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Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Six weeks after the devastating earthquakes struck central Myanmar on 28 March 2025, humanitarian needs remain acute across the affected regions, with the situation further deteriorated by early monsoon rains. More than 160 aftershocks have been recorded to date, including significant tremors near Nay Pyi Taw and Wundwin, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology. As of 7 May, official figures report 3,791 deaths, 5,106 injuries and 88 people missing.¹ The estimated economic losses exceed USD 1.9 billion.² In total, 6.3 million people including nearly 2 million children in the 58 hardest-hit townships are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

Early rains and soaring temperatures are worsening conditions for displaced families still living in overcrowded makeshift shelters over six weeks after the earthquake. With more than 55,000 homes damaged or destroyed³, most households lack clean water, food, healthcare, and protection services. Scarce and unaffordable construction materials hinder rebuilding, leaving families exposed to harsh weather and growing risks.

Health services remain severely strained, with over 300 facilities⁴ damaged or destroyed, compounded by staff shortages and insecurity. Concerns are rising over water-borne diseases, especially in crowded displacement sites. More than 2,500 schools⁵ were damaged or destroyed, affecting tens of thousands of learners. Education Cluster partners also report pressure to vacate temporary shelters set up in school buildings ahead of the academic year in June.

Children and women face heightened protection risks including family separation, violence, trafficking, and psychological distress. Many children are still showing signs of shock and trauma, while access to safe spaces, mental health support, and trained personnel remains critically limited. Mine contamination is a major concern in multiple townships, particularly in Kayin, southern Shan, and eastern Bago, posing serious risks to children and aid workers.

As the monsoon season begins, immediate scale-up of emergency shelter, food, water, protection, and health services is needed to support recovery and reduce risk of disease outbreaks for the most affected populations.

Funding Overview

UNICEF estimated funding requirements to address the additional earthquake related immediate and early recovery needs stands at over US\$ 60 million. UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal for 2025 is in the process of being updated.

¹ The Global New Light of Myanmar, 8 May

² ASEAN Weekly Disaster Update, Week 18

³ [AHA Centre, Situation Update No. 10 - M7.7 Mandalay Earthquakes, 23 April 2025](#)

⁴ *ibid*

⁵ *ibid*

UNICEF has received a loan from its internal Emergency Programme Fund (EPF) mechanism as well as flexible global humanitarian thematic funds to kickstart the response but urgently requires additional contributions to sustain the initial response. UNICEF Myanmar expresses its appreciation for the generous contributions received from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the Government of Japan and UNICEF National Committee partners, as well as the in-kind contributions from the European Union.

UNICEF Response

WASH

Distribution of critical WASH supplies continues in earthquake affected areas, including the provision of safe water to ensure continued access to safe drinking water and maintaining good hygiene practices.

As of 8 May, UNICEF and partners have reached 565,457 people with temporary access to safe water through the distribution of water purification chemicals and water trucking. 303,002 people were reached with essential WASH supplies including hygiene kits, and water storage containers, to support their daily hygiene and water needs.

95 shallow tubes well and 25 deep tube wells have been restored in Nay Pyi Taw, while 16 emergency latrines were established in Southern Shan, including environmentally friendly options that support bio-digestion and provide a cleaner option to manage waste, as the response migrates to interim response/ early recovery.



© UNICEF/AUNG THU. Hygiene promotion session during WASH supply distribution to earthquake affected population in Mandalay

Hygiene promotion and community engagement activities are also ongoing with local volunteers supporting community and household-based messaging and awareness. An integrated training on community mobilization is planned in the coming week, which include the actions and practices towards adoption of improved hygiene practices, for the prevention of WASH related illnesses.

Health and Nutrition

UNICEF team is intensifying its efforts to deliver emergency assistance to address health and nutrition issues in earthquake-affected communities. So far, 23 out of 58 townships have received emergency health and nutrition supplies from UNICEF and its partners. The team is continually exploring new distribution methods to reach more communities in hard-to-reach areas.

Additionally, by both coordinating with the public health system and expanding local partnerships, UNICEF has increased the number of mobile outreach initiatives, health awareness campaigns, and mini campaigns for micronutrient supplementations and vaccination. These efforts aim to ensure that more children, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers can access essential and emergency health and nutrition services when they need it.

The latest cold chain capacity assessment conducted in 35 affected locations identified gaps in five states and regions, namely Sagaing, Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Mandalay, and Shan South. UNICEF is currently planning to replace damaged cold chain equipment, including refrigerators, freezers, and cold boxes. Additionally, UNICEF is providing transport vehicles to facilitate vaccine distribution. In response to the damage of cold chain equipment in Sagaing, UNICEF, in coordination with partners, promptly deployed and installed two Solar Direct Drive refrigerators and one freezer at a temporary office. A list of 30 townships have been identified for solar electrification in the first batch, which includes 13 township hospitals in the affected areas. As part of its longer-term plan, UNICEF is prioritizing cold chain rehabilitation,

solar electrification, and targeted campaigns to reach over 124,000 children and 163,000 pregnant women in the hardest-hit areas.

Child Protection

UNICEF and partners continue providing child protection services in earthquake affected areas – Mandalay, Sagaing, Shan (south), Nay Pyi Taw and Bago (east). By 7 May, 36,519 earthquake affected people including 29,471 children (16,663 girls and 12,808 boys) benefitted from UNICEF and partner child protection interventions. Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) responding related emotional consequences to the affected populations reached a total of 15,813 earthquake-affected people (7,695 girls, 6,572 boys, 1,100 women and 446 men) through participation of children and community members in child and women friendly activities. UNICEF distributed 3,915 age and gender appropriate child protection kits and benefited 8,552 children (5,153 girls and 3,399 boys) in conjunction with providing child protection messages on violence against children, gender-based violence, prevention and risk mitigation, on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) by aids workers, EOR awareness etc.



Children playing with materials from a child friendly kit in southern Shan.

126 children (71 girls and 55 boys), mostly with psychological distress and having without primary care givers, were serviced through an individual case management mechanism by trained case workers.

6,452 earthquake affected people (1,502 girls, 1,146 boys, 2,289 women and 1,515 men) participated and were provided with information on gender-based violence prevention and with risk mitigation services; on explosive ordinance risk (EOR) information, on child protection during natural disasters, on positive parenting and self-care when coping with emotional distress, on the risks of exploitation and violence, and children likely to be separated from their families and how to prevent etc.

A total of 5,108 people (1,922 girls, 1,502 boys, 1,086 women and 598 men) received information about the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) by humanitarian workers, and how to access safe reporting channel. 454 children (320 girls and 134 boys) received legal assistance by UNICEF legal aid partners and private lawyers in earthquake affected locations. In Shan, UNICEF joined inter-agency mission on supply distribution, and provided tarpaulins, ECD kits, CFS kits and recreational kits to affected community including a daycare-centre for children with disability.

Education

UNICEF is dedicated in ensuring the continuity of learning and protection for children in the earthquake-affected areas of Myanmar. As a part of the education response plan UNICEF has been establishing safe spaces where children feel safe to learn, play, interact with peers, and access mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).

To date, 12,662 children (including 6,702 girls and 24 children with disabilities) have been reached through a wide range of education supplies, including ECD kits, recreational kits and school kits. Similarly, materials like roofing sheets, tarpaulins and school tents are being distributed for establishing safe learning spaces across the monastic schools and community-based learning centres.

Training activities for the teachers, educators and community volunteers are ongoing across affected areas to support the effective use of these education materials. UNICEF is also working closely with the Education Cluster to assess needs and avoid duplication in the response.

With the new academic year beginning in June, for the effective and efficient use of the Education supplies, UNICEF will be distributing more ECD kits, school kits, recreation kits, and Essential Learning Packages (ELPs) to children once the schools and the learning centres reopen. These supplies have started arriving in preparation.

