



Flash Update #1

Major earthquake in Myanmar puts millions of women and girls at risk

Country:	Myanmar
Emergency type:	Earthquake
Start Date of Crisis:	March 28, 2025
Date Issued:	March 29, 2025
Covering Period:	March 28, 2025 to March 29, 2025
Contact Persons:	Jaime Nadal Roig, UNFPA Myanmar Country Representative nadal@unfpa.org

Key Figures (Figures currently being compiled based on ongoing assessments, and will be updated as soon as available)



8.5 million

Estimated total population in the key affected areas



2,295,000

Women of reproductive age (ages 15 – 49)



110,281

Currently pregnant women



765,000

Adolescent girls (ages 10-19)



12,253

Number of live births in the next month

* The total population of 8.5 million is based on 2024 census data for the four regions most affected by the earthquake (Nay Pyi Taw, Magway, Sagaing, and Mandalay). At this time, there is no consolidated figure on the affected population.

* The estimated figures for Women of Reproductive Age, pregnant women and adolescent girls is based on the Minimum Initial Services Package for Sexual and Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Settings (MISP) calculator

Highlights

- On 28 March 2025, at approximately 12:50 PM local time, a devastating 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck near Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city, followed by significant aftershocks. A 6.4-magnitude aftershock occurred eleven minutes later. The tremors were felt across Southeast Asia, including in Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Bangladesh, India, and China.
- The earthquake resulted in over 900 deaths and more than 2,600 injuries in Myanmar, as well as at least 8 deaths in Thailand. Significant damage was reported in Mandalay, where multiple buildings collapsed, including a mosque and a hotel, causing numerous casualties. Other affected regions include Sagaing, Bago, Magway, the northeastern Shan States, and Naypyidaw, with reports of collapsed bridges, dams, and widespread infrastructure damage. This is the largest earthquake with an epicenter in Myanmar since the 1912 event.
- The Myanmar military junta has declared a state of emergency in the affected regions and has requested international humanitarian assistance.
- UNFPA Myanmar is distributing nationally prepositioned Dignity Kits, Clean Delivery Kits, and Women's Essential Item (WEI) packages to support the continued provision of essential Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) response services for affected women and girls.

Situation Overview

- Early reports indicate extensive infrastructure damage, numerous casualties, and widespread displacement. Critical disruptions to essential services—such as electricity, water, communications, and financial systems—have disproportionately impacted vulnerable women and girls.
- Tremors were also felt in Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Bangladesh, and India, prompting building evacuations and heightened alert levels.
- Emergency response teams have been mobilized, and neighbouring countries, including India and China, have pledged support. The United Nations has allocated US\$5 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to assist with relief efforts in Myanmar.
- The earthquake has compounded Myanmar's ongoing humanitarian crisis, which already affects nearly 20 million people nationwide, including more than 3.5 million internally displaced persons, the majority of whom are women and girls. Access to affected areas remains challenging due to damaged infrastructure and security concerns. Coordinated international assistance is urgently needed to meet the immediate needs of impacted populations and sustain ongoing relief efforts.

UNFPA Response

UNFPA's immediate response is initially targeted to areas most severely impacted by the earthquake, including Mandalay and Sagaing.

- **Provision of life-saving services:** UNFPA Myanmar's Rapid Response Team is being deployed to Mandalay to coordinate assessments, activate mobile health units through implementing partners, and deliver urgent SRH, GBV response, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services.
- **Distribution of critical supplies:** Immediate distribution of critical supplies has been initiated through civil society and community-based organizations. This includes 3,790 nationally prepositioned dignity kits (DKs), with an additional 6,050 DKs scheduled for delivery on 4 April, and 3,000 DKs allocated to the Department of Social Welfare (DSW). Distribution efforts also include 10,000 women's essential item (WEI) packages and 5,000 clean delivery kits (CDKs), leveraging local storage and transport capacities.
- **Coordination with partners:** As lead of the GBV Sub-Cluster, MHPSS Working Group, and SRH Working Group, and co-chair of the GiHA Working Group, UNFPA is facilitating coordination with local and international humanitarian actors, including civil society organizations (CSOs). This collaboration is supporting a rapid and coordinated response to the crisis, as well as the continued provision of essential SRH, GBV response, and MHPSS services for affected populations.

Key Needs and Priorities

- Immediate logistical and financial support to maintain uninterrupted delivery of essential services and supplies.
- Additional DKs and WEI packages to support affected women and girls, including those from displacement settings.
- Expansion of critical lifesaving services, including SRH, GBV and MHPSS for affected women and girls.

UNFPA Myanmar is committed to sustaining a swift, coordinated, and effective humanitarian response, working closely with partners and communities to address urgent needs and mitigate further harm.