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# TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

April 24, 2006 - Update



New rainwater harvesting systems for tsunami-affected families in Hikkaduwa, Sri Lanka are the first of 680 such systems to be constructed in partnership with UNICEF and local communities.

## 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 by country:

India:	\$ 17.9 million
Indonesia:	\$400.1 million
Maldives:	\$ 12.0 million
Sri Lanka:	\$134.6 million
Thailand:	\$ 5.3 million

Regional, other countries: \$33.4 million  
Program Management: 21.4 million

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

## SUMMARY OF MAJOR RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS UNDERWAY

- Rehabilitation of 80 km of economically strategic road in Aceh, Indonesia
- Reconstruction of the 160-meter Arugam Bay Bridge in Sri Lanka which was destroyed by the tsunami
- Development of a Thailand-based tsunami early warning system designed to save lives across the region
- In India over 50 children's day care, recreation and non-formal education centers were established to help meet the needs of 25,000 children

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## SRI LANKA

### INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRESS REPORT

**Harbors** – The contractor is authorized to begin about \$110,000 worth of work repairing the fishing harbor. Improvements to water supply systems, sanitation facilities, docks, warehouses, security systems and the installation of fish rinsing stations are underway. Planning for the remaining \$8 million continues, and major work is scheduled to begin by July.

**Environmental Assessments** – Drafts for the Arugam Bay Bridge and fishing harbor are complete. Approval of the environmental assessments represents a major milestone.

**Community Water** – Testing for the best locations to develop community water supplies in the Pottuvil and Panama communities has been completed. The results indicate that it should be possible to tap into the groundwater supply, and exploratory drilling is now underway. Deep community wells are planned to replace the unsanitary shallow wells now in use.



Traditional Kandyan dancers feature in a promotional poster highlighting Sri Lankan shopping opportunities.

### “SMALL ISLAND, BIG TRIP” TOURISM CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF

As part of the tsunami recovery effort, the Bounce Back tourism campaign, seeks to bring Indian tourists to Sri Lanka. The “Small Island, Big Trip” campaign featured the launch of a new web site, thousands of television spots, and newspaper advertisements in three major Indian markets. The campaign highlights the island’s appeal beyond just beaches, marketing ecological adventures and cultural heritage destinations.



A participant at the Trincomalee kite festival salutes the event’s organizer. The festival marked a return to normalcy in the tsunami and conflict-affected town.

### KITES FOR PEACE

USAID organized a kite festival for “Peace and Recovery” in March for 150 youth from Trincomalee District a multi-ethnic area affected by both conflict and the tsunami. The kite festival generated positive attitudes towards other ethnicities and the future through a practical, artistic and cultural program that provided an opportunity for interaction and understanding among the multi-ethnic communities. The festival’s final day attracted about 2,000 people, marking a return to normalcy in the area since a recent conflict-related incident took the lives of five local youths.



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## Tsunami Update Continued

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### Sri Lanka Continued -



Clare McCormachie/USAID

*Happy children test out the new playground in Trincomalee.*

### FIRST PLAYGROUND IN EASTERN SRI LANKA COMPLETE

Across the island nation, 85 playgrounds will be constructed providing these communities with a safe place for their children to exercise and develop healthy relationships. About half of these playgrounds are planned for the East, areas which were conflict-affected before the tsunami and were further damaged afterwards. To date four playgrounds have been completed; and the children smile brightly as they swing and slide.

## INDIA

### NEW WATER TANK ALLOWS FAMILY TO ENTER WORKFORCE

Pallithodu, a coastal village affected by the tsunami in the state of Kerala in southern India suffered from chronic water shortages, caused by saline ground water. Village residents Thomas and Elisha had to spend about two-and-a-half hours every day trekking to fetch water. They also had to spend hard-earned money to buy water from vendors at a price of 10 to 12 rupees (about 23 cents) for 20 liters to meet their drinking and cooking needs.

### India Continued -

Every month, close to 50 rupees (\$1.12) was spent on water.

All this changed when USAID funded the construction of a roof top rain water harvesting system at Thomas and Elisha's house. The system constructed cost 10,000 rupees (\$224) with Thomas and Elisha contributing 2,000 rupees (\$44). The storage tank has a capacity of 5,000 liters which meets the family's water needs for 6 to 8 months.

Thomas and Elisha are now assured of a reliable water supply. As they no longer have to collect water, they spend this time working in a nearby factory, earning additional income and saving the money that otherwise would have been spent on water. They share the water from the rain harvesting systems with their neighbors. Thomas and Elisha's story illustrates how even small investments can improve the livelihood of an entire family.



