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Myanmar Earthquake Flash Update No.9

Date: 18 April 2025

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Following the earthquakes that struck Myanmar on 28 March, more than 9 million people (including 2.7 million children) are estimated to be living in the worst affected 58 townships across Bago East, Kayin, Magway, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Shan South, and Sagaing. Of these, 6.3 million people are estimated to be in urgent need of assistance and protection – over two-thirds of whom were already in a dire humanitarian situation before the earthquakes due to the ongoing conflict, previous climate-related disasters, displacement and economic hardship.

According to the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre), 3,700 deaths have been reported, 4,800 people injured and 129 people remain missing.¹ Frequent strong aftershocks and unseasonal rains continue to cause additional damage to unstable buildings, roads and dams/levees, and have made living conditions for those in makeshift shelters and temporary camps even worse. These conditions, combined with the extreme heat being experienced in central Myanmar, and limited access to healthcare and safe water and sanitation facilities, are creating significant health risks, particularly for children and pregnant and lactating women. Malnutrition remains an ongoing concern, especially for children under five as well as pregnant and lactating women. Disruptions to supply chains and services have affected the availability of life-saving nutrition support, further compounded by loss of livelihoods by affected communities.

Damage to water systems has left communities without safe drinking water forcing communities and vulnerable populations to rely on unsafe water sources. Interagency assessments indicate that at least 64,000 latrines have been destroyed and around 37% of water facilities have been damaged due to the earthquakes. The most severely affected region is Sagaing, where only a quarter of the respondents reported access to sufficient latrines and less than 20 per cent had access to safe drinking water. In Kayah State, open defecation is reported to be widely practiced. These statistics point to a serious gap in access to safe water and sanitation, particularly in urban, peri-urban and displacement settings.² Scaling up emergency and semi-permanent sanitation facilities is a priority to meet immediate needs and reduce the risk of disease outbreaks.

Of the 1,656 schools assessed in 43 affected townships, half were reported to be damaged while 279 were either destroyed or rendered non-functional.³ With the school year resuming in early June, the reopening of schools will require debris clearance, setting up temporary learning spaces (in the absence of functional schools/classrooms), repairs to classrooms, and restoring access to clean water, functioning toilets, and basic hygiene facilities.

The earthquakes have sharply intensified risks of violence, exploitation, and abuse, especially for women and girls staying in overcrowded shelters, where privacy and safety are limited. Unaccompanied and separated children remain at substantial risk of exploitation, including trafficking and are experiencing heightened psychosocial distress. Although communities are providing ad hoc temporary alternative care, there is an urgent need to scale up family tracing, and

¹ [AHA Centre, Situation Update No. 9 - M7.7 Mandalay Earthquake \(Monday, 14 April 2025, 2000 HRS\)](#)

² [UN OCHA, Earthquake Response Situation Report No. 3 \(As of 18 April 2025\)](#)

³ *ibid*

reunification and provision of alternative family-based care where families cannot be traced or have died in the earthquakes. As a result of fear from the earthquakes and the continued aftershocks, coupled with uncertainty about the future, children are continually reported to face psychosocial distress.

Funding Overview

UNICEF is currently revising the initial funding requirement of \$28M with the finalization of the Earthquake Flash Addendum and as more comprehensive information is coming in about the immediate response and early recovery and rehabilitation needs. UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal for 2025 will be updated to reflect the higher funding requirements once the earthquake response and recovery plan has been finalised

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 Government of Japan and UNICEF National Committee partners, as well as the in-kind contribution from the European Union.

UNICEF Response

WASH

As of 18 April, UNICEF and partners have ensured access to safe drinking water for over 450,000 affected people by distributing water purification tablets and flocculants for a period of one month. UNICEF is coordinating with partners to deliver additional water purification supplies for over 100,000 people in Sagaing and more than 51,000 people in Mandalay. Additionally, 112 community water filters have been installed in temporary locations and health camps in Mandalay and Nay Pi Taw. In Mandalay, 5,280 people in five townships are receiving water for domestic use. At the same time, around 11,000 people in Mandalay are receiving safe drinking water on a daily basis. In Sagaing, a local volunteer group has provided drinking water to 5,000 people across 10 temporary locations.

More than 40,000 households (around 200,000 people) have also received essential WASH supplies such as hygiene kits, buckets, jerry cans, tarpaulins, and ropes across all earthquake affected states and regions. UNICEF is also leading hygiene promotion activities across 47 affected sites in Sagaing and Mandalay, working closely with partners, civil society organizations, and volunteers.

