

Annual Report **2018**



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2018 ANNUAL REPORT

CONTENTS

• PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS: CYPRUS RED CROSS SOCIETY 2018 ACHIEVEMENTS	5
• CYPRUS RED CROSS SOCIETY: FROM 1950 TO 2018	6
• 2018 DIARY OF ACTIVITIES & MAIN EVENTS	8
• GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS	9
• ORGANIZATIONAL CHART	10
• MAIN ACTIVITIES IN CYPRUS	11
○ CRCS Children Therapy Centre “Stella Soulioti”	11
○ Disaster Preparedness and Management	13
○ First Aid	14
○ Migration	15
○ Psychosocial Support	17
○ Restoring Family Links.....	20
○ Process Management Project	22
• BRANCH ACTIVITIES.....	23
• YOUTH SECTION ACTIVITIES	31
• EU-FUNDED PROGRAMMES	34
• CAMPAIGNS AND EVENTS	36
• INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE	38
• FINANCIAL AND INTERNAL INFORMATION	39
• EXPRESSION OF THANKS BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL	41
• INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION	42



Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou
President of the CRCS

President's Address

Cyprus Red Cross Society 2018 Achievements

The preparation of the annual report allows us to publicize all the accomplishments that the Cyprus Red Cross Society (hereafter referred to as the CRCS) achieved during the course of a year. Therefore, it is with great satisfaction and pride, that I am addressing the CRCS 2018 Annual Report not only to the readers, but more importantly, the contributors to the successes of our National Society.

In 2018, the CRCS remained in full compliance with its humanitarian work, always conforming with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (hereafter referred to as the Movement), and in accordance to the legislation of the Republic of Cyprus and its own Statutes. The CRCS was supported, as always, by the commendable efforts of its Units, its members and volunteers, as well as its staff members.

The core humanitarian activity of the CRCS, in 2018, was the continuation of the provision of assistance to vulnerable groups residing in Cyprus. The CRCS readily responded to the increased requests for humanitarian assistance and moral support, on a daily basis. Moreover, the CRCS maintained its traditional humanitarian activities that include amongst others, the Easter and Christmas Love Campaigns helping thousands of families, both in urban as well as in rural areas.

In addition, CRCS had yet another successful year relating to its largest and most important fundraising activity, the annual Pancyprian Fundraising Campaign, which raises funds in order to sustain its activities. Indeed, CRCS longest running programme is the Children Therapy Centre 'Stella Soulioti', servicing children from 0-22 years old with development and mobility difficulties, is an activity that depends on the fundraising campaign to maintain its services. Furthermore, it is worth noting that CRCS was also involved in many other activities, such as in disaster relief, providing first aid trainings, psychosocial support to vulnerable groups, addressing the needs of new migrant arrivals, restoring family links, organizing blood donation sessions and provision of mobility aid appliances, making 2018 yet another truly productive year.

To all those admirable individuals who helped the CRCS undertake and maintain all the above humanitarian activities, I would like to express my appreciation, gratitude and warm thanks. To the members of the Council, the Executive Committee, the Subsidiary Units, as well as to our many volunteers, the Director General and to all the CRCS staff members, I wish them 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.

Fotini Papadopoulou
President

Cyprus Red Cross Society

From 1950 to 2018



1950: CRCS was founded as a branch of the British Red Cross.

1960: The Republic of Cyprus was established.

1967: CRCS is established as a corporate entity based on the Law N. 39/1967.

1973: CRCS applied to become a member of the Movement but this was interrupted by the 1974 Turkish invasion.

2012: CRCS was officially recognized by the ICRC as its 188th member

2013: CRCS was admitted to the IFRC, during its 19th General Assembly, in Sydney.

Vision

To establish the CRCS as the leading humanitarian organization in Cyprus to which people would like to contribute and which would attract persons of all ages and backgrounds for volunteer service.

Mission

The Mission of the CRCS, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and its own Statutes, is to prevent and alleviate human suffering and to support and prepare individuals and communities to respond effectively to emergencies, in times of peace and war, without any discrimination as to race, class, gender, religion or faith, political opinions or beliefs, or on any other similar grounds.



CRCS: 6 Districts

2 LOCAL UNITS

39 Staff members

4000 volunteers

The main governing bodies of the CRCS are the General Assembly, the Council and the Executive Committee. The CRCS has six Branches, two Local Units and Youth Sections in all districts. In 2018, CRCS had 39 staff members and 4,000 volunteers.

CRCS undertakes an extensive array of activities aiming to offer assistance to the most vulnerable groups of the Cyprus society. Of particular importance was the assistance provided by CRCS during the Turkish invasion of 1974, with regard to the evacuation of the people who were forcefully displaced from areas under Turkish control. In addition, CRCS was active in taking care of the wounded, providing housing and assistance in order to meet the needs of the refugees, assisting in the reunification of families and the transmission of messages. Moreover, the CRCS actively assisted in the return of prisoners, in 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. It continues to help the enclaved by addressing their needs, whenever they visit the free areas; it also continues to issue certificates of captivity and of the period of enclavement.

CRCS carries out a wide range of activities. These activities include disaster preparedness and management, psychosocial support, first aid, migration, blood donation, tracing requests and restoring family links services, provision of wheelchairs and other mobility aids, training of staff and volunteers, tree planting, organization of humanitarian and community events, to raising awareness activities pertaining to the Red Cross mission, its principles and the protection of the Red Cross emblem.

The Children Therapy Centre 'Stella Soulioti', established in 1957, is the longest running activity of CRCS. The Centre offers therapeutic and rehabilitation sessions to children with severe and multiple mobility and developmental disabilities.

It is worth-noting, that the activities CRCS are not just confined in Cyprus, but also extend overseas. CRCS responds to various appeals of the International Movement and in many cases the CRCS has sent humanitarian support to Sister National 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 also in Sri Lanka, and a community medical centre in Karatoula-Oleni, Greece.

2018 DIARY OF ACTIVITIES & MAIN EVENTS

January

Sales of the 2018 Lucky Charm

February

Preparations for the Love Campaigns

March

16-27 CRCS Excursion to Cuba

17-23 Assessment Mission Course

April

CRCS Easter Love Campaign

23-27 Assessment Mission Course

May

8 World Red Cross Day

8 CRCS annual Pancyprian Fundraising Campaign

22-25 ARGONAFITIS Exercise

June

30 June – July Assessment Mission Course

July

12 Closing ceremony of the CRCS Fundraising Campaign

16-23 Youth Summer Camp, Chandria, Cyprus

August

31 Aug - 9 Sept First Responders training in Bergen, Norway

September

9 World First Aid Day

17-21 Assessment Mission Courses

October

The European First Aid Certificate was granted to the CRCS

November

3-9 Assessment Mission Courses

December

CRCS Christmas Love Campaign

Christmas Bazaars by the Branches and Youth Section

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

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 2018

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

1. Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou - **President**
2. Mrs. Leda Koursoumba - **First Vice-President**
3. Mr. Mustafa Hami - **Second Vice-President**
4. Mr. Dinos Christofides - **Treasurer**
5. Mr. Andreas Artemis - **Member**
6. Mrs. Amalia Erotokritos - **Member**
7. Mrs. Evmorfia Fereos - **Member**
8. Mrs. Despo Frederickou - **Member**
9. Mr. Christos Mavrellis - **Member**
10. Mr. Takis Neophytou - **Member**
11. Mr. Angelos Nicolaides - **Member**
12. Mr. Costas Pandehis - **Member**
13. Mr. Michalis Sarris - **Member**
14. Mr. Costas Tambourlas - **Member**
15. Mr. Tassos Televantides - **Member**

