



October 2007

# US IOTWS Program Update

SPECIAL ISSUE: SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

**US Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program**  
*from advanced technologies to resilient communities*

## A Special Focus on the US IOTWS Small Grants Program

This month's Program Update provides a closer look at some of achievements completed through the US Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Small Grants Program. The US IOTWS Program has funded 17 small grants in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand as part of its \$16.6 million two-year effort to support the development of an end-to-end warning system in the region. The grants program promoted pilot activities that contribute to community and bottom-up results in disaster mitigation, preparedness, and response.

### Students Get the Word Out on Disaster Preparedness

*Komunitas Siaga Tsunami (KOGAMI), Indonesia*

Through KOGAMI's School Education Roadshow project, 60 schools in Indonesia collaborated in drafting school evacuation plans and hazard maps, which then served as a basis for full-school evacuation simulations. As a result, 17,700 students and 900 staff throughout Padang are better prepared for disasters and safe evacuation. A post-training assessment indicates that students are actively passing these skills on to their friends and family. KOGAMI and the schools also presented recommendations to local government officials, who have now committed to improving infrastructure and emergency equipment, particularly in "red zones", or the most disaster-prone areas. All 60 schools will include disaster preparedness in the local education curriculum and hold periodic evacuation simulations. In addition, Padang's Strategic Planning for Disaster Preparedness includes provisions to rehabilitate school buildings, and KOGAMI is continuing to develop a "Disaster Prepared School" certification program for 12 pilot schools.



A student in Padang learning earthquake safety

KOGAMI

For more information, contact Patra Rina Dewi at KOGAMI at [patra@kogami.or.id](mailto:patra@kogami.or.id).

### Communities Chart Their Own Course for Sustainable Livelihoods

*WorldFish Center, Indonesia*



Community members in Aceh Jaya recording daily fish catch data

The WorldFish Center turned assessment into action, and research into results, while testing management options for the rehabilitation of fisheries and habitats in Indonesia. WorldFish worked with stakeholders in four villages (Pulo Raya, Lhok Kruet, Meunasah Kulam, and Blang Monlung) in Aceh Jaya to develop technically sound, sustainable management structures for natural resources and to support livelihoods. In a region largely untouched by much of the post-tsunami aid, WorldFish was able to make a difference using local knowledge and the support of a primarily Indonesian staff. The activities included testing fish cage cultures for tilapia or grouper; providing technical support to the *Panglima laot*, or tribal leaders in fishing communities; training for the *Panglima laot* to accurately record fish catch data and monitor information; replanting mangroves; and restoring coastal habitats.

WorldFish



Further testing and adoption of these practices will continue with the engagement of community stakeholders from Sampoinet, Aceh Jaya. The lessons learned and knowledge gained will be incorporated into WorldFish's continuing work in Aceh Jaya, Aceh Barat, and other regions.

For more information, contact Len Garces at WorldFish at [l.garces@cgiar.org](mailto:l.garces@cgiar.org).

## Two Communities More Prepared for Next Disaster

Sewalanka Foundation, Sri Lanka



Children enjoying the activities while learning about disaster preparedness at the "Fun Bus"

The Sewalanka Foundation worked with two Sri Lankan communities, Kaluthara and Hambantota, to increase understanding of coastal hazards, including tsunami, so that they will be better prepared for future disasters. The project established an active and well-functioning Village Community Disaster Management Committee (VCDMC) in both of the communities. The VCDMCs took special notice of the most vulnerable members of their community (women, children, and the disabled) to ensure their safety and has developed excellent relations with relevant agencies in the area to guarantee ongoing support. Sewalanka and the VCDMCs implemented a community early warning system, organized mock drills, and conducted trainings regularly to reinforce emergency preparedness plans and answer questions and concerns from the community. With strong linkages to the National Disaster Management Center (DMC), these villages are now connected to the national warning system and lessons learned from this project can be applied to village preparedness initiatives across Sri Lanka.

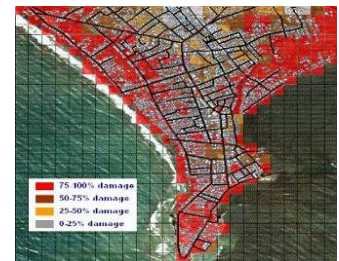
For more information contact Nayana Maligaspe at Sewalanka-Kalutara at [kalutara@sewalanka.org](mailto:kalutara@sewalanka.org) or Bilani Kodikara at Sewalanka-Hambantota at [hambantota@sewalanka.org](mailto:hambantota@sewalanka.org).

