

Sagaing earthquake in Myanmar

Situation report

3rd Edition, 1 April 2025, as of 14:00 IST
WHO Health Emergencies Programme

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Highlights

- Health-care facilities are overwhelmed by a large number of patients, while many have been damaged and are operating with limited capacity. Additionally, health-care workers and their families have been affected by the earthquake.
- Due to a shortage of skilled rescue teams, operations remain highly challenging. Despite support from international teams, the scale of devastation is immense.
- According to local rescue teams, infrastructure damage in Sagaing Township is extensive, with approximately one in every three houses having collapsed.
- There is a growing shortage of food, clean water and medicines in Sagaing, as supplies are running low here and in neighboring townships.
- Shelter remains a critical issue, as many people have been left homeless. With the extreme heat in the area, there is also a high risk of heatstroke — particularly among vulnerable groups such as the elderly and children.

Situation summary

- The full scale of damage, deaths and injuries has not yet been fully understood. On 31 March 2025, the State Administration Council (SAC) reported that 2056 people have died and 3900 have been injured. On the same day, the local media reported at least 3034 deaths, 3517 injuries and 498 missing nationwide as of 15:00 hours local time, including 1787 deaths in Mandalay, 405 in Nay Pyi Taw, 699 in Sagaing, 106 in Southern Shan and 35 in Bago.
- Due to the increasing number of injuries, blood transfusion supplies are in urgent need. SAC is appealing for blood donations. In addition, body bags and personal protective equipment for rescue teams are urgently needed.
- Hot weather (35 °C to 40 °C during the day time) and the risk of fire could exacerbate the overall critical situation. At the same time, a potential low-pressure area is expected to form in the Bay of Bengal this week, which could lead to heavy rainfall in many parts of the country. This may further challenge rescue and relief operations due to the shortage of temporary shelters.
- Older buildings that have collapsed pose high asbestos exposure risk.
- There is concern that the dam may collapse in the affected area, potentially leading to flooding in several downstream communities and exacerbating the challenges.

Mandalay

- In Mandalay, many residents are staying outdoors on the roads due to aftershocks and building damage. Hot weather and possible rain may make their living conditions more difficult and impact rescue operations.

- Many health partners (I/NGOs) are deploying their mobile clinics in Mandalay.

Sagaing

- There is no food and water supply in the city due to lack of electricity and damage to the tanks for drinking water. People rely on supplies from rescue teams. Many people have been displaced and are staying outdoors. Access to clean drinking water is critically needed.
- Despite the absence of a formal camp setting, displaced people are temporarily residing in religious buildings due to the collapse of many homes. Health-care services are critically needed in these temporary shelters.
- Sagaing General Hospital is extremely overburdened, and there are no functioning private hospital facilities. Therefore, the provision of secondary care services is urgently required in Sagaing. This highlights the critical need for emergency medical teams equipped with temporary hospital-level facilities, including a mobile operating theatre.

Nay Pyi Taw

- Many government housing buildings in Nay Pyi Taw have been damaged or have collapsed. At least 20 buildings have been affected, and many people are currently staying near roads and in open public spaces such as football stadiums.
- Damages have been also reported at the 1000-bed hospital, including the radiology section. Up to 300 people (health workers and patients) were affected at this hospital.
- An increasing number of patients are attending health services. Portable medical devices for X-rays and temporary operating theatres are urgently needed. Additionally, water purification systems are essential.
- Health-care workers, the frontline responders, have received up to 65 family tents from the United Nations for additional relief support, as they themselves have been affected.



Collapsed health facility building in Nay Pyi Taw
(©WHO Myanmar)

Critical health needs

- Management of mass casualties.
- Trauma and surgical care.
- Blood transfusion supplies.
- Body bags.
- Anesthetics.
- Essential medicines.
- Tents for health-care workers.
- Personal protective equipment for rescue teams.

- Health facility damage assessments.
- Access to safe water and sanitation.
- Surveillance, prevention and response for disease outbreaks.
- Mental health and psychosocial support.

WHO response

- WHO has delivered nearly three tons of medical supplies including trauma kits to hospitals in Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw, within 24 hours of the earthquake. These supplies were rushed from the emergency stockpile in Yangon to the affected areas.
- Essential medicines were provided to health partners who will be delivering emergency health-care services in Sagaing and Mandalay. WHO also provided 194 interagency emergency health kits to Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw (97 kits for each).
- Trauma kits and essential supplies mobilized from the WHO Logistics Hub in Dubai are expected to arrive in Myanmar shortly.
- Procurement of supplies for communicable disease outbreak response is currently underway.
- United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and WHO Emergency Medical Teams (EMT) Secretariat staff are arriving in Myanmar to support the coordination of search and rescue operations and emergency medical teams.
- WHO continues to coordinate EMTs through its global network. Multiple international EMTs have already been in operation in the field, or are enroute to the affected areas. These EMTs are from the People’s Republic of China, Belarus, France, India, Russia, Thailand and Turkey.
- WHO technical staff has been deployed to Myanmar to support the operations of the WHO Country Office. In addition, virtual support has been in place since the aftermath of the earthquake.
- Operational costs have been supported to facilitate the deployment of rapid response teams from other states and regions of Myanmar to Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay.
- An ad hoc Operational Health Partners’ Meeting was held on 31 March 2025 to coordinate the earthquake response. The meeting focused on conducting rapid needs assessments, reviewing available supplies for health partners, preparing for potential disease outbreaks and strengthening surveillance systems for early detection and response.
- WHO has launched [an urgent appeal](#) for US\$ 8 million in aid for its earthquake response in Myanmar.
- WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia (SEARO) has posted [a news release](#).

Resources

- WHO. WHO Flash Appeal: earthquake response in Myanmar. Available at: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/who-flash-appeal--earthquake-response-in-myanmar>
- WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia. WHO medical supplies reach hospitals in earthquake hit areas. Available at: <https://www.who.int/southeastasia/news/detail/30-03-2025-who-medical-supplies-reach-hospitals-in-earthquake-hit-areas>
- Previous editions of the situation reports are available at this [link](#).

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