

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION

CYPRUS RED CROSS SOCIETY 2015 ACHIEVEMENTS

The preparation of another annual report, allows us to see all that the Cyprus Red Cross Society (CRCS) has accomplished during the past year. It is with great satisfaction, if not pride, that I am addressing not only the readers of the CRCS 2015 Annual Report but, most importantly, the contributors to the successes of our Society.

In 2015, the CRCS carried out its humanitarian work in full compliance with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (hereafter referred to as the International RC/RC Movement), the legislation of the Republic of Cyprus and its own Statutes. The CRCS was supported, as always, by the commendable efforts of its Branches, the Youth Section, its members and several thousand volunteers, as well as its staff members.

An important activity in 2015 was the organisation of the Conference during which the CRCS Strategic Plan 2014-2019 was presented to the members, volunteers and staff of the CRCS.

The core humanitarian activity of the CRCS in 2015 was the continuation of the provision of assistance to refugees. An important area of concern was the cooperation and establishment of project agreements with the Icelandic Red Cross in Psychosocial Support Services, in legal advice to migrants and the assistance to refugees from Syria. For these projects a Migration Officer was employed and the contract of the Psychosocial Support Officer was extended.

In an effort to meet the humanitarian consequences of the financial crisis, CRCS diverted all its resources towards meeting local needs. True to its principles, during 2015 the CRCS responded readily and discreetly to the increased requests for humanitarian assistance and moral support on a daily basis. In addition to its traditional humanitarian activities, the other most important were the Easter and Christmas Love Campaigns which helped thousands of families, also in rural areas. Our main activity and concern was of course the CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti, while the largest and most important fundraising activity was the annual Pancyprian "Door to Door" campaign. Many other activities, among them blood donation, first aid training, road safety, disaster relief, psychosocial support, tracing and restoring family links services, made 2015 a really productive year.

To all those praiseworthy individuals who helped the CRCS to undertake the above humanitarian activities, I should like to express my appreciation, gratitude and warm thanks. To the members of the Council, the Executive Committee, the Branches, the Youth Section, as well as to our many volunteers, the Director General and to all the CRCS staff members, I wish strength, health and courage to carry on in fulfilling their noble responsibilities, in order to ensure that together we can all continue our humanitarian mission with even more success in providing better living conditions to the vulnerable people.

Fotini Papadopoulos
President

CYPRUS RED CROSS SOCIETY: FROM 1950 TO 2015

The Cyprus Red Cross Society (CRCS) was founded in 1950 as a branch of the British Red Cross. After the declaration of independence of the Republic of Cyprus in 1960 and the adherence to the Geneva International Conventions, CRCS was officially recognized by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus through the adoption of the law N.39 of 1967. Through this legislation, CRCS became an auxiliary body to the public authorities in humanitarian matters, using the Red Cross Emblem in accordance with the Geneva Conventions. The CRCS was recognized by the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC) in 2012 and in 2013 was admitted in the International RC/RC Movement becoming officially the 188th member of the International RC/RC Movement.

The CRCS is an independent body operating in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the Red Cross Law and its own Statutes. The main governing bodies are the General Assembly, the Council and the Executive Committee. The CRCS Branches operate in all towns and are managed by their respective Committees. Since 1973, the Youth Section, in addition to its Central Committee, operates District Committees in each town. Most officers and members of the CRCS are volunteers.

Within the framework of its mission to help improve health, prevent illnesses, alleviate pain throughout the world, in times of peace or war and without any prejudice or discrimination, CRCS undertakes extensive activities which, among others, include the offer of humanitarian assistance, psychosocial support to vulnerable persons, fundraising campaigns, offer of First Aid lessons and training, blood donation, as well as activities to inform and to raise awareness of the Red Cross mission, its principles and the protection of the Red Cross emblem.

Of particular importance was the assistance provided by CRCS during the Turkish invasion of 1974 with regard to the evacuation of the population which was expelled from areas under Turkish control, taking care of the wounded, providing housing and assistance to meet the needs of the refugees, the reunification of families, the transmission of messages, the return of prisoners, locating the missing persons, as well as providing assistance to meet the needs of the enclaved persons. To this date, CRCS continues to send all necessary basic provisions and other aid to the enclaved persons and helps with covering their needs whenever they visit the free areas; it continues to issue certificates of captivity and of having been an enclaved person.

CRCS carries out a wide variety of other important activities such as disaster preparedness and management, psychosocial support, tracing and restoring family links services, blood donation, First Aid lessons, training of staff and volunteers, tree planting, road safety, participating in European programmes, organizing humanitarian and community events, assistance to migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, as well as organisation of seminars and camping for the youth. Especially noteworthy are the activities of the CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti, which since 1957 has been offering therapeutic treatment and rehabilitation to children with disabilities.

The above mentioned extensive activities of CRCS are not limited to Cyprus but are also extended overseas. CRCS responds to various appeals of the International Movement and in many cases CRCS has sent humanitarian support to Sister Societies whose countries have been affected by floods, earthquakes and other disasters. Its largest projects abroad were the

building and equipping of a large hospital in Sri Lanka, the financing of the completion of a second one in the same country and a Community Medical Centre in Karatoula-Oleni, Greece.

In 2015, because of the urgency to address the increased local demands for humanitarian assistance due to the financial crisis, CRCs had no other alternative to diverting all its resources towards meeting the increased needs of the people of Cyprus. The only exceptions, as far as international assistance was concerned, were relatively modest donations for the victims of the earthquake in Nepal, the conflict in Syria and towards the emergency appeal for Greece.

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2015 DIARY OF ACTIVITIES

January

Circulation of the 2015 Lucky Charms

- 8 General Assembly Paphos Branch
- 12 General Assembly Kyrenia Branch

February

- 3 CRCS Executive Committee Meeting

March

- 16 CRCS Council Meeting
- 29-29 CRCS Conference "Looking to the Future"

April

CRCS Easter Love Campaign

May

- 4-22 CRCS Pancyprian "Door to Door" Fundraising Campaign
- 7-8 Participation in the PERCO Meeting in Helsinki, Finland
- 8 Celebration of the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day
- 10 CRCS Participation in the Assessment Mission Course
- 19 Participation in the Extraordinary General Meeting of the Red Cross EU Office, Brussels, Belgium
- 22 CRCS Executive Committee Meeting
- 23-28 Participation in the 12th RCRC Mediterranean Conference, San Marino
- 28-31 CRCS Participation in the "Argonaftis" Exercise

June

- 16-17 Red Cross EU Office officials visit to the CRCS
- 22-23 Participation in the ICRC/ IFRC Annual Meeting of NS Legal Advisers, Geneva, Switzerland
- 24-25 Participation in the 2nd Small European Countries (SEC) Red Cross Meeting, Reykjavik, Iceland
- 29 CRCS Participation in the Assessment Mission Course

July

- 1-8 CRCS Youth Section Summer Camp
- 8 CRCS Council Meeting
- 20-23 Participation in the 4th Commonwealth RCRC Conference on International Humanitarian Law (IHL), Canberra, Australia

August

September

- 1-2, 4 & 7 Anna Vissi & Michalis Hadjiyiannis Concerts
- 3 CRCS Executive Committee Meeting
- 12 Celebration of the World First Aid Day
- 29 CRCS Council Meeting

October

- 2-15 CRCS Excursion to Vietnam & Cambodia
- 8 50th Anniversary of the Red Cross Seven Fundamental Principles
- 8-10 Participation in the Annual Meeting of the First Aid Education European Network (FAEEN), Luxembourg
- 9-11 Participation in the Annual European Network for Psychosocial Support (ENPS) Forum, Sofia, Bulgaria
- 21-23 Participation in the PERCO Meeting in Vienna, Austria
- 26-29 Visit to the CRCS by the Hordaland Branch of the Norwegian Red Cross
- 30 CRCS Executive Committee Meeting

November

- 5-6 Participation in the Annual General Assembly of the Red Cross EU Office, Brussels, Belgium
- 5-8 CRCS Psychosocial Support Training, Nicosia
- 16-17 Participation in the two-day meeting on the 'Reception of asylum seekers in the EU', Brussels, Belgium
- 18 General Assembly Nicosia Branch

December

- Circulation and sales of Christmas Cards
- Issue and circulation of the 2016 Desk Calendar
- CRCS Christmas Love Campaign

Ocean Basket Campaign

- 1 Dinner in honor of CRCS donors**
- 4-10 Participation in the 32nd International Conference, General Assembly and the Council of Delegates, Geneva, Switzerland**
- 6-7 & 9 Hermes Airports & CRCS Christmas Bazaars**
- 16 CRCS Council Meeting**
- 5, 12 & 13 Organisation of the CRCS Christmas Bazaars**

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MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

According to the new CRCS Statutes (25.01.2012) the Governing bodies of the Society are the following:

- The General Assembly
- The Council
- The Executive Committee

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL IN 2015

Elected under Article 12 (1) (a) (b)

1. Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou, President,
2. Mrs. Leda Koursoumba, First Vice President,
3. Dr. Mustafa Hami, Second Vice President,
4. Mr. Dinos Christofides, Treasurer,
5. Mr. Andreas Artemis, Nicosia,
6. Mrs. Amalia Erotokritos, Nicosia,
7. Mrs. Evmorfia Fereos, Nicosia,
8. Mrs. Despo Frederickou, Nicosia,
9. Metropolitan of Tamassos and Orini, Isaias, Nicosia,
10. Mr. Michalis Sarris, Nicosia,
11. Mr. Nicos Gregoriou, Limassol,
12. Mr. Andreas Poetis, Famagusta,
13. Mr. Angelos Nicolaides, Larnaca,
14. Mr. Georgios Hasapis, Paphos,
15. Mr. Costas Pandehis, Kyrenia.

Under Article 12 (1) (c)

Mrs. Marina Demades, President, Nicosia Branch,
Mrs. Evi Zarifi, Treasurer, Nicosia Branch,
Mrs. Niki Hadjitsangari, President, Limassol Branch,
Mrs. Annie Haraki, Treasurer, Limassol Branch,
Mrs. Kika Konia, President, Famagusta Branch,
Mr. Emilia Vourka, Treasurer, Famagusta Branch,
Mrs. Aliko Neokleous, President, Larnaca Branch,
Mrs. Lenia Karapataki, Treasurer, Larnaca Branch,
Mrs. Anna Christodoulidou, President, Paphos Branch,
Mrs. Christiana Atalioyi, Treasurer, Paphos Branch,
Mrs. Maroulla Angelides, President, Kyrenia Branch,
Mrs. Evanthia Papasavva, Treasurer, Kyrenia Branch,
Mrs. Vanessa Kyprianou, President, Central Committee Youth Section,
Mrs. Kyproulla Karantoni, Treasurer, Central Committee Youth Section.

Under Article 12 (4)

Director General, Mr. Takis Neophytou

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN 2015

President of the Society, Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulos,
First Vice President of the Society, Mrs. Leda Koursoumba,
Treasurer of the Society, Mr. Dinos Christofides,
Director General, Mr. Takis Neophytou,
The representative of the Branch Committees, Mrs. Marina Demades, President of Nicosia Branch.

MEETINGS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES

During the course of 2015:

The Council met four times: 16 March, 8 July, 29 September and 16 December.

The Executive Committee met four times: 3 February, 22 May, 3 September and 30 October.

COMMITTEES

Finance, Fundraising and Pancyprian “Door to Door” Collection, Disaster Management, Children Therapy Centre “Stella Soulioti”, First Aid and Blood Donation, Migration, Health and Psychosocial Support, Training and Volunteers and Events Committee.

RETIREMENT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL AND APPOINTMENT OF A DEPUTY DIRECTOR

The Director General’s intention to retire in a year’s time was followed by a decision to employ on probation Mrs. Christina Kapartis as the Deputy Director of the CRCS, as of January 2016 for his succession. Mrs. Kapartis has a background in Management and Business Administration, has worked in the finance sector and has experience in various international organisations.

DINA KAKOYIANNI

The CRCS family has lost one of its oldest members, Mrs. Dina Kakoyianni, who passed away on 26 September 2015 at the age of 85. Dina Kakoyianni, was President of the CRCS Paphos Branch, an Honorary Member of the Council and a distinguished person in the community. The CRCS was represented at the funeral by its President, Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou, who expressed the deep condolences of the Council to her family.

ORGANISATIONAL CHART

(To add the photo only)

HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES IN CYPRUS

During 2015, the CRCS, as a purely humanitarian organisation, continued to focus its activities on addressing the needs of vulnerable people. Although 41 years have elapsed since the 1974 invasion of Cyprus by Turkey and the standard of living in Cyprus has risen to rival that of developed countries, the largest part of humanitarian assistance which the CRCS offered in Cyprus, was diverted to the enclaved people, as well as to other groups of vulnerable persons. Faithful to its principle of providing aid without discrimination, irrespective of ethnic origin, nationality or religion, the CRCS included Turkish Cypriots, as well as a large number of migrants and asylum seekers amongst its beneficiaries. The financial crisis of March 2013 has also affected seriously the CRCS, with most of its financial resources being lost or frozen, and donations and income in general diminished. In 2015, however, the CRCS spared no effort to meet the local humanitarian needs, which were highly increased.

ADDRESSING SOCIAL NEEDS, HEALTH AND OTHER FORMS OF VULNERABILITY

In 2015, because of the increased humanitarian needs caused by the financial crisis, CRCS decided to divert all its resources towards meeting local needs. Consistent to its principles, the CRCS during 2015 responded readily and discreetly to the increased requests for humanitarian assistance and moral support on a daily basis. The humanitarian activities of the CRCS included, among others: the provision of food; medicine; clothing; footwear; cleaning and hygiene materials; psychosocial support; financial support; supplying wheelchairs and rehabilitation equipment for those with special needs; providing companionship to the lonely and visits to hospitals; elderly peoples' homes, prisons, schools and institutions for the disabled.

FAMILY ASSISTANCE CARDS

The CRCS continued to regulate and control the distribution of humanitarian assistance, by using the “**Family Assistance Card**”, which includes all the personal data of the recipient and his/her family members, as well as the dates and the kind of assistance he/she receives. Before issuing a card, CRCS volunteers visit the family at their place of residence in order to evaluate their socioeconomic conditions. The card also includes regulations for the CRCS staff and volunteers, as well as for the beneficiaries, and it is used by all the Branches all over the island.

