



Woman and her son in receive shelter material and relief items, Mandalay | © IOM May 2025

HIGHLIGHTS



More than **6.3 million people** are in need in the areas hardest-hit by the earthquakes. A significant scale-up of humanitarian, early recovery and reconstruction interventions is still urgently required.



An early monsoon season with daily heavy rainfall poses additional challenges, especially for people residing outside in makeshift shelters without protection against the elements.



IOM's Population Mobility and Needs Tracking (PMNT/DTM) programme is currently conducting Early Recovery Needs Assessments, covering 273 earthquake-affected locations in 20 townships.



IOM's **Flash Appeal** calls for **USD 17.3M** to provide life-saving assistance to earthquake-affected people during the first three months of the response. So far, **USD 9.1M** has been confirmed or is in the pipeline, with a current funding gap of **USD 8.2M**.¹

SITUATION UPDATE

¹ The IOM Flash Appeal for the Myanmar Earthquake Response, is in line with Myanmar Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan Flash Addendum, and the IOM Myanmar Crisis Response Plan. For more information, please visit the [Myanmar Crisis Response Plan 2025 | Global Crisis Response Platform](#).

With two months having passed since the earthquake hit central Myanmar in late March 2025, IOM's disaster response has gradually shifted to transition into its early recovery phase, while continuing critical lifesaving support across multiple emergency sectors.

Building on the ongoing humanitarian data collection and lessons learned from the agency's emergency operations, IOM has assessed impact of damages and losses, and early recovery needs through both its standalone humanitarian operations and Inter-Agency collaboration. It is now strategizing its early recovery response plan and coordinating relevant communications with stakeholders at various levels. The four main pillars of IOM's early recovery response will include: (a) data collection and management, (b) restoration of critical infrastructures and shelters, (c) protection, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), and health service provision, and (d) emergency livelihoods.

Through the [IOM Myanmar Earthquake Response Flash Appeal](#), the Organization continues to appeal for USD 17.3 million to reach 293,560 crisis-affected persons. Currently around 30 per cent funded, IOM is calling for additional support to respond to the most urgent needs and to support affected people to rebuild their lives.

SECTORAL NEEDS AND IOM RESPONSE

31

Local partners in affected townships

70,000

Relief items imported from IOM global stocks and donations from EU Member States, with distributions ongoing

2,230

Persons received shelter and WASH NFIs, with ongoing distributions estimated to reach 50,000 people

12,008

Individuals received cash assistance, with ongoing distributions set to reach 54,600 people

6,453

Patients accessed medical consultations/care by IOM mobile clinics

EARLY RECOVERY

Needs and response gaps: Key early recovery assessments on the ground thus far indicate immense needs in the Shelter/Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCCM) Sector. These include, but are not limited to, the rehabilitation of infrastructures and homes, debris management and clearance, and demolition of damaged properties, requiring appropriate machinery, technical resources, transitional shelters solutions, and effective settlement management in urban and peri-urban areas. Meanwhile, continuing life-saving support remains critical, particularly in the forms of medical assistance, MHPSS, multi-purpose and sectoral cash assistance, short-term income generation, and the protection of crisis-affected and mobile populations.

Furthermore, IOM sees it pivotal to link the upcoming early recovery interventions with longer-term recovery and development approaches, such as Build Back Better and the Humanitarian, Development and Peace Nexus. In line with the global [IOM Strategic Plan \(2024-2028\)](#), the Organization's early recovery interventions will provide comprehensive solutions for populations directly affected by the earthquake, especially those with pre-existing vulnerabilities in the current context.

IOM response: In coordination with the Early Recovery Cluster, IOM's PMNT/DTM programme is currently conducting Early Recovery Needs Assessments across 273 earthquake-affected locations in 20 targeted townships between 22 and 30 May 2025.

Shelter and Non-food Items

Needs and response gaps: Both emergency and transitional shelter assistance remain critically needed among earthquake-affected populations. Emergency shelter assistance is still required for affected populations who have yet to receive any assistance. As the shelter response moves towards recovery phase, the provision of dignified transitional shelter and improved living conditions is a growing concern that needs to be addressed, especially in view of the coming monsoon season. Needs are particularly urgent in areas and for households whose homes that have been severely damaged or destroyed and for families currently staying in displacement sites. Overall, there is a pressing demand for both minor and moderate shelter repair assistance, which can be delivered through cash-based support or contractor services depending on the context. Market assessments should inform these approaches, as various reports highlight rising prices and shortages of shelter material in high demand. Communities also require technical guidance, close supervision and accurate shelter damage assessments to ensure safe and effective repairs. In coordination with the Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster, authorities have established a committee to assess and verify buildings to confirm their structural safety before repair or rehabilitation support begins. Lastly, there is a critical need to build the capacity of local partners involved in shelter rehabilitation, alongside support for Housing, Land and Property (HLP) due diligence and rights protection to ensure secure and sustainable housing solutions.

IOM response:

- Core relief items - including blankets, mats, mosquito nets, jerry cans, tarpaulins, ropes and kitchen sets – were delivered to 1,511 earthquake-affected people during the reporting period.
- IOM implementing partner, Guardian Network, launched a large-scale distribution of non-food items (NFIs), targeting over 6,000 households across the Nay Pyi Taw municipal area and Mandalay.
- In the coming days, IOM plans to start direct distributions in Amarapura, Mandalay and Mingun in Sagaing region. Items will include tents, core relief items and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) kits.
- Preparations are ongoing for post-distribution monitoring to assess the effectiveness and relevance of assistance provided.
- Preparatory and protection-focused activities were carried out in several townships – including introductory meetings, beneficiary verification, complaints and feedback mechanisms, awareness sessions and safety audits – contributing to a broader effort to strengthen accountability to affected populations and community engagement.



Family leaving IOM shelter and NFI distribution, Mandalay | © IOM May 2025

Health

Needs and response gaps: According to rapid needs assessments, an estimated 395 health facilities in Sagaing, Eastern Bago, Kayin, Mandalay, Naypyitaw and Southern Shan remain non-functional due to the earthquake. There is a continued shortage of clean drinking water – due to damaged water infrastructure in many affected communities. People residing in temporary shelters and displacement sites face heightened risks of disease outbreaks, including acute watery diarrhea and respiratory infections. The steady increase in consultations reported by IOM mobile clinic teams indicates rising demand and improved access to healthcare. Most clinical cases are now related to chronic conditions such as diabetes and hypertension, rather than trauma-related injuries. As the situation evolves, the response has transitioned from emergency relief to strengthening local healthcare systems.

IOM response:

- IOM mobile clinics have been operational six days a week since 5 April 2025 to deliver essential healthcare services to earthquake-affected populations.
- To date, IOM reached 6,453 (4,485 female and 1,968 male) in Amarapura and Maharaungmyay, Mandalay.
- Twenty-eight cases were referred to specialized care services for earthquake-induced health issues.

Protection and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

Needs and response gaps: The protection of civilians remains a major concern, with reported airstrikes on civilian targets continuing even after the earthquake. As a result, many people have been forced to leave their homes for safety. Humanitarian access remains constrained, especially in earthquake-affected areas not controlled by the de facto authorities. According to IOM rapid needs assessments, 24 per cent of affected individuals reported feeling unsafe at evacuation and displacement sites, predominantly in Mandalay and Shan South. 5 per cent of key informants identified safety risks for women and girls, and 8 per cent noted risks for children. These findings highlight the rapid need to create accessible safe spaces for women and girls to protect them from violence and exploitation. 10 per cent of vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities and older people, face safety risks due to their specific needs such as limited access to assistive devices. Latrine conditions also present serious concerns with 96 per cent of facilities in displacement camps are not sex-disaggregated, with 44 per cent of key informants reporting a lack of lighting and electricity. These gaps increase the risk of sexual abuse, harassment, snake bites and other forms of gender-based violence (GBV), particularly at night. IOM assessments also revealed that 59 per cent of individuals reported emotional and psychological distress due to the earthquake, exacerbating pre-existing mental health stressors. This aligns with findings from other agencies, confirming that MHPSS needs are widespread, with many people experiencing distress from losing loved ones, property and livelihoods, and having limited access to care and support services.

IOM response:

- Expansion of IOM's protection and MHPSS response is ongoing through two local partners in Mandalay and Sagaing to scale up community-based MHPSS interventions and protection case management in the coming weeks. One partnership agreement took effect on 19 May and the second to begin on 1 June 2025.
- Through its Rapid Response Fund, IOM conducted a three-day training to 47 implementing partner staff (31 female and 16 male), strengthening their technical capacities and skills to assist people with specific needs in line with MHPSS and protection minimum standards.
- IOM MHPSS staff were deployed to Mandalay to support IOM mobile health clinics, providing focused non-specialized MHPSS services, including MHPSS assessments, emotional support, psychological first aid, group wellbeing sessions, lay-counselling and psychoeducation. 77 individuals have been supported so far.
- Safety audits were conducted at distribution points to identify and mitigate protection and GBV risks, particularly for women and girls, and complaints and feedback mechanisms were established to complement direct in-kind distributions in Mandalay to ensure accountability to affected people. Feedback was received from 57 individuals, with 20 cases resolved and 37 referred to relevant service providers.



IOM Rapid Response Fund partner conducting orientation sessions prior to cash distributions in Nay Pyi Taw. | © IOM May 2025

Cash-based Interventions

Needs and response gaps: Cash assistance continues to serve as vital means of delivering life-saving support with the continued functionality of local markets and evolving needs of affected communities. However, many earthquake-affected households still face reduced incomes and limited access to financial services. As recovery efforts progress, cash assistance remains a flexible and dignified modality that enables families to address their most urgent and diverse needs – ranging from food and shelter to healthcare. Moving forward, scaling up and adapting cash responses will be essential to supporting both household-level recovery and the revitalization of local economies, particularly in areas where in-kind aid faces ongoing logistical and access constraints.

IOM response:

- IOM is working with 10 local organizations to provide cash assistance to 54,600 affected individuals in Mandalay, Sagaing, Shan, Magway, Bago and Nay Pyi Taw.
- To date, IOM has reached 12,008 individuals with cash assistance, including multi-purpose cash assistance, cash for food, health, shelter and settlements, protection and WASH.
- IOM continues to coordinate with the Cash and Markets Working Group and other actors to ensure harmonized and effective delivery of assistance.

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