



TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

August 2006 - Update

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Photo: Zack Taylor/USAID

(From left) U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission James Moore, USAID Mission Director Dr. Carol Becker, SLTRP Chief of Party Teny Mittal, and Sri Lanka Road Development Authority Chairman M. B. S. Fernando at the site of the new Arugam Bay Bridge.

SRI LANKA

USAID BREAKS GROUND FOR ARUGAM BAY BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION

A groundbreaking ceremony for reconstruction of the Arugam Bay Bridge was held on August 7. The centerpiece of USAID's Sri Lanka Tsunami Reconstruction Program (SLTRP), the new bridge will consist of two spans totaling 185 meters to connect the Pottuvil, Arugam Bay and Panama communities and enhance the fishing, agriculture, and tourist industries.

The \$10.6 million project also includes construction of 900 meters of paved access roads, and improvements to water supply systems in the area will take place under a separate contract. Plans for the bridge were developed in consultation with the communities; women and all ethnic and religious groups were represented. Beneficiaries expressed hope that the project would bring them out of the relative isolation resulting from their remote location and years of conflict.

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 and program management: \$33.4 million

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



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Photo: Zack Taylor/USAID

A young fisherman sits on his boat watching construction work at Mirissa harbor.

HARBORS 'RAPID RESPONSE' KICKS OFF

The "rapid response" element of the SLTRP harbors project was launched on June 26. The Sri Lankan Minister of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, officials from the Ceylon Fishing Harbors Corporation and USAID all participated in an inaugural ceremony in Hikkaduwa. Work has also commenced in Mirissa and Dondra. These initial activities will improve water and sanitation systems and upgrade piers while preparations for the major infrastructure rehabilitation work are completed. This phase will last three months, followed by the major breakwater repair and dredging work.

Community consultations continued in Mirissa between fishers, tourist operators, and small-scale contributors of clothing and crafts for tourists. Participants also discussed priorities and identified issues that might impinge upon the coastal environment such as solid waste and hazard management, expansion of livelihoods, and women's income generation.

PLAYGROUND NUMBER EIGHT INAUGURATED

The eighth of a projected 85 playgrounds to be constructed by USAID/Sri Lanka across 12 tsunami-affected districts officially opened on August 13 in Panadura. It was the second of four "signature" facilities designed for densely populated areas.

The new playground will restore the area to its once-prominent place in the community, where children can play and adults assemble in the evenings. The playground will be administered and maintained under an agreement with the Panadura Urban Council. The playgrounds project was developed as therapy for children to overcome the trauma of the tsunami.



Photo: Zack Taylor/USAID

A young boy tries out the slide at the new USAID playground in Panadura, the eighth of a projected 85 in tsunami affected areas in the South and East of Sri Lanka.



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ANTI-CORRUPTION PROGRAM TRAINS TRAINERS

Two three-day “social mobilization” programs to train trainers on anti-corruption, one each in the local languages of Sinhala and Tamil, were held July 14-16. The programs prepared 35 people to return to their respective communities and conduct training for officials of government and community-based organizations in partnership with the USAID/Sri Lanka Democracy and Governance-supported people’s forums in more than 40 communities. These programs are expected to improve awareness of corruption and prompt debate on methods of eradicating the practice in the public sector. The program was developed to help curb corruption in post-tsunami redevelopment activities.

INDONESIA

U.S. CONGRESSMAN ROBERT WEXLER VISITS BANDA ACEH

U.S. Representative Robert Wexler (D-FL) and his family visited Banda Aceh for a three-day review of U.S. government assistance to tsunami-devastated Aceh province. The Wexler family viewed USAID projects in multiple sectors, including housing reconstruction, economic revitalization, local government support, community-based recovery, and infrastructure. The Wexlers culminated the visit by attending the final matches of a “USAID-Nike-APL” Volleyball Tournament on Saturday, August 5 in Weu Raya village. The event was organized by USAID and sponsored by Nike (Singapore) and the global transportation company, APL (Indonesia).



