



TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

October 2006 - Update



Image: Courtesy CH2M Hill

An artist's rendition of the new USAID-funded bridge over Arugam Bay.

SRI LANKA

CONTRACT SIGNED FOR ARUGAM BAY BRIDGE

Following a competitive bidding process, the prime contractor for the USAID Sri Lanka Tsunami Reconstruction Program (SLTRP) signed a \$10.6 million subcontract with Simplex Infrastructures Limited of India to construct a new bridge over Arugam Bay in the East. The concrete-and-steel composite design, though common in the US, is new to Sri Lanka, and will make for a less expensive, more durable, and faster constructed structure.

The new construction includes two spans totaling 185 meters, and approaches from both sides that will link three ethnically diverse communities. The project will help promote tourism in the area, which features some of the country's most beautiful beaches and a popular surfing site. Simplex expects 70 percent of the workforce to be local, and the project is still on schedule to be completed by March 2008. Community consultation has been a key feature of the reconstruction effort.

INSIDE THIS EDITION

	Page
Sri Lanka	1-3
•Contract Signed for Arugam Bay Bridge	
•Conceptual Design for Schools Complete	
•Maldives Water Project Gets Underway	
•USAID Upgrades Public Buildings for Tsunami-affected Disabled	
•Tourism Campaign Wins Award	
India	4
•Live Crabs for Sale	
Indonesia	4-5
•Communities Participate in USAID Funded Housing Construction	
•Providing the Building Blocks For Tsunami Reconstruction	
Regional (IOTWS)	6
•Sri Lanka Learns First-Hand About U.S. Disaster Management Practices	
•Indonesian Communities Support Regional Guidelines for Coastal Disaster Resilience	

FAST FACTS:

Total U.S. Government Humanitarian Assistance and Recovery Funds

Assistance Pledged 12/31/04: \$350 million

Tsunami Recovery and Reconstruction Fund: \$656 million*

Assistance provided to each country:

- India: \$18.0 million
- Indonesia: \$403.3 million
- Maldives: \$12.0 million
- Sri Lanka: \$134.6 million
- Thailand: \$5.3 million

Regional, other countries: \$32.5 million

Program management: \$19.0 million

*\$656 million was approved for Tsunami Recovery and Reconstruction Fund, but \$31.3 million is committed to Avian Flu.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

October 2006 - Update

Sri Lanka continued -



Photo: USAID/Zack Taylor

USAID/Sri Lanka Mission Director Rebecca Cohn (right) is briefed by Ron Saunders of SLTRP contractor CH2M Hill on renovation plans for a vocational school teaching outboard motor repair.

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN FOR SCHOOLS COMPLETE

USAID/Sri Lanka has completed the conceptual designs for the nine vocational schools to be constructed or rehabilitated under the SLTRP. The designs include a basic floor plan and rendering of the schools, both based on the specific type of training they will offer; for example, electrical outlets for appliance repair, water tanks for marine engine repair, and accommodation for sewing machines in apparel industry trades.

These plans will be utilized by project architects and engineers as the basis for the construction drawings, which will be complete by early November, with construction to begin early next year.

MALDIVES WATER PROJECT GETS UNDERWAY

A USAID/Sri Lanka team finalized the scope of work for a water project on two tsunami-affected islands identified by the Maldivian government. With populations of about 4,500 each, the islands of Naifaru and Hinnavaru are among the most populous in a country with fewer than 400,000 people.

The project will commission two existing desalination plants, design and implement a community health program to improve awareness of water issues, and build capacity at the local and ministerial levels. The \$1.9 million contract was signed at the end of September, and implementation is already under way.



Photo: USAID/Sujeewa Ratnakumara

A Maldivian family at home on Naifaru island. Their water is supplied by a rain catchment system that feeds water into the black tanks. USAID's project will assure such families a steady supply of desalinated seawater.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Tsunami Update Continued

October 2006

Sri Lanka Continued -

USAID UPGRADES PUBLIC BUILDINGS FOR TSUNAMI-AFFECTED DISABLED

USAID upgraded a school for blind children in Tangalle as part of a project to improve access for the disabled in post-tsunami reconstruction at nine schools and hospitals. The project included installation of raised edges on sidewalks, ramps, and guardrails, rebuilding stairs with steep angles, and refitting toilets and showers to be disabled-accessible. All the upgrades will be complete by mid-November 2006.

The project is creating a new awareness in the government of the importance of accessibility for the disabled in its public facilities, and is influencing new draft guidelines for schools, hospitals, and other public buildings.



Photo: USAID/Zack Taylor

Two students at the blind school walk around unassisted thanks to the textured borders on the sidewalks installed by USAID.



image: Courtesy The Competitiveness Program

One of the award-winning posters for the “Small Island, Big Trip” campaign.

TOURISM CAMPAIGN WINS AWARD

A USAID/Sri Lanka-funded tourism campaign targeting the Indian market won a regional award from Singapore-based AdAsia Magazine.

The “Small Island, Big Trip” campaign, which consisted of a series of print and television advertisements targeted to India’s five largest metropolitan areas, boosted the number of arrivals in Sri Lanka from India by 21 percent during the second quarter of 2006, compared to the same quarter in 2005. This represented \$6 million in tourist revenue from nearly 10,000 arrivals from India.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Tsunami Update Continued

October 2006



Photo: PCI

Mrs. Karpagam who received a micro loan under a USAID program weighs her crabs before going out to sell them on the market.

