

# ***MEXICO: EARTHQUAKE IN OAXACA AND GUERRERO STATES***

*1 October 1999*

## ***Information Bulletin N° 02***

### ***The Disaster***

The earthquake, measuring 7.5 on the Richter scale, which shook south western Mexico yesterday, 30 September, fortunately occurred in an area of limited population. The epicentre occurred at Punta Maldonado on the border of Oaxaca and Guerrero states, with most damage in the Puerto Escondido area. There are reportedly between 10-15 deaths at this time. As these latest tremors hit, people were reminded of the 1985 earthquake in Mexico City, causing some evacuations and treatment for shock in hospitals. In Oaxaca 300 buildings are reported destroyed or damaged.

### ***Red Cross/Red Crescent Action***

The Oaxaca Branch has been supported by two Mexican Red Cross assessment teams who are now working in the affected areas of Mixtepec, Punta Maldonado and Puerto Escondido. Communication is the greatest difficulty with heavy rain making the only contact - by HF radio - difficult. The level of damage seems to have been limited due to quality materials used in house construction. ***It is considered unlikely that more accurate estimates of damage or casualties will be available for some 36 hours.***

The International Federation's Regional Delegation in Guatemala is maintaining regular contact with the Mexican Red Cross headquarters and the local branch offices in Oaxaca and Guerrero.

The Federation is maintaining two delegates on standby, awaiting the detailed report of the Mexican Red Cross assessment teams. The American Red Cross has informed the Regional Delegation that their initial response to send three delegates to the field has been modified to one, pending further information from the field.

### ***Needs***

There are no needs at this stage.

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