

annual report

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2017





**BE A HERO.  
SAVE LIVES**

First aid is for everyone, everywhere

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The President of the Cyprus Red Cross Society  
Mrs Fotini Papadopoulou

# President's Introduction

## Cyprus Red Cross Society 2017 Achievements

The preparation of our annual report, allows us to see all that the Cyprus Red Cross Society (hereafter referred to as the CRCS) has accomplished during the past year, evaluate our performance and improve our planning for the future. It is with great satisfaction and pride, that I am addressing, not only the readers of the CRCS 2017 Annual Report but, most importantly, the contributors to the successes of our Society.

In 2017, the CRCS carried out its humanitarian work in full compliance with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (hereafter referred to as the International RC/RC Movement), the legislation of the Republic of Cyprus and its own Statutes. The CRCS was supported, as always, by the commendable efforts of its Branches, the Youth Section, its members and several thousand volunteers, as well as its staff members. In 2017, the CRCS appointed a new Director General, Mrs Christina Kapartis.

The core humanitarian activity of the CRCS in 2017 was the continuation of the provision of assistance to vulnerable groups residing in the Republic of Cyprus.

In an effort to meet the humanitarian consequences of the financial crisis, CRCS diverted all its resources towards meeting local needs. True to its principles, during 2017 the CRCS responded readily and discreetly to the increased requests for humanitarian assistance and moral support on a daily basis. In addition to its traditional humanitarian activities, the most important were the Easter and Christmas Love Campaigns which helped thousands of families, both in urban as well as in rural areas. Our main activity and concern was of course the CRCS Children Therapy Centre 'Stella Soulioti', while the largest and most important fundraising activity was the annual Pancyprian "Door to Door" campaign. Many other activities, among which disaster relief, first aid, psychosocial support, migration, restoring family links, blood donation, wheelchairs etc, made 2017 a really productive year.

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

Fotini Papadopoulou **President**



## Cyprus Red Cross Society from 1950 - 2017



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

**1960:** The Republic of Cyprus was created.

**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.

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

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

Of particular importance was the assistance provided by CRCS during the Turkish invasion of 1974 with regard to the evacuation of the population which was expelled from areas under Turkish control, taking care of the wounded, providing housing and assistance to meet the needs of the refugees, the reunification of families, the transmission of messages, the return of prisoners, locating the missing persons, as well as providing assistance to meet the needs of the enclaved persons.

To this date, CRCS continues to send all necessary basic provisions and other aid to the enclaved persons and helps with covering their needs whenever they visit the free areas; it continues to issue certificates of captivity and of having been an enclaved person.

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

The abovementioned extensive activities of the CRCS are not limited to Cyprus but are also extended 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.

In 2017, because of the urgency to address the increased local demands for humanitarian assistance due to the financial crisis, the CRCS had no other alternative to diverting all its resources towards meeting the increased needs of the people of Cyprus. The only exceptions, as far as international assistance was concerned, were relatively modest donations for the victims of floods in Sierra Leone and Greece, earthquake in Iran and Greece.

# 2017

## DIARY OF ACTIVITIES

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### January

Appointment of the new Director General  
Sales of the 2017 Lucky Charm

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### February

26 - 28 European Legal Support Group (ELSG), Luxembourg

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### March

1 - 3 Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI), Brussels, Belgium TBC

8 - 12 Annual General Assembly of the Hordaland Branch of the Norwegian Red Cross, Bergen, Norway

21 - 24 Train of Trainers on Psychosocial Support in Emergencies, Split, Croatia

20 - 9 Apr CRCS Pan-Cyprian "Door to Door" Fundraising Campaign

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### April

CRCS Easter Love Campaign

3 - 7 Restoring Family Links (RFL) Meeting, Oslo, Norway

21 - 30 CRCS Excursion to Iran

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### May

6 - 12 Assessment Mission Courses

8 World Red Cross Day

14 - 18 European Legal Support Group (ELSG), Geneva, Switzerland

30 - 2 Jun ARGONAFIS Exercise

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### June

23 - 24 Solferino event 2017, Solferino, Italy

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### July

3 - 10 Youth Summer Camp, Platres, Cyprus

5 Closing ceremony of the "Door to Door" fundraising campaign

18 - 25 XIII ATLANTIS RC/RC Mediterranean Youth Camp, Larnaca, Cyprus

20 - 21 Red Cross Forum Engagement Sessions for European National Societies, Vienna, Austria



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August ----

## September

- 9 World First Aid Day
  - 11 - 15 Assessment Mission Courses
  - 25 - 28 International Twinning Conference, Minsk, Belarus
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## October

- 6 - 8 Annual European Network for Psychosocial Support (ENPS) Forum, Helsinki, Finland
  - 13 - 14 European Network for Psychosocial Crisis Management-Assisting Disabled in Case of Disaster (EUNAD) and Implementation (EUNAD IP), Cologne, Germany
  - 16 - 17 Annual Meeting of the Red Cross EU Office, Brussels, Belgium
  - 21 - 24 First Aid Education European Network (FAEEN), Montenegro
  - 25 - 27 Meeting of the Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers & Migrants (PERCO), Sofia, Bulgaria
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## November

- 6 - 11 Statutory Meetings of the International RC/RC Movement, Antalya, Turkey
  - 4 - 12 First Responders Training (second phase) by the Hordaland Branch, Norwegian RC
  - 27 - 1 Dec Assessment Mission Courses
- 

## December

- Sales of Christmas Cards
- 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 2017

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

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

### **Under Article 12 (2)**

Metropolitan of Tamassos & Orini, Isaías – Consultant

### **Under Article 12 (1) (c)**

1. Mrs. Marina Demades - President, Nicosia Branch
2. Mrs. Evi Zarifi - Treasurer, Nicosia Branch
3. Mrs. Niki Hadjitsangari - President, Limassol Branch
4. Mrs. Annie Haraki - Treasurer, Limassol Branch
5. Mrs. Kika Konia - President, Famagusta Branch
6. Mrs. Emilia Vourka - Treasurer, Famagusta Branch
7. Mrs. Aliki Neokleous - President, Larnaca Branch
8. Mrs. Lenia Karapataki - Treasurer, Larnaca Branch
9. Mrs. Anna Christodoulidou - President, Paphos Branch
10. Mrs. Christiana Atalioti and later Mrs. Efi Kannaourou - Treasurer, Paphos Branch
11. Mrs. Maroulla Angelides - President, Kyrenia Branch
12. Mrs. Evanthia Papasavva - Treasurer, Kyrenia Branch
13. Mrs. Vanessa Kyprianou - President, Central Committee Youth Section
14. Mrs. Antonis Melas - Treasurer, Central Committee Youth Section

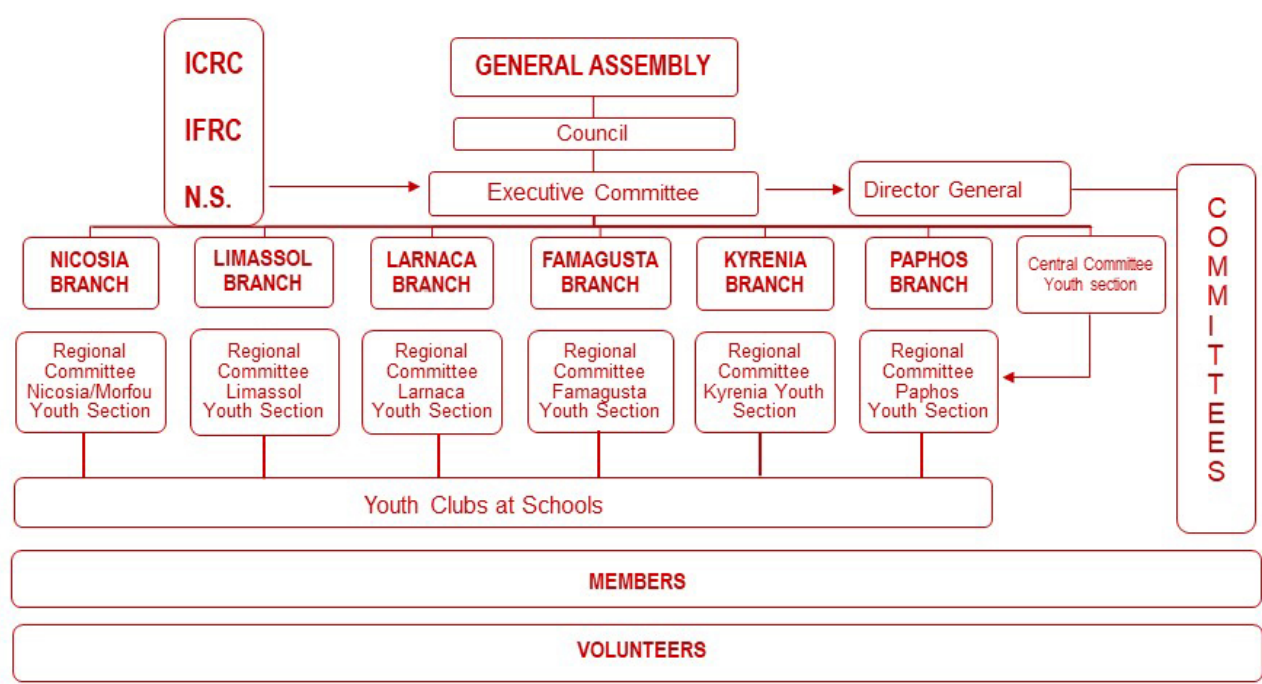
### **Under Article 12 (4)**

Director General - Mrs Christina Kapartis

Members of the Executive Committee in 2017

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

Organisational chart



# MAIN ACTIVITIES IN CYPRUS

## CRCS Children Therapy Centre 'Stella Soulioti'

### Foundation of the Centre

The CRCS Children Therapy Centre 'Stella Soulioti' (former Home for Sick Children) was founded by the CRCS in 1957 to serve sick and disabled children. By far, it is the largest and oldest project of the Society. During its 60-year history, the Centre has gone through four phases. The first phase was the period of its operations in Kyrenia (1957-1974), offering therapy services and residential facilities to sick and disabled children from all the communities of Cyprus, until the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974. The second phase was the period 1980–1994, when its operations continued in Limassol, on a residential basis. Its third phase began in 1994, when it provided only day care services, and the fourth phase started in 2012, when it was renamed and renovated.

### Post 2012 Operations

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

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

### Services Offered

The Centre is considered to be unique due to its multi therapy programmes by experienced staff and covers a wide age spectrum. The Centre serves more than 100 children up to 22 years old, with severe physical and multiple disabilities, such as cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and other physical and developmental problems. In addition to medical and nursing care, the Centre offers physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, sensory integration therapy, horse riding; it also provides assessments for technical mobility aid for the children's comfort and post operative physiotherapy home visits. Close attention is paid to creating a family atmosphere, the children's entertainment, facilitating their social integration and generally making the best possible effort to give them a better quality of life. The services offered by the Centre are constantly upgraded. A specialist Pediatrician supervises the general healthcare, cooperating closely with the Limassol General Hospital and foreign specialists. Dedicated therapy personnel and a fully comprehensive set of equipment provide healthcare and therapeutic treatment of the highest standard.



*The Centre serves more than 100 children up to 22 years old, with severe physical and multiple disabilities, such as cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy and other physical and developmental problems.*

## Collaborations

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Centre hosts a special school for children, offering, among others, special education, therapy, and psychological support. It also works closely with the Ministry of Health and the Limassol General Hospital to provide orthopedic, neurological and other treatments on a regular and ad hoc basis. From 1998 to 2012, the Centre collaborated with St. James' University Hospital in Leeds, in the United Kingdom, in order to provide Botulinum Toxin treatment to children with cerebral palsy/ spasticity. After the successful introduction of the treatment by the Centre, Botulinum Toxin is continued until today and is offered by governmental and private Doctors at the Limassol General Hospital Paediatric Ward. CRCS facilitates the pre-injection clinic that is held at the premises of the Centre, in order to select the candidate children. After that, the Centre in cooperation with the Paediatric Ward set the date of the clinic. The Botulinum Toxin is provided by the Limassol General Hospital. Partnerships are continuously being developed with many other bodies, such as government agencies, schools and other institutions for children with disabilities, parents, the British Sovereign bases - which offer hippo-therapy programmes - foreign organisations, European programmes for staff training, charity and other voluntary organisations.

## Operational Costs

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

## Next Phase of Renovations

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

## Contact Details

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Fax: + 357 25 333466  
Email: [home@redcross.org.cy](mailto:home@redcross.org.cy)



*In cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Centre hosts a special school for children.*



# Disaster Preparedness and Management

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

## Cooperation with the Government

The CRCS has its own Disaster Management Action Plan, (hereafter referred to as the DMAP) involving all its District Branches. The DMAP is managed and coordinated by the CRCS Disaster Management Committee. In its role as an “auxiliary body to the public authorities on humanitarian issues”, the CRCS works in close cooperation with the Government. This cooperation allows the CRCS, without losing its independence, to take part in the planning and the implementation of all the DM related activities.

Depending on the nature of the disaster, the CRCS cooperates with one or more of the following Governmental Departments and Services:

- › Ministry of the Interior: Civil Defense, 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.
- › Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance: Social Welfare

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

## Emergency Response Unit – First Responders

Within the framework of the cooperation agreement with the Hordaland Branch of the Norwegian Red Cross, a second First Responders Training was organized in Cyprus by the Hordaland Branch team, which took place from 4 to 12 November 2017. The objective of the training, which involves 150 hours to complete, was to create teams of volunteers who will be trained in First Aid, Rescue, Firefighting, Psychosocial Support and Disaster Management of any kind in order to intervene before organized assistance arrives at the scene (e.g., ambulance, and fire fighters) in case of a disaster. It is vitally important to offer first intervention in the event of accidents, natural disasters and other emergencies anywhere, but especially in areas without direct access to assistance. The second 50 hours of training were successfully attended by 15 persons and the final phase will be organized in 2018.





# Training and Exercises

## Training programme to members of the Local Unit of Polis Chrysochou

In September 2017, in collaboration with Ambulance Services and Forest Department, a training was organised for the members of Polis Chrysochou Local Unit which is the most remote area in Cyprus. The aim was to train people in first aid, identifying inaccessible area and demonstrating the placement and transport of an injured person with an ambulance. Twenty (20) persons participated in this training.

## Training in setting-up tents

Members of the First Responders team and staff were trained to set-up tents in case of emergency. The team consisted of 12 persons who set-up each tent in 60 minutes.

## Training in Firefighting

This training was organised with the cooperation of the Cyprus Fire Services. The main objective of this training was to acquire management capability in case of fire incident. Twenty (20) persons participated in this training.

## “Argonaftis” exercise

Argonaftis is the largest national emergency and disaster management exercise which takes place in Cyprus once a year, with the participation of the National Guard, Government Ministries and NGOs, including the CRCS. The first preparations for the 2017 exercise started in January when details were discussed and roles assigned among the participants. The exercise took place from 30 May to 2 June 2017, at the “Zenon” Coordination Centre in Larnaca. It was attended by representatives from different countries, Embassies, the National Guard and many other stakeholders from Cyprus. The CRCS’s high visibility drew many positive comments. The CRCS had an impressive participation, among others, through a booth, with all the necessary equipment which could be utilized in case of an emergency. The exercise was attended by the CRCS Director General, members and volunteers from the DM Committee, the CRCS Headquarters staff, the Limassol, Larnaca and Famagusta Branches, staff and volunteers responsible for first aid, psychosocial support, migration and restoring family links.

## Assessment Mission Courses

The CRCS continued its participation in the exercises organized by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus within the framework of the Assessment Mission Courses of the European Union. These exercises take place three to four times a year. The responsibility for the organization of the training is undertaken by the Cyprus Civil Defense, in collaboration with the German and the Bulgarian Civil Protection Organisations. In 2017, four Assessment Mission Courses were organized, from 11 to 17 March, 6 to 12 May, 11 to 15 September and 27 November to 1 December. Members of the Assessment Mission Course from various EU countries, consisting of four trainees and one leader, visited the CRCS Headquarters, where members of the CRCS DM Committee presented them a virtual scenario of an earthquake which occurred in the country and elaborated on the measures taken and also the kind of assistance CRCS would need from the European Union in order to cope with the crisis.

## Warehouse

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

## Shelter Facilities Plans

In 2017, CRCS continued its efforts to fulfil its vision to have the capacity to be able to provide shelter up to 1,000 persons in case of an emergency. The CRCS Disaster Management Committee is working on a study in order to secure the necessary know-how, equipment and materials.

## Response

The Disaster Management team provided assistance to migrants who arrived in Cyprus throughout 2017. (for more details, see the relevant section on the "MIGRATION ISSUES").



# Migration issues

“Compared with the population of each Member State, the highest rate of registered first time applicants during the fourth quarter of 2017 was recorded in Cyprus (1504 first time applicants per million inhabitants) and Greece (1419), followed by Luxembourg (994) and Malta (856).” As per the Eurostat Asylum Quarterly Report, Cyprus is now the first country with more first-time asylum applicants per million inhabitants, which is unprecedented for our small island. It is therefore easy to deduct that not only Migration concerns in Cyprus should not be diminishing, but Migration should be one of the focal points of our humanitarian action plan.

Migration plays a primordial role in the Cyprus Red Cross Society's activities. This is especially the case since the radical change observed in the migratory routes and volumes of migrants arriving to stay in the country, during the last couple of years, as observed by statistics.

In response to the challenge faced, the CRCS both increased the activities already instated in the Migration programmes, and implemented new initiatives, establishing a strong action plan. A new volunteer database has been created, a new migration officer was appointed, new migration-related programmes came into play and the role of migration in disaster response planning was increased.

**2017 has been therefore, a very active year for Migration activities, which included:**

- › the running of an activities' programme for residents of the Centre for Applicants of International Protection funded by the Asylum Migration and Integration Fund of the EU which has been renewed
- › the emergency response in all refugee boat arrivals, providing information, humanitarian assistance, the RFL service and Psychosocial support
- › the establishment of communication and understanding with the officers running the Migrant Detention Centre and strengthened its presence there, offering humanitarian assistance
- › the establishment and update of a volunteer database exclusively interested and qualified to attend to migration- related matters arising and designed exclusive trainings for such volunteers
- › continued covering humanitarian needs, along with the provision of Psychosocial Support, both in the Refugee Camps as well as for migrants living in towns
- › participation in workshops and trainings covering new trends and practices in the field
- › reinforcement of its' Migration related RFL service and
- › increased communication and collaboration with other relevant local and international institutions, active in this field



## Projects

### Activities programme for residents of the Open Reception and Accommodation Centre for Applicants of International Protection at Kofinou

In 2017, the CRCS implemented the project “Activities programme for residents of the Open Reception and Accommodation Centre for Applicants of International Protection at Kofinou” funded by the European Fund Unit of the Ministry of Interior. The main objective of the project is the improvement of the living conditions of the residents of the Open Reception and Accommodation Centre for Applicants of International Protection at Kofinou. The project includes a series of leisure activities for minors (of pre-school and school age) and for adults. At the same time, the project entails a programme for afternoon homework assistance for those minors attending school. The activities are based on assessing the needs of the beneficiaries and were implemented over a period of three four-month-long semesters, benefitting more than 210 residents. The AMIF Project has started its activities on 1 December 2016 and was terminated on 30 November 2017, however, CRCS has achieved its renewal and it is now set to end in February 2019. As part of the project, there are classes organised in the centre both for adults and for children, as well as excursions. CRCS aims, with the renewal of the project to create a film screenings programme.

Subjects of the activities organised include:

- › For children: art, Greek language, maths and homework club for primary school children
- › For adults and children alike: gym and excursions
- › For adults: computers (informatics), football and capoeira lessons

Untill November 2017, seven (7) excursions for the residents have been organised which are joined by volunteers, in points of interest all over Cyprus, thus facilitating the integration of the residents in the Cypriot environment and culture and their familiarization with Cyprus and its society, which is now their home.

