

Myanmar Earthquake Rapid Assessment

IMPACT, NEEDS, RESPONSE, AND CONFLICT

APRIL 3, 2025



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Executive Summary

The 28 March earthquake, with its epicenter ~16 km west of Mandalay city in Sagaing Township, was the largest earthquake in Myanmar in more than 100 years. There is large-scale destruction in Mandalay and Sagaing regions, and throughout Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. Mandalay city, Sagaing town, and Nay Pyi Taw town have been particularly affected. The death toll has already surpassed 2,700 people, and is expected to grow considerably. It is the worst natural disaster in Myanmar since the 2021 military coup, already surpassing Cyclone Mocha in 2023 and the severe flooding of Typhoon Yagi in 2024.

Complicating any international response to the earthquake is the ongoing political situation and associated access constraints. The earthquake comes at a time of considerable upheaval in Myanmar, as the country is engaged in the most violent conflict in its modern history. Since 2021, nearly every state and region of Myanmar has been impacted by conflict. There are more than 3 million IDPs in Myanmar; the earthquake-affected Sagaing Region alone hosts more than 1.2 million IDPs. A collection of longstanding Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs), alongside newly created Peoples Defence Forces (PDFs), are now in full control of large parts of the country. For its part, the State Administration Council (SAC) – Myanmar’s post-coup military government – has regularly and systematically restricted physical access to the large parts of the country outside its control (and even in many locations within its control). Thus, prior to the earthquake, the majority of the international aid response in much of the country was implemented primarily in partnership with local CSOs and NGOs, many of which are considered illegal entities by the SAC.

This report is an attempt to conduct an initial assessment of the situation in Myanmar immediately following the earthquakes, focusing on impact, aid response implications, and the wider context of the conflict. This report is jointly produced by the Center for Operational Analysis and Research (COAR), an aid-sector focused research and analysis consultancy which has worked in Myanmar for over five years; and Premise, a technology company focused on global crowd-sourced information gathering and real-time data collection. COAR and Premise have partnered to conduct surveys assessing the post-earthquake situation, using the Premise application and its associated users in Myanmar. Detailed information on the Premise application and on the data collected in this report is found in the methodology section below. If you would like access to the full raw dataset, please email idev@premise.com to request it.

We hope that our readers in the international aid response for Myanmar find this assessment useful in their work responding to the severe and growing needs across the country.

Background

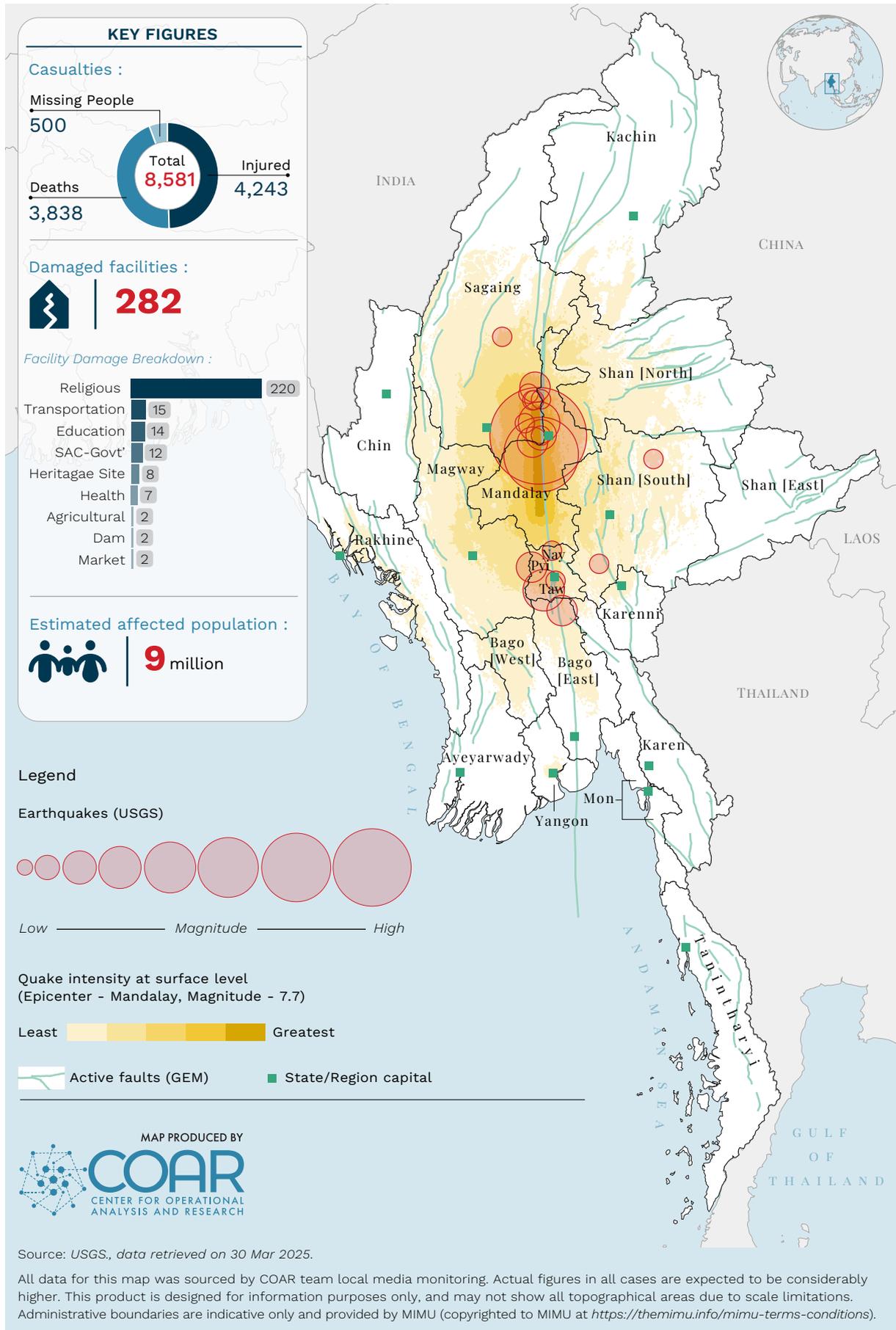
On 28 March, at approximately 12:50pm local time, a 7.7 magnitude earthquake shook central Myanmar. This was followed by more than 100 other quakes, with some of these aftershocks nearing a similar magnitude. The initial quake, northwest of Mandalay city in Sagaing Region, was the largest seismic event since the modern state of Myanmar was formed; the last earthquake of comparable size in Myanmar took place in 1948, and there had not been a larger one since 1912. The earthquakes took place along the Sagaing Fault, running approximately north-south through the middle of Myanmar; physical impacts were thus felt strongest in southeast Sagaing Region, central Mandalay Region, and central Bago Region, as well as in other parts of Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway, and Bago regions, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, and western Shan State.

On 29 March, the SAC declared a state of emergency in six areas: Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory; Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway, and Bago regions; and Shan State. The 'official' SAC estimates of deaths, injuries, and people missing have been continuously updated but remain far lower than estimates from independent media and other sources such as the opposition National Unity Government (NUG), as well as projections from [USGS](#), which estimate that the death toll may have exceeded 10,000. As of April 2, the SAC reported that 2,719 people had been found dead, with 4,521 others injured and 441 missing.

The earthquakes struck amid fighting that has persisted since 1 February 2021, when the Myanmar military junta staged the coup against the recently elected civilian government. Since then much of the country has seen persistent conflict, as well as major shifts in territorial control; the SAC has lost large swathes of Rakhine, Northern Shan, Chin, Karen, Karenni, and Kachin states, and its physical presence and control in much of the country has been reduced to urban areas and major road networks. While it retains control of all of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory and most of the area around Mandalay city, much of northern Mandalay Region is now controlled by various resistance actors. In neighbouring Sagaing Region, where some of the earthquakes' strongest impacts were felt, most urban areas are controlled by the SAC, but the rural areas outside of these towns are openly administrated by or have the presence of resistance actors, and clashes and airstrikes are a daily occurrence.

As a consequence of the nationwide fighting since 2021, humanitarian needs were already extremely high when the earthquake struck. As of 24 March (days before the earthquake), UNHCR [estimated](#) there to be 3.3 million people internally displaced within Myanmar (as well as 144,800 displaced to neighbouring countries), including 1.2 million in Sagaing Region, 93,200 in Mandalay Region, and 256,900 in Magway Region. Response infrastructure varies from location to location. In most parts of the country, due to the widespread illegalization of aid activities and severe access restrictions posed by the SAC, the primary access modality is international response organisations programming in partnership with local CSO and NGO partners; this is often done with the approval and facilitation of EAOs that are in conflict with the SAC. In parts of the country controlled by the SAC, international organisations and the UN based in Yangon directly implement activities, but even in areas nominally controlled by the SAC access is challenging to negotiate and secure, and remains highly limited. Accordingly, in the parts of Myanmar where the strongest impacts of the earthquakes were felt, response activities before the quakes were a mix of directly implemented UN and INGO activities and remote/partnership programming through local NGOs, religious *parahita* organisations, and community-level support systems. Of note, the majority of this support has taken place in rural areas, rather than the densely-populated urban areas where the highest number of people have been immediately affected in the past few days.

