



Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Four weeks after the devastating 7.7 magnitude that struck Myanmar on 28 March, more than 9 million people (including 2.7 million children) are estimated to be living in the worst affected 58 townships across Bago East, Kayin, Magway, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Shan South, and Sagaing. Of these, 6.3 million people (including nearly 2 million children) are 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.

More than 3,750 people are confirmed to have died, more than 5,100 have been injured and 116 people are still reported missing.¹ While work to clear damaged buildings and rubble is ongoing, the affected areas continue to experience serious aftershocks: as of 22 April 2025, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) recorded at least 45 magnitude 3 or higher aftershocks, which are strong enough to be felt nearby, and 4 magnitude 5 or higher aftershocks, which are large enough to do damage. In the past month, in total, more than 150 aftershocks have been reported.

Earthquake-affected communities face harsh conditions, including extreme heat, lack of adequate shelters, overcrowded displacement sites, and limited access to safe water and sanitation services. 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. Unseasonal rains have already caused localised short-term flooding in some earthquake affected areas, and with the monsoon and cyclone season coming, those living in temporary accommodation and makeshift shelters will face further challenges. 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.²

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 as private donations decrease. Urgent technical interventions are needed for damaged infrastructure such as collapsed tanks, broken pipes and non-functional pumps. Sanitation gaps persist in rural areas, necessitating emergency and rehabilitated latrines. Solid waste management remains a challenge in rural areas, requiring the provision of communal waste bins.

In the aftermath of the earthquake, child protection needs are escalating due to caregiver distress, leading to increased risks of violence, exploitation, and unsafe environments for children, who also require urgent psychosocial support and family reunification efforts for unaccompanied and separated children. In response to an UNICEF U-Report poll of young people's experience of the earthquake, more than 40 per cent of respondents indicated that they continued to

¹ [AHA Centre, Situation Update No. 10 - M7.7 Mandalay Earthquake \(Monday, 23 April 2025\).](#)

² [WHO South-East Asia Region Epidemiological Bulletin, 8th edition \(2025\), 23 April 2025.](#)

experience stress and anxiety following the earthquake. Among respondents aged 20-30, nearly half reported facing mental health challenges, including persistent fear and anxiety. When asked what type of support they most needed, 30 per cent said mental health support, followed by 29 per cent housing, and 7 per cent food support. Scaling up child protection activities targeting children, caregivers, and communities is critical to address these growing needs.

As many of the prioritized townships were already considered contaminated before the earthquake, and acknowledging that mines will have shifted, including to domestic dwellings or have become emerged in affected areas, the risks remain high. Out of the 58 earthquake prioritized townships, only 18 (31%) reported no landmine or explosive ordnance (EO) incidents in the past five years.

The recent earthquake has severely impacted education infrastructure across the earthquake affected areas including in Pyawbwe and Yamethin townships in Mandalay Region. 309 school buildings in Yamethin Township alone are reported to have collapsed or severely damaged. School latrines were also destroyed. The immediate priorities include establishing Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) for fully destroyed schools and repairing partially damaged ones to ensure safe school reopening.

In Taungoo Township of Bago region, 91 public schools serving over 30,000 students have suffered structural damage, including loss of equipment, solar systems, and WASH facilities. Across Mandalay, Sagaing, and Magway, 21 community libraries were damaged, along with loss of educational materials and minor equipment. Emergency support with teaching and learning materials is urgently needed. Restoring damaged infrastructure and integrating MHPSS 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 is 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



© UNICEF/UNI781450/Maung Nyan. Community demonstration on use of water purification tablets in Yamethin Township, Mandalay

As of 24 April, UNICEF and its partners have supported over 550,000 affected people with access to safe drinking water through the distribution of water purification tablets and flocculants. In addition, more than 230,000 people have received essential WASH supplies, including hygiene kits, buckets, jerry cans, tarpaulins, and ropes to support their daily hygiene and water needs.

In Mandalay, over 5,280 people across five townships are receiving water for domestic use, while approximately 11,000 people are being

provided with safe drinking water on a daily basis. In Sagaing, a local volunteer group has distributed drinking water to 5,000 people across 10 temporary locations.

In Sagaing, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw, UNICEF joined the inter-agency Multi Sector/Cluster Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) assessments this week to gain a better understanding of the key earthquake related needs to inform the ongoing response. After the Nay Pyi Taw assessment, UNICEF supported with a UN distribution that reached about 15,000 people with essential WASH supplies and support.

A WASH early recovery and reconstruction plan, along with a WASH technical assessment tool, is being developed. Repairing water sources and rebuilding sanitation facilities are key priorities. UNICEF is also working with partners already on the ground to reach more people in need and ensure long-term, sustainable WASH services.

