



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST

TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

Update – March 16, 2005



Photo: USAID/Muhammad Khan

INDONESIA

USAID partners with Syahkuala University

USAID established a partnership with Syahkuala University in Banda Aceh to reconstruct the teacher training center and other facilities destroyed by the tsunami. The Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is assisting with plans to rebuild this facility and other potential infrastructure projects in Aceh, including the road from Banda Aceh to Meulaboh.

Ensuring Transparency and Accountability

At the invitation of the Government of Indonesia, USAID is providing expert advice to improve financial controls over reconstruction funds. A team of experts from the U.S. General Accounting Office will work with the Government of Indonesia's Supreme Audit Agency Board (BPK) to establish systems to ensure the accountability, transparency, and efficient use of the tsunami reconstruction funds. USAID is also working with the Planning & Development Ministry, BAPPENAS, to launch a web-based database of projects and procurement information. This will serve to promote transparency and accountability by facilitating public access to information.

INDIA

Developing Skills and Increasing School Achievement for Women and Girls

With USAID assistance, a local social service society is working with women and children in Devenampattinam, Cuddalore District in southern India to conduct sewing classes for women and boost school achievement for girls. Thanks to USG funding, this fishing community now has a refurbished community center in what was an abandoned building. Sewing classes are attended daily by 42 women, ages 15 to 35, to develop skills to pursue tailoring careers. Girls attend nightly study sessions to keep up with missed school work. The center recently received new playground equipment, as illustrated above.



Photo: USAID/Kristen Kelleher



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SRI LANKA

Government measures to mitigate future disasters present challenges to construction of transitional shelters

With the rainy season approaching, building transitional shelters for families displaced by the tsunami takes on a new urgency. A newly-enforced buffer zone that prohibits the construction of residential buildings up to 100 meters from the coast in the south and 200 meters in the north and east, and a delay in the designation of government owned land outside the buffer zone for housing construction has presented challenges for USAID and its partners.



Despite this, more than 2,000 transitional shelters are currently under construction and materials for another 2,000 are expected to arrive within days. USAID continues to urge the authorities to designate sufficient lands to accommodate housing needs. In addition, USAID has developed a program to assist families hosting internally displaced persons. In Ampara, USAID plans to expand kitchens and living spaces of 130 houses of families hosting the displaced as one means for reducing the number of families living in tents.



Former President Bush presents photos from visit to tsunami-affected countries

On Friday, March 4, 2005 the George H. W. Bush Presidential Museum and Library in College Station, Texas hosted "From Despair to Hope," a photo slide show of the tsunami devastation narrated by former President Bush. Former President Bush was joined by a panel who accompanied him on the trip to the tsunami-affected countries: Ambassador Douglas Hartwick, the U.S. State Department's coordinator for

tsunami reconstruction; Tony Freemantle, a reporter for the Houston Chronicle; and Mark Ward, Deputy Chairperson of USAID's tsunami reconstruction task force.

Bush and panel members spoke about their experiences on the three-day tour of Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Thailand, and Indonesia with former President Clinton in February. In his remarks, Bush emphasized the importance of continued support for reconstruction and the need to be engaged beyond the relief stage.

FAST FACTS: U.S. ASSISTANCE AS OF FEBRUARY 23, 2005

Value of USAID Programs Funded: \$83,649,325

Value of Total U.S. Government Relief and Programs: \$123,689,169

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