

ISSUE 8  
OCT. - DEC. 2021

# Quarterly NEWSLETTER



HELLENIC RED CROSS



WHEREVER THERE'S A NEED



# Message from the President of the HRC

The history of the Red Cross and everyday life are shaped by the countless acts of courage, faith and humanity. The development of the HRC is an integral part of the historical evolution of humans and its presence in modern times is self-evident. By ensuring unity and by reforming the operation and efficiency of the Organization's services, we have highlighted the essential role of the Hellenic Red Cross in addressing and resolving crucial issues our country is facing. By embracing innovations and progressive actions, we were able to be present and to pioneer through all of the country's major events over the past year.

The dynamic and meaningful presence of the HRC, in the earthquakes of Elassona and Crete, in the floods throughout Greece, our considerable actions in the crisis and the management of the migration issue, with a ceaseless presence in all Refugee Accommodation Centres in Greece, prove the magnitude of our work. How could anyone forget our involvement and our momentous part during the summer fires, which spread throughout Evia, the Peloponnese, Attica and many other parts of the country, with our volunteers playing a crucial role in dealing with them and providing assistance to every need.

The Hellenic Red Cross also lead the response against the pandemic, with a multitude of actions and support throughout Greece and, primarily, through its participation in «**Operation Freedom**». The HRC's Nursing Department carried out approximately 300,000 vaccinations at the Hellenikon Vaccination Centre and, today, reports for duty at the new Vaccination



Centre in Glyfada, with the participation of fifty (50) specialized Nurses of the Health Sector, contributing to the health protection of the population.

The consistent commitment to the flagship principles of Humanism and Solidarity, the targeted treatment of multifaceted problems of the time and the systematic and structured effort to inform citizens, gives the Hellenic Red Cross the leading role, highlighting it as the foundation of human society.

**I wholeheartedly hope that the New Year will be crowned with the success of our Red Cross strategy. We must be the beacons in the life journey of the HRC, signalling and signifying the essence of the existence of the Hellenic Red Cross.**

Best Regards to all Red Crossers,

The President of the HRC

*Dr. Antonios Angelinos*

Pharmacist, Major General (Retired)



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## HRC STATISTICS 2021

**360.000**  
VACCINATIONS

**650.000**  
RAPID TEST

**1.050.000**  
TEMPERATURE  
SCREENINGS

**1.134.000**  
HUMANITARIAN AID  
PACKAGES

**237.000**  
CALLS TO THE  
HRC HOTLINE

**240.000**  
TRAINED IN FIRST AID

**25.000**  
PARTICIPATION IN HEALTH  
PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

**67.000**  
PRIMARY HEALTH CARE  
BENEFICIARIES

**150**  
UNACCOMPANIED  
MINORS AT THE HRC CENTRE

**55.000**  
BENEFICIARIES AT THE  
MULTIFUNCTIONAL  
REFUGEE/MIGRANT  
CENTRES



# The Hellenic Red Cross rejoins the battle for "Freedom"

The Hellenic Red Cross, always standing alongside the Greek State, rejoined the "Freedom" vaccination program, with the participation of 50 specialized nurses from the Health Sector. From Tuesday, 14 December

2021 and for as long as necessary, the HRC's nurses will be offering their valuable services at the new Mega Vaccination Centre in Glyfada and at the Prometheus Centre. Note that, since the start of

the pandemic, the Hellenic Red Cross has been actively involved in all State actions regarding the fight against the coronavirus (vaccinations, rapid tests, temperature screenings, informing citizens, etc.).



# The President of the HRC at the inauguration of the Vaccination Centre in Glyfada

The President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, attended the inauguration of the new vaccination centre in Glyfada (14/12) and congratulated the nurses embarking on this difficult and demanding task. The Minister of Health, Mr. Athanasios Plevris, the Secretary General for Primary Health Care, Mr. Marios Themistokleous and the Mayor of Glyfada, Mr. Giorgos Papanikolaou attended the event, as did many representatives

from the local government. Everyone praised the great help provided by the HRC, expressing their satisfaction regarding the presence of our Organization's worthy and competent nurses, who have undertaken the entire vaccination effort at the Centre. The President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, stated: «The Hellenic Red Cross has made an enormous contribution to the "Freedom"

vaccination program. Last year, the HRC's Nursing Department carried out approximately 300,000 vaccinations at the Hellenikon Vaccination Centre, gaining the recognition and praise of the Greek citizens. Today, a new vaccination cycle begins and the HRC is once again at the front-line of the fight against this terrible pandemic, relying on its outstanding nursing staff».



# Memorandum of Cooperation between the Ministry of Health and the HRC

On Monday, 20 December 2021, the Ministry of Health and the Hellenic Red Cross signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the HRC's Head Office, establishing a cooperation between them. This Memorandum of Understanding reflects the existing excellent relations between the Ministry of Health and the Hellenic Red Cross and the

desire to further strengthen their joint activities on issues related to the Health sector. The Minister of Health, Mr. Athanasios Plevris, stated: «I wanted to come here today for the signing of the memorandum, as I believe that the Ministry of Health owes a great deal to the Hellenic Red Cross; you were always there for us whenever we needed

help with any action over the years. Particularly regarding the response to the pandemic, our fellow citizens should be aware of the fact that a large part of the vaccination effort is covered by the Hellenic Red Cross. I believe that, with this Memorandum, we as a State demonstrate that the HRC is part of the actions and the assistance that the State wants to give to our fellow citizens».



# 25,000 euro in support of the earthquake victims in Crete

On Friday, 10 December 2021, the Hellenic Red Cross carried out a major action in Crete, in the presence of the President, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, with the aim of supporting the earthquake-stricken families in the broader region of the Municipality of Minoa-Pediada.

Specifically, the President of the Hellenic Red Cross, along with volunteer teams from the Regional Branches of the HRC in Crete, offered moments of

joy and love to approximately 400 students in the areas affected by the earthquake, giving them toys and gifts in view of the Christmas holidays. A modest ceremony followed, in which the President of the HRC handed over a cheque for 25,000 euro to the Mayor of Minoa-Pediada, Mr. Emmanouil Fragakis, money that was raised through donations and which will be directly allocated to the huge needs of those affected. The

Deputy Minister of Sports, Mr. Lefteris Avgenakis, also took part in the action, and praised the HRC's volunteers and the multifaceted humanitarian work they perform. In his speech, the President, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, pointed out that the Organization, true to its humanitarian duty, will continue supporting the earthquake victims unabated, implementing various kinds of public charitable activities.







# Christmas gifts for 1,100 students in the fire-stricken areas of Greece

The Hellenic Red Cross, on the initiative of the President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, offered moments of joy, love and optimism during the holidays to more than 1,100 kindergarten and primary school students in the fire-stricken areas of Attica (Polydendri and Vilia), as well as those in Northern Evia (Municipalities of Mantoudi, Limni - Agia Anna and Istiaia - Ediposos).

In particular, Hellenic Red Cross teams consisting of social workers and volunteers provided creative and

recreational activities for the children, playing interactive games with them and creating wonderful Christmas cards together, which they placed on the Wishing Tree. All students were given toys and Christmas gifts by the HRC. The aim of this action is to emotionally uplift the children who experienced the devastating consequences of the August fires and is part of the multifaceted support the HRC is providing to the fire-stricken families throughout Greece. The cost of the action was covered by the amount raised in support of the fire victims.







## Christmas collection of food supplies with the support of the Antenna Group

The Hellenic Red Cross and the Antenna Group have once again joined forces and have issued a joint call for the collection of food in support of those in need during the Christmas holidays.

The people's response was touching, as they gathered a large quantity of food supplies in the central

warehouse of the HRC in Athens and in its Regional Branches throughout Greece. The food supplies were then made available to vulnerable social groups, lonely citizens, the elderly and the homeless, which the HRC has always supported, offering moments of joy and love during the Christmas season.

