

Information bulletin



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Spain: Earthquake

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12 May 2011

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Spanish Red Cross, with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

[<click here for detailed contact information>](#)

On 11 May 2011, in the evening a 5.3 quake hit the town Lorca, Murcia in the southern part of Spain. About two hours earlier a 4.4 magnitude tremor had hit the town killing at least 9 people and injuring more than 120.



The Spanish Red Cross is providing assistance to the people affected in Lorca, Spain, after two earthquakes hit the city on 11 May 2011.
Photo: Spanish Red Cross

Hundreds of people spent the night outdoors, unable to return home after the quake destroyed masonry and building facades, crushed cars and littered streets with bricks. Many of Lorca's 90,000 residents are waiting for housing inspectors to give them the green light to enter buildings.

Spanish Red Cross is focused on health care for those affected by the earthquake of Lorca. The National Society has also increased its humanitarian operation in Murcia with psychosocial support teams from different regions of the country. Spanish Red Cross is also distributing blankets, maternal and child health kits, water and food to alleviate the most pressing needs of the population, and is already in the area affected with six Rapid Response Emergency Teams (ERIE) specializing in shelter, who have moved over 10,500 blankets and over 2,000 beds.

The Situation

On 11 May 2011, in the evening, a 5.3 quake came about two hours after a 4.4 magnitude tremor in the southern part of Spain, close to the town of Lorca, Murcia, killing at least 9 people and injuring more than 120. All deaths have been caused by wall rubble detached from the facades of the buildings to the streets.

Spain has hundreds of earthquakes every year but most of them are too small to be noticed. The region of Murcia is close to the large fault line beneath the Mediterranean Sea, where the European and African continents meet. This is the country's most seismically active area, and it suffered tremors in 1999 and 2005.

After the earthquake, the Municipality of Murcia Region declared the Level 2 of the Special Plan for Seismic Risk, and the National Government called the State Committee of Coordination (CECO) to support the regional operations. The Rafael Mendez Hospital suffered structural damages, and 270

patients had to be evacuated to other hospitals. Schools have been closed until checking the possible damages. There are 200 Civil Protection volunteers, 50 fire-fighters, 400 police officers and 225 soldiers of the Emergencies Military Unit (UME) from Betera and Seville headquarters working on this disaster.

Hundreds of people spent the night outdoors, unable to return home after the quake destroyed masonry and building facades, crushed cars and littered streets with bricks. Current priorities are shelters, water, food, blankets and debris removal. Many of Lorca's 90,000 residents are waiting for housing inspectors to give them the green light to enter buildings.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Spanish Red Cross has been actively responding to the earthquake by mobilizing its Rapid Response Emergency Teams (ERIE) specialized in shelter. More than 130 volunteers of the Spanish Red Cross are already working in the affected area. The National Society distributed blankets, maternal and child health kits, water and food to alleviate the most pressing needs of the affected population. Two coordination mobile units from Almería and Cadiz have been deployed to allow good coordination and communication channels.

The Spanish Red Cross is focused on health care for those affected by the earthquake of Lorca by installing the pertinent infrastructure to support the health centre of the town, serving the basic needs of health of the population. 24 ambulance cars, three field hospitals and two advanced medical posts are already in place.

The Spanish Red Cross has also increased its humanitarian operation in Murcia with psychosocial support teams from Madrid, Alicante, Almería and Murcia. In total, 36 people joined in an emergency operation which already has more than 250 people in the field.

The Red Cross has activated its Humanitarian Emergency Agreement with Carrefour Foundation to provide food and water for 10,000 people in the form of kits with milk, biscuits, juices, mineral water, and diapers.

Available resources for shelter intervention	
Volunteers	80
4WD Vehicles	5
Vehicles for people transport	5
Trucks	4
Trailers	1
Beds	1,882
Sleeping Bags	1,422
Hygiene kits	2,811
Blankets	10,793
Tents	42
Sheets	120
Illumination kit	2

Human resources available for health intervention	
Area	Volunteers
Murcia	17
Alicante	3
Almería	4
Total	24

Human resources available for PsP intervention	
Area	Volunteers
Madrid	10
Murcia	6
Alicante	12
Almería	8
Total	36

How we work

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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