



# 2010 ANNUAL REPORT





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# PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION CYPRUS RED CROSS SOCIETY 2010 ACHIEVEMENTS

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In 2010, the Cyprus Red Cross Society (CRCS) carried out its humanitarian work in full compliance with the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the legislation of the Republic of Cyprus and its own Statutes. It was supported, as always, by the commendable efforts of its Branches, Youth Section, its members, several thousand volunteers, as well as its staff. The renewed sense of initiative that followed in the wake of our Director General's appointment in 2007 shows in the results that prove we have already moved away from our staid old ways and are heading towards a very promising future. The present Annual Report is indicative of our continued aim to communicate the CRCS activities in a concise, elegant and engaging manner.

In 2010, the CRCS fulfilled to a greater degree its role as an auxiliary body to the public authorities concerned, by mobilizing the strength and enthusiasm of its volunteers and accomplishing thus its humanitarian mission. This was clearly evident during the influenza pandemic, when the CRCS assisted the Ministry of Health by providing volunteers to staff vaccination centers across Cyprus.

Our main activity and concern was of course the Children's Home, because of its continued financial and operational difficulties. Accordingly, in 2010, a major effort was initiated in order to reorganize and save the Home and ensure its continued operation.

The CRCS attempted also to meet the needs of the poor, the sick, disabled, the elderly, the enclaved, the migrants and other vulnerable people, by offering care and support continuously, without prejudice or discrimination. Activities such as blood donation, first aid training, road safety, disaster relief, tree planting, among others, took place throughout the year.

In addition to its traditional humanitarian activities, the CRCS also undertook a number of high – profile campaigns and activities, in order to satisfy various needs, as well as to strengthen its financial position. Such a campaign was the annual "Door to Door" fundraising campaign, which took place in May.

Although I cannot refer to all of our activities because of space constraints, I must mention that various permanent and ad hoc committees operated during the year, working on such tasks as upgrading the CRCS website ([www.redcross.org.cy](http://www.redcross.org.cy)), publishing our newsletter, promoting our close co-operation with the Movement by participating in various conferences and seminars, and continuing our efforts for full recognition, which in 2010 resulted into a very positive development: the ICRC and the IFRC Joint Statutes Commission evaluation visit to Cyprus, in December. Beyond the usual dispatching of humanitarian aid to victims of disasters in various parts of the world, our overseas efforts in 2010 focused on two large projects: the continuation of the joint project with the Pancyprrian Volunteerism Coordinative Council for the construction of a Community Medical Centre in the fire-hit town of Oleni in Greece and the completion of the Badulla District Hospital in Sri Lanka.

To all those praiseworthy individuals who helped the CRCS to undertake its humanitarian activities, I would like to express my appreciation, gratitude and warm thanks. To the members of the Council, the Executive Committee, the Branches, the Youth Section, as well as to our many volunteers, the Director General and to all the staff, I wish you strength, health and courage to carry on in fulfilling your noble responsibilities, so that together we can all continue our humanitarian mission with even more success.



A handwritten signature in dark ink, which appears to read "Fotini Papadopoulou". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Fotini Papadopoulou  
President

# CYPRUS RED CROSS SOCIETY: FROM 1950 TO 2010

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

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

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

Of particular importance was the help provided by CRCS during the Turkish invasion of 1974 with regard to the evacuation of the population 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, the 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 seeks to cover their needs whenever visiting 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 fund raising campaigns, tree planting, road safety, disaster management and psychosocial support, participating in European programmes, organizing camping expeditions, humanitarian and community events, assistance to migrants, asylum seekers and refugees and organization of seminars. Especially noteworthy are the activities of the Children's Home, which since 1957 helps severely disabled children with multiple needs.

These extensive activities of CRCS are not limited to Cyprus but are also extended overseas. CRCS responds to various appeals of the International Red Cross and in many cases CRCS has sent humanitarian support to Sister Societies whose countries have been affected by floods, earthquakes and other emergencies. Its largest projects abroad were the building of the Balabitiya Hospital for the victims of the tsunami in Sri Lanka and another donation of 218.000 Euros for the completion of the Badulla hospital, again in Sri Lanka.

After the 2007 forest fires in the Peloponnese, Greece, in cooperation with the PanCyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council, a medical centre is being built for the victims of the fires of the Municipality of Oleni, at a cost of 200.000 Euros.

Following the devastating earthquake of January 2010 in Haiti, the CRCS, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme in Haiti, participated in the establishment of an "Emergency Call Centre". CRCS's contribution to the project was 300.000 Euros.

March 2010 marked a significant step forward regarding the recognition of the CRCS by the International Movement, when the Movement took the decision to start reviewing our Society's application. A delegation of the ICRC and IFRC Joint Statutes Commission (JSC) visited Cyprus from 13 to 18 December in order to evaluate the Society's activities in connection with the recognition process.

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



# 2010 DIARY OF ACTIVITIES

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2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

## January

Haiti earthquake – Humanitarian Assistance

**10** CRCS Executive Committee Meeting

## February

**17** CRCS Council meeting

**22-24** Seminar and Conference by the Spanish Presidency “Employment of Socially Disadvantaged Groups”, Madrid, Spain

## March

**8** Humanitarian Assistance in kind – Southern Lebanon

**13** 26th Pancyprian Conference Youth Section

## April

**7-12** XIX European Cooperation Meeting (ECM), Vienna, Austria

**29-30** Perco Meeting, Budapest, Hungary

## May

**8** World Red Cross Day

**7-18** Annual “Door to Door” fundraising campaign

**15-22** Positive Images Seminars for Teachers

**25** Emergency & Disaster Management exercise “Argonaut”

**27-30** Train the Trainers on Psychosocial Support

## June

**15** “Assessment Mission Course” European Civil Protection

**15-17** EU Funding Practitioners Group (EFPG) Meeting, Vienna, Austria

**17** In kind humanitarian assistance to Kenya

**17-19** Annual meeting of the First Aid Education European Network, Smyrna, Turkey

**24-25** Conference “Positive Images”, Budapest, Hungary

## July

- 5-12** 25th Youth Section Summer Camp
- 7** Award ceremony of "Door to Door" fundraising campaign
- 31** Closing down of KIFA

## August

## September

- 22** CRCS Executive Committee meeting

## October

- 6** Annual General Assembly Limassol Branch
- 14-15** PERCO Meeting, Valetta, Malta
- 21-22** CRCS and Ministry of Education and Culture Seminars
- 23-26** First Aid Train the Trainers
- 28-30** Annual European Network for Psychosocial Support (ENPS 2010), Vienna, Austria

## November

- 8** "Assessment Mission Course" European Civil Protection
- 17** Annual General Assembly Paphos Branch

## December

Circulation of Christmas Cards

Issue of the 2011 desk Calendars

- 1** HIV/AIDS Campaign, Youth Section
- 2** Annual General Assembly Kyrenia Branch
- 3** CRCS Council meeting
- 5** International Volunteering Day
- 18** CRCS Xmas Bazaars

# 2010 CRCS MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

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

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

## Members of the Council in 2010

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

Mrs. Stella Soulioti, Honorary President, Nicosia

### Elected under Rule 1(1)(a)\*

Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou, President  
Mrs. Leda Koursoumba, Vice President  
Mr. Takis Neophytou, Director General  
Mr. Dinos Christofides, Treasurer  
Mr. Andreas Artemis, Nicosia  
Mrs. Evmorfia Fereos, Nicosia  
Mr. Andreas Karageorghis, Nicosia  
Mr. Nicos Lakoufis, Nicosia  
Mr. Kleanthis Philaniotis, Nicosia  
Metropolitan of Tamassos and Orinis, Isaias, Nicosia  
Mr. Michalakis Sarris, Nicosia  
Mr. Bedros Shammashian, Nicosia  
Mr. Stelios G. Sycallides, Nicosia  
Mr. Nicos Gregoriou, Limassol  
Mrs. Ino Zachariades, Limassol  
Mr. Andreas Poetis, Famagusta  
Mr. Andreas Mouskos, Larnaca  
Mr. Georgios Hasapis, Paphos  
Mr. Costas Pandehis, Kerynia

### Under Rule 11 (1) (b)

#### Presidents of the Branches:

Mrs. Loria Markides President and later Mrs. Lilika Christodoulaki, Acting President Nicosia Branch  
Mrs. Stathoula Sycopetritis, President Limassol Branch  
Mrs. Sylvia Poetis, President Famagusta Branch  
Mrs. Chrystalla Pantelides, President Larnaca Branch  
Mrs. Dina Kakoyianni, President Paphos Branch  
Mrs. Maroulla Angelides, President Kerynia Branch

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

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

### Honoris Causa under Rule 11 (2)

Ellie Steliou Ioannou, Nicosia (d. 26/6/2010)  
Mr. Christos Mavroudis, Nicosia  
Mr. Artemakis Zachariou, Limassol  
Mrs. Elengo Rangou, Nicosia  
Mr. Christis Phylactou, Nicosia  
Mrs. Katy Garani, Nicosia  
Dr. Minas Hadjiminias, Nicosia  
Marvel Christophides, Nicosia (d. 11/10/2010)

\* One seat is kept vacant for a Turkish Cypriot member.

## Members of the Executive Committee in 2010

President of the Society, Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou,  
Vice President of the Society, Mrs. Leda Koursoumba,  
Director General, Mr. Takis Neophytou,  
Treasurer, Mr. Dinos Christofides,  
President of Nicosia Branch Mrs. Loria Markides  
and later Mrs. Lilika Christodoulaki, Acting President  
of Nicosia Branch  
President of Limassol Branch, Mrs. Stathoulla Sykopetriti,  
President of Famagusta Branch, Mrs. Sylvia Poetis,  
President of Larnaca Branch, Mrs. Chrystalla Pantelidou,  
President of Paphos Branch, Mrs. Dina Kakoyianni,  
President of Kyrenia Branch, Mrs. Maroulla Aggelides,  
President Central Committee Youth Section,  
Mrs. Despo Frederickou