Earthquake Impact - Myanmar, 28 - 30 March 2025



Methodology

Data Collection and Quality Control

The data in this report is primarily drawn from Premise’s mobile data collection application. The sample for the survey is composed of Premise “Contributors,” who are individuals that download the Premise app and can complete the survey on their smartphone. Once Contributors hear about Premise and download the app, they create a Premise account using an email and are onboarded through automated surveys. The sample population only includes adults 18 years of age and older. Once they have completed this process they are able to complete tasks within the Premise marketplace. Contributors are rewarded with a small monetary incentive for completion of a task. This incentive is based on the survey task and the local currency and market and is communicated to the user upfront to incentivize completion of the survey. Upon earning enough to cash out, Contributors will link a payment method and are able to cash out their earnings. Contributors are always paid upon completion of the survey unless they have been flagged as a fraudulent user.

Premise utilizes multi-layer quality control and fraud prevention detection to ensure the highest possible levels of data quality. Different submission review protocols are implemented based on the type of information being collected from the Contributor. For example, responses are subject to an Automated Quality Control process that will search each submission for GPS emulators and mock GPS, appropriate time spent on tasks, button smashing, and multiple accounts on a single device. If a user is found to be in violation of Premise’s Terms of Service their account is suspended and their submission data is removed from relevant data sets.

COAR has supplemented this survey collection using its own network of community listeners and key informants in Myanmar. COAR maintains a network of ~180 community listeners throughout Myanmar. These community listeners were consulted to contextualize local dynamics, provide qualitative insight, and triangulate incidents and events. COAR analysts then used this qualitative data to contextualize the data in the surveys collected by Premise.

Demographics and Respondent Profile

For this report, 393 surveys were collected from across Myanmar between 29 March and 1 April 2025.

Table 1: Responses per state/region

State/ Region	Respondent Total
Mon State	20
Shan State	27
Yangon Region	117
Mandalay Region	69
Sagaing Region	27
Magway Region	45
Nay Pyi Taw	2
Tanintharyi Region	7
Karen State	5
Bago Region	38
Ayeyarwady Region	36

Figure 1: Respondent gender

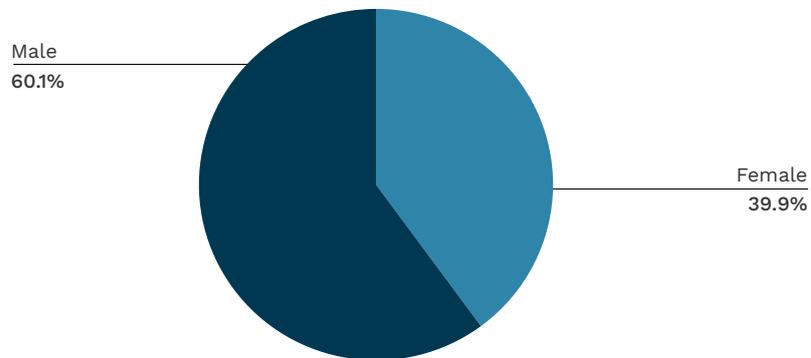


Figure 2: Respondent monthly income

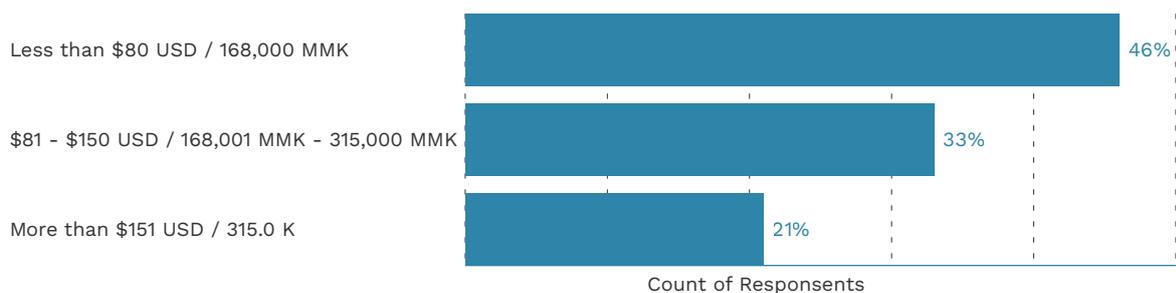
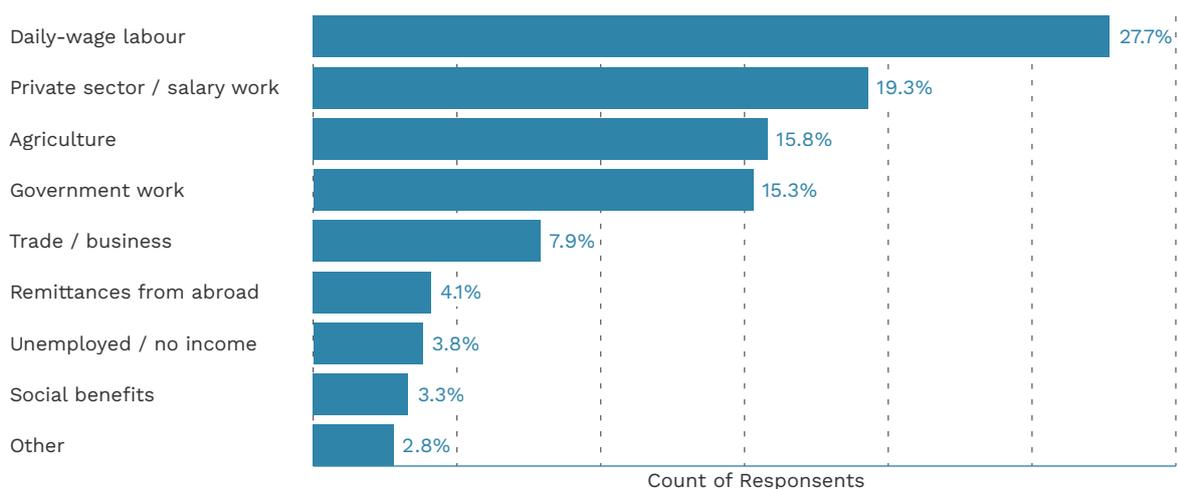
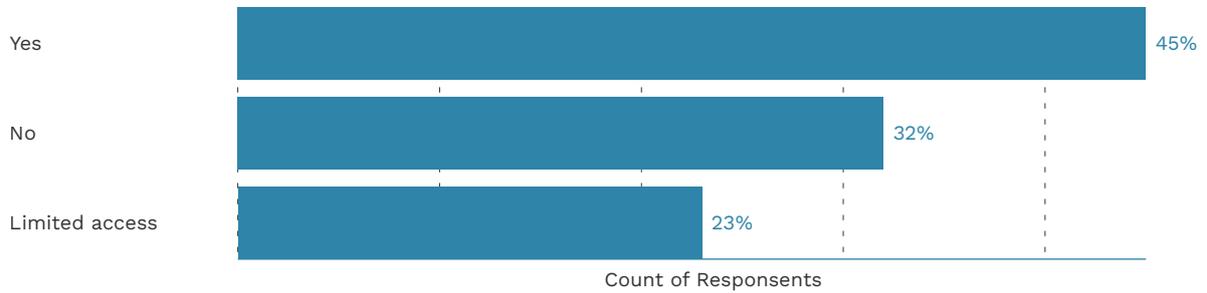


Figure 3: Respondent income source



Two items are of note. The first is that the collection very much reflects the realities of internet access in Myanmar. No responses were collected in Rakhine State, and few were collected in southeast Myanmar and upper Sagaing Region. All of these areas have faced severe internet restrictions for several years. Shockingly, 55% of respondents to the Premise survey – which was conducted using the internet – said they had limited or no reliable internet access.

Figure 4: Reported access to reliable internet sources



The second item of note is that only two responses were collected in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. It is unclear why this is the case, as Nay Pyi Taw has normally had regular internet access. One possible reason for this is that Nay Pyi Taw's internet access since the earthquake has been impacted; local sources do indicate that internet access is currently limited or operating at very slow speeds due to damage in the town. Another is that individuals in Nay Pyi Taw — a highly securitized city — may be more reluctant to use phone applications like Premise.



Mandalay region.

Immediate Impacts

Human and Physical Toll

Media reports and local sources have made it clear that there has been major physical damage in central Myanmar; as seen below, this is corroborated by the data collected by Premise. The Shelter/Non-food Items (NFI) Cluster [estimates](#) that over 50,000 people have been affected. The World Health Organization said more than 10,000 buildings overall had collapsed or been severely damaged by the quake. However, it must be noted that assessing precise impacts still remains extremely challenging. In many parts of the country, SAC-imposed internet blackouts remain in place, though Starlink and other alternatives are operational in some locations. Even in parts of central Myanmar where SAC control is stronger, where fewer alternative internet services had been established prior to the earthquake, the earthquake damaged phone and internet lines. That said, it is clear that the three most affected areas are Mandalay Region, Sagaing Region, and Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory.

