



Women from earthquake-affected families in Nay Pyi Taw gather with a UNICEF Myanmar staff member to discuss their situation and needs one day after the devastating earthquake. ©UNICEF Myanmar/UNI771159

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Myanmar Earthquake Flash Update No.2

Date: 31 March 2025

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

A powerful 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar on Friday, 28 March 2025 at 12:50 pm (local time). The epicentre, at a depth of 10 km, was located 16 km north-north-west of Sagaing city, and 19 km north-west of Mandalay city, Myanmar's second largest city. An aftershock of magnitude 6.4 on the Richter scale was registered at 13:02 (local time). Strong tremors were also felt in neighbouring countries, including Thailand. According to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrological (DMH), as of 31 March, 46 aftershocks were recorded with different magnitudes and depth.

As per OCHA,¹ over 1,700 people have died, more than 3,400 sustained injuries, and more than 300 people remain unaccounted for nationwide. These numbers are expected to rise further as search and rescue operations continue.

The worst affected areas are Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Naypyidaw, Shan South and East and Sagaing. Three hospitals have been destroyed and 22 have been partially damaged. Public infrastructure has been damaged, including roads, bridges, schools, hospitals and critical infrastructure. Many communities are surviving in fragile conditions without electricity and mobile connectivity and limited access to water, healthcare and shelter.

The earthquake compounds the protracted crisis brought on by armed conflict, natural disasters (large-scale flooding and heatwaves in 2024, among others) and public health emergencies. 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.

In Mandalay region, severe shaking affected the following townships: Amarapura, Aungmyaythazan, Chanayethazan, Chanmyathazi, Kyaukse, Madaya, Maha Aungmyay, Ngazun, Myittha, Patheingyi, Pyigyitagong, Pyinoolwin, Singu, Sintgaing, Tada-U, Thazi, and Wundwin.²

Mandalay is still experiencing an outbreak of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) following flooding, which may be aggravated by earthquake-induced damage to WASH infrastructure. Earthquake-induced displacement, destruction to WASH infrastructure, and heat-induced water shortages may prompt a renewed increase in AWD and other waterborne diseases.³

The damage to schools, health facilities and water supply infrastructure has 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, leaving families without access to clean drinking water. Good hygiene practices, environmental cleanliness and safe disposal of waste will be essential to prevent an increase in disease incidences like acute watery diarrhoea and dengue fever. Initial findings of partner assessments indicate an urgent need for safe drinking water, sanitation facilities and

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/myanmar-earthquake-flash-update-2-31-march-2025>

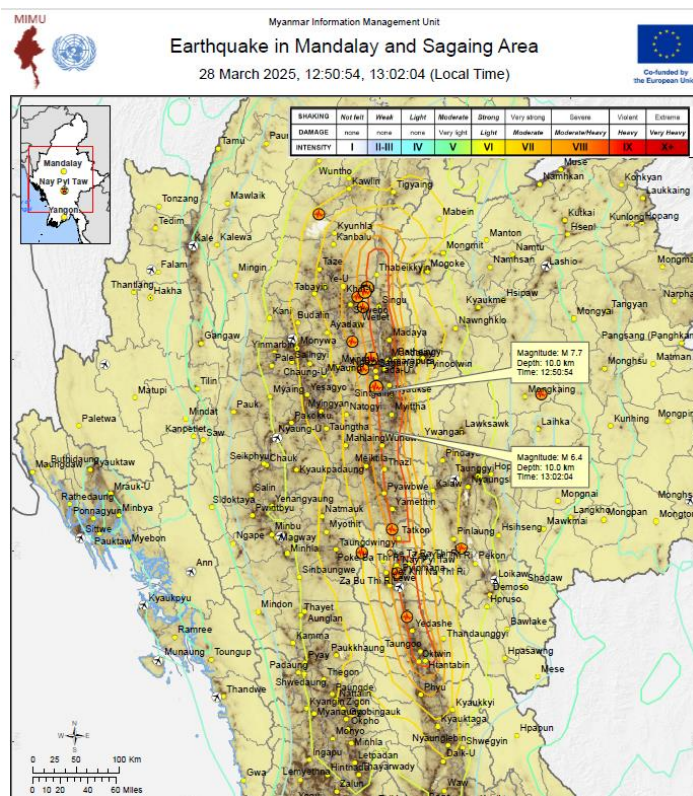
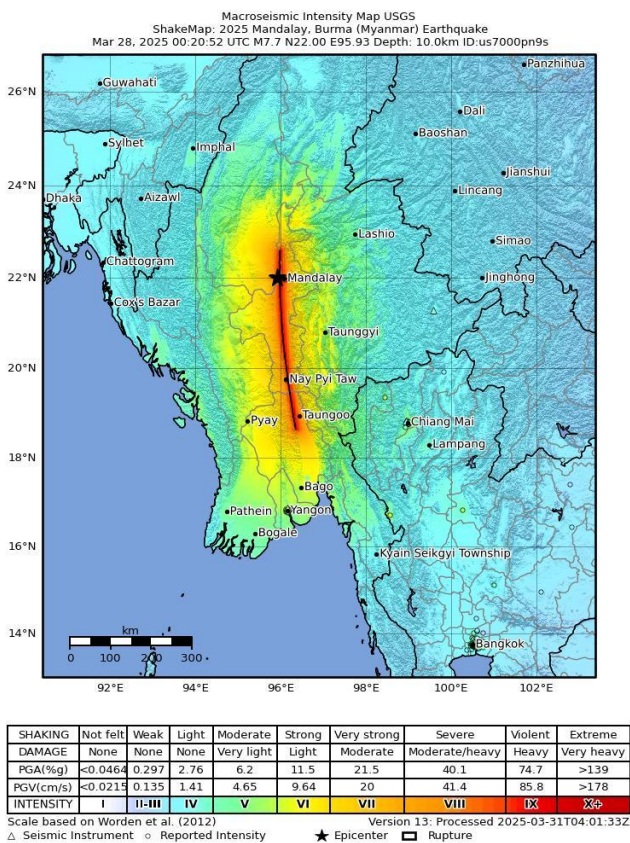
² [ACAPS Briefing Note - Myanmar Earthquake: Mandalay pre-crisis profile \(29 March 2025\) - Myanmar | ReliefWeb](#)

³ [ACAPS Briefing Note - Myanmar Earthquake: Mandalay pre-crisis profile \(29 March 2025\) - Myanmar | ReliefWeb](#)

hygiene kits. Many communities are experiencing disruptions to water supply systems, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases.

Children continue to be faced with devastating impacts of the earthquake. Partner reports suggest separation of children remains a big concern - either from separation during the earthquake or due to the death of one or more of the primary caregivers. Furthermore, children and caregivers are suffering from trauma, emotional and psychosocial distress. Whilst the immediate impact of the earthquake means most are in survival mode, over the coming week or weeks, social disruption and disappearance of the protective environment will most likely lead to negative coping mechanisms by families and children.

Formal and non-formal schools remain closed until the start of the new school year in June, but damage to school infrastructure has been reported in areas impacted by the earthquake. While most schools and learning centres are expected to be closed in the coming days or weeks, 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 families are severely affected by the earthquake.



Source: Earthquake Intensity Map, USGS (left photo)
Earthquake in Mandalay and Sagaing Area, MIMU (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 mobilize an immediate response. UNICEF pre-positioned supplies are being dispatched to the earthquake affected areas. Additional staff from Yangon and field offices are being redeployed to scale up the response on the ground. Discussions are ongoing with existing partners (based on ongoing needs assessments) to address the most urgent time-critical life-saving needs. A number of interagency

assessments are also ongoing or starting in the coming days, which UNICEF is participating in, both from the programme as well as the cluster-leadership perspective.

WASH

UNICEF has initiated a WASH assessment in Mandalay both on the needs as well as identification of potential service providers. Rapid WASH response has been initiated through partners in Mandalay, Sagaing and affected townships of Nay Pyi Taw. UNICEF partners are also gearing up to respond in Bago, Shan South and Magway. In the first phase at least 15,000 households will be supported through the provision of critical WASH supplies, including water purification chemicals, hygiene kits, water storage buckets/ jerry cans, and tarpaulin and rope sets (that double up as a shelter, makeshift temporary water storage tank and privacy screens for emergency latrines). Water trucking services were initiated in affected Nay Pyi Taw townships through direct distribution to meet domestic - particularly hygiene needs. 4,800 gallons of water were distributed to 800 households. Beneficiaries were also provided with water purification tablets and hygiene promotion to maintain health and hygiene. Private service providers are being mobilised to provide drinking and domestic water distribution, as well as latrine construction.

