ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST

TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

Update – June 8, 2005

Trauma counseling course in Nagapattinam.
Photo: USAID/Balaji Singh

INDIA

Community level workers learn to counsel tsunami victims

USAID is training 3,000 community level workers in counseling skills to help communities recover from the psychological trauma caused by the tsumami. The program is also establishing a referral system for those who may need a higher level of psychological care. USAID's program incorporates lessons learned from previous disasters in India.

On May 19, 250 CLWs attended a training session in Nagapattinam. The majority of participants were from the Government of Tamil Nadu, which has determined that government staff working at the community level, such as school teachers, nurses and day care providers, need to be trained on psycho-social care to better support effective disaster relief and rehabilitation.

THAILAND

Building consensus and creating a unified vision for action

USAID's integrated coastal management project is utilizing a participatory assessment process to encourage cooperative decision making among community members and local government officials. Through the use of Town hall meetings, community members identify and validate priority community needs and activities. In addition, community members nominate and elect one male and one female representative from each village to represent community concerns in working groups as well as ensure information sharing with all members of the community. By fostering democratic decision making processes, USAID aims to mitigate community conflict in the process of rehabilitating tsunami struck villages.

SRI LANKA

Psychological and social programs for 11,000 displaced persons in eastern camps

Having cleaned up their play area at a camp for the displaced in Kalmunai earlier in the day, children amuse themselves by re-enacting the operation with rakes and hoes.
Photo: USAID/Sarah McNiece

With post-tsunami housing reconstruction moving slowly, psychological and social programs have become extremely important for communities still living in tents and transitional shelters. More than 11,000 affected children, teens, and adults have benefited to date from such programs supported by USAID.

In 50 tsunami-displaced communities on the east coast, from Trincomalee to Kalmunai, child well-being committees have been formed. These committees are comprised of four volunteers who administer specially-designated "child centered spaces" in the camps to provide psychological and social support primarily to children. Two hundred volunteers have been trained on problem identification, communication, stress, and working with children. Another 200 volunteers have been trained to serve as assistants. The volunteers subsequently recruit teachers from the community to teach specific activities such as music, dance, and drawing.

INDONESIA

Engaging community leaders to reestablish neighborhoods

USAID is helping local government, university experts and community organizations jointly plan the recovery and reconstruction of the city of Banda Aceh. A working group on spatial planning is accelerating recovery preparation and engaging citizens' groups in the decision-making process affecting their neighborhoods. This action planning group is helping the city government to coordinate community-level planning to determine the location of houses, mosques, schools, health centers,

Banda Aceh spatial planning working group in action.
Photo: USAID/Robert van der Hoff

markets and other common areas. The action plan, discussed in a workshop attended by leading international donors, will become part of the new master city development plan that is being prepared by the city. Implementation of the plan is expected to start by July/August 2005.

The spatial planning group is one of five USAID-facilitated action planning groups working to get local government and citizens jointly engaged in the reconstruction process. The other planning groups involve land tenure and settlement, education, health and employment and economic development. Banda Aceh is the first to receive action planning assistance, and the process is being started in four other districts: Aceh Besar, Aceh Jaya, Aceh Barat and Nagan Raya.

FAST FACTS: U.S. ASSISTANCE AS OF JUNE8, 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.