Photo: USAID/Indonesia

Representative Wexler awards the trophy to the winning men’s team

Started in 2005 at the instigation of Rep. Wexler, the partnership between USAID, Nike, and APL further assists the people of Aceh. The 24 teams participating in this year’s tournament come from communities participating in the Community-Based Recovery initiative and from *dayahs* (religious boarding schools) supported through USAID. APL donated US \$10,000 for the tournament and final day celebration. Nike donated in-kind products for winning teams, participating villages and *dayahs*.



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Photo: USAID/Indonesia

Selamatdin cranks a coffee bean pulping machine

COFFEE COOPERATIVE OFFERS RENEWED OPPORTUNITIES FOR FARMERS

In 2000, Selamatdin fled his home and small coffee farm as a result of the three-decade long conflict between the Indonesian Government (GOI) and the Free Aceh Movement (GAM). Thousands of other families in the central highlands of Aceh Province followed a similar path abandoning their farms for the “safer” coastal areas, and subsequently suffered from the 2004 tsunami.

With the implementation peace agreement last August between the GAM and the GOI, thousands of families have returned to their farms, many of which are in need of extensive rehabilitation. USAID support to the National Cooperative Business Association, a newly created coffee farmer’s cooperative has begun provision of a comprehensive range of coffee farming services to support the production, procurement, processing and export of organically-certified, specialty coffee beans produced by small-scale farmers.

Selamatdin returned to his one-hectare farm in the Central Aceh province in November 2005. “Right now, our conditions are much better than when we were living virtually as refugees,” he says. “From the sales of my coffee to the cooperative during this first season my farm is back in production, I earned about US \$350-far more than I have been able to earn in previous years. I hope the project will continue to buy my coffee at the excellent prices they offered last season.”

COUNTER-TRAFFICKING TRAINING FOR RELIGIOUS LEADERS

As part of the effort to combat trafficking, USAID’s “Support for the Women of Aceh” program organized a workshop to develop a curriculum to be used in training and education awareness programs. The participants, comprised of Indonesian experts in the field of counter-trafficking and domestic violence, determined that it would be necessary to have two types of curricula and materials—one religious-based and the other, legal and secular.

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Photo: USAID/Indonesia

Workshop participants create the basis for the counter-trafficking education curriculum



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The religious-based curriculum will use teachings from the Koran to illustrate why trafficking and violence against women are wrong along with useful counter-measures. The secular curriculum will be used to educate people on legal definitions of trafficking, reasons behind it, and how the law regards those involved, both victims and perpetrators.

Once the curriculum is set, the next step will be to conduct workshops for trainers from clusters of districts, based on geography. The trainers will then be responsible for conducting workshops at the local and village level to educate the population on trafficking and domestic violence.

IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION FOR GIRLS IN RELIGIOUS BOARDING SCHOOLS

USAID aims to improve the quality of education that girls who attend religious boarding schools receive. The schools that USAID supports, called *dayah*, have majority female populations and many of them have large numbers of students orphaned by the tsunami.



Photo: USAID/Indonesia

Newly arrived computers are being installed in the Al-Falah Abu Lam-U Dayah

In July, the first three *dayahs* that will benefit from the livelihoods program received money for expansion of existing income-generating programs. The funds will increase the revenues, allowing the *dayah* to better support themselves and provide better education in turn. The profits from the programs will contribute to a revolving fund that the community of *dayahs* will then be able to access for further educational improvements and to create scholarships for girls.

INDIA



Photo: Joseph Ravikumar/USAID India

The reverse osmosis plant in Thirumullaivssal village.

USAID HELPS BRING WATER TO VILLAGE

Thirumullaivssal, a village affected by the tsunami, faced an acute water shortage due to the high saline content in the area water and no piped drinking water system. As part of the Tsunami Recovery Program, USAID supported the installation of a reverse osmosis water treatment system to serve the drinking water needs of the villages and neighboring areas. Now, treated water is delivered to households in 20-liter canisters. The system caters to 1,500 families in three villages.

