



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST

TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

Update – August 31, 2005



From left to right: USAID/Indonesia Director William M. Frej, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency Chairman Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, Acting Governor Azwar Abubakar, and Charge d’Affaires of U.S. Embassy W. Louis Amselem
Photo: USAID

Embassy W. Lewis Amselem and Acting Governor Azwar Abu Bakar witnessed the signing by William M. Frej, Director of USAID in Indonesia (USAID), and Studjo Wirokusumo, Director of Operations for PT. Wijaya Karya.

The 240-kilometer Banda Aceh to Meulaboh road is the economic backbone of the region and connects Aceh Province with the rest of North Sumatra and Indonesia. This first phase of the project will reconnect Banda Aceh with Lamno. The second contract will be awarded for the overall design and construction supervision of the road. A third contract will be for the resurfacing, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of the road from Lamno to Meulaboh.

INDONESIA

U.S. and Indonesia begin construction on the Banda Aceh to Meulaboh Road

On August 25, USAID awarded a \$13.5 million contract to an Indonesian construction firm in a groundbreaking ceremony for the first phase of the road from Banda Aceh to Meulaboh. The road project is designed to ensure mobility, improve communication, create local jobs, and increase the potential for economic growth in the tsunami-devastated region.

The project includes the construction of 20 kilometers of new road; rehabilitation and maintenance of the existing 80-kilometer road from Banda Aceh to Lamno; and the removal of bridge debris. Charge d’Affaires of the U.S.



Groundbreaking ceremony for Banda Aceh to Meulaboh Road.
Photo: USAID



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INDIA

Timely preparation protects lives

Preparing local communities to respond effectively to future floods or tsunamis is part of USAID's longer-term tsunami recovery efforts. Knowing what action to take, assigning roles among community members, doing first-aid drills and practicing how to carry out relief will protect people, property and livelihoods if another coastal emergency happens. The value of such planning was played out recently as heavy monsoon rains caused massive flooding in Mumbai (the former Bombay) and surrounding areas. When the disruptive, deadly event took place, parts of western India were already learning how to mitigate its effects. Approximately \$3.5 million of USAID-supplemental tsunami recovery funding supports a community-level disaster risk management project in this and other coastal areas of western India.



A community disaster management team practices an early warning system for floods. People with red headbands are part of search and rescue in an emergency; those in blue headbands are on the communications team.

Photo by: USAID/Balaji Singh



Ambassador Boyce presents a fish seedling to one of the Thai volunteers.

Photo: USAID/Suzanne Ross

THAILAND

US Government honors Thai volunteers

On Friday, August 19, US Ambassador to Thailand Ralph L. Boyce presided over a USAID Regional Development Mission awards ceremony with Regional Mission Director, Timothy T. Beans, honoring the contribution of 13 Thai volunteers and local National Park authorities participating in the post tsunami USAID Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Project in Thailand. Ambassador Boyce presented volunteers with fish seedling and mangrove plants, to symbolize the help communities needed to restart livelihoods and rehabilitate ecosystems.

During the initial community assessments, the village volunteers lead groups to identify and prioritize the most important community issues. In collaboration with USAID, they also coordinated training and worked with groups to implement activities such as an elevated road-fill project to enable children to get to school and a catering business serving NGO workers and local authorities.



SRI LANKA

Small business gets a boost from USAID

USAID launched three new programs in August to restore livelihoods.

More than 300 micro-entrepreneurs in Galle will benefit from a program launched on August 18. At the ceremony, 90 beneficiaries received commodity grants to restart their businesses. Targeted businesses include fast food outlets, retail and home delivery of vegetables, snacks, and fish, basic tools and carpenters, masons, and seamstresses.

A \$56,565 USAID project aims to benefit 225 yam cultivators in Matara District whose gardens were washed away in the tsunami. Farmers received advice on harvesting and packaging yams from the University of Ruhuna and the Southern Development Authority of Sri Lanka to make their produce more marketable internationally. The project provided the farmers with equipment needed to rehabilitate the household plots, and will provide advice in cooperative approach in large scale plots. Project officials expect the farmers' incomes can rise by as much as \$100 a month each.

A third grant of \$28,720 will train 214 artisans to expand their handicraft businesses to markets in Europe. The workshops held in Galle also focus on improving the quality and design of their craft to be more internationally appealing. After the workshop sessions, the predominantly female trainees will form specialized groups to improve production efficiency, and provide them materials necessary to produce the handicrafts.



A seamstress receives a new sewing machine at the launch of a new USAID micro-enterprise program.

Photo: USAID

FAST FACTS: U.S. ASSISTANCE AS OF AUGUST 31, 2005

Total USG Humanitarian and Recovery Assistance Pledged 12/31/04:	\$350,000,000
Tsunami Recovery and Reconstruction Fund:	\$631,000,000*
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance Committed:	\$101,550,957
Total USAID Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Assistance Committed:	\$427,695,969
Other USG Humanitarian Assistance Provided:	\$237,900,000

*\$656 million was approved for the Tsunami Recovery and Reconstruction Fund, but \$25 million is committed to Avian Flu.

For more information on the tsunami and USAID's work, please see "Tsunami Relief" at www.usaid.gov.