Under Article 12 (2)

Metropolitan of Tamassos & Orini, His Eminence Isaias – **Consultant**

Under Article 12 (1) (c)

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

Under Article 12 (4)

Director General - Mrs Christina Kapartis

Members of the Executive Committee in 2018

President - Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou

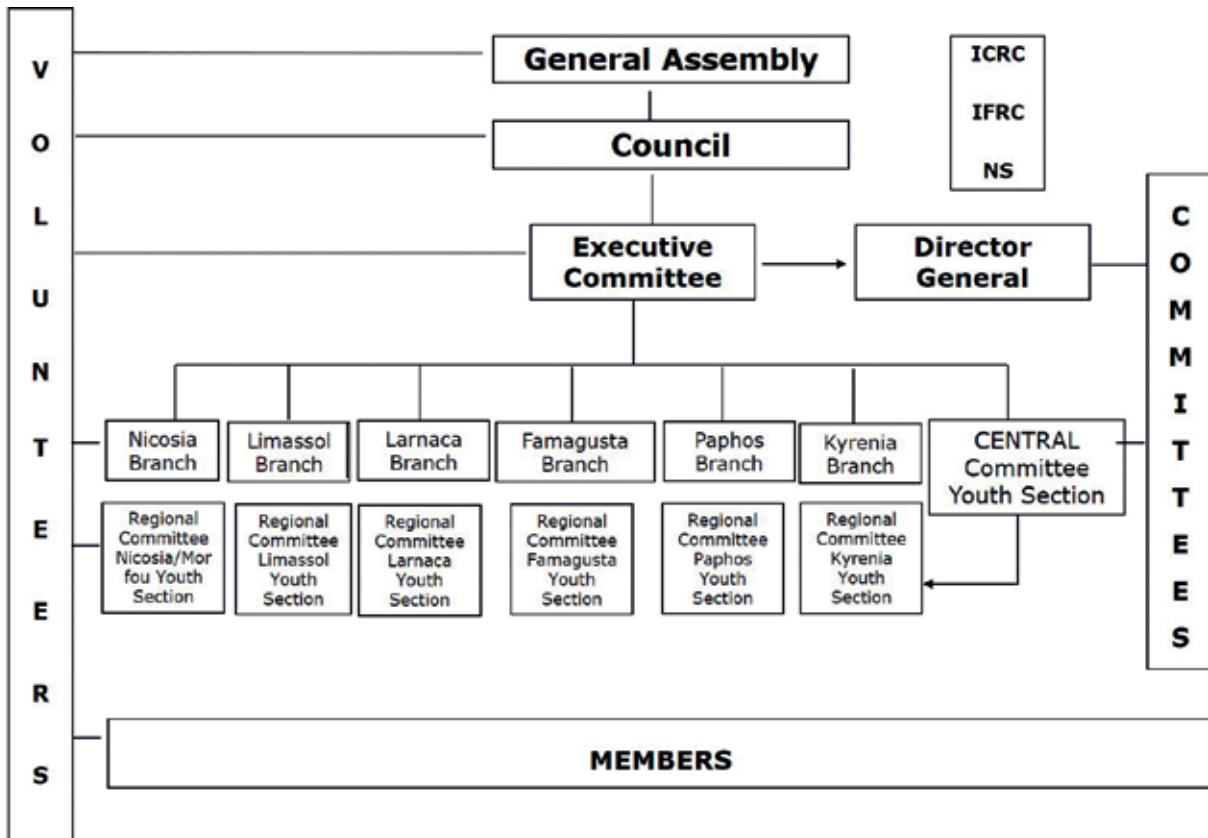
First Vice-President - Mrs. Leda Koursoumba

Treasurer - Mr. Dinos Christofides

Director General – Mrs. Christina Kapartis

The representative of the Branch Committees - Mrs. Niki Hadjitsangari,
 President of Limassol Branch

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



MAIN ACTIVITIES IN CYPRUS

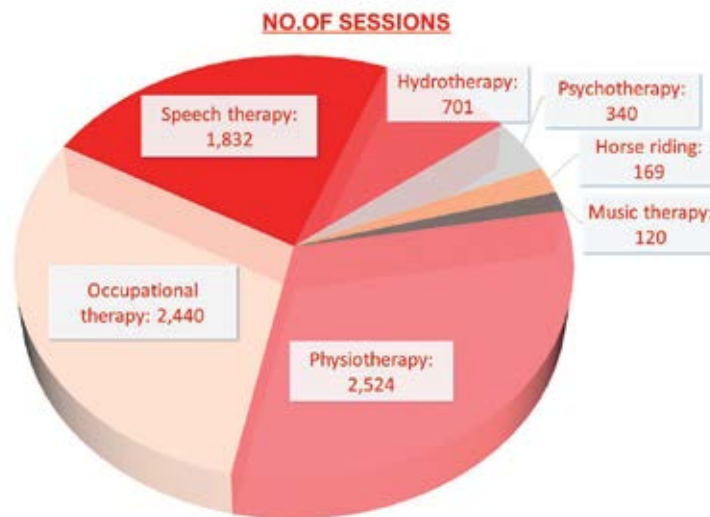
CRCS CHILDREN THERAPY CENTRE 'STELLA SOULIOTI'

The CRCS Children Therapy Centre 'Stella Soulioti' (former Home for Sick Children), the largest and oldest programme of the CRCS, was founded in 1957 in Kyrenia to serve sick and disabled children. Today, it functions in Limassol, as a modern high-level day care therapy centre.

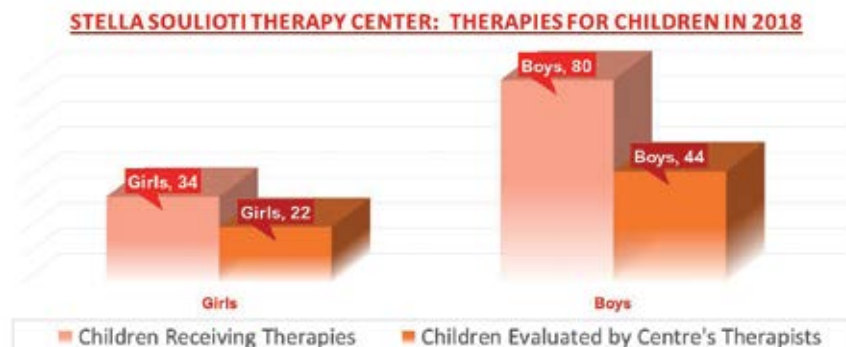
Services Offered

The Centre currently serves more than 100 children up to 22 years old, with severe physical disabilities and other developmental problems. It is the only Centre of its kind in Cyprus, with a wide range of therapies under one roof, providing mobility solutions for the children's comfort and medical and nursing care in a family friendly atmosphere. During 2018, psychotherapy sessions were added to the Centre's therapy programme.

In 2018, the Centre offered the following therapies:



Moreover, a specialist Pediatrician supervises the general healthcare of the children and cooperates closely with the Limassol General Hospital and other external health specialists. The CRCS continues its efforts towards constantly upgrading the services offered, with the ultimate goal being to provide the best possible environment to the children undergoing treatment in the Centre.



