Eastern Caribbean Earthquake

28 December 2015

Event Briefing

31 December 2015
1 INTRODUCTION

A magnitude 5.6 earthquake occurred at 06:55:30 UTC (02:55:30 local time) on 28 December 2015, at 26 km (16 mi) SW of Saint-Pierre, Martinique 32 km (20mi) W of Fort-de-France, Martinique, 82 km (51 mi) S of Roseau, Dominica and 78 km (46 mi) NNW of Castries, Saint Lucia. Initial estimates from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) located the epicentre of the event at 14.593ºN, 61.371ºW, and at a depth of 152.9 km.

2 CCRIF MODEL OUTPUTS

Under CCRIF’s loss calculation protocol, a CCRIF Multi-Peril Risk Estimation System (MPRES) report is required for any earthquake with a magnitude of greater than 5.0 within a box bounded by the following – Latitude 2° and 41°N, Longitude 97° and 51°W – which generates a peak ground acceleration of at least 0.01 g in part of at least one member country that has an earthquake policy. This was the case for the December 28 earthquake. Based on the MPRES footprint, a peak ground acceleration of less than 0.03g (very small ground shaking) was felt in a small portion of Dominica and Saint Lucia (Figure 1). For this earthquake event the modelled loss is zero for all CCRIF country members.

3 IMPACTS

According to the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) no damage or injuries were reported in Dominica or Saint Lucia.
Figure 1: Map showing the peak ground acceleration in Dominica following the magnitude 5.6 earthquake on 28 December 2015. 
Source: USGS & CCRIF KAC/MPRES
Figure 2: Map showing the peak ground acceleration in Saint Lucia following the magnitude 5.6 earthquake on 28 December 2015. Source: USGS & CCRIF KAC/MPRES

For further information, please contact ERN-RED, the CCRIF SPC Risk Management Specialist.

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