UNICEF also plans to support “Back-to-Learning” activities in the earthquake affected areas. The messaging will focus on highlighting how schools and temporary learning spaces (TLS) can support children’s recovery by reducing stress and trauma, alongside earthquake and disaster safety awareness. This effort aims to encourage families to send their children back to schools and learning centres and help restore a sense of normalcy in their daily lives.

Social Protection and Cash

UNICEF continues to deliver humanitarian multi-purpose cash assistance, helping earthquake-affected families meet their basic needs—including food, shelter, safe water, and other essential household items—with flexibility, dignity, and choice. To date, UNICEF and partners have reached 25,325 children and adults in the worst-affected townships in Mandalay, Sagaing, Shan, Bago, Kayin, and Naypyitaw. By providing flexible, unconditional cash transfers directly to affected families, this support helps protect child well-being, reduce harmful coping strategies, and stimulate local economic recovery.

Priority is given to families that are displaced, have lost their primary livelihoods, or have heightened vulnerabilities—such as households caring for young children, pregnant and lactating women, and persons with disabilities. Disability screenings accompany cash distributions to quickly identify and address additional needs. UNICEF continues to coordinate with the Cash Working Group and other partners to maintain harmonized targeting criteria, transfer values, and delivery mechanisms as the recovery response scales up.

Social and Behaviour Change

UNICEF, in collaboration with WHO and IFRC, is strengthening Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) to prevent disease outbreaks. Efforts include social listening to counter harmful misinformation circulating within affected communities and provision of correct messaging to promote lifesaving behaviours reaching 60,725 people. UNICEF launched an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system engaging 19,000 individuals for more than two weeks providing instant voice messaging on tips around Safety Actions after earthquake, health and hygiene, emotional well-being and community support, safe shelter and snakebite awareness and monitored on the engagement of the messages.

Distribution of hygiene and clean delivery kits by UNICEF continued, accompanied by health education on the “four cleans”—clean water, food, hands, and toilets—and the use of chlorine tablets to reduce disease risk. More than 10,867 households (over 55,000 people) in Mandalay Regions and Nay Pyi Taw have been reached to date.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

OCHA is coordinating the overall humanitarian response with all clusters through coordination mechanisms established at the national and sub-national levels. UNICEF continues to provide leadership for the WASH Cluster, Nutrition Cluster, Child Protection and Mine Action AoRs, and is co-leading the Education Cluster (with Save the Children).

The WASH Cluster and its partners reached over 288,000 individuals, 23 per cent against its target population, with WASH assistance. In addition to this, more than 420,000 people have been reached with temporary access to safe water through the distribution of water purification chemicals. 250,637 litres of drinking water and nearly 600,000 gallons of domestic water were supplied through water trucking. As of 8 May, 33,952 hygiene kits, 18,466 plastic buckets with lids, 51,074 soap bars, 43 LifeStraw community water filters, 35 boxes of water purification tablets have been distributed to the affected population in Sagaing and Mandalay regions. The WASH cluster also undertook a training with cluster partners to strengthen assessment of the impact of the earthquake on WASH facilities to improve targeting of service provision and reduce service delivery gaps.

The Nutrition Cluster, in coordination with partners, has been delivering lifesaving nutrition support to earthquake-affected communities. As of 8 May, 2,425 children and 125 pregnant and lactating women have been screened for acute malnutrition, with timely referrals made for appropriate treatment. 29 children diagnosed with acute malnutrition have received lifesaving treatment. 361 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and caregivers of children under two

years of age have received Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling, promoting optimal feeding practices. 1,946 children and 1,396 PLWs have received Multiple Micronutrient to address micronutrient deficiencies. 867 children and 209 PLWs have received Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme. Limited partner presence across the most severely affected townships resulting in gaps in service delivery. Boosting partner involvement and expanding coverage are critical to ensuring no affected communities is left without the nutrition support they urgently need.

The Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR) continues to support delivery of life-saving child protection services to earthquake affected children, caregivers and communities. As of 8 May, in spite of challenges, CP AoR partners have reached 41,484 individuals—including 36,954 children (16,526 boys and 20,428 girls) with life-saving child protection services. Key child protection activities included the distribution of child protection kits to 10,539 children, case management services for 985 children, gender-specific programming for 389 adolescents, dissemination of life-saving child protection information to 4,784 people, and 24,787 people have been reached with psychosocial support and psychosocial first aid.

The CP AoR developed guidance for partners on key activities from 3 weeks to 3 months post-earthquake in both Myanmar and English to support partners with priority activities. Given the repeated assessments highlighting children being unsupervised and playing in dangerous areas, the need for Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) is a priority. The CP AoR, together with UNICEF, has developed a 2-page guidance on setting up CFS and is planning an orientation to all AoR partners next week.

The Mine Action AoR partners have reached 1,579 individuals including 637 children (248 boys, 389 girls) with explosive ordinance risk education (EORE) and 54 survivors (5 boys, 4 girls, 38 men, 7 women) with victim assistance, MHPSS and cash-based support. Digital EORE messages in multiple languages have been shared with MA AoR partners and disseminated through local media networks, as well as community-based networks. Maps have been developed to overlay the previously contaminated townships with earthquake affected. These maps are critical to support AoR partners to prioritize their mine action activities. Earthquake specific EORE key messages have been circulated to other sectors and clusters. Partners continue to deliver cash-based victim assistance for EO survivors, as well as MHPSS. Whilst cash and MHPSS Victim Assistance is scaling up, prosthetic and rehabilitation continues to be delayed, however, due to access constraints and incomplete referral pathways.

In preparation of school reopening across the country (both earthquake affected and non-affected areas), the Education Cluster partners are supporting a range of interventions targeting monastic and basic education schools in Mandalay, and Sagaing regions. In earthquake-affected areas, activities include cleaning school compounds, conducting structural safety assessments, and identifying appropriate temporary learning spaces to resume learning. To support safe and inclusive learning environments, roofing sheets, solar lighting, fans, mosquito nets, and clean water are being provided, especially for boarding students. Education partners are also prioritizing the construction of school latrines and temporary learning spaces, distribution of learning and recreational materials, and provision of early learning and ECCD kits. Mental health and psychosocial support, as well as child protection awareness, are being delivered to both students and teachers. In total, over 120 schools and learning centres are being targeted, benefiting approximately 68,000 children, with concrete plans underway to ensure readiness for reopening in the new school year. Partners have delivered 328 zinc roofing sheets to 7 learning centres in Bago (east) benefitting 393 students and the renovation of 5 basic education schools and establishment of temporary learning centres to ensure continued access to education. In Nyaung Shwe, southern Shan state, 103 children (47 boys, 56 girls) are supported with the learning centre currently under renovation. Education Partner is leading school repair and reconstruction for 11 community-based ECCD schools in Nyaung Shwe targeting approximately 400 students.

Despite ongoing efforts, education partners are facing several key challenges in responding to needs in earthquake-affected areas. A major gap is limited funding for early recovery activities, particularly for the renovation and reconstruction of schools and temporary learning centres, even though partners have the capacity to distribute learning materials such as student and school kits.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Human interest story:

Photo story: Children heal through play following Myanmar's earthquake

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/children-heal-through-play-following-myanmars-earthquake-Eng>

Selected social media:

https://x.com/UNICEF_EAPRO/status/1920675089210593437

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1AHUHCb4tN/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16MPw943Yo/>

In case of media requests, please contact Eliane Luthi, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific, Tel: +66 654 154 874, eluthi@unicef.org

For further
information contact:

Marcoluigi Corsi
Representative
Myanmar Country Office
Email: mcorsi@unicef.org

Julia Rees
Deputy Representative
Programmes
Myanmar Country Office
Email: jrees@unicef.org

Faika Farzana
Emergency Manager
Myanmar Country Office
Email: ffarzana@unicef.org