### Emergency Rescue Operations

There were 10 emergency rescues in 2017, the majority of which took place in spring and autumn and during which a total of 1067 persons were rescued at sea. This number represents a radical increase since the respective number for 2016 was 360, showing that Cyprus is becoming a destination country, and that the traditional migrant routes are changing, compared with the changing environment in Europe.

### Activities at Migrant Centres

In 2017, the CRCS was present at 3 separate facilities:

#### Menogeia Detention Centre for Migrants

In 2017, the CRCS was present in the Detention Centre for Migrants pending deportation, by performing monitoring visits, providing humanitarian assistance and being in close collaboration with the Police Authorities running the Centre in order to improve as much as possible the living conditions of the residents there.



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

While CRCS dedicates its resources mainly on the coverage of medical needs and equipment, for which the public healthcare system cannot provide for, it also frequently covers needs that are registered during frequent monitoring visits by the Migration Officer at the Accommodation Centre. The CRCS is registering the specific needs of each resident of the Accommodation Centre separately, preparing individual packages, which are then delivered directly to each beneficiary. In 2017, CRCS provided myopic glasses for adults and children, and specialist orthodontist services to children, among other goods and services.

## Temporary Reception Camp in Kokkinotrimithia area

CRCS is the only humanitarian organization, which has been formally allocated a role in governmental plans for response in Emergencies. In collaboration with the Civil Defence, the CRCS Migration team is active in every migrant boat arrival. Through its storage room located at the Temporary Reception Camp in Kokkinotrimithia area, where the migrants arrive following rescue, the CRCS alleviates basic needs, provides hygiene kits and carries out an individualised Emergency Needs and Vulnerability Assessment. The immediate priorities in terms of humanitarian assistance covered by the CRCS include: water, clean and dry clothing, footwear, personal hygiene items, information, psychosocial support, restoring family links services.



# First Aid

First Aid is a traditional Red Cross activity. Recognizing its vital importance, and how valuable and essential assistance provided to the survivors of accidents, natural disasters (fires, floods etc) and other emergency situations may become, CRCS considers First Aid one of its most important programmes. Accordingly, CRCS's goal has always been to raise public awareness and encourage participation in its First Aid courses and training.

## Courses and Training

The most important activity of the CRCS First Aid Committee is the organization of courses and training, which are being regularly updated and upgraded in order to secure high quality of services and respond successfully to the ever increasing competition in the field.

The CRCS is an officially recognized First Aid Training at Work provider, certified and licensed by the Department of Labour Inspection of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, to offer the following two training programmes:

- › First Aid at Work - Emergency Incidents (six hour course)
- › First Aid at Work (18 hour course).

In addition, the CRCS provides a six hour course in Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

Embracing the slogan “First Aid saves lives”, during 2017, CRCS organized 49 first aid courses, in Greek and in English. A total number of 458 individuals were trained (180 men and 278 women) and the total income received by the Society for organizing the courses was 13,115.00 Euro.

## Activities

On the occasion of the World First Aid Day which was celebrated on Saturday, 9 September 2017, (every second Saturday of September each year), CRCS circulated a dedicated poster. The poster called on the public to learn First Aid and to always have a First Aid kit at home, in their car, and at work. The poster's slogan was “First Aid save lives. It is for everyone, everywhere.”





# Psychosocial Support

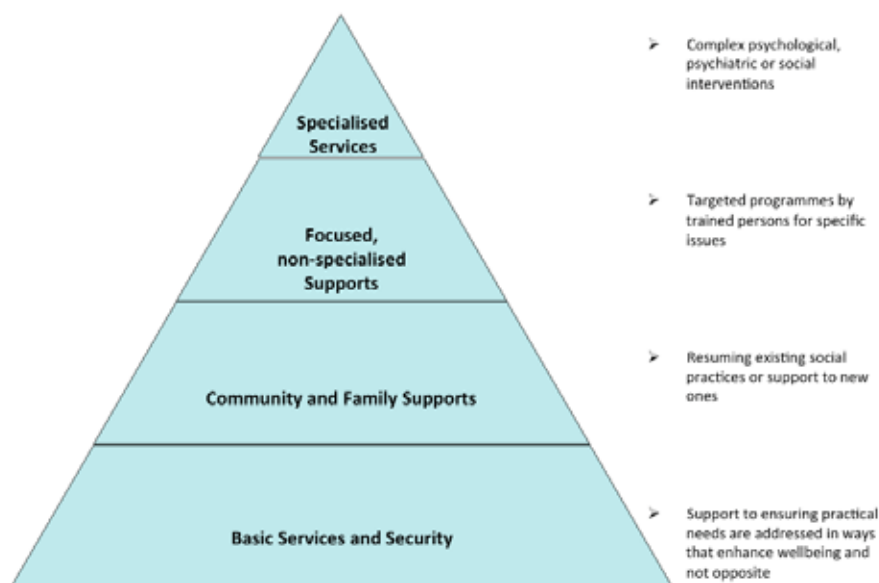
Psychosocial Support is defined by the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC, 2007) as:

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

For many years European Red Cross National Societies have developed the concept of psychosocial support in services and training programmes. In 1993, the IFRC established Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support (PS Centre) hosted by the Danish Red Cross in Copenhagen. The IFRC PS Centre works closely with the European Network of Psychosocial Support (ENPS) and similar networks, as well as National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies around the globe to promote the effective delivery of psychosocial support in services. Since then, a range of international guidance and research has been produced, with recommendations for the safe and effective delivery of psychosocial support in order to promote people’s coping and wellbeing.

## Psychosocial Support in Cyprus

This service currently acts as a stand-alone programme yet it is CRCS aim to integrate it fully within all areas of work. In 2017, Psychosocial Support Service trained volunteers, intervened during the influx of migrants from war-torn countries. Parallel to this, a small group of volunteers, began working on a weekly-basis at the Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers and Applicants of International Protection, in Kofinou. Using the “Community-Based” approach, as recommended by the International Guidelines of the Movement, active volunteers are conducting needs assessments and are trying to find creative ways of implementing programmes.



### Specialised Services: Psychotherapy Service

The effects of the Global Financial Crisis and subsequent recession of the Cyprus economy have spread to all sectors - Governmental, Non-Governmental and Private - condemning the disillusioned general public to a vicious cycle of stress and helplessness. Often enough, basic needs were threatened and/or were unmet, while unemployment, poverty and homelessness had become an everyday reality for a growing number of adversely affected citizens. The CRCS has observed how economic misery translated to higher stress levels had given rise to a host of social ills - mental illnesses, a rise in domestic violence, unemployment, the breakdown of family bonds, children suffering neglect, and outbreaks of antisocial and criminal behaviour. Although somewhat things have improved, the consequences of the crisis continue to disrupt. CRCS PSS has built collaborations with training institutes such as University of Nicosia, European University and the Systemic Institute of Cyprus in order to provide specialized services to the CRCS beneficiaries who needed further support. Trainee psychotherapists offer their services whilst being supervised by their training institute, free of charge. The collaboration with those institutes began in 2016 and is still ongoing. During 2017, the Psychotherapy Services has provided 135 sessions to CRCS beneficiaries.

### Training in Community-Based Psychosocial Support

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

During 2017, from 24 to 25 October, the PSS Officer and a PSS Volunteer have provided a two day introductory seminar on Psychosocial Support to communities to the representatives of the Hordaland Branch of the Norwegian Red Cross.

### Training in Psychological First Aid

From 31 May to 2 June 2017, Mrs. Sirry Thormar, IFRC trainer from Iceland visited Cyprus and conducted a training on Psychological First Aid at the CRCS Children Therapy Centre "Stella Soulioti" in Limassol. A total number of 27 persons participated in the training from the CRCS, the Civil Defence, the Fire Department, Universities and the ETEA voluntary team. The trainer highlighted that it was the first time ever to notice such a great participation from other Services and congratulated CRCS for setting up such a well-organized training.



# OTHER PROGRAMMES, SERVICES AND PROJECTS

## Restoring Family Links (RFL)

Every year, thousands of family members are separated by conflicts, disasters or migration. People suffer terribly when they lose contact with their loved ones and do not know where they are or whether they are safe and alive. The ICRC and the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies work together around the world to locate people and put them back into contact with their relatives. Tracing activities may extend well beyond the end of a conflict or a natural disaster. In 2017 the CRCS dealt with 11 requests.

## Training on RFL

From 10 to 14 July 2017, an ICRC delegate visited Cyprus and supported the CRCS on Restoring Family Links (RFL) matters. The Executive Support Officer who is responsible for the RFL services participated in the training.

## Support for the Enclaved

According to the records maintained by the United Nations, as of 31 December 2017, 403 persons - 324 Greek Cypriots and 79 Maronites - lived in the Karpasia peninsula and the Maronite villages in the Kyrenia District, in the occupied part of the island. These enclaved persons, when visiting the free areas, receive support from the CRCS in various forms. With the assistance of the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the CRCS arranged weekly dispatches to the occupied areas to help the enclaved meet their needs. These included, among others, medicines and medical equipment. In some circumstances, the CRCS also covered, among others, special requirements, such as wheelchairs, walking frames, oxygen bottles, and myopia glasses. In 2017, the CRCS dispatched 356 parcels, including: 44 oxygen bottles, 17 pairs of myopia glasses, 163 parcels of medicines, 125 parcels of letters, 4 wheelchairs and 3 walking frames. During the visits of the enclaved to the government control areas, the CRCS covered all their needs, such as meals, transportation, hospital care and financial assistance. Furthermore, 265 individuals were transported by 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 moving between the occupied and the free areas of the island transporting sick or injured Greek and Turkish Cypriots. In 2017, eight ambulances were used. The necessary arrangements for and the cost of the insurance coverage of the ambulance vehicles, were undertaken by the CRCS.