EASTER AND CHRISTMAS LOVE CAMPAIGNS

The CRCS, in an effort to meet the increasing humanitarian needs, continued the organisation of the “**Love Campaigns**”, which had started in 2012. During 2015, two campaigns were organised with success in support of the increasing number of persons affected seriously by the financial crisis. During the two campaigns the CRCS distributed nationwide **6.500 packages of love**, including more than 20 food items each. In cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture, additional packages were distributed to families with children attending primary schools in rural areas of the Nicosia district. This assistance was in addition to the breakfast offered by the CRCS Youth Section to students of secondary schools. Although a small quantity of food items was received from individuals, companies and organisations which had responded to the CRCS's appeal, most of the cost was covered by the CRCS. Warm thanks were expressed to all of them, as well as to its many members and volunteers who had worked for many days in order to prepare and ensure the timely delivery of the food packages, including deliveries in very remote and isolated villages of the district of Nicosia.

On 11 December 2015, a Press Conference was organised at the CRCS Headquarters announcing to the public the generous donation of the ALFAMEGA Hypermarkets amounting to 20.000,00 Euro towards the Christmas Love Campaign.

PROGRAMME “MIRAZOME/SHARING”

The programme called “SHARING” (MIRAZOME) that was initiated in 2013 by the Nicosia Branch, continued during 2015. The programme provides for the distribution of hot meals to families and individuals in need. The meals are prepared by members and volunteers from the Nicosia Branch at their homes, at their own expenses. During 2015, a total number of **13520 hot meals** were prepared and distributed. The implementation of the programme was very successful; more volunteers are expected to join.

HELP AND SERVICES REQUIRED AS A RESULT OF THE 1974 INVASION

Despite the fact that the refugee population in general has largely overcome the consequences of the 1974 invasion and no longer required in kind assistance, some refugee families and elderly persons continue to need the support of the CRCS. The support of these persons and families is offered through the community work developed by the local Branches. Among other, it includes the provision of food parcels, clothing, medicines, financial assistance, psychosocial support etc. Further information on these activities can be found in the chapter on Branches. Other services offered by the CRCS are the provision of certificates to those who had been enclaved, as well as to captives of the Turkish invasion, who were released and their names are listed with the CRCS.

SUPPORT FOR THE ENCLAVED

According to the records maintained by the CRCS, as of 31 December 2015, **445 persons - 339 Greek Cypriots and 106 Maronites** - lived in the Karpaz Peninsula and the Maronite villages in the Kyrenia District. These enclaved persons, both in the occupied and also when they visit the free areas, received support from the CRCS in various forms. With the assistance of the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the CRCS provided weekly dispatches to the occupied areas to help meet the needs of the enclaved, including, among others, medicines and medical equipment. In some circumstances, the CRCS also covered, among others, special needs requirements such as wheelchairs, oxygen bottles, and spectacles. In 2015, the CRCS dispatched **312 parcels** including: 30 oxygen bottles; eye glasses; 190 parcels of medicines, two wheelchairs as well as mail. During the visits of the enclaved to the free areas, the CRCS covered all their needs, such as meals, transportation, hospital care and financial assistance. Furthermore, **178 individuals** were transported by CRCS vehicles from the Ledra Palace check point to destinations all over Cyprus.

SUPPORT TO TURKISH CYPRIOTS

Although the Turkish Authorities do not allow the CRCS to operate in the occupied areas and Turkish Cypriots are discouraged from contacting the CRCS, there were several cases where assistance was provided to them in 2015. Within its framework of humanitarian assistance “without borders and discrimination”, and in response to a request received, the CRCS donated wheelchairs and other mobility equipment to individuals and institutions for children with disabilities in occupied Cyprus. The majority of Turkish Cypriots living in the government controlled area of Cyprus are based in Limassol. On a number of occasions, the Limassol Branch provided assistance in the form of food and clothing. In some isolated cases, Turkish Cypriots residing in the occupied areas had asked for assistance from the CRCS Headquarters,

as well as the Nicosia Branch. In conformity with its principles, the CRCS responded positively to calls for assistance.

AMBULANCES FOR THE OCCUPIED AREAS WITH THE CRCS EMBLEM

In fulfilling its mission as an auxiliary body to the public sector, the CRCS helped with the implementation of an agreement between the leaders of the two communities regarding the uninhibited movement of ambulances from and to the occupied areas. As of May 2009, ambulances carrying the insignia of the Ministry of Health and the CRCS emblem had moved between the occupied and the free areas of the island transporting sick or injured Greek and Turkish Cypriots. In 2015, **six ambulances** were used. The necessary arrangements for and the cost of the insurance coverage of the ambulance vehicles were undertaken by the CRCS.

POST MORTEM TRANSFERS TO THE OCCUPIED PART

Pursuant to a decision taken in 2013, regarding the arrangements for the post mortem transfers to the occupied part of Cyprus, the Humanitarian Affairs Services of the Government in cooperation with the UNFICYP and the CRCS, monitors the crossing of the hearse and undertake the funeral arrangements.

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CRCS CHILDREN THERAPY CENTRE STELLA SOULIOTI **(Former Home for Sick Children)**

FOUNDATION OF THE CENTRE

The CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti (former Home for Sick Children) was founded by the CRCS in 1957 to serve sick and disabled children. By far, it is the largest and oldest project of the Society. During its 57-year history, the Centre has gone through four phases. The first phase was the period of its operation in Kyrenia (1957-1974), offering therapy services to sick and disabled children from all the communities of Cyprus, and residential facilities for both the staff and the children until the invasion of Cyprus in 1974. The second phase was the period 1980 – 1994, when its operation continued in Limassol, on a residential basis. Its third phase began in 1994, providing only day care services, and the fourth phase started in 2012, when it was renamed and renovated.

POST 1974 OPERATIONS

The occupation of Kyrenia resulting from the 1974 invasion made it necessary to build a new Home in Polemidia, Limassol. With the assistance of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the new Home commenced operation in 1980, with all the necessary facilities. The Home also offered boarding facilities until 1994; thereafter, however, it provided only day care services.

POST 2012 OPERATIONS

Cyprus Red Cross Society Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti

On December 2012, the Home for Sick Children was renamed to “**Cyprus Red Cross Society Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti**”, in memory of the former CRCS President Stella Soulioti, who not only pioneered its creation, but generously supported its operation with her unlimited care and love until her death.

Actually in 2012, the Centre made a new start through extensive renovations of its 30 years old buildings. Since then, from the operational point of view, it has been upgrading and extending its programmes, becoming a modern and high level Day Care Therapy Centre. Furthermore, it has accommodated in its large complex of buildings, the ELPIDA Day Care Centre for adults with disabilities, operating under the responsibility of the Theotocos Foundation, and the Special School for Children with Disabilities, operating under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education and Culture.

SERVICES OFFERED

The Centre, the only one of its kind in Cyprus, treats around 75 children up to 18 years old, with severe physical and multiple disabilities, such as cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and other physical and developmental problems. In addition to medical and nursing care, the Centre offers physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, speech therapy and occupational therapy; it also provides mobility solutions for the children’s comfort. Close attention is paid to creating a family atmosphere, the children’s entertainment, facilitating their social integration and generally making the best possible effort to give them a better quality of life. The services offered by the Centre are constantly upgraded. A specialist Pediatrician supervises the general healthcare, cooperating closely with the Limassol General Hospital and foreign specialists. Dedicated therapy personnel and a fully comprehensive set of equipment provide healthcare and therapeutic treatment of the highest standard.

COLLABORATIONS

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Centre operates a special school for children, offering, among others, special education, therapy, and psychological support. It also works closely with the Ministry of Health and the Limassol General Hospital to provide orthopedic, neurological and other treatments on a regular and *ad hoc* basis. Since 1998, the Centre collaborates with St. James' University Hospital in Leeds, U.K., in order to provide Botulinum Toxin treatment to children with cerebral palsy. Since the successful introduction of the treatment by the Centre, Botulinum Toxin is now also offered to children in State hospitals. Partnerships are continually being developed with many other bodies, such as government agencies, schools and other institutions for children with disabilities, parents, the British Sovereign bases - which offer hippo-therapy programmes - foreign organisations, European programmes for staff training, charity and other voluntary organisations.

OPERATIONAL COSTS

The Centre is largely supported by the love and care of the CRCS members and volunteers who cover the major portion of the financial requirements for its operation. The Government of the Republic of Cyprus through the Ministry of Health covers approximately 30 per cent of the Centre's operational costs; the remaining amount is covered by the CRCS, through funds raised at special events, fundraisers and donations offered generously by the ever-willing members of the public.

On the 8 July 2015, the CRCS Council decided that from now on a percentage of 25% of all the proceeds of the Door to Door fundraising campaign of the Branches and the Youth Section, will be given to the CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti as a contribution. This year's total contribution was 59,609.85 Euro.

NEXT PHASE OF RENOVATIONS

The next renovation phase will include the operation of a short stay unit, where children undergoing treatment and the person accompanying them, can stay for a short period. The new unit will be housed in the old Nurses Home building, a separate building next to the Children Therapy Centre, and after its renovation, it will also be used to host children with disabilities from other countries, who would like to come to Cyprus for a short visit.

CONTACT DETAILS

Cyprus Red Cross Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti

Polemidia, Limassol, Cyprus

P.O. Box 55263, 3820 Limassol

Tel.: +357 25 334024, Fax: +357 25 333466

Email: home@redcross.org.cy

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND MANAGEMENT

Consistent to its mandate and guided by the Fundamental Principles and its own Statutes, to be always prepared to respond and alleviate human suffering in case of emergencies, CRCS has placed Disaster Preparedness and Management at the top of its priorities. With Cyprus being an earthquake prone country, its proximity to the troubled Middle East and the recent development of becoming a destination country for refugees, in close cooperation with the Government and other NGOs, tries, at the moment and manages to meet sufficiently the relevant consequences and needs. Although, in case of a larger manmade or natural disaster, the existing plans and resources are considered insufficient. Therefore, CRCS's original plan to reach a level of preparedness, allowing the provision of the necessary immediate support to at least 1000 victims of a possible emergency, is an urgent priority.

COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT

The CRCS has its own Disaster Management Action Plan (DMAP) involving all its District Branches. The DMAP is managed and coordinated by the Red Cross Disaster Management Committee. In its role as "auxiliary body to the public authorities on humanitarian issues", the CRCS works in close cooperation with the Government. This cooperation allows the CRCS, without losing its independence, to take part in the planning and the implementation of all the DM related activities. Depending on the nature of the disaster, the CRCS cooperates with one or more of the following Government Departments and Services:

- Ministry of the Interior: Civil Defence, Police, Fire Brigade.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs: For emergencies involving arrivals of third countries national, migrants, refugees, etc.
- Ministry of Health: For pandemics and other health related emergencies.

The main Governmental Department the CRCS works with is the Civil Defence.

ACTIVITIES

During 2015, the CRCS DM Committee participated in all the meetings and exercises of the **ESTIA** and **ARGONAFITIS** Government disaster management plans. In doing so, it took every measure in checking the required equipment, reorganizing the CRCS stores, and alerting its teams for emergency intervention throughout Cyprus. The DM Committee has been working very intensively in order to be ready in case of an emergency. Amongst others, it has organised or participated in the following:

"ARGONAFITIS" Exercise

Argonaftis is the largest national emergency and disaster management exercise which takes place in Cyprus once a year with the participation of the National Guard, Government Ministries and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), including the CRCS. The first preparations for the 2015 exercise started in January when details were discussed and roles assigned among the participants. The exercise took place from **28 to 31 May 2015**, at the port of Larnaca. It was observed by representatives from different countries, embassies, the National Guard and many other Cypriot stakeholders. The CRCS's participation was very visible and drew many positive comments. The CRCS had an impressive participation and had a booth with all the necessary equipment which could be utilized in case of an emergency. Members and volunteers from the DM Committee, the HQs, the Larnaca Branch, staff and volunteers responsible for psychosocial support, tracing and first aid, participated in the exercise.

Assessment Mission Courses

CRCS continued its participation in the exercises organised by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus within the framework of the Assessment Mission Courses of the European Union. These exercises take place three to four times a year. Until 2011, the training was undertaken by two German companies in cooperation with the Cyprus Civil Defence, under the umbrella of the Ministry of the Interior. As of 2012, the responsibility for the organisation of the training is undertaken by the Cyprus Civil Defence, in collaboration with the two German companies. On **10 May and 29 June 2015**, members of the Assessment Mission Course from various EU countries, consisting of four trainees and one leader, came to the CRCS Headquarters, where members of the CRCS DM Committee presented them a virtual scenario of an earthquake which occurred in the island and elaborated on the measures taken and also the kind of assistance CRCS would need from the countries of Europe in order to cope with the crisis.

WAREHOUSE

The Disaster Management Committee (DMC) continued its efforts to improve the operational effectiveness of the CRCS, by enriching further the equipment and materials of the new large Disaster Management warehouse which was built in 2011.

SHELTER FACILITIES

In 2015, CRCS continued its efforts to fulfil its vision to have the capacity to be able to provide shelter to up to 1000 persons in case of an emergency. The CRCS Disaster Management Committee is working on a study in order to secure the necessary know-how, equipment and materials.

RESPONSE

During the recent years, the CRCS was involved in the following disasters and emergency situations:

- Lebanon Crisis, Summer 2006
- Fires in Saita, Cyprus 2007
- Fires in Peloponissos, Greece, Summer 2007
- Vast mobilization and preparedness for a probable crisis in Lebanon – 2008
- Participation in the Argonaftis and Estia exercises organised annually by the Government
- Participation in the annual European Assessment Mission Course Educational Programme
- Assistance to third country nationals and refugees from Egypt – February 2011
- Explosion at the Nautical Base “Evaggelos Florakis”, Summer 2011
- Mobilization and assistance during the mass arrival of third country nationals and/or refugees from Syria – Summer 2012
- Assistance to 345 refugees from Syria who were rescued outside Cyprus - Sept 2014,
- Assistance to 271 refugees who arrived in Cyprus throughout 2015

ARRIVAL OF REFUGEES

In 2015, the CRCS was on alert and continued the activation of its Disaster Management Action Plan in preparedness of possible massive arrivals of third-country nationals and refugees to Cyprus. The Branches and the Youth Section were continuously kept informed on the developments and were asked to increase their level of readiness, and to inform their members and volunteers to be on the alert. CRCS held a number of meetings with all the relevant governmental bodies and the Civil Defense; all the relevant emergency procedures were checked and activated.

Throughout 2015, CRCS provided humanitarian assistance to all the refugees who arrived in Cyprus. (for more details, see the relevant section on the “MIGRATION ISSUES”).

