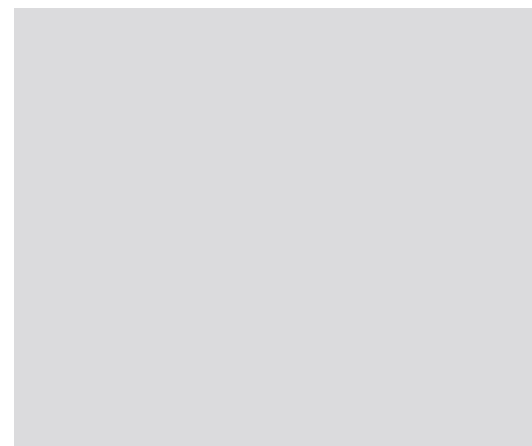


annual report
2016





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president's introduction cyprus red cross society 2016 achievements

The preparation of our annual report, allows us to see all that the Cyprus Red Cross Society (hereafter referred to as the CRCS) has accomplished during the past year, evaluate our performance and improve our planning for the future. It is with great satisfaction, if not pride, that I am addressing, not only the readers of the CRCS 2016 Annual Report but, most importantly, the contributors to the successes of our Society.

In 2016, the CRCS carried out its humanitarian work in full compliance with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (hereafter referred to as the International RC/RC Movement), the legislation of the Republic of Cyprus and its own Statutes. The CRCS was supported, as always, by the commendable efforts of its Branches, the Youth Section, its members and several thousand volunteers, as well as its staff members. In 2016, the CRCS appointed a new Deputy Director. An important accomplishment in 2016 was the six year cooperation agreement with the Hordaland Branch of the Norwegian Red Cross and the introduction of two innovative programmes to the Cypriot Society: the Home Care programme for vulnerable people and the First Responders programme.

The core humanitarian activity of the CRCS in 2016 was the continuation of the provision of assistance to migrants. The continuation of the cooperation and establishment of project agreements with the Icelandic Red Cross enabled the CRCS to enhance its Psychosocial Support and Migration Services provided to this vulnerable members of the Cypriot population.

In an effort to meet the humanitarian consequences of the financial crisis, CRCS diverted all its resources towards meeting local needs. True to its principles, during 2016 the CRCS responded readily and discreetly to the increased requests for humanitarian assistance and moral support on a daily basis. In addition to its traditional humanitarian activities, the most important were the Easter and Christmas Love Campaigns which helped thousands of families, both in urban as well as in rural areas. Our main activity and concern was of course the CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti, while the largest and most important fundraising activity was the annual Pancyprian "Door to Door" campaign. Many other activities, among which disaster relief, first aid, psychosocial support, migration, restoring family links, blood donation etc, made 2016 a really productive year.

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

Fotini Papadopoulou

President

cyprus red cross society from 1950 to 2016

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

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

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

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

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

The abovementioned extensive activities of the CRCS are not limited to Cyprus but are also extended overseas. CRCS responds to various appeals of the International Movement and in many cases the CRCS has sent humanitarian support to Sister National Societies whose countries have been affected by floods, earthquakes and other disasters. Its largest projects abroad were the building and equipping of a large hospital in Sri Lanka, the financing of the completion of a second one also in Sri Lanka, and a community medical centre in Karatoula-Oleni, Greece.

In 2016, because of the urgency to address the increased local demands for humanitarian assistance due to the financial crisis, the CRCS had no other alternative to diverting all its resources towards meeting the increased needs of the people of Cyprus. The only exceptions, as far as international assistance was concerned, were relatively modest donations for the victims of fires in Israel and towards the emergency appeal for Greece.

2016

diary of activities

January

Circulation of the 2016 Lucky Charms

01 Appointment of the Deputy Director

February

03 - 04 European Humanitarian Roundtable, Aix-en-Provence, France

12 CRCS Executive Committee Meeting

15 - 16 European Conference on Migration, London, the United Kingdom

17 CRCS Council Meeting

25 CRCS Migration Committee Meeting

29 Feb - 01 Mar European Legal Support Group (ELSG), Rome, Italy

March

09 - 12 Annual General Assembly of the Hordaland Branch of the Norwegian Red Cross, Bergen, Norway

21 Mar - 12 Apr CRCS Pancyprian "Door to Door" Fundraising Campaign

29 Mar - 05 Apr First Aid Training in Norway

April

09 - 12 Partnership Meeting for Greece, Thessaloniki & Athens, Greece

18 - 19 Humanitarian Education Meeting, Vienna, Austria

20 - 22 Restoring Family Links (RFL) Meeting, Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina

28 - 29 PERCO Meeting, Berlin, Germany

May

06 CRCS Executive Committee Meeting

06 - 12 Assessment Mission Courses

08 World Red Cross Day

24 General Assembly Larnaca Branch

25 CRCS Council Meeting

26 General Assembly Famagusta Branch

27 - 30 22nd European Youth Cooperation Meeting (EYCM), Sutomore, Montenegro

28 - 31 ARGONAFITIS Exercise

31 General Assembly Nicosia Branch

June

02 - 03 European Conference Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD), Brussels, Belgium

25 - 30 Assessment Mission Courses

July

- 04 Closing ceremony of the "Door to Door" fundraising campaign
- 06 CRCS Executive Committee Meeting
- 20 - 28 XII ATLANTIS RC/RC Mediterranean Youth Camp, Orahovica, Croatia

August

September

- 06 - 13 CRCS Excursion to Tanzania
- 12 World First Aid Day

October

- 04 CRCS Executive Committee Meeting
- 07 - 16 First Responders Training by the Hordaland Branch, Norwegian RC
- 11 - 19 Theatrical play "My beloved Smirni"
- 17 - 18 3rd Small European Countries Red Cross National Societies Meeting, Monaco
- 27 - 28 PERCO Meeting, Dublin, Ireland

November

- 05 - 11 Assessment Mission Courses
- 10 - 11 Red Cross EU Workshop on Funding Opportunities for Migration Related Activities, Ankaran, Slovenia
- 16 - 18 Red Cross EU Office Annual Meeting, Brussels, Belgium
- 18 - 20 Annual European Network for Psychosocial Support (ENPS) Forum, Lisbon, Portugal
- 26 Nov 2016 - 07 Jan 2017 Ocean Basket Campaign
- 28 CRCS Council Meeting

December

- Circulation and sales of Christmas Cards**
 - Issue and circulation of the 2017 CRCS desk calendar**
 - CRCS Christmas Love Campaign**
 - 01 - 02 RC/RC Mediterranean Platform on Migration, Barcelona, Spain
 - 22 CRCS Executive Committee Meeting
 - 28 Farewell party for Mr Takis Neophytou - Retirement from the position of the Director General
-

management structure & operations

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

- The General Assembly
- The Council
- The Executive Committee

Members of the Council in 2016

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

1. Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulos - **President**
2. Mrs. Leda Koursoumba - **First Vice President**
3. Dr. Mustafa Hami - **Second Vice President**
4. Mr. Dinos Christofides - **Treasurer**
5. Mr. Andreas Artemis - **Member**
6. Mrs. Amalia Erotokritos - **Member**
7. Mrs. Evmorfia Fereos - **Member**
8. Mrs. Despo Frederickou - **Member**
9. Metropolitan of Tamassos & Orini, Isaias - **Member**
10. Mr. Michalis Sarris - **Member**
11. Mr. Nicos Gregoriou - **Member**
12. Mr. Andreas Poetis - **Member**
13. Mr. Angelos Nicolaidis - **Member**
14. Mr. Georgios Hasapis - **Member**
15. Mr. Costas Pandeis - **Member**

Under Article 12 (1) (c)

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

Under Article 12 (4)

Director General - Mr. Takis Neophytou
Deputy Director - Mrs. Christina Kapartis

Members of the Executive Committee in 2016

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

Meetings of the Administrative Bodies

During the course of 2016:

The Council met three times: 17 February, 25 May and 28 November

The Executive Committee met five times: 12 February, 6 May, 6 July, 4 October and 22 December

Committees

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

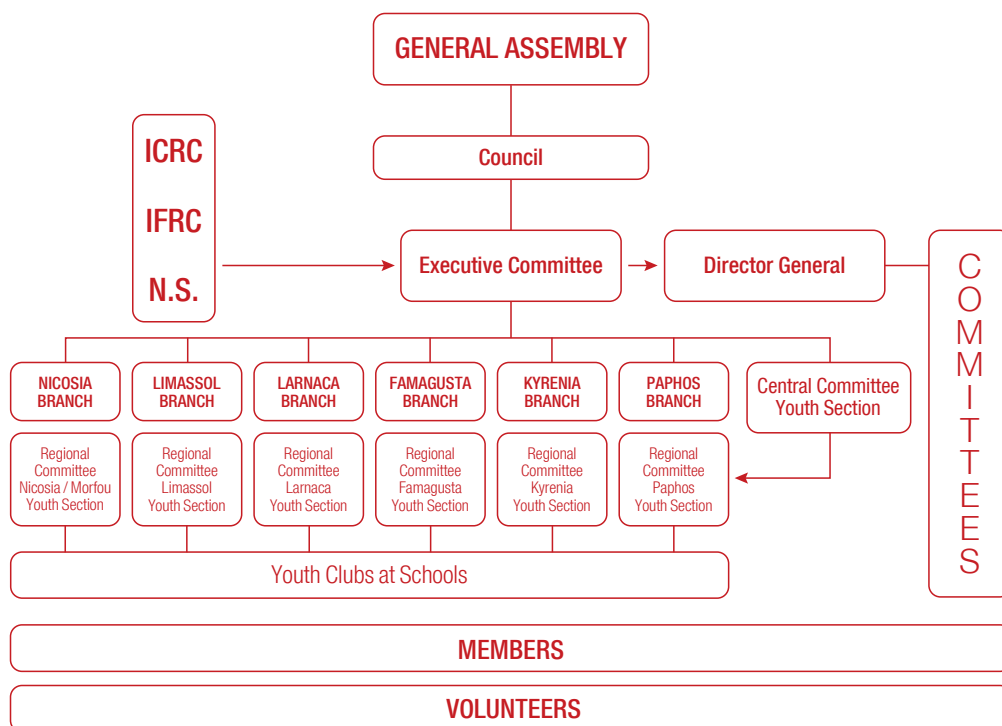
Appointment of the CRCS Deputy Director

The CRCS Council decided to appoint as the Deputy Director of the Society, Mrs. Christina Kapartis as of 1 January 2016. Mrs. Kapartis has a background in Management and Business Administration, has worked in the finance sector in Switzerland and Cyprus and is experienced in international affairs.

Retirement of the Director General

On 31 December 2016, Mr. Takis Neophytou retired from the position of the CRCS Director General. Mr Neophytou served for ten full years in the CRCS. The CRCS staff organized a special farewell party on 28 December 2016 at the CRCS Headquarters in Nicosia and offered to Mr. Takis Neophytou a commemorative gift. As from 1 January 2017 the new Director General will be Mrs Christina Kapartis.

organisational chart



humanitarian activities in cyprus

During 2016, the CRCS, as a purely humanitarian organization, continued to focus its activities on addressing the needs of vulnerable people. Faithful to its principle of providing aid without discrimination, irrespective of ethnic origin, nationality or religion, the CRCS included Turkish Cypriots, as well as a large number of migrants and asylum seekers amongst its beneficiaries. The financial crisis of March 2013 has also affected seriously the CRCS, with most of its financial resources being lost or frozen, and donations and income in general diminished. In 2016, however, the CRCS spared no effort to meet the local humanitarian needs, which were highly increased as a consequence of the financial crisis.

Addressing Social Needs, Health & other forms of Vulnerability

In 2016, because of the increased humanitarian needs caused by the financial crisis, the CRCS decided to divert all its resources towards meeting local needs. During 2016, the CRCS, in full compliance with its principles, responded readily and discreetly to the increased requests for humanitarian assistance and moral support on a daily basis. The humanitarian activities of the CRCS included, among others: the provision of food; medicine; clothing; footwear; cleaning and hygiene materials; psychosocial support; financial support; supplying wheelchairs and rehabilitation equipment for those with special needs; providing companionship to the lonely and visits to hospitals, elderly peoples' homes, prisons, schools and institutions for the disabled.

Family Assistance Cards

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

Easter & Christmas Love Campaigns

The CRCS, in an effort to meet the increased humanitarian needs, continued the organisation of the “**Love Campaigns**”, which had started in 2012. During 2016, two campaigns were organised in Easter and Christmas in support of the increasing number of persons affected seriously by the financial crisis. During the two campaigns, the CRCS distributed nationwide **4.350 packages of love**, including more than 20 food items each. In cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture, additional packages were distributed to needy families with children attending primary schools in rural areas of the Nicosia district. This assistance was in addition to the breakfast offered by the CRCS Youth Section to students of secondary schools. Although a small quantity of food items was donated by individuals, companies and organizations which had responded to the CRCS's appeal, most of it was purchased by the CRCS. Warm thanks are extended to donors, as well as to the many CRCS members and volunteers, who had worked for many days in order to prepare and ensure the timely delivery of the food packages, including deliveries in very remote and isolated villages of the district of Nicosia. Special thanks are also expressed to the G.A.P. Vasilopoulos company, for assisting CRCS with the transportation of the packages.



easter &
christmas
love
campaigns
4.350
packages
of love

Programme “Mirazome/Sharing”

The programme called “SHARING” (MIRAZOME) that was initiated in 2013 by the Nicosia Branch, continued during 2016. The programme provides for the distribution of cooked meals to families and individuals in need. The meals are prepared by members and volunteers of the Nicosia Branch at their homes, at their own expense. During 2016, a total number of **10,704 cooked meals** were prepared and distributed. The implementation of the programme was very successful and, judging from this year’s documented increase, more volunteers are expected to join in the following years.

