



Myanmar Earthquake

ONE-MONTH IMPACT REPORT

March - April 2025

Overview

On 28 March, a powerful 7.7 magnitude earthquake followed by a strong aftershock of 6.7 magnitude struck central Myanmar, causing severe loss of life and widespread destruction, reducing homes and civilian infrastructure to rubble.

The epicentre was located close to Sagaing and Mandalay, areas with a significant population of internally displaced people, affecting both regions as well as Nay Pyi Taw, Bago and the southern Shan State.

Some 6.3 million people are expected to be in need of assistance in worst affected areas. Some 2.1 million people who were previously internally displaced by conflict now find themselves more vulnerable by this disaster. By 23 April, the death toll had surpassed 3,700, with over 5,100 people injured and around 115 missing.

This catastrophe compounds an already dire humanitarian crisis, deepening the hardships faced by both displaced and local communities in areas where humanitarian access remains severely restricted.



Devastation and destruction are visible in the aftermath of the 7.7 magnitude earthquake that struck near Mandalay, Myanmar, on 28 March 2025. © UNHCR

UNHCR response



58,000 people
reached with
emergency relief
items



60,000 people
assessed for
assistance



>7,500 people
received shelter
assistance

Protection

The impacts of the earthquake increased the vulnerability of people who were already displaced by the ongoing conflict. In the wake of disasters, women, children and people with disabilities are at increased risk of experiencing violence. They may also miss out on emergency aid distribution, if specific efforts are not made to ensure these vulnerable groups can access them.

UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency deployed immediately after the earthquake to reach out to affected communities. Together with partners, we assessed the needs of over 60,000 individuals affected by the earthquake, planning timely and appropriate assistance. UNHCR continues to reach out to more people to assess their needs and provide assistance.

To ensure that vulnerable people could access up to date, accurate information including on how to share suggestions and complaints, UNHCR distributed leaflets in Burmese as well as shared information online on the Help Website. Specific leaflets were produced outlining how personal data is processed, emphasises that all services are free of charge, and provides contact details of helplines and complaint channels, including for reporting misconduct.

Together with other humanitarian partners, UNHCR continues to advocate for unimpeded humanitarian access to ensure assistance reaches communities in need.

Shelter

The UN estimates that around 55,000 houses were damaged or destroyed in the earthquake, leaving many without shelter and vulnerable to the elements ahead of the upcoming monsoon season. UNHCR has supplied shelter materials to

earthquake-affected communities, enabling them to repair damaged homes or construct temporary shelters. So far, 1,653 families, totalling 7,583 individuals, have benefited from this assistance.

Relief items and multi-purpose assistance

Immediately following the earthquake, UNHCR mobilized pre-positioned supplies from Yangon to assist approximately 25,000 earthquake survivors in the Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw areas. These relief items included tarpaulins, sleeping mats, blankets, kitchen sets and mosquito nets.

As of 28 April, UNHCR has provided essential assistance, including core relief items (CRIs) and multi-purpose assistance, to almost 58,000 people across all earthquake-affected regions. This assistance includes essential items such as blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, plastic tarpaulins, kitchen sets, solar lamps, shelter kits. This assistance offers immediate relief to those struggling to retrieve household

belongings from damaged homes and who are currently residing in temporary shelters, often in open-air conditions. Two airlifts with additional humanitarian supplies landed in Yangon on 15 April and 27 April, carrying essential items such as kitchen sets, tarpaulins, and solar lamps. Another airlift and some additional shipments by sea are planned.

To assess how core relief items and emergency shelter materials have supported families, and to gather recipients' feedback and identify any additional needs, post-distribution monitoring has begun in Sagaing and will be expanded to other regions.

Coordination

In Myanmar, UNHCR works under the leadership of the Office of the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, collaborating closely with UN agencies, international and local NGOs, and other humanitarian and development partners. UNHCR also maintains strong partnerships with grassroots community-based organizations to deliver humanitarian and protection assistance.

UNHCR co-leads the Protection Cluster with the Norwegian Refugee Council, while the Shelter/ Non-Food Item (NFI) and Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster is co-led with the International Federation of the Red Cross and the International Organization for Migration, respectively. This coordination model ensures that needs assessments, data collection

and the delivery of services are carried out in a unified manner, ensuring the broadest number of displaced and stateless people are provided with life-saving aid and can access protection services, reducing overlap and identifying gaps.

Flexible funding is especially important not only for our emergency response but also for longer-term support we provide to displaced people and their host communities. When emergencies fade from the spotlight, flexible funding enables us to help those who are suffering most.

By investing in flexible funding, donors enhance efficiency, predictability, and long-term solutions for millions affected by displacement.

Ongoing Needs

Millions of people were already living in precarious situations prior to the earthquake, having lost their homes, loved ones, and properties. The earthquake has further strained these individuals, with some losing their homes once more. With the rainy season approaching, it is urgent for earthquake affected families to be sheltered in weather-proof structures.

Ongoing conflict and displacement have increased the vulnerability of displaced people, most particularly women and children, the elderly and people with disabilities. UNHCR and partners need increased support to continue assessments

and ensure that these vulnerable groups have access to protection services, mental health and psychosocial support and receive referral to specialist services.

Information gathered via the Shelter/NFI and CCCM Cluster shows that 32 out of 58 townships affected by the earthquake have not yet received CRIs, and 44 out of 58 have not received shelter assistance. More financial support is urgently needed to help UNHCR and partners bridge these gaps, and deliver life-saving aid to those in most urgent need.



A woman and her son, injured by the earthquake, stand in the school grounds where the family is sheltering. Two years ago, they were forced to flee the conflict in their hometown, arriving in Mandalay to rebuild their lives. Now, after the earthquake, they have lost everything for a second time. © UNHCR

Donor acknowledgement

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by the following donors to its Myanmar earthquake emergency response. Donors that contributed \$100,000 or above:

Denmark | European Union | Ireland | Sweden | United States of America | Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) | Adidas AG | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe

UNHCR also extends its sincere appreciation to donors who have contributed softly earmarked and unearmarked funding to UNHCR's operations in the region and globally, enabling a flexible and timely response:

Australia | Belgium | Denmark | Germany | Ireland | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) | Norway | Republic of Korea | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | España con ACNUR

Flexible funding

Flexible funds help UNHCR to prepare for the unpredictable, to kick-start an emergency response, and to help displaced people in forgotten or under-resourced crises. They also enable UNHCR to plan and manage resources efficiently and effectively to help save and transform lives.

Without flexible funding, we would not be able to properly prepare for any new emergency that may arise. Without flexible funding, the first phase of our emergency response, which delivers thousands of emergency supplies, essential shelter and protection assistance to families in need, would struggle to get off the ground.

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Photo: UNHCR

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Cover image: UNHCR delivers emergency relief items to earthquake-affected people in Chan Thar Kone shelter for internally displaced people (IDPs), who are now sleeping on the ground in the church compound, after the building they were sheltering in collapsed in the earthquake. © UNHCR