

# Alert

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## Tanzania

# Earthquake in North-West Tanzania

Geneva, 14 September 2016

### 1. Brief description of the emergency and impact

A severe earthquake with magnitude of 5.9 on the Richter scale hit the North-West Tanzania on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2016 at 15:27 local time. The epicentre was located in close proximity to the border town of Nsunga on the Lake Victoria and nearby Bukoba municipality, a major town and the regional centre for the Kagera region. Less than 72 hours from the quake, 17 persons were reported dead and 170 hospitalized.

While assessments are still on-going, preliminary evaluations record that 840 buildings have been destroyed including three schools and dormitories. Over 1,264 houses are reported to be unsafe and hundreds of people are currently displaced. The Acting Regional Commissioner of Kagera region estimates the need for temporary shelters for over 3,000 people as well as for medical supplies, non-food items, food assistance and psychosocial support.

### 2. Why is an ACT response needed?

ACT Tanzania forum members ELCT and TCRS are already present in the region and have a long lasting experience in supporting the development of the affected populations. ELCT has an office located in Bukoba while TCRS has an office in the close town of Ngara. Both ACT members can provide timely humanitarian assistance and deployment of staff to the area.

### 3. National and international response

The regional authorities in Kagera and the Bukoba municipality coordinated the initial rescue operations. Emergency first-aid services are being provided by the Tanzania Red Cross society.

National and international agencies are currently sending staff to the area to further assess the situation and the needs of the population. An initial planning meeting was conducted on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September with the UN Emergency Coordination Group in Dar es Salaam and further coordination meetings will be held in the coming days next days and this will be key in planning for the response.

### 4. ACT Alliance response

TCRS is already coordinating an initial response from its bases of Kibondo and Dar es Salaam and is planning to deliver plastic sheeting, blankets, baby blankets and other emergency relief items already in stock from the refugees operations.

## 5. Planned activities

ACT Tanzania forum hopes to further respond to the needs of the affected population through ACT Alliance humanitarian mechanism. TCRS and ELCT are planning to support the affected populations through provision of Emergency shelters, Non-food items and Community Based Psychosocial Support. Long-term plan to re-build the education facilities that have been destroyed is also being considered.

## 6. Constraints

Access to information is still limited.

### **ACT Tanzania Forum Contact Information**

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