

28 March 2025 Myanmar Earthquake Damage Update and Future Outlook

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Experiences in Myanmar

2005: Led a fact-finding mission jointly organized by UNISDR and UNESCO IOC to Yangon in June --- to develop a Regional Tsunami Warning System for Indian Ocean

2012: Organized the 39th session of the WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar from 5 to 9 March

2016: Myanmar Government (Department of Disaster Management) to agree with sharing disaster loss And damage data, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar 21 to 23 August

2018: Fujitsu and Myanmar Government, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar 15 to 16 March

My grandfather was a survivor from the 'Battle of Imphal' during the WWII (30,000 Japanese soldiers died and 40,000 injured or being seriously ill out of 100,000)

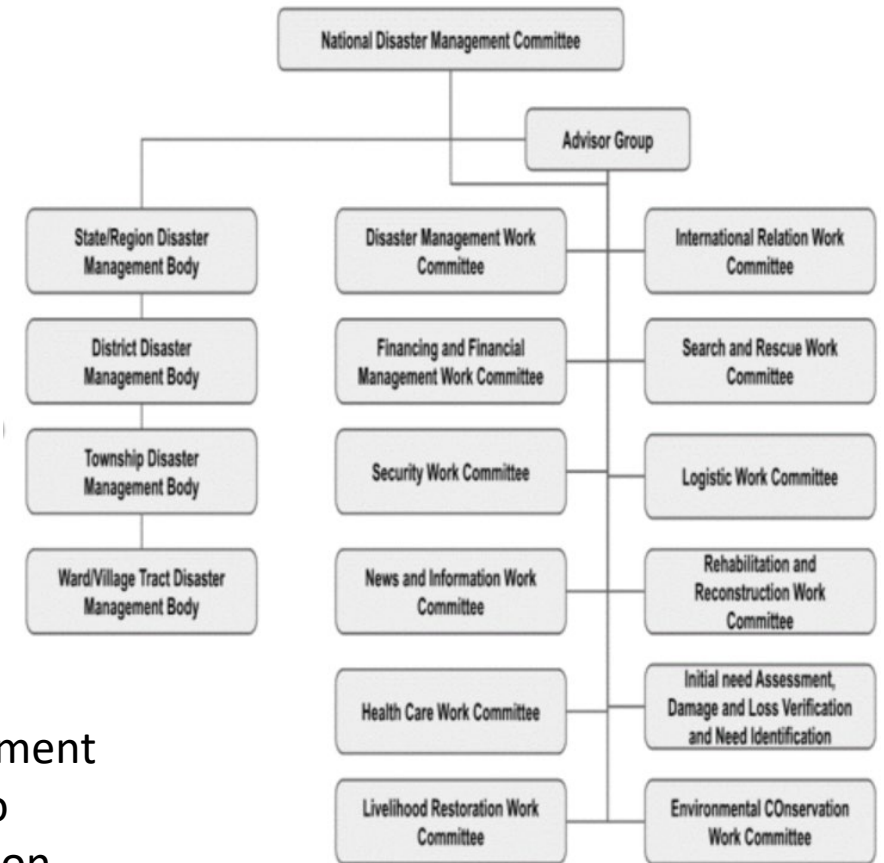
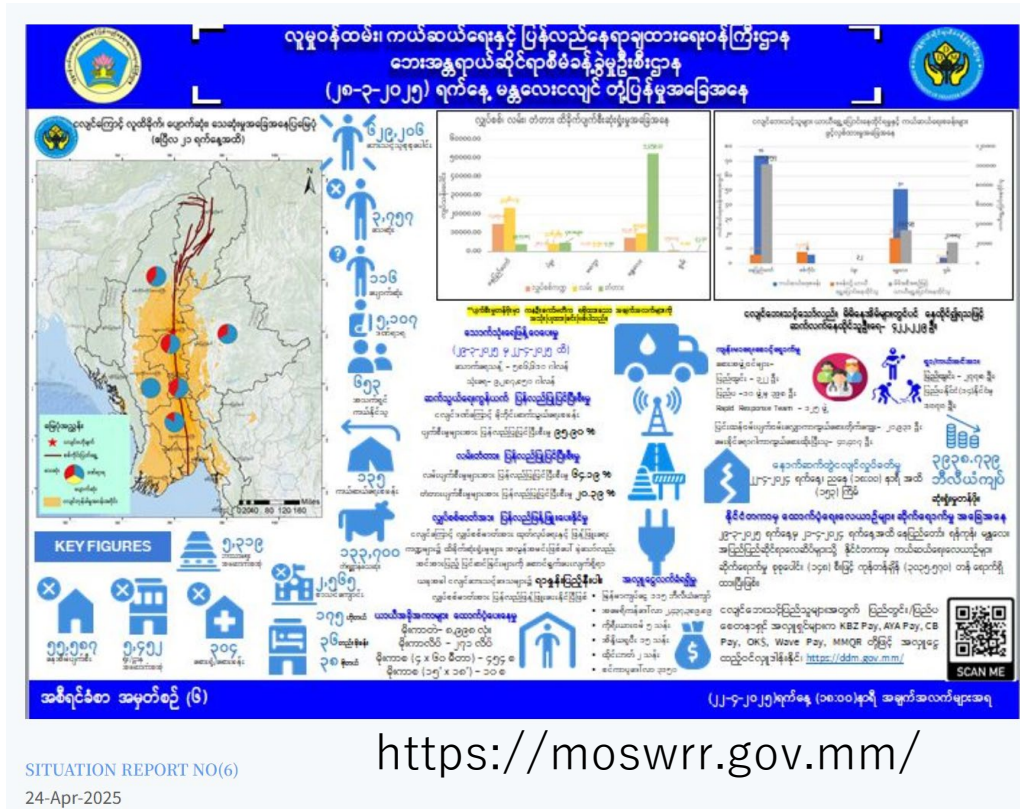
'Burma' was the first foreign country name I learned during my childhood!

