

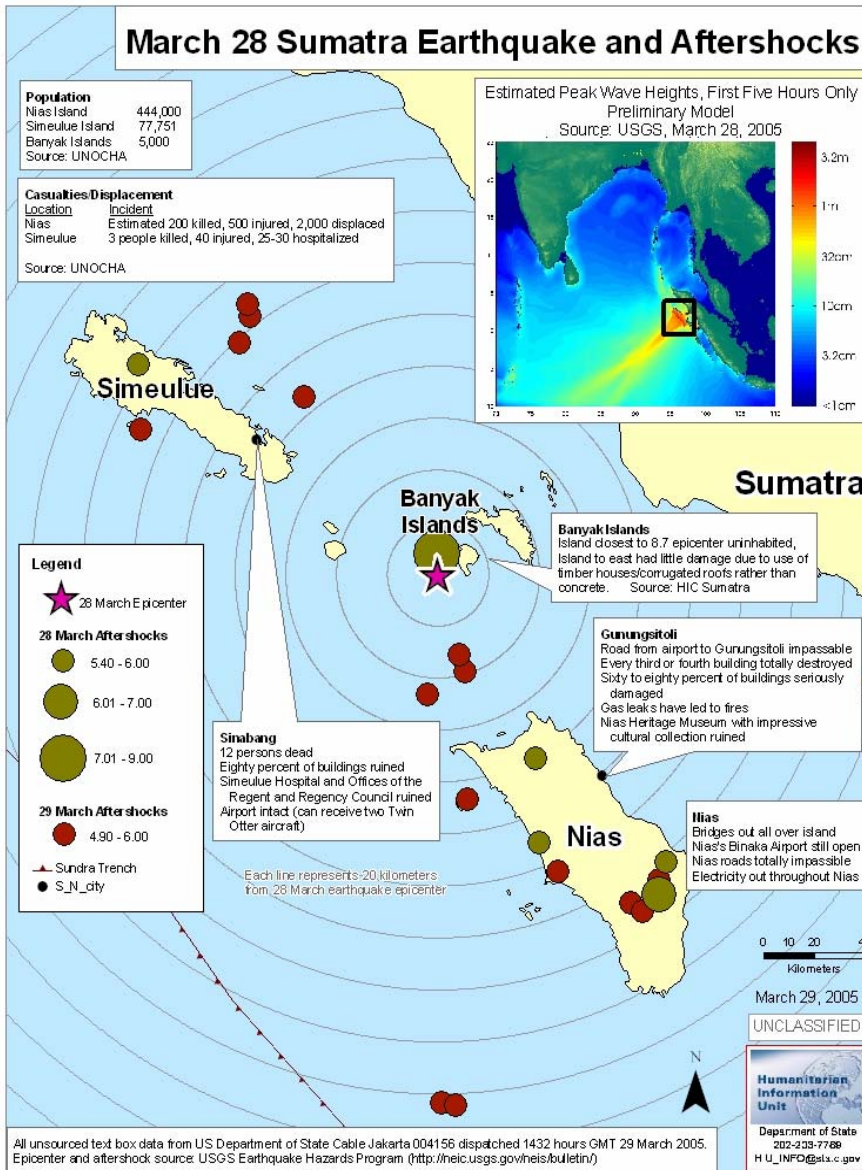


**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST

# TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

Update – April 1, 2005



## USAID responds to March 28 Earthquake

On March 28, a magnitude 8.7 earthquake struck near the island of Nias, 200 km off the Sumatran mainland, killing at least 500 people and triggering tsunami alerts around the Indian Ocean.

Local media report that the earthquake damaged or destroyed as many as 80 percent of the buildings on the islands of Nias and Simeuleu. With the memory of the December 26<sup>th</sup> earthquake and tsunami still so vivid, thousands of people fled their homes in Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, India, and Sri Lanka following tsunami warnings. Three hours after the quake, tsunami alerts were scaled down.

Emergency relief efforts and the delivery of humanitarian assistance are ongoing in the affected Indonesian islands.

On March 29, USAID provided an additional \$100,000 for

emergency relief supplies. In addition, USAID staff is conducting damage assessments in Nias and Simeuleu islands. According to the United Nations, there is sufficient food and other relief materials available on Sumatra to respond to the emergency on the affected islands, and 20 search and rescue teams are on standby in the region.



Photo: USAID/Suzanne Ross

## THAILAND

### **USAID partners with Parkson Corporation to provide water purification system**

USAID and the U.S. Foreign Commercial Service (USFCS) are facilitating the donation of a large drinking water purification system to serve 250 Thai families whose water system was destroyed by the tsunami. US and Thai experts have conducted a joint assessment in consultation with local Thai authorities and have received approval of the site plan. Parkson Corporation, a US based supplier of water and wastewater systems, is fabricating and preparing the \$300,000 system for shipment. USFCS is

securing donated shipping and USAID is helping place a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer at the site to help coordinate installation and operator training. Delivery of the equipment to the site is expected in June.

## SRI LANKA

### **USAID disburses \$375,000 in grants towards tourism restoration**

This week, a USAID-funded initiative disbursed approximately \$375,000 in grants and loans aimed at stimulating the tourism sector. The first grant of \$91,500 creates a public-private partnership with the tourism industry to restore tourist sites on the southwest coast. 700 tsunami-affected people, including 500 unemployed tourism workers, will benefit from cash-for-work cleanup programs aimed at making the area appealing to tourists again. USAID issued a second grant of \$283,000 to help 1,500 beneficiaries re-start small businesses and issue more than 800 microfinance loans.

### **Government promises to designate sufficient land for construction of 10,000 shelters by April 10, 2005**

USAID welcomed the government of Sri Lanka's promise this week to designate sufficient sites to build 10,000 transitional shelters by April 10. Of the projected 10,000 shelters, about 4,000 have already been erected. Four USAID funded partners are responsible for 1,500 of those constructed to date. By May 31, the Sri Lankan government hopes to construct a total of 30,000 shelters. In total, USAID has committed to funding and constructing 9,000 more units. The 200-sq ft. shelters, which cost about \$400 each, take two days to build and are designed to last two years.



Photo: USAID/Zack Taylor



## INDIA

### Skills development course assists women entrepreneurs

Thanks to USAID funding, thirty young women from Akkarapettai, a tsunami affected village in Nagapattinam District, recently completed a course on manufacturing leather footwear. This training was supported by the Government of Tamil Nadu's Department of Women's Development. The women aim to use their newly acquired skills to start a new business. Local USAID partners are working with the group to secure a place to begin production, providing 30 sewing machines, assisting with the development of a business plan and facilitating a start-up loan.



Photo: USAID/Nina Minka



Photo: Dana Bessenecker

## INDONESIA

### Women Get Back to Work

Through targeted cash-for-work programs, USAID is helping women earn much-needed income to re-start their businesses. Isnaini, pictured at right with the white scarf, is a farmer from Padang, Aceh Jaya. She joined the USAID funded cash-for-work program and now earns wages by clearing debris from the school, mosque and cemetery. She will use the money to re-buy farming equipment and seeds in time for planting season. She intends to use her earnings to build a small store to sell the nuts and other sundries. Isnaini believes that the lives of people in Padang will improve

over the coming months. She says that people who went to Banda Aceh to find shelter and aid are now returning with optimism to their home communities.

### FAST FACTS: U.S. ASSISTANCE AS OF APRIL 1, 2005

Total USG Humanitarian and Recovery Assistance Pledged:	\$350,000,000
Total USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance Committed:	\$83,649,325
Total USAID/FFP Humanitarian Assistance Committed:	\$22,466,900
Total USAID/ANE Humanitarian Assistance Committed:	\$5,372,944

For more information on the tsunami and USAID's work, please see "Tsunami Relief" at [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov).