



Destroyed houses in Kyauk, Mandalay. Taken by IOM partner organization M-Dos

HIGHLIGHTS



7.7 magnitude earthquake on 28 March 2025 struck Mandalay, Myanmar, at a depth of 10 km, followed by a series of strong aftershock, including those of 6.4 magnitude (United States Geological Survey).



The death toll continues to rise, with officials reporting **nearly 3,000 fatalities**, with thousands injured or missing. As the Golden 72-Hour period is over, a one-week period of national mourning began on 31 March.



The first rapid needs assessments from field teams are coming in - the most urgent needs identified are safe **drinking water, food, hygiene and sanitation**, and safe, temporary **shelter** and **mental health and psychosocial support**.



IOM Flash Appeal was published on 1 April 2025, urgently appealing for **USD 17.3 million** for urgent life-saving response to the needs of vulnerable earthquake-affected people.

SITUATION UPDATE

Confirmed fatalities are rising as the golden 72-hour rescue period has closed. While survivors are still being found on day five after the earthquake, the hope of continuing to reach people alive is diminishing rapidly. The death toll is expected to increase as people remain trapped under the rubble. The high temperature and the wish of families to provide proper burials for their loved ones also mean that many deceased are being buried before being officially counted.

Rescue teams and search-and-rescue equipment have arrived from Russia, Indonesia, Thailand, Bhutan, the Philippines, Lao PDR, Bangladesh, and the United Arab Emirates, and additional assistance, including rescue teams, doctors, nurses, and aid supplies and medical equipment have also arrived in Nay Pyi Taw.

Rapid needs assessments are ongoing and smaller scale assistance delivery has begun in cities and in townships accessible to local frontline responders. IOM and UN teams have conducted joint needs assessments in Mandalay and Sagaing.

Northwest: Affected populations in Sagaing and Mandalay are largely staying outdoors, reluctant to return to homes that are not safe. People are seeking shelter in monasteries, football fields, and along roads and sidewalks, and in open areas, in fear of aftershocks and additional building collapses.

Markets in Mandalay remain open with basic commodities largely available. There are mixed reports regarding market in Sagaing – transportation of goods is challenging due to the damage to bridges and roads, including the collapsed Inwa Bridge, which has connected Sagaing and Mandalay for over 90 years, which is likely to affect availability of items.

However, IOM partner reports from 1 April, confirmed that Sar Taung Market and Wetlet Market are functioning e.g. with rice, cooking oil, and other basic foods remain available.

Nonetheless, commodity prices for essential goods are increasing, and while banks are open, cash transactions are challenging. Some partners report the need to transport cash from nearby towns. Phone networks are functioning but poorly, while there is no internet connection or electricity.

In Sagaing, Min Lan is reported as the most severely affected area with the highest number of casualties. Its Medical Center is overwhelmed with patients due to hospital overflow. While humanitarian assistance is being provided by local responders and volunteers in Sagaing City and other accessible town centres, more hard-to-reach areas in Sagaing are yet to receive any assistance.

In Mandalay, rapid needs assessments are ongoing to understand the full impact and the number of destroyed and damaged homes. Local responders are providing humanitarian assistance. Hospitals, both public and private, are overwhelmed with patients. The available space is insufficient, with some individuals being treated outdoors. ambulances are still operating but they are running low on fuel.

Regarding Magway, from where IOM previously had no information, partners have now reported, the earthquake impact was relatively minimal.

Nay Pyi Taw: As previously reported, the earthquake caused significant destruction of the Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory with an estimated 10,000 buildings severely damaged, including government buildings, the UN compound, Nay Pyi Taw International Airport, homes, factories, and religious sites.

Southeast: As previously reported, several townships in Shan have been affected, including Hopong, Hsihseng, Kalaw, Langkho, Lawksawk, Nyaungshwe, Pinlaung, and Taunggyi. Since the last Situation Report, rapid needs assessments from Nyaungshwe – one of the most affected townships – conducted by IOM partner organization revealed that 3,726 homes have been completely destroyed and 26 homes partially damaged.

