ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST

TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION

Update – May 25, 2005

The play parks team confers with park officials from the Colombo Municipal Council at the Viharamahadevi Children's Park.
Photo: Tom Norquist

SRI LANKA

USAID to rehabilitate or construct 100 play parks

USAID kicked off the planning phase of a new play park initiative that aims to rehabilitate or construct as many as 100 play parks, helping children to cope with stress and trauma in tsunami-affected areas. A team assembled by the U.S. National Recreation and Park Association recently spent a week in Sri Lanka to analyze quality of materials, safety, park layout, and evaluate activities on a scale of "play value." The team pointed out that site selection should encourage community cohesion and ownership of the facilities, as well as access for the disabled. The project is funded by matching $500,000 contributions from USAID and funding partner American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. An equal pledge from the private sector Bush-Clinton fund expanded the scope of the project, which is expected be completed in 18 months.

FAST FACTS: U.S. ASSISTANCE AS OF MAY 25, 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.

Mark Ward, Deputy Assistant USAID Administrator for the Asia-Near East Bureau, instructs Zahira College students in the finer points of cutting metal during a recent visit.
Photo: USAID/Bill Barkle

USAID helps displaced craftsmen build new life

USAID mobilized skilled workers by supplying nearly 1,000 tsunami displaced Tamil and Muslim carpenters, masons and welders necessary tools to help with reconstruction along the eastern coast. Working with the local Zahira College, more than 180 of these craftsmen worked on a $37,000 cash-for-work for a water sanitation rehabilitation project building water tanks and latrines at six damaged schools. They also worked on a $95,000 cash-for-work project to repair school furniture at 40 affected schools.

Contractors "marry up" to bid for signature infrastructure

Potential bidders toured project sites for the signature infrastructure package to be funded by the supplemental appropriation. Some of the teams showed interest in bidding for the contract, while others are seeking to "marry up" with larger firms, as one pre-bid conference participant put it, to work as subcontractors for a larger firm. Three Sri Lankan teams were in attendance. The group sent representatives to inspect fishing harbors and vocational training centers in the south and the Arugam Bay Bridge in the east. The final RFP will be released May 31.

Potential bidders for the USAID signature infrastructure contract inspect the Arugam Bay Bridge.
Photo: USAID/Upali Daranagama

Banda Aceh Market Rehabilitation laborer at work.
Photo: Paul Dillon from International Organization of Migration/Banda Aceh

INDONESIA

USAID reconstructs markets in Banda Aceh

At the request of the Mayor of Banda Aceh, USAID and the International Organization for Migration launched a market rehabilitation and revitalization program in Banda Aceh. Initial preparation for the construction of the first of 240 temporary market stalls began last week at Pasar Aceh, which was heavily damaged by the tsunami. Production of the first covered wooden stalls began on May 17. Local men are being trained in basic carpentry skills under a cash-for-work program, and they will be employed for the next few months to build 2,000 stalls. In Lapangan Basket, Penayong, approximately 180 stalls will be built for vegetable vendors. The stalls are being provided free of charge. A lottery coordinated by the local authority will be used to d decide which vendors registered at Pasar Aceh prior to the tsunami will receive the first of the new stalls.

INDIA

Access to water easing life for tsunami victims

With the summer months in full swing, ensuring that residents of temporary settlements have access to water continues to be a USAID priority. To date, USAID has constructed 398 hand-pumps and provided pump maintenance training and necessary tools to community members in tsunami-affected areas.

Community members participate in hand-pump maintenance training
Photo: Poonam Smith-Sreen/USAID