Mandalay Region and Mandalay city, Myanmar's second-largest urban area, is severely impacted. Many residential buildings (more than 400, according to one local responder) have been damaged, and numerous larger structures — such as the Mandalay Sky Villa condominium and the [Great Wall Hotel](#) — collapsed, leading to deaths, injuries, displacement, and ongoing rescue efforts. Cultural landmarks such as the [Mandalay Palace](#) were also damaged, as well as at [more than 60](#) other culturally or religiously significant locations around Mandalay Region. The quakes also gave way to fires in at least four locations, including one at [Mandalay University](#) that reportedly killed five people and destroyed 400,000 exam papers from the 2025 matriculation exams. Damage to Obo Prison reportedly [killed](#) at least 12 people. In Amarapura Township (next to the city), nearly 200 people were reportedly [killed](#) in a single village. Severe damage was also reported in [Kyaukse](#), [Tada-U](#), [Meiktila](#), [Yamethin](#), and [Pyawbwe](#) towns; on 29 March a local fire chief [reported](#) that [fires](#) were ongoing in seven townships. In Kyaukse Township alone, one response organization reported on 30 March that there had been 100 fatalities and over 1,000 people injured. As of 2020, there were estimated to be 1.8 million people in Mandalay city and 6.1 million people in [Mandalay Region](#), and it is likely that every populated area in Mandalay Region has been impacted to some degree.

The full extent of the damage in Sagaing Region is still unclear, as much of the region lacks regular internet access. However, the epicentre of the earthquake was in Sagaing Region, and most populated areas of Sagaing Region should be expected to have severe damage and casualties. In Sagaing town, over a thousand people have reportedly been [killed](#), and around 700 bodies had been recovered as of the time of writing. Hundreds of [children](#) were reportedly trapped in the collapsed Laykyunmyay Brick Monastery, and many other people have died in building collapses around Sagaing town; residents [reported](#) that the town was filled with the smell of decaying bodies, as there has reportedly been little progress in clearing the rubble. Over 30 students and an unknown number of teachers were trapped inside the Myatsaytana private kindergarten, and rescue teams said that they are unable to enter the building as they lacked proper safety equipment. Another 30 children were trapped inside the Thukhakari Monastery, and another 30 at the Min Ku Wai School. The old [Ava bridge](#) linking Mandalay and Sagaing regions was also destroyed, and the newer bridge was partially damaged. Houses, bridges, religious buildings, and roads were also damaged in [Sagaing Township](#) and throughout Sagaing Region.

The surveys conducted for this assessment corroborate these reports and suggest that damage has been widespread across Mandalay and Sagaing regions and beyond. Just under one third (29%) of respondents in Mandalay Region reported damage to homes in their communities; of these, 42% reported destruction

involving walls or roofs, while another 41% reported at least some damage to homes. One third (33%) reported their homes were not safe to sleep in, though roughly 29% of these individuals reported they would be staying in their homes despite the safety risk; others reported staying in monasteries, temporary relief accommodations, or with friends and family. Respondents in Sagaing Region appeared to be less — though still significantly — affected, with 30% reporting severe damage to their homes and 22% reporting milder internal damage.

Table 2: Mandalay, Magway, Sagaing Regions; Other States/Regions (% of total respondents reporting damage)

Community Damage Report	Magway	Mandalay	Sagaing	Other States/Regions
Damage to health facility / hospital	8%	33%	6%	53%
Damage to monastery	6%	34%	6%	55%
Damage to school / education centre	7%	39%	5%	49%
Food store damage	8%	39%	8%	45%
Home damage / destruction (walls, floor, doors)	8%	29%	7%	57%
Loss of electricity or internet access	14%	19%	8%	58%
Loss of life	6%	30%	7%	57%
Loss of valuables	8%	35%	7%	50%
Market damage or destruction	4%	44%	4%	48%
None of the above	6%	6%	9%	79%
Other	2%	20%	5%	73%
Plumbing or pipes damage (water or sewage)	13%	28%	5%	55%
Road closure or damage	6%	36%	8%	51%
Vehicle damage	6%	40%	6%	47%

The national capital of Nay Pyi Taw has also been severely impacted. Many government housing quarters have reportedly been damaged and rendered unsafe for habitation, residential buildings and religious facilities have collapsed, fires were ongoing days after the initial quake, and hospitals are reportedly overloaded. More than 100 people have been reported killed in Nay Pyi Taw town alone, although actual numbers are expected to be much higher. On 31 March it was [reported](#) that key government buildings in Nay Pyi Taw — including the presidential palace, military offices, and ministries — were destroyed, forcing top SAC leaders Min Aung Hlaing and Soe Win to hold meetings in makeshift locations. The military's Nay Pyi Taw Regional Military Command (RMC) and the [parliament](#) building were damaged. Moreover, the [Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw Highway](#) — which links the capital to Mandalay and Yangon — is severely damaged in several locations, further complicating transportation, assistance efforts, and market dynamics. The airport was shut down, and the collapse of a flight control tower there killed five people. In Pinyinana town, there were 106 fatalities and 354 injuries recorded as of 30 March.

Shan State and Bago Region were also seriously impacted. The most affected locations of Shan State, thus far, appear to be in the southern part of the state. One of the deadliest incidents reported so far was in Nyaungshwe Township's Nampan town, where 36 people were [reportedly](#) killed, another 25 people reportedly died in the township's Nan Pan village, and the Paunglaung Dam appeared to be damaged. The hardest-hit areas are completely without electricity, with only [MPT phone lines](#) reported to be working, complicating efforts to make a more in-depth assessment at this time. Late on 30 March rescue workers [reported](#) that 89 people had died in the Inle region of Nyaungshwe Township, and in one village around Inle Lake, 818 of 1,057 houses collapsed. In Bago Region, damage was reported in [Taungoo](#) and [Phyu](#) townships.

Premise survey data in parts of southern Shan State includes reports of both mild internal damage to homes and more severe damage involving the destruction of walls or roofs. Multiple respondents reported that their homes were not safe to sleep in, and that they were staying with relatives, friends, or in rented accommodations. One report from Taunggyi Township noted civilian deaths. Nonetheless, all survey respondents in southern Shan State reported that nearby healthcare facilities were still functional, and half reported that either they or someone they knew had been able to visit nearby healthcare facilities following the earthquake.



Mandalay region.

In some parts of Myanmar, there has not been major reported damage or casualties as of yet. Sources from Karenni State reported that [fresh water sources](#) have become unusable near IDP sites, and that a massive [sinkhole](#) continued to expand. Farther south, the Karen National Union [reported](#) that stupas, tombs, houses, and riverbanks collapsed. There has also been significant damage to transportation infrastructure, including in [Yangon](#) and along the old Yangon–Mandalay Highway and the newer one that runs through Nay Pyi Taw. On 30 March, local sources reported that the Yangon–Mandalay Highway was halted from 115 miles outside Mandalay, with large trucks unable to travel, that the Old Yangon–Mandalay Highway was still accessible with delays (~15hrs one way), and that Sagaing Region was inaccessible by road from Mandalay. [Internet and electricity](#) infrastructure has also been badly damaged, with the latter also impacting water pipes' functionality.

Again, surveys corroborate these findings, although even in less-affected areas damage is still a major concern. Respondents in parts of Myanmar farther from the epicenter of the earthquakes appeared to see still less physical destruction. Outside of Mandalay, Sagaing, Magway, and Nay Pyi Taw, 30% of respondents reported mild internal damage to homes resulting from the earthquake; 17% — primarily in parts of Ayeyarwady, Bago, Shan, and Yangon — reported more severe damage, including the destruction of walls or roofs.

Particular populations have reportedly been disproportionately impacted; this is especially true for Myanmar's Muslim community. The largest quake on Friday occurred while people were congregating and praying in mosques during Ramadan, leading to disproportionate high casualties among Muslims; approximately [50 mosques](#) were damaged just in Mandalay and Sagaing regions and Shan State, and 500-700 Muslims were reportedly [killed](#) in these circumstances. Previous bans on reconstruction of mosques were seen as part of why so many mosques collapsed; there are also concerns that the SAC may refuse to permit the reconstruction of damaged mosques, as was seen following communal riots in Mandalay and Sitwe in 2012.

