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Blumenauer visits Thailand to learn how the U.S. can help

By [KATU News](#)

PORTLAND, Ore. - Oregon Congressman Earl Blumenauer spent the last week in four countries hit by the tsunami, and is now writing a report to congress.

Blumenauer says he was stunned by what he saw on his trip and says the one enduring image for him is of children helping rebuild their school.

"It's hard to put into words. Knowing that some of them had been orphaned," said Blumenauer. "That they'd lost their classmates and their village was washed away."

While overseas, Blumenauer checked on Oregon organizations like Mercy Corps, whose worldwide reach stems from its Portland headquarters.

He says Mercy Corps relief efforts have gone well, but rebuilding infrastructure is what survivors need now.

Blumenauer and 10 other congressmen are helping write the report on what they found, which will be used to help direct U.S. policy in the areas hit by the tsunami.

