



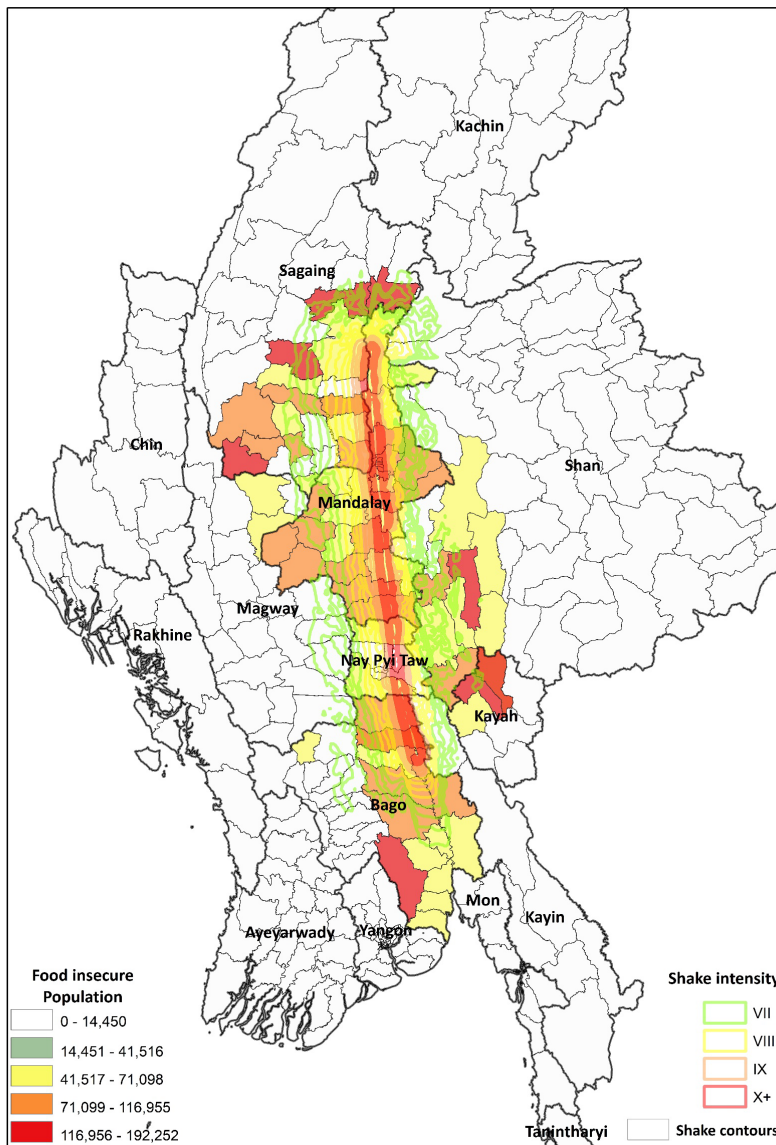
This brief provides analysis of previous food security and vulnerability data, overlaid with the earthquake impact. It aims to answer key questions such as where are the food insecure, how many are there, why are they food insecure and when should they be provided with assistance. This analysis intends to refine the design of the food security response.

## Where?

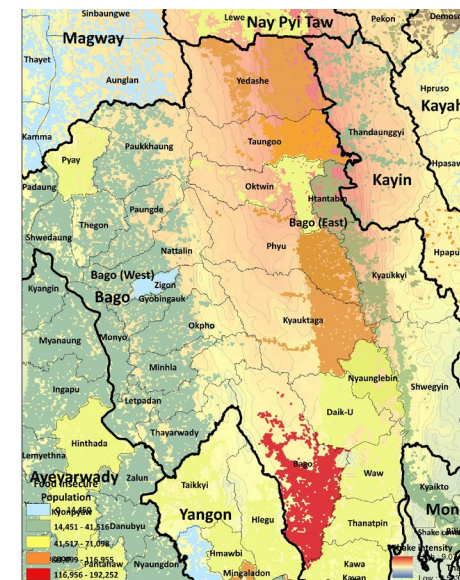
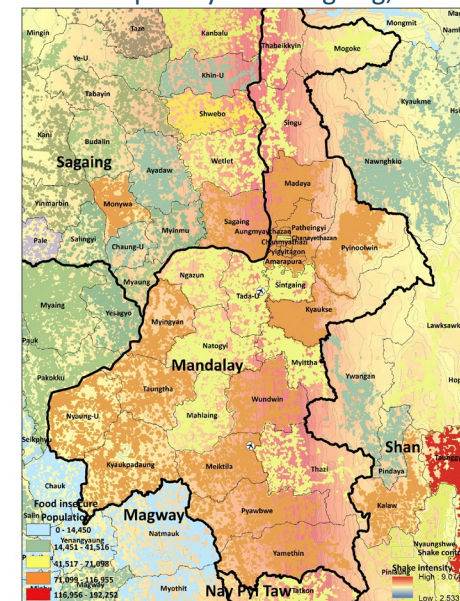
The areas that suffered from the most intense effects of the earthquake (MMI IX) were the regions of Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, and East Bago. However, among all earthquake-affected areas, the regions with the largest pre-earthquake food-insecure populations are **Mandalay, East Bago, and Sagaing**. Map 1 shows the overlay of earthquake impact and food insecurity prior to the earthquake.

Map 2 shows township-level analysis for Sagaing, Mandalay, and Bago. This analysis shows the earthquake-affected townships with the most food-insecure people are **Sagaing and Shwebo** in Sagaing in earthquake intensity zones VIII and IX. In Mandalay, the townships of highest concern are **Chanmyathazi, Aungmyaythazan** (both urban Mandalay), **Amarapura, Yamethin, and Pyawbwe** in earthquake intensity zones. The priority townships in Bago are **Taungoo and Yedashe**.

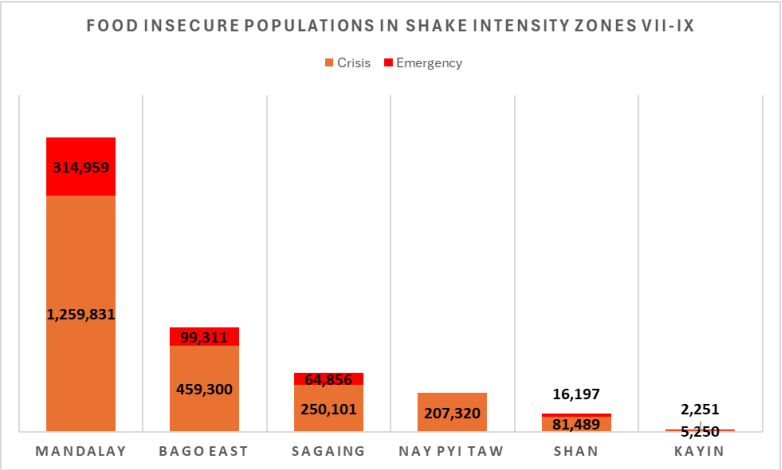
Map 1: Food Insecure Populations and Earthquake Intensity



Maps 2 and 3: Township analysis for Sagaing, Mandalay and Bago



## How many?



The data shows that **2.8 million people who were food insecure in 2024 live in townships most affected by the earthquake** (considering only shake intensity zones VII-IX). This includes over 500,000 people who were previously in emergency food insecurity and in dire need of assistance prior to the earthquake.

## Who?

The underlying food security data indicates that rates of food insecurity were higher among **displaced populations**. In addition, previous analysis demonstrates that **rural households, large household sizes and female-headed households** were linked to higher rates of food insecurity, due to constrained physical and economic access to food.

## Why?

**Mandalay**, close to the epicenter of the earthquake, is the region with the highest number of food insecure people. Food insecurity has been largely driven by ongoing conflict and the effects of flooding in the southern townships from Typhoon Yagi in 2024. In post-earthquake assessments, 74% of respondents indicated that markets were open but 64% stated that prices were higher or much higher than normal. ([ACAPS](#); [COAR](#)).

**East Bago** was heavily hit by the earthquake and had not yet fully recovered from extensive damage caused by severe flooding last September following Typhoon Yagi.

The **Sagaing** region is large and suffers from ongoing conflict and repeated displacements. This has also restricted market access for food purchase or sale of produce and disrupted basic services like healthcare and education. Sagaing region hosts one-third of the country’s IDPs and Sagaing township already had a high concentration of conflict-affected IDPs before the earthquake. In post-earthquake assessments, 89% of respondents indicated that markets were open, however, 41% stated that prices were higher or much higher than normal. ([UNHCR](#); [COAR](#)).

## When?

**Urgent food needs must be immediately addressed** for those in the earthquake affected areas. Further assistance will likely be needed during the **lean season, between July and September**. The lean season may last longer this year, as planting in May is likely to be affected by earthquake-related disruptions, in addition to the ongoing conflict.

Under ENSO Neutral conditions, Myanmar may also be affected by **cyclonic storms April to June and heavy rainfall throughout the monsoon season until November**, so **preparedness efforts** are critical.

## Next Steps

Food assistance distributions are ongoing in the six worst-affected states and regions. The next operational steps include pivoting to full in-kind and multi-purpose cash assistance and nutrition integration in the worst affected areas.

Actors may also consider urgent disaster risk reduction and livelihoods support to ensure agricultural households can plant on time in May.

Rapid food security needs assessments are underway in the impacted areas. These results will help inform programme planning, including targeting and response design.