

Beyond the rubble: humanitarian profiles of key townships affected by the March earthquake

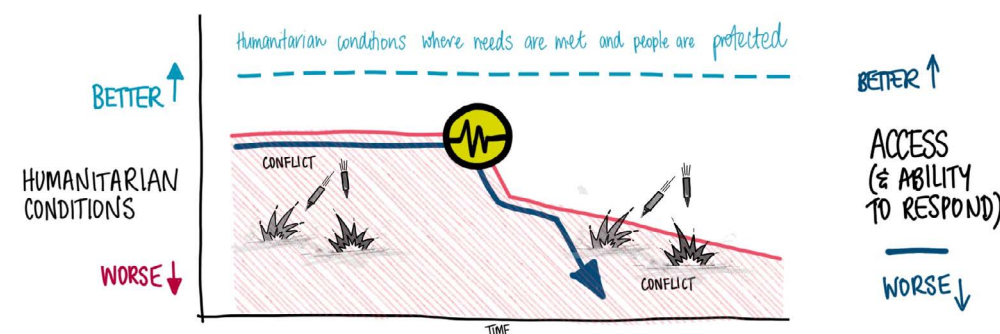
OVERVIEW

Five months after the magnitude-7.7 earthquake struck central Myanmar, urgent needs persist across the most affected townships in Bago (East), Kayin, Magway, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, and Shan (South). The UN-led HNRP Flash Addendum after the earthquake identified 58 contested townships as severely affected (OCHA 11/04/2025). Over 30% of Myanmar's population (17 million people) were affected by the March 2025 earthquake, with nine million severely affected. This scale is unprecedented in recent years, surpassing the impact of Cyclone Mocha in 2023 (3.4 million affected) and compounding a context in which more than three million people had already been displaced by conflict by mid-2025 (WB 12/06/2025; WB accessed 08/09/2025). The earthquake disrupted essential services across multiple sectors: tens of thousands were left without adequate shelter and health services alongside widespread losses of stored crops, farmland, and market linkages, undermining food security and livelihoods. Collapsed water systems and damaged sanitation facilities heightened WASH risks, while continuing conflict has compounded protection threats (OCHA 07/07/2025).

While many affected populations live in relatively stable areas under the control of the State Administration Council (SAC), the earthquake also hit townships already heavily affected by conflict. This created a disparity in response, as accessible cities, towns, and areas have been receiving most of the assistance. In SAC-controlled areas, large-scale emergency operations have transitioned into early recovery, with market operations already resumed and supply routes established, while populations in contested and remote townships remain underserved as a result of insecurity linked to continuing clashes as well as checkpoints and bureaucratic restrictions (IOM 27/06/2025; The Borgen Project 15/08/2025; TNI 05/09/2025). In Bago (East), Mandalay, Sagaing, and Shan (South), the earthquake compounded pre-existing humanitarian needs caused by continuing conflict. Despite a temporary lull in hostilities, military operations, including air and drone strikes, resumed soon after the earthquake, affecting humanitarian access and further aggravating humanitarian needs (IIS 05/2025).

The 28 March earthquake was a reminder of Myanmar's humanitarian crisis, which is deeply rooted in long-standing conflict. In Shan state, clashes between ethnic armed organisations (EOs), fighting between the SAC and People's Defence Force (PDF), and episodes of targeted

violence against civilians continue to drive displacement and restrict humanitarian assistance. While the earthquake response created short-term openings for assistance to reach some previously underserved conflict-affected areas, the overall impact remains uneven. Despite heightened international attention in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake, there has been no clear evidence of a sustained policy or funding shift toward improving access in contested areas, suggesting that underlying inequities in aid distribution remain largely unchanged.



Myanmar faces some of the world's most severe humanitarian access constraints. Security-related barriers, including active conflict, checkpoints, and road closures, pose the greatest obstacle to reaching affected populations. These are compounded by bureaucratic restrictions that delay or block permissions for aid delivery and operational challenges such as difficult terrain and damaged infrastructure (ACAPS 07/2025). These constraints are particularly acute in areas outside SAC control, where both operational presence and data collection pose significant risks. Access to conflict-affected areas in Mandalay, Sagaing, and southern Shan is further hindered by mountainous terrain, poor road infrastructure, and widely dispersed settlements, which make it costly and time-consuming for humanitarian responders to reach communities. These conditions limit the feasibility of mobile health teams, increase transport costs for food and relief supplies, and reduce the frequency of service delivery (IFRC 01/08/2025; TNH 22/04/2025).

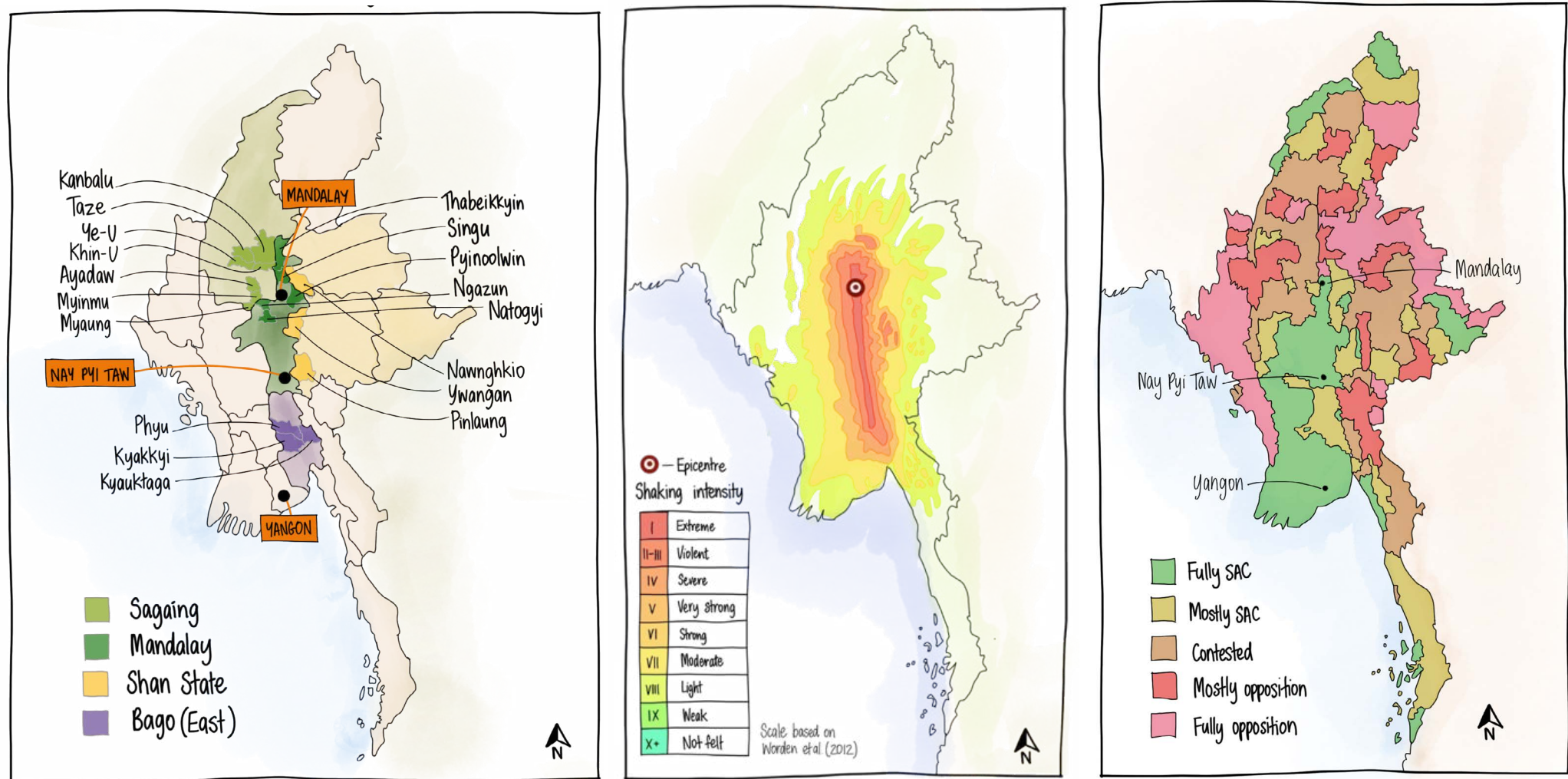
Security checkpoints, road closures, and the confiscation of relief supplies by the SAC, PDF, and EAOs have disrupted fragile supply chains in Sagaing townships, including Myinmu, Natogyi, and Ngazun, as well as Singu and Thabeikkyin in Mandalay (MFP Facebook 08/07/2025; The Nation Voice Facebook 16/07/2025). Continued restrictions on transporting goods from Mandalay to Sagaing have further disrupted humanitarian corridors, with medicine and medical supplies facing the most severe delays, followed by food commodities and shelter materials. These uneven impacts have deepened inequities in service delivery, with remote and conflict-affected townships, already among the hardest to reach, experiencing the greatest exclusion from timely assistance. Seasonal monsoon flooding has also compounded access difficulties by reducing road connectivity, particularly in low-lying rural areas. While flooding is a seasonal and temporary constraint, the dominant barrier remains conflict-related restrictions such as roadblocks, checkpoints, and insecurity, which systematically obstruct humanitarian access throughout the year (UNFPA 11/08/2025; ACAPS accessed 08/09/2025).

