

Post-Tsunami Relief

Water supply and sanitation in Thailand

Providing rural villages with sustainable access to water and sanitation services

In an effort to support Tsunami-relief efforts and long-term development in Asia, the United Nations Foundation and The Coca-Cola Company partnered in 2005 to support a community-based and locally-constructed water and sanitation system.

In the Southern Thailand, fresh water is a limited resource. Extensive dry seasons and lack of channeled runoffs for rainwater do not create a workable natural system. In addition, the current manmade reservoirs and wells do not adequately provide for the local population. Hence, the development and implementation of a new system is needed.

With funding and partnership from The Coca-Cola Company and the United Nations Foundation, the Sanga-U, Che Li, Hua Laem and Koh Por communities are developing a new water-management system to alleviate shortages in their villages. This system entails:

- 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 to secure enhanced livelihoods.

- **Country:** Thailand
- **Launched:** 2005
- **Partners:** The Coca-Cola Company, The United Nations Foundation
- **Program Highlights:** 10 check-dams collecting and retaining rainwater providing 117 village households with long-term water supply, gravity-fed water systems in local villages, organic farming irrigation system, development of new economic markets



Local citizens build structures to collect and retain rainwater. These dams will provide long-term water supply to households and farming irrigation systems.

In addition to bringing fresh water to the people, the project has brought together a new community where social and economic development are top priorities. With continued assistance from project leaders, the islanders have now started a savings collective, developed local markets and created a village shop to decrease travel expenses to the mainland.