



Joint Statement on the 28 March 2025 Earthquake in Myanmar

Background:

A 7.7-magnitude earthquake struck central Myanmar on 28 March 2025, followed by a series of strong aftershocks, resulting in widespread devastation across five geographical locations: Mandalay, Sagaing, Naypyitaw, Bago and southern part of Shan state. As of 4 May, official figures report 3,785 deaths, 5,105 injuries and 92 missing. .

Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) response

The Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) mobilised response teams, with staff and volunteers from the affected regions amongst the first responders, to provide assistance and relief efforts across the affected areas. These activities were further reinforced by technical teams from headquarters and volunteers from unaffected states and regions. Mobile clinics were deployed to address urgent medical needs, and crucial non-food items including blankets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, and tarpaulins were rapidly released from preparedness stocks, sourced locally using emergency procurement procedures, or airlifted from other countries, and are being distributed to support those impacted by earthquake. As of 4 May 2025, the MRCS had reached 154,763 people with life-saving assistance, including relief supplies, health services, safe water, emergency shelter, and psychosocial support.

The MRCS continues to scale up its response in coordination with local stakeholders and humanitarian partners to meet urgent needs in the hardest-hit areas. Its operational response strategy focuses on three pillars set on strong foundational elements: Pillar 1 is immediate response and relief; Pillar 2 is early recovery and recovery, and: Pillar 3 is National Society Development (NSD).

Movement support

Movement partners are supporting the MRCS, as per area of expertise and available capacities, with technical, financial, and in-kind support.

Building on its multi-year operational presence in the affected areas, the ICRC has scaled its existing activities to cover the needs of earthquake-affected persons primarily in conflict-affected area and those supporting them including the MRCS. The ICRC continues following conflict activity and calling for all stakeholders for compliance with International Humanitarian Law and the provision of a safe humanitarian space in and beyond the

earthquake affected area. The ICRC's operational response in support of the MRCS and in collaboration with Movement Partners will focus as per Pillars 1 and 2 *inter alia* on primary healthcare, water and medical infrastructure, relief assistance through distribution of essential and recovery items, livelihood and agricultural support; and Pillar 3 in a shared effort among Movement partners will support National Society Development including Safer Access

IFRC brings together its members, the national societies that partner with the MRCS, to align on the scale and strategic aspects – including objectives and directions – of the Federation-wide international earthquake response operation and coordinate with established inter-agency mechanisms. The IFRC promotes and ensures strategic alignment between national societies from the emergency phase through the establishment of early recovery, recovery, rehabilitation, resilience strengthening programmes and NSD. This entails support for the three MRCS response pillars: Pillar 1 in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); emergency health care; psychosocial support; shelter and household relief items; Pillar 2 in livelihoods; disaster risk reduction; WASH, community health care; psychosocial support; Pillar 3 in National Society Development that encompasses, *inter alia*, strategic and technical support and ensuring alignment of NSD actions such as branch development; capacity strengthening for volunteers and staff; and integration of protection, gender and inclusion and community engagement and accountability in a cross-cutting manner.

Movement coordination

The MRCS, ICRC, and IFRC held a Mini Summit on 29 March 2025, with a follow up Tripartite Platform on 31 March, to create shared understanding of the emergency response and to define how Movement components will work together in support of the MRCS response.

As the country's National Society and with the mandate to organise relief operations in its own country, the Myanmar Red Cross Society is the convener. MRCS maintains the central role in coordinating the earthquake response.

Given that violence and conflict are present in some locations in Myanmar and further based on its mandate for humanitarian work particularly in time of armed conflicts – to ensure the protection and assistance to people affected by these – the ICRC is the co-convener.

The IFRC, aligned with its mandate to assist National Societies in their disaster relief organization and operations, as well as to organize, coordinate and direct international relief actions, in this case related to a natural disaster, implements actions in support of the MRCS as convener.

Following initial operational discussions between Movement partners, MRCS organized the first official Operational Platform with all in-country Movement Partners on 28 April and subsequently planned the formalization of the Technical Platforms.

At least one **sub-national coordination mechanism** will be established. The first will be established at the MRCS field office in Mandalay. The ICRC will continue to provide support from its Mandalay sub-delegation. In support of the MRCS, the IFRC will formalize its presence within the MRCS field coordination office in Mandalay to augment sub-national coordination.

As co-convener and among others, the ICRC is defining, offering and supporting a security framework for all Movement components' activities, where feasible based on necessity and a joint analysis.

Operational response plan of the MRCS and its Movement Partners: The Way Forward

The MRCS One Response Plan for the earthquake focuses on **emergency relief and recovery phases, as well as NSD**, with the space and expectation that all Movement components' earthquake-related actions contribute to this plan. Planning for the recovery phase is underway in parallel with the ongoing delivery of emergency life-saving support.

Our Shared Commitment

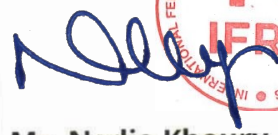
The MRCS, ICRC and IFRC are committed to use our collective capacities and specific expertise to engage in a coordinated response that addresses the evolving humanitarian needs of earthquake-affected populations in Mandalay, Sagaing, Naypyitaw, Bago and the southern part of Shan state.

In the interests of helping all people in need as identified, Movement partners are committed to strong and efficient collaboration and coordination. We will make all efforts to significantly scale up the humanitarian impact reach through and with the MRCS to continue saving lives, improve living conditions and strengthen the collective resilience of affected people, and ensure solid accountability towards the affected people.

As the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, we take this opportunity to express our sincere concern for, and solidarity with the earthquake-affected population. We encourage partners to contribute in consideration of the Myanmar context and to maintain **flexibility in allocation of financial contributions**, seeking unearmarked funding that enables an earthquake response until the recovery phase.

We thank all partners for their support,

For the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS)	For the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	For the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
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Place and Date: Signature   Prof. Dr. Myo Nyunt President 28 May 2025	Place and Date: Signature   Mirjam Lea Mueller (for) Mr. Arnaud de Baecque Head of Delegation 28 May 2025	Place and Date: Signature   Ms. Nadia Khoury Head of Delegation 28 May 2025
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