

INFORMATION BULLETIN



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

DOMINICA & GUADELOUPE: EARTHQUAKE

23 November 2004

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

This Information Bulletin (no. 01/2004) is being issued for information only. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for a full description of the national society profile, please access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

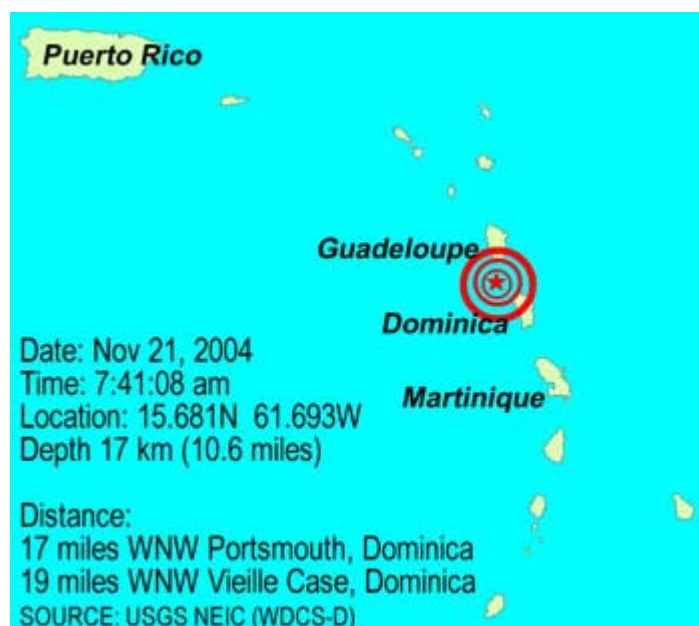
The Situation

A strong earthquake rocked the Caribbean islands of Dominica and Guadeloupe on Sunday, killing at least one person and destroying numerous homes. The earthquake, measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale, shook the islands in early morning on 21 November 2004. Initial information from the Emergency Office in Roseau, Dominica, confirms that the earthquake has affected the northern town of Portsmouth where at least two dozen buildings were damaged. The tremor also damaged a power transformer, leaving the northern half of the island of 70,000 residents without electricity. A search and rescue team has been deployed but access is difficult as the area has been cut off by heavy rains and landslides, which occurred last week. Landslides have also isolated Grand Fonds in the north of the island, which has a population of 500 persons.

In Guadeloupe, there were reports that a young child was crushed to death when a wall collapsed at his home in the southern coastal town of Trois-Rivieres, where several other houses were either destroyed or damaged. Reports also indicate that a man was hospitalized after jumping from the upper floor of his home in the south-eastern coastal town of Capesterre-Belle-Eau. At least eight homes were destroyed and 25 others damaged in Terre-de-Bas, one of the islands in the small chain, about 20 kilometres off Guadeloupe's southern coast.

About 10 people, including a woman who suffered a heart attack, were evacuated to mainland Guadeloupe from the Saintes island chain and hospitalized with minor injuries. Communications and electricity networks remain cut off in some of the affected areas.

The initial quake was followed by several aftershocks, including two with a 4.9 magnitude. The earthquake lasted several seconds and was felt as far away as Antigua and Barbuda, some 200 kilometres north of the epicentre. No damage was reported there. The epicentre was about 45 kilometres north-west of Dominica, near the Guadeloupe archipelago of Les Saintes.



Map showing the epicentre of the earthquake

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Dominica Red Cross Society has confirmed that there were no reports of injury and that they are still assessing damages and needs. The Red Cross assisted in evacuating a number of people from the damaged general hospital in Portsmouth and provided 60 cots to the National Emergency Management Office (NEMO) to assist with the evacuation. All schools on the northern side of Dominica have been closed because the buildings' were not considered safe. A meeting was held on Monday with the Dominica Red Cross Society, NEMO and government officials. Details of the meeting will be provided at a later time.

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

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