

MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE APPEAL



DISASTERS
EMERGENCY
COMMITTEE

Progress update

April – September 2025



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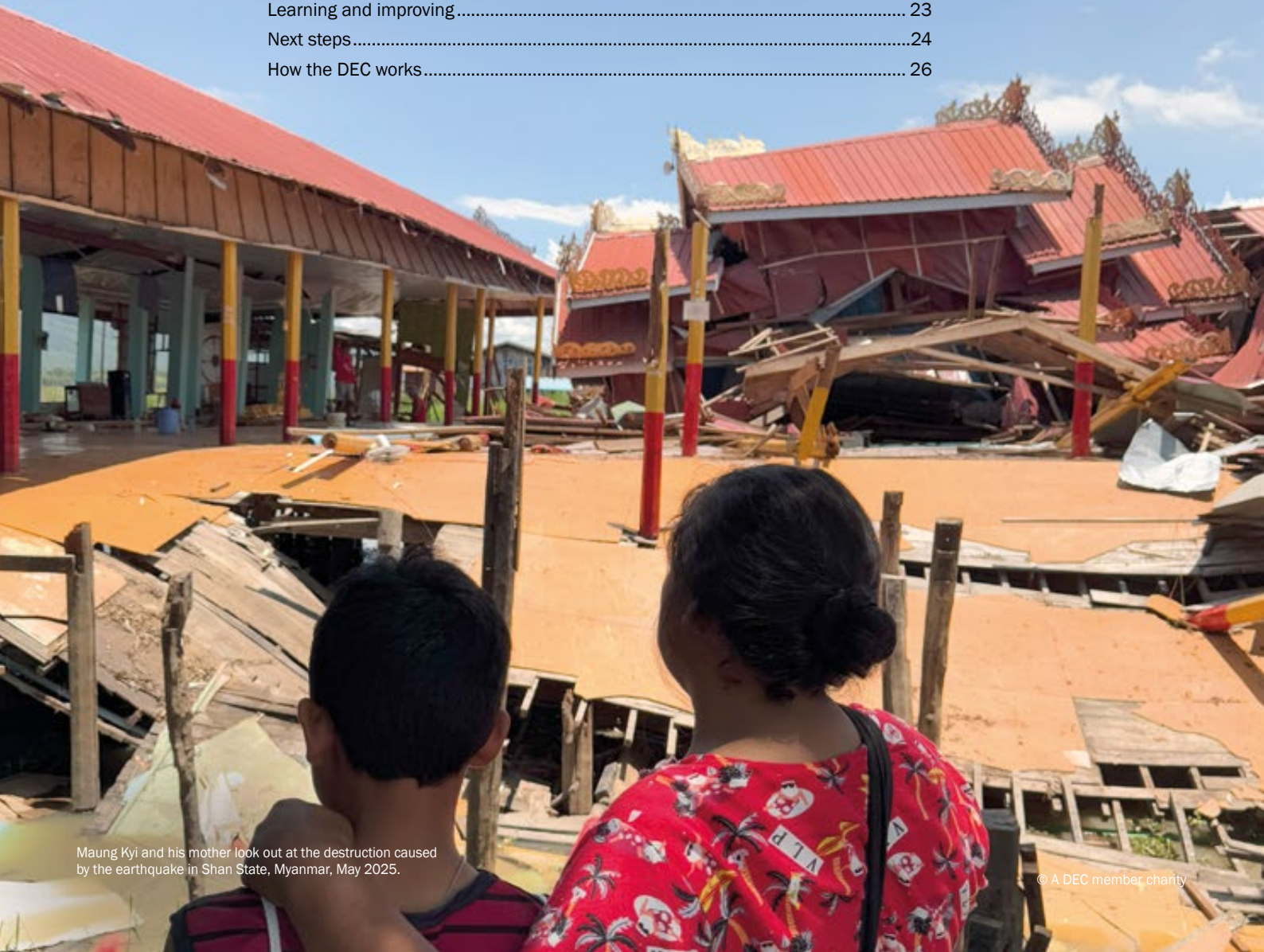
How donations are helping

Nan Ei (19) and her child Shwe Poe (7 months) in an earthquake-affected village community after receiving support from a mobile health clinic run by a DEC charity in the Mandalay region of Myanmar, May 2025.

Published February 2026

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Maung Kyi and his mother look out at the destruction caused by the earthquake in Shan State, Myanmar, May 2025.

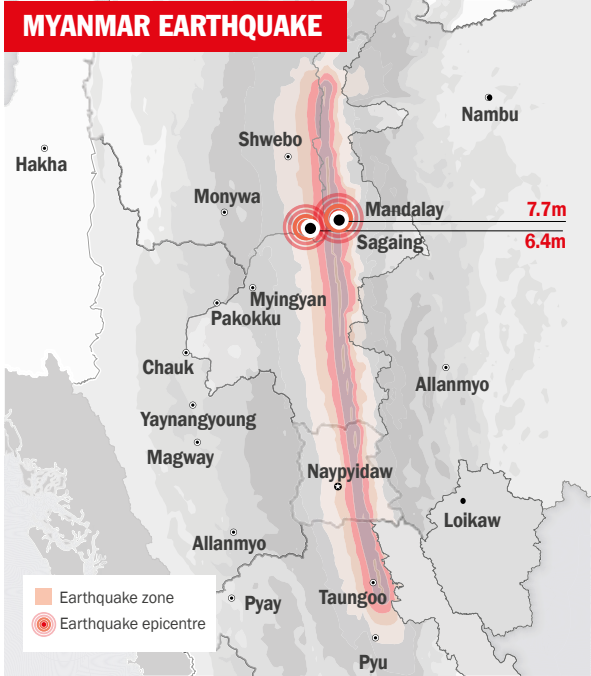
DEC MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

Six-month report: April – September 2025

On 28 March 2025, a powerful 7.7 magnitude earthquake hit central Myanmar, causing a significant loss of life, displacement and an estimated US \$10.97 billion of direct economic damage.¹ The area remained seismically active, with further aftershocks and tremors, including a 5.4 magnitude earthquake in July 2025.² Amidst an ongoing neglected humanitarian crisis due to armed conflict, recurrent disasters and economic collapse, humanitarian needs escalated further across earthquake affected areas. The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) launched a humanitarian appeal on 3 April 2025, as Myanmar’s authorities called for international assistance to respond to the devastating earthquake. This report details the progress of the first six months of the response, outlining DEC members’ collective programmes and progress from 3 April until 30 September 2025.

