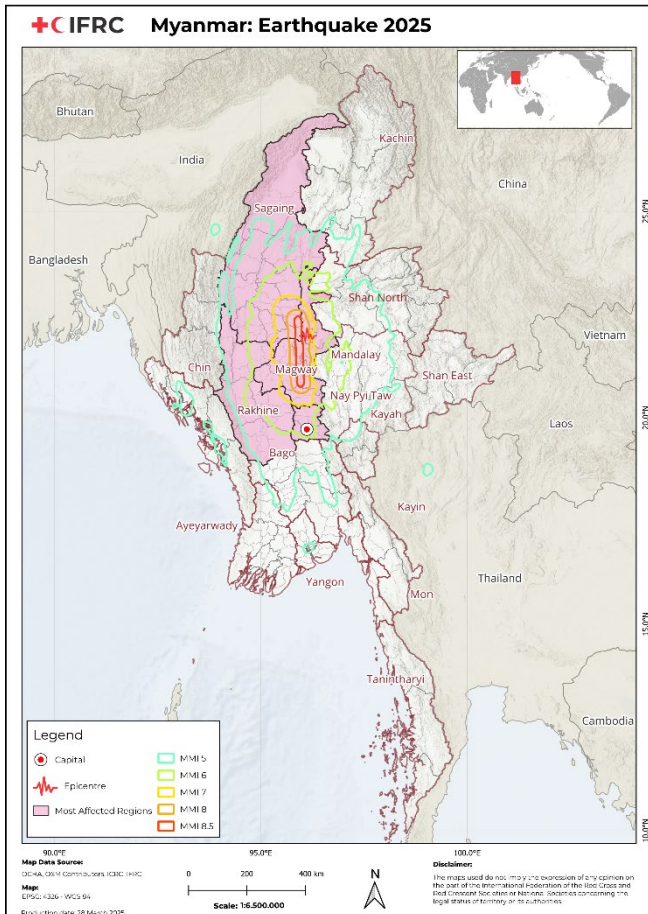




Rescue teams from the Myanmar Red Cross Society look for survivors in a collapsed building following a 7.7 magnitude earthquake in central Myanmar on 28 March 2025. (Photo: Myanmar Red Cross Society)

Appeal No: MDRMM023	IFRC Secretariat Funding requirements: CHF 80 million Federation-wide Funding requirements: CHF 100 million	
Glide No: EQ-2025-000043-MMR	People [affected/at risk]: 15.2 million people¹	People to be assisted: Federation-wide: 20,000 households (100,000 people) IFRC Secretariat: 15,000 households (75,000 people)
DREF allocation: CHF 2,000,000	Appeal launched: 29/03/2025	Appeal ends: 31/03/2027

¹ GDACS 7.7 alert (date 28/03/2025)



SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 28 March 2025, at 12:50 local time, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.7 on the Richter Scale was recorded in Myanmar. The epicenter, at a depth of 10 km, was located about 16 km north-north-west of Sagaing city, and 19 km north-west of Mandalay city, Myanmar's second largest. Strong tremors were also felt in Thailand, and Yunnan Province, China. Myanmar has experienced at least 13 aftershocks, with registered magnitudes between 4.3 to 6.7.

Based on initial reports, the regions and states most affected are Sagaing, Mandalay, Naypyidaw, Southern Shan, and Bago.

As of 29 March 2025, the official death toll stood at over 1,600, with 3,408 people injured² and over 200 people missing. According to early modelling by the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the final death toll could surpass

² <https://www.bbc.com/news/live/c4gex01m7n5t>

10,000 people³. Initial estimates indicate that 18.3 million people, 4.04 million households, and USD 77.5 billion in infrastructure are concentrated within the affected area. The earthquake compounds the protracted crisis generated by armed conflict, political instability and disasters (large-scale flooding and heatwaves in 2024, among others).

Information from the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) emergency operations centres and branch offices reveals extensive infrastructure damage. In Sagaing Township, it is reported that over 70% of structures have sustained significant damage. Many residential buildings have either completely collapsed or were severely damaged. Two bridges between the Yangon - Naypyidaw highways were reported as being damaged, risking the disruption of critical transportation routes between Yangon and the most affected regions. Public buildings, including religious sites such as pagodas in Southern Shan, and mosques and monasteries in Mandalay and Bago, were reported to have collapsed, trapping people inside. The extent of the damage has yet to be verified.

There are only three international airports available to receive major cargo planes. Mandalay International (VYMD-MDL) and Naypyidaw International (VYNT-NYT) is uncertain in terms of operational status while Yangon International (VYYY-RGN) remains open but is far from the earthquake area.

Telecommunications were severely disrupted, especially in the three most affected areas, Sagaing, Mandalay and Shan state, with no internet connectivity and limited phone lines.

