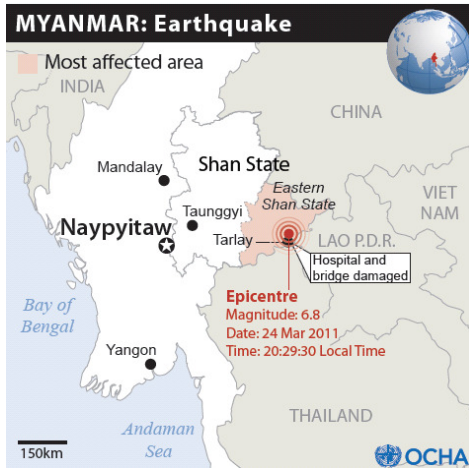


Tearfund Partners Respond to North-East Myanmar Earthquake

Update 4 – 28th March 2011



A powerful earthquake has hit the North-East region of Myanmar. The quakes measuring 6.8 magnitude struck at 08.25 hours on Friday 25th March (13.55hours GMT Thursday 24th March) and were centered 69 miles (111 km) north of Chiang Rai in neighbouring Thailand. The first one was very shallow, at a depth of 6.2 miles (10 km), while the second one was deeper at 142.5 miles (230 km). The third one was also shallow, at a depth of 6.4 miles (10.3 km).

Initial assessments show that the greatest damage and loss of life is in and around the Shan town of Ta Lar, where several dozen structures collapsed and at about 25 are dead and more hurt. A nearby Shan predominantly Buddhist community to the East, called Mine Lin also saw much damage but the death toll is only about 15 persons. Probably half of the structures in the community of about 70 homes were totally destroyed. The smaller ethnic villages in the outlying areas appear to have resulted in far fewer casualties and damage because the houses are wooden or bamboo. Nevertheless, many residents in those areas have lost their homes and their grain storage has been wiped out.

Church structures in those communities that were made of cement and mortar have completely collapsed. One particular church building in the Lahu community of Kya Kuni collapsed with a large gathering of women inside at the time. 25 persons are reported to have been killed with many more hurt. The nearest hospital has admitted 70 patients from the affected areas. More than half are said to have come from Kya Kuni village.

The Burmese government has mobilised teams with medicine and food to go to the larger towns. The government does seem to be responding rapidly in some sectors. World Vision and UNICEF have also initiated a response and are reaching out to the affected people.

Tearfund partners Myanmar Baptist Convention (MBC) and Mekong Minority Foundation (MMF) are at the forefront of mobilising aid to the affected areas. Within 24 hrs they initiated emergency response. Teams have carried out rapid assessment. They are working in 5 badly affected communities. They are providing immediate needs like temporary shelter, food and medical care.

It has been very difficult to ascertain hard statistics in the affected area, due to the proximity of the affected area and bad weather. Below is a list of estimations of damage sustained in the area which has been carried out by MBC and MMF.

Statistic	Assessment Data
Overall	
Population of the area affected (no. people)	35,000
Number of communities:	100
Number of families	6,000
Number of children <16	15,000
Affected	
Number of persons without homes/shelter <i>(Notes: Some houses are not totally destroyed but the people dare not to stay at home.)</i>	5,000
Number of persons without adequate food	3,000
Number of deaths reported	75

Number of persons needing medical attention	300
Number of persons traumatised	20,000
Number of communities where Potable water supply has been damaged.	50
Affected communities with limited or no access to roads (Largely depends on rains)	40



Tili Catholic Church

(source: Tearfund Partner – Mekong Minority Foundation)



Kya Kuni Church

(source: Tearfund Partner – Mekong Minority Foundation)



Many were killed or injured at the Kya Kuni Church
(source: Tearfund Partner – Mekong Minority Foundation)



Damage to the bridge in Tarlay



Damaged buildings in Tarlay

(source for this picture only: World Vision Myanmar)

Prayer requests:

- Tearfund partner staff working in the affected areas – for their protection, wisdom and strength as they work in a very difficult environment.
- Smooth coordination between different organisations and local authorities as they reach out to the affected people.
- Gods comfort and strength to the families of Lahu Baptist Church in Kya Kuni who have lost their loved ones.
- Necessary funds are provided with, particularly for emergency supplies and trauma counseling which are being carried out by Tearfund partners.