

Sagaing earthquake in Myanmar

External situation report

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WHO Health Emergencies Programme



Highlights

- Across Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing and other affected regions, there has been a high number of casualties and trauma-related injuries. With disruption of electricity and water supplies and worsening access to health services, there is heightened risks of outbreaks of infectious diseases.
- There is widespread psychological trauma among the affected population. People are experiencing high levels of stress and anxiety, due to the loss of lives and the fear of aftershocks.
- Communities have expressed fears on the risk of infectious diseases spread from improperly managed decaying corpses. It is important that communities have the tools and information they need to manage dead bodies safely and with dignity.
- A cluster of mild to moderate acute watery diarrhea (AWD) cases has been reported in a few displacement camps in Sagaing, reiterating the urgent need for water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) interventions and outbreak preparedness.
- On 2 April 2025, WHO took part in a Joint UN Rapid Needs Assessment conducted in Sagaing with the UN OCHA, UNHCR, IOM and UNFPA. The mission report highlights the urgent needs in Sagaing following the earthquake.
- On 3 April 2025, WHO flew in 34.5 tons of supplies from its Global Logistics Centre in Dubai to Yangon, which included trauma and emergency supplies, essential medicines, blood bags and body bags for dead body management. So far, WHO provided nearly 100 tons of medicines, medical devices and tents to Myanmar.
- On 3 April 2024, WHO published the [initial public health situation analysis \(PHSA\)](#) related to the earthquake which summarizes the current magnitude of public health risks and determinants of health, impacting the affected population.

Situation summary

Sagaing

- The epicentre of the earthquake was close to Sagaing township in Sagaing Region that is home to approximately one-third of the country's internally displaced population, many of whom were already experiencing critical shortages of water, sanitation, hygiene, and shelter even before the earthquake struck.
- There is an immediate and pressing need for shelter. Most of the affected families have no access to tents or covered structures and are living in open outdoor settings. Existing houses have either

completely collapsed or are too damaged to be safely inhabited. With the monsoon season approaching, lack of adequate shelter is a major concern.

- In Sagaing township, there are four main displacement camps, each hosting around 1000 people. Many houses were destroyed or left unsafe by the earthquake, forcing families to stay in open areas without shelter. Partners are actively working to ensure safety and dignity in those displacement sites.
- WASH conditions are poor. Access to clean water is very limited, and there is only minimal availability of bottled drinking water through donations. However, there is no reliable or safe drinking water source, as existing infrastructure has collapsed. The sanitation situation is extremely concerning, with one latrine serving approximately 500 people. Urgent needs include mobile toilets, soap, waste bins, temporary hand-washing stations, water filters, and purification tablets.
- Existing health facilities have limited capacity to meet the increasing demand. Sagaing Public Hospital is overwhelmed with trauma cases.
- The Monywa Regional Public Health Department and various partners are supporting mobile clinics, operating daily from 8:00 to 15:00 local time, reaching the camps from nearby public health services. These clinics provide basic medicines and supplies, and treat approximately 200 patients per day in each camp. WHO-supported supplies are being used in these services.
- In addition, some partners (international and local NGOs, and local charities) are providing health services through static and mobile clinics.
- WHO Myanmar supports a local partner to provide mobile clinic services for emergency health care for the affected community in Sagaing township since 1 April 2025.
- According to information from partners, the immediate need for life-saving trauma care is decreasing, while continuation of care for non-communicable diseases and preparedness for disease outbreak response are becoming more critical.
- Clusters of AWD cases have been reported. While the overall severity of AWD cases remains mild to moderate, disease surveillance and response capacities need to be strengthened.
- The most urgent health-related needs include mobile toilets for both hospitals and camps, essential antibiotics and medications for chronic illnesses like hypertension, diabetes, and cardiovascular diseases.

Mandalay

- WHO Myanmar experts conducted a field visit to Mandalay on 2 April 2025 and met the Central Emergency Response Command Team responsible for hospitals in upper Myanmar area.
- Due to structural damages by the earthquake, hospital buildings are unsafe, and major trauma patients are being treated in open-air car parks, which are dusty, exposed to hot temperatures, and not conducive for proper patient care.
- There is an urgent need for building safety assessments to enable the resumption of indoor services.
- Mobile toilets are urgently needed for patient families and visitors.

