

Myanmar: Earthquake Response Situation Report No. 5

As of 4 May 2025

This Situation Report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with the operating humanitarian clusters and their sub-working groups in Myanmar. The humanitarian response section is not necessarily reflective of all humanitarian interventions undertaken on the ground but rather those voluntarily reported by partners.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Five weeks after the devastating earthquakes struck Myanmar on 28 March, many affected communities are still in urgent need of safe shelter, health care, clean water and sanitation, cash assistance and various forms of protection support.
- An early monsoon season has started with daily rains this week, exacerbating hardships for families living in tents and makeshift shelters, and increasing health risks.
- While needs for emergency assistance remain high, early recovery and livelihood support is vital to help affected people rebuild and restore their lives.
- With local organizations at the forefront of the response, humanitarians continue to deliver food, clean water, hygiene support, emergency shelter, and other critical aid.
- More than 6.3 million people are in need in the areas hardest-hit by the earthquakes, requiring a significant scale-up
 in response. The quick disbursement of pledged funding and sustained access to all communities is essential to
 increasing the reach of humanitarian assistance.



Photo: A woman carries relief supplies through floodwaters at a temporary camp in Mandalay Region, weeks after the devastating earthquakes. Credit: UNICEF/Nyan Zay Htet

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Five weeks after the devastating earthquakes in central Myanmar, humanitarian needs remain severe with some affected communities still in need of shelter, health care, clean water, and other critical support. The monsoon season has started early with daily rains this week and is compounding the hardship of those whose homes were damaged or destroyed by the earthquakes. Without safe places to return to after the disaster, many people are living in tents and makeshift shelters, exposed to the harsh weather and increased protection risks. Displaced people sheltering in schools are now under pressure to relocate elsewhere as new academic cycle is set to resume in early June. They are now in urgent need of safe alternative accommodation and shelter materials. While needs remain for emergency assistance, support for early recovery and livelihoods is paramount. People are facing serious challenges in early recovery as construction materials such as cement, iron and bricks are in short supply in markets and prices are rising.

The recent Multisector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) assessed 44 of the 58 earthquake-affected townships, identifying priority needs as cash, food, construction materials and emergency shelter support. Cash assistance was noted as the preferred modality in all affected regions. Shelter and construction materials were assessed as priority needs though in the worst-affected areas like Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Sagaing where shelters and structures have been significantly damaged or destroyed. Food insecurity was highlighted as a major concern, particularly for displaced people in Bago, Kayin, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw. Widespread trauma and psychological distress were identified, posing a major health issue across all regions and impacting access to education. Access to basic services and infrastructure like water, sanitation and electricity was noted as being constrained by pre-existing vulnerabilities for communities in conflict-affected areas. More than 75 per cent of the assessed localities have received some assistance since the earthquakes.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE



Early Recovery

Needs:

- Immediate support is essential to restart local markets and provide affordable farming supplies in Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing to avoid delays in the upcoming monsoon planting season.
- Southern Shan urgently needs multisector support to address power outages, restore livelihoods, and provide mental health support, as the earthquakes damaged has been exacerbated by recent strong winds.
- Over 9,000 displaced households in affected regions require immediate assistance with housing, land, and property issues, along with support to rebuild communities safely and inclusively.
- Support is also needed for safe rebuilding through technical advice, safety checks of buildings, better water and sanitation in shelters, and psychosocial services.

Response:

- Rapid assessments, aid distribution, and building inspections are ongoing, supported by technical experts and risk mapping to support resilient recovery.
- A health needs survey covering 2,000 households in affected regions will start soon. Results are expected by early
- A joint assessment on how education was affected is starting, with partners working together on data, methods, and planning for recovery.
- Preventive health measures are being included in efforts to manage waste and debris in temporary camps through ongoing coordination.
- Parenting-related psychosocial support was provided in southern Shan, along with local resources for earthquake response and drug prevention.
- Safety assessments and community meetings were held in Mandalay and Sagaing to support early recovery and ensure damaged buildings are safe.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Response efforts are hindered by funding gaps, limited local access and capacity, ongoing conflict, weather, and market challenges.
- The slow pace of livelihoods recovery underscores the need for targeted economic support.

- Limited access to sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence, and mental health support is limited, especially in remote areas, due to damaged infrastructure, lack of privacy, low awareness, and movement and communications constraints.
- Safe rebuilding efforts are hindered by limited awareness, a shortage of skilled workers, high material prices, and inadequate financial and technical support.