Analysis landscape assessments highlight persistent gaps in the availability, quality, and circulation of information from contested areas (ACAPS 10/10/2023; ACAPS forthcoming). Data collection is often fragmented and heavily reliant on community networks, which, while vital in areas difficult to reach, carry risks of bias, uneven geographic coverage, and limited verification. These networks are also highly vulnerable to disruption by continuing conflict, meaning that information gaps persist in some of the most severely affected locations. Data gaps arise from two distinct sources: insecurity, which limits physical access and disrupts assessment in contested areas, and information-sharing practices, including deliberate underreporting or withholding of data by armed groups seeking to control narratives. These factors contribute to an incomplete and uneven evidence base for humanitarian planning. The result is a double burden: populations in non-SAC-controlled areas not only face restricted humanitarian access but also remain less visible in the evidence base used to inform programming and response, facing exclusion from response plans. This invisibility compounds their exclusion from assistance and reinforces inequities in aid allocation.

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MAP 1. TOWNSHIPS COVERED BY THIS ANALYSIS; EARTHQUAKE INTENSITY (MMI SCALE); AND CONTROLLED AREAS



Source: USGS (accessed 06/06/2025), COAR (accessed 01/08/2025).

Note: all hand drawn maps are indicative.

ABOUT THIS REPORT

This report examines whether the earthquake response met critical humanitarian needs according to sectoral thresholds defined by cluster benchmarks, including proxy indicators such as service coverage, market functionality, access to assistance, and what lessons can be drawn. Findings indicate that conflict remains the primary driver of need. While the earthquake intensified humanitarian needs, most gaps pre-dated the hazard and have since deepened as a result of continued conflict. In some areas, the earthquake triggered short-term assistance, but this was limited in scope and duration and did not substantially alter the trajectory of pre-existing needs that were further aggravated by the earthquake.

For this report, ACAPS selected 18 townships across four states and regions – Bago (East), Mandalay, Sagaing, and Shan – based on three key criteria:

- townships not under full SAC control (COAR accessed 01/08/2022)
- areas subject to conflict since 28 March (COAR accessed 11/09/2025)
- locations not covered, or only minimally covered, by the coordinated Multi-Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) or Joint Needs Assessment conducted after the March 2025 earthquake (MIMU).

The earthquake which measured a magnitude of 7.71 on the Moment magnitude scale struck at 1250 local time on 28 March and was followed by a magnitude 6.4 twelve minutes later. The intensity of shaking across affected townships ranged from VI–VIII on the Modified Mercalli Intensity scale (USGS 06/06/2025, MIMU 28/03/2025).

The decision to focus on these townships was driven by both operational and analytical considerations. Townships under partial or contested control are typically underserved by large-scale humanitarian operations because of insecurity and access constraints. As a result, they are less represented in official assessments, which primarily capture data from more accessible and SAC-controlled areas. By prioritising contested and less accessible townships, this report aims to fill critical information gaps on humanitarian conditions in areas where populations face a double burden of conflict and earthquake impacts, while also investigating the data available for analysis in such a constrained context.

Methodology

From June–August 2025, ACAPS gathered as much information as possible on the 18 selected townships using a mixed-methods approach.

- **Publicly available sources:** including international and local humanitarian reports, situation reports, and datasets such as those produced by OCHA and the Myanmar Information Management Unit.
- **Direct information from networks:** inputs received from contacts with knowledge of humanitarian conditions in the selected townships. Three major networks – identified by existing ACAPS contacts – were contacted. These networks include a diverse range of national NGOs, civil society organisations, and community-based organisations across Myanmar, in urban and rural areas and across most states and regions. The networks' membership may be based on certain factors affecting the information they have (e.g. the amount of resources a civil society organisation receives, as very grassroots community organisations may not form part of these networks).
- **Key informant interviews:** conducted with 17 community organisations and responders active in the selected townships, providing granular insights into needs, access challenges, and response gaps. Both purposive and snowball sampling was used to identify interviewees. Interviews were conducted both in-person and remotely in Burmese or English as appropriate.
- **Local media monitoring:** review of Myanmar-language and regional media outlets to track events, incidents, and emerging trends.

While the findings cannot be considered statistically representative, the selected townships serve as indicative sites, offering insight into humanitarian conditions in conflict-affected non-SAC-controlled areas. These locations act as critical reference points for understanding broader patterns of need and vulnerability to the impact of the earthquake across Myanmar's contested states.

Limitations

Humanitarian data collection and information remain constrained by access restrictions and sensitivities. As the military authorities and some EAOs monitor data collection, there is a fear that sharing data may put key informants and communities at risk of retaliation from the SAC or other powerholders, or even result in restrictions on humanitarian operations. Information on needs, even 'neutral data' such as food insecurity, can be politicised to manipulate aid flows. Location data (such as about IDPs) is especially sensitive, as there is fear that it may be used by the military or EAOs to target civilians. As such, both national and international organisations share most information only with trusted associates. Humanitarian organisations have reported difficulty in sharing facility functionality data, even under strict protection protocols, limiting coordinated response planning and the ability to fill service gaps efficiently (Health Cluster 31/07/2025).

KEY FINDINGS

Information gathering on the locations prioritised in this report made every effort to identify the most pressing humanitarian needs and conditions faced by the resident population, but the nature of the information available is such that there are many gaps. Even when speaking to community organisations working in prioritised townships, the areas they can report on are often only some parts within the overall township area. This ‘grassroots’ information is often skewed toward urban centres, although, in some cases, such information refers only to a specific rural location or two, where the interviewee’s organisation was working – for example, with IDPs in a forest location.

The aim of humanitarian analysis is to provide information that enables a principled humanitarian response. Ideally, analysis presents the population’s needs and challenges organised in terms of the types of needs faced (by sector and within sectors), the severity of these needs, the number of people in need, and the potential implications of these needs over time if left unaddressed. Further to this, analysis should outline the drivers and causes of needs so that future mitigation efforts can be made, looking forward in time to consider upcoming events and seasonal shifts; changes that affect needs and humanitarian conditions.

The nature of humanitarian crises is that all the information required for such analysis is often unavailable. For the townships considered in this report, information gaps are extremely pronounced. Part of this report’s methodology included consulting humanitarian organisations working in the townships in order to fill information gaps. The townships’ approximate populations ranged between 100,000–300,000 people, and the organisations consulted were often only able to comment on some parts of the township because movement was so constrained by security concerns. As such, gaps in understanding the situation remain. For this reason, findings are divided into those related to humanitarian needs (as evidenced by the available data) and those related to analysis (as evidenced by the barriers to data collection).

Key findings on humanitarian needs and conditions

- Conflict is the primary driver of need. While the earthquake intensified needs, particularly in WASH and (to a certain extent) shelter, and most severely in Sagaing, most humanitarian gaps pre-dated the earthquake and have since worsened as a result of continued conflict. In some areas, the earthquake prompted limited new assistance: although coverage varied, OCHA reported aid delivered to earthquake survivors in all five lifesaving sectors, with over 600,000 people receiving WASH assistance, over 400,000 people receiving emergency food, and 117,000 receiving ‘essential items’ within four weeks (OCHA 25/04/2025). This assistance was short-lived, however: almost three months later (on 5 July), there had been no increase in the number of people receiving food or WASH assistance, funding was reported to be insufficient to meet the scale of need, and access constraints had limited response particularly in contested and less accessible areas (OCHA 07/07/2025). All townships considered in this report had pre-existing needs resulting from the conflict. Even where assistance has addressed some of the additional needs resulting from the earthquake, all pre-existing needs remain.
- Needs vary significantly by location. Effective response must be informed by local knowledge. All townships for which information was available faced challenging humanitarian conditions and had unmet needs, although these were not homogenous in terms of the sectors most in need or the specific problems within sectors.
- Food insecurity emerged as a consistent and severe challenge across all four regions. The underlying drivers of this insecurity differ, however, by township. In some locations, conflict has aggravated both short-term drivers (destruction of farmland and displacement) and long-term ones (fragile daily wage labour systems, inflation, and market collapse), and the earthquake simply worsened needs to some extent. In other areas, the earthquake is the primary cause of short-term drivers, especially destruction of farmland and household capital. Inadequate aid coverage also drives food insecurity in less accessible areas.
- WASH needs are high in many areas. For example, Thabeikkyin (Mandalay) and Ywangan (Shan) both reported unsafe water and disease outbreaks following floods and earthquake damage. This was not the case everywhere, however, as Nawngkhio (Shan) stood out with full access to safe drinking water, although the reasons for this are unclear.
- Structural market-driven barriers aggravate needs. In southern Sagaing, year-on-year food and NFI prices, although falling slightly in May 2025, remained 22% and 66% higher, illustrating the high underlying rate of inflation (MIMU 05/2025). While the earthquake contributed to rising prices, continuing supply shortages – driven by strict import license restrictions, transport infrastructure issues, and rising logistics costs (tolls, checkpoint fees, informal payments) – and the impacts of conflict are the longer-term causes (WB 06/2025).

Healthcare access is collapsing across most of the regions. In Natogyi and Ngazun (Mandalay), disrupted supply chains and medicine shortages have resulted in preventable deaths. Thabeikkyin has reported diarrhoeal outbreaks linked to damaged facilities and unsafe water. In Kyaukkyi (Bago), the absence of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services is alarming given the population's high exposure to conflict and hazard trauma, while nearby Kyauktaga has functioning services and higher perceived safety. Singu and Thabeikkyin (Mandalay) also face maternal and child health risks, contrasting with Nawngkhio (Shan), where health access is comparatively stable. Structural weaknesses and access constraints drive stark disparities in humanitarian conditions, shaped by conflict intensity, geographic remoteness, and uneven concentration of services.

Protection risks cut across all regions, but manifest differently as a result of conflict intensity, local governance, and displacement. Across all provinces, there are areas in which the conflict – specifically the actions of the SAC – endanger life. For example, in Kanbalu (Sagaing), widespread killings, abductions, and sexual violence have been reported. In Ngazun (Mandalay), there have been mass displacements linked to arson and bombings. In Thabeikkyin and Singu (Mandalay), artillery fire and checkpoint extortion are further endangering civilians. In Kyaukkyi (Bago), forced recruitment under the People's Military Service Law combines with the absence of psychosocial support to deepen protection risks, especially for youth. In other areas, protection risks arise from the environment created by the conflict: in southern Shan, overcrowded camps expose women and children to gender-based violence (GBV) and exploitation. By contrast, respondents in Phyu (Bago) reported higher levels of safety and functional services.

Humanitarian access is systematically constrained by the SAC, although unevenly. Myinmu, Natogyi, and Ngazun (Mandalay) have faced repeated aid blockages as a result of checkpoint confiscation, compounded in Myinmu by communication blackouts that disrupt coordination. In Kyaukkyi (Bago), there is almost no humanitarian presence, while Kyauktaga and Phyu report more consistent service delivery. Similarly, Ngazun (Mandalay) and Pinlaung (Shan) highlight how rural earthquake-affected villages remain underserved compared to urban centres. These patterns illustrate not only geographic inequities but also the role of conflict in structuring who receives aid and who is excluded. According to the UN, very few organisations are working in conflict-affected townships, and most of those that do are in the health and protection sectors. In Singu and Thabeikkyin, there are no humanitarian organisations providing food, protection, shelter, or WASH assistance, and only two providing health assistance (MIMU accessed 9/9/2025).

Communication barriers deprive people of important information, including early warning alerts and humanitarian assistance (KII 14/08/2025). For displaced populations, particularly those in temporary shelters, communication barriers reduce access to information about aid distributions, heighten protection risks by cutting off reporting channels for incidents of violence, and constrain humanitarian accountability mechanisms (MFP Facebook 13/07/2025).

Key findings on humanitarian analysis

The challenging humanitarian information landscape requires expert judgement and contextual knowledge to determine likely needs, priorities, and ways of responding to reduce suffering and save lives. The lack of reliable, representative data requires humanitarians to interpret the sparse, often qualitative data available using good contextual knowledge to account for bias and identify needs, causes of needs, and priority areas of response.

Collection of representative data in conflict-affected areas is extremely difficult. Access challenges prohibit most in-person data collection in many areas (the Rapid Needs Assessment and MIRA to assess needs arising from the earthquake both failed to capture sufficient data in the townships selected for this report), and the number of organisations reporting on specific locations is insufficient to eliminate enumerator bias. As such, conflict-affected areas are likely to be underrepresented in assessments, requiring a greater degree of interpretation of results. The exception to this is the annual nation-wide Multi-Sector Needs Assessment, which is not designed for rapid reporting on needs.

The overall information landscape leaves significant known unknowns, e.g. a clear information need may be the number of people residing in the forest after being displaced from their homes.

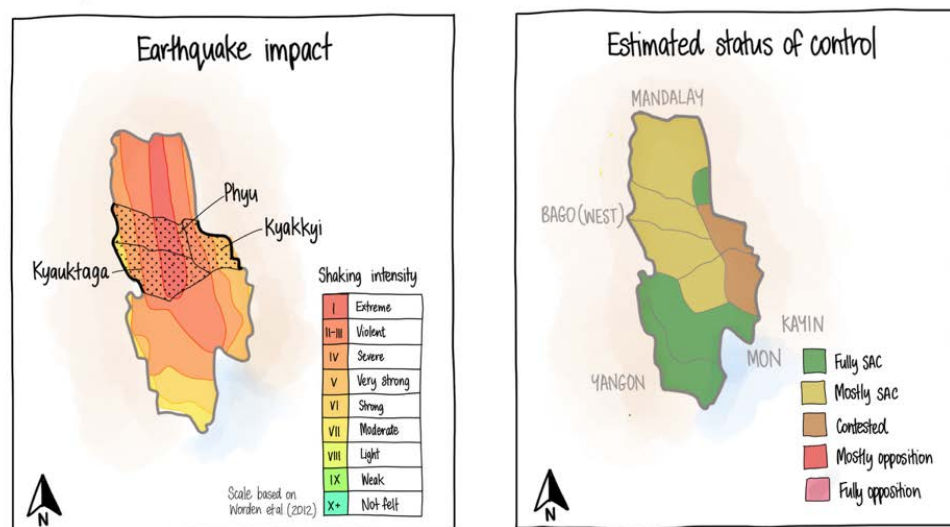
There may be even more significant unknown unknowns, forcing analysts and decision makers to constantly consider people groups, locations, sectors, and needs missing from initial analysis.

Data differences between the post-earthquake MIRA and consultations with community responders in some areas highlights how situations can differ even within townships as well as change rapidly.

HUMANITARIAN CONDITIONS AND NEEDS PER REGION

Bago (East) (Kyaukkyi, Kyauktaga, and Phyu)

Map 2. Townships covered by this analysis and earthquake intensity (MMI scale) and controlled areas in Bago (East)



Source: USGS (accessed 06/06/2025), COAR (accessed 01/08/2025).

Note: all hand drawn maps are indicative.

While the 2025 earthquake in Bago (East) heightened needs by damaging livelihoods, water supply, and shelter, earthquake damage accounts for a smaller share of unmet needs than the conflict and recurrent flooding. According to a June rapid assessment, approximately nine million people were affected by the earthquake, including approximately 2.8 million who were already food insecure prior to the hazard (FAO/WFP 23/06/2025). Conflict and political instability had displaced over 3.5 million people by mid-2025, while flood events in 2024 alone destroyed more than 26,000 houses and disrupted farming and markets across multiple regions (WB 12/06/2025). The application of the 'four cuts' strategy, aimed at severing the resistance's access to food, funds, intelligence, and recruits, has included forced displacement, destruction of property, and restrictions on civilian movement resources (The Irrawaddy 11/03/2025 and 17/03/2025).

Monsoon flooding aggravated an already critical WASH situation, especially in rural townships in which villages and displacement sites lack proper latrine and drainage infrastructure (Health Cluster 30/06/2025). While assessments confirm widespread WASH breakdowns, including access to clean water, latrine functionality, and hygiene supply delivery, official data has not yet quantified exactly how many households or sites have been affected. In Kyaukkyi, floodwaters contaminated water sources and, although MIRA data suggests safe drinking water access, key informants reported widespread challenges, including cases of waterborne disease and skin rashes (IFRC 01/08/2025; Health Cluster 31/07/2025; KII 08/08/2025; MIRA 2025). Health service availability is inconsistent at the district level. While facilities remain functional in some areas, including Kyauktaga and Phyu, significant gaps are reported in others, such as parts of Kyaukkyi. Unmet needs include maternal health services, chronic disease treatment, and emergency care, which humanitarian responders report difficulties in addressing (KII 25/07/2025; KII 08/08/2025). Conflict-related displacement has also restricted access to healthcare for some (KII 25/07/2025). Mobile health teams and community volunteers have become the primary providers of humanitarian healthcare in townships such as Kyaukkyi, although access restrictions, movement limits, and government scrutiny severely constrain their ability to deliver consistent coverage (Health Cluster 30/06/2025).

Mobile health teams have become a lifeline, but they remain reactive, fragmented, and vulnerable to political interference, only working as a stop-gap measure. If these collapse, whole communities will be without essential healthcare.

Conflict, displacement, and landmine contamination have severely restricted access to farmland, markets, and roads in Bago, especially in Kyaukkyi and Kyauktaga, as well as drive high protection needs, as forced recruitment and GBV are central to how insecurity is reshaping civilian life (OCHA 13/12/2024; Protection Cluster 20/02/2025). In Kyauktaga and Phyu, respondents reported functional services and greater perceived safety, but no formal MHPSS services were reported in Kyaukkyi township and only half of respondents to the MIRA study described their township as 'mostly safe' (KII 08/08/2025; MIRA 2025).

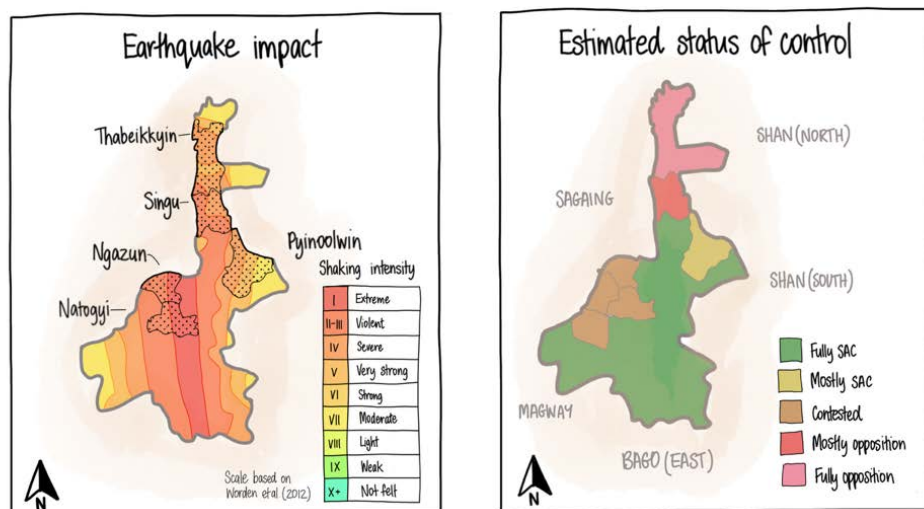
Even before the earthquake, food insecurity was widespread in Bago (East), particularly among landless labourers and informal workers, as their lack of access to land and dependence on low-wage, seasonal work makes them highly vulnerable to income disruptions, despite the fact that Bago (East) is a key agricultural hub (WFP 09/04/2024; IFPRI 06/2025). The earthquake aggravated vulnerabilities to food insecurity: by June 2025, at least 20,000 people affected by the earthquake were in need of food assistance in Kyaukkyi, Kyauktaga, and Phyu townships, but none had received any assistance (Food Security Cluster 30/06/2025). According to MIRA data, only half of respondents reported feeling food secure in Kyaukkyi, while Kyauktaga and Phyu reported full food security. Although some food assistance reached Kyaukkyi in July, rural villages remained critically underserved as a result of conflict-related access constraints (KII 25/07/2025; Food Security Cluster 30/06/2025; MIRA 2025).

Dependence on wage labour and agriculture means households face both reduced income opportunities and diminished food production capacity. Earthquake shocks also further disrupted markets, reduced food supply, and drove inflation, eroding purchasing power (MIMU 21/04/2024). In Kyaukkyi, many households have resorted to borrowing or begging for food (KII 08/08/2025).

Mandalay (Natogyi, Ngazun, Pyinoolwin, Singu, and Thabeikkyin)

Escalating conflict triggering displacement before the earthquake

Map 3. Townships covered by this analysis and earthquake intensity (MMI scale) and controlled areas in Mandalay region



Source: USGS (accessed 06/06/2025), COAR (accessed 01/08/2025).

Note: all hand drawn maps are indicative.

Mandalay region, in central Myanmar, is one of the country's most populous areas, with more than six million people and Mandalay city as the second largest urban centre. High urban concentration in Mandalay city allows relatively better access to markets, services, and humanitarian delivery, even during periods of insecurity. By contrast, rural and peripheral townships with lower population density face sharper exclusion, as dispersed settlements, conflict-related roadblocks, and higher transport costs make aid delivery far more challenging (Shahzada et al. 20/05/2025).

Over the nine months prior to the earthquake, conflict had escalated in Mandalay, with fighting spreading across multiple townships, including those affected by the earthquake (e.g. Madaya, Mogoke, Myingyan, Natogyi, Ngazun, Patheingyi, Pyinoolwin, Singu, Taungtha, and Thabeikkyin), triggering widespread displacement (OCHA 16/08/2024 and 13/12/2024; IISS 10/2024). Both conflict and the earthquake have destroyed homes and driven cycles of re-displacement on already displaced populations. The 2024 monsoon and Typhoon Yagi destroyed more than 26,000 houses and damaged or destroyed nearly 10,000 WASH facilities. These earlier shocks had already eroded household resilience and strained essential services, leaving many families in temporary shelters or reliant on inadequate water and sanitation systems. As a result, when the 2025 earthquake struck, communities were facing heightened baseline needs, with recovery still incomplete and coping capacities already depleted (OCHA 13/12/2024, 16/09/2024, and 20/09/2024).

Before the earthquake, an estimated 93,200 people in Mandalay were already displaced and 69% of households were classified as income-poor. This poverty rate, however, masks sharp disparities. While rural households in contested areas faced more severe livelihood fragility and limited market access, urban households in Mandalay were somewhat better connected, although still vulnerable to price shocks and job losses linked to conflict. At the same time, widespread medicine shortages persisted, with healthcare facilities and workers increasingly targeted by the MAF (IFPRI 06/2025 and 11/2024). These attacks were concentrated in rural and peri-urban contested areas, where facilities were destroyed or staff intimidated, but even Mandalay city experienced service disruptions resulting from staff flight and reduced supply chains (IFPRI 06/2025 and 11/2024; Insecurity Insight 03/2025). Despite Mandalay's diversified economy, which provides greater resilience compared to more agriculture-dependent regions such as Sagaing or Shan, signs of vulnerability were already evident by late 2024. Traders and those linked to urban markets were somewhat buffered, while farming households and casual labourers remained highly exposed to shocks (IFPRI 05/2025 and 07/2025).

Shelter and poverty-related needs were already high before the earthquake, driven by conflict-induced displacement, widespread flooding and monsoon damage in 2024, and sustained income losses. At the time, humanitarian programming prioritised immediate shelter repair and cash or food assistance, but coverage was uneven and heavily concentrated in more accessible areas. As a result, many conflict-affected and remote communities entered the 2025 earthquake response with significant unmet needs, shaping the persistence of gaps even after new assistance was mobilised.

Displacement and re-displacement, humanitarian needs, and limited humanitarian access

Data on the number of people displaced or re-displaced in Mandalay by the earthquake remains sparse, but satellite and rapid assessment data provides useful estimates. UNOSAT analysis covering about 2,100km² in Mandalay and Sagaing identified over 4,700 destroyed or damaged structures and nearly 4,400 potentially damaged structures (UNOSAT 10/04/2025). The SAC reported that over 17,600 houses were damaged in Mandalay alone by the earthquake, many of which are in and around Singu and Thabeikkyin townships (Myanmar Mission to UN 15/04/2025). Earthquake damage to shelter, health services, WASH infrastructure, and livelihoods has been compounded by continued conflict: homes continue to be destroyed (200 by arson in Ngazun in July 2025 alone, displacing at least 20,000 people), systematic arson tactics have continued across the state since 2022, and reconstruction in Singu and Thabeikkyin continues to be hampered by bombardment (MFP Facebook 06/07/2025 and 13/07/2025; KII 14/08/2025; Myaelatt Athan Facebook 05/07/2025; Mynamar Now 13/08/2025).

Earthquake damage to water points and latrines, compounded by seasonal flooding, has heightened public health risks. By July 2025, outbreaks of acute watery diarrhoea and suspected cholera were recorded in Thabeikkyin township, with health workers also reporting rising cases of skin infections and dengue linked to poor drainage and stagnant water. Access to safe drinking water remained below the national average of 74%, and while MIRA data in Ngazun reported full access to safe water, displaced groups reported shortages, revealing a gap between formal assessments and lived experiences, highlighting the need for triangulation at the local level (MFP Facebook 08/07/2025; MIMU accessed 07/08/2025).

Mandalay, one of Myanmar's key agricultural hubs, now faces some of the country's most acute food insecurity following extensive damage to farmland and markets. By August 2025, Ngazun had recorded severe food shortages and no formal food assistance, households in Singu reported steep price increases for staple goods, and IDPs in Thabeikkyin faced acute shortages. Given Mandalay's central role in rice, sesame, and pulse production, alongside its function as a transport corridor, reduced output and disrupted markets here risk driving food prices both locally and across neighbouring regions, such as Sagaing and Magway (KII 14/08/2025; KII 15/08/2025; MFP Facebook 08/07/2025). By August, food assistance coverage had dropped below 50%, driven largely by access blockages (Food Security Cluster 04/06/2025; KII 14/08/2025; BNI 10/04/2025).

In conflict-affected areas of Mandalay, deliberate restrictions and network blackouts are frequently imposed during military operations, disrupting both humanitarian coordination and households' ability to maintain contact with family members (OCHA 14/08/2025; KII 14/08/2025).

While some humanitarian access is possible, it remains heavily restricted in many areas. Consultations with community organisations noted that the absence of systematic international humanitarian assistance has created a significant protection vacuum, leaving the population exposed to violence, exploitation, arbitrary taxation, and severe gaps in access to food, healthcare, and safe shelter. Artillery fire and extortion have taken place at checkpoints in Singu and Natogyi townships. In Thabeikkyin township, community networks have attempted to fill gaps as a stop-gap measure, while in Natogyi township, some assistance has been coming from neighbouring areas. In Pyinoolwin, market operation hours have been the lowest across the state, primarily because of insecurity (MFP Facebook 08/07/2025 and 15/07/2025; MIMU 24/07/2025; KII 14/08/2025).

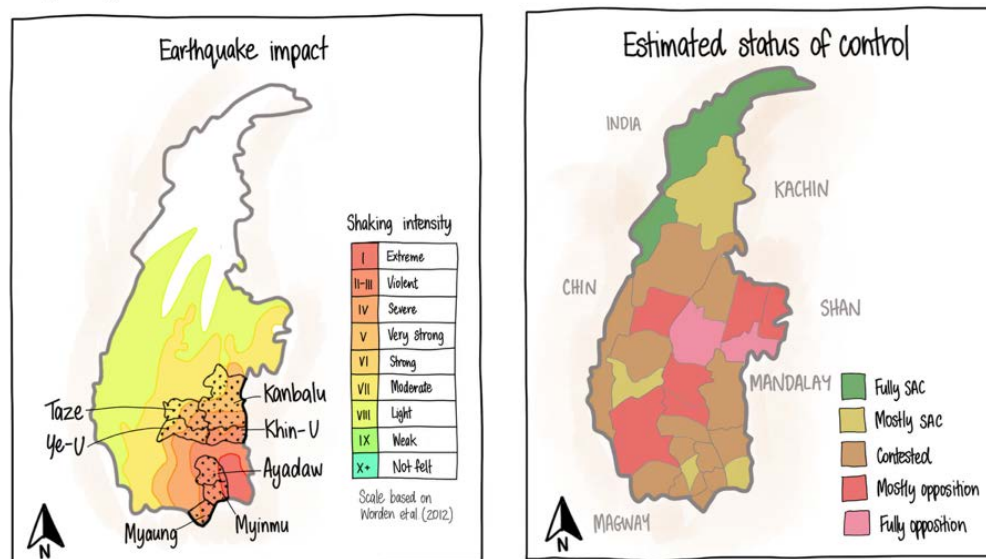
Agricultural losses from the earthquake and conflict have raised serious food security concerns in Mandalay, with impacts extending to regions dependent on its produce. Rice paddies were damaged by irrigation system failures, while pulse and sesame fields, critical cash crops for both household income and export, suffered widespread disruption. Fruit orchards and betel nut plantations also sustained losses. These shocks have reduced both subsistence food availability and household purchasing power. Severe access constraints also continue to block people's access to food and hinder humanitarian response, amplifying the risk of shortages and price volatility in markets beyond Mandalay.

Sagaing (Ayadaw, Kanbalu, Khin-U, Myaung, Myinmu, Taze, and Ye-U)

Severe pre-earthquake needs

Despite historically limited ethnic tensions, Sagaing region has emerged as a key battleground since the coup in February 2021, driven primarily by its role as a centre of resistance to military rule and reinforced by its strategic position along major transport routes (CIR 31/12/2024 and 20/02/2025). By December 2024, two-thirds of Sagaing's townships faced severe access constraints. Conflict-related factors, including continuing clashes and military operations, were the most immediate and volatile barriers. These were compounded by administrative restrictions, such as burdensome travel authorisations and heightened scrutiny at checkpoints, which systematically limited humanitarian mobility. Structural constraints, including damaged infrastructure and limited transport options in remote areas, also further restricted access (UNICEF 28/03/2025; OCHA 13/12/2024 and 19/02/2025; IFRC 08/01/2025).

Map 4. Townships covered by this analysis and earthquake intensity (MMI scale) and controlled areas in Sagaing region



Source: USGS (accessed 06/06/2025), COAR a(ccessed 01/08/2025).

Note: all hand drawn maps are indicative.

Since February 2021, the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) have destroyed civilian housing across the region, displacing 1.26 million by September (UNHCR 04/09/2025). Raids on IDP camps and earthquake-related shelter destruction have compounded displacement risks, with many families forced into forests or informal sites after losing their homes. In some cases, earthquake-damaged shelters pushed households into camps that were later raided, while in others, conflict-driven raids have left people unable to repair or rebuild earthquake-damaged housing (MFP Facebook 16/07/2025).

Aggravated needs post-earthquake, with minimal, fragmented humanitarian assistance

The earthquake aggravated already high levels of need, destroying one health facility and damaging several others, disrupting groundwater and water supply networks, and causing destruction to farmland, irrigation systems, and roads. Among these, health and WASH infrastructure suffered the most severe and immediate impacts, limiting affected communities' access to essential services. Damage to farmland and irrigation systems represents a longer-term risk to food security and livelihoods, but has so far received less prioritisation in the delivery of assistance (WHO 03/04/2025). In many cases, aid is blocked in transit by checkpoints, road closures, and active fighting, while in others, organisations do not even attempt delivery because of security risks and the lack of safe guarantees for staff or supplies. Although the surge in humanitarian response following the earthquake resulted in an uptick in assistance in some areas – in Ayadaw, for example, where some IDPs received assistance following the earthquake – access challenges continued to prevent aid delivery in many areas and needs remain acute (KII 12/08/2025). Supplies from Mandalay to Sagaing face confiscation at checkpoints, particularly in Myinmu, Natogyi, and Ngazun (MFP Facebook 08/07/2025; The Nation Voice Facebook 16/07/2025). Consultations with community organisations indicate that, despite efforts by humanitarian responders, coverage remains fragmented as a result of security constraints, with rural earthquake-affected villages receiving the least support. Access constraints mean there is also limited or no camp coordination and management services, heightening health and protection risks at unmanaged displacement sites. It is unclear how the displaced are coping without coordination and management services (KII 14/08/2025; KII 16/08/2025). Limited access entrenches disparities in aid delivery. Populations in contested rural townships, particularly those displaced into forests, mountains, or informal sites, are the most systematically excluded, as aid convoys are frequently blocked in transit and organisations often avoid attempting delivery because of security risks. Food needs are particularly critical in Ayadaw, Kanbalu, Khin-U, and Myinmu, where, by August 2025, limited assistance had reached fewer than half of the affected population. In these townships, households have adopted different coping strategies: in Kanbalu and Ayadaw, families report borrowing food or relying on informal credit networks; in Khin-U and Myinmu, many are reducing meal frequency or sending family members to migrate in search of income (KII 16/08/2025; Food Security Cluster 30/06/2025).

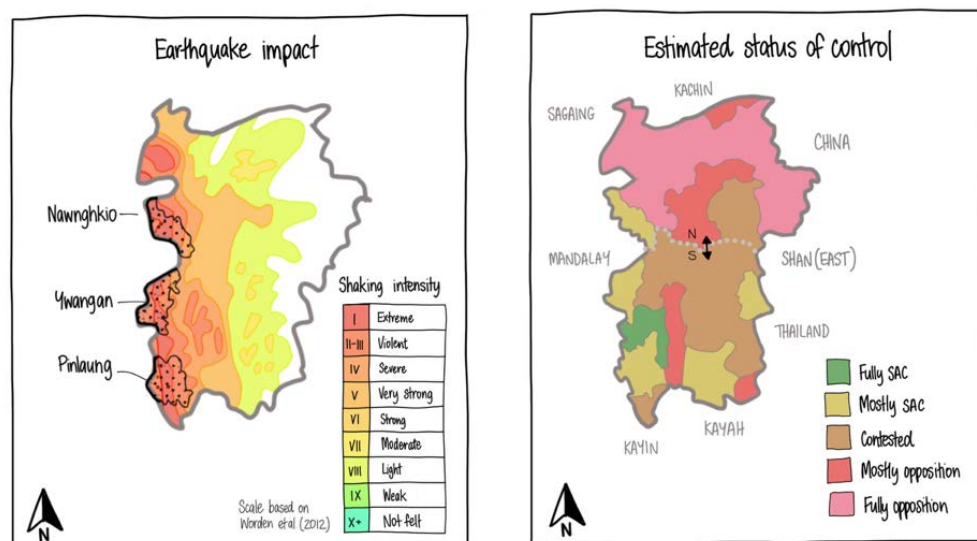
Agricultural disruption, coupled with blocked humanitarian access and persistently high food and NFI prices, suggest that food insecurity will persist beyond the short term.

Households also continue to face high prices, especially for NFIs, limiting access to healthcare and hygiene items, driving debt accumulation, and reducing food intake. By mid-2025, food and household goods had seen a year-on-year rise of 22% and 67% respectively, with the steepest increases in Monywa, Myaung, Shwebo, and Ye-U. The bulk of this inflation occurred at the end of 2024. Since then, price differences between townships have increased (MIMU 06/2025).

In Sagaing, particularly in Ngazun and Myinmu townships, internet and phone services remain highly unreliable, with only partial connectivity through the Starlink network, leaving displaced communities cut off from assistance information and early warning systems (KII 14/08/2025; BNI 25/04/2025).

Shan (North and South) (Nawngkhio, Pinlaung, and Ywangan)

Map 5. Townships covered by this analysis and earthquake intensity (MMI scale) and controlled areas in Shan (North and South)



Source: USGS accessed (06/06/2025, COAR (accessed 01/08/2025).

Note: all hand drawn maps are indicative.

Although Shan state was affected by the earthquake, it is the conflict and monsoon flooding that have caused the bulk of humanitarian needs and restricted both access to services and access for humanitarians. The strategic importance of Shan state as a key transit corridor, resource-rich area, and contested stronghold between armed groups has placed it at the epicentre of the conflict, making Shan a place of high humanitarian needs yet one of the most complex states for assistance delivery (ACLED 26/11/2024).

The combined impact of the conflict and earthquake caused NFI prices to surge across the state – including for hygiene products – by 81% year-on-year in late 2024. Pinlaung recorded the highest costs, which remained high, albeit relatively stable, in the first six months of 2025, driving shelter and NFI needs (MIMU 30/09/2024, 28/03/2025, and 24/07/2025). In Ywangan, below-average availability of supplies has been reported (UNHCR 25/03/2025; COAR 20/06/2023; MIMU 30/09/2024 and 24/07/2025; OCHA 27/06/2025).

Shan's health system is under severe strain and access to healthcare is highly unequal: conflict has forced private hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies to close, while the earthquake destroyed one health facility and damaged others (Insecurity Insight 11/06/2025; WHO 03/04/2025). Conflict and related displacement further restrict access to healthcare in Nawngkhio, with unmet health needs reported as security concerns curtail access, despite no direct medicine shortages being reported (Health Cluster 30/06/2025; MFP Facebook 16/07/2025). The healthcare system's dependence on fragile infrastructure underscores a deeper structural weakness.

In conflict-affected townships of southern Shan, deliberate restrictions and network blackouts are frequently imposed during military operations, disrupting both humanitarian coordination and households' ability to access services. Seasonal flooding further compounds connectivity gaps, with some rural areas in Shan experiencing seven to ten-day isolation periods when phone lines are down and road access is blocked (OCHA 14/08/2025; KII 14/08/2025). By end of June 2025, affected people in several townships, particularly Kalaw, Nyaungshwe, Pindaya, Pinlaung, and Ywangan, had received some assistance, although details of what they received were unclear because of monitoring challenges (OCHA 27/06/2025).

Access to improved water and sanitation facilities is severely limited in southern Shan: by mid-2025, only 55% of the population had access to improved drinking water and 64% to sanitation facilities compared to the national average of roughly 80% for drinking water and 76% for sanitation (MIMU accessed 07/08/2025). Monsoon flooding in 2025 compounded the situation, damaging latrines and drainage systems and leaving stagnant wastewater around affected communities (Health Cluster 30/06/2025; IFRC 01/08/2025). The situation differs from location to location, with MIRA respondents in some places, such as in Nawngkhio, reporting access to safe drinking water, while other locations, such as Ywangan, recorded shortages of hygiene products (MIRA 2025). Infrastructure damage, high costs of hygiene products, and unequal service coverage are amplifying the risk of disease outbreaks, particularly in flood-prone areas.

Earthquake damage to agriculture (both production and food storage facilities) aggravated already high food insecurity in Shan. Although Nawnghkio and Pinlaung were both targeted to receive food assistance as part of the earthquake response, none had been received by the end of June, likely as a result of access constraints. In Ywangan, over 34,000 people were in need of direct assistance as a result of the earthquake, but none had been targeted for response by June (Food Security Cluster 30/06/2025; BNI 27/05/2025). With southern Shan contributing significantly to national cereal and livestock production, accounting for over 50% of Myanmar's total maize production, earthquake damage poses long-term risks to food security both locally and nationally, including shortages and a rise in food prices (MALSE 26/01/2024).

Livelihoods have been strained by market disruptions and rising costs: in Pinlaung, retailers were slow to return, likely because of temporary disruption as a result of the conflict, constraining food supply, while transport costs spiked in Kalaw and Pinlaung (MIMU 24/07/2025). Households reported inflated prices and reduced market access.

Protection risks have also escalated. By December 2024, nearly 493,000 people in Shan required protection assistance (OCHA 13/12/2024). The earthquake compounded risks for women, children, and people with disabilities, as displacement increased exposure to violence, family separation, exploitation, and barriers to essential services. Despite rising mine incidents, no systematic demining or risk awareness efforts had begun by March 2025 (Shan News 26/03/2025). In the first quarter of 2025, Shan state accounted for 23% of all landmine casualties nationwide, the highest rate of any region. Farmers working in contaminated fields, displaced people moving through forested areas, and children playing near mined paths were disproportionately affected (UNICEF 15/07/2025). Civilians also continue to face forced conscription, village looting, and SAC offensives, with only 50% of MIRA respondents saying their township was 'mostly safe' (MFP Facebook 14/07/2025 and 16/07/2025).

Factors aggravating needs

The escalation of conflict since the earthquake has led to further displacement and civilian casualties, compounding the humanitarian impacts of earthquake damage and pre-existing displacement with no signs of de-escalation (ICG 18/07/2025; KII 14/08/2025). Continued mass displacement from arson and airstrikes, often targeting villages and civilian areas, has destroyed homes, disrupted livelihoods, and forced thousands into informal displacement sites. Unlike formal camps, which at least offer some structured services and oversight, these informal shelters are overcrowded, lack WASH infrastructure, and have minimal protection monitoring. As a result, residents face higher risks of morbidity from preventable diseases, increased mortality during health emergencies, and heightened exposure to GBV (Myaelatt Athan Facebook 13/07/2025; KII 08/08/2025). These incidents not only escalate immediate protection needs but also generate long-term risks across multiple

dimensions. Economically, families lose productive assets and are often driven into debt as they attempt to rebuild. Socially, repeated displacement fragments communities and leads to family separation, weakening traditional support systems. Psychologically, cycles of violence and upheaval contribute to trauma and drive demand for MHPSS, which remains largely unavailable. In Bago, Mandalay, and Shan, the continued risk of further airstrikes on areas where people live and have been displaced continues to increase insecurity, fear, and psychosocial distress among displaced populations (Myaelatt Athan Facebook 13/07/2025; UNFPA 11/08/2025). Repeated exposure to airstrikes and arson will weaken coping capacities, including the use of temporary palm huts as shelters, for those who face significant challenges evacuating quickly or accessing safety (The Irrawaddy 17/03/2023). Reports from women's organisations and key informants indicate that women and girls in overcrowded temporary shelters face heightened risks of domestic violence, sexual exploitation, and, in some cases, transactional sex linked to survival needs. Limited privacy, lack of safe WASH facilities, and economic stress have been cited as contributing factors. At the same time, men and boys are disproportionately exposed to forced recruitment by armed groups, often during raids on informal displacement sites (Protection Cluster 20/02/2025; OCHA 14/08/2025).

The rainy season (May–October) is also compounding humanitarian needs, particularly for displaced populations sheltering in forests and temporary makeshift sites, where exposure to heavy rainfall, poor drainage, and lack of adequate shelter materials significantly heightens health and safety risks (KII 14/08/2025; OCHA 14/08/2025). In Myanmar, flooding typically occurs in three seasonal waves, in June, August, and again from late September–October. While these patterns are relatively predictable, they have not been fully integrated into anticipatory planning. Floods in June and July already affected over 161,300 hectares of farmland in Bago (East), over 25,000 hectares in southern Shan, over 8,000 hectares in Mandalay, and over 3,800 hectares in Sagaing, with projections indicating continued flooding into September and October (UN News 31/07/2025; ECHO 10/06/2025; Agenzia Fides 02/06/2025; WFP 04/08/2025). These floods have submerged thousands of hectares of farmland, destroyed standing crops, killed livestock, and eroded productive assets, resulting in substantial livelihood losses for households that had already lost planting opportunities as a result of the earthquake (FAO 11/04/2025; UNHCR 13/08/2025; OCHA 14/08/2025). The outcome of flood damage and disrupted agricultural cycles is likely to worsen food insecurity in the coming months, with many households facing reduced food availability, higher market dependence, and rising vulnerability to price shocks (FAO 04/2025; FSIN 16/05/2025).

The March 2025 earthquake in Myanmar may have destabilised buried landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in already contaminated conflict zones, significantly heightening protection risks (UNICEF 28/03/2025; OCHA 31/03/2025). Nationwide, landmine and ERW incidents claimed close to 1,100 civilian lives in 2024, with Shan state and Sagaing having the highest numbers of landmine casualties (UNICEF 06/08/2024). In the first three months of 2025, a total of 227 casualties were reported nationwide, representing 21% of the



total casualties reported in 2024 (UNICEF 07/2025; OCHA 13/12/2024). Displaced communities, often sheltering in makeshift or forested areas, are at elevated landmine risk and many are unfamiliar with the locations of mine-contaminated zones, as authorities have not permitted NGO or UN mine action responders to conduct surveys or risk education in certain high-risk areas (MAR 01/11/2024). Children account for 28–29% of landmine and ERW casualties across conflict-affected areas in Myanmar, a disproportionately high share that reflects multiple

overlapping vulnerabilities. Part of the risk stems from play and exploration behaviours, with children more likely to mistake mines or unexploded ordnance for toys. In rural areas, children are also frequently involved in resource gathering, such as collecting firewood, herding animals, or assisting with farming, which brings them into direct contact with contaminated land (Landmine and Cluster Munition Monitor 16/12/2024; UNICEF 06/08/2024).

ANNEX A. SUMMARY OF SELECTED TOWNSHIPS AND AVAILABLE INFORMATION

SELECTED TOWNSHIPS			EQ INTENSITY	DAMAGED BUILDINGS (FROM SATELLITE IMAGERY)	NUMBER OF ORGANISATIONS REPORTED TO BE WORKING BY SECTOR				
SATE OR REGION	DISTRICT	TOWNSHIP			FOOD	HEALTH	PROTECTION	SHELTER	WASH
Bago (East)	Taungoo	Kyaukkyi	7.0		2	1	3		
Bago (East)	Bago	Kyauktaga	6.5			4	3		1
Bago (East)	Taungoo	Phyu	7.0			5	2	1	1
Mandalay	Myingyan	Natogyi	7.5	0	1	1	1	1	1
Mandalay	Myingyan	Ngazun	7.0	1,104	1	1		1	1
Mandalay	Pyinoolwin	Pyinoolwin	7.0		1	4		1	1
Mandalay	Pyinoolwin	Singu	8.0	2,202		2			
Mandalay	Pyinoolwin	Thabeikkyin	8.0	117		1			
Sagaing	Monywa	Ayadaw	6.5	2,384	1	3	1	1	1
Sagaing	Kanbalu	Kanbalu	8.0		1	5		1	1
Sagaing	Shwebo	Khin-U	8.0	48	3		5	1	2
Sagaing	Sagaing	Myaung	6.0		1		3	1	1
Sagaing	Sagaing	Myinmu	6.5		2	4	1	1	1
Sagaing	Shwebo	Taze	6.5		1	2	1	1	1
Sagaing	Shwebo	Ye-U	6.5		4	5	6	3	1
Shan (North)	Kyaukme	Nawngkhio	7.0	371	1	2	6	1	2
Shan (South)	Pa-O self-administered zone	Pinlaung	7.5		1	3	6	1	2
Shan (South)	Danu self-administered zone	Ywangan	7.5			1	1		

Source: MIMU(30/03/2025); MIMU (accessed 09/09/2025)

ANNEX B. OVERVIEW OF AREAS COVERED BY THIS ANALYSIS

STATE/REGION	TOWNSHIP	CONTEXT
<p>Bago</p> <p>Total estimated population: 4.97 million, of which 2.93 million are in Bago (East) (HDX accessed 09/07/2025).</p> <p>Number of townships: 28.</p> <p>Main ethnic groups: Bamar 89.9% Karen 4.6% Shan 0.9% (International IDEA 22/11/2022).</p> <p>Conflict situation Armed resistance in Bago began roughly a year after the coup, with the formation of the PDF operating alongside other groups. Compared to Sagaing and Shan, Bago has seen fewer large-scale battles, with EAOs relying primarily on guerrilla tactics and targeting smaller MAF units. In response, the MAF has carried out arson attacks in Pyay and Tharrawaddy districts, but these operations have not succeeded in disrupting EAO access to food, funding, intelligence, or recruits, the key objectives of the military's 'four cuts' strategy (The Irrawaddy 11/03/2025; ACAPS 22/04/2025).</p> <p>Other key features Landmine contamination, particularly in the southeast, continues to cause deaths and severe injuries. The region is also highly flood-prone and was heavily affected by the September–October 2024 floods (MIMU accessed 09/09/2025). Bago (East) is a key agricultural region (Theik 2018; IFPRI 07/2023).</p>	<p>Phyu</p> <p>Pop. 252,855</p>	<p>Conflict impact (pre-earthquake):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recurrent SAC-EAO incidents targeted damage to houses and schools periodic displacement to safer nearby towns. <p>Since the earthquake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> no direct earthquake-specific needs reported by community responders in consultations conflict is the primary driver of need health facilities reported functional markets generally have stock formal MHPSS assistance is available <p>population reported feeling 'mostly safe' compared to other townships in the state, although insecurity spikes with SAC/EAO operations have been reported.</p>
	<p>Kyauktaga</p> <p>Pop. 113,715</p>	<p>Conflict impact (pre-earthquake):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> high-tempo insecurity (three–four incidents/month) strikes on schools and ethnic buildings displacement services still functioning in core areas. <p>Since the earthquake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> food and WASH broadly adequate per MIRA formal MHPSS present <p>most respondents described the township as 'mostly safe', but conflict remains the primary risk factor, particularly given instability in adjacent townships.</p>
	<p>Kyaukkyi</p> <p>Pop. 113,715</p>	<p>Conflict impact (pre-earthquake):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> monthly clashes between EAOs and the MAF landmine contamination protracted displacement. <p>Since the earthquake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> damage to ground water systems affecting WASH waterborne diseases reported rural villages remain underserved.