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FIRST AID

First Aid is a traditional Red Cross activity and one of the oldest for CRCS. Recognising its vital importance, and how valuable and essential assistance provided to the survivors of accidents and other emergency situations may become, CRCS considers First Aid one of its most important programmes. Consequently, CRCS's goal has always been to raise public awareness and encourage participation in its First Aid courses and training. Unfortunately, CRCS's First Aid activities are at the moment basically concentrated on the provision of training, and has not yet organised many First Aid teams, an objective which must be given more attention, if not priority. Nevertheless, the First Aid Committee has organised a considerable number of activities for the CRCS members and volunteers, as well as for the general public, and its continuously trying to enrich and improve its work.

COURSES AND TRAININGS

The most important activity of the CRCS First Aid Committee is the organisation of courses and trainings, which are being regularly updated and upgraded in order to secure high quality of services and respond successfully to the ever increasing competition in the field. The considerable increase in the number of road accidents, as well as the wide availability and increased utilization of mechanical and electrical machinery, both at home and at work, which in turn increase the risk of accidents and injuries, were additional reasons to strengthen the First Aid courses. **CRCS is an officially recognized First Aid Training at Work provider, certified and licensed** by the Department of Labour Inspection of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, to offer the following two training programmes:

- First Aid at Work – Emergency Incidents (6 hour course), and
- First Aid at Work (18 hour course)

Embracing the slogan “**First Aid save lives**”, during 2015, CRCS organised **34 First Aid courses**, in Greek and in English. The total number of individuals trained was **379** (191 men and 188 women) and the total income received by the Society for organizing the courses was **15,872.00 Euro**.

Train the Trainers Course

Following the constantly increasing demand for First Aid courses and the consequent raising need for qualified and experienced First Aid instructors, the CRCS organised a Train the Trainers Course from March to April 2015. Ten (10) persons have successfully completed the exams and joined the team of the CRCS First Aid instructors.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CRCS AND THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

After finding out that in most Army camps, provision of First Aid services was not available, the CRCS proposed to the Cyprus National Guard, to help them establish such services. Following several meetings with the National Guard during 2014, on **30 November 2015**, the CRCS and the Ministry of Defence **signed an Official Agreement for Cooperation**. The main objective of the agreement is for the CRCS to provide all the necessary training and knowledge, in order for the 106 Military Hospital to be able to fulfill the approved criteria and become a qualified and certified First Aid provider for First Aid Courses at Work. Once this objective is attained, the CRCS will continue providing the necessary technical support as long as it is needed.

Immediately after the commencement of the implementation of the Agreement, nine (9) members of the National Guard Hospital's staff were successfully trained by the CRCS as First Aid instructors.

WORLD FIRST AID DAY

On the occasion of the World First Aid Day which was celebrated on **Saturday, 12 September 2015**, (every second Saturday of September each year), CRCS circulated a dedicated poster. The poster called on the public to learn First Aid and to always have a First Aid kit at home, in their car, and at work. The poster's slogan was "**Be a hero. Save lives**".

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MIGRATION ISSUES

Migration has been central to the concerns of CRCS in the last few years and following the continuously increasing flow of people towards the European Union (EU) in search of safety and protection, it has now become a significant priority. In 2015 there have been a number of significant developments in this area.

CRCS MIGRATION COMMITTEE

The Migration Committee (MCOM) established regular monthly meetings. By the end of 2015, the MCOM consisted of 10 members, including the Migration Officer who coordinates and facilitates communication between the MCOM and the Management. The CRCS PERCO Representative is also a member of the MCOM, bringing input from developments in Europe and beyond. MCOM members came from a variety of backgrounds, including a Law Professor, a practicing Barrister, two Social Workers and a Psychologist. The MCOM is currently going through a period of discussing and reforming its role, in light of the regional and local developments on migration and in line with the priorities set up by CRCS. We envisage to reform the Committee in 2016, with its members becoming more involved in the field, instead of just contributing to planning, networking and advocacy. The role of all kinds of contribution is greatly recognised and we strongly believe that members will be able to compliment and support each other with the experience gained in their respective fields.

PERCO REPRESENTATION

CRCS PERCO Representative, Mrs. Andri Agrotis represented the CRCS at both meetings of the [Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants](#) (PERCO) in 2015. A meeting took place in May 2015 in Helsinki, Finland, where PERCO presented its strategy for the years 2015-2016. The second meeting of the year took place in Vienna, Austria in October. At this meeting, it was observed how the structure of migratory groups has changed, since they now consist of families and thus, humanitarian needs not only have become more complex, but also more serious. During this meeting, all participants visited Austria's largest asylum seekers' accommodation facility in Traiskirchen, giving the opportunity to participants to learn about the daily activities and services provided at a Reception Centre of such a big scale.

PARTICIPATION IN WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Due to the significance of the issue of Migration at the moment, there are continuous workshops, trainings conferences and seminars taking place in Cyprus and abroad, giving the chance to professionals from the field to expand their knowledge, understanding and skills in this area. CRCS Staff had the opportunity to attend the following events in 2015:

Seminar on questions of citizenship and statelessness (7 October 2015, Nicosia)

It was organised by the Representation in the Republic of Cyprus of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights (Ombudsman). The seminar aimed at starting a discussion among key government and civil society stakeholders from a global perspective.

Seminar on the ‘Effective and sensitive handling of asylum cases – Enhancing multidisciplinary preparedness and applying the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in Practice’ (8 October 2015, Nicosia)

The seminar was co-organised by the Cyprus Academy of Public Administration, the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) and the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, with the financial support of the EU. The objective of the seminar was to further develop the knowledge and capacities of asylum professionals in Cyprus, focusing on procedural issues and quality standards.

Two-day meeting on the ‘Reception of asylum seekers in the EU’ (16-17 November 2015)

The meeting was hosted and co-organised by the Belgian Red Cross and the Red Cross EU Office, inviting representatives of European NS to discuss reception conditions of asylum seekers in their respective countries.

Seminar on Refugee Family Unity and Reunification (26 November 2015, Nicosia)

The seminar was an initiative of UNHCR Cyprus and discussed, the situation in Cyprus, relevant case-law of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, and the Court of Justice of the EU in Luxembourg, as well as integration.

Panel Discussion ‘Refugee Crisis and Asylum issues’ (4 December 2015, Nicosia)

This event was an initiative of the student-led Group of Legal Education at the University of Cyprus. The CRCS was invited along with UNHCR Cyprus and local NGO KISA-Action for Equality to present their work in the field. The students also organised an on-campus fundraising campaign for the refugees, in order to support the work of CRCS.

PROJECTS

‘Assistance to Refugees in Cyprus in 2015’ Project

Following an emergency rescue off the coast of Cyprus in September 2014, a considerable number of the Syrian refugees who were rescued refused to comply with the authorities' instructions to submit asylum applications upon arrival to the island. As a result, the Republic of Cyprus was under no legal obligation to take steps towards ensuring their welfare. Those who did not apply for asylum (107 in total) were accommodated in private accommodation. Specifically, 55 of them were offered accommodation by an independent organisation which is active in Cyprus. During the period from February 2015 to mid-August 2015, the CRCS was supporting them through the provision of food and other material help, with goods being delivered at their place of residence twice a week. The provision of these materials was subsidised by a donation of the Icelandic Red Cross.

‘Provision of Legal Assistance to Migrants in Cyprus’ (LAM) Project

Under this project a Migration Officer was appointed on a part-time basis, to undertake the legal assistance of migrants. This project was developed around two main objectives:

- a) The handling of legal cases of CRCS beneficiaries at an administrative/technical level and contribute to advocacy and policy activities of the CRCS with information/experience obtained in the field
- b) The preparation of basic legal trainings in the field of Asylum and Migration for CRCS volunteers.

It was agreed that complex cases requiring the input of an advocate at administrative level or court proceedings, according to national law, would be referred to organisations with extensive experience in the litigation of such cases.

A Case Registry and a Filing System were also established. In the six month period up to the end of 2015, a total of 8 cases were recorded, some with significant international elements which required communication with other NS. This project too is funded by the Icelandic Red Cross, for a one year period (2015-2016), currently extended up to June 2017.

'Development and Provision of Psychosocial Support Services to the Menogia Detention Centre'

The CRCS has managed to secure funding by the European Economic Area (EEA) Financial Mechanism Grants for NGO's in order to examine the existing structures of psychological and social services in the Menogia Detention Centre (MDC) and, based on the findings, to proceed with the development and provision of psychosocial support services to the detainees and the staff. The main objective of the project was to secure the human rights of the detainees and promote their welfare. The duration of the project was one year, from July 2014 to July 2015, with an approved budget of 31,617.00 Euros.

For the implementation of the project, two psychologists and two social workers were employed who, based on a large number of interviews and specialized tests, collected and evaluated a substantial amount of information on the existing services and operation of the Centre, and submitted their recommendations to the CRCS. The evaluation reached the conclusion that the government services concerned did not have the adequate resources and staff to provide social and psychological services to the detainees. It was also indicated that the CRCS, utilizing humanitarian diplomacy skills, had managed to establish trust with the detainees, as well as with the management and staff of the MDC, which surely promised a successful achievement of the project's objectives.

ADVOCACY & POLICY

In the context of the LAM project mentioned above, in July 2015 a number of authorities in Cyprus, relevant to Migration matters, were contacted by CRCS requesting meetings with representatives of these authorities and calling them to install contact points with which the CRCS would be able to maintain continuous communication. Most of them replied positively and meetings took place in the months that followed. In addition, upon the assumption of her responsibilities in June 2015, the Migration Officer arranged meetings with all relevant NGOs in the field of migration, aiming to inform them on CRCS activities and to receive information for the latest legal developments and trends on the ground. Existing communication with UNHCR Cyprus was strengthened. All organisations welcomed this initiative. Some expressed the opinion that the establishment of such programme would be especially beneficial to all, considering the fact that the CRCS enjoys the easiest access to emergency situations, due to its auxiliary role to the government.

The Director General had a number of meetings with the Ambassador of the State of Palestine in Cyprus, H.E. Dr. Walid Hasan, discussing challenges and concerns of Palestinian refugees in Cyprus.

CRCS is currently in the process of establishing more firm strategic targets in this area.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE BY THE BRANCHES TO MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

Steps have also been taken with a view to improve communication with and among all Branches, concerned with migration. In late October 2015, the Presidents of all Branches were invited to make arrangements for the Migration Officer to present the LAM project to the Council of each Branch. Moreover, each Branch continues its own programme for the distribution of Humanitarian Assistance at their local premises, while most Branches are also contributing to CRCS work in the field through the activities of those volunteers who have expressly stated a willingness and desire to work particularly with migrants and refugees.

EMERGENCY RESCUE OPERATIONS

Cyprus is not a popular destination country for refugees and the authorities are rarely called to respond to emergency rescue operations at sea. In 2015 there were four such emergency rescues, all of them taking place in the last quarter of the year, rescuing a total of 271 individuals. Usually volunteers from the respective Branch are present upon arrival at the port, while the Migration Officer and more volunteers visit the reception accommodation as soon as possible, in order to discuss with the rescued, ensure that adequate information concerning their rights and obligations has reached them and that all basic needs are covered. Most often, CRCS contributes to the coverage of such needs, in coordination with the Cyprus Civil Defence and/or other authorities. In emergency situations, ensuring the coverage of basic needs is a priority for CRCS. This included hygiene kits, shoes and clothes when necessary, water and snacks upon arrival and baby care kits for infants. Psychosocial Support volunteers ensure that all vulnerable persons are treated accordingly and that their needs are met under the supervision of the CRCS Psychosocial Support Officer, while Tracing and RFL services are readily available for those who need them. Once everyone rescued are accommodated in the Kofinou Reception Centre or another accommodation, CRCS continues to care for their welfare.

ACTIVITIES AT ACCOMMODATION FACILITIES FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS

In 2015, CRCS was present in 3 reception centres:

- i. Kofinou Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers
- ii. Kokkinotrimithia Camp
- iii. Dhekelia SBA Camp

Asylum seekers and persons enjoying international protection who reside in the urban city centres are assisted through the individual Branches.

The following activities usually take place in these centres, under the supervision of the CRCS Director General and CRCS Executive Committee:

- Distribution of humanitarian assistance
Initially the aim was to create Distribution Centres (especially one in Kofinou), where people would have the option to choose the items they need. However, for a number of reasons this plan was impossible to implement. As a result, CRCS register the needs of each person, individual packages are prepared and are then delivered directly to each person.
- Psychosocial Support Programme
The CRCS officer in charge of the Psychosocial Support Programme and her team undertake a number of activities aiming at offering psychosocial support to people in the centres. More serious cases are handled by professionally trained volunteers. The

activities include separate activities for adults and children and are based on a community building approach. More information on these activities are available in the Psychosocial Support section of this report.

- Legal advise and support
These are undertaken by the CRCS Migration Officer, who is in communication with governmental authorities and services, other NGOs and UNHCR Cyprus, whenever the need arises.
- Interpretation
CRCS has a number of Arab-speaking volunteers to assist in these activities.

A final decision for a tender concerning the daily management of the Kofinou Reception Centre is still pending. It is expected that a number of readjustments will be necessary in order to ensure that our work there continues in good cooperation with the new managers of the Kofinou Reception Centre in 2016.

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PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Psychosocial Support (PSS) is defined by the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC, 2007) as: “Any type of local or outside support that aims to protect or promote psychosocial well-being and/or prevent or treat mental disorder.” According to the International Federation for Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Psychosocial Reference Centre: “The main purpose of psychosocial support is to build resilience – to increase the ability to absorb shock and bounce back – and to help people to cope with and recover from a disaster or critical event. Experience also shows that early and adequate psychosocial support can prevent distress and suffering from developing into something more severe, and will help those affected cope better and readjust more quickly to everyday life. Volunteers are often exposed to trauma, loss, devastation, injury, and even death; they also need psychosocial support.” Psychosocial support is therefore an important element of all Red Cross and Red Crescent activities and operations, including in the care for volunteers, delegates and staff.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT IN CYPRUS

The program currently acts as a stand-alone program yet it is our aim to integrate it fully within all areas of CRCS work. In 2015 Psychosocial Support trained volunteers, intervened during the influx of Migrants from war-torn countries. Parallel to this, a small group of volunteers, begun working on a weekly-basis at the Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers, in Kofinou. Using the “Community-Based” approach, as recommended by the International Guidelines, our active volunteers have conducted needs assessments and found creative ways of implementing programs despite the limited resources. Throughout the year, the aim was to train volunteers in the IFRC’S Community Based Psychosocial Support training in order to be able to better respond effectively in all the strands of the Psychosocial Support pyramid, which we were able to achieve. Furthermore, the Psychotherapy Services grew through newly built collaborations with various training institutes and universities. The aim is to be able to continue to support our beneficiaries in a sustainable way.

