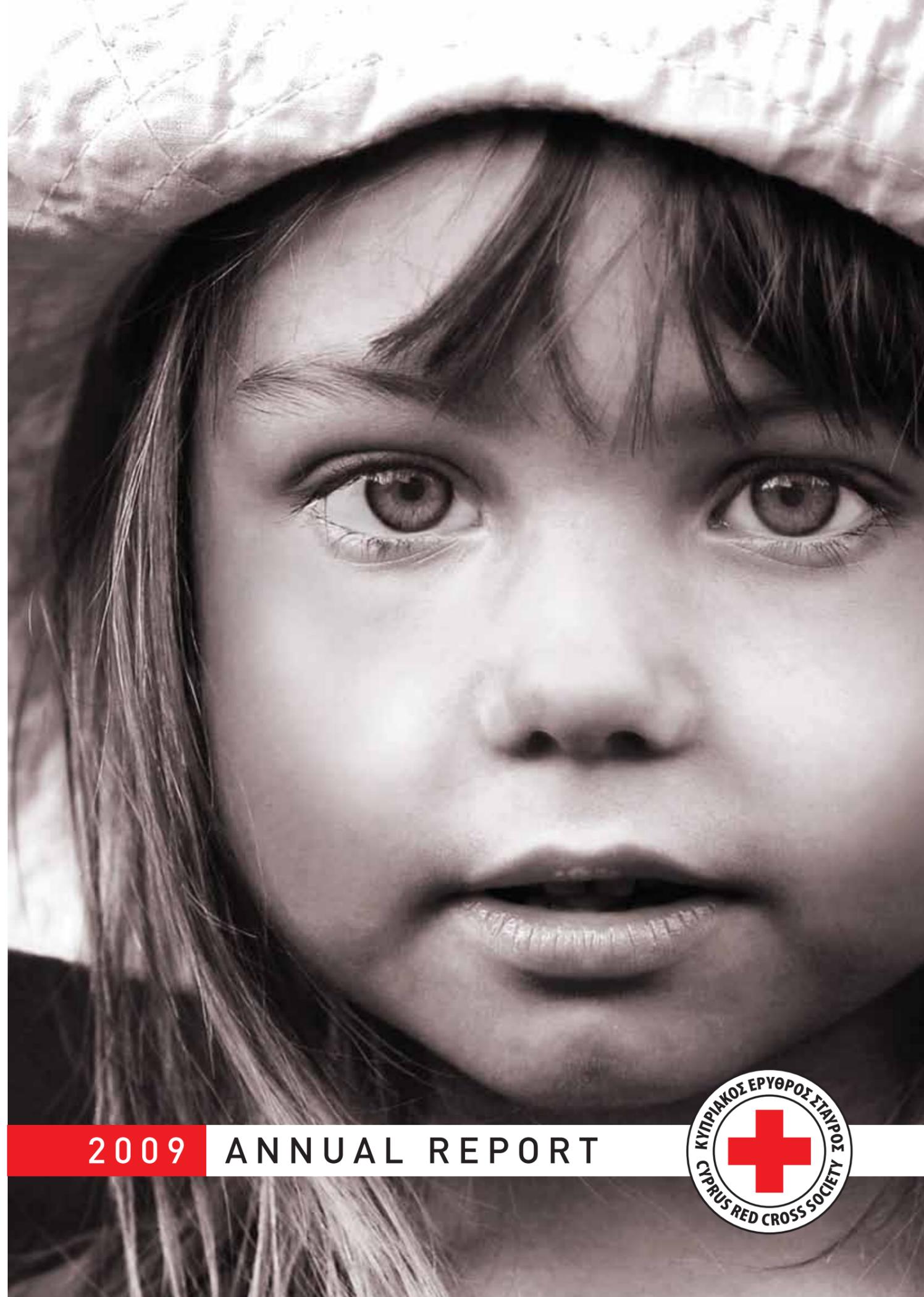




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2009 ANNUAL REPORT



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PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION

CYPRUS RED CROSS 2009 ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2009, the Cyprus Red Cross Society (CRCS) carried out its humanitarian work in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the legislation of the Republic of Cyprus and its own Statutes.

It was supported as always by the commendable efforts of its Branches, Youth Section, its members, several thousand volunteers and staff.

The renewed sense of initiative that followed in the wake of our Director General's appointment in 2007 shows in the results that prove we have already moved away from our staid old ways and are heading towards a very promising future. This Annual Report is indicative of our continued aim to communicate the Cyprus Red Cross' activities in a concise, elegant and engaging manner.

In 2009, the CRCS fulfilled to a greater degree its role as an auxiliary body to the public authorities, by mobilizing the strength and enthusiasm of its volunteers and accomplishing thus its humanitarian mission.

This was seen during the influenza pandemic, when the CRCS assisted the Ministry of Health by providing volunteers to staff vaccination centres across Cyprus.

Our main activity and concern was of course the Children's Home, which unfortunately continued to experience financial difficulties. The CRCS also attempted to meet the needs of the poor, the sick, disabled, old, the enclaved, migrants and other vulnerable people, by offering love, care, affection and support continuously and without prejudice or discrimination. Activities such as blood donation, first aid training, and disaster relief, tree planting and more took place throughout the year.

In addition to its traditional humanitarian activities, the CRCS also undertook a number of high - profile campaigns and activities, in order to satisfy various needs and to strengthen its financial position. First was the annual "Door to Door" fundraiser in May, followed by the Road Safety campaign in September. The "Change in our Hearts" campaign was also completed after a successful two year run.

Although I cannot refer to all of our activities because of space constraints, I must mention that various permanent and ad hoc committees operated during the year, working on such tasks as upgrading the CRCS website (www.redcross.org.cy), publishing our newsletter, promoting our close co-operation with the Movement by participating in various conferences and seminars, and continuing our efforts for full recognition which in 2009 resulted in some positive indications.

Beyond the usual dispatching of humanitarian aid to victims of catastrophes in various parts of the world, our overseas efforts in 2009 focused on two large projects: the continuation of the joint project with the Pancyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council for the construction of a Community Medical Centre in the fire-hit town of Oleni, Greece.

€218.000 was also donated towards the completion of Badulla District hospital in Sri Lanka.

To all those praiseworthy people who helped the CRCS to undertake its humanitarian activities, I would 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 General Director and to all the staff - I wish you strength, health and courage to carry on doing your duties, so that together we can all continue our humanitarian mission with even more success.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Fotini Papadopoulou". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Fotini Papadopoulou
President

CYPRUS RED CROSS SOCIETY: FROM 1950 TO 2009



The Cyprus Red Cross Society (CRCS) was founded in 1950 as a branch of the British Red Cross. Following the declaration of independence of the Republic of Cyprus in 1960 and the adherence to the Geneva International Conventions, the CRCS was officially recognized by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus through the adoption of Law 39 of 1967. Through this legislation, the Cyprus Red Cross Society became an auxiliary to the public authorities on humanitarian matters, using the Red Cross Emblem in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.

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 governance bodies are the Annual General Assembly, the Council, the Executive Committee and the Executive Team. Branches operate in all towns and are managed by their 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, the CRCS undertakes extensive activities which among others, include humanitarian aid, moral support to vulnerable persons, fundraising campaigns, First Aid lessons, blood donation and activities to inform and raising awareness of the Red Cross mission and its principles and the protection of the Red Cross Emblem.

Of particular importance was the help provided by the CRCS during the Turkish Invasion of 1974 in relation to the evacuation of the population from areas under Turkish control, the taking care of the wounded, providing housing and covering the needs of the refugees, the reunification of families, the transmission of messages, the return of prisoners, the finding of missing persons and fulfilling the needs of the enclaved persons.

To date, the CRCS continues to send all necessary basic provisions and other aid to the enclaved persons and seeks to cover their needs when visiting the free areas; it also continues to issue certificates of captivity and of having been an enclaved person.

The CRCS carries out a wide variety of other important activities such as fundraising campaigns, tree planting, road safety, crisis management, participating in European programmes, organizing camping expeditions, humanitarian and community events, help to migrants and organization of seminars. Especially noteworthy are the activities of the Children's Home, which since 1957 helps severely disabled children with multiple needs.

The services offered have been increased since 2007 with the establishment of a Day Centre for Adults with Disabilities, providing care, therapy, support and independent living activities.

These extensive activities of the CRCS are not limited to Cyprus but also extended overseas. The CRCS responds to various appeals of the International Red Cross and in many cases the CRCS has sent humanitarian support to Sister Societies whose countries have been affected by floods, earthquakes and other emergencies. After the completion and handing over of the hospital which was built for the victims of the tsunami in Sri Lanka, another generous donation of €218.000 was made for the completion of the Badulla hospital, again in Sri Lanka.

Following the 2007 forest fires in the Peloponnese, Greece, a medical centre is being built for the victims of the fires of the Municipality of Oleni costing €200.000, in cooperation with the Pancyprrian Volunteerism Coordinative Council.

The CRCS co-operates extensively with the ICRC and the IFRC, as well as with other RC/RC National Societies and our attendance at International and European Seminars and meetings is extensive. It is hoped that these activities will contribute further towards the resolution of the question regarding the recognition of the CRCS by the International Movement, which has been pending since 1974.



2009 DIARY OF ACTIVITIES

January

28 CRCS Council and General Assembly meetings

February

19-20 "Unaccompanied Minors and Forced Returns" seminar - France

March

13 Annual General Assembly Famagusta Branch

15 25th Pancyprian Conference Youth Section

16 Humanitarian Assistance to Gaza for the Victims of Hostilities

18 Annual General Assembly Limassol Branch

April

CRCS becomes member of the European Road Safety Charter.

