

ISSUE 4

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Quarterly NEWSLETTER



HELLENIC RED CROSS



Photo: Maria Pachou

WE ARE ALWAYS THERE

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aid in Crete

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aid in Samos

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HRC and P&G
stand by the
homeless

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"Parcels of Love" for
the economically
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Message from the President

As it records social reality, the Red Cross - perceptive and active - with a respected, radiant presence, and without any trace of pretence, continues the fight against social vulnerabilities. Always standing by people in distress, people lacking insurance, health, subsistence, as well as people facing extreme poverty and malnutrition, it attempts to ensure the collective well-being.

We have been supporting health and dignity in every corner of Greece for over a century, and we will always be there to provide support before, during and after any disaster or crisis.

As long as people exist, the Hellenic Red Cross will constantly be there to remind us that no one is alone in difficult times.

Best Regards,

The President of the H.R.C.

Dr. Antonios Argerinos

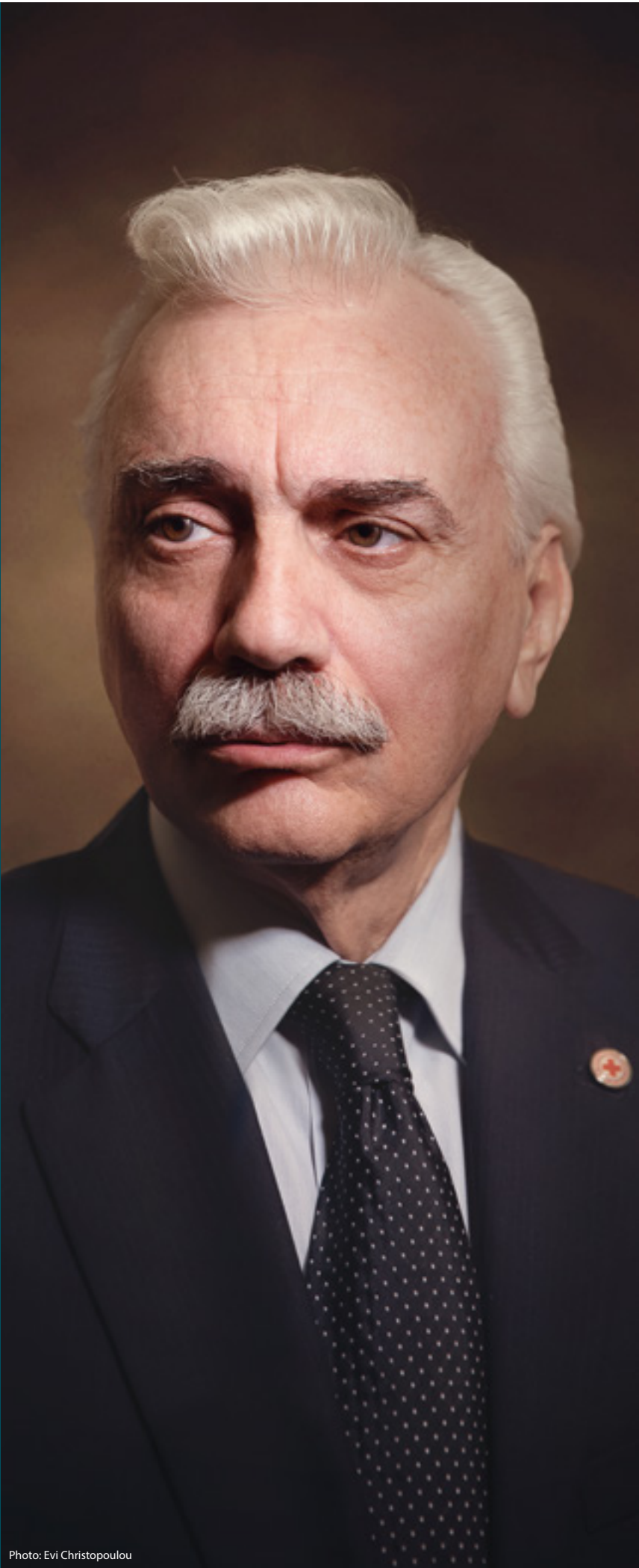


Photo: Evi Christopoulou



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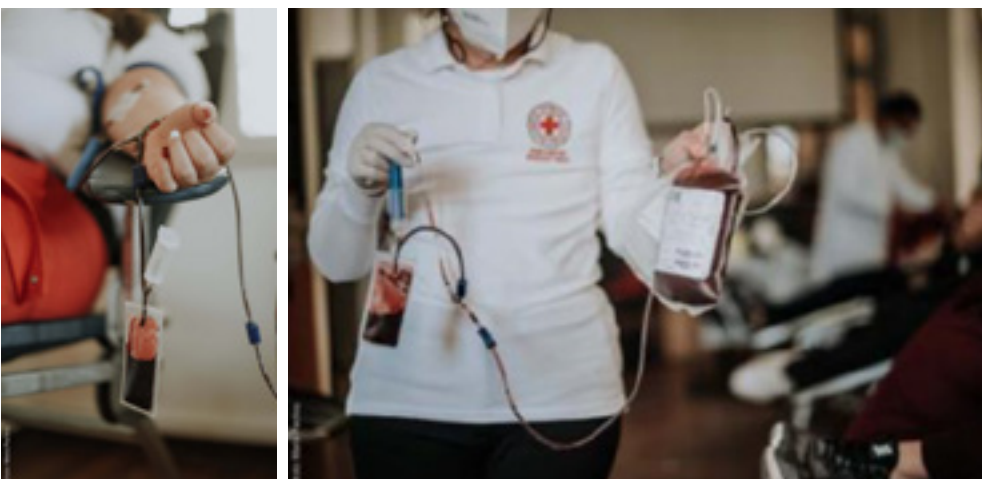
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On the front line of the



Throughout Greece, the volunteers and permanent personnel of the Hellenic Red Cross continue to fight the battle against the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, offering their valuable services wherever the need arises. The HRC's collaboration with the competent authorities and citizens is always excellent and their acceptance into the work it performs is deemed both important and necessary.

The presence of the Hellenic Red Cross in the battle against the pandemic is diverse and multi-faceted, covering a wide range of actions, in the effort to inform citizens and in the actions needed to prevent the spread of the coronavirus throughout the community.

Specifically, the volunteers and personnel of the HRC, in cooperation with the E.O.D.Y. (National Public Health Organization), are assisting in mass diagnostic tests conducted in public places, refugee/migrant accommodation centres and Roma settlements, while also carrying out temperature screenings at the entrances of public buildings, in the fight towards promoting public health. At the same time, the HRC has been providing a large number of face masks and other protective articles to municipalities, police de-

battle against the pandemic

partments and schools, as well as to deprived citizens in our communities.

In addition, the HRC has been actively involved in informing the public on the coronavirus, both in person and through the creation of audiovisual material distributed to the Media, with a focus on properly informing citizens about the virus through informative videos and posters demonstrating the proper use of face masks, proper hand washing, maintaining proper distances, etc.

