

Alert note**Myanmar Earthquake 2025****Completed by:** Khin Thone Thone Su**Date completed:** 30/3/2025**Forum:** Myanmar**Type of emergency:** Earthquake**Date of emergency (if rapid onset):** 28th March 2025**Funding Survey**

If the forum indicates a plan to launch an appeal, we request funding members to please fill out this [survey form](#) which will help the **Emergency Steering Committee** assess the funding environment for this response. Please respond to this survey *within 24 hours of Alert publication*.

1. The nature of the emergency

On Friday, March 28, 2025, a 7.7-magnitude earthquake hit Myanmar, followed by strong aftershocks measuring 6.4-magnitude. This marks the strongest earthquake experienced in Myanmar.

The earthquake was felt as far as China and Thailand, where assessments of potentially damaged buildings are being conducted. In Bangkok, an apartment tower collapsed, trapping over 100 construction workers below. Rescue efforts in Bangkok continued through the night.

2. The impact and scale of the emergency

The ACT Alliance forum in Myanmar consider this earthquake as a major crisis in the country. With the current ongoing security situation and conflicts, the current earthquake aggravated the overall situation. According to UN and government reports in Myanmar the current official death count is at least 1600 people have been killed, and many injured. The US Geological Survey estimated that the death toll could top 10,000. Efforts have been hampered by the shortages of heavy machinery. From the figures Mandalay state is one of the worst affected state in Myanmar with a population of around 1.2 million people. According to media and government sources, almost all the state has been badly affected.

The earthquake caused extensive damage across multiple sectors. Healthcare facilities are overwhelmed, with hospitals in the affected regions suffering structural damage and struggling to accommodate the growing number of casualties. Transportation infrastructure has also been disrupted, with significant damage reported to roads, bridges, and key transport routes, which has hampered rescue and relief efforts. Additionally, power and water supply disruptions are being assessed, with communication networks down in several areas, further complicating coordination efforts.

Reports of extensive damage are starting to come out of Myanmar, though the full extent is not yet known due to the lack of working communication systems and electricity. Residential and commercial buildings in Sagaing, Mandalay, and Magway have been severely impacted, with numerous homes and structures. The disaster may be compounded in lowland areas after reports of a dam having burst near Mandalay. Mandalay General Hospital is operational and has been

receiving such a high influx of patients. The Government of Myanmar declared a state of emergency in six central states of Myanmar including Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Easter Shan, Mayway, and Naypyidaw. The government has requested for international assistance to support the affected population.

3. Local and national capacity

Urban areas, especially Mandalay and nearby townships, have suffered the most severe impacts, with entire buildings collapsing and trapping residents inside. Displacement remains a crisis, even among UMMGAA staff, with immediate shelter and basic needs required.

The Government in Myanmar called for international assistance to provide life saving support to the affected population, as a result the different governments have initiated their support. A Chinese surge & rescue team arrived in the country Saturday morning, according to state media, while India has sent a rescue and medical team along with urgent aid.

Some \$5 million has already been released by the head of OCHA from the Central Emergency Relief Fund and while UNOPS, announced of releasing \$10 million to aid partners in the emergency response.

The EU has also activated its Copernicus satellite service to facilitate impact assessment and releasing €2.5 million in initial emergency assistance.

ACT Alliance members Christian Aid and Finn Church Aid are currently on ground and started their rapid need assessments. They are initiating an emergency response with its emergency prepositioned funds.

4. Key needs and gaps

According to Christian Aid and its local implementing partner UMMGAA, Emergency medical assistance is urgently required as healthcare facilities are stretched beyond capacity. Displacement is a major concern, particularly in Mandalay and surrounding townships, where emergency shelters are critically needed. Food and water shortages are severe, particularly in Sagaing and Magway, necessitating immediate humanitarian aid. Vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and pregnant women, require prioritized assistance. Additionally, the mental health toll on affected populations is severe, with a pressing need for psychosocial support services to help communities cope with trauma.

A coordinated emergency response is essential, with additional medical teams urgently needed in affected areas, particularly in Mandalay. Search and rescue efforts must be intensified, with additional resources allocated to Mandalay and surrounding townships to rescue individuals trapped under debris.

The initial assessment revealed that the humanitarian aid should focus on the distribution of food, water, and shelter, prioritizing the hardest-hit regions, including Mandalay and Sagaing urban areas. A rapid evaluation of infrastructure damage must be conducted to restore vital services, especially in Mandalay. Finally, verified information and MHPSS must be disseminated to the public to prevent panic and misinformation, ensuring that affected populations receive accurate guidance on safety and assistance measures.

Please indicate whether you are considering:

	Indicate your intention with an X below
Rapid Response Fund (<i>intended for small and medium scale emergencies</i>)	
Appeal (<i>intended for large scale emergencies</i>)	X

If you indicate an intention to launch an appeal, the secretariat will activate an Emergency Steering Committee meeting within two working days on receipt of this alert.

5. Forum Capacity and members intention to respond

ACT Member	Geographical focus	Sectors of expertise and experience
FINN CHURCH AID	To be confirmed – Mandalay and/or Sagaing	MPCA, Food/Non Food item, EiE, Protection
CHRISTIAN AID	NorthWest region Mandalay, Sagaing, Nay Pyi Taw and Magway	Cash for food, MPCA, NFI, Hygiene kits, Protection

6. Potential responses

Finn Church Aid: Considering the evolving situation and ongoing needs assessment on the ground, FCA is still assessing its expected response. Currently, FCA is implementing an urgent response in Bago (Tanguoo) by providing multi-purpose cash assistance to affected communities with its own Disaster Fund. As part of a possible ACT Appeal, FCA would consider operations in Mandalay/Sagaing based on most urgent needs, and in line with its own sectoral capacities (MPCA, Education in Emergencies, Food Security as well as Protection (including Child Protection and Gender based violence). Close collaboration with Christian Aid would ensure synergies and complementarity.

Christian Aid: Amidst an already overwhelming humanitarian crisis, a powerful earthquake has struck—devastating lives, homes, and hopes across affected communities. Christian Aid and the partners are conducting rapid needs assessments in the affected areas and develop emergency response plans. Christian Aid is mainly focusing on the most impacted areas in the Northwest of Myanmar-Mandalay, Sagaing, Nay Pyi Taw and Magway to provide life-saving interventions and emergency response activities from our own emergency fund but with the massive destruction happened in these areas, there are significant critical unmet needs and the communities require timely emergency responses. CA will be able to provide protection, Multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA), cash for food and humanitarian coordination with local actors if we receive funding support from the ACT Appeal.