9 CRCS Facebook group is created

14-17 PERCO meeting - Brussels

29-30 CRCS & Lanitis Bros Company Road Safety seminars

May

5 90th anniversary of the foundation of the IFRC

8 World Red Cross Day & the 150th anniversary of the Solferino Battle

8-17 Annual "Door to Door" fundraising campaign

11 "Assessment Mission Course" European Civil Protection - Nicosia

13-14 "European Red Cross Return Initiative" Seminar - Sweden

15-19 "Climate Change" Conference, IFRC Shelter Workshop, Disaster Management Coordinators meeting - Montenegro

20 Emergency & Disaster Management Exercise "Argonaut"

28 Executive Committee meeting

June

23-28 3rd World Meeting RC/RC "Young People Mobilizing" - Solferino, Italy

July

6 Award ceremony for "Door to Door" fundraising campaign

7-14 Youth Section Summer Camp

August

12 60th anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Conventions

September

12 World First Aid Day – preparation and advertisement of posters

22 Georgia RC President's visit to the CRCS

22-24 "Cash Transfer Programming in Humanitarian Assistance" Training - Montenegro

October

16-18 Annual European Network for Psychosocial Support (ENPS): "Stress awareness and management" - Croatia

21-22 "Humanitarian Pandemic Preparedness Accelerated Project H2P-AP" Meeting at IFRC Europe Zone Office - Hungary

22-23 PERCO meeting - Cyprus

November

4 Annual General Assembly (Paphos Branch)

12 Annual General Assembly (Nicosia Branch)

12 Annual General Assembly (Kyrenia Branch)

15 World Remembrance Day for the Victims of Road Accidents

23 A H1N1 influenza pandemic – CRCS volunteers help in the Vaccinations Centers in Cyprus

24 Executive Committee meeting

December

Christmas Cards & Wishes

Issue of the 2010 Desk Calendar

1 HIV/AIDS campaign

5 International Volunteering Day

10-11 Pan European Meeting for Immigrants - Greece

13-15 Rome Consensus meeting "Drug Prevention, Treatment and Harm Reduction" - Italy

31 Completion of "Change in our Hearts" Campaign

2009 CRCS MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

According to CRCS Statutes the Governing bodies of the Society are the following:

1. The General Assembly
2. The Council
3. The Executive Committee
4. The Executive Team

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL IN 2009

Appointed under Rule 41(1)(a) and (b)

Mrs. Stella Soulioti, Honorary President, Nicosia

Elected under Rule 1(1)(a)*

Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou, President
 Mrs. Leda Koursoumba, Deputy President
 Mr. Takis Neophytou, General Director
 Mr. Dinos Christofides, Treasurer
 Mr. Stelios G. Sycallides, Nicosia
 Mr. Kleanthis Philaniotis, Nicosia
 Mr. Andreas Karageorghis, Nicosia
 Mr. Dinos Kittis, Nicosia
 Mr. Georghios A. Triantafyllides, Nicosia
 Mr. Bedros Shammashian, Nicosia
 Mr. Nicos Lakoufis, Nicosia
 Mr. Nicos Severis, Nicosia
 Mr. Andreas Artemis, Nicosia
 Mrs. Ino Zachariades, Limassol
 Mr. Nicos Gregoriou, Limassol
 Mr. Andreas Poetis, Famagusta
 Mr. Andreas Mouskos, Larnaca
 Mr. Georghios Hasapis, Paphos
 Mr. Costas Pantehis,, Kyrenia

Under Rule 11 (1) (b)

Presidents of the Branches:
 Mrs. Joanna Loizidou and later Mrs. Loria Markides,
 President Nicosia Branch
 Mrs. Stathoula Sykopetritis, President Limassol Branch
 Mrs. Sylvia Poetis, President Famagusta Branch
 Mrs. Chrystalla Pantelides, President Larnaca Branch
 Mrs. Dina Cacoyianni, President Paphos Branch
 Mrs. Maroulla Angelidou, President Kerynia Branch

Ex-Officio under Rule (11) (1)(c)

Director of Social Welfare Services
 Director of the Department of Medical Services
 Senior Nursing Officers
 Mrs. Despo Frederickou, President Youth Section
 Central Committee

Honoris Causa under Rule 11 (2)

Mrs. Ellie Steliou Ioannou, Nicosia
 Mr. Christos Mavroudis, Nicosia
 Mr. Artemakis Zachariou, Limassol
 Mrs. Elengo Rangou, Nicosia
 Mr. Christis Phylactou, Nicosia
 Mrs. Katy Garani, Nicosia
 Dr. Minas Hadjiminis, Nicosia
 Mrs. Marvel Christophides, Nicosia

* 1 seat is kept vacant for a Turkish Cypriot member.

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN THE YEAR 2009

President of the Society,
 Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou,
 Deputy President of the Society,
 Mrs. Leda Koursoumba,
 General Director, Mr. Takis Neophytou,
 Treasurer, Mr. Dinos Christofides,
 President of Nicosia Branch
 Mrs. Ioanna Loizidou / Mrs. Loria Markides,
 President of Limassol Branch,
 Mrs. Stathoulla Sykopetriti,
 President of Famagusta Branch,
 Mrs. Sylvia Poetis,
 President of Larnaca Branch,
 Mrs. Chrystalla Pantelidou,
 President of Paphos Branch,
 Mrs. Dina Kakoyianni,
 President of Kyrenia Branch,
 Mrs. Maroulla Aggelidou,
 President Central Committee Youth Section,
 Mrs. Despo Frederickou.

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE TEAM IN THE YEAR 2009

President of the Society, Chairman,
 Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou,
 Deputy President of the Society, Vice Chairman,
 Mrs. Leda Koursoumba,
 General Director, Mr. Takis Neophytou,
 Treasurer, Mr. Dinos Christofides.

MEETINGS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BODIES

During the course of 2009 the Council met once, on January 28.

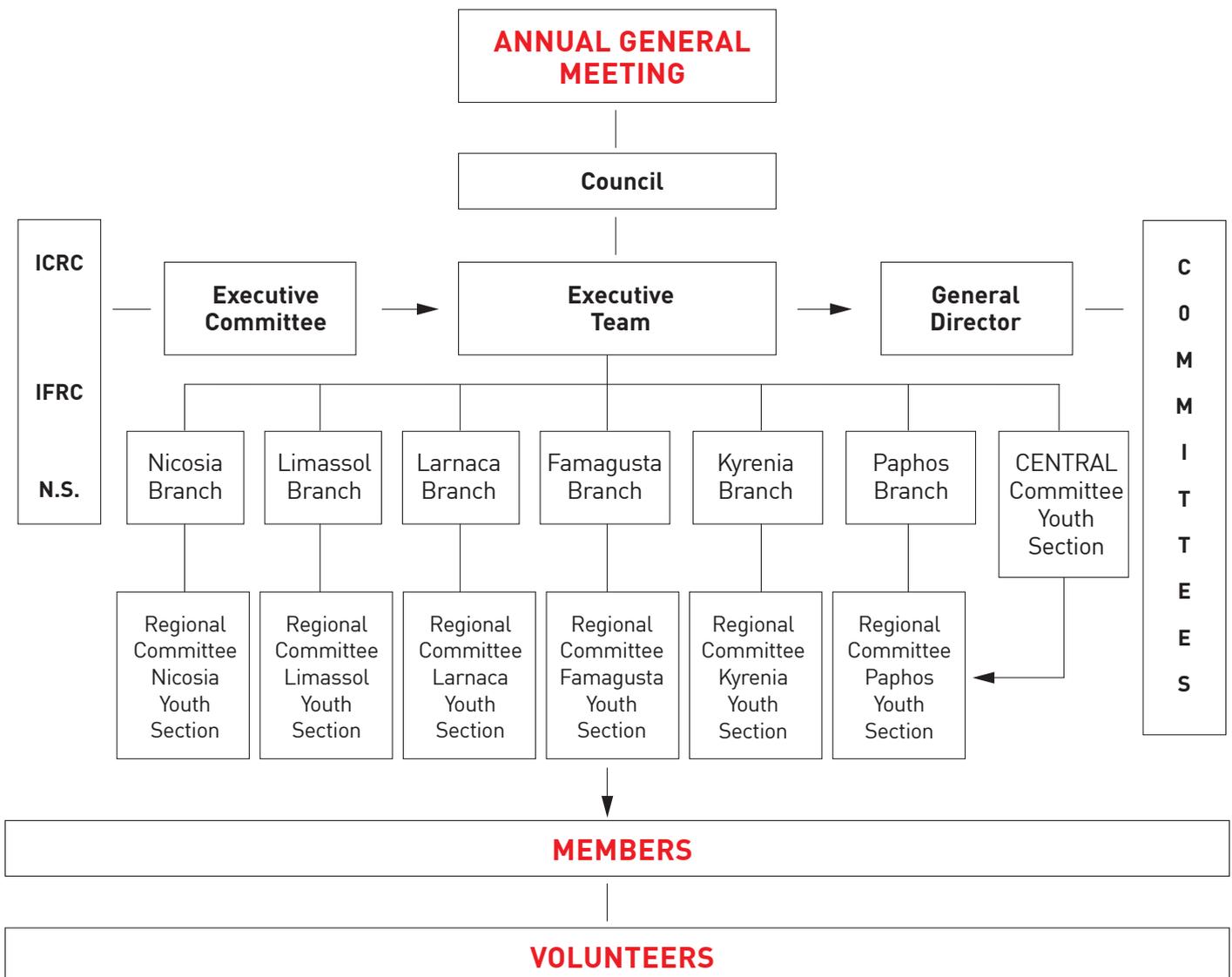
The Executive Committee met 2 times in the course of 2009; on May 28 and November 24.

The Executive Team met 9 times during 2009; on January 15, February 10, March 12, May 6, June 18, August 26, September 18, October 12 and December 22.

COMMITTEES

Door to Door Collection, Reorganization, Change in our Hearts and Home for Sick Children. In addition to the above CRCS has established a number of permanent ad hoc Committees which deal with specialized subjects such as the Committees for: Finance, Disaster Management, First Aid and Blood Donation, Newsletter, Road Safety, Christmas Cards, Training, the Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers Committee, the Health and Psychosocial Support Committee and the Volunteers Committee.

CRCS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES IN CYPRUS

As a purely humanitarian organization, the CRCS continued to focus its activities on addressing the needs of those people considered to be vulnerable or in need of assistance during 2009.

Although thirty-five years have elapsed since the invasion in 1974 and the standard of living in Cyprus has risen to rival that of developed countries, the core humanitarian help which the CRCS offered in Cyprus was to refugees and the enclaved, as well as poor, sick and other vulnerable persons.

Faithful to its principle of providing aid without discrimination and irrespective of nationality or religion, the CRCS included Turkish Cypriots, as well as a large number of migrants and asylum seekers amongst its beneficiaries.

