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## Myanmar Earthquake Flash Update No.5

Date: 7 April 2025

### Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Ten days on from the devastating 7.7 and 6.4 magnitude earthquakes that hit central Myanmar on 28 March 2025, a series of aftershocks continue to impact the affected areas. According to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrological (DMH), as of 7 April, Myanmar has experienced 96 aftershocks ranging from magnitudes 2.8 to 7.5.

It is now reported that over 3,500 people have died and over 4,800 were injured, while 210 remain missing (as of 6 April).<sup>1</sup> Based on data provided by OCHA, a total of 17 million people live in the 58 earthquake-affected townships in Eastern Bago, Kayin, Magway, Mandalay, Naypyitaw, Southern Shan and Sagaing, with some 9 million people estimated to be affected by the highest tremble.<sup>2</sup>

On 5 and 6 April, heavy rains were reported across parts of Mandalay and Sagaing, damaging makeshift shelters, causing further misery for those sleeping in the open and raising the risks of disease outbreaks. The southwest monsoon typically brings the rainy season to Myanmar from May onwards. Health and WASH partners have been following up on reported increases in diarrhoea cases in earthquake affected areas, and although no confirmed cholera/acute watery diarrhoea outbreak has been detected, the risk remains extremely high given the continued lack of access to safe drinking water and water for safe hygiene practices, and the significant destruction to sanitation infrastructure.

State media is reporting that the earthquake has damaged some 5,223 buildings, 1,824 schools, 4,817 pagodas and temples, 167 hospitals and clinics, 169 bridges, 198 dams and 184 sections of the country's main highway. Health cluster partners have so far verified 5 fully damaged health facilities (2 in Bago, 1 in Naypyitaw, 1 in Sagaing and 1 Southern Shan) and 61 partially damaged (35 in Southern Shan, 20 in Bago, and 6 in Naypyitaw).<sup>3</sup>

Results from a Post-Earthquake Disability Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA) conducted by UNICEF shows that families with children and persons with disabilities face multiple, overlapping crises after the earthquake. Over half of households interviewed reported to have lost electricity and shelter, nearly half have no safe water, and many experienced lost income and food shortages. These shocks have forced families into precarious outdoor settings (e.g. roadsides or makeshift tents) and stretched their coping mechanisms. Psychosocial distress is widespread as parents and children cope with trauma, aftershock fears, and uncertainty about the future. Moreover, pre-existing vulnerabilities – from previous flooding, conflict-related displacement, or economic shocks – have magnified these needs.

The Disability RNA also found that access to critical services is severely hampered by physical and systemic barriers. Over a quarter of families could not reach health services due to cost, damaged facilities and transport obstacles, while many schools have been damaged and children have lost access to education. Families also identified urgent disability-specific needs: medical care, assistive devices (especially mobility aids), accessible water and sanitation, incontinence and hygiene supplies, and accessible information.

<sup>1</sup> AHA Centre Situation Update No. 5 - M7.7 Earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand (Sunday, 6 April 2025, 2000 HRS)

<sup>2</sup> OCHA, Myanmar Earthquake Flash Update #3 (3 April 2025)

<sup>3</sup> Myanmar Health Cluster Sagaing Earthquake Situation Report #3, 6 April 2025

## 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 as well as flexible global humanitarian thematic funds to kickstart the response but urgently requires additional contributions to sustain the initial response. The impact of the earthquake is stretching humanitarian operations in the impacted states and regions. 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 Response

### WASH

As of 7 April, using the prepositioned stocks, UNICEF and partners have delivered water purification chemical including flocculant and tablets have been distributed to meet the needs of over 305,000 people for 30 days at 7.5 liter per day. 58,200 gallons of domestic water has been delivered to meet the needs of 27,485 people in the affected areas. Drinking water is being delivered daily to 2,500 people. Sanitation services are being provided to over 1,000 people in Mandalay, whereas plan is being drawn to scale up the service through provision of sanitation services including latrines and bathing spaces. Sanitation facilities are also being provided in the healthcare facilities to ensure adequate services for patients and caregivers.

### Health and Nutrition

To date, UNICEF has distributed approximately 250 Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHKs), 4,000 clean delivery kits, and 6,000 community newborn kits, aiming to assist over 250,000 people within the next three months. Additional supplies have been deployed to support around 30,000 children under the age of five with essential nutrition interventions, including multiple micronutrient supplementation, Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF), case management for severe and acute malnutrition, and the provision of child feeding bowls. UNICEF and its partners on the ground continue to deliver vital healthcare services to affected populations in the Sagaing and Mandalay Regions and Southern Shan State through mobile clinics and temporary emergency health facilities. Primary Healthcare Services are being provided in seven most affected townships in Sagaing and Mandalay regions through 50 mobile clinics.