Lastly, the HRC has been offering its services in another, equally important part, focused on improving the mental health of citizens, which has been seriously affected by the consequences of the pandemic and social isolation, due to the various restrictive measures. Actions such as the provision of home assistance, intergenerational correspondence (communication between volunteers and elderly people), the psychosocial support hotline, services towards pet owners who either belong to vulnerable groups or are under quarantine, as well as online workshops on issues regarding mental health and issues which have been intensified due to the restrictive measures, such as domestic violence, ensure that none of our fellow citizens feel alone during these difficult circumstances.



The International Red Cross sponsors Covid-19 rapid tests for seven countries, including Greece

As Europe continues to experience an increase in Covid-19 cases and deaths, the Red Cross will be increasing the number of Covid-19 tests, with the announcement of a 35.5 million euro collaboration with the European Commission.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (I.F.R.C.) has signed an agreement with the European Commission, funded by the European Stability Initiative (E.S.I.), ensuring that Covid-19 tests will be carried out by the National Red Cross Societies of Austria, Germany, France, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain.

The funding by the European Commission will support personnel training and will allow access to equipment, laboratory apparatus, reagents for sample collection and the conduction of PCR and rapid antigen tests, in support of the national health authorities.

Vaccination of children by the Health Sector of the HRC

In view of the country's current epidemiological situation regarding the pandemic and after an invitation extended by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Mobile Health Unit of the Hellenic Red Cross (HRCM-HU) carried out a health action within the refugee and migrant accommodation centre at the "ILIOCHARI" hotel, where it successfully completed the vaccination of children and adolescents.

This action forms part of a program to provide primary health care at refugee/migrant accommodation centres, with the aim of completing the Personal Student Health Card and vaccinating preschool and school age children and adolescents. Emphasis was placed on the administration of polyvalent vaccines, with the goal of Indirect Protection through Herd Immunity.

Specifically, 105 Personal Student Health Cards were completed, while 190 vaccine doses were administered by a 12-person team consisting of two paediatricians, one general practitioner, 5 nurses, 2 cultural mediators, and 2 Health Sector volunteers. Similar vaccinations were carried out at the refugee/migrant accommodation centre in Kleidi - Serres, at the Korinthos Accommodation Centre and at various Roma communities

The aim is to improve the daily living conditions and health of the refugee/migrant population, as well as that of other vulnerable groups, to develop services with a focus on human dignity, particularly in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, and to follow the applicable health protocols.