Needs

Cash as Key Concern

Figure 5: Most Pressing Needs

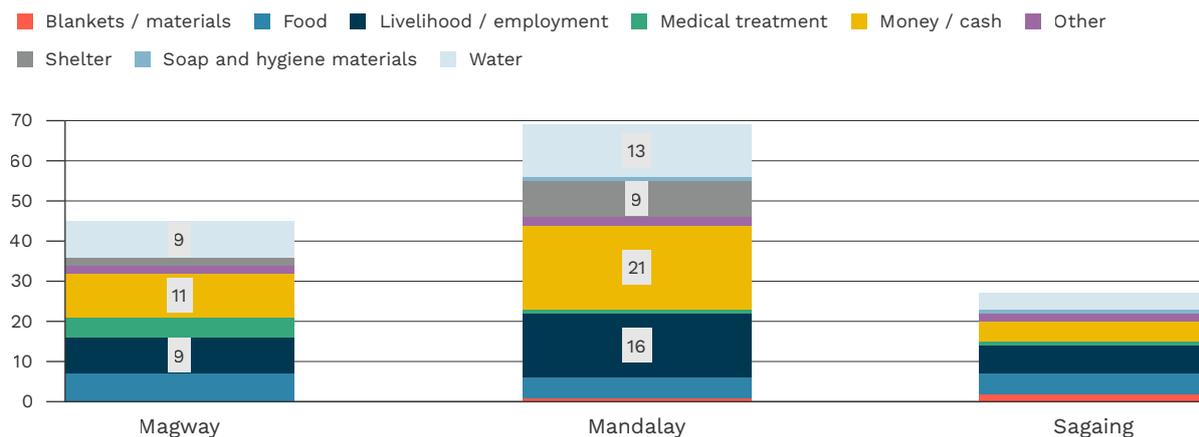
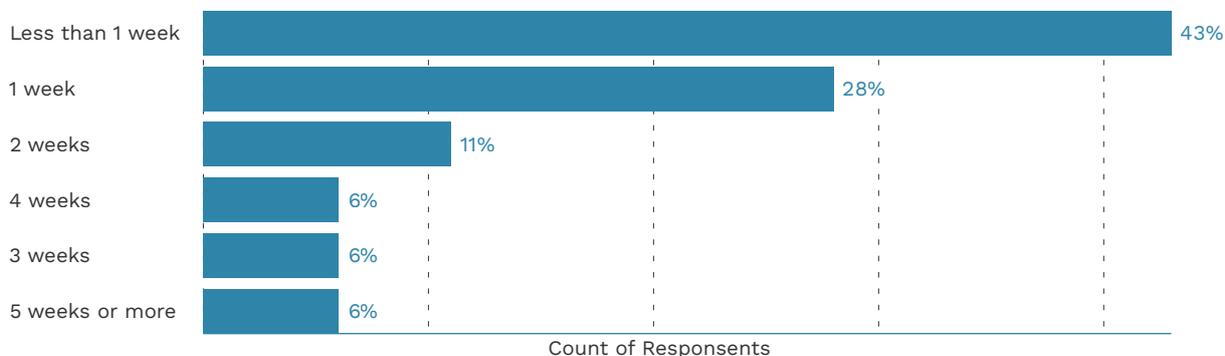


Figure 6: Duration of Savings Amounts (Sagaing, Magway, and Mandalay regions)



According to surveys collected by Premise, cash and livelihood support were identified as the most pressing needs by those in more severely impacted areas, including Sagaing, Magway, and Mandalay regions. Ultimately, cash emerged as the most pressing need in both Mandalay and Magway regions, reported by 30% and 24% of respondents, respectively. Livelihood support or employment was reported as the most pressing need in Sagaing Region, by 26% of respondents, and as the second-most pressing need in Mandalay Region, by 23% of respondents.

Critically: the vast majority (71% aggregate) of respondents in these three regions reported that their households' current cash amounts would be depleted within one week or less, potentially rendering them unable to purchase essential supplies in the very near future. While cash shortages were common before the earthquakes due to the economic situation in Myanmar, shortages of goods are likely to push prices upward at least in the short term, making this problem even more acute.

Food and Markets

Reports of damage to markets were high among respondents in Mandalay Region, even compared to Sagaing Region or Magway Region. Market damage or destruction was reported by 35% of all respondents in Mandalay Region, and an additional 22% said that food stores or markets in their area were not functioning. Almost half (46%) of all respondents in Mandalay, Sagaing, and Magway regions reported that the cost of food items was higher than normal following the earthquake, and again almost half (48%) reported that the availability of key food items was below normal.

Figure 7: Food Stores or Markets Open

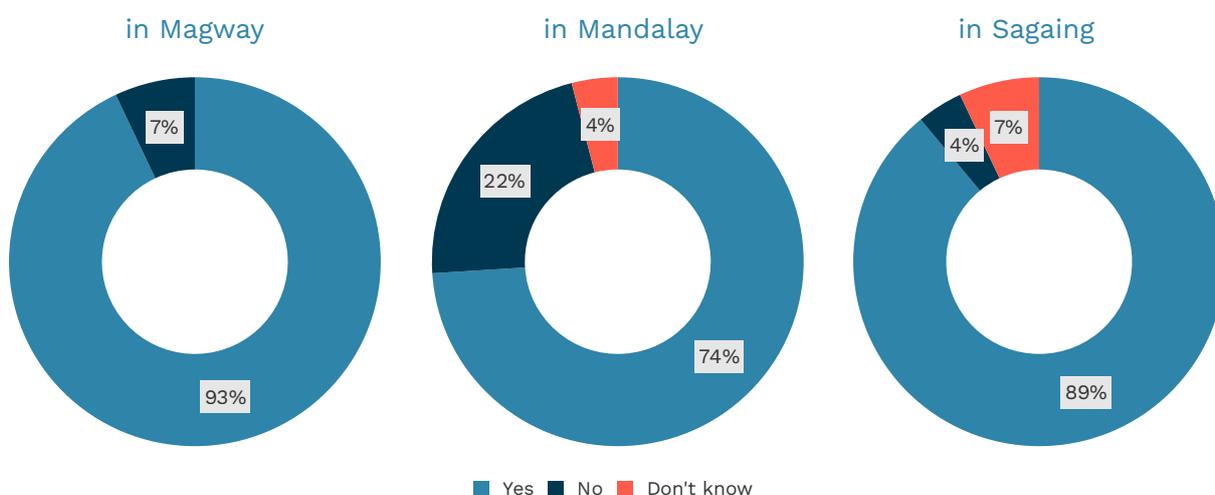
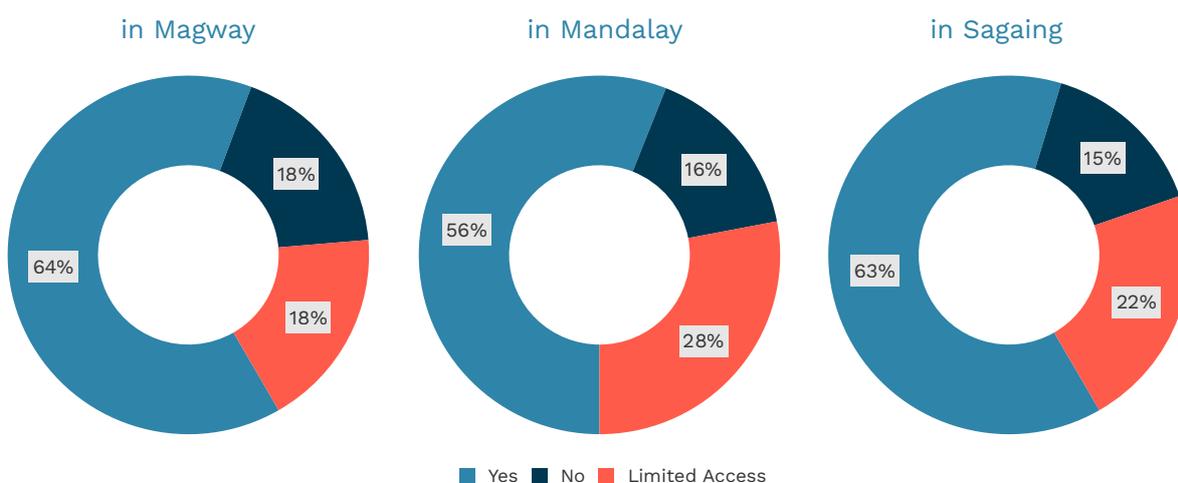
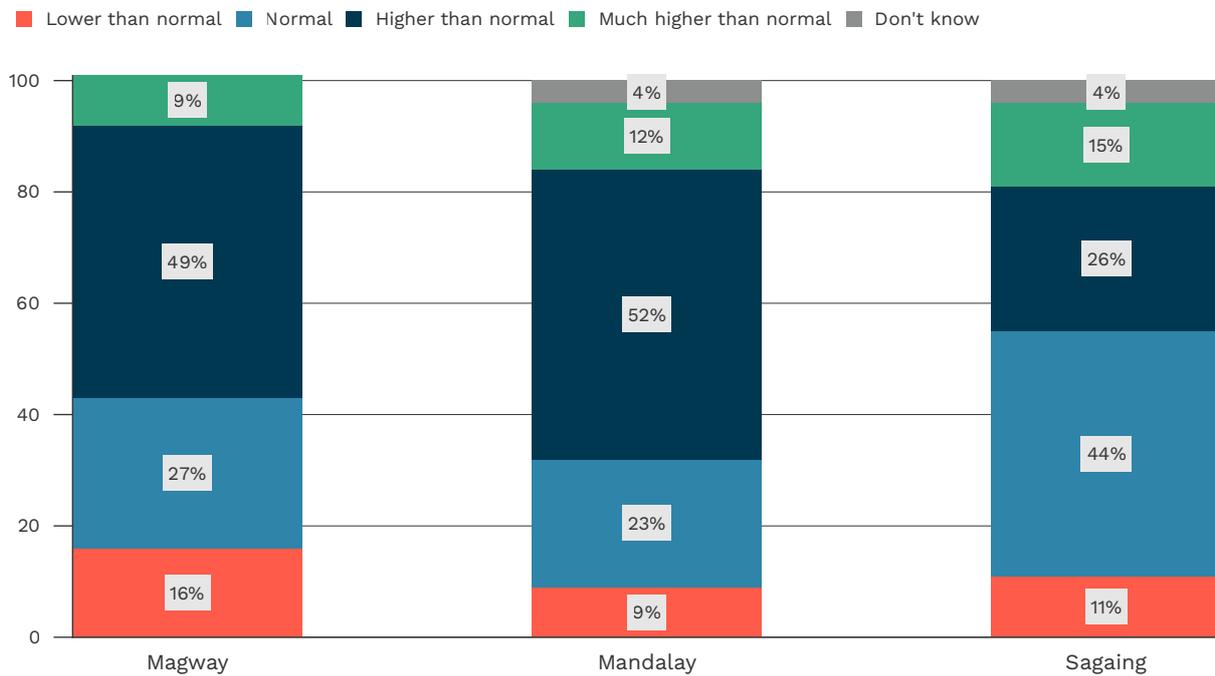


