



2024

Shimanami Collective

Building a resilient, safer and
prosperous Asia-Pacific

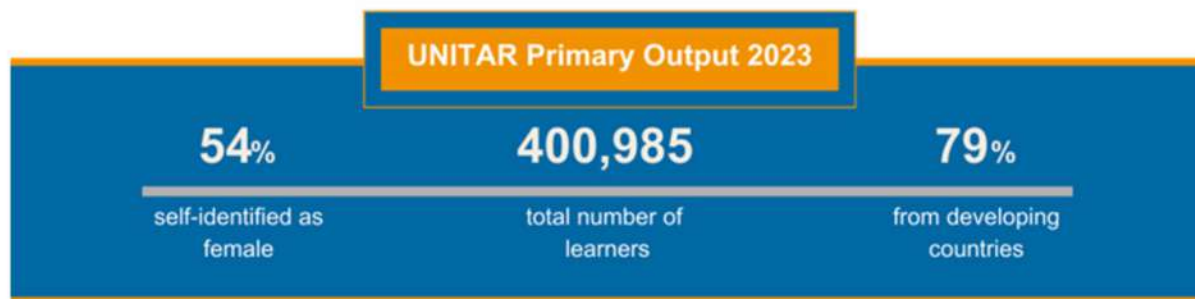
Capacity-building programmes for government officials and private-sector leaders to promote sea and human security, set up early warning systems and reduce disaster risk

Presented by:
Division for Prosperity,
UNITAR (United Nations
Institute for Training and
Research)

About UNITAR

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is a principal training arm of the United Nations, working in every region of the world to provide innovative learning solutions to individuals and organizations to enhance global decision-making and support country-level action to shape a better future.

UNITAR is guided by its strategic framework, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Our strategic objectives are organized around four out of the five thematic pillars of the 2030 Agenda: Peace, People, Planet and Prosperity.



In 2023, UNITAR reached 400,985 individuals through in-person seminars and workshops, e-learning and other training-related events.



UNITAR'S KEY PILLARS



About the Division for Prosperity

The Division for Prosperity is one of the programmatic divisions of UNITAR. Our vision is to shape an inclusive, sustainable and prosperous world. Driven to “leave no one behind”, we deliver meaningful adult-learning opportunities to present and future changemakers to create thoughtful social and economic impact.

Our interactive training programmes focus on building practical skills. They are customized to meet the needs of the learners, who include corporate entities, individuals and organizations from least developed countries, small island developing states, and conflict and post-conflict regions. We work in solidarity with diverse partners at the local, regional and global levels to reach some of society’s most vulnerable, including women, youth and those in fragile economic and social situations.

Through immersive training, engagement with peers and mentorship support, participants learn how to apply their new skills and knowledge and bring about real transformation in their communities.



Acknowledgement

We wholeheartedly thank the Government and the People of Japan for their generous contributions that made it possible for the UNITAR Division for Prosperity to launch the 2024 Shimanami Collective initiative for a resilient, safer and prosperous Asia-Pacific.



