



TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

September/October 2007 - Update



Photo: USAID/Mike Gould

USAID/Sri Lanka Economic Growth Office Director Dick Edwards raises the American flag at the commencement of the Pottuvil Water Project

SRI LANKA

FINAL SRI LANKA TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT COMMENCES

USAID broke ground on the final element of the Sri Lanka Tsunami Reconstruction Program (SLTRP), a water supply project for the predominantly Muslim town of Pottuvil, near Arugam Bay. The project is co-funded with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), which is providing \$1.5 million for the \$4.7 million plan to construct wells, a water line, and a water treatment plant. This water supply project complements the \$10 million reconstruction of the tsunami-damaged Arugam Bay Bridge, which links Pottuvil and the predominantly Sinhalese resort area of Ulla. The bridge is the major element of the SLTRP.

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FAST FACTS:

Total US Government Humanitarian Assistance and Recovery Funds

Tsunami Recovery and Reconstruction Fund: \$656 million*

Assistance provided to each country:

- India: \$17.9 million
- Indonesia: \$405.7 million
- Maldives: \$12.0 million
- Sri Lanka: \$134.6 million
- Thailand: \$5.3 million

Regional, other countries: \$31.8 million

Program management: \$17.4 million

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



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Sri Lanka continued -

Until now, local residents have depended for their drinking water mainly on rain water and shallow wells, many of which may be contaminated. The new treatment facility will improve the health status of as many as 35,000 people in the region by providing chlorine treatment and introducing a new technology for iron removal. The project is expected to be completed in July 2008.



Photo: CH2M Hill

USAID/Sri Lanka Mission Director Rebecca Cohn is briefed by Maldivian officials on the layout of the new water treatment plant on the island of Hinnavaru

GROUNDBREAKING ON TSUNAMI WATER PROJECTS IN MALDIVES

USAID broke ground for a project to install new water purification systems on two tsunami-damaged islands in Maldives. The two systems will be able to process 30,000 liters of purified water per day and help assure water security on two of the country's most populous islands. The project also contains a hygiene-awareness and administrative capacity-building element.

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The U.S. Department of State transferred these tsunami funds to USAID because it has the necessary experience to implement the project.

USAID also donated media equipment to a regional hospital in the Maldives to provide public service health messages on water hygiene to waiting patients. The donation is a complementary element of the \$2 million post-tsunami water project on the two islands. The project will replace water generation and storage facilities damaged by the tsunami, and improve the capacity of the water and sanitation ministries of the government of Maldives, and assist the government with developing water management systems.

ANTI-CORRUPTION PLAN UNVEILED AT USAID-SUPPORTED CONFERENCE

The final version of the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan was presented to Sri Lankan government and civil society organizations during the National Conference on Anti-Corruption on July 28. The Action Plan, a milestone in the USAID-supported Sri Lanka Anti-Corruption Program (ACP), proposes actions to be taken by the government, civil society, the private sector, the media, and donors to reduce corruption and enhance accountability.

The ACP was funded by the Tsunami Special Appropriation as a starting point to help key government institutions and civil society organizations strengthen measures to combat corruption and monitor the disbursement of tsunami-related development assistance. The Action Plan was drafted over the past 18 months by a consultative council made up of professional associations, chambers of commerce, religious groups, unions, and other civil society organizations.

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Sri Lanka continued -



Photo: USAID/Gemunu Amarasinghe

A Sri Lankan three-wheel taxi driver pastes a sticker with a hotline number to inform officials about corruption during a gathering to educate taxi drivers on how to mitigate bribery in Sri Lanka

The ACP also conducted more than 100 workshops, seminars and conferences, primarily in tsunami-affected districts, to elicit feedback and involvement from the people of Sri Lanka; broadcast TV and radio spots and distributed children’s books to raise awareness about anti-corruption; collaborated with the Auditor General’s Department on new methods and techniques of investigative auditing; and completed a survey of 3,500 households about their perceptions and experiences of corruption.

USAID TSUNAMI ASSISTANCE TO REHABILITATE LIBRARIES IN SRI LANKA

USAID mobilized two southern communities to renovate two tsunami-damaged libraries and three reading halls to help restore a sense of normalcy to the lives of the citizens in those communities.

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USAID funded building upgrades, refurbishment of reading rooms, and organized community members to do the work themselves in a traditional Sri Lankan *shramadana*, where villagers come together to work on projects for communal benefit.

U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission in Sri Lanka, James Moore, dedicated the USAID-renovated library in tsunami-affected Matara. This library provided staff with language training to make the facility accessible to Tamil-speaking community members, automated book lending systems, and community book clubs. The project provided physical improvements to the library building; \$20,000 worth of books in English, Sinhala, and Tamil; computers with automated book referencing software; and furniture including desks, reading tables, chairs, and book cases.



Photo: DAI

U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission James Moore receives a demonstration of new USAID-supplied computer equipment at the renovated library in Matara.



