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Response Indicators – How to achieve, challenges and solutions

7.3 Communications – Receive and Disseminate Alerts RESP 3 and 4

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Tsunami Ready Indicators

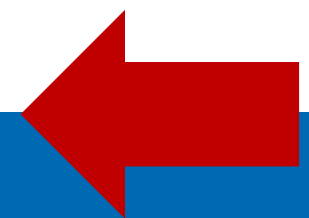


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TSUNAMI READY INDICATORS	
I	ASSESSMENT (ASSESS)
1	ASSESS-1. Tsunami hazard zones are mapped and designated.
2	ASSESS-2. The number of people at risk in the tsunami hazard zone is estimated.
3	ASSESS-3. Economic, infrastructural, political, and social resources are identified.
II	PREPAREDNESS (PREP)
4	PREP-1. Easily understood tsunami evacuation maps are approved.
5	PREP-2. Tsunami information including signage is publicly displayed.
6	PREP-3. Outreach and public awareness and education resources are available and distributed.
7	PREP-4. Outreach or educational activities are held at least 3 times a year.
8	PREP-5. A community tsunami exercise is conducted at least every two years.
III	RESPONSE (RESP)
9	RESP-1. A community tsunami emergency response plan is approved.
10	RESP-2. The capacity to manage emergency response operations during a tsunami is in place.
11	RESP-3. Redundant and reliable means to timely receive 24-hour official tsunami alerts are in place.
12	RESP-4. Redundant and reliable means to timely disseminate 24-hour official tsunami alerts to the public are in place.



Introduction

The community must be able to **disseminate tsunami alerts to all** its members

The means of **dissemination** will **depend** on the **size of the community** and the **options that are already available** to it, for example if it has a cyclone warning system

Need to consider and plan for disseminating alerts to target groups such as **schools, hospitals, business** premises and the **public** at large

There should be arrangements in place to disseminate alerts on a 24x7 basis, particularly in **highly vulnerable communities**

Issuing alerts to community members in the event of a **local tsunami can be very challenging** due to the possibility of **damage to infrastructure** and the **short time** between tsunami generation and the arrival of the first wave. Recognition of **natural warning signs and preparedness to self-evacuate** is important in such at-risk communities