**From
the People of Japan**

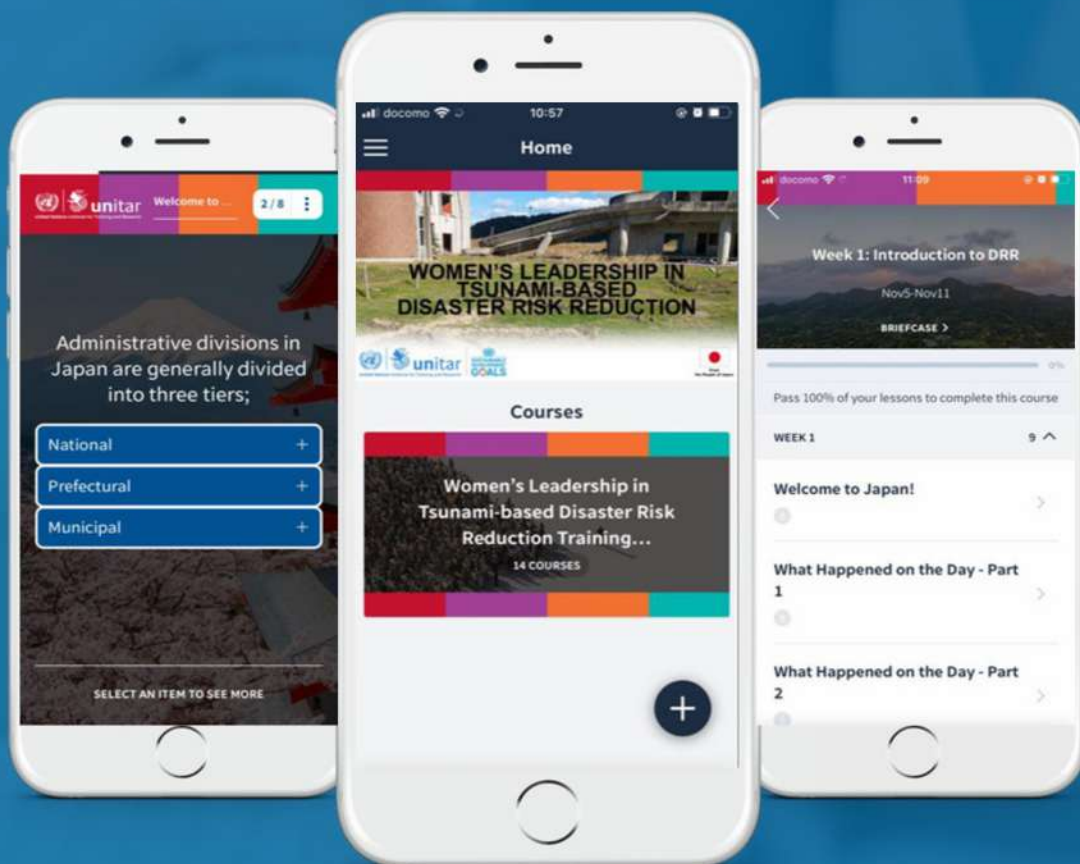
The Shimanami Collective comprises of three distinct yet interrelated training programmes to be implemented in more than 30 countries in the Asia-Pacific region. These programmes will build capacity among government and public-sector officials, employees in privately owned companies and individual citizens through specialized trainings in three areas: Sea and Human Safety, Early Warning Systems, and Women's Leadership in Disaster Risk Reduction.

Equitable access to knowledge and technology for all – in partnership with EdApp

The Division for Prosperity will deliver the full suite of programmes for the Shimanami Collective on EdApp – a mobile-first microlearning platform.

EdApp is specially designed for low-bandwidth environments to enable easy access even for learners with sporadic or limited internet connectivity. Participants can complete lessons online or download microlessons for offline use later.

The interactive and fun learning platform promotes knowledge retention and ensures quality learning that is engaging, convenient and effective.



Training 1

Leaders for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific: Sea and Human Security

Security is a priority thematic area under the Blue Pacific strategy. The Asia-Pacific region has taken steps towards advancing global peace and security. “Security” includes human security, economic security, humanitarian assistance, environmental security, cybersecurity and transnational crime, and regional cooperation to build resilience against disasters and climate change.

Leadership and regional collaboration strengthen the Asia-Pacific’s resilience against hazardous climate events, geopolitical and security shifts and other unexpected disruptions.

Programme Overview

“Leaders for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific: Sea and Human Security” aims to provide government officials and activists in the Pacific small island developing states and ASEAN countries with the skills, knowledge and capacity to enhance and secure climate, social, economic, food and maritime security and establish a coordination mechanism across the Pacific.

The programme's primary objectives are to:

- Enhance basic knowledge of sea and human security
- Promote economic security through trade and access to markets, fisheries and tourism and enhance public and private partnerships
- Enhance food and climate security by supporting stable and climate-resilient marine and land food production, effective trading and transportation across the region
- Nurture environmental security and maritime cooperation, including regional monitoring and surveillance, disaster response and emergency rescue operations

The larger goal of the programme is to strengthen the regional network to address the challenges, needs and plans in the Indo-Pacific by building local capacity and developing clear project plans to increase local resilience.

Intended Participants

The programme will invite participants primarily from Asia and Pacific Island countries. Included countries are:

Indo-Pacific Island countries:

Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu.

Asia: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste.

For **Phase I, 400 motivated government officials and other representatives from the public and private sectors** will be chosen through a call for nominations to the governments (public sector participation) and an open call for applications (other sectors).

In **Phase II, 80 participants from the Pacific cohort and 80 from the Asian cohort (total 160 participants)** will be invited to the regional in-person workshops, to be held in Fiji and Indonesia, respectively. Participants will receive mentoring and coaching and refine their projects while enhancing their leadership and teamwork skills.

Phase III will invite **50 top performers from Phase II** to an in-person workshop in Japan consisting of study tours, lectures and discussions with Japanese institutions, private companies and entrepreneurs. The top 6 performers and projects will be selected and awarded the title “**UNITAR Shimanami Masterminds 2024**” and invited to make final pitches at the conference.

Key Activities

Note: This schedule is tentative and subject to change.

June 2024	Initiation	Call for nominations/applications
July-Aug 2024	Phase I	Online training
September/October 2024	Phase II	In-person workshops in Indonesia for Asian countries, in Fiji for the Pacific countries
February 2025	Phase III A	In-person workshop in Japan
February 2025	Phase III B	Final pitch event (in-person/online)

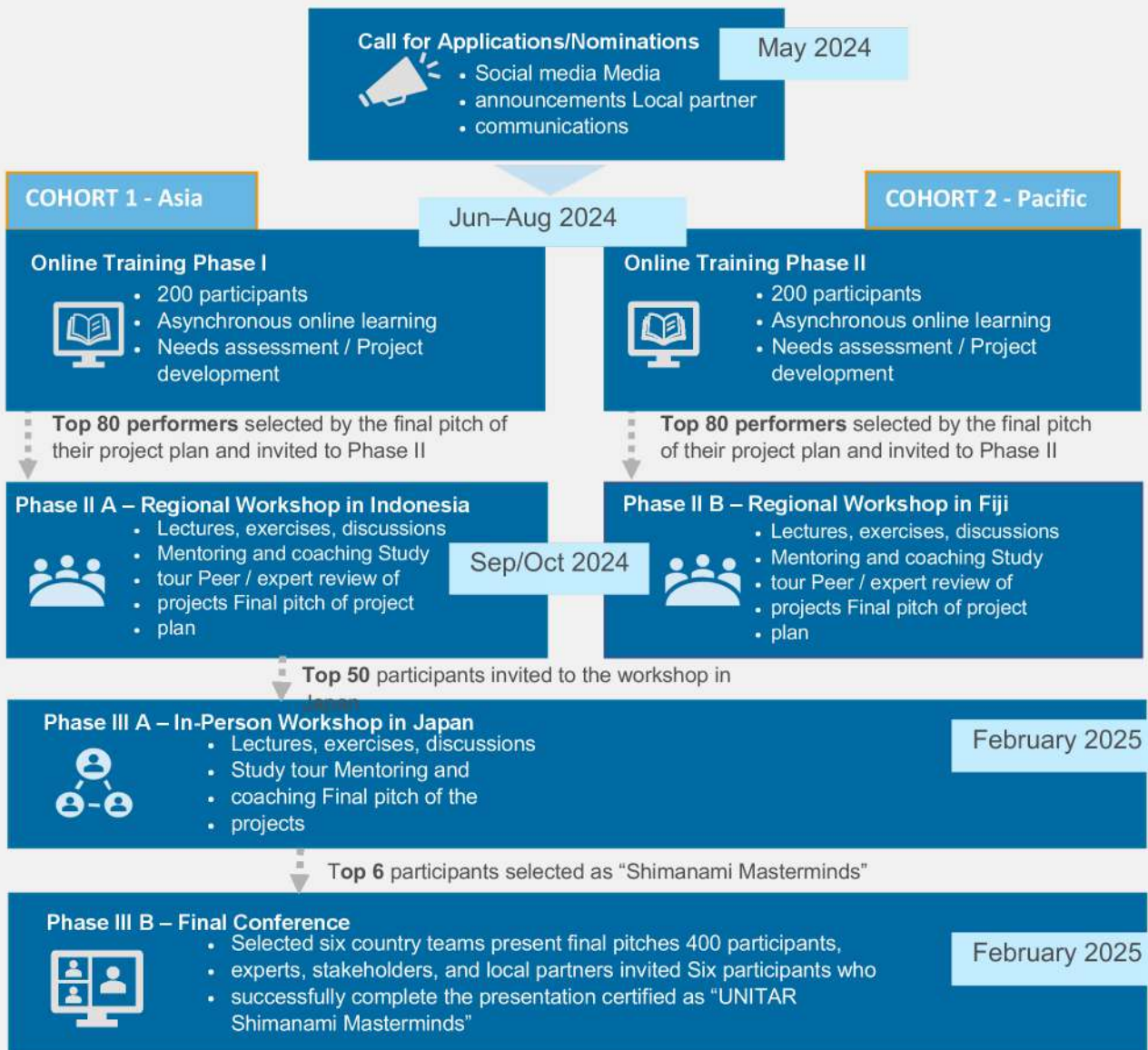


Figure 1: Key Activities for the Sea and Human Security for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific Training Programme

Training 2

Leave No One Behind: Rapid Response to Climate Crises Through Early Warning Systems

Pacific Island countries face inadequacies in data, technology and human capacity related to multi-hazard early warning systems. Capacity development on early warning systems in the region is still in its infancy. Relying on information and technical expertise from developed countries has proven catastrophic, especially when information is delayed – such as in sudden-onset disasters.

According to the Global Commission on Adaptation, notification received a day before a hazard event could reduce damage by as much as 30 per cent. Furthermore, every one million dollars invested in establishing early warning systems in developing countries could save between \$3.75 million to \$20 million in damages each year.

While the challenges in establishing effective early warning systems in the Pacific region are formidable, there are also opportunities to leverage technological advancements, foster regional cooperation, engage communities, enhance preparedness and improve responses through international collaboration.

Programme Overview

This training programme will equip individuals and communities in the Pacific Island countries with the knowledge and skills to effectively disseminate, monitor, analyse and respond to early warning signals for climate-related hazards and extreme-weather events.

By promoting more reliable and timely climate information and the widespread adoption of multi-hazard early warning systems, this programme will build resilience in the Pacific and empower people at risk to take timely and appropriate actions to mitigate risks and reduce the impact of disasters. Ultimately, it will help save lives and reduce the negative social and economic impact of climate-related hazards.

Delivered in two phases across months, the programme will enrol a total of 180 participants. Phase I will be 4 months of asynchronous online learning, wherein participants will learn about early warning systems, effective collaboration and timely communications. Each participant will develop a project plan.

The top 30 performers will progress to Phase II, an in-person study tour and workshop in Japan. The participants will be coached to develop a group country presentation, where they will fine-tune their individual plans, and will present them to peers and experts at the end of Phase II. These 30 participants will be recognized as our “Shimanami Masterminds”.

