



for every child

Earthquake Flash Update No.14

Date: 30 May 2025

# Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Two months since the devastating earthquakes struck Myanmar on 28 March 2025, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology have recorded more than 180 aftershocks. According to the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance, over 26,200 people remain in 103 evacuation centres, while more than 265,000 have sought shelter with relatives. More than 90,800 homes, 2,598 schools and 748 health facilities are reported to be partially damaged or destroyed as per the AHA Centre. World Bank's Global Rapid Post-Disaster Damage Estimation (GRADE) report estimates the direct economic impact at US\$10.97 billion while the recovery and reconstruction costs are expected to exceed direct damage estimates.

Early rains have worsened the living conditions of people, especially those living in makeshift shelters. Displaced families are contending with extreme heat, with makeshift shelters vulnerable to early monsoon rains and strong winds, and agricultural damage that is further exacerbating food insecurity.<sup>3</sup> The water, sanitation and hygiene conditions remain precarious with displacement sites in Mandalay and Sagaing requiring water quality testing; inadequate drainage and insufficient latrines raising disease risks; and returnee communities depending on nonfunctional water infrastructure. Child Protection partners are continuing to report rising risks: unsupervised children in hazardous areas, increased child labour, exploitation and trafficking, and limited access to mental health or psychosocial support.

Despite ongoing interventions reaching many locations, critical gaps persist across child protection, health, nutrition, education, and WASH. Urgent, sustained, and flexible funding is essential to bridge these gaps and safeguard the well-being and dignity of earthquake-affected communities.

## **Funding Overview**

UNICEF estimated funding requirements to address the additional earthquake related immediate and early recovery needs stands at over US\$ 60 million. UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal for 2025 is in the process of being updated.

UNICEF has received a loan from its internal Emergency Programme Fund (EPF) mechanism as well as flexible global humanitarian thematic funds to kickstart the response but urgently requires additional contributions to sustain the initial response. UNICEF Myanmar expresses its appreciation for the generous contributions received from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), the Government of Japan, the Royal Thai Government, and multiple UNICEF National Committee partners, as well as the in-kind contributions from the European Union.

<sup>1</sup> ASEAN Weekly Disaster Update, Week 21, 19-25 May 2025

<sup>2</sup> Global Rapid Post-Disaster Damage Estimation (GRADE) Report: Myanmar Earthquake - March 28, 2025 (report as of April 18, 2025)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> OCHA Humanitarian Update No. 46, 23 May 2025

## **UNICEF** Response

#### **WASH**

As of end May, UNICEF and partners have reached an estimated 615,000 people with temporary access to safe water through the distribution of water purification chemicals and water trucking. Life-saving WASH supplies continue to be provided to households in Sagaing and Mandalay. Discussions are also ongoing with partner agencies to scale up water and sanitation service provision for populations living in temporary displacement sites through installation of latrines, bathing spaces, and water supply systems.

As recovery and rehabilitation efforts progress, the need for sustainable WASH infrastructure in communities, schools, and healthcare facilities remains. UNICEF and its partners participated in the WASH technical assessments that were undertaken last week to better identify and respond to WASH infrastructure needs.



A woman carries a supply kit in front of multipurpose high-performance tents set up as temporary shelters for earthquake-affected families. © UNICEF Myanmar/2025/Nyan Zay Htet

#### **Health and Nutrition**

As of 25 May, over 106 metric tonnes of essential health and nutrition supplies have been delivered to the earthquake-affected communities. This critical support is expected to benefit more than 220,000 people across at least 30 townships.

UNICEF continues to coordinate with the public health system and with local organisations to strengthen mobile outreach services, deliver health education activities, and conduct targeted mini campaigns focused on micronutrient supplementation and vaccinations.

Despite reporting challenges, UNICEF-supported partners have provided healthcare services to 55,990 people, including 24,524 children (12,840 girls and 11,684 boys) and 20,772 women.



A girl receives a children's nutrition bowl distributed by UNICEF Myanmar during a UN inter-agency joint distribution at a temporary displacement site. UNICEF Myanmar/2025/Nyan Zay Htet

As part of its ongoing response, UNICEF and its partners have made significant progress in promoting child nutrition and caregiver education. More than 5,600 caregivers have received Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling to support healthy feeding practices. Additionally, 5,226 children have received Micronutrient Powders (MNPs) to combat nutritional deficiencies, and 3,535 children have undergone Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) screenings to detect and address acute malnutrition.

#### **Child Protection**

During the reporting period, UNICEF and partners continued providing child protection services across earthquake-affected areas in Mandalay, Sagaing, Nay Pyi Taw, Bago (east), and Shan (south). By 27 May, a total of 68,937 people, including 49,866 children (28,157 girls and 21,709 boys) were reached with multiple child protection interventions. To address the emotional impact of the tremors, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) activities were provided through child- and women-friendly spaces, benefiting 23,224 people (11,040 girls, 9,234 boys, 2,188 women and 762 men).