Attending to the increased necessities of our times

Always abiding by its principles and values, the HRC has established and broadened the field of its humanitarian work, signing memorandums of cooperation with the Ministries of Justice, Interior and Migration, aiming towards the best possible collaborations that will allow it to fully respond to the ever-increasing needs of our times.

Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ministry of Interior

On Thursday, 15 October 2020, the President of the Hellenic Red Cross, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Minister of Interior, Mr. Panagiotis Theodorikakos. The purpose of the cooperation concerns both emergency health care on a country-wide level, with the provision of First Aid services at events, concerts and cultural happenings held by the Ministry of Interior, and the improvement of the overall emergency response related to the migration situation and the pandemic.

Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ministry of Justice

On Monday, 2 November 2020, the President of the Hellenic Red Cross, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Minister of Justice, Mr. Konstantinos Tsiaras. This cooperation concerns emergency health care provision on a country-wide level, with the provision of First Aid services at events held by the Ministry

of Justice and temperature screenings at Court Buildings, as well as the psychological support of the Ministry's personnel and its training in First Aid.

Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ministry of Migration and Asylum

On Monday, 2 November 2020, the Minister of Migration and Asylum, Mr. Notis Mitarakis and the President of the Hellenic Red Cross, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, signed a memorandum of cooperation. The memorandum is aimed at providing support to the Ministry through teams consisting of volunteers and permanent personnel for the construction and operation of accommodation centres, the provision of health care and catering services at accommodation centres, the provision of psychological support - due to the coronavirus pandemic - to vulnerable groups of refugees and migrants, along with a series of other actions.



Memorandum of cooperation with the Hellenic Army General Staff

The Hellenic Red Cross actively supports the Hellenic Army.

The HRC and the HAGS have been cooperating since May 2017, while a new memorandum of cooperation was signed by the President of our Organization, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, on June 2020. Under this memorandum, the HRC has been training officials of the Hellenic Army General Staff and the Healthcare Directorate in First Aid and rescue services, within the framework of actions regarding the refugee flows.

The Kara Tepe refugee camp in the island of Mitilini was the venue for a First Aid training program held in October, that was directed at the island's Army Healthcare Unit.

HRC Rescuer-Instructor Trainer, Zeki Memet Ali, provided lessons on the basic principles of First Aid, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation with hands-on-practice, as well as the procedures needed for dealing with situations such as choking (practice, recovery position), fainting (loss of consciousness), drowning, haemorrhaging, injuries, fractures and immobilisation.



Distribution of personal hygiene packages at the Lesbos Reception and Identification Centre (RIC)

Personal hygiene packages were successfully distributed to single refugee women at the Lesbos RIC.

The Volunteers of the Red Cross are in Lesbos, offering their assistance to refugees in need. On Wednesday, 2 December 2020, while complying with all protection measures against Covid-19, volunteers

handed out packages which, among other items, each contained a comb, shaving cream, toothbrush, foam bath, shampoo, soap, tissues and face towel.

The Volunteers of the Hellenic Red Cross, expressing a strong sense of responsibility, support and solidarity, continue to tirelessly stand by the side of people who require greater and constant assistance.



Humanitarian aid in Crete

The Hellenic Red Cross, with the humanitarian aid it dispatched to the island of Crete that was affected by devastating floods, reminded us that no individual is alone in hardships.

Our Organization enhanced its action on the island by sending substantial humanitarian aid for the relief of the flood victims. Blankets, articles for personal hygiene and protection, as well as long shelf life foods were sent to the victims from the HRC's main warehouse.

Despite the extremely difficult circumstances, as a state of emergency was declared in several of the island's regions, our volunteers offered every possible assistance to anyone in need.



The HRC stands by the earthquake victims of Samos

The Hellenic Red Cross was on full alert from the moment the powerful earthquake struck the island of Samos, on Friday, 30 October.

Once again, the HRC responded immediately to society's urgent needs, competently performing its humanitarian duty. It was involved in search and rescue missions for missing persons in ruins and abandoned buildings, as well as in assessing the needs of people who were unable to move. At the same time, particular attention was given to incapacitated and elderly people, as well as to situations in which water removal was required from affected residences, while tents were also set up for people with housing needs - always in cooperation with the authorities.

The effort undertaken was vast and the Hellenic Red Cross expressed its warmest thanks to its volunteers and permanent personnel. "The recognition of our contribution by state actors, particularly by the Prime Minister himself, was a great honour for the Hellenic Red Cross," stated HRC President, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos.



The Hellenic Red Cross and Procter & Gamble stand by the homeless



our fellow people in need, offering help to vulnerable communities.

As part of the action, three different packages were distributed to the homeless, containing humanitarian materials such as personal hygiene articles, essential food stuff and weatherproof clothing, which were purchased entirely through Procter & Gamble's sponsorship of HRC's budget for the Covid-19 Emergency Call.

