



## Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

On Friday 28 March 2025, two powerful earthquakes – the first of magnitude 7.7 hit at 12:50 pm (local time), swiftly followed twelve minutes later by a second of magnitude 6.4. Both earthquakes occurred at a depth of 10 km, centred approximately 16 km north-north-west of Sagaing city, and 19 km north-west of Mandalay city, Myanmar's second largest city. Strong tremors were also felt in neighbouring countries, including Thailand. According to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrological (DMH), as of 4 April, Myanmar has experienced 73 aftershocks ranging from magnitudes 2.8 to 7.5.

In the past week since the devastating earthquakes, it is reported that more than 3,000 people have died, nearly 5,000 people have been injured, and over 370 remain missing nationwide<sup>1</sup>. While rescue teams are continuing to search through the rubble, the chances of finding survivors in the debris is rapidly diminishing.

Significant destruction has been reported, including the collapse of homes, offices, mosques, monasteries, and critical public infrastructure, including roads, bridges, water supply and electricity networks, communications towers and schools. As per OCHA, it is estimated that more 17 million people across 57 townships have been affected with more than 9 million severely affected by the highest tremble.<sup>2</sup>

Initial Rapid Needs Assessments (RNA) covering 326,000 people across 13 townships in Bago Region, Mandalay, Region, and southern Shan indicate their priority needs include food, drinking water, healthcare, cash assistance and emergency shelter.<sup>3</sup> As of 3 April 2025, 88 assessments have been conducted by WASH partners in 50 villages and 13 townships. As per assessment results, nearly 17,000 latrines have been destroyed by the earthquake, indicating a significant need for sanitation facilities.

In October 2024, Mandalay experienced a cholera and acute water diarrhoea (AWD) outbreak and with the earthquake damaging water and sanitation infrastructure and limiting access to healthcare, there is a high-risk of a renewed outbreak among displaced populations.<sup>4</sup> Five AWD cases have been officially reported in Sagaing although social media reports that there are 95 cases, indicating the outbreak could be progressing. With many people sleeping out in the open or in overcrowded shelters, there are also concerns of rising cases of malaria, dengue and acute respiratory infections.

The earthquake has exacerbated child protection (CP) and gender-based violence (GBV) risks. From the CP-GBV observational assessment, partners highlight that children are increasingly playing unsupervised, and in dangerous areas, and girls are being given the responsibility to collect aid distributions. Children and caregivers are showing signs

<sup>1</sup> OCHA, Myanmar Earthquake Flash Update #3 (3 April 2025)

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> [Myanmar: Public Health Situation Analysis. Sagaing earthquake in Myanmar, April 2025](#)

of fear and anxiety. The assessment also found overcrowded living conditions with no separation between children and adults, or by gender, as well as inadequate and unsafe bathing facilities, with many children and adolescents bathing in streams with no privacy. The CP risks will continue to increase over coming weeks and months, including risks of unsafe migration and trafficking, negative coping mechanisms in families including violence in the home, recruitment and child labour. There is an urgent need to establish child friendly spaces, and to support partners with family tracing and reunification, and case management. Children in emergencies face increased risks of psychological distress and trauma, therefore mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) is an ongoing need for children and caregivers.

Myanmar is facing one of the deadliest landmine and explosive ordnance (EO) crises, with 2,998 casualties recorded from 2021 to 2024. Following recent earthquakes, the risk of EO contamination has intensified, necessitating urgent humanitarian mine action to ensure safe responses and facilitate the return of displaced communities. Earthquakes can destabilise explosives, unearth hidden hazards, and scatter dangerous debris, heightening the risk of death and injury among both affected populations and responders.

UNICEF and Education Cluster partners are assessing the damage to educational infrastructure. Assessment to date reveals significant damage to both public and monastic schools, especially in Mandalay, Sagaing, Nay Pyi Daw and Shan (South). Furthermore, several temporary learning centres have been damaged or destroyed in Kayah, Shan (South) and Kayin. In the earthquake-affected regions of Northwest, some children enrolled in education programmes are reportedly struggling to separate from their parents due to fear of secondary disasters, hindering their ability to continue learning. It will be important to start making arrangements for the provision of learning materials, temporary learning facilities and for minor repairs to ensure learning can resume when schools are due to reopen after the Water Festival. Addressing the mental health and psychosocial needs of children and teachers is also paramount.

## Funding Overview

UNICEF's initial funding requirements for the earthquake response stands at US\$28 million. This figure is likely to increase as the extent of the damage to infrastructure, public facilities, and communities becomes better understood. 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. The impact of the earthquake is stretching humanitarian operations in the impacted states and regions. UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal for 2025 will be updated to reflect the higher funding requirements once the earthquake response and recovery plan has been finalised.

## 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 have been 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

One week since the catastrophic earthquakes, the miseries of the impacted population continue. Water service delivery for drinking and domestic use continue to be among the top priorities, while sanitation and hygiene services are emerging as critical priorities to maintain individual and community health and well-being. UNICEF and partners have been working tirelessly to deliver critical WASH services and supplies to the affected populations. Across the affected areas, using prepositioned supplies, water purification chemical including flocculant and tablets have been distributed to meet the needs of over 300,000 people for 30 days at 7.5 litre per day. Over 45,000-gallon domestic use water has

been distributed to 26,165 people in the affected townships. 79,750 people have already received lifesaving WASH supplies including water purification tablets, hygiene kits, water storage containers, tarpaulins and ropes. Additionally, fifty community water filters have been deployed in the healthcare centres. The UNICEF teams deployed on the ground have made rapid assessment of the need at the healthcare facilities and temporary centres. This is feeding into the intervention design to intervention to improve WASH services for patients and caregivers. Emergency sanitation options are being rolled out in the temporary camp sites and community centres.

## Health and Nutrition

To date, UNICEF has distributed approximately 250 Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHKs), 4,000 clean delivery kits, and 6,000 community newborn kits, aiming to assist over 200,000 people within the next three months. Additional supplies have been deployed to support around 30,000 children under the age of five with essential nutrition interventions, including multiple micronutrient supplementation, Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), case management for severe and acute malnutrition, and the provision of child feeding bowls. UNICEF and its partners on the ground continue to deliver vital healthcare services to affected populations in the Sagaing and Mandalay Regions through mobile clinics and temporary emergency health facilities. Direct distribution of newborn and clean delivery kits to pregnant women and newborns is ongoing.

## 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 partners in Southern Shan provided child protection 788 child protection kits benefitted 356 boys and 432 girls affected by recent earthquake in Nyaung Shwe and Pin Laung townships. UNICEF child protection supplies, including MHPSS materials, are on the way to Mandalay for distribution to earthquake affected children in Mandalay and Sagaing.

In Mandalay, given the concern about the situation and wellbeing of over 650 children in detention centres, UNICEF partners are providing psychosocial support including PFA. In addition, UNICEF and partners are trying to reunify separated and unaccompanied children with their parents and caregivers. Legal aid service providers are supporting family tracing and assessment for children approved for family reunification alongside to obtain legal documents for children whose documents have been lost or damaged.

UNICEF is developing key messages on child protection for dissemination through stickers (with QR code) on the key supply items, including child protection kits, dignity kits, health kits and education kits that are being sent out to earthquake affected areas.

## Education

As a Cluster Lead Agency for the Education Cluster, UNICEF is leading and collaborating with the national and sub-national Education Clusters, along with key partners, to assess the extent of damage to educational infrastructure in the most-affected areas. Assessment to date reveals significant damage to both public and monastic schools, and temporary learning centres.

In response, UNICEF is preparing to support affected children with individual Essential Learning Packages (ELP kits), which include notebooks and basic stationery items. Additionally, roofing sheets, teaching and learning materials and recreation kits are being sourced from prepositioned stocks and items on order. Plans are also underway to rehabilitate temporary learning centres that have been destroyed or damaged. Further, the overwhelming stress and fear experienced by children highlights the critical and immediate need for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), to ensure they feel safe and have invaluable opportunities to play, socialize, learn, and simply be children. This will be closely coordinated with the Child Protection programme and cluster partners. All education response

activities will be undertaken in full coordination with the Education Cluster and education sector partners to ensure a unified and effective response.

### **Social Protection and Cash**

UNICEF is scaling up multi-purpose cash assistance for families affected by the earthquake, in partnership with local organisations. The initial response aims to reach around 38,075 people, with a focus on vulnerable households with children in Mandalay, Sagaing, Nay Pyi Taw and southern Shan—including families with children and persons with disabilities. To date, over 1,100 households have received cash transfers in the earthquake affected areas, benefiting around 5,500 children and adults in total. UNICEF is coordinating with the Cash Working Group and partners to align targeting and delivery.

Some initial findings from the rapid phone-based needs assessment of 433 households with persons with disabilities provide insights into the situation and special needs of persons and children with disabilities: some 76 percent of people suffer from lack of electricity and 64 percent have damage to their homes. After the earthquake, 40 percent of the respondents are living in their dwelling and about 30 percent are staying on the street. Some 66 percent of respondents feel safe in their location and most with accessible toilets. The top three urgent needs are cash assistance (76%), food access (39%) and water supply (35%). Special needs for persons and children with disabilities are: medical support (41%), hygiene products (37%), accessible information (24%), learning materials (19%), assistive devices (18%) and incontinence products (14%). Those who have received assistance so far were supported by the community followed by civil society organizations. Some 26% of households cannot reach health services due to high transport costs (29%), overcrowded facilities (24%) and roadblocks (22%).

### **Social and Behaviour Change**

UNICEF is expanding dissemination of lifesaving information to affected populations through partnership with local radio stations, community outreaches and risk communication and community engagement network group. The messaging emphasized personal safety in the event of aftershocks, identification of safe shelters, coping with trauma for both adults and children, process for locating separated family members, and the importance of seeking reliable sources of information to mitigate unnecessary anxiety and confusion. The key messages are further disseminated through social media platforms, which compliments the media monitoring on the online conversation on people's views after the earthquake. The social media monitoring has generated useful insights which has helped to refocus the risk communication interventions. Through community water distribution to the affected population, UNICEF concurrently conducted community dialogue on the 'four cleans' (water, food, hand and toilet clean), use of chlorine tabs and actions after the earthquake with more than 5,233 households in affected communities in Nay Pyi Taw surrounding townships.

As the situation evolves, messages to address health risks such as AWD in the overcrowded makeshift areas, snake bites, and gender-based violence are being emphasized. The messaging will further be reinforced with targeted SMS/interactive voice response (ivr) engaging at least 9,500 individuals to maximize reach and inclusivity across diverse demographics and device types in the earthquake affected areas. Key questions on the ongoing rapid needs assessment have been added to explore community perspective and preferences on the feedback mechanism. The findings will guide the establishment of the community feedback mechanism in the earthquake affected areas. Furthermore, UNICEF convened National Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Working group to discuss the response strategy and enhance coordination in RCCE response to the earthquake.

### **SUPPLY AND LOGISTICS**

In collaboration with partners, UNICEF is distributing supplies pre-positioned in the warehouse in Mandalay, including essential medicines, ORS, personal protective equipment, IEHK kits, AWD kits, community newborn kits, clean delivery kits, hygiene kits, water purification tablets, tarpaulins and buckets.

The first flight carrying 80 metric tonnes of life-saving supplies, funded by the European Union, landed in Yangon on 3 April. The supplies were received in UNICEF's warehouse in Yangon, and UNICEF is preparing to provide these supplies for children and communities affected by the earthquake. Additional supplies for Health, Nutrition, WASH, Education and Child Protection are being prepared in the central warehouses in Copenhagen and Dubai.

## 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. Cluster partners are distributing drinking water in Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw reaching nearly 17,000 people, hygiene kits have been distributed to 5,262 households. Hygiene kits were distributed in Sagaing accompanied with hygiene promotion.

The nutrition cluster partners are participating in inter-agency needs assessments in Sagaing, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw. The cluster is engaging with partners to guide appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) support and ensure adherence to Breast Milk Substitute (BMS) guidelines in emergencies. Additionally, coordination between WFP and other nutrition cluster partners is ongoing to facilitate the provision of food and nutrition supplies. The nutrition cluster has developed a list of prioritized nutrition activities for earthquake and similar emergencies to streamline response efforts. Partners are distributing basic food baskets, and water, and also leading response efforts across 15 locations in southeast regions. Partners plan to conduct mass mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening, provide multiple micronutrient powder and multiple micronutrient tablets and enable integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) services in southeast regions.

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. 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. CP AoR is working with partners to ensure key resources are developed and shared, building on other earthquake experiences, as well as inhouse capacity.

The Mine Action AoR has finalised the standardized EORE messages in both English and Myanmar and shared with AoR partners, child-friendly mine safety messages, and earthquake-specific safety messages outlining the dangers of explosive ordnance following an earthquake. Child friendly EORE one-pager was shared with both MA AoR and CP AoR partners. Partners are engaging in victim assistance but prioritizing MHPSS as well as cross-sectoral activities. Earthquake specific EORE messages finalized and shared with partners.

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. The cluster partners conducted assessment in Nyaung Shwe township, one of the worst-affected areas in southern Shan state. Initial reports indicate that seven schools sustained 50 per cent or more damage in each village. Some displaced families are temporarily sheltering on their boats due to lack of accommodation. Other partners are planning to conduct assessment for structural integrity of affected schools before resuming activities. Based on reports from partners, restoration and rehabilitation of learning spaces for children who lost their schools, and Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) centres are a priority.

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/first-unicef-flight-lands-yangon-carrying-vital-supplies-children-and-families>

### Selected social media:

<https://x.com/UNICEFMyanmar/status/1908098623977791686>

<https://x.com/UNICEFMyanmar/status/1908043867431252077>

[https://x.com/UNICEF\\_EAPRO/status/1907794383833121053](https://x.com/UNICEF_EAPRO/status/1907794383833121053)

[https://x.com/UNICEF\\_EAPRO/status/1907794588309532898](https://x.com/UNICEF_EAPRO/status/1907794588309532898)

<https://x.com/UNICEFSupply/status/1907775630034292814>

<https://x.com/UNICEFMyanmar/status/1907768716022128912>

<https://x.com/UNICEFMyanmar/status/1907693546393710725>

<https://x.com/UNICEFMyanmar/status/1907691710999834780>

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