Collaborations

The Centre still hosts the Special School for Children with Disabilities, operating under the responsibility of the Ministry of Education and Culture, within its premises. In addition, it also accommodates the ELPIDA Day Care Centre for adults with severe disabilities, operating under the responsibility of the Theotocos Foundation.

Furthermore, it 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.

Treatments

In 2018, the Centre continued introducing the neurotoxin treatment (Botulinum toxin - commonly known as, BOTOX) for addressing paediatric upper limb spasticity in children 2 to 17 years of age. This treatment is still offered to children, undergoing therapy sessions at the Centre that meet the appropriate criteria, in collaboration with the Limassol General Hospital Paediatric Ward and Private sector's specialists. To this effect, the CRCS facilitates the pre-injection selection process of children to undergo this treatment, at its premises. During 2018 the Centre facilitated two pre-injection clinics; from the total number of 23 children who were examined, 11 children were injected the Botulinum Toxin at the Limassol General Hospital Paediatric ward.

Operational Costs

The Centre is largely supported by CRCS members and volunteers and other sensitised individuals and the public, 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 fundraising events.

Vision

The CRCS's vision is to see the Centre operating at its full capacity, working on a 24-hour basis, and not just as a day-care centre. The next renovation phase will include the creation of a hosting unit, where children undergoing treatment and the person accompanying them, could be accommodated. The new unit will be housed in the old Nurses Home building, a separate building next to the Children Therapy Centre.

Contact Details

Cyprus Red Cross Society Children Therapy Centre 'Stella Soulioti'

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T.: +357 25 334 024, F: +357 25 333 466

E: home@redcross.org.cy



Children Therapy Centre

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND MANAGEMENT

In carrying out its role as an “auxiliary body to the public authorities on humanitarian issues”, CRCS works in close cooperation with the Government. Depending on the nature of the disaster or emergency, the CRCS cooperates with one or more of the following Governmental Departments and Services:

- Ministry of the Interior: Civil Defense (continuous collaboration), Police, Fire Brigade.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs: For emergencies involving arrivals of third country nationals, migrants, refugees, etc.
- Ministry of Health: For pandemics and other health related emergencies.

Emergency Response Unit: First Responders

The First Responders programme aims towards providing support to people who reside in remote areas of Cyprus, who are far away from organized help (ambulance services, fire stations, etc). People from these areas, will be trained by the CRCS in First Aid, Psychosocial Support, Disaster Management and Rescue, in order to offer urgently needed first support in case of an emergency, until organized rescue services arrive at the scene.



In conjunction with the above and within the framework of the cooperation agreement with the Hordaland Branch of the Norwegian Red Cross, the third training of First Responders was organized in Bergen, implementing the final of Phase I. The Phase II of the training will start at the end of 2019 and will include training on ‘Search and Rescue’.



Exercises

“Argonaftis” exercise

Argonaftis is the largest national emergency and disaster management exercise which takes place in Cyprus once a year. The main “players” of the exercise are the National Guard, Government Ministries and the CRCS. The CRCS participated through its teams involved in Disaster Management, First Aid, Psychosocial Support services, the Migration and the Restoring Family Links programmes, whereby CRCS presented its main activities in an emergency response situation.

The exercise took place from 22 to 25 May 2018, at the port of Larnaca. During the exercise, representatives from different countries, Embassies and many other Cypriot stakeholders, also participated.

Assessment Mission Courses

The CRCS participated in Assessment Mission Courses organized by the European Union, whereby, CRCS presented a virtual scenario of an earthquake which had occurred on the island and had elaborated on the measures taken, to members from EU countries, consisting of four trainees and one leader.



FIRST AID

Courses and Training

CRCS is an officially recognized First Aid Training at Work provider, certified and licensed by the Department of Labor 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)

In addition, CRCS offers the following training:

- Automated External Defibrillator - 6 hours



European First Aid Certificate



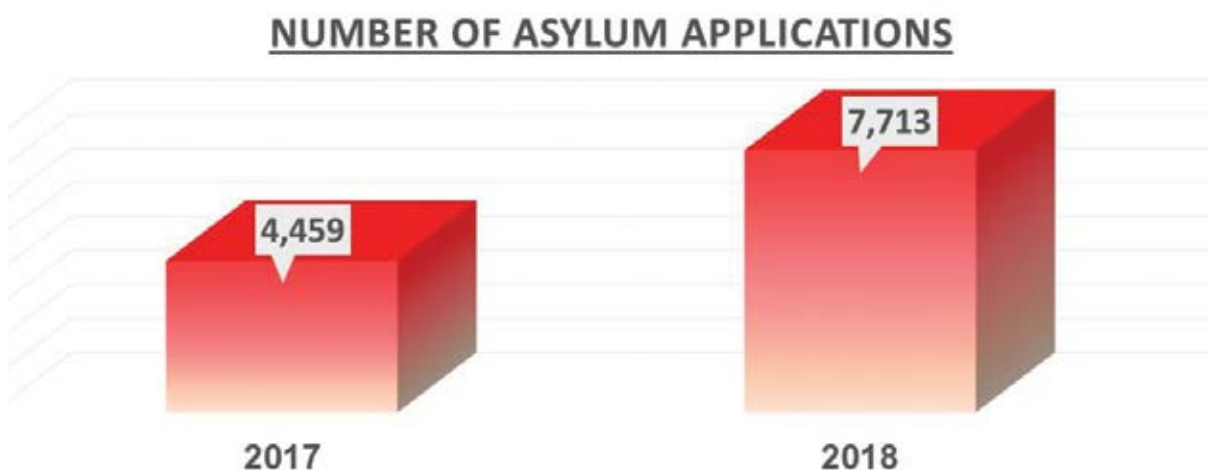
Since October 2018, the CRCS First Aid courses were officially accredited by the Global First Aid Reference Centre in Paris, by being granted the **European First Aid Certificate**.

World First Aid Day

On the occasion of the World First Aid Day (every second Saturday of September each year), CRCS circulated a dedicated poster in 2018. The poster's slogan was "First Aid save lives. It's for everyone, everywhere!" called on the public to learn First Aid, encouraging them to always have a First Aid kit at home, in their car and at work.

MIGRATION

Following the 2017 trends, Cyprus continued to be the final destination for Asylum Seekers arriving in the country. According to the 2018 data provided by the UNHCR Cyprus, migrant arrivals increased by 59%, in relation to the same period in 2017, which brings Cyprus first in the per capita number of applications among the 28 EU member states. The number of asylum seeking applications increased to 7,713, the majority of which (more than 60%) were of Syrian origin, in a society of 832,000 inhabitants.



In response to the continued migrant influx, the CRCS not only increased but also reinforced its activities already in operation within the Migration programmes. In addition, CRCS implemented new initiatives by establishing a consolidated action plan. A new volunteer database was created, and a new migration officer was employed. Concomitantly, new migration-related programmes came into play, thus the role of migration in disaster response planning was further improved and strengthened.

2018, was yet another very active year for migration activities, which included:

- Emergency response to all refugee boat and land arrivals, providing information, humanitarian assistance, RFL services and Psychosocial support;
- Regular visits to the Migrant Detention Centre in Menogeia, offering humanitarian assistance;
- Establishment and update of a volunteer database exclusively interested and qualified to participate in migration – related missions and activities;
- Continued coverage of humanitarian needs, along with the provision of Psychosocial Support, migrants residing at the Refugee Centre of Kofinou, as well as for migrants living in the cities;
- Participation in workshops and trainings covering new trends and practices in the field;
- Mediation for the rights of homeless migrants with the Cyprus Welfare Office;
- Strengthening of the RFL service; and
- Increased communication and collaboration with other relevant local and international institutions, active in this field.

