



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST

TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

Update – March 2, 2005



Photo: USAID/Kristen Kelleher

INDIA

Getting fishermen back to work – One-third of the residents of Tirumallivasal, a village of 10,000, fish in salt and fresh water for their living. However, their boats and equipment were destroyed by the tsunami, ruining their livelihoods and the markets that depend on them. Reviving the local economy requires getting the fishermen back to the sea. Working with a local mechanic who reduced his rates to help the community, USAID is repairing outboard

motors and supplying the fishermen with new nets. Eleven motors are ready, and some have already been installed on newly repaired boats. Pictured here is one of the first boats to return to the water.

INDONESIA

Re-opening local government offices – Three local government offices in Banda Aceh have re-opened thanks to assistance from USAID. Local government staff and surviving community members worked together to clean-up and renovate the space. This cash-for-work scheme provided community members much needed incomes and an opportunity to engage in rebuilding their community. USAID furnished and equipped the offices. Local officials are back at work, issuing temporary ID cards, business permits and inheritance certificates – all critical to restoring normal life in these hard-hit communities.



Photo: USAID/ Michael Bak

USAID is also working with these communities to re-start basic education, basic clinics, and local businesses. The next step is to help communities map and re-establish property ownership, so people can assert their rights to property and have a basis for discussing the redevelopment of their communities. Each project involves the community in planning and execution to ensure local needs are met.



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Photo: USAID/Ivan Rasiah

SRI LANKA

Encouraging tourists' return – Sri Lanka's tourism industry was set to wrap up its best year ever last year. The number of foreign tourists visiting the island in 2004 topped 550,000, but the outlook for 2005 is not promising. More than 100 hotels sustained significant damage, and thousands of tourism-dependent employees are out of work. While the hotels are likely to

reopen before the end of 2005, local staff are in need of a more immediate source of income.

USAID pays the staff a daily wage to clean the rubble-strewn beaches. Here, in Hambantota on the west coast near Galle, the workers know the early return of tourists is their best hope, and clean, beautiful beaches will help. Over the next year, USAID will help 30,000 families from the tourism, coir, fishing and handicraft industries.

THAILAND

Community planning for reconstruction – In addition to restarting their businesses and lives, Thailand's coastal villagers face the daunting task of rebuilding their communities. With USAID's assistance, they are preparing community development plans to present to local authorities. Advisors work with community members to identify local resources and potential environmental concerns. They teach villagers about the elements of sound community development and help them prepare feasibility plans. The goal is to rebuild communities in a way that is supportive of local businesses, particularly tourism-based businesses, and protects Thailand's rich coastal resources.



FAST FACTS: U.S. ASSISTANCE AS OF FEBRUARY 23, 2005

Value of USAID Programs Funded: \$82,706,823

Value of Total U.S. Government Relief and Programs: \$122,746,667

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

TSUNAMI IN ASIA

Dead: 169,527

Missing: 127,369

Displaced: 1,091,569