

Sagaing earthquake in Myanmar

External situation report

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WHO Health Emergencies Programme



Highlights

- Just over two weeks since the devastating earthquakes, 3 600 people have reportedly died, 4 800 have been injured and 141 remain missing nationwide ¹.
- Many health facilities in the earthquake-affected areas are destroyed or damaged, disrupting access to health services; while many health facilities are operating under strained conditions.
- Earthquake-affected communities face extreme heat, lack adequate shelters, are braving damaged water supply systems and grappling with the absence of sanitation services. These conditions heighten the risk of outbreaks of various infectious diseases.
- Essential medicines are in severe shortage, affecting the continued treatment of communicable and noncommunicable diseases. The need for mental health and psychosocial support is significant.
- On 11 April 2025, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) issued the Addendum to the Myanmar Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025, which seeks an additional US\$275 million to deliver principled humanitarian assistance and protection to 1.1 million of the most vulnerable people.
- UN OCHA estimates over 9.1 million people were exposed to the strongest tremors across 58 townships. The total number of people in urgent need for health assistance due to the earthquake is estimated at 2.4 million, and 453 157 people are targeted for earthquake-related health response activities. The state/region with the highest urgent health response needs is Mandalay, followed by Sagaing and Bago East.
- As of 13 April 2025, WHO has provided a cumulative total of nearly 170 tons of medicines, medical devices and tents to Myanmar. The latest delivery was on 11 April 2025, when WHO flew in 39.5 tons of supplies (estimated worth US\$ 191 635) from its Global Logistics Centre in Dubai to Yangon.
- WHO has been actively mobilizing and coordinating emergency medical teams (EMTs) through its global network and the EMT Coordination Cell, with 14 teams having been operational in the field.
- WHO has provided virtual training sessions to health cluster partners: Monitoring disease outbreaks to enable timely alerts and responses for disease outbreaks; and a weekly webinar on basic skills for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).

Situation summary

Overall situation

- Over two weeks after the earthquake, aftershocks, although less frequent, continue to occur across the country. Emergency rescue operations are nearly complete, while the need for humanitarian assistance, including health services, continues to grow.

¹ UN OCHA. [Myanmar: Earthquake Response Situation Report No. 2](#)

- A considerable number of health facilities in the earthquake-affected areas are destroyed or damaged (640 hospitals/clinics reportedly damaged ²), disrupting access to health services, while many health facilities are operating under strained conditions. Significant needs for primary health care services at this juncture are increasingly recognized, including for reproductive health, maternal and neonatal care.
- Earthquake-affected communities face severe living conditions, including extreme heat, lack of adequate shelters, damaged water supply systems and the absence of sanitation services (open defecation becomes inevitable). The rainfall in the coming days may further worsen living conditions for those in temporary shelters, as the monsoon and cyclone season approaches.
- These conditions heighten the risk of heat-related illnesses, as well as outbreaks of various types of diseases, such as water-borne diseases (e.g. cholera), vector-borne diseases (e.g. dengue, malaria), vaccine-preventable diseases (e.g. measles) and skin diseases (e.g. scabies). Clusters of acute watery diarrhoea have been reported in the affected areas, although there has been no report of any confirmed cholera outbreak.
- Mental health issues such as anxiety and insomnia have been frequently reported. The needs for mental health and psychosocial support are significant as communities grapple with the emotional impact of loss and distress.
- Essential medicines are in severe shortage, affecting the continued treatment of communicable diseases (e.g. HIV and tuberculosis) and noncommunicable diseases (e.g. hypertension and diabetes). Disruption in treatment may lead to drug resistance, and increased morbidity and mortality.
- While national and international rescue and response operation efforts are ongoing, the needs of the affected people are far greater than the current response capacity. Many affected people — especially those in hard-to-reach areas — have yet to receive the support they need.

Addendum to the Myanmar Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) 2025

- On 11 April 2025, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) issued the Addendum to the Myanmar HNRP 2025 ³ to reflect the additional needs for people affected by the earthquake.
- This addendum seeks an additional US\$ 275 million to deliver principled humanitarian assistance and protection to 1.1 million of the most vulnerable people — out of 6.3 million now in need — affected by the devastating earthquakes in Myanmar, while continuing to address pre-existing needs.
- This response plan outlines key priorities and activities to scale up life-saving assistance between April and December 2025, complementing efforts already underway through the broader Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP 2025).
- 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 townships in Eastern Bago, Kayin, Magway, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Southern Shan and Sagaing.

² ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre) Situation Update No. 8 – M7.7 Mandalay Earthquake – 12 April 2025 <https://ahacentre.org/situation-update/situation-update-no-8-m7-7-mandalay-earthquake-12-april-2025/>

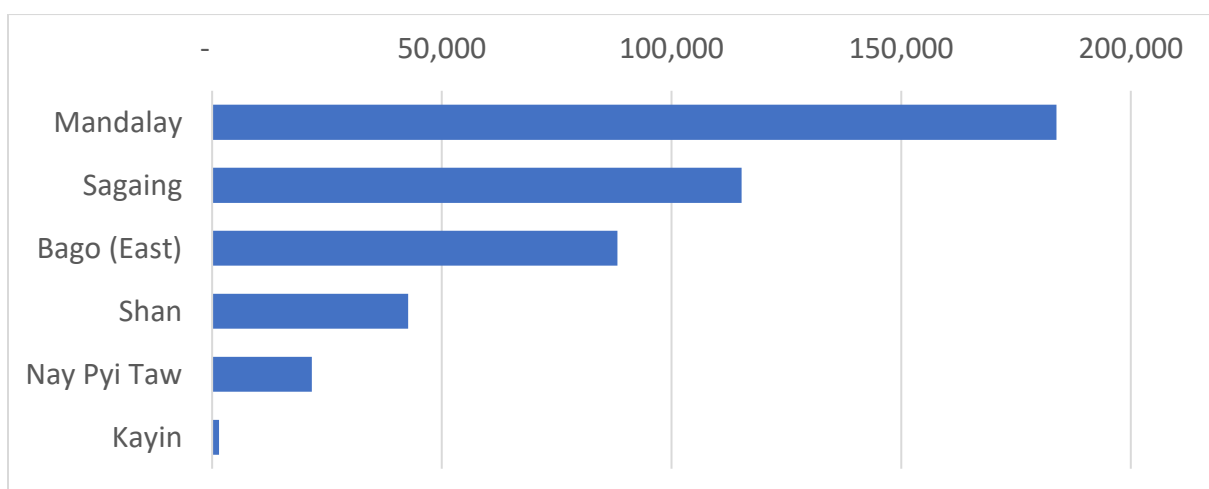
³ [Myanmar Earthquake: HNRP Flash Addendum - Issued April 2025](#)

- The Addendum to the Myanmar HNRP2025 ³ has estimated the additional needs for people affected by the earthquake.
 - A total of 6.3 million people are estimated to be in urgent need of assistance and protection, an increase of 2 million people due to the earthquake, compared with the 4.3 million people in need as per HNRP 2025⁴.
 - The total number of people in urgent need for health assistance due to earthquake is estimated as 2.4 million, and 453 157 people are targeted for earthquake-related health response activities (Table 1), with estimated costs of US\$ 23 million.
 - The number of people targeted for health response activities are highest in Mandalay (183 834 people) followed by Sagaing (115 234 people) and Bago East (88 236) (Table 1, Figure 1).

Table 1. Total number of people in need of health assistance in the worst-affected areas and people targeted for earthquake-related health response activities.

Region/State	HNRP 2025		HNRP 2025 Earthquake Addendum			
	People in need (health)	People targeted (health)	Affected townships	New EQ people in need	New EQ people in need (health)	New EQ people targeted (health)
Mandalay	587 998	35 778	23	1 059 605	862 396	183 834
Sagaing	379 946	35 669	12	168 196	379 945	115 234
Bago (East)	620 790	59 126	8	203 309	620 790	88 236
Shan	149 184	16 932	6	92 953	149 184	42 653
Nay Pyi Taw	310 256	-	8	298 281	310 255	21 718
Kayin	45 854	-	1	1 482	45 854	1 482
Total	2 094 028	147 505	58	1 823 826	2 368 424	453 157

Figure 1. People targeted for earthquake-related health response activities by State/Region.