## Members of the Executive Team in 2010

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



# 2010 CRCS MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AND OPERATIONS

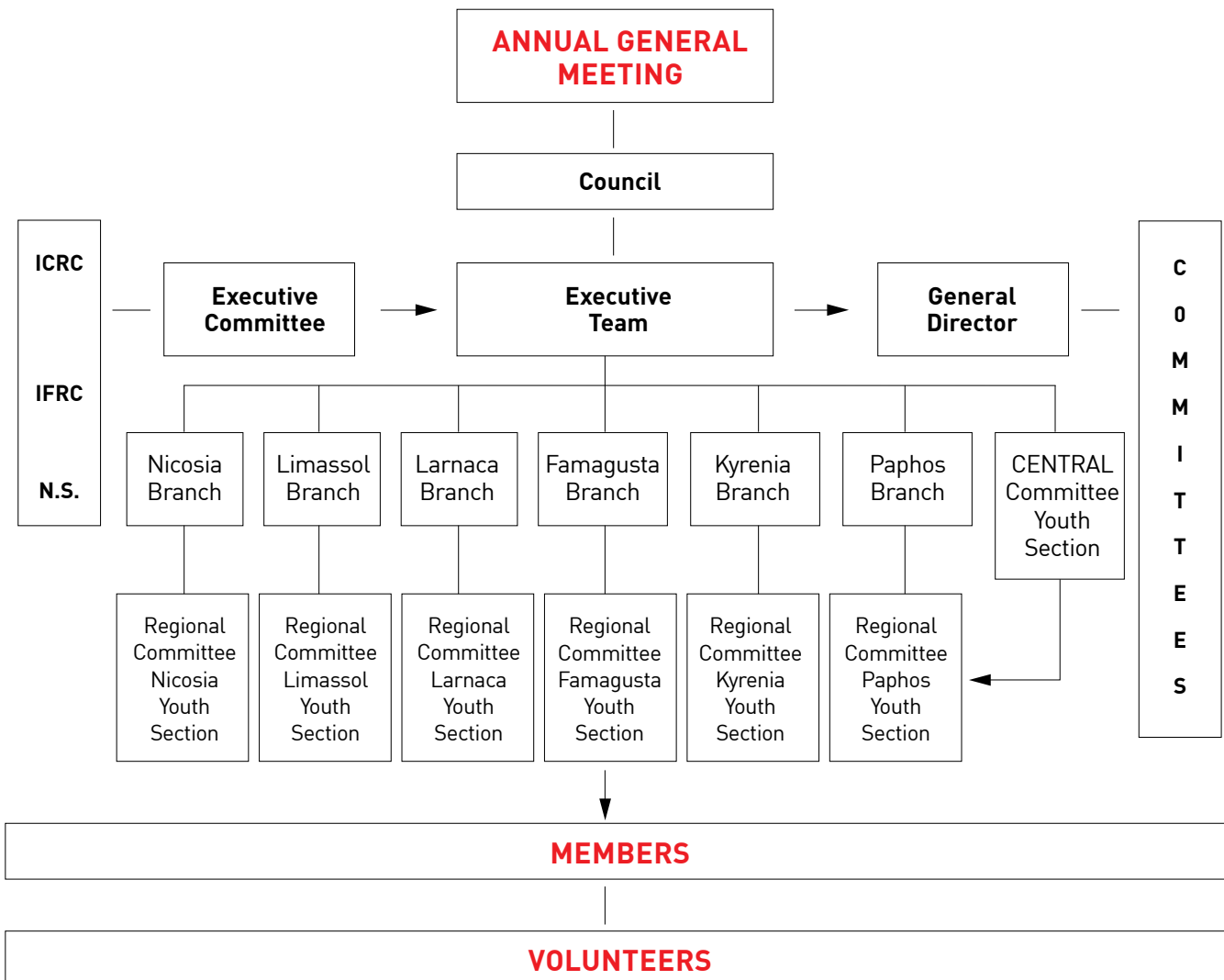
## Meetings of the Administrative Bodies

During the course of 2010 the Council met twice - on February 17 and December 3.  
 The Executive Committee met twice in the course of 2010 - on February 10 and September 22.  
 The Executive Team met nine times during 2010 - on January 19, March 12, May 17, July 9, September 1 and 14, October 27, November 25 and December 16.

## Committees

Finance, Fundraising and Door to Door Collection, Disaster Management, Home for Sick Children, First Aid and Blood Donation, Newsletter, Road Safety, Christmas Cards, Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers, Health and Psychosocial Support, Training and Volunteers

## CRCS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES IN CYPRUS

During 2010, the CRCS, as a purely humanitarian organization, continued to focus its activities on addressing the needs of those considered to be vulnerable or in need of assistance. Although 36 years have elapsed since the invasion in 1974 and the standard of living in Cyprus has risen to rival that of developed countries, the core humanitarian help which the CRCS offered in Cyprus was to the refugees and the enclaved, as well as to the poor, sick and other vulnerable persons. Faithful to its principle of providing aid without discrimination, irrespective of nationality or religion, the CRCS included Turkish Cypriots, as well as a large number of migrants and asylum seekers amongst its beneficiaries. It was fortunate that Cyprus was not affected by any natural disaster or other significant emergencies during 2010. Despite this, however, the CRCS was in a full state of preparedness to intervene and help when and if it was required.

## **Addressing social needs, health and other forms of vulnerability**

Hidden behind the visible prosperity of Cyprus, many people continue to need support to live in dignity, or even to survive. Regrettably, there are still many poor, sick, disabled and other groups of vulnerable individuals who require help. True to its principles, the CRCS responded readily to any request for humanitarian help and moral support, discretely and on an almost daily basis in 2010. Activities included: the provision of food; clothing; footwear; cleaning and hygiene products; medicines; financial support; supplying rehabilitation equipment for those with special needs requirements; providing companionship to the lonely; visits to hospitals; old peoples' homes; prisons; schools and other institutions for the disabled, constituted the bulk of the humanitarian work.

## **Help and services required as a result of the invasion**

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

The support of these persons and families is conducted through the community work developed by the local Branches.

It includes, among others: the provision of food parcels and other necessities; financial assistance; and psychosocial support. Further reference to these activities can be found in the chapter on Branches. Other services offered by the CRCS, are the provision of certificates to those who had been enclaved, as well to captives of the Turkish invasion.

## **Donation of medical equipment to the "Cyprus Volunteer Doctors Organization"**

During a short ceremony at the CRCS premises, on Friday, 14 May 2010, the CRCS Director General, Takis Neophytou, handed over to the President of the Cyprus Volunteer Doctors Organization, Georgios Georgiou, a large quantity of medical equipment.

The equipment will be used during the humanitarian missions undertaken by the Organization in countries which have suffered natural or man-made disasters.

# HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES IN CYPRUS

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## Support for the enclaved

According to the records maintained by the CRCS, as of 31 December 2010, **484 persons - 357 Greek Cypriots and 127 Maronites** - were still living in Karpaz and Maronite villages in the Kyrenia District. These enclaved persons receive support from the CRCS in various forms, both in the occupied and free areas. With the assistance of the United Nations, the CRCS provides weekly dispatches to the occupied areas to help meet the needs of the enclaved, including, among others: food, medicines, footwear, and monetary allowances. In some circumstances, the CRCS also covers special needs requirements such as wheelchairs, oxygen bottles, spectacles etc. In 2010, **939 parcels** were dispatched including: 21 oxygen bottles; 22 pairs of eye glasses; 45 parcels of toys; 563 parcels of dietetic bread; 283 parcels of medicines, three wheelchairs and two walking frames.

During the visits of the enclaved to the free areas, the CRCS covers all their needs such as meals, transportation, hospital care, financial help etc. In 2010, **187 people** were transported from the Ledra Palace check point to destinations all over Cyprus by CRCS vehicles.



## Support to Turkish Cypriots

Although Turkish Authorities forbid the CRCS from operating in occupied territories and Turkish Cypriots are discouraged from contacting us, there

were nevertheless several cases where help was provided to them in 2010. Within its framework of humanitarian assistance "without borders and discrimination", and in response to a request received, the CRCS donated four wheel chairs to individuals and institutions in occupied Cyprus.

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



## Ambulances for the occupied areas with the CRCS emblem

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

## CRCS Collection for young Pavlos

CRCS, always sensitive to human pain and social problems, could not have remained untouched by the drama of young Pavlos Kleovoulou, who, as we very well know, faces health problems (gastro esophageal reflex - Nissen's fundoplication) and needed to go abroad for treatment. CRCS members and volunteers, who attended the closing ceremony of the "From Door to Door" Pancyprrian Collection Campaign, held on Wednesday 7 July, spontaneously held an impromptu collection for young Pavlos. The total amount collected was €1.014,20, which was deposited in the bank account opened by his parents.

In response to appeals from the IFRC for assistance with vulnerable groups and victims of human and/or natural disasters worldwide, the CRCS sent humanitarian assistance to several countries; in 2010, the total of the financial assistance provided amounted to 300.000 Euros. Taking into consideration the relatively small size of Cyprus, the above amount is proportionally very large and reveals the sense of solidarity that Cypriots have developed toward their fellow human beings as a result of their own country's tragic past.



## Humanitarian and Financial Assistance

After the devastating earthquake of 12 January 2010 in Haiti, CRCS made a donation and announced a collection campaign in favor of the country's earthquake victims.

### Haiti earthquake

The CRCS Branches, within the framework of the project to collect as much as possible for the victims, organized a collection campaign at supermarkets and Multishop stores on 29 and 30 January 2010. CRCS proposes to combine all the contributions received by the organized groups and to undertake, on behalf of all of them, the construction of a major project in Haiti that will represent the Cyprus contribution - similar to the Hospital which was built in Sri Lanka through Cyprus contributions to the victims of the tsunami. The response of the public, schools, companies, organizations and other institutions to CRCS's call for help was immediate, as well as generous. The total amount of the contributions received was **300.000 Euros**. The project will be implemented in consultation with the International Red Cross. CRCS expresses its profound thanks and congratulations to all the donors who through their contributions had expressed their humanitarian feelings and had actively demonstrated their solidarity with the people of Haiti.

### Project to assist the people affected by the fires in Greece

CRCS, in cooperation with the Pan-Cyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council (PVCC), is undertaking the construction of a Community Medical Centre at the town of Oleni, in Peloponnesus, which was affected by the 2007 fires in the area. The Centre will serve the needs of the

people of Oleni and nine other Municipalities. It will be a two storey building with the clinic on the ground floor and an apartment on the first floor where visiting doctors will reside. The project was selected from a list submitted by several applicants from the region. The construction will cost up to **200.000 Euros**, an amount, which is derived as a result of a collection organized together with PVCC and an additional CRCS contribution. The construction of the medical centre at the Olenis Municipality, in Peloponnesus in Greece has started.



### Humanitarian aid for Kenya

On 17 June 2010, CRCS delivered 71 boxes with new shoes to the Pancyprian Mission Organization, which were sent to the Metropolis of Kenya in support of the humanitarian work of Archbishop Makarios Tyllirides.



### Despatching aid to Southern Lebanon

At a meeting with the CRCS President Fotini Papadopoulou, and the CRCS Director General Takis Neophytou, a Delegation of the Konstantia and Famagusta Metropolis requested the assistance of CRCS on behalf of the Orthodox Christians of Southern Lebanon, who were facing dire survival circumstances. All the Branches responded immediately to the above request. On 8 March, CRCS delivered to the National Guard, forty eight boxes with humanitarian aid that was distributed in churches, schools and to Christian families of Southern Lebanon.

