



Myanmar: Earthquake Response

Situation Report No. 1

As of 7 April 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

- Ten days after the disastrous earthquakes that hit Myanmar on 28 March, the human toll continues to increase. Over 3,500 people died, nearly 5,000 have been injured, and over 200 remain missing nationwide, according to publicly available figures.
- It is estimated that over 17.2 million people are living in affected areas, with over 9.1 million exposed to the strongest tremors across 58 of the country's 330 townships. Urgent needs include food, drinking water, healthcare, cash assistance and emergency shelter.
- Entire communities have been upended, forcing people to seek shelter in makeshift conditions, disrupting markets, worsening psychosocial distress and bringing essential services—including running water, sanitation and health—to the verge of collapse.
- People left homeless by the earthquakes are exposed to extreme heat during the country's hottest and driest month of the year, and rains have already started in Mandalay – posing an additional threat to those sheltering in the open.

3.5K

People killed

200

People missing

5K

People injured

17.2M

People living in the affected areas

9.1M

People living in the worst affected townships

SITUATION OVERVIEW

On 28 March, two consecutive earthquakes – measuring 7.7 and 6.4 in magnitude – struck central Myanmar, with epicentres near Mandalay and Sagaing cities at a shallow depth of 10 kilometres. The tremors were felt nationwide and beyond. Mandalay Region, Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, Sagaing Region, and southern Shan State were severely affected, and to a lesser extent, Bago Region, Magway Region and eastern Shan State. It is estimated that over 17.2 million people across 58 of the country's 330 townships have been affected, with over 9.1 million exposed to the strongest tremors.

According to publicly available figures, over 3,500 people died, nearly 5,000 have been injured and over 200 remain missing nationwide. Rescue teams continue recovery efforts to find anyone who remains in the rubble. The response is now shifting to relief and early recovery, as thousands remain displaced and struggle to meet their most basic needs. Communities in the worst-affected areas continue to grapple with widespread destruction of homes, health facilities and critical infrastructure; prolonged power and water outages; severely limited telecommunications; and damaged or obstructed transport routes. People left homeless by the earthquakes are exposed to extreme heat during the country's hottest and driest month of the year, while the looming monsoon season poses an additional threat to those sheltering in the open. Rainfall on 5 April in Mandalay and Sagaing has impacted rescue and response efforts and worsened the living conditions of people who lost their homes. The Department of Meteorology and Hydrology forecasts that rain and strong winds are likely to occur across many states and regions until 11 April.



Photo: A heavily damaged building in Nay Pyi Taw. Credit: OCHA/Christina Powell

Initial rapid needs assessments covering 588,000 people across 31 townships in seven states and regions, including Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, have identified people's urgent priorities: food, drinking water, health care, cash assistance and emergency shelter. Among those assessed, 47 per cent have yet to receive any form of assistance.

Prior to the earthquakes, people in Myanmar were already facing an alarming humanitarian crisis, with an estimated 19.9 million people in need of assistance. The crisis is fuelled by ongoing conflict, displacement, economic hardship and other disasters—including flooding in September 2024 that impacted more than 1 million people. Before the earthquakes struck Myanmar, it was estimated that more than 3.5 million people had been forced to flee their homes, over 15 million were already facing hunger and protection concerns were mounting. The impact of the earthquakes will only intensify these already severe needs, putting more and more lives at risk.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Education in Emergencies

The latest assessments indicate that more than 1,800 schools have been affected by the earthquakes, sustaining varying degrees of structural damage, with some destroyed. The affected facilities include public schools, monastic schools and community-based learning centres. In some locations, school buildings are being used as temporary shelters for displaced people. Cluster partners are continuing field assessments and have started distributing critical education-in-emergency supplies, such as roofing sheets and learning materials, to a limited number of schools that remain operational.

Food Security

The Food Security Cluster provided assistance, including food, to nearly 74,000 affected people in Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing and southern Shan. Planned distributions of food in Mandalay and Sagaing regions on 6 April were suspended due to heavy rain and flooding. Coordination is ongoing to protect food stocks and explore temporary distribution points through emergency asset creation and livelihood projects to shield both beneficiaries and supplies from ongoing rain and heat. In Sagaing, food transport is reliant on the new Ayeyarwady Bridge, which sustained minor damage. There are weight restrictions for crossing the bridge, which requires using smaller trucks and slows deliveries significantly. Due to limited storage space in central Myanmar, trailer trucks are being used as makeshift storage facilities. Challenges persist with data collection, with owners of some damaged households being temporarily relocated and unreachable due to inconsistent phone connectivity. In southern Shan, long car and boat journeys for partners to reach distribution points caused delays.

Health

It is estimated that 13,200 people require trauma care following the earthquake, with around 2,000 expected to be severely injured. The cluster confirmed that five health facilities have been destroyed and 61 health facilities damaged in Bago, Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing and southern Shan. While no outbreaks of diarrhoea have been confirmed to date, the risk of waterborne diseases continues to rise due to the lack of safe drinking water and sanitation. The cluster is working with partners to establish a disease surveillance system focused on early detection and outbreak response. Preliminary findings from a rapid disability assessment show that 42 per cent of respondents in five affected regions need medical support, with many reporting a lack of cash for transport and service fees. In response, the Health Cluster is coordinating with the Disability Inclusion Technical Advisory Group to ensure equitable distribution of assistive devices.

Currently, 52 Health Cluster partners are supporting the earthquake response. Among them, the majority are in Mandalay, with 18 providing emergency and trauma care and 34 supporting mostly primary health care services. Fifteen Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) have been deployed in the field, with 5 teams mobilizing to enter the country, 11 under monitoring, and 13 on standby. Seven Emergency Medical Teams have been deployed to Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw. Critical shortages of life- and limb-saving medical supplies are hampering response efforts across affected areas.

Logistics

Coordination efforts continue among the Logistic cluster and humanitarian partners. The rapid gaps and needs analysis survey was sent to humanitarian partners and findings will be shared shortly. The results will provide more clarity on the capacity and requirements of partners in terms of transportation and storage. Additional assessments are ongoing. The main challenges reported by humanitarian partners include damaged road infrastructure, insufficient storage in affected areas such as Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon, as well as movement restrictions and lengthy import procedures.

Nutrition

The Nutrition Cluster continues to coordinate with partners on the ground to assess and respond to emerging needs.

Protection

Protection: The Protection Cluster continues to report heightened levels of distress among earthquake-affected families. In Mandalay and Sagaing, displaced families are sheltering in public buildings, where hygiene facilities are not adequate and there is a lack of privacy. The overcrowded living conditions pose significant risks to children and women, exposing them to increased risk of sexual violence. Many displacement sites lack safe and gender-sensitive WASH facilities, exposing women and adolescent girls to additional risks at night or when accessing toilets and bathing areas. There is an urgent need to scale up prevention and response activities, including the distribution of dignity kits, the establishment of safe spaces, and the deployment of mobile psychosocial support teams to support affected communities.

Partners initiated the dissemination of community-based messaging on protection to ensure that affected people receive timely and life-saving information. This includes content on explosive ordnance risks, child protection and gender-based violence (GBV) mitigation measures. The cluster is working to reinforce referral pathways through coordinated efforts with local actors and service providers. This includes the development of updated service mapping tools that facilitate timely and

appropriate referrals for survivors of GBV, unaccompanied children and individuals in need of specialized psychosocial or legal support.

GBV: Partners are disseminating information about available services, updated referral pathways and key GBV messages, particularly for displacement settings. A total of 3,800 dignity kits and 3,000 women's essential kits have been provided to local actors in Mandalay and Sagaing for further distribution.

Mine Action: Mine risks are a growing concern in and around earthquake-affected areas, with explosive ordnance moving and increasing exposure in homes and communal spaces. The Mine Action Area of Responsibility has developed earthquake-specific risk education messages for broad dissemination.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS): People continue to feel unsafe due to ongoing aftershocks and some experience distress triggered by social media content or rumours. High levels of emotional exhaustion, grief and fear have been reported as common reactions, especially among those who have lost family members or remain in unsafe housing. Frontline responders are also showing signs of emotional exhaustion and secondary stress. Humanitarian partners have been delivering MHPSS services to affected communities through a range of approaches, including online emotional support and helplines, the deployment of trained mental health professionals and the coordination of field-level interventions. These efforts encompass technical assistance, psychological first aid, psychoeducation and field-based needs assessments across multiple affected areas. Relevant materials on MHPSS are available at <https://www.mhpssmyanmar.org/earthquakeresponse>.

Child Protection: Child protection concerns are escalating in earthquake-affected areas, with children facing heightened risks of psychosocial distress, separation from caregivers, exposure to unsafe environments and increased vulnerability to violence, trafficking and unsafe migration. Overcrowded living conditions, loss of livelihoods and rising stress levels among caregivers are compounding these risks. Partners focused on providing child protection kits, initial psychosocial support and family tracing. Urgent resources and expanded capacity are needed to scale up life-saving services, including case management and alternative care, to prevent long-term harm to children in an already complex and fragile environment.

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

Despite access and logistical challenges, Shelter/NFI/CCCM partners have been delivering life-saving assistance in the worst affected areas. More than 10,000 people have received NFI assistance, including tarpaulin sheets for emergency shelters. A total of 64 emergency tents have been distributed in Mandalay City and the Nay Pyi Taw area. Tarpaulin sheets and NFI kits have been distributed to more than 2,200 people in southern Shan. Essential household items have also been delivered to approximately 600 people in a displacement site in Sintgaing Township and more than 200 people in Amarapura Township in Mandalay Region. Shelter assistance is underway in targeted areas to address urgent shelter needs.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

WASH Cluster partners are actively delivering support to affected people while assessments are ongoing. Assessments in 31 townships show that nearly 42,700 latrines were destroyed, showing the massive need for sanitation facilities. Access to drinking and domestic water remains a critical need. Hygiene and sanitation services are also urgently required to prevent disease outbreaks and preserve dignity among displaced communities. Drinking water has been provided to more than 44,000 people in affected areas, including Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw and hygiene kits have been distributed to over 103,000 people – helping to improve hygiene conditions in camps and temporary settlements. Private donors have also played a critical role in the response, providing drinking water to affected people. Partners are mobilizing to begin latrine construction in Sagaing and Nyaungshwe townships where space allows. Emergency latrine construction is a challenge, particularly in urban areas, due to land unavailability and prohibition. In urban Mandalay, only mobile sanitation units are currently approved by local authorities.

COORDINATION

OCHA is coordinating the emergency response on behalf of humanitarian partners through a series of Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) meetings, as well as ad-hoc Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) meetings. From 4 and 6 April, the Emergency Relief Coordinator visited Myanmar, witnessing the impacts of the disaster, supporting response coordination and engaging humanitarian teams and authorities. Multi-sector rapid needs assessments are ongoing in parallel to the implementation of response efforts.

A total of 31 international Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) teams from 13 countries deployed in Myanmar. Search and rescue operations took place in Mandalay, Naypyidaw and Sagaing. On 3 April, the response transitioned into a recovery phase, with continued support from the USAR teams. Most teams are expected to leave Myanmar by 8 April.

As of 4 April, 25 donors have initially pledged a total of \$93 million to the earthquake response for implementation via a range of pooled funding mechanisms, UN and NGO partners.

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