



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST

TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

Update – May 11, 2005



Harbor master Isuru Gunwardene (second left) briefs a USAID team including Karin Fernando (center), Barbara Best (second right), Michael Daschbach (right) and Marcel Wijesinghe (left) on tsunami damage to Mirissa harbor, part of the Sri Lanka signature infrastructure portfolio.
Photo: USAID/Ananda Mallawatantri

SRI LANKA

Pre-bid conference lays groundwork for quick start of projects

Nearly 100 potential bidders and interested parties from all over the world arrived in Colombo to attend the pre-bid conference for USAID's Signature Infrastructure portfolio set for May 10. The projects include construction of a 573-meter bridge, rehabilitation of three fishing ports, and construction or rehabilitation of up to 14 vocational training centers. The projects are expected to have a larger development impact by involving local communities in decision making.

THAILAND

USAID leads USG contribution to Indian Ocean tsunami warning system

USAID is leading the effort to design and implement the U.S. Government's primary contribution to the development of an Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS). On May 2-3, USAID hosted an interagency coordination meeting in Bangkok to develop a coordinated action framework. Key implementing partners attended the meeting, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Ocean Service and National Weather Service, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), U.S. Department of State (U.S. Embassy Bangkok), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS).



NOAA explains the technical requirements of an early warning system.
Photo: USAID/Suzanne Ross



INDONESIA

USAID engages communities in reconstruction

During his visit to Aceh, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick visited Lamteungoh to view a USAID-funded project that is helping the community to identify and prioritize its reconstruction needs. Zoellick spoke to villagers about their priorities, including the building of community centers, the need for recreational areas for children, and clearing land for cultivating subsistence crops.

This project is part of a larger USAID effort that has projects in 53 tsunami-affected communities. Approximately \$1.62 million in 'entry grants' has been dispersed to these communities to date, injecting much-needed income, generating hope, and motivating villagers to be involved in the development process. Quick-start cash-for-work activities, selected and prioritized by the community, produce tangible results that build hope, while the community is engaged in a longer-term action planning process for the future.



*Ambassador Pascoe; Bill Frej, USAID Indonesia Mission Director; and Deputy Secretary of State Zoellick plant a palm in Lamteungoh. Behind Zoellick: Dr. Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, Director of the Indonesia Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency.
Photo: USAID/ Betina Moreira*



*Deputy Secretary Zoellick at the MOU signing ceremony with Indonesian Public Works Minister Kirmanto (far left), William M. Frej, USAID Indonesia Mission Director, shaking hands with Dr. Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, Director of Rehabilitation and Reconstruction.
Photo: USAID/ Betina Moreira*

Reconstruction of 80 km of Banda Aceh to Meulaboh road

On May 8th, Secretary Zoellick announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for U.S. funding for the first phase of the Banda Aceh to Meulaboh road, much of which was destroyed during the December 2004 earthquake and tsunami. This project will support the design and construction of selected sections of the road and several bridges, to reopen approximately 80 kilometers of road.



INDONESIA

Ensuring transparency and accountability

US Comptroller General David Walker and Ms. Jacquelyn Williams-Bridger, Managing Director of GAO's International Affairs and Trade Team, visited Jakarta April 25 – 27 to attend a 3-day "International Conference on Promoting Financial Accountability in Managing Funds Related to Tsunami, Conflict and Other Disasters." The conference brought together public sector auditors from donor nations and nations affected by the tsunami, as well as international financial institutions, the United Nations and others. The conference was organized by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Indonesia's Supreme Audit Authority (BPK) and included sessions on managing disaster relief; lessons learned from India and Sri Lanka; and perspectives from the GAO and the audit boards of Australia, China, Japan, and the Netherlands. Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono opened the conference; other speakers included Public Welfare Minister Alwi Shihab, Planning Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati, and Dr. Anwar Nasution, Chairman of the BPK.

INDIA

Rebuilding community resources through cash-for-work program

Through a cash-for-work program, USAID is working with the community of Nagappattinam to restore a community lake ravaged during the tsunami. The program employs men and women from the community to de-silt the lake and use the sand to create new embankments. Trees will be planted around the lake, and once work is complete, the area will be converted to a public park. The lake is believed to be the original source of water for the community and a number of adults and children died at the site. The local Panchayat leader officially thanked USAID for rehabilitating this culturally important site for the community.



Community Members in Nagappattinam de-silt the lake.
Photo: USAID/ Poonam Smith-Sreen

FAST FACTS: U.S. ASSISTANCE AS OF MAY 11, 2005

Total USG Humanitarian and Recovery Assistance Pledged:	\$350,000,000
Total USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance Committed:	\$ 81,851,169
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:	\$ 18,462,915
Total USDA Humanitarian Assistance Committed:	\$ 12,000,000
Total State/PRM Humanitarian Assistance Committed:	\$ 200,000
Total USG Humanitarian Assistance Committed:	\$140,353,928

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