*In a globalised world of inter-dependency and as a member of the largest humanitarian organization in the world, it is clear that the CRCS cannot operate in isolation. As a result of the 2007 policy agreements, in 2010 priority was given to strengthening CRCS contacts and enhancing cooperation with the International and European Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Results have been hailed as a great success. Officials, members and volunteers of the Society participated in more than 10 International and European events that dealt with several subjects, including: migrants; first aid; psychosocial support; fundraising and more. Another positive effect of these meetings was the promotion of the issue of recognition of the CRCS by the International Movement.*



## **Developments on the issue of recognition of the CRCS by the RC/RC International Movement**

### **Meeting with the Austrian Red Cross**

The former Ambassador of Austria to the Republic of Cyprus, Dr Eva Hager, was instrumental in organizing the meeting between the Cyprus Red Cross Society (CRCS) and the Austrian Red Cross (ARC), which was held in Vienna, Austria, on 27 January 2010. The CRCS delegation consisted of Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou, the President of CRCS, Mrs. Leda Koursoumba, the Deputy President, and Mr. Takis Neophytou, the Director General. The ARC delegation was led by Mr. Wolfgang Kopetzky, the Secretary General of ARC, Mr. Werner Kerschbaum, the Assistant Secretary General, and Mrs. Emilie Goller, the ARC officer responsible for the hospitality programme were also present. Dr Eva Hager also participated at the meeting. The main subject of the meeting was the recognition of CRCS by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The members of the Cyprus delegation briefed ARC fully about CRCS and its activities.

Furthermore, the Cyprus delegation requested formally ARC's support for the recognition of CRCS by the International Movement. Despite the reservations expressed initially at the start of the meeting, the two ARC representatives stated, before the conclusion of the meeting, that they were convinced of the right of the request made

by CRCS and that they would support the recognition of CRCS by the International Movement. During their stay in Vienna, the members of the Cyprus delegation visited the impressive ARC Blood Donation Centre that covers the needs in blood transfusion for the whole country. They also visited the ARC Disaster Response Centre that has huge warehouses with vast quantities of equipment and humanitarian aid. The Centre houses the Disaster Management Centre, the Education Centre and other ARC services. Both sides agreed that the visit by CRCS was mutually beneficial. In addition to the issue of recognition, the future collaboration of the two organizations, as well as ways and means by which ARC could assist and support CRCS, was also discussed.

### **Continuation of the efforts for recognition**

The intensive efforts of the CRCS team regarding the recognition of the CRCS by the International Committee of the Red Cross, which continued during 2010, can very easily be described as "battles".

The first of these "battles" occurred during our request to participate in the 11th Mediterranean RC/RC Conference that took place in March, in Croatia. Unfortunately, however, despite our own, as well as the energetic efforts by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus, we were not allowed to participate by the Croatian Red Cross, unless we attended with a mixed delegation, consisting of two Greek Cypriot and two Turkish Cypriot representatives, under the name of "Island Cyprus", which of course was unacceptable to us.

The same happened with our request to participate in the 8th European Regional Conference in Vienna, held on 13 - 16 April. Despite an earlier invitation which was accepted, subsequently, and as a result of the Turkish Red Crescent's intervention, our participation was cancelled.

A positive development, however, was the decision taken, on 15 March, by the International Committee, to start reviewing the request of CRCS for recognition, which immediately upgraded our status to that of a "Society Pending Recognition". Turkey, in response to the above decision, decided not to participate in the

8th European Regional Conference in Vienna and demanded to intervene during the Opening Ceremony. However, Turkey was not allowed to do so because its representatives had not registered as participants at the Conference. Nevertheless, Turkey distributed to all participants unofficial documents with very strong political content on Cyprus, protesting as well for the above decision taken by the International Committee. In response, CRCS attempted to circulate a document of its own at the Conference; unfortunately, however, this was not allowed. Accordingly, CRCS decided to send a letter instead to all European and other RC/RC National Societies (NS), explaining its position, which was favorably accepted by many.



## The ICRC and the IFRC Joint Statutes Commission (JSC) visit to Cyprus regarding the issue of CRCS's Recognition

After the Movement's decision taken on 15 March, to start reviewing the application of CRCS for recognition, a delegation of the ICRC and IFRC Joint Statutes Commission, was sent to Cyprus from 13 to 18 December, in order to evaluate the Society in view of the commencement of the recognition process. The delegation members were: Mr. Frank Mohrhauer, Head of Governance Support, Policy and Implementation Oversight Department (International Federation); Mr. Eduard Abegg, Deputy Head, Division for Cooperation and Coordination within the Movement (ICRC); Mrs. Carine Layoun, Special Adviser, National Society, Legal Base and Integrity (International Federation); and Mr. Stephane Hankins, Legal Adviser, Division for Cooperation and Coordination within the Movement (ICRC).

The most important part of the evaluation visit were the meetings held with the CRCS Executive Team, consisting of the CRCS President, Fotini Papadopoulos, the Deputy President, Leda Koursoumba, the Director General, Takis Neophytou, and the Treasurer, Dinos Christophides. During the meetings the JSC delegation was briefed in detail on the structure and activities of the CRCS, and questions raised by the delegation were responded to. The CRCS's Statutes was also discussed.

The JSC delegation also had separate meetings with all the CRCS Branches and the Youth Section, who informed the visitors of their varied work and numerous activities. The delegation also visited the Home for Sick Children in Limassol where they were briefed on its operation. In addition, the delegation had meetings with the Ministries of Work and Social Insurance, Foreign Affairs and Health, as well as with the United Nations. They also visited the occupied areas of Cyprus.

The social program of the visit included, amongst others, a dinner hosted by the CRCS President Mrs. Papadopoulos at her residence in honor of the visiting delegation and attended by many CRCS dignitaries. The guests also visited archaeological sites in Paphos and the Leventis Museum in Nicosia. They also attended the Michalis Hadjiyiannis concert, the net proceeds of which were in favour of CRCS.

According to informal statements made by members of the delegation, CRCS is undoubtedly a very appropriately operating National Society and their overall impression was positive. However, it was pointed out that the final decision regarding the recognition of the CRCS remained the prerogative of the RC/RC relevant bodies and not the visiting delegation. They also pointed out that due to various expediencies and other interventions the recognition of CRCS was not an easy decision to take.



## Humanitarian assistance for CRCS from an International organization

On Wednesday, 21 April, at a special ceremony held at CRCS's Central Offices, a large quantity of humanitarian aid was donated to CRCS by "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints", an international humanitarian organization. The aid included a large number of wheel chairs, blankets, quilts, school bags, individual hygiene parcels, baby hygiene parcels, boxes with medical supplies, walking frames, walking sticks and other walking aids. The ceremony was attended and speeches were delivered by the Minister of Labour, Soteroulla Charalambous, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, Christopher Charles, the representative of the

Organization in Greece and Cyprus, and the President of CRCS, Fotini Papadopoulou, who also conveyed CRCS's thanks and appreciation for the generous donation.

Also present were representatives of various governmental departments, members and volunteers of "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints", as well as delegations from all the CRCS Branches, Youth Section and the Home for Sick Children, who are the primary recipients of the aid.

## **Seminar and Conference by the Spanish Presidency "Employment of Socially Disadvantaged Groups", Madrid, Spain, 22-24 February**

The Conference and the Seminar were part of the activities undertaken by the Spanish Presidency of the European Union, and were organized by the European Committee and the Spanish Government, together with various institutions and NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations), one of which was the Spanish Red Cross (SRC).

The theme of the Conference, held between 22 and 24 February, was **Access to Employment of Socially Disadvantaged Groups**. The Seminar that was organized by the SRC on 23 and 24 February was entitled **European Exchange of Experiences on Integration in the Job Market and Economic Growth**. The Conference was organized due to the fact that 2010 was the European Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion.

The purpose of the Conference was to highlight the activities of the Third Sector of Social Action in promoting the employment of individuals with less abilities and the fight against discrimination, and the promotion of equal opportunities and social incorporation. The Seminar which was a follow-up to the Conference theme, finally developed into a presentation of the work of the Spanish Red Cross.

The conference and the seminar was attended by representatives of various European Institutions from the 27 member states, representatives of the Spanish Government and representatives of various RC/RC National Organizations, as well as various Spanish organizations. CRCS was represented by its Director General, Takis Neophytou.



## **XIX European Cooperation Meeting (ECM) A CRCS representative was elected to the ECC committee, Vienna, Austria, 7-12 April**

The **European Cooperation Meeting (ECM)** was established as a Pan European meeting of the Youth Sections of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies (RC/RC). The first meeting took place in 1992, as a formal meeting, inviting representatives from all the European RC/RC National Societies. A **European Coordinative Committee (ECC)** was established in order to ensure the cooperation of the various European National Societies of RC/RC in between the biannual meetings.



At the ECM's meeting held between 7 and 12 April, the CRCS was represented by the President and the Deputy President of the Kyrenia Youth Section, Sandy Antoniou and Maroua El-Bana, respectively. The new ECC committee members are elected every two years by the ECM. The presentation of candidates and the election took place on 11 April 2010. The candidates were required to respond to a series of questions such as their general interests, competencies, professional background, and time devoted to RC/RC activities. CRCS representative Ms Sandy Antoniou was elected as a member of the committee for the period 2010 - 2011. The other members of the committee are Ms Lia Khachatryan (Armenia), Ms Nino Skhirtldze (Georgia), and Messrs Jeppe Toft Jansen (Denmark), Kyriacos Kanellos (Greece) and Roberto Piro (Italy).

## **PERCO Meeting, Budapest, Hungary, 29 - 30 April**

For the third consecutive year CRCS participated as an Observer in the PERCO meeting, the Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants. CRCS was represented by the Secretary of the Nicosia Branch, Andri Agrotis. At the meeting, the new 2020 Movement Strategy was presented and various announcements were made, including, new nominations in the Federation, namely, those of the President, Tadateru Konoe and the Secretary General, Bekele Geleta, as well as the suspension of the positions of the Migration Coordinator / Europe Zone and the Anti Trafficking Coordinator / Europe Zone. The participants expressed their dissatisfaction and disappointment with regard to the suspension of the latter positions. Presentations were also made by the Africa area coordinator on immigration and by the Federation's representative in Iraq, on the thousands of susceptible people, who over the past few years had abandoned their countries to seek better living conditions in neighboring countries, as well as in the European Union. Additionally, the National Societies of Hungary, the Czech Republic and Romania presented their work and requested to join PERCO.

## **EU Funding Practitioners Group (EFPG) Meeting, Vienna, Austria, 15-17 June**

At the annual meeting on Fundraising and other financial issues, held in Vienna, Austria, from 15 to 17, CRCS was represented by its Treasurer, Dinos Christofides.



## **Annual meeting of the First Aid Education European Network, Smyrna, Turkey, 17-19 June**

The conference was organized by the European Network on First Aid Education together with the Turkish Red Crescent (TRC), between 17-19 June, in Smyrna, Turkey. CRCS was represented by its Director General, Takis Neophytou. Eighty representatives of National Organizations from 39 countries, including Canada and the United States, participated in the conference. Two Turkish Cypriot doctors also attended the conference with whom Mr. Neophytou had a number of meetings. At the conference Mr. Neophytou also met with the President of TRC.



## **Conference "Positive Images", Budapest, Hungary, 24-25 June**

The conference was organized by the British Red Cross between 24 and 25 June, in Budapest, Hungary. Its objective was to explore the role of young persons within the European Union regarding immigration. It was attended by 60 representatives primarily from the European National Organizations of RC/RC. CRCS was represented by Mrs. Christina Seroff, member of the Kyrenia Branch and coordinator of the program "Positive Images" in Cyprus.