Education in Emergencies

Needs:

- There is an urgent need to repair or rebuild damaged schools, set up temporary learning spaces, conduct safety
 assessments, provide learning kits, address water safety (especially in Demoso Township in Kayah), and train teachers
 on mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and mine risk education. It is also critical to strengthen
 preparedness and links with WASH and child protection services.
- A total of 18,000 education learning pack (ELP) kits are needed for 129 monastic schools in Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, and Sagaing. Also in central and northwestern Myanmar, there are needs for structural assessments for eight monastic schools in Mandalay and Sagaing.
- In southeastern Myanmar, both conflict and recent earthquakes have seriously damaged school infrastructure, making
 many schools unsafe for children. School structures in Kayin State were left unsafe after the quakes, including eight
 schools in Thandaunggyi Township. In southern Shan, both community-based and public schools, including early
 childhood education centres, also sustained severe damage.

Response:

- In southern Shan, partners are working with parent-teacher associations to assess school safety, distribute plastic sheets and water kits, and provide learning kits for affected students. Risk assessments are planned with technical support from coordination platforms.
 - o In Nyaungshwe and Pinlaung townships, partners have provided multisectoral support including the distribution of student kits, child-friendly space kits, food and hygiene supplies, tarpaulin sheets and ropes. MHPSS training and emergency referral support were also provided. WASH and child protection services are ongoing. In Pinlaung Township, four community-based schools will receive safety assessments and MHPSS training.
 - o In Taunggyi Township, cluster partners are supporting displaced and earthquake-affected communities by distributing tarpaulins, hygiene kits, and first aid items. So far, nearly 1,000 children in 15 locations have received education support.
- In Mandalay Region, three school buildings have been assessed and discussions are ongoing on pre-positioning education supplies for earthquake-affected schools.

Gaps & Constraints:

- In southeastern Myanmar, ongoing conflict has caused delays of up to four hours at checkpoints, increasing security risks for education staff. In Demoso Township in Kayah, water remains unsafe, and communities are still requesting school-based water tanks.
- Telecommunication disruptions are delaying coordination and information sharing.

Food Security

Needs:

- More than 509,000 people, well over half of the 901,000 people targeted for assistance countrywide, remain in need of urgent food support.
- A rapid needs assessment by Food Security Cluster (FSC) partners identified serious challenges to livelihoods and food access. About 38 per cent of surveyed communities rely on aid or support from friends and relatives to meet food needs, particularly in Magway, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, and southern Shan.
- Severe food access issues were reported across all surveyed communities in Magway Region (especially in Chauk, Myothit, Taungdwingyi, and Yenaungyang townships) and in Mandalay Region (Kyaukse, Myittha, and Sintgaing townships) and Sagaing Region. Contributing factors include a loss of income, rising rice prices, and high dependence on food aid. Even farming families have been affected, as disrupted markets prevent them from selling surplus crops.

Response:

- The provision of various forms of food assistance continues in earthquake-affected areas, though there are significant
 variations in coverage across regions. Partners have reached 52 per cent coverage in Nay Pyi Taw, 51 per cent in
 Mandalay, 47 per cent in southern Shan, and 39 per cent in Sagaing. No food distribution has yet been reported in
 eastern Bago and northern Shan.
- Cluster partners are distributing seeds, tools, and livestock inputs to affected households. Efforts are underway to strengthen coordination with local partners to improve delivery and supporting communities in rebuilding their agricultural livelihoods.

Gaps & Constraints:

- In Mandalay, vegetable prices initially spiked after the earthquake but have now stabilized. In southern Shan, commodity prices remain steady and supply chains continue functioning.
- Sagaing is experiencing challenges in food supply. Transport disruptions have prevented traders from sourcing rice from Mandalay, and many affected families are still dependent upon donations. No new orders have been placed since the earthquakes, and traders are selling from limited existing stock, raising concerns about rice shortages if transportation is not restored soon.

ਵੇਂ Health

Needs:

- Partners report continued shortages of essential medicines, especially for common conditions such as diabetes and hypertension.
- Most partners rely on local pharmaceutical procurement, but there is an urgent need to conduct a market survey to identify reliable suppliers that source internationally from prequalified providers.
- Psychological distress is increasing in many earthquake-affected areas due to delays in treatment and a critical shortage of trained mental health professionals.
- Limited access to water and sanitation is contributing to poor hygiene, leading to a raise in skin diseases.
- Delayed rubble clearance and stagnant water are creating breeding grounds for mosquitoes, heightening the risk of malaria and dengue.