RECEPTION CENTRE FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS IN KOFINOU

In September, 2015 a boatful of people arrived in the coast of Cyprus- survivors of the ongoing crisis in nearby Syria. The refugees disembarked at the port of Limassol and were transferred to the newly established Government Reception Camp, at Kokkinotrimithia village. Although Cyprus is not a destination country and not even a desirable transit country, this was the second mass arrival, since the recent refugee crisis. The approach of the Asylum Services and the Civil Defence differed from 2014 in that the newly arrived people were convinced that seeking Asylum, was the way forward. Soon after their arrival, they were transported to the Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers, in Kofinou.

Since, the PSS program is active in the Centre and continues to support the Asylum Seekers and Refugees. Kofinou Reception Centre, theoretically has the capacity to accommodate 400 people. The infrastructure of the Centre, however proved inconsistent to substantially and adequately, provide a home for all the newly arrived people. Their sense of disorientation and overwhelming grief, needed to be contained.

The PSS program due to the experience of the previous arrival of 345 people, had put together a small team of specialized volunteers, able to respond in the case of such an event.

Additionally a cooperation has been established with Dr. Renos Papadopoulos, a world renowned psychoanalyst and refugee expert, working with Essex University in UK, who showed interest in the PSS initiative and willingness to voluntarily supervise the team from September and up until December 2015. The PSS officer, recruited a volunteer with a Doctorate in Psychology and experience with refugees to join the PSS team. Together, they visited the Centre twice per week and as a first step, held numerous therapeutic groups for the residents, with the aim to provide a space where their concerns and grief, could be expressed and contained.

In November, more volunteers received the IFRC Community- Based Psychosocial Support training and the four week on-site training until they were able to produce their own chosen projects based on the on-site needs assessment. Left without management for a period of at least 6 months, the CRCS PSS team was pivotal to the well-being of the residents of the Centre.

PSS INTERVENTIONS IN THE RECEPTION CENTRE FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS, IN KOFINO

Arts activities for Children: focused, non-specialised Supports/ Integration/ Entertainment
Weekly Group by a professional Illustrator and Art educator, Natasa Charalambous

At the Kofinou Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers, preschool children are living in an unstructured environment. Mothers are preoccupied and often enough, unavailable. Language barriers render our communication with the residents, difficult. The weekly arts activities group was designed with the aim to work on the lack of daily activities and to establish a containing and creative environment which allows children, to just be children, whilst regaining a sense of normality. The activity promotes their participation and therefore integration in their small community. Furthermore the group uses the children's vivid imagination as a coping mechanism. Parents are invited to partake and even co-facilitate the groups. Due to the fact that the activity takes place parallel to the on-site Greek language classes, it offers the opportunity to mothers to attend their class and/ or to use this scarce free time, for themselves. The activity aims to bridge the gap between the Kofinou community and the wider community by building collaborations with local schools and afternoon art schools.

Film Screenings for Children and Adults: Entertainment/ Educational
Monthly event by a group of Visual Artist, Film Director and Illustrator

A team of volunteers (professional illustrator, film director and a visual artist) carefully choose films to screen on a Saturday or Sunday evening for the residents of the Reception Centre. Through networking and fundraising, they provide all the necessary equipment. The activity aims to entertain, educate and provide a sense of normality in people's lives. The project aims to grow, to provide the opportunity for the community to develop their interest in film and photography by providing photography classes and integrating the experience into projects which bridge the gap between the wider community.

Football: Community and Family Supports/ Educational/ Integration

Volunteer: Pablo Bermejo, Systemic Psychologist

Football has been successfully used, to bring different ethnic groups together at the Centre. At times of conflict within the community, this activity has been most useful. Values are being taught and often enough the activity manufactures dreams for both the children and the adults of the Centre. Currently run solely by the community for their community. Initially, a PSS volunteer, identified community leaders, found the needed materials from different organisations and actively engaged a local football team (Omonoia) in an agreement where Omonoia players visit the centre to speak and play football with the community, 50 children have attended football matches and are to be trained bimonthly, at Omonoia's training academies.

Greek and English language classes: Educational/ Integration

The PSS team on-site needs assessment, concluded necessary the implementation of weekly language classes for the residents of the Centre. Further than common knowledge, studies have shown that language knowledge increases the Asylum Seeker's chances for integration. The PSS team has built collaborations with the Ministry of Education to provide weekly language classes at the Centre. Although this started off slow, the demand grew and resulted in the CRCS claiming the extension of the classes from November to June 2015, until 2016.

SPECIALISED SERVICES: PSYCHOTHERAPY SERVICE

The effects of the Global Financial Crisis and subsequent Recession of the Cyprus economy have spread to all sectors - Governmental, Non-Governmental and the Private sector, condemning the disillusioned general public to a vicious cycle of stress and helplessness. Often enough, basic needs were threatened and/or were unmet, while unemployment, poverty and homelessness had become an everyday reality for a growing number of adversely affected citizens. The CRCS has observed how economic woes translated to higher stress levels, which have given rise to a host of social ills - mental illnesses, a rise in domestic violence, unemployment, the breakdown of family bonds, children suffering neglect, and outbreaks of antisocial and criminal behavior. Although somewhat things have improved, the consequences of the crisis continue to disrupt.

CRCS PSS has built collaborations with training institutes approved by the Pancyprian Association of Psychotherapists, to provide specialized services to the CRCS beneficiaries who needed further support. Trainee psychotherapists offer their services whilst being supervised by their training institute, free of charge. The service begun in 2014 and has thus far referred 80 CRCS beneficiaries.

TRAINING IN COMMUNITY-BASED PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

Following the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement formulated a comprehensive training kit for trainers. This training is our foundation course for building the skills needed to provide psychosocial support to vulnerable groups during times of crisis. The training is taught in an interactive and participatory manner. After the 3-5 day training, volunteers chose their field of interest from the available CRCS areas of work and continue their training in the program of their choice. For more information, on future trainings, please refer to the CRCS website.

OTHER PROGRAMMES AND SERVICES

MANAGEMENT OF BURIAL ARRANGEMENTS

As an auxiliary body to the Government, the CRCS participates in the Ministry of Health's Plan of Action for the management of emergencies, such as in the case of pandemics. Among others, CRCS, in cooperation with the Archbishopric of Cyprus, is responsible for the funeral arrangements while the burial of the dead is the responsibility of the Church. The CRCS's responsibility includes additionally to contacting the hospitals, the police authorities, informing the family of the deceased and the relevant foreign Embassies and Red Cross Society, in case the dead person is a foreigner.

TRACING SERVICES – RESTORING FAMILY LINKS (RFL)

Every year, thousands of family members are separated by conflicts, disasters or migration. People suffer terribly when they lose contact with their loved ones and do not know where they are or whether they are safe and alive. The ICRC and the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies work together around the world to locate people and put them back into contact with their relatives. Tracing activities may extend well beyond the end of a conflict or a natural disaster. As members of the Family Links Network of the Movement and the National Societies, the CRCS cooperated with the Central Tracing Agency of the ICRC in Geneva, in order to restore contact between family members. In 2015 the CRCS considered **12 requests for tracing**.

ANTI-TRAFFICKING

CRCS is a member of the Anti-trafficking Network (now renamed to Action for Trafficked persons Network - ATN) and has appointed two focal points for trafficking in human beings. At the moment, no specific project on the issue of trafficking is running. Nevertheless, CRCS recognises the importance of this phenomenon and the devastation it causes. As a result, developments on global, regional and national level are continuously monitored, until CRCS is in a position to take specific action on the matter. This phenomenon is closely relevant to Migration and thus, communication is ongoing with relevant authorities and NGOs involved in this area.

WORKING ALONG KEY EXPERTS (WAKE) PROJECT

This European Commission granted project aims overall to improve the real, day-to-day situation of victims of crime to the greatest extent possible and to reduce their discrimination experiences in Cyprus. The specific objectives of the project are the identification of the training needs of the professionals of the relevant government authorities and other practitioners coming into contact with victims of violence and crime and to improve their capabilities through trainings, so as to operate in a more respectful, impartial and professional manner. Fostering the exchange of good practices on identification and screening processes of victims and their needs is another objective to be obtained through the proposed project, in addition to sustaining a network and good working relationships between the involved actors.

SPAVO, the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family is the Leader of the project and the Cyprus Red Cross Society is one of the Co-Leaders. The CRCS plays a crucial role in the implementation of all work streams, especially through spreading awareness

among other NGOs, the practical engagement in the formulation of the training material and the organisation of the working groups and case studies for the key experts.

The project started in November 2015 and will be completed in May 2017.

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ACTIVITIES, CAMPAIGNS AND EVENTS

The rich and multifaceted work of the CRCS is the result of the active involvement and enthusiasm of its members and volunteers, which in 2015 was expressed through a large variety of activities, campaigns and events. A significant number of the CRCS's activities were of a long duration. Several short-term events also took place throughout the year. The size of the activities was determined by their goals, duration and geographic coverage. Most of the activities were primarily aiming at the raising of funds in order to enable the CRCS to provide various forms of assistance to vulnerable groups, which increased considerably after the financial crisis, and to raise social awareness on a number of important topics. Other activities, in addition to those covered under the "Other Programmes and Services" Section above, included: training of volunteers, promoting relationships and cooperation at the international level, as well as administrative and organisational issues.

"DOOR TO DOOR" PANCYPRIAN FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

The annual "Door to Door" fundraising campaign took place from 4 to 22 May 2015 all over the island. The sponsor of the 2015 fundraising campaign was Piraeus Bank and the Ambassador was the singer Vasiliki Hadjiadamou. The Campaign was launched on 29 April 2015 during a Press Conference at the CRCS Headquarters in Nicosia. The activity was declared open by H.E. Dr. Filippos Patsalis, the Minister of Health, during a ceremony which took place at the CRCS Headquarters, on 4 May 2015, in the presence of CRCS President, Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulos. The total amount raised was **259.748,23 Euro**, a much higher amount compared to that of previous years. Proceeds from the Campaign were allocated towards meeting the increased humanitarian needs which were caused by the financial crisis, the operational costs of the CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti, as well as numerous other CRCS programmes. Once again, the "Door to Door" fundraising campaign provided also to the CRCS the opportunity to publicize and promote its aims and activities, as well as to offer Cypriots the opportunity to be part of a humanitarian society. On 3 July 2015, the CRCS President hosted in the gardens of her residence, the closing ceremony of the fundraising campaign to thank and honour the sponsor for their valuable assistance and the very successful promotion of the campaign, the Ambassador of the campaign, as well as the CRCS members and volunteers who had contributed to the success of the event.

Additional event by the Kyrenia Branch

On the occasion of the "Door to Door" fundraising campaign, the Kyrenia Branch organised an event on **Saturday, 9 May 2015**, at The Mall of Engomi, in Nicosia. The event was declared open by the CRCS President, Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulos and was attended, amongst others, by Government officials, the Mayor of Engomi, Mr. Zacharias Kyriakou, the Director General of the CRCS, Mr. Takis Neophytou, the President of the CRCS Kyrenia Branch, Mrs. Maroulla Angelides, CRCS members and volunteers. The event included a programme with dancing demonstrations by the Avgi Varianou and Annita Hadjiefthychiou Dance Studios, songs by three Kyrenian friends of the Branch, Christina Shamounki, Stella Valianti and Chrysanthi Schiza and music, which offered an excellent entertainment to those who were present.

ANNA VISSI AND MICHALIS HADJIYIANNIS CONCERTS

1, 2, 4 and 7 September 2015

The Concerts with the very well-known singers, Anna Vissi and Michalis Hadjiyiannis were held in Nicosia from 1 to 2 September 2015 at the Amphitheatre Arch. Makarios III (School for the Blind) in Nicosia, on 4 September at the Pattichion Municipal Amphitheatre in Larnaca and on

7 September at the Municipal Garden Theatre in Limassol. Three Euro from each ticket sold were in aid of the CRCS.

The Cooperative Central Bank of Cyprus was the main sponsor of the concerts. The total amount donated by the Bank to the CRCS was **12,700.00 Euro**. PETROLINA (Holdings) Public Ltd donated the amount of **10,000.00 Euro** directly to the CRCS for the Children Therapy Centre "Stella Soulioti" with the opportunity of the concerts.

THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE HONORS CRCS

The CRCS was honored by the Ministry of Education and Culture for its valuable contribution to the food programme for needy children. A commemorative plaque was handed over to the CRCS President, Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou on 12 March 2015 during a special ceremony.

All through 2015, the CRCS Youth Section, was offering on a daily basis, breakfast to a large number of needy children – students of the Primary, Secondary and Technical Education schools throughout Cyprus.

EXCURSION TO VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA

CRCS, continuing its tradition of organizing annual excursions for its members and friends to several countries, organised an excursion to Vietnam and Cambodia from **2 to 15 October 2015**. A total number of 52 persons participated. The group visited Hanoi, Hoalu, Tam Coc, Halong, Saigon, Siemreap, Kmer village and Tonle Sap River. The profit made for the CRCS amounted to **17,488.44 Euro**.

ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Since 2008, CRCS has been organizing events on Road Safety in order to contribute in the effort to reduce the number of victims of road accidents. In 2009, CRCS became a member of the European Charter on Road Safety and has intensified its efforts to achieve the objective of the 2010-2020 World Road Safety campaign to reduce the number of road accident victims by 50 per cent. In collaboration with the Police and other NGOs, and under its slogan **“YOU’VE ONLY GOT ONE LIFE! TAKE CARE”**, the CRCS has organised many activities, especially in schools.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Among other priorities, CRCS is very sensitive for and concerned with environmental issues and the threatening consequences of climate change. Accordingly, during 2014, CRCS focused, among other, on the following environmental priorities and activities:

- Tree planting campaigns
- Participation in the Government’s public awareness efforts
- Activities promoting water saving practices
- Activities related to energy saving and promoting renewable energy sources
- Organisation and participation in relevant events in Cyprus
- Relevant announcements, articles, leaflets, posters etc.

LOVE FESTIVAL BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF NICOSIA

The Rotary Club of Nicosia in collaboration with Caffé Nero organised a charity event in support of the CRCS on 9 May 2015 at Caffé Nero in Engomi, Nicosia. The programme included live music, live link of a radio station and an art auction of the work of various artists. The customers visiting Caffé Nero in Engomi, were asked to pay a 5 Euro entrance fee and that included a coffee and croissant. The total proceeds amounted to **7,675.00 Euro**.

