Information Bulletin n° 1
IBSP001
26 July 2013

This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time. The Spanish Red Cross has determined that external assistance is not required, and is therefore not seeking funding or other assistance from donors at this time.

Summary:
A rail accident took place on 24th July 2013 near Santiago de Compostela (Galicia, Spain). The accident has resulted in a high toll of deaths and casualties. An emergency operative task force has been established, involving the participation of local and national emergency public teams and more than 100 Spanish Red Cross volunteers.

Last night, efforts focused on rescue activities, emergency first health cares, referral to hospitals of people in critical situation and psychosocial support to the affected.

The identification of bodies has begun immediately. Spanish RC emergency teams have intensified psychosocial activities, providing emotional support to relatives, which is of critical importance at this stage.

The situation
A high-speed train derailed on 24th July in the parish of Angrois (3 km from Santiago de Compostela), with more than 220 passengers on board. The accident took place at 20:41 in the evening. The train was covering the route between Madrid and Ferrol (Galicia), in the northern of Spain.

140 people have been injured and 80 fatalities have been reported so far by official sources. 54 bodies have been already identified.

The public services (Civil Protection, Firefighters, Guardia Civil, local and national police and public health authorities) have been responding since the first moment of the emergency operation. The Spanish Red Cross’s domestic emergency teams were also deployed to support public efforts. At present aid activities continue specially focused on rescue tasks in the most damaged train cars, the identification of bodies and psychosocial support to survivors and relatives.

Public services have set up a telephone line for information: +981 551 100 (Xunta de Galicia). Foreigners are also advised to contact their national consulates in Spain. The festivities in the honor of Santiago de Compostela – traditionally celebrated on 25th of July – have been cancelled as a sign of mourning.
Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Spanish Red Cross Teams for Immediate Response to Emergencies (ERIEs) joined public authorities in emergency first aid activities and evacuation of people to nearest hospitals.

Three psychosocial support teams from Galicia have been working non-stop providing support to victims, relatives and responders involved in rendering assistance. An additional psychosocial support ERIE team from Salamanca has recently joined the Galician teams and another one from Madrid joined last night.

In relation to psychosocial activities, carried out with the Civil Protection and the College of Psychologists, the Spanish Red Cross teams are providing the following services:

- Emotional support to the affected (victims and relatives).
- Technical advice to emergency health staff and police on how to manage the psychosocial elements of the situation.
- Early detection of cases needed requiring specific psychological support.
- Support to people until information about their relatives is confirmed.
- Deployment of vehicles for displacements of affected families.

In total, 150 volunteers of the National Society have been deployed, two ambulances have been dispatched to the identification point and three collective transport vehicles are available for displacement needs.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Spanish Red Cross**: Vega Orozco Legaza, National Disaster Management Officer, email: vega@cruzroja.es
- **IFRC Europe Zone**: Alberto Monguzzi, Disaster Management Coordinator, phone: +36 1 8884 505, email: alberto.monguzzi@ifrc.org
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How we work

All IFRC 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.