

Sagaing earthquake in Myanmar

External situation report

5th Edition, 8 April 2025, as of 10:00 IST

WHO Health Emergencies Programme



Highlights

- As of 7 April 2025, over 3 500 people died, nearly 5 000 have been injured, and over 200 remain missing nationwide, according to publicly available figures ¹.
- Across the affected areas, people continue to face significant health challenges, including trauma-related injuries, mental health issues, and lack of access to medicines to manage their chronic diseases. With limited access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene, the risk of infectious disease outbreaks is elevated. The situation is compounded by extreme heat and rain for those who are sheltering at outdoor settings.
- WHO has been coordinating the Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs) through an EMT Coordination Cell (EMTCC) in Myanmar. Fourteen EMTs are currently operational in the earthquake-affected communities in Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, and Sagaing.
- On 7 April 2025, WHO delivered additional 39 metric tons of supplies of medicines and medical devices into Myanmar. These include Interagency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK), WHO trauma and emergency surgery kits (TESK) and body bags.

Situation summary

- UN OCHA estimates that over 17.2 million people live in affected areas, with over 9.1 million exposed to the strongest tremors across 58 of the country's 330 townships in Eastern Bago, Kayin, Magway, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Southern Shan and Sagaing ¹.
- Communities in the worst-affected areas continue to struggle with widespread destruction of homes, health facilities and critical infrastructure; prolonged power and water outages; severely limited telecommunications; and damaged or obstructed transport routes ¹.
- Earthquake-affected communities are experiencing high levels of mental health issues such as anxiety and insomnia.
- Many people in Sagaing and Mandalay are staying outdoors, leaving behind essential medications to manage hypertension (high blood pressure) and diabetes at their homes, and thus medicines to treat non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are in high demand. Additionally, basic medicines are running low in local pharmacies.
- People left homeless by the earthquakes are exposed to extreme heat during the country's hottest and driest month of the year, and rains have already started in Mandalay – posing an additional threat to those sheltering in the open ¹.

¹ <https://unocha.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b438b7d9f4bff43c0ebb7a4a0&id=1960a0af29&e=b7ab7d9dbf>

- A cluster of mild to moderate acute watery diarrhea (AWD) cases has been reported in Sagaing Township and urban areas of Mandalay. Lack of access to safe drinking water and sanitation poses elevated risks of water-borne diseases.
- To mitigate the risk of tetanus following injuries and wounds in the earthquake-affected areas, a tetanus (TT/Td) vaccination was provided in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 April 2025, and in Mandalay and Sagaing on 5 April 2025. A total of 5 219 individuals have received the vaccines.

Critical health 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 surgical supplies including anesthetics
- Blood bags for blood transfusion
- Safe delivery kits
- Surveillance for outbreak prevention and response
- Restoration of primary health services
- Essential medicines. This includes those 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



Nearly 100 injured patients await surgery inside a stadium in Nay Pyi Taw. ©Samaritan's Purse

WHO response

Deployment and coordination of emergency medical teams and emergency health workforce

- WHO has been actively mobilizing 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 Emergency Medical Teams Coordination Cell (EMTCC) in Myanmar.
- As of 7 April 2025, 42 international teams have expressed interest in deployment, with 14 teams currently operational in Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, and Sagaing (including those teams from Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, India, Japan, Nepal, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Russia, and the United States of America), and others at different stages of deployment.
- Of the 14 deployed teams, two have the capability to provide inpatient trauma and surgical emergency care, as well as in-patient admission services and another one specialized EMT which can provide services on surgical and intensive care.
- The EMTCC team visited five EMT teams in Mandalay. EMTs reported that additional surgical units including mobile operating theatres and supporting services such as laboratories and diagnostic facilities are needed.
- WHO experts from WHO's Regional Office and headquarters are being deployed to support earthquake response operations through the WHO country office.



The EMTCC Coordinator visited EMT teams in Mandalay, where specialized EMTs are in the process of setting up their intensive care unit and operating theatres. ©WHO Myanmar

Provision of health commodities and supplies

- On 7 April 2025, WHO delivered additional 39 metric tons of supplies consisting of medicines and medical devices into Myanmar (worth US\$ 310 000). These include Interagency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK), WHO trauma and emergency surgery kits (TESK), and body bags.
- This is in addition to nearly 100 tons of medicines, medical devices and tents, that WHO had provided so far.
- Shipment of more lifesaving supplies are being arranged to be flown into Myanmar from the WHO Global Logistics Centre in the coming days.

Coordination

- WHO participated in the Myanmar health cluster meeting for the earthquake response held on 7 April 2025, with the aim of enhancing coordinated response among partners providing emergency health services. The meeting discussed partners mapping, service provision, referral pathway, medical supplies and outbreak response activities.

Mental health and psychosocial support

- Orientation sessions on Psychological First Aid (PFA) for frontline health workers responding to the earthquake were conducted on 4 April 2025. Moving forward, bi-weekly or weekly sessions will be organized in collaboration with cluster partners.

Risk communication and community engagement

- For prevention of outbreaks in earthquake-affected areas, WHO Myanmar has disseminated series of risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) materials from different WHO Myanmar communication channels. On 5-6 April 2025, RCCE materials about snake bites, heat waves and food safety were disseminated.

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>
- WHO and Health Cluster. Public health situation analysis (Sagaing earthquake in Myanmar, April 2025). Available at: <https://www.who.int/southeastasia/publications/m/item/mmrphsa00203042025>; <https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/myanmar-public-health-situation-analysis-phsa-sagaing-earthquake-myanmar-april-2025>
- ReliefWeb Response. Health. Latest Health Cluster Situation Reports. Available at: <https://response.reliefweb.int/myanmar/health>
- WHO. WHO Flash Appeal: earthquake response in Myanmar. Available at: <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/who-flash-appeal--earthquake-response-in-myanmar>
- WHO Myanmar. Myanmar Earthquake Crisis: WHO's Swift Action to Save Lives. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=finPHnQXBI>
- 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>
- WHO SEARO. WHO medical supplies reach hospitals in earthquake hit areas. Available at: <https://www.who.int/southeastasia/news/detail/30-03-2025-who-medical-supplies-reach-hospitals-in-earthquake-hit-areas>
- 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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