This bulletin is being issued for information only, and reflects the current situation and details available at this time.

The situation

In the afternoon of 17 August 2017 around 16:50 (GMT 14:50), a van crashed into pedestrians on Las Ramblas, close to Plaza de Cataluña in the heart of Barcelona, Spain. At least 13 people died and over 100 persons were injured, many of them seriously. The Catalan regional government has said that citizens from at least 26 countries were among the people killed and injured during the van attack.

The driver escaped the scene and a police manhunt for him continues. Two suspects whom police believe to be linked to the Barcelona attack are in custody, although neither is the driver.

Separately, the police shot and killed a man who attempted to drive his vehicle into a checkpoint on Avenida Diagonal. At least two officers were injured in the ramming incident, and it is unclear whether this incident was connected to the attack at Plaza de Cataluña.

A second attack took place in Cambrils, a coastal town around 120km from Barcelona. Six bystanders and one police officer were injured – two seriously – when they were reportedly deliberately hit by a car. Police officers then shot dead five suspects, some of whom were wearing what appeared to be explosive belts.

Officials are also linking the two attacks to an earlier explosion that destroyed a house in Alcanar, killing one person and wounding at least one more. Police now say they believe explosives were being prepared at the property.

A three-day mourning has been declared in Spain.

The nature of the incident – a van-ramming attack – is similar to a number of attacks that have taken place across Western Europe, including France, Germany and the UK in recent months.
Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Spanish Red Cross immediately responded to the situation with mobilizing and deploying its Immediate Response Teams in Emergencies (ERIE)\(^1\).

The National Society was providing emergency health care, psychosocial support, water distribution to people affected and support to authorities with registration in coordination with emergency services of the Municipality. In Plaza Cataluña, health facilities of public authorities were established with the participation of the Spanish Red Cross until the morning of 18 August.

Hotel Palace on Gran Vía was established as central point for affected persons and families. The Spanish Red Cross mobilized its health and psychosocial care teams and two support vehicles to the hotel and was also providing water and psychosocial support to those affected. Services lasted until 7 a.m. 18 August 2017.

Resources were deployed to the three main hospitals to which injured people have been referred.

Water and food was distributed to affected people caught up in the area and with difficulty to return to their homes or hotels and for members of emergencies and security services. Agreement with Carrefour Foundation has been activated for food distribution and psychosocial support.

Support to transport affected people to their homes and hotels was also organized.

Psychosocial support teams have been deployed to Barcelona airport to support family members of affected people that might arrive.

Emergency units were also deployed in Cambrils, Tarragona to support public authorities.

More than 45 Red Cross staff and volunteers have been actively engaged in the response activities in the different locations.

The IFRC Regional Office for Europe is in continuous contact with the Spanish Red Cross to monitor the developments.

\(^1\) Equipos de Respuesta Inmediata en Emergencias

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Click here

1. Click here to see the map of the affected areas
2. Click here to return to the title page
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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 (NGOs) in Disaster Relief and the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian 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.
Annex 1 - Map of interventions