



Myanmar

Humanitarian Update No. 46

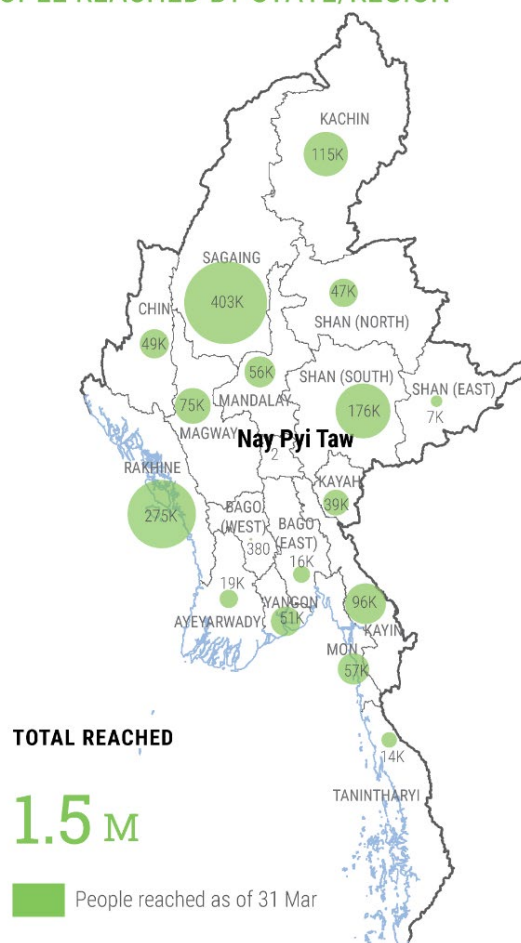
23 May 2025

This independent update, covering humanitarian developments up to 23 May, is produced by OCHA Myanmar under its global mandate, in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and UN agencies. Response figures are based on self-reporting by organizations to clusters.

HIGHLIGHTS & KEY MESSAGES

- Myanmar continues to face significant humanitarian challenges, driven by recurrent disasters, persistent conflict, and grave protection risks, with an estimated 3.5 million people displaced across the country.
- Two powerful earthquakes on 28 March caused extensive damage in both populated cities and rural areas, leading to loss of lives, destruction of homes and infrastructure, and disruptions to livelihoods.
- Humanitarian needs in Myanmar have reached record levels, with 19.9 million people identified as needing assistance, and an additional 2 million now in urgent need following the earthquakes.
- Civilians continue to flee their homes due to fighting between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and various non-state armed group, with the conflict restricting access to life-saving assistance and essential services for affected communities.
- A surge in aerial attacks and shelling since around mid-April has led to significant civilian casualties, including many children.
- Humanitarian partners have provided critical assistance to 1.5 million people during the first quarter of 2025, despite challenges such as short falls and access restrictions.
- To date, the 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) is only 7.8 per cent funded, while the Earthquake Addendum stands at 17.2 per cent. Increased funding and the timely disbursement of pledged contributions remain crucial to scaling up life-saving assistance and reach the most affected communities.

PEOPLE REACHED BY STATE/REGION



KEY FIGURES

19.9M

People in need in 2025

5.5M

People targeted in 2025

\$1.1B

Required for 2025 HNRP

7.8% FUNDED

The 2025 HNRP has received \$88.8M against the \$1.1B appeal.

2M

Additional people in need after the earthquakes

1.1M

Earthquake-affected people targeted

\$275M

Required for earthquake response, including early recovery

17.2% FUNDED

Earthquake addendum has received \$47.5M against the \$275M appeal.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

People of Myanmar face escalating crisis amid earthquake devastation and protracted conflict

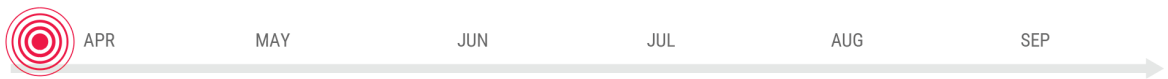
The humanitarian situation in Myanmar remains critical, with recent earthquakes further exacerbating existing challenges. The twin earthquakes – measuring 7.7 and 6.9 magnitude – that struck central Myanmar on 28 March caused widespread destruction across Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Southern Shan, and to a lesser extent, Bago, Magway, and Eastern Shan. More than 3,800 people are reported to have died, with many more believed to be missing beneath the rubble. Thousands of houses, health facilities and essential infrastructure have been severely damaged or destroyed, leaving many homeless and forced to shelter in precarious and unsafe conditions.

The disaster occurred during Myanmar's hottest months, increasing risks of dehydration and heat-related illnesses such as heatstroke and skin rash, for those whose homes were damaged or destroyed. Early rains and strong winds ahead of the usual monsoon season further threaten the health and safety of people living in makeshift shelters. The earthquakes also impacted key agricultural areas, disrupting livelihoods. Damage to farmland, irrigation systems, and local businesses has placed additional pressure on income-generating activities and food production, with potential long-term implications on food security and economic recovery.

Notwithstanding the devastating earthquake, armed conflict persists and is deepening the crisis in Myanmar, with a record 3.5 million internally displaced persons. Several major armed groups involved in the conflict publicly announced unilateral ceasefires for April following the earthquakes. However, hostilities persist with reports of recurrent clashes, including aerial attacks and shelling, across multiple states and regions. Since mid-April, an increase in aerial attacks and shelling has resulted in significant civilian casualties, including children, across the regions and states of Bago, Chin, Kayah, Kayin, Magway, Mandalay, Rakhine, Sagaing, and northern and southern Shan. Stronger protection measures remain critical to safeguarding affected communities. All parties to the conflict must uphold their obligations under international humanitarian law to protect civilians and aid workers and ensure the safety of them unconditionally. Furthermore, the ongoing instability continues to drive further displacement in several states and regions, particularly in southeastern and northwestern Myanmar.

