

TT 2.1A: Pan Island SitRep (Scenario A: Earthquake)

Key Priorities

- An earthquake of magnitude 7.5 hit the island of Pan at 10:00 a.m. yesterday.
- There are reports of widespread damage to houses and roads. There is limited access, especially to remote areas, due to landslides.
- It is not clear yet how many people are affected, but the estimate is around 80,000. This number may change as the situation develops and more information arrives.

Background

The island of Pan is in the Atlantic Ocean. It is a low-income country that often experiences food insecurity. The country's main economic activity is farming. Many families also get important income from illegal logging in the highlands in the north. This has increased the risk of landslides and mudslides during the wet season. The month-long rainy season is expected to start next month.

Pan society is divided strictly according to social status and gender. It is difficult for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to get information from and about vulnerable groups. This makes it harder to provide the right help for people. Cellphone coverage is very high, but few women own a phone.

Your disaster risk reduction (DRR) organization has a high profile in Pan. It has worked there for 15 years and has well-established partnerships in the country, especially with regional and national governments.

Situation overview

At 10:00 a.m. yesterday, an earthquake measuring 7.5 on the Richter scale hit the northern coast of the island of Pan. There have been several aftershocks. The epicenter was 5km from the capital, Rad. Around 50,000 houses have been affected, and 208 schools have been destroyed partially or completely. It is thought that around 80,000 people have been directly affected by the earthquake. The official death toll is 450 so far. Initial reports show few communities had preparedness and response plans. People were not aware of evacuation procedures. The earthquake-affected people living in vulnerable houses and structures the most. Most DRR activities did not focus enough on early warning and evacuation.

There are reports that many people need surgery for injuries caused by the earthquake. In some areas, more women were killed or injured because they were at home while men were at work and in open spaces like fields and markets. It is also thought that more children under 9 years of age and adults over 60 years of age have been killed. Some groups (children, older people and people with disabilities) did not receive information about earthquake and evacuation procedures beforehand. It was also difficult for them to follow instructions without help. Many people are missing.

Reaching affected areas is difficult because of the damage that the earthquake caused. There are reports that many displaced people are living in schools or churches. Many others are staying with family and friends in nearby villages. Some families who had to leave their homes are living in tents on the outskirts of Rad on government land.

Security was good before the earthquake. However, in the last few days, there have been reports of looting. There has been a security problem with a lorry delivering NGO assistance.

Humanitarian response

Immediate needs are likely to be for shelter, food, water, non-food items and sanitation facilities. Other agencies are already giving people non-food items and food. The largest gaps are shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). Host families are struggling themselves and may not be able to help the displaced people for long.

Your DRR organization is working with an international NGO. This NGO is giving shelter assistance and managing evacuation centers. You will support the shelter response because of your organization's local knowledge and networks. Another part of the response will involve working with the community on disaster preparedness actions because people are worried about more aftershocks and landslides.