



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST

TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

Update – October 12, 2005

INDIA

Communities will be better prepared for the next disaster – USAID is helping communities affected by the tsunami to be better prepared for and have confidence in facing future disasters. The disaster risk management program is helping vulnerable communities to organize disaster management teams, which plan and prepare evacuation routes and are trained in early warning, search and rescue, and first aid.

In these seaside communities, drowning is always a potential cause of death during disasters. The disaster management teams have been trained on how to use local materials such as empty oil drums to create devices that can save people from drowning.



Photo: UNDP

Members of the disaster management team of Samiarpettai village demonstrate their skills in rescuing people at sea using a floating structure made of local materials.



Photo: Dr. Tasanee Aikvanich, City of Phuket

Instructor Mr. Lonnie Fuller trains Phuket fire department emergency responders.

Portland, Oregon city officials support community emergency preparedness in Phuket - More than 250 city officials, emergency response volunteers, and staff members from relief organizations, medical units and tourist centers in Phuket province participated in an emergency preparedness workshop focusing on how community members can help in the first critical 72 hours immediately following a disaster while city officials restore infrastructure and services. City officials received additional advice on the preparation of emergency management plans with emphasis placed on communications, utilities, critical response operations and recovery activities. Two trainers from the City of Portland shared Portland's model that works with communities through a neighborhood emergency team to carry out emergency response efforts, such as evacuation planning, a building inspection system, and search procedures.

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THAILAND



Partnership produces clean drinking water for Phang Nga - USAID helped build a coalition of partners, including the Crisis Corps, U.S. businesses, the Thai government, and NGOs, to assist one of Thailand's most tsunami-affected communities, Phang Nga. Parkson Corporation, an American producer of water purification systems, donated the equipment valued at \$400,000. Other public and private donations paid shipping costs and are supporting continuing technical assistance to get the new water treatment system fully operational. About 800 households will be served.

Photo: Mark Henley, Peace Corps

Interagency and private public cooperation leverages resources to install 47 ton water purification system

SRI LANKA

New machines cut coir processing time –

USAID funding is introducing small businesses to new technology to improve coir processing, benefiting more than 540 families. Coir is the fibrous husk of a coconut, which is woven to produce products for domestic use and export. New equipment will accelerate production by eliminating the six months of soaking time traditionally needed to soften coconuts. New and wider looms will help processors produce a larger geo-textile mat for the export market and traditional products such as mattresses, rugs and twine. In addition, 300 entrepreneurs who lost their businesses in the tsunami received coir spinning wheels, bicycles, lace drums, and sewing machines.



Photo: USAID/Zack Taylor

Gordon De Silva (right) of the Coir Cluster explains how a new husk decorticator will improve efficiency of coir production to Jeff Allen (center) of USAID and David Dyer (right) of the project staff.



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INDONESIA

Acehnese youth learn technical trades –

Forty-eight students graduated from the Politeknik Caltex Riau Center on October 4, completing three month courses in electronic wiring and masonry. Now they are ready to take these valuable skills back home and help with the reconstruction process. This is the first group of graduates supported by USAID's partnership with Chevron that will train a total of 330 individuals by the end of 2005. Other students are studying computer applications, bookkeeping, and welding under this alliance.



Photo: Elizabeth Sunindyo

Students in the electrical installation class practiced common household wiring arrangements in a laboratory.

FAST FACTS: U.S. ASSISTANCE AS OF OCTOBER 12, 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.