## Building Multi-hazard Risk Assessment Teams

Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand

The Geoinformatics Center at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) has strengthened skills within a core group of professionals in India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Thailand to apply tools such as remote sensing and GIS within a multi-hazard risk assessment framework. The project first provided intensive hands-on training sessions, and then participants undertook risk assessments in their home countries, focusing on tsunamis. The case studies included the development of tsunami hazard maps, agricultural and building damage maps, and evacuation plans. Results of these studies have already been used in government initiatives on tsunami preparedness. For example, when the Thai government was planning for the Andaman Wave tsunami evacuation simulation in July 2007, one case study provided valuable information on the times required to reach safe evacuation points in Kamala Beach in Phuket. The eight core participants organized four in-country training events to further expand multi-hazard risk assessment capacity to include 90 additional scientists and professionals in the region.

For more information contact Manzul Hazarika at AIT at [manzul@ait.ac.th](mailto:manzul@ait.ac.th).



Building damage assessment in Meulaboh, Indonesia

AIT Geoinformatics

## Bright Future for Tay Muang Beach

WWF, Thailand

The coral reefs just offshore Had Tay Muang in Phang Nga province provide an important fishing ground for communities, which are in the immediate proximity of a national marine protected area along this stretch coast in southern Thailand. WWF has assisted the government in developing a participatory coastal resources management model that will be replicated in Thailand's other coastal areas. Sixteen communities—including fishermen, dive operators, government authorities, and approximately 1,000 villagers—have taken part in the

WWF Thailand



WWF Thailand



Villagers installing mooring buoys to reduce anchor damage to coral reefs (top); Mangrove reforestation (bottom)

decision-making process and implementation of activities, together with the national park authority at Had Tay Muang. Measures to restore and protect the coral reef include installing mooring buoys, transplanting coral, cleaning the reef, enriching fisheries, and restoring coastal forests. One of the key achievements is the establishment of public hearings to provide a forum for discussion on important issues within the community. The hearings facilitated agreement on rules for sustainable resource use that balance existing local practices with scientific understanding of ecological capacity. WWF continues to work with communities around Had Tay Muang to develop a sustainability plan, while focusing on community-based tourism to help maintain good environmental quality and diversification of livelihoods within the area. Through the partnership developed between the communities and the national parks authority, the participatory approaches will continue to reduce communities' vulnerability and enhance their resilience.

For more information contact Geraldina Nguendo at WWF at [gnguyendo@mangroveproject.org](mailto:gnguyendo@mangroveproject.org).

## UPCOMING US IOTWS PROGRAM AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

### US IOTWS Program Transition Workshop

December 6-7, 2007, Bangkok, Thailand

The US Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program was designed to be catalytic in nature and provide targeted support, while helping to ensure sustainability in the long-term by building capacity within the region and establishing partnerships. Over 100 US-funded experts and scientists have shared their technical expertise, provided guidance, and helped build multi-hazard warning capabilities in the five countries most affected by the December 2004 tsunami. A vast network of government agencies and other organizations have made commendable progress on tsunami warning systems, although much work remains to be done. Over the past several months, the Program team has been working closely with partners to transform tools, technologies, and initiatives into long-term platforms that will continue independently into the future. In support of this, a transition workshop will be held as a critical step in the process. Workshop participants will identify the lessons learned and key accomplishments achieved in the region with US support, and outline the steps required to ensure sustainability. Results of the workshop will also inform the work of the Intergovernmental Coordination Group for the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (ICG/IOTWS).

For more information contact Peter Collier at [pcollier@iotws.org](mailto:pcollier@iotws.org).

### Incident Command System Planning Section Course, October 31-November 9, 2007

Jakarta, Indonesia

For more information contact S.H.M. Fakhruddin at [fakhruddin@adpc.net](mailto:fakhruddin@adpc.net)

### Study Tour on Disaster Management, January 12-19, 2008

San Francisco and Sacramento, California, USA

For more information contact S.H.M. Fakhruddin at [fakhruddin@adpc.net](mailto:fakhruddin@adpc.net)

### Cross-Training Workshop on Media and Disaster Early Warning Systems, January 14, 2008

Jakarta, Indonesia

For more information contact S.H.M. Fakhruddin at [fakhruddin@adpc.net](mailto:fakhruddin@adpc.net)

### Local Tsunami Early Warning Systems Workshop, January 16-18, 2008

West Timor, Indonesia

For more information contact S.H.M. Fakhruddin at [fakhruddin@adpc.net](mailto:fakhruddin@adpc.net)

### About the US Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program

The US IOTWS Program is part of the international effort to develop tsunami warning system capabilities in the Indian Ocean following the December 2004 tsunami disaster. The US program adopts an "end-to-end" approach—addressing regional, national, and local aspects of a truly functional warning system—along with multiple other hazards that threaten communities in the region. In partnership with the international community, national governments, and other partners, the US program offers technology transfer, training, and information resources to strengthen the tsunami warning and preparedness capabilities of national and local stakeholders in the region.

For more information please visit [www.us-iotws.gov](http://www.us-iotws.gov).

U.S. Agency for International Development  
[www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)

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