It was fortunate that Cyprus was not affected by any natural disasters or other significant emergencies during 2009. Despite this, the CRCS was in a full state of preparation to intervene and help when and if it was required.



ADDRESSING SOCIAL NEEDS, HEALTH AND OTHER FORMS OF VULNERABILITY

Hidden behind the visible prosperity of Cyprus, many people continue to need support to live in dignity, or even to survive. Regretably, there are still many poor, sick, disabled and other groups of vulnerable fellow people who require help.

True to its principles, the CRCS responded willingly to any request for humanitarian help and moral support, silently and on an almost daily basis in 2009. Activities included: the provision of food; clothing; footwear; cleaning and hygiene products; medicines; financial support; supplying rehabilitation equipment for those with special needs requirements; providing companionship to the lonely; visits to hospitals; old peoples' homes; prisons schools and other institutions for the disabled constituted the bulk of the humanitarian work.



HELP AND SERVICES REQUIRED AS A RESULT OF THE INVASION

Despite the fact that people have largely overcome the consequences of the 1974 invasion and no longer require material aid, some refugee families and elderly persons continue to need the support of the CRCS.

The support of these persons and families is conducted through the community work developed by the local Branches. It includes: the provision of food parcels and other necessities; financial assistance; psychosocial support and more.

Further reference to these activities is can be found in the chapter on Branches.

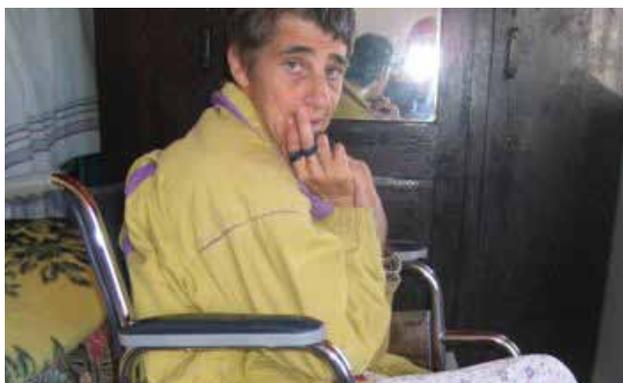
Other services offered by the CRCS as consequence of the invasion are the provision of certificates to those who had been enclaved, as well to captives of the Turkish invasion.

SUPPORT FOR THE ENCLAVED

According to the records maintained by the CRCS, as of 31st December 2009, **493 persons - 362 Greek Cypriots and 131 Maronites** - were still living in Karpaz and Maronite villages in the Kyrenia District. These enclaved persons receive support from the CRCS in various forms, both in the occupied territories and free areas.

With the assistance of the United Nations, the CRCS provides weekly dispatches to the occupied territories to help meet the needs of the enclaved, including: food, medicines, footwear, monetary allowances and more. In some circumstances, the CRCS also covers special needs requirements such as wheelchairs, oxygen bottles, spectacles etc. In 2009, **1,034 parcels** were dispatched including: 54 parcels of oxygen bottles; 4 parcels of eye glasses; 70 parcels of toys; 586 parcels of dietetic bread; 296 parcels of medicines and 4 wheelchairs.

During the visits of the enclaved to the free areas, the CRCS covers all their needs such as meals, transportation, hospital care, financial help etc. In 2009, **252 people** were transported from the Ledra Palace check point to destinations all over Cyprus with CRCS vehicles.



SUPPORT TO TURKISH CYPRIOTS

Although Turkish Authorities forbid the CRCS from operating in occupied territories and Turkish Cypriots are discouraged from contacting us, there were nevertheless several cases where help was provided to them in 2009.

The majority of Turkish Cypriots living in unoccupied territories are based in Limassol. On a number of occasions, the Limassol Branch has provided assistance in the form of food and clothing. In some isolated cases, Turkish Cypriots residing in the occupied areas have asked for help from the CRCS Head Office, as well as the Nicosia Branch. Abiding by its principles, the CRCS responded to calls for assistance with impartiality and without discrimination.

AMBULANCES WITH THE CRCS LOGO FOR THE OCCUPIED AREAS

In fulfilling its mission as an auxiliary to the public sector, the CRCS has helped implement the agreement between the leaders of the two communities regarding the uninhibited movement of ambulances from and to the occupied areas. As of May 2009, four ambulances carrying the insignia of the Ministry of Health and the CRCS moved between the occupied and the free areas of the island transporting sick or injured Greek and Turkish Cypriots.



ASSISTANCE TO ASYLUM SEEKERS

It is a well known fact that migrants (legal and illegal) constitute one of the most vulnerable social groups in Cyprus, sometimes living under appalling conditions. The CRCS, without discrimination and irrespective of the migrant's status or the legality of their demands and actions, remained present, providing food, clothing, blankets and any other support needed.

In cases of health problems requiring medical care, high-ranking officials of the CRCS used their influence in order to overcome formalities and facilitate immediate admission to hospital, where migrants were visited and looked after until their recovery. As an auxiliary body to the Government, the CRCS repeatedly expressed its intention and offered its services to the Ministry of the Interior in cooperation for meeting the needs of asylum seekers and migrants in general.



INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

In response to appeals from the IFRC for assistance with vulnerable groups and victims of human and/or natural disasters worldwide, the CRCS sent humanitarian assistance to several countries and in 2009 financial assistance amounted to **€350.000**. Taking into consideration Cyprus' small size, the above amount is proportionally very large and reveals the sense of solidarity that Cypriots have developed toward their fellow human beings as a result of their own country's tragic past.



HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE - GAZA

On 16 March 2009, humanitarian aid was dispatched to the victims of hostilities in Gaza via Amman (Jordan) with Cyprus Airways. In addition to dispatching First Need Items, the CRCS also collected monetary contribution, with a current total of **€63.643**.

The CRCS is now examining the possibility of undertaking a project in Gaza with the Government. The CRCS expresses its warm thanks to all that have helped to dispatch aid and to the Dali community in particular for their substantial donation.



ASSISTANCE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A HOSPITAL - BADULLA DISTRICT, SRI LANKA

The CRCS made a significant financial contribution of **€218.000** towards the construction of the Badulla Hospital in Sri Lanka, constituting another significant donation to healthcare in the country.

PROJECT TO ASSIST PERSONS AFFECTED FIRES - GREECE

In co-operation with the Pancyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council (PVCC), the CRCS is assisting in the construction of a Community Medical Centre in Oleni, Peloponnesus, an area greatly affected by the 2007 fires.

The Centre will serve the needs of the people of Oleni and nine other Municipalities. It will be a two storey building, with a clinic on the ground floor and an apartment on the first floor where visiting doctors will reside.

The project was selected from a list submitted by several applicants from the region. The construction will cost up to **€200.000**, an amount derived as a result of collections organized in collusion with the PVCC, as well as an independant CRCS contribution.

Construction plans for the Medical Centre commenced in May 2009.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In a globalised world of interdependency and as a member of the largest humanitarian organization in the world, it is clear that the CRCS cannot operate in isolation.

As a result of the 2007 policy agreements, priority was given to strengthening CRCS contacts and enhancing cooperation with the International and European Red Cross and Red Crescent bodies in 2009; results have been hailed as a great success. Officials, members and volunteers of the Society participated in more than **12 international and European events** that dealt with several subjects, including: migrants; road safety; first aid; psychosocial support; fundraising and more. This figure is double compared to those of 2007, reflecting thus the importance of these exchanges. Another positive effect of these meetings was the promotion and recognition of the CRCS by the International Movement.



DEVELOPMENTS IN THE PROCESS FOR CRCS RECOGNITION BY THE RED CROSS / RED CRESCENT INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT

After many years of waiting, June 2009 marked a small step forward regarding CRCS recognition, when the International Red Cross Movement officials Mr. Eduard Abegg (International Committee) and Mr. Tore Svenning (International Federation of the RC/RC) visited Cyprus as part of a fact finding mission concerning our Society's operations.

Meetings were conducted with members CRCS Executive Team, including our President Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulos, Vice-President Mrs. Leda Koursoumba, Director General Mr. Takis Neophytou and Treasurer Mr. Dinos Christophides. The Executive Team members briefed the officials in detail on all local and international CRCS activities, supported by a solid body of evidence. Views were exchanged as to how the CRCS and International Movement cooperations could be further improved.

Also discussed were ways of expediting the process towards the 'official' recognition of the CRCS by the International Movement; although all conditions and criteria have been met for some time, official recognition has not been given since the CRCS (through no fault of its own) cannot extend its activities over the whole of Cyprus, due to the Turkish occupying forces.

The visiting officials also met with representatives from the Branches and the Youth Section and were briefed their respective activities. After this first official meeting, the general impression created was that the CRCS is a highly active National Society that operates in accordance with the international regulations.

Mr. Abegg and Mr. Svenning submitted their reports to their corresponding international organizations and after these were duly studied, decisions were taken towards the improvement of the existing collaboration and the expedition of discussions concerning the Movement's official recognition of the CRCS.

FOLLOW-UP MEETING - GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

In September 2009, President Mrs Fotini Papadopoulos, Vice-President Mrs Leda Koursoumba and Director General Takis Neophytou met with representatives of the ICRC and the IFRC to continue discussions on the official recognition of the CRCS. These included: from the ICRC, Mrs. Christine Beerli, Vice-President and Mr. Eduard Abegg, Deputy Head of Division, Cooperation and Coordination within the Movement: From the IFRC: Mr. Ibrahim Osman, Deputy Secretary General, and Mrs. Razia Bibi Essack, Director for Governance and Global Monitoring.

The Movement representatives stated that an important first step towards recognition would be the approval of the CRCS's participation in the Council of Representatives of the Movement, in Nairobi, in November 2009.

This would be deemed possible if the Cypriot delegation consisted of two Greek Cypriots and two Turkish Cypriots attending in their individual capacity. The delegation would participate as the representative of the geographic entity, "Cyprus" and that they would be seated at the same table. The CRCS delegation refrained from responding immediately and after carefully reviewing the proposal, the CRCS delegation decided to reject it on the grounds of being unacceptable and contrary to the statutes and values of the Red Cross. The CRCS's written response was sent on 6 October.

MR TORE SVENNING'S APPOINTMENT TO THE EUROPE ZONE

Mr. Tore Svenning, who served as representative of the International Federation of the RC/RC to Cyprus, was offered a one year contract in Budapest in relation to humanitarian diplomacy in the European region.

Mr. Svenning, whose contribution to the CRCS has been invaluable, will continue to exercise his responsibilities as the Representative of the Federation to the Cyprus Red Cross Society.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR CRCS FROM INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

In September 2009, Mr. and Mrs. Durrance of the International Humanitarian Organization "Latter-Day Saints Charities" visited Cyprus. In a meeting with the Director General Mr. Takis Neophytou, it was agreed that the organization would donate a large quantity of humanitarian aid to the CRCS.

This package included more than 300 wheelchairs, quilts and blankets, and individual hygiene parcels etc. The donation was delivered in late December 2009 in two containers and will be distributed to the various CRCS branches across Cyprus.



VISIT FROM THE GEORGIAN RED CROSS PRESIDENT

On 22 September 2009, members of the CRCS Executive Committee met with the President of the Georgian Red Cross, Mrs. Nana Keinishvili who was on an unofficial visit to Cyprus with her family. The two parties met at a lunch hosted by the CRCS President, Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou at her private residence. During the lunch, Mrs. Keinishvili thanked Mrs. Papadopoulou for the hospitality and also for the medicines sent by the CRCS to Georgia following the 2008 Ossetia conflict.

The possibility of collaboration between the two countries at various levels was also discussed, including a Road Safety training session by the CRCS in Georgia. CRCS representatives requested Georgia's support and assistance in its efforts for recognition by the International Movement by way of addressing a letter of support to the ICRC and IFRC.

Mrs. Keinishvili promised to support the request, adding that she would also ask for the support of the other 18 from Soviet Republic National Societies with which she maintained very good relations. Mrs. Keinishvili extended an invitation to the CRCS representatives to visit Georgia.

"UNACCOMPANIED MINORS AND FORCED RETURNS" SEMINAR - FRANCE

The CRCS was invited to the "Unaccompanied Minors and Forced Returns" Seminar that was organized by the French Red Cross, on 19-20 February 2009.

The seminar was attended by 44 Red Cross and Red Crescent National Organizations. The CRCS was represented by Mrs. Andri Agrotis, Secretary of the Nicosia Branch.

PERCO MEETING - BRUSSELS

The CRCS participated in the 2009 PERCO Meeting which took place in Brussels on 14 -17 April 2009 and was represented by Mrs. Andri Agrotis, Secretary of the Nicosia Branch.

"EUROPEAN RED CROSS RETURN INITIATIVE" SEMINAR - SWEDEN

The CRCS participated in the "European Red Cross Return Initiative Project" Seminar that was held in Sweden on 13-14 May 2009. It was represented by Mr. Nicos Severis, member of the CRCS Council and Chairman of the newly established CRCS Committee on Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

"CLIMATE CHANGE" CONFERENCE, IFRC CONFERENCE, IFRC SHELTER WORKSHOP, DISTASTER MANAGEMENT COORDINATORS MEETING - MONTENEGRO

The CRCS Director General Mr. Takis Neophytou participated in workshops for "Climate Change in South Eastern Europe", the IFRC Programme "SHELTER" (an IFRC program for the immediate provisional accommodation of victims of destructions) and the "Coordinators of Crisis Management Zone Europe" meeting held on 15-19 May in Montenegro.

The workshops were attended by 51 representatives from a total of 17 representatives from Central and South Eastern Europe and Caucasus region Societies. Also in attendance were representatives from approximately ten international climatic change and crisis management (UNDP, USAID, UNHCR, DPPI, SEE) organizations as well as Montenegrin Ministries and Services delegates. Mr. Neophytou made a presentation entitled "Climate Change and Cyprus".

"Shelter" was presented by two IFRC representatives of the Shelter Department based in Geneva, Switzerland.

In the evenings, Crisis Management coordinators from the participating countries met to discuss subjects such as planning, co-ordination and briefing.

Mr. Neophytou had the opportunity to meet with the Assistant Director of Europe Zone, Mr. Leon Prop and the Coordinator of Crisis Management Mrs. Slobodanka Curic; the Montenegrin Red Cross General Secretary; representatives from the organizations and with the crisis management coordinators. Many useful conclusions were made at the meetings, some of which have been studied by the CRCS Crisis Management Committee.

3rd WORLD MEETING RED CROSS & RED CRESCENT, "YOUNG PEOPLE MOBILIZING" - SOLFERINO, ITALY

The CRCS was represented by four members of its Youth Section, Nicoletta Shakalli, Evi Christophides, Argyro Fella and Aphrodite Iosif, at the meeting organized by the Italy Youth Section to mark the **150th anniversary of the Solferino Battle**. The meeting was attended by 3,000 young people from 42 Red Cross and Red Crescent organizations from all over the world. The slogan of the meeting was

DOING MORE. DOING BETTER. REACHING FURTHER!



Participants attended seminars, practical actions of humanitarian help, rescue displays, etc. The Cyprus delegation attended the following seminars:

1. "I laugh - I run - I move" by the Danish Red Cross, on psychologically wounded children.
2. "Youth Leadership", by the USA Red Cross, on how youths can take the initiative.
3. "Social Media", by the IFRC Media Department, on how best to exploit the media.
4. "Climatic Changes" by the Dutch Red Cross.

Certificates of Attendance were issued to all participants. The Cyprus delegation also presented promotional material and expanded on the CRCS Youth Section activities. It also networked and established bonds of friendship and collaboration with representatives from all over the world.

"CASH TRANSFER PROGRAMMING IN HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE" TRAINING SEMINAR - MONTENEGRO

On 22 - 24 September 2009, 20 delegates representing 12 National Societies, five International Organizations that implement humanitarian assistance programs and the IFRC (including the Disaster Management Coordinator of Europe Zone Office, Mrs. Slobodanka Curic) attended the "**Cash Transfer Programming in Humanitarian Assistance**" training seminar.

The CRCS was represented its Secretary, Ms. Thalia Vourkidou. Group sessions and workshops were held during training, giving participants the opportunity to understand and learn how to organize programmes regarding cash transfers for humanitarian assistance.

"HUMANITARIAN PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS ACCELERATED PROJECT H2P-AP" MEETING - IFRC EUROPE ZONE OFFICES - HUNGARY

On 21 to 22 October 2009 meetings were held at the Europe Zone offices in Budapest, Hungary to brief on and plan the actions that the Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies would have to take in the event of a flu pandemic taking place. Coordinators informed participants about the A H1N1 virus and ensuing IFRC actions.

During working group sessions, participants were also provided with the opportunity to talk about the activities on the subject in their respective countries. The CRCS was represented by its Secretary, Ms. Thalia Vourkidou.

ANNUAL EUROPEAN NETWORK FOR PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT (ENPS) 2009 "STRESS AWARENESS AND MANAGEMENT" - CROATIA

On 16 to 18 October 2009, a conference was held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, to discuss "**Stress Awareness and Management. Do we Practice what we Preach?**" The conference offered invaluable information to Red Cross volunteers that provide psychosocial support on how to provide care to victims and themselves in all forms of unfavorable incidents. The CRCS was represented by Dr. Christos Stefanou, President of the newly established Health and Psychosocial Support Committee.

PAN EUROPEAN MEETING FOR IMMIGRANTS - GREECE

The conference on "**Good Practices Regarding Volunteerism Aiming at Empowering the Immigrants**" was held in Athens from 10 - 11 December 2009. The conference was attended by the Nicosia Branch President Mrs. Loria Markides, and its Secretary, Mrs. Andri Agrotis.

ROME CONSENSUS MEETING "DRUG PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND HARM REDUCTION" - ITALY

Cyprus became the 121st country to sign the Rome Consensus (first agreed in December 2005) during the **Rome Consensus Conference** that was held on 13 to 15 December 2009.

This pact dictates the configuration and implementation policy of the RC/RC Humanitarian Policy on drugs. The pact was signed on behalf of the CRCS by Director General Mr. Takis Neophytou during a special ceremony. The conference was also attended by the CRCS Secretary Ms. Thalia Vourkidou.



RED CROSS AND MIGRANTS

In collaboration with the International Red Cross and all Government services and adhering to the conclusions reached at the Society's seminar "Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers", the CRCS has created a policy and is thus working toward the acceptance and integration of the many migrants who live in Cyprus.

In 2009, the CRCS continued to participate in meetings of the European platform for migrants, PERCO. It has also continued its efforts to convince the Government to follow up its 2007 Seminar's recommendations to assume the responsibility for the illegal migrants and to create a new Reception Centre for asylum seekers.



THE PLATFORM FOR EUROPEAN RED CROSS COOPERATION ON REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS AND MIGRANTS (PERCO) MEETING - CYPRUS

The Platform was hosted with great success by the CRCS in Larnaca, from 22 to 23 October 2009 under the auspices of the Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Cyprus, H.E. Mr. Neoclis Sylikiotis. At the opening ceremony, a welcoming address and a presentation were delivered by the CRCS President Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou and the Director General, Mr. Takis Neophytou.

The Chairman of the European Platform, Mr. Dejan Ukropina and the Minister of the Interior also delivered welcoming addresses. The Minister briefed the participants on the current situation concerning the problems faced by the migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Cyprus.

The meeting was attended by 26 representatives of European RC National Societies and by representatives of the IFRC. The social programme, undertaken by the CRCS Larnaca Branch included dinner on Thursday, 22 October, at a traditional Cypriot tavern, and a guided tour at the Pierides Museum, on Friday, 23 October.



Arrangements were also made for the participants to visit the Government Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers at Kophinou. The CRCS expresses its sincere thanks to Mrs. Marie Severi and Mrs. Micheline Sevan who were instrumental in the organization and smooth running of the conference.



THE CRCS CONTINUES TO OFFER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MIGRANTS

All Branches continued to increase the daily provision of humanitarian aid, consisting of food and clothing to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. The high cost of this assistance has led to the decision to explore the possibility of asking the Government for financial support.

MEDICAL SERVICES

After assessing the needs of the migrants, the Nicosia Branch has made arrangements for the medical examinations and treatment of migrants with volunteer doctors from the Evangelistria Clinic, as well as other private doctors. This is a desperately needed service, especially for illegal migrants, who for obvious reasons are unwilling to visit Government Hospitals for examinations and treatment.