Health and Nutrition

UNICEF continues to provide essential supplies to local partners who are responding to the needs arising from the earthquakes. At least 15 partners have received direct financial support and supplies from UNICEF to carry out multiple initiatives such as the deployment of mobile teams, assisting communities through temporary clinics, or direct distribution using community volunteers' network; aimed at assisting the most vulnerable populations in Mandalay, Sagaing, Nay Pyi Taw, and Shan South. Notably, prior to the earthquakes, many of the partners in the affected areas had already received pre-positioned supplies from UNICEF to respond to health and nutrition emergencies affecting children under five and pregnant women, such as acute watery diarrhoea, cholera, pneumonia, malaria, and severe acute malnutrition.

Since the earthquakes, UNICEF and its partners have expanded their support to 21 severely affected townships in Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, and South Shan. In these areas, approximately one million children under five and 240,000 pregnant and lactating women may require essential health and nutrition services. UNICEF and its key partners are now focused on ensuring access to essential care, including antenatal services, safe deliveries, postnatal care, immunization, treatment for childhood illnesses and malnutrition, in at least 57 townships throughout the earthquake affected zones.

Child Protection

The key focus of child protection interventions includes i) Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) for children, and caregivers; ii) distribution of Child Protection in emergencies (CPiE) kits and relevant services through referral mechanism with a focus on protection and care of Unaccompanied and Separated Children; and iii) protection risk mitigation measures mainly awareness raising for gender-based violence and EORE sessions.

This week, in addition to the ongoing activities, a Child Friendly Space (CFS) was established in Pyinmana township in Nay Pi Taw, with training provided to the community volunteers on child protection, psychological first aid and social support, to enable further community outreach.

In addition, four monastic schools where children (separated from their families) stay for their education in Nay Pyi Taw were visited. Initial assessments identified child protection concerns such as potential risks of vulnerability to abuse and exploitation since these schools lack family-based support system with child safeguarding guidelines and policies for overall wellbeing of children. Discussions are ongoing to address the protection concerns identified.

Education

UNICEF has prepared a comprehensive package of support to ensure children's learning continues and that they are protected, with a focus on the urgent need for safe spaces where children can play, socialize, and access MHPSS. Recognizing the profound stress and fear experienced by children, it is essential to rapidly establish environments that help restore a sense of safety, normalcy and provide opportunities to simply be children. The holistic response includes the distribution of Essential Learning Packages (ELP kits), teaching and learning materials, recreation kits, Early Childhood Development (ECD) kits and roofing sheets for temporary learning spaces (TLS). To date, 2,000 roofing sheets, 5,000 ELP kits, and 250 recreation kits are being distributed to partners in the northwest to support children's continuous learning.

As the new school year approaches in June, there has been a high demand from many schools for tents, tarpaulins, and roofing sheets to establish safe spaces to ensure learning can resume. Communities are also requesting additional support, including ECD kits, recreation materials, and individual learning supplies, to ensure the continuity of learning in TLS. Plans are underway to rehabilitate destroyed or damaged temporary learning centres. These include learning centres, within the monastic education sector, whose schools sustained heavy damage following the earthquake. Structural assessments will commence shortly.



Social Protection and Cash

Multi-purpose cash assistance continues to be scaled up to reach vulnerable households with children in Mandalay, Sagaing, and southern Shan—including families with children and persons with disabilities.

Against the target of 38,075 people, to date 2,949 households/14,745 people have received cash transfers in the earthquake affected areas. In many areas, UNICEF is delivering cash payments via WAVE mobile money. UNICEF is coordinating with the Cash Working Group and UN partners to align targeting and delivery.

Social and Behaviour Change

UNICEF, in collaboration with WHO and IFRC, is strengthening Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) to prevent disease outbreaks. Efforts include social listening to counter harmful misinformation circulating

within affected communities. To expand access to life-saving information, UNICEF is working with media partners—including local radio stations, social media platforms, and community networks—to disseminate key messages. The messages focus on coping with trauma (for adults and children), hygiene and sanitation to prevent waterborne and communicable diseases, and protection measures against gender-based violence, especially towards children.

Distribution of hygiene and clean delivery kits by UNICEF continues, accompanied by health education on the "four cleans"—clean water, food, hands, and toilets—and the use of chlorine tablets to reduce disease risk. Over 10,378 households (over 50,000 people) in Mandalay Region and Nay Pyi Taw have been reached to date. Furthermore, approximately 1,500 pregnant and lactating women have received guidance on newborn care and breastfeeding in emergencies, along with clean delivery and newborn kits.

SUPPLY AND LOGISTICS

UNICEF is prioritising the delivery of essential supplies such as medicines and nutrition supplies, health and medical kits/items, hygiene and sanitation kits/items, water treatment chemicals, water filters and tarpaulins to people and communities affected by the earthquakes, in locations including Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, and Taunggyi.

Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) is coordinating the overall humanitarian response with all clusters through coordination mechanisms established at the national and sub-national levels. UNICEF continues to provide leadership for the WASH Cluster, Nutrition Cluster, Child Protection and Mine Action area of responsibilities, and is co-leading the Education Cluster (with Save the Children). Cluster discussion at the national and sub-national levels are ongoing to obtain information about immediate needs and to coordinate the response.

The WASH Cluster partners have distributed water purification chemicals and filters to more than 550,000 people, while 11,200 people have benefited from community water filters. The partners are reaching over 62,000 people in Mandalay, Bago, Sagaing, and Nay Pyi Taw, with drinking water distribution and pumping assistance. Over 215,000 people have been reached with hygiene kits, while sanitation services have been provided to nearly 36,000 individuals.

The WASH Cluster has conducted an in-depth analysis of the rapid needs assessment data to guide response planning. Partner interventions are being mapped on a central dashboard to support coordination and monitor progress in affected areas. A technical assessment of WASH facilities will also be planned, along with the development of a concrete action plan. Given limited data availability about the WASH conditions in peri-urban and rural health facilities, the cluster is encouraging targeted assessments in these facilities to ensure they are included in response efforts.

The Nutrition Cluster continues coordination with cluster members to provide nutrition services in earthquake affected areas. A joint statement on the proper use of breast milk substitute (BMS), which aims to prevent unnecessary use of BMS, has been developed and shared with humanitarian actors, donors and implementing partners. Early detection and referral for treatment of acute malnutrition are key priorities to mitigate further deterioration in the nutritional status of children under five and for pregnant and lactating women. Screening for acute malnutrition among children under five and pregnant and lactating women continues in Mandalay. Partners are carrying out Infant And Young Child Feeding Practices (IYCF) counselling sessions targeting caregivers and lactating mothers of children under two, to promote safe and appropriate feeding practices during critical period. To date, 877 households in Mandalay and Sagaing received basic nutritious food items whilst 11,250 households received fortified biscuits, 247 households received fast food kits and 34 children received multiple micronutrient powder (MNP) along with nutrition bowls to support feeding practices in Mandalay. In Shan South, 1,500 households received essential food supplies.

The Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR) continues to support partners with key resources to use these in their responses. This week, standardized CP messages were disseminated which can be utilized by non-protection partners. Together with UNICEF, the CP AoR is working towards strengthening and simplification of Family tracing and reunification (FTR) steps, with identified partners for FTR and safe methods of referral. The CP AoR uses the

socio-ecological model for life-saving assistance, meaning that children, caregivers and communities are engaged to ensure a protective environment for children. Despite underreporting, CP AoR partners have reached at least 9,450 people, including 8,629 children (3,586 boys and 5,061 girls). 2,701 CP kits have been distributed, 300 cases have been opened for case management, 200 adolescents reached with targeted adolescent programming, 277 people with life-saving child protection information. More than 6,000 children have reached with psycho-social support including psychological first aid.

The Mine Action AoR partners have been continuously sharing EORE tailored messages to communities and other stakeholders in affected townships. Partners continue supporting referral of casualties and map of victim assistance services. Partner have developed Digital EORE messages in audio, video and visual messages for wider reach. Furthermore, a Facebook page⁴ was launched on 14 April, already reaching over one million views.

The Education Cluster and UNESCO convened the first assessment working group meeting focused on standardizing a post-earthquake education assessment tool, outlining a coordinated data collection plan, and ensuring harmonized data analysis. Education partners plan to conduct education-specific assessments in Mandalay and Sagaing to inform post-disaster recovery efforts and support safe inclusive learning environments. Partners planned to distribute recreational kits for 600 children to promote psychosocial wellbeing through play and social interaction. MHPSS posters are planned for dissemination to 100 learning centers in Magway and Sagaing to promote mental health awareness.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Human interest story:

https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/stories/mandalay-diary_Eng

Selected social media:

<https://x.com/UNICEFMyanmar/status/1912338869711950070>

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/pfbid0Xuo393fvybSAzidUh5Wy4P3wmEV47MiL8xWoYATQfqhXpJGDhZ3HURfLJnDPDGeil>

<https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar/posts/pfbid032866EPy1JbmrxxQvEoBHgoKNB5YqZ8HJB5gev1BtPoGhS6LnxTRFzmeLZcqkBtxl>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xiVriN030bl&pp=0gcJCX4JAYcqlYzv>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3n1fkVzKnA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zQXNtu0bKT8>

<https://www.instagram.com/unicefmyanmar/p/DljwL4hMX13/?hl=en>

https://www.instagram.com/unicefmyanmar/p/DlfXinXyzp_/?hl=en

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⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/share/1ARHRiTSLl/>