Help & Services required as a Result of the 1974 Invasion

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

Support for the Enclaved

According to the records maintained by the United Nations, as of 31 December 2016, **410 persons - 324 Greek Cypriots and 86 Maronites** - lived in the Karpaz Peninsula and the Maronite villages in the Kyrenia District, in the occupied part of the island. These enclaved persons, when visiting the free areas, receive support from the CRCS in various forms. With the assistance of the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP), the CRCS arranged weekly dispatches to the occupied areas to help the enclaved meet their needs. These included, among others, medicines and medical equipment. In some circumstances, the CRCS also covered, among others, special requirements, such as wheelchairs, oxygen bottles, and eye glasses. In 2016, the CRCS dispatched **320 parcels**, including: 49 oxygen bottles; seven pairs of eye glasses; 170 parcels of medicines, 94 letters. During the visits of the enclaved to the free areas, the CRCS covered all their needs, such as meals, transportation, hospital care and financial assistance. Furthermore, **220 individuals** were transported by CRCS vehicles from the Ledra Palace check point to destinations all over Cyprus.

Support to Turkish Cypriots

Although the Turkish Authorities do not allow the CRCS to operate in the occupied areas and Turkish Cypriots are discouraged from contacting the CRCS, there were several cases where assistance was provided to them in 2016. Within its framework of humanitarian assistance “without borders and discrimination”, and in response to a request received, the CRCS donated wheelchairs and other mobility equipment to individuals and institutions for children with disabilities in occupied Cyprus. The majority of the Turkish Cypriots living in the government controlled area of Cyprus, are based in Limassol. On a number of occasions, the Limassol Branch provided assistance in the form of food and clothing. In some isolated cases, Turkish Cypriots residing in the occupied areas had asked for assistance from the CRCS Headquarters, as well as the Nicosia Branch. In conformity with its principles, the CRCS responded positively to calls for assistance.

10.704
cooked meals
were prepared
and distributed



CRCS helped with the implementation of an agreement between the leaders of the two communities regarding the uninhibited movement of ambulances from and to the occupied areas



Ambulances for the Occupied Areas with the CRCS Emblem

In fulfilling its mission as an auxiliary body to the public sector, the CRCS helped with the implementation of an agreement between the leaders of the two communities regarding the uninhibited movement of ambulances from and to the occupied areas. As of May 2009, ambulances carrying the insignia of the Ministry of Health and the CRCS emblem, had been moving between the occupied and the free areas of the island transporting sick or injured Greek and Turkish Cypriots. In 2016, **seven ambulances** were used. The necessary arrangements for and the cost of the insurance coverage of the ambulance vehicles, were undertaken by the CRCS.

Post Mortem Transfers to the Occupied Part

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

crcs children therapy centre stella soulioti

Foundation of the Centre

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

Post 1974 Operations

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

Post 2012 Operations

Cyprus Red Cross Society Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti

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

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

Services Offered

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



stella soulioti
therapy centre
treats children
up to 18 years
old, with severe
physical &
multiple
disabilities

Collaborations

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Centre hosts a special school for children, offering, among others, special education, therapy, and psychological support. It also works closely with the Ministry of Health and the Limassol General Hospital to provide orthopedic, neurological and other treatments on a regular and ad hoc basis. From 1998 to 2015, the Centre collaborated with St. James' University Hospital in Leeds, in the United Kingdom, in order to provide Botulinum Toxin treatment to children with cerebral palsy. Since the successful introduction of the treatment by the Centre, Botulinum Toxin is now also offered to children in Government hospitals. Partnerships are continuously being developed with many other bodies, such as government agencies, schools and other institutions for children with disabilities, parents, the British Sovereign bases - which offer hippo-therapy programmes - foreign organisations, European programmes for staff training, charity and other voluntary organisations.

Operational Costs

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

On 8 July 2015 the CRCS Council decided that 25 per cent of all the proceeds of the Door to Door fundraising campaign of the Branches and the Youth Section, should be offered as a contribution to the CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti. In 2016, the total amount of the contribution was 64,209.16 Euro.

Next Phase of Renovations

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

Contact Details

Cyprus Red Cross Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti

Polemidia, Limassol, Cyprus

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

email: home@redcross.org.cy

door to door
fundraising
campaign gave a
64,209.16 euro
contribution
to the children
therapy centre
stella soulioti



disaster preparedness & management

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

Cooperation with the Government

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

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

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

Emergency Response Unit - First Responders

Within the framework of the cooperation agreement with the Hordaland Branch of the Norwegian Red Cross, a First Responders Training was organized in Cyprus by the Hordaland Branch team, which took place from 7 - 16 October 2016. The objective of the training, which involves 150 hours to complete, was to create teams of volunteers who will be trained in First Aid, Rescue, Firefighting, Psychosocial Support and Disaster Management of any kind in order to intervene before organized assistance arrives at the scene (e.g., ambulance, and fire fighters) in case of a disaster. It is vitally important to offer first intervention in the event of accidents, natural disasters and other emergencies anywhere, but especially in areas without direct access to assistance. The first 50 hours of training were successfully attended by **21 persons** and the next phase will be organized in 2017.

Activities

During 2016, the CRCS DM Committee participated in all the meetings and exercises of the ESTIA and ARGONAFITIS Government disaster management plans. In doing so, it took every measure in checking the required equipment, reorganizing the CRCS stores and alerting its teams for emergency intervention throughout Cyprus. The DM Committee has been working very intensively in order to be ready in case of an emergency. Amongst others, it has organized or participated in the following:

"Argonafitis" exercise

Argonafitis is the largest national emergency and disaster management exercise which takes place in Cyprus once a year, with the participation of the National Guard, Government Ministries and NGOs, including the CRCS. The first preparations for the 2016 exercise started in January when details were discussed and roles assigned among the participants. The exercise took place from **28 to 31 May 2016**, at the port of Larnaca. It was attended by representatives from different countries, embassies, the National Guard and many other Cypriot stakeholders. The CRCS's participation was very visible and drew many positive comments. The CRCS had an impressive participation, among others, through a booth, with all the necessary equipment which could be utilized in case of an emergency. Members and volunteers from the DM Committee, the CRCS Headquarters, the Limassol, Larnaca and Famagusta Branches, staff and volunteers responsible for first aid, psychosocial support, migration and restoring family links took active part in the exercise.

Assessment Mission Courses

The CRCS continued its participation in the exercises organized by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus within the framework of the Assessment Mission Courses of the European Union. These exercises take place three to four times a year. The responsibility for the organization of the training is undertaken by the Cyprus Civil Defense, in collaboration with two German companies. In 2016, **three Assessment Mission Courses** were organized, from 6 to 12 May, 25 June to 1 July, and 5 to 11 November. Members of the Assessment Mission Course from various EU countries, consisting of four trainees and one leader, came to the CRCS Headquarters, where members of the CRCS DM Committee presented them a virtual scenario of an earthquake which occurred in the island and elaborated on the measures taken and also the kind of assistance CRCS would need from the countries of Europe in order to cope with the crisis.

Warehouse

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

Shelter Facilities

In 2016, CRCS continued its efforts to fulfil its vision to have the capacity to be able to provide shelter up to 1,000 persons in case of an emergency. The CRCS Disaster Management Committee is working on a study in order to secure the necessary know-how, equipment and materials.

Response

During the recent years, the CRCS was involved or responded to the following disasters and emergency situations:

- Crisis in Lebanon, Summer 2006
- Fires in Saita, Cyprus 2007
- Fires in Peloponissos, Greece, Summer 2007
- Vast mobilization and preparedness for a probable crisis in Lebanon, 2008
- Assistance to third country nationals and refugees from Egypt, February 2011
- Explosion at the Nautical Base “Evaggelos Florakis”, Summer 2011
- Mobilization and assistance during the mass arrival of third country nationals and/or refugees from Syria, Summer 2012
- Assistance to 345 refugees from Syria who were rescued outside Cyprus, September 2014
- Assistance to 271 refugees who arrived in Cyprus throughout 2015
- Assistance to fire victims, Summer 2016
- Assistance to 336 refugees who arrived in Cyprus throughout 2016

Arrival of Refugees

In 2016, the CRCS was on alert and continued the activation of its Disaster Management Action Plan, in preparedness of possible massive arrivals of third-country nationals and refugees to Cyprus. The Branches and the Youth Section were continuously kept informed on the developments and were asked to increase their level of readiness and to inform their members and volunteers to be on alert. The CRCS held a number of meetings with all the relevant governmental bodies and the Civil Defense; all the relevant emergency procedures were checked and activated. Throughout 2016, the CRCS provided humanitarian assistance to all refugees who arrived in Cyprus. (for more details, see the relevant section on the “MIGRATION ISSUES”).





BE A HERO. SAVE LIVES

First aid is for everyone, everywhere

first aid

First Aid is a traditional Red Cross activity and one of the oldest for CRCS. Recognizing its vital importance, and how valuable and essential assistance provided to the survivors of accidents and other emergency situations may become, CRCS considers First Aid one of its most important programmes. Accordingly, CRCS's goal has always been to raise public awareness and encourage participation in its First Aid courses and training. Unfortunately, however, the CRCS's First Aid activities in 2016 were basically concentrated on the provision of training, and had not yet organized many First Aid teams, an objective which should be given more attention, if not priority. Nevertheless, the First Aid Committee organized a considerable number of activities for CRCS members and volunteers, as well as for the general public, and has been doing its best to enrich and improve its work.

Courses & Trainings

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

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

Embracing the slogan "First Aid saves lives", during 2016, CRCS organized **42 first aid courses**, in Greek and in English. A total number of **434 individuals** were trained (284 men and 150 women) and the total income received by the Society for organizing the courses was 13,734.00 Euro.

First Aid Training in Norway by Erasmus Plus Programme

Eight First Aid Instructors of the CRCS travelled to Norway from 29 March to 5 April 2016 for training in First Aid. The aims of the project were acquiring knowledge, the enhancement of skills and the practical training of the participants in the sector of First Aid, specifically in the sector of cardiopulmonary and the use of Automated External Defibrillator. The training was delivered by the team of the Hordaland Branch of the Norwegian Red Cross.

World First Aid Day

On the occasion of the World First Aid Day which was celebrated on Saturday, **12 September 2016**, (celebrated every second Saturday of September each year), the CRCS circulated a dedicated poster. The poster called on the public to learn First Aid and to always have a First Aid kit at home, in their car, and at work. The poster's slogan was "**First Aid save lives. It's for everyone, everywhere.**"



migration issues

In 2016 Migration remained central to the work of the CRCS and all activities continued building on the basis of previous years. The CRCS continued covering humanitarian needs of migrants along with the provision of Psychosocial Support. It has also participated in workshops and training, and has also increased communication with other institutions relevant in this field.

CRCS Migration Committee

In connection with the reform of the CRCS Migration Committee (hereafter referred to as MCOM), a meeting was held on 25 February 2016, with the participation of the President, Vice President and Treasurer of the CRCS, representing the organisation's Executive Committee, the CRCS Director General and the Deputy Director, and the members of the Migration Committee. After the meeting, the Committee's Terms of Reference were revised and approved by the Executive Committee in June 2016. The reorganized MCOM aims at increased involvement of its members in the field and to improve the capacity of each Branch in the area of Migration, as well as to strengthen the communication and coordination among them. Accordingly, each Branch and the Youth Section were invited to appoint at least two persons as members of the MCOM, ensuring equal geographic representation. Following preparatory work and a timeline designed by the CRCS Deputy Director, the CRCS PERCO Representative and the CRCS Migration Officer, the first meeting of the new Committee took place on 24 November 2016, hosted by the Limassol Branch. There, the new members were introduced to the work of CRCS in the area Migration, to the work of the Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (hereafter referred to as PERCO) network and the Movement in general, and exchanged views on how MCOM should proceed with its work in 2017.

PERCO Representation

CRCS PERCO Representative, Ms Andri Agrotis, represented the CRCS at both meetings of PERCO in 2016. The first meeting of PERCO took place in Berlin, Germany, from 28 to 29 April 2016, during which PERCO representatives were introduced to the asylum policy framework in Germany and had a roundtable discussion on common challenges and opportunities. The second meeting took place in Dublin, Ireland, from 27 to 28 October 2016. The meeting raised concerns over the representation of migrants in the news, on the occasion of the closing of the camp in Calais, France; an issue which was also raised by some of the participating National Societies (for more details, see the relevant section on "INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION").

Participation in Workshops & Conferences

The CRCS continued its participation in workshops, meetings and conferences relevant to its work on Migration. Such meetings are beneficial in exchanging ideas with other organisations and institutions, in receiving updates on policy matters and sharing experience from the field. The following events took place in Cyprus:

Meeting with a representation of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, (hereafter referred to as the SPT), held on 25 January 2016, in Nicosia. The SPT, a United Nations treaty body, is mandated with monitoring the work of the National Prevention Mechanism, which in Cyprus functions under the coordination of the Office of the Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights (Ombudsman). The main issue of concern during the meeting was the detention conditions at the Menoyia Detention Centre for Forbidden Migrants.

