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Myanmar Earthquake Flash Update No.3

Date: 2 April 2025

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

On Friday 28 March 2025, two powerful earthquakes – the first of magnitude 7.7 hit at 12:50 pm (local time), swiftly followed twelve minutes later by a second of magnitude 6.4. Both earthquakes occurred at a depth of 10 km, centred approximately 16 km north-north-west of Sagaing city, and 19 km north-west of Mandalay city, Myanmar's second largest city. Strong tremors were also felt in neighbouring countries, including Thailand. According to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrological (DMH), as of 1 April, over 200 aftershocks were recorded in Myanmar and surrounding areas.

According to the latest official figures, over 2,700 people are confirmed dead, more than 4,500 have been injured and over 440 are reported missing. While rescue teams are continuing to search through the rubble, the chances of finding survivors in the debris is rapidly diminishing.

A state of emergency was declared for the worst affected areas of Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Naypyidaw, Shan South and East and Sagaing. Significant destruction has been reported, including the collapse of homes, offices, mosques, monasteries, and critical public infrastructure, including roads, bridges, water supply and electricity networks, communications towers and schools. Three hospitals have been destroyed and 22 have been partially damaged. Health cluster partners report a scarcity of medical supplies, including trauma kits, blood bags, anaesthetics, assisted devices, and essential medicines.¹ The full extent of the damage in more remote areas remains unknown due to weak connectedness and delays in communication.

In Mandalay, 17 of the region's 28 townships experienced severe shaking.² The multiple aftershocks are disrupting ongoing rescue operations and causing immense fear and distress to traumatized children and their families as well as further damage, with more buildings collapsing in Mandalay with further aftershocks in past days.

The earthquake compounds the protracted crisis brought on by four years of armed conflict, previous climate-related disasters (large-scale flooding and heatwaves in 2024, among others) and public health emergencies. The earthquake-affected areas in Myanmar, including the Sagaing region, are currently facing extreme heat, with temperatures soaring above 40°C (104°F). Daily highs have reached up to 44°C (111°F), creating severe conditions for both affected communities and responders. Five of the earthquake-affected areas – Bago, Magway, Mandalay, Shan and Sagaing – have reported acute water diarrhea/cholera cases since the outbreak began in June 2024 and according to a multifactor priority index assessment by WHO³, continue to be at high risk of further cases. Given the earthquake-induced displacement and impact on access to safe water and sanitation and hygiene facilities and materials, there is a significant risk of diarrhoeal disease outbreaks.

¹ Myanmar Health Cluster, Sagaing Earthquake Situation Report #2, 1st April 2025

² These are: Amarapura, Aungmyaythazan, Chanayethazan, Chanmyathazi, Kyaukse, Madaya, Maha Aungmyay, Ngazun, Myittha, Patheingyi, Pyigyitagong, Pyinoolwin, Singu, Sintgaing, Tada-U, Thazi, and Wundwin. [ACAPS Briefing Note - Myanmar Earthquake: Mandalay pre-crisis profile \(29 March 2025\) - Myanmar | ReliefWeb](#)

³ WHO, 7th edition (2024), Myanmar Acute Watery Diarrhea/ Cholera Outbreak External Situation Report

Preliminary data collected from partners on damage on WASH infrastructure in Nyaung Shwe, southern Shan state indicates between 40-60 per cent of latrines are destroyed. This has a high impact on access to safe and dignified sanitation for the communities predisposing them to the risk of AWD as open defecation is a common means of excreta disposal. There is an urgent need for water among displaced people since most water points were destroyed by the earthquake and there is no electricity for pumping water. Immediate sanitation support and hygiene kits are critical in preventing an AWD outbreak, as people are living in open spaces without access to essential hygiene supplies.

The damage to schools, health facilities and water supply infrastructure has disrupted critical services for children. The provision of safe water will be crucial as most - if not all - affected locations have reported a disruption in water supply, leaving families without access to clean drinking water. Good hygiene practices, environmental cleanliness and safe disposal of waste will be essential to prevent an increase in disease incidences like acute watery diarrhoea and dengue fever. Initial findings of partner assessments indicate an urgent need for safe drinking water, sanitation facilities and hygiene and dignity kits, food, medicines, tarpaulins, non-food items and shelters. Nutrition supplies are needed for prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition.