⁴ [Myanmar Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025](#)

Access situation

- Reaching all people targeted—including those in hard-to-access areas—is a top priority of the humanitarian response. In the Addendum to the Myanmar HNRP 2025, UN OCHA summarized the access challenges – including for humanitarian health response ³.
 - Over the past years, aid operations in Myanmar have faced persistent challenges due to the ongoing armed conflict, bureaucratic barriers, and targeted violence against humanitarian personnel and infrastructure.
 - According to OCHA’s access severity monitoring in end-2024, of the 58 townships located in the highest-intensity earthquake zones, 14 face extreme access difficulties (Level 3), and these are primarily concentrated in northern Sagaing, northern Shan, and eastern Bago.
 - An additional 26 townships—including 17 in Mandalay—are reported to have moderate access restrictions, while nine townships are perceived to be fully accessible.
 - Of the nearly nine million people residing in these highest-intensity earthquake areas, approximately 1.2 million are in townships with extreme access challenges, and nearly 4.5 million live in areas with moderate constraints.
 - The earthquake has further compounded existing access challenges in Myanmar, particularly in conflict-affected and remote communities. The earthquake poses further challenges, with damage to roads, bridges and other key infrastructure that further limits the ability of humanitarian actors to respond effectively.

Critical health needs

- Emergency shelters and tents for displaced populations
- Safe drinking water solutions, including filters and purification tablets
- Mobile toilets and improved sanitation and hygiene facilities
- Continued needs for trauma care and surgical supplies including anesthetics
- Safe delivery kits
- Surveillance, prevention and control for disease outbreak
- Restoration of primary health services
- Essential medicines for both communicable and noncommunicable diseases
- Mental health and psychosocial support
- Structural assessments and rehabilitation of damaged health-care facilities
- Better data to assess health needs and monitor the health trends.

Responses by health cluster partners

- Approximately 70 health partners have provided emergency and trauma care, along with essential primary healthcare services—including reproductive, maternal, and child health—in 18 townships affected by the earthquake ¹.
- Partners are providing health care services in the affected areas through both fixed and mobile clinics. As of 6 April 2025, partners have delivered at least 6000 primary health care consultations to affected communities, along with 224 emergency case referrals.

WHO response

- As of 13 April 2025, WHO has provided a cumulative total of nearly 170 tons of medicines, medical devices and tents to Myanmar, combining those delivered from the stockpile in Yangon, and those from Dubai Global Logistics Centre in Dubai.
 - The latest delivery was on 11 April 2025, when WHO flew in 39.5 tons of supplies (estimated worth US\$ 191 635) from its Global Logistics Centre in Dubai to Yangon. These include Interagency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK), trauma and emergency surgery kits, for further support to the hospitals in the affected areas.



Medical and health supplies arrived at the airport in Yangon on 11 April 2025 (©WHO Myanmar)

- WHO has been actively mobilizing emergency medical teams (EMTs) through its global network, facilitating deployment of quality-assured medical teams, and coordinating the teams through EMT Coordination Cell (EMTCC).
 - As of 13 April 2025, 16 teams have been deployed to Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, and Sagaing, and others at different stages of deployment. Four EMTs are expected to depart Myanmar this week.
- WHO experts from its Regional Office and headquarters are being deployed to support earthquake response operations through the WHO country office.
- WHO has provided virtual training sessions to health cluster partners:
 - Monitoring disease outbreaks to enable timely alerts and responses in the aftermath of the earthquake, conducted on 10 April 2025. Over 164 participants took part in the training.
 - A weekly webinar on basic skills for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and self-help techniques is being held every Friday, targeting healthcare workers and partner organizations.

- WHO has actively provided various information and communication materials.
 - A concise Psychological First Aid (PFA) guidebook and newly developed and adapted information, education, and communication (IEC) materials on mental health in the Myanmar language have been distributed to Health Cluster partners, the UN clinic, and UN staff.
 - The following RCCE materials were posted on WHO's Facebook, Viber and Instagram platforms.
 - Managing the bodies of deceased persons in the context of earthquake response
 - Fire related infographics/dengue related story
 - Information on hepatitis A and E
 - IEC materials for mental health and psychosocial support for depression and anxiety
- WHO continues to support the provision of essential medicines for primary health care, including the management of outbreak-prone diseases, to health partners delivering emergency care in affected areas. Additionally, 500 tent nets have been distributed to partners, prioritizing children, as a preventive measure against mosquito bites.
- Support for equipping the public health emergency operations centre (PHEOC) is ongoing to strengthen the coordination of the earthquake response.

For more information

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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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Contacts

- Dr Nilesch Buddha, Regional Emergency Director a.i. buddhan@who.int
- Health information and epidemiology pillar at SEARO Incident Management Support Team seoutbreak@who.int
- Ms Shamila Shama, Public information focal point sharmasha@who.int