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0. Government sector dealing with disaster risk reduction

The Department of Disaster Management (DDM), Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement



Source: ADRC

The [Disaster Management Law](#) was enacted in 2013 and the Disaster Management Rules was prescribed in 2015. The Law was developed to be in line with Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015) and to comply with the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER). The Law focuses on risk information, preparedness, awareness and early warning, and data management for early warning systems.

Myanmar Government Announcement on Earthquake Damage in Myanmar

1. Information on Loss and Damage by BBC

March 28, 12:50 p.m. (3:20 p.m. Japan Standard Time) Earthquake occurred

March 28, evening

Myanmar military leader Min Aung Hlaing made the first damage announcement

Deaths: 144, Injuries: 732 (numbers are rising)

Of the 144 deaths, 96 occurred in Nay Pyi Taw, 18 in Sagaing, and 30 in Mandalay.

(Reported by BBC at 11:40 PM)

March 29, 10:31 AM

- Myanmar's junta chief, Min Aung Hlaing, announced a request for international assistance “opened all ways for foreign aid”
- The US, EU, and ASEAN have pledged support, as has China

11:40 AM: BBC reports that Aung San Suu Kyi, detained in a prison in Naypyidaw, is safe.

March 29, 12:30

Deaths: 694 Injuries: 1,670

13:35 The BBC reports that the 694 deaths are from Mandalay alone.

13:51 The total number of deaths is 838 (694 deaths in Mandalay plus 96 in Nay Pyi Taw and 18 in Sagaing).

14:04 Government announcement: Total number of deaths: 1,002; Injured: 2,376; Missing: 30

14:30 1,002 deaths, 2,376 injured, 30 missing

18:50 1,591 houses damaged

22:45 Deaths: 1,644 Injured: 3,408 Missing: 139

March 30, 5:50 p.m. Deaths: approximately 1,700 Injuries: approximately 3,400 Missing: approximately 300

March 31, 8:45 p.m. Deaths: 2,056 Injuries: 3,900 Missing: approximately 270

April 2 The military council declared a 20-day ceasefire

2. Information from the 'Situation Update' by ASEAN AHA CENTRE

March 28

144 deaths and 732 injuries --- DDM Myanmar

March 31

1,659 deaths and 3,534 injuries and 284 missing ---DDM Myanmar

April 2

3,003 deaths and 4,514 injuries and 351 missing
15,114 houses totally damaged and 6,669 partially damaged

April 3

3,354 deaths and 4,508 injuries and 220 missing
4,992 houses totally damaged (total 41,232)
51,823 displaced and 14,346 in temporary shelter

Situation Update by ASEAN AHA CENTRE

April 6

3,514 deaths and 4,809 injuries and 210 missing
11,913 houses totally damaged and 35,141 partially damaged
69,117 displaced and 16,168 in temporary shelter

April 8

3,591 deaths and 4,814 injuries and 148 missing
12,516 houses totally damaged and 37,341 partially damaged
134,738 displaced and 34,610 in temporary shelter

April 10

3,603 deaths and 4,817 injuries and 141 missing
12,815 houses totally damaged and 37,913 partially damaged
197,173 displaced and 40,896 in temporary shelter

April 12

3,648 deaths and 4,817 injuries and 134 missing
12,886 houses totally damaged and 38,498 partially damaged
198,668 displaced and 42,118 in temporary shelter

Situation Update by ASEAN AHA CENTRE

April 14

3,655 deaths and 4,824 injuries and 129 missing
11,913 houses totally damaged and 35,141 partially damaged
198,623 displaced and 41,733 in temporary shelter

April 22

3,757 deaths and 5,107 injuries and 116 missing
12,441 houses totally damaged and 43,146 partially damaged
206,977 displaced and 41,733 in temporary shelter

Sum:

First 5 day deaths: 3003 (Total 3,003)

Second 5 day deaths: 511 (3,414)

Third 5 day deaths: 134 (3,648)

Fourth 5 day deaths: 52 (3,700)

Fifth 5 day deaths: 57 (3,757)

3. Information of Loss and Damage --- The case of Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar

May 2, 2008

Cyclone Nargis made a landfall in Myanmar, caused significant damage mainly due to storm surge