Field activities

In 2018, the CRCS was present at two facilities relating to migrants:

First Reception Camp in Kokkinotrimithia area

CRCS is the only humanitarian organization which has been formally allocated a role in governmental plans for response in an emergency situation. In collaboration with the Civil Defense, the CRCS Migration team is actively involved in addressing the basic needs for every migrant arriving by boat or by land. Through its storage facility, located at the Temporary Reception Camp in Kokkinotrimithia area where the migrants are transported after their arrival, the CRCS addresses their basic needs, by providing hygiene kits, as well as carrying out an individualized Emergency Needs and Vulnerability Assessment.

In 2018, the CRCS Migration Office provided services to 1,073 migrants, immediately after their reception at the Camp. According to the recorded data, most of the beneficiaries were single men, followed by unaccompanied male minors, many of whom had either families or friends already residing in Cyprus.

Open Reception and Accommodation Centre for Applicants of International Protection in Kofinou area

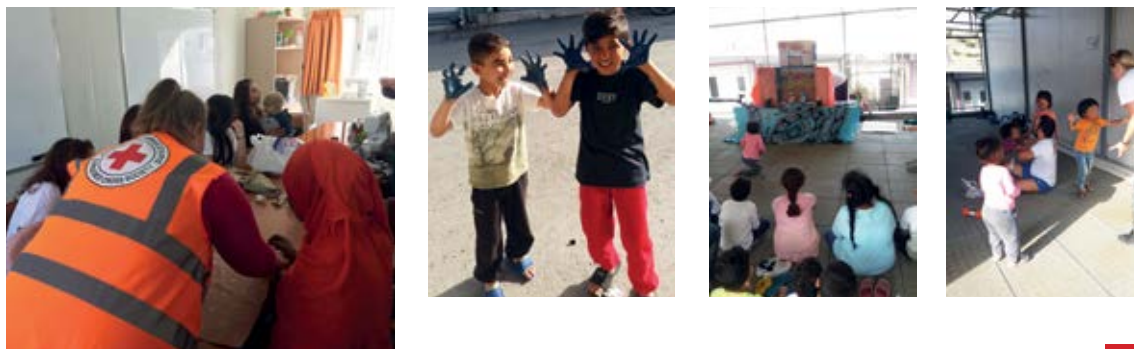
CRCS dedicates its resources mainly to cover any other medical needs and opticals (visual aids), for which the public healthcare system does provide, as well as any other needs registered by the Migration Officer. Specifically, any particular need for each resident are registered separately and in turn the CRCS prepares individualised packages, which are then delivered directly to each beneficiary by the Migration Officer and volunteers.



PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT

In 2018, Psychosocial Support service trained volunteers were actively involved during the influx of migrants from war-torn countries. In parallel, a group of volunteers began working on a weekly-basis at the Reception and Accommodation Centre for Applicants of International Protection, in Kofinou. Using the “Community-Based” approach, as recommended by the International Guidelines of the Movement, active volunteers are implementing various Psychosocial Support interventions for children that reside in the above-mentioned Reception Centre.

Furthermore, a Needs Assessment survey regarding the residents of the Reception Center was conducted by Psychosocial Support trained volunteers. 72 residents (50 male and 22 female) originally from 20 countries agreed to take part in the assessment. Based on those findings the Psychosocial Support Office will design new programmes in order to address the needs that have been described in that report.



Specialised Services: Psychotherapy Service

Since 2012, CRCS and more specifically the Psychosocial Support Office has managed through a number of collaborations with training institutes such as University of Nicosia, European University and the Systemic Institute of Cyprus, to provide specialized services to the CRCS beneficiaries who needed psychological support. Trainee psychotherapists, students of Masters and Doctorate degree, offer their services, whilst being supervised by their respective training institute, free-of-charge.

Mobile Application: 'Refugee Buddy'

The CRCS launched the 'Refugee Buddy' app in July 2018 to supply newly arrived migrants in Cyprus with information regarding their new country of residence. The application was first designed by the Netherlands Red Cross and CRCS launched it in Cyprus with the assistance and guidance of the Hordaland Branch of the Norwegian Red Cross. The app provides information on areas such as asylum procedure, transportation, medical services, small basic phrase book, Cyprus culture and information regarding the Restoring Family Links - RFL service. The application can be downloaded in Arabic or English languages and is available on the Android and Apple platform, as a free download. It also works offline.

Psychosocial Support Emergency Bag

The Psychosocial Support Office of CRCS created 30 emergency bags that can be used during an emergency, according to IFRC PSS Reference Centre. The use of the bag, during an emergency, aims to improve the provision of supportive assistance and the ability to establish trust and build a rapport with the affected population. The emergency bag contains items that can be used to calm, inform and psycho-educate people in need.

Psychosocial Support Services

In 2018, the CRCS was present in the Centre, performing monitoring visits and providing humanitarian assistance, in close collaboration with the custodial police authorities. The Psychosocial Support Office of the CRCS assessed the needs of both the police guards and the detainees in order to provide them with the necessary psychosocial support.

Introduction of Psychological First Aid

PFA –Psychological First Aid, is a humane, supportive response to a fellow human being, who is suffering and may need support. It is an acute intervention of choice, when responding to the psychosocial needs of children, adults and families affected by disaster and terrorism. It is designed to reduce the initial distress caused by traumatic events and to foster immediate and long term adaptive functioning and coping.

In 2018, CRCS has introduced PFA in its interventions and trainings.



Homecare Programme for Vulnerable People

In September 2018 the programme, which is funded by the Hordaland Branch of the Norwegian Red Cross, was restructured and redesigned to implement two main pillars of action:

- Pillar 1: Visits to communal Rest Homes, and;
- Pillar 2: Home Visits (visits in houses of vulnerable people in the communities).

The 1st pillar of action was implemented from October 2018 to December 2018, as a pilot period. Volunteers offered their companionship and performed activities such as baking, gardening, music, archery, handcraft, playing board games, and reading books. The assessment of the pilot period was characterized as valuable by the beneficiaries, by the Heads of the Rest Homes and by the CRCS Management; therefore, it was decided to sustain the Pillars provision. Furthermore, during the initiation of the programme, it was also considered beneficial for the CRCS's volunteers, especially for those who would participate in the 'Home care programme for

vulnerable people', to follow a series of trainings with the aspiration to providing them with more skills and self-confidence during their work in the field.

The thematic of those trainings were:

- Home care –person centred approach and communication techniques for working with the elderly;
- Psychological First Aid;
- Stress and Coping, and
- Community based Psychosocial Support.



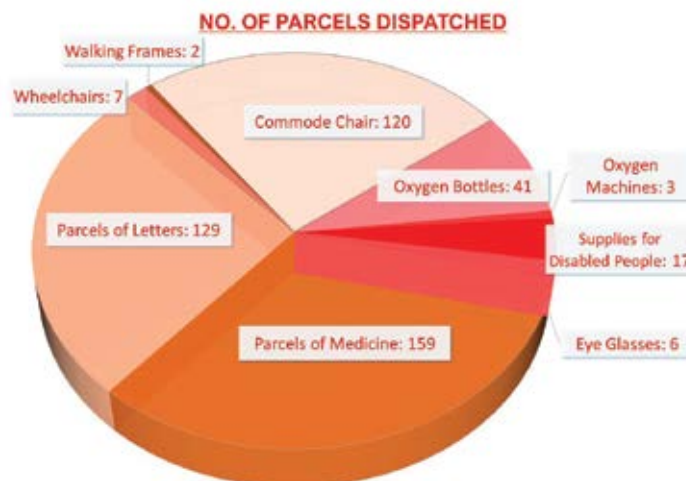
RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

Every year, thousands of family members are separated due to conflicts, disasters and/or migration. People suffer terribly when they lose contact with their loved ones, especially when they 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 to put them back into contact with their relatives. Tracing activities may extend well beyond the end of a conflict or a natural disaster. CRCS participates in this activity by helping to restore family contacts.



