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## Information bulletin no. 1 Spain: Attacks in Barcelona

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

<b>Date of issue: 18 August 2017</b>	
<b>Date of disaster: 17 August 2017</b>	<b>Point of contact:</b> Ruben Romero, Disaster Management Coordinator IFRC Regional Office for Europe phone: +36 1 888 45 00 email: <a href="mailto:ruben.romero@ifrc.org">ruben.romero@ifrc.org</a>
<b>Host National Society: Spanish Red Cross</b>	
<b>Other partner organizations involved in the operation: local authorities, health emergency services</b>	

*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.



Spanish RC's Immediate Response Teams in Emergencies deployed to the scene. Photo: Spanish RC

## 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)**<sup>1</sup>.

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.

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

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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



Staff and volunteers of Spanish RC on the scene of the attack. Photo: Spanish RC

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<sup>1</sup> Equipos de Respuesta Inmediata en Emergencias

## Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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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.

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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**.

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# Annex 1- Map of interventions