OTHER SERVICES

Additional individual services were offered to many migrants, such as connection with or tracing members, securing documents from their country's National Red Cross Society, examining complaints and promoting demands submitted to Government Departments.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

The mandate of the CRCS, as described in the law of its establishment, is “**the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering.**” Accordingly, 2009 saw a significant amount of the CRCS’ activities being dedicated towards safeguarding the health and welfare of frail people in Cyprus society.

The CRCS Children’s Home, a unique institution in our country since its founding in 1957 and its provision of expert treatment and support for children with serious dis-abilities was once again the centre of attention. (It is noted that in 2007, the Home added a Day Care Centre for Adults with serious disabilities and multiple dependency needs to its services).

In 2009, social work conducted by the CRCS included health and welfare activities such as: liaising with the Ministry of Health; providing First Aid Lessons; organizing Blood Donations; supplying medication and medical assistance to the enclaved; supplying wheelchairs and publications on several health related issues.

THE CRCS HOME FOR SICK CHILDREN

The Children’s Home constitutes the CRCS’ most important activity. In 2009, it continued to provide care, protection, therapeutic treatment (physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and hydrotherapy), medical treatment, social services, entertainment and other activities in an attempt to improve the quality of life of 72 children under the age of 21 with serious disabilities and multiple dependency needs. In general, the Home offers a diverse range of social services to the Limassol and its surrounding areas, making a considerable contribution towards easing the suffering of parents whose children are looked after by the Home.

In 2009, the co-operation the Special School of the Ministry of Education and Culture (which is housed in the same premises and covers the educational needs of the children) continued. The CRCS also maintained a successful relationship with the St James’s University Hospital in the United Kingdom and with Dr. Bipin Bhakta who offers the Botulinum Toxin injections therapy during his visits to the island.

The largest problem faced by the Home are the very high operational costs, which were exacerbated by the continual maintenance requirements of the building and of other installations. Regretfully, the CRCS informed the Minister of Labor and Social Insurance, H.E. Mrs. Soteroula Charalambous, that the operation of the Home would be terminated unless additional financial support was provided by the Government.

The Home’s operations are managed by a committee composed of the CRCS General Director Mr. Takis Neophytou, Dr. Costakis Christodoulakis, CRCS Treasurer Mr. Dinos Christofides, CRCS Treasurer (Kyrenia Branch) Mrs. Evanthia Papasavva and Mrs. Katerina Christodoulou, Matron of the Home. A dedicated team of 21 experts treats and looks after the children on a daily basis.

DAY CARE CENTRE FOR ADULTS

In addition to the services offered by the Children’s Home, the CRCS established the Day Care Centre for Adults in November 2007 for persons with severe disabilities and multiple dependency needs (KIFA). The Centre offers services to a small number of adults and utilizes part of the premises of the Children’s Home.

A small part of the Home’s operational cost is covered from a grant offered by the Social Services Department of the Government.

After only two years, it became clear that running the KIFA was not viable, due to excessively high operational costs (approximately €200,000 Euros for six children) and the grant received from the Government was much smaller than expected. Furthermore, the ongoing financial crisis meant that contributions from the CRCS Branches and the Youth Section could not be increased.

Following the recommendations of an Evaluation Committee which was appointed to examine KIFA, the CRCS Executive Committee made the difficult decision to close it down. In late December, the CRCS officially informed the Government about its decision to close KIFA by March 2010. Following this and after a considerable delay, the Government provided €250.000 towards the Home’s operational costs.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS VIA EUROPEAN PROJECT

At the start of the year, the CRCS submitted a successful application concerning the Home to the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2004-2009 fund for Non Governmental Organizations.

With a budget of almost €60.000 and lasting a little over a year, the project’s objective was the fundamental reorganization, development and improvement in the operation and the services provided by the Home.

The proposed actions are expected to contribute towards preserving the Home from its present decline and threat of closure, as well as allowing it to extend its improved services to an even larger number of children.

The intended reorganization will be effected through:

- Training of the staff and other Cypriot professionals.
- The purchase of new specialized equipment.
- Improvements and repairs of the building and the installations.
- Promoting the safety, well being and quality of life of the children and developing the services offered to them.
- Subsidizing physiotherapy services for one year.
- Empowering and supporting the families in their efforts to cope with the problems of their disabled children.

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 2009 was expressed through a large variety of activities, campaigns and events.

A significant number of the CRCS' activities are run in a long-term capacity. Several short-term events also take place throughout the year. Activity size was determined by their goals, duration and geographic coverage.

These activities were primarily aimed at the raising funds in order to provide various forms of assistance to vulnerable groups, as to raise social awareness on a number of important topics that included: Road Safety; Blood Donation; First Aid; Environment; Disaster Management and Fundraising. Other activities included: volunteer training, promoting relationships at international level, administrative and organizational issues, demonstrating the variety of activities conducted by the CRCS.



PANCYPRIAN "DOOR TO DOOR COLLECTION"

The annual "Door to Door" Collection took place from 8 to 17 May 2009. The launch of the Collection took place on 8 May - the World Red Cross Day - in the presence of CRCS President Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou and the Minister of Health, H.E. Mr. Christos Patsalides. The ceremony was honoured by the presence of H.E. the President of the Republic, Mr. Demetris Christophias, who in his speech stated that "volunteerism constitutes proof of our level of culture" urging all to make whatever donations possible to support the CRCS.

Mr. Christophias also declared the Government's intention to increase its support of the CRCS, despite the financial difficulties faced by the economy. The success of the campaign, the CRCS President emphasized, was dependant on the contribution by the Government, the municipal and communal authorities, church committees, schools and donors, as well as CRCS volunteers. The slogan for the campaign was: "All Together for our Fellow People". The total amount raised was €275.069.

Proceeds from the campaign went towards the operational costs of the Children's Home, as well as numerous other CRCS programmes. Once again, the "Door to Door" campaign provided the CRCS with the opportunity to promote its aims and activities, as well to offer Cypriots the opportunity to be part of a humanitarian society.

On 6 July 2009, the CRCS gave a reception at its headquarters in Nicosia to thank and honour the individuals, public authorities and organizations that contributed to the success of the campaign with commemorative gifts, shields and certificates.



"CHANGE IN OUR HEARTS"

In December 2009, the "Change in our Hearts" campaign that launched in October 2007 came to its conclusion, with total proceeds of €136.859.

The objective of the campaign was to collect as much old Cyprus currency as possible that went out of circulation following the Euro's introduction in January 2008. Collection boxes and piggy-banks were placed at key points all over Cyprus, including: banks; universities and colleges; supermarkets; bakeries; petrol stations; airports and harbours; governmental and private offices, factories; hospitals; schools and more in an effort to collect currency that remained in the hands of the public.





CHRISTMAS CARDS

In 2009, the CRCS continued a popular tradition by printing and distributing two Christmas cards, each with a different theme. One card followed a religious theme, depicting a 16th century icon of the Virgin Mary Enthroned from the St George Church situated in occupied Vatyli (currently exhibited in the Byzantine Museum of the Archbishop Makarios III Foundation). The second card had a nature theme, depicting a water colour painting by Mrs. Marvel J. Christofides, entitled "PYRACANTHA COCCINEA (ROSACEAE) Firethorn, Pyracanth".

20.000 cards were printed and were sold for fifty cents each, with proceeds reaching a total amount of **€5.061.45**. Although the Christmas card tradition is considered by some as passé, the CRCS believes there are people who still like them and that their circulation helps maintain and promote the public image of the CRCS.

The Christmas Card Committee was composed of Mr. Takis Neophytou, Mrs. Marvel Christofides, Mr. Loukas Telemachou, Mrs. Despo Frederickou, Mr. Glyn Hughes, Mrs. Aliki Papayianni, Mrs. Christiana Eliades, Mrs. Patricia Nicolaou and Ms. Thalia Yourkidou.

FIRST AID AND BLOOD DONATION COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

First Aid is a traditional Red Cross activity because of its contribution to the prevention of accidents and other emergency situations, while in many other situations may even save lives. Therefore, the CRCS' goal is to raise public awareness and participation in the lessons that it offers.



In order to promote First Aid activities further and also to coordinate and give the necessary importance to blood donation - another Red Cross tradition - the First Aid and Blood Donation Committee, organized considerable number of activities for the CRCS members and volunteers, as well as the general public. Part of the Committee's contribution was offered through its participation in the Technical Committee for First Aid of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance.



FASHION SHOW

The Ambassador of France in Cyprus, H.E. Mr. Nicolas Galey and his wife Mrs. Caméllia Galey, hosted a charity fashion show in the gardens of their residence on 15 June 2009.

The show titled "Spring Summer 2009", presented the designs of Mrs Aphrodite Hera and the net proceeds were donated to the CRCS. The event was held under the auspices of Mrs. Elsi Christofia, wife of the President of the Republic of Cyprus. During the event, the gathering was addressed by Mrs. Caméllia Galey, Mrs Christofia and the President of CRCS, Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulos. Mrs. Christofia praised the work that CRCS had been doing and thanked Ambassador and Mrs Galey for their hospitality and support.

In her speech, Mrs. Papadopoulos also thanked Ambassador and Mrs. Galey for their very generous gesture and the support they had given to CRCS, as well as the personnel of the French Embassy for their help in staging the event. The net proceeds from the event were **€16.845,50**.





ALKISTIS PROTOPSALTIS AND STEPHANOS KORKOLIS CONCERT

The two famous Greek artists Alkistis Protopsalti and Stephanos Korkolis gave an extremely successful concert, organized by the CRCS, on Monday 14 September 2009, at the Makarios III Amphitheatre in Nicosia. Protopsalti's voice and Korkolis' virtuosity together with the complete harmonization of the two artists charmed the packed theatre. The net income from the concert will be utilized for the needs of the CRCS. The CRCS honored those that had contributed to the success of the event, including its sponsors: the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority, the Electricity Authority of Cyprus, the General Constructions Company, OPAP, the Cyprus Tourism Organization; media sponsors Phileleftheros, Cyprus Weekly, the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation; Marketway/Publicis for undertaking the concert's promotion and finally the concert organizers Papadopoulos & Schinis.