INDIA

LIVE CRABS FOR SALE

Mrs. Karpagam, a 35-year old widow from Thirumulaivasal in the village of Tamil Nadu, completely lost her small business in the tsunami. She received assistance from a USAID supported self-help group that provides livelihood opportunities and micro-loans to tsunami-affected families.

With a small loan, Mrs. Karpagam was able to re-start her crab selling business. Now, she is buying crabs from local fishermen and re-selling them at the wholesale market in Chennai. Demand is constantly growing for her live Tamil Nadu crabs that survive almost twice as long as common species from the region. Buyers in Chennai place a premium on live crabs and some are exported as far as Singapore.

Continued...

With her livelihood restarted, Mrs. Karpagam and her children are doing even better than before the tsunami. She is making about \$75/month, which is more than enough to send her older son to the local school, buy staples for her family, save a little money, and, on special occasions, serve fresh crab for dinner.

INDONESIA

COMMUNITIES PARTICIPATE IN USAID-FUNDED HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

USAID has completed construction on 217 new houses for families displaced by the tsunami in villages along Aceh's West Coast. Beneficiaries are active participants in the rebuilding process.

...continued



Photo: USAID/Michelle Barrett

New USAID-Funded Houses Under Construction



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Tsunami Update Continued

October 2006

Indonesia Continued -

Mr. Zulkarnaini, a 45-year old fisherman who lost his wife, son, and all possessions now lives in barracks five kilometers from Pulot village. A member of the locally elected Community Resettlement Committee, he keeps other members informed on resettlement issues and is often at the USAID-funded housing site to oversee construction work. “I am very happy to get this home because I have no dream and money to build a home by myself. I hope I can get married again and start over in my *rumah idaman*” (or “dream home”—a term universally applied in Pulot to the homes constructed under the program).

PROVIDING THE BUILDING BLOCKS FOR TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

Rebuilding of homes, schools, and businesses in Aceh is a challenge due to the damages to roads and ports and the rising cost of materials such as bricks, sand and concrete.

USAID’s Aceh Technical Assistance Recovery Project (A-TARP) provides logistics assistance to the Indonesian government’s Aceh and Nias Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency (BRR). The project mapped logistics requirements and material needs in communities across Aceh and used the information to prioritize and sequence road and port rehabilitation activities.

Continued...

A-TARP advisors also help aid organizations to develop detailed plans to source, secure, and deliver the materials that they will need. In addition, the project designed an initiative under which BRR buys materials tax free at bulk rates from suppliers around the country and stores them in eight regional depots. This depot system will ensure that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have continuous access to supplies at affordable prices so reconstruction can proceed smoothly.



Photo: Chemonics

Rebuilding Aceh requires the coordinated purchase of hundreds of thousands of tons of materials – and the ports, roads, and trucks to deliver them across the tsunami-affected province.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Tsunami Update Continued

October 2006

REGIONAL- U.S. Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS)

SRI LANKA LEARNS FIRST-HAND ABOUT U.S. DISASTER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Learning first-hand is what Sri Lankan disaster managers looked for. The IOTWS program through the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Forest Service (USDA/FS) recently supported a two-week exchange for 12 Sri Lankan senior officials and disaster management specialists to gain hands-on exposure on how Incident Command System (ICS) is used by U.S. federal agencies and organizations to respond to disasters within all kinds of contexts and situations.

Apart from arranging meetings and field visits with organizations such as the Red Cross and U.S. Coast Guard, the study tour represented a unique and emotional exchange of experiences for disaster managers from two of the world's most devastating catastrophes—the 2004 tsunami and the 2005 Hurricane Katrina—when the delegates visited Katrina's “ground zero” in Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi.



Photo: S. Fakhruddin, US IOTWS Program

Under the US IOTWS Program, Sri Lankan disaster management specialists visited the U.S. to learn disaster management practices. Participants visited organizations such as the American Red Cross in Mobile, Alabama.



Photo: A. Ahmed/US IOTWS Program

Workshop participant reports on elements of resilience.

INDONESIAN COMMUNITIES SUPPORT REGIONAL GUIDELINES FOR COASTAL DISASTER RESILIENCE

Disaster preparedness for coastal communities has been a high priority since the tsunami, but many experts have found training to be inconsistent and important issues such as diversifying livelihoods or protecting coastal resources are not given adequate attention. In September, 45 community representatives and disaster management specialists representing 35 Indonesian organizations joined USAID and U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Jakarta to help forge a regional guidebook for practitioners to apply a more comprehensive “Coastal Community Resilience” (CCR) approach to community preparedness.

Co-sponsored by the Indonesian Society for Disaster Management and the International Federation of Red Cross/Indonesian Red Cross, the workshop was the first of a series supported by the USAID-funded U.S. IOTWS Program as part of a regional CCR initiative being implemented with a range of regional and national-level partner organizations. Representatives from several national and international NGOs, donors, the Government of Indonesia, and UNESCO indicated they plan to use this guide in their disaster preparedness training efforts with hundreds of coastal communities in Indonesia.