



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. EMBASSY RANGOON

110 University Avenue, Kamayut Township, Rangoon, Burma

May 17, 2013

Statement on the Government Response to Cyclone Mahasen

The U.S. Embassy commends the efforts of the Union and Rakhine State governments to prepare for Cyclone Mahasen, in particular their proactive engagement with the United Nation Agencies, relief organizations, and local communities and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Rakhine State. The government acted quickly in coordination with humanitarian agencies to identify vulnerable communities, prepare relocation sites, and assist in evacuations. We welcome the government's commitment to provide humanitarian assistance without discrimination based on race or religion.

Rakhine State will remain susceptible to storms throughout the monsoon season. Many displaced persons remain in inadequate shelters in low-lying areas and are vulnerable to the impacts of monsoon rains and storms. Providing adequate shelter on suitable land for these populations is critical to safeguard lives during the rainy season.

The recent experience with Cyclone Mahasen demonstrates the importance of building trust between communities and with authorities to ensure the safety of all when facing natural disasters. The U.S. government stands ready to support government, local and international partners in future cyclone preparedness and response efforts.

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