Training on the 'Legal framework and procedures for access to asylum rights' (held on 21 April 2016, Nicosia)

The training was organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, (hereafter referred to as the UNHCR), in Cyprus, and it was aimed at professionals and volunteers working with migrants. The training was highly popular with CRCS volunteers who participated in the training.



Seminar ‘Beyond Detention: development and implementation of alternatives to detention’ (held on 20 May 2016, Nicosia)

This seminar was organized by UNHCR Cyprus, aiming to bring together the Cyprus authorities, independent bodies and NGOs, in order to encourage a discussion on the issue of alternative measures to the detention of migrants.

Meeting under the project ‘TRACKS – Identification of trafficked asylum seekers special needs’ (held on 26 July 2017, Nicosia)

This is an EU funded project, implemented in Cyprus by the NGO KISA - Action for Equality, Support, Antiracism. The meeting aimed at introducing the project to other organizations in Cyprus and discuss experience from the field, with regard to the treatment of persons whose status as asylum seekers, overlaps with their identification as victims of trafficking in human beings. All participants raised serious concerns and gave concrete examples of gaps in the current legal framework.

‘People on the move’ High School Conference (held on 23 November 2016, in Nicosia, Second Regional Gymnasium, Klirou)

The CRCS Youth Section was invited to organize a workshop for the high school students participating in the abovementioned conference, involving approximately 25 persons. The workshop drew upon workshops introduced by the Compass: Manual for Human Rights Education of the Council of Europe, and the participants were invited to present a scene from a border, where refugees had to face the police forces of a neighbouring country. The activity was followed by a discussion on what they experienced and on the issue of social inclusion in the school environment.

Seminar on ‘Respect of Human Rights’ (held on 9 December 2016, in Nicosia)

The event was organized by the Human Rights Office of the Cyprus Police Unit on EU and International Cooperation. At the seminar, the CRCS was invited to present how human rights defined its work in the field in the area of Migration. The event was attended by a number of high level government representatives, including the Chief of Police, the Cyprus Commissioner for Administration and Human Rights, and the Cyprus Commissioner for Children’s Rights.

Advocacy, Policy and Legal Developments

Between March and June 2016, the CRCS participated in a series of meetings with the Cyprus Police and other NGOs, with the aim of preparing a Memorandum of Understanding (hereafter referred to as the MoU), laying down guidelines on the cooperation between NGOs and the Cyprus Police. This MoU builds on previous agreements between the CRCS and the Cyprus Police in the areas of Tracing & Restoring Family Links and Psychosocial Support activities at the Menoyia Detention Centre for Irregular Migrants, and was presented to other NGOs as an example of good practice of Police collaboration with the Civil Society. Many of the provisions of the MoU are relevant to areas concerning migration, although this is not the sole area of collaboration.

With regard to legal developments, the Bill on Reforming the Refugee Law of 2000-2014 was voted into Law by the House of Representatives in October 2016. This formally transposed the Reception Conditions Directive (2013/33/EU) and the Common Procedures Directive (2013/32/EU) into the domestic legal system.

Pursuant to an initiative by the UNHCR and the Asylum Service, the CRCS was invited to participate in an ‘Integration Task Force’, to discuss issues which precluded the smooth integration of third country nationals, with an emphasis on people with international protection, in the Cypriot society. The first of a series of meetings took place on 30 September 2016, where the CRCS was represented by its Migration and PSS Officers. After the introductory meeting, four working groups were established, which were to hold separate meetings for a year, discussing issues relevant to each thematic area. The four working groups established concerned:

- Education
- Employment and Vocational Training
- Social Assistance
- Social Inclusion and Participation

At the Integration Task Force meetings, the CRCS is represented by the PERCO Representative, and the Migration Officer or the PSS Officer, depending on the thematic area discussed.

Humanitarian Assistance by the Branches to Migrants, Refugees & Asylum Seekers

Each Branch continues its own ongoing programme for the distribution of humanitarian assistance at their local premises, while most Branches are also contributing to CRCS work in the field through the activities of those volunteers who have expressed an interest to work with migrants and refugees. During 2016 there was also an increased involvement of most Branches in the provision of humanitarian assistance to the asylum seekers residing in reception centres and migrants detained at the immigration detention centre, through the coordination of the Migration Officer. It is expected that this would improve further in coming years, through empowerment and capacity building activities, through the work of the Migration Committee.

Projects

Legal Support to Migrants' Project

After the successful completion of the first year of collaboration between the Icelandic Red Cross and the CRCS, in June 2016, it was agreed by both parties that the project will be extended for a period of another year, with the use of the remaining funding. As a result, the timeframe for the project was modified to June 2015 – May 2017. An annual activity report and a financial report were submitted to the Icelandic Red Cross over the summer of 2016, for the first year of the project. At the end of 2016, a total number of 20 cases was registered. The CRCS was called to assist in a number of cases, which required communication with other National Societies. A considerable number of the cases, referred to situations where the law did not allow any option for further action for the benefit of the beneficiary. The case registry does not count advice and support given in the field during the course of CRCS activities in centres receiving and accommodating applicants for international protection. Accordingly, it was necessary to consult with governmental authorities and services, other non-governmental and international organisations, as and when necessary.

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

In November 2016 the CRCS was informed by the European Fund Unit of the Ministry of the Interior, that its application for funding for the project “Activities programme for residents of the Open Reception and Accommodation Centre for Applicants of International Protection at Kofinou” was approved. This project is implemented by the CRCS and Enoros Consulting Ltd, and it is jointly funded by the Republic of Cyprus and the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF), of the European Union. The objective of the project is the improvement of the living conditions of the residents of the Centre, through their involvement in a series of leisure activities for minors (of pre-school and school age) and for adults. Another objective of the project is the implementation of a programme for afternoon homework assistance, for those minors attending school. The activities are based on assessing the needs of the beneficiaries and are to be implemented over a period of three four-month-long semesters, aiming to benefit a minimum of 210 residents.

Emergency Rescue Operations

There were **eight emergency rescues** in 2016, the majority of which took place in Spring and Autumn, during which a total of **360 persons** were rescued at sea. This number is small compared to estimates by international organizations which monitor developments in the region. During these operations, the CRCS Migration Officer was always informed and she always visited the site where they had been accommodated, in order to discuss with them and ensure that they were correctly informed about their rights and obligations, as well as that all their urgent needs were covered.

The CRCS is an active component of the Government's rescue plans, which fall under the responsibility of the Civil Defence. As a result, the CRCS Director General is always informed through the system, when refugees are rescued at sea. From thereon, the CRCS Director General informs the relevant Branch and the necessary CRCS officers, while the Migration Officer informs the Migration Committee.

After the 2016 refugee arrivals, the following observations/conclusions were made by the CRCS. Firstly, Cyprus is gradually becoming a destination country contrary to previous years. Most of the refugees arriving in the island in 2016, aimed towards being reunited with family members, relatives or friends who were already in Cyprus. Moreover, all boats arrived at the same geographic area, the north-west coast of the island, which is quite remote in relation to other cities, and it takes roughly three hours drive to get there from the capital Nicosia. This caused considerable challenges in providing immediate humanitarian assistance upon disembarkation. This area which is the only part of the northern coast of the island which belongs to the Republic of Cyprus, is preferred by the smugglers, instead of other areas of the occupied part, which are much nearer to the Turkish coast, from where all boats come.

Activities at Accommodation Facilities for Asylum Seekers

In 2016, the CRCS was present at three separate facilities:

- Dhekelia camp in the British Sovereign Bases
- Open Reception and Accommodation Centre for Applicants of International Protection in Kofinou area
- Kokkinotrimithia Temporary Reception Camp

Dhekelia, British Sovereign Base

From February to April 2016 a team of two CRCS volunteers visited, on a weekly basis, the temporary camp set up by the British authorities within the Dhekelia British Sovereign Base. There they implemented educational and leisure activities for the small number of children residing at the camp with their families (ten children in total). After their rescue off the southern coast of the island, in November 2015, the families were originally accommodated within the territory of the Akrotiri British Sovereign Base, before they were transferred to Dhekelia. Under the law applicable at the British Sovereign Bases, those residents who were not eligible for international protection were eventually deported and the CRCS was called to discuss with the residents of the camp their legal situation in advance of their deportation.

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

In early 2016, after the CRCS efforts to establish a Distribution Centre at the Kofinou reception centre had failed, a new approach was adopted by registering the needs of each person separately, preparing individual packages, which were then delivered directly to each beneficiary. This procedure took place regularly, roughly from January to June 2016, when a private company, took the responsibility of administering the centre under the supervision of the Asylum Service. With the involvement of other NGOs and other private initiatives, during the second half of the year, CRCS dedicated its resources mainly on the coverage of medical needs and equipment, for which the public healthcare system could not provide for.

Moreover, a team of Psychosocial Support (PSS) trained volunteers continued visiting the centre, assessing the psychosocial needs of the residents and organizing PSS interventions.

Temporary Reception Camp in Kokkinotrimithia area

After the boat arrivals in autumn 2016, in collaboration with the Civil Defence, the CRCS had the opportunity to re-establish a Distribution Centre at the Temporary Reception Camp in Kokkinotrimithia area, after a period of time when the camp was not in use. The camp, a governmental facility, provides tented accommodation, and it is used on an ad-hoc basis, after massive arrivals of refugees. It is designed to host rescued people for a short period of time up until they are ready to be transferred mainly to the Reception Centre in Kofinou. The CRCS covers their humanitarian needs during their stay at the camp and is available to respond immediately to any emergency needs.

psychosocial support

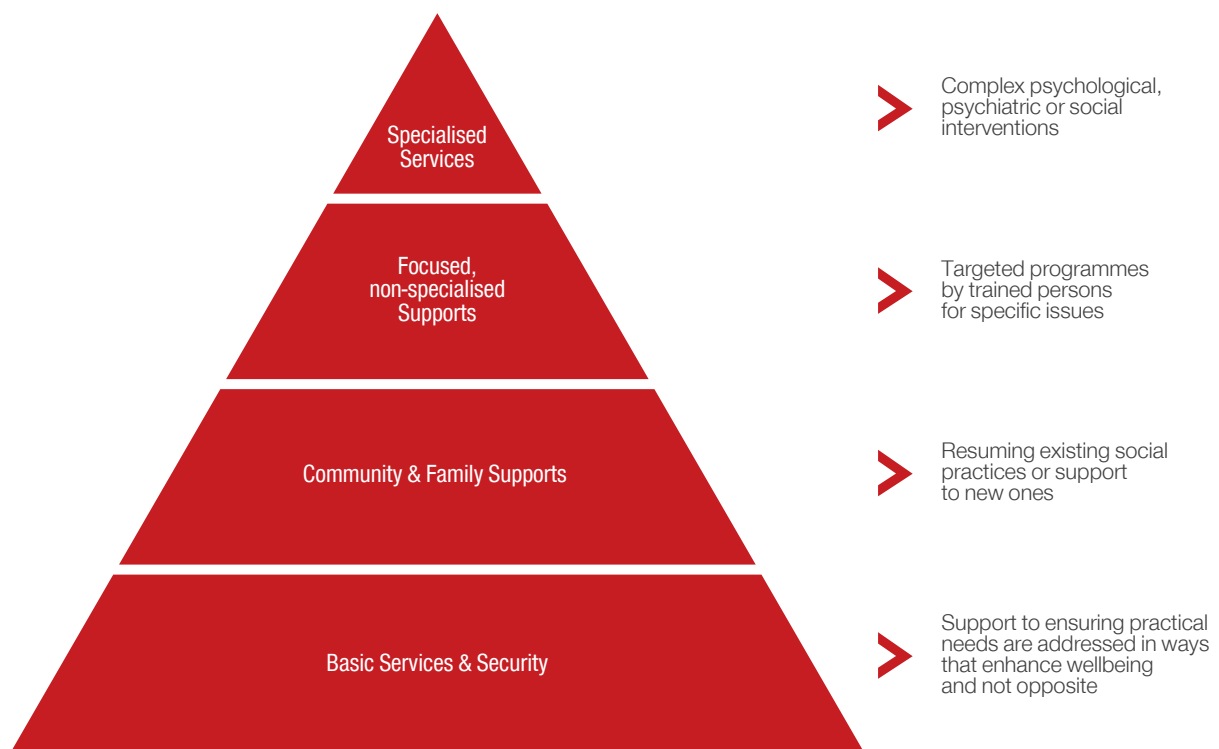
According to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Psychosocial Reference Centre: “The main purpose of psychosocial support is to build resilience – to increase the ability to absorb shock and bounce back – and to help people to cope with and recover from a disaster or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

Psychosocial Support (PSS) in Cyprus

The PSS programme is gradually been integrated within all areas of CRCS work. In 2016, the Psychosocial Support Service of the CRCS, trained volunteers and provided psychosocial support interventions during the arrivals of migrants from war-torn countries. Parallel to this, a small group of volunteers began working on a weekly-basis at the Open Reception and Accommodation Centre for Applicants of International Protection in Kofinou area. Using the “Community -Based” approach, as recommended by the International Guidelines, our active volunteers have conducted needs assessments and found creative ways of implementing programmes despite the limited resources. The aim is to be able to continue to support our beneficiaries in a sustainable way.