In response to the disruption of routine immunization and the vaccine supply chain, UNICEF sent two direct solar-powered refrigerators, a freezer, and vaccine carriers to Sagaing Township where the cold storage facility had collapsed due to the earthquakes.

### 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.

Two new child friendly spaces are being set up in Mandalay to promote psychosocial wellbeing, to build resilience and to restructure normalcy in children's routine. UNICEF continues to work closely with partners to deliver structured activities to provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for children and adolescents. In most locations, psychological first aid (PFA) session will be organized for parents and caregivers—introducing positive coping mechanism, promoting selfcare and introducing stabilization exercises. Concurrently, orientation and refresher trainings on PFA and MHPSS is ongoing this week for frontline workers in Mandalay.

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 for

distribution to earthquake affected children in Mandalay and Sagaing. In Mandalay, given the concern about the situation and wellbeing of over 650 children in detention centres, UNICEF partners are providing psychosocial support including PFA. In addition, UNICEF and partners are trying to reunify separated and unaccompanied children with their parents and caregivers. Legal aid service providers are supporting family tracing and assessment for children approved for family reunification alongside to obtain legal documents for children whose documents have been lost or damaged.

## Education

UNICEF continues to lead and collaborate with the national and sub-national Education Clusters, along with key partners, in an ongoing effort to assess the damage to educational infrastructure in the most-affected areas. Continuous assessments have revealed extensive damage to public and monastic schools and temporary learning centres.

UNICEF is preparing a package of support to affected children, including individual Essential Learning Packages (ELP kits), roofing sheets, teaching and learning materials and recreation kits. Plans are underway to rehabilitate destroyed or damaged temporary learning centres. Recognizing the overwhelming stress and fear experienced by children, there is also an urgent need for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to help them feel safe and offer critical opportunities to play, socialize, learn, and simply be children. All response activities will be closely coordinated with Child Protection, as well as the Education Cluster and education partners, to ensure a unified and effective approach.

In Mandalay, UNICEF collaborated with partners to gather information on the damage to schools and education facilities. Some school buildings have been identified as unsafe and unusable. Therefore, Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) will be required to ensure the continuity of learning where the school building has been destroyed or is not safe for children. High performance school tents are preferred for TLS to minimize the burden on communities and eliminate the need for their contributions. Additionally, school furniture and school supplies, such as ELP, ECD, and recreation kits, will also be crucial when the schools reopen and in the interim to support children's MHPSS needs and provide them opportunities to engage in play and learning.

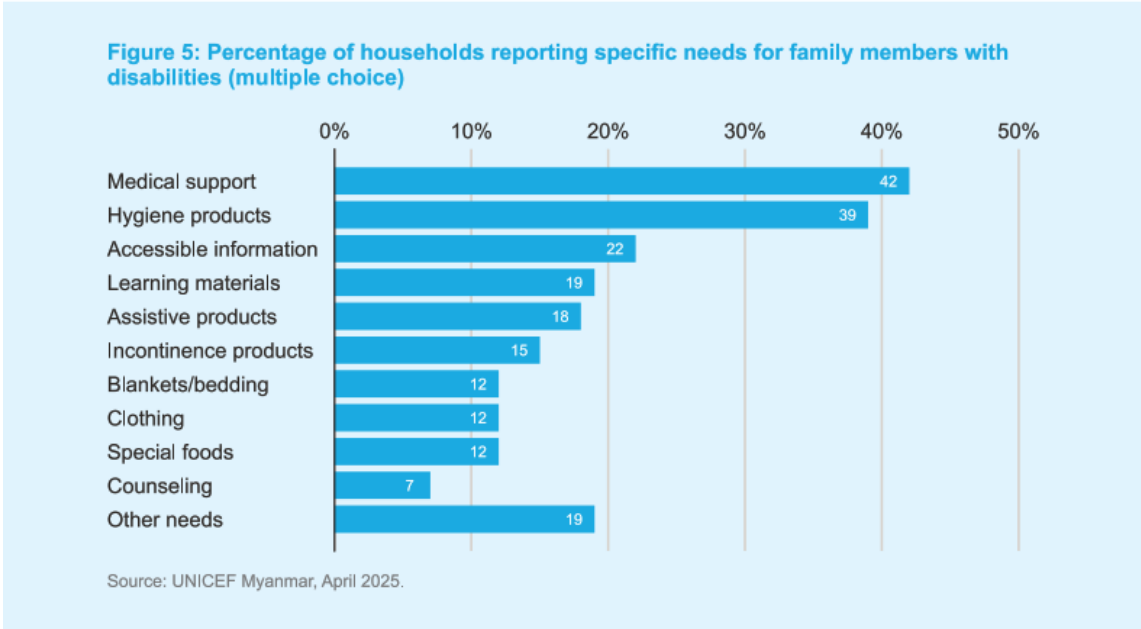
In Sagaing, information gathered with partners indicate that approximately 30 public schools were destroyed. The needs include school tents, roofing sheets, ELP kits (or individual learning materials), and school furniture such as students' desks, chairs and tables. School tents are seen as an urgent need as schools are due to open after the Thingyan holidays. UNICEF is collaborating and coordinating with partners to mobilize resources to respond to the prioritized need.

