

EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE IN MYANMAR - OPERATIONAL UPDATE

MARCH 28 TO APRIL 28, 2025



On 28 March 2025, a devastating earthquake hit the central part of Myanmar, highly affecting the regions of Mandalay, Sagaing, Naypyitaw, parts of Bago and Southern Shan State. According to the latest report of ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA centre), 3,800 people lost their lives, 5,100 were injured and 114 are still missing. Critical infrastructure such as hospitals, electric poles and irrigation systems were damaged. As aftershocks continue, people are still reluctant to sleep in their damaged homes and are instead choosing to live on roads under makeshift shelters or in the compounds of religious and educational establishments.

Many who have lost their loved ones and their properties are dealing with deep trauma and grief. They are also in urgent need of food, water, shelter and health care. The affected people include those who were already displaced by the conflict in central Myanmar and had taken shelter in Mandalay before the earthquake struck.

To help ease their burden, teams of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Myanmar have been working at maximum capacity with our partners from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, including the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), and civil society organizations to provide emergency aid as well as life-saving information. We are committed to supporting the people of Myanmar through this challenging time, while also preparing for their long-term recovery.

The following provides an overview of our response in the month since the earthquake.

OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Having experienced the earthquake first-hand, the ICRC team in Mandalay quickly responded by distributing items such as helmets, heavy-duty gloves, ropes and goggles to first responders within the first 24 hours. We also provided stretchers and body bags along with household items like tarpaulins, mosquito nets and water purifiers to support the rescue efforts.



Access to food has been one of the most urgent needs for those impacted. To address this, we provided rice, chickpeas, oil, cooking utensils, charcoal and jerrycans to civil society organizations who are running community kitchens to provide meals for the affected people. These efforts have enabled around 5,000 people to have daily meals for a month. Additionally, we provided rations to 389 people currently sheltering in a monastery in Mandalay, displaced by the conflict and now further affected by the earthquake.

The risk of explosive hazards is a challenge both for those leaving their towns in the aftermath of the earthquake and for those who are conducting rescue operations in potentially weapon-contaminated areas. To prevent and mitigate hazards, we continue sharing our risk awareness and safe behaviour messages through our social media platform and through volunteers from the MRCS and the communities. These messages will help people recognize potential risks and adapt their behaviour to stay safe.



Another critical need is the access to clean water. The MRCS, in coordination with the ICRC, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and other partnering National Societies, has prioritized the delivery of safe drinking water to those in need. To support their efforts, we provided additional equipment such as generators and water pumps for their water purification and distribution sites, along with additional training.

EMERGENCY RELIEF



Over 4,400 people received essential household items such as tarpaulins, mats and mosquito nets, as part of emergency distributions.



3,500 people received kitchen utensils for community or household use.



More than 7,300 people received food assistance.

SHELTER AND INFRASTRUCTURE



240 shelter kits were distributed in Mandalay and 20,789 in Shan State, addressing the urgent needs of displaced families.



3 infrastructure repairs were completed in Mandalay and Shan to restore essential services.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SUPPORT



12 hospitals received support in Mandalay, Sagaing and Bago.



24 first-aid kits and 4 Inter-agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) were donated.



One mobile clinic of the MRCS, deployed in Mandalay is fully supported by the ICRC.



70 civil society organizations have received support from the ICRC for the transportation of patients.



6 mobile health clinics were provided with funds to extend care to affected and remote communities.



Ministry of Health in Shan received one financial support to conduct a mobile clinic in Nyaung Shwe.



1,235 body bags were provided to help with the safe and dignified management of the dead.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE



234 people received financial support in Mandalay and Sagaing, with priority given to vulnerable families.



55,000 Swiss francs were donated to MRCS for mobilization and initial disaster assessments.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)



Over 23,400 people benefited from the donation of items such as chlorine tablets and water filters across Mandalay, Bago and Shan.



15 assessments were conducted to identify and address sanitation risks.

RISK AWARENESS AND SAFER BEHAVIOUR (RASB)



6 RASB sessions were delivered to raise awareness of explosive hazards and safety practices, helping to recognize potential risk of explosive devices and adapt behaviours in weapon-contaminated areas.