

Post-tsunami recovery

Expanding community water access in Koh Lanta



Partnership for development: providing sustainable access to water

To support the longer-term tsunami recovery effort in Asia, The Coca-Cola Company and the United Nations Foundation forged in 2005 a collaborative partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in support of community-based water and sanitation reconstruction efforts in tsunami-affected areas of Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

In Thailand, this UNDP-led project is focused on the sustainable management of water resources in Koh Lanta, Krabi Province in Southern Thailand. Fresh water is limited on Koh Lanta, especially in the dry season, and the stewardship of water resources is a key developmental issue. An enormous amount of fresh rainwater simply runs off the island into the sea. Existing water reservoirs and wells do not currently meet the water needs of the island's population, particularly during the dry season. Implemented in collaboration with the Chumchon Thai Foundation, a local NGO, the project builds upon and is part of a broader partnership between UNDP and the Government of Thailand to bolster the post-tsunami recovery of Koh Lanta.

With partnership and funding support from The Coca-Cola Company and the United Nations Foundation, the project is helping the tsunami-affected communities of Sanga-U, Che Li, Hua Laem and Koh Por to plan, implement and maintain a series of activities to alleviate water shortage problems in their villages. This includes:

- Constructing 10 community check dams along the stream that runs through the fishing village of Sanga-U on the southern tip of the island. These community check dams are now collecting and retaining rainwater, providing 117 village households with a long-term supply of water.
- Constructing a gravity-fed water system (including a reservoir and sedimentation tank) in the village of Hua Laem.
- The drilling of artesian wells on the nearby island of Koh Por where communities are facing serious difficulties in terms of water access and availability.
- Constructing an organic farming irrigation system in Che Li village on the western side of the island for enhanced livelihoods security.

• **Country:** Thailand

• **Launched:** 2005

• **Partners:** UNDP, Coca-Cola, UN Foundation, Chumchon Thai Foundation, Local communities

• **Program Highlights:** Community-based water resources management as part of long-term post-tsunami recovery of Koh Lanta in Southern Thailand. Tsunami-affected communities in Koh Lanta are now benefiting from expanded access to water.



Villagers in Sanga-U, Koh Lanta, Thailand construct a check dam to retain rainwater

The project emphasizes constant community dialogue and active participatory planning. Local Water User Groups have been set up as has a multi-stakeholder Project Steering Committee that includes local community leaders and government representatives.

With a focus on the long-term sustainability of this initiative, project staff will also work with communities in Koh Lanta to build capability at the local level, providing training in basic accounting, project monitoring, water distribution and maintenance skills.

"Normally this stream dries up in the dry season. Now we have some water to spare. It is a big relief!"

Mr Young Hantalay, Fisherman, Sanga-U, Koh Lanta