In Bago Region, OCHA reported seven townships affected. IOM partners conducted rapid needs assessments in nine townships in Bago East and found four townships in Taungoo District most severely affected with a total of 1,047 homes completely destroyed, with damage to schools and medical facilities.

In Kayin, one township was affected, and an IOM partner conducted a rapid needs assessment, showing 128 homes damaged or destroyed.



Destroyed houses, Mandalay | IOM partner organization M-Dos

TOP HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

As Rapid Needs Assessments findings are coming in, top needs have been identified as:

- Food – affected areas were already food insecure prior to the earthquake. Collapsed transport infrastructure, are affecting market availability. IOM and partners are closely monitoring the situations, in particular related to potential cash assistance provision.
- Clean drinking water - directly linked to water infrastructure damage. Complementary anecdotal evidence suggest drinking water bottles are running low in markets.
- Safe temporary shelter, including mats, mosquito nets, blankets, tarp – as people are staying outside, unable to return to homes that are not safe and in fear of additional aftershocks and collapses.
- Healthcare – for injured and trauma cases, but also for persons with chronic diseases, unable to access assistance.
- Sanitation – directly linked to water infrastructure damage. Critical to address for prevention of water borne diseases.
- Cash assistance – indication that markets are functioning and goods available.
- Hygiene – soap, menstrual hygiene management kits, etc.
- Mental health and psychosocial support – psychological first aid and community based psychosocial support.

IOM RESPONSE

- IOM is in contact with its current 27 local implementing partners to gather information on the situation on the ground, including impact and needs, as well as access and response capacity. Of these, 14 partners based in heavily affected areas are already responding, or ready to respond, while an additional 13 local partners in neighbouring, or less affected areas, have deployed their staff to the impacted regions for rapid response or are on standby to be deployed. While most partner are still assessing the needs in coordination with other response partners, six partners are preparing or have already started providing assistance. On 1 April, IOM joined UN colleagues in Mandalay to conduct a joint assessment of affected areas in and near Mandalay city.
- The IOM Protection and MHPSS team has been assisting a local network of volunteers to provide Psychological First Aid (PFA) in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake as Protection and MHPSS partners are preparing to deploy to Mandalay and Sagaing to provide protection services and a range of MHPSS interventions for people with specific needs. To ensure that the services provided are complementary to immediate relief efforts, the partners are coordinating with other organizations to identify target locations to avoid duplication of efforts.
- As road access has been confirmed, IOM Rapid Mobile Clinics are preparing to be deployed from Yangon and Mawlamyine to Mandalay on Friday 4 April). Two teams are already in Mandalay and are coordinating closely with the Ministry of Health for deployment. IOM is also coordinating closely with WHO to support transportation of medical kits.
- IOM has 13 staff based in Mandalay and 40 staff in Sagaing and is currently deploying 14 staff to reinforce procurement, logistics and emergency response capacities. This includes eight mobile clinic staff from Yangon and Mawlamyine
- IOM stands ready to ship items from its global hub in Manila, pending approval from relevant authorities, including tarpaulin, rope, mosquito nets, blankets, sleeping mats and jerry cans. Further, IOM continues to engage with private sector partners on further support to affected populations.
- IOM's Population Monitoring and Needs Tracking (PMNT), also globally known as the Displacement Tracking Matrix, (DTM) immediately mobilised its partners to gather critical information on the impact of the earthquake. From 28 March to 2 April partners have conducted Rapid Needs Assessments and collected photos, in coordination with OCHA. Eighteen assessments have been completed, uploaded and shared with response partners. Communications, internet, and electricity blackouts and intermittent service disruptions are posing extreme challenges to gather and submit information timely. PMNT also stands ready to provide information management support to the response and conduct ongoing needs surveys to monitor urgent, evolving, and eventual recovery needs. If camps are established for those who lost their homes, PMNT is also on standby to support with household registrations in coordination with camp managers and service providers, as needed.

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