Support for the Enclaved

According to the records maintained by the United Nations, up to 31st December 2018, 392 persons (318 Greek Cypriots and 74 Maronites), lived in the Karpasia peninsula and the Maronite villages in the Kyrenia District, in the occupied part of the island. The enclaved, when visiting the free areas, receive support from the CRCS in various forms. Specifically, with the assistance of the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the CRCS arranges weekly dispatches to the occupied areas, addressing the needs of the enclaved. These include, among others, medicines and medical and mobility appliances such as oxygen bottles and visual aids, and wheelchairs and walking aids, respectively.



During the visits of the enclaved to the government-controlled areas, the CRCS covered all their needs, such as meals, transportation and hospital care. Furthermore, 290 individuals were transported on CRCS vehicles from the Ledra Palace check point, to destinations all over Cyprus.

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 been freely moving between the occupied and the free areas of the island transporting sick or injured Greek and Turkish Cypriots. In 2018, 11 ambulances were used. The necessary arrangements for and the cost of the insurance coverage of the ambulance vehicles, were undertaken by the CRCS.



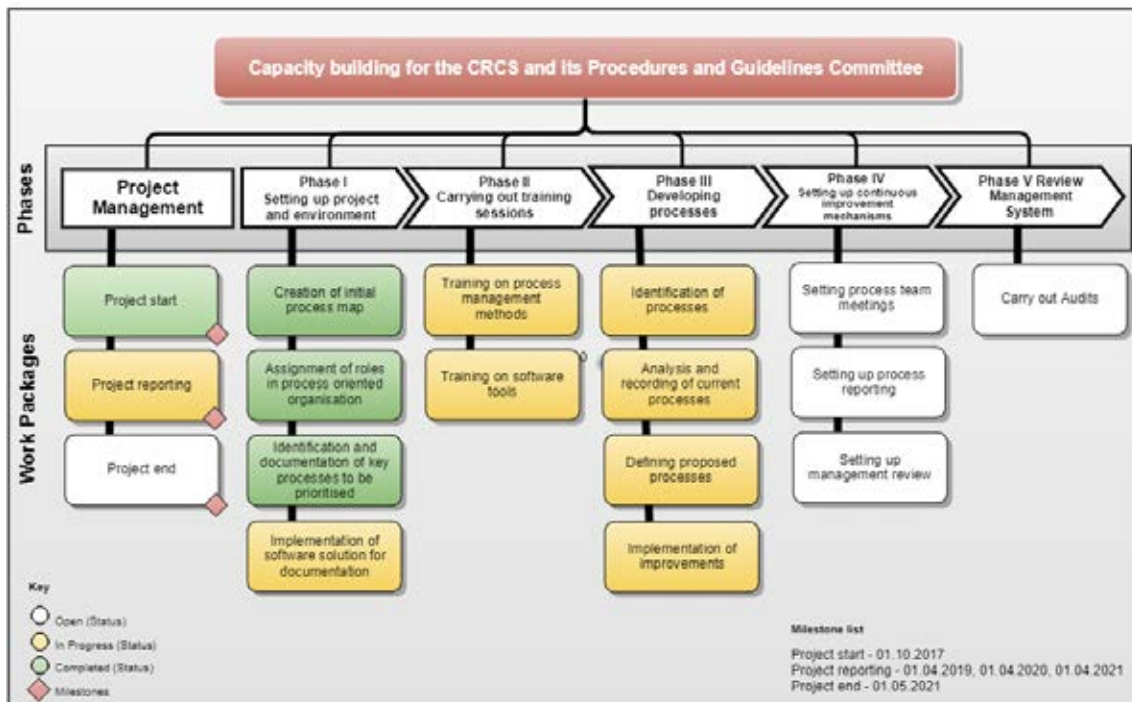
Post Mortem Transfers to the Occupied Part

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 undertakes the funeral arrangements.

PROCESS MANAGEMENT PROJECT

Process and project-orientation contemporary organization strategies are focused on enhancing the competitiveness and capacities of organizations (business or Non-governmental organizations-NGOs), in order to enable them to 'survive' in their respective 'markets'. Undeniably, when a Process Management plan is applied, all process/activity workflows will be streamlined, consistent, reproducible, reliable, efficient and, more importantly, most effective. This would give the organization that implements such a plan, a professional "corporate" profile edge that would attract the appropriate partners and potential sponsors.

In this context, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Vienna Branch of the Austrian Red Cross and CRCS was signed on 26 March 2018, whereby the Vienna Branch was to financially support the employment of a Process Management Officer and supervise his/her training (practical training on the recording of processes electronically via the electronic tool 'Confluence-Atlassian, Australia) and the recording of CRCS processes, in a 3-year long project (2018-2021). In brief, the project entails the recording of all processes currently operable by the CRCS, with a view to identifying omissions and/or potential improvements, in order to increase the effectiveness and by the extrapolation, the output of the CRCS services.



BRANCH ACTIVITIES

CRCS has six Branches: Nicosia, Limassol, Famagusta, Larnaca, Paphos and Kyrenia, and two local Units: Kokkinochoria and Polis Chrysochous.

In 2018, the Branches with their volunteers, members and staff provided assistance and participated in several activities and campaigns. Moreover, to strengthen their efforts in helping vulnerable groups in Cyprus, the Branches included the following activities:

Humanitarian and financial assistance

All the Branches provided humanitarian assistance, in kind, to vulnerable individuals and families such as food, clothing, footwear, food and diapers for children, refurbished furniture, supermarket coupons to name but a few. This effort was particularly intensified over the Christmas and Easter periods.

In addition, in special cases, financial assistance for medical care was offered to individuals. In many cases, financial assistance was also provided to students and other individuals in need. The Branches also contributed to the appeals of the Movement to alleviate the suffering of victims of various disasters.

Love Campaigns

The CRCS, in an effort to meet the increased humanitarian needs, continued the organization of the "Love Campaigns", which had started back in 2012. During 2018, two such campaigns were organized in Easter and Christmas, in support of the increasing number of persons affected seriously by the financial crisis of 2013. During the two campaigns, the CRCS, through its Branches and Youth Section, distributed nationwide 5,100 "love packages". Moreover, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture, additional packages were distributed to disadvantaged families of children, attending primary schools in rural areas in the Nicosia district. Although a small quantity of food items was donated by individuals, companies and organizations which had responded to the CRCS's appeal, most of the items contained within the packages were purchased by the CRCS.

Warm thanks are extended to donors, as well as to the many CRCS members, volunteers and staff, who had worked diligently for many days, in order to prepare and ensure the timely delivery of the food packages, including deliveries in very remote and isolated villages around the country. Special thanks are also extended to the G.A.P. Vasilopoulos company, for assisting CRCS with the transportation of the packages free-of-charge.