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 s temporary community clinics, or direct distribution using community volunteer' networks; aimed at assisting the most vulnerable populations in Mandalay, Sagaing, Nay Pyi Taw, and Shan South.

As of 22 April 2025, UNICEF and partners provided direct support in 21 severely affected townships in Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, and South Shan and had reached over 400,000 people, including 50,000 children under five and 5,000 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/UNI781791/Htet A woman receives humanitarian supplies including health and nutrition items during a distribution by UNICEF in Mandalay region.

Child Protection

UNICEF's key focus of child protection interventions includes i) Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) for children, and caregivers; ii) distribution of Child Protection in emergencies (CPiE) kits and relevant services through referral mechanism with a focus on protection and care of Unaccompanied and Separated Children; and iii) protection risk mitigation measures mainly awareness raising for gender-based violence and EORE sessions.

Soon after the earthquake, UNICEF and partners mobilized immediate child protection response in Mandalay, Sagaing, Nay Pyi Taw, Shan South and Bago East. By 24 April, UNICEF and partners had reached 16,182 earthquake affected people (13,326 children – 7,915 girls and 5,411 boys) with multiple interventions.

Considering the importance of the earthquake and the related emotional consequences on the affected populations, UNICEF set mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) as one of the key priority interventions. So far, taking into consideration the implementing partners deployment and support provision, a total of 4,665 earthquake-affected people (2,029 girls, 1,587 boys, 661 women and 388 men) benefited from active listening, psychological first aid,



© UNICEF/UNI779261/Htet Children playing after distribution of child protection kits in Sagaing Township.

counselling, and participated in community-level child and women friendly activities. As part of the comprehensive child protection response in emergency, 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) with inclusion of 24 children with disability. Among the children who benefitted from UNICEF support, 37 children (21 girls and 16 boys) have been treated through an individual case management mechanism and were assisted with services.

Through community sessions, 2,888 earthquake affected people (862 girls, 686 boys, 798 women and 542 men) participated in specific orientation sessions and were provided with information on gender-based violence prevention and with risk mitigation

services; on risks explosive ordinance potential displacement due to the earthquake in affected areas; on child protection during natural disasters, on positive parenting and self-care when coping with emotional distress related to an emergency, but also on the risks of exploitation and violence children separated from their families after the earthquake are likely to face. The objective of these sessions was finally to call on the attention of the audience about these risks and to equip them to prevent family separation in any case.

A total of 2,090 people (933 girls, 690 boys, 349 women and 118 men) received information about the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers, how to access safe channel and report it.

During this past week, in addition to the ongoing activities, UNICEF finalised the development of key child protection messages for dissemination through stickers and QR code to be disseminated through supply items such as child protection kits, dignity kits, health kits and education kits sent out to earthquake affected areas.

In Shan, Mandalay, Sagaing and east Bago, child protection partners working in earthquake affected locations participated in MIRA while case management service providers mapping was conducted in Mandalay allowing to better respond to the child protection needs of children.

Education

UNICEF has launched a comprehensive package to support children's continued learning and protection. This includes the establishment of safe spaces where they can play, socialize, and receive mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). To date, the response has reached 4,326 children (2,192 girls and 10 children with disabilities). Of these, 341 children have benefited from targeted MHPSS and 282 children (144 girls) have received child-protection kits designed to support play and ease the stress caused by their traumatic experiences.

To further ensure children's wellbeing in safe learning environments in an integrated manner, UNICEF has distributed water-purification tablets and buckets to improve access to safe drinking water in learning spaces. Additionally, UNICEF has produced and distributed earthquake awareness pamphlets in 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 provided to partners to ensure that learning remains uninterrupted.

As schools prepare to reopen in June, the demand for tents, tarpaulins, and additional roofing sheets is growing. UNICEF is planning an assessment of 129 monastic schools to gain a deeper understanding of their specific needs. Additionally, UNICEF is collaborating with other agencies to facilitate a coordinated assessment of damaged educational facilities. Based on the data gathered, UNICEF is sourcing additional education supplies to address the

urgent needs of children and educators. UNICEF is also prioritizing early-recovery efforts, including the establishment of temporary learning structures to ensure the continuity of children's learning.

Social Protection and Cash



Multi-purpose cash assistance continues to be scaled up to reach vulnerable households with children in Mandalay, Sagaing, and Shan South—including families with children and persons with disabilities. Families with children with disabilities are identified, and children screened for their specific needs (see photo below).

Against the target of 38,075 people, to date 3,025 households/15,125 people have received cash transfers in the earthquake affected areas. In many areas, UNICEF is delivering cash payments via WAVE mobile money. UNICEF is coordinating with the Cash Working Group and UN partners to align targeting and delivery.