For the protection and care of the homeless, the Hellenic Red Cross and Procter & Gamble (P&G) joined forces in implementing a multiple action plan to support 2.000 homeless people in the country's major urban centres - Athens, Thessaloniki and Patras.

In this context, another street work action was organised on Thursday, 10 December 2020, at downtown Athens, with the aim of covering the essential needs of homeless people.

Despite the difficult circumstances our country has been facing due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Hellenic Red Cross continues to support

In addition, Hellenic Red Cross teams comprising social workers, nurses and volunteers from all three (3) Corps of the HRC (Social Welfare, Health Sector, and Samaritans, Rescuers and Lifeguards) carried out temperature screenings, provided First Aid and Mental Health First Aid, and informed the homeless about temporary accommodation centres.



Child Rescue

The European Program Child Rescue - Collective Awareness Platform for Missing Children Investigation and Rescue has received funding for 3 years by the European Commission through the HORIZON 2020 - Call H2020 - ICT - 2016 - 2017 Program. The HRC is involved as a partner in the program, led by the National Technical University of Athens and with the participation of institutions and organisations from Greece, Belgium, Germany and Cyprus. The above-mentioned organisations are actively engaged in the missing-child search program and are implementing, on a nationwide level, programs for child protection and support for minors.

The program is intended to become an important tool, on a European level, for carrying out investigations for children which are missing or have disappeared.

The 5th plenary session, which was held online on 26 October 2020, included officials from the Social Welfare Sector and the Investigation/Family Reunification Sector of the HRC.

The European Investigative Program "Child Rescue" and the corresponding mobile application was presented for the first time to volunteers and Division Heads, via teleconference, on Wednesday, 11 November 2020.

Humanitarian aid and fundraiser for flood victims in Karditsa and Farsala



The Hellenic Red Cross assisted the flood victims in Karditsa and Farsala with all its resources, from the very first moment.

Following a direct communication between the President of the Hellenic Red Cross, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos and the competent authorities in the stricken areas of the Prefecture of Karditsa, the HRC immediately responded by sending coordinated humanitarian aid, consisting of 1,000 blankets, bottled water, long

shelf life foods and personal hygiene articles. At the same time, volunteers of the Samaritans, Rescuers and Lifeguards Corps were in position from the very first moment, in order to assess the needs and provide any possible assistance.

Following up on the mobilization, our Organization made another gesture of solidarity by opening a bank account in support of the citizens who were stricken by the deadly floods caused by the Mediterranean Cyclone Ianos.

Christmas "Parcels of Love" for the economically disadvantaged



Despite the extremely difficult circumstances due to Covid-19, the Hellenic Red Cross has once again carried out its humanitarian work, assisting vulnerable social groups during the festive season with "Parcels of Love". The parcels contained foodstuff, essential items, personal hygiene articles, and, where appropriate, clothing, toys and handmade gifts, offering smiles and joy to those in need. The following Regional Branches of the HRC were primarily involved in the action:

- Reg. Branch of Kissamos
- Reg. Branch of Sparti
- Reg. Branch of Patras
- Reg. Branch of Arta
- Reg. Branch of Livadeia
- Reg. Branch of Kavala
- Reg. Branch of Volos
- Reg. Branch of Larisa
- Reg. Branch of Thessaloniki
- Reg. Branch of Tripoli
- Reg. Branch of N. Smyrni
- Reg. Branch of Kalamata
- Reg. Branch of Amaliada
- Reg. Branch of Elassona
- Reg. Branch of Moires
- Reg. Branch of Veria
- Reg. Branch of Kastoria
- Reg. Branch of Thiva
- Reg. Branch of Igoumenitsa
- Reg. Branch of Pyrgos
- Reg. Branch of Kozani
- Reg. Branch of Didymoteicho
- Reg. Branch of Agrinio
- Reg. Branch of Chania
- Reg. Branch of Rhodes
- Reg. Branch of Peristeri
- Reg. Branch of Papagou-Cholargos
- Reg. Branch of Ioannina
- Reg. Branch of Ag. Nikolaos
- Reg. Branch of Trikala
- Reg. Branch of Corfu
- Reg. Branch of Katerini
- Reg. Branch of Sitia
- Reg. Branch of Nevrokopi
- Reg. Branch of Karditsa
- Reg. Branch of Samos
- Reg. Branch of Lemnos
- Reg. Branch of Agioi Anargyroi-Kamatero
- Reg. Branch of Zakynthos
- Reg. Branch of Kos
- Reg. Branch of Ilioupoli
- Reg. Branch of Florina
- Reg. Branch of Vyronas



BECOME A VOLUNTEER
OF THE
HELLENIC RED CROSS
BECOME THE NEXT DOOR HERO

Contact us:

