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Information Bulletin

Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago: Earthquake



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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Date of disaster: 21 August 2018	Point of contact: Felipe Del Cid, continental operations coordinator for the Americas region, felipe.delcid@ifrc.org
Red Cross Movement actors currently involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Venezuelan Red Cross, Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society	

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

The Situation

A 7.3-magnitude earthquake on the Richter Scale occurred off Venezuelan's northern coast at 5:31 PM (local time in Venezuela) or 9:31 PM Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). The epicentre was 20 km north north-west of Yaguaraparo, Venezuela at a depth of 123.2 km¹. In Venezuela, the earthquake was felt in the states of Nueva Esparta, Zulia, Anzoátegui, Miranda, Yaracuy, Lara, Amazonas, Carabobo, Trujillo and Mérida, as well as in the Capital District. A tsunami warning was issued for the Caribbean; however, the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre said at 6 PM local time that the tsunami threat had subsided. The earthquake was felt throughout the eastern Caribbean in countries such as Grenada, Guyana, Barbados and as far north as Saint Lucia. No damage was report in any of the countries, and there have been no reports of fatalities in any of the impacted countries².



¹ United States Geological Survey (USGS); <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/eventpage/us1000gez7#executive>

² Vassolo, Martin and Jacqueline Charles. "Powerful earthquake in Venezuela sends shock waves to Trinidad and Tobago". *Miami Herald*. 21 August 2018. <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/venezuela/article217103030.html>.

Country Situation & Red Cross and Red Crescent action



Trinidad and Tobago

Situation	Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earthquake is reported to have caused “widespread damage” in Port of Spain, Trinidad • Structural damage to buildings in Port of Spain • Losses in supermarkets (food falling off store shelves) • Loss of telephone services, Internet and power outages in some parts of Port of Spain³ • Services are slowly being restored; however, around 20% of the country is still without power⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing situation • Maintaining contact with the IFRC’s regional office for the Americas (ARO) office in Panama • Issued a Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) report • Activated its emergency operations centre (EOC)



Venezuela

Situation	Venezuelan Red Cross actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports of slight damages in affected zone in Venezuela • No collapsed structures reported • Evacuated people from buildings in Caracas • Civil protection is assessing the impacted areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing situation • Venezuelan Red Cross presence in affected area and branches in Sucre, Nueva Esparta, Monagas and Anzoátegui • Maintaining contact with the IFRC’s ARO • Activated its EOC



IFRC

Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convened a coordination meeting with technical sectors and support services • Coordinating with field personnel in affected countries/regions (French Red Cross- Regional Intervention Platform of Americas and Caribbean [PIRAC for its acronym in French] disaster manager for the Caribbean and the IFRC’s project coordinator for Venezuela) • Issued two informational messages • Issued a DMIS report for Venezuela • ARO is closely monitoring the situation • Activated regional EOC • Coordinating with the Venezuelan Red Cross and Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society • Coordinating with its country cluster office in Trinidad and Tobago and its country cluster office in Lima • IFRC staff has been put on alert • Issued information bulletin • Developing a Dashboard for the emergency • Will discuss next steps for the emergency during Weekly Operations Meeting on Wednesday, 22 August 2018 • Communications Department sent public awareness messages to the Venezuelan Red Cross for use on social networks

³ “Monster quake terrifies T&T: Damage widespread”. Daily Express. 21 August 2018. https://www.trinidadexpress.com/news/local/monster-quake-terrifies-t-t-damage-widespread/article_db1bd4c6-a58d-11e8-97c8-f76f98fc7f54.html.

⁴ Trinidad and Tobago DMIS Report, 21 August 2018

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

In the Venezuelan Red Cross:

- Jose Ramón Gonzalez, relief director, phone: +58 414 306 0102; email: joseramon.gonzalez@ifrc.org

In the Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross Society:

- Stephan Kishore, disaster management coordinator; phone: +1 868-479-1069; email: stephan.kishore@ttrcs.org

In the IFRC Country Cluster Office for the Caribbean

- Josephine Shields Recass, head of country cluster support office for Caribbean (English-speaking Caribbean and Suriname), phone: +1 868 628 2439; email: josephine.shieldsrecass@ifrc.org

In the IFRC Country Cluster for Andean Countries

- Michele Detomaso, head of the delegation for the Andean countries – Lima, phone: +51 1 221 8333 ext. 103; email: michele.detomaso@ifrc.org

In Venezuela

- Marissa Soberanis, project coordinator for Venezuela, email: Marissa.soberanis@ifrc.org

In IFRC Regional Office for the Americas:

- Diana Medina, regional communications manager; email: diana.medina@ifrc.org

In Geneva:

- Sune Bulow, emergency operations and information management-Disaster and Crisis Department; email: sune.bulow@ifrc.org

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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.

Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace