



TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

December 26, 2006 - Update



Photo: NOAA

Technicians lower the DART tsunami detection buoy into international waters between Sri Lanka and Thailand.

REGIONAL- U.S. Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS)

FIRST TSUNAMI WARNING BUOY SUCCESSFULLY DEPLOYED

Scientists and engineers from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Government of Thailand together successfully deployed the first US-built tsunami detection buoy in the Indian Ocean on December 3, 2006. The buoy was deployed in international waters between Thailand and Sri Lanka, and began transmitting data shortly thereafter (see www.ndbc.noaa.gov/dart.shtml).

Under the USAID-funded IOTWS Program, the U.S. Government donated the Deep-ocean Assessment and Reporting of Tsunamis (DART) II station buoy to Thailand. The DART system is the same as that used in 20 locations across the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. This is the first operational tsunami warning buoy in the Indian Ocean to be reporting sea-level observation data to the international community in real time as part of the region's planned 24-buoy array.

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INSIDE THIS EDITION

	Page
Regional (IOTWS)	1-2
• First Tsunami Warning Buoy for Indian Ocean Region Successfully Deployed	
• Disaster Management Procedures Incorporated Throughout Sri Lanka	
Indonesia	2-3
• Improving Quality of Girls' Education in Islamic Boarding Schools	
• Post-tsunami Land Reclamation: Improving the Seulawah Ecosystem	
India	3
• Loan Provides Widow Alternative Employment	
Sri Lanka	4-5
• USAID Signs Contract For Harbors Project	
• USAID Gives New Life to Fishing Community	
• Livelihoods Restoration Project Exceeds Targets	
• Playgrounds Project Completes 30 of 85 Planned	
Thailand ..	6
• Post Tsunami Coastal Livelihoods Program Celebrates Opening Of The Learning Center	

FAST FACTS:

Total U.S. Government Humanitarian Assistance and Recovery Funds

Tsunami Recovery and Reconstruction

Fund: \$656 million*

Assistance provided to each country:

India:	\$17.9 million
Indonesia:	\$405.7 million
Maldives:	\$12.0 million
Sri Lanka:	\$134.6 million
Thailand:	\$5.3 million

Regional, other countries: \$31.8 million

Program management: \$17.4 million

*\$656 million was approved for Tsunami Recovery and Reconstruction Fund, but \$31.3 million is committed to Avian Flu.



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TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

December 26, 2006 - Update

Regional continued -

Until a regional tsunami warning center is established for the Indian Ocean, data from the DART system will significantly enhance the ability of NOAA's Pacific Tsunami Warning Center (PTWC) and the Japan Meteorological Agency, which currently provide tsunami bulletins to the Indian Ocean region, to issue alerts more quickly and reliably. The DART station, which consists of highly sensitive sea-floor instrumentation, a buoy, and communications equipment, works by sensing changes to water height in the deep ocean and transmitting that data via satellite for rapid analysis in tsunami warning centers such as PTWC.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES INCORPORATED THROUGHOUT SRI LANKA

The U.S. Forest Service recently completed a series of seven intensive training modules with the Government of Sri Lanka in support of the Incident Command System (ICS) program under Sri Lanka's national strategic plan for emergency response. ICS is an integrated organizational structure that allows governments to respond more quickly and effectively in managing disaster incidents and emergencies.

Under the USAID-funded IOTWS Program, U.S. Forest Service experts have been providing focused training to disaster management specialists and supported efforts of the Sri Lankan Government to designate a resource center for continued ICS training. The center will ensure sustainability of ICS and continue to strengthen Sri Lanka's capacity to prepare for and respond to natural disasters.

INDONESIA



Students of Inshafuddin Boarding School at the Computer Lab

IMPROVING QUALITY OF GIRLS' EDUCATION IN ISLAMIC BOARDING SCHOOLS

USAID has provided computer laboratories for Islamic boarding schools in Aceh and significantly improved the schools' learning facilities in the process. Both students and teachers have welcomed the new computer labs enthusiastically.

