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Information bulletin

New Zealand: Earthquake

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Information bulletin n°1	Glide n° EQ-2016-000116-NZL
Host National Society: New Zealand Red Cross	Date of issue: 15 November 2016
	Date of disaster: 14 November 2016

This bulletin is being issued for information only and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation. The New Zealand Red Cross will, however, accept direct assistance to provide support to the affected population.

The situation

On 14 November 2016 a 7.5 magnitude earthquake with a depth of 15km struck New Zealand shortly after midnight at 12.02am New Zealand time, not far from Hanmer Springs in North Canterbury in the South Island. Strong shaking was felt throughout New Zealand and lasted for over two minutes in some locations. At least 50 people have been injured, and two fatalities have been reported to date. Damage reports and needs are emerging.

The Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM) issued a tsunami warning (marine and land threat) from East Cape to Southland, including Wellington (which also includes the Cook Strait area), Marlborough Sounds/Tasman Bay and the Chatham Islands, and a marine threat for all other New Zealand coastal areas.



New Zealand Red Cross Disaster Welfare Support Team member arriving at Kaikoura welfare centre, South Island, New Zealand.
Photo: Simon Makker, NZRC.

Large scale coastal evacuations have taken place. The major earthquake triggered a tsunami, with wave heights of 1-2m recorded at Kaikoura. All tsunami warnings were lifted at 15.00pm NZ time. Large scale earthquake damage has been found in the Canterbury region, particularly in Kaikoura and Hanmer Springs. Marlborough region impacts are focused on Blenheim, particularly Ward and Seddon. Significant building damage has been reported also in Wellington's central business district.

Hundreds of major aftershocks are continuing, the largest being 6.2. Aftershocks are expected to occur over the next few months. The earthquakes triggered very large landslides to the north and south of Kaikoura. The situation is being compounded by a spell of bad weather which may affect response operations. Some roads are inundated by flood waters and as a result people who were evacuated are still unable to return to their homes. At least 1,000 tourists and hundreds of residents are stranded in the coastal town of Kaikoura.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In response to urgent needs, the New Zealand Red Cross (NZRC) has mobilized 50 personnel from local response teams, as well as water bladders and tap stands, emergency generators, satellite communications and an Air Shelter inflatable welfare tent and lighting kit to affected townships and are connecting with local authorities to coordinate assistance. NZRC Disaster Welfare and Support Team members are on the ground in



Kaikoura welfare centre providing shelter for people affected by the earthquake. Photo: Simon Makker, NZRC

Marlborough and Canterbury regions, providing support to the worst-affected communities and supporting Civil Defence and Welfare centers in Ward (Blenheim), Kaikoura, and Woodend (Christchurch) and other locations. NZRC has deployed one of its Disaster Welfare and Support trucks, which are capable of providing shelter and food for up to 150 people. Volunteers were mobilized to provide community first aid and psycho-social support services to affected people.

In Wellington the situation is being compounded by heavy rain, flooding and gale force winds, and cordons are still up around many buildings in the central city. The NZRC headquarters has this afternoon been evacuated for an unknown period after a taller building next door started slumping. Staff are working from home in the interim.

NZRC have also activated staff for Incident Management Teams and Emergency Operations Centers in conjunction with local authorities. Team member deployments are being supported by government and defence force helicopters and air support where road access is hampered.

On 14 November 2016, NZRC launched a National Appeal to support those affected by the earthquake. Please refer to: <https://www.redcross.org.nz/stories/new-zealand/red-cross-responding-after-earthquakes/> and the [NZRC Earthquake Appeal](#). The IFRC Communications unit has also produced a [web story](#) to provide an initial update on the New Zealand Red Cross' response in the immediate aftermath of the earthquake.

Under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2015, NZRC is mandated to provide the following services: registration, inquiry, household goods and services, needs assessment, shelter and emergency accommodation, financial assistance, care and protection of young children and psychosocial support.

NZRC is welcoming the support and solidarity of International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners towards its national plan. In view of this, and at the request of NZRC, capacity is required in-country to support liaison between NZRC and IFRC on behalf of the Movement. An IFRC communications delegate on loan from NZRC has returned to New Zealand to support with communications activities and the IFRC head of country cluster support team (CCST) is expected to arrive in country on 16 November to support as a liaison delegate to NZRC. The CCST office based in Suva is in close communication with NZRC receiving regular situation reports and standing by to coordinate additional international support with the IFRC Asia Pacific regional office as needed.

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 (NGO's) 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.



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