**Text**: AreAs of InterventIoN
South AmericA PacifIc CoAsT
CoLomBiA: tumaco (Nariño)
ecuADor: esmeraldas (es meraldas)
Peru: callao (Lima)
chiLe: Penco, tomé and coro nel (Bío-Bío)

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**Text**: The mission of UNESCO is to contribute to build a culture of peace, poverty eradication, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, science, culture, communication and information.

**Text**: Created in 1960, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO promotes international cooperation and coordination of marine research programs, observing systems, hazard mitigation and capacity development to learn more and manage better the nature and resources of the oceans and coastal areas.

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**Text**: Since 1992, the Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission provides humanitarian assistance to millions of victims of natural disasters and conflicts outside the European Union. This aid is aimed directly at the victims and vulnerable populations, regardless of ethnicity, religion, sex, age, nationality or political affiliation.

**Text**: The DIPECHO Project, Learning and adapting to Tsunamis in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile.
The term tsunami comes from the Japanese "Big Harbor Wave". UNeSCO/ Roger Dominique

© UNESCO works in coordination with educational institutions, social and governmental organisations, with the aim of developing awareness, participation and prevention in order to be adequately prepared for these disasters.

The project Adaptive Learning Mechanisms on Tsunamis Preparedness in Coastal Communities of Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile (2009-2010), is one of the project’s objectives. The project also aims to achieve alliances with other DIPeCHo partners which act within the scope of intervention. Regional activities involving the education sector are coordinated with the project implemented by UNeSCO within the sixth DIPeCHo Action Plan for South America.

The overall objective of the project is to develop awareness and resilience in communities vulnerable to tsunami risks and to enhance learning and community participation in the prevention, preparedness, early warning and response to natural disasters. Specifically, the project aims to build awareness, knowledge, and practices on tsunami risks and preparedness at community level in the selected areas of intervention, and to improve inter-institutional collaboration and coordination.

Partners and stakeholders

The project involves the school communities and local authorities in the selected vulnerable areas. Schools and other centres of community preparedness are the event of a tsunami. Moreover, the institutions who host the tsunami warning centres, the national system of defense (civil protection and the Ministries of Education in each country are partners of the project, with the purpose of promoting coordination and cooperation among them. The project also aims to achieve alliances with other DIPeCHo partners which act within the scope of intervention. Regional activities involving the education sector are coordinated with the project implemented by UNeSCO within the sixth DIPeCHo Action Plan for South America.

Weaknesses and challenges

UNESCO works in coordination with educational institutions, social and governmental organisations, with the aim of developing awareness, participation and prevention in order to be adequately prepared for these disasters.

results and activities

1. The educational community (students, teachers, principals, parents) have knowledge and skills relevant to tsunami risk reduction and preparedness.

2. Local disaster risk reduction plans elaborated (and operational) in cooperation with the local community.

3. Inter-institutional coordination mechanisms on tsunami Early Warning Systems set up between Tsunami Warning Centers and national authorities for education and for emergencies.

4. Support to national tsunami early warning and response to natural disasters.

The project is implemented in partnership with UNESCO, Quiko and Lima, as well as the Permanent Commission of the South Pacific and the institutions that host the tsunami warning centres in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile.

Learning to live with risks

The experiences and lessons have shown the positive effect of education, in reducing the levels of risk and vulnerability to disasters. Children who know how to react in case of an earthquake, hurricane or tsunami, community leaders who have been trained in the communication of early warning and emergency communities trained in defense against natural danger, curtail the number of victims and lessen their hardships in disasters. The global Campaign “Disaster Risk Reduction Begins at School!” and the priority action is "Low knowledge, innovation and education to build a culture of safety and resilience at all levels” of the Hyogo Framework for Action emphasizes the crucial role of education in the creation of a culture of prevention and risk reduction. Education for disaster risk reduction is a transdisciplinary task aimed at enhancing knowledge, skills and values that enable persons of all ages and backgrounds to take responsibility for the building of a safer and sustainable future.

UNESCO, through its sections on education, science, culture and communication, promotes this work within the framework of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (2005-2014).

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