

# Information bulletin



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## The Caribbean: Earthquake

Information bulletin n° 1  
29 November 2007

This bulletin is being issued for information only. An earthquake measuring 7.4 has occurred near the island of Martinique in the eastern Caribbean. The earthquake struck at 15:00 (19:00 GMT) off the north-west coast of Martinique at a depth of 145.4 kilometres (90.4 miles). No casualties have been reported and no tsunami warning has been given.

The National Societies of the affected countries, with the support of the International Federation, have determined that external assistance is not required, and are therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

[<click here for detailed contact information>](#)

### The Situation

On Thursday, 29 November at 15:00 hrs (13:00 hrs local Caribbean time) an earthquake of magnitude 7.4 (National Earthquake Information Center <http://earthquake.usgs.gov/regional/ncic/>) occurred near the island of Martinique - Windward Islands in the Caribbean. The epicentre was located at 14.921°N, 61.264°W. (21 km east of Martinique) at a depth of 145.4 km (90.4 miles). Tremors of varying time lengths and magnitude were felt in other Caribbean islands – Dominica, St. Lucia, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago. Mobile phone services have been interrupted in many cases, and the tremor was felt hundreds of miles away in Guyana, on continental South America. However, as the depth of the event is considerable, the impact on the surface has been moderate.

In **Martinique** there have been reports of rocks fallen on roads and panic in supermarkets as products fell from shelves. The Prefecture scheduled a meeting to revise and evaluate the damages.

In **St. Lucia** there was some damage to the water lines, though no major damages reported. Some damages in the water lines.

There was temporary disruption of cell phone service in **Dominica**, but there have been no reports of injury or damage to buildings.

**One** injury was reported in **Barbados** when a person stumbled down the stairs during evacuation of a building. One house destroyed in Ellerton, St. George and some land-slides reported.

### Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Federation's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) established contact with National Societies of the Caribbean through its Disaster Management delegate in the Port of Spain Regional Representation. In addition, all activities of the DM delegate are coordinated with the Regional Representative of the Caribbean Office in Port of Spain. PADRU is also in contact with the French Red Cross' PIRAC and Martinique Red Cross. The Unit, based in Panama is on alert and on stand-by for support and assistance if required. Communication with the United Nation's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) regional office in Panama was established, as well as with the East Caribbean Donor Group. All National Societies in the Caribbean are on alert

and in contact with local Government and National Disaster Agencies. The High Frequency (HF) Radio Network is functioning and the National Societies are in contact via radio with the Telecom Unit in PADRU.

## How we work

*All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.*

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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