Figure 8: Household Food Access



In Mandalay Region specifically, more than half of respondents (52%) reported that the cost of key food items was higher than normal, and 16% reported that their households did not have adequate supplies of food. Nonetheless, the overwhelming majority (96%) of respondents in Mandalay Region reported that they had access to places to prepare food.

Figure 9: Cost of Food

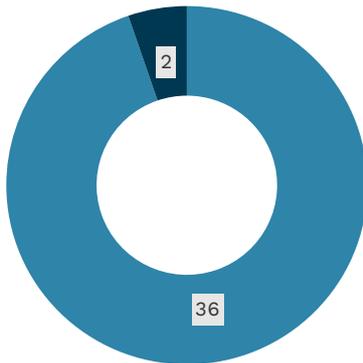


However, the highest number of respondents reporting food as a pressing need was in Sagaing Region, with 19% of respondents reporting this need among their households. This is not unexpected, as the humanitarian situation in Sagaing Region was already dire prior to the earthquake due to the ongoing conflict. Similarly, 15% of respondents in Sagaing Region reported that their households did not have adequate food supplies, and 7% reported that their households' stores of food had been damaged or lost as a result of the earthquake.

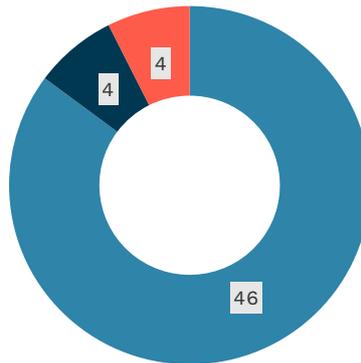
Healthcare and WASH

Figure 10: Access to Hygiene Supplies; Access to Sanitation Facilities; Access to Clean and Safe Drinking Water

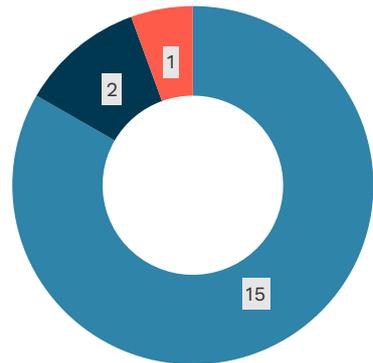
Hygiene Supplies Available in Magway



Hygiene Supplies Available in Mandalay

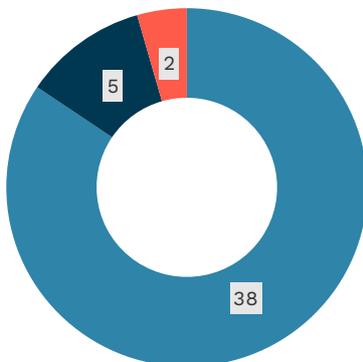


Hygiene Supplies Available in Sagaing

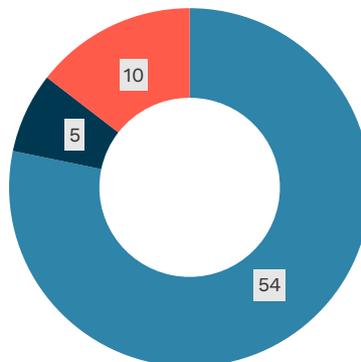


■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know

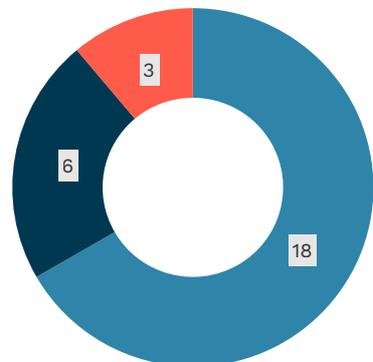
Access to Sanitation Facilities in Magway



Access to Sanitation Facilities in Mandalay

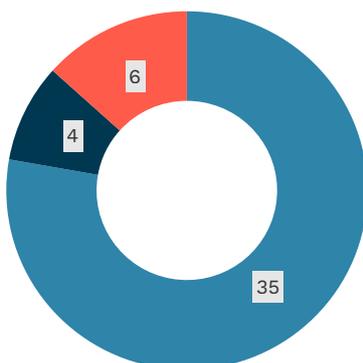


Access to Sanitation Facilities in Sagaing

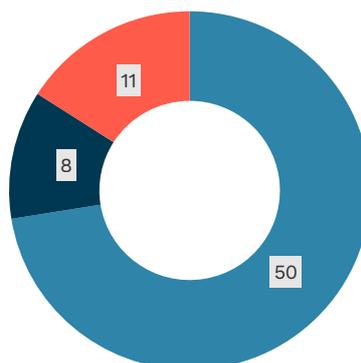


■ Yes ■ No ■ Limited access

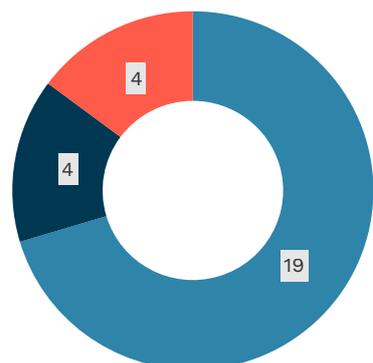
Access to Clean and Safe Drinking Water in Magway



