Background: In the last 50 years, there have been 37 deadly tsunamis, approximately one every 1.5 years. More than 280,000 people have lost their lives to devastating tsunamis in the Asia Pacific region. Among many reasons, the lack of knowledge, awareness and preparedness are significant factors in the loss of lives.

Objectives: Partnering with the Government of Japan in 18 Asia-Pacific countries, the United Nations Development Programme supports 90 schools to assess their tsunami risks, design emergency procedures and evacuation plans, and carry out tsunami awareness education and safety drills. The regional project contributes to the achievement of the Sendai Framework’s seven targets to reduce lives lost, numbers of people affected, and economic damage from natural and human-induced hazards.

Technical Partners: The project is implemented with technical support from leading tsunami expert organisations such as Tohoku University, Japan; the International Tsunami Information Center, Hawaii; the Indian Ocean Tsunami Information Centre; the Indonesian Institute of Sciences - International Center for Interdisciplinary and Advanced Research; and collaboration with Fujitsu Ltd. and PulseLab Jakarta on innovative data management.

Target Countries: The 18 countries are Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu, and Viet Nam.

Deliverables
- Database of schools in tsunami risk areas in 18 countries
- Standard education materials on tsunami awareness in multiple languages
- Tsunami/ multi-hazard education and safety drills in schools
- Innovative technologies to assess tsunami/multi-hazard preparedness
- Dedicated website with news, data, videos, blogs, stories etc
- Project results through films marking World Tsunami Awareness Day 2017
- Regional guidelines on strengthening school tsunami preparedness

Project: Strengthening School Preparedness for Tsunamis in the Asia Pacific region.
Duration: 1 June 2017 to 30 November 2018
Funds: US$1.6 million

Contact: Sanny Jegillos, Team Leader
Disaster Risk Reduction Team in Bangkok Regional Hub
United Nations Development Programme
sanny.jegillos@undp.org