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Sri Lanka continued -



USAID Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator Mark Ward stands atop a column for the new Arugam Bay Bridge

Photo: USAID/Rebecca Cohn

DAA MARK WARD SEES 'GOOD PROGRESS' ON SRI LANKA TSUNAMI PROJECTS

USAID Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator Mark Ward made a two-day visit to Sri Lanka and inspected tsunami reconstruction program projects in the east, including one of two Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)-certified "green" vocational education training centers and the Arugam Bay Bridge site.

He visited a camp for the tsunami-displaced and inaugurated a computer resources center for Muslim youth. Mr. Ward said that despite some expected minor delays in the tsunami reconstruction projects, he was pleased to see "good progress" on the bridge and vocational schools, which are scheduled for a mid-2008 completion.

INDIA

RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM LINKS US AND INDIAN CITY MANAGERS

The USAID-supported City Links program links municipal officials of the Indian cities of Nagapattinam and Cuddalore with professional peers in U.S. coastal communities of Florida that have experienced similar catastrophes and then led successful recovery efforts. A series of six exchanges brought urban management professionals from Palm Bay, Port Orange and Oldsmar, Florida to the Indian cities – and vice versa – focusing on re-building better. Two key issues identified for reconstruction were the outdated city maps that dated from the early 1900s and the outdated water and property records.

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Photo: US Consulate, Chennai, India

U.S. Consul General David Hopper presents Cuddalore City Collector Rajendra Ratnoo a plaque of appreciation for his efforts in restoring the city of Cuddalore. Working with city managers of Palm Bay and Port Orange, Florida, Mr. Ratnoo learned new ways of doing business. Anand Rudra, USAID (far left) and CV Shankar, state government tsunami officer, look on



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India continued -

The cities conducted surveys and created digital maps with advice from their U.S. counterparts. To improve financial revenues of the municipalities, extensive assessments were conducted to update property and water tax records. Through the assessments and improved maps, the cities of Cuddalore and Nagapattinam identified over \$800,000 in back taxes. To date, more than \$537,330 in arrears has been collected and as a result, both cities have improved civic services.

THAILAND

POST-TSUNAMI LIVELIHOODS PROGRAM GIVES LEARNING CENTER TO COMMUNITY

The Post-Tsunami Sustainable Livelihoods Program closed its office and handed the USAID-funded Kamphuan Community Learning Center (KCLC) to the community at a ceremony in late September.

USAID was highly praised by local leaders at the ceremony for its timely and valuable assistance to the community. After 30 months of intensive work by USAID, Kamphuan and the surrounding communities are cleaner, more economically diversified, and resilient than they were before being ravaged by the tsunami. Residents have adopted alternative livelihoods, better community governance, and disaster preparedness as a result of this program.

Following the ceremony, members of the community planted 80 trees on the KCLC's



Photo: Chris Dunbar

Post-Tsunami Sustainable Livelihoods Program Chief of Party Amrit Bart (center) planted a tree at the Kamphuan Community Learning Center (KCLC) to celebrate the formation of the KCLC Foundation and His Majesty the King of Thailand's 80th birthday

grounds to celebrate the formation of the learning center and His Majesty the King of Thailand's 80th birthday later this year. September was the holy month of Ramadan, so members of the predominantly Muslim community broke their daily fast with a dinner at the KCLC followed by prayers at the KCLC's Tsunami Museum.

The newly formed foundation, run mostly by local stakeholders, will continue to provide educational programs at the center on such topics as livelihoods improvement, computer skills, the English language, community-based disaster management, and environmental protection.

The Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods Program will continue to provide support and guidance to the KCLC through March 2008.



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INDONESIA

EMPOWERING WOMEN ON A SUCCESSFUL VENTURE IN ACEH

In a move to combat trafficking in the wake of the 2004 tsunami, USAID funded a \$3.2 million program designed to better educate young women – broadening their employment opportunities and thus, their perceptions of the future.

One of the program's accomplishments included USAID support to the first women's legal aid organization in Aceh. This support provided legal services for women in local communities, particularly victims of trafficking, and worked through the deployment of trained paralegals in seven districts in Aceh Province.

A USAID-funded handbook facilitated training for legal officers and law enforcement personnel on trafficking and gender issues. The handbook, entitled, "Paralegal Education Module," was published by women activists associated with a local NGO, LBH Apik, which specializes in providing legal advice.

The handbook provided facilitators with gender sensitivity knowledge and ways to pursue legal justice for victims of violence against women. The module, which is used by other organizations as well, supports women's advocacy in the communities throughout Aceh.



Photo: The Asia Foundation

In September, invitees attended a book launch for the USAID-funded handbook entitled, "Paralegal Education Module"

To date, USAID has trained 21 paralegals and 10 volunteers who have been actively providing legal advice and counseling for local women in their assigned communities. As a result, more than 1,200 people throughout the province have increased their knowledge on women's legal rights and the availability of legal aid service.