May 4: Over 240 deaths, later rising to over 350

May 5: 4,000 deaths, 3,000 missing

May 5 night: Over 10,000 deaths

May 6: 15,000 deaths, 30,000 missing

May 6, Second Report: Deaths: 22,500; Missing: 41,000

May 12: Deaths: 28,458; Missing: 33,416

May 12: Deaths: 31,938; Missing: 29,770

May 12, OCHA: Deaths: 63,290 to 101,682; Missing: 220,000

May 13: Deaths: 34,273; Missing: 27,836 Subsequent reports: Deaths: 43,318; Missing: 28,000

May 16 evening: Deaths: 77,738; Missing: 55,917

Source: National Institute of Informatics
Prof. Asanobu Kitamoto

Disaster Diplomacy

On May 23, 2008, a meeting was held between UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and military regime leader Than Shwe, and it was finally decided to accept humanitarian aid from all countries, not just friendly nations. The military regime has put forward a figure of \$10.7 billion for the damage caused by the cyclone (with \$11.7 billion for reconstruction costs?).

Additionally, the military regime announced that 5.5 million people were affected by the disaster, which significantly exceeds the United Nations' estimate of 2.4 million affected individuals. After previously downplaying the numbers, is the regime now inflating them?

4. Future outlook

Damage assessment in urban areas such as Mandalay and Naypyidaw is progressing more quickly

Damage in rural areas is reported later, so damage assessment will take time to fully understand the situations

Even now, it seems ceasefire is not the case for rural areas, hindering rescue operations and collecting data on loss and damage

It will take time for the internet and communication lines to become widely available

Electricity is not being supplied adequately

Hospitals have also been damaged. Hospital capacity is limited.

Even if patients are transported to hospitals, will they receive adequate treatment?

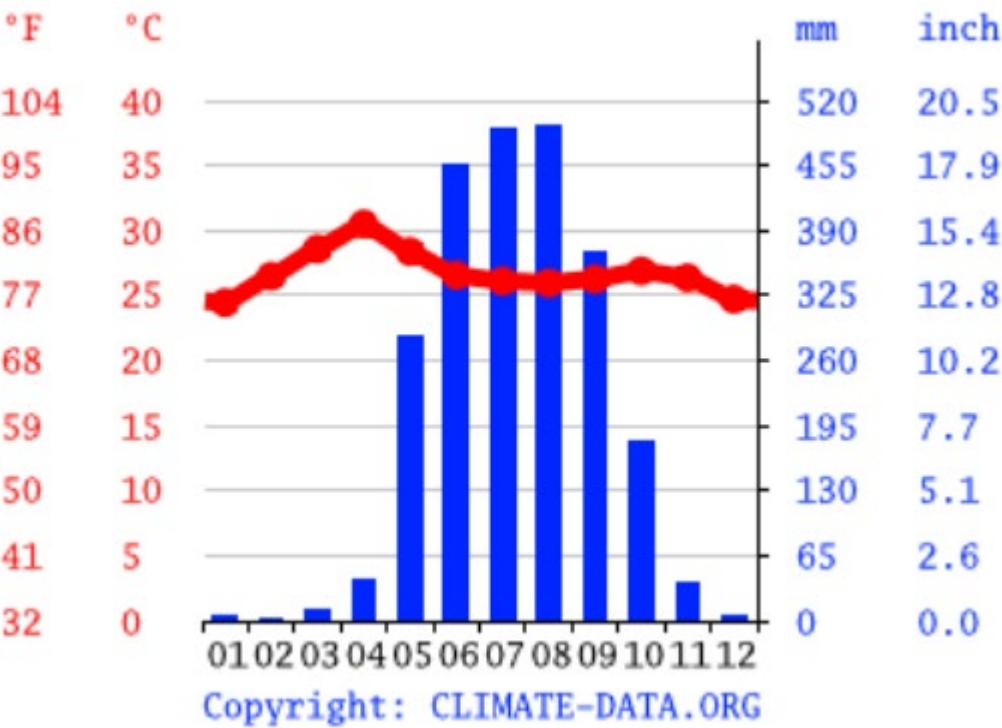
Myanmar is currently in its hottest season of the year, with harsh environmental conditions. In particular, inland areas like Mandalay and Naypyidaw are even hotter than Yangon, with temperatures reaching 40 degrees Celsius.

4. Future outlook

Pre-monsoon period now with high risk of severe local storms and some risk of tropical cyclones from Indian Ocean followed by rainy season

Earthquake hit areas + heavy precipitation = landslide, flooding,

High vulnerability (people living in temporal shelters, transportation and communication being interrupted, less access to power, safe water, sanitation, etc.) could cause health problems such as communicable diseases. in particular for infants, the elderly and disabled, etc.



5. Solutions

- Stop the conflicts now and accept foreign aid beyond friendly countries
- Phase shifting from life saving operation to recovery and reconstruction
- Increased earthquake risks for Yangon

6. What academia could do

Join hands with academia in Myanmar and conduct practical research in many fields

Let us think what we should do

We should do what others cannot do