USAID/India

*A family in Southern India draws water from their new water tank and rain harvesting system.*



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Suzanne Ross/USAID

*Dr. Plodprasop Suraswadi, Executive Minister of the Thai National Disaster Warning Center; Tim Beans, USAID RDM/A Mission Director; and Rich Whelden Deputy Mission Director in the communications response room.*

### THAILAND

#### TSUNAMI ALERT SYSTEM

Delivering alerts rapidly to coastal communities is one of the most important functions of an effective tsunami warning system. Working with the Thai National Disaster Warning Center, a U.S. government team including USAID, the U.S. Forest Service and the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration is developing a Tsunami Alert Rapid Notification System (TARNS) for Thailand. Jointly, they will implement a plan for putting in place the right technologies, procedures, and linkages with other key agencies to deliver warnings quickly and efficiently, so people in danger can get to safety in time—or, just as importantly, to reassure the public when there is no immediate threat. It is expected that the Thai tsunami alert system will serve as an important model for replication in other countries in the Indian Ocean Region. The effort is part of the U.S. Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System Program, a \$16.6 million regional initiative led by USAID.

#### ONE MILLION MORE FISH EACH YEAR – NEW HATCHERY ENABLES YEAR-ROUND FISHING

Thai fishing communities who are dependent on the sea for their livelihood are growing concerned about the dwindling abundance of their daily seafood catch as they struggle to get back on their feet after the tsunami. They are also concerned about their livelihoods when monsoon season disrupts their work. With long-term development a primary goal in tsunami recovery, USAID is helping fishers develop alternative small-scale aquaculture that will not only conserve fish in the sea, but produce year-round income.

A newly built hatchery will provide up to 1 million fish spawn per year to small-scale aquaculture farms in the area. Local fishers received training on the spawning of fish and producing live food for young fish larvae to eat. The hatchery will also house a small-scale feed mill to process unmarketable fish caught in the sea.



Chris Dunbar/USAID

*A small-scale catfish hatchery*



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Kevin McClothlin/USAID

Woman selling produce in new market.

### INDONESIA

#### MEULABOH MARKET REOPENS

The new Langkak fish and vegetable market in Meulaboh is open for business. The original market that used to be occupied by 30 traders selling fish from local boats was completely destroyed by the earthquake and tsunami.

After initial cash-for-work activities cleared debris, a temporary plywood market was erected while the building was being designed and permission for disputed land rights granted. To promote gender equity in the use of the market, a group of 16 women vendors received a grant and training to hone their entrepreneurial skills.

Completed in March, the new 10 x 9 meter market is an open-air two-story facility with an enclosed office on the second floor. This is one of eleven markets constructed in the districts of Aceh Barat and Nagan Raya.

#### HOUSING CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

Many tsunami survivors are still waiting to go home. However, rebuilding homes after a disaster as devastating as the tsunami is no easy task. After careful planning and community consultation, the first phase of a project to construct housing for survivors of the tsunami is underway. Sixty-five houses in Geumbak Meualon and an additional fifty-seven permanent houses in Pulot village are currently being constructed. Each of these villages will house more than 200 people who have taken shelter in temporary camps or the homes of relatives. The houses will be constructed in compliance with building codes for permanent homes, and include special features to safeguard against earthquake damage.

A Community Resettlement Committee comprised of local villagers has helped design the homes and will work to ensure transparency throughout the execution of the project. In addition to housing, the \$10 million project includes essential economic infrastructure projects such as rebuilding small ports, fishing vessels, ice-making facilities and markets.



Caroline Gredler/USAID

At the housing construction project groundbreaking ceremony, Thomas Morris, USAID Representative for Aceh and North Sumatra, delivers remarks.



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## Tsunami Update Continued

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*Indonesia continued -*

### **ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE NIAS ISLAND EARTHQUAKE**

The 8.7 level earthquake of March 28, 2005, would have attracted worldwide notice had it not followed the December 2004 tsunami disaster. The March earthquake caused significant damage to one of Indonesia's smaller islands, Nias Island, just west of Sumatra.



USAID/Indonesia

One year later, USAID commemorated the earthquake in an event that included a visit to a mass grave, a handover of 615 new houses to community members, a children's art competition, and a visit to Gunung Sitoli Hospital by U.S. Ambassador B. Lynn Pascoe. The hospital received medical supplies and support through the International Medical Corps. USAID and its partners greatly improved the hospital's water and sanitation.

### **COFFEE PRODUCTION: GROUNDS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH**

A new initiative to increase organic coffee production is assisting thousands of tsunami-affected people, including many who had been displaced by years of civil conflict between the Government of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement. With peace accords in place, many people are returning to the Takengon area to resume coffee production.

To provide incentives to farmers to re-cultivate this land, USAID provides assistance to a local coffee cooperative, which has increased its membership since the program began from 400 to over 1,500 members. The project is laying the foundation for organic coffee certification, which could lead to higher profits for farmers.



Sam Filiaci/NCBA

*Neglected coffee crop to be renovated*