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Information Bulletin

Mexico and Guatemala: Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information Bulletin N° 1	Date of issue: 8 September 2017
Date of disaster: 8 September 2017	Point of contact: Santiago Luengo, Disaster Management Regional Coordinator, email: santiago.luengo@ifrc.org
Red Cross Movement actors currently involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Mexican Red Cross (MRC), Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC)	
N° of other partner organizations involved in the operation: Mexico: National Prevention Disaster Centre (CENAPRED for its acronym in Spanish), Government Ministry (SEGOB for its acronym in Spanish) and all the System of Civil Protection Guatemala: National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED for its acronym in Spanish), the Ministry of Foreign Relations and the Institute of Seismology, Volcanology, Meteorology and Hydrology (INSIVUMEH for its acronym in Spanish)	

This bulletin is being issued for information only; it reflects the current situation and details available at this time.

The Situation

Mexico

According to the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), an 8.1-magnitude earthquake on the Richter Scale struck off the Pacific Coast of Mexico--around 87km (54 miles) south-west of Pijijapan--at 23:50 local time on Thursday, 7 September 2017 (04:50 Greenwich Mean Time [GMT] Friday). A tsunami warning was issued for Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and Honduras; however, it was later lifted. An estimated 50 million Mexicans felt the tremor per the Mexican government.



The Mexican Red Cross participated in a coordination meeting with the president of Mexico. Source: Mexican Red Cross

According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the region within 250 km of the hypocentre of the 8 September 2017 earthquake has experienced 8 other magnitude 7+ earthquakes. Most occurred in the subduction zone to the south-east of yesterday's event, near the Mexico-Guatemala border and none were larger than magnitude 7.5; the largest, a magnitude 7.4 thrust faulting earthquake offshore Guatemala in November 2012, resulted in at least 48 fatalities, over 150 injuries and significant damage near the coast.

Guatemala

According to a report from Guatemala's Ministry of Foreign Relations, a 7.7-magnitude earthquake shook various departments in the country at 22:49 local time (04:49 GMT) for 1 and 33 seconds; the earthquake's epicentre was 203 km to the west of San Marcos, with a profundity of 10 km.

Preliminary Damage Report

Mexico

Infrastructural damage	Affected/Injuries/Deaths/Assisted	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrical service disrupted: 1.85 million people affected; 1.66 million have had power restored Airports and ports functioning normally; evaluating road system Minor damage to hospitals' roofs; mobile health brigades have been deployed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200 injuries 58 deaths (45 in Oaxaca, 10 in Chiapas and 3 in Tabasco) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chiapas and Oaxaca the most affected states Registered more than 260 aftershocks; Strongest was 6.1 M

Guatemala

Infrastructural damage	Affected/Injuries/Deaths/Assisted	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 61 homes severely damage 19 homes moderately damaged 1 home slightly damaged 5 buildings affected 3 roads affected Telecommunications and energy supply were affected, but quickly re-established 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3,518 people affected/81 people rendered homeless 2 people injured No deaths reported 2 people assisted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More than 7 aftershocks were recorded, but none greater than the initial 7.7 quake Authorities suspended classes in the departments of San Marcos, Quetzaltenango and Suchitepéquez; the conditions of educational facilities are being evaluated The most severely affected departments were: Huehuetenango, Quetzaltenango, Quiché, San Marcos, Suchitepéquez and Totonicapán



Guatemalan Red Cross volunteers conduct a damage assessment following the quake. Source: GRC

Mexican Red Cross

- Central headquarters' staff has been mobilized for coordination and assessment actions, in conjunction with specialized personnel
- The MRC is providing medical attention at medical health service centres
- MRC activated its Restoring Family Links (RFL) network
- MRC president participated in a coordination meeting with the president of Mexico

- Mobilization of 490 volunteers, 74 ambulances and 15 rescue vehicles in Oaxaca, Chiapas and Veracruz
- Providing information through social networks and local, national and international media outlets.
- Opened collection centres in the State of Chiapas

Guatemalan Red Cross

- GRC, along with CONRED, is maintaining a Yellow Alert level
- 21 branches are maintaining alert levels and working with local authorities to conduct damage assessments and needs analysis (DANA) in the affected communities, particularly in San Marcos, Tejutla, Tecún Umán, Huehuetenango, Quetzaltenango, Retalhuleu and Coatepeque, where they have reported structural damage to homes and public building
- The GRC has assisted affected people suffering from stress or anxiety related to the earthquake
- The GRC's emergency operations centre (EOC) is monitoring the seismic situation and weather conditions at the national level and the actions being implemented by the volunteers
- The branches in San Marcos and Quetzaltenango are participating in EOCs with local authorities to coordinate damage assessments
- Promoting the GRC's actions through social media and mass media and advising the public on measures to take in the event of seismic activity
- The IFRC's regional disaster management coordinator and shelter focal point is in continuous communication with the GRC regarding the necessary actions to take

IFRC actions

- Continuous monitoring of the situation and communication with MRC and GRC
- Coordination with the head of the country cluster for Central America and Guatemala's country representative
- Coordinating global media requests, in coordination with the National Societies (focal points)
- Continuing to monitor Katia and her impact on the situation
- Issued this information bulletin
- Developed two dashboards
 - ✓ [Mexico](#)
 - ✓ [Guatemala](#)

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (Sphere) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

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The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace