



Myanmar Earthquake

Situation Report #2

April 4, 2025

Project HOPE is responding to the 7.7-magnitude earthquake in Myanmar, which has killed over 3,100 people and caused widespread destruction across the country, impacting more than 17 million.

Situation Overview

On Friday, March 28, 2025, a 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck Myanmar, the strongest in over 100 years, followed by strong aftershocks measuring up to 6.4 in magnitude. More than 3,100 people have been killed and approximately 5,000 have been injured, with those numbers expected to rise as search and rescue efforts come to a close. Our team on the ground reports that families are sleeping outside, health workers are running out of supplies, and water-borne diseases are spreading.

Over 10,000 buildings, including homes, businesses, schools, and historic temples have been destroyed and **critical infrastructure has been damaged**, including highways, telecommunications systems, plumbing, and health facilities. A state of emergency has been declared in six regions: Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Shan, Magway, and Naypyidaw.

Several hospitals in Mandalay, including General Hospital, remain operational and have been the main centers of care for those injured in the earthquake. Project HOPE's team has confirmed through local assessment that medical supplies are running low,

Key Updates

- Before disaster struck, nearly **20 million people** were in need of humanitarian assistance and over **3 million** were internally displaced.
- Myanmar is one of Asia's poorest nations, making its population, especially those in rural villages, **increasingly vulnerable** to harm in a disaster setting.
- **The mental health impacts of earthquakes can be severe for children**, with some going mute, wetting the bed, enduring separation anxiety, and struggling to maintain daily routines.
- Earthquakes can cause multiple **secondary crises**, including disease outbreaks, prolonged displacement, and landslides.
- Project HOPE has extensive experience working across Asia and responding to earthquakes, including in Morocco, Türkiye, Syria, Indonesia and Haiti.

especially at primary health facilities in less populated areas, which have been harder for aid groups to reach.

The most critical needs include shelter, clean water, food, and health care. Due to low vaccination rates, lack of access to clean water, and damaged plumbing, the threat of disease outbreaks is high, particularly for water-borne diseases like dysentery, which has already been reported in communities outside Mandalay. Heat stroke is also an immediate concern with temperatures remaining over 100 degrees.

In the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, the government requested assistance from the international community. Since last weekend, emergency responders have slowly reached the country, carried out search and rescue missions, and begun distributing emergency aid in the most affected areas.

Project HOPE is Mobilizing

Project HOPE's Emergency Response Team in Yangon is assessing the needs across the impacted areas, identifying supply chain routes for immediate supplies, and connecting with local organizations to ensure a collaborative response. Our team includes an emergency response team lead, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) consultant, logistics staff, and a medical advisor, whose expertise and needs assessments are informing Project HOPE's response.

Project HOPE is also working with local partner Community Partners International to deploy two mobile medical units. Each team will be comprised of three staff and will deliver essential health services in earthquake-affected areas across Mandalay, Sagaing, Naypyidaw, Shan, and Bago regions. Their support will include mental health services and counseling as needed. Additionally, we plan to integrate these mobile medical teams into future supply distribution activities. This approach will ensure that affected communities receive comprehensive support while enhancing overall program effectiveness. The emergency response team continues to connect with additional community-based organizations to identify opportunities for partnerships with the hope of supporting groups across the affected communities.

Our team on the ground is working to procure essential items locally for distribution through our partners. These essential items include water, hygiene kits, dignity kits, and other non-food items. Project HOPE also plans to procure medical consumables, supplies, and equipment to support health centers in highly impacted areas.

To address MHPSS needs after the earthquake, Project HOPE's team is exploring possible Psychological First Aid (PFA) programming, with a focus on providing immediate support to survivors, reducing initial distress, and promote adaptive coping. This program would prioritize creating a safe and calming environment, offering practical assistance, and connecting individuals with essential resources. **By addressing immediate emotional needs, PFA helps to prevent the development of long-term psychological trauma.**

Project HOPE has responded to several earthquake disasters in recent years including the 2023 Earthquake in Türkiye and Syria, the 2023 earthquake in Morocco, and the 2022 earthquake in Indonesia.

“Hospitals are unable to provide basic medical care to people who have sustained major injuries. Right now, the immediate focus is providing people with basic necessities. The world cannot forget about Myanmar. We need support right now.”

— Project HOPE team member on the ground