, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP
15:10-15:15	5. Closing and Afternoon Tea available
15:15-15:30	6. Closed session with Advisory Council Members Seeking approval for UNESCO-IOC Phase 2c proposal

Contact Details

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With a special thanks to Trust Fund members, donors, partners and inter-agency taskforce



Bangladesh



Germany



India



Italy



Japan



Nepal



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(the)



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