Access to Clean and Safe Drinking Water in Mandalay



Access to Clean and Safe Drinking Water in Sagaing



■ Yes ■ No ■ Limited access

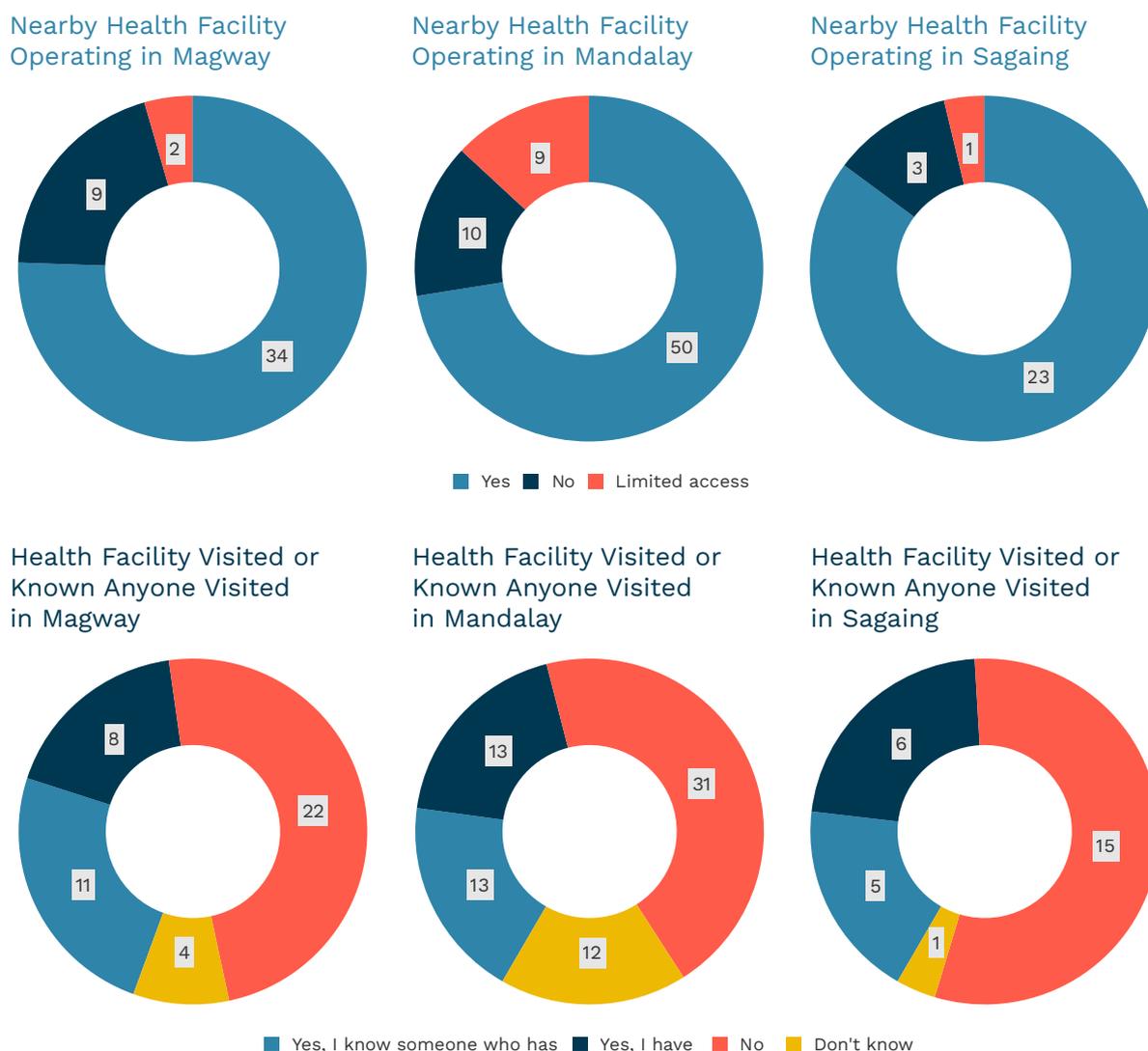
According to survey data, the highest percentage of respondents (20%) reporting water as a pressing need was in Magway Region, followed by Mandalay Region (19%) and Sagaing Region (15%).

In Mandalay Region, 21% of respondents reported having limited or no access to sanitation facilities, and 28% reported limited or no access to clean and safe drinking water. Similarly, in Magway Region, 22% of respondents reported they did not have access to clean and safe drinking water, although access to sanitation facilities was slightly better, with only 15% reporting little to no access. While only 15% of respondents in Sagaing Region reported that they lacked access to clean and safe drinking water, access to sanitation facilities was worse than in the other two regions, with 33% of respondents reporting they had limited or no access.

We will make arrangements to prevent water shortages due to power outages, a side effect of the earthquake. We will ask for help from many close friends.

-Minbu, Magway

Figure 11: Nearby Health Facilities Operating; Health Facilities Accessed



In Mandalay Region, 14% of respondents reported that the closest healthcare facility was not functional, and an additional 13% reported they did not know if the facility was operational or not. Nonetheless, roughly 40% reported that either they or someone they knew had been able to visit a nearby healthcare facility following the earthquake.

A fifth (20%) of respondents in Magway Region reported that the closest healthcare facility was not functional, and 11% in Sagaing Region said so. In both regions, it is unclear whether this is entirely an impact of the earthquake, given that healthcare systems were already [critically](#) under-resourced or nonfunctional. Of note, access to medications is likely to be particularly problematic in these places, as many medications that do reach these areas are reportedly sourced from Mandalay.



Mandalay region.

Response

Many governments in east and southeast Asia, and farther afield, have sent response teams and/or materials. [China](#), [Russia](#), [India](#), [Thailand](#), and [Vietnam](#) have sent response teams and materials, for example, and many other governments have pledged financial assistance in response to the situation. Notably, the SAC [rebuked](#) Taiwan's offer to send 120 rescue workers, rescue dogs, and 15 tons of supplies. The UN has allocated an initial 5 million USD for earthquake response. However, it must be noted that — in the vast majority of cases — these materials will likely be provided through the SAC, rather than by other organizations responding in many areas. One reputable source reports that aid and rescue equipment sent across land borders had been stopped at checkpoints, with people being told to “send [aid] to the government offices of respective states and regions who will, in turn, donate it themselves”.

The SAC has reportedly conducted some response activities in Mandalay city and Nay Pyi Taw. However, there are concerns that the SAC is prioritizing efforts in Nay Pyi Taw specifically, to the detriment of even Mandalay city. For the SAC, responding to the damage and resulting needs — especially in Nay Pyi Taw — is an existential issue. Nay Pyi Taw is the administrative center of the country and the seat of the junta's power, the majority of its population is generally understood to be supportive of the SAC, and the town's residents make up the backbone of key SAC governmental functions. Mandalay is the second largest city in the country, is firmly under the control of the SAC, and also hosts a population that is, generally, seen as being more supportive of the SAC. If the SAC is unable — or somehow unwilling — to provide support to its core supporters, this could create a serious crisis of confidence for it.

Please supply food and warn us about earthquakes, our military government isn't doing anything

- Yangon

By contrast, many other places that have been affected by the earthquakes — many not fully under the SAC's control — do not appear to have received any help from SAC personnel or international teams. The SAC is highly unlikely to grant humanitarian access to affected areas outside its control, particularly in Sagaing Region and Shan State, and it is also likely to block the entry of civilians from areas it considers to be dangerous, preventing people living in those areas from seeking assistance in areas where it considers itself to be in control. [Similar dynamics](#) were seen following devastating floods in central and southeastern Myanmar in September-October 2024. Both physical access (for responders) and access to relief materials (for anybody) is thus likely to be challenging in many parts of the country, even as close to Mandalay as Sagaing town, beside the epicenter of the initial quake. Many roadways in Myanmar are blocked by SAC restrictions, damage, or the challenges of crossing between areas controlled by different actors.

For international responders, access appears to be challenging; CARE International's chief humanitarian advisor [told](#) Nikkei Asia that access to Mandalay was “extremely difficult”, and a representative from the EU humanitarian organization ECHO told the publication that slow visa processes were impeding access for foreign aid personnel. Local response organizations with access to affected areas have thus provided much of the assistance which has reached affected areas. However, SAC personnel (and associated militias) have stymied many of these efforts. There are reports of SAC-affiliated militias checking rescuers for ‘permits’ and preventing them from recovering bodies without clearance from the SAC to do so and proof that they are not affiliated with resistance actors. This obstruction appears to pertain mainly to the clearing of rubble and rescue of people trapped; provision of water and food has reportedly been allowed to a greater extent.

Power outages, lack of drinking water, difficulty in buying food, and damaged roads can cause long-term problems. Insufficient relief, insufficient support, and lack of shelter are also causing great distress.

-Mandalay

Smaller towns and more rural areas have reportedly seen far less support, and are likely to see massive challenges in accessing needed supplies in light of the earthquakes; damage to transport infrastructure, disruption of markets in central locations such as Mandalay city, SAC restrictions, fighting and tensions, and a primary focus on relief to urban areas are likely to mean that more rural areas will see shortages of relief materials, and even food and water. Continued fighting, and disruptions to agricultural activity, are likely to further undermine local resources.

Figure 12: Support/ Assistance by Source (Sagaing, Magway, and Mandalay regions)

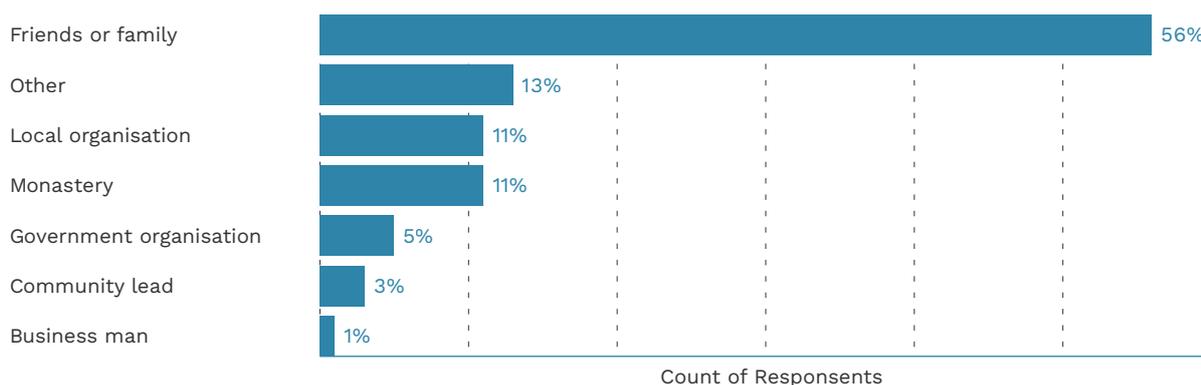
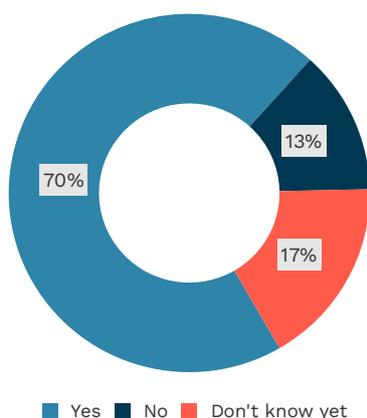


Figure 13: Received Assistance by Support Source (Sagaing, Magway, and Mandalay regions)



These challenges in delivering assistance have also been corroborated by survey respondents. According to 56% of respondents (aggregate) in Mandalay, Sagaing, and Magway regions, friends and family were the first points of contact for support or assistance. Only 11% of respondents in these regions reported seeking assistance from local organisations, and the same percentage reported going to local monasteries. Notably, only 5% reported seeking assistance through de facto government entities. In total, roughly 13% of respondents in these areas reported that support structures were not able to provide help when they sought assistance.

