



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST

TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

Update – March 28, 2005



Photo: USAID/Betina Moreira

INDONESIA

Private sector investments protect children's health

Since February, a GE water purification plant has been producing approximately 430,000 liters of clean and safe water per day, benefiting tens of thousands of people. GE transports it daily to local hospitals, orphanages and other vulnerable populations in Banda Aceh and Aceh Besar. USAID is working with GE and other partners in camps to set up water and sanitation systems and to promote good hygiene and health care.

Child deaths and disease are being avoided by promoting simple hand washing and basic hygiene, and by maintaining a supply of clean and safe water.

USAID is also working with UNILEVER to deliver and distribute 400,000 bars of soap and other hygiene products through hygiene kits. Kits are being provided to tens of thousands of people in camps and communities, and are complemented by USAID sponsored health care and water and sanitation activities. Simple efforts like these are helping to prevent diarrhea, disease and unnecessary deaths.

INDIA

Clean Water and Adequate Sanitation - A Continuing Need

USAID continues to provide clean and ample drinking water and construct latrines in an effort to boost public health in the temporary settlements along the southern coast of India.

USAID sanitation specialist Sky Wiseman recently assessed conditions at the shelters. He noted the fast and effective work of USAID partners to deliver basic needs in the relief phase but said sanitation over the months to come will demand “vigilance and monitoring.” A related “watershed” is occurring: women who witness the privacy and dignity of latrines in settlements are now asking for facilities. While initially unsure of latrines, they now understand their purpose and recognize the convenience. In addition, they are learning the importance of hand washing.

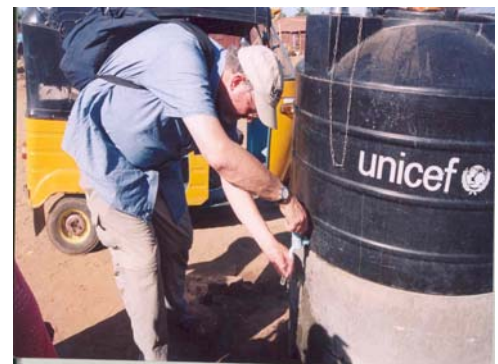


Photo: USAID/Kristen Kelleher



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Photo: USAID/Dick Edwards

SRI LANKA

US Army engineers assist Sri Lankan authorities

USAID and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are helping Sri Lankan authorities develop plans for rehabilitation and reconstruction of three fishing harbors. Surveys have been conducted to estimate the cost of outfitting three ports, each home to 300-400 boats, with longer wharves, new floating docks to reduce vessel congestion, and environmentally safer fueling facilities.

“The damage was not necessarily where you might have expected,” said John Emmerson of the USACE, noting that some external breakwaters remained intact, but other more protected ones did not. “For what needs replacement, we are going to recommend it is carried out using the latest technology in the most environmentally sound way.”

FAST FACTS: U.S. ASSISTANCE AS OF MARCH 28, 2005

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| 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.