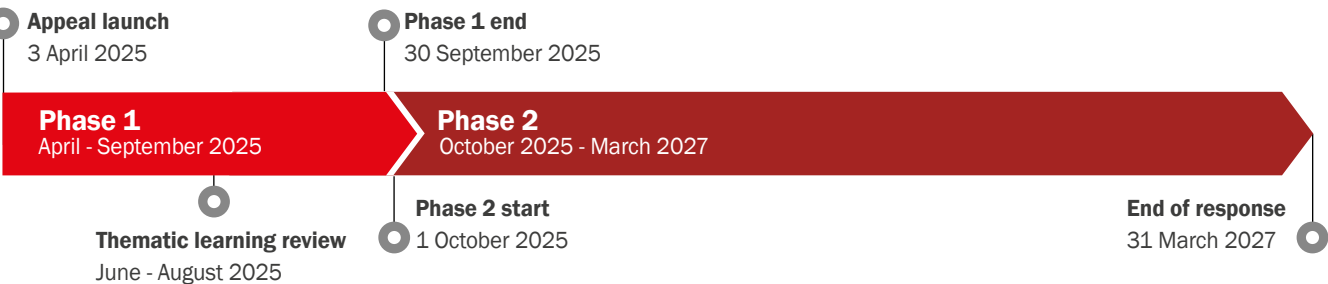
¹ Myanmar Economic Monitor, June 2025: Economic Aftershocks - Myanmar | ReliefWeb
² Overall Orange Earthquake alert in Myanmar on 18 Jul 2025 09:30 UTC

All names marked* in this document have been changed to protect identities.
Note: DEC charities and partner names have been omitted for safety & security concerns.



Members of a rural community wash clothes in front of the collapsed Ava Bridge in Sagaing following the earthquake in Myanmar, April 2025. © A DEC member charity

TIMELINE OF DEC MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE APPEAL



HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT AT APPEAL LAUNCH

The 28 March earthquake caused widespread destruction of homes, schools, infrastructure, and hospitals. DEC members responded from the day of the earthquake when a large-scale humanitarian response was launched. Immediate lifesaving food, water, shelter support and multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) supported communities and individuals in the early days, weeks, and months across the earthquake affected areas. DEC charities' readiness before the earthquake enabled a swift response thanks to emergency plans already in place and the mobilisation and deployment of response teams. Building on the lessons from Cyclone Mocha, that struck Myanmar in May 2023, and previous DEC responses such as the Turkey-Syria earthquake, members used contingency stock and quickly activated response mechanisms. This included leveraging

existing and new partnerships, to support aid delivery in open zones as well as in hard-to-access areas.

Since the appeal launch, humanitarian needs have remained high, as the earthquake damage and living conditions have been compounded by monsoon rains and flooding, as well as ongoing and escalating conflict. Air strikes continued following the earthquake, exacerbating the existing challenges for international, local, and national humanitarian actors trying to reach those affected. DEC members and their partners leveraged their operational agility, overcoming challenges of heavily restricted access and insecurity whilst ensuring the duty of care of staff, volunteers and communities.

Local residents attempt to clear rubble from the site of a destroyed building in Mandalay two days after the earthquake.





© A DEC member charity

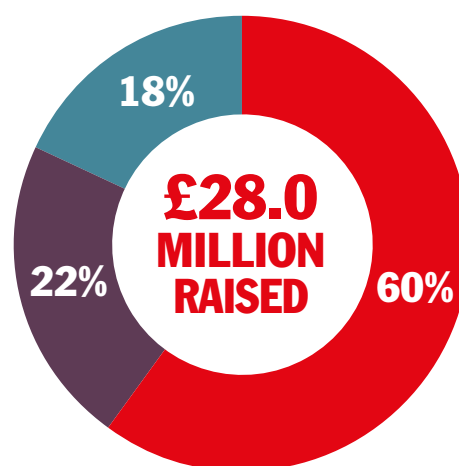
A DEC charity provided tarpaulin for tents, bamboo and ropes for the community to set up makeshift shelters in a football field in the Mandalay region.

TOTAL RAISED

The DEC Myanmar Earthquake Appeal has raised £28.0 million as of February 2026. Of this, £16.7 million was raised by the DEC, plus £5 million through the UK Government's Aid Match scheme. The remaining £6.3 million was raised by DEC member charities. Since the launch of the appeal, DEC member charities have been working directly and alongside local partners to utilise these funds through a needs-based approach.

INCOME BREAKDOWN

(3 April 2025 – 30 September 2025)



- £16.7m DEC direct donors
- £6.3m Member retained income
- £5m FCDO aid match

Data as of 02/02/2026



© A DEC member charity

An aid worker from a DEC charity sits with Daw, 98 in her ward in Myanmar, where they are providing food for the communal community kitchen, April 2025.

THE DEC FUNDED RESPONSE

DEC responses are split into two phases, Phase 1 and Phase 2 (see diagram below).



Phase 1 (first 6 months) funding is for immediate response activities and early recovery and reconstruction where appropriate.



Phase 2 (further 18 - 30 months) funding is for recovery and reconstruction or ongoing emergency relief, depending on the nature of the crisis.

Phase 1: Budget

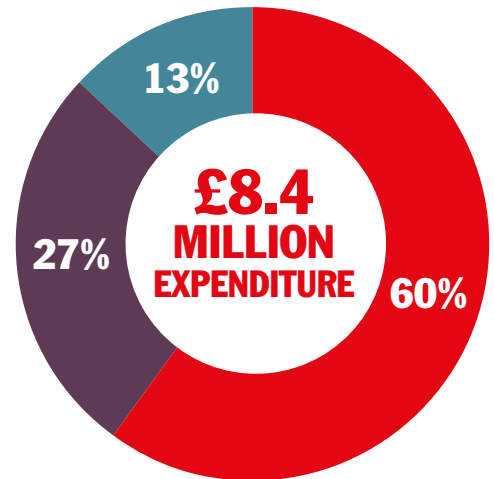
£8.5 million

Phase 1: Expenditure

£8.4 million

PHASE 1 EXPENDITURE

(3 April 2025 – 30 September 2025)



- Through local/national partners
- DEC members direct spending
- Through international/other partners*

(International or other partners include NGOs not based in the aid recipient country and carrying out operations in one or more aid recipient countries.)

