



# Myanmar Earthquake

SIX-MONTH IMPACT REPORT

March - September 2025



## Overview

On 28 March, a powerful 7.7 magnitude earthquake followed by a strong aftershock of 6.7 magnitude struck central Myanmar, causing severe loss of life and widespread destruction, reducing homes and civilian infrastructure to rubble.

The epicentre was located close to Sagaing and Mandalay, areas with a significant population of internally displaced people, affecting both regions as well as Nay Pyi Taw, Bago and the southern Shan State.

Some 17.2 million people are estimated to be living in affected areas, and some 2.1 million people who were previously internally displaced by conflict now find themselves more vulnerable by this disaster.

This catastrophe compounds an already dire humanitarian crisis, deepening the hardships faced by both displaced and local communities in areas where humanitarian access remains severely restricted.



*Devastation and destruction are visible in the aftermath of the 7.7 magnitude earthquake that struck near Mandalay, Myanmar, on 28 March 2025. © UNHCR*

## UNHCR response



116,000 people  
reached with  
emergency relief  
items



310,000 people  
living in areas  
covered by protection  
assessments



20,100 people  
received shelter  
assistance

UNHCR immediately mobilized its stock of emergency relief items to benefit up to 50,000 survivors in Mandalay, Sagaing and Bago Regions, as well in Nay Pyi Taw and parts of Shan State (South), many of whom had been already in displacement due to ongoing conflict. Two weeks later, a UNHCR-chartered flight, supported by Dubai Humanitarian, landed in Yangon, carrying

over 40,000 kilograms of relief items and family tents to support up to 16,000 people.

Up to 25 September, more than 178,000 people received at least one form of assistance from UNHCR and partners in response to the earthquake. More than 310,000 live in areas reached by protection monitoring and needs assessments, which helps to inform the ongoing response, particularly for the most vulnerable.

## Protection

UNHCR co-leads the Protection Cluster in Myanmar, including for the earthquake-relevant activities to ensure coherence and common approach amongst cluster partners.

Natural disasters also increase risks for people who are already vulnerable including women, children, people with disabilities and older people. They may be less able to move to safety and less able to access humanitarian aid, if specific efforts are not made to include them.

Mindful of these protection needs, UNHCR conducted protection assessments in locations where over 310,000 people reside, to identify

the needs of earthquake-affected communities, including those with extra vulnerabilities. UNHCR also ran capacity-building training for partners on how to collect, record and report on protection. These efforts inform the broader emergency response to ensure that nobody is left out and those in the most need receive help that is tailored for them.

UNHCR and partners distributed information materials to earthquake-affected communities on gender-based violence, sexual violence and child abuse, and provided critical information on how and where people can go to report such abuse or seek protection and support from it.

Protection assessments throughout the regions also identified risk factors, such as lack of lighting in displacement sites and non-gender-segregated

latrines, which should be addressed to help prevent violence.

## Shelter

According to the UN, more than 55,000 homes were damaged or destroyed in the earthquake as well as thousands of community buildings and facilities. To protect people who were sleeping out in the open or were temporarily hosted at monasteries and churches, UNHCR has provided shelter support to more than 4,400 households (20,100 people), including shelter materials to

repair damaged homes or construct temporary shelters. This is in alignment with the strategy of the combined Shelter/Non-Food Items (NFI)/Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster (CCCCM) that UNHCR leads.



*A displaced mother and baby inside the family tent provided by UNHCR in the wake of the devastating earthquake that hit Myanmar in March 2025. © UNHCR*

## Relief items and multi-purpose assistance

Utilising its existing footprint in Myanmar, UNHCR immediately dispatched two trucks from its main warehouse in Yangon to the affected areas with over 27,000 kilograms of life-saving items, enough for 2,000 families.

To replenish stocks, UNHCR secured an airlift into Yangon, carrying over 40,000 kilograms of relief items and family tents to support up to 16,000 people. This was one of four airlifts or air shipments, and three shipments of relief items arriving in Myanmar with the support of donors and transport partners.

To date, more than 116,000 people have been assisted with emergency relief items from UNHCR and partners. Emergency relief items include sleeping mats, blankets, kitchen sets, mosquito

nets, buckets and solar lamps. More than 44,000 people have been provided with further assistance, enabling families to meet their most immediate needs such as housing, food, medicine and more.

