



MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE: UNHCR FLASH UPDATE #1

4 April 2025

Cover photo: Distribution of core relief items started in Mandalay, providing vital support to those in need ©UNHCR

KEY FIGURES*



35 million

PEOPLE IMPACTED BY THE
EARTHQUAKE

15.2 million

PEOPLE LIVING IN THE
AFFECTED AREAS

5.4 million

PEOPLE LIVING IN THE
SEVERELY AFFECTED AREAS

2.1 million

IDPs IMPACTED BY THE
EARTHQUAKE

**LEVEL 2
EMERGENCY**

DECLARED BY UNHCR FOR 6
MONTHS

New: Emergency Appeal Launched

UNHCR is urgently seeking USD 16 million to provide life-saving assistance to those affected by the devastating earthquake in Myanmar. Learn more about the appeal and how you can support: [Myanmar Earthquake Emergency](#)

Overview

On 28 March, a powerful 7.7 magnitude earthquake struck central Myanmar, causing widespread devastation. The disaster claimed the lives of over 3,000 people, left 4,700 people injured and more than 340 others missing. The epicentre was located approximately 16 km north-west of Sagaing City and 19 km north-west of Mandalay City, destroying homes and civilian infrastructure. This disaster has impacted regions already home to the highest number of internally displaced people (IDPs) – around 1.55 million of Myanmar's 3.5 million IDPs – many of whom have been fleeing conflict for over four years. The earthquake has exacerbated their already severe vulnerabilities, which have been compounded by ongoing conflict and extreme weather events such as cyclones and floods.

In response, the State Administration Council declared a 20-day ceasefire on 2 April to facilitate relief efforts in earthquake-affected areas, although there have been reports of sporadic incidents in some areas. The announcement follows earlier ceasefire announcements by the National Unity Government on 29 March and another by the Three Brotherhood Alliance (Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army, Ta'ang National Liberation Army and Arakan Army) on 1 April.

UNHCR Myanmar

*Data source: UNHCR, USGS, OSM, UNOCHA, WorldPop & UNOSAT. People living in the severely affected areas consist of "People Impacted (Shake intensity V or higher), People Living in Affected Areas (Shake intensity VI or higher) & People Living in Severely Affected areas (Shake intensity VIII or higher)" in the data source.

Highlights

On 31 March 2025 UNHCR declared a **Level 2 emergency** to respond to the rising needs. This declaration will remain in place for a period of six months and will expire on 30 September.

In coordination with the UN Country Team and partners, UNHCR is swiftly **mobilizing protection and assistance** to affected people. In response to the diverse needs on the ground, UNHCR is prioritizing the provision of core relief items (CRIs), emergency shelters, and multi-purpose assistance. The team is also enhancing access to protection services, engaging with communities, and supporting community-based protection initiatives as needed.

UNHCR's long-standing presence in Myanmar since 1993 with a strong field presence has enabled a rapid response to the recent earthquake emergency. In close collaboration with authorities and humanitarian partners, UNHCR is supporting an **inter-agency rapid needs assessment** in the hardest-hit areas of Mandalay and Sagaing Regions.

In Mandalay City, for example, urgent needs have been identified with many people living in overcrowded, open-air conditions that expose them to harsh weather and increased protection risks.

By reallocating existing resources, UNHCR **quickly dispatched** emergency supplies from Yangon to support around **25,000 earthquake survivors** in **Mandalay, Sagaing** and **Nay Pyi Taw**.

These supplies include tents, plastic sheets, sleeping mats, blankets, kitchen sets, solar lamps, buckets and mosquito nets, which will provide immediate relief to those in critical need. UNHCR is also mobilizing more relief items from its current stocks in Myanmar, with distributions of **CRIs** and **emergency shelter materials** already underway in Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing and Taunggyi.

Immediate Needs



Shelter

- Emergency shelter materials
- Access to temporary shelters
- Emergency shelter assistance for the most vulnerable



Core Relief Items

- Essential items such as plastic tarpaulin, blankets, kitchen sets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, and plastic buckets
- Hygiene kits
- Solar lamps
- Multi-purpose assistance



Protection

- Protection services
- Awareness-raising and outreach activities, including on the risks of explosive ordnance, child protection, gender-based violence prevention and response, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, family reunification, and mental health and psychosocial support



