



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST

TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

Update – September 28, 2005

INDONESIA



Photo: USAID/ Ernest Leonardo

Aceh Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Agency Director, Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, (left) and a local construction worker.

Village unveils plans for rebuilding – A team of planners supported by USAID completed the first comprehensive spatial plan for Lamjabat Village in Kota Banda Aceh. On September 13, a groundbreaking celebration signaled the start of construction on the first houses. The plan was created through community consensus on land use, community facilities, environmental rehabilitation, housing and infrastructure. The plan will be used as a model for 650 villages largely destroyed by the tsunami. This spatial planning effort is helping to break the impasse that has constrained construction of permanent shelters. The day that USAID partners completed the first village plan, World Vision broke ground on first of the 1,000 houses that it will construct in this and other villages.

Aceh exposition brings people together –

From September 9-18, USAID participated in the Aceh Bangkit Exposition, an annual event highlighting development issues and featuring local dance, music and crafts. This year's exposition, inaugurated by Banda Aceh Governor Azwar, focused on how NGOs and donors responded to community needs, providing a comprehensive view of past and future actions.

An estimated 7,500 people per day attended the exposition, the first large, festive event since the tsunami. USAID's exhibit featured a photographic display and maps of U.S. emergency relief and current reconstruction

assistance. Attendees asked questions about USAID programs or solutions to current problems, and many came to offer thanks. The exhibition was an opportunity for small businesses to sell their products and people to meet friends and family they had not seen since the tsunami.



Photo: Muhammed Khalid

A USAID representative provides information and services to visitors attending the exposition.



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Photo: US Embassy, New Delhi

Revathi (in purple sari) teaches other women in her village how to weave a basket.

INDIA

Revathi earns additional income – With her newly learned skills in basket weaving and bookbinding, Revathi is able to earn Rs. 2,000 (\$45) a month. This additional income not only supplements what her husband earns, but also helps during periods when fishing is banned or the catch is low. Importantly, the extra money supports the education of her two children, aged 15 and 11. Now she has also become a community asset by training others in basket weaving and bookbinding.

SRI LANKA

Tsunami early warning system team “scopes”

Sri Lanka’s needs – A multi-agency team coordinating the US government’s support for developing the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System met with officials of the Government of Sri Lanka, NGOs, private sector, donors, USAID and U.S. Embassy staff. The information gathered is critical to the two-year, \$16.6 million regional effort. The purpose of the “scoping” trip was to present and discuss the warning system and to better understand early warning related efforts already underway or being planned in Sri Lanka.

The meeting helped USG agencies and implementers “redirect, refocus, and refine” proposed activity plans and get a first hand understanding of how different agencies work in Sri Lanka at the national and community levels. Based on strong participation of and positive feedback received from Sri Lankan counterparts, the team anticipates a solid partnership in Sri Lanka, making sure messages can be passed quickly and reliably to the community level and preparing communities to respond to different types of warnings.





THAILAND

U.S. government launches program to support the Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System – At a meeting of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, experts from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association presented a design for the entire Indian Ocean tsunami warning system. USAID assisted the design team by assessing needs and capabilities in the region.



Photo: USAID/Suzanne Ross

L-R: Tim Beans, USAID Regional Asia Mission Director; Dr. David Green, NOAA; Dr. Walter Mooney, U.S. Geological Service; Deanne Shulman, U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service; Stacy Bonnaffons, U.S. Trade Development Authority, at press conference launching system.

Tim Beans, Mission Director for USAID’s Regional Mission in Asia, stated, “This is one of our top priorities in Asia and an important part of the U.S. post-tsunami reconstruction effort...We are ready to help not only deploy the technologies needed to prevent future disasters, but to build up the human and institutional infrastructure to make sure these systems are interoperable and sustainable for years to come.”



Photo: USAID/Suzanne Ross

Public-private partnership furthers sustainable coastal livelihoods – USAID Regional Mission Director, Tim Beans, and Coca-Cola Thailand Limited Region Manager, Bjorn Jensen, agreed to support coastal livelihoods in the villages of Kampuan district. The partnership will help restart economic growth in those areas affected by the tsunami. The goal is to share knowledge while developing skills and resources that will enable communities to sustain livelihoods and protect ecosystems for future generations.

FAST FACTS: U.S. ASSISTANCE AS OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2005

Total USG Humanitarian and Recovery Assistance Pledged 12/31/04:	\$350,000,000
Tsunami Recovery and Reconstruction Fund:	\$631,000,000*
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance Committed:	\$101,550,957
Total USAID Rehabilitation/Reconstruction Assistance Committed:	\$474,236,034
Other USG Humanitarian Assistance Provided:	\$237,900,000

**\$656 million was approved for the Tsunami Recovery and Reconstruction Fund, but \$25 million is committed to Avian Flu.*

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