

Situation Report #2: Earthquake in Central Myanmar 2025



Amid the rubble of a cracked road in post-earthquake Mandalay, families fetch water from a broken pipe. However, drinking water is in high demand across the earthquake zone.

Immediate Response

- UNOPS Myanmar, through its programmes and local partners, responded within hours of the earthquake by rapidly providing essential items and deploying immediate multi-purpose cash assistance.
- This swift action initially reached 16,000 people, and the total number of individuals assisted has now grown to 167,000.
- UNOPS utilizes expedited emergency procurement procedures and coordinates closely with partners to accelerate aid delivery.
- UNOPS Myanmar, with the generosity of our donors, has reallocated and raised new funds totalling US\$17.2 million for immediate response from our partners. Further funding will be deployed as needs are assessed.

Overview of the Situation

The situation remains critically unstable following the 7.7-magnitude earthquake on 28 March and the subsequent 6.4-magnitude aftershock. According to publicly available figures, more than 3,000 people have died, nearly 5,000 have been injured, and over 370 remain missing nationwide. Actual figures may be higher due to underreporting as widespread telecommunications disruptions persist.

The six impacted regions, including Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Shan, and Naypyidaw, are home to over 28 million. UNOCHA estimates that the earthquakes have affected over 17 million people across 57 of the country's 330 townships. Among them, more than 9 million were severely affected by the highest tremble.

Significant damage has been inflicted upon essential health facilities and infrastructure. Numerous homes and religious buildings, including mosques, churches, and monasteries, have also collapsed. The hardest-hit areas remain without electricity and water, while telecommunications and internet access are severely disrupted, cutting off affected communities from essential services. Power shortages have also impacted the Yangon region and other affected areas.

There are growing concerns regarding hygiene and sanitation, particularly in urban areas.

Additionally, due to the damaged infrastructure, there is a potential for increased flooding during the upcoming monsoon season.

The already dire humanitarian situation is being further complicated by ongoing conflict and airstrikes.

UNOPS Response

UNOPS Myanmar supports affected communities through immediate assistance, rapid damage assessments, and medium-term recovery efforts through our partners. To ensure swift action, contingency budgets within existing grants have been activated, and top-up funding is allocated for critical activities. Underpinned by the generosity of our donors, UNOPS Myanmar has reallocated and raised new funds totalling US\$17.2 million for immediate response by our partners, with further funding to be deployed based on assessed needs.

Demonstrating this rapid mobilization, programmes and local partners responded within hours of the earthquake by delivering essential items and deploying immediate multi-purpose cash assistance. This swift action initially reached 16,000 people, and the **total number of individuals assisted has now grown to 167,000**.

Our response, implemented in close collaboration with our partners and the humanitarian community, focuses on:

- **Coordination:**
 - UNOPS MMCO funds/programmes/projects collaborate with UN agencies and WHO/OCHA clusters to coordinate response efforts.
- **Emergency procurement:**
 - UNOPS HQ has approved the Emergency Procurement Procedure (EPP) to expedite response activities.
- **Direct assistance and response activities**
 - Provision of multi-purpose cash assistance.
 - Distribution of emergency shelter materials.
 - Delivery of safe water solutions, including water supplies, filters, and purification tablets.
 - Distribution of hygiene and dignity kits, blankets, and mosquito nets.

- Provision of ready-to-eat food and drinking water.
- Deployment of mobile medical teams to provide emergency health services, including immediate first aid and trauma services, referrals, and provision of pharmaceutical products.
- Financial support to local volunteer organizations.
- Rapid damage and safety assessment of critical infrastructure, particularly health facilities and water systems.
- Expanded mental health support through social media outreach, CISM workshops, and direct counselling for affected populations and response partners.
- **Financial update:**
 - Total funds allocated: \$12m existing and \$5.2m additional donor contributions.

Needs

- Immediate requirements include blood transfusion supplies, trauma care, surgical supplies, essential medicines, and WASH facilities.
- Urgent need for improved privacy, water, and sanitation facilities in informal sites, addressing overcrowding and protection concerns, especially for women, girls, and boys.
- Immediate access to maternal care and health services for pregnant and lactating mothers, both in informal sites and functional hospitals.
- Provision of mosquito nets to prevent disease.
- Urgent need for body bags and burial teams, coupled with concerns over increased hygiene risks due to decaying bodies and damaged infrastructure.
- Increased Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) services.

Challenges

- Challenges include aftershocks, power outages, communication disruptions, access limitations (especially in Sagaing), and delayed aid delivery due to road detours and limited air access.
- Security concerns and widespread infrastructure damage are hindering response efforts.
- Significant challenges persist regarding waste management.
- Challenges accessing clean water in IDP camps and reports of river source disruption due to mud and sediment.
- Concerns over lack of sufficient external support in smaller townships.
- Limited ground connectivity hinders information sharing and coordination challenges due to fragmented service delivery.
- Delays in health partner approvals, fuel shortages impacting health facilities, disrupted banking systems hindering cash transactions, and significant unmet food needs.
- The destruction of agricultural infrastructure impacts rural livelihoods and increases the risk of landmine/explosive ordnance exposure.

Contact

For further inquiries, please contact: Helene Thor helenet@unops.org