Earthquake in Myanmar

HIGHLIGHTS

- A powerful 6.8 magnitude earthquake shook central Myanmar on 24 August 2016, killing at least four people and damaging famous pagodas in Bagan and other regions.

- The earthquake, with its epicenter about 12 miles west of Chauk and about 123 miles southwest of the Mandalay seismological observatory, was recorded at 5.04 pm, according to the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

- There are no confirmed casualties, one man and one woman were killed in Pakokku when a tobacco processing factory collapsed and two young girls at Yenanchaung were killed after a landslide and house collapsed.

- Currently, the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) has not been activated and the Union Government is closely monitoring the situation.

Situation Analysis

- Some buildings, including offices, schools, pagodas and houses, have been damaged in Naypyitaw, Mandalay and Magway regions. Parliament in Naypyitaw has registered minor damages.

- About 185 pagodas in Bagan were damaged by the earthquake. Localized power cuts have been experienced in historical city of Bagan and Nyaung-U.

- Houses have reportedly been destroyed in Pwint Phyu and one building has collapsed in downtown Magway. One pagoda in Kyauk Pan Daung and several more in Nyaung-Oo have also reportedly been damaged or collapsed. Another pagoda in Myauk U Township in Rakhine has also collapsed. In Yangon, the quake was also strongly felt, with no reports of damage to date. The quake was not felt in Kachin and Shan States.

Response

Government

- Relief and Resettlement Department and MoHS are still collecting information on the impact.

- The government is coordinating with the Myanmar Red Cross in emergency response.

- Evaluation of the damage is still being carried out by the government departments.
WHO

- The WHO has offered its support and is already working closely with the MoHS to support emergency response.

International Organizations and Local NGO

- Humanitarian organizations are monitoring the situation and on stand-by to support any assistance needed.

Urgent Needs

- The MoHS has not requested for any assistance from WHO.

Request to international community

- The government is not requesting any humanitarian assistance from the UN and international organizations.

Future Activities

- To continue monitoring the situation and stay stand-by for assistance in working with the MoHS.

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Sources of Information

Information from the following sources was taken as references. The information provided may not be accurate and could be changed accordingly. Not to be quoted without permission.

1. The Meteorology and Hydrology Department
2. Relief and Resettlement Department
3. Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS)
4. UNOCHA