MRCS buildings across the affected areas were also damaged. Some buildings at the MRCS Headquarters in Naypyidaw and the Emergency Operation Centre and warehouse in Mandalay

³ <https://edition.cnn.com/2025/03/28/asia/central-myanmar-quake-intl-hnk/index.html>

were reported to have sustained damages and are currently non-operational.

The earthquake-affected areas in Myanmar, including the Sagaing Region, are currently facing extreme heat, with temperatures soaring above 40°C (104°F). Daily highs have reached up to 44°C (111°F), creating severe conditions for both affected communities and responders. The peak of the hot season is expected to be in April and May, with temperatures set to increase further. The intense heat adds to the hardship of those displaced or living in temporary shelters, posing serious health risks and logistical challenges for ongoing humanitarian operations.

Following the devastation of the earthquake, the National Disaster Management Committee declared a state of emergency in six regions and states affected by the earthquake on 28 March 2025, in accordance with the Disaster Management Law. The areas are Naypyidaw, Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Magway Region, Northeastern Shan State and Bago Region. State authorities also called for international assistance and requested that ASEAN activate the ASEAN Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator (SG-AHAC).

TARGETING

An estimated 18.3 million people reside in the earthquake-affected areas across six states and regions in Myanmar: Bago, South Shan, Magway, Mandalay, Naypyidaw, and Sagaing.

This Emergency Appeal aims to provide immediate relief, recovery and rehabilitation assistance to the most affected households in these areas. The Federation-wide target is 20,000 households or approximately 100,000 people, with the IFRC Secretariat Funding Ask aimed at assisting 15,000 households, or about 75,000 people, across Bago, South Shan, Magway, Mandalay, Naypyidaw and Sagaing.

The selection of targeted households is based on the severity of the impact of the earthquake, as well as pre-existing vulnerabilities such as displacement, being the most affected, as well as those with limited coping capacity and who have yet to receive sufficient support during both the emergency and recovery phases from other sources or organisations, with a protection lens, that takes into consideration gender, age and disability, amongst other vulnerability factors. The scope of the interventions may vary by the geographic area and will be influenced by the extent of damage, evolving needs, access to the areas, as well as the commitment and support from other humanitarian actors, including UN agencies, INGOs, the private sector, organisations, and individuals.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

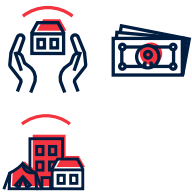
Through this Federation-wide Emergency Appeal, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and member National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent aim to support the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) in responding to the extremely severe humanitarian impact of the Myanmar Earthquake. The IFRC has categorized this as a red crisis level, due to the severity, scale and complexity of the crisis. This implies that the situation is critical and that the highest level of attention is required from all parts of the IFRC Secretariat and wider Federation Network.

The strategy of the operation aims to address the immediate humanitarian needs of 100,000 people (20,000 households) affected by the Myanmar Earthquake, with a strong focus on recovery and rehabilitation over a period of 24 months. The response will prioritize six states and regions of Bago, South Shan, Magway, Mandalay, Naypyidaw and Sagaing. Throughout the intervention, the operation will ensure robust community engagement and accountability and the integration of cross-cutting priorities of protection, gender, and inclusion. Key operational risks include challenges such as lengthy timeframes for the entry of expert personnel and humanitarian relief assistance. Given the scale and severity of the disaster, a no-regrets approach is being adopted to ensure effective and timely response. MRCS, IFRC, and ICRC will coordinate to enhance access, with ICRC supporting the Movement's security framework.

The Federation-wide response will focus on the following areas:

Integrated assistance

(Emergency and Transitional Shelter, Livelihoods, and Multi-purpose Cash)



Integrated assistance will be provided through emergency shelter support, including tarpaulins, shelter toolkits, blankets, kitchen sets, and solar lamps, as the earthquake has severely impacted home and residential buildings. Medium to longer-term recovery efforts will focus on transitional shelters, rebuilding safe housing and building community resilience. Cash assistance will help affected households meet their basic needs once markets are restored, while livelihood support through cash and vocational training will contribute to restoring income generation.

Health and Care, including Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

(Mental Health and Psychosocial Support / Community Health)



First aid and ambulance services have been made available by the MRCS since the beginning. Other health services, including the deployment of mobile health clinics and mental health support, are being prepared for immediate mobilisation. Health and disease anticipatory actions will be in place to monitor and respond to existing threats such as heat stroke and acute watery diarrhea following the earthquake.

The earthquake damaged household and communal water supply and sanitation facilities, highlighting the urgent need for emergency water provision and latrines. This will be followed by the rehabilitation of water supplies, household water networks, latrine construction and the rehabilitation of WASH-related infrastructure in public facilities such as schools and health care centres. During the recovery and rehabilitation phases, the emphasis will be on building climate-resilient WASH facilities. WASH and Health assistance will include the distribution of clean water through the mobilisation of water treatment plants, provision of hygiene kits, household water treatment options, menstrual hygiene items, jerry cans, mosquito nets, and other essential household items, along with community awareness on hygiene practices and health risks, particularly concerning waterborne diseases.