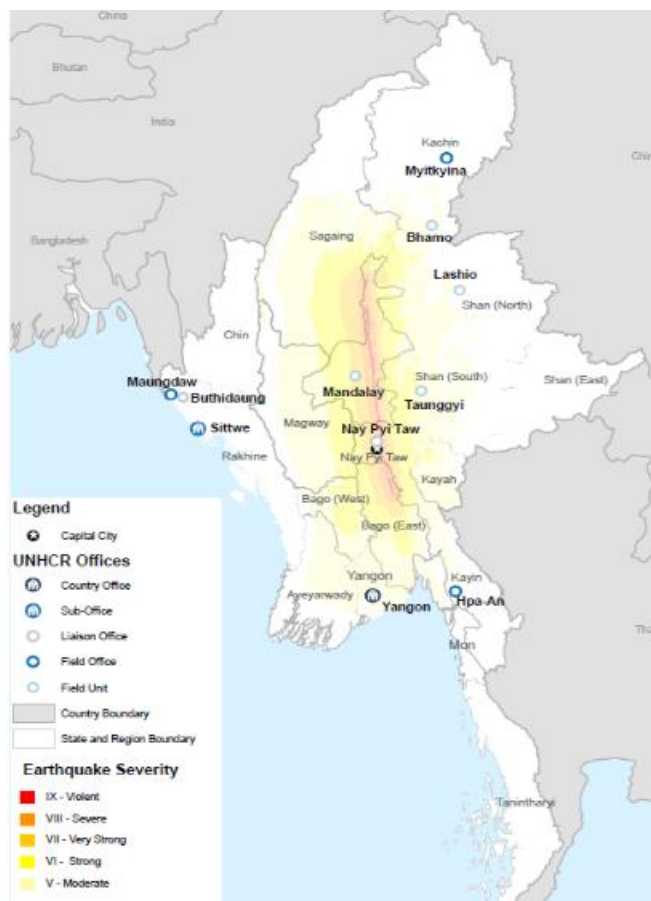
Logistics and Operational Support

- Transportation, supply management, warehouse management, and distribution of relief items and services

UNHCR Response

- **In Mandalay and Sagaing**, UNHCR is distributing CRIs initially targeting **5,000 families** directly and through partners. The distribution of CRIs for **110 families** in Mandalay began on 2 April. In addition, 30 tarpaulins were provided to support the construction of bamboo structures outside five hospitals. UNHCR also distributed 32 family tents to affected communities in Amarapura Township, offering immediate protection and shelter to those in need. In Sagaing, the distribution of CRIs for approximately **2,500 households** began on 3 April. On the first day, CRIs successfully reached 330 households, and distributions are ongoing. Plans are in place to replenish CRIs for an additional **5,000 households**.
- **In Nay Pyi Taw**, **30 tents** were provided for use at health facilities. Permission is being processed for a rapid needs assessment across the Nay Pyi Taw Region in six townships, tentatively scheduled for 6 – 11 April. Relief items will be distributed following the assessment.
- **In the South-East**, two truckloads of CRIs for 610 households have arrived in Taungoo, with distributions underway in Taungoo, Yedashe, Oak Twin and Thandaunggyi. In Nyaungshwe, Shan State (South), two truckloads of CRIs are expected to arrive on 4 April, with two additional truckloads scheduled for delivery on 7 April to support 1,445 earthquake-affected households.
- Efforts are underway to **transport additional emergency supplies** from Yangon and other warehouses across the country to Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and South-East. However, current in-country stocks of CRIs are unlikely to meet the growing needs of the projected number of people who require assistance.
- The **UNHCR-led Protection Cluster** is mobilizing partners, deploying emergency teams, and working with local networks to expand protection coverage.
- Together with other humanitarian partners, UNHCR continues to **advocate for unimpeded humanitarian access** to ensure assistance reaches communities in need of assistance.

Map: Earthquake Severity and UNHCR Presence



Coordination and Partnerships

- UNHCR is leading both the **Protection Cluster** and **Shelter/ Non-Food Items (NFI)/Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster**.
- UNHCR is part of an **inter-agency rapid needs assessment** to further identify critical needs and the people most in need in Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing Regions.



CRIs distributed to displaced communities at a makeshift site in Sagaing city on 3 April ©UNHCR

Financial Information

UNHCR's total funding requirements for Myanmar stand at **USD 88.3 million**. By late March, it was estimated that only **20%** had been secured. UNHCR appreciates the generosity of donors who have stepped up to support humanitarian needs in Myanmar with earmarked, softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions, ensuring life-saving assistance reaches those most in need.

UNHCR also extends heartfelt thanks to donors providing flexible funding not designated for specific purposes.

Australia | Belgium | Denmark | European Union | Germany | Ireland | Japan | Republic of Korea | Norway | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) | Switzerland | Sweden | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | CERF

For individual donations, please click on this link:

[Donate Now](#)

To learn more about UNHCR's response in Myanmar, please visit the [Operational Data Portal](#) and [Global Focus Reporting](#).

For more information, please contact:

Delphine Crespin, Reporting Officer: crespin@unhcr.org

Diogo Alcantara, Communications/PI Officer: alcantad@unhcr.org