



Panama

Earthquake

9 October 2026

Final Event Briefing

17 October 2026

1 INTRODUCTION

A magnitude 7.7 earthquake occurred at 17:56:06 (UTC) on 9 October 2026, some nearby locations from epicenter are Pitaloza Arriba, Herrera, Panama located 12.6 km (7.8 mi) ENE from the epicenter; Chitré, Herrera, Panama is located 56 km (34.8 mi) NE from the epicenter and San Juan Bautista, Herrera, Panama located 57.3 km (35.6 mi) NE from epicenter. Initial estimates from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) located the epicentre of the event at 7.587°N, 80.769°W, and at a depth of 12.6 km (7.83 mi). – Figure 1.

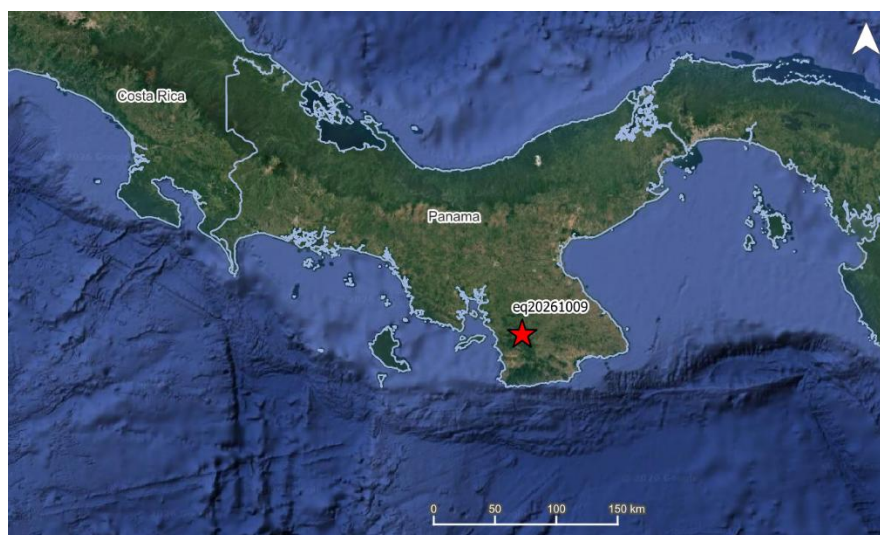


Figure 1 Information from the Earthquake Hazards Program of the United States Geological Survey regarding the earthquake event of magnitude 7.7 on 9 October 2026 at 17:56:06 (UTC). Source: USGS¹

Panama was the only CCRIF member country where peak ground acceleration, computed with the SPHERA model, was equal or greater than 0.03 g for this earthquake.

Final runs of the CCRIF loss model for peak ground acceleration produced government losses for Panama, that were above the attachment point of the country's earthquake policy; therefore, a payout under the policy is due.

The Aggregated Deductible Cover (ADC²) for this country's earthquake policy was not activated because the modelled loss was greater than the attachment point. Therefore, no payment under the ADC feature is due for Panama.

¹ Download Event KML, United States Geological Survey, review date: 9 October 2026, available at: <https://earthquake.usgs.gov/earthquakes/feed/v1.0/detail/us6000u18k.kml>

² This endorsement provides coverage for some events that are not covered by the underlying policy. For an event to be covered by this endorsement the following conditions should be met: i) Either the modelled loss amount is greater than 50% and less than or equal to 100% of the Underlying Policy Attachment Point. ii) Or the modelled loss amount is greater than 30% or less than or equal to 50% of the Underlying Policy Attachment Point and a declaration of emergency has been issued by ReliefWeb for a covered Earthquake event.

2 CCRIF MODEL OUTPUTS

Under CCRIF's loss calculation protocol, a report using the CCRIF SPHERA model is produced for any earthquake with a magnitude greater than or equal to 5.0 that occurs within the region monitored by CCRIF and which generates a peak ground acceleration of at least 0.03 g in one or more grid cells of at least one CCRIF member country. Based on the SPHERA footprint for this earthquake, peak ground acceleration of up to 0.5 g was estimated in Panama (Figure 2).

