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SUSTAINING THE INDIAN OCEAN AND SOUTHEAST ASIA END-TO-END MULTI-HAZARD EARLY WARNING SYSTEM

ESCAP TRUST FUND
FOR TSUNAMI, DISASTER AND CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS

Beneficiary Countries
Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Lao PDR, Maldives, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam

Implementing Partners
Maldives Meteorological Service

Budget (US$)
$340,000

Duration
May. 2009 to Jun. 2012

Related SDGs

PROJECT CONTEXT

The devastating impacts of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami revealed the absence of a regional early warning system in Asia and the Pacific. The Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES), an international and intergovernmental institution, established in April 2009, was entrusted with improving the generation and communication of early warning information and to support capacity building for disaster preparedness and response for transboundary hazards. Through RIMES, high-risk, low-capacity countries can benefit from this resource pooling mechanism. In addition, countries with technical expertise and experience in seismology and/or tsunami are continuously involved in enhancing the development of RIMES.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The project aimed to establish a regional multi-hazard early warning facility which is providing continuous access to risk information on tsunami and other natural hazards to national tsunami warning centres.

KEY OUTCOMES

• The Government of the Maldives contributed to institution-building of RIMES by taking on the task of political advocacy and implementing administrative and financial mechanisms. It created a presidential task force to support the Maldives Meteorological Services.

• RIMES provided a test bed for products of research and integrated these products into hydro- meteorological services and operations. The RIMES Executive Board adopted a five-year master plan, which documented Member States' needs in the areas of hazard observations, capacity building, forecasting, research and development.

• India joined RIMES and set a best-practise example for institutional support and program funds.

• Bangladesh and Nepal also contributed financially to RIMES through donor funded projects.

UNITED NATIONS
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Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific