

Pacific Ocean Equivalency Initiative

Status of Actions & Decisions – ICG/PTWS-XXX

ICG/PTWS -XXX in September 2023 established the **WG3 Task Team: Tsunami Ready** to facilitate and coordinate efforts relating to the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme and within the ICG/PTWS, in support of the UN Ocean Decade Goals (ICG/PTWS-XXX 1)

Also, through ICG/PTWS-XXX.5, the ICG:

- Encouraged **member states to continue to share outcomes and progression** towards “100% Tsunami Ready Goal” with WG3, **including communities already considered compliant** through national standards
- Mandated the **ITIC to continue to facilitate implementation and data collection** regarding TR in the PTWS
- Noted & Endorsed the proposed **Tsunami Ready Equivalency Approach** that seeks to enable reporting of tsunami preparedness **in a manner compatible** with the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme
 - Recommends the **TTTR to develop formal guidance for the application of this approach**, in consultation with the Regional Working Groups.

Please see full recommendation in ICG/PTWS-XXX.5
<https://oceanexpert.org/event/3920>





At-risk population - Pacific

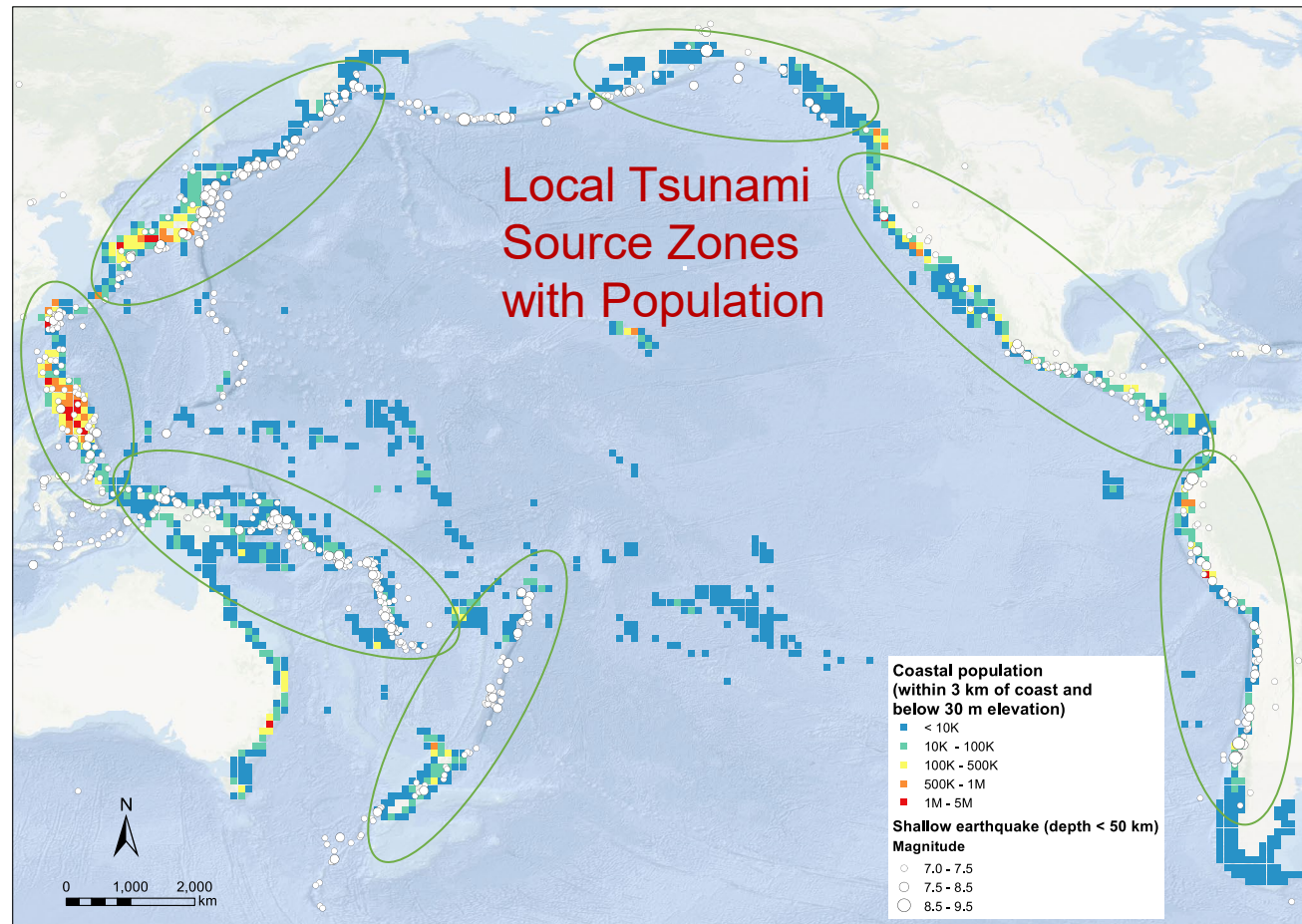


Tsunami evacuation zone

Population to evacuate

Less than 30 m elevation and within 3 km of coast

83,413,677



Coastal Population
(1 deg aggregate)

- < 10K
- 10K - 100K
- 100K - 500K
- 500K - 1M
- 1M - 3M

Shallow Earthquakes
Magnitude (threat proxy)

- 7.0 - 7.5
- 7.5 - 8.5
- 8.5 - 9.5

April 2024
Gridded Population of the
World, Version 4 (GPWv4)
(<https://sedac.ciesin.columbia.edu/binaries/web/sedac/collections/gpw-v4/gpw-v4-documentation-rev11.pdf>).
30 sec resolution
aggregated to 1 deg
B. Fry, GNS Science, NZ

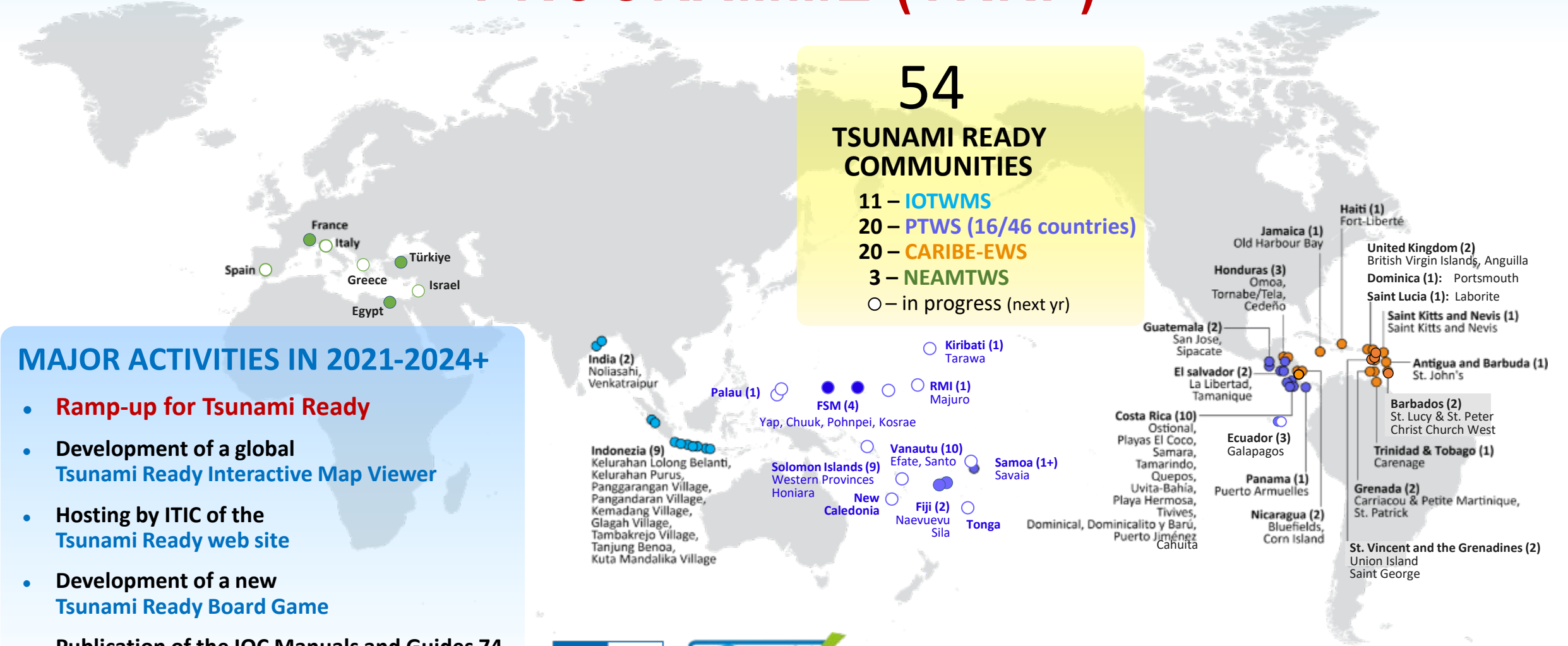
UNESCO/IOC TSUNAMI READY RECOGNITION PROGRAMME (TRRP)