## Management of Emergencies and Deaths

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

## Post Mortem Transfers to the Occupied Part

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

### Working Along Key Experts (Wake) Project

The WAKE project, which is granted by the European Commission, aims overall to improve the actual day-to-day situation of victims of crime to the greatest extent possible and to reduce their experiences of discrimination in Cyprus. The specific objectives of the project are the identification of the training needs of the professionals of the relevant government authorities and other practitioners dealing with victims of violence and crime and to improve their capacity through training, in order to be able to operate in a more respectful, impartial and professional manner. Fostering the exchange of good practices on identification and screening processes of victims and their needs is another objective to be achieved through the proposed project, in addition to sustaining a network and good working relations between the involved actors. The Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family, (hereafter referred to as the SPAVO), is the Leader of the project and the CRCS is one of the Principal Partners. The CRCS plays a crucial role in the implementation of all aspects of the project, especially through the spreading of awareness among other NGOs, the practical engagement in the formulation of the training material and the organization of the working groups and case studies for the key experts.

The project started in November 2015 and was completed in May 2017.

### Asylum, Migration Integration Fund (AMIF) Project

For more information see under Migration issues.





# 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 2017 was expressed through a large variety of campaigns and events. Most of the events were aiming at the raising of funds in order to enable the CRCS to provide various forms of assistance to vulnerable groups and to raise social awareness on a number of important topics.

## Main fundraising campaign

The annual “Door to Door” fundraising campaign took place from 20 March to 9 April 2017 all over the country. The sponsor of the 2017 fundraising campaign was OPAP Cyprus. The Campaign was launched on 17 March 2017 during a Press Conference, at the CRCS Headquarters in Nicosia. The event was declared open by the Commissioner for Volunteerism and Non-Governmental Organisations, Mr. Yiannakis Yiannaki.

The total amount raised was 225.581,97 euro. The proceeds of the Campaign were allocated towards meeting all the humanitarian needs, part of the operational costs of the CRCS Children Therapy Centre ‘Stella Soulioti’, as well as numerous other CRCS programmes. Once again, the “Door to Door” fundraising campaign also provided the opportunity to the CRCS to publicize and promote its aims and activities, as well as to offer Cypriots the opportunity to be part of a humanitarian society.

On 5 July 2017, the CRCS President, Mrs Fotini Papadopoulos, hosted in the gardens of her residence, the closing ceremony of the fundraising campaign during which she thanked and honoured the sponsor for their valuable assistance and the very successful promotion of the campaign as well as the CRCS members, volunteers and staff, who had contributed to the success of the event. Among others, commemorative plaque was given to other companies and individuals who contributed to the campaign and the programmes of the CRCS.

## Easter and Christmas Love Campaigns

The CRCS, in an effort to meet the increased humanitarian needs, continued the organisation of the “Love Campaigns”, which had started in 2012. During 2017, two campaigns were organised in Easter and Christmas in support of the increasing number of persons affected seriously by the financial crisis. During the two campaigns, the CRCS distributed nationwide 4.565 packages of love. In cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture, additional packages were distributed to needy families with children attending primary schools in rural areas of the Nicosia district.



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This assistance was in addition to the breakfast offered by the CRCS Youth Section to students of secondary schools. Although a small quantity of food items was donated by individuals, companies and organizations which had responded to the CRCS's appeal, most of it was purchased by the CRCS. Warm thanks are extended to donors, as well as to the many CRCS members and volunteers, who had worked for many days in order to prepare and ensure the timely delivery of the food packages, including deliveries in very remote and isolated villages of the country. Special thanks are also expressed to the G.A.P. Vasilopoulos company, for assisting CRCS with the transportation of the packages free of charge.

### Excursion to Iran

The CRCS, continuing its tradition of organizing annual excursions for its members and friends to several countries, organized an excursion to Iran from 21 to 30 April 2017. A total number of 32 persons participated. The group visited Tehran, Shiraz, Kerman and Isfahan. The profit made for the benefit of the CRCS programmes amounted to 10.108,00 euro. During the excursion, a four member delegation headed by its President, Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou, had a meeting with the President, Dr. S. Ziaee and other members of the leadership of the Iranian Red Crescent, in Tehran. The two delegations, exchanged commemorative gifts, informed each other of their programmes and activities and discussed several issues of mutual interest. The two delegations agreed to maintain their relations and cooperation and to examine the possibility of formalizing it by signing a Memorandum of Understanding.

On 12 June 2017, the CRCS President hosted a dinner at her residence for the members of the excursion and the staff who assisted in the organization of the excursion.

### 2017 Lucky Charms

Michalakis Aloupas Jewellers Ltd, specially designed and produced 1500 silver 2017 Lucky Charms. The charms were sold by the CRCS volunteers at 15 euro each and the proceeds were used for the CRCS's humanitarian activities. The CRCS extends warm thanks to Michalakis Aloupas Jewellers Ltd for the design of the charm. The total net revenue from the sale was 12.375,00 euro.

### H.E. The Ambassador of the People's Republic of China sponsored the CRCS Youth Camp

The H.E. the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Huang Xingyuan offered to the CRCS a 'Special Scholarship' amounting to 8.000,00 euro. This scholarship was used to cover the accommodation, the transportation, the excursions and the reception of the closing ceremony of the CRCS Youth Section annual Summer Camp in Platres. A delegation of the Chinese Embassy headed by the Ambassador and his wife Mrs Ma Li, attended the closing event of the camp which was organised on 7 July 2017.





# BRANCH ACTIVITIES

## NICOSIA BRANCH

Throughout 2017, the Nicosia Branch was very active in promoting the CRCS's guidelines, aims and priorities. In 2017, 268 members and volunteers of the Nicosia Branch were actively involved in the successful implementation of its programmes.

### Social Welfare Programme

Since September 2014, the Nicosia Branch has been implementing, a social welfare programme with a series of actions; initial assessment, needs assessment, food aid, clothing, home visits, counselling sessions, advocacy and referrals to other health care professionals, with the aim to cover the humanitarian needs of vulnerable people visiting the Branch. The programme has been upgraded and has been structured in such a way to observe and verify the socioeconomic status of aid applicants. Therefore, interviews and home visits conducted by professionals and trained (social workers) volunteers were implemented, allowing the better understanding of the needs of the beneficiaries. The target was to formulate sustainable solutions to resolve the difficulties encountered. The programme has been progressing with considerable success. Further measures are currently under consideration for reinforcing the programme, as well as empowering the people involved, with final aim to increase the capacity building of the Branch.

### Humanitarian and Financial Assistance

The Branch continued to provide in kind humanitarian assistance to individuals and families, such as food, clothing, footwear, food and diapers for children, refurbished furniture, supermarket coupons as well as other kind of aid. This effort was particularly intensified over the Christmas and Easter periods. During 2017, more than 4000 beneficiaries were assisted by the Branch at a total cost of 57.834,52 euro. In addition, the Branch also contributed with the amount of 8.727,91 euro to cover the needs of urgent medical cases. Furthermore, through the programme "Moirazome" ("Sharing"), 205 beneficiaries received 10,660 cooked meals during the year.

### Contribution to the CRCS Children Therapy Centre "Stella Soulioti"

The Branch provided a financial support of 11.786,40 euro to the Centre. This amount was the 25% of the proceeds of the "Door to Door" fundraising campaign of the Branch, as decided by the CRCS Council.

### Home Visit scheme

Throughout 2017, organized groups of volunteers have conducted visits to houses and hospitals. The main target of the home visits scheme was to provide humanitarian assistance to individuals in need, as well as to assess additional needs. This effort was particularly intensified over Christmas and Easter period.

### Psychosocial Support

A scheme was developed between the CRCS Headquarters, the Systemic Institute of Cyprus, the Nicosia University and the European University, for beneficiaries of the Branch, upon referral,





to receive psychotherapeutic support from professionals of the above Institutions. Moreover, staff and volunteers of the Branch were trained on psychosocial support, by the CRCS Headquarters Psychosocial Support Officer.

### Wheelchair and Mobility Equipment Scheme

Through this scheme, wheelchairs were offered for short term rental to the public, at a very low cost. Provision of wheelchairs to vulnerable and disabled individuals was free of charge. During 2017, a total of 591 wheelchairs, one lift and two beds were offered.

### Emergency Response Unit

The Branch participated in the CRCS emergency response exercises, which were organised in cooperation with the Authorities. Members and volunteers of the Branch also participated in the Assessment Mission Courses. Furthermore, in collaboration with the CRCS Disaster Management Committee and the Civil Defence, members of the Branch participated in a two-day international, exercise called "ARGONAFITIS" and in a rescue and support exercise called "ENGELADOS" in the event of an earthquake.



### Enclaved People

Since 1974, the CRCS has been offering assistance and support to the enclaved people who visit the government control area of Cyprus. Among others, CRCS facilitates their access to public services, hospitals and relatives, and provides food to those visiting the CRCS premises in Nicosia. During 2017, staff and volunteers of the Branch were actively involved in the provision of these services.



### Refugees, Asylum Seekers & Minority Groups

During 2017, Nicosia Branch has contributed substantially in the implementation of the CRCS's programmes and services to refugees, asylum seekers and minority groups. Staff and volunteers have participated in various activities focusing on the assistance to migrants. Nicosia Branch was very much involved in the CRCS's huge efforts to provide emergency aid, early recovery and humanitarian assistance to number of refugees from Syria who had been residing in the Kokkinotrimithia camp. Moreover, volunteers conducted visits to the Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers at Kofinou, home visits to migrants, provided humanitarian assistance to large numbers of refugees, and asylum seekers who visited the Branch, as well as offering medical support for emergency cases.



### Fundraising Events

During 2017, the Branch organised several fundraising activities, including a music concert, a bazaar, a charity tea, a charity lunch (BBQ), two Gala dinners, art exhibitions, book sales, the "Door to Door" fundraising campaign, as well as other fundraising campaigns in supermarkets and schools.

### Social activities for the Elderly

During 2017, the Branch had organised social activities such as Christmas events and excursions for Elderly People's Homes. The social events were developed to keep the elderly people active. This Christmas programme had a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of the people who joined it. The events helped elderly people to remain active, meet people and to have a pleasant time.

