



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. EMBASSY RANGOON

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United States Government Provides \$25 Million to Assist Displaced Persons

The U.S. Government will provide a new contribution of \$25 million in assistance to address the dire humanitarian situation faced by displaced communities in Rakhine, Kachin, and the country's Southeast region (southern Shan, Karen, Kayah, Mon States). The announcement follows a joint diplomatic mission undertaken by delegations from the United States, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom to Rakhine State 11-12 November 2013, and U.S. Mission visits to Kachin State 24-26 October and to Karen and Mon State 1-3 November, to witness the political and humanitarian situation there. This assistance responds to ongoing humanitarian emergencies in Rakhine and Kachin and longstanding displacement in the Southeast region.

- In Rakhine State, this funding will support priorities such as sustainable access to food, safe drinking water, and improved sanitation and hygiene. The funding will also provide nutritional supplements to feed infants and young children, help manage acute malnutrition, and improve drainage systems to minimize health and flood risks for internally displaced persons.
- In Kachin State, funds will support construction of shelters and rebuilding of homes, provision of food, and water, sanitation and hygiene, and nutritional supplements for the displaced.
- In the Southeast region, these funds will assist internally displaced and returning communities to create livelihoods, strengthen ongoing community-based programs, and prepare conditions for sustainable voluntary repatriation.

The U.S. Government is providing this assistance in coordination and collaboration with the Union Government and the international donor community. These support funds have been provided to a range of international NGOs and UN agencies. The U.S. Government appreciates that Union and state-level government officials have repeatedly and publicly affirmed their commitment to ensure unhindered access for humanitarian agencies to deliver vital assistance to all those in need, irrespective of race, religion or ethnic background, and in accordance with international humanitarian principles. The U.S. Government and its partners look forward to working jointly with the Union Government and local communities to continue to meet life-saving needs and achieve lasting solutions for the country's displaced persons.

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