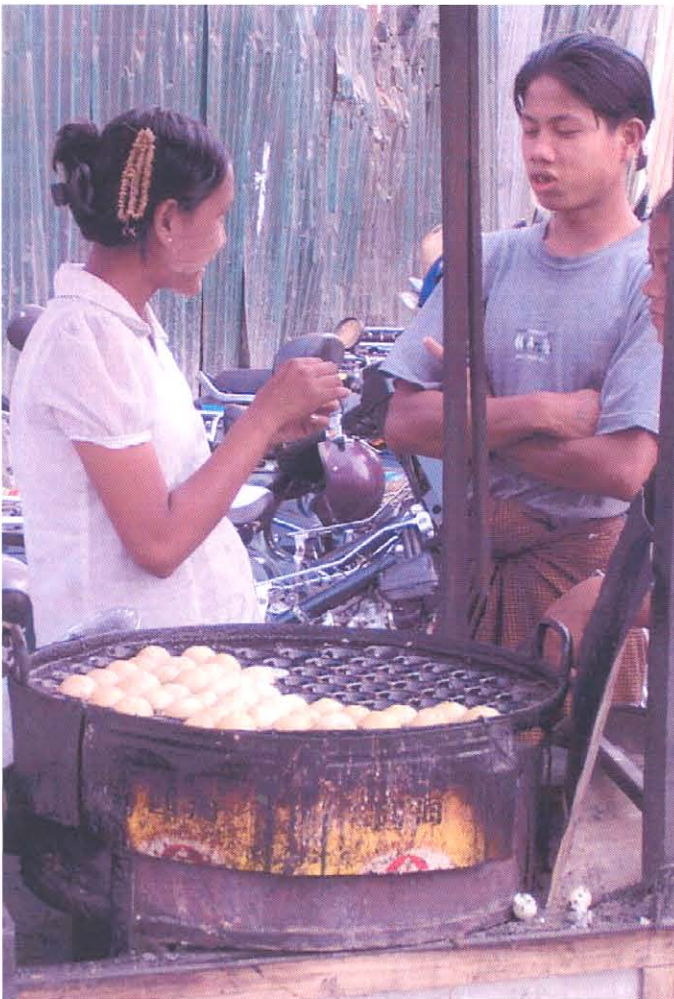




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Catering To Basic Needs



During the early participatory assessments and training sessions for the Post - Tsunami Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods project, participants needed nourishment to sustain themselves while working through long program sessions in rural locales. Unfortunately, restaurants and catering services do not exist in the tsunami affected village areas.

In response to this dilemma, a group of women came forward with a request for capital funds to purchase pots, pans and utensils to start a catering service for the tsunami affected communities. After the development of a simple business plan, community revolving funds provided seed monies to start the business.

Only weeks later the new catering business provides lunches for reconstruction work crews, project training sessions as well as serves the needs of other organizations working in the nearby villages.

USAID has focused significant resources across the region on developing cash-for-work and micro-enterprise activities to generate employment for those affected by the tsunami. Community revolving funds is an initiative to recapitalize and restart livelihoods. Currently the Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods project, is the only project providing vital "seed money" for micro-entrepreneurs to get back in business.

RDW/AL: Suzanne Ross

USAID community revolving loans provides entrepreneurs with capital investments to begin small businesses. Catering operations and niche food production emerged to meet the needs of those helping to rebuild community infrastructure.