

### Highlights

- Six days after the catastrophic earthquakes struck Myanmar on 28 March, search and rescue operations remain ongoing as responders continue efforts to locate survivors beneath collapsed structures.
- According to publicly available figures, more than 3,000 people have died, nearly 5,000 have been injured, and over 370 remain missing nationwide.
- It is estimated that the earthquakes have affected more than 17 million people across 57 of the country's 330 townships.
- The hardest-hit areas remain without electricity and water, while telecommunications and internet access are severely disrupted, cutting off affected communities from essential services.

### Situation overview

Following the devastating earthquakes on 28 March, search and rescue operations remain ongoing in Myanmar as responders continue efforts to locate survivors beneath collapsed structures. While many have been rescued, the death toll continues to rise. According to publicly available figures, more than 3,000 people have died, nearly 5,000 have been injured, and over 370 remain missing nationwide. However, actual figures may be higher due to underreporting, as widespread telecommunications disruptions persist. It is estimated that the earthquakes have affected more than 17 million people across 57 of the country's 330 townships. Among them, more than 9 million were severely affected by the highest tremble.



*Photo: People shelter outdoors after the earthquake destroyed their homes in downtown Mandalay, Myanmar, on 31 March 2025. Credit: WFP/Arete*

The hardest-hit areas remain without electricity and water, while telecommunications and internet access are severely disrupted, cutting off affected communities from essential services. Power shortages have also impacted the Yangon Region and other affected areas, despite these locations experiencing less structural damage. Road access between Yangon and central Myanmar remains possible but requires detours, significantly delaying aid deliveries. Commercial flights to Mandalay International Airport remain suspended, with a planned flight on 4 April to assess operational conditions. Currently, only charter and cargo flights are permitted to land at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. Humanitarian operations are scaling up rapidly, with needs assessments underway, mobilization of aid workers and relief supplies in progress and international fundraising efforts intensifying. Initial Rapid Needs Assessments (RNA) covering 326,000 people across 13 townships in Bago Region, Mandalay Region and southern Shan State indicate that priority needs include food, drinking water, health care, cash assistance and emergency shelter. Among those assessed, 76 per cent have yet to receive any assistance.

Humanitarian actors continue to advocate for unhindered access to deliver life-saving assistance to those in urgent need. The coming days will be critical in determining the full scale of the disaster's impact and the response required to meet the needs of millions affected.

## Needs, Response, Gaps and Challenges by Cluster

The progress updates below are provided by each of the seven operating clusters and their sub-working groups/areas of responsibility in Myanmar. Information is self-reported by aid organizations to the relevant clusters on a quarterly basis for inclusion in this update. Accordingly, this section is not necessarily reflective of all humanitarian interventions undertaken on the ground but rather those voluntarily shared by partners with their cluster. All partners are encouraged to share updates on their progress via the relevant clusters to ensure good visibility of gaps and response and support resource mobilization. The Inter-cluster Coordination Group (ICCG)'s Information Sharing Protocol allows for this information to be shared in a non-identifiable manner.

### Education in Emergencies

As of 3 April, partners (community-based organizations and non-governmental organizations) continue to conduct assessment activities on the ground, particularly in Kayin and Southern Shan. These assessments are being carried out either through the multi-sectoral RNA led by OCHA or through individual partner assessments. Reports indicate damage ranging from minor to severe (including total collapse) to government, monastic and community-based schools, including early childhood care and development (ECCD) centres and community libraries. Reports also indicate that children sustained injuries or lost their lives outside of school during and after the earthquake.



Photo: WFP distributes fortified biscuits to earthquake survivors at Ottara Thiri Hospital, Nay Pyi Taw. Credit: WFP/Diego Fernandez

With schools closed and limited resources (both human and financial), education assessments are being deprioritized in favour of immediate needs such as food, shelter, and WASH. This has resulted in limited impact assessment data being shared with the cluster. Access, safety, and security constraints have been reported by partners operating on the ground. Coordination remains challenging due to the fragmented nature of education service delivery in Myanmar, with multiple authorities and modalities involved.

### Food Security

#### Food Security

Between 28 and 31 March, Food Security Cluster (FSC) partners conducted RNAs across six townships in Mandalay—Amarapura, Aungmyaythazan, Chanayethazan, Mahaangmyay, Pyigyitagon and Sintgaing—identifying 73,586 people in need of humanitarian assistance. Detailed assessments in 21 camp locations found 23,536 individuals requiring urgent food assistance, while additional urban-focused assessments in Aungmyaythazan, Chanmyathazi, Mahaangmyay and Pyigyitagon indicated over 50,000 people in need of food, water, shelter and medicines.