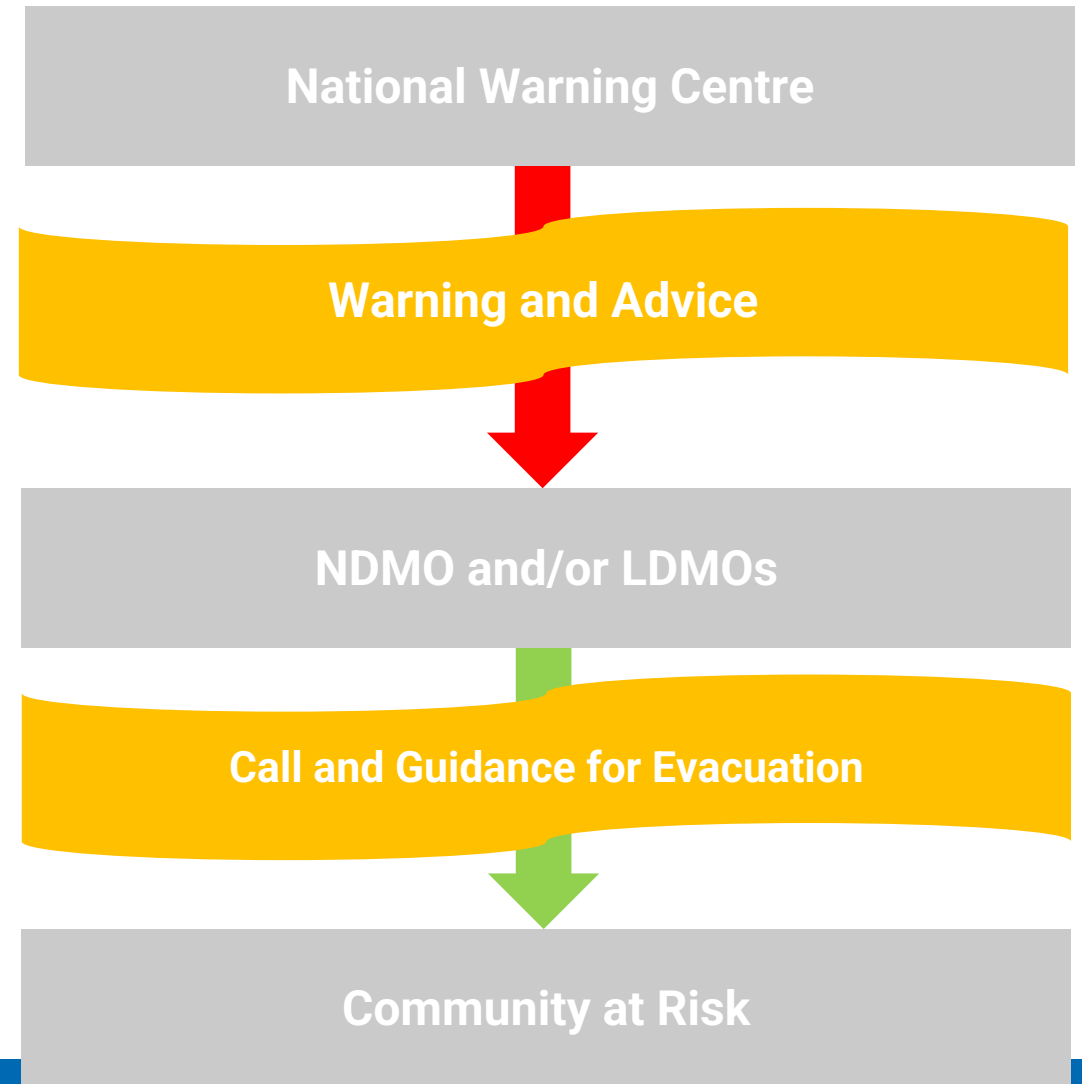
Warning chain to the community

Must operate **24x7**

Need to use **SOPs synchronised** at national, provincial, district and municipal levels

Requires official **delegation of authority**

Cooperation and coordination between national, provincial, district and municipality agencies is essential in the delivery of timely tsunami early warning and guidance



Key questions to consider

1. What is the **content** of the local warning messages/guidance/advice?
2. Who are the **target** groups?
3. Which **communication system** should be used to reach each of the target groups?
4. What kind of **agreements need to be established** (e.g. with local media)?



Target groups and how to reach them



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- **The general public:** traditional devices, loudspeakers (on mosques, churches etc), sirens, social media
- **Local media:** arrangements need to be in place to ensure the media understand their role and are able to disseminate correct information timely and accurately. Automatic fax, email direct communication be phone
- **Local institutions and decision makers:** establish links to all existing important local communication networks, VHF communication should be used wherever possible

Warning dissemination by the operators should be documented in clear step by step SOPs!