2015 LUCKY CHARMS

Michalakis Aloupas Jewellers Ltd specially designed, produced and donated to the CRCS, 1500 silver 2015 Lucky Charms. The charms were sold by CRCS at 15 Euro each; the proceeds were used for the CRCS's charitable activities. CRCS extends warm thanks to Michalakis Aloupas Jewellers Ltd for their very generous donation. The total net revenue from the sale was **12,795.00 Euro**.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Taking into consideration the economic crisis, as well as the fact that demand for printed cards has been reduced to the minimum, the CRCS decided not to print new cards and to dispose its old stock. The new cards were offered in nice plastic packaging. The proceeds amounted to **1,582.00 Euro** and will be used in support of the CRCS humanitarian work.

DINNER IN HONOR OF CRCS DONORS

CRCS has made it a tradition to express its gratitude and thanks to all the individuals and companies which support its humanitarian work. The last event was a dinner hosted by the CRCS President, Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulos, at her residence, on 1 December 2015, during which the following major donors were recognized and honored with the presentation of plaques:

- Exxon Mobil
- Cooperative Central Bank

HERMES AIRPORTS XMAS EVENT

The Hermes Airports, organised Christmas Bazaars to the airports of Larnaca and Paphos, in December 2015 and donated the proceeds of 3,120.00 Euro to the CRCS Larnaca, Famagusta and Paphos Branches. Members of the Larnaca, Famagusta and Paphos Branches assisted with the sales of Christmas craft and sweets.

OCEAN BASKET CAMPAIGN

The Ocean Basket chain of fish restaurants, for the second consecutive year, organised a fundraising campaign in aid of the CRCS, named "Good manners". The customers visiting the Ocean Basket restaurants all over Cyprus were asked to indicate their readiness to offer one Euro to the CRCS by making a cross with their knife and fork after they finished their meal. The campaign was organised from 1 December 2015 to 6 January 2016. The total proceeds amounted to 27,344.00 Euro.

In addition, the Ocean Basket organised a mini cruise in Larnaca on 27 August 2015 in aid of the CRCS. The total proceeds amounted to 3,040.00 Euro.

CONFERENCE, MEETINGS, SEMINARS AND TRAININGS IN CYPRUS

CONFERENCE

CRCS CONFERENCE “LOOKING TO THE FUTURE”

28-29 March 2015

The pancyprian Conference of the CRCS, was held from 28 to 29 March 2015 at the St. Raphael Hotel, in Limassol. The conference title “**Looking to the future**”, derives from the recent recognition and admission of the CRCS to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and to the fact that the main theme of the Conference was the presentation of the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan of the Cyprus Red Cross Society.

Other themes of the Conference were the following:

- **Humanitarian Diplomacy**
- **Organisational Capacity Assessment and Certification and**
- **Resilience**

The speakers at the Conference were three guest speakers from the Movement, Mrs. Seija Tyrninoksa from IFRC Europe Zone Office, Mr. Branimir Knezevic from IFRC and Dr. Knud Falk from IFRC Climate Centre, and the Director General of the CRCS, Mr. Takis Neophytou. The President, Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou on behalf of the CRCS and Mrs. Seija Tyrninoksa, on behalf of the IFRC, welcomed the participants and the opening of the conference was declared by the Cyprus Commissioner of Volunteer and Non-Governmental Organisations, Mr. Yiannis Yiannaki. The programme of the Conference was very interactive and included presentations, workshops and discussions. The language of the conference was English with direct translation to Greek. The conference was attended by 100 volunteers and members of the CRCS. An official welcome dinner was given at a traditional restaurant in Limassol, on Saturday, 28 March 2015.

MEETINGS

Visit of the Secretary of the Standing Commission to Cyprus

The Secretary of the Standing Commission, and friend of the CRCS, Mr. Tore Svenning visited Cyprus on February 2015 in the capacity of a friend. He visited the CRCS and had meetings with the CRCS Director General, by whom he was hosted in Paphos during the weekend. During a dinner on 3 February 2015, he had additional discussions with the President, the Vice President and the Director General of the CRCS.

Meeting of the Working Group for the Prevention on Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment, 10 September 2015, Nicosia

CRCS was invited to the second meeting of the Working Group for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment, which is led by the Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights (Ombudsman). CRCS was represented by Mrs. Nadia Kornioti, Migration Officer. The discussion focused on the living conditions of Asylum Seekers residing in the designated reception centres (Kofinou and Kokkinotrimithia) and detention conditions of migrants detained in the Menoyia Detention Centre for Forbidden Migrants.

CRCS is closely monitoring all developments in this area and is in continuous communication with the individuals concerned, other NGOs and organisations and all relevant authorities.

Meeting with Mr. Nils Muižnieks, Human Rights Commissioner of the Council of Europe, 8 December 2015

On 8 December 2015, CRCS was invited with a number of other local NGOs and academics to a meeting with Mr. Muižnieks during his official visit to Cyprus. The discussion focused on the economic crisis and how it has adversely affected vulnerable social groups in Cyprus. CRCS was represented by Mrs. Nadia Kornioti, Migration Officer. CRCS had the opportunity to share its experience and conclusions with regard to the subject and presented the Welfare Programmes run by the Branches, the activities of the Youth Section and the introduction of a Psychosocial Support programme for CRCS beneficiaries. The meeting was especially beneficial since it gave CRCS the opportunity to exchange views and receive information from other organisations, active in this field.

SEMINARS AND TRAININGS

Seminar on questions of citizenship and statelessness, 7 October 2015, Nicosia

This seminar was an initiative of the Representation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the Republic of Cyprus and the Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights (Ombudsman) aiming at starting a discussion among key government and civil society stakeholders on the matter from a global perspective. This is a problem affecting more than 100 million people worldwide. Despite the fact that the Republic of Cyprus has taken the required legislative initiatives to accede to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, many people residing in Cyprus still find themselves in legal limbo today, leading among others to a breach of a number of fundamental rights and lack of access services, which non-stateless persons usually enjoy. CRCS was represented by CRCS Migration Officer, Nadia Kornioti.

Interactive seminar for asylum professionals, 8 October 2015, Nicosia

The topic of this seminar was 'Effective and sensitive handling of asylum cases – Enhancing multidisciplinary preparedness and applying the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in Practice' and it was co-organised by the Cyprus Academy of Public Administration, the European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) and the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, with the financial support of the EU. The objective of the seminar was to further develop the knowledge and capacities of asylum professionals in Cyprus, focusing on procedural issues and quality standards, as well as bringing in the most up-to-date interdisciplinary information from scientific fields beyond the scope of refugee law. Audience included state officers, lawyers, NGO and UNHCR staff. CRCS was represented by a small delegation of staff and MCOM members. It covered a wide range of topics, including procedural standards, communication with asylum-seekers and gathering relevant facts and a presentation on multidisciplinary knowledge in daily practice.

Seminar on Refugee Family Unity and Reunification, 26 November 2015, Nicosia

This seminar covered the European Legal Framework on Family Unity and Reunification, the situation in Cyprus, relevant case-law of the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg, and the Court of Justice of the EU in Luxembourg, as well as a roundtable discussion on family reunification and integration. CRCS was represented by CRCS Migration Officer Nadia Kornioti and CRCS responsible for Tracing and Restoring Family Links (RFL), Thalia Vourkidou. The seminar offered an excellent opportunity to CRCS to inform other NGOs, UNHCR and government officials about its Tracing and RFL programme, inviting them to contact the CRCS offices if they would like to find more information and potentially make use of the vast network of NS of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Panel Discussion “Refugee Crisis and Asylum issues”, 4 December 2015, Nicosia

Upon the recommendation of Dr. Aris Constantinides, member of the CRCS MCOM, and with the participation of CRCS Migration Officer, CRCS had the chance to present its work on the field at a panel discussion which took place at the University of Cyprus. The event was organised by the Group of Legal Education, an initiative of the Law students of the university. This panel discussion was the very first event they had organised. Along with the Red Cross, UNHCR Cyprus and local NGO KISA-Action for Equality were also invited to present their work. In the context of this event, the students also organised an on-campus fundraising campaign for the refugees, in order to support the work of CRCS.

BRANCHES AND YOUTH SECTION ACTIVITIES

NICOSIA BRANCH

Throughout 2015, the Nicosia Branch was very active in promoting the CRCS's policy, aims and priorities, which have been increased because of the financial crisis. In 2015, 800 members and volunteers of the Nicosia Branch were actively involved in the successful implementation of its programs, assisting thousands of vulnerable people. In order to meet the increased demands, the Branch had to reorganize its programs, develop further its volunteer workforce, introduce new methodologies and approaches and reach out for new synergies.

SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAMME

Since September 2014, the Nicosia Branch has been implementing, on a 'pilot' basis a social welfare programme with a series of actions (initial assessment, need assessment, food aid, clothing, home visits, psychotherapy, language lessons, counseling sessions, advocacy and referrals to other health care professionals) with the aim for holistic approaches and methodologies. New procedures have been put forward such as initial/need assessment, promoting holistic approaches and enhancing mechanisms that observe and verify the socioeconomic status of aid applicants. Interviews and home visits conducted by professionals and trained (social workers) volunteers allow for the better understanding of the needs of the beneficiaries and the formulation of sustainable solutions to resolve the difficulties encountered. The programme has been running with considerable success. Further measures are currently under consideration in order to strengthen the programme financially, as well as with additional staff.

HUMANITARIAN AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Branch provided in kind humanitarian assistance to individuals and families, such as, among others, food, clothing, footwear, food and diapers for children, refurbished furniture and more. This effort was particularly intensified over the Christmas and Easter periods. During 2015, more than 6489 beneficiaries were assisted by the Branch at a total cost of 253.922 Euro. In addition, the Branch also contributed 8.731 Euro for several causes. Furthermore, through the programme "Mirazome/Sharing", 258 beneficiaries received 13,520 cooked meals.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE CRCS CHILDREN THERAPY CENTRE "STELLA SOULIOTI"

The Branch provided financial support to the Centre amounting to 11,348.00 Euro, this amount being the 25% of the proceeds of the "Door to Door" fundraising campaign of the Branch, as decided by the CRCS Council.

AID ON SITE

During 2015, the Branch organised visits to aid applicants at hospitals and homes. During home visits humanitarian assistance in kind was offered, including food, clothing and footwear. Moreover, the Branch arranged visits to the Menogia Detention Centre where such support was required.

ACCESS TO HEALTH

The Branch covered the travelling and part of the medical expenses of individuals requiring emergency travel for medical treatment abroad. In addition, the Branch provided financial assistance to individuals in need during their recovery period.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

After an agreement of the CRCS Headquarters with the Systemic Institute of Cyprus, beneficiaries of the Branch, upon referral, can receive psychotherapeutic support from professionals of the Institute. Moreover, staff and volunteers of the Branch received training on psychosocial support, organised by the Headquarters Psychosocial Support Officer.

LANGUAGE LESSONS

The Branch has concluded an agreement with the European University of Cyprus where under-aged beneficiaries can receive free English language classes. The programme is being run with considerable success and will be continued with the new semester.

WHEELCHAIR AND MOBILITY EQUIPMENT SCHEME

Through this scheme, wheelchairs were offered for short term rental to the public, at a very low cost. Provision of wheelchairs to poor and disabled individuals was free of charge. During 2015, a total of **319 wheelchairs** were offered.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE UNIT

The Branch participated in the CRCS emergency response exercises, which are organised in cooperation with the Government, by deploying its volunteers. Members of the Branch also participated in the Assessment Mission Courses which are funded by the European Commission's Humanitarian aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) and coordinated by the Cyprus Civil Defense.

ENCLAVED PEOPLE

Since 1974, the CRCS has been offering assistance and support to the enclaved people who visit the free areas of Cyprus. Among others, CRCS facilitates their access to public services, hospitals and relatives, and provides food to those visiting the CRCS premises in Nicosia. Staff and volunteers of the Branch are actively involved in the provision of these services.

REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND MINORITY GROUPS

During 2015, the Branch, being the largest and housed in the Headquarters building, has contributed substantially in the implementation of the CRCS's services to refugees, asylum seekers and minority groups. A large number of staff and volunteers have participated in numerous activities focusing on the assistance to migrants. Members of the Branch participated in the operation of the Migration Committee of CRCS. The Secretary of the Branch represents CRCS at the PERCO Platform of the IFRC.

Additionally, members of the Branch played a pivotal role in the CRCS's huge efforts to receive, provide emergency, early recovery and humanitarian assistance to number of refugees from Syria who had been residing in the Kokkinotrimithia Camp for two months after their rescue from the sea outside the British Base of Akrotiri and later transferred to Dhekelia Base. Moreover, members of the Branch have been actively involved in the coordination and implementation of the CRCS's project for the provision of psychosocial support services to the

Menogia Detention Centre for Migrants, which was financed by the NGO Fund. The project aimed at the amelioration of the well-being of the detainees and at ensuring the protection of their basic rights. Volunteers conducted visits to the Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers at Kofinou, paid home visits to migrants, provided humanitarian assistance to large numbers of refugees, migrants and asylum seekers who visited the Branch, twice a week, as well as medical support for emergency cases.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

During 2015, the Branch organised a large number of fundraising activities, including a music concert, a bazaar, a charity lunch, a tea party, a bingo night, art exhibitions, auction nights, book sales, the “Door to Door” fundraising campaign, as well as several other fundraising campaigns in supermarkets, parks, stadiums and schools.

LIMASSOL BRANCH

In 2015, the CRCS Limassol Branch with its 350 volunteers and members assisted and participated in several activities and Campaigns organised by the Headquarter Committees, in full compliance with the policies of the Movement.

HOME VISIT SCHEME

The main target of this scheme was to visit individuals who had problems because of disability. Their needs were noted and the individuals and families concerned were provided with all assistance possible. Visits were made to hospitals, old people’s homes, kindergartens, families and individuals, covering Limassol and the district.

HUMANITARIAN AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Twice a week the Branch offers food parcels and clothing to individuals, families, migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in need. Christmas and Easter Special Food Parcels were distributed to approximately **800 families** for the festive seasons. The Branch’s clothing boutique is fully equipped with adults and children clothing in order to facilitate the selection of clothing by those in need. Financial assistance aid has been offered for special cases to individuals for medical problems. The Branch continued to offer breakfast to 100 students during the school period. The total cost of all of the above was 74,230.00 Euro.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE CRCS CHILDREN THERAPY CENTRE “STELLA SOULIOTI”

The Branch provided financial support to the Centre amounting to 11,872.50 Euro, this amount being the 25% of the proceeds of the “Door to Door” fundraising campaign of the Branch, as decided by the CRCS Council.