Health and Nutrition

UNICEF is providing urgent support to ensure continuity of health and nutrition services and case management. Various types of kits have been moved to Mandalay and Sagaing - this includes 147 Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHKs) covering 1.4 million people, including children under five and pregnant women, for a period of three months; delivery kits and newborn kits; for distribution to frontline workers to provide essential medical supplies during the response. Additional supplies, such as nutrition bowls, micronutrient powder and RUTF are on the way to support nutrition services in Mandalay and Sagaing.

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. Children at risk or survivors of gender-based violence, including sexual gender-based violence, will receive comprehensive assistance and reintegration. Given the level of trauma that children and their caregivers are facing, UNICEF supports the provision of Psychological First Aid (PFA) and MHPSS, in coordination with health actors and through teams of professional counsellors.

With many families losing all their belongings, the protection interventions will also include the provision of basic items (clothing and other non-food items), along with dignity kits.

UNICEF is mobilizing members of the case management task force and mental health and psychosocial support working group members to align the technical response and activate the different related services to be ready to provide support. The case management mechanism will be used to identify the needs of children and refer them to available services. This mechanism will also allow the provision of assistance to victims of explosive ordnances.

Right after the earthquake, 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 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 unexploded ordnance and the potential presence of explosives. Mass awareness raising is being provided to inform the population and communities about the risks to children separated from their families, including the risks of exploitation and violence, including gender-based violence. Awareness raising activities also include prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers.

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. Early reports suggest that there is damage to schools and learning centres, especially in Mandalay, Sagaing, and Naypyidaw. The extent of this damage is not yet clear, with needs still being assessed.

UNICEF is preparing 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 also be critical moving forward to mitigate the trauma due to the earthquake. These efforts will be coordinated with the 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 scaling up multi-purpose cash assistance for families affected by the earthquake, in partnership with six local organisations. The initial response aims to reach around 30,000 people, with a focus on vulnerable households in Mandalay, Sagaing, Nay Pyi Taw and southern Shan—particularly families with children and persons with disabilities. Preparations are well advanced, with disbursements expected to begin in the coming days. UNICEF is coordinating with the Cash Working Group to align targeting and delivery. A rapid phone-based needs assessment is also being finalised to inform the response. The assessment will generate critical insights into the situation of households with persons with disabilities and help tailor support to emerging needs.

Social and Behaviour Change

UNICEF is collaborating with media partners to disseminate timely and lifesaving information to affected populations. Key priority interventions include assessing the information needs and preferred type of communication channel of the affected communities, as well as providing accurate and relevant information. This includes guidance on actions to take in the event of aftershocks, the identification of safe shelters, mental health coping mechanisms for both adults and children, the process for locating separated family members, and the importance of seeking reliable sources of information to mitigate unnecessary anxiety and confusion. Through two radio channels, UNICEF is airing five public service announcements per day, reinforcing messages that promote self-care and well-being for the affected populations. UNICEF conducted community engagement on the 'four cleans' (water, food, hand and toilet clean), the use of chlorine tabs and tips for after the earthquake with 300 affected communities in the Pyinmana Township of Naypyitaw Council.

Additionally, UNICEF will tailor messages to address the management of the deceased and remind affected populations of essential practices related to safe water, hygiene, disease prevention, and the care and protection of vulnerable groups, particularly children. These efforts will be expanded through various media platforms and frontline workers, ensuring that the messaging aligns with the specific needs and preferences of the affected communities.

SUPPLY AND LOGISTICS

UNICEF is distributing essential supplies pre-positioned in the warehouse in Mandalay for immediate support and sending more supplies from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay. Additional life-saving supplies for Health, Nutrition, WASH and Child Protection are being packed in the central warehouse in Copenhagen and will soon be delivered to Yangon by a charter flight.