Inshafuddin, an Integrated Islamic Boarding School in the Lambaro Skep neighborhood of Banda Aceh, received 15 computers and funds to create a space for them. Before the tsunami, the school had four computers which were reserved for students in their final year of study. Younger students received only theory lessons, but never had access to the computers themselves. Now all 318 students have access.

To maximize use of the facility, instructors schedule classes from morning to evening and emphasize access for female students. Ibu Nuraini, the school's headmistress, said their school's slogan, "Superior in Science and Technology," is now a reality, thanks to USAID's support for computer science at their school.



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Tsunami Update Continued

December 26, 2006

Indonesia Continued -

POST-TSUNAMI LAND RECLAMATION: IMPROVING THE SEULAWAH ECOSYSTEM

The farming communities of Saree and Jantho in Aceh Besar accommodate mainly poor people whose livelihoods rely on the forest surrounding their villages. Some practice activities, like illegal logging, that threaten the forest. They do this, not because they do not understand that the forest is actually part of Seulawah ecosystem and has protected status, but because they have not been able to reconcile their short-term needs with long-term conservation benefits.

To help explain this relationship, USAID began conservation classes to bolster community education and provide a solution to this classical conservation and development issue. Meurah Intan of the Mapayah Foundation, who joined the 11-week Pride training in Bogor, says, "the essential step is to involve local people in the planning process and elicit their understanding of the real problems so as to come up with clear and measurable objectives."



Meurah Intan of the Mapayah Foundation now assists in Conservation Training.

INDIA



Photo: ACTED

Kumari at her small shop started with a micro loan from a USAID-supported self help group.

LOAN PROVIDES WIDOW WITH ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT

Kumari's village was one of many affected by the tsunami in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. The arable land in the village became silted and she could not find work in the fields. But Kumari's difficulties did not end there. Her husband died leaving her with two young sons and a lot of debt.

Fortunately, Kumari was a member of a USAID-supported self help group that offers micro-loans to victims of the tsunami. She took a loan of Rs.10,000 (\$222), to be repaid in ten installments. She invested Rs.5,000 to start a small shop and utilized the remaining to repay outstanding debt.

Her small shop earns her between Rs.50 and Rs.100 (\$1-2) a day that meets her family's daily needs. Kumari also works as an agricultural laborer and saves her earnings to repay the loan on time. Thanks to the self-help group micro-loan program supported by USAID, Kumari has gained self confidence and the ability to support herself and her children financially.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Tsunami Update Continued

December 26, 2006

SRI LANKA



Photo: USAID/Zack Taylor

U.S. Ambassador Robert Blake (center), USAID Mission Director Rebecca Cohn (right), and Sri Lanka Minister of Fisheries Felix Perera (left), mark the signing of the \$9.8 million contract to upgrade three key fishing harbors.

USAID SIGNS CONTRACT FOR HARBORS PROJECT

Taking a key step toward completing the two-year Sri Lanka Tsunami Reconstruction Program (SLTRP), USAID awarded a \$9.8 million contract to rehabilitate three tsunami-damaged fishing harbors to a Sri Lankan firm. The project will upgrade facilities, rehabilitate and modify existing breakwaters, and construct new quays and docks for the harbors in Hikkaduwa, Mirissa, and Puranawella.

The contract is one of four major components of the SLTRP, which also includes construction of a new bridge at Arugam Bay, reconstruction and rehabilitation of nine vocational schools, and development of water supply systems near Arugam Bay. The SLTRP elicits community input and consensus in all its plans and builds capacity for operation and maintenance of the improved facilities once complete. The harbors construction component is augmented by a participatory coastal management program to improve management of the coastal areas.

USAID GIVES NEW LIFE TO FISHING COMMUNITY

USAID officially reopened the tsunami-damaged Kirinda Harbor after providing assistance to renovate machinery and finance dredging of the inlet. The project will benefit 6,000 people who depend on the harbor, which was among the busiest in the south before the tsunami, for their livelihoods.