Home visit scheme

Throughout 2018, groups of volunteers organized visits to houses and hospitals. The main target of the home visits' scheme was to record and assess the requirements in humanitarian assistance to individuals in need, as well as to offer social support to the lonely and disabled people. This effort was particularly intensified over Christmas and Easter period.

Wheelchair and Mobility Equipment Scheme

Through this scheme, wheelchairs were offered for a short-term lease to the public, at a very low cost. Provision of wheelchairs to vulnerable and disabled individuals was free-of-charge.

Social activities for Elderly

During 2018, the Nicosia and Kyrenia Branches jointly organized social activities and excursions for elderly people. The social events were organized with a view to keeping the elderly active, in their elderly people's hospices, socialising with people and having fun.

Fundraising Activities and other Events

During 2018, all annual fundraising activities organized by the Branches were successful and generated considerable income. The main one, of course, was the annual Pancyprian Fundraising Campaign. 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.



Nicosia Branch



Limassol Branch



Larnaca Branch



Famagusta Branch



Paphos Branch



Kyrenia Branch

NICOSIA BRANCH

Mirazome programme

Since 2013, the Nicosia Branch introduced a new programme that aimed to support families and individuals who suffered due to the consequences of the financial crisis. Through the programme 'Mirazome', which in the Greek language means 'Sharing', the Branch offered 11,140 cooked meals to 195 families, in the course of the year. Volunteers of the Branch participated in the programme, by cooking these meals.

Enclaved persons

Since 1974, the Nicosia Branch has been offering assistance, supporting the work of the Headquarters, to the enclaved persons, who visit the free areas of Cyprus. Among others, CRCS facilitates the access of the Enclaved persons to public services, hospitals and visiting their relatives, as well as providing food to those visiting the CRCS premises in Nicosia.

Soup Kitchen

For second year running, the Nicosia Branch has implemented the Christmas 'Soup Kitchen' event. On 24, 25 and 26 of December 2018, volunteers from the Branch and Headquarters served 750 hot meals (hot soup, bread, cakes) to people, who were in the area of the old city of Nicosia and needed a hot Christmas meal!



Nicosia Branch fundraising activities



Nicosia Branch - Soup Kitchen



Nicosia Branch Christmas event for children



Nicosia Branch Book Sale



Nicosia Branch social event for elderly



Nicosia Branch social event for elderly

LIMASSOL BRANCH

Blood donation

The Blood Donation scheme of the Limassol Branch successfully continued for the 58th consecutive year. During the programme, 3,500 bags of blood were collected and donated to the Limassol General Hospital of the Cyprus Government. This was carried out in cooperation with the Hospital Blood Bank Team, the Gymnasiums of Limassol city and the districts, as well as with the assistance and devotion of the volunteers and members of the Blood Donation Committee of the Limassol Branch.



Limassol Branch blood donation



Limassol Branch Fashion Show



Limassol Branch Christmas Bazaar 5 2018



Limassol Branch Donation to General Hospital

FAMAGUSTA BRANCH

Kokkinochoria Local Unit

The newly opened Kokkinochoria Local Unit of the Famagusta Branch, in Paralimni, offered humanitarian assistance to vulnerable groups of people in the area. In addition, the Unit assisted in the organization of First Aid lessons by the Headquarters and informative sessions for volunteers.



Several Activities and events

LARNACA BRANCH

Blood donation

The American Academy of Larnaca, in collaboration with the Larnaca Branch, has been organizing Blood Donation events among the students of the higher classes for many years and has been issuing certificates and awards to all Blood Donors. During 2018, the total number of blood donors was 50 persons. Additionally, the Branch supported the blood donation events at the Pancyprian Gymnasium and offered sandwiches and refreshments to the blood donors.



Larnaca Branch Christmas Tea Party

PAPHOS BRANCH

Polis Chrysochou Local Unit

The newly opened Polis Chrysochou Local Unit of the Paphos Branch offered humanitarian assistance. The Polis Chrysochou Local Unit was very active, due to the substantial number of migrants arriving in the area. Its volunteers provided humanitarian aid in kind, such as first need items, clothing, footwear etc.



Paphos Branch cutting of the traditional New Year's cake (vasilopita)



Paphos Branch - visit of Hordaland Branch Norwegian RC



Paphos Branch TLC English School food donation



Paphos Branch Tea Party



KYRENIA BRANCH

Elli Soteropoulou's Award

The 2018 'Elli Soteropoulou' Annual Award, in memory of the Branch's member Elli Soteropoulou, was jointly given with the Youth Section and to the best athlete of the Grade III student of the Aglantzia Gymnasium, who was also an active volunteer.



Elderly Yearly Excursion



Kyrenia Branch Fundraising Campaign



Kyrenia Branch Christmas Bazaar

YOUTH SECTION ACTIVITIES

In 2018, the CRCS Youth Section continued its reorganization, based on the revised and approved CRCS Statutes in 2012. These changes include among others, the narrowing down of the upper age limit for someone to be member of the Youth Section, setting the limit up to the age of 40 years old.

In 2018, the Youth Section had 2.500 members, who were mainly students of primary and secondary schools, university students, and other young volunteers.

Elli Soteropoulou's Award

The 2018 'Elli Soteropoulou' Annual Award, in memory of the Branch's member Elli Soteropoulou, was jointly given with the Kyrenia Branch and to the best athlete of the Grade III student of the Aglantzia Gymnasium, who was also an active volunteer.

The Youth Section's activities in 2018 involved the following:

- Provision of humanitarian assistance;
- Fundraising activities, and,
- Training, educational and raising awareness activities.

Provision of humanitarian assistance:

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Culture, provision of breakfast to 115 primary and secondary school students, on a daily basis, at a total cost of €20,000;
- in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Nicosia and Kyrenia Branches, Distribution of 1830 food 'love parcels' to families of students of primary and secondary schools during Easter and Christmas;
- Financial assistance to students and other individuals in need (travelling expenses for treatment abroad, purchase of books etc.), and,
- Visits to charitable institutions: Primary school students from Apesia's school visited the CRCS Children Therapy Centre 'Stella Soulioti', on 10 December 2018, and offered Christmas gifts to the children. In addition, on 12 December 2018, students from three Gymnasiums (Geri, Egkomi, Ag. Stylianos) and three Lyceums (Dali, Ethnomartira Kyprianou and Latsia), visited the 'Christos Stelios Ioannou Foundation' for adults with disabilities and offered gifts to the residents.

Fundraising activities:

- Annual Pancyprian Fundraising Campaign: The revenue from the Fundraising Campaign in 2018 amounted to €47,918.22. The Youth Section contributed financially providing the amount of €11.979,55 (representing the 25% of the Branch's net proceeds of the annual Fundraising Campaign (CRCS Council decision dated 8/7/2015), to the Centre., and,
- Organization of events: Christmas charity bazaar, tea and fashion show at the residence of Mrs. Maro Efstathiadou, football tournament, children's theatrical performance and film screening afternoon. Total amount raised was more than €20.000,00.

