



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. EMBASSY RANGOON

110 University Avenue, Kamayut Township, Rangoon, Burma

As prepared for delivery

RELEASE IN
FULL

I am also pleased to announce that USAID is donating \$2 million for disaster risk reduction activities to assist the government to better prepare to respond to future natural disasters. In recent years this country has suffered no end of natural disasters including cyclones, serious flooding, and earthquakes. The United States has provided humanitarian assistance to respond to several of these natural disasters. Now we are providing assistance to support disaster risk reduction activities. This assistance will be carried out by World Vision, Save the Children, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the U.S. Geological Service. Each of these activities will build the capacity of communities, local leaders, and community organizations to respond to future natural disasters. These activities will also support community-level early warning systems by providing radios and loudspeakers so that local disaster management committees can communicate information about impending disasters. Funding for the U.S. Geological Service will enable earthquake experts to work with their government counterparts to assess earthquake risks in this country, and lay groundwork for future collaboration on earthquake preparedness.

I am very pleased to announce these two donations of humanitarian assistance that will help meet immediate needs of vulnerable people and strengthen this country's ability to respond to future natural disasters.

I will now take one or two questions.

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