Nurses work at a mobile health clinic run by a DEC member charity in the Mandalay region of Myanmar, April 2025.



PHASE 1 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Total 6-month reach: 533,000 people



159,900

people supported with cash or voucher assistance to meet their specific needs



153,800

people reached with improved access to drinking water by rehabilitating water points and water trucking



47,600

people provided with temporary shelter, such as tents, tarpaulins and shelter toolkits, as well as housing renovations and construction

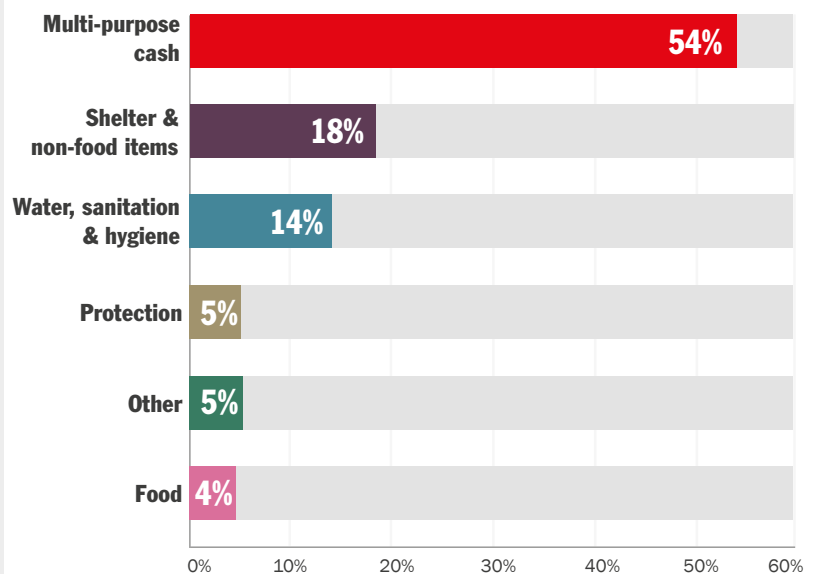


© Rita Khinn/Fairpicture/DEC

A doctor tends to a mother and her baby at a mobile health clinic in a rural village impacted by the earthquake, May 2025.

PHASE 1 EXPENDITURE BY SECTOR

(3 April 2025 - 30 September 2025)



46,800

people reached with food assistance in the form of food baskets, hot meals or vouchers for food



45,200

people benefited from improved access to primary healthcare, medical supplies, paediatric and nutrition support



43,100

people received mental health and psychosocial support or other protection services including child friendly spaces, wellbeing support and community awareness raising sessions



© A DEC member charity

U Win, 83, and his wife Daw Paung, 78, receive a hygiene and wash kit from a DEC charity partner organisation in Shan State, Myanmar.

Meeting immediate needs

In Phase 1 of the response, the priority items and services that DEC member charities provided across the earthquake affected areas were:

- Multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA), which provided cash payments or vouchers so that people could buy what they needed based on market supply
- Shelter support through emergency shelter kits, non-food items (NFI) such as mats, blankets, bamboo rope, plastic sheets and kitchenware sets, and the construction of earthquake proof eco-friendly shelters
- Gender responsive water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) products and services, such as access to clean drinking water through water trucking and rehabilitation and construction of communal water supply systems, latrines and bathing facilities
- Protection initiatives, primarily mental health and psychological support (MHPSS) such as wellbeing support, establishment of child friendly spaces and community awareness raising sessions
- Culturally appropriate food parcels containing vital items and cash for food, as well as hot meals provided for displaced communities in community kitchens
- Healthcare support through medicines, mobile health clinics, emergency health referral support, cash for health, and first aid kits.

How we report our spending

During an appeal, most donations come straight to the DEC while others go directly to member charities. The DEC only oversees and reports on the donations that come directly to the DEC, which for this appeal is £21.7 million. In the first six months, the DEC has allocated £17.2 million to member charities, which will be spent over two years. Further allocations will be released in the coming months, to be spent before the end of the programme response in March 2027. This report explains how member charities and their partners are using DEC funds to support communities in areas impacted by the earthquake.

In Phase 1, £8.4 million was spent. A small percentage of funds received by the DEC during appeals are used to cover direct fundraising costs associated with launching and reporting back on our appeals. The DEC's wider indirect costs associated with administration, salaries and operational overheads are part-funded by contributions from our member charities, with the remainder coming from a proportion of Gift Aid raised in appeals, legacy income, and private donors.³ These costs are crucial as they help the DEC to raise the money to fund its work, ensure that funds are spent well and make sure the charity runs efficiently and effectively.

³ <https://www.dec.org.uk/article/how-we-spend-and-allocate-your-money>

DEC HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

HOW WE HELPED: MULTI-PURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE (MPCA)

Multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) was the main way DEC charities and their partners supported people throughout the first six months. During Phase 1, multi-purpose cash supported more than 159,900 people in meeting their immediate essential needs by providing unrestricted financial assistance. A further 59,900 people were supported with various cash transfers to meet their direct shelter, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health, food, nutrition, education, protection and livelihoods needs.

Families supported with multi-purpose cash received 360,000 MMK per household, mostly via cash in envelope. This figure aligns with the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (MEB) established by the Cash Working Group (CWG), though there are some slight variances based on locations. It enabled families, including those displaced or living in hard-to-reach areas, to safely and flexibly access cash, allowing them to address urgent needs such as food, shelter, medicine, and other essentials. DEC members developed context sensitive Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for safe and effective cash programming. For example, one DEC member initiated a cash in envelope system accompanied with a QR coded verification for distribution tracking to strengthen transparency and data protection. Another member incorporated participant verification and monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEAL) data validation to prevent exclusions and duplication. For this member, a key learning was the value of providing additional vulnerability top-ups to households with persons with disabilities.

Largely, DEC members successfully secured access and approvals for delivery, though bureaucratic processes caused some delays to

initial plans. For some partners, where cash delivery was no longer safe or feasible, members adapted plans to in-kind distribution of food baskets and non-food item (NFI) household kits to meet immediate needs. Members and their partners worked closely with civil society organisations to prepare and submit detailed distribution plans to the authorities to ensure smooth access and implementation.

After conducting post-earthquake vulnerability assessments, the most at risk groups were prioritised. This included displaced families, women- and child-headed households, older persons, people with disabilities, and ethnic and religious minority groups.