Intended Participants

The programme will enrol 180 motivated people, with special emphasis on youth, from Pacific Island countries, including:

- Cook Islands
- Micronesia
- Papua New Guinea
- Samoa
- Tonga
- Niue
- Fiji
- Kiribati
- Marshall Islands
- Nauru
- Palau
- Solomon Islands
- Tuvalu
- Vanuatu

Participants will be selected through an open call for applications. Participants should be:

- Eager to learn about new technologies, early warning systems and its applications for disaster risk reduction
- Passionate about climate change and its impact on communities
- Keen to succeed and make a positive impact on their communities
- Proficient in the English language
- Computer literate with access to the internet
- Committed to completing the programme

Key Activities

Note: This schedule is tentative and subject to change.

June 2024	Initiation	Call for nominations/applications
July-September 2024	Phase I	Online training
November 2024	Phase II	In-person workshops in Japan

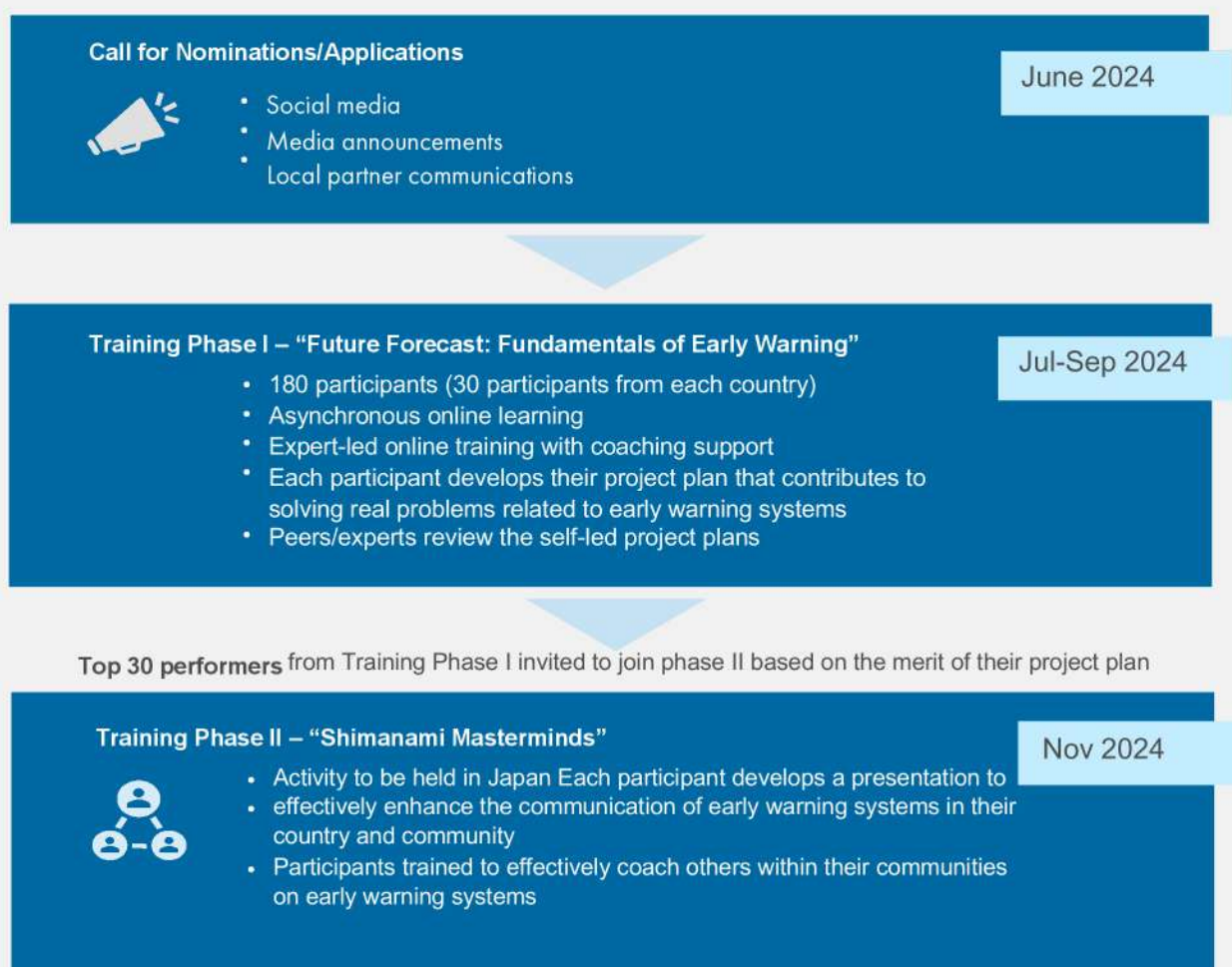


Figure 2: Key Activities for the *Leave No One Behind: Rapid Response to Climate Crises Through Early Warning Systems (EWS) Training Programme*

Training 3

Women's Leadership in Tsunami-based Disaster Risk Reduction Training Programme

Socially vulnerable populations become even more vulnerable during emergencies. This can be attributed to a lack of access to emergency shelters, information, technologies or goods and services. In many cultures, women are the primary caregivers to children, the elderly and people with illnesses. Empowering them to take part in the decision-making, designing and implementing of disaster preparedness is key to enable such vulnerable populations to become self-reliant and resilient during emergencies.

The Midterm Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 (May 2023, New York) emphasized the need for an "All-of-Society" inclusive approach. To contribute to the achievement of the Sendai Framework goals, UNITAR will implement in 2024 the tenth cycle of its disaster risk reduction training programme.

Programme Overview

In March 2011, the world witnessed the devastating Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, which resulted in loss of life and destruction in the northern Japanese archipelago. Similar catastrophic events occurred in the 2004 Indian Ocean and 2009 Samoa-Tonga earthquakes and tsunamis. These events seared in our memories the destructive nature of tsunamis. The Pacific region is constantly under threat of earthquakes and tsunamis due to its proximity to the Pacific Rim of Fire. Lessons learned from previous tsunami disasters can assist in mitigation against disaster risks.

