

## Caribbean had 80 quakes this week!

The United States Geological Survey's website shows there have been approximately 80 earthquakes, measuring anywhere from 2.4 to 7.0, in the Caribbean within the past week.

An online in-depth map outlines the dates, times and magnitudes of the earthquakes taking place mainly in the Hispaniola and Puerto Rico regions. Along with the major earthquake that struck Haiti on Tuesday, there was a smaller one with a magnitude of 2.5 in the Mona Passage alongside Puerto Rico.

Young science

According to Lyndon Brown, research fellow at the University of West Indies Earth-quake Unit, "Earth-quakes are always happening. There are cycles in terms of when the big events will be happening. The strength is building up and it has to be released.

"It is a young science when it comes to detecting earthquakes."

The unit did not register any other earthquakes in the region aside from what took place in Haiti.

Brown said the instruments at the Earthquake Unit are designed to detect local earthquakes. However, if the earthquakes measure 6 or 7, then the instruments will detect these events as far away as the Pacific.

Unrelated activity

"We should be able to pick up Puerto Rico," he said.

Puerto Rico and Haiti's fault systems are different, according to Brown, while Puerto Rico's activity may not be related to Haiti's.

"In terms of the motions that are taking place, it doesn't show that one is contributing to the other."

However, not all earthquakes are felt in Jamaica. If they are, then the unit notifies the ODPEM immediately.