A post-distribution monitoring (PDM) survey from one DEC member charity confirms that households used MPCA primarily to purchase food, repair shelter, cover health expenses and pay for the education of children, significantly reducing their immediate vulnerability.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



More than
159,900
people received multi-purpose
cash assistance

Members of an earthquake-affected community receive cash assistance from a DEC member charity's local partner in Myanmar, May 2025.



© A DEC member charity



© A DEC member charity

Women from a community in rural Myanmar transport bamboo for home construction, July 2025.

HOW WE HELPED: SHELTER/ NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFI)

The earthquake is reported to have displaced around 207,000 people and destroyed over 157,000 buildings.⁴ Shelter remained a priority sector throughout Phase 1 of the DEC response. Immediate shelter needs were met across displacement sites through the distribution and construction of emergency shelter kits including plastic sheets, tarpaulin, blankets, mosquito nets, mats, kitchen sets, and water containers, or as cash assistance for household kits. DEC members and their partners also commenced renovations and reconstruction of completely and partially damaged homes by mobilising and training local carpenters. DEC charities produced a resilient shelter module and handbook to guide construction as community members, local artisans and local carpenters worked closely with structural engineers to co-design culturally appropriate, earthquake- and flood-resilient shelters using locally available materials. This collaborative approach not only ensured technical soundness but also respects traditional housing styles and embeds community ownership, enhancing sustainability and resilience. In this way, the response contributed to positive change in the medium and long-term resilience of communities to future shocks and disasters and promoted agency amongst those receiving assistance.

Challenges for shelter construction and reconstruction persisted throughout Phase 1, including heavy rain and flooding exacerbating operational challenges and limits to availability of construction materials and skilled and unskilled workers. However, through the engagement of local suppliers, adoption of locally appropriate shelter designs, and use of locally available materials—supported by functional local markets—DEC members largely met their shelter and toilet reconstruction targets.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



More than

47,600

people provided with temporary shelter, such as tents, tarpaulins and shelter toolkits, as well as support for housing renovations and construction

⁴ SITUATION UPDATE No. 10 - M7.7 Mandalay Earthquake - 23 April 2025 - AHA Centre and ReliefWeb.

HOW WE HELPED: WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

The earthquake caused a significant amount of damage to water sources and infrastructure, leaving many communities without access to clean water and hygiene items. Through the installation of elevated water tanks, pipelines, boreholes and tubewells with hand pumps, DEC members have restored reliable access to clean water for many earthquake affected communities. Following a technical assessment in May 2025, one DEC member installed household rainwater harvesting systems across communities in earthquake affected areas, ensuring sustainable water access for households. The participatory design process and community-led procurement and oversight directly supported the DEC's ambition for the response to amplify community capacities and advance inclusive and sustainable improvements in living conditions.

DEC members have been addressing urgent sanitation needs through the construction of gender-sensitive, disability-inclusive and flood-resilient facilities, including latrines and bathing shelters. Site selection and design were conducted through consultations, with particular attention to the needs of women, children, and people with disabilities. This helped minimise protection risks such as gender-based violence (GBV), which are heightened in displacement settings.

More than 79,900 people have been supported with hygiene and dignity kits throughout Phase 1. The contents of these kits were tailored to address gender-specific needs and typically included one month's supply of essential items such as soap, a toothbrush, toothpaste, detergent powder, menstrual hygiene items and two buckets - one designated for drinking water and the other for water carrying or storage.

A DEC member charity visits earthquake-affected rural community in Myanmar to deliver water purification sachets and provide demonstrations on how to use them correctly.

Hygiene promotion sessions have supported communities in safe hygiene practices, disease prevention and control. DEC members and partners have incorporated environmental awareness into these campaigns to include waste management and responsible water use. WASH committees and community hygiene promotion volunteers continue to oversee the management and cleanliness of WASH facilities and waste disposal as well as continuing behavioural change interventions to sustain the impact of programmes. Inclusive participation in programmes ensured sustained impact throughout Phase 1 of programmes and into the recovery Phase 2 programmes.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



More than

153,800

people reached with improved access to drinking water



More than

177,300

people reached with other water and sanitation support, including through the rehabilitation of water sources, installation of latrines, provision of waste management services, and installation of community-based water storage tanks and rainwater harvesting





© A DEC member charity

A DEC member charity carries out relief distribution through a local partner in Sagaing following the earthquake in Myanmar, April 2025. Relief items included dignity kits containing sanitary pads, a women's longyi, soap bar, underwear, and bra. Each kit also includes a leaflet with information on services in the region.

HOW WE HELPED: PROTECTION

Leveraging their expertise in protection risk assessment, child protection, gender-based violence programming and community-based protection mechanisms, protection was a core component of DEC charities' programmes. DEC members and partners conducted rapid gender-based violence risk assessments in displacement sites to understand community perspectives on service gaps, risks, and needs. Findings revealed significant protection concerns for women and girls, particularly in dark, isolated areas, with prevalent domestic abuse, sexual harassment, and emotional harm.

Barriers to reporting included fear, shame, and distrust in formal services, compounded by limited access to confidential medical and psychosocial care. In response, DEC members developed tailored mitigation strategies, establishing confidential referral pathways, linking survivors to health, legal, psychosocial, and protection services. Awareness sessions on gender-based violence (GBV), sexual and reproductive health and rights, preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, and psychosocial support reached hundreds, empowering women and girls to seek help. High-risk zones such as latrines and water points were identified and improved through environmental design, such as improved lighting and gender-segregated facilities. Safeguarding focal points were appointed, and community feedback mechanisms including

multilingual hotlines, suggestion boxes, and safe spaces were tested for accessibility and responsiveness.

DEC charities' child protection teams continued to operate child-friendly spaces (CFS) and began transitioning them to community management. DEC charities continued to provide capacity-bridging and training on early identification and safe referral of child protection concerns for local partners.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



More than
43,100

people received mental health and psychosocial support or other protection services including the establishment of child friendly spaces, case management, wellbeing support, and community awareness raising sessions.

CASE STUDY

Child-friendly spaces

During a post-monitoring focus group discussion, mothers in a camp setting said,



We are struggling for daily survival and cannot provide proper time for our children; so, they are feeling neglected. Now, by participating in activities at the child-friendly space, they have been accessing care and love from each other and telling stories to us before sleep, and we have been experiencing family time.”