Conflict

Despite the earthquake, fighting in Myanmar has not stopped. The opposition NUG has [called](#) for a two-week ceasefire, and the Three Brotherhood Alliance — consisting of the Arakan Army (AA), Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), and Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) — have [declared](#) that they would also halt offensive operations for one month. However, these ceasefire calls were initially [rejected](#) by the SAC, with SAC leader Min Aung Hlaing stating on 1 April that: “Some ethnic armed groups may not be actively engaging in battles right now, but they are gathering and training in preparation for attacks. Since this is a form of aggression, the military will continue necessary defense operations.” Thus, following the earthquake, much of Myanmar remained an active conflict zone, and the SAC in particular continued to launch attacks on both resistance forces and civilians across the country, even in areas that were directly affected by the earthquake. However, on 3 April, the SAC announced that it would adhere to a temporary ceasefire until 22 April. That said, many analysts remain skeptical that the SAC will hold to this ceasefire, and deeply skeptical that the SAC will grant greater access to aid actors.

Primary Earthquake Impact Area

Most parts of Mandalay Region and Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory are firmly under the control of the SAC; Nay Pyi Taw in particular is considered the primary stronghold of SAC support. However, in northern Mandalay, and most of Sagaing and upper Magway regions, PDFs and EAOs have a large presence, and have been engaged in intense fighting with SAC troops for several years, with SAC airstrikes regularly deployed on civilian areas. The earthquake has not stopped this conflict, although there has been a slight, and expected, decrease in conflict incidents.

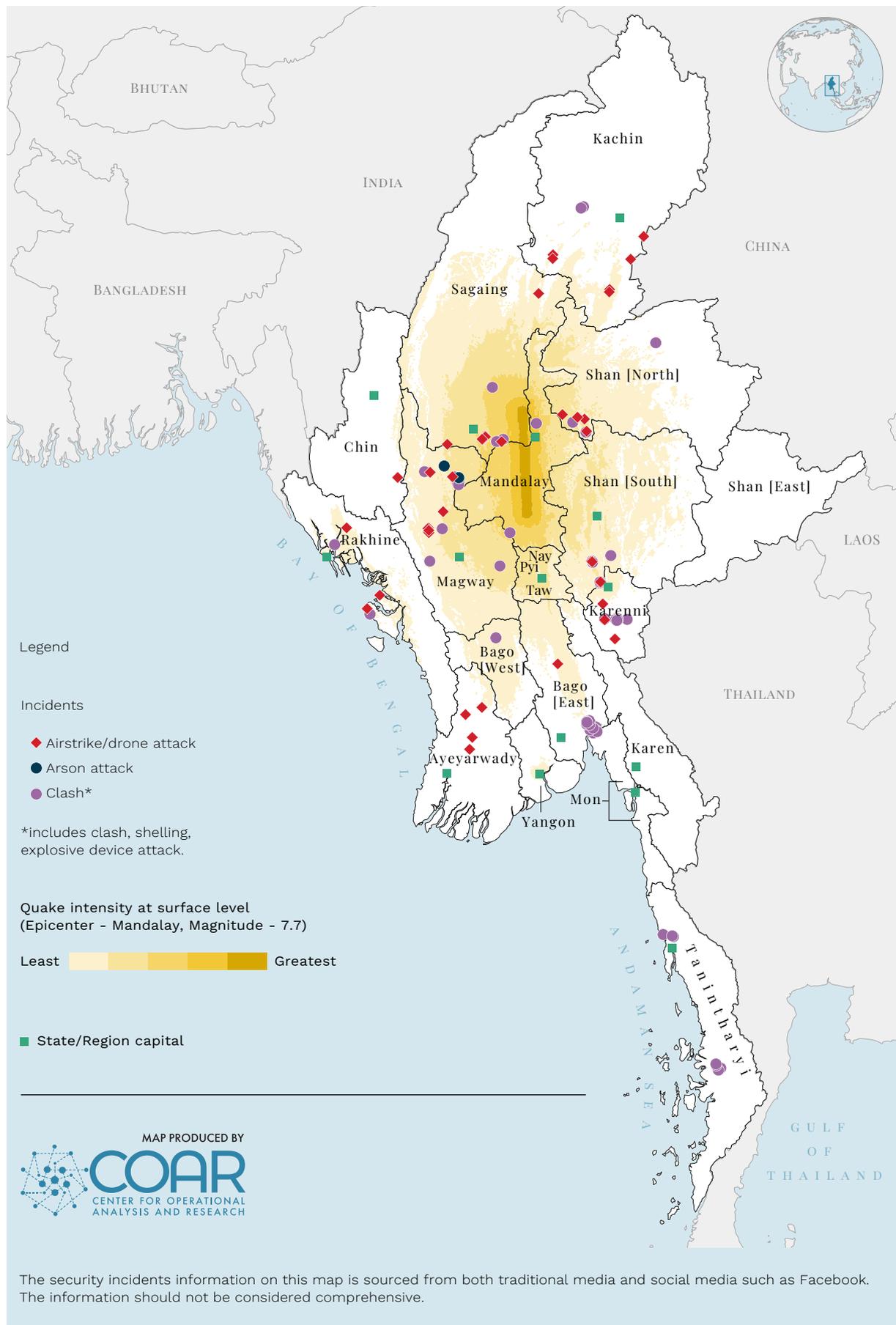
I would like to request the government to provide food to the people, stop the current armed conflict and receive international assistance. I would like to request the release of relief and medical teams to Sagaing Region.

-Monywa, Sagaing

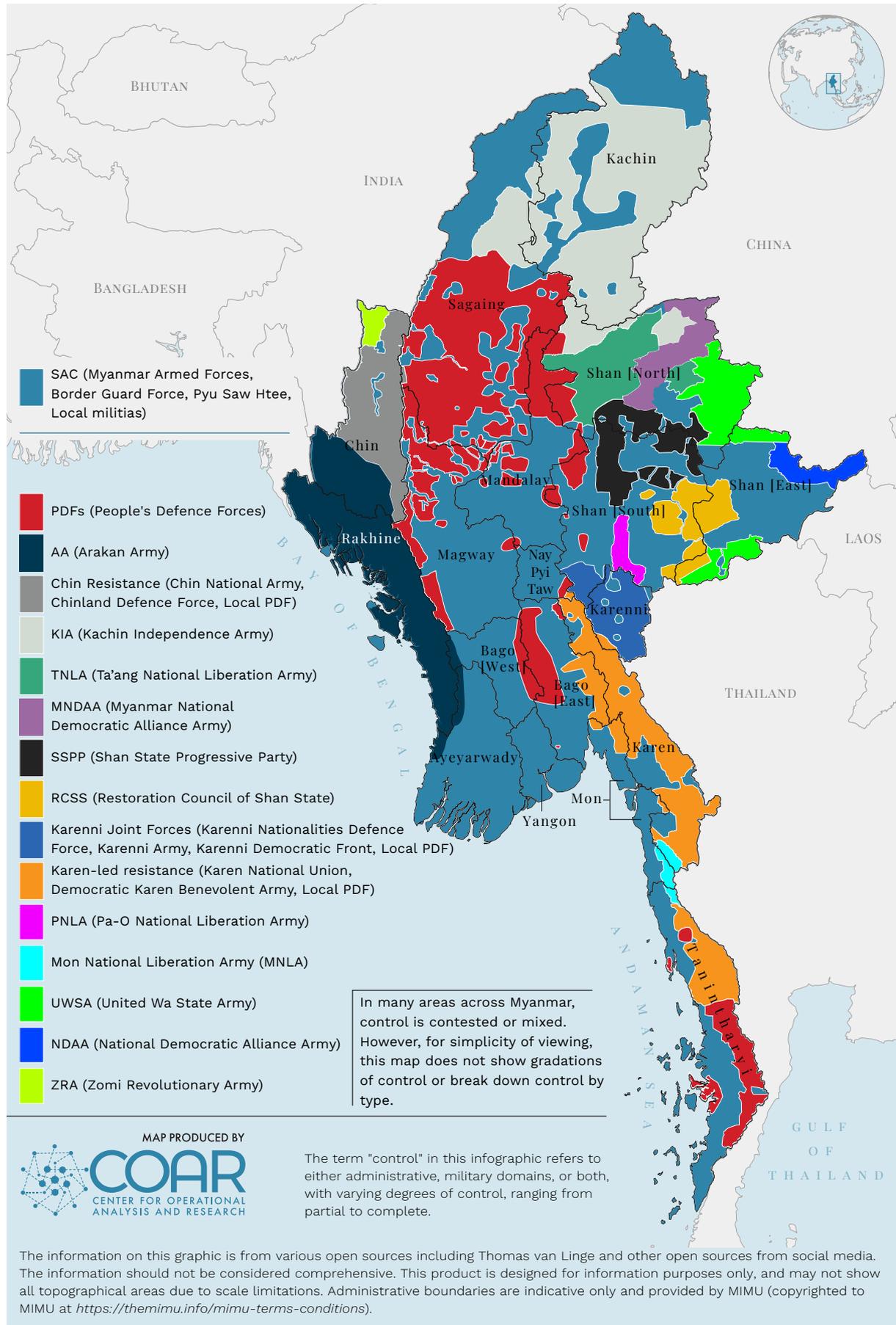
Fighting in Mandalay Region has been concentrated — since mid-2024 — in the north (Pyin Oo Lwin District) and the southwest (Myingyan District), and it has occurred in both areas since 28 March. On 28 March, shortly after an earthquake struck, SAC artillery [reportedly](#) hit settlements on the banks of the Irrawaddy River in Madaya Township, killing a woman and injuring four others. On 31 March, SAC [airstrikes](#) reportedly hit Let Pan Hla village in Singu Township, with the village reportedly [catching fire](#) and its residents fleeing. In Nyaung-U Township, SAC [ground raids](#) during 31 March-2 April reportedly displaced 20,000 locals from 26 villages.