## 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 38,075 people, with a focus on vulnerable households with children in Mandalay, Sagaing, Nay Pyi Taw and southern Shan—including families with children and persons with disabilities. To date, over 1,160 households have received cash transfers in the earthquake affected areas, benefiting around 5,800 children and adults in total. UNICEF is coordinating with the Cash Working Group and partners to align targeting and delivery.

As referenced in the Humanitarian Situation section, findings from the post-earthquake rapid needs assessment of families with persons and children with disabilities, indicated that the disaster has severely disrupted critical services, placing a heavy burden on families already facing challenges due to the additional costs of having a family member with a disability. Over half (61 per cent) lost access to electricity, 54 per cent reported damaged or destroyed housing, and nearly 48 per cent currently lack safe drinking water. While 42 per cent noted a significant drop in income, 28 per cent struggle to obtain sufficient food, and 20 per cent are without functioning sanitation facilities. Living arrangements across the affected zones remain precarious for families with disabilities, reflecting widespread displacement and limited safe shelter options. Although 36 per cent of families remain in their own homes, 31 per cent are staying outdoors on roadsides, 6 per cent live in temporary tents, and 5 per cent reside in communal buildings such as monasteries and schools. Nearly four in ten families with disabilities (36 per cent) do not feel safe and secure in their current location. Many cited ongoing anxieties about aftershocks, structural weakness, and adverse weather, describing leaning walls or cracked foundations that could fall without warning.

Basic needs emerged as a top priority, with significant demand for cash support, basic necessities, and other essential items (see Figure 5). Seventy-nine per cent of respondents require cash assistance, while 40 per cent point to food as a pressing need. Thirty-eight per cent urgently require clean drinking water, with many highlighting difficulties accessing safe or affordable water due to damaged sources or soaring market prices. Shelter (16 per cent), bedding (13 per cent), and education support (12 per cent) are also widely cited needs, alongside smaller proportions highlighting clothing (9 per cent) and caregiving assistance (8 per cent). Families highlighted numerous specialised requirements essential for maintaining health, mobility, and dignity of children and persons with disabilities (see Figure 6). Medical support ranks as the top priority for 42 per cent, closely followed by hygiene products (39 per cent) and information in accessible formats (22 per cent). Significant numbers also reported requiring assistive devices (18 per cent), incontinence products (15 per cent), and specialised food or clothing (12 per cent). Additionally, 7 per cent expressed the need for counselling, reflecting both emotional and practical support gaps in the disaster's aftermath for families with disabilities.



**Social and Behaviour Change**

UNICEF has expanded dissemination of lifesaving information to affected populations through partnerships with local radio stations, social media platforms, community outreaches, and risk communication networks. Messaging focuses on personal safety during aftershocks, identifying safe shelters, coping with trauma for both adults and children, locating separated family members, and seeking reliable sources of information to reduce anxiety. Based on social listening findings, which highlighted increase on snake bite and diarrhoea in the earthquake affected temporary shelters, additional Public Service Announcements (PSAs) were added on prevention, proper handling of snake bite victims, and the importance of Oral Rehydration for diarrhoea. Other important areas such as mental health and gender-based violence will be integrated into the communication package.

Assessing communities' urgent needs, hygiene and clean delivery kits are being provided to affected communities, along with health education on the "four cleans" (water, food, hand, and toilet cleanliness), use of chlorine tabs. Within Mandalay Region and Naypyitaw Territory, over 7,378 households have been reached.