## **PERCO Meeting, Malta, 14-15 October**

CRCS participated, as an Observer, at the meeting of the European Platform of the Red Cross for Refugees, Migrants and Asylum Seekers (PERCO) held between 14 and 15 October, in Malta. The CRCS was represented by its Secretary, Thalia Vourkidou. At the meeting, each RC/RC National Society gave a short presentation on the activities in their respective countries. Additionally there were presentations by the Director General of Maltese RC on the situation of migrants in Malta and the work of MRC during the last four years and by the French RC on the situation of the Roma in Europe. At the above meeting, the Hungarian RC was approved as a new PERCO member. The meeting was concluded with a visit to the refugee centre "Hal Far" in Malta.

## **Annual European Network for Psychosocial Support (ENPS 2010), Vienna, Austria, 28-30 October**

The annual meeting of the European Network for Psychosocial Support (ENPS) was held in Vienna, Austria, from 28 to 30 October. It involved, over and above the usual statements and presentations on several psychosocial support issues, a number of workshops. Cyprus and CRCS were represented by the President of the CRCS Committee on Health and Psychosocial Support, Christos Stefanou.



# RED CROSS AND MIGRANTS, REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

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In collaboration with the International Red Cross and all Government services concerned, the CRCS, adhering to the conclusions reached at the Society's seminar "Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers", has developed a policy in that regard and has been working toward the acceptance and integration of the many migrants who live in Cyprus. In 2010, the CRCS continued to participate in meetings of the European platform for migrants, PERCO. It has also continued its efforts to convince the Government of the Republic of Cyprus to follow up the recommendations adopted at its 2007 Seminar to allow the Red Cross to assume the responsibility for the illegal migrants and to be involved in the running of a new Reception Centre for asylum seekers.



## Assistance to asylum seekers, refugees and migrants

It is a well known fact that migrants (legal and illegal) constitute one of the most vulnerable social groups in Cyprus, sometimes living under appalling conditions. The CRCS, without discrimination and irrespective of the migrant's status or the legality of their demands and actions, remained present, providing food, clothing, blankets and any other support needed. In cases of health problems requiring medical care, high-ranking officials of the CRCS used their influence in order to overcome formalities and facilitate immediate admission to hospital, where migrants were visited and looked after until their recovery. As an auxiliary body to the Government, the CRCS repeatedly expressed its intention and offered its services and cooperation to the Ministry of the Interior in meeting the needs of asylum seekers and migrants in general.



## Humanitarian assistance by the Branches to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers

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

## Medical Services

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

## Other Services

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

## Visits to the Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers in Kofinou

CRCS members and volunteers visit the Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers in Kofinou, Larnaca district, on a regular basis offering their support and in kind humanitarian assistance such as clothing and food.



## Founding of the Home

The Home for Sick Children (Home) was founded by the CRCS in 1957 to treat sick and disabled children. After operating from a series of temporary addresses, the Home established a permanent base in Kyrenia and was home to staff and children from all the communities of Cyprus until 1974.

## Post – 1974 Operations

The fallout resulting from the 1974 invasion made it necessary to build a new Home in Polemidia. With the assistance of the U.N High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the new Home commenced operations in 1980, complete with all necessary facilities. The Home also offered boarding facilities until 1994, but at the present it provides day care only.

## Services Offered

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

## Collaborations

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Home hosts a special school for children with learning difficulties, 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. The Home has collaborated with St James' University Hospital in Leeds, the United Kingdom, since 1988, to provide Botulinum Toxin treatment to children with cerebral palsy. Since the successful introduction of the treatment, Botulinum Toxin is now also offered to children in State hospitals. Partnerships are continuously being developed with many others, such as government agencies, schools and other institutions for children with disabilities, parents, the British Sovereign bases (who offer hippo therapy programmes), foreign organizations, European programmes (for staff training), charities and other voluntary organizations.

The responsibility for the operation of the Home is under a Committee composed of Mr. Takis Neophytou, CRCS's Director General, Mr. Dinos Christofides CRCS's Treasurer, Dr. Costakis Christodoulakis, Mrs. Evanthia Papasava, CRCS's Kyrenia Branch Treasurer, and Mrs. Katerina Christodoulou, the Matron of the Home.

## Operational Costs

The Home, which is the largest programme of the Society, is mainly supported by the love and care of the members and volunteers of the Society, who cover the major part of its operational costs through events and voluntary contributions from ever-willing and generous members of the public. The Cyprus Government contributes with approximately 30 per cent of the running costs.

The largest problem faced by the Home during 2010 remained the very high operational cost, which became worse because of the continuous maintenance requirements of the building and of other installations. Pursuant to the recommendations proposed by an Evaluation Committee which was appointed by the Executive Committee in its efforts to save the Home, the Home managed to overcome the serious financial problems it faced. It continues working normally and after some years it is expected to become self financed.



## Day Care Centre for Adults with Disabilities

As already known, in addition to the services offered by the Home to children up to 18 years of age, in November 2007 CRCS established the Day Care Centre for Adults with severe disabilities and multiple dependency needs (KIFA). The Centre offered services to a small number of adults and utilized part of the premises of the Home. A small part of the Centre's operational costs was covered from a grant offered by the Social Services Department of the Government. Two years after its opening, it was already clear that the running of KIFA was not viable. The CRCS Executive Committee, pursuant to the recommendations of an Evaluation Committee, which was appointed to examine KIFA, decided to close it down, because of its excessively high operational cost, which was 200,000 Euros, looking after only six children. It was indeed a difficult decision to take. Regardless of the original promises made, the grant received from the Government was much smaller than expected.

Furthermore, due to the ongoing financial crisis the contributions by the RC Branches and the Youth Section could not be increased further. The CRCS finally terminated the operation of KIFA in July. Before closing it, arrangements were made for the children to be treated by another organization.

## Project for the Development and Improvement of the Services of the Red Cross Home for Children with Disabilities

Another measure which contributed towards saving the Home from closing was the approval of a project by the EEA Financial Mechanism & the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2004-2009 fund for Non Governmental Organizations, which began in September 2009 and was completed in August 2010. The project also allowed the Home to improve its services.

The most important results of this innovative project were the following:

- The guarantee that the Home will continue its operation.
- The overall reorganization and upgrading of its services so that the children continue enjoying them in improved forms and levels.



- The important improvements to the building and the installations of the Home.
- The replacement and the acquisition of new specialized equipment, such as a physiotherapy bed and an external defibrillator.
- The organization of a training seminar for the staff on "Communication, Learning and Quality of Life: Possibilities and Challenges for children and youth with severe and profound disabilities and their caretakers".
- The coverage of the salary of one Physiotherapist for a year.
- The essential upgrading programs, treatments and all other services offered at the Home.
- The improvement of the quality of life and the promotion of the safety of the children themselves.
- The moral, psychological and professional support of the parents and the families of the children.
- The sensitization and improvement of attitude of the people of Cyprus towards children with disabilities.

CRCS extends its warmest thanks to the Finance Commission of the European Union and the Norwegian Foundation, the Office of the Planning Bureau of the Government of Cyprus, and the organizations concerned, namely, the First Elements Euroconsultants Ltd, the Enoros Consulting Ltd, and the SOR Foundation of Oslo, Norway, for their contribution to the success of the project.

The rich and multifaceted work of the CRCS is the result of the active involvement and enthusiasm of its members and volunteers, which in 2010 was expressed through a large variety of activities, campaigns and events. A significant number of the CRCS' activities were run in a long-term basis. Several short-term events also took place throughout the year. Activity size was determined by their goals, duration and geographic coverage. These activities were primarily aimed at the raising of funds in order to provide various forms of assistance to vulnerable groups, and to raise social awareness on a number of important topics that included: Road Safety; Blood Donation; First Aid; Environment; Disaster Management and Fundraising. Other activities included: training volunteers, promoting relationships at international level, administrative and organizational issues, demonstrating the variety of activities conducted by the CRCS.



## Pan Cyprian “Door to Door” Collection

The annual “Door to Door” Collection took place from 7 to 18 May 2010. The launch of the Collection took place on 7 May 2010 in the presence of CRCS President, Fotini Papadopoulos and the Minister of Health, Christos Patsalides. The total amount raised was **241.747 Euros**. Proceeds from the campaign went towards the operational costs of the Children’s Home, as well as numerous other CRCS programs. Once again, the “Door to Door” campaign provided the CRCS with the opportunity to promote its aims and activities, as well to offer Cypriots the opportunity to be part of a humanitarian society. On 7 July 2010, the CRCS gave a reception at its headquarters in Nicosia to thank and honor the individuals, public authorities and organizations that contributed to the success of the campaign with commemorative gifts, shields and certificates.



## 8 May – World Red Cross Red Crescent Day

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) had chosen the theme of **urbanization** for the 2010 celebrations of the Red Cross Red Crescent Day. The decision was dictated, among others, by the fact that already more than 50 per cent of the world population live in urban regions and that, together with the climatic changes, the poor inner city districts, globalization, the increasing violence, the limited resources, etc, they create new challenges for the RC/RC National Societies. The promotion of public health, the preparedness in the case of pandemics, the need for cleaner water supply, the migrants, narcotics, and the continuously increasing psychosocial and economic requirements and problems, are the new realities that RC/RC is called to address and deal with all over the world, including Cyprus.



## World Red Cross Day event by the Kyrenia Branch

On Saturday, 8 May, on the World Red Cross Red Crescent Day, and the start of the collection campaign **From Door to Door**, the Kyrenia Branch of CRCS organized an event at The Mall of Cyprus. The CRCS President, Fotini Papadopoulos, delivered the inaugural speech in the presence of a large group of participants, including numerous dignitaries. The event included an entertainment programme with a gymnastics demonstration by the Jojo Fitness and Passion Gym, and a dance performance by the Antigone Tassouri Dance Academy. Students of the Beauty Programme of the Frederick Institute of Technology entertained the children with face painting while the event was broadcast live by Mix Fm Radio Station. The participants at the event were informed, amongst others, on the work and activities of CRCS in Cyprus and abroad.



## Christmas Cards

In 2010, the CRCS continued a popular tradition by printing and distributing two Christmas cards, each with a different theme. One card had a religious theme, depicting a 16th century icon of the Virgin Mary Galactoforousa, from the church of Saint Zone Ammochostos, Byzantine Museum, Archbishop Makarios III Foundation. The second card had a nature theme, depicting a water colour painting by Mrs. Marvel J. Christofides, entitled "Crataegus Azarolus flower". 20.000 cards were printed and were sold for fifty cents each, with proceeds reaching a total amount of **5,061.45 Euros**. Although the Christmas card tradition is considered by some as passé, the CRCS believes there are people who still like them and that their circulation helps maintain and promote the public image of the CRCS. The net proceeds from the sale of the Christmas cards will be used for the expenses of the CRCS Home for Sick Children. The Christmas Card Committee was composed of Takis Neophytou, Marvel J. Christofides, Loukas Telemachou, Despo Frederickou, Glyn Hughes, Aliko Mazi Papayianni, Costas Mantzalos, Christiana Eliades, Patricia Nicolaou and Thalia Vourkidou.