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 will continue 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). Cluster discussions at the national and sub-national levels are ongoing to obtain information about immediate needs and to 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 is actively coordinating response efforts at both national and sub-national levels to address the urgent needs arising from the earthquake. Rapid assessments have been conducted to identify immediate needs and plan response interventions accordingly in Thandaungyi in Kayin State, Taungoo in Bago Region, Nyaung Shwe in Southern Shan State and four townships in Mandalay Region. WASH partners are in the process of dispatching essential supplies, including water purification tablets, hygiene kits and sanitation materials, to the affected communities. Efforts are being made to establish functional local markets for the supply of safe drinking water. Some partners have already begun providing bottled water and hygiene kits to the affected populations. A National WASH Cluster Meeting was held on 31 March 2025 to reinforce the earthquake response strategy and reiterate the need to share rapid needs assessment (RNA) results and response plans to ensure efficient resource allocation and prevent duplication of efforts. AWD messaging will be reinforced to prevent outbreaks.

While nutrition activities in the southeast region continue with minimal interruptions, the northwest faces significant challenges due to communication barriers and limited access to partner information. The cluster remains committed to coordinating response efforts, ensuring timely support for affected populations, and addressing urgent needs identified through ongoing assessments. One cluster partner is conducting a rapid needs assessment (RNA) in Mandalay and Sagaing, while other partners are planning similar assessments in affected areas. Additionally, one partner is preparing to initiate an initial response, including multi-purpose cash assistance and food distribution for the affected population.

The Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR) partners are mobilising to provide immediate child protection services such as rapid reunification, MHPSS, distribution of Child Protection Kits, as well as in the coming weeks, the establishment of child friendly spaces and scaling up of community level child protection to support children when agencies are not present. The CP AoR has distributed guidance on earthquake response timelines, FTR and PFA guidance, disability guidance and more user-friendly resources to support the teams in the field to provide quality services despite the urgent nature of response. Moreover, the CP AoR has had a meeting in the northwest and at national level to understand the challenges. As partners engage in rapid needs assessments, they are encouraged to also use the GBV-CP Observational Assessment so that the AoR coordination team can get a better understanding of the impact on children. Together with the Protection Cluster, the Gender Based Violence AoR and the Mine Action AoR, the CP AoR developed a Protection Earthquake Update that outlines the context, the challenges, the protection risks and immediate protection needs.

The Mine Action AoR has been working to support partners with key EORE messages in both English and Myanmar, child-friendly mine safety messages, and earthquake-specific safety messages outlining the dangers of explosive ordnance following an earthquake. Earthquakes can have a direct impact on landmines and unexploded ordnance, increasing the risks in affected areas and nearby. Earthquakes cover explosive ordinances or can shift them to homes, yards, or communal areas. They may also shift to previously safe areas, putting people at increased risk.

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. Partners have been taking part in the multi-sector needs assessments. Ad hoc coordination meetings are being conducted at the sub-national level. Emergency Education stockpiles are also being updated by partners.

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.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Press release:

<https://www.unicef.org/eap/press-releases/millions-children-grave-risk-following-myanmars-deadliest-earthquake-decades>

Selected social media:

<https://x.com/UNICEFMyanmar/status/1905567604036772166>

https://x.com/UNICEF_EAPRO/status/1906594812842713127

https://x.com/UNICEF_EAPRO/status/1906549512513990963

<https://x.com/unicefchief/status/1906405419762827618>

https://x.com/UNICEF_EAPRO/status/1906361175304229129

<https://x.com/UNICEFgermany/status/1906291987113775299>

https://x.com/UNICEF_EAPRO/status/1906201596209529192

<https://x.com/UNICEF/status/1906156981615726821>

<https://x.com/UNICEF/status/1905988901044429143>

<https://x.com/UNICEF/status/1905641939271115173>

<https://x.com/UNICEF/status/1905634507614494773>

<https://x.com/JuneUNICEF/status/1905602458753400966>

https://x.com/UNICEF_EAPRO/status/1905587591761531086

https://x.com/UNICEF_EAPRO/status/1905587595289264151

<https://fb.watch/yGtAJn4FOB/>

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