Response:

- The cluster has provided locally procured and prepositioned medicines to local partners, though needs remain high. Clean delivery kits and reproductive health supplies have been provided to local partners. Sexual and reproductive health services are being provided through mobile clinics and supported static health facilities.
- Key health promotion messages are being shared through various channels, covering topics such as family planning, infectious disease prevention, and psychological first aid. Information, education and communication materials in Myanmar language, including on asbestos risk, are available on request.
- An Emergency Medical Team (EMT) was recently deployed in Mandalay.
- Household and community-level health assessments are being planned.
- Preparations are underway to ensure equal distribution of assistive devices for persons with disabilities through the formation of a rehabilitation working group.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is a shortage of essential medications, including those for the treatment of non-communicable diseases.
- Lack of preventative measures, such as bed nets, and the disruption of vector-control interventions are heightening the
 risk of malaria and other vector-borne diseases, including dengue.
- Limited access to safe drinking water and clean sanitation poses a significant threat of waterborne diseases, compounded by the absence of rapid diagnostic tests, which delays the detection of potential outbreaks.
- Partners are facing challenges to expand services to rural areas of Mandalay and Sagaing. These access restrictions are hindering the delivery of health services to earthquake-affected communities.

ta Logistics

Needs:

The Logistics Cluster is evaluating additional storage needs in areas affected by the earthquakes.

Response:

- A total of 325 cubic meters of common storage space has been made available at the Yangon warehouse, with ongoing coordination for dispatches to the Mandalay warehouse.
- In Mandalay, 1,000 square meters of storage space is available, including temperature-controlled areas.
- Additional storage requests are expected soon for both Yangon and Mandalay.
- The Logistics Cluster continues to share updated guidance and documentation on common storage services through the Myanmar Logistics Cluster response page, as well as infrastructure constraints via the LogIE map.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Challenges like lengthy procedures, delays, and various requirements persist for the importation of relief items.
- Limited visibility on partner pipelines is affecting storage planning for Yangon and Mandalay warehouses.

Nutrition

Needs:

- Nutrition supplies are essential for delivering life-saving services and preventing further deterioration of the nutritional status among affected communities, particularly vulnerable groups such as children and women.
- Complementary feeding support is particularly critical for children, given limited access to nutritious food, decreased household income, and disrupted maternal and child health services.

Response:

- Cluster partners have distributed essential food items including rice, chickpeas, cooking oil, and iodized salt to 29,472 households in Mandalay and Sagaing. Fortified biscuits were provided to 15,502 households across 8 townships in Mandalay Region, and blended food was delivered to 190 households.
- To date, 971 children and 78 pregnant and lactating women have been screened for acute malnutrition, with 29 children receiving treatment.
- Infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling has reached 158 lactating women, while 516 children have received multiple micronutrient powder.
- Nutrition efforts are part of a coordinated multi-sector response, including technical training for frontline workers on breast milk substitutes and post-earthquake nutrition response.

Gaps & Constraints:

• The limited presence of partners across the 58 earthquake-affected townships continues to hamper comprehensive coverage. Expanding partner engagement is critical to reaching all communities in need.

₩ Protection

Needs:

- Urgent measures are required to reduce overcrowding and mitigate gender-based violence (GBV) risks. This includes
 providing gender-segregated shelters and ensuring safe, separate hygiene and sanitation facilities for women and girls
 to prevent exploitation and violence.
- Expanded MHPSS services are needed to address trauma, stress, and anxiety resulting from conflict, displacement, and the loss of homes, livelihoods, and loved ones.
- Support is needed to help affected people to restore civil documentation, including key identity and legal documents that were lost during the earthquakes.
- Earthquake-affected communities sheltering in open areas such as public markets and private land have reported evictions or received orders to vacate these temporary locations.

Response:

- The Protection Cluster is prioritizing life-saving interventions by strengthening community-based protection measures and promoting inclusive, localized approaches.
- To date, cluster partners have reached 10,053 people, including the older persons and persons with disabilities, with targeted protection support and case management in Bago, Kayin, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, and southern Shan.

• In the same areas, 88,655 people have been reached through protection assessments and monitoring, while at least 82,285 people have participated in community-based awareness sessions aimed at preventing and mitigating protection risks and human rights violations.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Local responders face significant security risks, including arbitrary arrest, detention, and harassment particularly in conflict-affected areas making frontline protection work dangerous.
- Humanitarian access is a challenge in some areas.
- Despite ceasefire announcements, ongoing conflict continues to create insecurity and obstruct emergency protection response.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Needs:

Earthquake-affected communities – particularly displaced people in temporary shelters – are facing severe
psychosocial distress due to ongoing challenges such as aftershocks, job insecurity, grief, and uncertainty around land
ownership and potential forced returns. Women, children, and vulnerable families living outside formal shelter settings
remain in urgent need of protection-sensitive MHPSS services.

