



Myanmar Floods as Monsoon Causing Heavy Rainfall

Flooding in Myanmar from Late July to Mid-August 2026

Since late July 2026, Myanmar has experienced severe monsoon flooding across Sagaing, Mandalay, and Ayeyarwady Regions, as well as localized flooding in Kayin and southern Shan States. The flooding was driven by heavy and continuous monsoon rainfall, rising river levels, and the overflow or release of excess water from dams and reservoirs along the Mu, Ngawun, and Ayeyarwady river systems.

Heavy rainfall also caused widespread flooding in low-lying and flood-prone areas of Ayeyarwady Region. Flooding was reported with impacts attributed to several factors, including rising water levels in Intain Creek, excess water released through the spillway after Thaphan Seik Dam reached full capacity, mountain runoff, water flows from Sedawgyi Reservoir and the Panlaung River, and the breach of the Ngawun embankment.

Damage and losses

Impact on the affected area

On 30 July 2026, heavy rainfall and riverbank erosion caused a severe flash flood following the breach of the Ngawun River embankment. Between 10 July and 11 August 2026, severe flooding affected 41 townships across Ayeyarwady Region, Rakhine State, Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region, and Bago Region, potentially affecting at least 1.3 million people. On 4 August 2026, severe flooding also damaged roads in Laymyethna Township, Ayeyarwady Region, leaving some roads impassable to vehicles and disrupting transportation.

The flooding affected approximately 37,455 farming households, with 49,661.3 hectares of agricultural land and 142,329 people reported as affected. In Ayeyarwady Region, the Ngawun River embankment was slightly breached due to flooding. In Sagaing Region, water overflowed through the spillway after Thaphan Seik Dam reached full capacity, contributing to downstream flooding.

Agricultural devastation

Agricultural land: Several agricultural areas were affected by the flooding, including 4.9 hectares in Naypyitaw, 475.1 hectares in Kayin, 21,029.1 hectares in Sagaing, 238.8 hectares in Bago, 3,658.4 hectares in Mandalay, 509.9 hectares in Shan, and 23,745.0 hectares in Ayeyarwady. From 1-13 August 2026, the total flood-inundated agricultural area across the affected Regions and States reached 49,661.3 hectares, of which 23,946.99 hectares had receded. Of the 862.81 hectares assessed as affected, only 112.51 hectares were reported as damaged. The extent of crop damage requires further assessment based on the duration of inundation and the rate at which floodwaters recede.

Affected crops: Two crops were reported as damaged by the flooding as follows:

- Maize crop: 9.39 tones damaged
- Groundnut: 0.07 tones damaged.

Government responses and countermeasures

Several townships and surrounding villages in Ayeyarwady Region received flood relief and rescue assistance from various organizations, including the Myanmar Police Force, Fire Services Department, social rescue organizations, volunteer groups, and local residents. These groups helped evacuate affected people to safer locations, distribute food and essential supplies, and provide necessary healthcare services. Efforts were also undertaken to prevent further riverbank erosion and embankment damage by placing sandbags along vulnerable sections.

The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) launched an emergency response in Myanmar as monsoon flooding threatened to worsen food insecurity among vulnerable communities. WFP dispatched 20 tons of fortified biscuits to local partners supporting flood-affected communities in Ayeyarwady Region, with assistance sufficient to reach approximately 10,000 people.

Regional governments also provided food and drinking water to affected areas and relocated affected people to safer locations, while healthcare services were provided to affected communities. Government and non-governmental organizations, including the Department of Disaster Management and the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), collaborated in providing relief and support. Assistance was also provided to disaster-affected households through the National Natural Disaster Emergency Fund, while additional agricultural inputs were planned to help farmers recover and cover cultivation expenses. The MRCS, together with local social assistance organizations, provided further support to affected communities, with the MRCS Regional Branch initiating its response using its own resources on 1 August 2026.

Sources:

1. The Settlement and Land Records Department (SLRD), the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
2. Ministry of Information, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. <https://www.moi.gov.mm/moi:eng/>
3. Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR), the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. <https://www.moswrr.gov.mm/>
4. The relief web. (2026, August 24). Myanmar: Floods - Jul 2026. <https://reliefweb.int/disaster/fl-2026-000141-mmr>
5. World Food Program (WFP). (2026, August 18). WFP launches emergency flood response in Myanmar as monsoon flooding compounds severe humanitarian crisis. <https://wfpusa.org/news/wfp-launches-emergency-flood-response-myanmar/>
6. The reliefweb. (2026, August 5). MMR: Flood - 07-2026 - Monsoon Flood (2026-08-05). <https://reliefweb.int/report/myanmar/mmr-flood-07-2026-monsoon-flood-2026-08-05>
7. ISP Myanmar. (2026, August 18). Myanmar's Floods Threaten 1.3m People. <https://ispmyanmar.com/sb2026-02/>

8. Progressive Voice (PV). (2026, August 12). Situation Report on Myanmar's Flood 2026. <https://progressivevoicemyanmar.org/2026/08/12/situation-report-on-myanmars-flood-2026>
9. The Global New Light of Myanmar. (2026, August 22). <https://www.gnlm.com.mm/rescue-and-relief-efforts-press-on-in-inundated-areas/>
10. Reuters Connect. (2026, August 4). Myanmar Flood Disaster. <https://www.reutersconnect.com/item/myanmar-flood-disaster/dGFnOnJldXRlcnMuY29tLDIwMjY6bmV3c21sX01UMVpVTUEwMDBSNFIEMFE>