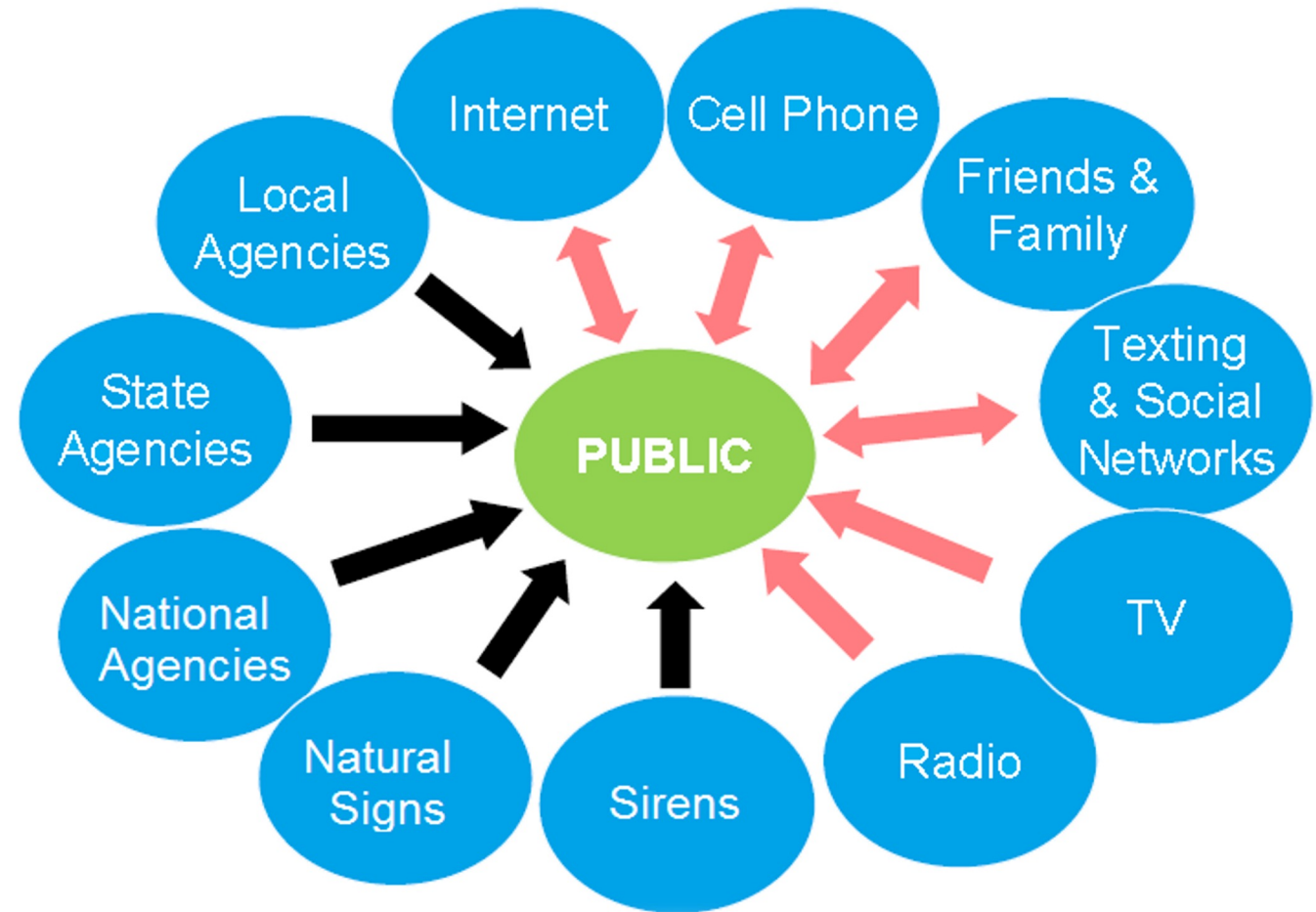
Communications to and from the public



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There are **many available channels of communication to the public**, some of them **official**, some of them **unofficial**. Some channels are **one way** but others are **two way** allowing the public to communicate within their communities and with the wider world via the internet, social media etc.



Alerts must be able to be disseminated from the 24-hour warning point and/or EOC through at least three methods



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For the purposes of this indicator, the **24 hour warning point** and/or the EOC (if activated) must be able to disseminate tsunami alerts through at least three of the following methods:

- Country Emergency Alert System (EAS) message initiation and broadcast
- Broadcast/Cable television audio/video overrides
- Local flood warning systems ideally with no single point of failure
- Plan for siren/megaphone notification on emergency vehicles
- Outdoor warning sirens
- Other local alert broadcast system
- Local pager/texting system
- Amateur radio operator network
- Telephone mass notification system
- Call out tree
- Coordinated jurisdiction-wide radio network
- Social media usage (Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp, etc.)
- Lifeguards on beaches and on patrol

Redundant and reliable means to disseminate the tsunami alerts to the public



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Local Disaster Management
Organizations



SMS



Radio



Television



Social Media



Mobile Apps



Sirens



Public Alert System



VHF/ Mega
phone



Tom-tom
(traditional
methods)

Door-to-door

Police

Village
volunteers

Lifeguards on
beaches

Any other
modes

Public at Risk



Summary of RESP-4

- ✓ The community must be able to **disseminate tsunami alerts to all its members and sectors**. The means of transmission will depend on the size of the community and the options already available to it
- ✓ Getting tsunami alerts to the community **requires cooperation and coordination** between national, provincial, district and municipality agencies and the **synchronisation of SOPs at each level of the warning chain**
- ✓ The target groups to reach are the **general public, local media and local institutions** and **decision makers**
- ✓ There are many media channels through which alerts can be disseminated and a **minimum of three are required** to achieve this indicator. Examples are sirens, local texting system, social media, television/radio interrupts, telephone mass notification system, amateur radio networks, and local traditional methods such as tom-tom drums



THANK YOU

Vinaka Vaka Levu

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