Response:

MHPSS services were provided in Mandalay Region through support groups, emotional support sessions, and
individual counselling for both adults and children experiencing distress. More than 90 people received direct support,
while 21 frontline responders were trained in psychological first aid. The MHPSS 4Ws mapping process has also been
initiated to enhance coordination and identify gaps, with key resources and updates shared through the dedicated
MHPSS coordination platform.

Gaps & Constraints

- Access to MHPSS services remains limited, particularly in rural and community-based settings. MHPSS support is
 hindered by a severe shortage of specialized mental health professionals, growing emotional fatigue and burnout
 among frontline responders with limited formal support, and the continued lack of integration of MHPSS into general
 health services, which restricts both reach and sustainability.
- Damaged infrastructure and unstable electricity make it harder for affected people to access support services.

Child Protection (CP) Area of Responsibility (AoR)

Needs:

- Child protection concerns have intensified since the earthquake, with growing risks of mental health issues, child labor, unsafe migration, recruitment into armed groups, and sexual violence.
- Psychosocial support is urgently needed for children and families grappling with fear, anxiety, sadness, confusion, and social isolation challenges exacerbated by ongoing displacement and instability.
- Unaccompanied and separated children remain a major concern, with temporary care being provided by communities, as well as a long-term care planning with stronger community-based protection mechanisms.
- Children are facing severe shortages of essential services such as shelter, healthcare, and basic supplies, which heightens psychosocial distress and increases the risk of exploitation and abuse.

Response:

- The CP AoR is working closely with key partners to enhance family tracing and reunification efforts, ensuring that children are reunited with their families in a safe and timely manner.
- To date, CP AoR partners have reached 34,642 people, including 30,352 children and 104 persons with disabilities, with life-saving child protection services. These efforts have included distributing child protection kits to 10,072 children, providing case management services for 916 children (including unaccompanied and separated children), offering gender-specific programming for 200 adolescents, sharing life-saving child protection information with 4,578 people, and providing psychosocial support and first aid to 18,876 people.
- The CP AoR is actively scaling up case management services, with mapping efforts underway in earthquake-affected areas.

The CP AoR continues to support partners by offering technical resources and guidance on CP response, ensuring
consistency and effectiveness in service delivery across affected communities. These resources are uploaded daily to
a google drive for easy access by all partners, with new materials highlighted each day.

Gaps & Constraints:

• Forced closure of some IDP camps has significantly increased the vulnerability of children and families, exacerbating displacement challenges and exposing them to additional risks and instability.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) AoR

Needs:

- Protection risks have increased in earthquake-affected areas, due to factors like lack of privacy, poor lighting, inadequate WASH facilities, and limited hygiene kits. Also, the indirect or unintentional exclusion of women and girls from humanitarian aid due to a range of physical and environmental barriers also increases vulnerability to GBV. Reports of abduction, sexual and physical violence, and harassment highlight the dangers women and girls face in overcrowded environments.
- Psychological distress, including trauma, anxiety, and stress, is a major health concern, emphasizing the need for ongoing GBV and mental health services. Insecurity, limited movement, and poor access to GBV response services due to damaged infrastructure and impassable roads exacerbate these challenges.

Response:

- A total of 49 GBV partners are providing services in affected areas, including case management, psychosocial support
 (PSS), health and sexual reproductive health referrals, legal aid, and distribution of dignity kits and women's essential
 kits through women and girls' safe spaces, mobile health teams, and outreach teams. Five GBV helplines remain active.
- Between 25 April and 1 May, 1,459 people received GBV interventions in Mandalay and Sagaing. Additionally, 3,103 dignity kits and 294 women's essential kits were distributed in Bago, Mandalay, Sagaing, and Shan.
- Updated referral pathways and service maps have been shared with partners.
- Refresher training on psychological first aid, group emotional support, and orientations on the GBV Pocket Guide and CP-GBV assessment tools were conducted for over 70 participants.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Significant service gaps persist, particularly in case management, health and SRH, legal assistance, women and girls' safe spaces, and specialized MHPSS.
- GBV response efforts are further hindered in some regions by conflict, bureaucratic impediments, and infrastructure damage, while a shortage of trained staff and sporadic partner presence in remote areas continues to limit service effectiveness.
- Funding shortfalls limit the scale-up of GBV interventions, particularly in hard-to-reach and high-risk communities.

Mine Action AoR

Needs:

• The earthquake has disrupted infrastructure, increasing the risks associated with contamination of landmines and explosive ordnance. Sixty-seven per cent of earthquake-prioritized townships had at least one landmine and explosive ordnance incident in the past five years and were already contaminated before the earthquake. Scaling up explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and victim assistance is vital to reducing these risks.

Response:

- Despite underreporting, at least 1,079 people have received life-saving EORE messages. Victim assistance, including MHPSS, has begun, with 50 victims receiving support.
- Partners continue to develop and share EORE materials (visual, audio, and video) to expand outreach.

Gaps & Constraints:

• Reporting remains a major challenge for partners, contributing to the limited data on mine action reach. Telecommunication issues continue to hinder timely reporting from local partners from the ground.

Shelter, Non-Food Items (NFIs), Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

Needs:

- Preliminary rapid needs assessments (RNA) show that 52 per cent of houses in assessed villages across 55 townships
 are damaged. Continued aftershocks threaten further destruction, deepen community trauma, and hinder returns,
 complicating response efforts.
- Seventy-four per cent of the worst-affected townships remain without shelter assistance, and 50 per cent lack NFI support. In most reached areas, over 75 per cent of targeted people still need aid.
- Over 100 collective centres and informal sites lack proper site management systems, exposing displaced people to safety, security, and protection risks. Overcrowded settlements without coordinated management increases the risks of gender-based violence, disease outbreaks, and fire hazards.
- Unimpeded and sustained humanitarian access is needed to reach underserved areas with life-saving aid and implement camp management systems for many IDP sites.

Response:

- Since the earthquake response, cluster members have reached 126,900 people with emergency NFI assistance and 18,400 people with emergency shelter support across 6 regions and states. Twenty-two members are providing NFI assistance, and 11 are delivering emergency shelter.
- In central and northwestern Myanmar, 84,200 people (56,000 in Mandalay, 28,200 in Sagaing) received NFIs, and 6,400 people were provided with emergency shelter (2,500 in Mandalay, 3,900 in Sagaing). In Nay Pyi Taw, 7,800 people received emergency shelter, and 2,200 received NFI kits.
- In southeastern Myanmar, 40,400 people received NFIs (33,700 in southern Shan, 5,100 in Bago, and 1,600 in Kayin).
 4,100 people received emergency shelter.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The emergency shelter response remains alarmingly low. Limited funding restricts cluster members' ability to scale up operations, delaying Shelter/NFI responses and straining camp management systems.
- Prepositioned supplies are insufficient to meet overwhelming needs, complicating the balance between immediate relief and durable solutions.
- Critical gaps remain in camp management, with inadequate basic services, insufficient weather protection, and a lack
 of dignified shelter. Many families are still in overcrowded or unsafe shared spaces.
- Inadequate site planning, weak camp management structures, and limited access to essential services increase risks for displaced people.
- Without urgent CCCM interventions (e.g., site setup, monitoring), monsoon rains will worsen flooding, overcrowding, and service breakdowns for vulnerable groups.
- Both assessments (RNA and multisector initial rapid assessments) have covered 42 per cent of the targeted locations in the 58 worst-affected townships. However, security and logistical barriers hinder data collection in hard-to-reach areas, leaving 12 townships unassessed. Current figures likely underrepresent true needs, especially in conflict-affected areas.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Needs:

- Access to safe drinking water remains a major concern. While river water is available for domestic use, drinking water is scarce for affected communities in Sagaing Region.
- Critical water systems, such as collapsed storage tanks, broken distribution pipes and non-functional pumps require urgent technical repair and replacement to restore safe water access.
- Hygiene promotion, especially on the prevention of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD), must be urgently scaled up to mitigate public health risks.
- Rural displacement sites lack solid waste management systems, posing serious environmental and health hazards.

Response:

• Cluster partners reached over 280,000 people with essential WASH support and more than 650,000 people with water purification tablets since earthquake response.

 Between 25 April and 1 May, 42 partners provided WASH services including the distribution of 16,751 hygiene kits, 11,971 lidded buckets, 5,250 soap bars, 200 AWD kits, 50 latrines, 6 dust bins (100L), and 5 water purifiers across 21 prioritized townships in Bago, Mandalay, Sagaing and Shan.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Low levels of funding remain a significant concern for the WASH response.
- Significant WASH gaps persist, especially in peri-urban and rural areas. Rural areas have limited partner presence compared to urban locations. Current efforts cover only 21 of the 58 prioritized earthquake-affected townships.
- Many health facilities outside urban areas lack functioning WASH services due to the earthquake damage. Targeted assessments are encouraged to guide appropriate interventions.
- Solid waste management remains a major challenge in rural areas, where organized collection and disposal systems are lacking, unlike urban centres where municipal efforts are underway.
- Rehabilitation efforts are lagging behind as most partners are focused on immediate response. Additional funding and resources are urgently needed to support recovery.

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