Training and educational activities

- **“Saturday Children Programme”:** This programme is addressed to young people aged 12-18-year-old, who gather every Saturday at the Red Cross offices in Nicosia, aiming to the organization and potential participation of volunteers in various events and activities. Moreover, this programme presents a great opportunity to youngsters to develop their leadership and organizational skills, as active young volunteers. The total number of children who attended this weekly programme, during 2018, was 38.
- **Annual Pancyprian Conference:** In 2018, the conference was attended by 71 students, aged 12-17 years old, from all over Cyprus. The theme of the conference was «Red Cross: A bridge that unites cultures». In the introductory part of the Conference, Mrs. Vanessa Kyprianou, President of the CRCS Central Committee Youth Section, Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou, CRCS Youth Section President and Mr. Yiannis Giannaki, Commissioner for Volunteerism and Non-Governmental Organizations, delivered their speeches on the subject. The preliminary part of the conference also included a presentation on “The work of Young Volunteers of the Red Cross/ Red Crescent Societies in the Mediterranean countries” which was presented by the volunteers from the CRCS Youth Section Limassol Branch. Thereafter, the children were divided into several groups and discussed issues relating to the theme of the conference.
- **Camp in Chandria village:** In 2018, the summer camp in Chandria was attended by 54 children, aged 12-15 years old, from all the cities of Cyprus. The camp lasted a week from 16 to 23 July. 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. Indeed, the educational programme allowed the youngsters to learn more about the Red Cross, the promotion of the principles, ideals and spirit of the Red Cross, as well as helping to develop their leadership skills that they could use in their schools. A special closing event was organized by the children on the last day, which was attended by many CRCS officials, the Ambassador of China (main sponsor of the Youth camp), locals and parents of the children.
- **Informative lectures and Workshops from the Red Cross in primary and secondary schools:** The aim and objectives of these lectures, organized by the Youth Section in primary and secondary schools, are to inform students and teachers about the humanitarian work of the CRCS, its structure and organization, as well as the activities of the Youth Section. In 2018, the Youth Section organized 38 such lectures.
- **YABC (Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change) Training:** The CRCS Youth Section organized a 5-day training course of the YABC programme in August 2018. The programme was facilitated by an IFRC trainer, a trainer from the CRCS Youth Section. The participating 10 youth volunteers were trained and became eligible to hold YABC group activities.

- **“Making Our Green Come True”**: The campaign began on 1 October 2018 and will continue until the end of 2019. The aim of the campaign is to raise public awareness on issues such as recycling, protection and respect for the environment. Some of the actions/ events included in the campaign are:
 - Free reusable stainless-steel '00straws in cafes in Nicosia, Limassol and Fama-gusta;
 - Free reusable coffee cup (for hot and cold beverages) for young people and families with children;
 - Free reusable bags for young people and families with children;
 - Planting (vegetable gardens, flowers, trees) with volunteers, in schools;
 - Planting (flowers, trees) with volunteers in parks, in collaboration with local municipalities;
 - Environment-based games with student volunteers;
 - Workshops of YABC focused on respecting the environment for volunteers;
 - Offering small trees - flowers to playgrounds, and,
 - Youth Art Competition on Environment and Recycling.



Youth Section – Environment “Let’s Do It”



Youth Section – Fund Raising



Youth Section – Christmas Bazaar



Youth Section - Youth camp in Chandria

EU FUNDED PROJECTS

Asylum, Migration Integration Fund - AMIF Project

The CRCS's project entitled "Activities programme for residents of the Open Reception and Accommodation Centre for Applicants of International Protection in Kofinou" began in December 2016. This project is funded by the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF) of the European Union (90%) and the Republic of Cyprus (10%), and is implemented by the CRCS and Enoros Consulting Ltd.

The objective of the project is the improvement of the living conditions of the Centre's residents, through a series of leisure activities for minors (of pre-school and school age) and adults, based on needs' assessments performed in the course of the project's duration. Specifically, the project offered a programme of afternoon homework assistance, as well as art classes for children, cooking classes, gym activities, movies, and computer classes both to adults and minors. In addition, in an effort for the residents to get to know the Cypriot cultural heritage and sites, so as to facilitate their integration in the Cypriot society, a number of excursions all over Cyprus, were organized by CRCS since the start of the project.



Employability and Social Integration of Refugees and Asylum Seekers – ESIRAS Project

The European Commission Directorate-general for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DGEMPL) through the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) and the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) signed a Direct Agreement for the implementation of the project ESIRAS (Employability and Social Integration of Refugees and Asylum Seekers). The project aimed to respond to the challenge of the integration of asylum seekers and refugees in a flexible and innovative way.

ESIRAS was implemented in seven different cities of Europe, namely: Graz (Austria), Nicosia (Cyprus), Bornholm (Denmark), Paris (France), Milan (Italy), Ljubljana (Slovenia), and Glasgow (United Kingdom), with a duration of eighteen months starting on 1st January

2018 and ending on 30th June 2019. The National Societies of the Red Cross of each country were responsible for the implementation of activities, as included in the project. The Spanish Red Cross (SRC) coordinated the general project implementation and also provided technical support to the seven ESIRAS local projects.

In particular, this project sought to promote better awareness and understanding of the host country socio-cultural context, as well as better access to employment and social services to asylum seekers and refugees.

ESIRAS project is expected to deliver the following results:

- Improve the integration of refugees and asylum seekers in the labour market;
- Improve social integration of refugees and asylum seekers; and,
- Provide information and assistance in response to the individual needs of refugees and asylum seekers.

Within the framework of this programme, the CRCS -ESIRAS Office was established to implement its planned activities; the Office is located in downtown Nicosia, near a Mosque and Churches, thus maximising the CRCS's reach and support to the refugees and asylum seekers. The Centre, through its counsellors, provided essential services, such as preparing the ESIRAS beneficiaries to enter the labour market. These activities are reinforcing participants' basic, transversal and professional skills, giving them a selective advantage with respect to accessing and finding employment.

Indeed, through a tailor-made programme targeting the job market, each beneficiary participates in a series of workshops, vocational trainings, cultural orientation and legal counselling sessions. Through engagement/intermediation with potential employers, the ESIRAS beneficiaries would increase their opportunities to finding employment.



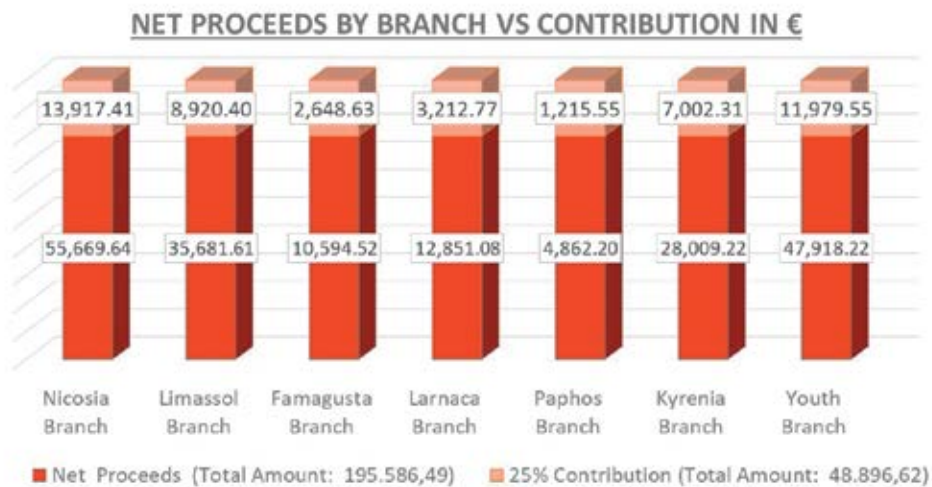
CAMPAIGNS AND EVENTS

The rich and multi-faceted work of the CRCS is the result of the active involvement and enthusiasm of its staff, members and volunteers, which in 2018 was demonstrated through a large variety of campaigns and events. Most of the events were aiming to raise funds, in order to enable CRCS to provide and maintain the various forms of assistance to vulnerable groups, as well as to raise social awareness on a number of important issues.