### Soup Kitchen

For the first time, the Branch together with the Headquarters introduced a pilot event named 'Christmas Soup Kitchen'. On the 24th and 25th December 2017, volunteers served hot meals (hot soup, bread, cakes) to people at the old city of Nicosia.





# LIMASSOL BRANCH

In 2017, the Limassol Branch with its volunteers and members assisted and participated in several activities and campaigns organized by the Headquarters, in full compliance with the principles and guidelines of the Movement.

## Humanitarian and Financial Assistance

Once a week the Branch offers food parcels and clothing to individuals, families, migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in need. During Christmas and Easter period, special food parcels were distributed to approximately 450 families for the festive seasons. The clothing boutique is fully equipped with adults and children clothing in order to facilitate the selection of clothing by those in need. Financial medical aid has been offered for special cases to individuals. The Branch continued to offer breakfast to 100 students during the school period.

## Contribution to the CRCS Children Therapy Centre “Stella Soulioti”

The Branch provided financial support to the Centre amounting to 9.933,74 euro this amount being the 25% of the proceeds of the ‘Door to Door’ fundraising campaign of the Branch, as decided by the CRCS Council.

## Home Visit scheme

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



## Wheelchair and Mobility Equipment Scheme

Throughout 2017, the Branch provided wheelchairs and mobility equipment to vulnerable people. In total, 106 wheelchairs, 17 walkers and crutches were distributed. Also, wheelchairs were available for short term rental for a very low fee.

## Blood donation

The Blood Donation scheme of the Branch was successfully continued for the 57th year and collected almost 4,000 bags of blood for the Limassol General Hospital. This was carried out with the cooperation of the Hospital Blood Bank Team, the Gymnasiums of Limassol and Limassol district and the valuable support of the members of the Blood Donors Committee of the Limassol Branch.

## Fundraising and other Activities

The main fundraising event remains the pancyprian “Door to Door” campaign. In addition, collections were made at a fashion show organized by the Branch in collaboration with the Grammar School Limassol. Proceeds from a Christmas fair event and from other charity events organized by companies and other organizations were donated to the Branch. Other sources of income included the collection of membership fees, donations received at funerals in memoriam, as well as donations given by individuals and companies. Twice, during 2017, collection of foodstuffs was organised by volunteers of the Branch by placing baskets at eight major supermarkets.



## FAMAGUSTA BRANCH

After its displacement from Famagusta in 1974, the Branch moved its office to Larnaca. In 2017, the Branch had more than **235 members and volunteers** who, despite the unfavorable conditions, continued to provide humanitarian assistance to people from Famagusta who were dispersed all over the country, as well as to individuals, families and organizations in Larnaca and unoccupied Famagusta. In addition to providing assistance, the Branch participated in several activities and campaigns organized by the Headquarter Committees in an effort to comply with the principles and guidelines of the Movement.

### Home Visit scheme

The Branch has a home visiting programme which includes kindergartens, special schools, homes for the elderly, shelters and other institutions. The Branch Committee responsible for the home visits, implemented monthly visits to poor families. The visits intensified during the Christmas and Easter periods when packages of food, clothing and footwear provided to 935 individuals and families in Larnaca and Famagusta district.

### Humanitarian and Financial Assistance

The Branch provided baskets to individuals and families in Larnaca and Famagusta district. This effort was intensified during the Christmas and Easter periods when baskets of food and clothing were offered to 376 individuals and families. Additionally, at its premises the Branch continued supporting vulnerable migrants, asylum seekers and refugees by providing food, clothing and footwear. In many cases, financial assistance was also provided to students and other individuals in need. The Branch also contributed to the appeals of the Movement to alleviate the suffering of victims of various disasters. In response to an appeal by the CRCS Headquarters, the Branch donated 350 euro to help the victims of the earthquakes in Lesvos island of Greece, 350 euro in Iran and 350 euro to help the victims of the devastating floods in Sierra Leone and Greece.

The total amount spent for the humanitarian and financial assistance amounted to 16,150.00 Euro.

### Contribution to the CRCS Children Therapy Centre “Stella Soulioti”

The Branch provided financial support to the Centre amounting to 2.830,95 euro this amount being the 25% of the proceeds of the ‘Door to Door’ fundraising campaign of the Branch, as decided by the CRCS Council.

### Wheelchair and Mobility Equipment Scheme

Through this scheme, wheelchairs were offered for short term rental to the public, at a very low cost. Provision of wheelchairs to poor and disabled individuals was free of charge. The Branch offered a total number of 18 wheelchairs.

### Medical assistance

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



### Fundraising activities and other events

Throughout 2017, the major annual fundraising activities of the Branch were successful and generated considerable income to the Branch. Specifically, the organization of a fundraising Tea Party, as well as the major fundraising campaign of the CRCS, the pancyprian “Door to Door” campaign. Other sources of income were the collection of membership fees, donations received from individuals and companies, as well as the donations received in memory of deceased persons.

### Other activities

In collaboration with the CRS Disaster Management Committee and Civil Defense, members of the Branch participated in a two-day international, military exercise called “Argonaftis”.

In May 2017, in cooperation with the Larnaca Branch, the Branch organized a Fashion Show and the proceeds were in aid of needy individuals.



# LARNACA BRANCH

During the year 2017, Larnaca Branch numbered 240 members and volunteers who were fully committed to the humanitarian work of the Red Cross, which is to support in every way all categories of vulnerable people and to do their utmost to alleviate human suffering of any kind. Additionally, members and volunteers of the Branch supported all functions, activities and campaigns organized by the CRCS Headquarters' Committees, complying with the principles and guidelines of the Movement.

## Humanitarian assistance

The need to provide food, clothing and basic essentials to vulnerable groups of people is the major concern of the Branch. Unfortunately, the numbers are still high. Also, an increasing number of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees still depend on regular food parcels and items of clothing from the Branch. During the year under review, the Branch provided 1317 food parcels for an estimated number of around 244 families and individuals of all categories in Larnaca area and the district. Additionally, the Branch provided parcels to 16 high school students and their families. The total cost of the food parcels were 26,295.00 euro.

## Financial assistance

The Branch sent financial assistance abroad, amounting to 1,600 euro for for the flood victims of Siera Leone, the earthquake victims of the island of Lesbos in Greece, for the earthquake victims in Iran and for the flood victims in Greece. The Branch also had to deal with a number of requests for financial assistance to help pay outstanding bills for water consumption, new items of clothing, baby food and milk, school transport fees, medical treatment, medicines, hotel accommodation for homeless family, totaling the amount of 1,856.00 Euro.

## Contribution to the CRCS Children's Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti

The Branch provided financial support to the Centre amounting to 3,948.31 euro, this amount being the 25% of the proceeds of the "Door to Door" fundraising campaign of the Branch, as decided by the CRCS Council.

## Home visit scheme

Branch members paid regular visits to the three local Special Needs Children's Schools offering food parcels, cakes, sweets and toys. Similar visits were paid to the Old People's Homes in Larnaca and the district where recreation time was organised.

## Wheelchair and Mobility Equipment Scheme

The Branch provided wheelchairs and mobility equipment to vulnerable people free of charge. This equipment was also offered for short term rental to the public at very low cost. The Branch offered 25 wheelchairs to authorized recipients.



## Blood donation

The American Academy of Larnaca has been organizing Blood Donation events among the students of the higher classes for many years. The Branch issues certificates and awards to all blood donors. This year, the total number of blood donors was 50. Additionally, the Branch supported the blood donation events at the Pancyprian Gymnasium organized by the CRCS Youth Section and offered sandwiches and refreshments to 42 blood donors.

## Fundraising activities and other events

The major fundraising events were:

- › The annual Christmas Tea Party and Bazaar in December.
- › The annual CRCS “Door to Door” fundraising campaign. These events generate considerable income to the Branch, which enables it to keep operating and to provide all the assistance to people who need it.
- › Christmas event at Hermes Airport jointly organized by Hermes Airports and the Larnaca Branch with sale of Christmas sweets and crafts.
- › Fashion Show event.

Other sources of income were membership fees, hire of wheelchairs, donations from individuals and companies and also donations in memory of loved ones.

## Other activities

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



# PAPHOS BRANCH

In 2017, the Branch had 33 members. Despite its relatively small size, the Branch continued to provide significant humanitarian assistance in Paphos and its districts. In addition to providing assistance, the Branch participated in several activities and campaigns organized by the CRCS Headquarters on a pancyprian basis, in full compliance with the principles and guidelines of the Movement.

## Home Visit Scheme

The Branch has a home visiting programme, which during 2017 included provision of assistance to kindergartens, schools, children's homes, homes for the elderly, schools for people with special needs, shelters and other institutions. The visits intensified during the Christmas and Easter periods. Clothing, food vouchers, educational items and toys were distributed to families and individuals in Paphos and the surrounding areas.

## Humanitarian and Financial Assistance

In response to the increased demands, which were a direct consequence of the financial crisis, the Branch intensified its efforts for the provision of humanitarian assistance. In some cases, financial assistance was also offered, especially to students and individuals, as well as to families facing special difficulties. The Branch also had to deal with a number of requests for financial assistance to help pay university fees and medical treatment. Additionally, at its premises the Branch continued supporting vulnerable migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, providing food, clothing and footwear. The Branch participated in the two "Love Campaigns" to provide food packages to needy individuals and families during the Christmas and Easter periods, which amounted to 4,063.00 euro. In response to an appeal by the CRCS Headquarters, the Branch provided financial assistance amounting to 500.00 euro: 100 euro to a family from Gambia for relocation reasons, international assistance: 100 euro to the victims of floods in Sierra Leone, 100 euro to Lesbos in Greece, 100 euro to Iran and 100 euro for Mandra Attikis in Greece.

## Contribution to the CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti

The Branch provided financial support to the Centre amounting to 1,349.50 euro, this amount being the 25% of the proceeds of the "Door to Door" fundraising campaign of the Branch, as decided by the CRCS Council.

In addition, the Branch donated to the Centre the amount of 400.00 euro, the proceeds of a fundraising event that was held in the residence of its Vice President during the Christmas period.

