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Information bulletin no. 2

Spain: Attacks in Barcelona

Finland: Attacks in Turku



Date of issue: 23 August 2017	
Date of disaster: 17 August 2017	Point of contact: Ruben Romero, Disaster Management Coordinator IFRC Regional Office for Europe phone: +36 1 888 45 00 email: ruben.romero@ifrc.org
Host National Society: Spanish Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross	
Other partner organizations involved in the operation: local authorities, health emergency services	

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

The situation

Spain

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.

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.

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.

As a result of the attacks, 15 people died (14 in Barcelona/1 in Cambrils) and 45 persons are still hospitalized (10 in critical conditions /12 seriously injured).

Finland

Two people were killed and eight injured in a stabbing attack in Turku, Finland on Friday afternoon, 18 August 2017. The attack took place at 4 p.m. at Turku market square and its surroundings. Finnish police took the main suspect into custody after shooting him the leg. Four other suspects were taken into custody later in the weekend. In addition, an international search warrant has been issued for a sixth suspect. Police have confirmed the knife rampage was an extremist attack.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Spain

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

The following activities were performed by the Spanish Red Cross at three different locations:

Attack in Barcelona

Prat Airport Terminals

Psychosocial support teams were deployed to Barcelona airport to support family members of affected people that might arrive. The number of the deployed team members has been gradually decreasing as the family members of the affected people arrived.

¹ Equipos de Respuesta Inmediata en Emergencias

Hospital del Mar

An ERIE team was deployed to the hospital to provide psychological support (PSS) to hospitalized patients and relatives (daytime) and a basic life support ambulance. Due to the high number of patients in critical conditions the team will remain deployed until further notice.

CECAT (Generalitat de Catalunya Emergency Center)

A person was integrated in the coordination device (24 hours) until Monday afternoon.

City of Justice - Institute of Legal Medicine

At the request of the Center of Coordination of Social Emergencies of the City of Barcelona, an ERIE team has shifted its local psychologists` team. The ERIE was accompanying the affected families during the identification process. Identification of all dead is now finished so the ERIE deployment came to its end.

Barcelona's town hall

The town hall was open to public to offer signature in a book of condolences. A preventive device has been deployed (a psychological support ERIE team together with a basic life support ambulance) due to the high influx of people.

Sagrada Familia

Three basic life support ambulances, two logistics vehicles and an ERIE team of PSS were deployed on Sunday morning to cover the official religious act done in the Sagrada Familia Cathedral with the assistance of central and regional Governments and the Royal House.

Spanish Red Cross Coordination Centre in Barcelona

Attention to the official phone number called "Phone for the attention of Victims" (8:00 to 22 hours, from Monday to Friday) was raised.

Attack in Cambrils (Tarragona)

An ERIE of psychological support was assisting the injured persons and their families (five people still remain hospitalized). The family of the only dead in this attack was also assisted.

Explosion in Alcanar (Tarragona)

Assistance was ensured to emergency corps (firemen, police, etc.) and affected neighbours, who were transferred to a camping nearby. The operation closed by now.

Foreseen operation

Psychological support by the ERIE personnel will be ensured based on needs. Also, the National Society is on stand-by in case intra-hospital transfers for affected families are needed.

It is also foreseen that the Spanish Red Cross will provide assistance with the return of dead bodies at their arrival to their places of origin within Spain.

Finland

The **Finnish Red Cross** (FRC) was closely coordinating with the authorities in Turku right after the attack. Trained volunteers offered **psychosocial support** (PSS) in the centre of Turku and the market square. The volunteers also assisted the authorities at the Turku university hospital where a crisis centre was set up for people in need of immediate help. The PSS activities still continued on Tuesday.

As of 22 August, the **volunteers have provided PSS to over 500 people**. The FRC Emergency Youth opened a web chat over the weekend in order to maintain assistance related to the attack in Turku. It continued to be open until the evening of 22 August.

In addition, 11 Finnish Red Cross psychologists belonging to Finnish Red Cross disaster preparedness team have been assisting the authorities since Sunday in preparing a recovery phase plan. They will continue to provide their support until the end of this week.

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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.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace**.