CAR RAFFLE

Among other fundraising activities organized by the CRCS in 2009 was a car raffle in support of the Red Cross Home for Children with Disabilities. The prize was a Peugeot 207 Trendy car, valued at €12.850, which was generously donated by MPM Eurocars, agents of Peugeot cars in Cyprus.

The ticket draw took place on 30 December 2009. The lucky winner was Mr. Yiannakis Ioannou, ticket holder 00775. The car was delivered to Mr. Ioannou on 26 January 2010, at MPM Eurocars' central offices. The CRCS congratulates the winner and reiterates its thanks to MPM Eurocars for their generous donation.



OUR WORLD. YOUR MOVE™ CAMPAIGN

The year 2009 was marked with a number of landmark dates in the history of the International Movement of RC/RC, such as:

- 8 May - 150th anniversary of the Solferino battle
- 5 May - 90th anniversary of the foundation of the International Federation Red Cross and Red Crescent
- 12 August - 60th anniversary of the signing of the Geneva Conventions

In order to mark these anniversaries and to promote the Movement, a world wide RC/RC 3-year campaign was announced on 5 December 2008 with an invitation to all people, irrespective of their social background, to participate in humanitarian activities, under the simple, but compelling slogan "Our World. Your Move." The campaign's philosophy was to highlight pressing humanitarian challenges and the power of the individual to make a difference in the lives of their fellow human beings.

Throughout 2009, the CRCS promoted the campaign among its members and volunteers, with references on its website, newsletters and Facebook.

The CRCS also promoted the campaign's website and Facebook group via e-mails and invitations. The logo was translated into the Greek language. T-shirts for volunteers, stickers and posters were printed from the funds received from the campaign.

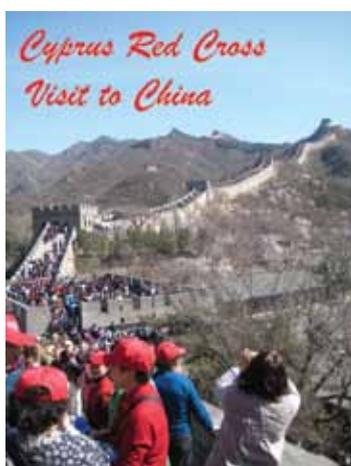
The OWYM campaign was promoted through a range of activities, including distribution of materials among the primary school children.



AGREEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT ARCHIVES

The Government Archives Department has agreed to classify, digitize and maintain all messages of the 1974 invasion, the safekeeping of which has been the responsibility of CRCS.

The messages have already been delivered to the Government Archives Department. Copies of all the messages will be given to CRCS in digital form, together with 50 originals.



CRCS EXCURSION TO CHINA

With the help and collaboration of the Ambassador of China in Cyprus, H.E. Mr. Zhao Yali, the CRCS organized a very successful excursion to China from 4-17 April 2009. The excursion program covered almost the entire country, from Beijing to Hong-Kong. Those who took part had the opportunity to admire the history and the culture of the country, the exceptional beauty of nature and the dynamism and progress of the Chinese people. During the visit it was possible to have two very useful and interesting meetings with the representatives of the Chinese Red Cross Society. The participants returned to Cyprus full of enthusiasm, and the CRCS, in addition to making a substantial profit, gained another 50 enthusiastic friends and supporters.

The general consensus is that these kinds of excursions are to be continued and plans are already afoot for the next one.

FIRST AID DAY TRAINING

Embracing the slogan "First Aid Saves Lives", the CRCS organized 12 First Aid courses in Greek and in English for Cypriots and foreigners, including migrants. A total number 149 persons were trained.

The Society also tried to upgrade and enrich its First Aid Training programmes through cooperation and support with the IFRC and other National Societies.



WORLD FIRST AID DAY POSTER

In the context of these efforts and on the occasion of the World First Aid Day, which in 2009 was celebrated on September 12, the CRCS published a poster which was printed in newspapers and magazines and distributed throughout Cyprus.



ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Although the European Road Safety (RS) campaign ended in 2008 and as a result of the fact that Cyprus ranks fifth among European countries in terms of traffic accident – related deaths, Road Safety was placed high up among the CRCS' priorities and continued its activities in 2009 under the slogan:

"YOU'VE ONLY GOT ONE LIFE! TAKE CARE"

The main 2009 RS activities were:

- Advertising (TV, radio and outdoor signs), including a poster marking the World Remembrance Day for the victims of Road Accidents.
- Media Relations: press releases, CRCS representative interviews on TV, radio and other programmes.
- Road Safety Seminars and other events during the Road Safety week.
- Distribution of computer mouse pads with the campaign's logo.
- Distribution of Road Safety reflectors to school children.

Some of the above activities were organised in cooperation with Coca Cola and Lanitis Bros Ltd who were the main Road Safety sponsors in 2009.

COCA COLA – CRCS ROAD SAFETY SEMINARS

Within the framework of its social contribution and its collaboration with CRCS, the Lanitis Bros Company successfully organized two seminars on Road Safety and First Aid, in Nicosia and Limassol, on 29 and 30 April respectively.

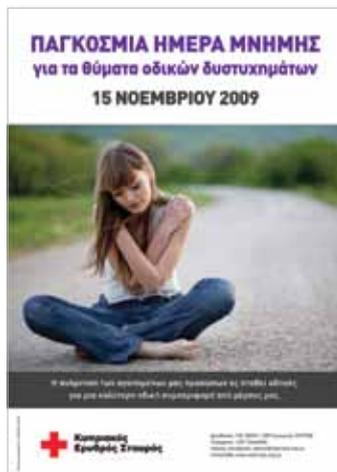
The seminars were held under the auspices of the Ministry of Transport and Public Works.

CRCS AND THE EUROPEAN ROAD SAFETY CHARTER

The European Charter on Road Safety informed the CRCS that it was officially accepted as member of the Charter, because its substantial contribution towards improving Road Safety in Cyprus falls within the Charter's strict conditions and criteria for acceptance. Another 19 companies in Cyprus have been accepted as members of the Charter.

The European Road Safety Charter is part of the overall Plan of Action on Road Safety presented by the European Community in 2006, with the ambitious objective of reducing the number of deaths from road accidents by half by 2010.

The CRCS has committed itself to fully implementing the measures that come under its jurisdiction. It aims to do so by organizing activities that will work towards meeting the Charter's objective, and in particular, to try to improve the citizens of Cyprus' road behaviour, especially that of the persons under 25.



WORLD REMEMBRANCE DAY FOR THE VICTIMS OF ROAD ACCIDENTS

On 15 November 2009, CRCS observed the World Remembrance Day for the Victims of Road Accidents by publishing a poster and distributing it to schools and governmental buildings throughout Cyprus. A relevant press release was also circulated to the media.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

2009 fortunately passed without any significant calamities or crises affecting Cyprus or neighbouring countries that would have required the CRCS's intervention.

Accordingly, the CRCS was able to concentrate and devote its efforts in the organization of its Crisis Management Committee, which is becoming one of its most active sectors. The Committee participated in the meetings and activities of the ESTIA and ARGONAFITIS disaster relief plans at various points throughout the year. As a result, the Committee secured the required equipment, organized the CRCS stores and established emergency intervention teams throughout Cyprus. It also created a Psychosocial Support Unit.

Some of its members travelled abroad for training and others participated in the European Civil Protection Assessment Mission Course.

The Committee has been working intensively in order to be ready in case of an emergency.

Amongst other things, it has organized or participated in the following:

Organizational Chart

The CRCS has finalized its organizational mobilization plan which will be activated in the event of an emergency. The Chart, which was approved by the Executive Committee, includes the names and contact details of persons who are responsible for the mobilization of all CRCS relief units in case of an emergency.

Assessment Mission Course

Messrs. Costas Constantinides and Petros Petrou participated in the "Assessment Mission Course" of the Civil Defense, which was organized together with the European Union on 11 May 2009.

Crisis Management Presentation

On 21 April at the Head Office of CRCS, Dr Anke Witteveen, responsible for Post Disaster Management of the IFRC, gave a presentation on "TENTS for Traumatic Stress". The presentation was attended by the CRCS leadership and also some Turkish Cypriots delegates.

EXERCISE "ARGONAFITIS"

Argonaftis is the largest national emergency and crisis management exercise which takes place in Cyprus once a year with the participation of the National Guard, relates Government Ministries and NGO's, including the CRCS.

During March and April 2009, the exercise was prepared and the roles assigned and on 20 May, the plan was implemented at the Larnaca Port. The exercise was observed by representatives of eight embassies, the new Head of the National Guard and by about 60 observers from different countries. The CRCS's participation was very visible and attracted many positive comments.

EXERCISE ESTIA

Estia is another emergency plan coordinated by the Government in which the CRCS participates. In 2009, all participating parties were asked to submit their respective lists regarding equipment and other supplies needed.

CLIMATE CHANGE

The CRCS participated in the Climate Change **IFRC Conference** for the first time in May 2009, which had as its main subject Climate Change in South Eastern Europe. Because Cyprus is one of the most vulnerable European Countries and climate changes are already causing adverse effects, the CRCS became more sensitive to this issue and focused its programming and priorities on the following activities:

- Tree planting campaigns.
- Participation in Government's public awareness efforts.
- Activities promoting a better appreciation of water saving behaviour.
- Activities promoting energy saving.
- Organization and participation in relevant events in Cyprus.
- Participation in events abroad.
- Relevant announcements, articles, leaflets, posters etc.



INFLUENZA PANDEMIC

As expected, the CRCS, an organization traditionally sensitive to health issues, could not be indifferent to the Influenza pandemic outbreak. From the very beginning, it followed the developments in cooperation in consultation with the International Red Cross and the Cyprus Ministry of Health.

One of its first actions was to publish informative leaflets on the pandemic and the A-H1N1 flu virus in Greek, English and Turkish. The leaflets were distributed, (amongst others), to foreign language speaking schools in Cyprus, such as the Grammar School, Phillips College, Rainbow, Junior School and English School.

Additionally the CRCS, as "an auxiliary body to the public authorities" which participates in the strategic plan of the Government, in the event of a pandemic or other emergency, undertakes:

- Home care for the ill.
- The management of deaths.
- To help health authorities by keeping records of vaccinated persons.