Children play with a colourful inflatable ball during the distribution of recreation kits to monastic school students affected by the earthquake. © UNICEF Myanmar/2025/Nyan Zay Htet

UNICEF also distributed 5,748 age- and gender-appropriate child protection kits, supporting 13,858 children (8,225 girls and 5,633 boys). Alongside kit distribution, key messages on violence against children, gender-based violence (GBV), prevention and risk mitigation, and explosive ordinance risk (EOR) awareness were shared with children, parents and community members. Individual case management services benefited 183 children (97 girls and 86 boys), primarily for those experiencing psychological distress, with referrals made to specialized services as needed.

Community-level awareness sessions reached 18,313 people (4,558 girls, 3,526 boys, 7,006 women and 3,223 men), providing information on child protection in emergencies, GBV prevention and mitigation, EOR information, positive parenting, self-care, and

preventing family separation. To reinforce safe reporting mechanisms, 12,459 people were informed about the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) reporting channels, obtained the information on accessing the safe reporting channel. Across all interventions, 633 children with disabilities benefited from tailored child protection support.

Looking ahead, Child-Friendly Space activities are scheduled to roll out across 14 IDP camps in Taungoo beginning the first week of June, accompanied by capacity-building sessions for child protection actors on childcare and survival best practices.

#### **Education**



Children affected by the recent earthquake take part in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activities © UNICEF Myanmar/2025/Nyan Zay Htet

UNICEF remains committed to ensuring continued learning and protection for children impacted by the earthquake in Myanmar. As a part of the education response, UNICEF has been establishing safe learning spaces where children can learn, play, interact with peers, and access MHPSS.

To date, 16,719 children (7,862 boys and 8,857 girls, including 37 children with disabilities) have benefited from the distribution of education supplies. These include Essential Learning Package (ELP) kits, Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits, recreational kits, school kits, roofing sheets, tarpaulins and school tents. With expected funding from upcoming sources, UNICEF plans to purchase and locally distribute an additional 50,000 ELP kits. Additionally, as part of the MHPSS programme, recreational activities (such as

drawing workshops) reached 578 children (332 boys and 256 girls) in Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw.

Training for teachers, educators and community volunteers is ongoing across all affected areas to ensure effective use of education materials. In Nay Pyi Taw, UNICEF facilitated sessions for local volunteers on education pathways, the use of ECD and recreation kits, and Education in Emergencies response strategies. Additionally, in Shan South, partner-led MHPSS sessions raised awareness among 43 parents (40 females and 3 males) about the importance of psychosocial support in learning.

With the new academic year starting in June, UNICEF is preparing to distribute additional ECD kits, school kits, recreation kits, and Essential Learning Packages (ELPs) as schools and learning centres reopen. These supplies are already arriving in affected areas. UNICEF is also working closely with the Education Cluster to assess needs, coordinate the ongoing response, and avoid any overlap in response efforts.

In parallel, UNICEF is advancing its "Back-to-Learning" campaign, by developing key messages that encourage families to send children back to school and safe learning spaces. These messages will highlight how schools and temporary learning facilities support recovery by reducing stress and trauma and promoting earthquake-safety awareness. They will be disseminated via social media, posters and stickers to help restore a sense of normalcy in children's lives.

#### **Social Protection and Cash**

UNICEF is providing humanitarian multi-purpose cash assistance to help earthquake-affected families meet their basic needs—including food, shelter, safe water, and other essential household items. To date, UNICEF and partners have reached 35,980 children and adults in the worst-affected townships in Mandalay, Sagaing, Shan, Bago, Kayin, and Nay Pyi Taw. Cash assistance remains the most preferred form of support as it allows families to meet their most urgent needs, and helps safeguard child well-being, reduce harmful coping strategies, and contribute local economic recovery

Disability screenings are continuing to accompany cash distributions to quickly identify and address additional needs.



People queue for humanitarian cash assistance programme at a displacement site in Mandalay region. © UNICEF Myanmar/2025/Nyan Zay Htet

#### Social and Behaviour Change



UNICEF staff provides crucial information on antenatal care, safe delivery, and newborn health to support mothers in earthquake-affected communities. ©UNICEF Myanmar/2025

In response to the aftermath of the earthquake, UNICEF has played a critical role in addressing both the immediate and evolving needs of the affected communities. Through Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), affected families are receiving lifesaving information to prevent from the spread of communicable diseases via digital platforms such as radio, social media and Interactive Voice Response (IVR) systems.

In collaboration with WHO and IFRC, UNICEF has led RCCE efforts that include social listening and preparedness messaging for the upcoming monsoon season. Community engagement remains central to recovery, supporting both resilience and psychosocial healing. Through private sector partnerships, mental health and psychosocial messages and care tips have been widely disseminated, reaching over 460,000

subscribers via the "Knowledge Talk" Viber channel. Additionally, more than 19,000 people in earthquake-affected areas have received key information through IVR system, covering topics such as post- earthquake safety actions, health, hygiene, emotional well-being and community support. Engagement with these messages is tracked through digital monitoring tools.