54
TSUNAMI READY COMMUNITIES

- 11 – IOTWMS
- 20 – PTWS (16/46 countries)
- 20 – CARIBE-EWS
- 3 – NEAMTWS
- – in progress (next yr)

MAJOR ACTIVITIES IN 2021-2024+

- Ramp-up for Tsunami Ready
- Development of a global Tsunami Ready Interactive Map Viewer
- Hosting by ITIC of the Tsunami Ready web site
- Development of a new Tsunami Ready Board Game
- Publication of the IOC Manuals and Guides 74 «Standard Guidelines for Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme»



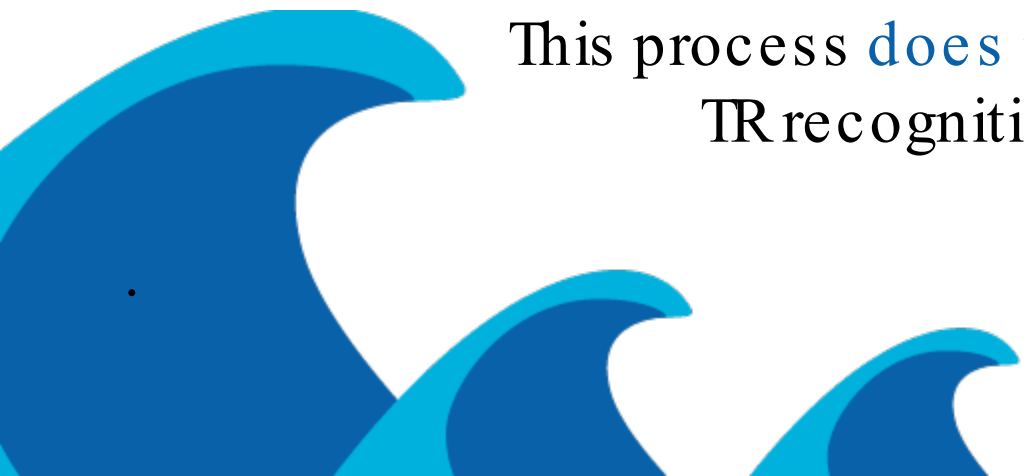
TRRP “Equivalency”

The UN Ocean Decade Goal is to make “100% of communities at risk of tsunami prepared for and resilient to tsunamis by 2030 through the implementation of the UNESCO/IOC Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme and other initiatives.”

For the proposed ‘equivalency’ concept, the 12 indicators of the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme are taken as the definition of ‘prepared and resilient’

The purpose of this ‘equivalency approach’ is to ensure that every country will contribute to the UN Ocean Decade Goal.

This process does not require application to IOC/UNESCO for formal TR recognition but will support ICG reporting.



TRRP “Equivalency”

The approach proposed at ICG/PTWS-XXX(September 2023) has the following principles:

Countries have a strong motivation to ensure tsunami resilience (not box tick)

Builds upon existing programmes, capacities and strengths

We use the 12 indicators of the Tsunami Ready Framework

Contributes to ICG progress reporting for UNOD Tsunami Programme



TRRP “Equivalency” is a country action

Approach proposed at ICG/PTWS-XXX had 4 steps, since simplified to 3:

1. Identify / establish national governance (National Tsunami Ready Board (NTRB) or equivalent). NTRB guidance exists in MG74. Note Regional TRB will not be applicable in this context.
2. Assess tsunami preparedness & resiliency against TRRP indicators
 - Define the most appropriate level of “community”
 - Guidance to be in the TR toolkit. Should be pragmatic to enable meaningful application
 - Undertake a process * that cross-references current status of activities and products of the “community” against TR indicators.
 - As far as possible, utilise existing community reporting, some activities may be consistent across all communities.
 - Modify current MG 74 UNESCO-IOC TR application to create “TR comparison” checklist
3. Report * progress toward UNOD Goal to ICG. Member
 States through survey or national reporting (e.g. annual? Biannual?). Ideally, this is
 eventually integrated with PTWS KPI or National Reporting.

