



# TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

March 2007 - Update



Photo: ICMA-CityLinks

Muslim high school girls drill blocks of wood to help with the construction of a playground in Nagapattinam.

## INDIA

### TSUNAMI-DEVASTATED CITIES REBUILD COMMUNITY SPACES

The December 2004 tsunami not only claimed lives and livelihoods, it destroyed community spaces and facilities. Through USAID's tsunami programs, community spaces in two of the hardest-hit cities in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu have been revitalized.

USAID, the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), the Indian city governments and the U.S. company, Leather & Associates, funded the construction of community playgrounds through a public-private partnership. Over 300 school children, aged 8-12 years, drew pictures of their ideal park, which formed the basis for the final designs that were approved by communities in both the cities.

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## FAST FACTS:

Total U.S. 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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*India continued -*



Photo: ICMA-CityLinks

*Children of Nagapattinam playing at the newly constructed playground.*

Volunteers from the communities, including women and children, contributed labor to build the playgrounds and public areas where previously devastated cities can become communities once again. The Municipality of Nagapattinam funded the renovation and repair of community restrooms. To ensure long-term maintenance of the playgrounds, the CityLinks team worked closely with local carpenters, providing job training in power tool usage and donating leftover tools and materials.

## REGIONAL

### FIRST INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEMS COURSE CONDUCTED BY SRI LANKAN TRAINERS

More than 40 representatives from Sri Lankan government emergency response agencies and non-governmental organizations came together on February 20-23, to attend the first Incident Command System (ICS) course taught by Sri Lankan master trainers.

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This significant milestone marks the culmination of a series of eight train-the-trainer ICS courses in Sri Lanka and several study tours in the United States hosted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (USDA/FS) as part of the USAID-funded US Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System Program.

Major General Gamini Hetttiarachchi, Director General of the Disaster Management Center, stated in his opening remarks, "This is the first training course taught by the locals and it will help us to develop a better emergency management system. The more we are prepared, the quicker we can restore normalcy and infrastructure." USDA/FS is providing vital skills development through ICS training to build emergency response capacity throughout Sri Lanka, India, Indonesia, Maldives, and Thailand under the US IOTWS Program.



Photo: S.H.M. Fakhruddin

*Sri Lankan Master Trainers with the chief guest, Mr. P.D. Amarasinghe, Secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights (middle), and resource advisers USDA/FS Ms. Trudie Mahoney (second from right) and Ms. Janice Gauthier (second from left)*



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### SRI LANKA

#### DREDGING OF HARBORS BEGINS

The Harbors element of the USAID Sri Lanka Tsunami Reconstruction Program leapt ahead of schedule when the subcontractor took delivery of a dredging machine imported from Holland just six weeks after signing on to the project. Dredging harbor seabeds in Hikkaduwa and Puranawella harbors will increase depth from two to three meters, improving access and docking capacity for larger boats.

Breakwaters at the harbors will also be improved and quay and docking facilities upgraded. Preliminary minor works to retrofit the damaged piers with new fenders and bollards, rebuild fish auction facilities, and improve water and sanitation have already been completed.



*The dredger is launched at Hikkaduwa Harbor.*



*A teacher with students at the USAID-rehabilitated Al Akbar School in Hambantota.*

#### USAID REHABILITATES 21 TSUNAMI DAMAGED SCHOOLS

The tsunami had a particularly devastating effect on residents of Hambantota District. In addition to loss of life, countless buildings, including the district schools, were damaged. Schools were further damaged later after being used for temporary housing for displaced people.

USAID has renovated 18 and re-equipped 21 of these schools in Hambantota District, 10 of which were inaugurated on March 9. Renovations included a new library at Al Akbar School, permanent teacher's quarters at Bundala School, and a new roof for the science lab at St. Mary's College, where nearly 80 students and the principal lost their lives. The projects brought together zonal educational officials, teachers, parents, and students from the ethnically diverse communities to collaborate and jointly identify priorities and work together.



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*Sri Lanka continued -*



Photo: USAID

*A community in Trincomalee District comes together to clear a canal.*

### **SMALL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS BRING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER**

A series of community infrastructure grants are helping to unite two economically depressed and tsunami-affected communities that extremist factions have exploited for political ends. The project engages both communities to repair tsunami-damaged roads, drainage systems and common areas, including constructing a new playground.