The number of disasters worldwide has drastically risen since the 1950s, destroying human lives and bringing severe economic repercussions. The number of disaster-related deaths is highest for tsunamis, compared with other disasters. In 2022, the volcanic eruption of Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai in Tonga triggered a tsunami across the Pacific Ocean and about 84,000 people – more than 80 per cent of Tonga's population – were affected. This devastating eruption of an undersea volcano underscored the fundamental need for integrated risk management to build resilience to natural hazards. The lessons learned from tsunamis can help increase preparedness for not only tsunami-related disasters but also disaster risk reduction in general.

The programme aims to equip women with lifelong skills to develop inclusive disaster risk reduction plans contextualized to the needs of their communities and countries.

Delivered in two phases, the programme will enrol 100 participants. Phase I will be three months of asynchronous online learning with expert-led webinars, group exercises and presentations. Top 20 participants from Phase I will continue to Phase II to develop presentations for effective disaster risk reduction plans.

Participants will be coached and guided by experts throughout this 10-week training programme.

Intended Participants

The programme aims to enrol 100 women living in or from Pacific Island countries and territories. Women from around the world, especially from Asia – working in or for the Pacific region – will also be encouraged to apply. The programme will also accept men who are instrumental in disaster risk reduction initiatives in the Pacific region.

Participants will be selected through an open call for applications, based on the following eligibility criteria:

- Women applicants will be prioritized
- Geographical representation in the Pacific and Asian regions
- Invested interest in disaster risk reduction
- Strong desire to make a difference in their society
- Stable internet connectivity
- Good command of the English language (oral and written)
- A commitment of 1-3 hours per week to complete each section of this 10-week course

Key Activities

Note: This schedule is tentative and subject to change

July-Aug 2024	Initiation	Call for nominations/applications
Sep-Nov 2024	Phase I	Online training In-person workshop in the Pacific
Mar 2025	Phase II	region (venue TBC)

