



Collapsed building in Mandalay Region. © UNICEF Myanmar/UNI770507

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## Myanmar Earthquake Flash Update No.1

Date: 29 March 2025

### Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

A powerful 7.7 magnitude earthquake (Center: 21.85°N, 95.95°E) struck Myanmar on Friday 28th March 2025 at 12:50 pm (local time). According to Automated Disaster Analysis and Mapping (ADAM), the estimated population within 50 km from epicentre is 898,875. The quake struck near Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city of more than a million people. An aftershock of magnitude 6.4 (21.60°N, 95.95°E) was registered at 13:02 (local time). The most affected areas are in the centre of the country, in the Mandalay region as well as Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Magway, Sagaing and Shan.

It is reported that at least 694 people have died and over 1,600 injured. These numbers are expected to rise further as search and rescue operations continue, with many individuals still potentially trapped under debris.

Latest reports indicate that public infrastructure has been damaged including roads, bridges and public buildings. Nearly 1,600 houses, 670 monasteries, 60 schools, and three bridges are reported to be damaged. There are concerns for the structural integrity of large-scale dams. Electricity and telecommunications are down or intermittent in many of the earthquake affected areas. Operations have been halted at Naypyidaw and Mandalay airports while road access from Yangon to Mandalay remains passable. UNDSS has reported that UN common premises in Naypyidaw, Myanmar were impacted and that some UN personnel have sustained injuries.

The National Disaster Management Committee declared a State of Emergency for the earthquake-affected six areas in Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, Magway Region, northeastern Shan State, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and Bago Region<sup>1</sup> and has requested international humanitarian assistance.

Given the fragility of available social infrastructure and services, the earthquake is anticipated to have a significant impact on women and children's wellbeing and access to essential services in a country context with nearly 20 million people are already in need of humanitarian assistance.

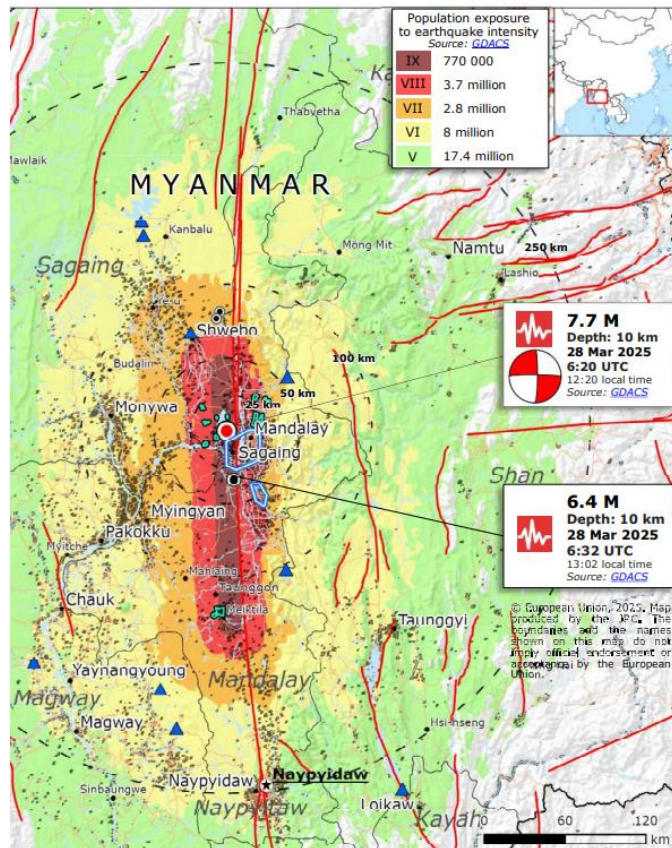
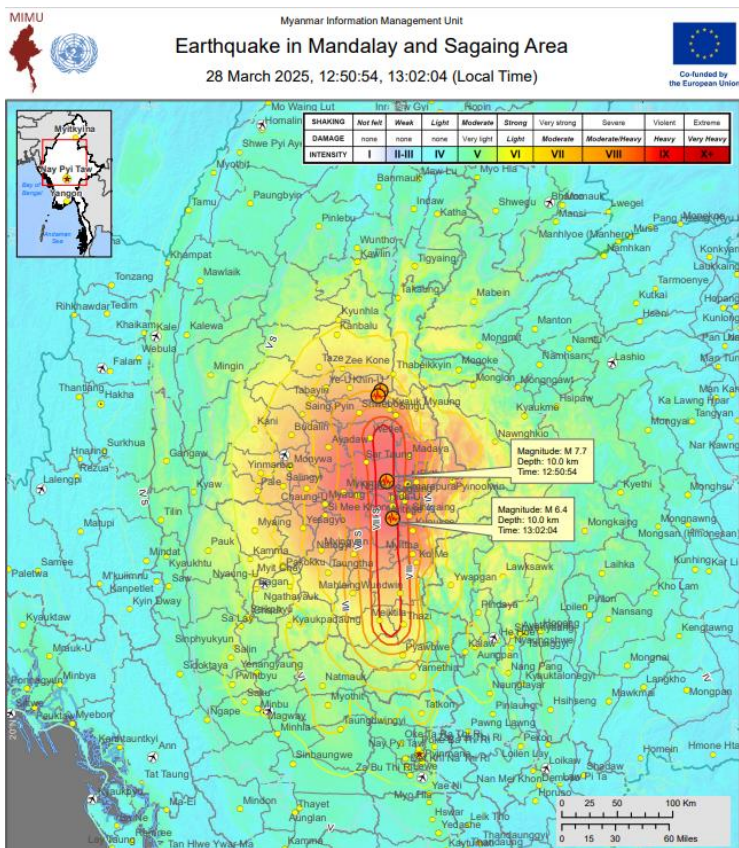
The earthquake has damaged homes, schools, health facilities and water supply infrastructure, which disrupted critical services for children.