Protection and Prevention

(Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Migration)

Restoring Family Link (RFL) activation is planned with International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) support. A PGI lens will be applied to all MRCS activities and integrated with CEA to ensure that people in need are protected, participate in planning, and programming, receive trusted information, and can share their opinions. The MRCS is integrating CEA and PGI in all its long-term programmes and operations, with support from the IFRC and its members. Distribution of NFI will be tailored to meet the specific needs of women, men, and children. These NFIs will include individual hygiene kits, dignity kits, children kit and other critical supplies. Child-friendly spaces will be established as protection spaces where children can access psychosocial support, structured activities, and educational resources to help them cope with distress and regain a sense of normalcy.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery, Environmental Sustainability

The Appeal will also focus on strengthening community resilience to face future shocks. An integrated Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) and Participatory Approach to Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA) will be conducted, mainstreaming climate change adaptation efforts and targeting community groups and schools. Training, simulation exercises, and awareness sessions are planned.



Enabling approaches

The sectors outlined above will be supported and enhanced by the following enabling approaches:

Coordination and Partnerships

The IFRC will coordinate its membership for an effective Federation-wide response, leveraging existing technical profiles within the membership present in the country. The MRCS, IFRC and ICRC are closely coordinating as per existing Movement coordination mechanisms and in alignment with Seville 2.0 to support humanitarian assistance efforts for immediate and medium-term needs. The IFRC is also coordinating with OCHA and key humanitarian agencies through the HCT, ICCG, and technical clusters and working groups.



Shelter Cluster Coordination

The IFRC will complement the existing Shelter/Household Item/CCCM Cluster currently led by UNHCR. Therefore, in coordination with UNHCR, this Emergency Appeal will seek to allocate resources to co-coordinate the cluster according to the IFRC's co-convenor role in Shelter Cluster Coordination for this response.





IFRC Secretariat Services

The IFRC will support the National Society in strategic coordination and communications, humanitarian diplomacy, resource mobilisation, financial management, logistics and procurement, and technical expertise in the thematic sectors of the operation. Surge deployment is being planned, subject to availability of access to mobilise resources into the country. Remote SIMS assistance for data visualisation, analysis, and mapping is also being considered.



National Society Strengthening

This operation will contribute to increasing the National Society's workforce and capacity to respond and act swiftly, as well as strengthening the MRCS's capacity through multiple refresher training for staff and RCVs (ECV, MHPSS, Cash, CEA, etc.) including the MRCS's ability to respond to future shocks by ensuring that adequate prepositioned stocks are in place, rehabilitating branches and warehouses affected by the earthquake, updating the contingency plan and conducting simulation exercises within the MRCS. The Emergency Appeal will also cover the update of security protocol and provide continuous briefings on the security and safety of staff and volunteers. The operation will ensure alignment with the MRCS's longer-term NSD priorities, strengthening its capacity for sustained impact beyond the immediate response.

The planned response reflects the current situation and is based on the information available during this Emergency Appeal launch. Details of the operation will be updated through the Operational Strategy and released in the upcoming days. The Operational Strategy will also provide further details on the Federation-wide approach, including the response activities of all contributing Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies and the Federation-wide funding requirement.

RED CROSS RED CRESCENT FOOTPRINT IN COUNTRY



Myanmar Red Cross Society

Core areas of operation	
Number of staff:	472
Number of volunteers:	7,074
Number of branches	274

The formal role and responsibilities of the MRCS are defined within the national legal framework, the Myanmar Red Cross Law of 2015, which grants the MRCS an auxiliary role to the public authorities for humanitarian activities. It is the largest humanitarian organisation in the country with a local presence nationwide through its extensive network of trained and experienced volunteers.

Nationwide, the MRCS has 1,827 trained Emergency Response Team (ERT) volunteers ready for response and deployment and 7,074 core Red Cross Volunteers (RCV) active at the community and township levels. In addition, the MRCS Disaster Management Department coordinates and supports the preparedness and response capacity of 32 warehouses across the country.

The MRCS has the expertise, long-standing engagement, and solid operational and programmatic capacity in the thematic areas and the states/regions targeted in this appeal, primarily through its branch and volunteer presence within the affected communities.

Except for Sagaing and Magway, all affected states/regions are the same as the targeted areas for the ongoing Typhoon Yagi Flood Emergency Appeal launched on 18 September 2024. This operation focuses on interventions such as multipurpose cash grants, livelihood recovery, WASH facility rehabilitation, relief item distribution and health services. With existing presence, MRCS will leverage the expertise and capacities of Movement partners in the region to ensure a more effective response.