## First Aid and Blood Donation Committee Activities

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



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

## First Aid Lessons

Embracing the slogan "First Aid save lives", CRCS organized nine **First Aid courses** in Greek and in English for Cypriots and foreigners, including migrants. The total **number of persons trained was 109**. The Society also tried to upgrade and enrich its First Aid Training programs, through cooperation and support from the IFRC and other National Societies.



## World First Aid Day

First Aid is an act of charity and the availability of First Aid is very important and saves tens of million lives each year the world over. RC/RC has been established as the most important supplier of First Aid services and training in the world. On the occasion of the **World First Aid Day** that was celebrated on **11 September**, (every second Saturday of

September) CRCS circulated a dedicated poster that calls on the public to learn First Aid and to always have a First Aid kit at home, in their car, at work. This year's poster slogan is **Do not remain inactive – save and protect human lives!**

## First Aid Train the Trainers Course

A new **"First Aid Train the Trainers"** course organized by the CRCS, together with the Hellenic Red Cross (HRC), from 23 to 26 October 2010, at the CRCS Central Offices in Nicosia was completed with great success. The training course, which was the second held during the last two years, was part of CRCS's continuous upgrading efforts in training the trainers on First Aid. The presenters were two trainers from the 'Health Education' Department of Healthcare of HRC, Mrs. Constantina Teliou and Mrs. Amalia Lentzi. CRCS thanks HRC and the two trainers for their help and collaboration.



## 2010 EUROPEAN YEAR FOR COMBATING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION

### The Cyprus Red Cross Society (CRCS) participates actively

Based on statistical data, almost 84 million Europeans live below the poverty line (the minimum level of income deemed necessary to achieve an adequate standard of living in a given country). Accordingly, pursuant to its Charter of Fundamental Rights and including among others, **Solidarity**, the European Union (EE) joined its efforts with those of its member states, and designated 2010 as the **European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion**. The main objectives of the year were to increase the public's sensitivity regarding those issues, and to renew the political commitment of the EE and its member states to combat poverty and social exclusion. Accordingly, the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, through its Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, announced its own programme to achieve the objectives of the **European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion**. Among others, the Ministry announced the nomination of ten **National Ambassadors of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion**.



The Ambassadors, who were selected based on their standing within the society, as well as their active interest in and contribution against poverty and social exclusion, had a very important role to play - giving "a face" to the campaign and contributing actively to the promotion of the activities undertaken, as well as encouraging active participation by members of the public in order to achieve the objectives of the programme.

### CRCS is honored by the Government of Cyprus

The fact that on 23 March the Government of the Republic of Cyprus nominated two representatives of the CRCS as National Ambassadors of the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion is yet another honor and recognition, as well as appreciation by the Government of CRCS's important and valuable humanitarian and social contribution. The two dignitaries nominated are the CRCS President and Deputy President, Fotini Papadopoulou and Leda Koursoumba, respectively.

The CRCS and the two dignitaries as of the first day of their nomination intensified their efforts against poverty and social exclusion.

### The CRCS:

- Has already received Government's approval of 27.000 Euros for funding a project to promote the objectives of the program,
- Has planned a public information campaign and
- Has asked its Branches and the Youth Section to include in their respective annual plans, activities dedicated to the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

## The project

The implementation of the programme was funded by the European Social Fund with a grant of 27.000 Euros. The programme included a number of activities that were held between September and November 2010. One of the activities was a research that documented the method, policies and “good practices” that were applied in Cyprus in order to combat poverty and, more specifically, the social exclusion of individuals who were over 65 years of age. The research also included a sample of 650 elderly people from all the areas of free Cyprus. Using the conclusions of the research, CRCS has developed a strategic plan, which is expected to contribute effectively and substantially to the reduction of the problem and to meet more satisfactorily the needs of the elderly. In implementing the program, CRCS worked together with the Enoros Consulting Company. The findings of the research are very interesting but at the same time extremely worrying. The Director of the Enoros Consulting Company, Kostas Kloudas, presented the results of the programme in four seminars which were held, respectively, on 22, 23 and 30 November, in Limassol and Paphos, Larnaca, and Nicosia. The seminars included:

- A series of CRCS activities and initiatives regarding the elderly
- A short presentation of the work, entitled “Poverty and Social Exclusion for population of 65 years and over”
- Presentation of the final results of the research
- Suggestions and proposals, that were derived from Cypriot, Greek and international experience on the particular subject

## Activities

One of the activities of CRCS against poverty and social exclusion was an event organized on 11 November 2010, at the Kofinou Reception Centre, where parcels with goods and clothing were distributed to the 44 asylum seekers currently residing at the Centre. The event that was organized by the Enoros Consulting Ltd was attended by the Minister of the Interior of the Republic of Cyprus, Neoclis Sylikiotis, and the Deputy President of the CRCS, Leda Koursoumba. Additionally, CRCS, pursuant to its active commitment to our elderly fellowmen and fellow women, implemented the programme, entitled “**Poverty and Social Exclusion for population of 65 years and over**”, the financing of which was approved by the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance.



## CRCS and Cyprus Airways campaign

Another activity was a campaign supporting **2010: The European Year for combating Poverty and Social Exclusion**, which was organized by CRCS in collaboration with Cyprus Airways (CA), which was completed with great success. The aim of the campaign was to raise public awareness on poverty and social exclusion that affects a significant proportion of our fellow citizens. The charity collection campaign was conducted from 15 to 31 December 2010 on all CA flights. Passengers were invited to donate in favour of CRCS. It is worth noting that despite the difficulty in organizing the charity and the current economic situation, the travellers responded generously to CRC’s call of love, with the result that the final amount collected was more than 2,500 Euros, which will be utilized by the CRCS to support needy families in Cyprus. Over and above the success of the collection in monetary terms, CRCS and CA are very pleased with their collaboration that had helped sensitize the travellers to the difficulties faced by our fellow citizens, and are very hopeful that this collaboration will continue in order to be able, together, to contribute further to the fight against poverty and social exclusion.

## MUST Boutique Fashion Show in aid of CRCS

The fashion show, entitled “Colour Sahara”, of MUST Boutique of Mrs Yianna Odysseos, was held with great success at the garden of her residence, on Wednesday, 12 May 2010. The show presented the summer collection of the international designers represented by the boutique. The event was under the auspices of the CRCS President, Fotini Papadopoulos, and it was attended amongst others by the Minister of Health, Christos Patsalides, and the CRCS Deputy President and Delegate for the Protection of the Rights of Children, Leda Koursoumba. Ms. Melanie Steliou was the event presenter. The proceeds from the event in favour of the CRCS totalled 12.350 Euros. The President and the CRCS Council members express many warm thanks to Mrs. Yianna Odysseos for her support of CRCS work.



## Michalis Hadjiyiannis Concert

The concert by the very popular Cypriot singer Michalis Hadjiyiannis that took place at the Music Club RED in Nicosia, on Thursday, 16 December 2010, was extremely successful. The net proceeds from the concert were donated to the CRCS Home for Sick Children. CRCS extends sincere thanks to the very distinguished singer who once again sang in favour of CRCS. CRCS also thanks the sponsors of the event PETROLINA, GRANDWIND, ERNST & YOUNG, CABLENET, FILEMINDERS, CHAPO, CHRISTOFIDES, FEREOs and LANITIS BROS. Super FM radio and the magazine 'Periodiko' were the media sponsors.



## The CRCS event "Exercise and Diet = Health and Beauty"

On Friday, 2 July 2010, a very successful event called "Exercise and Diet = Health and Beauty" was held at the amphitheatre Skali of Aglantzia. This was one of the many events that CRCS is involved with and/or organizes within its framework of social contribution and for the promotion of public health. The event, with a large number of participants, was opened by the CRCS Director General, Takis Neophytou, who pointed out that CRCS

was an organization that promoted and helped in the improvement of health, the prevention of illnesses and the alleviation from pain. He added that CRCS's objectives were directly linked to the objectives of the event.

A short welcoming speech was also made by the Mayor of Aglantzia, Andreas Petrou, who congratulated CRCS for the organization of the event. The programme included a demonstration of gymnastics, dietary advice, dance and music. The public was also invited to participate in a thirty minute exercise programme that was organized by the Jojo Fitness and Passion Gym, visited various kiosks, was informed on and tried various health food, drinks and other products. The children had fun with the mascots Mousou and Quicky.

## Road Safety Campaign

Although the European Road Safety Campaign ended in 2008, due to the fact that Cyprus ranks fifth among European countries in number of deaths from traffic accidents, Road Safety was placed high up among the CRCS priorities and continued its activities in 2010 under the slogan: "YOU'VE ONLY GOT ONE LIFE! TAKE CARE"



## Road Safety Year Targeting the Youth

The President of the Republic of Cyprus, Demetris Christofias contributed personally to the efforts to reduce the number of victims from road accidents in 2010, which had been declared as **The Road Safety Year targeting the Youth**. President Christofias welcomed, at the Presidential Palace, on January 14, 2010, the new members that had signed the European Road Safety Charter and honored them, together with those who had signed the Charter previously, by presenting them with plaques. The Charter was signed by 22 Cypriot organizations, institutions and local authorities, one of which is CRCS that has renewed its commitment by strengthening, even more, the social alliance for Road Safety in Cyprus.





## World Remembrance Day for the victims of road accidents

On **November 21, 2010**, CRCS observed the **World Remembrance Day for the victims of road accidents** (every third Sunday of November) by publishing a poster and distributing it, among others, to all schools and governmental buildings throughout the island. A relevant press release was also circulated to the media.

## Disaster Management Committee – Activities

Fortunately, during 2010, there were no significant calamities either in Cyprus or in the neighbouring countries, which could be described as a crisis, requiring CRCS's intervention. Accordingly, CRCS was able to concentrate and devote its efforts in the organization of its Disaster Management Committee, which is becoming one of the most active CRCS committees. During 2010 the Committee participated in the meetings and activities of the ESTIA and ARGONAFITIS disaster relief plans. The Committee took the first steps in securing the required equipment, organizing the CRCS stores, establishing teams for emergency intervention throughout Cyprus; it also started the creation of a Psychosocial Support unit. Some of its members were sent abroad for training and others participated in the European Civil Protection Assessment Mission Course. The Committee has been working very intensively in order to be ready in case of an emergency. Amongst other things, it has organized or participated in the following:

### Organizational Chart

Since 2009 the CRCS uses its organizational mobilization plan which is activated in the event of an emergency. The Chart includes the names and contact details of the persons who are responsible for the mobilization of all CRCS relief units in case of an emergency as well as their respective roles.



## Assessment Mission Course

The members of the CRCS Disaster Management Committee, Costas Constantinides and Achilleas Kontos, participated in the "Assessment Mission Course" of the Civil Defense, which was organized together with the European Union on 15 June 2010. In addition, the members of the CRCS Disaster Management Committee, Costas Constantinides and Thalia Vourkidou participated in the second "Assessment Mission Course" of the Civil Defense, which was organized on 8 November 2010.