WHEELCHAIR AND MOBILITY EQUIPMENT SCHEME

Through this scheme, wheelchairs were offered for short term rental to the public, at a very low cost. Provision of wheelchairs to poor and disabled individuals was free of charge. The Branch distributed in total, **83 wheelchairs, 10 walkers and 10 crutches.**

BLOOD DONATION

The Blood Donation Scheme of the Branch successfully continued for the 55th year and collected almost 4,000 bags of blood for the Limassol General Hospital. This was carried out with the Hospital Blood Bank Team, the Secondary Schools of Limassol and Limassol District as well as the help of the blood donors Committee members of the Limassol Branch.

FUNDRAISING AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

The main fundraising event remains the Pancyprian “Door to Door” Collection. In addition, collections were made from charity events organised by the Limassol Branch or by schools, companies and other organisations and the proceeds were donated to our branch. Other sources of income included the collection of membership fees, donations received at funerals in memoriam, as well as donations given by individuals and companies. Twice during 2015, collection of foodstuffs took place at supermarkets by volunteers of the Branch. For the collection of foodstuffs offer, baskets were placed at eight major supermarkets.

FAMAGUSTA BRANCH

After its forced displacement from Famagusta in 1974, the Branch moved its quarters to Larnaca. In 2015, the Branch had more than 230 members and volunteers who, despite the unfavorable conditions, continued to provide humanitarian assistance to the people from Famagusta who were dispersed all over the island, as well as to individuals, families and organisations in Larnaca and the free Famagusta area. In addition to providing assistance, the Branch participated in several activities and campaigns organised by the Headquarters Committees in an effort to comply with the policies and the trends of the Society and the Movement.

HOME VISIT SCHEME

The Branch has a home visiting programme which includes private houses, kindergartens, special schools, homes for the elderly and other institutions. The Branch Committee responsible for the home visits, paid monthly visits in support of those families in need. The visits were intensified during the Christmas and Easter periods, when baskets of food and clothing were provided to **900 individuals and families** in Larnaca and the free area of Famagusta district.

HUMANITARIAN AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Branch provided baskets of food to individuals and families in Larnaca and the free Famagusta district. This effort was intensified during the Christmas and Easter periods when baskets of food and clothing were offered to **370 individuals and families**. Additionally, at its premises, the Branch continued supporting vulnerable migrants, asylum seekers and refugees by providing food, clothing and footwear. In many cases, financial assistance was also provided to students and other individuals in need. The Branch also contributed to the appeals of the Movement to alleviate the suffering of victims of various disasters. In response to an appeal by the CRCS Headquarters, the Branch donated 700.00 Euro to help the victims of the earthquake in Nepal and 700.00 Euro to help the Hellenic Red Cross meet the needs of the massive arrivals of refugees. The total amount spent for the said purposes amounted to **18,000.00 Euro**.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE CRCS CHILDREN THERAPY CENTRE “STELLA SOULIOTI”

The Branch provided financial support to the Centre amounting to 3,070.25 Euro, this amount being the 25% of the proceeds of the “Door to Door” fundraising campaign of the Branch, as decided by the CRCS Council.

WHEELCHAIR AND MOBILITY EQUIPMENT SCHEME

Through this scheme, wheelchairs were offered for short term rental to the public, at a very low cost. Provision of wheelchairs to poor and disabled individuals was free of charge. The Branch offered **12 wheelchairs** and some of them were offered for free.

MEDICAL AID

The Branch, among others, covered the expenses for therapies, such as speech therapy, physiotherapy, hydrotherapy and psychological services for several children with special needs. Furthermore, in some cases, the Branch covered the cost for medical equipment.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES AND OTHER EVENTS

Throughout 2015, the major annual fundraising activities of the Branch were the organisation of a fundraising Tea Party, a Carnival party, other events and the annual “Door to Door” fundraising campaign of the CRCS. Other sources of income were the collection of membership fees, donations received from individuals and companies, as well as donations received in memory of deceased persons.

In April, in cooperation with the Larnaca Branch, the Famagusta Branch organised a Fashion Show and the proceeds were in aid of needy individuals.

Members of the Famagusta Branch participated in the mini cruise that was organised by the Ocean Basket in aid of the CRCS during the Summer period.

LARNACA BRANCH

During the year 2015 Larnaca Branch numbered 258 members and volunteers who were fully committed to the humanitarian work of the CRCS, which is to support in every way all categories of vulnerable people and to do their utmost to alleviate human suffering of any kind. Additionally, the members and volunteers of the Branch support all functions, activities and campaigns organised by the CRCS Headquarters’ Committees, complying with the policies and trends of the Movement.

HOME VISITS SCHEME

Branch members paid regular visits to the three local Special Needs Children’s Schools, delivering food parcels, cakes, sweets and toys. Similar visits were paid to the Old People’s Homes in Larnaca and the district, where they additionally organised for some recreation activities.

HUMANITARIAN AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

As a result of the financial crisis which started in 2013 and is still affecting mainly the vulnerable people of Cyprus, the need to provide food, clothing and basic essentials was the Branch’s major concern for the whole year. The number of people depending on support from

philanthropic organisations is still high and will continue to be so if these people remain unemployed, with no means to support themselves and their families.

During the year under review the Larnaca Branch provided 1393 food parcels for an estimated number of around **300 families and individuals** of all categories in Larnaca town and the district. Additionally the Branch provided breakfast parcels to 16 high school students and their families. The total cost of food parcels amounted to 25,756.00 Euro.

The Branch also had to deal with a number of requests for financial assistance to help pay outstanding bills for electricity, water supply, school fees and medical treatment, or medical equipment. The total cost of these purposes amounted to 1,810.00 Euro.

In response to an appeal by the CRCS Headquarters, the Branch donated 800.00 Euro to help the victims of the earthquake in Nepal and 800.00 Euro to help the Hellenic Red Cross to meet the needs of the massive arrivals of refugees.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE CRCS CHILDREN THERAPY CENTRE “STELLA SOULIOTI”

The Branch provided financial support to the Centre amounting to 5,064.19 Euro, this amount being the 25% of the proceeds of the “Door to Door” fundraising campaign of the Branch, as decided by the CRCS Council.

REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND MINORITY GROUPS

The Branch also visited shelters for unaccompanied Syrian children, distributed clothing and foodstuff and discussed their personal problems. The Branch was present on the arrivals of Syrian refugees and helped cover their initial needs such as blankets, personal clothing, shoes, water etc. There was also, a steady flow of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees who depend on regular food parcels from the Branch.

WHEELCHAIR AND MOBILITY EQUIPMENT SCHEME

Through this scheme, wheelchairs were offered for short term rental to the public, at a very low cost. Provision of wheelchairs to poor and disabled individuals was free of charge. The Branch offered **21 wheelchairs** to authorized recipients.

BLOOD DONATION

The American Academy of Larnaca has been organizing Blood Donation events among the students of the higher classes for many years. The Branch issues certificates and awards to all blood donors. This year the Branch had 70 blood donors.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT & PREPAREDNES

In collaboration with the CRCS Disaster Management Committee and the Civil Defence, members of the Branch participated in a two-day international, exercise called “ARGONAFTIS” and also a rescue and support exercise called “ENGELADOS” in the event of an earthquake.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES AND OTHER EVENTS

The major fundraising events were the annual Christmas Tea Party and Bazaar in December and the annual “Door to Door” fundraising campaign in May. These events generate considerable income to the Branch which enables us to keep operating and to provide all the assistance to people who need it. Other fundraising events which were also very successful

were the fashion show jointly organised by the Larnaca and Famagusta Branches, the bazaar of household items, the Christmas event at the Hermes Airport jointly organised by Hermes Airports and the Larnaca Branch with sale of Christmas sweets. Other sources of income were membership fees and donations from individuals and companies and also donations in memory of loved ones. The total amount of proceeds from all functions amounted to 50,700.00 Euro.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Branch participated in the CRCS First Aid training programme with the Famagusta Branch. Also the Branch continued to finance four-year scholarships to two African students of the Orthodox Church School of Kenya for the fourth year running.

PAPHOS BRANCH

Despite its relatively small size, the Branch continued to provide humanitarian assistance in Paphos and its district. In addition to providing assistance, the Branch participated in several activities and campaigns organised by the Headquarters Committees in an effort to comply with the policies and the trends of the Society and the Movement.

HOME VISIT SCHEME

The Branch has a home visiting programme, which during 2015 included provision of assistance to kindergartens, schools, children's homes, homes for the elderly, special schools for people with special needs, shelters and other institutions. The visits intensified during the Christmas and Easter periods. Clothing, food vouchers, educational items and toys were distributed to **150 families and individuals** in Paphos and the surrounding areas.

HUMANITARIAN AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

In response to the increased demands which were caused by the financial crisis, the Branch intensified its efforts for the provision of humanitarian assistance. In some cases, financial assistance was also offered, especially to students and individuals, as well as to families facing special difficulties. The Branch also had to deal with a number of requests for financial assistance to help pay university fees and medical treatment. Additionally, at its premises the Branch continued supporting vulnerable migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, providing food, clothing and footwear. The total amount spent for the above, amounted to **4,500.00 Euro**.

In response to an appeal by the CRCS Headquarters, the Branch donated 200.00 Euro to help the victims of the earthquake in Nepal and 400.00 Euro to help the Hellenic Red Cross to meet the needs of the massive arrivals of refugees.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE CRCS CHILDREN THERAPY CENTRE "STELLA SOULIOTI"

The Branch provided financial support to the Centre amounting to 1,448.50 Euro, this amount being the 25% of the proceeds of the "Door to Door" fundraising campaign of the Branch, as decided by the CRCS Council.

WHEELCHAIR AND MOBILITY EQUIPMENT SCHEME

Through this scheme, wheelchairs were offered for short term rental to the public, at a very low cost. Provision of wheelchairs to poor and disabled individuals was free of charge. The Branch offered **29 wheelchairs**.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

During 2015, all annual fundraising activities organised by the Branch were successful and generated considerable income. The main one was the “Door to Door” fundraising campaign. Other sources of income were the collection of membership fees, donations received from individuals and companies, as well as the donations received in memory of deceased persons.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Branch participated in the Anglican Church Bazar that was organised in December and sold Christmas cards. The Branch organised two Bingo – Tea nights, one in May and one in November. The Branch also participated at the Christmas event at the Hermes Airport in Paphos jointly organised by Hermes Airports and the Paphos Branch with sale of Christmas sweets.

KYRENIA BRANCH

Despite its displaced status, the Kyrenia Branch of the CRCS has been very active and had 280 members and volunteers in 2015, whose enthusiasm and initiative responded successfully to the humanitarian needs of people displaced from Kyrenia and who live around the island. Members of the Branch also participated in all CRCS activities and campaigns organised by the Headquarters, such as the Ebola campaign, in compliance with the policies and trends of the Movement.

HOME VISIT SCHEME

The Branch has a home visiting scheme which includes children’s homes and homes for the elderly, especially visits to individuals and families. The visits intensified during the Christmas and Easter seasons when baskets of food, clothing and toys were offered.

HUMANITARIAN AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Branch provided in kind assistance, to hundreds of individuals and paid for medical expenses for individuals requiring medical treatment. Financial assistance was also provided to students and other individuals as with the economic crisis some people were unable to pay for their educational and electricity bills. At its premises, the Branch continued to support individuals in need, offering clothing and footwear.

The Branch also contributed to the appeals of the Movement to alleviate human suffering of victims of various disasters and crisis. The Branch donated 800.00 Euro to help the victims of the earthquake in Nepal and 800.00 Euro to help the Hellenic Red Cross with the migration issues.

The Branch participated in the “Love Campaigns” to provide primary school children in the Nicosia district with everything necessary for a fulsome Christmas and Easter dinner. Additionally, it provided assistance to more than **1400 individuals and families** displaced from

Kyrenia and who live around the island. The total amount spent for the said purposes amounted to **38,274.00 Euro**.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE CRCS CHILDREN THERAPY CENTRE “STELLA SOULIOTI”

The Branch provided financial support to the Centre amounting to 9,397.50 Euro, this amount being the 25% of the proceeds of the “Door to Door” fundraising campaign of the Branch, as decided by the CRCS Council.

FIRST AID

Members of the Kyrenia Branch attended the First Aid lessons organised by the First Aid Committee of the CRCS.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT & PREPAREDNESS

Members of the Branch are actively involved in the Disaster Management Committee. The Branch members were also involved in looking after the Syrian and other refugees that were rescued when their boats capsized near Cyprus on their way to Europe.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

The annual fundraising activities of the Branch were quite successful in 2015 despite the financial crisis. They generated considerable income for the Branch and consisted of the annual Tea Party, the “Door to Door” fundraising campaign, the Christmas Bazaar at “Eleftheria” Square in Nicosia. Other sources of income were the collection of membership fees, donations by individuals and companies as well as donations received in memory of deceased persons.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

The Branch organised an excursion for the elderly and individuals living alone to the Monastery of Ayios Minas with a meal at the Governors beach.

The Elli Soteropoulou award which is annually given to the best athlete of the third class of the gymnasium of Aglantzia, who is also a volunteer, was also given in 2015, jointly with the Youth Section of the CRCS.

YOUTH SECTION ACTIVITIES

YOUTH SECTION

In 2015 the Youth Section continued its reorganisation which had started after the approval of the new CRCS Statutes in 2012, which provided for a lower age limit for the members of the Youth Section. Fortunately, the financial crisis of 2013, and its many serious consequences, instead of affecting adversely the Youth Section's operation, provided incentives to upgrade very significantly the Section's operation, as highlighted by a variety of actions and activities, especially in the humanitarian section and the provision of assistance to those who were in need. In 2015, the Youth Section had 3245 volunteers who were mainly students of primary and secondary education, and university students, as well as many other young volunteers.