**ΣΥΛΛΟΓΗ ΤΡΟΦΙΜΩΝ  
για τα Χριστούγεννα**

  

ΑΛΕΥΡΙ · ΖΥΜΑΡΙΚΑ · ΟΣΠΡΙΑ · ΓΑΛΑ ΕΒΑΠΟΡΕ · ΣΚΟΝΗ  
ΓΑΛΑΚΤΟΣ (για παιδιά) · ΚΟΝΣΕΡΒΕΣ (παντός τύπου) ΔΗΜΗΤΡΙΑΚΑ  
ΠΑΞΙΜΑΔΙΑ

Σημεία Συγκέντρωσης Τροφίμων:

Κεντρική Αποθήκη Ε.Ε.Σ.      Κεντρικά Γραφεία Ε.Ε.Σ.  
'Αστρους 111-113, Κολωνός      Λυκαβηττού 1, Κολωνάκι  
Τηλ.: 210-5147300      Τηλ.: 210-3609825

από Δευτέρα έως Παρασκευή **7:30-14:30**





# The HRC supports vulnerable social groups during the holiday season

The Hellenic Red Cross distributed «meals of love» to 500 homeless people in Athens on New Year's Eve, as part of its ongoing support for people living on the streets of Athens. In particular, mobile units comprised of social workers and volunteers distributed hot meals, immediate welfare assistance material, personal hygiene articles, weather protection items, means of protection against Covid-19, and clothes. At the same time, First Aid and Mental Health First Aid were provided, along with information on the temporary accommodation offered by the local government.

## The HRC supports vulnerable social groups

Moments of joy, hope and optimism were offered by the Hellenic Red Cross and the ANT1 Group to 90 children who were accommodated at the Chatzikiriakeio Foundation of Child Support in Piraeus. Specifically, on Friday morning (New Year's Eve), members of the Hellenic Red Cross and representatives of the Antenna Group visited the historic Foundation in Piraeus to offer love, smiles, gifts and toys to neglected children.



# 1,896 homeless people have received humanitarian aid from the HRC

The Hellenic Red Cross, true to its humanitarian duty, is always by the side of the homeless, continuously carrying out streetwork in Athens, Piraeus, Thessaloniki and Patras.

In particular, the HRC's teams, staffed by social workers, nurses and Samaritan-Rescuer volunteers, have been distributing packets with humanitarian aid (personal hygiene and care articles—adapted to the needs of the pandemic, dry food, clothing, such as gloves, scarves, hats, waterproof ponchos, underwear, thermal shirts, sweatshirts/sweatpants, etc.) to the homeless as part of the annual program for the support of homeless

people which is jointly carried out by the Hellenic Red Cross and Procter & Gamble. At the same time, they are offered First Aid and hot beverages, along with information about the heated premises operating in each area.

It should be noted that, in the past year, 1,896 homeless people have benefited from the program, with the distribution of 2,500 humanitarian aid packets. Furthermore, another 35 similar actions have been planned for the winter and up to the end of April 2022—estimated to relieve approximately 3,500 vulnerable people.







## The HRC honoured the ANTENNA Group for its contribution during the summer fires

At a grand ceremony held at the peristyle of the Zappeion Hall, on Thursday, 22 October 2021, the Hellenic Red Cross honoured the ANTENNA Group and the hundreds of HRC volunteers for their invaluable contribution in dealing with the major humanitarian crisis caused by the devastating summer fires.

A great number of people, including politicians, entrepreneurs, journalists and prominent social figures, visited the Zappeion Megaron, where the President of the Hellenic Red Cross, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, awarded the HRC's highest

honorary distinction, the Golden Cross with a golden laurel, to the President of the Antenna Group, Mr. Theodoris Kyriakou for his valuable contribution to the enormous work of the HRC on the fiery fronts, as well as for the efforts to strengthen and restore the fire stricken victims throughout the country. An outstanding cooperation that led to the accumulation of about 3 million euro in the HRC's account, whose allocation to the fire victims has already begun.

At the same time, the Hellenic Red Cross rewarded its volunteers for their admirable

and commendable self-sacrifice and for their decisive contribution in the effort to not only extinguish the fires, but also to manage the coronavirus pandemic, as well as other natural disasters. The grand event held by the HRC was presented by Antenna journalist and presenter, Mrs. Maria Sarafoglou.