Specialised Services: Psychotherapy Service

The effects of the global financial crisis and subsequent recession of the Cyprus economy have spread to all sectors - Governmental, Non-Governmental and Private - condemning the disillusioned general public to a vicious cycle of stress and helplessness. Often enough, basic needs were threatened and/or were not met, while unemployment, poverty and homelessness had become an everyday reality for a growing number of adversely affected citizens.



The CRCS has observed how economic woes translated to higher stress levels and had given rise to a host of social ills - mental illnesses, a rise in domestic violence, unemployment, the breakdown of family bonds, children suffering neglect, and outbreaks of antisocial and criminal behaviour. Although somewhat the situation has improved, the consequences of the crisis continue to be disruptive. CRCS PSS team has developed collaborations with training institutes, such as the Systemic Institute of Cyprus and the University of Nicosia, to provide specialized services to the CRCS beneficiaries who needed further support. Trainee psychotherapists offer their services whilst being supervised by their training institute, free of charge. The collaboration with those institutes begun in 2016 and has thus far has involved 22 CRCS beneficiaries.

Training in Community-Based Psychosocial Support

Following the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, the International Red Cross Red Crescent Movement formulated a comprehensive training kit for trainers. This training is our foundation course for building the skills needed to provide psychosocial support to vulnerable groups during times of crisis. The training is taught in an interactive and participatory manner at regular intervals. After the three to five days training, volunteers choose their field of interest from the available CRCS areas of work and continue their training in the programme of their choice. In 2016, **two training courses** were organized.

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

During 2016, two boats arrived in the north-west coast of Cyprus. The rescued persons were survivors of the ongoing crisis in nearby Syria. As soon as they were rescued, they were transferred to the Temporary Reception Camp in Kokkinotrimithia area. The vast majority of the people who arrived in Cyprus during 2016 requested asylum from the Republic of Cyprus. All of them were transported to the Reception Centre in Kofinou. Since then, the PSS programme is active in the Centre and continues to support the residents. The Reception Centre, has the capacity to accommodate 400 people. The infrastructure of the Centre, however, proved to be inadequate in providing a home for all the newly arrived individuals. Their sense of disorientation and overwhelming grief, needed to be contained and relieved. It is towards that aim, that the CRCS strives, running a number of activities for the benefit of the residents of the Centre.

Film Screenings, for children and adults

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

Greek and English Language Classes: educational/integration

The CRCS' PSS team's on-site needs assessment concluded that the implementation of weekly language classes for the residents of the Reception Centre is absolutely necessary. Further than common knowledge, studies have shown that language knowledge increases the Asylum Seeker's chances for integration. The PSS team collaborates with the Ministry of Education and Culture to provide weekly language classes at the Centre. Although the start of the language classes were slow to start with, the demand for such classes grew and and the CRCS extended the classes until the end of 2016.

Football: Community engagement

Football has been successfully used to bring different ethnic groups together at the Reception Centre. It has been documented that, at times of conflict within the community of the Centre, this activity has been most useful. Values of teamwork and fairplay are being taught and often enough the activity develops dreams for both the children and the adults of the Centre. At the start of the programme, a PSS volunteer together with identified community leaders, obtained the needed materials from different organizations and actively engaged a local football club (Omonoia). An agreement was concluded with the football club, according to which club players visit the centre to speak and play football with the community. During 2016, 50 children attended football matches and were trained twice a month at Omonoia's training academies.

other programmes, services & projects

Restoring Family Links (RFL) - Tracing Services

Every year, thousands of family members are separated by conflicts, disasters or migration. People suffer terribly when they lose contact with their loved ones and do not know where they are or whether they are safe and alive. The ICRC and the National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies work together around the world to locate people and put them back into contact with their relatives. Tracing activities may extend well beyond the end of a conflict or a natural disaster. As members of the Family Links Network of the Movement and the National Societies, the CRCS cooperated with the Central Tracing Agency of the ICRC in Geneva, in order to restore contact between family members. In 2016 the CRCS received and dealt with **nine requests for tracing**.

Anti-trafficking

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

Management of Emergencies and Deaths

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

Coca Cola's donation to the fire victims through the CRCS

Coca-Cola Company donated the amount of **50.000,00 Euro** for the victims of the fires that took place during the Summer of 2016 in Cyprus. The presentation of cheques was made during a special ceremony at the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment. The CRCS, through which the donation was made, has offered the financial assistance in the form of cheques issued to the victims.

Working Along Key Experts (Wake) Project

The WAKE project, which is granted by the European Commission, aims overall to improve the actual day-to-day situation of victims of crime to the greatest extent possible and to reduce their experiences of discrimination in Cyprus. The specific objectives of the project are the identification of the training needs of the professionals of the relevant government authorities and other practitioners dealing with victims of violence and crime and to improve their capacity through training, in order to be able to operate in a more respectful, impartial and professional manner. Fostering the exchange of good practices on identification and screening processes of victims and their needs is another objective to be achieved through the proposed project, in addition to sustaining a network and good working relations between the involved actors. The Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family, (hereafter referred to as the SPAVO), is the Leader of the project and the CRCS is one of the Principal Partners. The CRCS plays a crucial role in the implementation of all aspects of the project, especially through the spreading of awareness among other NGOs, the practical engagement in the formulation of the training material and the organization of the working groups and case studies for the key experts. The project started in November 2015 and will be completed in May 2017.



locating people
and putting them
back into contact
with their relatives

activities, campaigns & events

The rich and multifaceted work of the CRCS is the result of the active involvement and enthusiasm of its members and volunteers, which in 2016 was expressed through a large variety of activities, campaigns and events. A significant number of the CRCS's activities were of a long duration. Several short-term events also took place throughout the year. The size of the activities was determined by their goals, duration and geographic coverage. Most of the activities were primarily aiming at the raising of funds in order to enable the CRCS to provide various forms of assistance to vulnerable groups, which increased considerably after the financial crisis, and to raise social awareness on a number of important topics.

“Door to Door” Pancyprian Fundraising Campaign

The annual “Door to Door” fundraising campaign took place from **21 March to 12 April 2016** all over the island. The sponsor of the 2016 fundraising campaign was Piraeus Bank and the six ambassadors were: Andreas Fylaktou – actor/dancer, Yiannis Hadjiloizou - musician, Andreas Araouzos actor/ stage director, Viki Kala – dancer, Christina Marouhou – actress and Kypros Karaviotis – Deejay. The Campaign was launched on 21 March 2016 during a Press Conference, at the CRCS Headquarters in Nicosia. The event was declared open by H.E. Mr. Yiannakis Omirou, President of the House of Representatives. The total amount raised was **278.716,92 Euro**, a much higher amount compared to that of previous years. The proceeds of the Campaign were allocated towards meeting the increased humanitarian needs which were caused by the financial crisis, the operational costs of the CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti, as well as numerous other CRCS programmes. Once again, the “Door to Door” fundraising campaign provided also to the CRCS the opportunity to publicize and promote its aims and activities, as well as to offer Cypriots the opportunity to be part of a humanitarian society. On 4 July 2016, the CRCS President, Mrs Fotini Papadopoulous, hosted in the gardens of her residence, the closing ceremony of the fundraising campaign during which she thanked and honoured the sponsor for their valuable assistance and the very successful promotion of the campaign, the ambassadors of the campaign, as well as the CRCS members and volunteers, who had contributed to the success of the event.



Additional event by the Kyrenia Branch

On the occasion of the “Door to Door” fundraising campaign, the Kyrenia Branch organized an event on **23 March 2016**, at The Mall of Engomi, in Nicosia. The event was opened by the CRCS President, Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulous and was attended, amongst others, by Government officials, the Mayor of Engomi Municipality, Mr. Zacharias Kyriakou, the Vice President of the CRCS, Mrs Leda Koursoumba, the Director General of the CRCS, Mr. Takis Neophytou, the Deputy Director of the CRCS, Mrs Christina Kapartis, the President of the CRCS Kyrenia Branch, Mrs. Maroulla Angelides, CRCS members and volunteers. The event included a programme with dancing presentation by the Avgi Varianou Dance Studio and Zumba demonstrations by Maria Evangelidou School, songs by three Kyrenian friends of the Branch, Chrysanthi Schiza, Christina Shamounki and Stella Valianti, and music, which offered an excellent entertainment to those present.

Πάμε!
21 Μαρτίου-12 Απριλίου
Φέτος, είμαστε πάλι όλοι μαζί, μια ομάδα, για να ανοίξουμε μια πόρτα στην ελπίδα!

Έρανος Κυπριακού Ερυθρού Σταυρού «Από Πόρτα σε Πόρτα».

Charity Direct
cyta

Το μόνο σημαντικό στοιχείο, σε αυτό το έρανο του Κυπριακού Ερυθρού Σταυρού, πρόκειται για SMS στο 7060
Καθημερινά (ανά ημέρα) 11 π.μ. (ΕΤ) - 11:00 π.μ. (πρωινό) έως 11 π.μ. (ΕΤ) / καθημερινά (ανά ημέρα) 11 π.μ. (ΕΤ)

TRINIZA / TRINIZA



Excursion to the United Republic of Tanzania

The CRCS, continuing its tradition of organizing annual excursions for its members and friends to several countries, organized a safari-excursion to the United Republic of Tanzania from **6 to 13 September 2016**. A total number of **35 persons** participated. The group visited Arusha, Kilimantzaro, Masai Boma, Tarangire National Park, Karatu, Ngorongoro and Serengeti National Park. The profit made for the benefit of the CRCS' programmes amounted to **10,640.00 Euro**.

Road Safety Campaign

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

Theatrical play "My beloved Smirni"

Several performances of the theatrical play **"My beloved Smirni"** by Mimi Denisis were organized by the CRCS in Cyprus from **11 to 19 October 2016** at the Strovolos Municipal Theater, in Nicosia. The main sponsors of the event were OPAP Cyprus and ALPHAMEGA Hypermarkets, the aviation sponsor was AEGEAN Airlines, and the supporters were the Hilton Hotel, Kapnos Airport Shuttle, Kassoulides Masterprinters and Mary Lou Shop. The net proceeds amounted to **77.888,58 Euro**. The CRCS expressed its warm thanks to Mimi Denisis, the sponsors and all the volunteers and staff who worked hard towards the success of the event.

Climate Change

Among its other priorities, the CRCS is very sensitive for and concerned with environmental issues and the threatening consequences of climate change. Accordingly, during 2016, the CRCS focused, among others, on the following environmental priorities and activities:

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

2016 Lucky Charms

Michalakis Aloupas Jewellers Ltd, specially designed, produced and donated to the CRCS, 1800 silver 2016 Lucky Charms. The charms were sold by the CRCS volunteers at 15 Euro each and the proceeds were used for the CRCS's humanitarian activities. The CRCS extends warm thanks to Michalakis Aloupas Jewellers Ltd for their very generous donation. The total net revenue from the sale was **19,003 Euro**.



Γούρι του Κυπριακού Ερυθρού Σταυρού για το 2016

Ο Κυπριακός Ερυθρός Σταυρός (Κ.Ε.Ε.) έχει επιλέξει και φέτος γούρι για το 2016. Η τιμή πώλησής του είναι €15 και το καθαρό έσοδο θα διατεθεί για τις φιλανθρωπικές δραστηριότητες του Κυπριακού Ερυθρού Σταυρού. Ο Κ.Ε.Ε. απευθύνει τις θερμές του ευχαριστίες προς την εταιρεία Michalakis Aloupas Jewellers Ltd για τον υψηλοκατάβατο σκελετικό του γούριου.

Αγοράστε κι εσείς το γούρι του Ερυθρού Σταυρού και βοηθήστε τον να συνεχίσει το ανθρωπιστικό του έργο. Το γούρι διατίθεται στα γραφεία Διοίκησης του Κ.Ε.Ε. στη Λεωφόρο και στους Κλάδους στις άλλες πόλεις.

ΓΡΑΦΕΙΑ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΗΣ	22 666955
ΚΛΑΔΟΣ ΛΕΥΚΩΣΙΑΣ	22 664988
ΚΛΑΔΟΣ ΛΕΜΟΣΟΥ	23 939104
ΚΛΑΔΟΣ ΑΜΜΟΧΩΣΤΟΥ	24 655643
ΚΛΑΔΟΣ ΛΑΡΝΑΚΑΣ	24 655080
ΚΛΑΔΟΣ ΠΑΦΟΥ	26 933259



CRCS lucky charms raised 19,003 euro

Christmas Cards

Taking into consideration the financial crisis, as well as the fact that demand for printed cards had been reduced to the minimum, the CRCS decided not to print new cards and to dispose its old stock. The proceeds amounted to **635.00 Euro** and were used in support of the CRCS humanitarian work.

Event in Honor of CRCS Donors

The CRCS has made it a tradition to express its gratitude and thanks to all the companies and individuals who support its humanitarian work. During the closing ceremony of the Door to Door fundraising campaign, on 4 July 2016, which was hosted by the CRCS President, Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou, at her residence, the following major donors and supporters were recognized and honored with the presentation of plaques:

- Ocean Basket Κύπρου (Cyprus)
- Lanitis Bros Ltd
- Grecian Hotel Enterprises Ltd
- BP Eastern Mediterranean Ltd
- Printing Office of the Republic of Cyprus
- Mr. Benon Sevan
- The Grammar School Nicosia
- Photos Photiades Group
- Mrs. Maro Efstathiadou
- Mrs. Mary Agathangelou

Hermes Airports Xmas Event

The Hermes Airports, organized Christmas Bazaars at the airports of Larnaca and Paphos, in December 2016 and donated the proceeds of **2,010.00 Euro** to the CRCS Larnaca, Famagusta and Paphos Branches. Members of the three Branches assisted with the sales of Christmas crafts and sweets.