12,737 households (over 63,000 people) in Mandalay, Sagaing Region and Nay Pyi Taw have been engaged through in-person outreach on wellbeing and self-care following the earthquake. 10,304 community members from the most affected areas in Nay Pi Taw and Mandalay regions participated in consultation sessions focused on promoting hygiene and sanitation practices temporary settlements. These sessions also addressed key concerns around the current situation and promoted basic health and safety behaviours, including handwashing, sanitation, safe drinking water, health-seeking practices, earthquake awareness, breastfeeding, complementary feeding and early childhood care and development.

### **Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination**

OCHA is coordinating the overall humanitarian response with all clusters through coordination mechanisms established at the national and sub-national levels. UNICEF continues to lead the WASH Cluster, Nutrition Cluster, Child Protection and Mine Action AoRs, and co-leads the Education Cluster with Save the Children.

In response to the earthquake, the WASH Cluster and its partners have reached over 402,000 individuals as of 28 May (64% through hygiene kits, 28% via emergency water provision, and 8% through sanitation support). With the rainy season underway, urgent needs persist, especially in Mandalay and Sagaing, where poor drainage and sanitation in displacement sites threaten water quality and increase the risk of disease outbreaks. At least 1,148 emergency latrines have been installed, benefiting 35,935 people, yet many communities still lack safe and functional sanitation systems. To support recovery planning, the Cluster launched a technical assessment to map WASH infrastructure damage and guide early recovery. Some rehabilitation and water point construction has begun, but progress remains limited and under-resourced. Hygiene promotion also needs to be significantly scaled up to prevent AWD and other waterborne diseases.

The Nutrition Cluster partners have been delivering lifesaving nutrition services in earthquake-affected communities. As of 28 May, 2,969 children and 241 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) have been screened for acute malnutrition, with 62 children diagnosed with acute malnutrition referred for therapeutic care. To promote healthy feeding practices, 2,344 caregivers and PLW received IYCF counselling. In addition, 2,887 children and 1,396 PLWs have received Multiple Micronutrient, while 4,535 children and 993 PLWs were enrolled in the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme.

To address food insecurity, nutritious food parcels containing rice, chickpeas, iodized salt, cooking oil, and fortified biscuits were distributed to vulnerable households across Mandalay and Sagaing. All nutrition interventions are being implemented in close coordination with other humanitarian sectors, including WASH, Health, Food Security, and Protection, as part of a joint multi-sectoral earthquake response. However, challenges such as limited partner presence, physical access, damaged infrastructure, ongoing security concerns, and funding and supply chain constraints are hampering the scale and continuity of the response. Mobilizing additional resources and expanding partnerships remain critical.

The Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR) continues to deliver lifesaving services to earthquake-affected children, caregivers and communities. As of 28 May, 62,825 individuals—including 52,138 children (23,209 boys and 28,929 girls) have been reached. Key interventions included the distribution of child protection kits to 14,758 children, case management services for 1,077 children, gender-responsive programming for 420 adolescents, dissemination of protection messages to 11,902 people, and provision of psychosocial support to 34,662 people.

The CP AoR is actively working to expand case management services and MHPSS for caregivers and children. Efforts are underway to establish Child-Friendly Spaces, although security concerns continue to pose challenges in some areas. The Case Management Task Force has initiated subnational training sessions on "Caring for Child Survivors," and MHPSS training has been conducted in the southeast.

Mine Action AoR partners have reached 9,132 people with Explosive Ordinance Risk Education (EORE) and victim assistance. Of these, 8,939 people including 1,622 boys, 2,140 girls, 1,844 men, 3,333 women and 62 persons with disability received EORE. Victim assistance has reached 105 survivors, including 39 who received rehabilitation services, and 57 who received with cash-based support. Partners in the southeast have conducted EORE awareness sessions in Bago East and Kayin State and continue to provide assistive devices and minor repair services in Bago East.

The Education Cluster partners are supporting preparations for the reopening of schools for the 2025-2026 academic year, with ongoing data collection and technical guidance provided by the Cluster. Cluster partners have so far reached 6,000 learners and teachers with emergency education support. In the past two weeks, 103 students in Nyaung Shwe in Southern Shan were reached with MHPSS interventions while 11 ECCD centres are being renovated in preparation for the upcoming school season. Some partners are also distributing mosquito nets in boarding schools and some are utilizing the support of parent-teachers association to be able to enrol more children this school year. In preparation for recovery, cluster partners are verifying target areas and developing proposals for a comprehensive education response strategy. Despite ongoing efforts, partners face major challenges due to limited funding for early recovery, particularly for schools' repairs and the reconstruction of temporary learning spaces. Sustained financial support is needed to ensure continuity of education services for affected children.

### **Human Interest Stories and External Media**

#### **Human Interest Stories:**

Mandalay Diary - Mental health challenges plague survivors of devastating Myanmar earthquake <a href="https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/mandalay-diary-HninEain">https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/mandalay-diary-HninEain</a>

#### Selected social media:

https://x.com/UNICEFMyanmar/status/1924674444745908476

https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16avBWEUZK/

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