## Exercise "Argonaftis"

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 NGO's, including the CRCS. During March and April 2010, the exercise was prepared and the roles assigned, and on 25 May, the plan was implemented at the Larnaca Port. The exercise was observed by representatives of eight embassies, the new Head of the National Guard and by about 60 observers from different countries. The CRCS's participation was very visible and attracted many positive comments. The members of the CRCS Disaster Management Committee, Takis Neophytou, Costas Constantinides, Achilleas Kontos, Chrystalla Pantelidou, Maria Nikolaidou, Avgi Lykourgou, Yioula Droushotou, Lia Karapataki, Helen Karaiskaki and Georgia Katsarona represented the CRCS in the various phases of the inter-sectorial exercise, which took place from 25 to 28 May, in which military forces from Cyprus, Greece and France participated.



## Climate Change

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

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



## Your best defence is YOU!

CRCS, very sensitive on health matters, and within its framework of social policy, and following the directives

of the International RC/RC Movement, produced six posters, A3 size, with the slogan **YOUR BEST DEFENCE IS YOU**, which showed the five practical steps that each and everyone of us must follow in order to prevent the spreading of the flu pandemic in the event that it reappeared.

The posters were sent for distribution to all the Branches, as well as to the Ministry of Health, to hospitals, clinics, schools, universities and colleges throughout Cyprus.



## Train the Trainers on Psychosocial Support

Between 27 and 30 May 2010, a four-day training session of the Trainers on Psychosocial Support was held with great success at the central Offices of CRCS. The subject of the training was **Stress, Bereavement, Loss, and Social Destruction**. The internationally acclaimed trainer of the IFRC Reference Center for Psychosocial Support, Mrs. Sirry B. Thormar, a university professor from Iceland, was the presenter. Mrs. Thormar had already helped in the creation and organization of similar services in 11 other countries. The training was attended by 15 individuals, including doctors, psychologists, and postgraduate students of psychology at the University of Cyprus and others, who together as a group will form the CRCS's team of trainers. CRCS's expansion into the field of psychosocial support is an extension of its current multifaceted humanitarian and social contribution.

It was virtually dictated by the complexity of the current society, that over and above the cases of crisis that is the result of natural and man-made disasters, has unfortunately created an additional need to provide psychosocial support for a number of instances of our daily life. An unexpected death, a serious illness, an accident and other similar incidents, create pain, sadness, sentimental and other disturbances among relatives, acquaintances and friends, that need self-help, or outside support in order to deal with their difficulties.

The Red Cross aims at educating as many of its volunteers and others on issues of psychosocial support, so that they in turn not only can be actively involved in the social activities of the organization, but also be able to alleviate human pain and suffering by providing the psychosocial support that is needed.

## Seminars on Humanitarian and Psychosocial Support

In July 2010, at the Central offices of CRCS in Nicosia, a series of five seminars on Psychosocial Support were held with great success. The seminars were given by postgraduate students of the Department of Psychology of the University Cyprus as part of their collaboration with CRCS. The seminars were attended by 83 persons. Another one-day seminar was held on 22 September 2010 at the CRCS Central Offices in Nicosia. The seminar was attended by 20 persons. The RC/RC objective is to educate as many of its members and volunteers as possible, as well as others interested in psychosocial support, so that they in turn can actively be involved in the social activities of the organization, and also help alleviate the suffering of our fellow human beings by providing them with the psychosocial support that they may need.



## Positive Images - a programme to develop a positive attitude towards the migrants

Looking at the past, we find that the then modern man (who lived more than 80,000 years ago) began his migratory travel starting from Africa. These pioneer immigrants moved to Europe and Asia (and later to the Americas) seeking new homes with the main objective of survival. "History repeats itself" and the modern

man of the 21st century, continues to migrate, for the same reasons, the same needs and the exact same dreams. Xenophobia, bias, racism and, by extension, social exclusion often accompany the word "foreigner" at the sight of migrants by the indigenous population. It is unfortunate that in Cyprus also – primarily after it joined the European Union and started accepting large waves of immigrants and migrants requesting political asylum - social attitudes and the behavior towards "the foreigners" that has developed can be characterized anything but positive. In order to improve this situation and to promote acceptance and social integration of the immigrants as well as migrants, CRCS, together with the Austrian, British, Danish, and Hellenic Red Cross National Societies participates in the programme **Positive Images**.

Based on this programme, CRCS, together with the Ministry of Education and Culture, undertook to organize in Limassol, on 15 May, and in Nicosia, on 22 May, hands on workshops for secondary school teachers. Over and above, CRCS supports the preparation of a power point programme to be distributed to and used by all secondary school students in Cyprus. The workshops trainer was Ms. Sandy Antoniou and the Coordinator of the program is Mrs. Christina Seroff.

## CRCS and Ministry of Education and Culture Seminars

Within the framework of the European Year of Volunteerism, CRCS, together with the CRCS Youth Section and the Department of Secondary Education of the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus, organized two seminars for teachers in Limassol and Nicosia on 21 and 22 October 2010, respectively. The seminars were entitled, "**Humanitarian Principles and Values in the 21st century: from theory to practice**". Dr Maria Daniella Marouda, Lecturer of International Law at the Panteion, University (Athens, Greece) was the speaker. The seminars were opened by the Director of Secondary Education of the Ministry, Zena Poulli. The CRCS President, Fotini Papadopoulos, also delivered a brief welcoming address.



## CRCS Excursion to India

CRCS, continuing the latest tradition of taking its members and volunteers on excursions to exotic destinations, organized an excursion to India from 6 to 19 November 2010. The previous two excursions were to Sri Lanka and China. The excursion was headed, respectively, by its President and its Director General, Fotini Papadopoulos and Takis Neophytou. The group totaling 61 persons, consisted of CRCS members, friends and volunteers. One of the objectives of the excursion, over and above the opportunity to experience the rich culture and exotic sites of India, was to strengthen further the relations between the CRCS members, to attract new members, as well as to help the CRCS financially. The 14-day programme included visits to New Delhi, Varanasi, Khajuraho, Orhca, Agra, Jaipur, Pushkar, Jodhpur and Udaipur. The participants were highly impressed with the various city sights, the religious ceremonies on the banks of the Ganges river in Varanasi, the temple sculptures of Khajuraho, the Taj Mahal, the love mausoleum in Agra, the abandoned city of Fatihpur Sikri, the City Palace and Amber Fort of the pink city of Jaipur, the imposing castle of Jodhpur and the Lake Palace of Udaipur. India's charm,

however, could not be completed without the experience by the members of the visiting group taking rides on rickshaws down narrow streets, the elephant ride up to the castle of Jaipur, the camel race and the fair at Pushkar, the smells, the colors, the bargains, the ceremonies, but even more importantly, witnessing the millions of the poor, but always smiling people of the country, that irrespective of age, are thrown into the daily loud and multicolored struggle for survival. During the visit, CRCS met with representatives of the Indian Red Cross, the Ambassador of Greece and the representative of the High Commission of Cyprus in India.

They also visited an Indian village, where they offered help to the local school. Despite the understandable tiredness and discomfort of the 14-day visit in a country such as India, all 61 excursionists returned thrilled with their visit, looking forward to the next exotic destination that CRCS will take them to.



## Dinner in honor of CRCS Benefactors

CRCS honored three eminent personalities of Cyprus that have supported CRCS' work over the years; His Beatitude the Archbishop of Cyprus Chrysostomos II, the Chairman of the Board of the Bank of Cyprus, Theodoros Aristodimou, and the President of the Anastasios G Leventis Foundation, Tassos Leventis. The ceremony was held, on 23 November 2010, at the residence of the CRCS President, Fotini Papadopoulos, during a dinner attended by many representatives of the CRCS Branches and the Youth Section.

Mrs. Papadopoulos praised their contribution and thanked them for the very warm and generous support with which they had supported the work of the CRCS.



## NICOSIA BRANCH

In 2010 the CRCS Nicosia Branch continued its major humanitarian activities. In 2010, the Branch had **1100 members and volunteers**. With exceptional commitment, the volunteers continued to help people throughout the year. In addition to providing assistance, the Branch participated in several activities and campaigns organized by the Headquarters Committees.

### Home visit scheme

Throughout 2010, organized groups of volunteers arranged visits to houses, hospitals and old people's home. The main target of the home visits scheme was to provide food, clothing and footwear to individuals in need, as well as psychosocial support to the lonely, the poor and the disabled people. This effort was particularly intensified over Christmas and Easter time.

### Medical aid

The Branch covered the air ticket costs for individuals who required emergency medical treatment abroad. Furthermore, the Branch provided the required medicine and part of the medical expenses to individuals with financial difficulties during their recovery period.

### Wheelchair scheme

Provision of wheelchairs to poor and disabled people was free of charge. Through this scheme wheelchairs were also offered for rental to the public at a very low cost for a limited period of time.

### Humanitarian and financial assistance

In many cases, financial assistance was also provided to students and other individuals in need. Additionally,

the Branch continued supporting vulnerable migrants, asylum seekers and refugees at its premises, providing food, clothing and footwear. The Branch also contributed to the appeals of the Movement to alleviate the suffering of victims of various disasters. The total amount spent for the said purposes amounted to 49,841.00 Euros.

### Support scheme to Asylum Seekers

Pursuant to the decisions and new policies of the Red Cross Movement, a group of volunteers arranged monthly visits to the Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers in Kofinou in an effort to provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable migrants. Furthermore, the Branch continued its successful "humanitarian support scheme" by supporting vulnerable migrants at its premises in Nicosia. Large numbers of refugees, migrants and asylum seekers visited the Branch, twice a week, and received food and clothing. In some emergency cases, medical support was also provided.



### Fundraising events

During 2010 the major annual fundraising activities of the Branch were successful and generated considerable income to the Branch - specifically, the Annual Barbeque Party at Eleon Swimming Pool, the "Special Offers" Bazaar, which was held at the premises of the CRCS Headquarters, the organization of a Fashion Show at the residence of Mrs. Valentina Tsingi, as well as the major fundraising campaign of the CRCS, the "Door to Door" Collection. Other sources of income were the collection of membership fees, as well as the donations received in memory of deceased persons.



## LIMASSOL BRANCH

The Branch had **300 members and volunteers** in 2010 and continued its resourceful contribution to alleviate the suffering of vulnerable people in Limassol and surrounding districts. With exceptional commitment, the volunteers continued to help people throughout the year. In addition to providing assistance, the Branch participated in several activities and campaigns organized by the Headquarters Committees.

### Home visit scheme

Throughout 2010, organized groups of volunteers arranged visits to houses, hospitals and old people's home. The main target of the home visits scheme was mainly to provide food, clothing and footwear to individuals in need, as well as psychosocial support to the lonely, the poor and the disabled people. This effort was particularly intensified over Christmas and Easter time.

### Wheelchair scheme

Provision of wheelchairs to poor and disabled people was free of charge. Through this scheme, wheelchairs were also offered for rental to the public at a very low cost for a limited period of time.

### Humanitarian and financial assistance

On a daily basis the Branch continued to give assistance to the poor and the sick. The Branch offered breakfast to fifty poor children in Limassol throughout the year. In many cases, financial assistance was also provided to students and other individuals in need. Additionally the Branch continued supporting vulnerable migrants, asylum seekers and refugees at its premises, providing food, clothing and footwear. The Branch also contributed to the appeals of the Movement to alleviate the suffering of victims of various disasters. The total amount spent for the said purposes amounted to 14,506.00 Euros.

### Fundraising activities

During 2010, 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 and a Fashion Show, as well as the major fundraising

campaign of the CRCS, the "Door to Door" Collection. Other sources of income were the collection of membership fees, as well as the donations received in memory of deceased persons.

### Blood donation

Of particular importance was the blood donation programme that had taken place continuously since 1969. The Branch issued certificates and awards to blood donors. During 2010, 300 bags (units) of blood were collected and offered to the Blood Center of the General Hospital of Limassol.

### Additional activities

During the Annual General Assembly of the Branch, a special event was organized to mark the 60th anniversary of the CRCS. A film was presented to all present and the Branch honored various schools that offer blood during the donation events. Of major importance was the donation made by the Branch of a mobile Blood Donation Ambulance to the First Aid Unit of the General Hospital in Limassol.



## FAMAGUSTA BRANCH

Following its displacement from Famagusta in 1974, the Branch moved its quarters to Larnaca. In 2010, the Branch had more than **459 members and volunteers** who, despite the unfavorable conditions, continued to provide humanitarian assistance to people from Famagusta who were dispersed all over the island, 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 Headquarters Committees.

### Home visit scheme

The Branch has a home visiting programme which includes kindergartens, special schools, old people's homes, shelters and other institutions. The visits intensified during the Christmas and Easter periods when baskets of food, clothing and toys were provided.

### Wheelchair scheme

Provision of wheelchairs to poor and disabled individuals was free of charge. Through this scheme, wheelchairs were also offered for rental to the public at a very low cost for a limited period of time.

## Medical aid

The Branch covered the air ticket costs for individuals who required emergency medical treatment abroad. Furthermore, the Branch provided the required medicine and part of the medical expenses to individuals with financial difficulties during their recovery period.

## Humanitarian and financial assistance

The Branch provided baskets of food to 33 families every month. In many cases, financial assistance was also provided to students and other individuals in need. Additionally the Branch continued supporting vulnerable migrants, asylum seekers and refugees at its premises, providing food, clothing and footwear. The Branch made contributions to cover the overhead expenses of the operation of the CRCS Children's Home, The Branch also contributed to the appeals of the Movement to alleviate the suffering of victims of various disasters. The total amount spent for the said purposes amounted to 38,350.00 Euros.

## Fundraising activities

During 2010 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 "Door to Door" Collection. Other sources of income were the collection of membership fees, as well as the donations received in memory of deceased persons.

## Additional activities

The Branch organized an excursion to Greece for its members and volunteers. Twenty members of the Branch participated.



## LARNACA BRANCH

In 2010, the Larnaca Branch had **380 members and volunteers**. With exceptional commitment, the volunteers continued to help people throughout the year. In addition to providing assistance, the Branch participated in several activities and campaigns organized by the Headquarters Committees.

## Home visit scheme

The Branch has a home visiting programme which includes kindergartens, special schools, old people's homes, shelters and other institutions. The visits intensified during the Christmas and Easter periods when baskets of food, clothing and toys were provided.

## Wheelchair scheme

Provision of wheelchairs to poor and disabled people was free of charge. Through this scheme, wheelchairs were also offered for rental to the public at a very low cost for a limited period of time.

## Medical aid

The Branch covered the air ticket costs for individuals who required emergency medical treatment abroad. Financial assistance was also provided to individuals with financial difficulties to cover part of their medical expenses during their recovery period.

## Humanitarian and financial assistance

In addition, the Branch established humanitarian activities, including help for underprivileged families, children with special needs and provision of meals for poor students in secondary schools. Furthermore, the Branch continued supporting vulnerable migrants, asylum seekers and refugees at its premises, providing food, clothing and footwear. The Branch distributed Road Safety material and hosted the PERCO - Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants meeting in Larnaca. The Branch also contributed to the appeals of the Movement to alleviate the suffering of victims of various disasters. The total amount spent for the said purposes amounted to 9,764.00 Euros.

## Fundraising activities

During 2010 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 "Door to Door" Collection. Other sources of income were the collection of membership fees, as well as the donations received in memory of deceased persons.

## Disaster Management preparedness

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

## Additional activities

Utilizing the donations received in memory of the husband of the President of the Branch, the Branch offered three year scholarships to three African students at the Orthodox Church School of the Archbishopric of Kenya for the years 2010 – 2012.

## PAPHOS BRANCH

In 2010, the Branch had **250 members and volunteers**. Despite its relatively small size, the Branch continued to provide humanitarian assistance in Paphos and its district. In addition to providing assistance, the Branch participated in several activities and campaigns organized by the Headquarters Committees.

### Home visit scheme

The Branch has a home visiting programme, which includes kindergartens, special schools, old people's homes, shelters and other institutions. The visits intensified during the Christmas and Easter periods when baskets of food, clothing and toys were provided.

### Wheelchair scheme

Provision of wheelchairs to poor and disabled people was free of charge. Through this scheme, wheelchairs were also offered for rental to the public at a very low cost for a limited period of time.

### Humanitarian and financial assistance

In many cases, financial assistance was also provided to students and other individuals in need. Additionally the Branch continued supporting vulnerable migrants, asylum seekers and refugees at its premises, providing food, clothing and footwear. The Branch also contributed to the appeals of the Movement to alleviate the suffering of victims of various disasters. The total amount spent for the said purposes amounted to 8,515.00 Euros.

### Fundraising activities

During 2010 the major annual fundraising activities of the Branch were successful and generated considerable income to the Branch, like the major fundraising campaign of the CRCS, the "Door to Door" Collection. Other sources of income were the collection of membership fees, as well as the donations received in memory of deceased persons.

### Disaster Management preparedness

The Branch also took part in an exercise aimed at confronting emergency situations at Paphos Airport.



## KYRENIA BRANCH

A highly active branch, despite its "displaced" status, the Kyrenia Branch had **324 members and volunteers** in 2010, whose enthusiasm and initiative responded successfully to the humanitarian needs of the displaced people of Kyrenia that live around the island. The Branch was also an active participant in all CRCS activities and campaigns organized by the Headquarters Committees.

### Home visit scheme

The Branch has a home visiting programme which includes kindergartens, special schools, old people's homes, shelters and other institutions. The visits intensified during the Christmas and Easter periods when baskets of food, clothing and toys were provided.

### Humanitarian and financial assistance

The Branch provided in kind assistance to hundreds of individuals and paid for medical expenses for individuals requiring medical treatment. In some cases, financial assistance was also provided to students and other individuals in need. Additionally, the Branch continued supporting vulnerable migrants at its premises, providing food, clothing and footwear. The Branch also contributed to the appeals of the Movement to alleviate the suffering of victims of various disasters. The total amount spent for the said purposes amounted to 23,017.00 Euros.

### Fundraising activities

During 2010 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 "Door to Door" Collection and a Christmas Bazaar. Other sources of income were the collection of membership fees, as well as the donations received in memory of deceased persons.

### Additional activities

The Branch organized an excursion for the elderly from Kyrenia, its traditional fundraising tea party, in addition to its other fund raising efforts.

A member of the Branch was the coordinator of the European Programme "Positive Images" that started in 2010 and will continue in 2011.





In 2010, the Youth Section had **3000 members and volunteers** who continued to disperse significant humanitarian assistance, as well as training other young people. The Youth Section has district sections around the island; Nicosia-Morfu-Kyrenia, Limassol, Famagusta, Larnaca and Paphos Youth Sections. Amongst other things, the Youth Section organized blood donations, visited specialized schools, organized tree planting, speeches and conferences at schools. It also organized entertainment for special needs schools, old people's homes and other organizations. The Youth Section made donations to young people and their families in need, as well to individuals who required medical treatment abroad.

The Youth Section participated successfully in the "Door to Door" collection, as well as in other activities and campaigns. It participated in various CRCS committees and thus contributed to the fulfillment of the Society's objectives. In order to strengthen its financial resources, the Youth Section organized the traditional Christmas Bazaar, distributed lottery tickets with prizes, offered a scholarship from Frederick University and other presents, organized charity tea parties and other events. In doing so, the Youth Section was able to contribute to the financial needs of the Children's Home, thus meeting its obligations. It also contributed to the appeals of the Movement to alleviate the suffering of victims of various disasters.

## **26th Pancyprian Conference "Prevention of Social Exclusion through Education and the Statutes and Values of the Red Cross"**

2010 was the 26th year that the Student Conference of the Youth Section was organized, the participants of which were students from the Gymnasium and Lyceum from all the towns of Cyprus. The subject of the Conference was the "Prevention of Social Exclusion through Education and the Statutes and Values of the Red Cross". The main elements for social exclusion apply to social groups that, because of the nationality of their members, their culture and identity, as well as their economic or professional standing, are vaguely recognized by members of the local communities and exert marginal influence in the society they live in. The efforts exerted by Red Cross members to improve health, to cultivate international friendship, to alleviate pain and misery, and in general to promote solidarity and cooperation between people, independent of race, religion or nationality, create a solid base for developing social cohesion and the right to a vision of a

better world. The universal statutes of Humanism, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Unity and Voluntary Service that have been cultivated for thirty seven years by the Youth Section of CRCS has alleviated the pain of refugees, of the afflicted, of the enclaved, of the elderly and of children with infirmities and other disabilities. The challenge is now focused in confronting and resolving the problems arising out of the multicultural and multifunctional character of the Cyprus society (foreign workers, political refugees, and immigrants and or migrants who might be subjected to discrimination due to stereotype biases). The conclusion of the Conference was to invest in informative programmes and activities to fight social exclusion in order to sensitize teachers, trainers, and students, as well as all others.



## **25th annual Youth Section Summer Camp at Lemithou**

2010 was the 25th year that the Youth Section of CRCS held its summer camp at the premises of the Mitsis Commercial School in Lemithou - held from 5 to 12 July 2010, with 60 student participants from secondary schools from all over Cyprus, members of the CRCS Youth Section. The programme included, among others, various educational, environmental and recreational activities, which were organized by a committee comprised of CRCS members and volunteers. It also included lectures on the various objectives and statutes of RC/RC, on health, family planning, volunteerism and others that were presented by the organizers of the camp and visiting speakers. A conducted tour in the village, excursions, visits to the regional museums, evenings of entertainment and other activities were also offered to the participants. During the last evening, the boys and girls presented a varied artistic programme, which was attended by the Lemithou community authorities and residents. Furthermore, the Vice-president and Director General of CRCS, respectively, Mrs Leda Koursoumba and Mr. Takis Neophytou, and the President of the Youth Section, Mrs Despo Frederickou, awarded to the participants attendance diplomas. CRCS and the Youth Section express their warmest thanks for the very warm hospitality offered by the Lemithou community, the Mitsis Commercial School management, the sponsors and the volunteers that had prepared the program and manned the camp, helping continue a very valuable activity that has been taking place with great success for the past 25 years.