Ocean Basket Campaign

The Ocean Basket chain of fish restaurants, for the second consecutive year, organized a fundraising campaign in aid of the CRCS, named “**Love in Action - Together we can do more**”. The customers visiting the Ocean Basket restaurants all over Cyprus, were asked to indicate their readiness to offer one Euro to the CRCS, by making a cross with their knife and fork after they finished their meal. The campaign was organized from 26 November 2016 to 7 January 2017. The total proceeds amounted to **27,400.00 Euro**.



branch activities

NICOSIA BRANCH

Throughout 2016, the Nicosia Branch was very active in promoting the CRCS's policy, aims and priorities, which have been increased because of the ongoing financial crisis. It is the largest Branch of the CRCS and because of being housed under the same roof as the CRCS Headquarters, it is very actively involved in the implementation of its programmes and activities. In 2016, a large number of members and volunteers of the Nicosia Branch contributed substantially in meeting the needs of thousands of vulnerable people and refugees. In order to meet the increased demands, the Branch had to reorganize its programmes, develop further its volunteer workforce, introduce new methodologies and approaches and reach out for new synergies.

Social Welfare Programme

Since September 2014, the Nicosia Branch has been implementing, on a pilot basis, a social welfare programme, including a series of actions (initial assessment, need assessment, food aid, clothing, home visits, psychotherapy, language lessons, counselling sessions, advocacy and referrals to other health care professionals) with the aim of implementing a holistic approach and methodology. During 2016, interviews and home visits, conducted by professionals and trained volunteers allowed for a better understanding of the needs of the beneficiaries and the initiation of sustainable solutions. The programme has been running with considerable success. Further measures are currently under consideration in order to secure more funding, empower the people involved and increase the capacity building of the Branch.

Humanitarian & Financial Assistance

The Branch provided in kind humanitarian assistance to individuals and families, in terms of food, clothing, footwear, food and diapers for children, refurbished furniture and more. This effort was particularly intensified over the Christmas and Easter periods. During 2016, more than **4,000 beneficiaries** were assisted by the Branch at a total cost of 92,180.00 Euro. In addition, the Branch also spent 7,879.00 Euro, for covering other urgent needs of vulnerable people. Furthermore, through the programme "Mirazome/Sharing", **223 beneficiaries** received **10,704 cooked meals**. Additionally, the Branch provided financial assistance amounting to 2,700.00 Euro and in kind assistance to the Hellenic Red Cross in order to help them meet the needs of the massive arrivals of refugees, in Greece.

Contribution to the CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti

The Branch provided financial support to the Centre, amounting to **13,127,00 Euro**, this amount being the 25 per cent of the proceeds of the "Door to Door" fundraising campaign of the Branch, as decided by the CRCS Council.

Aid on Site

During 2016, the Branch organized visits to support applicants at their homes. During home visits, humanitarian assistance in kind was offered, including food, clothing and footwear.



Even a smile
goes a long
way

Access to Health

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

Psychosocial Support

Pursuant to an agreement of the CRCS Headquarters with the Systemic Institute of Cyprus, beneficiaries of the Branch, upon referral, received psychotherapeutic support from professionals of the Institute. Moreover, under the framework of the same agreement, staff and volunteers of the Branch received training on psychosocial support, organized by the CRCS Headquarters Psychosocial Support Officer.

Wheelchair & Mobility Equipment Scheme

Through this scheme, wheelchairs were offered for short-term rental to the public, at a very low cost. Provision of wheelchairs to vulnerable and disabled individuals was free of charge. During 2016, a total of **295 wheelchairs, one Lift and a bed** were offered.

Emergency Response Unit

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

First Responders Training

In 2016, volunteers and staff of the Branch participated in the first phase of the First Responders training and received a 50-hour training on First Aid. The training was conducted by the team of the Hordaland Branch of the Norwegian Red Cross, pursuant to the agreement with the CRCS Headquarters.

Enclaved People

Since 1974, the CRCS has been offering assistance and support to the enclaved people who visit the free areas of Cyprus. Among others, in 2016, CRCS facilitated their access to public services, hospitals and relatives, and provided food to those visiting the CRCS premises in Nicosia. During 2016, staff and volunteers of the Branch were actively involved in the provision of such services.

Refugees, Asylum Seekers & Minority Groups

During 2016, the Branch, being the largest, has contributed substantially in the implementation of the CRCS's programmes for refugees, asylum seekers and minority groups. A large number of staff and volunteers have participated in numerous activities focusing on the assistance to migrants. Members of the Branch participated in the operation of the Migration Committee of CRCS. The Secretary of the Branch represents the CRCS at the PERCO Platform of the IFRC.

Additionally, members of the Branch played a pivotal role in the CRCS's huge efforts to receive and provide urgent and early recovery, as well as humanitarian assistance, to the number of refugees from Syria, who had been accommodated in the Kokkinotrimithia Emergency Camp. Volunteers conducted visits to the Reception Centre for Asylum Seekers at Kofinou, paid home visits to migrants integrated in the society, provided humanitarian assistance to large numbers of refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, who visited the Branch, twice a week, as well as medical support in emergency cases. Moreover, the Branch arranged visits to the Menogia Detention Centre for Migrants where psychosocial, humanitarian or other support was required. Furthermore, members of the Branch were actively involved in the coordination and implementation of the CRCS's project for the provision of psychosocial support services to the Menogia Detention Centre for Migrants, which was financed by the NGO Fund. The project aimed at improving the well-being of the detainees, as well as ensuring the protection of their basic human and other rights.



Fundraising Events

During 2016, the Branch organized a large number of fundraising activities, including a music concert, a bazaar, a charity lunch, art exhibitions, book sales, the “Door to Door” fundraising campaign, as well as several other fundraising campaigns in supermarkets, parks, and schools.

Social Activities for the Elderly

During 2016, the Branch organized a number of social activities, including Christmas events and excursions for the elderly. The programme has been developed to keep the elderly active and involved in their local community, a factor that can give positive impact upon their health, wellbeing and quality of life. Community based activities can help these people learn new skills, keep active, meet people, make a difference in their community and have fun.

Working Along Key Experts (WAKE) Project

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

During 2016, volunteers and staff of the Branch, received training on the identification and screening processes of victims of violence and crime, as well as their needs. The project was carried out in co-operation with organizations such as Spavo (Cypriot NGO against domestic violence), Enoros Consulting, The Spanish Association for battered and Sexually Abused Women (ADAVAS -ES), and the Portuguese Association for Victim Support (APAV - PT).



LIMASSOL BRANCH

In 2016, the CRCS Limassol Branch with its 350 volunteers and members assisted and participated in several activities and campaigns organized by the Headquarters' Committees, in addition to their own extensive activities. The Limassol Branch is one of the most active Branches of the CRCS, always acting in full compliance with the policies of the Movement, helping with the achievement of the mission and annual priorities of the CRCS.

Home Visit Scheme

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

Humanitarian & Financial Assistance

Twice a week the Branch offers food parcels and clothing to individuals, families, migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in need. Christmas and Easter special food parcels were distributed to approximately **550 families** for the festive seasons. The Branch's clothing boutique for adults and children is fully equipped, in order to facilitate the selection of clothing by those in need. As appropriate, in special cases financial assistance for medical services were offered to individuals. The Branch continued to offer **breakfast to 100 students** during the school period. The total cost of all of the above was 38,472.00 Euro. The the Branch also provided 2,200.00 Euro and in kind assistance to the Hellenic Red Cross to meet the needs of the massive arrivals of refugees in Greece.

Contribution to the CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti

The Branch provided financial support to the Centre amounting to **11,997.83 Euro**, this amount being the 25 per cent of the proceeds of the "Door to Door" fundraising campaign of the Branch, as decided by the CRCS Council.

Wheelchair & Mobility Equipment Scheme

Throughout 2016, the Limassol Branch provided wheelchairs and mobility equipment to poor and disabled people. In total, **95 wheelchairs, 15 walkers and 10 crutches** were distributed. Wheelchairs were also made available for short term rental for a very low fee.



Blood Donation

The Blood Donation scheme of the Branch successfully continued for the 56th year and collected almost **4,000 bags of blood** for the Limassol General Hospital. This was carried out in cooperation with the Hospital Blood Bank Team, the Gymnasiums of Limassol and Limassol district, as well as with the assistance of the members of the Blood Donors Committee of the Branch.

Fundraising & Other Activities

The main fundraising event remains the Pancyprian “Door to Door” campaign. In addition, collections were made at a summer party held at the house of a member of the Branch Committee, and from charity events organized by the Branch or by schools, companies and other organizations. The proceeds are donated to the Branch. Other sources of income included the collection of membership fees, donations received at funerals in memoriam, as well as donations given by individuals and companies. Twice, during 2016, a collection of foodstuff was organized by volunteers of the Limassol Branch, by placing baskets at eight major supermarkets.





FAMAGUSTA BRANCH

After its displacement from Famagusta in 1974, the Branch moved its quarters to Larnaca. In 2016, the Branch had more than 237 members and volunteers who, despite the unfavourable 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 the free Famagusta area. In addition to providing assistance, the Branch participated in several activities and campaigns organized by the Headquarters' Committees in full compliance with the policies and the mission of the Society and the Movement in general.

Home Visit Scheme

The Branch has a home visiting programme which includes kindergartens, special schools, elderly homes, shelters and other institutions. The Branch Committee responsible for the home visits, implemented monthly visits to poor families. The visits were intensified during the Christmas and Easter periods when baskets of food and clothing were provided to **441 individuals and families** in Larnaca and the free area of Famagusta district. The total amount spent for the said purposes amounted to 14,306.00 Euro.

Humanitarian & Financial Assistance

The Branch provided baskets of food to individuals and families in Larnaca and the free area of Famagusta district. This effort was intensified during the Christmas and Easter periods when baskets of food and clothing were offered to **350 individuals and families**. The Branch also covered the expenses for providing breakfast to several needy students at schools. Additionally, at its premises the Branch continued supporting vulnerable migrants, asylum seekers and refugees by providing food, clothing and footwear. In many cases, financial assistance was also provided to students and other individuals in need. The Branch also contributed to the appeals of the Movement to alleviate the suffering of victims of various disasters. An additional financial assistance amounting to 700.00 Euro and in kind assistance were sent to the Hellenic Red Cross to meet the needs of the massive arrivals of refugees in Greece.

Contribution to the CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti

The Branch provided financial support to the Centre amounting to **2,961.87 Euro**, this amount being the 25 per cent of the proceeds of the "Door to Door" fundraising campaign of the Branch, as decided by the CRCS Council.

Wheelchair & Mobility Equipment Scheme

Through this scheme, wheelchairs were also offered for rental to the public at a very low cost for a limited period of time. Provision of wheelchairs to needy people and disabled individuals was free of charge. During 2016, the Branch offered **15 wheelchairs**.

Medical Aid

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

Disaster Management & Preparedness

In collaboration with the CRCS Disaster Management Committee and the Civil Defence, members and volunteers of the Branch participated in a two-day international, military exercise called "ARGONAFITIS".

Fundraising Activities & Other Events

Throughout 2016, the major annual fundraising activities of the Branch were successful and generated considerable income to the Branch. The two most important were the organization of a fundraising Tea Party, as well as the major fundraising campaign of the CRCS, the Pancyprian "Door to Door" fundraising campaign. Other sources of income were the collection of membership fees, donations received from individuals and companies, as well as the donations received in memory of deceased persons.

LARNACA BRANCH

In 2016, the Larnaca Branch had 230 members and volunteers who were fully committed to the humanitarian work of the Red Cross, supporting in every way all categories of vulnerable people and doing their utmost to alleviate human suffering of any kind. Additionally, the Branch supported all functions, activities and campaigns organized by the CRCS Headquarters, in full compliance with the policies and trends of the Movement.

Home Visit Scheme

Branch members paid regular visits to the three local Schools for Children with special needs, and distributed food parcels, sweets and toys. Similar visits were paid to the Elderly People's Homes in the city of Larnaca and its districts, where several recreational activities were organized.

Humanitarian & Financial Assistance

The need to provide food, clothing and basic essentials to vulnerable people was the major concern of the Branch, the demand for which increased substantially during 2016. In addition to the already high number of beneficiaries, an increased number of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees received food parcels and clothing from the Branch on a regular basis. During the year under review, the Larnaca Branch provided 1,383 food parcels to **285 families and individuals** in Larnaca and the district. Additionally, the Branch provided food parcels to 16 high school students and their families. The total cost of food parcels was 28,238.00 Euro. The Branch also had to deal with a number of requests for financial assistance to help pay, among others, outstanding bills for rent, school equipment, medical treatment and equipment, totalling 1,710.00 Euro. Furthermore, the Branch sent financial assistance amounting to 800.00 Euro and in kind assistance to the Hellenic Red Cross to meet the needs of the massive arrivals of refugees in Greece.