VACCINATIONS

The plans of the Ministry of Health for massive vaccinations were delayed, first by the late arrival of the vaccines, and then by the delay that occurred in deciding whether the influenza had reached the state of pandemic.

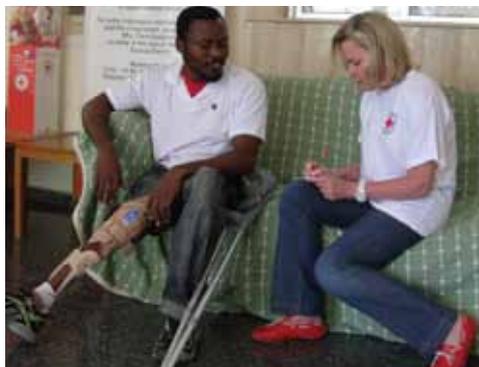
In the meanwhile, the CRCS responded to an official invitation and met with health authority representatives to prepare a Cyprus - wide strategy, according to which CRCS volunteers would keep records of those vaccinated.

The first mass of vaccinations started with the most vulnerable population groups on 23 November. A total number of 18 vaccination centres (rather than the 45 initially planned) operated all over Cyprus: seven in Nicosia, five in Limassol, three in Larnaca, two in Paphos, and one in the unoccupied area of Famagusta. Each vaccination centre was staffed by one doctor, one nurse and one to two CRCS volunteers at each shift.

The centres were open daily, from 7.30 am up to 6.30 pm. All the CRCS Branches and the Youth Section contributed with volunteers who covered the needs of all the vaccination centres. The Ministry of Health and the Minister himself repeatedly expressed their appreciation and thanks to the CRCS for its cooperation and assistance.



BRANCHES ACTIVITIES



NICOSIA BRANCH

In 2009, the CRCS Nicosia Branch counted **1052 members and volunteers**. Throughout the year, it continued its humanitarian activities supporting vulnerable people in need. With exceptional commitment, the volunteers continued to help people throughout the year, particularly over Christmas and Easter periods. Their basic support related to the provision of food, clothing and footwear. In addition to typical humanitarian tasks, the Branch covered the cost of air tickets for people requiring medical treatment abroad, as well as the cost of wheelchairs for those in need. Volunteers also provided psychosocial and financial support through home visits to the lonely, the poor and the disabled, prisoners, old age people's homes, hospitals and the Reception Center for Asylum Seekers in Kofinou; these continued throughout the year.

The Branch continued its successful "humanitarian support scheme" by supporting vulnerable migrants in Nicosia. Help was provided to large numbers of refugees, migrants and asylum seekers that visited the Branch twice a week and received food and clothing.

In some emergency cases, medical support was also provided. In this respect, it is worth mentioning that the Branch has entered into an agreement with several doctors willing to provide medical care and consultation free of charge, to persons referred to them by the Branch.

Furthermore, in order to comply with the decisions and new policies of the Red Cross movement, volunteers visited frequently the Reception Centre at Kofinou in order to provide additional humanitarian support to vulnerable asylum seekers.

In 2009 the major fundraising activities of the Branch included the annual barbeque party at Eleon Swimming Pool, the "Special Offers" Bazaar, which was held at the premises of the Head Office and the Red Cross "Door to Door" collection. Other sources of income for the Branch included the collection of membership fees, as well as donations received in memory of deceased persons.

The Branch continued to provide financial support to the Red Cross Children's Home in Limassol and covered part of the Head Office overhead costs. The Branch also supported the international efforts by making donations to alleviate the suffering of victims of various disasters. The Branch provided assistance and also participated in several activities of the Head Office Committees.



LIMASSOL BRANCH

The Branch had **700 members and volunteers** that in 2009, continued its resourceful contribution to alleviate the suffering of vulnerable people in Limassol and surrounding districts. Of particular importance was the blood donation programme, that has taken place continuously since 1969. The Branch issued certificates and awards to blood donors.

Other noteworthy activities were the supply of wheelchairs and other medical equipment to disabled people, as well as to the First Aid Units of the Limassol General Hospital and Paphos General Hospital.

The Branch offered breakfast to poor children in Limassol schools and contributed financially to the Central Offices expenses and the operation of the Children's Home. Together with other 103 charity organizations, the Branch also participated in an event held at the Limassol Municipal Garden by disseminating information and through its sale kiosks.

The Branch participated also in the CRCS "Door to Door" collection, organized a fund raising tea party and a fashion show, represented CRCS at various activities and as requested, made overseas donations. On a daily basis the Branch continued to give assistance to the poor, the sick and to the migrants, as well as to Turkish Cypriots living in the Limassol area. It also helped prisoners, mostly foreigners, and in general continued its humanitarian activities.





FAMAGUSTA BRANCH

Following its displacement from Famagusta in 1974, this branch operates in Larnaca and counts more than **456 people as members and volunteers**, who despite the unfavourable conditions, continued to provide humanitarian help and assistance to people from Famagusta who are dispersed all over the island, as well as to individuals, families and organisations in Larnaca and unoccupied Famagusta.

The Branch has a home visiting programme which includes kindergartens, special schools, old people's homes, shelters and other institutions.

The visits intensified during the Christmas and Easter periods when baskets of food, clothing and toys were provided. In many cases, financial assistance is also provided to students and other people in need.

The Branch organized a fund raising tea party, participated in the "Door to Door" collection, and took part in several campaigns.

The Branch made a contribution to cover the overhead cost of the Children's Home and of the Head Office, paid travel costs for persons requiring medical treatment abroad and also made overseas donation.



LARNACA BRANCH

In 2009, the Larnaca Branch counted **410 members and volunteers**. In addition to established humanitarian activities, including help for underprivileged families, children with special needs and meals for poor students in secondary education schools. The Branch also participated in the "Door to Door" collection, distributed Road Safety material, hosted the PERCO meeting and contributed to covering overhead costs of the Children's Home, as well as making donations to overseas causes.

Due the proximity of the Branch to the Larnaca Port and Airport, the Branch participated in several exercises in collaboration with the CRCS Disaster Management Committee and Civil Defense. These exercises were aimed at coping with emergency situations; the one called "Engelados" was an exercise on a map and the other "Argonaftis" was a military exercise. The Branch also participated in a hijacking exercise that was organized by the Government at Larnaca Airport.

Utilizing the donations received in memory of the husband of the President of the Branch, the Larnaca Branch offered three year-long scholarships to African students at the Orthodox Church School of the Archbishopsric of Kenya for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012.

PAPHOS BRANCH

In 2009, the Branch counted **200 members and volunteers**. Despite its relatively small size, the Branch continued to dispense humanitarian aid in Paphos and its district. This was done through various activities, including: helping poor families; visits to special needs schools; detention centres; old people's homes and refugees and asylum seekers.

In cooperation with other organizations, the Branch organized several philanthropic events, participated in blood donation, took part in the "Door to Door" campaign and contributed funds to the Children's Home, to Head Office and was an overseas aid donor. The Branch also took part in an exercise aimed at confronting emergency situations at Paphos Airport.



KYRENIA BRANCH

A highly active branch, despite its "displaced" status, the Kerynia Branch counted **322 members and volunteers in 2009**, whose enthusiasm and initiative responded successfully to the humanitarian needs of the displaced people of Kyrenia that live around the island.

The Branch was also an active participant in all CRCS activities and provided material assistance worth €17.024 to hundreds of people. It also contributed funds to the Children's Home, to Head Office and to overseas causes. The Branch participated also in numerous CRCS Committees, the coin collection and road safety campaigns, as well as in the "Door to Door" collection. Furthermore, the Branch organized an excursion for elderly Kerynia people, a Christmas Bazaar, its traditional fund raising tea party, in addition to other fund raising efforts.

YOUTH SECTION ACTIVITIES



In 2009, the Youth Section counted **3000 members and volunteers** that continued to disperse significant humanitarian aid as well as training other young people.

Amongst other things, the Youth Section organized blood donations, visited specialized schools, organized tree planting and speeches and conferences at schools. It also organized entertainment for special needs schools, old people's homes and other organizations. The Youth Section made donations to young people and their families, as well to persons required medical treatment abroad and made donations to overseas causes.

The Youth Section participated successfully in the "Door to Door" collection as well as in other activities and campaigns. It participated in various CRCS committees and thus contributed to the fulfillment of the Society's objectives.

In order to strengthen its financial resources, the Youth Section organized the traditional Christmas Bazaar, distributed lottery tickets with prizes, offered a scholarship from Frederick University and other presents, organized charity tea parties and other events. In doing so, the Youth Section was able to contribute to the financial needs of the Children's Home and thus meetings its obligations.



25th PANCYPRIAN CONFERENCE "RED CROSS: CREATIVITY - EFFECTIVE ACTION"

The 25th Youth Section "Red Cross: Creativity - Effective Action" Conference was held with great success on 15 March 2009 at the Marfin Laiki Sporting Centre in Nicosia.

The conference included welcoming addresses from the Director of Secondary Education of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Dr. Zena Poulli, the President of the Youth Section Central Committee, Mrs. Despo Frederickou, and representatives of the Marfin Laiki Bank. Thereafter, the conference participants were divided into teams and examined fields of creativity through critical thinking, and discussed ways of effective action in order to provide the humanitarian principles of the Red Cross.



ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP

The traditional Summer Camp took place in Lemithou at the Mitsi School, between July 7 - 14 2009. Amongst the cool atmosphere of the mountains, 65 young people from all the towns in Cyprus enjoyed a week of relaxation, play and education. Since one of the objectives of the camp was to prepare future CRCS recruits and introduce them to the spirit of togetherness and the principles of the Red Cross.

This came across through the "cries" and slogans of the teams, the decoration of the dormitories and exterior of the building, the big poster which depicted all the Red Cross principles as well as from the educational programme of the camp, which was delivered by several guest speakers and through workshops and discussions. The closing ceremony was marked by a rich recreational programme prepared by the participants and was attended by the CRCS President Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou, parents and many other guests.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

In 2009, the CRCS website and the quarterly newsletter “Our World” («Ο Κόσμος Μας»), remained the two basic communication tools, through which the CRCS remained in contact with thousands of members, volunteers and friends in Cyprus and abroad. Furthermore, several campaigns were organized by the CRCS, including: Media Relations activities (radio and TV interviews, press releases, public speeches); Advertising (TV, print ads) and other promotional materials such a presentation in Greek and English on the work of CRCS; a desktop calendar. The CRCS also expanded its activities into social media by creating a CRCS Group on Facebook.