*to be proposed by Task Team for SC September 2024.

Recent Discussion by the Task Team

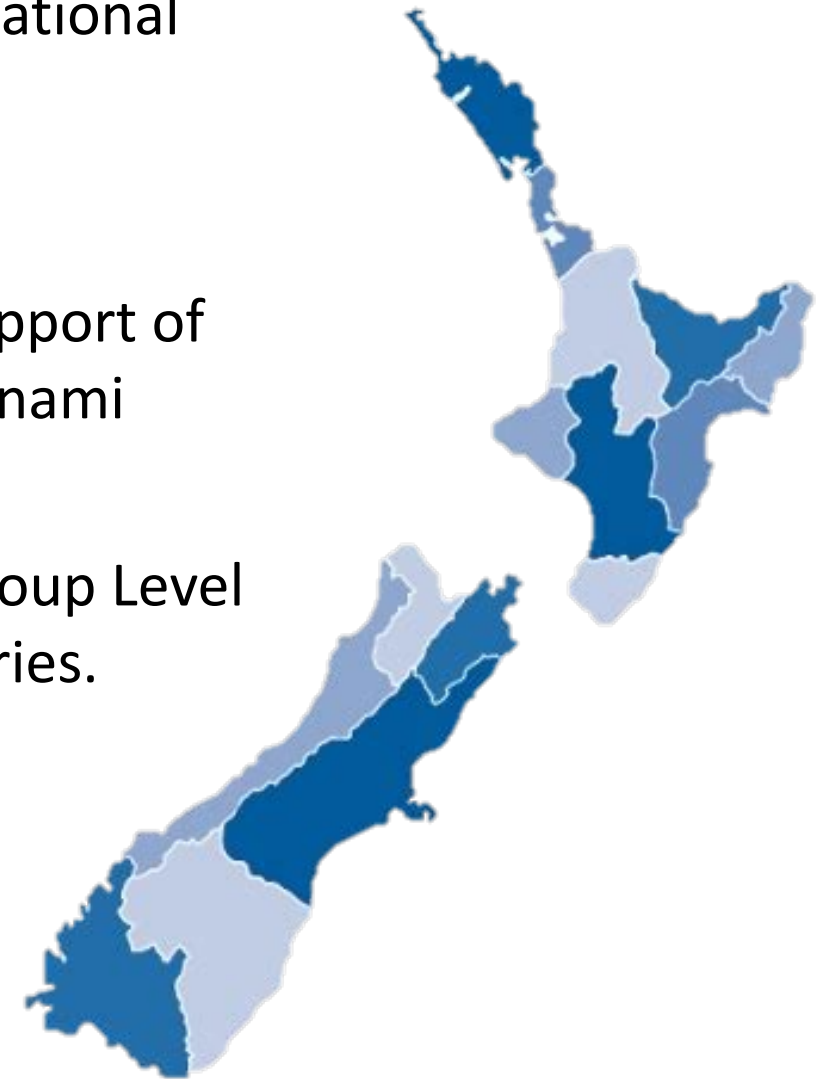
- Will be important to use all representatives of the task team, as well as the Regional Working Groups, to hypothetically apply the guidance to different country contexts to ensure it is applicable across the Pacific
- Also need to consider with the reporting how to align with the renewal process concept of TRRP – the process of checking up and maintaining is very important
- Suggest this is run as a couple of pilots in countries with existing DRR programmes (e.g. NZ, Japan), before final approval
- Equivalency is good for countries that have advanced tsunami preparedness programmes but for other countries we should recommend the formal TRRP.
- Along with that, noted the benefit of recognition to communities in Indonesia – is there more we can do to recognise / celebrate the benefits of TRRP as well as deliver this equivalency?

Tsunami Ready in New Zealand

New Zealand is not able to roll-out formal TR recognition as a national programme.

However, there is interest at a national level to encourage the measurement of Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme, in support of the Ocean Decade Goal of 100% of all at risk communities “Tsunami Ready”.

This would be preferentially undertaken at the Civil Defence Group Level - committees of local authorities within wider council boundaries.