## Wheelchair and Mobility Equipment Scheme

Through this scheme, wheelchairs were offered for short term rental to the public, at a very low cost. Provision of wheelchairs to vulnerable individuals was free of charge. In 2017, the Branch offered 27 wheelchairs.



## Fundraising Activities and Other Events

During 2017, all annual fundraising activities organized by the Branch were successful and generated considerable income. The main one was the “Door to Door” fundraising campaign. Other sources of income were the collection of membership fees, donations received from individuals and companies, as well as donations received in memory of deceased persons.

The Branch also participated at the Christmas event at the Paphos International Airport, which was jointly organised by Hermes Airports and the Paphos Branch, with the sale of Christmas sweets and crafts.

The Branch participated in the Christmas bazaar of the Anglican Church.





## KYRENIA BRANCH

Kyrenia branch is displaced and has its headquarters in Nicosia. Despite its displacement it is a very active Branch and had 250 members in 2017, whose enthusiasm and initiative responded successfully to the humanitarian needs of people displaced from Kyrenia and who live in various parts of the country. Members of the Branch also participated in all CRCS activities and campaigns organised by the Headquarters, in compliance with the principles and guidelines of the Movement.

### Humanitarian and Financial Assistance

The Branch provided in kind assistance to hundreds of individuals and paid 3,930.00 euro for medical expenses to individuals requiring medical treatment. Financial assistance amounting to 4,165.00 euro was also provided to students. Utility bills were paid (900 euro) as with the economic crisis some people are unable to pay for their electricity and water supply bills. At its premises the Branch continued to support individuals in need, offering clothing and footwear. The Branch also contributed to the appeals of the Movement to alleviate human suffering of victims of various disasters and crises. An amount of 800 euro was donated to Greece to help them meet the needs of the victims of the earthquakes in Mytilini and the floods in western Attica, 400 euro were sent to Sierra Leone after the floods and another 400 euro to the victims of the earthquakes in Iran. Its members were also involved in looking after the Syrian and other evacuees that are rescued when their boats capsize near Cyprus on their way to Europe. The Branch participated in the "Love campaigns" to provide primary school children in the Nicosia district other needy families and persons with everything necessary for a fulsome Christmas and Easter dinner (a total cost of 1,9240.00 Euro). Additionally, it provided assistance to more than **1500 individuals** and families displaced from Kyrenia who live all over the country. The total amount spent for humanitarian purposes amounted to around 40,000.00 euro. The Branch also offered wheelchairs for a limited period, free of charge to people who needed them.

### First Aid

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

### Home Visit scheme

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

### Contribution to the CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti

The Branch provided financial support to the Center amounting to 7,491.85 euro this amount being 25% of the proceeds of the Door to Door campaign as agreed by the CRCS Council.

### Fundraising Activities and Other Events

The annual fundraising activities of the Branch were quite successful in 2017. They generated considerable income for the Branch and consisted of the annual Tea Party, the Pancyprian "Door to Door" campaign, the Christmas Bazaar at 'Famagusta Gate' in Nicosia and a Christmas Concert. Other sources of income were the collection of membership fees, sale of Easter candles, donations by individuals and companies as well as donations received in memory of deceased persons.

## Disaster Preparedness and Management

Members of the Branch are actively involved in the CRCS Disaster Management Committee.

## Additional activities

The Branch organised an excursion for the elderly and people living alone to the Monastery of Ayia Thekla and Ayios Georgios Alamanos with a meal at a restaurant by the sea.

The Elli Soteropoulou award is given annually to the best athlete, who is also an active volunteer, of the third class of the gymnasium of Aglantzia. Thw award was also given in 2017 jointly with the Youth Section of the CRCS.



## YOUTH SECTION ACTIVITIES

In 2017, the CRCS Youth Section continued its reorganisation after the approval of the new CRCS Statutes in 2012, which was provided for a lower age limit for the members of the Youth Section. Fortunately, the financial crisis of 2013 and its many serious consequences, did not affect adversely the Youth Section's operation. Hence, it has provided incentives to upgrade significantly the Section's operations, as highlighted by a variety of actions and activities, especially in the humanitarian section and the provision of assistance to those who were in need. In 2017, the Youth Section had 3425 volunteers who were mainly students of primary and secondary education, university students, and many other young volunteers.

### The Youth Section's activities in 2017 fell under the following fields:

- › Provision of humanitarian assistance
- › Fundraising activities
- › Training and Educational activities

#### Provision of humanitarian assistance

- › Provision of breakfast to 120 primary and secondary school students, on a daily basis, at a total cost of 20,000.00 euro.
- › Distribution of 1500 food parcels to families of students of primary and secondary education during Easter and Christmas in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Nicosia and Kyrenia Branches.
- › Financial assistance to students and other individuals in need (travelling expenses for treatment abroad, purchase of books etc.).
- › Visits to charitable institutions: Primary school students from Apesia's school visited the CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti, on 11 December 2017, and offered Christmas gifts to the children. Also, on 13 December 2017, students from 3 Gymnasiums (Geri, Stavros, Ag. Stylianos) and 3 Lyceums (Dali, Ethnomartira Kyprianou and Kykkos B), visited the Christos Stelios Ioannou Foundation for adults with disabilities and offered gifts to the residents.

#### Fundraising activities

- › Annual "Door to Door" fundraising campaign. The revenue from the fundraising campaign for 2017 amounted to 71,290.00 euro. The Youth Section provided financial support to the Children Therapy Centre 'Stella Soulioti' amounting to 17,822.97 euro this amount being 25% of the proceeds of the Door to Door campaign as agreed by the CRCS Council.
- › 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.

#### 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 offices of the CRCS in Nicosia with the objective to organize and participate in various events and activities. Of note that one of the main aim of this project is also to help youngsters to develop leadership and organizational skills. The total number of children attended this weekly programme during 2017 was 30 persons.

- › Annual Pancyprian Conference

In 2017, the conference was attended by 102 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. Elena Papamichael, Officer at Pedagogical Institute, Dr. Potheini Vaiouli, Lecturer in European University and Mrs. Loukia Hadjigavriel, Director of the A. G. Leventis Gallery delivered speeches on the subject. After that, the children were divided into several groups and discussed issues related with the theme of the conference. Several officials attended the event including the Commissioner for Volunteering and Non-Governmental Organizations and the CRCS President.

### › 2017 Atlantis Youth Camp

For the first time, the CRCS Youth Section, hosted and organized the “Atlantis Youth Camp 2017”, in cooperation with the Centre of Cooperation in the Mediterranean. The camp took place from 18 to 25 July 2017 in Larnaca. The participants of the event were 55 young people, aged 18-30, coming from 24 different Mediterranean countries. The theme of the camp was “Innovating Volunteering, Empowering Youth”. Several workshops as well as activities were organized during the week. Participants had also the opportunity to visit several archeological monuments in Cyprus and learn about Cyprus’ history and tradition. The welcoming ceremony was addressed by Mrs. Montse Lopez, Project Coordinator of the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean, Mr. Gabriele Bellocchi, Vice President of the Italian Red Cross and Mr. Bas Van Rossum, Chairman of the Youth Commission of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

### › Camp in Platres village

In 2017, the summer camp in Platres, was attended by 51 children, aged 12-15 years old, from all the cities of Cyprus. The camp lasted a week from 3 to 10 July 2017. The main objective of the camp was to give the children the opportunity to participate in an entertaining and at the same time educational programme for young leaders, which would allow them to learn more about the Red Cross, the promotion of the principles, ideals and spirit of the Red Cross, and teach them leadership skills which they could use in their schools. A special closing event was organized by the children on the last day, which was attended by H.E. the Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China in the Republic of Cyprus and his wife, CRCS officials, members, volunteers and parents. His Excellency the Ambassador offered to the CRCS a ‘Special Scholarship’ amounting to 8.000,00 euro. This scholarship was used to cover the accommodation, the transportation, the excursions and the reception of the closing ceremony of the CRCS Youth Section annual Summer Camp in Platres.

### › Informative lectures and workshops in primary and secondary schools

The aim and objectives of these lectures, organised by the Youth Section in primary and secondary schools, are to inform students and teachers about the humanitarian work of the CRCS and the structure, organisation and activities of the Youth Section. In 2017, the Youth Section organised 42 such lectures.

### › YABC (Youth as Agents of Behavioural Change) Training

The Youth Section organised a 5 day training of the YABC programme in September 2017. The programme was facilitated by an IFRC trainer and 6 youth volunteers who participated, were trained and became eligible to hold YABC group activities.

### › Co-operation with the Youth Section of the Norwegian Red Cross

During 2017, an Erasmus Plus exchange programme was organised between the Hordaland Branch of the Norwegian Red Cross and the CRCS Youth Section. During the programme volunteers from the two National Societies Youth Sections visited Nicosia in Cyprus and Bergen in Norway. They had the opportunity to exchange best practices, youth activities, programmes and share ideas. This co-operation will continue further through a strategic partnership funded programme.



# ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW CRCS LOCAL UNITS

During 2017, CRCS has established two Local Units namely Kokkinochoria and Polis Chrysochou.

Kokkinochoria Local Unit was established in Paralimni area under the Famagusta Branch. The premises are granted by the Metropolis Constantias Ammochostou. The inauguration ceremony of the operation of the Kokkinochoria Local Unit was held on 31 July 2017 at the Cultural Centre of Metropolis of Constantias-Famagusta in Paralimni. During the ceremony, a presentation on CRCS programmes and services was held. The inauguration ceremony was attended by CRCS Officials, members and volunteers and a delegation from the Regional Office of Europe.

Polis Chrysochou Local Unit was established under the Paphos Branch. A CRCS delegation headed by the President of the CRCS attended the event which was organised at the Culture Centre of the Municipality of Polis Chrysochous on 30 March 201. The work, the activities and the programmes of the CRCS were presented to the public.



# INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

The financial crisis obliged the CRCS to divert its diminished resources towards the increasing local humanitarian needs. Nevertheless, the CRCS did its best to respond to appeals for assistance to vulnerable groups and victims of manmade and/or natural disasters worldwide. Accordingly, in 2017, the CRCS participated in programmes of international humanitarian assistance, by making contributions, to the best of its ability, to the people of Sierra Leone, Greece (Mytilini and Attica) and Iran.

