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## Information bulletin Tanzania: Earthquake

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>Date of issue:</b>	<b>14 September 2016</b>
<b>Date of disaster:</b> 11 September 2016	<b>Point of contact:</b> Andreas Sandin, Operations Coordinator, IFRC Eastern Africa and Indian Ocean Islands Cluster Office
<b>Host National Society:</b> Tanzania Red Cross Society	
<b>Number of people affected:</b> 10,620	

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

### The situation

On 11 September 2016, a 5.7 magnitude earthquake hit northwest Tanzania, about 44 km from Bukoba town, on the western shore of Lake Victoria. Based on initial reports, the quake struck at around 15:27 local time (12:27 GMT) and was shallow, occurring at a depth of 10km. The tremor was felt in parts of Uganda, and as far as Rwanda and western parts of Kenya bordering Lake Victoria.

A rapid assessment report from the Kagera Red Cross branch of Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS) in Bukoba, indicated that 20 people died (13 adults and 7 children) and 269 people were recorded injured. A total of 270 houses were destroyed, 905 houses have damaged walls, and 1,124 houses have deep cracks.

These figures pertain to the affected areas in Bukoba township as the local Red Cross branch is still collecting data from Bukoba rural district.

Immediate needs of the affected population include emergency shelter, medical supplies, non-food relief items, food and psycho-social support. The TRCS local branch also needs support in terms of logistics for assessments, non-food relief distributions, vehicles for transport and communications.



**Earthquake affected area of Bukoba, northwest Tanzania**  
Source: USGS



**A collapsed building in Bukoba town, following the earthquake.** Source: TRCS

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action



**TRCS Kagera Branch volunteers doing an initial assessment of the impact of the earthquake in Bukoba, Kagera region. Source: TRCS**

Since the onset of the disaster, the Tanzanian Red Cross Society (TRCS) and the government have been responding to the situation. The TRCS Kagera branch collaborated with the Kagera regional and Bukoba district authorities in emergency search and rescue and dead body management. They also provided emergency first aid and medical services to the injured persons, with referrals to the regional hospital which was overwhelmed by the situation.

TRCS are continuing with rapid assessment of damage and needs. The quake caused a lot of panic among the population and both the directly and indirectly affected were disoriented, needing psychological support.

TRCS has been working in close coordination with the IFRC Eastern Africa and Indian Ocean Islands (EAIOI) country cluster support team in Nairobi for updates and activation of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement disaster response tools and possible deployment of a Regional Disaster Response Team (RDRT), through the Africa Regional Office.

Plans are underway to provide funds from the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund to help TRCS deliver urgent assistance and psychosocial support to the affected population. The DREF operation will support TRCS to provide emergency relief assistance to 1,000 families (5,000 people) directly and 1,124 families (5,620 people) indirectly, through the provision of essential emergency relief, emergency shelter and health interventions, including first aid, psychosocial support and mosquito net distribution.

A detailed assessment will be performed with the support of the RDRT to be deployed. The assessment will give more detailed information on the needs of the affected population, and the results will determine whether further scale up of the support is needed.

In Uganda and Kenya, the National Societies are also working with their respective governments, to assess the situation in the affected areas. So far, no further damage has been reported in Kenya, and only minor damage reported in Uganda.

Further information will be shared through a further update once more detailed assessments are conducted.

## 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.