In 2010, the CRCS website and the quarterly Newsletter "Our World" (O Kosmos mas), remained the two basic communication tools, through which the CRCS remained in contact with thousands of members, volunteers and friends in Cyprus and abroad. Furthermore, several campaigns were organized by the CRCS, including: Media Relations activities (radio and TV interviews, press releases, public speeches); Advertising (TV, print ads) and other promotional materials such as a presentation in Greek and English on the work of CRCS and desk calendars. The CRCS also expanded its activities into social media via the Cyprus Red Cross Society [CRCS] Group on Facebook.



## Quarterly Newsletter "Our World", (O Kosmos mas)

CRCS continues to issue the **CRCS Newsletter "Our World" (O Kosmos mas)**, which constitutes a milestone in our communications policy. It opens up a window of communication with CRCS executives, members, volunteers and with friends and CRCS collaborators. At the same time it is another step and link in the chain which binds together all those espousing the Red Cross principles and values. The Newsletter is published every three months in Greek and in English. The Newsletter which is both in print and electronic form, in spite of its limited number of pages, contains a lot of interesting material, with a large number of photographs and articles, all of which are informative on the work and activities of CRCS. It is mailed free of charge to CRCS executives, members, volunteers, friends and CRCS collaborators. It is sent by mail and in electronic form and is also posted on the CRCS web site ([www.redcross.org.cy](http://www.redcross.org.cy)) which makes it accessible overseas.

## Monthly Diary of Events

In 2010 the CRCS continued its initiative to prepare a monthly diary of events. The diary is a powerful tool that gives information on the planned activities of each month. It is distributed to the members of the Executive Team and to all the Branches and Youth Section and the Home for Disabled Children 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 creation of the Society's web site (2007): [www.redcross.org.cy](http://www.redcross.org.cy). The web site, which was originally prepared in two languages, Greek and English, is a gateway through which a visitor can obtain information and facts, become aware of CRCS activities and have access to considerable amount of photographic and other material. It is well known that the most difficult task, after setting up a website, is to keep it up to date, something we have been able to manage regularly. The second important achievement (May 2008) was that, the information on the website was also made available in Turkish, enabling our Turkish Cypriot compatriots to receive information on the CRCS in their own language.



## Desk Calendars

In December 2010, one thousand 2011 Desk Calendars were printed both in Greek and English languages, promoting the European Year of Volunteering 2011. The calendars were distributed free of charge to CRCS members and associates and a small number of copies were sent to the Red Cross Headquarters in Geneva, as well as Brussels, Budapest and other RC/RC National Societies. The production of the calendars was sponsored by the MTN Company Ltd.

## CRCS - Marketway/Publicis collaboration continuation

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

The financial position of the CRCS for 2010 was satisfactory bearing in mind the adverse economic conditions that prevailed in the country during the year. Its activities were funded exclusively from donations and fundraising events and the year closed with a surplus of income over expenditure. The HQs, which used to be financed in the past almost totally by the financial assistance of the UN agencies, had to rely for the year almost exclusively on their own financial resources as the financial assistance from the UN agencies has been reduced to a token amount. The CRCS Home for Sick Children was supported for this year by the annual subvention from the Cyprus Government, which together with funds from other donations covered to a great extent its total expenditure. The financial results of the Branches and the Youth Section varied from unit to unit. In total, however, all the units together had a comfortable surplus for the year.

## CRCS Personnel

Although the CRCS is a purely voluntary organization and its extensive activities are carried out by several thousand members and volunteers, its mission could not be accomplished without the significant contribution of CRCS Staff. As with prior years, in 2010 CRCS employed a relatively small number of staff as follows:

### Head Offices:

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

### Nicosia Branch:

Administration Officer - Eleni Panayiotou  
Messenger/Driver - Andreas Paraskeva

### Limassol Branch:

Administration Officer - Stella Philippou

### Famagusta Branch:

Administration Officer - Cornilia Zografou

### Larnaca Branch:

Administration Officer - Maria Lambrou

### Paphos Branch:

Administration Officer - Elli Sokratous

### Youth Section:

Administration Officer - Lenia Michaelidou

### Red Cross Home for Sick Children:

Matron - Katerina Christodoulou  
Assistant Matron - Constantina Prapa Savoulla  
Accounts Clerk - Zena Zeniou, (until March 2010)  
Driver/Gardener - George Protopapas, (until March 2010)  
Cook - Chrystalla Kleanthous, (until March 2010)  
Cleaner - Margarita Constantinou  
Cleaner - Isabella Rozou Constantinou  
Physiotherapists:  
Dena Palazi, Eleni Savva and Pantelis Constantinou  
Speech Therapist:  
Elena Ioannou

### Occupational Therapists:

Andreas Nikola and Stavroulla Charalambous  
Care Givers (all until July 2010):  
Yiannoula Ambrosiou Victoros, Christina Pavlou,  
Kate Christoforou, Koula Sofokleous, Constantina  
Orphanidou and Sotira Miltiadous.

## Appointment of Mrs Leda Koursoumba as Representative of the President of the Republic to the UNDP-ACT

In 2009, Mrs. Leda Koursoumba, Deputy President of the Society, was appointed as the Representative of the President of the Republic of Cyprus to the UNDP-ACT, a position previously held by Mrs. Stella Soulioti, Honorary President of the Society. Mrs. Koursoumba continued during 2010 to sign on behalf of the President of the Republic of Cyprus all the UNDP-ACT bi-communal programs that concern the Government.



## Repair works to the main offices of CRCS

After several meetings with the Commissioner of Civil Defence, Christos Kyriakides, and the generous support of the Civil Defense (CD), it was agreed to start the repairs of the building of the main offices of CRCS in Nicosia. The unstable subsoil and occasional earthquakes had worsened the situation to such an extent that the building was considered to be unsafe. The repairs were estimated to take approximately 12 months to complete and the total cost to exceed the amount of 80.000 Euros. The agreement provides that 82.5 per cent of the cost will be borne by the CD and the balance of 17.5 per cent, by CRCS.



## Construction of the new building for the Paphos Branch

The CRCS Director General and Treasurer signed in Paphos, on 8 December 2009, the contracts for the construction of the new Paphos Branch building. The work was completed at the end of 2010. The cost of the construction of the building reached the amount of 140.000 Euros. The plot of land for the construction of the building was donated by the Government of Cyprus. The construction of the new building to house the Paphos Branch of CRCS was funded through donations made by individuals, companies and organizations. The main donors were the Archbishop of Cyprus, Chrysostomos II, and the Chairman of the Board of the Bank of Cyprus, Theodoros Aristodemou. Their contributions of 40.000 Euros each were the largest individual contributions received. CRCS expresses to both, as well to all other donors, its sincere appreciation and warmest thanks.

## The Limassol Branch Building

The Technological University of Cyprus (TEPAK) is planning to construct a new campus for the University on the piece of land where, among others, the Limassol Branch offices are currently located. Accordingly, the Branch has been asked to vacate the premises as soon as possible. Various efforts have been made by the Limassol Branch President and the Committee, together with the CRCS Headquarters, towards the Government to provide an alternative plot to build new premises for the Branch. After numerous meetings held with TEPAK, the latter promised to donate to the Branch an amount, as compensation, which, together with another amount bequeathed by Maximos is expected to cover part of the

cost of the new building. The fact that there were no suitable plots of land available, prompted the Branch to consider purchasing a house in the city centre, which proved to be too expensive and way above the financial capacity of the Branch. The efforts in that regard are continuing, with the active support and initiative of the Headquarters of CRCS, following a decision taken by the Executive Committee.

## Grecian Bay Hotel guests' contribution in favour of CRCS

The management of the Grecian Bay Hotel has generously agreed to participate in the CRCS Project, whereby hotel guests are encouraged to donate in favour of CRCS. The first contribution received through the project for the period up to January 2010 was 2.862 Euros. CRCS thanks the hotel management for their support.

## SPACEWORX and the Antigone Tassouri Dance Academy

SPACEWORX and the Antigone Tassouri Dance Academy, as part of their social contribution, donated to CRCS 1,000 CDs of their latest music production entitled "**Magical Moments**", the sale proceeds of which will go to the CRCS Home for Sick Children. The CD includes 13 well-known and much loved Christmas songs and songs from musicals. This is a Cyprus production with soloists Riana Athanasiou, Elena Sava, Christos Gregoriades, Petros Konomou, Alexis Sofocleous, Christos Maos, Giorgos Ioannides, Andrie Koukou, Charis Savva (youth) and the children's choir ' Elyso '. The CD sells at 10 Euros.

## Donations in memory of Christos Kyriakides

The CRCS (Kyrenia Branch) extends warm thanks to all who donated to the CRCS in memory of Christos Kyriakides, Commissioner of Civil Defence. CRCS reiterates its sincere condolences to his family and thanks them for their decision to collect donations in favour of CRCS. The total amount collected was 7.000 Euros.

## Membership fee

For several years, the CRCS's annual membership fee was fixed at 5 Euros. From 2010 the membership fee increased to 10 Euros.

The Annual Report has set out to present the efforts and achievements of the CRCS in 2010. Therefore, we cannot help but express our warm and sincere thanks to all persons and organizations whose commitment, efforts, enthusiasm and generosity contributed to a very successful year.

## To Members and Volunteers

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

## To Donors and Sponsors

Equally warm and grateful thanks are due to all public and private companies and individuals that generously expressed their support of the CRCS through monetary donations, the provision of goods and services and other forms of assistance. Special thanks goes to all sponsors, both large and small: Anastasios Leventis Foundation; Alphamega Supermarkets; A. Panayides Contracting Ltd; Pharmakas Quarries Ltd; Marketway/Publicis; Lanitis Bros Ltd; Four Seasons Hotel; Grecian Hotel Enterprises Ltd; Remedica; CYTA; Marfin Popular Bank; Bank of Cyprus; Archbishop of Cyprus Chrysostomos II; Theodoros Aristodemou; The Phileleftheros Group; Lumière; CBC; MEGA; ANT1; SIGMA and CNC Plus. We would also like to extend our gratitude to all other donors who made contributions, often anonymously and at great cost to themselves.

## To the Cyprus Government

We consider it appropriate to express our thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Republic of Cyprus for the support of and cooperation with the CRCS. Special thanks in particular to: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of the Interior; the Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Education and Culture; the Ministry of Labor and Social Insurance; the Ministry of Communications & Works, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources & Environment. We are also indebted to the Service for Humanitarian Affairs, the Cyprus Police and Civil Defense, whose assistance in emergency situations, cooperation in meeting the needs of vulnerable social groups and their general support of the CRCS' humanitarian efforts have proven to be invaluable.

The logo features the word "THANK" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter "H" is replaced by a red cross symbol. To the right of the text is a stylized black hand icon with fingers slightly curled, as if holding or presenting something.

## VISION

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

## MISSION

The Cyprus Red Cross Society, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and its own Statutes, is fully committed to prevent and alleviate human suffering and supports individuals and communities to be prepared for and respond to emergencies globally, in times of peace and war, without any discrimination as to race, gender, age, social status, religion and/or politics.

## 7 FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE RC/RC MOVEMENT

> Humanity

> Impartiality

> Neutrality

> Independence

> Universality

> Unity

> Voluntary Service

**TOGETHER FOR HUMANITY!**





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