

**CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL SAFETY TRAINING REPORT
ON
IMPLEMENTING TSUNAMI READY PROGRAMME
IN KERALA**

*Enhancing School Safety in Tsunami-Prone
Areas*



KERALA STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

Background

The Tsunami Ready Programme (TRP), a significant initiative by UNESCO, aims to strengthen the preparedness and response capabilities of communities residing in tsunami-prone areas around the world. Kerala, with its nine coastal districts (Kasaragod, Kannur, Kozhikode, Malappuram, Thrissur, Ernakulam, Alappuzha, Kollam, and Thiruvananthapuram), is acutely aware of the dangers of tsunamis.

Following the devastating event in 2004, the state has implemented various new interventions to improve preparedness.

In 2022, as part of the TRP, a "Tsunami Ready Programme - Training & Capacity Building Program Plan" was initiated in all nine coastal districts of Kerala.

Building on these advancements and insights gained from the "North-West Indian Ocean Regional Workshop on Tsunami Evacuation Planning" attended by the Member Secretary, Kerala State Disaster Management Authority is committed to working with UNESCO to make the nine selected coastal grama panchayats (village councils) of the nine coastal districts in Kerala "Tsunami Ready."

UNESCO's Tsunami Ready Programme

The TRP is a global initiative aimed at building community resilience in tsunami-prone regions. It focuses on:

- Public awareness campaigns: Raising awareness about tsunami risks and safety procedures.
- Community preparedness exercises: Conducting mock drills and simulations to practice evacuation procedures.
- Improved warning systems: Establishing and maintaining effective early warning systems for tsunamis.



Introduction

The devastating impact of natural disasters on children is a global concern. The devastating 2004 tsunami in Alappad village of Kollam district in Kerala tragically exemplified this vulnerability, with children suffering disproportionately due to their developing physical and cognitive abilities. Limited mobility and dependence on adults for guidance make them even more susceptible during a disaster.

Global Context: Vulnerability of Children

Sadly, the story of Alappad, Kerala, is not unique. Children across the globe face heightened vulnerability during natural disasters, including:

- 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami (Japan): A Reuters article from March 11, 2011 reported over 2,000 children were killed, and many more were orphaned or separated from their families.
- 2013 Typhoon Haiyan (Philippines): According to a Save the Children report from November 19, 2013, an estimated 1.7 million children were affected, with many losing their homes and schools.
- Indonesia Earthquake and Tsunami (December 22, 2022): A BBC News article from December 26, 2022, reported that at least 34 children died after a powerful earthquake triggered a tsunami on Indonesia's Java and Sumatra islands. Many more children were reported missing, separated from their families, or injured.
- Hurricane Fiona in the Dominican Republic (September 19, 2022): According to a UNICEF press release from September 22, 2022, Hurricane Fiona caused devastating landslides and floods in the Dominican Republic, particularly affecting vulnerable communities. The release highlighted the specific dangers children face in such disasters, including drowning, injuries, and separation from caregivers.



- Floods in Bangladesh (June 12, 2022): Al Jazeera report from June 17, 2022, documented the plight of children displaced by severe flooding in Bangladesh. The report emphasized children's challenges in accessing clean water, sanitation, and healthcare facilities during such disasters, putting them at further risk.

Children are particularly susceptible to disasters for several reasons:



These examples underscore the urgent need for proactive measures beyond community-wide initiatives. Recognizing the importance of inclusive disaster management, the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) prioritizes practices that safeguard all members of the community, especially children.

As part of this commitment, KSDMA has incorporated a significant component within the Tsunami Ready Program, ensuring the safety of schools in selected grama panchayats (village councils) in Kerala.



This report details KSDMA's initiative, led by State Programme Coordinator (UNICEF-KSDMA) Dr Pratheesh C. Mammen, which integrates children into disaster preparedness through school safety programs.

Aim

To enhance the safety and well-being of students and staff in schools located within tsunami-prone areas of Kerala.

Objectives

- **Enhance School Safety:** To ensure that schools in the selected gram panchayats efficiently respond to disasters, including tsunamis.
- **Capacity Building:** To train school personnel and students in disaster management and emergency response.
- **Comprehensive Hazard Preparedness:** To address various potential hazards, not limited to tsunamis, but also other natural and man-made disasters.

Outcomes and Impact

The Tsunami Ready Program's school safety component is determined to achieve the following outcomes:

- **Enhanced Preparedness:** Increased readiness of school personnel and students to respond to emergencies.
- **Efficient Response:** Streamlined emergency response procedures, ensuring timely and effective safety measures during disasters.
- **Community Resilience:** Building overall resilience within the community by ensuring that educational services remain operational during emergencies.