Contribution to the CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti

The Branch provided financial support to the Centre amounting to **5,341.56 Euro**, this amount being the 25 per cent of the proceeds of the "Door to Door" fundraising campaign of the Branch, as decided by the CRCS Council.

Wheelchair & Mobility Equipment Scheme

The Branch provided wheelchairs and mobility equipment to needy and disabled people free of charge. This equipment was also offered for short term rental to the public at very low cost. During 2016, the Branch offered **31 wheelchairs** to beneficiaries.

Blood Donation

The American Academy of Larnaca has been organizing Blood Donation events among the students of the higher classes for many years. The Branch provided assistance and issued certificates and awards to **65 blood donors** in 2016.

Disaster Management & Preparedness

In collaboration with the CRCS Disaster Management Committee and the Civil Defence, members of the Branch participated in a two-day international military exercise called "ARGONAFITIS" and the rescue and support exercise called "ENGELADOS" in the event of an earthquake. In addition to the above, the Branch members attended a full scale Emergency Exercise called "CRUSH ON AIRPORT" which took place at the Larnaca International Airport.

Training

Members of the Branch participated in three workshops conducted by the Hordaland Branch of the Norwegian Red Cross, namely: Disaster Preparedness and Response, Generating Income and Membership.

Fundraising Activities & Other Events

The major fundraising activities and events of the Branch during 2016 were:

- The annual Christmas Tea Party and Bazaar, in December, raising 12,976.34 Euro.
- The annual “Door to Door” fundraising campaign in May, which generated a considerable income to the Branch, (21,366.25 Euro) and enabled it to provide assistance to needy people
- The Christmas Event at the Larnaca International Airport, which was jointly organized with Hermes Airports. The sale of Christmas sweets and crafts generated an income of 1,050.00 Euro.
- Other sources of income were membership fees, rental of wheelchairs, donations from individuals and companies and also donations in memory of loved ones.



PAPHOS BRANCH

In 2016, the Branch had 42 members. Despite its relatively small size, the Branch continued to provide significant humanitarian assistance in Paphos and its districts. In addition to providing assistance, the Branch participated in several activities and campaigns organized by the CRCS Headquarters on a pan-cyprian basis, in full compliance with the policies and the trends of the Society and the Movement.

Home Visit Scheme

The Branch has a home visiting programme, which during 2016 included provision of assistance to kindergartens, schools, children's homes, homes for the elderly, schools for people with special needs, shelters and other institutions. The visits intensified during the Christmas and Easter periods. Clothing, food vouchers, educational items and toys were distributed to families and individuals in Paphos and the surrounding areas.

Humanitarian & Financial Assistance

In response to the increased demands, which were a direct consequence of the financial crisis, the Branch intensified its efforts for the provision of humanitarian assistance. In some cases, financial assistance was also offered, especially to students and individuals, as well as to families facing special difficulties. The Branch also had to deal with a number of requests for financial assistance to help pay university fees and medical treatment. Additionally, at its premises the Branch continued supporting vulnerable migrants, asylum seekers and refugees, providing food, clothing and footwear. The Branch participated in the two "Love Campaigns" to provide food packages to needy individuals and families during the Christmas and Easter period, which amounted to 2,239.15 Euro. In response to an appeal by the CRCS Headquarters, the Branch provided financial assistance amounting to 200.00 Euro to the Hellenic Red Cross to meet the needs of the massive arrivals of refugees in Greece.

Contribution to the CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti

The Branch provided financial support to the Centre amounting to **1,755,15 Euro**, this amount being the 25 per cent of the proceeds of the "Door to Door" fundraising campaign of the Branch, as decided by the CRCS Council. In addition, the Branch donated to the Centre the amount of **330.00 Euro**, the proceeds of a fundraising event that was held in the residence of its Vice President during the Christmas period.

Wheelchair & Mobility Equipment Scheme

Through this scheme, wheelchairs were offered for short term rental to the public, at a very low cost. Provision of wheelchairs to poor and disabled individuals was free of charge. In 2016, the Branch offered **13 wheelchairs**.

Fundraising Activities

During 2016, all annual fundraising activities organized by the Branch were successful and generated considerable income. The main one was the "Door to Door" fundraising campaign. Other sources of income were the collection of membership fees, donations received from individuals and companies, as well as donations received in memory of deceased persons.

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

Hearts of Gold Award 2016

The Branch received the "Hearts of Gold Award 2016", for showing great courage, determination and community spirit, an award supported by, among others, the Pafos Municipality, and The British High Commission in Cyprus.



KYRENIA BRANCH

The Kyrenia Branch is displaced due to the fact that the Kyrenia district is under Turkish occupation since 1974, and therefore maintains its office in Nicosia. Despite its displacement, it has been very active. In 2016, the Branch had 250 members and volunteers who with enthusiasm and devotion, responded successfully to the humanitarian needs of displaced people from Kyrenia who live in various parts of the island. Members of the Branch also participated in all CRCS activities and campaigns organized by the Headquarters, in compliance with the policies and trends of the Movement.

Home Visit Scheme

The Branch has a home visit scheme which includes children's homes and elderly people's homes, as well as individuals and families. The visits intensified during the Christmas and Easter seasons, when parcels of food, clothing and toys were offered.

Humanitarian & Financial Assistance

The Branch provided in kind assistance to hundreds of individuals and covered the medical expenses for individuals requiring medical treatment. Financial assistance amounting to 2,400.00 Euro was also provided to students and other individuals who, since the financial crisis were unable to pay their educational fees and utility (electricity and water supply) bills. At its premises the Branch continued to support individuals in need, offering clothing and footwear. The Branch also contributed to the appeals of the Movement to alleviate human suffering of victims of various disasters and crises. A financial assistance amounting to 800.00 Euro and an in kind assistance worth 800.00 Euro were donated to the Hellenic Red Cross for the migration situation in Greece. The Branch participated in the two "Love Campaigns" to provide primary school children in the Nicosia district with everything necessary for a Christmas and Easter dinner. The Branch provided also assistance to more than **1,400 displaced individuals and families** from Kyrenia who live all over the island. The total amount spent for these purposes amounted to 26,900.00 Euro.

Contribution to the CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti

The Branch provided financial support to the Centre amounting to **8,598.45 Euro**, this amount being the 25 per cent of the proceeds of the "Door to Door" fundraising campaign of the Branch, as decided by the CRCS Council.

First Aid

Members of the Kyrenia Branch received training on First Aid which was organized by the CRCS Headquarters.

Disaster Management & Preparedness

Members of the Branch are actively involved in the Disaster Management Committee. Volunteers of the Branch participated in the CRCS Team, which offered assistance and support to the fire fighters in Solea area, during the 2016 forest fires. Also, members of the Branch were actively involved in the CRCS response to the arrivals of migrants from Syria who were rescued at sea.

provided
assistance to
more than
**1,400 displaced
individuals and
families**



Training

Several members of the Branch participated in three workshops organized by the Hordaland Branch of the Norwegian Red Cross, namely, Disaster Preparedness and Response, Generating Income and Membership.

Fundraising Activities & Other Events

The annual fundraising activities of the Branch were quite successful in 2016 despite the financial crisis. They generated considerable income for the Branch, and consisted of the annual Tea Party, the Pancyprian “Door to Door” fundraising campaign and the Christmas Bazaar at “Eleftheria” square in Nicosia. Other sources of income were the collection of membership fees, sale of Easter candles, donations by individuals and companies, as well as donations received in memory of deceased persons.

Additional Activities

In October 2016, the Branch organized an excursion for elderly people and for people living alone. The excursion to the Monastery of Ayios Ioannis Lampadistis, near Kalopanayiotis village, was attended by more than 30 persons who were also offered a meal at a restaurant, near Kakopetria village.

The Elli Soteropoulou award, which is annually given to the best athlete of the third class of the gymnasium of Aglantzia, who is also a volunteer, was also given in 2016, jointly with the Youth Section of the CRCS.

The Branch actively supports the newly designed programme of the CRCS Headquarters named “Home Care for Vulnerable People”, which is funded by the Hordaland Branch of the Norwegian Red Cross.



youth section activities

In 2016, the Youth Section of the CRCS continued its reorganisation which had started after the approval of the new CRCS Statutes in 2012 and provided for a lower age limit for the members of the Youth Section. Fortunately, the financial crisis of 2013, and its many serious consequences, instead of affecting adversely the Youth Section's operation, provided incentives to upgrade very significantly the Section's operation, as highlighted by a variety of actions and activities, especially in the humanitarian section and the provision of assistance to those who were in need. In 2016, the Youth Section had 3,260 members, who were mainly students of primary and secondary education, and university students, as well as many other young volunteers.

The Youth Section's activities in 2016 fell under the following fields:

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

Provision of Humanitarian Assistance

- Provision of breakfast to 252 primary and secondary school students, on a daily basis. The total cost amounted to 40,000.00 Euro.
- Distribution of 1000 food parcels to families of students of primary and secondary education during Easter and Christmas, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Nicosia and Kyrenia Branches.
- Financial assistance to students and other individuals in need, to cover expenses such as travelling abroad for treatment, purchase of books etc.
- Visits to charitable institutions: Secondary school students from Silver Line School visited, on 5 December 2016, the CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti and offered Christmas gifts to the children. Also, on 7 December 2016, students from two Gymnasiums (Geri and Pancyprian) and three Lyceums (Dali, Ethnomartira Kyprianou and Kykkos B), visited the Christos Stelios Ioannou Foundation for adults with disabilities and offered gifts to the residents.

Fundraising

- **Annual "Door to Door" fundraising campaign:** The revenue from the fundraising campaign of 2016 amounted to 81,709.19 Euro. A percentage of 25 per cent of the proceeds of the fundraising campaign, amounting to 20.427,30 Euro was donated to the CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti, as decided by the CRCS Council.
- **Organization of events:** Among others, the following events were organized with the purpose of fundraising to support the CRCS programmes: Christmas charity bazaar, Carnival charity parties, tea and fashion show at the residence of Mrs. Maro Efstathiadou, football tournament and film screening afternoon.





Training

- **“Saturday Children Programme”:** The programme is offered to young people aged 12 to 18 years old, who gather every Saturday at the offices of the CRCS, in Nicosia, with the objective to organize and participate in various events and activities. A total number of 25 children attended this weekly programme.
- **Annual Pancyprian Conference:** In 2016, the conference was attended by 136 students, aged 12 to 17 years old, from all cities of Cyprus. The theme of the conference was: “Respect for diversity and social acceptance - Putting into practice the fundamental principles of the Red Cross”.
- **Camp in Platres village:** The 2016 summer camp was organized in Platres and was attended by 61 children, aged 12 to 15 years old, from all the cities of Cyprus. The camping lasted ten days, from 1 to 11 July 2016. The main objective of the camp was to give the children the opportunity to participate in an entertainment and at the same time, educational programme for young leaders, which would allow them to learn more about the Red Cross, the promotion of the principles, ideals and spirit of the Red Cross, and teach them leadership skills which they could use in their schools. A special closing event was organized by the children on the last day, which was attended by many parents and CRCS officials.
- **Informative lectures about the Red Cross in primary and secondary schools:** The aim of these lectures, which are organised by the Youth Section of the CRCS in primary and secondary schools, is to inform students and teachers about the humanitarian work of the CRCS and the structure, organisation and activities of the Youth Section. In 2016, the Youth Section organized 28 such lectures.



international assistance

The financial crisis obliged the CRCS to divert its diminished resources towards the increasing local humanitarian needs. Nevertheless, the CRCS did its best to respond to appeals for assistance to vulnerable groups and victims of manmade and/or natural disasters worldwide. Accordingly, in 2016, the CRCS participated in programmes of international humanitarian assistance, by making contributions, to the best of its ability, to the people of Greece and Israel.

Humanitarian & Financial Assistance

CRCS assistance to the Hellenic Red Cross, Greece

The IFRC made an emergency appeal in order to support the Hellenic Red Cross in its response to the needs of some 200,000 refugees, with a focus on: The provision of basic food and non-food items, health care, including First Aid and Psychosocial Support, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, Restoring Family Links (RFL) services, and strengthening the response capacity of the National Society.

The CRCS responded to the IFRC's appeal immediately and sent a second installment during 2016 of financial assistance, amounting to 10,000.00 Euro, providing as well in kind humanitarian assistance.

international cooperation

In a globalized world of inter-dependency, and as a full member of the largest humanitarian organization in the world, it is clear that the CRCS cannot operate in isolation. Following the CRCS's recognition by the ICRC and its official admission to the IFRC, the CRCS strengthened its contacts and enhanced cooperation with the Movement and various sister National Societies. Officials, members and volunteers of the CRCS participated in 16 International and European Conferences and Meetings in 2016, that dealt with several subjects, including: migration; legal issues; education; youth; psychosocial support; restoring family links; funding possibilities; strengthening sister societies; and the humanitarian impact of the RC/RC Movement.

Cooperation with the Movement

IFRC Regional Office of Europe

A CRCS delegation consisting of the Director General, Mr. Takis Neophytou, and the Deputy Director, Mrs Christina Kapartis, visited the IFRC Regional Office of Europe, on **10 August 2016**, in Budapest, Hungary. The visit was held in order for the CRCS delegation to meet with the Heads of the various departments of the Office. The aim of the visit was to see how the CRCS could benefit from the visit and the assistance that the Regional Office could provide to the CRCS in order to improve its programmes and services. The CRCS delegation met, among others, with the Director of the Regional Office of Europe, Mr. Simon Missiri, with whom they had a very valuable discussion on the subject matters of the meeting.

IFRC Headquarters

The CRCS Deputy Director, Mrs Christina Kapartis, visited the IFRC Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, on **14 November 2016**. Three main issues were discussed:

- The IFRC is trying to find new ways to improve the information systems of the Secretariat in order to be able to help the National Societies.
- They are in the process of revising their guidelines to help the NS implement their policies and rules. Other fields discussed were how the Management could support the Board, Legal Aspects, etc.
- IFRC aims at a closer collaboration with the ICRC.

Cooperation with National Societies

Icelandic Red Cross

The cooperation agreement between the CRCS and the Icelandic Red Cross, which was established in 2015, continued in 2016. The Icelandic Red Cross supported CRCS in order to develop and improve further its services in Psychosocial Support and Legal Assistance to migrants. The funds received from the Icelandic Red Cross were mainly used for the employment of the CRCS Psychosocial Support and Migration officers. Their employment is of tremendous importance to the CRCS, who wishes to express its sincere and warm thanks to the Icelandic Red Cross.

Luxembourg Red Cross

Following the bilateral cooperation of the previous year, between the two National Societies, the Luxembourg Red Cross made a donation of 20 Tents (22.8m²), worth 20,000.00 Euro, for use in support of refugees. The CRCS expresses its sincere thanks and appreciation.

Norwegian Red Cross - Hordaland Branch

Six-year project agreement: 2016-2021

Within the terms of the above project agreement, in 2016, the cooperation between the CRCS and the Hordaland Branch of the Norwegian Red Cross continued and included the following areas:

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

The Hordaland Branch will be supporting the CRCS with an annual donation of 25,000.00 Euro and technical assistance.

Home Care Programme for vulnerable people

This innovative homebased programme, which has been implemented for a long time by the Norwegian Red Cross, is expected to offer support to people who do not receive assistance from any other programme, in order to enable them to enjoy a better and decent life. The aim of the programme is to avoid the double-coverage of services and provide supplementary support which is not offered by any other organization, thus filling possible gaps in the welfare system of the Cypriot society. The beneficiaries of the programme are elderly people living at home, people who live alone, people with disabilities, vulnerable people who cannot live independently and people of any age who find it difficult to enjoy a decent living. The programme started on a pilot basis in September 2016. The project is run by the CRCS Headquarters and is supported by the Nicosia and the Kyrenia Branches. The project will be continued in 2017.

In 2016, the CRCS paid home visits to a number of individuals and offered them the following services:

- Offering companionship
- Ensuring personal hygiene
- Help in shopping and nutrition
- Support in house cleaning
- Transport of patients (e.g. for a medical appointment)
- Creating opportunities for activities for individuals at their own personal space (e.g. gardening)
- Providing computer training
- Reading
- Accompanying the person during outings

The Coordinator of the programme was a social worker, who was employed by the CRCS Headquarters in September 2016, on a one-year contract.

Participation in the Annual General Assembly of the Hordaland Branch of the Norwegian Red Cross 9 - 12 March 2016, Bergen, Norway

The CRCS was invited to take part in the Annual General Assembly of the Hordaland Branch of the Norwegian Red Cross, from 9 to 12 March 2016, in Bergen, Norway. The CRCS delegation consisted of the Director General, Mr Takis Neophytou, the Migration Officer, Mrs Nadia Konioti, and the Psychosocial Support Officer, Mrs Melissa Tsimon, who had the opportunity to deliver presentations on the activities of the CRCS concerning migration, discuss matters of mutual interest and attend the General Assembly.

Meetings, Training and Workshops

On the **17th and 18th of June 2016**, a delegation from the Hordaland Branch and the Municipality of Os, visited the CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti in Limassol and discussed the “Therapy Holidays” project. In addition to the above, the “Home Care Programme for Vulnerable People” and the “First Responders” programme were discussed further, with focus on the workshops on membership and the income generation issues which will be organized during the Hordaland Branch's next visit, in October 2016.

norwegian
red cross
delegation



Another delegation of the Hordaland Branch visited Cyprus during the period from 7 to 16 October 2016. The following training, workshops and meetings took place:

- First Responders Training
- Membership Workshop
- Disaster Preparedness & Response Workshop
- Income generation workshop
- Psychosocial Support & Migration Workshops

First Responders

The First Responders programme aims towards providing support to people who reside in remote areas of Cyprus, which are far away from organized help (ambulance services, fire stations, etc). People from these areas, will be trained by the CRCS in First Aid, Psychosocial Support, Disaster Management and Rescue, in order to offer urgently needed first support in case of an emergency, until organized rescue services arrive at the scene. The CRCS already had contacts with the Ambulance Services of the Ministry of Health and the Fire Service and the Ministry of Interior, and started an assessment in order to locate the remote areas of Cyprus, which will be covered by the First Responders programme. The Hordaland Branch team of the Norwegian Red Cross, initiated a three phase 150-hour training programme in collaboration with the CRCS, by organizing the first 50-hour First Responders training in Cyprus, in October 2016. This training programme will be continued in the next two years and is to be completed upon the fulfillment of all 150 hours. The first 50 hours training was successfully attended by **21 persons**. The next phase will be organized in the fall of 2017.

International & European Conferences & Meetings

European Humanitarian Roundtable

3 - 4 February 2016, Aix-en-Provence, France

The CRCS participated in the European Humanitarian Roundtable that was held from 3 to 4 February 2016, in Aix-en-Provence, France. The CRCS was represented by its Director General, Mr. Takis Neophytou, whose participation was nominated by the Red Cross Office in Brussels. This roundtable was organized by the Network on Humanitarian Action (NOHA) and the European Commission, as a preparatory meeting before the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) in May 2016. During the roundtable meeting, the core themes and priorities of the WHS process and the European Union's policy position towards the World Humanitarian Summit, were presented and discussed.

The Roundtable discussion enabled those involved to make substantive contributions to the European Union's humanitarian policy and practice. The debate was attended by experts on humanitarian aid, selected from all humanitarian organizations, governments and universities in Europe. The discussion was organized by the University of Marseille. The 32 experts who took part were assigned to four working groups, each composed of eight experts, thus enabling each representative to participate actively and contribute to the debate.





European Conference on Migration 15 - 16 February 2016, London, UK

This was a high level meeting organized by the IFRC and hosted by the British Red Cross. The event aimed at bringing together the National Societies affected by the migration crisis in Europe, calling them to discuss, identify and agree upon mechanisms for improved, efficient and better-coordinated response to the crisis. The event was attended by participants from 33 National Societies, the IFRC and the ICRC. On behalf of the CRCS the Director General, Mr Takis Neophytou and the Migration Officer, Mrs Nadia Kornioti, attended the conference.

European Legal Support Group (ELSG) 29 February 2016 – 1 March 2016, Rome, Italy

The CRCS was represented by Mrs Amalia Erotokritos, Member of the Council, at the European Legal Support Group (ELSG) which was held from 29 February to 1 March 2016, in Rome, Italy. The subjects considered at the meetings included, among others: dissemination activities on International Humanitarian Law, training of National Society staff and volunteers on International Disaster Law, National Society approach on providing information on beneficiaries to law enforcement authorities, Data Protection issues, as well as a follow-up to the 32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (2015) and updates by the IFRC, the ICRC and the Red Cross / EU Office on current issues.

Partnership Meeting for Greece 9-10 April 2016, Thessaloniki and 11-12 April 2016 Athens, Greece

The CRCS participated to the Partnership Meeting for Greece, which was held from 9 to 10 April 2016, in Thessaloniki, and from 11 to 12 April 2016, in Athens, in Greece. It was represented by its Director General, Mr. Takis Neophytou, and the Programme Officer of the Nicosia Branch, Mr Demetris Phylactou. The aim of the meeting was to present the Revised Emergency Appeal, to exchange lessons learned and discuss challenges and complexities in migration response operations in Greece, providing as well the opportunity for the Hellenic Red Cross to meet partners and reinforce the Movement to work together and bring the desperately needed support to the Emergency Appeal for Greece. The CRCS representatives had the opportunity to meet also with representatives of other National Societies, and consider areas of cooperation. They also visited two refugee camps.

Humanitarian Education Meeting 18-19 April 2016, Vienna, Austria

At the meeting held on 18 April 2016, in Vienna, Austria, the CRCS was represented by the psychologist, Mrs Ekaterini Procopiou, specialist volunteer of the CRCS. The participants worked in groups and had the opportunity to consider and share their views regarding best practices and experience on the above subject.

Restoring Family Links (RFL) Meeting 20-22 April 2016, Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina

The CRCS participated in the annual Restoring Family Links (RFL) Meeting, which was held from 20 to 22 April 2016, in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The meeting was attended by representatives of the ICRC and the IFRC, as well as of 40 National Societies. The CRCS was represented by Mrs. Thalia Vourkidou, in charge of RFL and Tracing Services. The main theme of the meeting was the migration issue in Europe and the need to implement the RFL Strategy 2008-2018. In view of its importance, as well as to its urgency, the meeting, for the first time, devoted one whole day out of the three, for the consideration of Disaster Management (DM) and the need to integrate RFL into the DM action plans. Two Meetings of the Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers & Migrants (PERCO). At both meetings in 2016, the CRCS was represented by its PERCO representative Mrs. Andri Agrotis, Secretary of the Nicosia Branch.

28-29 April 2016, Berlin, Germany

The first meeting of the Platform in 2016 took place in Berlin, Germany, on 28-29 April 2016. PERCO representatives were introduced to the asylum policy framework in Germany and had a roundtable discussion on common challenges and opportunities. Other topics discussed included the documenting and advocating against the criminalisation of migrants and the provision of humanitarian assistance, EU funding opportunities and the specific challenges faced by the Hellenic, Hungarian and Turkish national societies. Working groups' topics included the vulnerabilities linked to the migratory trail, unaccompanied minors, legal aid to asylum seekers and humanitarian assistance to undocumented migrants.

27-28 October 2016, Dublin, Ireland

The second meeting took place in Dublin, Ireland, on 27 to 28 October 2016. The meeting raised concerns over the representation of migrants in the news, on the occasion of the clearing of the camp in Calais, France, an issue which was also raised by some of the individual national societies. Particular attention was paid this time to the work of the Swedish and Hellenic national societies, while the Red Cross EU Office informed on developments outside the EU, with a focus on the EU-Turkey agreement, as well as updates on the internal policy framework. Two working groups continued the discussion on the issues of unaccompanied minors and undocumented migrants, while two new working groups were established. These are the working group on 'Advocacy on Immigration Detention and Alternatives for Detention' and the group on 'Long Term Stays in Reception Centres and Accommodation', with the CRCS participating in the latter. Moreover, the IFRC introduced a "Youth and Migration Handbook".

22nd European Youth Cooperation Meeting (EYCM)

27-30 May 2016, Sutomore, Montenegro

The CRCS participated in the 22nd European Youth Cooperation Meeting (EYCM) that was held from 27 to 30 May 2016, in Sutomore, Montenegro. The meeting, hosted by the Red Cross of Montenegro, represented an important opportunity to share knowledge and experience among the over 80 participants coming from the National Societies of the Europe Region. The CRCS was represented by Mr. Antonis Melas, Treasurer of the Central Committee Youth Section. The main purpose of the meeting was to organize actions, exchange ideas and views and share experience in capacity building issues. The election of the new members of the European Youth Cooperation Committee (EYCC), which will be representing RC/RC youth from the European region in the next two years, also took place at the Meeting.

European Conference Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD)

2-3 June 2016, Brussels, Belgium

The CRCS was represented by its Deputy Director, Mrs. Christina Kapartis, in the FEAD Conference that was held from 2 to 3 June 2016 in Brussels, Belgium. The conference was attended by 200 persons, among them many personalities from Ministries and NGOs. The RC/RC Movement was represented by the Red Cross EU Office and five National Societies. It was the first time the CRCS had a representative participating in the FEAD programme and our role was to observe and find ways to benefit from it for different existing or future programmes. During the meeting the CRCS Deputy Director met with the newly appointed Head of European Social Funds Unit of the Cyprus Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance and set a meeting in July 2016 in order to find ways of introducing the needs of CRCS in the FEAD programme.

XII ATLANTIS RC/RC Mediterranean Youth Camp

20-28 July 2016, Orahovica, Croatia

The CRCS participated in the 12th Atlantis Mediterranean Youth Camp which was held from 20 to 28 July 2016 in Orahovica, Croatia. The camp was organized by the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean (CCM) and hosted by the Croatian Red Cross. The camp was comprised of 50 young representatives of the 17 Mediterranean National Societies that took part, coming together to share ideas and be trained on the theme subject of the Camp. The CRCS was represented by Mrs Elena Agathokleous, volunteer of the Youth Section, and Mrs Andrea Loizou, Officer of the Youth Section. The theme of the camp was "Time to Engage: youth action in crisis response and peacebuilding" and was intended to be approached with respect to the current humanitarian challenges. Through a range of sessions and workshops organized by experts in different areas, young volunteers had the opportunity to get different perspectives and knowledge to share with others in their National Societies.





