



Photo: UN Photo/Evan Schneider

**ESCAP TRUST FUND**  
FOR TSUNAMI,  
DISASTER AND  
CLIMATE  
PREPAREDNESS

# ENHANCING NATIONAL CAPACITY FOR EARLY WARNING DISSEMINATION IN SRI LANKA



Beneficiary Countries  
**Sri Lanka**

Implementing Partners

**Disaster Management Center- Sri Lanka**

Budget (US\$)  
**\$200,000**

Duration  
**Feb. 2009 to Dec. 2010**

Related SDGs



## PROJECT CONTEXT

In the aftermath of the devastating Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004, the Sri Lankan Disaster Management Center (DMC) was established. The DMC is operating the National Emergency Operations Center (NEOC) which is entrusted to disseminate early warning information for tsunamis and other natural hazards from the national level to the provincial, district, divisional and village level. However, NEOC faced the challenge that information dissemination depended entirely on fixed line communication. Those lines are often disrupted in the case of a major disaster. In addition, mobile phone networks do not offer a reliable alternative, as these tend to be disrupted and overloaded in the immediate aftermath of natural hazard events.

## PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The project aimed to strengthen and upgrade a pre-existing digital radio communication network for the dissemination of early warning information for tsunamis and other natural hazards.

## KEY OUTCOMES

- Standard operating procedures for early warning were documented and distributed.
- Hand-held radios, repeaters, and Very High Frequency (VHF) base stations are now fully operational. The DMC gained the capacity to facilitate a reliable and cost-effective radio communication system that can serve during emergency situations.
- A resource pool of staff from the emergency operating centres and disaster management committees was formed, which now continues training their fellow staff members.
- The Government of Sri Lanka is mobilizing resources so that the DMC can expand the communication system to other disaster-prone districts.