USAID anticipates that cross community involvement to improve dialogue and understanding between Sinhalese and Tamils, will help mitigate political violence, and improve relations between the citizenry and local authorities.

### **USAID IMPROVES HOSPITAL WARD**

USAID supported rehabilitation of the tsunami-damaged Teaching Hospital in Karapitiya near Galle by supplying the facility with new emergency equipment. The hospital's six-bed accident ward is the only such facility for the entire Southern Province. USAID's support also includes training for five teachers and 25 senior medical students at 50 different schools in the Galle District by professional staff of the Galle Medical Association.

### **THAILAND**

#### **TSUNAMI-AFFECTED VILLAGES IN THAILAND HOLD WORKSHOPS AND DRILLS TO STRENGTHEN DISASTER PREPAREDNESS**

The USAID Post Tsunami Sustainable Livelihoods Project (SCLP), the Thai Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation, the National Disaster Warning Center, and the Suk Samran Sub-district Government conducted six training workshops in Community-Based Disaster Management for the Suk Samran Sub-district in southern Thailand.

The workshops concluded with successful drills on February 24, simultaneously evacuating over 900 people in three communities to safe areas in less than 20 minutes. During the drills, Thai disaster management officials activated national and local warning signals to test the system's ability to alert communities of impending natural disaster.



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*Emergency medical and rescue personnel participate in community preparedness drills during a workshop in disaster management in southern Thailand.*

### Thailand Cont...

Emergency medical and rescue personnel, local police and firemen participated in the drills. Participants and volunteers from each community provided feedback to help improve their community evacuation plans.

Following the exercises, Dr. Walt Dudley, University of Hawaii-Hilo, led a discussion with district officials and community volunteers to assess the effectiveness of the evacuation, village preparedness, and next steps. Thai disaster management agencies plan to share lessons learned from the drills across six tsunami-affected southern provinces.

The workshops and drills are part of ongoing efforts by USAID'S SCLP to enhance coastal community resilience by initiating a Community-based Disaster Management Program that focuses on community preparedness, capacity building and governmental coordination.

## INDONESIA

### HAPPY AS A CHILI FARMER

Pak Zamzami has always been a chili farmer and is so fond of it that he doesn't eat a meal without it. When the 2004 tsunami swept away most of his village in Tanjung Selamat, he lost not only his house and his land, but also a newborn daughter.

Now living in a new house with his wife and two surviving daughters, Zamzami is happily replanting his chili. His plots of newly reclaimed land have been tilled, turned and fertilized with help from his neighbors, who were organized under USAID's Community-based Recovery Program.

"The water the tsunami swept in was from the ocean," explains Zamzami. "It's too salty and it ruined all the soil." By incorporating fresh soil brought into the village to reclaim agricultural land, Zamzami's plot is now supporting his family. "Chili sells for a good price here," explains the farmer. Pleased with the sustainability of his crop and the opportunity that was given to his community to organize and rebuild, Zamzami proclaims for himself a long future in hot chilies. "So long as I can hold a hoe, I'll be planting these things."



Photo: USAID/Leslie Rose



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*Indonesia continued -*

### USAID HELPS CONTINUE A TRADITION

Another beneficiary of USAID's Community-based Recovery Program (CBR) is Pak Ridwan. Unlike Pak Zamzami, Ridwan had never planted rice before the tsunami. But when Tanjung Selamat was leveled, many of the village's rice farmers were gone. The village civil society organization – formed through the CBR initiative – decided that 30 hectares of rice field would be rehabilitated and planted.

Ridwan returned to his village after the 2004 tsunami and wanted to help. "I was selling spices on the streets of Jakarta," he explains. "But the cost of living in the city was too high, and I knew the village needed me. Rice farming is hard work, but if that is what the village wanted me to do, I knew I had to do it". The twenty-five hectares of land he cultivates belongs to the village, and the rice he harvests is sold at market, with the profits going to sustain community activities around the village civil society organization. "Rice farming is in our heritage here," says Ridwan. "Someone has to continue the tradition."



Photo: USAID/Leslie Rose