© Phyo Maung Maung /Arete/DEC

Children participate in structured learning activities and creative tasks during a session at a child-friendly space.

Staff from a DEC charity's team play and sing with children in a child-friendly space in an earthquake affected rural community in Myanmar. They provide psychosocial support activities for children.



© Nyi Thit /Fairpicture/DEC

HOW WE HELPED: FOOD

At the onset of the earthquake response, community-kitchens provided hot meals for 1,275 people. Throughout Phase 1, cash for food became the main way to address rising cases of food insecurity as markets regained functionality. DEC members and partners actively co-ordinated with other actors at regional levels. In the upcoming Phase 2 of the response, DEC members and their partners plan to expand and integrate food and nutrition activities in food security and livelihood interventions.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



More than

46,800

people were reached with food assistance in the form of food baskets, hot meals and cash and vouchers for food

Women prepare meals in an outdoor community kitchen supported by a DEC member charity providing rice and other essential food items.





A mother and child receive support from a mobile health clinic run by a DEC member charity in the Mandalay region.

© Rita Khinn/Fairpicture/DEC

HOW WE HELPED: HEALTH AND NUTRITION

The 28 March earthquake caused damage to 748 hospitals and injury to more than 5,000 people.⁵ DEC members collaborated with health partners to deliver services across earthquake affected areas, deploying mobile medical teams providing maternal and child healthcare, disease care, sexual and reproductive health and emergency referrals. Cash support was also provided to patients in accordance with emergency referral Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and guidelines.

Nutrition teams screened children under five, and pregnant and lactating women for early detection and management of malnutrition. Safe spaces for mothers and children were established in temporary places and camps to provide breastfeeding support, infant and young child feeding, alongside community-led nutrition counselling.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



More than
45,200

people reached with improved access to primary healthcare, medical supplies, paediatric consultations and nutrition support

OTHER PROGRAMMING

DEC members and their partners carried out vital education programming, establishing temporary learning spaces and implementing “Back to Learning” campaigns with a targeted focus on supporting girls’ return and retention in school. Education infrastructures were rehabilitated, student and teacher kits distributed, and first aid, psychosocial support and social and emotional learning trainings were all completed by the end of Phase 1. Assistance across education activities reached over 17,300 individuals.

Other key activities included disaster risk reduction awareness and trainings focused on preparedness, planning and mock drills for multiple hazards, including potential future earthquakes. These activities will continue into Phase 2, cascading the training of trainers to communities.

⁵ ASEAN Weekly Disaster Update, Week 23, 2-8 June 2025 and Myanmar Flash Update No.15 (Earthquake), 13 June 2025 | UNICEF

CHALLENGES

Conflict, insecurity and access challenges:

During Phase 1, DEC members and their partners faced significant access and insecurity challenges due to ongoing conflict. DEC members often struggled to access some areas or carry out post distribution monitoring after communities had again been displaced due to conflict.

To mitigate these risks, member charities and their local partners have:

- Adjusted their implementation plans, pivoting some activities to safer zones and scaling down in areas with high security risks;
- Advanced coordination with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), humanitarian stakeholders, community leaders, local authorities and camp committees;
- Maintained strict adherence to security protocols, enhancing information sharing, adaptive problem solving, made real-time adjustments based on regular security monitoring and robust internal escalation mechanisms;
- Set up remote work arrangements and individualised evacuation plan in preparedness for the event of arrest, detention or violence;

- Emphasised humanitarian negotiation principles, limited public gatherings and applied safety-sensitive approaches;
- Data collection has been completed using a combination of phone interview and in-person surveys in accessible areas.

Logistical and procurement challenges:

Challenges in procurement and logistics caused delays in the delivery of assistance to some communities in need. The transport of goods was sometimes delayed by security checkpoints. DEC charities overcame these challenges through strong partnerships that enabled contextualised and real-time information sharing to identify alternative routes where possible. Community volunteers also provided support in the distribution of assistance to affected and hard-to-reach locations. Weather also created logistical challenges, particularly around Inle Lake and areas affected by landslides in parts of Southern Shan. DEC members and their partners re-routed supplies and used boats for last-mile transport. Exchange rate fluctuations also meant that DEC charities needed to adapt programmes. Sometimes this worked favourably enabling an increase in targets, whilst at other times market prices were affected by inflation.

A DEC charity visits an earthquake-affected rural community in Myanmar to provide clean drinking water.



IMPROVING HUMANITARIAN PROGRAMME DELIVERY



© A DEC member charity

A DEC member charity carries out relief distribution through a local partner following the earthquake.

Being accountable to communities

Trust and accountability structures have been key throughout this response, especially given the highly sensitive nature of the context, with significant personal and organisational political risks within operations. Accountability to affected populations (AAP) was assessed from the outset, in members' plans as well as in interim and Phase 1 final reports, in addition to an independent thematic learning review. The DEC coordinated with other actors within the response to collaborate on response-wide key initiatives, as well as at the project level, to ensure accountability to communities is at the centre of the response.

The DEC's funding supports the H2H Network package of humanitarian support services in Myanmar for community engagement, accountability to affected populations and strengthening civil society-led efforts. The DEC hosted two workshops where representatives from two projects within the H2H Network presented to the DEC membership, and their partners, on real-time learnings, so that members and partners could continue informing their programmes with best practice.

The projects selected to take part in this allocation ran from May to October 2025 and focused on the communication with and accountability towards affected communities in Myanmar. This included access to reliable information, training and tools on the

Core Humanitarian and Sphere Standards to enhance accountability, real-time community feedback to strengthen programme relevance, and social media tracking to assist with countering misinformation.

Duty of care towards staff

Throughout the response, DEC members have modelled good practice, institutionalising duty of care to enable proactive and swift response to the various security and hazardous risks that the context poses. For several members, this includes a dedicated budget line in project budgets to enable partners to utilise duty of care funds to support their staff. Another DEC member has implemented comprehensive staff support measures, including safe accommodation, health insurance, flu vaccinations, and one-time financial assistance for earthquake-affected staff. Duty of care continues to be a key area of interest for the DEC, with research commencing in early 2026, led by members and their partners and with support from the Humanitarian Advisory Group and the DEC's Collective Initiative funding stream (see more on page 25), to roll out a community resilience model that equips staff, partners and communities with tools to manage stress and trauma. Learnings from this initiative will be disseminated across the membership and wider sector to continue informing this crucial area of work, particularly as the context in this response continues to evolve.