The provision of safe water will be crucial as most if not all affected locations have reported a disruption in water supply, with repairs predicted to leave families without access to clean drinking water for the next few days. Good hygiene practices, environmental cleanliness and safe disposal of waste will be essential to prevent increase in disease incidences like acute watery diarrhoea and dengue fever.

The key child protection needs which arise after disaster include severe psychosocial distress, family separation and unaccompanied or separated children, trafficking or unsafe migration and more. Children and their caregivers have been emotionally impacted by the earthquake leading to mental health and psychosocial support needs. With parents

<sup>1</sup> [29 March 25 qnlm.pdf](#), Global New Light of Myanmar.

and caregivers injured or died in the collapse of buildings, there is a rapid need to identify, care for, trace families and reunify children who became orphans, or are unaccompanied or separated. This also applies to children living in institutions and in monasteries.



Source: Earthquake in Mandalay and Sagaing Area, MIMU, 28.03.2025 (left photo)

Myanmar 7.7 M Earthquake, Emergency Response Coordination Center (ERCC), DG ECHO 28.03.2025 (right photo)

## UNICEF Response

As the situation continues to evolve, UNICEF teams are on the ground, working closely with UN agencies, clusters, partners and stakeholders to assess the situation and to mobilize immediate response. UNICEF has prepositioned supplies that are available for dispatch to the earthquake affected areas. UNICEF has active partnerships in the affected areas and is engaging with partners to respond to the immediate life-saving needs.

### WASH

UNICEF will provide critical WASH supplies from its prepositioned stocks in Mandalay, including hygiene kits, soap, water purification chemicals, water storage containers and water filters, to local WASH partners in the affected regions. More supplies are being dispatched from Yangon, intending to support and provide lifesaving assistance to 200,000 people or 40,000 families, while community water filters and WASH related IPC supplies will also be dispatched to support in sustaining continued health service delivery in affected healthcare facilities.

### Health and Nutrition:

UNICEF will provide urgent support to ensure continuity of health and nutrition services and case management. Various types of kits, such as Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHKs covering 10,000 people for a period of three months), delivery kits, and newborn kits, will be distributed to frontline workers as needed to provide essential medical supplies during the earthquake response. These kits are essential for providing immediate health care to affected populations, especially when regular health services are disrupted.

## Child Protection

UNICEF is working with partners to undertake rapid needs assessments. Key priority interventions include the identification of separated and unaccompanied children, including those who lost their parents and caregivers during the earthquake, care support (medical, psychological, shelter, alternative care), family tracing and reunification. Given the level of trauma that children and their caregivers are facing, UNICEF supports the provision of PFA and MHPSS in coordination with health actors and through teams of professional counsellors.

UNICEF is mobilizing the members of the case management task force and the mental health and psychosocial support working group members to align technical response and activate the different related services to be ready to provide support.

Right after the quake, UNICEF used its social media platforms to provide messaging to parents and caregivers on the special needs of children in a time of crisis and about how to best provide emotional support.