Critical health needs

Immediate needs

- Emergency shelters and tents for displaced populations
- Mobile toilets and improved WASH facilities
- Safe drinking water solutions, including filters and purification tablets
- Continuation of trauma care and primary health services
- Outbreak preparedness and response

Longer-term requirements

- Medications for chronic disease management (e.g., for hypertension, diabetes, and heart disease)
- Mental health and psychosocial support
- Structural assessments and rehabilitation of damaged healthcare facilities

WHO response

Public health situation analysis

- WHO published the [initial public health situation analysis](#) related to the earthquake. It analyses the current magnitude of public health risks and determinants of health, impacting the affected population. Various health threats are highlighted including trauma-related injuries with urgent need for emergency care, mental health challenges, high risks of disease outbreaks and environmental hazards. It also describes the current health system status and local health system disruptions based on available information, and the health response provided by health cluster partners and WHO.

Provision of health commodities and supplies

- WHO has provided nearly 100 tons of medicines, medical devices and tents so far.
- On 3 April 2025, WHO flew in 34.5 tons of supplies (estimated worth US\$ 311 000) from its Global Logistics Centre in Dubai to Yangon. These include 148 Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK), trauma and emergency surgery kits, essential medicines and equipment for emergency and surgical care, blood bags for blood transfusion and body bags for management of the dead.
- Earlier 60 tons of trauma kits, with medicines, medical and surgical devices, and multi-purpose tents were provided from the emergency stockpiles in Yangon to Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Sagaing. Some of these were delivered within the first 24 hours after the earthquake.
- To reach populations in remote areas, WHO has also provided medicine supplies for trauma care, AWD and acute respiratory infection treatment, and other essential supplies for primary health care service provision, such as body bags and bleaching powder for infection prevention. These supplies, provided to eight health partners who started the provision of emergency health care in the most affected areas, will cover the needs of 19 000 people in Mandalay and Sagaing regions.
- More lifesaving supplies are being readied to be flown into Myanmar from the WHO Global Logistics Centre in the coming days.



Medical and health supplies arrived at the airport in Yangon on 3 April 2025 (©WHO Myanmar)

Deployment and coordination of emergency medical teams and emergency health workforce

- WHO has been actively mobilizing the Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) through its global network, coordinating and facilitating the deployment of quality-assured medical teams to support the ongoing relief efforts and the provision of medical care on the ground.
- WHO along with other partners have established an EMT Coordination Cell (EMTCC) in Myanmar.
- As of 3 April 2025, 34 international teams have expressed interest in deployment, with seven teams currently operational in Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw (including those teams from China, India, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, Russia and the United States of America), and others at different stages of deployment. Of the seven deployed teams, two have the capability to provide trauma and surgical care, as well as in-patient admission services.
- Additional experts have been flown into Myanmar to strengthen WHO support to the earthquake response, including for coordination of EMTs on the ground, a key function that WHO fosters in health emergencies.
- WHO continues to provide operational support for the deployment of rapid response teams to the hardest-hit areas, including Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Sagaing. These teams, providing life-saving health services to vulnerable populations, have been on the ground since 29 March 2025, delivering immediate medical care, conducting rapid assessments, and supporting local health authorities in disaster relief and recovery efforts.

Other health emergency response activities

- WHO has launched [an urgent appeal](#) of US\$ 8 million for its earthquake response in Myanmar.
- WHO is taking part in the Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Working Group. An ad hoc meeting took place on 2 April 2025 to coordinate communication strategies and share updates on the earthquake response.

- WHO is delivering two orientation sessions for frontline health workers on Psychological First Aid for Earthquake Frontline Workers, the first scheduled for 4 April 2025 and the second two weeks later.
- WHO Myanmar is actively collaborating with the National Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Network to implement PSEA response plan at the inter-agency level. Additionally, WHO will distribute PSEA communication materials to health cluster partners and earthquake responders on the ground.

For more information

- WHO Regional Office for South-East Asia (SEARO). People's Health in Myanmar (including previous editions of the WHO external situation reports on the Sagaing Earthquake). Available at: <https://www.who.int/southeastasia/outbreaks-and-emergencies/health-emergency-information-risk-assessment/mmr-phealth>
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- WHO SEARO. WHO scales up emergency response in earthquake-hit Myanmar, provides 100 tons of medicines and supplies, coordination of Emergency Medical Teams on the ground. Available at: <https://www.who.int/southeastasia/news/detail/04-04-2025-who-scales-up-emergency-response-in-earthquake-hit-myanmar--provides-100-tons-of-medicines-and-supplies--coordination-of-emergency-medical-teams-on-the-ground>
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- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and WHO. Dead bodies from natural disasters and conflict do not generally pose health risks, Red Cross and WHO say. Available at: <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/dead-bodies-natural-disasters-and-conflict-do-not-generally-pose-health-risks>

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