The Youth Section's activities in 2015 fell under the following fields:

- Provision of humanitarian assistance
- Fundraising
- Training
- Organisation of special events for raising awareness and information

PROVISION OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- Provision of breakfast to 421 primary and secondary school students, on a daily basis, at a total cost of 68,000 Euro.
- Distribution of 2470 food parcels to families of students of primary and secondary education during Easter and Christmas in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Nicosia and Kyrenia Branches.
- Financial assistance to students and other individuals in need (travelling expenses for treatment abroad, purchase of books etc).
- Visits to charitable institutions: Secondary school students from Linopetra's Gymnasium and students from the 17th primary school in Limassol visited the CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti, on 9 December 2015, and offered Christmas gifts to the children. Also, on 9 December 2015, students from five Gymnasiums (Anthoupoli, Geri, Faneromenis, Agiou Vassiliou, and Makedonitissa) and five Lyceums (Apostolos Markos, Dali, Apostolos Varnavas, Ethnomartira Kyprianou and Agiou Georgiou Lakatameia), visited the Christos Stelios Ioannou Foundation for adults with disabilities and offered gifts to the residents.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

- Annual "Door to Door" fundraising campaign. The revenue from the fundraising campaign for 2015 amounted to 69,635.76 Euro.
- Organisation of events: Christmas charity bazaar, Carnival charity parties, tea and fashion show at the residence of Mrs. Maro Efstathiadou, football tournament and film screening afternoon.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE CRCS CHILDREN THERAPY CENTRE “STELLA SOULIOTI”

The Youth Section provided financial support to the Centre amounting to 17,408.94 Euro, this amount being the 25% of the proceeds of the “Door to Door” fundraising campaign of the Youth Section, as decided by the CRCS Council.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- **“Saturday Children Programme”:** This programme is addressed to young people aged 12-18 year old, who gather every Saturday at the offices of the Red Cross in Nicosia with the objective to organize and participate in various events and activities. The total number of children attending this weekly programme was 35.
- **Annual Pancyprian Conference:** In 2015, the conference was attended by 154 students, aged 12-17 years old, from all cities of Cyprus. The theme of the conference was **"The Cyprus Red Cross Society as a proponent in the struggle against cyber and television violence"**.
- **Camp in Platres village:**
In 2015, the summer **camping** in Platres, was attended by **75 children**, aged 12-15 years old, from all cities of Cyprus. The camping lasted a week from 1 to 8 July 2015. The main objective of the camp was to give the children the opportunity to participate in an entertaining and at the same time educational programme for young leaders, which would allow them to learn more about the Red Cross, the promotion of the Fundamental Principles, ideals and spirit of the Red Cross, and teach them leadership skills which they could use in their schools. A special closing event was organised by the children on the last day, which was attended by many CRCS officials and parents.
- **Informative lectures for the Red Cross in primary and secondary schools:** The aim and objectives of these lectures which are organised by the Youth Section in primary and secondary schools are to inform students and teachers about the humanitarian work of the CRCS and the structure, organisation and activities of the Youth Section. In 2015, the Youth Section organised 35 such lectures.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

The financial crisis obliged the CRCS to divert its diminished resources towards the increasing local humanitarian needs. Nevertheless, the CRCS did its best to respond to appeals for assistance to vulnerable groups and victims of human and/or natural disasters worldwide. Accordingly, in 2015, the CRCS participated in programmes of international humanitarian assistance by making donations to the best of its ability to the people of Nepal, Greece and Syria.

HUMANITARIAN AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

CRCS assistance to Nepal

On 25 April 2015, a magnitude 7.9 degrees earthquake struck Nepal and was followed, two weeks later by another of 7.3 degrees magnitude quake. In total, 5.6 million people were affected, 8,857 people were killed and 900,000 houses were damaged. In the emergency phase, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement reached more than 620,000 people emergency, life-saving help under challenging conditions.

Regardless its own difficult financial situation, the CRCS responded immediately and sent a financial assistance amounted to 10,000.00 Euro.

CRCS assistance to the Hellenic Red Cross, Greece

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) announced an emergency appeal in order to support the Hellenic Red Cross to respond to the needs of some 200,000 people, with a focus on the provision of basic food and non-food items; health care including First Aid and Psychosocial Support; water, sanitation and hygiene promotion; Restoring Family Links (RFL) services, and building the response capacities of the National Society.

The CRCS responded immediately and during 2015 has sent a first installment of financial assistance amounting to 10,000.00 Euro.

CRCS assistance to Syria

The Executive Committee of the CRCS decided to provide assistance to the Syrian people by sending in kind assistance to the Syrian Arab Red Crescent. The assistance included four boxes of medical supplies worth 6,000.00 Euro that were donated by the pharmaceutical company Remedica, located in Limassol.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In a globalized world of inter-dependency, and as a full member of the largest humanitarian organisation in the world, it is clear that the CRCS cannot operate in isolation. Following CRCS's recognition by the ICRC and its official admission to the IFRC, the CRCS strengthened its contacts and enhanced cooperation with various sister National Societies. Officials, members and volunteers of the Society participated in twelve (12) International and European Meetings that dealt with several subjects, including: first aid; psychosocial support; migration; informative and strengthening sister societies; nuclear weapons and the humanitarian impact.

COOPERATION WITH THE MOVEMENT

RED CROSS EU OFFICE

The visit of Mr. Leon Prop and Mr. Eberhard Lueder from the Red Cross EU Office was held from 16 to 17 June 2015. The two officials had meetings with the Director General of the CRCS, Mr. Takis Neophytou and other CRCS staff and members and discussed various areas of concern such as the response of the CRCS and the assistance provided during the massive arrivals of refugees from Syria, Psychosocial Support, and future cooperation like European programmes, training, Disaster Management and Civil Protection.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES

ICELANDIC RED CROSS

During the meetings in the previous year, it was provisionally agreed that the Icelandic RC will help the CRCS to develop and improve further its services in Psychosocial Support and Legal Assistance to migrants. The relevant cooperation agreement includes the following three areas and donation amounts:

- Psychosocial Support Services Project 20,000.00 Euros
- Legal Advice to Migrants Project 20,000.00 Euros
- Assistance to refugees from Syria Project 20,000.00 Euros

LUXEMBOURG RED CROSS

Two members of the Red Cross of Luxemburg, Dr. Christian Huvelle and Mrs. Antje Mengel, visited the CRCS from 4 to 8 May 2015 and discussed areas of common interest. The possibility of providing assistance to the CRCS for development in areas which will be mutually agreed, was also examined.

The CRCS shared with the RC of Luxemburg their plans for the construction of a Humanitarian Assistance Distribution Centre combined with a Disaster Management warehouse at its Headquarters. The two-store building will play a multipurpose role, as it will also be used as a meeting activity and event place.

NORWEGIAN RED CROSS – HORDALAND BRANCH

6 year project agreement

The CRCS requested assistance from the Norwegian Red Cross who responded positively to the request and suggested that their Hordaland Branch should cooperate and support the CRCS. A delegation consisting of six members and headed by the Managing Director, Mrs. Lars Atle Skorpen from the Hordaland Branch of the Norwegian Red Cross visited CRCS from 26 to 29 October 2015 and discussed the details of the cooperation which has been provisionally agreed between the two sides.

The areas of cooperation include:

- First Aid
- Disaster Preparedness and Management
- Psychosocial Support
- Migration
- Home based programme for the elderly
- Increase of the CRCS financial capacity
- Youth issues

During their visit, the delegation had the opportunity to visit the Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers in Kofinou and the CRCS Children Therapy Centre “Stella Soulioti” in Limassol.

The Hordaland Branch agreed to implement a 6 year project for the CRCS by donating the amount of 25,000.00 Euro to the CRCS each year for the needs of the project.

The first installment for 2015 has been received and the CRCS had immediately started studying the “Home based programme for the elderly”. The aim is to employ a nurse for one year who will be the coordinator of the project and responsible to train other nurses and volunteers in order to pay regular visits to elderly and vulnerable people at home who need assistance with their medication, shopping, personal hygiene or just offering companion and support to them. The project will be run by the CRCS Headquarters in cooperation of the Nicosia and the Kyrenia Branches.

INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

MEETINGS OF THE PLATFORM FOR EUROPEAN RED CROSS COOPERATION ON REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND MIGRANTS (PERCO)

At both meetings, CRCS was represented by its PERCO representative Mrs. Andri Agrotis, Secretary of the Nicosia Branch.

7-8 May 2015, Helsinki, Finland

The increasing difficulties national societies (NS) are facing in the area of Migration were evident from the beginning of the meeting, where a number of NS had the chance to present aspects of their work. Four Working Groups (WG) took place, covering the thematic areas on

vulnerabilities, unaccompanied minors, lack of legal status and legal aid to asylum seekers. CRCS participated in the WG on the Lack of Legal Status, which aimed at mapping the vulnerabilities due to the lack of legal status, creating a PERCO expert paper on the subject. The PERCO Strategy 2015-2016 was presented to and discussed among participants. Furthermore, at this meeting a new Position Paper on the Vulnerabilities along the Migratory Trails to the EU and to the Schengen Area was presented and adopted. Lastly, a discussion calling for the implementation of the Florence Call for Action by all European NS took place.

21-23 October 2015, Vienna, Austria

The second meeting of the year was hosted by the Austrian Red Cross. The discussion focused on the developments in Greece, the route along the Balkans and the role of the northern European countries in receiving the vast amount of refugees moving along the continent. A new category of refugees was recognised, that of 'transit refugees'. In addition, the creation of a specialized Unit on Migration by the IFRC was also discussed, as well as the 'Protect Humanity – Stop Indifference' social media campaign, which was launched in September 2015 by the IFRC, aiming to raise awareness on the subject of Migration. The meeting also concluded a field trip to Austria's largest asylum seekers' accommodation facility in Traiskirchen, giving the opportunity to participants to learn about the daily activities and services provided at a Reception Centre of such a big scale.

Extraordinary General Meeting of the Red Cross EU Office

19 May 2015, Brussels, Belgium

The CRCS was officially invited to participate in the extraordinary general meeting of the Red Cross EU Office and represented by its Director General, Mr. Takis Neophytou. It was the first time that the CRCS participated at this meeting after its recognition and admission to the Movement. The main theme of the meeting was the discussion of the sponsorship that the RC EU Office receives from the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) which operates under the mandate of Mr. Christos Stylianides, EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management. During the meeting the CRCS representative had the opportunity to meet with the Director of the RC EU Office, Mr. Leon Prop who agreed to promote a closer cooperation between the CRCS and the RC EU Office.

12th RCRC Mediterranean Conference

23-28 May 2015, San Marino

The CRCS participated for the first time in the 12th RCRC Mediterranean Conference that was held from 23 to 28 May 2015 in San Marino. The CRCS was represented by its Director General Mr. Takis Neophytou, the President and the Treasurer of the Central Committee of the Youth Section, Ms Vanessa Kyprianou and Ms Marina Michaelidou respectively. CRCS made a presentation on the assistance provided to the refugees from Syria, and the Youth President chaired one session.

ICRC/ IFRC Annual Meeting of NS Legal Advisers

22-23 June 2015, Geneva, Switzerland

The CRCS was represented by Mrs. Amalia Erotokritos, Member of the Council, to the ICRC/IFRC Annual Meeting of the NS Legal Advisers that took place in Geneva from 22 to 23 June 2015. The subjects of the meeting were the International Humanitarian Law, Statutes, Legal protection etc.

**2nd Small European Countries (SEC) Red Cross Meeting
24-25 June 2015, Reykjavik, Iceland**

The 2nd Meeting of the Red Cross National Societies (NS) of the Small European Countries took place in Reykjavik, Iceland, on the 24th and 25th of June 2015. The CRCS was represented by its President Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou, the First Vice President Mrs. Leda Koursoumba and the Director General Mr. Takis Neophytou. The presence of the Secretary General of the IFRC, Mr. Elhadj As Sy was highly important, upgraded the meeting and at the same time provided recognition to the institution. Most of the meeting was devoted to the presentations of the participating NS. CRCS gave a detailed report on the way it handled and the services provided to the 345 Syrian refugees who arrived in Cyprus, in September 2014. Other subjects of the agenda were the speech and the Q&A session by the Secretary General, the cooperation between the SEC, issues of the youth sections, the International Conference in December 2015 and the coordination of the participation of the RC National Societies of the Small European Countries in the Conference. Moreover the CRCS Director General was asked to prepare and submit the position paper to be submitted to and discussed with the Secretary General of the IFRC during a meeting of the SEC with him next December. The next meeting of the SEC will take place in Monaco in 2016.

**4th Commonwealth RCRC Conference on International Humanitarian Law (IHL)
20-23 July 2015, Canberra, Australia**

On 20 July 2015, the 4th Commonwealth RCRC Conference on International Humanitarian Law commenced, co-hosted by the ICRC, the Australian Government and Australian Red Cross, with the support of the British Red Cross and the Commonwealth Secretariat. The event took place in Canberra and it aimed at bringing together representatives of Commonwealth Member States and Commonwealth RCRC National Societies to discuss developments and current issues in IHL.

The CRCS was represented by its Migration Officer, Nadia Kornioti, who participated in three working groups:

- Innovation of IHL Dissemination and Outreach
- The Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention: Mine Awareness and Eradication, where CRCS referred to the demining activities of the UN along the Buffer Zone
- Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees; where CRCS referred to the growing crisis in the EU and the difficulties EU NS are called to face.

The conference also served as a preparatory meeting of the NS of the Commonwealth states, for the International Conference which will take place in Geneva in December 2015.

**Annual Meeting of the First Aid Education European Network (FAEEN)
8-10 October 2015, Luxembourg**

The annual meeting of the First Aid Education European Network (FAEEN) was held in Luxembourg, from 8 to 10 October 2015. The CRCS was represented by Mr. Mimis Theodotou, a member of the First Aid Committee and one of the first aid trainers of the Society.

The program this year was upgraded with very important presentations in the following topics:

- FAEEN Terms of Reference (ToR)
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between FAEEN and GFARC
- Steering Committee election
- «The whole population within the chain of survival» Presentation by the Norwegian Directorate of Health (NDH)
- Project “Henry”, teaching first aid to kindergarten kids
- GFARC: project reporting
- Evidence based network: project reporting
- Workshop discussion: How do we have to change our methodology and pedagogy for FA training? Does science support alternative approaches and guidelines?
- Teaching to people with a disability - Challenges and possibilities
- Experiences on working with target groups
- Nepal Red Cross Society: First Aid training as part of the disaster response after the earthquake.
- Workshop discussion: Practical approach to plan and arrange training interventions for target groups

Annual European Network for Psychosocial Support (ENPS) Forum 9-11 October 2015, Sofia, Bulgaria

The purpose of the Forum is to provide European RC/RC National Societies, working in the domain of Psychosocial Support (PSS), the opportunity to exchange ideas, promote good practice and network. It allows participants to set strategy, enhance current programmes and make recommendations for future PSS developments. In 2015, the Forum was held from 9 to 11 October in Sofia, Bulgaria and CRCS was represented by its Psychosocial Support Program Officer, Mrs. Melissa Tsimon. This year, the Forum focused on three major influences on populations around the world: Climate Change, the Economic Situation and Forced Migration. Various National Societies spoke about their current work, their research findings and shared good practices.