QUARTERLY NEWSPAPER “OUR WORLD” («Ο ΚΟΣΜΟΣ ΜΑΣ»)

In 2009, the CRCS continued to issue the CRCS Newsletter “Our World” («Ο Κόσμος Μας»). This newsletter constituted a milestone in the CRCS’ communications policy, as it enabled new means of communication with CRCS executives, members, volunteers and its friends and collaborators, a link in the chain which binds together all those espousing the Red Cross principles and values.

“Our World” is published every three months in Greek (3000 copies) and in English (1000 copies). The Newsletter which is presented in both print and electronic form and despite its limited number of pages contains a lot of interesting material on the work and activities of the CRCS. It is mailed free of charge to CRCS executives, members, volunteers, friends and collaborators. It is also sent electronically and is posted on the CRCS web site, making it accessible to our overseas friends.

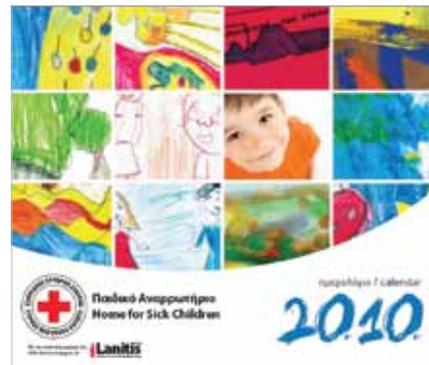
The exclusive sponsor of the publication is the Alfa Mega Supermarkets.

MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

In 2009 the CRCS continued to prepare a monthly diary of events. Since its initiation in 2008, the Diary has become a powerful tool that provides information on the planned activities of each month. It is distributed to the members of the Executive Team and to all the Branches and Youth Section, informing them on the upcoming events of the month.

WEBSITE

A major accomplishment for the CRCS was the creation of its website in 2007 (www.redcross.org.cy). The website, first presented in Greek and English, is a gateway through which a visitor can obtain information and facts about the CRCS, find out about its activities and gain access to a considerable amount of photographic and related materials. It is well known that keeping a website up to date can be challenging, but in this case this has been achieved. In May 2008, the website was also made available in Turkish, enabling our Turkish Cypriot compatriots to receive information on the CRCS in their own language.



DESK CALENDARS

In December 2009, 1000 2010 Desk Calendars were printed both in Greek and English language, promoting the CRCS Home for Disabled Children. The calendars were distributed free of charge to CRCS members and associates and a small number of copies were sent to the Red Cross Headquarters in Geneva, as well as Brussels, Budapest and other RC/RC National Societies. The production of the calendars was sponsored by the Lanitis Bros Ltd.

CRCS FACEBOOK GROUP

Another important communication activity that took place in 2009 was the creation of the Cyprus Red Cross Society Group on Facebook, which has already attracted many individuals, including members of the younger generation, who wish to receive information on CRCS activities or to offer some of their time for voluntary work.

MARKETWAY/PUBLICIS – CRCS COLLABORATION

In a meeting between members of the CRCS Executive Team and Mrs. Barbara Petropoulou-Lillika, Director General of Marketway/Publicis, it was agreed that the agency would act as a communication and publicity consultant for all CRCS activities free of charge. Mrs. Lillika underlined that it was an honour for Marketway/Publicis to be considered a close associate and supporter of CRCS and its many worthy causes. In return, the CRCS expressed its warm thanks to Mrs. Lillika and Marketway/Publicis for their selfless offer to help the CRCS become more effective in its efforts to promote and implement its humanitarian programmes.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The 2009 financial position of the Cyprus Red Cross Society can be described as satisfactory. Its activities were funded exclusively from donations and fund raising events and the year closed with a surplus of income over expenditure. A consistent effort has started to find ways that will ensure the financial viability of the Society on a permanent basis.

The HQs which used to be financed to a great extent from the financial assistance of the UN agencies had to rely exclusively on their own financial resources as the financial assistance from the UN agencies had stopped. The Home for Sick Children was supported by the annual subvention from the Cyprus Government, that together with the usual contributions received from the Branches and the Youth Section, as well as funds received from other donations, comfortably covered its total expenditure. The receipt of an extraordinary subvention from the Cyprus Government towards the end of the year gave confidence that the Home would start 2010 in a stronger financial position. The financial results of the Branches and the Youth Section varied from unit to unit, with some experiencing surpluses and others deficits. In total however, the combined Sections had a small surplus for the year.

APPOINTMENT OF MRS LEDA KOURSOUNBA AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC TO THE UNDP-ACT

The CRCS was officially informed by the Government of its Vice President's Mrs. Leda Koursoumba appointment to the position of Representative of the President of the Republic of Cyprus to the UNDP-ACT (the position previously held by Mrs. Stella Soulioti). Mrs. Koursoumba will sign on behalf of the President of the Republic all the UNDP-ACT bi-communal programs that concern the Government.

CRCS PERSONNEL

Although the CRCS is a purely voluntary organisation and its extensive activities are carried out by several thousand members and volunteers, its mission could not be accomplished without the significant contribution of CRCS Staff.

As with prior years, in 2009 CRCS employed a relatively small number of staff as follows:

Head Offices:

Takis Neophytou - General Director
 Thalia Vourkidou - Secretary
 Christiana Eliades - Head of Accounts Department
 Patricia Nicolaou - Field Officer
 Neophyta Christodolou - Administration Officer
 Androulla Angelidou - Administration Officer
 Sofoklis Sofokleous - Messenger
 Vasiliki Michael - Cleaner

Nicosia Branch: Eleni Panayiotou
 (Administration Officer) and
 Andreas Paraskeva (Messenger)

Limassol Branch: Stella Philippou
 (Administration Officer)

Famagusta Branch: Cornilia Zografou
 (Administration Officer)

Larnaka Branch: Maria Lambrou
 (Administration Officer)

Paphos Branch: Elli Sokratous
 (Administration Officer)

Youth Section: Lenia Michaelidou
 (Administration Officer)

Red Cross Home for Sick Children:

Katerina Christodoulou (Matron), Constantina Savoulla (Assistant Matron), Zena Zeniou (Financial Officer), George Protopapas (Driver/Gardener), Chrystalla Kleanthous (Cook), Margarita Constantinou (Cleaner), Isabella Rozou Constantinou (Cleaner), Physiotherapists: Niki Malekidou, Maria Pipi Kritikou, Evanthia Christou, Dena Palazi, Eleni Sawa.
 Speech Therapist: Tzovanna Nikolaou.
 Occupational Therapists: Andreas Nikola, Stavroulla Charalambous.
 Care Givers: Yiannoula Amvrosiou Biktoros, Christina Pavlou, Kaeti Christoforou, Koula Sofokleous, Constantina Orfanidou, Sotira Miltiadous.

REPAIRS OF THE CRCS BUILDING

The CRCS Building in Nicosia was built in 1990 with financial assistance received from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and on land provided by the Government. Today, it houses the CRCS HQ, as well as the Nicosia and Kyrenia Branches and the Youth Section.

Because the CRCS Building is located on unstable ground, it has been severely damaged over the years, despite attempts to repair it. After several inspections carried out by the Civil Defense, it was found to be dangerous and in desperate need of repairs. Following meetings held with the Commissioner of Civil Defense, Mr. Christos Kyriakides and his staff, an agreement was reached to proceed with the necessary repairs, the cost of which would be primarily undertaken by the Damages Repairing Service of the Government and in part by the CRCS.

The contracts were signed. Repairs started at the end of the year and are expected to last for at least one year. The contractor is P. Hadjipieris Fixico Company Ltd.

MEMBERSHIP FEE

For several years, the CRCS's annual membership fee was fixed at €5. Following a meeting held by the Executive Committee on 24 November 2009, it was decided to increase the membership to €10.

EXPRESSION OF THANKS

This Annual Report has set out to present the efforts and achievements of the CRCS in 2009. Therefore, we cannot help but express our warm and sincere thanks to all persons and organizations whose efforts, enthusiasm and selflessness contributed to a very successful year.

TO MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS AND STAFF

We wish to convey our respect, appreciation and love to all members and volunteers, as well as all CRCS staff who joined forces with millions of Red Cross members and volunteers around 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 of volunteers and other members of the organization.

TO DONORS AND SPONSORS

Equally warm and grateful thanks are due to all public and private companies and individuals that generously expressed their support of the CRCS through monetary donations, the provision of goods and services and other forms of aid.

Special thanks goes to all sponsors, both big and small: Alphamega Supermarkets; A. Panayides Contracting Ltd; Latomia Pharmakas; Marketway/Publicis; Lanitis Bros Ltd; Anastasios Leventis Foundation; Four Seasons Hotel; Remedica; CYTA; Marfin Popular Bank; Bank of Cyprus; the Phileleftheros Group; Lumière; CBC; MEGA; ANT1; SIGMA and CNC Plus.

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

TO THE CYPRUS GOVERNMENT

We consider it appropriate to express our thanks and appreciation to the Cyprus Government for the help and cooperation it has shown the CRCS this year. Special thanks 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 Labor and Social Insurance; the Ministry of Communications & Works and the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources & Environment.

We are also indebted to the Service for Humanitarian Affairs, the Cyprus Police and Civil Defense, whose assistance in emergency situations, cooperation in meeting the needs of vulnerable social groups and their general support of the CRCS' humanitarian efforts have proven invaluable.



CRCS VISION AND MISSION

VISION

To establish the Cyprus Red Cross Society as the leading humanitarian organization in Cyprus to which people will want to contribute and which will attract persons of all ages and backgrounds for volunteer service.

MISSION

The Cyprus Red Cross Society, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and its own Statutes, prevents and alleviates human suffering and supports individuals and communities prepare for and respond to emergencies globally, in times of peace and war, without any discrimination as to race, gender, age, social position, religion or politics.

7 FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE RC/RC MOVEMENT

- > Humanity
- > Impartiality
- > Neutrality
- > Independence
- > Universality
- > Unity
- > Voluntary Service

TOGETHER FOR HUMANITY!