## Humanitarian and Financial Assistance

### CRCS assistance to Sierra Leone

The floods in Sierra Leone have destroyed entire communities with more than 400 dead and others being missing. The IFRC issued an emergency appeal of CHF 4.6 million swiss francs. The CRCS responded to the IFRC's appeal and sent financial assistance, amounting to 5,000.00 euro.

### CRCS assistance to Mytilini (Lesvos), Greece

Seismic vibration of 6.1 points on the Richter scale was recorded on June 12, 2017 at 15.28 am in the Marine Region 37 km. southwest of Mytilini (Lesvos) causing major damage to the island. CRCS contributed in the alleviation of suffering of the people affected by this horrible disaster, sending a donation of 5,000.00 euro to Greece.

### CRCS assistance to Iran

CRCS was deeply moved and saddened at the announcement of the large-scale earthquake that devastated Iran and caused the death of 300 civilians and injured thousands of people. CRCS contributed in the alleviation of suffering of the people affected by this horrible disaster, sending a donation of 5,000.00 euro to Iranian Red Crescent.

### CRCS assistance to Attica, Greece

The floods in the area of Attica, Greece caused severe damages to households. A three member delegation of the CRCS headed by the Director General of the CRCS, travelled to Greece and granted in kind support, at a total cost of 5,000.00 euro, to the Regional Center of Attica located at the former Olympic Centre in Palaio Faliro. This humanitarian aid consisted of 6 pallets (158 boxes) of hygiene items, tinned milk, chocolates and biscuits with a total weight of 1780 Kg.

CRCS expresses its thanks to Cobalt Aero for providing free tickets and cargo services for the delegation and the transportation of the humanitarian aid.

# INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In a globalized world of inter-dependency, and as a full member of the largest humanitarian organization in the world, it is clear that the CRCS cannot operate in isolation. Following the CRCS's recognition by the ICRC and its official admission to the IFRC, the CRCS strengthened its contacts and enhanced cooperation with the Movement and various sister National Societies. Officials, members and volunteers of the CRCS participated in 15 International Conferences and Meetings in 2017, that dealt with several subjects, including: migration; legal issues; youth; psychosocial support; restoring family links; first aid; funding possibilities; volunteering; strengthening sister societies and the Statutory meetings.

## Cooperation with the Movement

### IFRC Regional Office of Europe visit to Cyprus

A delegation of the IFRC Regional Office of Europe, consisting of Mr. Matteo Ciarli and Mr. Jeyathesan Kulasingam, visited the CRCS from 21 to 23 February 2017. The main matters of concern were: psychosocial support, migration, and disaster management. Visits were organised to the Asylum Seekers Reception Centre in Kofinou, the refugee camp in Kokkinotrimithia, the Detention Centre for Migrants in Menoyia, the Limassol Branch and the Children Therapy Centre "Stella Soulioti". Discussions are being made concerning the development of programmes and ways of assisting the CRCS to increase its capacity and improve its financial situation (income).

### IFRC Regional Office of Europe (ROE), visit to Cyprus

A delegation from the IFRC Regional Office of Europe consisting of Mrs Mette Petterson and Mr Ruben Romero visited CRCS from 30 July to 3 August 2017 and had meetings with the Director General of the CRCS. The main subject of discussion was the CRCS Strategy, work and activities. The delegation also attended the inauguration ceremony of the Kokkinochoria Local Unit in Paralimni that was held on 31 July 2017.

## Cooperation with National Societies

### Luxembourg Red Cross

Following the bilateral cooperation of the previous year, between the two National Societies, the Luxembourg Red Cross made a donation of 34 Tents (22.8m<sup>2</sup>), worth 38,500.00 euro, for use in support of refugees. The CRCS expresses its sincere thanks and appreciation.

# Norwegian Red Cross - Hordaland Branch

Six -year project agreement: 2016 - 2021

Within the terms of the above project agreement, in 2017, the cooperation between the CRCS and the Hordaland Branch of the Norwegian Red Cross continued and included the following areas:

- › First Aid
- › Disaster Preparedness and Management
- › Psychosocial Support
- › Migration
- › Home Care programme for vulnerable people
- › Increase of the CRCS financial capacity
- › Youth issues – Erasmus Plus exchange programme

The Hordaland Branch will be supporting the CRCS with an annual donation of 25,000.00 euro and technical assistance. In return, CRCS delivers workshops on their experiences with migration and psychosocial support.

## Participation in the Annual General Assembly of the Hordaland Branch of the Norwegian Red Cross, 8 - 12 March 2017, Bergen, Norway

The CRCS was invited to take part in the Annual General Assembly of the Hordaland Branch of the Norwegian Red Cross, from 8 to 12 March 2017, in Bergen, Norway. The CRCS delegation consisted of the Director General, Mrs Christina Kapartis and the Member of the Council and former Director General, Mr Takis Neophytou.

The Council of the Hordaland Branch approved the following common actions for 2017:

- › Organisation of the second phase of the First Responders Training.
- › Training in Psychosocial Support for the Hordaland Branch.
- › Launch of the “Rehabilitation Therapy Holidays” pilot programme.
- › Workshop for the “Home Care programme for Vulnerable People”.
- › Development of the Disaster Preparedness.
- › Visits to the Asylum Seekers Reception Centre in Kofinou, the refugee camp in Kokkinotrimithia and the Detention Centre for Migrants in Menoyia.
- › Opening of a Webshop in CRCS (profits).

## Meetings, Training and Workshops

From 20 to 27 October 2017, a delegation from the Hordaland Branch of the Norwegian Red Cross visited Cyprus and the actions agreed in March 2017 were performed.



## First Responders

The First Responders programme aims towards providing support to people who reside in remote areas of Cyprus, which 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. The CRCS already had contacts with the Ambulance Services of the Ministry of Health and the Fire Service and the Ministry of Interior, and started an assessment in order to locate the remote areas of Cyprus, which will be covered by the First Responders programme. The Hordaland Branch team of the Norwegian Red Cross, initiated a three phase 150-hour training programme in collaboration with the CRCS. The second First Responders training was organized in Cyprus by the Hordaland Branch team from 4 to 12 November 2017. The second 50 hours training was successfully attended by 15 persons. The final phase will be organized in 2018.

## International & European Conferences & Meetings

### European Legal Support Group (ELSG)

27-28 February 2017, Luxembourg

The CRCS was represented by Mrs Amalia Erotokritos, Member of the Council, at the European Legal Support Group (ELSG) which was held from 27-28 February 2017, in Luxembourg. The subjects considered at the meeting included, among others: the upcoming International Statutory Meetings in November 2017, dissemination activities on International Humanitarian Law, meeting humanitarian needs of migrants, Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, National Society approach on providing information on beneficiaries to law enforcement authorities, Data Protection issues, as well as a follow-up to the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (2015), the 20th session of the IFRC General Assembly (2015) and updates by the IFRC and the ICRC on current issues.

### Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)

1-3 March 2017, Brussels, Belgium

The CRCS was represented by the Psychosocial Support Officer, Mrs Melissa Tsimon, at the Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) Meeting which was held from 1 to 3 March 2017, in Brussels, Belgium. The Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme is a financing instrument at EU level to promote a high level of quality and sustainable employment, guaranteeing adequate and decent social protection, combating social exclusion and poverty and improving working conditions. The CRCS participated in order to be informed about the current funding opportunities.



## Train of Trainers on Psychosocial Support in Emergencies

21-24 March 2017, Split, Croatia

After an invitation by the delegation of the IFRC Regional Office of Europe that visited CRCS previously, CRCS was represented by its Director General, Mrs Christina Kapartis, and the Psychosocial Support Officer, Mrs Melissa Tsimon at the Train of Trainers on Psychosocial Support in Emergencies that was held from 21 to 24 March 2017 in Split, Croatia.

## Restoring Family Links (RFL) Meeting

3-7 April 2017, Oslo, Norway

The CRCS participated in the annual Restoring Family Links (RFL) meeting, which was held from 3 to 7 April 2017, in Oslo, Norway. The meeting was attended by representatives of the ICRC and the IFRC, as well as National Societies. The CRCS was represented by its Executive Support Officer, Mrs Thalia Vourkidou who is in charge of RFL and Tracing Services, and the Disaster Management Officer, Mr Giorgos Hadjistasi. The major topics of the meeting was the migration issue in Europe and the need to integrate RFL in emergency/ disaster preparedness and response.

## ICRC & IFRC Annual National Society Legal Advisers Meetings

15-17 May 2017, Geneva, Switzerland

The CRCS was represented by Mrs Amalia Erotokritos, Member of the Council, at the ICRC and IFRC Annual National Society Legal Advisers Meetings which were held from 15-17 May, in Geneva, Switzerland. The subjects considered at the meetings included, among others: (ICRC meeting) - migration, supporting access to and delivery of education, use of the emblem, Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, Data Protection and updates on weapons issues and the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (2015), (IFRC meeting) – constitutional review, Data Protection, project funding, procurement procedures and an update on Disaster Law.

## Solferino event

23-24 June 2017, Solferino, Italy

The CRCS President, Mrs Fotini Papadopoulou and the Director General, Mrs Christina Kapartis participated in the celebration of the Red Cross idea of Henry Dunant that was held from 23 to 24 June 2017 in Solferino, Italy. It was a magnificent event and the CRCS would like to participate again with a team of volunteers and staff.

## Red Cross Forum Engagement Sessions for European National Societies

20-21 July 2017, Vienna, Austria

The Director General, Mrs Christina Kapartis, participated in the preparatory meetings on the occasion of the Statutory Meetings 2017. The meetings were held from 20 to 21 July 2017 in Vienna, Austria. The Director General had also meetings with representatives of the Austrian Red Cross and discussed the issue of capacity building of the CRCS by recording the procedures pertaining to the various activities of the National Society and its Units.

