

# ***MEXICO: EARTHQUAKE***

*16 June, 1999*

## ***Information Bulletin N° 01***

### ***The Disaster***

Yesterday (15 June) at 15:42 hrs local time an earthquake measuring 6.7 on the Richter scale occurred near the city of Huajuapán de León in Puebla State in south-east Mexico. It lasted for 40 seconds. So far the death toll is eleven, and more than 200 are reported injured. Three hospitals were damaged and one had to be evacuated. The Faculty of Medicine was severely damaged, but the building was empty at the time of the quake. In the historical part of Puebla, the state capital, old colonial buildings and churches suffered damage, as did the town hall. In some parts of the affected area the electricity and telephone services have been cut.

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

The Red Cross branch of Puebla assisted in rescue efforts and provided first aid to the injured. Additional ambulances and 40 first aid and rescue personnel were sent from nearby Red Cross branches and from the Mexican Red Cross national headquarters. Four shelters have been opened -- three by the government and one by the Red Cross. Most people have moved into the shelters because of fears of further tremors and not because they are homeless. The Red Cross is providing food and mattresses in its shelter.

### ***Needs***

The Mexican Red Cross has advised the Secretariat that all needs can be covered locally and that no international assistance is required at present.

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