Sagaing Region has been the site of heavy fighting since shortly after the coup in 2021, and both barriers to aid and newer violence are likely to compound the scale of harm from the earthquakes. On 29 March, SAC paramotor gliders reportedly [bombed](#) Chaung-U Township, and a local PDF [ambushed](#) SAC and Pyu Saw Htee troops near Ye-U town. On 31 March, SAC troops based in Monywa town reportedly [raided](#) Budalin town, and SAC forces based in Myinmu Township's Thay Hsaung village reportedly fired [artillery](#) into nearby areas, injuring two people, before ground troops raided two more villages. On 1 April, SAC airstrikes reportedly [hit](#) Indaw town, killing two civilians and injuring eight others.

Key Security Incidents - Myanmar, 28 March - 01 April 2025



Control Status by Key Conflict Stakeholders - Myanmar, March 2025



Fighting has also continued in Magway Region, where an increased AA presence has seemingly enabled more local resistance activity, and where the earthquakes have also led to damage. On 28 March, less than an hour after the earthquake, SAC [airstrikes](#) reportedly hit a factory in Pakokku Township's Kamma town, killing two women and injuring seven others, and SAC troops fired [artillery](#) at the township's Kan Taw village before later [raiding](#) it. On 29 March, PDFs reportedly attacked SAC trucks in [Natmauk](#) and [Taungd-wingyi](#) townships. On 30 March, the SAC conducted [airstrikes](#) and a [raid](#) in Pauk Township and also raided a village in [Ngape](#) Township, and on 31 March, SAC jets and paramotor gliders reportedly [bombed](#) six villages in Salin Township, displacing 8,000 residents.

Other Areas

The SAC has lost control of large amounts of territory elsewhere in Myanmar, but even in these places fighting and airstrikes have continued since the earthquake on 28 March.

Northern and Southern Shan State have been directly affected by the earthquake. Northern Shan is almost entirely under the control of the Three Brotherhood Alliance; Southern Shan is still nominally controlled by the SAC, though in practice there are numerous EAOs operating openly, and fighting and airstrikes are regular and ongoing occurrences. For example, there were [numerous](#) conflict [incidents](#) that took place [during](#) 28-31 March in Nawngkhio Township, which sits on the border of northern and southern Shan.

Of important note, the conflict in Shan State has already affected response efforts. On 1 April, the TNLA [reported](#) that SAC troops attacked a Chinese Red Cross aid convoy in Ong Ma Tee village, Nawngkhio Township, which was delivering supplies to earthquake victims, despite having reportedly been given prior notice of the convoy's path. According to the report, the attack forced the convoy to turn back; the TNLA has stated that it is now providing security to ensure that the Chinese convoy can continue its journey. On 2 April, SAC spokesperson Zaw Min Tun [reportedly](#) admitted that SAC forces had shot at the aid convoy.

In Rakhine State, fighting has persisted around Kyaukpyu Township — one of the only three townships in the state with any SAC presence. On 30 March, an SAC [drone attack](#) reportedly hit Ku Lar Bar village, and the next day SAC [artillery](#) reportedly hit Zin Chaung Kon Bwe village, killing two people. On 1 April, AA and SAC [fighting](#) reportedly continued near Pyan Chay village, with SAC forces reportedly bombing nearby villages. Fighting beyond Rakhine State's borders, between the SAC and AA, has also occurred in [Bago](#) and [Ayeyarwady](#) regions in the past week. At the same time, SAC airstrikes have continued to [affect](#) parts of Rakhine State, as well as [Bago](#) and [Ayeyarwady](#) regions, and [tensions appear](#) to be rising between the AA and the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) in northern Rakhine's Maungdaw Township.

In southeast Myanmar, there have been incidents of SAC airstrikes and fighting between the SAC and various actors since 28 March as well. These included fighting between the SAC and Karenni resistance actors along the [Shan-Karenni State border](#) on 29 March and in [Hpruso](#) and [Bawlake](#) townships on 30-31 March. Additional incidents were reported in Mon State's [Kyaikto](#) Township, and in Southern Shan State's [Nyaungshwe](#) Township, where there was also major earthquake damage. These areas have been less affected by the earthquake, but impacts have still been reported — such as severe WASH concerns in Karenni State, where the earthquake has moved earth and caused water sources to be polluted — and fighting and airstrikes are likely to compound these.

Kachin State, which has increasingly come under the control of the Kachin Independence Organization/Army (KIO/A), has seen continued fighting in Bhamo, [Waingmaw](#), and Hpakant townships. On 31 March, [SAC airstrikes](#) on KIA positions in Mohnyin District, Kachin State, reportedly killed 38 people and injured 28 others. In addition to creating needs, these incidents are likely to [further](#) stymie efforts by KIO-linked and [other](#) actors to move relief materials into Mandalay Region.

Conclusion

The scale of damage from the earthquakes is still being understood. Less than a week later, accounts of deaths, damage, displacement, homelessness, and needs are still being tabulated, and rescue operations are still underway. Both local and international response organizations are carrying out critical functions in collecting data and also reporting on changes – made particularly challenging as the SAC has tried to prevent outside journalists from covering the situation.

However, one thing is clear: responding to this crisis will require international actors to take a different approach than that often used in other emergency or natural disaster contexts. This is due in large part to the consistent hostility of the SAC toward both international and local aid actors. The SAC has regularly blocked access to areas not firmly under its control for years, even during previous major natural disasters, and it is very likely to continue this practice now. The area that is firmly under the SAC's control is also shrinking. Thus, the SAC is likely to prioritize its earthquake response and coordination efforts in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay city; for this reason, the international responders, INGOs, and UN agencies that are already formally operating in Myanmar and that already have some degree of access are likely the best placed to respond in these areas. But, there are many other areas in need that are less likely to be accessed by these actors.

As seen in the survey responses and in other reporting systems, the earthquake has increased needs in many parts of Myanmar, including in areas outside of the SAC's control such as in Sagaing Region and Shan State, and support is desperately needed. Because of consistent SAC-imposed access restrictions, the best way for organizations newly arriving in Myanmar to respond to the earthquake is to do so in partnership with the local CSO and NGO networks that are often not approved of by the SAC, and which operate in areas outside of SAC control. Accordingly, international responders and donors looking to assist with the crisis should be prepared to program through remote partnership modalities, especially in Sagaing Region, Shan State, and rural Mandalay Region. Doing so requires creative approaches to programming, especially with respect to flexibility, accountability and monitoring, and money transfer mechanisms.

Finally, it must be underscored that the earthquakes are likely to undermine access to goods and markets across much of Myanmar. Mandalay is the central market hub for most areas north of Yangon, and damage to both market functionality in Mandalay and roads leading out of it are likely to disrupt the functionality of markets throughout the country. This would have severe implications for access to goods, as well as the ability of farmers to sell their goods into a national marketplace, in these places. Even once immediate damage in Mandalay city is responded to and reconstructed, market functionality is likely to take time to resume the level of operations seen before 28 March. As such, emergency response must go beyond responding to the immediate physical damage caused by the earthquakes, and must also consider the secondary and tertiary impacts to the country's already strained economic systems.



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Contact:

publications@coar-global.org