



Collapsed building in Mandalay City, 28 March 2025 © IOM



7.7 magnitude earthquake on 28 March 2025 struck Mandalay, Myanmar, at a depth of 10 km. Myanmar was hit by a strong aftershock of 6.4 magnitude around 12 minutes after the initial quake, per the United States Geological Survey.



The death toll continues to rise, with officials reporting over **1,700 fatalities**, with thousands injured or missing and **≈19.5 million people** living in affected areas, of which **10.4 million** live in the worst areas, according to [Pacific Disaster Center Joint Analysis of Disaster Exposure refined impact estimates](#) (29 March 2025).



Information on the extent of needs is still emerging, as communications, physical, and bureaucratic impediments limit the scale of impact assessments.



IOM is **urgently appealing for funding** to respond to the needs of **vulnerable earthquake-affected people**, to complement the [HRNP for Myanmar 2025](#).

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SITUATION UPDATE

The **M7.7 earthquake ruptured along the Sagaing Fault and was the largest to hit Myanmar in more than a century**. The last time a quake of such magnitude struck on land was the 2023 earthquake in Türkiye and Syria, which killed more than 50,000 people. Seismic activity continues along the fault with strong aftershocks occurring in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 March and in Shwebo and Sagaing on 30 March, further hampering search and rescue operations. The **State Administrative Council declared a state of emergency** for Bago Region, Mandalay Region, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Sagaing Region, and parts of Shan State, and called for international assistance.

Northwest: Sagaing City and Mingun, the epicentre of earthquake, experienced severe destruction, particularly in the eastern part of Sagaing City and around the five-story Pagoda area. Rescue efforts have not yet commenced, and communication lines are still down, including internet and phone lines. Public infrastructure, including schools and the Wachet Hospital in Sagaing were destroyed, and the ancient Inwa Bridge, which has connected Sagaing and Mandalay for over 90 years, collapsed. In Mandalay, a densely populated city, homes, multi-story buildings, historical and religious sites and critical infrastructure has been destroyed or damaged, and Mandalay International Airport has been closed. The Shelter/Non-food Items (NFI) Cluster estimates that over 50,000 people have been affected, that around 150 homes being completely destroyed and around 3,000 partially damaged. People are staying alongside roads without shelter and protection, as their homes are not safe, and in need of basic services and access to food, water, and medicine, and healthcare. Magway continues to be cut off, and IOM has not yet been able to access information on the situation and humanitarian needs.

Southeast: Several townships in Shan have been affected, including Hopong, Hsihseng, Kalaw, Langkho, Lawksawk, Nyaungshwe, Pinlaung, and Taunggyi. According to reports from organizations on the ground, Nyaungshwe is one of the most affected townships, with 39 reported deaths (as of 29 March) and with most homes destroyed in several of the villages. One hotel collapsed in Kalaw, and people remain trapped under the rubble. People are currently staying outside or finding shelter in the shops around Nanpan Market.

Nay Pyi Taw: The earthquake has caused significant destruction of the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, with many government buildings, the UN compound, Nay Pyi Taw International Airport, homes, factories, and religious sites having sustained significant damage, with moderate damage on commercial buildings such as shopping malls and gas stations.

SECTORAL NEEDS

Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA): In affected areas where markets are functioning and accessible, MPCA remains one of the most effective, cost-efficient, and dignified assistance modalities, allowing vulnerable earthquake-affected households to meet individual household needs available at local markets, such as drinking water, food, hygiene products, household items, and other emergency relief items. IOM is closely coordinating with the Cash and Market Working Group – under which MPCA in Myanmar is reported, applying the updated recommended value of 360,000 MMK per household.

Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM): Due to the widespread destruction of buildings, substantial displacement of affected populations is expected, with many seeking shelter in collective centres such as monasteries, schools, or other available and informal community infrastructure. Reports already indicate that many affected people are not willing or able to return to their homes and are sheltering outside or in temporary shelters. Reception centre management and out-of-camp CCCM is urgently needed to ensure those affected have access to a minimum level of services and support and that displacement sites are effectively managed.

