



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST

TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

Update – April 20, 2005

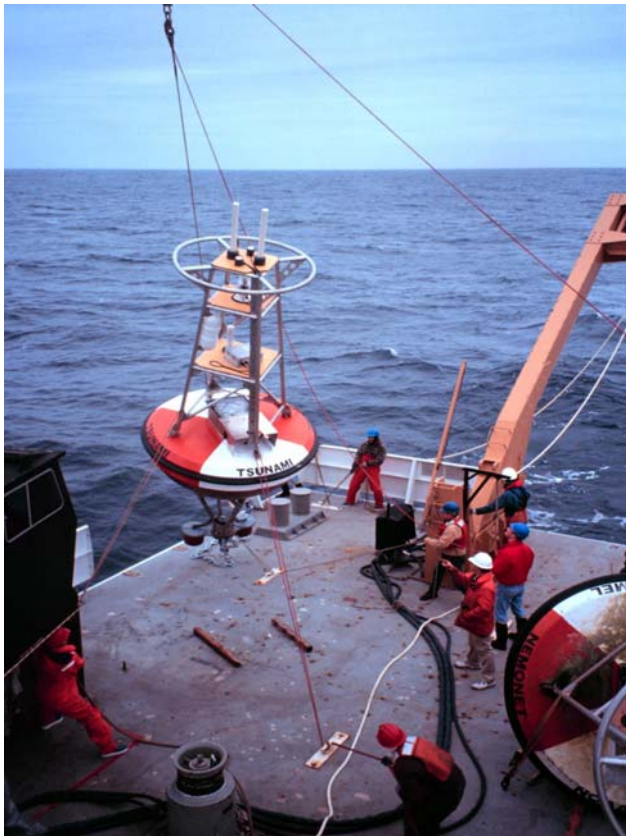


Photo: NOAA

Second International Coordination Meeting for the Development of a Tsunami Warning and Mitigation System for the Indian Ocean

USAID led the US delegation to the Second International Coordination Meeting (IOC) April 14 – 16 in Grand Baie, Republic of Mauritius. The meeting informed countries on the status of the interim advisory information system and how it satisfies the needs of the participating countries.

The US will coordinate assistance with the IOC and other donors to strengthen the capacity of governments, national warning centers, and communities in the region to implement an integrated disaster management system that will:

- Reduce risk and vulnerability;
- Raise public awareness and education;
- Prepare emergency response; and
- Coordinate regional and global systems.

The US will provide an integrated assistance package that draws upon the technical expertise of a number of U.S. agencies and implementing partners. This assistance will be coordinated by USAID and will include support from the following:

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)/USG: risk assessment, standards/protocols, system interoperability
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA): incident command infrastructure in national disaster management organizations
- USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA): preparedness and response
- Other partners: national and regional disaster management centers, universities, NGOs, private sector



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Photo: USAID/Zack Taylor

SRI LANKA

Creative use of rubble improves agricultural production

The creative use of rubble collected from a USAID-funded cash-for-work program is improving irrigation in the Sammanturi area of eastern Sri Lanka. The cash for work program, which employs 150-200 people daily, gathers vast quantities of trash/rubble that is difficult to dispose. A USAID partner recently used 2,500 cubic meters of the rubble to rebuild a 2.5 kilometer stretch of a 3-by-2 meter irrigation wall destroyed by flooding just before the tsunami. With the

addition of a weir with sluice gates to regulate the flow of water, the new wall opened up 3,000 additional acres of land for rice cultivation, benefiting 300 additional farmers (photo) on the land. The ability to regulate the water and flood the fields allows for two harvests per year.

International pre-bid conference will accelerate signature infrastructure timetable

USAID has finalized plans for a Pre-Bid conference for all firms interested in bidding on USAID-funded signature infrastructure projects, including rebuilding the damaged Arugam Bay Bridge (photo). The conference will be held in Colombo on May 10 at the Taj Samudra Hotel. The meeting will enable potential bidders from all over the world, who may be new to USAID contracts, to interact directly with US and Sri Lankan Government officials to learn more about project plans and the contracting process. It will also provide firms with the opportunity to exchange information, which can lead to effective teaming arrangements. More information on the pre-bid conference can be found at: www.usaid.gov/in/WhatsNew/BGOpp.htm



Photo: USAID/ Lionel Jayaratne



INDONESIA

New USAID initiative focuses on improving livelihoods and governance

USAID is working in partnership with 53 tsunami-affected communities to improve livelihoods and good governance.

Community members in Lamteungoh, a coastal community that lost 90% of its population to the tsunami, have selected a garden project as a priority under this new USAID initiative. Through this cash-for-work activity,

fisherman have started clearing and

fencing a field to start a community garden until they can get new boats to fish again. In Lamteungoh, community members are also building a community center, where they will continue to identify and prioritize their needs, a recreational area for kids, and a community kitchen. In Lhoong, a West coast sub district that lost 85% of its residents, USAID is working with six villages to jump-start community action. 3,500 people are clearing irrigation canals and 750 hectares of land to replant crops for consumption and sale. Mr. Abasali, head of all six villages said, "Tell the American people we say 'Thank You' for giving us the resources and hope to rebuild and eventually be independent."



Photo: USAID/ Betina Moreira

CH2M HILL Providing Safe Water to Banda Aceh

A new water treatment facility quickly put into operation by CH2M HILL in Banda Aceh has the capacity to treat approximately 1.5 million liters per day, enough to provide safe drinking water to a large portion of Banda Aceh's population. Currently, the system produces an average of 400,000 liters of water per day, which is distributed by truck to thousands of people, many of whom are living in refugee camps. This water facility also supplies clean water to 200 children at a nearby orphanage. CH2M HILL began operating the Banda Aceh water treatment unit on Feb. 3, 2005. The water treatment unit in Banda Aceh draws water from the Krueng Aceh River and is passed through a series of multimedia filters, treated with chemicals and then finally passed through a series of membranes to remove harmful contaminants. The quality of the treated water is equivalent to bottled water and exceeds U.S. EPA and World Health Organization's (WHO) standards.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



THAILAND

USAID helps Thailand “to build back better”

USAID’s integrated coastal management project will assist four pilot villages to restart and diversify key coastal livelihoods for longer-term economic security and environmental sustainability. USAID will help villagers in tsunami-devastated areas to create a vision for their communities and implement activities in sustainable fisheries, low-impact aquaculture and culturally appropriate eco-tourism. Results of this three-year activity include the replacement of fishing boats and gear, best practices identified that allow marine resources to produce sustainable benefits, diversified livelihoods initiated through training and start-up loans, environmentally sound designs of public infrastructure adopted by the local governments, and strengthened capacity of local governments and fisheries managers to implement sustainable fisheries co-management strategies. USAID’s project in Thailand is carried out by a consortium of organizations led by the Coastal Resources Center of the University of Rhode Island, in close collaboration with the Asian Institute of Technology, and is expected to be a model for replication in other communities in Thailand as well as in other countries in the region. Sri Lanka has already expressed interest in this integrated coastal management approach.

FAST FACTS: U.S. ASSISTANCE AS OF APRIL 20, 2005

Total USG Humanitarian and Recovery Assistance Pledged:	\$350,000,000
Total USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance Committed:	\$ 80,693,000
Total USAID/FFP Humanitarian Assistance Committed:	\$ 22,466,900
Total USAID/ANE Humanitarian Assistance Committed:	\$ 5,372,944
Total USAID/ANE Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Assistance Committed:	\$ 11,518,202
Total State/PRM Humanitarian Assistance Committed:	\$ 200,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed:	\$132,251,046

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