STATE/REGION	TOWNSHIP	CONTEXT
Mandalay Total estimated population: 6.74 million (HDX accessed 09/07/2025). Number of townships: 28. Ethnic composition: Bamar 95.8% Shan 1.0% Kachin 0.9% (International IDEA 22/11/2022). Conflict situation Mandalay has seen intense fighting, particularly in townships bordering Sagaing and Shan states. The conflict has worsened fragile protection conditions and led to mass displacement. The MAF maintains control over key urban centres, including the city of Mandalay itself. Resistance groups are active in rural and outlying areas, and there is a significant presence of community networks filling gaps left by restricted humanitarian access (Insecurity Insight 03/2025; RFA 28/06/2024). Other key features Mandalay is a hub for trade and transportation, with a wide range of products including handicrafts, textiles, and food products (Kim 02/2018).	Natogyi Pop. 195,984	Conflict impact (pre-earthquake): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • airstrikes and checkpoint closures • critical medicine shortages with preventable deaths among older people • repeated displacement. Since the earthquake: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • needs increased overall, but assistance decreased because of access constraints • agriculture disrupted by both conflict and prior earthquake-related land/field damage.
	Ngazun Pop. 137,614	Conflict impact (pre-earthquake): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arson and airstrikes are common • long-term displacement into forest areas. Since the earthquake: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food and WASH needs reported • medicines must be sourced from neighbouring townships amid checkpoint blockages • assistance has not increased.
	Pyinoolwin Pop. 277,011	Conflict impact (pre-earthquake): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • heightened insecurity • shortened market hours • sporadic clashes between EAOs, the PDF, and the MAF affect peri-urban/rural belts. Since the earthquake: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • markets operate under time constraints • health needs reported.
	Singu Pop. 171,051	Conflict impact (pre-earthquake): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mass-casualty air/artillery incidents • repeated displacement. Since the earthquake: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • water infrastructure (tanks/wells) damaged • acute medicine shortages • over 50% of population in need • assistance has reduced.
	Thabeikkyin Pop. 175,714	Conflict impact (pre-earthquake): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • frontline fighting between EAOs and the MAF • shelling, looting, and arson attacks • large-scale displacement • preventable deaths from untreated illnesses. Since the earthquake: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • needs remain overwhelmingly conflict-driven (food, health, protection) • little evidence of scaled external assistance reaching IDPs.



STATE/REGION	TOWNSHIP	CONTEXT
<p>Sagaing</p> <p>Total estimated population: 5.72 million (HDX accessed 09/07/2025).</p> <p>Number of townships: 37.</p> <p>Main ethnic groups: Bamar 87.5% Shan 4.8% Chin 4% Naga 2.6% Other ethnicities 1.1% (International IDEA 22/11/2022).</p> <p>Conflict situation Sagaing has been a major front in the conflict since 2021, with intense fighting between the MAF and PDF. The region has experienced a high number of conflict incidents, including massacres, aerial bombings, and the use of scorched earth tactics (Insecurity Insight 03/2025). The military has lost control of large parts of the region and resistance forces have captured key towns, such as Kawlin and Pinlebu (ACLEL 12/12/2024).</p> <p>Other key features The region is a significant agricultural area, particularly for rice and wheat. It is also a key transport hub as a result of the Irrawaddy River and the Mandalay-Myitkyina Railroad (COAR 01/11/2023).</p>	<p>Ayadaw</p> <p>Pop. 169,050</p>	<p>Conflict impact (pre-earthquake):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> widespread arson across the state displacement destruction of farms, schools, and clinics repeated movement restrictions and checkpoints. <p>Since the earthquake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> humanitarian needs are driven by both conflict and the earthquake, though conflict-related impacts are assessed as more severe and protection concerns are predominantly linked to conflict damage to wells/groundwater and agricultural losses immediately after the planting season many people report having multiple humanitarian needs assistance has not increased since the earthquake and water access is especially constrained in parts of townships.
	<p>Kanbalu</p> <p>Pop. 315,392</p>	<p>Conflict impact (pre-earthquake):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> frequent raids, arson, targeted killings/sexual violence by the MAF large-scale displacement and IDP camp raids by the MAF. <p>Since the earthquake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> needs overwhelmingly conflict driven repeated attacks on IDP sites high protection risks with little formal assistance reaching affected villages.
	<p>Khin-U</p> <p>Pop. 157,919</p>	<p>Conflict impact (pre-earthquake):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> prolonged displacement destruction of civilian infrastructure market and farm disruption medicine shortages because of access constraints. <p>Since the earthquake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> conflict remains the primary driver of needs damage to water systems markets volatile and agriculture inputs scarce because of access constraints.
	<p>Myaung</p> <p>Pop. 116,459</p>	<p>Conflict impact (pre-earthquake):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> persistent clashes and road closures restricting markets/resupply sharp rises in food and NFI prices markets open for shorter hours. <p>Since the earthquake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continued insecurity suppresses market supply (fuel, food, NFIs, shelter) high prices of goods compound unmet basic needs.

STATE/REGION	TOWNSHIP	CONTEXT
Sagaing continued....	Myinmu Pop. 116,936	Conflict impact (pre-earthquake): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recurrent displacement • access constraints. Since the earthquake: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • displacement-driven needs • formal assistance not reported • market impacts from transport challenges and insecurity.
	Taze Pop. 178,125	Conflict impact (pre-earthquake): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • heavy air/artillery strikes. Since the earthquake: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • continued attacks on displacement sites • acute protection risks.
	Ye-U Pop. 128,066	Conflict impact (pre-earthquake): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presence of non-state armed groups • targeted killings • community fear restricting movement and livelihoods. Since the earthquake: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • medical evacuation constraints • markets show elevated prices but are operational • protection environment remains volatile.

STATE/REGION	TOWNSHIP	CONTEXT
<p>Shan</p> <p>Shan is the largest state in Myanmar and is divided into three subregions.</p> <p>Total estimated populations: Shan (North) – 2.9 million people Shan (South) – 2.79 million people Shan (East) – 1.05 million people (International IDEA 22/11/2022).</p> <p>Number of townships: 51 in total, 21 in Shan (South), 20 in Shan (North), and 10 in Shan (East).</p> <p>Ethnic composition: the Shan are the largest minority group in Myanmar, making up nearly one-tenth of the nation's total population. Their language belongs to the Tai linguistic group. Other ethnic groups and minorities also reside in the state (HART 08/02/2021).</p> <p>Conflict situation Shan has been a major conflict hotspot, particularly since Operation 1027 was launched in October 2023. The conflict has led to significant displacement, access restrictions for humanitarian aid, and disruptions to trade. Landmine incidents are among the highest in the country (ACLED 26/11/2024). The situation is highly contested and changes frequently. In August 2024, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), part of the Three Brotherhood Alliance, captured Lashio, the largest town in northern Shan, as well as the headquarters of the SAC Northeastern Command. Other resistance forces and EAOs are also active in the region (HDFP 16/07/2025).</p> <p>Other key features Shan is a key hub for illicit drug production and trafficking, and the presence of entrenched criminal networks significantly undermines humanitarian access, contributing to insecurity, restrictions on movement, and elevated risks for humanitarian operations (ICG 08/01/2019; UNODC 2025).</p>	<p>Nawngkhio</p> <p>Pop. 174,639</p>	<p>Conflict impact (pre-earthquake):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forced conscription • displacement. <p>Since the earthquake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • food security concerns persist, although not severe • supply chains weak for food and NFIs • protection risks tied to forced conscription and active fighting.
	<p>Pinlaung</p> <p>Pop. 223,175</p>	<p>Conflict impact (pre-earthquake):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recurrent clashes and displacement • market isolation of upland villages • seasonal access constraints because of monsoon floods. <p>Since the earthquake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • earthquake-related displacement has sharply increased demand for shelter and NFIs, while rising overall market prices and frequent stockouts have further constrained household access to essential goods • recovery hampered by cost/availability barriers.
	<p>Ywangan</p> <p>Pop. 96,104</p>	<p>Conflict impact (pre-earthquake):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • insecurity affecting trade and movement • transport delays raising retail prices. <p>Since the earthquake:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • below-average availability of hygiene/shelter items • market frictions because security and transport constraints have reduced supply and affordability, including for soap • WASH gaps have been amplified by price shocks brought about by the conflict-induced disruption of supply chains.