EARTHQUAKE

28 March 2025



Families whose home were damaged or destroyed by the earthquake are exposed to extreme heat, facing heightened risk of dehydration and heat-related illnesses such as heatstroke and skin rash.



The onset of early rains coupled with strong winds ahead of the usual monsoon season further threatens the health and safety of the people living in makeshift shelters.



The earthquakes also struck key agricultural areas, disrupting livelihoods. Damage to farmland, irrigation systems, and local businesses has put pressure on income-generating activities and food production, with long-term implications for food security and the economic recovery of affected communities.

HOT SEASON

MONSOON/FLOODING/LANDSLIDES

CYCLONE SEASON

ONGOING CRISIS



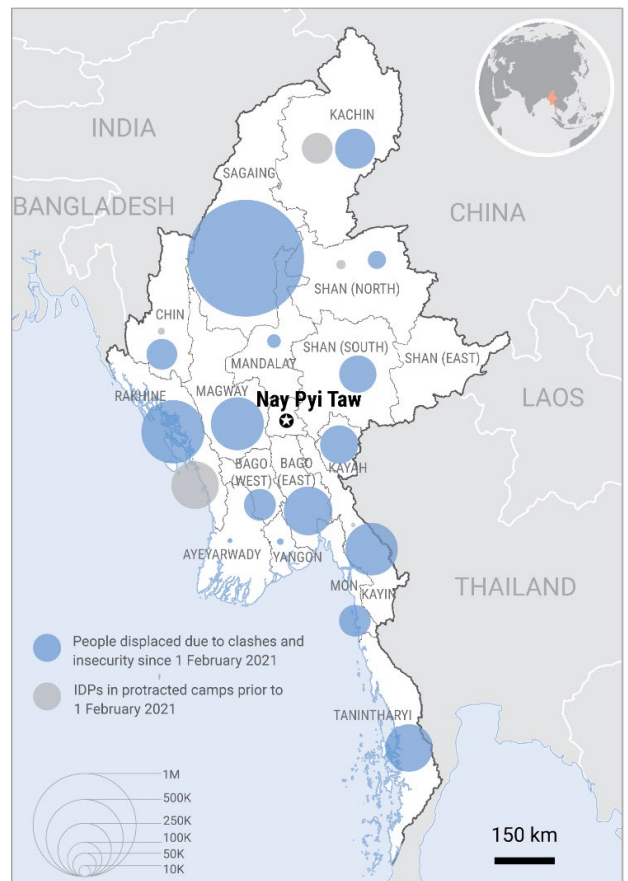
Notwithstanding the devastating earthquake, armed conflict persists and is deepening the crisis in Myanmar, with a record 3.5 million internally displaced persons.



A number of major armed groups actively involved in the conflict publicly announced unilateral ceasefires for April soon after the earthquakes, but hostilities continue with recurrent armed clashes characterized by aerial attacks and shelling reported across multiple states and regions. A surge in various aerial attacks and shelling since around mid-April has led to significant civilian casualties, including many children.

In southeastern Myanmar, renewed clashes between the Myanmar Armed Forces and non-state armed groups led by the Karen National Liberation Army have intensified since 13 April in Kayin State's Kawkaireik Township. Nearly 13,000 people have fled to nearby townships in Kayin and Mon states, many sheltering in monasteries or forests with little access to food, water, or health care. Intensified fighting in Hlaingbwe Township also forced more than 400 people to cross into Thailand, where they are now sheltering in Tha Song Yang District. In Mon State, over 8,000 people from Kyaikhto Township have been displaced since 2 May. Meanwhile, the destruction of a major bridge on the Yangon–Mawlamyine highway in Thaton Township on 3 May has severely disrupted transportation in the region. In Tanintharyi Region, ongoing clashes and shelling have displaced more than 10,000 people across Dawei, Launglon, Thayetchaung, and Yebyu townships. Fighting in Bago Region has also displaced thousands in Kyaukkyi and Minhla townships since late May.

In northwestern Myanmar, ongoing hostilities have displaced more than 1,000 people in Madaya and Ngazun townships in Mandalay Region; nearly 1,900 people in Seikphyu, Sidoktaya, and Yesagyo townships in Magway Region; and thousands more from over 20 villages along the Magway–Sagaing border in Gangaw and Kale townships since late April. Many displaced families are currently taking refuge in monasteries. In northern Shan, fighting between the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army and the Shan State Progress Party/Shan State Army has displaced some 700 people since 28 March, now sheltering in temporary sites in Kyaukme Township.



The combined impacts of the recent earthquakes and ongoing challenges have deepened humanitarian needs across Myanmar, leaving millions in heightened vulnerability. A multisector initial rapid assessment conducted by the UN and its partners identified priority needs, including cash, food, construction materials and emergency shelter support across 44 earthquake-affected townships in Bago, Kayin, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing and Shan. While cash assistance is the most preferred modality of support by all affected regions, shelter and construction materials are particularly critical in the worst-affected areas like Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Sagaing where shelters and structures have been significantly damaged or destroyed.



Photo: Earthquake-affected communities received nutrition supplies in Sintgaing Township, Mandalay Region. Credit: UNICEF/Nyan Zay Htet

Access to basic services and infrastructure like water, sanitation and electricity was constrained by pre-existing vulnerabilities for the communities in conflict-affected areas. Food insecurity is a growing concern, particularly for displaced people, in Bago, Kayin, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw. The psychological impact of the disaster has been widespread, with trauma and distress posing significant health challenges and affecting access to education for both students and teachers. More than 75 per cent of the assessed localities have received assistance since the earthquakes, though continued support remains essential to address urgent needs.

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