Children continue to be faced with devastating impacts of the earthquake. Partner reports suggest separation of children, severe mental health and psychosocial distress, fear and anxiety among children remains an immediate concern - either from separation during the earthquake or due to the death of one or more of the primary caregivers. These urgent issues highlight the needs for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) for caregivers to prevent negative coping mechanism, which likely to increase over time. This leads to increased violence in homes and communities, child labour and unsafe migration for children. Whilst the immediate impact of the earthquake means most are in survival mode, over the coming week or weeks, social disruption and disappearance of the protective environment will most likely lead to negative coping mechanisms by families and children. With schools closed and children being increasingly left without supervision and even engaging in collection of distributions, combined with the dangerous areas in which they are playing, there is an urgent need for establishment of child friendly spaces.

Formal and non-formal schools remain closed until the start of the new school year in June, but damage to school infrastructure has been reported in areas impacted by the earthquake. While most schools and learning centres are expected to be closed in the coming days or weeks, those that will soon open will need psychological first aid for children and learners, recreation kits, teaching and learning materials, hygiene kits and cash support to teachers and learners, whose families are severely affected by the earthquake.

Earthquakes can also have a direct impact on landmines and unexploded ordnance, increasing the risks in affected areas and nearby. Earthquakes cover explosive ordinances or can shift them to homes, yards, or communal areas. They may also shift to previously safe areas, putting people at increased risk. There is a need for dissemination of earthquake specific EORE messages, support to search and rescue teams, access and funds for victim assistance.

Funding Overview

UNICEF's initial funding requirements for the earthquake response stands at US\$28 million. This figure is likely to increase as the extent of the damage to infrastructure, public facilities, and communities becomes better understood. UNICEF has received a loan from its internal Emergency Programme Fund (EPF) mechanism and through flexible global humanitarian thematic funds to kickstart the response. The impact of the earthquake is stretching humanitarian operations in the impacted states and regions. UNICEF's funding requirements for 2025 will be higher than anticipated at the start of the year.

UNICEF Response

As the situation continues to evolve, UNICEF teams are on the ground, working closely with UN agencies, clusters, partners and stakeholders to assess the situation and mobilize an immediate response. UNICEF pre-positioned supplies are being dispatched to the earthquake affected areas. Additional staff from Yangon and field offices are

being redeployed to scale up the response on the ground. Discussions are ongoing with existing partners (based on ongoing needs assessments) to address the most urgent time-critical life-saving needs. A number of interagency assessments are also ongoing or starting in the coming days, which UNICEF is participating in, both from the programme as well as the cluster-leadership perspective.

WASH

UNICEF has mobilised internal human resource capacity to coordinate the emergency response in Mandalay, Sagaing and Nay Pyi Taw. The team is conducting rapid needs assessments and has initiated critical lifesaving interventions. In Mandalay, UNICEF has contracted water trucking services and begun distributing critical WASH supplies such as hygiene kits, water purification tablets, and sachets. In Nay Pyi Taw, water trucking service is reaching 1,600 households across four wards in Pyinmana. In addition, 6,400 gallons of water have been distributed for domestic use. In collaboration with local authorities, UNICEF expanded water distribution to Yamethin township, delivering 1,600 gallons of water to 200 households. Five additional wards are facing water shortages, where the water service delivery will be expanded soon. Meanwhile, critical WASH supplies including water purification chemicals, hygiene kits, buckets and soaps have been released for distribution to 3,550 affected people in Taungoo and Bago (East). Various options to provide emergency sanitation options are being explored with partners across all impacted states and regions.

Health and Nutrition

To date, UNICEF has distributed around 200 IEHKs, 3,000 clean delivery kits, and 5,000 community newborn kits, aiming to support 200,000 people over the next three months. Additional supplies, including ORS, zinc, nutrition bowls, RUTF, and micronutrient powders, have also been dispatched. UNICEF is actively assisting the rapid response team, as well as by covering transportation costs for vaccines to the most affected areas. While no significant challenges have been reported at sub-national sub-depots so far, ensuring the proper functioning of cold chain equipment remains crucial. This applies especially to sub-depots located in Monywa, Kalay, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw.

Child Protection

UNICEF is working with partners to undertake rapid needs assessments. Key priority interventions include the identification of separated and unaccompanied children, including those who lost their parents and caregivers during the earthquake; care support (medical, psychological, shelter, alternative care); family tracing and reunification. Children at risk or survivors of gender-based violence, including sexual gender-based violence, will receive comprehensive assistance and reintegration. Given the level of trauma that children and their caregivers are facing, UNICEF supports the provision of Psychological First Aid (PFA) and MHPSS, in coordination with health actors and through teams of professional counsellors.

With many families losing all their belongings, the protection interventions will also include the provision of basic items (clothing and other non-food items), along with dignity kits. UNICEF partners in Southern Shan provided child protection 788 child protection kits benefitted 356 boys and 432 girls affected by recent earthquake in Nyaung Shwe and Pin Laung townships. UNICEF child protection supplies including MHPSS materials are on the way to Mandalay to distribute to earthquake affected children in Mandalay and Sagaing.

UNICEF is developing key messages on child protection for dissemination through stickers (with QR code) on the key supply items, including child protection kits, dignity kits, health kits and education kits that are being sent out to earthquake affected areas.

UNICEF is mobilizing members of the case management task force and mental health and psychosocial support working group members to align the technical response and activate the different related services to be ready to provide support. The case management mechanism will be used to identify the needs of children and refer them to available services. This mechanism will also allow the provision of assistance to victims of explosive ordnances.

Right after the earthquake, UNICEF used its social media platforms to provide messaging to parents and caregivers on the special needs of children in a time of crisis and how to best provide emotional support.

UNICEF will undertake messaging for the prevention of exploitation of children, including prevention of GBV and SGBV, and information on risks related to unexploded ordnance and the potential presence of explosives. Mass awareness raising is being provided to inform the population and communities about the risks to children separated from their families, including the risks of exploitation and violence, including gender-based violence. Awareness raising activities also include prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers.

Education

UNICEF, as Cluster Lead Agency for the Education Cluster, is leading and collaborating with the national and sub-national Education Clusters, along with key partners to assess the extent of damage to educational infrastructure in the most-affected areas. Preliminary reports indicate significant damage to schools and learning centres, especially in Mandalay, Sagaing, and Naypyidaw. The extent of the damage is still being evaluated as needs assessments continue.

In response, UNICEF is preparing to support children with individual Essential Learning Packages (ELP kits – consisting of notebooks and basic stationery items), roofing sheets and teaching and learning materials, sourced from prepositioned stocks and items on order. Additionally, efforts to support children and teachers with MHPSS will be crucial in addressing the potential psychological impacts of the earthquake, helping them cope, and strengthening their resilience. This will be closely coordinated with the Child Protection programme and cluster partners. All education response activities will be undertaken in full coordination with the Education Cluster and education sector partners to ensure a unified and effective response.

Social Protection and Cash

UNICEF is scaling up multi-purpose cash assistance for families affected by the earthquake, in partnership with local organisations. The initial response aims to reach around 30,000 people, with a focus on vulnerable households in Mandalay, Sagaing, Nay Pyi Taw and southern Shan—particularly families with children and persons with disabilities. UNICEF is coordinating with the Cash Working Group to align targeting and delivery.

A rapid phone-based needs assessment is being finalised to inform the response. The assessment will generate critical insights into the situation of households with persons with disabilities and help tailor support to emerging needs. Results will be available by the end of the week.

Social and Behaviour Change

UNICEF is collaborating with media partners to disseminate timely and lifesaving information to affected populations. The messaging includes guidance on actions to take in the event of aftershocks, identification of safe shelters, coping with trauma for both adults and children, process for locating separated family members, and the importance of seeking reliable sources of information to mitigate unnecessary anxiety and confusion. Through two radio stations, UNICEF is broadcasting daily public service announcements, reinforcing self-care and well-being for the affected populations. The key messages are further disseminated through social media platforms and have been shared with partners for community outreach. To complement distribution of water, UNICEF also concurrently conducted community dialogue on the 'four cleans' (water, food, hand and toilet clean), use of chlorine tabs and actions after the earthquake with 300 affected communities in the Pyinmana Township of Nay Pyi Taw.

As the situation evolves, messages to address the management of the deceased in safe and dignified burials are currently being finalized, which will be disseminated through existing community platforms response for search and rescue. These efforts will be expanded through various media platforms and frontline workers, ensuring that the messaging aligns with the specific needs and preferences of the affected communities. Key questions on the ongoing rapid needs assessment have been added to explore community perspective and preferences on the feedback mechanism. The findings will guide the establishment of the community feedback mechanism in the earthquake affected areas.

SUPPLY AND LOGISTICS

The first flight with 80 metric tonnes of life-saving supplies departed from Copenhagen on 2 April and arrived in Yangon on 3 April. The shipment contains International Emergency Health Kits (IEHK), Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) kits, other health-related kits, Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS), tarpaulins and recreation kits, to support children and communities affected by the earthquake.

Supply distribution is ongoing on the ground from the warehouse in Mandalay, and more than 10 trucks with WASH supplies are enroute from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay.

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. There are significant concerns about the lack of humanitarian funding, supply gaps due to multiple competing demands, and challenges around access/connectivity.

The WASH Cluster is actively coordinating response efforts at both national and sub-national levels to address the urgent needs arising from the earthquake. Cluster partners are distributing drinking water in Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw reaching nearly 17,000 people, hygiene kits have been distributed to 5,262 households.

The nutrition cluster partners are participating in inter-agency needs assessments in Sagaing, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw. The cluster is engaging with partners to guide appropriate Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) support and ensure adherence to Breast Milk Substitute (BMS) guidelines in emergencies. Additionally, coordination between WFP and other nutrition cluster partners is ongoing to facilitate the provision of food and nutrition supplies. The cluster continues to coordinate response efforts, ensuring timely support for affected populations, and addressing urgent needs identified through ongoing assessments.

The Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR) partners are mobilising to provide immediate child protection services such as rapid reunification, MHPSS, distribution of Child Protection Kits, as well as in the coming weeks, the establishment of child friendly spaces and scaling up of community level child protection to support children when agencies are not present. The CP AoR has created shared folder on distributed guidance on earthquake response timelines, FTR and PFA guidance, disability guidance and more user-friendly resources to support the teams in the field to provide quality services despite the urgent nature of response. As partners engage in rapid needs assessments, they are encouraged to also use the GBV-CP Observational Assessment so that the AoR coordination team can get a better understanding of the impact on children. Together with the Protection Cluster, the Gender Based Violence AoR and the Mine Action AoR, the CP AoR developed a Protection Earthquake Update that outlines the context, the challenges, the protection risks and immediate protection needs.

The Mine Action AoR has finalised the standardized EORE messages in both English and Myanmar and shared with AoR partners, child-friendly mine safety messages, and earthquake-specific safety messages outlining the dangers of explosive ordnance following an earthquake.

The Education Cluster is coordinating with partners on the ground to get critical information on the impact, critical needs and ongoing responses in relation to the provision of education services to children affected by the recent earthquake. Partners have been taking part in the multi-sector needs assessments. Ad hoc coordination meetings are being conducted at the sub-national level. Emergency Education stockpiles are also being updated by partners. The cluster partners conducted assessment in Nyaung Shwe township, one of the worst-affected areas in southern Shan state and reported 10 public schools were damaged. Local education authorities are assessing the situation and planning rehabilitation in Nyaung Shwe townships. Other partners are planning to conduct assessment for structural integrity of

affected schools before resuming activities. Based on reports from partners, restoration and rehabilitation of learning spaces for children who lost their schools, and Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) centres are a priority.

UNICEF is also working with partners and the Technical Advisory Group on Disability Inclusion to ensure that the earthquake response is inclusive of persons with disabilities, including through identification of specific needs, provision of assistive devices, and technical support to sectors on inclusive programming.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Press release:

<https://www.unicef.org/eap/press-releases/millions-children-grave-risk-following-myanmars-deadliest-earthquake-decades>

Selected social media:

<https://x.com/UNICEF/status/1907281939087638875>

<https://x.com/UNICEFmedia/status/1907047765311438942>

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

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

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