Fundraising Campaign

The main annual Fundraising Campaign took place from 8 to 29 May 2018 all over the country. The sponsor of the 2018 fundraising campaign was the OPAP1 Cyprus. The Campaign was launched on 8 May 2018, during a Press Conference at the CRCS Headquarters in Nicosia. The event was declared open by the Minister of Health, H.E. Mr. Constantinos Ioannou.

The total amount raised was €219.797,79. The net proceeds were €195.586,49. The proceeds of the Campaign were diverted towards covering the expenses of the various humanitarian programmes of the different Units. The amount of €48.896,62, representing the 25 per cent (25%) of the net proceeds, was allocated towards the operational costs of the CRCS Children Therapy Centre 'Stella Soulioti' (CRCS Council decision 8/7/2015, by the Units). The Fundraising Campaign also provided the opportunity to the CRCS to publicise and promote its aims and activities, as well as to offer Cypriots the opportunity to be part of a humanitarian society.



On 12 July 2018, the closing ceremony of the fundraising campaign was held at the CRCS President's residence. During the event, the CRCS President thanked and honoured the sponsor for their valuable assistance and for the very successful promotion of the campaign, as well as the CRCS volunteers, members and staff, who had contributed towards the success of the event. Among others, commemorative plaques were given to other companies and individuals, who contributed to the campaign and the programmes of the CRCS.

1 OPAP = Greek Organisation of Football Prognostics S.A.

Thank you spot

CRCS created five video spots in order to thank everyone who contributed to its humanitarian work. These videos were broadcast on TV stations during December 2018.

Annual fundraising excursion

The CRCS, continuing its tradition of planning and arranging annual excursions for its members and friends to countries abroad, organized an excursion to Cuba from 16 to 27 March 2018. A total number of 48 persons participated. The group visited Havana, Varadero, Trinidad, Bahía de Cienfuegos, Viñales and Matanzas. The trip also combined a two-day stay in Madrid, Spain. The net profit from this trip which was diverted towards the CRCS programmes amounted to €11.308,00. During the excursion, a delegation headed by its President, Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou, visited the Cuban Red Cross. The two delegations, exchanged commemorative gifts, informed each other of their programmes and activities, and discussed several issues of mutual interest. Upon returning to Cyprus, the CRCS President hosted a dinner, at her residence, for the members of the group, as well as for the members of staff, who assisted in the organization of the excursion to thank them. At the end of the soirée there was a short photo-projection depicting moments from the trip.

Yearly Lucky Charms

In 2018, the Michalakis Aloupas Jewellers Ltd especially designed and produced 1500 Lucky Charm bracelets, made of silver. These charm bracelets were sold by the CRCS volunteers at 15 euro each. All the proceeds from the sales of these bracelets were allocated to support the CRCS's humanitarian activities. The CRCS extends its warm thanks to Michalakis Aloupas Jewellers Ltd for the design of the bracelet. The total income from the sale was €11.750,00.

Desk Calendars

CRCS produced and printed Desk Calendars with the slogan "Smile". The calendars were given and 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 sponsor of the calendars was FINEXPERTIZA Cyprus HPA, to whom CRCS expresses its sincere thanks and appreciation.



INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

CRCS ASSISTANCE TO IFRC IN 2018: Contribution to Cuba, Greece and Montenegro

CRCS, as always, did its utmost to respond to IFRC’s emergency appeals for assistance to vulnerable groups and victims of manmade and/or natural disasters, worldwide. Accordingly, in 2018, the CRCS participated in programmes of international humanitarian assistance, by making contributions to the people of Cuba, Greece and Montenegro.



CUBA:

Financial support €5.000, following Hurricane Irma’s disastrous effects in September 2018. The hurricane affected 14 provinces and approx.10m people. CRCS responded with the above contribution, following the IFRC’s emergency appeal for a total of CHF 453,459 swiss francs.

MONTENEGRO:

Financial support of €5.000 to allow Montenegro Red Cross respond to migrant influx. Aid given as co-members of the SENS (Small European National Societies).

GREECE:

- 1) Financial support of €5.000 to newly-elected Hellenic Board.
- 2) ATTICA Fires: a) Donations in aid of fire victims AND b) in process of undertaking a project.

FINANCIAL AND INTERNAL INFORMATION

The overall financial position of the CRCS for 2018 can be described as satisfactory. In general, the level of the Income was at similar levels as the year before. The level of Expenses however continued to increase dramatically due to the heavy pressure for providing assistance to migrants arriving in Cyprus to seek asylum.

These people come mostly via Turkey from neighbouring Arab countries but also from African and Asian countries. During 2018, the number of first-time political asylum seekers in Cyprus reached 7,713 recording an increase of 59% from 2017. Cyprus became first among the EU countries to accept migrant arrivals, in relation to the country's population (8,805 people per million), while the second country was Malta (4,276 people per million).

Personnel

Although CRCS is basically a voluntary organization and its extensive activities are carried out by members and volunteers, its mission could not be accomplished without the significant administrative support, coordination and contribution of its employed Staff members. In 2018, CRCS employed 39 staff members, 27 female and 12 men.

Membership Fee

The CRCS's annual membership fee remained at the amount of 10 Euro.



*To all our
Volunteers,
Sponsors,
Donors*



EXPRESSION OF THANKS BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL



I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to all stakeholders for the spirit of collaboration, devotion, diligent efforts, enthusiasm, commitment and generosity that played a pivotal role in making 2018, yet another very successful year in our activities.

An endearing expression of gratefulness goes to individual donors and sponsors, private companies, organizations, institutions and the public of Cyprus, for their support, financial and otherwise, through provision of goods and services, and volunteering, respectively.

It is important to note that the CRCS had the opportunity to extend its network, knowledge sharing and capacity building through the support of the ICRC, the IFRC and Sister National Societies. Particular thanks go to the Norwegian Red Cross Hordaland Branch, the Austrian Red Cross Vienna Branch, the Luxemburg Red Cross and the Monaco Red Cross for their invaluable support. This has played a primal role in the evolution process that the CRCS is currently undergoing.

It is significant to highlight that, through its reinforced collaboration with European institutions, the CRCS was able to undertake further various EU-funded projects, which enhance our capacity building skills.

Moreover, I would duly like to express my most sincere thankfulness and appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Cyprus and, in particular to all the Ministries and their Departments, for their continuous support and close constructive cooperation.

Special thanks also go to all the Media for their invaluable contribution to promoting our mission and publicizing the work of the CRCS.

Last, but by no means the least, special thanks are expressed towards the CRCS Branches, the Youth Section, the Local Units, the members and volunteers, as well as the CRCS staff members, who have been instrumental in the successful outcome of the CRCS work towards alleviating human suffering in 2018.

Wishing all a fruitful and joyable 2019!

Christina Kapartis
Director General

COMMUNICATION

In 2018, the CRCS website and social media pages remained the major communication tools with its volunteers and friends in Cyprus, as well as abroad. In addition, in an attempt to facilitate communication with its staff and volunteers, through instant messaging, the CRCS created various communication groups, according to its services, by using the Viber Mobile application. Furthermore, the CRCS conveyed information and promoted its activities, through social media interaction, radio and TV interviews, press releases and conferences, public speeches, TV advertising, printed advertisements and other promotional materials.

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