Since the earthquake, UNHCR has reached more than 119,200 people (26,700 families) in Mandalay and Sagaing with life-saving relief. In Nay Pyi Taw, UNHCR and partners completed an NFI distribution in Tatkon Township with some 2,700 individuals (600 families) from 18 villages having received emergency supplies. In total, some 15,300 earthquake-affected people (3,300 families) have been assisted to date.

In the South East, more than 44,400 people (10,000 families) have received assistance to date.

## Coordination

In Myanmar, UNHCR works under the leadership of the Office of the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, collaborating closely with UN agencies, international and local NGOs, and other humanitarian and development partners. UNHCR also maintains strong partnerships with grassroots community-based organizations to deliver humanitarian and protection assistance.

UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster and the combined Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster at both the national and sub-national levels. UNHCR's expertise in information management, data collection and protection analysis underpins evidence-based programming and supports advocacy for the broader humanitarian community.



## Ongoing Needs

Millions of people were already living in precarious situations prior to the earthquake, having lost their homes, loved ones, and properties. The earthquake has further strained these individuals, with some losing their homes once more. Widespread flooding has further impeded the logistics and delivery of humanitarian assistance.

Ongoing conflict and displacement have increased the vulnerability of displaced people, most particularly women and children, the elderly and people with disabilities. UNHCR and partners need increased support to continue assessments and ensure that these vulnerable groups have access to protection services, mental health and psychosocial support and receive referral to specialist services.



Ko Thein Naing Win, an earthquake affected person in Mandalay. © UNHCR

Ko Thein Naing Win is an earthquake-affected person in Mandalay. He and his family are living in their severely damaged home, with tarpaulin covering the gaps in the walls and roof.

*"We don't have enough to repair. So, with whatever little we get here and there, whether it's 100,000 or 200,000 kyats [US\$25 or \$50], we put it toward rebuilding...If I have even a thousand kyats [25 cents] in hand, I'll use it, whether to buy a brick or some sand, and keep building step by step."*

## Donor acknowledgement

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by the following donors to its Myanmar earthquake response. Donors that contributed \$100,000 or above:

Australia | CERF | Aktionsbündnis Katastrophenhilfe GbR | Australia for UNHCR | Chellaram Foundation | Comitato Italiano UNICEF | España con ACNUR | FIFA Foundation | GlaxoSmithKline Services Unlimited | Japan for UNHCR | Private donors in Hong Kong SAR, Italy and Kingdom of the Netherlands | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe | UK for UNHCR

UNHCR also extends its sincere appreciation to donors who have contributed softly earmarked and unearmarked funding to UNHCR's operations in the region and globally, enabling a flexible and timely response:

Australia | Belgium | Canada | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Japan | Ireland | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) | Norway | Republic of Korea | Sweden | Switzerland | United Arab Emirates | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | United States of America | AB MEDICA S.p.A | Adyen NV | Aotearoa New Zealand for UNHCR | Australia for UNHCR | COOP ITALIA | German Postcode Lottery | LONGi Green Energy Technology Co. Ltd. | King Baudouin Foundation | Private donors in Hong Kong SAR and Republic of Korea | Simmons and Simmons | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe | UK for UNHCR

## Flexible funding

Flexible funds help UNHCR to prepare for the unpredictable, to kick-start an emergency response, and to help displaced people in forgotten or under-resourced crises. They also enable UNHCR to plan and manage resources efficiently and effectively to help save and transform lives.

Without flexible funding, we would not be able to properly prepare for any new emergency that may arise. Without flexible funding, the first phase of our emergency response, which delivers thousands of emergency supplies, essential shelter and protection assistance to families in need, would struggle to get off the ground.

Flexible funding is especially important as our emergency response develops, and we provide longer-term support to displaced people and their host communities. When emergencies fade from the spotlight, flexible funding enables us to help those who are suffering most.

*Cover image: A UNHCR staff member speaks with an earthquake affected woman in Kan Village, Mandalay, as part of interagency assessments made on shelter, protection and other needs. © UNHCR/Aung Kyaw Moe*