



Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Five weeks on from the devastating earthquakes that struck on 28 March in Sagaing Region, central Myanmar continues to experience almost daily seismic activity. Since the destructive quakes, more than 160 aftershocks have been recorded, including two with 5.9 and 5.5 magnitude tremors near Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory and Wundwin Town on 29 March and 13 April, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology. As of 1 May, 3,835 deaths have been reported, 5,105 people injured and 105 people remain missing.¹ The estimated economic losses are approximately USD 1.8 billion.²

Prior to the earthquakes, Myanmar already had the fifth highest number of people in need of humanitarian assistance globally – 20 million, or about a third of the country, including 6.4 million children. In the 58 townships that have been most severely affected by the earthquake, 6.3 million people (including nearly 2 million children) are now in urgent need of assistance and protection – over two-thirds of whom were already in a dire humanitarian situation before the earthquakes due to the ongoing conflict, previous climate-related disasters, displacement and economic hardship. Preexisting food insecurity across Myanmar, compounded by loss of livelihoods and disruptions to supply chains and services within the earthquake affected communities, have affected the availability of life-saving nutrition support for children and other vulnerable groups.

Many communities in affected areas still lack access to safe water due to damaged boreholes, broken piped systems or contaminated wells, requiring continued water provision and exploration of sustainable solutions. Sanitation gaps persist in temporary accommodation centres and in rural areas, necessitating emergency and rehabilitated latrines. Solid waste management remains a challenge in rural areas, requiring the provision of communal waste bins.

Soaring temperatures, rainfall, thunderstorms and strong winds are further impacting the living conditions of displaced families living in tents and temporary shelters. The upcoming monsoon season will bring further challenges for those staying in temporary shelters and outdoor settings. These conditions heighten the risk of outbreaks of various diseases, such as water-borne diseases (e.g. cholera), vector-borne diseases (e.g. dengue, malaria), vaccine-preventable diseases (e.g. measles) and skin diseases and with many healthcare facilities damaged or stretched beyond capacity, accessing even basic health care remains challenging for affected populations.³

The earthquakes have sharply intensified risks of violence, exploitation, and abuse, especially for women and girls staying in overcrowded shelters, where privacy and safety are limited. Caregivers and children are experiencing heightened psychosocial distress. Although communities are providing ad hoc temporary alternative care for separated and unaccompanied children, there is an urgent need to scale up family tracing, and reunification and provision of alternative family-based care where families cannot be traced or have died in the earthquakes.

¹ [The Global New Light of Myanmar, Vol. XII, No. 16, 2 May 2025](#)

² [ASEAN Weekly Disaster Update Week 17 | 21 - 27 Apr 2025](#)

³ [WHO South-East Asia Region Epidemiological Bulletin, 8th edition \(2025\), 23 April 2025](#)

Education infrastructure across the earthquake affected areas has been severely impacted, with structural damage to buildings, as well as loss of equipment and solar systems, and damage to WASH facilities. To restore children's access to learning, emergency support with teaching and learning materials, restoring damaged infrastructure and integrated mental health and psychosocial support are critical, alongside community engagement and coordination for safe school reopening and long-term recovery.

Funding Overview

UNICEF is updating the initial funding requirement of \$28M with the finalization of the Earthquake Flash Addendum and to reflect the early recovery and rehabilitation needs that are a priority along with the immediate response. UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal for 2025 will be updated to reflect the higher funding requirements once the earthquake response and recovery plan has been finalised.

UNICEF has received a loan from its internal Emergency Programme Fund (EPF) mechanism as well as flexible global humanitarian thematic funds to kickstart the response but urgently requires additional contributions to sustain the initial response. UNICEF Myanmar expresses its appreciation for the generous contributions received from the Government of Japan and UNICEF National Committee partners, as well as the in-kind contribution from the European Union.

UNICEF Response

WASH

As of 30 April, UNICEF and its partners have continued to provide lifesaving WASH services earthquake affected populations, reaching 565,000 people with safe water through the distribution of water purification chemicals and water trucking, while 300,000 people with essential WASH supplies including hygiene kits, water storage containers, tarpaulins and rope, to support their daily hygiene and water needs.

Through inter-agency distributions, an additional 1,220 households or 5,395 people in 27 communities were also provided with hygiene kits, water purification chemicals, and water storage containers in Mandalay. These also included demonstration on the use of water purification chemicals, hygiene promotion sessions and distribution of IEC materials on lifesaving WASH behaviours and practices.

With generous donor support, UNICEF and partners have begun addressing the interim WASH needs of affected families as they gradually return home. This includes urgent repairs and restoration of water sources, provision of temporary communal water storage, distribution of safe drinking and domestic water, installation of semi-permanent latrines and handwashing stations, repeat distribution of essential hygiene supplies, and continued hygiene promotion to encourage healthy practices and prevent disease outbreaks—particularly in light of the approaching monsoon season.

Health and Nutrition

UNICEF continues to provide essential supplies to local partners who are responding to the needs arising from the earthquakes. There are currently 16 partners delivering critical response activities to deliver health and nutrition services through the deployment of mobile teams, temporary community clinics, or direct distribution using community volunteers' network; aimed at assisting the most vulnerable populations in Mandalay, Sagaing, Nay Pyi Taw, and Shan South.



© UNICEF/NYANZAYHTET. UNICEF staff distributes a domestic water to people who live in a makeshift camp in Mandalay.



© UNICEF/NYANZAYHTET. Acute malnutrition screening using MUAC method during the humanitarian aid in Mandalay.

As of 30 April 2025, UNICEF and partners provided direct support in 21 severely affected townships in Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, and South Shan covering over 400,000 people for a three-month period, including 50,000 children under five and 8,000 pregnant and lactating women. In these areas, approximately one million children under five and 240,000 pregnant and lactating women may require essential health and nutrition services.

UNICEF and its key partners continue to prioritise the response in 58 most affected townships by ensuring access to essential care, including antenatal services, safe deliveries, postnatal care, immunization, treatment for childhood illnesses and malnutrition.

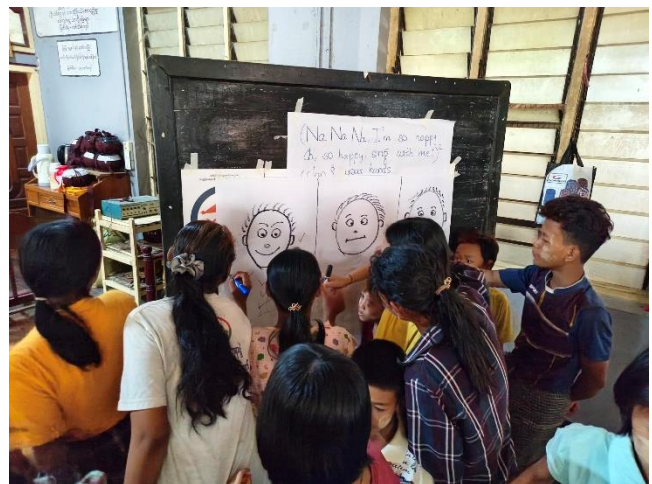
UNICEF is revitalizing the coordination of nutrition response, bringing together more than 10 key partners dedicated to deliver nutritional emergencies, post-earthquakes. As part of these efforts, a recent orientation session focused on the appropriate feeding for non-breastfed children and best practices for treating acute malnutrition.

Child Protection

As of 30 April, 25,183 earthquake affected people includes 19,004 children (11,157 girls and 7,847 boys) had been reached by UNICEF and partners with multiple child protection interventions, including 165 children living with disability. Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) remained as one of the key priority interventions and benefitted a total of 9,909 earthquake-affected people (4,809 girls, 3,671 boys, 992 women and 437 men) by participating in community-level child and women friendly activities. To meet the need of earthquake affected children, UNICEF distributed 3,910 age and gender appropriate child protection kits benefitting a total of 6,502 children (4,070 girls and 2,432 boys). 62 children (35 girls and 27 boys) mostly with psychological distress and without primary care givers have been serviced through an individual case management mechanism delivered by case workers trained by UNICEF.

Through community level sessions, 5,577 earthquake affected people (1,308 girls, 1,024 boys, 1,974 women and 1,271 men) participated in specific orientation sessions and were provided with information on gender-based violence prevention and with risk mitigation services; on explosive ordinance risk (EOR) information, on child protection during natural disasters, on positive parenting and self-care when coping with emotional distress, on the risks of exploitation and violence, and children likely to be separated from their families and how to prevent etc. A total of 3,133 people (935 girls, 693 boys, 929 women and 576 men) received information on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers (PSEA), and where also informed on how to access SEA safe reporting channels.

An inter-agency monitoring plan has been put in place in earthquake affected Pinlaung township in Shan State. The Northwest CP AoR hold a coordination meeting with focus on earthquake response in Sagaing and Mandalay. To expand and scale up earthquake response in Mandalay, on 26 April, UNICEF child protection team together with OCHA and IOM also attended a meeting organized by religious leaders who engaged in the earthquake response. As per outcome of the meeting, a joint UN training was agreed to organize in the first week of May.



© UNICEF/May Zan Kyaw. Children participating in Child Friendly Space activity as part of earthquake response in Phyu township, Bago Region.

For the coming week, UNICEF is planning to reach earthquake affected children and caregivers in 14 internally displaced persons' camps in Bago East. Child protection supply distributions will resume and will be done in conjunction with the dissemination of child protection messages on violence against children, on gender-based violence prevention and risk mitigation, on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers, on EOR awareness.

Education

UNICEF remains committed to supporting the continuity of children's learning and protection in earthquake-affected areas of Myanmar. This includes the creation of safe spaces where children can play, socialize, and receive mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). To date, 4,367 children (including 2,197 girls and 9 children with disabilities) have been reached through different educational supplies and services. Likewise, 653 children and educators (299 of whom are girls and women) have benefitted from MHPSS services in educational settings across multiple townships. A total of 282 children (144 girls) have received child protection kits, designed to promote play and reduce the stress caused by traumatic experiences.

To enhance children's wellbeing in safe and integrated learning environments, UNICEF continues to distribute water purification tablets and buckets to improve access to safe drinking water in learning spaces. Earthquake awareness pamphlets have also been produced and distributed to learning centres and surrounding communities. The education response includes the distribution of 5,000 individual Essential Learning Packages, recreation kits, Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits, and roofing sheets for temporary learning spaces. These supplies are being delivered through partners to help ensure uninterrupted learning. Orientation sessions have commenced for ECD facilitators, educators, and community volunteers on how to effectively use these materials and engage with children.

UNICEF is working closely with other UN agencies and implementing partners to assess the damage of educational facilities. Based on the findings, UNICEF is coordinating the procurement and distribution of teaching and learning materials to address the immediate needs of children and educators. As schools prepare to reopen in June, there is growing demand for tents, tarpaulins, and additional roofing sheets. In parallel, UNICEF is working with implementing partners to initiate early recovery interventions, including the establishment of temporary learning structures and minor repairs to ensure the continuation of education.

Social Protection and Cash

The earthquake has deepened already critical vulnerabilities. Years of crisis had already eroded purchasing power, leaving many families with children struggling to afford essentials such as food, safe water, shelter materials and medicines. By placing unrestricted cash directly in caregivers' hands, UNICEF seeks to restore dignity and choice while injecting liquidity into disrupted local markets—helping traders restart their businesses and accelerating community recovery.



UNICEF is scaling up multipurpose cash assistance for the most vulnerable households, including those caring for children and adults with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities are identified and screened so that any additional needs can be met alongside the cash support (see photo). Where feasible, transfers are delivered through mobile-money platforms, reducing travel time and security risks for recipients. To date, 15,395 people in the earthquake-affected areas benefited from this assistance, and registration continues in newly accessed villages. UNICEF is working closely with the Cash Working Group and other partners to keep targeting criteria, transfer values and delivery mechanisms harmonised as the response expands.

Social and Behaviour Change

UNICEF, in collaboration with WHO and IFRC, is strengthening Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) to prevent disease outbreaks. Efforts include social listening to counter harmful misinformation circulating within affected communities. UNICEF is continuing to work with media partners (including local radio stations, social media platforms, and community networks) to disseminate key messages on coping with trauma, hygiene and sanitation practices to prevent waterborne and communicable diseases, and protection measures against gender-based violence.

Distribution of hygiene and clean delivery kits by UNICEF continues, accompanied by health education on the "four cleans"—clean water, food, hands, and toilets—and the use of chlorine tablets to reduce disease risk. More than 10,717 households (over 55,000 people) in Mandalay Region and Nay Pyi Taw have been reached to date. Furthermore, approximately 1,500 pregnant and lactating women have received guidance on newborn care and breastfeeding in emergencies, along with clean delivery and newborn kits.

Through newly recruited 15 volunteers in 3 most affected areas in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Township, 3,573 individuals have participated in community consultation sessions aimed at improving knowledge and addressing concerns related to handwashing, sanitation, safe drinking water, health-seeking behaviours, earthquake awareness, breastfeeding, complementary feeding and early childcare and development during emergencies.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

OCHA is coordinating the overall humanitarian response with all clusters through coordination mechanisms established at the national and sub-national levels. UNICEF will continue to provide leadership for the WASH Cluster, Nutrition Cluster, Child Protection and Mine Action AoRs, and is co-leading the Education Cluster (with Save the Children). Cluster discussions at the national and sub-national levels are ongoing to obtain information about immediate needs and to coordinate the response.

The WASH Cluster has reached over 650,000 people with water purification distribution, and the total number of people reached with WASH activities in earthquake-affected areas is over 280,000. During the last week of April, distributions included 11,971 plastic buckets with lids, 200 acute watery diarrhoea kits, 6 x 100 Liter dust bins, 16,751 hygiene kits, 5 LifeStraw water purification systems, 5,250 soap bars, and 50 latrine constructions in Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago (east), and Shan. On April 29th, 2025, the WASH cluster conducted a Global Emergency briefing. Key asks include repair and rehabilitation of damaged WASH facilities, unrestricted humanitarian access, and US\$56.1 million in funding (only 8.7% received) for earthquake response, prioritizing the initial recovery phase, and support for the 2025 WASH Cluster requirement of US\$97.5M to respond to 1.5 million people (only 1% of funding requirement received). Significant WASH response gaps exist in rural areas, where many health facilities lack functional WASH services post-earthquake. The cluster is encouraging targeted assessments to guide appropriate and timely interventions. Rural displacement sites face severe solid waste management issues due to the absence of structured collection, transport and disposal systems, posing environmental and public health risks.

The Nutrition Cluster, through its partners, has been delivering lifesaving nutrition support to earthquake-affected communities primarily in Mandalay and Sagaing. As of 01 May, 971 children and 78 pregnant and lactating women have been screened for acute malnutrition, with timely referrals made for appropriate treatment. 29 children diagnosed with acute malnutrition have received lifesaving treatment. Infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling has reached 158 lactating women, providing essential support to promote optimal feeding practices. Additionally, 516 children have received Multiple Micronutrient Powder (MNP). Cluster partners have also distributed essential food items and fortified biscuits to address urgent nutritional needs in Mandalay, Sagaing. A total of 29,472 households in these regions have received basic nutritious food items such as rice, chickpeas, cooking oil, and iodized salt. Furthermore, 15,502 households across eight townships in Mandalay have received fortified biscuits, meanwhile 190 households received blended food. Despite ongoing efforts, significant challenges remain. There is limited partner presence across the 58 affected townships, resulting in gaps in service delivery. Strengthening partner engagement and coverage is essential to ensure that all affected populations receive the necessary nutrition support.

The Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR) partners have been delivering critical child protection services to affected communities, addressing urgent needs through psychosocial support, case management, awareness-raising, and access to essential protection resources. AoR partners have reached 34,642 individuals including 30,352 children (17,087 girls and 13,265 boys) and 104 persons, with disabilities with life-saving child protection services. Key child protection activities include the distribution of child protection kits to 10,072 children, case management services for 916 children (including unaccompanied and separated cases), gender-specific programming for 200 adolescents, dissemination of life-saving child protection information to 4,578 people, and 18,876 people have been reached with psychosocial support and psychosocial first aid. CP AoR continues to support partners through key, simple, user-friendly resources tailored to Myanmar and the current earthquake. The forced closure of some displaced camps has greatly amplified the vulnerability of children and families, worsening displacement challenges and exposing them to additional risks and instability.

Mine action remains a critical challenge in the earthquake response. The earthquake has severely disrupted infrastructure and communities, potentially heightening the risks posed by landmine and explosive ordnance (EO) contamination. Scaling up Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and victim assistance is essential to mitigate these risks and support affected populations. Reporting on Mine Action interventions still remains a significant challenge. According to available partner reports, at least 1,079 people including 637 children (389 girls, 248 boys) have been reached with lifesaving EORE messages by AoR members. Victim assistance activities also have commenced, including the provision of MHPSS by partners. Altogether, 50 victims (2 girls, 3 boys, 7 women and 38 men) have received victim assistance services through Mine Action AoR. Partners continue to develop and disseminate key EORE materials to enhance outreach. The visual, audio and video materials aimed at expanding the reach of EORE are being produced and made available by AoR members.

Education Cluster partners have mobilized to support school reopening by establishing temporary safe learning spaces, libraries, and community structures, renovating schools, and distributing roofing sheets. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) and Mine Risk Education (MRE) training for teachers is ongoing in Kayin State. In southern Shan, partners are working with Parent-Teacher Associations to conduct school safety assessments, distribute plastic sheets and water kits (basins and tanks), and procure education kits for affected students. Partners are also supporting internally displaced persons and earthquake-affected communities through the distribution of EiE contingency supplies. Education support activities have reached 993 children (487 girls, 506 boys aged 0–17) in southern Shan. Education Cluster partners, with UNICEF and UNOPS, conducted structural assessments for three schools in Mandalay Region. Joint discussions were held on school reopening plans and prepositioning of education supplies. Emergency stockpiles include over 88,000 ELP kits, more than 6,400 roofing sheets, 150 ECCD kits, and 200 recreational kits stored in Mandalay and Yangon. Weekly coordination meetings are being held, and partners continue area verification and proposal development for post-emergency education interventions.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Human interest story:

Together through the tremors

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/together-through-tremors-Eng>

Healing young hearts

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/healing-young-hearts-Eng>

Selected social media:

"I hate earthquakes. Earthquakes took my mother and my aunt away," says 5-year-old Khin Yadanar, whose simple words capture the profound grief children are experiencing one month after the disaster. Read her story and how UNICEF is supporting children like her.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16E59EczqB/>

Recent U-Report poll shows that two out of five respondents have fears and anxiety after the earthquake.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1FA1R2w28x/>

UNICEF fundraising carousel

<https://x.com/UNICEFMyanmar/status/1916725314132316590>

Pravin More shares about UNICEF rapid response in earthquake areas

<https://x.com/UNICEFMyanmar/status/1916792854413807765>

UNICEF global fundraising video

<https://x.com/UNICEF/status/1916703941003182385>

UNICEF Myanmar Website and social media

Website: <https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/>

X (formerly Twitter): <https://x.com/UNICEFMyanmar>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/unicefmyanmar/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/UNICEFMyanmar>

In case of media requests, please contact Eliane Luthi, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific, Tel: +66 654 154 874, eluthi@unicef.org

For further
information contact:

Marcoluigi Corsi
Representative
Myanmar Country Office
Email: mcorsi@unicef.org

Julia Rees
Deputy Representative
Programmes
Myanmar Country Office
Email: jrees@unicef.org

Faika Farzana
Emergency Manager
Myanmar Country Office
Email: ffarzana@unicef.org