DISASTER REPORT

Disaster Type: EARTHQUAKE

Severity Level: MEDIUM

Location: 697KM NNW OF PORT-VILA

Source: SEISMO.GOV.IN

DETAILED REPORT:

On December 11, 2024, at 22:14:01 UTC, a moderate earthquake with a magnitude of 5.4 on the Richter scale occurred approximately 697 kilometers northwest of Port-Vila, Vanuatu. This event, as reported by seismo.gov.in, was categorized as a medium-severity earthquake. While the epicenter was significantly offshore, the proximity to Vanuatu warrants a closer examination of potential impacts. Earthquakes of this magnitude are capable of causing noticeable shaking in populated areas, particularly those closer to the epicenter. Depending on the depth of the quake's hypocenter, and the geological composition of the region, the intensity of shaking would have varied. Structures in the affected areas could have experienced minor to moderate damage, ranging from cracked walls to minor structural failures in older or less robust buildings. Further investigation is needed to determine the specific intensity of ground shaking at populated locations. There is also a potential for landslides or rockfalls in mountainous regions, although this possibility depends on factors such as soil type and slope stability. Tsunamis are unlikely following an earthquake of this magnitude and location. However, official warnings should always be heeded. A comprehensive assessment of potential damage and its impact on the region would require analyzing data from various sources, including local authorities, geological surveys, and eyewitness accounts. This report serves as a preliminary assessment based on the limited information available at this time and further information may change the severity rating.

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