



ESCAP Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness



INTRODUCTION

PROTECTING KEY DEVELOPMENT GAINS IN ASIA

The ESCAP Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness supports and promotes projects that build resilience and reduce disaster risks in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian countries. Throughout the region, several trends point to the need for additional, critical investments to develop capacities in this area.

THE REGION CONTINUES TO FACE DISASTER THREATS

Asia-Pacific is the most disaster-prone region of the world. Between 1970 and 2011, nearly two million people were killed by disasters in this region, an alarming figure that represented 75 per cent of global disaster fatalities during this period. Every year, millions of people in Asia-Pacific remain at risk to tsunamis, earthquakes, tropical cyclones, typhoons, floods and storm surges.



DISASTERS UNDERMINE DEVELOPMENT

Disasters exacerbate poverty, vulnerability and economic inequity. The poor in society are generally more vulnerable to disasters. Likewise, people in low-income countries are more exposed to natural hazards than those in high-income countries. Disasters can impede and even roll-back progress made towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Therefore, building resilience is an integral part of efforts to achieve the MDGs.

URBANIZATION BRINGS NEW VULNERABILITIES

Rapid urbanization heightens exposure to hazards and increases vulnerabilities, especially among the poor. In 2011, ten of the world's 20 megacities were located in Asia. The share of the total population in Asia living in urban areas increased from 17 per cent in 1950 to 44 per cent in 2010, and will likely reach 64 per cent by 2050. Cities with the highest concentrations of people tend to be the areas with the highest risk related to disasters.

COASTAL AREAS ARE HEAVILY EXPOSED

Eight of the ten countries in the world with the largest populations residing in low elevation coastal zones are found in Asia. Most have heavily populated delta regions, which are exposed to disaster risks from rising tides, tropical storms, sea level rise and high river flows. Despite these risks, coastal settlements continue to attract people and are growing more rapidly than those inland, putting additional populations at risk.

CLIMATE CHANGE INCREASES RISK

Adapting to the added risks brought about by climate change is a major challenge for the countries in the Asia-Pacific region. The observed effects of climate extremes and variation suggest that, while the overall number of tropical cyclones (typhoons in Eastern Asia and the Pacific) may not be increasing, the intensity of the cyclones is on the rise, making the region as a whole more susceptible to disaster losses.

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BUILDING RESILIENCE IS COST EFFECTIVE

A person living in Asia-Pacific is four times more likely to be affected by natural disasters than someone living in Africa, and 25 times more likely than someone living in Europe or North America. For a region at such high risk, additional investments in building resilience are not a choice, but a necessity. Research has shown that every dollar spent on preparedness saves seven dollars in the aftermath of disaster. Therefore, investing in disaster risk reduction and preparedness measures is not only a moral imperative, it is financially sound.



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HISTORY

CREATION OF THE TRUST FUND FOR TSUNAMI, DISASTER AND CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS

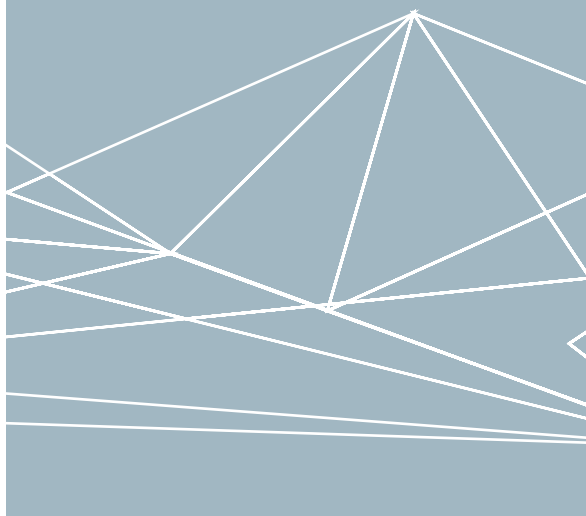
The widespread destruction wrought by the Indian Ocean Tsunami in December 2004 demonstrated the need for an effective regional disaster preparedness mechanism. In 2005, the Tsunami Regional Trust Fund was established to support tsunami early warning in Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian countries through a multi-hazard approach. In 2010, the scope of the Trust Fund was expanded to also include disaster and climate preparedness, while retaining a focus on end-to-end early warning for coastal hazards. At the same time, it was renamed the Trust Fund for Tsunami, Disaster and Climate Preparedness.