Daw Win, 74, receives treatment from a nurse at a mobile health clinic run by a DEC member charity in Myanmar, May 2025.

Adaptive programming and learning

The DEC model of flexible funding and adaptive programming for DEC charities was critical within the first six-months of this response. This enabled them to adjust according to exceedingly unpredictable on-the-ground realities. DEC charities adapted activities within their programmes based off feedback and further consultations with communities, operational realities and, at times, new directives issued from authorities. For example, one DEC member initially planned to provide temporary toilets and emergency shelter to earthquake affected displaced communities. By June 2025, the context had again shifted since the initial plan, and some communities had begun returning home. Rather than continue with temporary shelters, the member and their partner pivoted to permanent solutions, constructing latrines and rebuilding houses. Insights from the thematic learning review found that, “DEC’s flexibility meant they could act immediately. Decisions stayed in-country, close to people affected, keeping the response relevant and timely.”

The DEC has continued to convene learning events for the membership throughout Phase 1, with in-country teams and other actors working on the response presenting on a wide range of topics. These have included: CDAC Network convening a discussion on *‘improving access to lifesaving information for crisis affected people’*; Ground Truth Solutions presenting their findings on *‘strengthening local systems in the response’*; and a

DEC member charity on their rapid needs assessment findings and working with Older People Foundations to reach elderly persons affected by the earthquake.

Including people with specific needs

As with other responses, DEC member charities and their local partners have prioritised the most vulnerable communities and groups, ensuring that services and items are tailored to specific needs. Key specialisms across the membership have been leveraged to share learning of integrating age, disability and gender-inclusive approaches across the response. The learning review cited evidence of “grounded empowerment [...] supporting activities that delivered aid while strengthening the agency of marginalised groups such as adapting distributions for people with disabilities while reinforcing their networks”. The review confirmed that inclusivity and reach was broad, by members working with trusted, unconventional actors and communities, such as monasteries and grassroots youth groups.

Women and girls were especially affected by the impact of the earthquake, particularly female-headed households, lactating mothers and pregnant women. DEC members and their partners supported these groups with multi-purpose cash assistance, dignity kits, healthcare, psychosocial support, and improved access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services.

DEC members have continued sharing their expertise in gender transformation in humanitarian response with the membership and wider actors. For example, one DEC member has a flagship approach, working in Myanmar to support women leading in emergencies through spearheading local women's groups in crisis affected communities, women's leadership and decision making, community-based health, food security and nutrition, gender responsive disaster risk reduction, and climate change adaptation. Through delivering gender responsive cash assistance, members are supporting and implementing gender sensitive and locally-led approaches. Partnerships with the Gender in Humanitarian Action working group further enhanced gender considerations within cash, shelter, WASH and dignity kit distributions and responses. The learning review found that, "the capacity to embed inclusion was not developed during the crisis, it was already in place, and that made the difference", signifying the value addition of the DEC membership within the humanitarian response.

Supporting a locally led response

DEC member charities worked with 28 local or national partners. These local partners have been pivotal in such a complex and evolving environment, as they are able to access communities and areas that would be otherwise challenging to reach, and have strong, pre-existing relationships with local authorities, and other key stakeholders on the ground. DEC members have collaborated with trusted, local groups, many of whom were the very first responders in the first hours of the earthquake. This has included village welfare committees, youth associations, and faith-based groups, civil society organisations (CSOs) and national non-government organisations (NNGOs). In this response, DEC members have recognised the importance of these groups in humanitarian response and began the process of developing clearer partnership guidelines for their work with volunteers, and other organisations, allowing those groups to retain their character without compromising accountability. This will have key lessons for global humanitarian action that continues to seek to shift in power to local and national actors.

Local staff from a DEC charity distribute clean drinking water and distributes mosquito nets to an earthquake-affected rural community, April 2025.



CASE STUDY

Community-led action

A DEC member developed an ‘Everything Local’ strategy from the outset. The independent thematic learning review praised that it was, ‘not a static blueprint but a living document, updated regularly as implementation progressed. Built collaboratively from the outset, it emphasised local sourcing, local leadership, and community-led action. Tools and principles were shared across teams, but each implementation team had space to adapt the framework. This approach allowed coordination without prescription. It also enabled the program to evolve organically as new actors joined, needs changed, and opportunities emerged. By grounding strategy in context and keeping it dynamic, the DEC charity avoided locking itself into an obsolete response model.’

Coordination

Coordination was a key challenge at the outset of the response. Many actors who had a previous presence in Myanmar did not have existing programmes in the locations of the epicentre of the earthquake. The UN Cluster coordination system therefore took time to become established and functioning for the earthquake response, hampered too by a lack of information sharing between actors, given the highly sensitive nature of the context and many partners opting for a low-visibility approach. DEC members organically began coordinating with one another to ensure they were not duplicating efforts in the response and to confirm locations and activities with one another. This was aided further thanks to the facilitation of the FCD0, which hosted DEC members for the Phase 1 progress and coordination day in Yangon, and follow-up workshop sessions for Phase 2 and Collective Initiatives planning. The independent real time response review found that this saw, “coordination improved, planning sharpened, and both members and partners said they understood better what the funds could do”.

A DEC member charity carries out relief distribution through a local partner in Sagaing following the earthquake. Relief items included dignity kits and information leaflets.





Villagers displaced by the earthquake in Myanmar, sit amongst makeshift shelters damaged by heavy rains from a storm, April 2025.

© Arete/DEC

DEC members have been leaders in the response in key areas, including cash programming. One DEC member has coordinated cash and voucher training nationally, supporting actors across Myanmar in best practice in this modality. Other members have led on shelter design of eco-friendly, earthquake-proof houses and latrine construction, that is now being used by diverse actors and documented to roll-out training more widely. Members have also hosted multi-stakeholder forums to engage with private sector actors, architects, engineers, and bamboo specialists to enrich technical design, strengthen the cultural relevance of shelter interventions, and promote Build Back Better principles.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding remained central to programme design and implementation throughout Phase 1 of this response. The DEC convened safeguarding leads for each member organisation at the outset to share learnings across the membership on contextualising safeguarding mitigation measures within the response. Members subsequently engaged their country offices and partners further to build a localised network on safeguarding best practice.