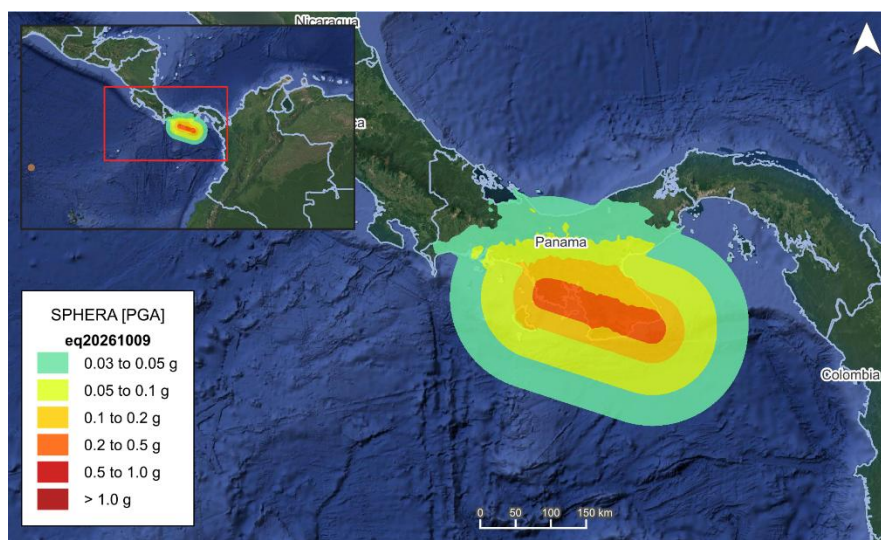


Figure 2 Map showing the peak ground acceleration in Panama computed using the SPHERA model following the magnitude 7.7 earthquake³ on 9 October 2026
Source: *USGS & CCRIF SPHERA EQ Model.*

3 REPORTED IMPACTS

A week after the earthquake, Panamanian authorities continue to consolidate the damage to housing, infrastructure and essential services. Regarding the human balance, the report confirms 27 injured people and reports one deceased person associated with the event. Likewise, 72 pregnant women and 803 people with disabilities were identified within the affected population, priority groups for the humanitarian response.⁴

According to the National Civil Protection System (SINAPROC), 13,623 affected people belonging to 4,045 families are registered. As of October 16, 5,807 homes had been evaluated, where 20,581 people reside, identifying 879 homes with total damage. In addition, 3,696 people remained in 46 shelters, mainly in the province of Veraguas, while numerous families continue to stay with relatives or remain outdoors for fear of aftershocks.⁵

³ United States Geological Survey (USGS), review date: 9 October 2026, available at: [M 7.7 - Panama](#)

⁴ [Panama Earthquake Situation Update](#)

⁵ [PanamaEQ Situation Report 5 \(as of 16Oct\)](#)

The Ministry of Education (MEDUCA) reports 619 schools affected in the country's 16 educational regions. Of these, 35 schools collapsed, directly affecting 3,031 students, although field checks suggest that the final number of collapsed schools could increase. Classes in the public system remain suspended while structural inspections continue.⁴

The health sector has also suffered significant damage. The Ministry of Health (MINSA) reports damage to 67 health facilities, including hospitals and primary care centers. The Tonosí Rural Hospital was out of operation and the Government confirmed that it will be rebuilt along with five additional health centers. Four hospitals had managed to partially restore their services as of October 16⁵.

The damage extends to road infrastructure, bridges, government buildings, churches, and basic services. In Veraguas, of the twenty bridges inspected in Mariato and southern Soná, thirteen require repairs. Access problems persist due to landslides and damage to roads, particularly in Herrera, Los Santos, and Veraguas. Although the bridge over the Oria River was reopened, access restrictions continue in some rural communities due to rains and mass movements⁵.

4 TRIGGER POTENTIAL

Final runs of the CCRIF loss model for peak ground acceleration produced government losses for Panama, that were above the attachment point of the country's earthquake policy; therefore, a payout under the policy is due.

The Aggregated Deductible Cover (ADC⁶) for this country's earthquake policy was not activated because the modelled loss was greater than the attachment point. Therefore, no payment under the ADC feature is due for Panama.

For additional information, please contact CCRIF SPC at: pr@ccrif.org

⁶ This endorsement provides coverage for some events that are not covered by the underlying policy. For an event to be covered by this endorsement the following conditions should be met: i) Either the modelled loss amount is greater than 50% and less than or equal to 100% of the Underlying Policy Attachment Point. ii) Or the modelled loss amount is greater than 30% or less than or equal to 50% of the Underlying Policy Attachment Point and a declaration of emergency has been issued by ReliefWeb for a covered Earthquake event.
