

Myanmar Health Cluster Bulletin

2 May 2025 April 2025

Myanmar Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP)

Q1 2025

People Targeted 2.4 M

PEOPLE REACHED 183 K*(8%)





USD REQUIRED 123 M

USD RECEIVED 22.8 M **(19%)





TOTAL HEALTH
CLUSTER PARTNERS
114

REPORTING HEALTH
CLUSTER PARTNERS
29



*Data from 31 March 2025 https://fts.unocha.org/plans/1160/summary

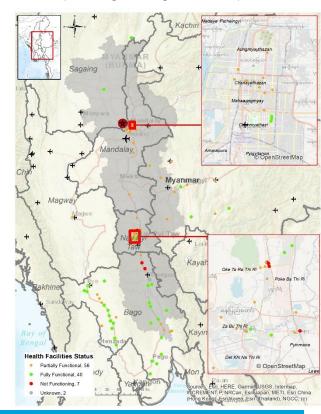
Highlights

- Five weeks after the devastating **earthquake** that killed over 3,700 people in 58 townships in Bago, Kayin, Magway, Mandalay, Naypyitaw, Southern Shan and Sagaing on 28 March 2025, health partners have reached 33,612 out of 453,000 people targeted with life-saving health services. Although over 5,000 people are reportedly injured, the actual figure is estimated to be much higher, leaving an as yet unknown number of people in urgent need of physical rehabilitation services and appropriate assisted devices.
- The earthquake response has highlighted the <u>continuous challenges with importation of quality pharmaceuticals</u>, leaving health partners highly dependent on local procurement. The health cluster continues to advocate for the importance of carrying out a market survey to look into 'reliable' suppliers, who procure their pharmaceuticals internationally from prequalified providers.
- Rains have started in parts of Myanmar, significantly increasing the risk of <u>Acute</u> <u>Watery Diarrhoea (AWD)</u>. Nine out of the 20 townships identified at high risk of cholera are located in the earthquake affected areas, requiring health and WASH partners to step up measures for prevention of water-borne diseases.
- Delayed removal of earthquake rubble combined with rain water puddles is providing favourable conditions for mosquito breeding sites, leaving the population at increased risk of vector-borne diseases such as **malaria and dengue**. Absence of insecticide treated bednets and interrupted vector control measures are significantly increasing the risk of severe disease outcome amongst an already vulnerable population.
- In preparation for the monsoon rainy season, the health cluster is finalizing its <u>Monsoon Preparedness Plan 2025-26</u> to be shared with partners soon. To enhance partners' capacities in the early detection, verification, and response to disease outbreaks, the health cluster is planning training for health partners.

Health cluster action

Earthquake Response

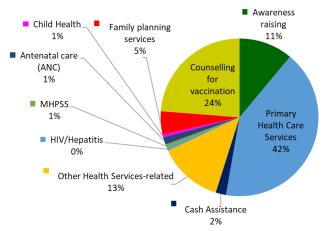
- Latest figures show that out of 103 **assessed health facilities**, 7 are not functioning, 56 are partially functioning, and 40 are fully functional. This data is collected and verified by health cluster partners. More detailed health facility assessments are planned.
- Psychological distress is on the rise in many earthquake-affected areas, as a result of delayed treatment due to a severe shortage of skilled mental health professionals.
- UNICEF and WHO are supporting partners with locally procured and prepositioned medicines, but partners continue to report gaps in essential medicines, in particular for common conditions like hypertension and diabetes. Poor hygiene as a result of lack of access to water and sanitation is causing an increase in skin diseases as reported by partners UNFPA has been distributing clean delivery kits and other relevant reproductive health supplies to partners. Sexual reproductive health services are delivered to earthquake affected population through mobile clinics and static health facilities supported by health partners
- Partners also report access restrictions to some of the earthquake affected areas due to bureaucratic impediments
- Key **health promotion messages** are distributed via various channels, on relevant topics like family planning, prevention and response to infectious diseases, psychological first aid, and other.

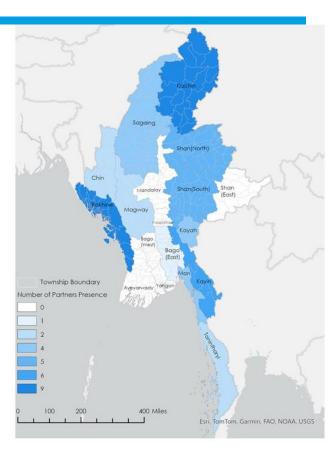


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Health Service Delivery

- As per data collected by the health cluster for the 1st quarter of 2025, 29 out of 114 registered health cluster partners have reached 182,503 people with humanitarian health services.
- Almost 50% of people reached were from Rakhine, followed by Kachin (20%).
- Most health partners engage in primary health care service delivery (42%), followed by counselling services for vaccination (24%), and health promotion to raise awareness among the population of health risks.
- To improve reporting by partners, the health cluster is planning training on information management.





Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD)

- Although no significant increase in AWD/cholera cases have been reported in the last month in Myanmar, early warning and preparedness measures are being stepped up to ensure any potential outbreak can be detected as early as possible.
- Especially in earthquake affected areas, where people have no access to safe drinking water and sanitation, the **risk of an AWD/cholera outbreak is significant**.

Challenges

- Delays in verification of incidents reported on attacks on health care as partners share anecdotal evidence of an **intensification of armed conflict** throughout Myanmar, including in earthquake affected areas.
- **Lack of comprehensive surveillance system** is impeding rapid detection and verification of, and response to disease outbreaks.
- Dependence on local procurement of pharmaceuticals is increasing the risk of poor-quality drugs in the absence of a list of prequalified suppliers.

New free course available: Health Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Resilience (HEPR)



Health Cluster Donors

Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF), European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), European Union (EU), Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (Gavi), Italian Government, Japan Government, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), and the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

Next steps

- Preparations underway for **market assessment of 'reliable suppliers'** and **Quality Assurance training** using WHO HQ's Good Storage and Distribution Practices (GSDP) tools.
- Awaiting review of translation into Burmese of mhGAP: Integrating mental health into primary care for roll out amongst health partners
- Ongoing compilation of health facility functionality data to be shared with partners once available
- Finalizing Health Cluster Monsoon Preparedness Plan for 2025

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