Throughout the first six-months, members were supported to continually review where safeguarding improvements could be

made. DEC members are supported to explore further their safeguarding policy, procedures and oversight; recruitment and performance management; prevention, risk management and training; co-operative arrangement and partner support; community engagement and their response to reports (case management, investigation) and survivor assistance. This ensures that members go beyond trainings to assess the effectiveness of their policies and procedures and to assess risks continuously through local networks and through monitoring and within coordination forums.

Protecting the environment

Myanmar experiences cyclical environmental and climatic shocks, particularly around each monsoon season, that has led to devastating flooding again in 2025. The monsoon rains impacted the operational realities in the first six months of the response by impeding access, increasing the risks of waterborne diseases, creating further shocks and undermining already exhausted coping mechanisms amongst communities, particularly in the Inle Lake region. Within Phase 1 of the response, members analysed closely the environmental impact of their activities.



© Phyo Maung Maung/Arete/DEC

Local villagers and carpenters work together on a bamboo raft to construct a new house in Inle Lake, 2025.

For shelter reconstruction, members had to assess their decisions around construction materials, for example the use of locally sourced bamboo. Whilst locally available, renewable and having a relatively fast growth cycle, the risk of deforestation and disrupting natural growth cycles due to a surge in demand arose within the response. Members continued robust risk and impact assessments, combined with coordination across the sector in relation to sharing knowledge and successful approaches, as key measures to navigate these dilemmas and not cause harm to the environment.

A Collective Initiative that directly responds to environmental challenges in the Inle Lake region has been approved for funding by the DEC, which will deliver a Disaster Preparedness and Response Fund to pilot a community-driven disaster response and recovery framework across affected villages. By supporting locally prioritised initiatives on preparedness and response,

the fund will strengthen community ownership grounded in local values, priorities, and accountability mechanisms. The project will also focus on environmental protection, aligned with ongoing participatory research on sustainable livelihoods and market analysis, with the aim of protecting and enhancing Inle Lake's biodiversity and fragile ecosystem.

Within the DEC's Accountability Framework, climate adaptation in DEC member activities remains a key area of focus and ongoing research. DEC members are being supported to meet the commitments of the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations⁶ - a requirement of DEC membership. A DEC Climate and Environment Working Group, made up of representatives across the membership, meets regularly to share knowledge, highlight examples of best practice, explore trends and gaps within the DEC response and identifying key climate and environment-linked considerations within the Myanmar response context.

⁶ <https://www.climate-charter.org/>

LEARNING AND IMPROVING

As outlined in the DEC Accountability Framework, the DEC places an explicit focus on learning in all appeals. In Myanmar, the DEC undertook a thematic learning review with a team of consultants engaging members and partners to explore the themes of flexible funding, quality partnerships, inclusive programming, and environmental considerations within the response.

Data collection for the review took place both in-person in Myanmar and online, between June and August 2025. Using a layered and adaptive methodology, the team carried out 60 in-depth interviews, multiple focus group discussions, three online workshops, and one coordination roundtable in Yangon.

An overview of the thematic findings was shared with DEC member charities in August, to help inform programming for Phase 2 of the appeal, as well as the design of the Collective Initiative projects, which seek to address gaps and make improvements to the wider response. This timing meant the results of the review could inform decision making and help shape the use of DEC funds for the remainder of the appeal.

Key findings of the thematic learning review include:

- The DEC's flexible funding unlocked speed, reach and innovation in DEC member charities' programming. Additionally, this flexibility was carried forward by member charities through adaptive planning, iterative decision-making and continuous context analysis. These efforts kept programmes appropriate to shifting needs.
- Local partners and community groups played a crucial role in this response, as first responders, holders of contextual knowledge, and enablers of access to local communities. Those member charities who work closely with first responder networks managed to implement more relevant programming with stronger accountability systems in place due to their proximity to communities.
- Environmental considerations are highlighted by the review as an area for learning and improvement, demonstrating promising adaptations and opportunities for further systemic integration. Engaging with this recommendation, the DEC has produced and disseminated a climate and environment analysis of its members' Phase 2 plans. This report provides a brief overview of how the membership engages with the commitments of the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations and gives further recommendations on integrating climate and environment into Phase 2 of the response.



U Phyu, 67, attends a DEC funded multipurpose cash distribution event for 144 earthquake-affected older people in villages in the Inle Lake region, June 2025.

© A DEC member charity

NEXT STEPS

Phase 2 is now underway (from October 2025) and will continue until March 2027, a total of 18 months.

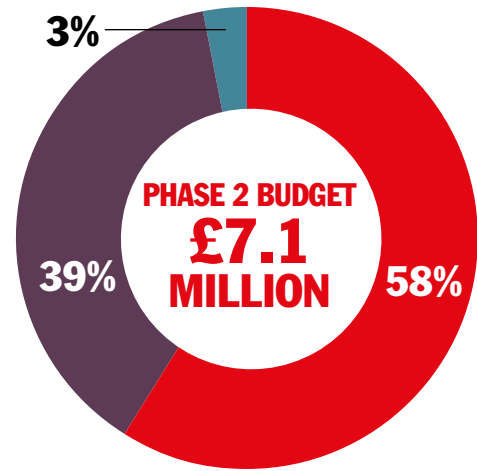
In Phase 2, member charities alongside 25 local/national partners are implementing activities in earthquake affected areas.

Fundraising channels remain open for donations and the DEC plans to mark the one-year milestone from the earthquake with a photo exhibition to be held in London in March 2026.

Humanitarian priorities remain similar: livelihoods, multi-purpose cash assistance, WASH support, and shelter, with a few members introducing post-recovery and/or rehabilitation activities such as training and small income generating activities. DEC funding is designed to be flexible to allow member charities to adapt their programmes quickly, and plans may change according to the changing and evolving needs on the ground.

PHASE 2 BUDGET

(October 2025 – March 2027)

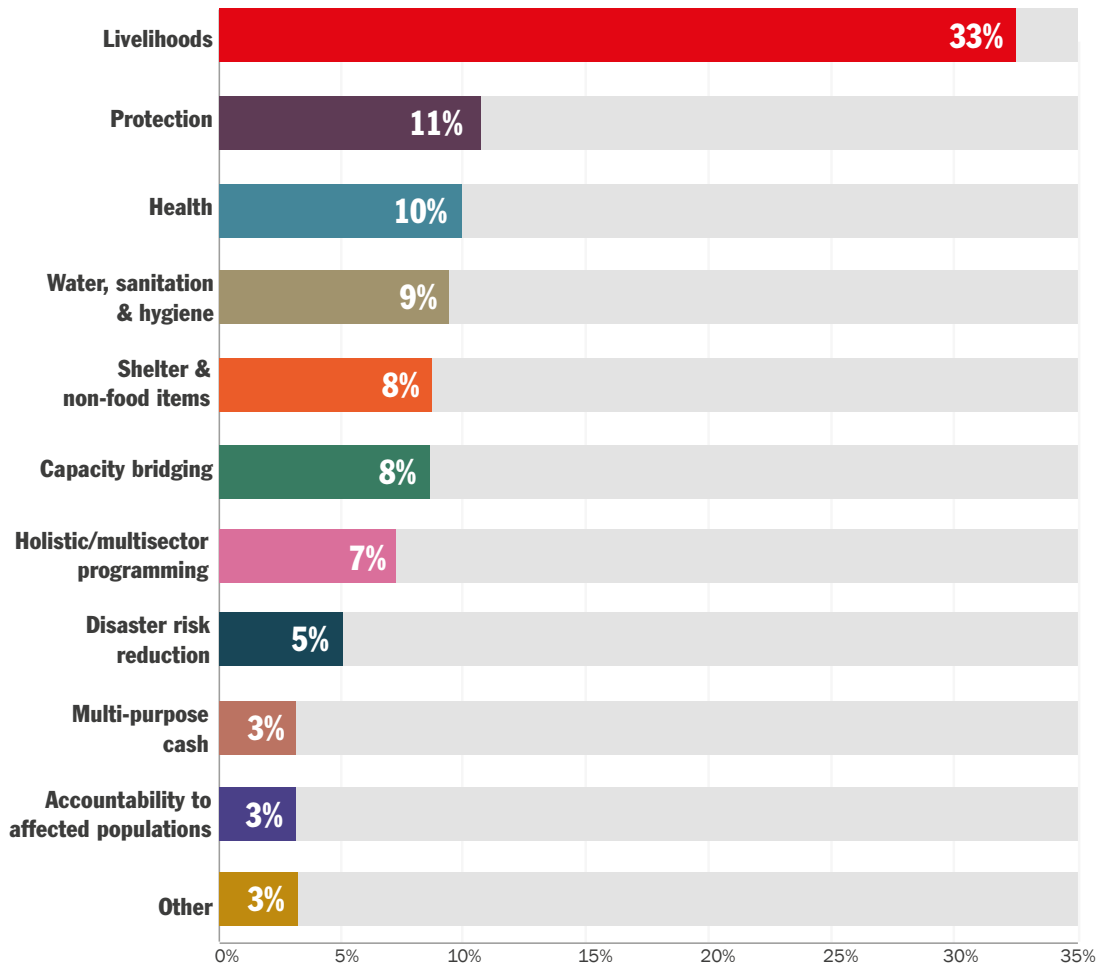


- Through local/national partners
- DEC members direct spending
- Through international/other partners*

(International or other partners include NGOs not based in the aid recipient country and carrying out operations in one or more aid recipient countries.)

PHASE 2 PLAN BUDGET PRIORITY SECTORS

(October 2025 – March 2027)



*In line with flexible funding and adaptive programming, these figures may change throughout the duration of Phase 2.

Collective Initiatives

In the appeal, the DEC designate funding for Collective Initiatives. These are joint projects where member charities work together to address challenges or gaps in the response. This could be achieved through a set of activities, a study, an event or piloting a new way of working. Collective Initiatives aim to have a wider benefit beyond just the member charities and partners involved. In order to receive funding, member charities need to submit a joint application outlining the proposed approach, the objectives, and a rationale for why the funding is needed. This application is then reviewed by the DEC Secretariat and independent subject matter experts. Five Collective Initiatives have been approved for funding within this response. The five projects are led by a consortium of at least two DEC members and have been designed with input from local and national actors. They commenced from 1 December and aim to be completed by January 2027.

Five Collective Initiatives approved for funding:

- **“The Inle Living Lab”**: A hub for local leadership, learning, and ecological recovery
- **Locally Led Pooled Fund: Breaking Barriers and Leading the Systems Change**
- **Enhancing Contextualised Wellbeing in Crisis Contexts:** piloting the Community Resilience Model
- **Flexible Funding Initiative for Women’s Rights and Women-Led Organisations (WROs/WLOs) in Myanmar**
- **Myanmar Aid Passporting Solution (MAPS):** Myanmar specific due diligence passporting system.

Nay Min*, 12, rows through his community in Shan State, where families like his have received DEC-funded cash assistance and learning kits for children containing a school bag, notebooks and pencils to support continued education.



HOW THE DEC WORKS

The DEC is unique. The DEC brings together 15 leading UK aid charities, institutional stakeholders, broadcasters and the public to raise funds quickly and efficiently at times of crisis overseas. It allocates appeal funds to its members and makes sure that the generous donations of the UK public are spent where the need is greatest. This means providing immediate emergency aid for communities devastated by humanitarian crises, as well as long term support to help people rebuild their lives and strengthen their resilience.

We are a trusted convener of the UK's leading aid charities, supporting collaboration, impact and shifts in power dynamics in the aid response. We also recognise a collective responsibility to strengthen our collective voice of all 15 aid charities, sharing our expertise and learnings to make sure we continue to improve our highly effective sector-leading humanitarian response.

Donating through the DEC is simple and effective. It removes unnecessary competition for funding between aid charities, reduces administration costs and improves coordination, collaboration, and efficiency.

Women from an Inle Lake village help transport bamboo for home construction in their community, July 2025.



We operate a highly efficient model, keeping costs to a minimum. Our annual costs of approximately £4.6 million cover our core team and maintenance of infrastructure, which is needed year-round to ensure we are always ready to launch appeals. These costs are part-funded by member charity contributions, with the remainder coming from legacy income and a proportion of Gift Aid raised in appeals.

Over this strategic period, we are moving towards a model in which we will fundraise for the DEC's core costs and no longer supplement these with funds donated to DEC appeals, so that more funding can go towards the appeal and response.

Over the past eight years, the DEC has supported communities in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gaza, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Malawi, Moldova, Mozambique, Myanmar, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, the West Bank, Yemen, and Zimbabwe.





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