

Urgent aid needed for Myanmar Earthquake survivors

Jesuit Mission Australia is urgently appealing for support to help people affected by the devastating 7.7-magnitude earthquake that struck Myanmar on 28 March.

Partnering with Myanmar Emergency Response Church Initiative (MERCi), Jesuit Mission Australia is working with local Jesuit partners, the Archdiocese of Mandalay and local Church organisations to provide critical food, water, shelter, hygiene, sanitation and medical equipment, and psychosocial support to those most impacted by the earthquake.

The earthquake has claimed over 3,000 lives, with thousands more injured or missing. In some cities at least 80% of buildings and houses are totally destroyed. This disaster adds to the country's already fragile state, exacerbated by ongoing political violence, economic collapse, and recent floods, that have collectively displaced over 3.5 million people.

Access to clean water and electricity is limited in many regions, and infrastructure, including roads and bridges, has been severely damaged, making aid delivery difficult. Three hospitals have been crushed and people are being treated outside on the streets. Healthcare facilities are overwhelmed, and the risk of waterborne diseases is high.

"The situation is dire, and the suffering is unimaginable. The people of Myanmar have faced relentless challenges in recent years, and this disaster has only compounded their hardship."

"Yet, amid the darkness, your love shines through...With your continued solidarity—through prayers, awareness, and aid—we can bring light to these shadows," said a Jesuit on the ground.

Tragically, one of the young teachers from a Jesuit Mission-supported school in Yangon, the Campion Institute, lost her life as she was visiting Mandalay when the earthquake destroyed her accommodation. *"Let us hold the people of Myanmar in our hearts and prayers, that they may find strength, comfort, and hope in this darkest hour,"* said Helen Forde, CEO of Jesuit Mission Australia.

Jesuit Mission Australia is committed to uplifting the people of Myanmar in the wake of this devastating crisis. Please donate today:

- **\$47** could provide an emergency food and water kit for a family
- **\$126** could provide 5 families with hygiene kits, medical supplies and bedding
- **\$435** could provide 5 families with a shelter kit

To provide immediate relief to those displaced by the earthquake, donate to the Myanmar Earthquake Response now at <https://jesuitmission.org.au/donate-earthquake-myanmar/> or call 02 8918 4109.

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Caption: Some locals are doing their best to help find those who are missing, using just their hands and simple tools to clear away debris.



Caption: A religious community stands at the altar of their severely damaged Church.



Caption: "Our Sacred Heart Cathedral in Taungoo is in bad shape. Debris has fallen everywhere and religious statues toppled to the ground," said a Jesuit on the ground.

Supporting Links:

Myanmar Earthquake Response Donation Page <https://jesuitmission.org.au/donate-earthquake-myanmar/>

About Jesuit Mission Australia

Jesuit Mission Australia works in over 10 countries across Asia and Africa to uphold the innate dignity of people living with the effects of poverty, especially the most marginalised and vulnerable.

Funds from our supporters:

- Break cycles of poverty through teaching and education
- Protect the health of communities by providing medical care and programs that improve access to clean water and toilets
- Develop independent, sustainable communities through livelihood training and income-generating projects
- Provide vulnerable individuals with pastoral care, social inclusion and advocacy
- Support refugees in crisis
- Enable effective disaster response and relief.