

CHILDFUND AUSTRALIA MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE SIT-REP #1 31 MARCH 2025



1. Situation Report

Date of SitRep submission	31 March 2025
Sitrep No	#1
Alliance Member	ChildFund Australia (ChildFund Myanmar)
Date of emergency	28 March 2025
Name of emergency	2025 Myanmar (Sagaing) Earthquake
Prepared by	Win May Htway, Country Director
Key Alliance Contact	Sophie Jenkins sjenkins@childfund.org.au

On 28 March, two powerful earthquakes hit central Myanmar, with epicentres near Mandalay and Sagaing cities. The earthquake caused widespread destruction of homes and severe damage to critical infrastructure such as Mandalay International Airport, major bridges, roads, universities, hospitals, historical and religious sites both in urban and rural areas. It is estimated that 8.5 million people have been impacted.

The death toll has been increasing reaching more than 1,600 on 31 March morning, according to the official report. This number is expected to increase drastically as the rescue work has been limited and many people are still trapped under the collapsed building with survival chance diminishing as days advance.

The local rescue teams are working to retrieve the injured and the bodies, yet rescue efforts are restricted by inadequate number of teams and members and very limited available equipment to sift through debris. Some rescue resources such as fire departments are also destroyed, together with the equipment.

For those injured, the current functioning hospitals have become severely overloaded and overwhelmed. The hospitals are also damaged, and, in some cities, the inpatients have to be moved into the hospital compound.

2. Immediate Needs

- **Search and Rescue:** The immediate need is clearing the debris with rescue of the survivors and recovery casualties. Local rescue teams have extremely limited resources for this while international teams are arriving.
- **Urgent medical needs:** medical treatment needs while already overstretched health services are further constrained by damaged health facilities.
- **Shelter and Emergency Supplies:** With the survivors, the needs identified so far are clean water, dried food, hygiene and shelter.



Damage in Mandalay
Photo credit: Child Development Association

3. Humanitarian Coordination

International rescue teams from China, Hong Kong, Singapore, India and Thailand have commenced relief operations, with additional support from Malaysia and Vietnam expected shortly.

State media reported that Vice Senior General Soe Win attended an emergency coordination meeting of the National Disaster Management Committee. He discussed plans for temporary shelters, aid distribution, emergency cash assistance, and social security support for Ministry of Labour staff. Additionally, he outlined rehabilitation measures and the assignment of liaison officers to coordinate international aid efforts, including search and rescue operations and medical supply distribution.

UN agencies and INGOs are also working on the coordinated response plan through working groups while INGOs have started individual response plans. UN OCHA has started joint rapid needs assessment online mechanism and ChildFund with partner RMO are participating. The Child Protection Case Management Working group has been setting up Emergency response technical team and two staff from ChildFund are in the team.

4. ChildFund Myanmar Capacity

ChildFund has been operational in Myanmar since 2012. The ChildFund Myanmar Country Office currently has 16 staff and 3 active partnerships with collective operational footprint in Mandalay, Kachin, Bago and Yangon. ChildFund Myanmar works across child

protection, youth development (social and emotional learning), and emergency response. ChildFund Myanmar and partners are skilled in operating in high risks contexts.

5. ChildFund Myanmar Response

Phase 1

With partner organization, Ratana Metta Organization (RMO) the first phase of response will focus on meeting immediate needs for affected households while also equipping resource teams with critical safety equipment and resources.

- **Target Areas:** PyawBwe, KyaukSe and Mandalay downtown townships in Mandalay Region.
- **Estimated Budget:** \$500,000 USD (detailed budget and activity plan available)
- **Expected Beneficiaries and Urgent Needs:**
 - For 3000 Affected Households: Clean water, ORS, Dried food, Tents/Tarpaulins, Sleeping bag, Personal hygiene /Sanitary kits
 - For 30 Rescue Teams: Protective equipment (Masks, gloves, boots) Disinfectant, Clean water, ORS, Dried food, Helmets, Head Lights

Phase 2

Pending total funds mobilized, ChildFund Myanmar also well positioned to support medium to longer-term response and recovery activities including further distribution and shelter needs, psychosocial support, child protection etc. based on further assessment.

5. Response Challenges

- **Aftershocks:** There have been more than 20 aftershocks, and some damaged buildings are collapsing, including accommodation.
- **Communications:** There are challenges in communication as phone line and internet connections are unstable.
- **Safety and Security:** Contextual safety and security risks remain.
- **Logistics:** Availability of commodities at affected areas and logistic challenges for transport of goods from other areas due to damaged roads.
- **Inflation and Banking Challenges:** fluctuating currency exchange rates and for increasing prices of the commodities due to high demand/ limited supply. Banks in some areas are also not functioning due to infrastructure damage.

6. Media & Communications

Voice recording available from Country Director. Please note media opportunities will need to be carefully considered, and we may not be able to respond to all requests.

Images and other content approved for use will continue to be circulated via the Alliance HACU/HASC.

7. Maps