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Those who are now receiving the water supply understand the importance of paying user charges, which help to recover the operational and maintenance costs. Every household is required to pay a one-time deposit of 100 rupees for system access and 3 rupees per 20-liter canister. Under the project, operation and maintenance training is being provided to two members of each village. Their salaries will come from the project for the first year and from the user charges in subsequent years. The community is very thankful to USAID for their new access to safe drinking water which is critical to good public health.

REGIONAL



Photo: R. Supaporn

Media representatives discuss on Thailand's emergency warning dissemination

DEVELOPING A FRAMEWORK FOR RAPID WARNING COMMUNICATIONS

As part of USAID's regional program to support the development of the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS), specialists from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have been working with the Government of Thailand to develop a framework for rapid warning procedures.

Thailand is adopting the U.S. model—Tsunami Alert Rapid Notification System (TARNS)—to enhance collaboration between key emergency managers involved in disseminating warnings. Last month, IOTWS program experts shared experiences and lessons learned on communication technologies for emergency warning dissemination with officials from the Thai government, coastal communities, national and local media, and the private sector. TARNS will initially provide a quick-response system for tsunami alerts and soon be expanded to include alerts for other disasters such as flash floods.

THAILAND



Photo: Saengroaj Srisawakraisorn RDMA

Munchiya Hanjit started and small business buying and selling Islamic headscarves and sarongs.

REVOLVING FUND HELPS BUILD HOPE

Munchiya Hanjit, a tsunami survivor, has much to be optimistic about. During the aftermath of the tsunami she consulted with other villagers in the Kamphuan sub-district in order to develop a plan to create income generating activities.

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The concept of starting new business was daunting for many who had been dependent on husbands and fathers who perished or were no longer able to work after the tsunami. To compound the challenge, many lost all collateral — their homes, their savings that would enable them to start new businesses.

To help tsunami affected villagers gain access to financial resources enabling them to start and diversify their livelihoods, USAID supports a program that trains villagers how to start and manage a community revolving fund. Villagers received initial loans of 20,000 baht (about \$500) to start small businesses. Munchiya used this seed money to start a small business buying and selling Islamic headscarves and sarongs.

"I am pleased to have the extra capital to expand into the fashion marketplace because I think there is a good market for beautiful clothing," Munchiya says. "I can make a good profit on what I sell and I look forward to expanding my business further."

U.S.

USAID TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION FEATURED AT 3RD INTERNATIONAL ROUNDTABLE ON SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERING

Speaking at the June 20th 3rd International Roundtable on Service and Volunteering in Seattle, Washington, Mark Ward, Senior Deputy Associate Administrator for the Asia and Near East Bureau at USAID, said private

sector collaboration is an important part of U.S. Government disaster response noting that several hundred U.S. companies donated nearly \$570 million in reconstruction aid post tsunami.

At the invitation of the Office of Volunteers for Prosperity (VfP Office) at USAID, Mr. Ward participated in a panel that addressed critical lessons learned from recent disasters such as the tsunami, the earthquake in Pakistan, and Hurricane Katrina.

Over 150 attendees gathered for this year's International Roundtable at the Microsoft Corporate Headquarters in Redmond, Washington. Representatives from a wide range of organizations active in international service - corporations, NGOs, and officials from the public sector - attended this one day conference which has become the largest annual gathering of international volunteer service leaders in the United States.

Ward also explained that a challenge working with host governments is to help them make decisions about reconstruction efforts. "Encouraging host governments to focus on disaster preparedness plans results in more effective and timely U.S. foreign aid," he added. Jack Hawkins, Director of the VfP Office, opened this year's roundtable by noting the importance of bringing together government, the private sector and NGO communities, in order to effectively prepare for and respond to global disasters. For more information about the roundtable visit www.volunteersforprosperity.gov/news/060620.htm.

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