## International Twinning Conference

25-28 September 2017, Minsk, Belarus

The President of the Norwegian Red Cross invited CRCS to participate in the International Twinning Conference jointly organized by the Norwegian Red Cross and the Belarus Red Cross. The Director General, Mrs Christina Kapartis and the Secretary of the Nicosia Branch, Mrs Andri Agrotis, participated in the conference that was held from 25 to 28 September 2017 in Minsk, Belarus. The CRCS was asked to deliver a presentation together with the Hordaland Branch on their collaboration. The aim was to find out how various Branches cooperate and what other projects could be implemented.

## Annual European Network for Psychosocial Support (ENPS) Forum

6-8 October 2017, Helsinki, Finland

CRCS was represented by the Psychosocial Support Program Officer, Mr. Nikos Papadopoulos at the Annual European Network for Psychosocial Support (ENPS) Forum that was held from 6 to 8 October 2017 in Helsinki, Finland. The purpose of the Forum was to provide European Red Cross/Red Crescent National Societies, working in the domain of Psychosocial Support, with a venue and the time to exchange ideas, promote good practice and network. It allowed participants to set strategy, enhance current programmes and make recommendations for future developments on the matter.

## European Network for Psychosocial Crisis Management-Assisting Disabled in Case of Disaster (EUNAD) and Implementation (EUNAD IP)

13-14 October 2017, Cologne, Germany

CRCS was represented by the Psychosocial Support Programme Officer, Mr. Nikos Papadopoulos at the above network meeting that was held from 13 to 14 October 2017 in Cologne, Germany. The network aimed towards the implementation of the UN convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities into disaster preparedness and response.

## Annual Meeting of the Red Cross EU Office

16-17 October 2017, Brussels, Belgium

The CRCS Director General, Mrs Christina Kapartis, participated in the annual Meeting of the Red Cross EU Office which was held from 16 to 17 October 2017 in Brussels, Belgium. The subjects discussed included presentations by Western Balkans National Societies, Migration, the future of the Union Civil Protection Mechanism and the EU rapid response to natural disasters, Membership Issues and work plan budget, Social Inclusion and Humanitarian Aid.

## First Aid Education European Network (FAEEN)

21-24 October 2017, Montenegro

The CRCS participated in the First Aid Education European Network (FAEEN) Meeting that was held from 21 to 24 October 2017 in Montenegro. The CRCS was represented by the President of the First Aid Committee, Mr. Mimis Theodotou and the Disaster Management Officer, Mr. Giorgos Hadjistasi who is in charge of the First Aid services.

## Meeting of the Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers & Migrants (PERCO)

25-27 October 2017, Sofia, Bulgaria

CRCS PERCO Representative and Secretary of the Nicosia Branch, Mrs Andri Agrotis, represented the CRCS at the meeting of the Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (PERCO) that was held from 25 to 27 October 2017 in Sofia, Bulgaria. During the meeting, the EU migration policy was examined, and the matter of the increasing criminalisation of humanitarian actors was discussed. The communication strategy of the organisation to raise awareness and combat stigma and xenophobia was also among the matters examined.

## Statutory Meetings of the International RC/RC Movement

6-11 November 2017, Antalya, Turkey

CRCS participated in the Statutory Meetings from 6 to 11 November 2017 that were held in Antalya, Turkey. CRCS delegation consisted of the President, Mrs Fotini Papadopoulos, the First Vice President, Mrs Leda Koursoumba, the Second Vice President, Mr. Mustafa Hami, the Director General, Mrs Christina Kapartis and the President of the Youth Section, Mrs Vanessa Kyprianou.

CRCS has made two interventions concerning the following matters:

- › Working towards the elimination of nuclear weapons – Item 8 (by the President).
- › Movement Call for Action on the humanitarian needs of vulnerable migrants - Item 7 (by the First Vice President).

Mr. Francesco Rocca from the Italian Red Cross was elected President of the IFRC and Mr. Kenem Kinik from the Turkish Red Crescent was elected Vice-President of the Europe Zone.

# COMMUNICATION

In 2017, the CRCS website and social media pages remained the major communication tools with its volunteers and friends in Cyprus and abroad. Furthermore, the CRCS carried out its information and communication activities, among others, through social media interaction, radio and TV interviews, press releases and conferences, public speeches, TV advertising, printed ads and other promotional materials on the work of CRCS.

## Monthly Diary of Events

In 2017, the CRCS continued preparing a monthly diary of events. The diary is a powerful tool that provides information on the planned activities for each month. It is distributed to the members of the Executive Committee, to all the Branches and the Youth Section, as well as the CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti, informing them on the upcoming events of the month.

## Website

A major accomplishment of the CRCS in the field of information and communication was the upgrading of its website **[www.redcross.org.cy](http://www.redcross.org.cy)** in 2013. The website was prepared in three languages - Greek, English and Turkish - and is a gateway through which a visitor can obtain information and facts, become aware of CRCS activities, have access to considerable amount of photographic and other material, and make online donations. In 2017, the website was regularly updated keeping members and friends informed on every development.

## Social Media

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

Currently, the CRCS has in total 11 groups and pages on Facebook ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)), titled as follows:

- › Cyprus Red Cross Society
- › Cyprus Red Cross Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti
- › Cyprus Red Cross Society Nicosia Branch
- › Cyprus Red Cross Society Limassol Branch
- › Cyprus Red Cross Society Larnaca Branch
- › Cyprus Red Cross Society Paphos Branch
- › Cyprus Red Cross Youth Section
- › Cyprus Red Cross Youth Section Limassol
- › Cyprus Red Cross Youth Section Famagusta
- › CRCS Psychosocial Support Trained Volunteers
- › Saturday Red Cross Kids

CRCS also has a YouTube and Twitter account.



### Desk Calendars

CRCS printed, both in Greek and English languages a large number of 2017 Desk Calendars with slogan “Acta non verba”, a latin proverb that means: Actions, not words. The calendars were distributed free of charge to CRCS members and associates, while a small number of copies were also sent to the ICRC and IFRC in Geneva, as well as the Red Cross EU Office in Brussels, the Regional Office of Europe in Budapest and other RC/RC National Societies. The sponsor of the calendars was FINEXPERTIZA Cyprus HPA to whom CRCS expresses its sincere thanks and appreciation. Special thanks also to AWG for designing the calendar free of charge.

### Upgrade of the computer and telephone systems

CRCS upgraded its computer and telephone systems on a pancyprian basis for all its Units. The works concerned changes to the hardware and the software systems. The cost of the works was undertaken by the CRCS Headquarters.

# FINANCIAL AND INTERNAL INFORMATION

The overall financial position of the CRCS for 2017 was satisfactory. In general, the level of the Income was satisfactory. The level of Expenses however continued to increase due to the pressure for providing assistance to needy people, mainly from the influx of migrants from neighboring countries.

More specifically:

- › The Headquarters ended the year with an excess of Expenditure over Income of about 70.000 euro mainly due to a reduction of donations and an increase in depreciation of charges.
- › The CRCS Children Therapy Centre 'Stella Soulioti' ended the year with a small excess of Expenditure over Income of about 40.000 euro.
- › The results of the other Units are comparable with those of the previous years and are considered as satisfactory.

## Personnel

Although CRCS is basically a voluntary organization and its extensive activities are carried out by several thousands of members and volunteers, its mission could not be accomplished without the significant administrative support, coordination and contribution of its Staff. In 2017, CRCS employed 29 staff members, 21 female and 8 men.

## Terms of employment

CRCS has introduced new terms of employment for its staff. The main reason was to have uniformity on the terms of employment for all the staff. The new terms of employment are adopted by the CRCS Headquarters, the Children Therapy Centre 'Stella Soulioti' and the Youth Section.

## Membership Fee

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

# EXPRESSION OF THANKS

The present Annual Report was prepared with the intention of presenting the work and achievements of the CRCS during 2017. It goes without saying that everything presented in the present report has been the accomplishment and the result of the collective work and efforts of thousands of individuals. We therefore express our warm and sincere thanks to all the individuals and the organizations concerned, our members and volunteers, as well as the CRCS Director General and staff members, whose commitment, efforts, enthusiasm and generosity contributed in making 2017 a very successful year.

## To Branches and Youth Section, Members, Volunteers and Staff

Special thanks to the Branches and the Youth Section and their respective Committees for their continuous support and work towards alleviating the human suffering. Thanks are also due to the CRCS Director General and staff members for the dedication they have shown towards their work and their support to the members and volunteers of the organization.

## To Donors, Sponsors & Supporters

Equally warm thanks and gratitude are due to all public and private companies, institutions and individuals that generously expressed their support to the CRCS through financial donations, the provision of goods and services, as well as other forms of assistance. Special thanks also go to all sponsors, as well as all the Media for their invaluable contributions to our mission.

## To the Government of the Republic of Cyprus

We consider it appropriate to express our thanks and appreciation to the Government and in particular to the Ministries, Departments and Services of the Republic of Cyprus for their continuous support and cooperation with the CRCS.









## Τούρι 2017

Ενημέρωση Εθελοντών

Ένα γούρι για σας,  
μία μεγάλη βοήθεια για μας.

Αναζητούμε να ενταχίσουμε στην ομάδα των Συναρτητών Εθελοντών που βοηθούν τον Ερυθρό Σταυρό να αντιμετωπίσει τις ανάγκες των όμοιων.

**€15**

Το να γίνετε τα μέλη της ομάδας είναι δωρεάν, με μόλις **22 666 955**

Ο Ελληνικός Ερυθρός Σταυρός (Ε.Ε.Ε.Σ.) είναι μέλος του Ερυθρού Σταυρού και του Ερυθρού Σταυρού της Ευρώπης. Το 2017, το καλοκαίρι ανοίγει ένα προγραμματισμένο πρόγραμμα για την ενημέρωση των Εθελοντών Συναρτητών. Ο Ε.Ε.Ε.Σ. σε συνεργασία με τον Ερυθρό Σταυρό της Ευρώπης, προσφέρει στους Εθελοντές Συναρτητές 15€ για να ενημερωθούν σχετικά με τον Ε.Ε.Ε.Σ.



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