



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST

TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

Update – May 4, 2005



Photo: USAID/ Poonam Smith-Sreen

INDIA

USAID supports skills training for adolescent girls

Thanks to USAID and its partner NGOs, adolescent girls in Chennai, Tamil Nadu are participating in skills training activities, including mushroom cultivation, basket weaving, pickling, candle making and sewing. The program has provided over 100 different training programs, reaching more than 3,200 female beneficiaries to date. In the village of Keechankuppam, many of the program participants are now selling their products, including baskets and pickles, in the local market.

SRI LANKA

Small business blossoms with USAID grant-loan combinations

Forty-five year old Mallika, a mother of two from the southern coastal town of Hikkaduwa, faced a common predicament in business. After the tsunami, she and her out-of-work husband wanted to start producing and selling curd, a popular dessert made from water buffalo milk. With no current business in operation, she was not eligible for a loan; without money, she could not get started. A USAID funded project broke that cycle by providing her cooking pots and other materials, and a \$150 loan for sundries and ingredients. The business now produces 40 liters of curd a day. She and her husband are paying off the loan and saving for a motorbike, to cut down his travel time to and from the market. To date, USAID has assisted more than 1,500 small entrepreneurs and expects to reach 6,000 more by July 2006 through \$250,000 in similar commodities grants and microfinance loans.



USAID/Doug Mercado



SRI LANKA

Radio news broadcasts fill post-tsunami “information void”

Nightly radio broadcasts of tsunami-related news, information and human interest stories, compiled and produced by two USAID-funded mobile radio units traveling in the South and the East, began Monday on the Sri Lankan National Broadcasting Corporation’s Sinhala and Tamil national services. The broadcasts will continue on weeknights for two months under the pilot phase of the \$182,000 project. The project aims to build capacity of Sri Lankan radio journalists, as well as fill an information void between affected communities and the officials responsible for providing them with relief and other services.

Signature Infrastructure advances with education design team surveys

A vocational education design team arrived in Sri Lanka to design a signature infrastructure project. The team visited prospective sites for up to 14 vocational schools to evaluate the anticipated cost and design of facilities to be built or rehabilitated. The team will also meet with key government engineers and communities on the design of the projects.



Photo: USAID/ Betina Moreira

INDONESIA

Micro-Credit brings business back to market

With a \$50,000 grant from USAID, a local NGO in Banda Aceh was able to recapitalize and restart its revolving loan fund. The fund now provides working capital for over 200 micro-enterprises affected by the tsunami. Approximately 80% of these funds have already been disbursed to micro-businesses selling cooked food and drink, vegetables and fruit, children’s toys, and clothing. Of the loans dispersed to date, approximately 30% were received by women and repayment stands at 100%. The average loan is between \$105 and

\$210. Currently, this is the only program in Banda Aceh providing vital "seed money" for micro-entrepreneurs to get back in business.



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INDONESIA

Fishermen get back on the water

Working with four local Acehese NGOs in Pidie, Bireun, and Aceh Jaya Districts, USAID constructed 209 fishing boats, helping 520 local fishermen return to work. The boat construction, a mix of 3-4 meter boats for two persons and 8-9 meter boats for four persons, is part of a broader cash-for-work and livelihoods recovery program developed by USAID in Aceh.

FAST FACTS: U.S. ASSISTANCE AS OF MAY 4, 2005

Total USG Humanitarian and Recovery Assistance Pledged:	\$350,000,000
Total USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance Committed:	\$ 81,378,000
Total USAID/FFP Humanitarian Assistance Committed:	\$ 22,466,900
Total USAID/ANE Humanitarian Assistance Committed:	\$ 5,372,944
Total USAID/ANE Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Assistance Committed:	\$ 18,462,915
Total State/PRM Humanitarian Assistance Committed:	\$ 200,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed:	\$127,880,759

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