In the northwest part of Mandalay, buildings collapsed, with reports of multiple unburied casualties, while Sein Pan (Than Lat Maw ward) saw the complete destruction of all houses due to fires triggered by the earthquake. Despite some operational banks, cash transactions remain challenging, as funds often need to be transported from nearby towns.

In-kind food assistance has reached only 7 of the 21 identified locations, leaving significant unmet needs. Although food and multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) were both identified as top priorities in ten locations, only MPCA has been mobilized for delivery, leaving 6,828 individuals still requiring urgent food support.

In Sagaing, 28,960 people have been identified as affected, with 22,752 individuals across 13 locations in Sagaing town alone. Nearly 80 per cent of the town has been impacted, and Sagaing is hosting over 30,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), many of whom were displaced again during the earthquake. FSC partners have provided one-month in-kind food rations to 1,583 people and 15-day cash-for-food assistance to 1,521 people, with distributions ongoing.

#### Livelihoods

Over 3.7 million hectares of cropland were exposed to the earthquake. Rural livelihoods in the affected areas rely on cropping, livestock and fishing, with the primary planting season set to begin in June 2025. The worst-affected regions—Magway, Mandalay, Sagaing and Shan—account for 32 per cent of Myanmar’s cereal production, 79 per cent of its maize, and 64 per cent of the country’s cattle and buffalo population. These regions also produce 70 per cent of small ruminants and 41 per cent of swine. The destruction of grain storage facilities, agricultural inputs, equipment and irrigation infrastructure will severely impact food security and economic stability. FAO and WFP are conducting a rapid evaluation of the earthquake’s impact on food production, availability and market access. Damage assessments are also ongoing for irrigation systems, particularly in the Central Dry Zone, which relies on an extensive network of dams, weirs and embankments. The ability to restore productive capacity will be critical in supporting affected communities’ recovery.

## Health

Preliminary data on the impact of the recent earthquakes in Myanmar indicates significant damage to health facilities, with three fully damaged (two in Bago and one in Nay Pyi Taw) and 22 partially damaged (20 in Bago and 2 in Nay Pyi Taw). Joint RNA is ongoing in the affected areas. Several health partners are awaiting approval from the de facto authorities to deliver life- and limb-saving medical services, while others are already operating with mobile health teams, though their efforts are limited by a shortage of medical supplies, including trauma kits, blood bags, anaesthetics, assisted devices, and essential medicines.

One globally certified Emergency Medical Team (EMT) from Russia’s EMERCOM is providing inpatient surgical emergency care in Mandalay, with WHO awaiting approval for additional EMTs. WHO has deployed medical supplies and tents to public health facilities. The Health Cluster is advocating for the approval of health partners to initiate critical medical services and directly deliver medical supplies.

In addition to the damage to health infrastructure, there is no electricity in Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Sagaing, with health facilities relying on generators but struggling to obtain fuel. The lack of access to safe drinking water is also a significant public health threat, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases such as cholera and skin infections. Cases of diarrhoea and dysentery have been reported in displacement camps due to inadequate water and sanitation services.

## Nutrition

The earthquake has severely disrupted nutrition activities in the affected areas over the past six days, creating an urgent need for humanitarian interventions. While nutrition activities in the Southeast region have experienced minimal disruptions, the Northwest faces significant challenges, including communication barriers and limited access to partner information. The Nutrition Cluster is actively coordinating partners in Mandalay, Sagaing and the Southeast region. As of 1 April, the RNA has been initiated in Mandalay and Sagaing, while additional assessments are being planned. The cluster is prioritizing the distribution of food to children, as well as pregnant and lactating women, in the affected areas.

## Protection

**Child protection** needs following the disaster include severe psychosocial distress, family separation, unaccompanied or separated children, trafficking, and unsafe migration. On 29 March, an ad hoc meeting was held with Northwest Area of Responsibility (AoR) members to assess response and needs. Partners are mobilizing to provide urgent child protection services, including mental health and psychosocial support, rapid reunification of separated children, mobile child-friendly spaces and distribution of child protection kits. It is crucial to recognize that child protection needs will significantly evolve over the following weeks, with increasing demands over the 2-3 months post-disaster as families continue to live in overcrowded conditions. Urgent funding is required to scale up existing child protection actions in the affected areas. The Child Protection AoR has supported partners through resource distribution, including safe migration messages, family tracing and reunification, psychosocial first aid and community-level child protection guidance.

**Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** assessments indicate significant psychological and physical distress among local residents in several affected areas. Immediate priorities include cash support, basic food and drinking water, non-food items (NFIs), hygiene kits, dignity kits and emergency shelter kits. In some of the affected townships, GBV services continue to operate. In Taunggyi Township, safe house services, case management, and healthcare are being provided to GBV survivors across four townships. A total of 200 women essential items (WEIs) are ready for distribution in Pilaung Township. Additionally, 600 WEI kits were distributed to a partner in Nyaungshwe Township (Inle Lake area). On 1 April 2025, 610 WEI kits were distributed to 610 affected households in Taungoo, Thandangyi, Oktwin, and Yedashe townships. In Nyaungshwe, identified as the most severely affected region based on assessment, GBV network partners are delivering critical services, including case management, healthcare, psychological support, legal referrals and shelter referrals. As of 30 March, UNFPA supplied 3,000 dignity kits in Nay Pyi Taw to facilitate emergency relief efforts. An additional 3,200 dignity kits have reached Mandalay.

**Mine Action**; following recent earthquakes in Myanmar, the risk of landmine and explosive ordnance exposure has significantly increased, posing heightened dangers to affected communities and responders. Earthquakes can destabilize explosives, shift them to homes, yards and communal areas, and disturb previously safe zones, making them more unstable and prone to detonation. This escalates the risk of injury or death among both the local population and humanitarian personnel.

In response, the Mine Action AoR has distributed standardized explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) messages, including child-friendly Mine Action messages and additional earthquake-specific guidance, to be used immediately by partners. Partners are also mobilizing to scale up EORE and victim assistance activities, which are resource-intensive and require additional funding.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The WASH Cluster is coordinating response efforts at national and sub-national levels to address urgent needs arising from the earthquake. RNA has been conducted in four townships in Mandalay Region, Nyaungshwe Township (Southern Shan State), Taungoo Township (Bago Region) and Thandaungyi Township (Kayin State). Initial findings highlight an urgent need for safe drinking water, sanitation facilities and hygiene kits. Many communities are facing disruptions to water supply systems, which increases the risk of waterborne diseases. In Nyaungshwe Township, preliminary data shows that about 60 per cent of latrines were destroyed, significantly impacting sanitation access and contributing to open defecation, which heightens the risk of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD).

To address these issues, WASH Cluster partners are working to establish functional local markets for the supply of safe drinking water. As of 3 April, 16,966 people in Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw have received drinking water, and 5,262 people have been provided with hygiene kits. Immediate support for water supply, sanitation, and hygiene kits remains critical, especially in areas where water points are destroyed and electricity outages prevent water pumping. AWD messaging will also be reinforced to prevent an outbreak and ensure adequate awareness and prevention measures are in place.

## Coordination and Support

OCHA is coordinating the emergency response on behalf of humanitarian partners through a series of Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) meetings, as well as ad-hoc Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meetings. Multi-sector rapid assessments are ongoing as well as discussions with cluster partners centred on optimizing their presence, minimizing duplication in specific regions and improving the speed of assessment and service delivery.

The Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) response is ongoing in Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Sagaing. As of 3 April, 29 international USAR teams from 12 countries are deployed in Myanmar, conducting search and rescue operations, with live rescues completed. Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) have also been deployed by six different countries (China, India, Japan, Philippines, Russia and Thailand). A key challenge faced by responding teams is the limited connectivity on the ground, which hinders the ability to upload information to coordination platforms. Data access is gradually improving with the re-establishment of mobile networks in some areas.

On 3 April, an UNDAC team composed of 25 experts in different fields was deployed with the facilitation of OCHA to support the locally-led and UN-supported response in Myanmar. The team, which includes OCHA staff from both within and outside the region as well as members of the wider UNDAC system, will assist the response in the country. The primary task of the UNDAC team will be coordinating in-kind deliveries, including food, WASH, shelter and medical supplies. Points of contact within the country are currently being confirmed to facilitate these deliveries. Additionally, a European Union Civil Protection team is expected to arrive on 5 April to plan for the arrival of European Union cargo shipments.

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