Shelter/NFI: Thousands of homes have been destroyed, severely or moderately damaged, and people are staying outside without shelter and protection as their homes are not safe. While needs assessments will determine medium-term shelter recovery needs, emergency shelter is urgently needed to provide immediate protection from the elements in all affected areas, alongside NFI kits, including blankets, mosquito nets, solar powered torches, and more.

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH): Clean water is a key priority in several affected areas in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake as the infrastructure damage caused contaminated water in many locations. The water quality of wells was also impacted due to sediments dislodged by the earthquake. Water infrastructure was damaged, including pipe water distribution and wells. As such, there is a significant shortage of clean water in target areas, and WASH and hygiene kits, including water purification tablets, and water filters are of critical need.

Health: The earthquake has resulted in a significant increase in injuries, placing immense strain on the health system. Critical health infrastructure has sustained severe damage, further limiting the capacity to respond effectively. There is an urgent need for medicine and medical supplies, deployment of primary healthcare teams and support to secondary and surgical capacities to address injuries and trauma cases. Disease surveillance is crucial given the increased risk of communicable disease outbreaks due to the precarious living situation and safe water supply. As commercial sources and transportation have been disrupted, rapid delivery of medicine and medical supplies is needed for those on treatment or with chronic conditions.

Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS): Humanitarian protection and MHPSS services are urgently needed for affected populations experiencing intense emotional and mental distress, limiting their ability to function. Individual and community protection and MHPSS services need to be extended to ensure access to specialized protection services for persons with specific needs, and to strengthen appropriate community, religious and cultural support networks, including mourning activities, to ensure re-establishment of normal routines and activities, and to provide information about positive coping mechanisms.



IOM RESPONSE

IOM in Myanmar is rolling out a rapid emergency response in the aftermath of the earthquake.

- IOM is in contact with its current 27 local implementing partners to gather information on the situation on the ground, including impact and needs, as well as access and response capacity. Of these, 14 partners based in heavily affected areas are already responding, or ready to respond, while an additional 13 local partners in neighbouring, or less affected areas, have deployed their staff to the impacted regions for rapid response or are on standby to be deployed. Informed by the Rapid Needs Assessments, IOM partners stand ready to provide MPCA to affected households.
- IOM Rapid Mobile Clinics to be deployed from Yangon and Mawlamyine as soon as transportation and road access can be confirmed. They are currently preparing medical supplies and medicines. Coordination is also ongoing with the Ministry of Health for IOM to reinforce the Ministry's Rapid Response Teams. IOM is also extending offers to support the Mandalay State Health Department in their response to the overwhelming needs in Mandalay.
- IOM has 13 staff based in Mandalay and 40 staff in Sagaing and is currently deploying additional staff to reinforce procurement, logistics and emergency response capacities to facilitate a rapid humanitarian response. Whenever possible, local procurement will be prioritized to lower warehouse and logistics costs, while IOM procurement and logistics teams stands ready to support with procurement and shipment of in-kind items not available on local markets.

Population Mobility and Needs Tracking (PMNT) fills critical information gaps

- IOM's PMNT, also globally known as the Displacement Tracking Matrix, immediately mobilised its partners to gather critical information on the impact of the earthquake. On 28 March, PMNT partners started collecting photos and Rapid Needs Assessments, in coordination with OCHA, to assess casualties, damages, and urgent needs among the affected communities. Communications, internet, and electricity blackouts and intermittent service disruptions are posing extreme challenges to gather and submit information. PMNT also stands ready to provide information management support to the response and conduct ongoing needs surveys to monitor urgent, evolving, and eventual recovery needs. If camps are established for those who lost their homes, PMNT is also on standby to support with household registrations in coordination with camp managers and service providers, as needed.



Collapsed home in Nay Pyi Taw, 28 March 2025 © IOM

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