



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST

## TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

Update – February 15, 2005



Photo: USAID/Gemunu Amarasinghe

### SRI LANKA

**Rebuilding the yarn spinning industry** – Coir, the fibrous husk of a coconut, has traditionally been a source of income for women and their families and a successful export product. However, the coir yarn spinning industry was devastated by the tsunami. At least 1,000 spinning wheels were destroyed, taking income away from spinners, weavers and exporters. The material has become popular in the United States and other countries for erosion control and infrastructure. USAID has employed local carpenters and blacksmiths to build new spinning wheels. Spinners also receive a starting supply of fiber with the new wheels to jump-start the cottage industry.

**Strengthening local governments** – To help local government officials manage the volume of information and coordination demands in the weeks following the tsunami, USAID provided computers, internet access and training. Each computer has database software that helps track projects and expenditures. The data is linked to a central database in Colombo to help manage information nationally and locally. This will also help increase the transparency and accountability of the tsunami response.

### INDONESIA

**Bringing hope and jobs** – Ainul Mardiah (right) lost her home, two older sisters, a nephew and a niece to the earthquake and tsunami. She joined a cash-for-work crew of 200 people to clean up what used to be the village of Miruk Lamreudup in Aceh Besar. She earns enough to pay for her daily needs. "I really enjoy working here because I'm with friends," she says, "...instead of just thinking about the water on that day."

**Training local health care staff** – International medical staff continue to provide emergency care for victims in Aceh province. At the same time, USAID works with local health care services to strengthen their services, so they can take over when the international teams depart.



Photo: USAID/Debbie Tomasowa, Mercy Corps



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Photo: USAID/SART

## INDIA

**Building shelters** – In Nambiarnagar, Vailankanni and other affected areas, USAID has built shelters for those made homeless by the tsunami. Over the coming weeks, USAID will continue improving the design of the shelters to use more traditional materials and increase ventilation. Farm workers from nearby fields that were contaminated by the tsunami, local workers and homeless villagers earn daily wages building the shelters.

**Cleaning the environment** – Exnora, a local waste management organization, works with USAID in

Nagappattinam district to compost and recycle waste at the sites of temporary shelters and in local communities. Exnora estimates that 50 percent of the garbage produced in Nagappattinam city is recyclable, and local companies pay three rupees per kilo for plastic. Participants in this cash-for-work program will be able to keep the profits from recycling.

## THAILAND

**Providing assistance to small businesses** – USAID has sent business advisors out to communities to help small businesses develop realistic business plans for the future. The team begins by assessing and documenting damages for insurance and loan purposes. They help complete the paperwork for bank funding or other government assistance programs and then work with the owners to plan more profitable or environmentally suitable businesses. With solid plans in place, the new businesses should use funds more effectively and recover more quickly.

## MALDIVES

On January 28<sup>th</sup>, USAID staff closed out operations in the Maldives, where they had been stationed since January 10<sup>th</sup>. During that time, USAID provided more than \$1.3 million for health, nutrition, water and sanitation activities, and emergency relief supplies.

### FAST FACTS: U.S. ASSISTANCE AS OF FEBRUARY 15, 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](http://www.usaid.gov).

### TSUNAMI IN ASIA

Dead:	166,062
Missing:	128,353
Displaced:	1,098,981