Information and communication approaches have been tailored to meet the needs of affected communities. Rapid AAP (Accountability to Affected Communities) questions have been developed to collect communities' needs on the humanitarian assistances and to track rumours and misinformation which are creating fears and mistrust in communities. UNICEF convened the first National Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Working group meeting which was attended by 33 participants representing various organizations supporting the humanitarian response to the earthquake, to discuss the response strategy and enhance coordination in risk communication and community engagement.



## SUPPLY AND LOGISTICS

UNICEF continues to collaborate with various partners in the ongoing distribution of life saving supplies in all affected areas. Mostly these supplies include essential medicine, medical kits, hygiene and sanitation, water treatment tablets, tarpaulins etc.

In addition to the first charter flight which landed on 3 April 2025, offshore supplies have arrived in the country through commercial flights and the second charter flight is expected to land in Yangon on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> April. The flight will carry 80MT of supplies, majority of which are WASH supplies. Additional supplies are being prepared in UNICEF warehouse in Copenhagen and the distribution hub in Dubai.

## 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 is actively coordinating response efforts at both national and sub-national levels to address the urgent needs arising from the earthquake. Rapid Needs Assessments (RNAs) are ongoing, and findings report structural damage to over 42,000 latrines, severely affecting access to safe sanitation. Access to drinking and domestic water remains a critical need. Hygiene and sanitation services are also urgently required to prevent disease outbreaks and preserve human dignity among displaced communities. The WASH cluster partners have started assessment of health facilities to ascertain the WASH needs to prepare an appropriate response. Private donors have also played a critical role in response, providing drinking water to affected people. Coordination through local leadership is being done to avoid duplication. Cluster partners expressed readiness to support water supply, highlighting its urgency across affected locations. Cluster partners are distributing drinking water in Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw reaching 44,248 people, hygiene kits have been distributed to over 103,115 people, helping improve hygiene conditions in camps and temporary settlements. Sanitation remains a challenge due to space limitation particularly in urban Mandalay. Partners are mobilizing to begin latrine construction in Sagaing and Nyaung Shwe where space allows.

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 nutrition cluster has developed a list of prioritized nutrition activities for earthquake and similar emergencies to streamline response efforts. Partners are distributing basic food baskets, and water, and also leading response efforts across 15 locations in southeast regions. Partners plan to conduct mass mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening, provide multiple micronutrient powder and multiple micronutrient tablets and enable integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) services in southeast regions.

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. 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. CP AoR continues to support partners through key, simple, user-friendly resources tailored to Myanmar and the current earthquake. Resources are urgently needed to scale up critical child protection services on the ground.

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. Child friendly EORE one-pager was shared with both MA AoR and CP AoR partners. Partners are engaging in victim assistance but prioritizing MHPSS as well as cross-sectoral activities. Earthquake specific EORE messages finalized and shared with partners.

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. As per RNA results, more than 24,000 schools have been affected by the earthquake with minor to major damages in the structure. These primarily include public schools, monastic schools, ethnic schools, community-based schools. Some schools have been reported to be used as temporary shelters for displaced population. Partners have distributed critical education in emergency supplies to a few schools that are open (roofing sheets and learning materials).

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

### Selected social media:

**Myanmar Deputy Rep Julia Rees reports from the ground as UNICEF water trucks arrive with clean water and purification tablets for families in need in central Myanmar.**

<https://x.com/UNICEFMyanmar/status/1908098623977791686>

**It is exactly one week since Myanmar's most devastating earthquake struck a people already in crisis. UNICEF pledge to do everything we can to support their recovery.**

<https://x.com/UNICEFMyanmar/status/1908043867431252077>

**UNICEF, UNHCR & WFP are on the ground, providing critical emergency aid, including ready-to-eat food, medical care, safe water & hygiene support.**

<https://x.com/UNCERF/status/1908091038771609992>

**Millions of children in Myanmar remain at risk after last week's earthquake. UNICEF and partners have been delivering essential supplies to children and families.**

<https://x.com/UNICEF/status/1908731464667013398>

**UNICEF East Asia Pacific Regional Director, June Kunugi, shares about funding gap in Myanmar appeal.**

<https://x.com/JuneUNICEF/status/1908511714758492349>

**UN Relief Chief, Tom Fletcher, talks about devastation in Mandalay.**

<https://x.com/UNReliefChief/status/1909067438500561052>

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