Tsunami Ready in New Zealand

New Zealand has an existing Tsunami governance group called the National Tsunami Reference Group, consisting of national and local NDMO offices, the national tsunami warning centre, and the science community.

We will modify their terms of reference to include:

- Verification of an analysis of tsunami preparedness, in the context of the Tsunami Ready Framework, and
- To act as a National Tsunami Ready Board for formal recognition, if required.

We are prepared to use this Board to also approve formal Tsunami Ready Recognition should a community want to pursue that.



Early comparison against indicators

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.

Risk assessment is legally required by all communities. Reporting not specific to indicators and will need investigation

These variably occur across communities and will be met by some but not others.

Legally required across all communities, reported every 5 years

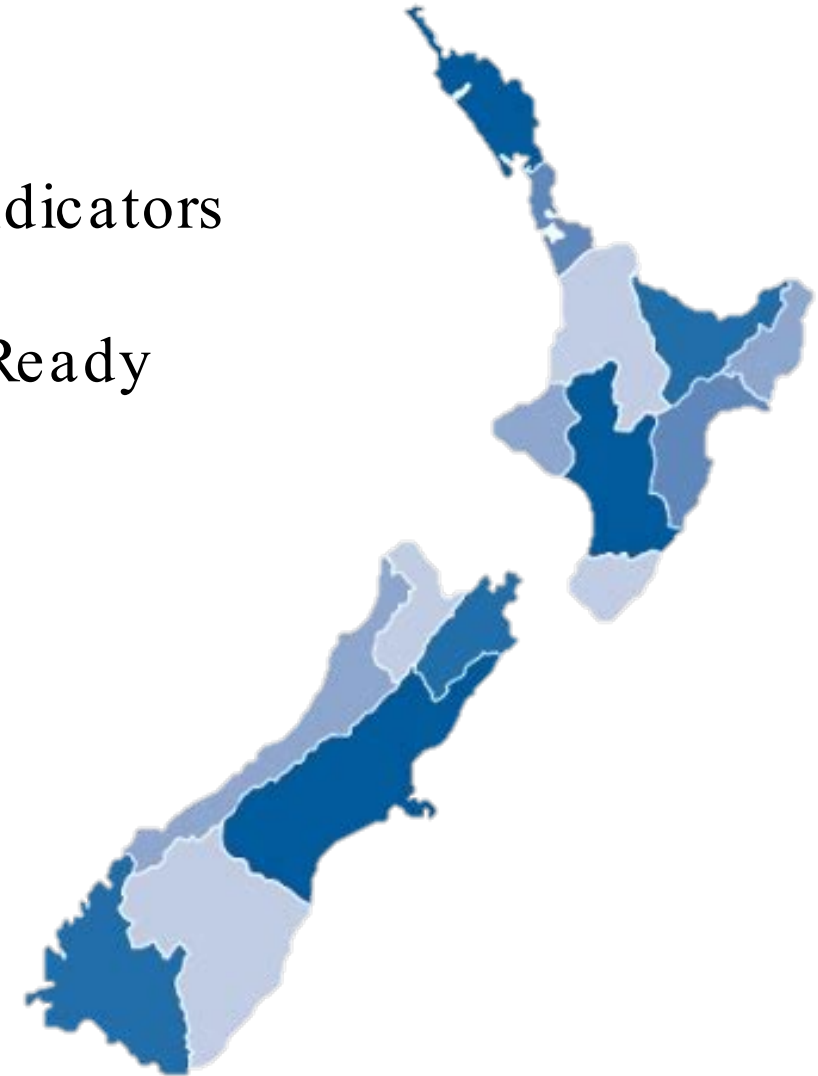
Done across all communities (national capability)

Early comparison against indicators

We are working to be able to say:

XX out of 16 communities meet all of the Tsunami Ready Indicators

YY out of 16 communities almost meet all of the Tsunami Ready Indicators



Summary

The Pacific is working on ‘equivalency guidance’ to strengthen reporting towards the UNOD goal of “100% of communities at risk of tsunami prepared for and resilient to tsunamis by 2030”.

We are conscious of doing this while also strengthening implementation efforts of the Tsunami Ready Recognition Programme.

We intend to develop this guidance with input from across the ICG to ensure it’s appropriate for multiple contexts.

We intend to present this to the ICG in April 2026 for indicative approval subject to a pilot.