Third Meeting of Small European Countries Red Cross National Societies

17 - 18 October 2016, Monaco

The CRCS was represented by its Director General, Mr Takis Neophytou, and its Deputy Director, Mrs Christina Kapartis, at the third meeting of Small European Countries Red Cross National Societies. The CRCS made a presentation on the topic of Migration in Cyprus. The 2017 Meeting will be held in Malta.

Red Cross EU Workshop on Funding Opportunities for Migration Related Activities

10 - 11 November 2016, Ankaran, Slovenia

This workshop was organized by the Red Cross EU Office and hosted by the Slovenian Red Cross. The CRCS was represented by the Migration Officer, Mrs Nadia Kornioti. The workshop informed the participants on 12 different funding opportunities, which EU national societies could use to fund activities in the area of migration.

Annual Meeting of the Red Cross EU Office

16 - 18 November 2016, Brussels, Belgium

The CRCS Deputy Director, Mrs Christina Kapartis, participated in the annual Meeting of the Red Cross EU Office which was held from 16 to 18 November 2016 in Brussels, Belgium. The subjects discussed included:

- European Social Fund (ESF)
- Fund for European Aid to the Most Vulnerable (FEAD)
- Membership issues
- Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO) – funding outside the EU

Annual European Network for Psychosocial Support (ENPS) Forum

18 - 20 November 2016, Lisbon, Portugal

In 2016, the Forum was held from 18 to 20 November in Lisbon, Portugal, and CRCS was represented by its Psychosocial Support Officer, Mrs. Melissa Tsimon. The theme of the Forum was “Psychosocial Responses to the Migrant Crisis”. The Forum focused on the current and on-going work of National Societies, the IFRC and ICRC and the way that they respond to the needs of migrants who enter, transit and become integrated in various countries. The representatives of the National Societies had the opportunity to exchange ideas and promote good practices on how they could support better their staff and volunteers.

RC/RC Mediterranean Platform on Migration

1 - 2 December 2016, Barcelona, Spain

The CRCS was represented by the President of the Central Committee of the Youth Section, Mrs Vanessa Kyprianou, at the RC/RC Mediterranean Platform on Migration which was held from 1 to 2 December 2016, in Barcelona, Spain. The meeting which was organized by the Centre for the Cooperation in the Mediterranean of the Spanish Red Cross and the IFRC, considered the subject of “Higher Humanitarian Engagement in the Mediterranean Region”. On the first day, during the afternoon session which was opened by keynote speakers, the issue of citizenship was the main subject of consideration, in order to sensitize the public on migration issues.

On the second day, the annual meeting focused on the following two issues:

- the follow-up to the recommendations and action points agreed upon at the previous meeting of the Platform; and,
- the definition of the Annual Action Plan on “assistance and protection to migrants”, aiming towards strengthening the capacity of the National Societies in the Mediterranean region on the humanitarian response to migration challenges, including the implementation of advocacy initiatives.

In 2016, the CRCS website and social media pages remained the major communication tools with its volunteers and friends in Cyprus and abroad. Furthermore, the CRCS carried out its information and communication activities, among others, through social media interaction, radio and TV interviews, press releases and conferences, public speeches, TV advertising, printed ads and other promotional materials on the work of CRCS.

Monthly Diary of Events

In 2016, the CRCS continued preparing a monthly diary of events. The diary is a powerful tool that provides information on the planned activities for each month. It is distributed to the members of the Executive Committee, to all the Branches and the Youth Section, as well as the CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti, informing them on the upcoming events of the month.

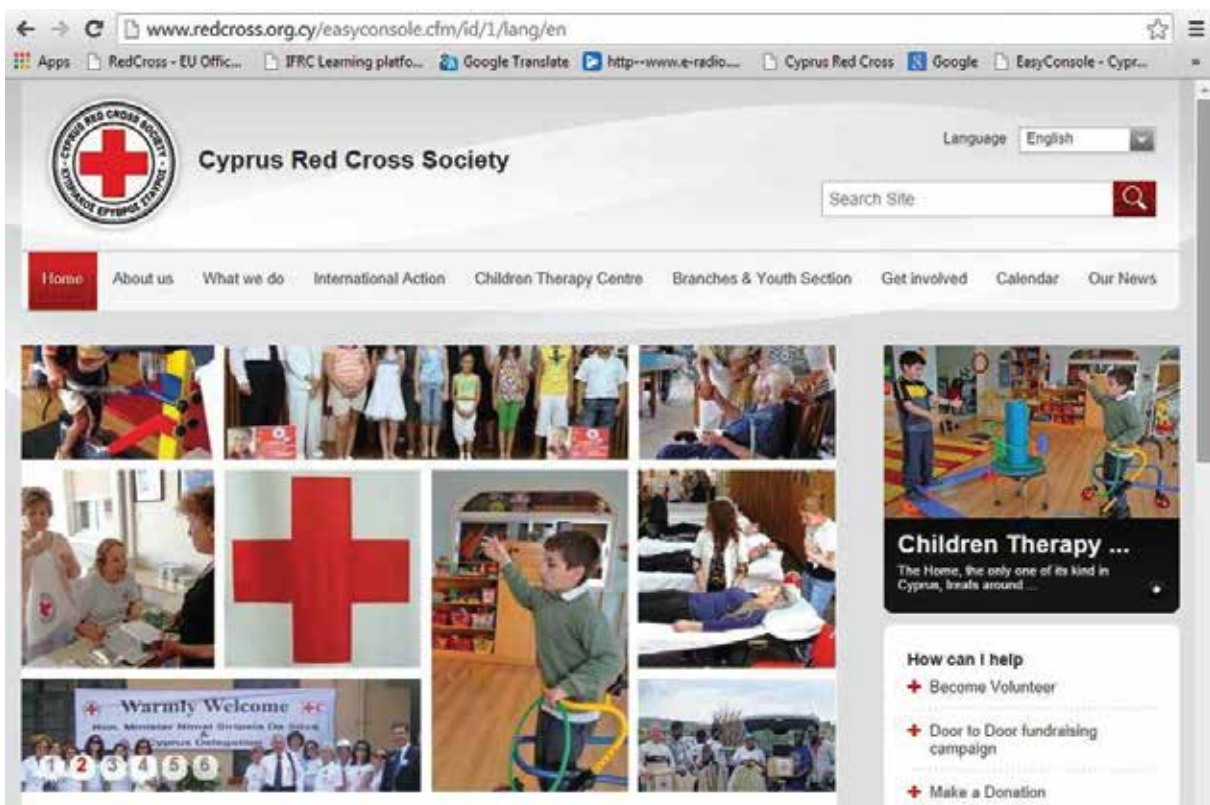
Website

A major accomplishment of the CRCS in the field of information and communication was the upgrading of its website www.redcross.org.cy in 2013. The website was prepared in three languages - Greek, English and Turkish - and is a gateway through which a visitor can obtain information and facts, become aware of CRCS activities, have access to considerable amount of photographic and other material, and make online donations. In 2016, the website was regularly updated keeping members and friends informed on every development.

Social Media

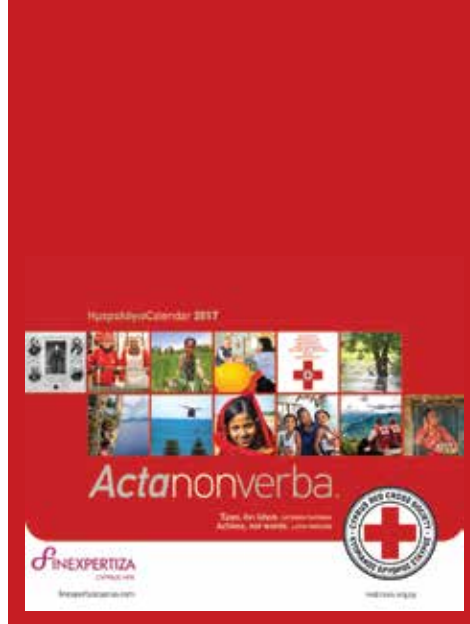
Social media serve the social interaction among people through which they create, share or exchange information and ideas in virtual communities and networks. CRCS, in an effort to update members and volunteers about its events and programmes and attract new friends and supporters, created a group on Facebook in April 2009, named Cyprus Red Cross Society. During the years that followed, the CRCS's Subsidiary Units started creating their own groups and pages on Facebook. Currently, the CRCS has in total 11 groups and pages on Facebook (www.facebook.com), titled as follows:

- Cyprus Red Cross Society
- Cyprus Red Cross Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti
- Cyprus Red Cross Society Nicosia Branch
- Cyprus Red Cross Society Limassol Branch
- Cyprus Red Cross Society Larnaca Branch
- Cyprus Red Cross Society Paphos Branch



- Cyprus Red Cross Youth Section
- Cyprus Red Cross Youth Section Limassol
- Cyprus Red Cross Youth Section Famagusta
- Saturday Red Cross Kids
- CRCS Psychosocial Support Trained Volunteers

CRCS also has a YouTube and Twitter account.



Desk Calendars

In December 2016, following an already established tradition, CRCS printed, both in Greek and English languages a large number of 2017 Desk Calendars with slogan **“Acta non verba”**, a latin proverb that means: Actions, not words. The calendars were distributed free of charge to CRCS members and associates, while a small number of copies were also sent to the ICRC and IFRC in Geneva, as well as the Red Cross EU Office in Brussels, the Regional Office of Europe in Budapest and other RC/RC National Societies. The sponsor of the calendars was FINEXPERTIZA Cyprus HPA to whom CRCS expresses its sincere thanks and appreciation. Special thanks also to AWG for designing the calendar free of charge.

AWG Marketing/Advertising support to CRCS

CRCS expresses its sincere thanks and appreciation to the Ashley World Group (AWG) and especially to its Strategic Director/Partner, Mr. Christos Hadjiyiannis, and to all the members of the staff for their generous and valuable assistance and support in promoting with great success the CRCS activities, programmes and humanitarian work. The AWG kindly designed also, free of charge, the leaflets of the CRCS and its Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti, the 2017 desk calendar, 2015 and 2016 annual reports and the 2017 lucky charm promotional material of the CRCS. The office always assists our Society with various other promotional activities for which we are grateful.



financial & internal information

The economic conditions in the country improved considerably during the year and this had a favourable impact on the financial position of CRCS. The overall financial position of the CRCS for 2016 can be considered as satisfactory. In general, the level of the Income was satisfactory and better than that of the previous years. The level of Expenses however continued to increase due to the pressure for providing assistance to needy people, partly from the influx of refugees from neighboring countries.

More specifically:

- The Headquarters ended the year with a small surplus of Income over Expenditure due to increased donations.
- The CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti ended the year with a small excess of Expenditure over Income.
- The results of the other Units are comparable with those of the previous years and are considered as satisfactory.

CRCS Personnel

Although CRCS is basically a voluntary organization and its extensive activities are carried out by several thousands of members and volunteers, its mission could not be accomplished without the significant administrative support, coordination and contribution of the CRCS Staff. In 2016, CRCS employed **34 staff members**, as follows:

Headquarters

Director General - Takis Neophytou

Deputy Director - Christina Kapartis

Secretary - Thalia Vourkidou

Head of Accounts Department - Christiana Eliades

Administration Officer - Androulla Angelidou

Officer - Giorgos Hadjistasi

Psychosocial Support Officer - Melissa Tsimon (on a part time basis)

Migration Officer - Nadia Kornioti (on a part time basis)

Social Worker - Martha Klampaneva (from September 2016)

Cleaner - Vasiliki Michael

Nicosia Branch

Programme Officer - Demetris Phylactou

Administration Officer - Eleni Panayiotou

Social Worker - Nikolas Komodromos

Accountant - Christodoulos Christodoulou (from September 2016)

Officer/Messenger - Michalis Neophytou

Cleaner - Stalo Kyriakou

Limassol Branch

Administration Officer - Stella Philippou

Administration Officer - Polina Savva

Store Keeper Officer - Giorgos Georgiou

Famagusta Branch

Administration Officer - Cornilia Zografou

Larnaca Branch

Administration Officer - Maria Lambrou

Paphos Branch

Administration Officer - Elli Sokratous

Youth Section

Administration Officer - Andrea Loizou

Accountant - Eleni Iordanou (from February 2016)

CRCS Children Therapy Centre Stella Soulioti

Matron - Katerina Christodoulou

Assistant Matron - Constantina Prapa Savoulla

Physiotherapists - Dena Palazi, Eleni Savva and Pantelis Constantinou

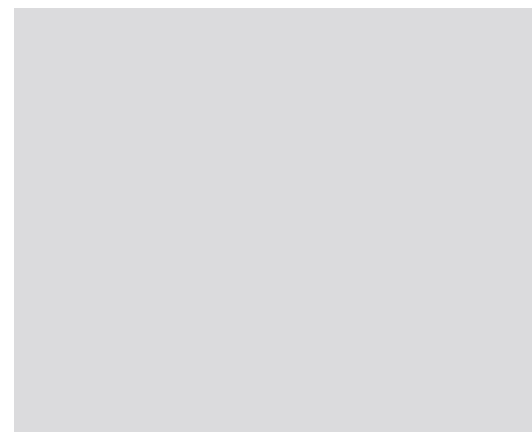
Speech Therapist - Elena Ioannou

Occupational Therapists - Andreas Nikola and Stavroulla Charalambous

Cleaners - Margarita Constantinou and Isabella Rozou Constantinou

Membership Fee

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





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