UNICEF will undertake messaging for the prevention of exploitation of children, including prevention of GBV and SGBV, and information on risks related to UXO and the potential presence of explosives.

UNICEF is working with the Child Protection Area of Responsibility and partners to identify the extent of immediate protection needs of children in the most affected areas, as well as the potential of related indirect protection risks children could face in the next weeks.

## Education

UNICEF is working with the Education Cluster and partners to identify the extent of damage to educational infrastructure in the areas most affected by the earthquake. UNICEF is on standby to support children with individual Essential Learning Packages (ELP kits – consisting of notebooks and basic stationery items), roofing sheets and teaching and learning materials, both prepositioned stocks and items on order. Supporting children and teachers with Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) will be critical moving forward to mitigate the trauma due to the earthquake. These efforts will be coordinated with Child Protection programme and cluster colleagues. All education response efforts will be undertaken in full coordination with the Education Cluster and education sector partners.

## Social Protection and Cash

UNICEF is preparing to launch emergency cash transfers to support affected families, including those with children, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups. In coordination with partners and the Cash Working Group, UNICEF is gathering information to help identify priority needs, potential target populations, and the functionality of cash agents. This flexible form of assistance will enable families to meet urgent needs with dignity and choice, while supporting local markets where feasible.

## Social and Behaviour Change

In the wake of the earthquakes, Social and Behaviour Change (SBC) rapidly developed and disseminated in local language lifesaving messages using local radio and community outreach to inform families on health, safety and basic social protection measures. These messages focused on awareness on the aftermath of earthquake, like understanding tremors and what to do, promoting safe water and sanitation practices, and reinforcing parenting psychosocial support to children in trauma.

Efforts are underway to assess communication landscape in the areas most affected by the earthquake, which will inform the development of community feedback mechanism that affected populations can use to share their concerns and needs. This two-way communication will ensure the humanitarian response is adjusted to address emerging issues, thereby enhancing accountability and tailoring services to local realities.

## SUPPLY AND LOGISTICS

UNICEF has assessed the availability of supplies available for immediate distribution from existing supplies. An assessment has also been conducted of road transportation routes and visibility of the warehouses across the country. UNICEF Myanmar is working with Supply Division on an in-kind offer of charter flight for life-saving supplies from Copenhagen to Yangon. Supplies will be dispatched via road from Yangon to Mandalay given the airport in Mandalay is closed due to earthquake related damage.

## Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

OCHA is coordinating the overall humanitarian response with all clusters, through the coordination mechanisms established at the national level as well as in sub national levels.

UNICEF will continue to provide leadership for WASH cluster, Nutrition Cluster, Child Protection and Mine Action AoRs, and co leading Education Cluster (with Save the Children). Cluster discussions at national and sub-national level is ongoing to obtain information about the immediate needs and coordinate the response. There are significant concerns about the lack of humanitarian funding, supply gaps due to multiple competing demands and challenges around access/connectivity.

The WASH Cluster partners are set to conduct rapid needs assessments in Mandalay and Sagaing starting 29 March. The specific townships affected remain unclear and findings will be shared once assessments are completed. In Bago, the WASH cluster has activated a response through local partners, key findings include electricity disruptions impacting water supply as a key issue. Partners are exploring solutions to restore access to safe water. In Shan state, two local partners are conducting a quick assessment in two villages in Nyaungshwe and findings are expected soon.

In the aftermath of the devastating earthquake, the CP AoR has been supporting partners through distribution of resources and guidance for immediate response. These include: [Safe migration messages](#), family tracing and reunification messages, Psychosocial First Aid and [community level child protection tip sheet](#). Moreover, a suggested guide for 72 hours to 1 week post-earthquake was shared with partners. Whilst accessing information from partners remains a challenge with connectivity issues, the CP AoR has circulated a bi-weekly response template for partners to complete and for AoR to get information.

The Education Cluster is coordinating with partners on the ground to get critical information on the impact, critical needs and ongoing responses in relation to the provision of education services to children affected by the recent earthquake. A quick survey has been launched. Most schools and learning centres are expected to be closed in the coming days or weeks and those that will soon open will need psychological first aid for children and learners, recreation kits, teaching and learning materials, hygiene kits and cash support to teachers and learners whose family are severely affected by the earthquake.

UNICEF is also working with partners and the Technical Advisory Group on Disability Inclusion to ensure that the earthquake response is inclusive of persons with disabilities, including through identification of specific needs, provision of assistive devices, and technical support to sectors on inclusive programming.

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