



Albania Earthquake

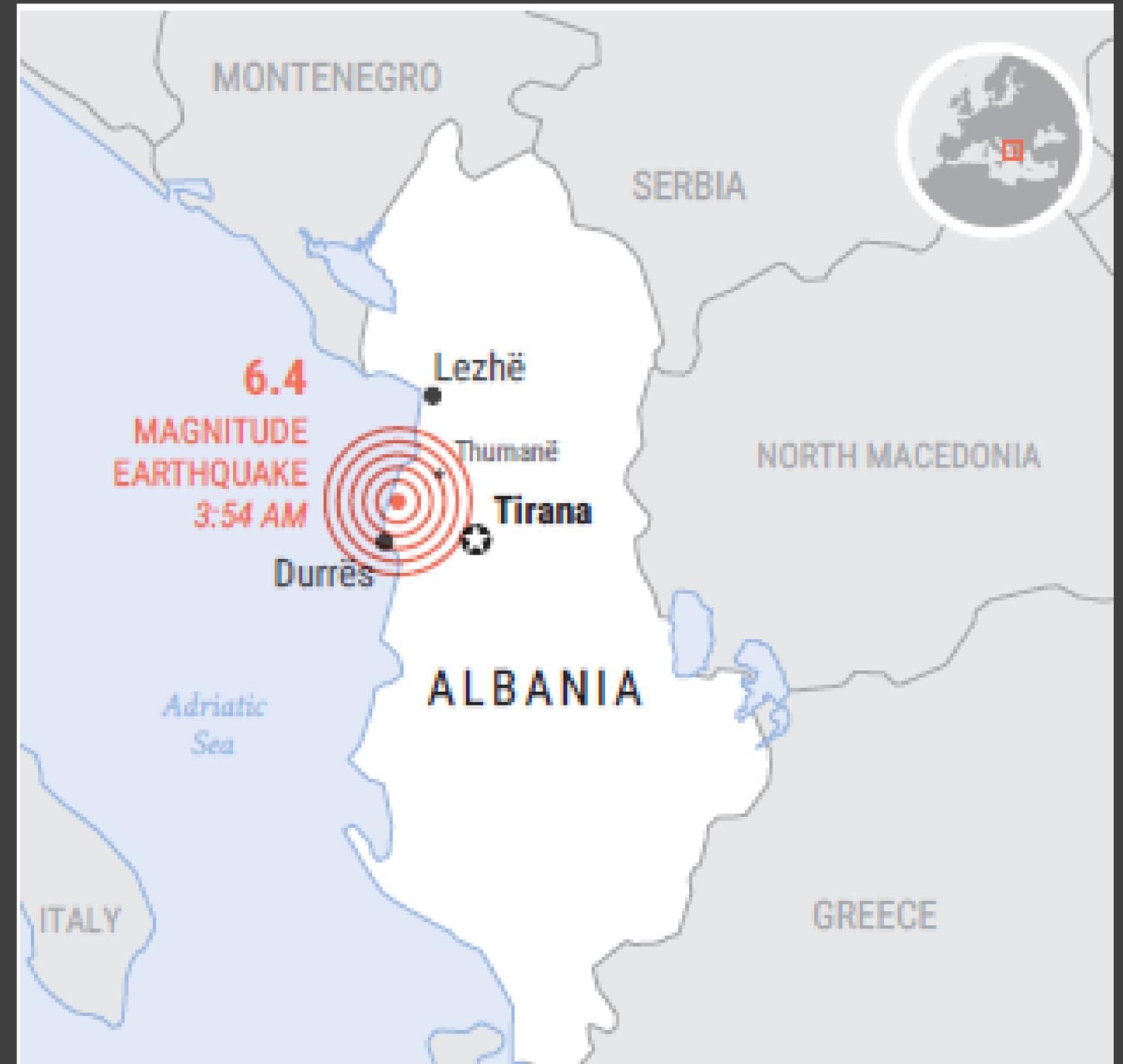
Some coordination take-aways

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Albania Earthquake Situation

- EQ 6,4M, 20km; 26Nov, 03.54 local (02.54 UTC)
- 200,000+ people affected; 51 deaths, 913 injured
- widespread damage to structures in affected areas, critical infrastructure widely intact:
 - 11,500 housing units destroyed
 - 83,700 housing units damaged (PDNA, Feb 2020)



Key Actors

- Albanian domestic response system invalidated at initial stage, replaced with ad-hoc structure.
- National actors:
authorities in charge, areas of response led by „Politicians–turning-Operational“;
military as major implementing arm;
Albanian Red Cross; smaller NGOs and Civil Society initiatives.
- International actors:
joint UCPM/UNDAC team, USAR, damage assessment teams;
Swiss Development Cooperation/Swiss Hum. Aid, USAID;
UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO;
Caritas Europe, Save the Children, World Vision;
IFRC.



Key Challenges

- Operational
 - incomprehensive assessment information, winterisation, changing shelter situation.
- Coordination
 - domestic coordination with room for improvement
 - domestic – international coordination of limited effectiveness
 - international coordination very positive



Coordination is fostered by

- The will to coordinate and cooperate
It is not that much about the tools, but about the mindset!
- A common systematic basis
(e.g. the Cluster Approach, a well-developed C2/C3 system)
- Consonant needs-driven approach
In contrast to asset- and visibility-driven action!
- Personal knowledge of key actors
enabling quick trusted relationships!
- Investment in joint contingency / scenario planning
What has been thought through, will remain!

Know your partners ahead of crisis

- Leadership level knowledge of other systems / organisation approaches, procedures, capacities and limitations is essential.
Systems are complementary!
- Anchor systems in learning and development on all sides; learn with and from each other in joint classes, trainings and exercises.
Learn to speak a common language!
- „Changing hats“ can benefit individuals and systems.
Put yourself in your partners' boots!

No „one solution“

- Try to understand specific contexts.
Be adaptable to the reality on the ground!
- Refrain from transferring your system to other actors or countries.
Be ready to think out of your box!
- Re-assess the situation frequently. - *and adapt!*
- Problem-solving mindset, know-how to manoeuvre systems, aiming for pragmatic solutions, and appetite to taking decisions widely result from operational experience.
Balance senior and junior expertise!