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ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST

# TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

Update – January 20, 2006

## THAILAND

Photo: USAID/Regional Development Mission/Asia



*Taptim Boonluang and her youngest son.*

**Loans and training for a catering business bring income and a future** – Rolling sweet sesame crisps on her griddle, Taptim Boonluang, a tsunami survivor describes how loans and business training from USAID have given her an income and hope for her future and her family. When she lost her husband and eldest son to the tsunami, Taptim did not know how she would support herself or her parents without having her remaining son leave school to work.

She and a small group of women approached USAID for a loan for a catering business. Not only did USAID

give them a loan, but USAID also gave them training in better business practices, from market assessments and financial accounting to forecasting and reinvestment. The training helped the group establish quality control standards, ensuring consistency in their products for larger scale distribution.

Taptim has been elected Secretary of the Kamphuang Women's Group. Some of the group's members earn additional income by sub-contracting out to the fishers to produce seasonal items like nets that are in high demand as the fishing season draws near. USAID's efforts to rebuild coastal livelihoods are designed for long-term sustainability, with technologies and training that communities can manage themselves. While there is much more to do, Taptim shows that progress is being made in helping communities diversify their sources of income and rebuild their lives.

## INDIA

**Trained street beautifiers significantly increase their incomes** – During the last six months, "street beautifiers" in a temporary settlement for tsunami survivors in Nagapattinam have generated 150 kg of compost, which has a market value of Rs. 10/kg (\$0.22/kg). They earn an additional income of Rs. 1,000/month (\$22/month) by selling the recyclable items they find. In a country where the average annual income is \$620, an extra \$22 a month equals an almost 50 percent increase in monthly earnings.

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Saravanan, Kanadasan, Iyappan, Gemini Selvam and Malai Murugan are street beautifiers. They collect solid waste from the 624 families in the settlement. They compost the organic waste and sort out items which can be recycled. Street beautifiers were trained to help maintain clean and healthy environments through a USAID-supported program run by EXNORA, a local Indian organization.



Photo: USAID/Joseph Ravikumar

Street beautifiers in Nagapattinam.

## SRI LANKA



Photo: USAID

An aerial view of Arugam Bay showing design of the new bridge under construction by USAID.

**Bridge designed to last a century** – A bridge expert who has overseen the construction of more than 200 bridges visited Arugam Bay and helped design a low-cost bridge that will last a century. The new bridge will replace one destroyed in the tsunami. The proposed bridge design, although common, is unknown in Sri Lanka. The Government of Sri Lanka as well as local contractors are interested in learning to build this type of bridge. Transferring the knowledge and technology will be part of the construction process. Following a path similar to that of the old one, the new bridge will include a 160-meter bridge, a 25-meter bridge and paved approach roadways. The design chosen offers a 100 year life and shortened construction time, meets remote site construction constraints, uses higher quality components, requires lower maintenance costs and offers user-friendly features such as protected pedestrian walkways.

**Children affected by the tsunami have a playground again** – The first of thousands of Sri Lankan children to enjoy the psychological benefit of play helped dedicate a playground at Dharmapala Park in the southern town of Galle. The new Galle Municipal Council Children's Park, one of the largest of 85 playgrounds to be built in 13 tsunami-affected districts, was re-opened on December 26, 2006, one year to the day after the tsunami. On hand for the opening were the Governor of the Southern Province, the Mayor and City Council, members of the community,



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hundreds of children, the U.S. Ambassador, and the USAID Director. Funding for the \$2 million playgrounds project comes from USAID, the Bush-Clinton Tsunami Relief Fund and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Sarvodaya, the largest Sri Lankan NGO, carries out the work. Since this tsunami anniversary dedication, two more playgrounds in tsunami-affected communities have been completed.



Photo: USAID/Gemunu Amarasinghe

*A local child tests the new USAID-installed playground in Galle. This first of 85 new parks was inaugurated on December 26 as part of USAID's commemoration of the first anniversary of the tsunami tragedy.*

## INDONESIA



Photo: USAID/Elizabeth Sumindyo

*Prof. Dr. Ir. Abdi Abdul Wahab MSc., Rector of Universitas Syiah Kuala, and USAID Indonesia Mission Director William M. Frej sign the memorandum of understanding.*

**Improving education and training teachers –** USAID just signed a memorandum of understanding with the Government of Indonesia to provide \$14 million to improve Indonesia's education system. The assistance will train teachers in Aceh; build a new teacher training school; and improve student dormitories, faculty housing and other facilities at Universitas Syiah Kuala. The university is the premier university in the province of Aceh, enrolling around 5,800 students, approximately 3,000 of whom lost their homes to the tsunami.

Andrew S. Natsios, U.S. special envoy for tsunami commemoration and then Administrator for USAID, witnessed the signing of the memorandum.

**Art helps children recover from the trauma of the tsunami –** USAID gathered children from villages affected by the tsunami for drawing sessions and gave them art supplies to create their versions of the future on paper. Children created colorful and positive images, and judges awarded prizes for the best drawings at a ceremony at the community center in Gurah Village. Child psychologists promote creative projects involving art and music to help children move beyond personal tragedies.



Photo: Sharon Zhao, Development Alternatives, Inc.

*A young girl displays her artwork.*