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. Over 10,518 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, 2,126 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

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) is coordinating the overall humanitarian response with all clusters through coordination mechanisms established at the national and sub-national levels. UNICEF continues to provide leadership for the WASH Cluster, Nutrition Cluster, Child Protection and Mine Action area of responsibilities, and is co-leading the Education Cluster (with Save the Children). Cluster discussion at the national and sub-national levels are ongoing to obtain information about immediate needs and to coordinate the response.

WASH Cluster partners are actively responding to the impact of the earthquake and has reached over 600,000 people with water purification tablets and about 241,000 people with water distribution, sanitation facilities, hygiene kits and hygiene promotion. The cluster is planning a coordinated, detailed technical assessment to map the damage, identify

faults and inform recovery planning. The Terms of Reference and data collection tool are being finalized, and data collection will commence in first week of May 2025. The key priorities for the cluster for the earthquake response have been developed to guide the partners on the emergency response and early recovery and reconstruction phase. This will be reviewed with more information coming from the MIRA and the WASH technical assessment.

Nutrition Cluster has been delivering lifesaving nutrition assistance to affected communities through cluster partners, particularly in Mandalay and Sagaing. Key interventions include treatment of acute malnutrition, mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening and referral, micronutrient powder supplementation, and infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling. As of 24 April, 467 children, 20 pregnant and lactating women have been screened for acute malnutrition, with timely referral for appropriate treatment. IYCF counselling to 94 lactating women, helping to support optimal feeding practices while 262 children received multiple micronutrient powder, 202 children were provided nutrition bowls and posters for improved feeding practices. Cluster partners continue distributing essential nutrition supplies, including basic food items and fortified biscuits, to address the urgent needs of affected populations across Mandalay, Sagaing and southern Shan. These efforts are part of an integrated, multi-sectoral response in close coordination with other humanitarian clusters. A total of 3,200 households in earthquake affected areas have received basic nutritious food items, including rice, chickpeas, cooking oil, and iodized salt.

The Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR) adopts a socio-ecological approach thereby targeting children, caregivers and communities to provide protection for children. AoR partners have reached 22,170 people including 19,159 children (8,073 boys and 11,086 girls) and 23 persons with disability, with lifesaving child protection services despite underreporting. Key child protection activities include the distribution of 7,792 Child Protection kits, the opening of 922 case management cases for unaccompanied and separated children (including family tracing and reunification), reaching 200 adolescents with targeted gender-specific programming, disseminating life-saving child protection information to 2,501 people, and providing psychosocial support and psychological first aid to 10,755 individuals. The CP AoR provides daily technical resources to partners. AoR is actively collaborating with partners to strengthen Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) in earthquake-affected areas, with relevant forms and reporting systems to be shared with CP AoR partners and ultimately other responders. Case Management mapping is ongoing in these areas but requires funding for adequate staffing. Child protection partners are utilizing the GBV-CP Observational Assessment tool, for which the CP AoR has provided orientation to all members and detailed training to Northwest partners.

Mine Action intervention reporting faces significant challenges, with the primary reported activity being explosive ordinance risk education (EORE). With significant underreporting, Mine action AoR partners directly reached at least 541 people including 364 children (158 boys, 206 girls) with EORE. Victim assistance, including MHPSS, has begun. Maps of incidents in earthquake-affected areas have been produced, highlighting the urgent need for scaling up of EORE. Mine Action partners are developing materials and have uploaded digital EORE including audio, visual and videos materials to a shared folder. From mid-April, pockets of conflict flared up in the southeast (townships in Bago East and Kayin), putting additional strains on partners who have limited funding and human resources to meet the needs of the escalating conflict as well as the earthquake response. Furthermore, telecommunication challenges have made it difficult for local partners to report to the AoR in a timely manner.

The Education Cluster partners have initiated coordinated efforts to address urgent education needs across affected areas. In collaboration with UNICEF and UNOPS, structural assessments and emergency education support are underway in Mandalay Region. Partners have requested essential materials—including roofing sheets, hygiene kits, and learning supplies—for monastic schools across Mandalay, Sagaing, and Naypyitaw. The Education Cluster and UNICEF are working to release available stockpiles, while partners continue to verify needs for post-emergency recovery. Recreational kits will also be distributed to promote children's wellbeing and engagement. In Southeast, cluster partners are actively supporting earthquake-affected schools through the provision of temporary learning spaces. Funding constraints remain a significant barrier, limiting the capacity of partners to scale up the earthquake response. There is an urgent need for temporary learning spaces and tents; however, the current stock levels are insufficient to meet the demand. Repair of damaged schools, including the restoration of WASH facilities, is critical to ensure safe and dignified access to education.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Human interest story:

<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/together-through-tremors>
<https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/healing-young-hearts>

Selected social media:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18bgKHGroy/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16Fxa6NajG/>

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

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

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

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