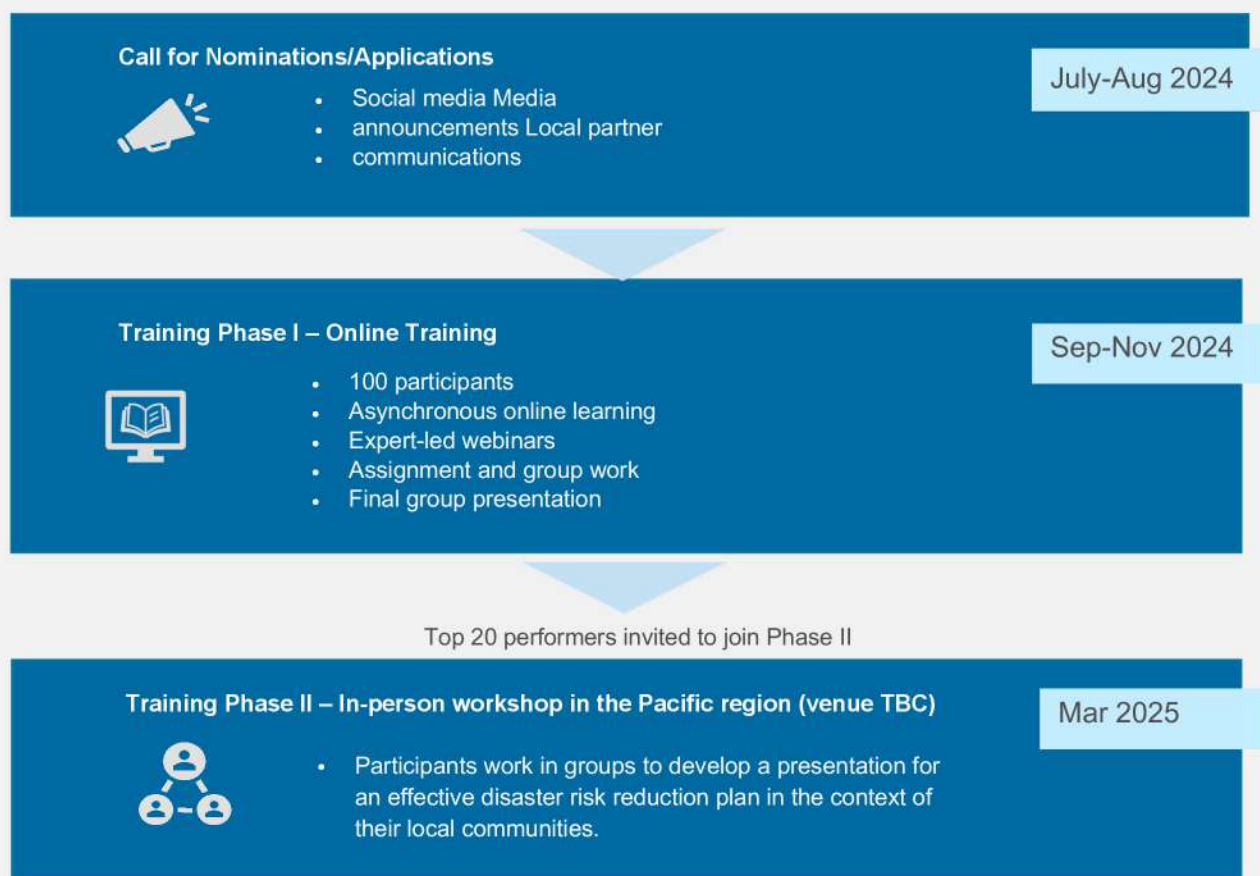


Figure 3: Key Activities for the *Women's Leadership in Tsunami-based Disaster Risk Reduction Training Programme*

We invite visionary organizations from all industry sectors to collaborate with us in shaping an inclusive, safer and future-ready Asia-Pacific.

Together, let us empower changemakers to build a resilient, safer and prosperous Asia-Pacific. Join us in this capacity-building mission for the region.

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