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DONOR SUPPORT

PIONEERING POOLED RESOURCES

A groundbreaking grant of US\$ 10 million from the Royal Thai Government established the Trust Fund in 2005. The governments of Sweden, Turkey, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Nepal, and the Netherlands have also contributed generously to the Trust Fund, which serves as an example of how donors can pool their resources in order to maximize the impact achieved for vulnerable populations. Between its inception in 2005 and the end of 2012, the Trust Fund received contributions totaling US\$ 13.1 million.



HOW DOES THE TRUST FUND ADD VALUE?

As one of the few regional funding mechanisms for early warning, the Trust Fund adds value by being:

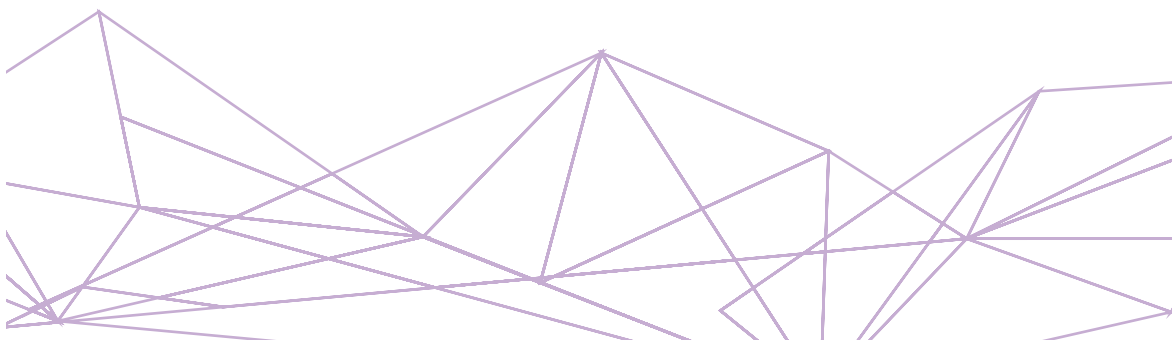
NEEDS DRIVEN The Trust Fund addresses unmet needs and gaps, and supports innovative, potentially high impact initiatives.

REGIONALLY LINKED Priority is given to strategic initiatives at the regional level, including resource sharing arrangements and South-South cooperation, which complement national efforts.

PARTNERSHIP BASED United Nations partners contribute to the Trust Fund's strategy and the technical appraisal of projects. The Trust Fund also works with a broad range of other partners such as government agencies, regional organizations, NGOs and the media.

QUALITY CONTROLLED Project proposals are reviewed by the Trust Fund's Inter-Agency Task Force and Advisory Council according to relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, sustainability and impact. The ESCAP Grants Committee oversees financial procedures.

STRATEGICALLY POSITIONED ESCAP promotes disaster risk reduction as an integral part of ensuring inclusive and sustainable development for the people of the Asia-Pacific region. The Fund's location allows it to build on ESCAP's role in convening regional cooperation and facilitating knowledge sharing and advocacy.





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TRUST FUND STRATEGY: THREE PILLARS

The Trust Fund supports strategic approaches that respond to specific needs and opportunities in the region. Its funding strategy has three main pillars:

- Regional intergovernmental mechanisms;
- Specific country needs; and
- Civil society innovations.

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PROGRAMMATIC FOCUS

BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH END-TO-END EARLY WARNING

The Trust Fund focuses on end-to-end early warning for coastal hazards such as tsunamis, cyclones, coastal zone flooding and storm surges, while applying a multi-hazard approach. It contributes to building more resilient coastal communities, and thus ultimately, helps save lives and reduce loss and damage from disasters.

End-to-end early warning systems can reduce the loss of life as well as the economic and social impact of disasters. Early warning is one of the five priorities for action covered by the Hyogo Framework for Action, a 10-year plan to make the world safer from natural hazards.

A complete and effective end-to-end early warning system comprises:

RISK KNOWLEDGE

Systematically collect data and undertake risk assessments.



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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_7041