Program Coverage:

- Karamkulam (Thiruvananthapuram): Conducted training on June 28th, 2024, with 36 participants (30 children, 6 teachers/staff, and 12 parents).
- Eriyad (Thrissur) (July 3rd-5th): Conducted training in 10 schools, reaching:
 - 650 students
 - 150 teachers and parents (including School Management Committee members)
- Purakkad (Alappuzha) (July 9th-11th and 15th): Conducted training in 6 schools, reaching:
 - 600 students
 - 65 teachers and parents.

The program has covered various school in each district, including lower primary (LP), upper primary (UP), and high schools (HS). Details regarding specific schools, dates, and times are provided in the Annexure.

Program Activities:

The program commenced on June 28th, 2024, with a training session in Karamkulam grama panchayat, Thiruvananthapuram district. The program has since expanded to Thrissur and Alappuzha districts. The program will be expanded to the remaining selected grama panchayats in the coming months, with a comprehensive report being developed concurrently to assess the program's overall impact.

Following is a breakdown of the activities conducted and being categorized thematically:

(Session 1)

Theme 1

Building a Culture of Preparedness

- Sub-theme 1.1: Importance of School Safety: This introductory session highlights the critical role of school safety in protecting students and staff during disasters.



Theme 2

Empowering Adults: (Empowering Teachers, Parents, School Management and PTA)

This session equips adults with the knowledge and tools to lead school safety efforts. It targets teachers, non-teaching staff, parents, and School Management Committee members.

- Sub-theme 2.1: Establishing a Framework:
 - School Safety Committee Formation: Creating a dedicated committee ensures organized and ongoing safety initiatives.
 - School Safety Plan Formulation: Developing a comprehensive plan outlining emergency procedures and responsibilities.
- Sub-theme 2.2: Implementing Safety Measures:
 - Hazard Hunt: Identifying potential hazards within the school environment allows for mitigation strategies.
 - Trainings and Mock Drills: Regular training and practice drills ensure a coordinated response during emergencies.
- Sub-theme 2.3: Utilizing Resources:
 - Introduction to Uschool App (Demo): This app provides valuable resources and tools for disaster preparedness.

(Session 2)

Theme 3

Educating and Engaging Students: (Equipping Students through Interactive Learning)

This interactive session equips students with age-appropriate knowledge and skills to respond effectively during emergencies.

- Sub-theme 3.1: Understanding Emergencies (Session 2):
 - Dos and Don'ts: Students learn appropriate actions during emergencies like tsunamis.
 - Knowing Emergency Numbers: Students are provided with essential contact information in emergencies.



- Sub-theme 3.2: School Safety Awareness:
 - Safety Issues in Schools and How to Respond: Students learn how to identify and respond to potential safety hazards within the school.
- Sub-theme 3.3: Building Resilience:
 - Videos on Disaster Response and Resilience: Engaging videos reinforce critical safety information and promote a culture of resilience.

Beyond Training: Monitoring and Sustainability

The program extends beyond training. School safety efforts are monitored through:

- Hazard Analysts (HAs): These personnel ensure school safety awareness.
- LSG DM Plan Coordinators: Local Self Government Disaster Management plan coordinators oversee the program's implementation at the local level.
- Focal Point Teachers: These designated teachers act as contact points for school disaster management.

Conclusion

The Tsunami Ready Program, through its focus on school safety, is making significant strides in enhancing the disaster preparedness and response capabilities of educational institutions in the selected gram panchayats. And also it address various potential hazards, ensuring comprehensive safety and resilience.



Annexure 1

District	School Name	Management	Date	Time
Thiruvananthapuram	Mohammadan LPS, Pulluvila	Govt.	28/06/2024	11.30 AM to 2.30 PM
Alappuzha	ASM LPS Purakkad	Aided	10/07/2024	10.30 AM to 12.30 PM
	LF LPS Purakkad			2.00 PM to 4.00 PM
	SVD UP School		11/07/2024	10.30 AM to 12.30 PM
	Naluchira G H S, Thottappally			2.00 PM to 4.00 PM
	SNM, HSS Purakkad	Govt.	12/07/2024	10.30 AM to 12.30 PM
	Govt. LPS, Thottappally			2.00 PM to 4.00 PM
	Govt LPS Karoor		15/07/2024	10.30 AM to 12.30 PM
	New LPS Karoor	Aided		2.00 PM to 4.00 PM



District	School Name	Management	Date	Time
Thrissur	GKVHSS Eriyad	Govt.	03/07/2024	10.30 AM to 12.30 PM
	GKVHS Eriyad			2.00 PM to 3.30 PM
	GLPS KVHS			
	GUPS Azhikode	Aided	04/07/2024	2.00 PM to 4.00 PM
	HUPS Azhikode			10.00 AM to 12.00 PM
	AMIUP Eriyad		05/07/2024	10.30 AM to 12.30 PM
	SVPLPS Eriyad			2.00 PM to 3.30 PM
	SSMHS Azhikode		08/07/2024	2.00 PM to 4.00 PM
	SSMHS Azhikode			
	IMUPS Azhikode			



Annexure 2