The damage caused by the tsunami to dredging machinery, crucial to keeping the harbor deep enough for larger boats, had slowed economic activity to a trickle. Small-boat fishers had to drag their boats across the sands at the harbor's mouth taking up valuable fishing time, leaving them only a fraction of their income. Profits from the sales of the dredged sand had dried up completely. The project from USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives also helped Sinhalese and Muslim fishers form a harbor management committee that will work collaboratively with the harbor officials to address common issues affecting their livelihoods and the fishing sector.



Photo: USAID/Gemunu Amarasinghe

A Muslim fisherman watches the dredging of the mouth of Kirinda harbor, which will benefit 6,000 members of the local fishing community.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Tsunami Update Continued

December 26, 2006

Sri Lanka Continued -

REVIVE LIVELIHOODS RESTORATION PROJECT EXCEEDS TARGETS

When the books closed on REVIVE at the end of October, USAID's 18-month, \$10 million livelihoods restoration program had assisted 34,890 beneficiaries, well above the projected target of 29,000. Of these beneficiaries, 21,428 were female, and 13,462 were male. REVIVE worked through 21 local partner organizations not only to assist beneficiaries, but also to build capacity within those organizations to ensure their sustainability and future growth.

The program's main mechanisms included helping the tsunami-affected: replace lost income through cash-for-work cleanup of debris, repair of infrastructure, and reconstruction of damaged buildings; gain access to loans to restore or replace lost assets and provide commodity grants to help entrepreneurs replace lost productive assets; and develop business, vocational, and technical skills through training and technical assistance.



Photo: USAID/Gemunu Amarasinghe

Sudath, a jeweler in Hikkaduwa, is back at work after receiving a grant from REVIVE after the tsunami swept through his workshop.



Photo: USAID/Zack Taylor

Two happy girls try out the slide at the new USAID-installed playground in Panadura.

PLAYGROUNDS PROJECT COMPLETES 30 OF 85 PLANNED

Thirty of a planned 85 playgrounds to be installed by USAID in tsunami-affected districts in Sri Lanka are complete. Eleven of the sites were installed in the East during November and five more opened in the South in December.

The playgrounds program, funded by USAID, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and the Bush-Clinton Tsunami Fund, is installing the parks as psychological rehabilitation to children traumatized by the tsunami. The project remains on schedule to complete all 85 sites by mid-2007.



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Tsunami Update Continued

December 26, 2006

THAILAND

POST TSUNAMI COASTAL LIVELIHOODS PROGRAM CELEBRATES OPENING OF THE LEARNING CENTER: A STEP TOWARDS BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

USAID celebrated the opening of a community learning center in tsunami-affected communities of Ranong Province on December 18. Attended by over 500 community members, officials, and private sector partners, the celebration included representatives of the Ranong Governor's Office, USAID, Coca-Cola (Thailand) and the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT).

The event highlighted the commitments of the community, local and national leaders to partner in efforts to bring diversified livelihoods, preparedness for natural hazards, and environmental stewardship to these coastal communities.

The Center embraces a public-private partnership (USAID/Coca-Cola), with active local involvement. A Governing Board, with key figures and institutions such as the AIT, Rotary International, Coca-Cola, and Raks Thai has been formed with a role of oversight, fundraising and linkages to programs that match community interests. A local Advisory Committee, made of Provincial, Tambon and village leaders, will work directly with the Center's Director to develop and implement the programs with strong local buy-in.

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Students perform traditional 'bai si' dance in front of the Center to welcome guests and 'kwan' (good spirits) at the inauguration ceremony.

A 500 square meter, two-story building, the Center was built on the principles of energy efficiency and environmental friendliness using local materials with solar panels, rain water collection system, and lush greenery to off-load reliance on conventional electricity and water supplies.

The property's large outdoor meeting area can host multi-village meetings and workshops while the conference room and a classroom inside can be used for training and meetings. The computer room has internet connection that can be used for training and school education programs and by business operators for their communications, sales and marketing. Displays provide interpretative educational information while the Tsunami Memorial room offers educational materials and survivor testimonials on the impacts of the December 2004 tsunami.