Most relevant to Cyprus were presentations by:

- Mrs. Barbara Juen presented the work of the “Operationalising Psychosocial Support in Crisis (OPSIC) a project funded by the European Union and it consists of 52 planning instruments in four different areas.
- Cyprus has one of the biggest rates of human trafficking, across Europe and has been placed on ‘Tier 2 Watch List’ by the US department of State. The British Red Cross presented its work on trafficking through the project “PROTECT: Person’s at risk for trafficking” in the UK including migrants and refugees. Their ongoing experience could prove useful to the Cyprus Red Cross should we decide to complement already existing structures in Cyprus, regarding human trafficking.
- The IFRC was also represented to present their recent work on the newly published training manuals. The tools are available online from: www.pscentre.org

Annual General Assembly of the Red Cross EU Office

5-6 November 2015, Brussels, Belgium

The CRCS participated in the Annual General Assembly of the Red Cross EU Office, which was held in Brussels on 5-6 November 2015 and was represented by its Director General, Mr. Takis Neophytou. The agenda of the meeting included issues on operation plan and budget, migration and asylum, elections of the Coordination Group for the period 2016-2018, the progress report for 2015 and the Statutory Meetings of the Movement in December 2015.

Two-day meeting on the 'Reception of asylum seekers in the EU'

16-17 November 2015, Brussels, Belgium

This event was an initiative of the Belgian Red Cross and the Red Cross EU Office, inviting representatives of European NS to discuss reception conditions of asylum seekers in their respective countries. CRCS was represented by its Migration Officer, Nadia Kornioti. On the first day of the event, participants had the chance to exchange good practices on the reception of asylum seekers, through a number of workshops, addressing the specific needs of women, unaccompanied minors, victims of torture and methods on how to best accompany asylum seekers in reception centres. CRCS participated in the last workshop. Participants were called to identify challenges, to reflect on them and exchange good practices and identify common recommendations and action points. On the second day of the event, participants were invited to participate in four WG covering the areas of Operations, Humanitarian Diplomacy, Communications and Joint Projects. CRCS participated in the WG on humanitarian diplomacy, which focused on identifying key messages and recommendations to EU policy makers with regards to the Dublin system and the relocation programme of the EU. The meeting closed with a public conference on "Emerging challenges in the EU asylum reception systems", hosted by the Permanent Representation of Sweden.

MOVEMENT'S STATUTORY MEETINGS

32nd International Conference, General Assembly and the Council of Delegates

4-10 December 2015 Geneva, Switzerland

The CRCS participated for the first time in its history, in the Statutory Meetings as a full member of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. The 32nd International Conference of the RC/RC Movement, the IFRC General Assembly and the Council of Delegates were held in Geneva from 4 to 10 December 2015. The CRCS delegation consisted of 5 members; the President, Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou, the First Vice President, Mrs. Leda Koursoumba, the Second Vice President, Mr. Mustafa Hami, the Director General, Mr. Takis Neophytou and the President of the Youth Section, Mrs. Vanessa Kyprianou. The meetings were very interesting and useful for the CRCS. The CRCS made several interventions on issues such as Youth, Migration, prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence, met with several National Societies delegations and had a close cooperation with the Cyprus Government and its Ambassador in Geneva, Mr. Andreas Ignatiou. The Small European Countries RC NS, among them the CRCS, had a meeting with the IFRC Secretary General.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

In 2015, the CRCS website and its Facebook page and various groups remained the basic communication tools, through which the CRCS remained in contact with thousands of members, volunteers and friends in Cyprus and abroad. Furthermore, the CRCS carried out its information and communication activities, among others, through media relations activities, radio and TV interviews, press releases and conferences, public speeches, TV advertising, print ads and other promotional materials, such as PowerPoint presentations in Greek and English on the work of CRCS, as well as the 2015 desk calendar.

MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

In 2015 the CRCS continued preparing a monthly diary of events. The diary is a powerful tool that provides information on the planned activities for each month. It is distributed to the members of the Executive Committee, to all the Branches and the Youth Section, as well as the Children Therapy Centre “Stella Soulioti”, informing them on the upcoming events of the month.

WEBSITE

A major accomplishment of the CRCS in the field of information and communication was the upgrading of its website www.redcross.org.cy in 2013. The website was prepared in three languages - Greek, English and Turkish - and is a gateway through which a visitor can obtain information and facts, become aware of CRCS activities, have access to considerable amount of photographic and other material and make online donations. During 2015, the CRCS was able to manage and continuously update its website.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media serve the social interaction among people through which they create, share or exchange information and ideas in virtual communities and networks. CRCS, in an effort to update members and volunteers about its events and programmes and attract new friends and supporters, created a group on Facebook in April 2009, named Cyprus Red Cross Society. During the years that followed, the CRCS’s Subsidiary Units started creating their own groups and pages on Facebook. Currently, the CRCS has in total nine groups and pages on Facebook (www.facebook.com), as follows:

- Cyprus Red Cross Society
- Cyprus Red Cross Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti
- Cyprus Red Cross Society Nicosia Branch
- Cyprus Red Cross Society Limassol Branch
- Cyprus Red Cross Society Larnaca Branch
- Cyprus Red Cross Youth Section
- Saturday Red Cross Kids
- Cyprus Red Cross Youth Section Limassol
- Cyprus Red Cross Youth Section Paphos

CRCS has also a YouTube and Twitter account.

DESK CALENDARS

In December 2015, following an already established tradition, CRCS printed both in Greek and English languages a large number of 2016 Desk Calendars dedicated to Children. The calendars were distributed free of charge to CRCS members and associates, while a small number of copies were also sent to the ICRC and IFRC in Geneva, as well as the Red Cross EU Office in Brussels, the Regional Office of Europe in Budapest and other RC/RC National Societies. The production of the calendars was sponsored by H&P Accountants to whom CRCS expresses its sincere thanks and appreciation.

CONTINUATION OF THE CRCS - MARKETWAY/PUBLICIS COLLABORATION

The CRCS continued its collaboration with Marketway/Publicis. Since 2009, the agency has acted as the communication and publicity consultant for all CRCS activities, free of charge. The CRCS expresses its warm thanks to Mrs. Barbara Petropoulou-Lillikas, Managing Director of Marketway/Publicis, and to all the members of the staff for their generous and valuable assistance and support in promoting with great success the CRCS activities, programmes and humanitarian work.

DRAFT

FINANCIAL AND INTERNAL INFORMATION

The adverse economic conditions continued to prevail in the country during the year though the situation started to improve. Bearing in mind this, the overall financial position of the CRCS for 2015 can be considered as satisfactory. In general, the level of the Income was satisfactory and comparable to that of the previous years. The level of Expenses however was higher due to the pressure for providing assistance to needy people resulting either from the continuing adverse economic conditions in the country or from the influx of refugees from neighboring countries.

More specifically:

- **The Headquarters ended the year with a small excess of Expenditure over Income that was more or less equivalent to the Depreciation Charge for the year. So in effect the Headquarters had a balanced Income and Expenditure in cash terms.**
- **The CRCS Children Therapy Centre “Stella Soulioti” ended the year with a significant excess of Income over Expenditure thanks to a significant increase in Donations and the completion of the Building renovations the year before.**
- **The results of the other Units are comparable with those of the previous years that show mostly increased Expenditure reflecting the continuing adverse economic conditions of the country.**

CRCS PERSONNEL

Although CRCS is basically a voluntary organisation and its extensive activities are carried out by several thousands of members and volunteers, its mission could not be accomplished without the significant administrative support, coordination and contribution of CRCS Staff. As with prior years, in 2015 CRCS employed 29 staff as follows:

Headquarters:

Director General - Takis Neophytou
Secretary - Thalia Vourkidou
Head of Accounts Department - Christiana Eliades
Administration Officer - Androulla Angelidou
Officer – Giorgos Hadjistasi
Psychosocial Support Officer – Melissa Tsimon (on a part time basis)
Migration Officer – Nadia Kornioti (on a part time basis)
Cleaner - Vasiliki Michael

Nicosia Branch:

Field Officer - Giorgos Frantzis (until September 2015)
Programme Officer – Demetris Phylactou (since October 2015)
Administration Officer - Eleni Panayiotou
Officer/ Messenger - Michalis Neophytou
Officer - Myroula Mouza
Cleaner – Stalo Kyriakou

Limassol Branch:

Administration Officer - Stella Philippou
Administration Officer – Polina Savva

Famagusta Branch:

Administration Officer - Cornilia Zografou

Larnaca Branch:

Administration Officer - Maria Lambrou

Paphos Branch:

Administration Officer - Elli Sokratous

Youth Section:

Administration Officer – Andrea Loizou

CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti:

Matron - Katerina Christodoulou

Assistant Matron - Constantina Prapa Savoulla

Physiotherapists: Dena Palazi, Eleni Savva and Pantelis Constantinou

Speech Therapist: Elena Ioannou

Occupational Therapists: Andreas Nikola and Stavroulla Charalambous

Cleaners - Margarita Constantinou and Isabella Rozou Constantinou

EMPLOYMENT OF NEW STAFF MEMBERS**Psychosocial Support Officer**

As of September 2015, the CRCS extended the employment of Mrs. Melissa Tsimon to work two days a week, as the Psychosocial Support (PSS) Officer at its Headquarters in Nicosia. Her employment is supported by a grant received from the Icelandic Red Cross.

Migration Officer

As of June 2015, the CRCS employed Mrs. Nadia Kornioti to work, two days a week, as the Migration Officer at its Headquarters in Nicosia. Her employment is supported by a grant received from the Icelandic Red Cross.

INTERNSHIP

Until March 2015, Mrs. Alexandra Verniers from Belgium, continued working as an intern at the CRCS Headquarters through the Leonardo Da Vinci European Programme. For a period of six months, she participated in a variety of activities, campaigns and other programmes of the CRCS. Following that, for four months she undertook the coordination of the Red Cross Unit in the camp for the Syrian and Palestinian refugees, who were rescued from the sea, outside Cyprus in September 2014. Her duties included the management of the CRCS humanitarian assistance distribution centre of the camp and the coordination of all the services which were offered by the CRCS in cooperation with other partners, including the training of volunteers, the organisation of entertainment, psychosocial support, educational and other activities. The CRCS expresses its most sincere appreciation and thanks to Mrs. Verniers for her valuable contribution to its humanitarian work.

EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG UNIVERSITY GRADUATES

The Human Resource Development Authority (HRDA) in Cyprus, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, initiated a “Special Prevention Action Plan” in order to minimize the adverse effects of the financial crisis. The HRDA plan which provided for “Job placement and training of unemployed tertiary education young graduates”, continued in 2015. In response to applications submitted, the CRCS secured the recruitment of one university graduate who worked at the CRCS Nicosia Branch for a period of six months. The salary of the employee was covered by the HRDA.

MEMBERSHIP FEE

The CRCS’s annual membership fee remained 10 Euros.

CRCS VICE PRESIDENT ACTING AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC TO THE UNDP-ACT

Since 2009, Mrs. Leda Koursoumba, Vice President of the Society, has been representing the President of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations Development Programme – Action for Cooperation and Trust (UNDP-ACT), a position previously held by the late Stella Soulioti, Honorary President of the Society. During 2015, Mrs. Koursoumba continued to sign, on behalf of the President of the Republic of Cyprus, all the UNDP-ACT bi-communal programmes that concerned the Government and chaired the UNDP-ACT meetings which were hosted by the CRCS at the premises of its Headquarters in Nicosia.

UNDP-ACT PROJECT

The cooperation of the CRCS with several UN agencies goes back to 1974 after the Turkish invasion. The goal of the UNDP-ACT programme is to contribute towards a strengthened culture of cooperation and trust amongst all segments of the Cypriot society. In return to the accommodation provided to the programme’s meetings and other services by the CRCS, in 2015 the UNDP-ACT continued its assistance to the CRCS (Project November 2013 – June 2015) through a project with a budget of 26.000,00 Euros. This amount was used to provide support towards the cost of staff, maintenance of office equipment, furniture and supplies.

PIERIDES BEQUEST

The CRCS Council decided to sell the house which was bestowed to the CRCS, by the Ioanna’s and Argyro’s Pierides bequest, since the CRCS Youth Section was no longer interested to use it as office and storage premises.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

The present Annual Report was prepared with the intention to present the work and achievements of the CRCS during 2015. It is more than evident that everything presented in the present Report has been the accomplishment and the result of the collective work and efforts of thousands of individuals. We therefore express our warm and sincere thanks to all the individuals and the organisations concerned, our members and volunteers, as well as the CRCS staff members, whose commitment, efforts, enthusiasm and generosity contributed in making 2015 a very successful year.

TO MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF

We first wish to convey our respect, appreciation and thanks to all our members and volunteers who joined forces with millions of Red Cross members and volunteers from all over the world, to help alleviate the suffering inflicted on their fellow human beings. It is thanks to them and their commitment to the principles and ideals of the Red Cross that our message, “from one human being to another” became a tangible reality. Thanks are also due to the CRCS staff members for the dedication they have shown for their tasks and their support to the members and volunteers of the organisation.

TO DONORS, SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS

Equally warm thanks and gratitude are due to all public and private companies, institutions and individuals that generously expressed their support to the CRCS through financial donations, the provision of goods and services, as well as other forms of assistance. Special thanks also go to all sponsors, both large and small: Anastasios G. Leventis Foundation; UNDP-ACT, Alphamega Hypermarkets; Radiomathonios Foundation for Children with Special Needs; Rotary Club of Nicosia; Marketway/ Publicis; Andrey & Julia Dashin’s Foundation; Lanitis Bros Ltd; BP Eastern Mediterranean Ltd; REMEDICA pharmaceutical company; Michalakis Aloupas Jewellery; Grecian Hotel Enterprises Ltd; Ernst & Young Cyprus Ltd; Hermes Airports Ltd; CYTA; Piraeus Bank; RCB; Central Bank of Cyprus; Cooperative Central Bank of Cyprus; Bank of Cyprus; Hellenic Bank; Barclays Bank Plc Cyprus; ExxonMobil; Petrolina (Holdings) Public Ltd; Ocean Basket Cyprus; H&P Accountants; Noble Energy International Ltd; as well as all the Media.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to all other donors who made contributions, often anonymously and at great cost to themselves.

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

We consider it appropriate to express our thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Cyprus for their support and cooperation to the CRCS. Special thanks are addressed in particular to: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of the Interior; the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Education and Culture; the Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance; the Ministry of Transport, Communications and Works, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment. We are also indebted to the Service for Humanitarian Affairs, the Cyprus Police and the Civil Defense, for their cooperation and support.