It should be noted that a congratulatory letter was sent by the Prime Minister of Greece, Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, in which he praised the coordinated effort of the HRC and the Antenna Group for the relief of the fire victims.



## The HRC celebrates the World Volunteer Day with a major action for children in the centre of Athens

The Hellenic Red Cross, the largest and oldest humanitarian and volunteer organization in Greece, honoured the World Volunteer Day (5/12), by organising a major event for children and adolescents in the centre of Athens.

On Saturday, 4 December

2021, volunteers and staff of the Youth and Social Welfare Sector of the HRC organised an action for children and adolescents at Kapnikareas Square, aiming to spread the Red Cross spirit and the supreme value of volunteering to young people through activities and interactive games.

The children took part in an experiential activity based on the 7 Fundamental Principles of the Movement and learned about the long history of the largest Humanitarian Organization in the world through numerous activities. At the end of the activity, souvenirs were given to the participants.



## A strong message of optimism in the midst of a pandemic

The HRC, in collaboration with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC), has created videos to commemorate the World Volunteer Day. The volunteers gave a loud round of applause which was heard around the

world as a token of gratitude and support to the millions of volunteers who face a daily battle in their multifaceted humanitarian work.

It is worth noting that this effort was warmly welcomed both

inside and outside Greece. In fact, the HRC's video gathered thousands of views on social media, while it was also shown on many national-wide television channels.





**The Hellenic Red Cross honours World Animal Day by supporting stray animals**

The Hellenic Red Cross, on the occasion of the World Animal Day (4/10), carried out actions to support our four-legged friends that live on the streets or have fallen victims to abandonment.

In particular:

- On Sunday, 3 October, on the eve of World Animal Day, a volunteer team of the HRC transported a large quantity of animal feed for the animals accommodated by the Friends of Animals of NeaFiladelfeia, while the volunteers also

actively participated in the bazaar that was set up to support its work.

- On Monday, 4 October 2021, the HRC sent a large quantity of feed to the animal shelter of the Municipality of Athens, in order to support the particularly difficult and demanding work of the shelter's people. Volunteers of the HRC also visited the shelter and helped by taking the dogs for a walk, offering them much needed moments of joy and socialization.





# The HRC offers a huge contribution to the 38th Athens Authentic Marathon

The Hellenic Red Cross promptly responded to the needs of the 38th Athens Authentic Marathon, providing health coverage throughout the entire route.

Specifically, 130 Hellenic Red Cross volunteers participated from the Regional Branches of Athens, Piraeus, Patras and Tripoli, offering First Aid to hundreds of runners who faced problems during the

race. Furthermore, the Telecommunications team, based at the Marathon's Operation Centre in GADA, provided continuous updates to the Samaritan-Rescuer volunteers on new incidents that occurred at various points along the route. Meanwhile, registered nurses of the Hellenic Red Cross staffed the clinics of the National Emergency Centre (EKAV), and successfully addressed

any issues that the Marathon athletes encountered.

The President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos and the Secretary General, Mr. Georgios Skoumas, visited the Hellenic Red Cross Volunteers at the Kallimarmaro Stadium, where they congratulated them for their exceptional presence in one of the country's leading sporting events.



# The Deputy Minister of Sports honoured the volunteers of the HRC for their major contribution to the Acropolis Rally

The chequered flag of the historic Acropolis Rally fell on Friday, 1 October 2021, at the OAKA Stadium, in a grand ceremony in honour of the volunteers, especially the HRC's, who decisively contributed to the highly successful organisation of the famous Rally of the Gods. Warm thanks to the Volun-

teers, Samaritans-Rescuers of the Hellenic Red Cross were given by the Deputy Minister of Sports, Mr. Lefteris Avgenakis, as well as by all bodies involved in the great celebration of motorsports, congratulating them on their readiness and organization throughout the route. During the ceremony, EKO, a

major sponsor of the Acropolis Rally, offered the President of the HRC a check for 5,000 euro in fuel for the HRC's vehicles, significantly enhancing the diverse and multifaceted work of its volunteers, all over Greece, for the benefit of Greek society.





# 6.5 tons of humanitarian aid dispatched to the Kos RIC for the 375 refugees

The Hellenic Red Cross has sent a large quantity of humanitarian aid to the Kos RIC (3/11), in order to support the 375 refugees that were found on a ship adrift off the coast of Crete.

Specifically, following a communication between the President of the HRC, Dr.Antonios Avgerinos, with

the Administration of the Kos RIC and its briefing on the exact needs of the refugees, a HRC truck was sent with 6.5 tons of humanitarian aid (3/11), which included clothing and footwear, as well as a quantity of medical supplies, to be made immediately available to the beneficiaries.



# HRC volunteers stand by the 70 refugees/ migrants rescued off the coast of Crete

The mobilisation of the Hellenic Red Cross volunteers was immediate and effective, providing all kinds of humanitarian assistance to the 70 refugees/migrants who were rescued on Sunday (21/11) from a sailing ship shipwrecked off the coast of Crete.

In particular, the Hellenic Red Cross volunteers from the Regional Branches of Chania and Kissamos assisted

ed in preparing the area for the temporary accommodation of the refugees/migrants. At the same time, they provided essential items and first aid until the early hours of the morning. It should be noted that, in their attempt to abandon the sailing boat, many refugees/migrants sustained injuries and were in need of immediate health care.





# "Cleio Misirloglou" Virtue Awards for 13 police officers of the "DIAS" unit

In a modest ceremony, on Friday morning, 17 December 2021, at the Electra Palace Hotel in Thessaloniki, the Hellenic Red Cross awarded the «Cleio Misirloglou» Virtue Awards for 2020, in the presence of the President of the HRC. Dr. Antonios Avgerinos and the Secretary General Mr. Georgios Skoumas.

This year, 13 police officers of the «DIAS» unit in Thessaloniki were awarded, who with their prompt intervention saved a young girl that had been in a car accident, decisively contributing to her immediate transfer to the hos-

pital. The ceremony held by the HRC was saluted by Former Minister of Macedonia and Thrace, Mr. Theodoros Karaoglou, MP of A' District of Thessaloniki, Mr. Dimitris Kouvelas, Deputy Mayor of Social Policy, Mr. Charis Aidonopoulos, Inspector General of the Hellenic Police of Northern Greece, Mr. Konstantinos Skoumas and Central Macedonia and Thrace Deputy Governor, Mrs. Voula Patoulidou. They all gave praise to the Hellenic Red Cross and what it stands for, as well as to the particular importance and moral value of the «Cleio Misirloglou» Virtue Awards.

In his speech, the President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos stated, among other things, that: «This is an event of particular importance for the HRC. This year, we wanted, as a small token of love, solidarity and thanks to these outstanding people in the Hellenic Police, who lived up to their ideals through this exceptional, altruistic act, to promote it and reward it, as an example. Greek society needs such examples. Social solidarity and social cohesion remains our primary goal and purpose».



# 2,000 olive trees for the fire victims of Ilia

On Thursday, 9 December 2021, the Hellenic Red Cross, in the presence of President Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, delivered 2,000 Koroneiki olive saplings to the Mayor of Pyrgos-Elis, Mr. Panagiotis Antonakopoulos, offering considerable support to families of producers in the broader region who were affected by the devastating August fires.

The delivery of the olive saplings was attended by a number of HRC volunteers from the Regional Branches of Pa-

tras, Pyrgos and Amaliada, as well as members of the Municipal Council of Pyrgos. Subsequently, the Mayor of Pyrgos, Mr. Panagiotis Antonakopoulos, at the Latsio Town Hall, offered a special honorary award to the President of the HRC, noting that «This initiative highlights your social work to our fellow human beings who are experiencing a bleak economic situation and need help in order to survive».

The President of the Hellenic Red Cross, Dr. Antonios Avge-

rinou, after warmly thanking the Mayor for his kind gesture, pledged in his speech that the Hellenic Red Cross will continue to stand by the fire victims of Ilia, with continuous humanitarian aid missions and various kinds of charitable actions. At the same time, he thanked the ANT1 Group (particularly its President, Mr. Thodoris Kyriakou) for the considerable assistance in publicizing/communicating HRC's call for financial aid for our fellow citizens who were affected by the fires.





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