Immediately after the earthquake, the MRCS activated its Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) and volunteers were deployed to the most affected areas of Mandalay, Sagaing and Naypyitaw. The MRCS is providing first aid and pre-hospital care to injured individuals and prioritising live-saving measures in the most affected communities. In Mandalay, at least 50 injured people received first aid and seven individuals with severe injuries were sent to Mandalay Hospital by the MRCS branch.

In addition, the MRCS is deploying pre-positioned items, including relief items, blankets, tarpaulins and hygiene kits. Restoring Family Links has also been mobilised in coordination with the ICRC to reconnect families.

The MRCS is conducting damage assessments and data collection; however, access to the affected areas is delayed due to damage to roads and infrastructure. MRCS' HQ Rapid Assessment and Coordination Team arrived in Mandalay on 29 March to start assessments and provide additional support.

IFRC Membership coordination

The IFRC is closely coordinating with the MRCS and other member National Societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The IFRC Country Delegation in Myanmar strategically and technically supports the MRCS in programme and operational coordination, and humanitarian diplomacy and leverages the strength of the IFRC network.

The MRCS is also supported by many members of the IFRC network, including the American Red Cross, Australian Red Cross, British Red Cross, Danish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Japanese Red Cross Society, Malaysian Red Crescent, Netherlands Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Red Cross Society of China, Republic of Korea National Red Cross, Singapore Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross, Thai Red Cross Society, among others.

Several members have already indicated their interest in supporting MRCS in this response. The IFRC convened its membership at the country level on the day the earthquake struck, and subsequently at the global level jointly with ICRC and MRCS, to ensure strong coordination and information sharing regarding the scale of needs and collective support for the MRCS response. To support the MRCS with a Federation-wide Emergency Appeal approach, many national societies have expressed their willingness to fundraise, contribute to, and support the MRCS operation.

Red Cross Red Crescent Movement coordination

A “mini summit” was held on 29 March 2025, where MRCS, ICRC and IFRC initiated the coordination mechanism, as guided by spirit and guidance of Seville 2.0- allocating roles and aligning efforts such as releasing a joint statement and agreeing upon a joint communication channel. The mini summit was immediately followed by a meeting of in-country Movement partners, and thereafter the global Movement Partners call to share the latest disaster information and action plans among the RCRC Movement.

As much as possible, a collective Movement approach shall be maintained to ensure the effective and impactful use of our resources for the MRCS response.

In addition, the IFRC is coordinating with relevant partners and donors to ensure sufficient contributions to the Federation-wide appeal and to keep them informed on the development of the situation as well as progress of the operation. Senior management meetings between the MRCS, IFRC and ICRC facilitate effective collaboration in Myanmar, ensuring the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement’s impact and relevance in Myanmar, where significant needs exist. These efforts are carried out in alignment with the principles and spirit of the Seville Agreement 2.0.

External coordination

At the country level, the IFRC and ICRC are standing invitees to the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), while MRCS is a national member of the HCT. The MRCS and IFRC are also observers at the UN Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF) Advisory Board and are involved in relevant UN agency coordination, information sharing, planning, and analysis at all levels, while the IFRC network supports coordination efforts by the MRCS through representation in other relevant clusters as required.

The MRCS is an active member of the National Emergency Response and Preparedness Technical Working Group led by OCHA. The IFRC, ICRC and MRCS are closely coordinating with OCHA and other humanitarian agencies as part of this response. The IFRC and MRCS are also coordinating with the AHA Centre (ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management), which has deployed an In-Country Liaison Team (ICLT) and provides humanitarian assistance. The IFRC supports the MRCS in coordinating and advocating with stakeholders to ensure the swift entry of goods, personnel, and funds for a potentially life-saving humanitarian response and in close coordination with the ICRC.

As an auxiliary to the public authorities for humanitarian services, the MRCS is also coordinating with the Disaster Management Committees established at the national and local levels. The MRCS’ actions align with the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement’s Fundamental Principles, to ensure a principled, neutral, impartial, and independent humanitarian response. With the support of the IFRC and ICRC, the MRCS continues to lead in its efforts to engage in coordinated humanitarian diplomacy, ensuring humanitarian access to deliver life-saving assistance to vulnerable people in need.

After the end of this Emergency Appeal, response and recovery activities to this disaster will continue under the [IFRC Network Myanmar Country Plan](#) for 2027. The IFRC Network Country Plans show an integrated view of ongoing emergency responses and longer-term programming tailored to the needs of the country, as well as a Federation-wide view of the country's action. This aims to streamline activities under one plan, while still ensuring that the needs of those affected by the disaster are met in an accountable and transparent way. Information will be shared in due course, should there be a need for an extension of the crisis-specific response beyond the above-mentioned timeframe.

Contact information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

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