

2025 Myanmar Earthquake Emergency Response Coordination Unit

April 2, 2025

Situation Brief

In order to respond to emergency needs after the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, The Myanmar Emergency Response Coordination Unit (MERCU) has been established by civil society organizations mostly based in Chiang Mai, Thailand, coordinating directly with stakeholders and volunteers on the ground, ensuring an effective and organized initial response.

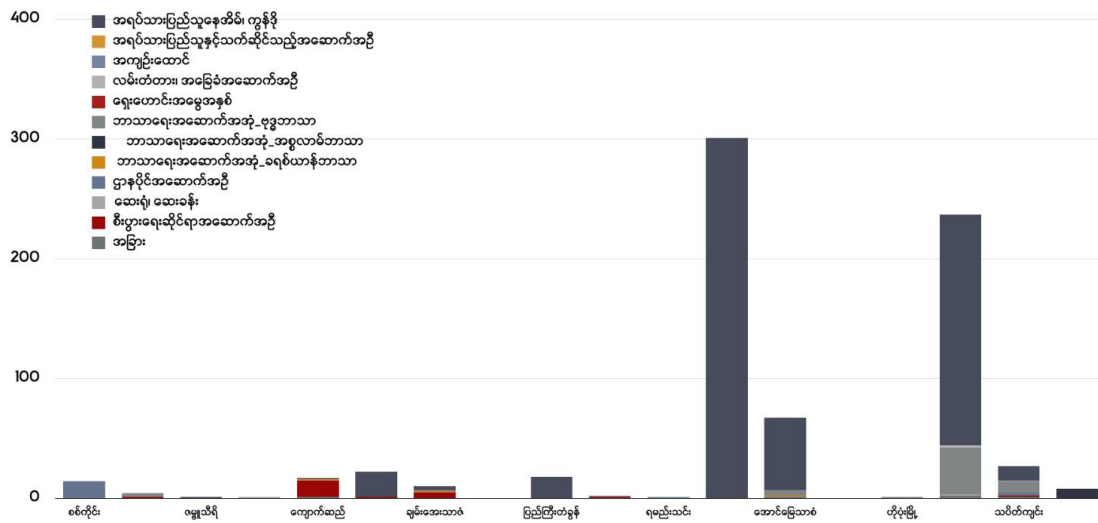
The unit consists of representatives from various Myanmar civil society organizations with established networks in the affected areas. Its primary objectives are to coordinate immediate response efforts, mobilize resources, and manage information to ensure an efficient and effective relief operation.

According to a statement from the independent media outlet Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB), the earthquake has claimed at least 3,756 lives, with Mandalay reporting the highest number of fatalities. The death toll is expected to rise significantly as the critical window for rescue operations has passed, while limited internet access and media restrictions continue to delay accurate reporting.



Observed On-Ground Impacts

မြေပြင်မှ ပေးပို့သည့် အချက်အလက်များအရ မှတ်တမ်းတင်ထားနိုင်သည့် အဆောက်အအုံများ ပြိုကျပျက်ဆီးမှုဖြစ်ပါသည်။ အမှန်တကယ် သက်ရောက်မှုအရေအတွက်မှာ များစွာ ပိုများနိုင်ပါသည်။



Data as of 30 March 2025 5pm MMT | Data & Graphic: Emergency Response Coordination Unit

Mandalay

While rescue operations continued, MERCU was able to collect data and document a total of **712** buildings (including 405 residential buildings) that were damaged or destroyed by the earthquake.

In the first four days following the earthquake, there was an urgent need for water and food supplies. By the fourth day, however, access to these essentials had partially improved, according to unit members gathering on-the-ground data.

Despite the widespread damage in Mandalay, rescue operations remain limited. Consequently, the death toll may continue to rise as more data is gathered and the situation is further assessed.

Ongoing aftershocks and the risk of collapsing weakened buildings have forced many people to live on the streets. As a result, there is a pressing need for public toilets and bathing facilities. The lack of sufficient public toilets and bathrooms has made sanitation as a critical issue, increasing the risk of the spread of infectious diseases.



International rescue teams have been granted permission to assist, and the Chinese rescue teams in Mandalay are primarily focused on their operations. However, local rescue organizations are facing tension from the SAC's administrative bodies regarding data collection and donations.

While rescue operations in Mandalay city are increasing, there are severe limitations in the ability to carry out rescue efforts in the surrounding districts of Mandalay. The scale of the challenges remains significant.

Although emergency rescue efforts are increasing, there is still a significant need for shelter, including both short-term and long-term housing shelters, as well as public sanitation facilities such as toilets and shower rooms.

Immediate Requirements

- Dry rations
- Clean water and water purification equipment
- Equipments to search for deceased bodies
- Medical supplies
- Mosquito repellents
- Shelters to sleep

Sagaing

According to Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB), the number of deaths in Sagaing, which was one of the hardest-hit areas by the earthquake, has risen to 695. Sagaing city and its surrounding areas continue to experience internet and electricity outages. Although international rescue teams have arrived in Sagaing, extensive damage has left local residents conducting body recovery efforts themselves. While aid is reaching Sagaing city, rescue operations in rural villages remain severely limited, increasing the urgent need for assistance. Additionally, due to cracks in the ground, water routes



have been altered, causing water shortages and requiring new wells to be dug, therefore, it highlights the growing need for reconstruction efforts.

Immediate Requirements

- Blankets, mosquito nets and mats
- Solar-powered lights
- Dry rations
- Clean water and water purification equipment
- Equipments to search for deceased bodies
- Medical supplies
- Mosquito repellents
- Shelters to sleep



Fig (1) – The Sagaing Fault



Fig (2) – The Sagaing Fault



Operational Status of the Emergency Response Coordination Unit

MERCU has been supporting and coordinating ground-level rescue teams in Mandalay and Sagaing. Efforts are also underway to extend assistance to Bago, Pyinmana, and Inle.

A Request to the Telecommunication Operators in Myanmar

On March 28, 2025, due to a powerful earthquake that occurred in the afternoon, there were many people who lost their lives, sustained injuries, and significant destruction to buildings in the areas directly affected by the earthquake.

After the earthquake, including the most affected areas, there were difficulties in making phone calls, along with damage to basic infrastructure across Myanmar.

Despite these difficulties, it has also been observed that the telecommunications operators in Myanmar provided free services for phone calls and text messages between operators for a limited period of time.

However, it has also been reported that while telecommunications services are available in one area, it has been difficult to use them in other areas.

Therefore, in accordance with the current situation on the ground, it is urged that the telecommunications operators provide free assistance by enabling phone calls between any operators, in order to effectively reduce the communication difficulties faced by the public in the earthquake-affected areas.



**Emergency Response
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This briefing was released on April 2, 2025, and based on the information received by the Emergency Response Coordination Unit, further briefing will continue to be issued.